

OP-ED 8
Iran threatened to block Hormuz. Will we now take it seriously?

Jumpin' Jack Flash
Jagger back on stage after heart surgery
 Mick Jagger swaggered back to the stage on Friday in his first concert after undergoing heart surgery in April as the Rolling Stones kicked off a delayed North American tour.

P14

THE DAILY tribune



Shami hat-trick seals India win 16 SPORTS

WORLD 5 **Nine killed in Hawaii twin-engine plane crash**

Rape allegation a 'fake news'

New York

An advice columnist for Elle fashion magazine said yesterday that Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in the dressing room of a New York department store more than two decades ago, an accusation swiftly denied by the US president.

According to E Jean Carroll, the rape occurred in either 1995 or 1996, when Mr Trump was a prominent real estate developer and she was a well-known magazine writer and host of a television show.

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02 Security threats reviewed

Regulator dismisses majority of medical negligence complaints over 'inaccuracy'

03

Bahrain to establish regional anti-human trafficking centre

04



Summit on Palestine

\$50bn growth plan

White House's Jared Kushner unveils economic portion of upcoming Middle East peace plan

● **The economic revival plan would take place only if a political solution to the region's long-running problems is reached.**

● **More than half of the \$50 billion would be spent in the economically troubled Palestinian territories.**

Washington

The Trump administration's \$50 billion Middle East economic plan calls for creation of a global investment fund to lift the Palestinian and neighbouring Arab state economies, and construction of a \$5 billion transportation corridor to connect the West Bank and Gaza, according to US officials and documents reviewed by Reuters.

The "peace to prosperity" plan, set to be presented by President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner at an international conference in the Kingdom next week, includes 179 infrastructure and business projects, according to the documents.

The approach towards reviving the moribund Israeli-Pales-



This is going to be the 'Opportunity of the Century' if they have the courage to pursue it.

KUSHNER

tinian peace process was criticised by the Palestinians on Saturday.

The economic revival plan would take place only if a political solution to the region's long-running problems is reached.

More than half of the \$50 billion would be spent in the economically troubled Palestinian territories over 10 years while the rest would be split between Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

Some of the projects would be in Egypt's Sinai peninsula, where investments could benefit Palestinians living in adjacent Gaza, a crowded and impoverished coastal enclave.

The plan also proposes nearly a billion dollars to build up the Palestinians' tourism sector, a seemingly impractical notion for now given the frequent flare-ups between Israeli forces and militants from Hamas-ruled Gaza, and the tenuous security

Egypt, Jordan will take part

Manama

Jordan and Egypt have announced that they would attend the 'Peace to Prosperity' economic workshop, which will be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain on Tuesday and Wednesday. Jordan will be represent-

ed by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance while Deputy Finance Minister will lead the Egyptian delegation. Both countries have stressed their nations' unwavering keenness on dealing with economic challenges facing the Palestinian people.

in the occupied West Bank.

The Trump administration hopes that other countries, principally wealthy Gulf states, and private investors, would foot much of the bill, Kushner told Reuters.

The unveiling of the economic blueprint follows two years of deliberations and delays in rolling out a broader peace plan between Israelis and Palestinians. The Palestinians, who are boycotting the event, have refused to talk to the Trump administration since it recognised Jerusalem as the Israeli capital in late 2017.

Veteran Palestinian negotiator Hanan Ashrawi dismissed the proposals on Saturday, saying: "These are all intentions, these are all abstract promises" and said only a political solution would solve the conflict.

Kushner made clear in two interviews with Reuters that he sees his detailed formula as a game-changer, despite the view of many Middle East experts that he has little chance of success where decades of US-backed peace efforts have failed.

"I laugh when they attack this as the 'Deal of the Century'," Kushner said of Palestinian leaders who have dismissed his plan as an attempt to buy off their aspirations for statehood. "This is going to be the 'Opportunity of the Century' if they have the courage to pursue it."

Air India to avoid Iran air space

New Delhi

Amid rising geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran, Indian airlines in consultation with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) yesterday decided to "avoid the affected part of the Iranian airspace" to ensure safe travel for passengers and reroute all flights "suitably".

The announcement comes after Iran on Thursday shot down a US military drone in its airspace, following which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had warned of a possibility that commercial aircraft can be mistakenly targeted in Iranian airspace.

The FAA is the American aviation regulator.

On Friday, the FAA issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) prohibiting US-registered aircraft from operating "in the over-water area of the Tehran Flight Information Region until further notice, due to heightened military activities and increased political tensions".

The Etihad Airways has also suspended operations through the Iranian airspace over the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, a spokesperson said on Saturday. The airline will use alternative flight paths on a number of routes to and from its home base of Abu Dhabi until further notice.

Other leading carriers that have halted flights over the Strait of Hormuz include British Airways, Qantas, Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa and KLM.

SWEEPING VICTORY

Bahrain puts up great show in Rome

Rome

The Kingdom, which now stands first in mixed martial arts ranking, started off in a classic way with a clean sweep of the second day of the IMMAF-WMMMA European Open Championship in Rome.

The Kingdom won all ten of their opening bouts in the tournament. Ebrahim Darwish, Ali Yaqoob, Murad Guseinov and Yousif Sayyar emerged victorious in the junior championships.

Ramazan Gitinov, Hamza Zrira, Abdulmanap Magomedov, Shamil Alikhanov, Magomedov Idrisov and Abbas Khan won the fight in the senior championships.



Tribune recently reported that BRAVE Combat Federation, founded by HH Shaikh

Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, is all set to make its much-awaited debut in the UK.

The fastest-growing Bahrain-based MMA organisation in the world and the biggest sports property in the Middle East will host Brave 24 on July 25 at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, inside the Copper Box Arena, in London, to an exclusive crowd, filled with dignitaries and celebrities from all over the world.

The show is set to be a luxurious experience to all involved as Brave looks to introduce MMA to a wider audience and provide them with the unique opportunity of watching the best fighters in the world live.

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Security threats reviewed

Interior Minister stresses strong bilateral ties as he receives US delegation

● The meeting discussed security topics of common interest and the latest regional developments.

● Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan attended the meeting.



General Shaikh Rashid holds talk with the delegation led by Mr Wechsler.

Manama

Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday received a delegation from the US-based Atlantic Council chaired by Director for Middle East Programmes and Director of the Rafik Hariri Centre for the Middle East at the council, William Wechsler.

The minister welcomed the delegation, hailing the role of the council in conducting studies and analysis in homeland security and foreign policies to exchange expertise in the protection of international security and peace.

The council is a think tank in

the field of international affairs. It provides a forum for international political, business, and intellectual leaders.

The minister highlighted the importance of the visit to exchange views about efforts to reinforce international counter-terrorism cooperation and achieving regional security and stability.

He underscored that his last visit to the US in April was positive as part of the strong relations between the two countries and the common interest to develop them.

He asserted that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa had reinforced democracy in

Bahrain in a way that support efforts to face challenges and strengthen good citizenship, loyalty and nationalism.

He said that Bahrain would move forward towards a bright and secure future for all members of society as part of ongoing efforts to reinforce reform and justice.

He reviewed security challenges and terrorism in the region, along with mechanisms to deal with them, highlighting the Iranian interference in the internal affairs of countries, including Bahrain through financing terrorist cells and supplying them with weapons and explosives, sheltering terrorists and train

them at the Iranian Revolutionary Guards camps.

He hailed security co-operation and co-ordination between Bahrain and the US, including the coast guard co-operation.

He mentioned the steps taken by the Interior Ministry to modernise its security authorities and reinforce security co-operation in training, counterterrorism, promoting cybersecurity and fighting cross-border crimes.

The meeting discussed security topics of common interest and the latest regional developments.

Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan attended the meeting.

New premises of Good Word Society inaugurated

Manama

A new building housing the Good Word Society and the Muharraq Elderly Care Home has opened its doors as Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) Chairman and Good Word Society Honorary President, Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa inaugurated the headquarters yesterday.

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan attended the inauguration ceremony, in addition to a number of other officials and dignitaries.

Shaikh Isa cut the ribbon and

toured the new premises and stressed its importance in serving social, charity and voluntary work.

He paid tribute to Aisha Ahmed Almoayyed Mebarrah and Feroq Almoayyed for their dedicated support to charity and voluntary works in the society.

He congratulated the affiliates of the Good Word Society on the opening of the new premises.

Mr Humaidan also paid tribute to Bahraini families, including Almoayyeds, for their keenness on promoting community partnership.

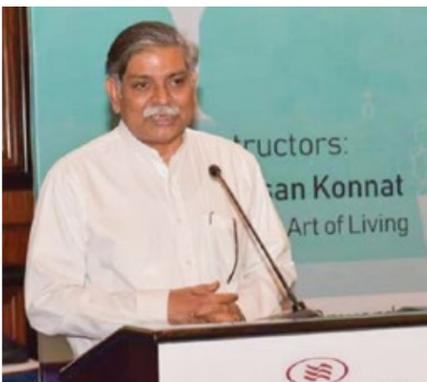


Shaikh Isa cuts the ribbon in the presence of Mr Humaidan, Mr Almoayyed and other dignitaries.

Yoga for peace



Hundreds took part in a yoga event held at Khalifa Sports City Stadium, marking the International Day of Yoga, on Friday. The event was organised by the Indian Embassy along with the Ministry of Youth and Sport. Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha addressed the participants, highlighting the significance of yoga in leading a healthy, peaceful and stable life. Senior government officials, dignitaries and prominent expatriate community members attended the event.



Separately, Mr Sinha attended a yoga event hosted by the Bahrain Chapter of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. S Sridhar, representing the organisation, also spoke on the occasion.

Regulator dismisses majority of medical negligence complaints over 'inaccuracy'

Only 42 complaints, out of 228 cases filed, were accurate

● **Health Ministry consistently following up on cases of medical negligence.**

● **Over a thousand violations were found at healthcare facilities during the past year by teams sent by NHRA.**

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Of the 228 alleged medical negligence complaints filed with the health reg-

ulator last year, only 42 have been proved to be accurate, it was revealed.

According to Bahrain Medical Association, a good majority of medical complaints "was not really substantiated upon leading to dismissals".

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health yesterday stated that it is following up the case of a Bahraini patient, who allegedly suffered multiple complications following a surgery.

Claims were made on social media that the patient suffered severe complications due to medical negligence.

However, investigations have not yet confirmed whether it was a case of medical negligence.



The hospital authorities are in constant contact with the family, updating them on the patient's medical condition.

HEALTH MINISTRY

"The ministry has passed over the information regarding the incident to the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), which is investigating the case."

According to sources, the patient is currently in the Intensive Care Unit, receiving the required treatment.

"The hospital authorities are in constant contact with the family, updating them on the patient's medical condition.

"There are a series of reported cases of medical negligence, although official statistics about how many of those have been proven true is yet to be revealed," the ministry said.

Over a thousand violations were found at healthcare facilities during the past year by teams sent by NHRA.

Violations ranging from medical waste disposal to improper sterilisation were noted at healthcare facilities across the Kingdom, according to NHRA.

The NHRA said that 697 inspection visits were made last year.

697

inspection visits were made by the NHRA teams to healthcare facilities last year.

majority of the violations were related to facility structure (267), followed by devices failing safety tests and improper waste disposal.

Other forms of violations include those related to engineering, fire and safety, licensing and the maintenance of patient records.

The inspection teams also discovered 40 violations committed by different pharmacies across the Kingdom. The violations were related to sale of banned medicines, medicine prices and licensing.

Close to 600 inspection visits were made by the NHRA inspectors to pharmacies last year, it was learnt.

"Among the violations, 384 were noted during inspections, 111 were related to new healthcare facilities, 62 deal with auditing errors and remaining were linked to delivery of services," the regulator had said.

The NHRA pointed out that

Private power plants 'ready to handle summer load'

TDT | Manama

Chief Executive Officer of the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) Shaikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa visited Al Dur Electricity and Water Company to inspect the main power grid and the private electricity and water production stations.

The visit came as part of preparations of the EWA and private plants to meet the growing demand for electricity during the summer due to the high temperature.

Shaikh Nawaf reviewed the network readiness and production stations to cover the demand for energy and water during the summer.



The total production capacity of private plants is 3096 MW and 138 million gallons per day of desalinated water.

Officials of Al Dur confirmed their readiness to meet the demand for electricity and water

during the summer, the EWA said in a statement issued.

They briefed Shaikh Nawaf on the operation and maintenance of the plant production units and the preparations made by the company to meet all requirements.

The Chief Executive Officer stressed the necessity of readiness and reliability of the company to serve Bahrain's main electricity network, especially during the summer, according to energy and water purchase agreements between the two.

He also discussed the performance of the station, stressing the importance of taking all necessary measures to provide the required

service in electricity production.

The total capacity of the power and water production plants in the Bahrain represents 80 per cent of the generation capacity.

The total production capacity

of these companies is 3096 MW and 138 million gallons per day of desalinated water.

The agreement aims at achieving a high level of readiness and performance by ensuring compliance with the

standards of electricity production within the framework of international standards in this field, which include high maintenance procedures and safe and economical operation, the EWA added.



Shaikh Nawaf with other EWA officials at Al Dur Electricity and Water Company.

Sinai attack condemned

Manama

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned the terrorist attack that targeted a governmental building near El Arish airport in Egypt's Sinai province, resulting in the death and injury of several people.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended its condolences

to the families of the victims and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

It affirmed Bahrain's full solidarity with Egypt in its relentless efforts to enhance security and stability and stressed its unwavering support for its endeavours to counter terrorism at the regional and international levels.

The ministry in a statement reiterated Bahrain's stance in rejecting all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism, regardless of its motives and called for the enhancement of co-ordination and international co-operation to eradicate the scourge and cut its funding sources.

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Plan to promote moderate religious discourse stressed

● The minister underlined Bahrain's longstanding pioneering role in instilling tolerance and coexistence, stressing the necessity of promoting open and moderate religious discourse.

Manama

A strategy to promote religious discourse and moderation has been drawn up by the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry.

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa said



Shaikh Khalid

that the plan complies with His Majesty the King's vision, which advocates the values of moderate precepts.

He highlighted other national initiatives, which aim at consolidating national belonging and foster the values of citizens.

He cited the initiative launched by the ministry to

rationalise religious discourse, spread national values in various places of worship and religious institutions, and reduce trends of extremism and hatred of others.

The minister underlined Bahrain's longstanding pioneering role in instilling tolerance and coexistence, stressing the necessity of promoting open and

moderate religious discourse.

He highlighted the crucial role of the family, media and education in cultivating lofty values and patriotism among generations, stressing co-ordination in this regard with the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, the Sunni and Jaffari Endowments Directorate to train imams and khatibs.

Bahrain to establish regional anti-human trafficking centre

Centre will offer training on combatting trafficking to officials of Mena countries

● The centre will act as a forum allowing experts in the field of counter-trafficking to exchange their experiences and expertise.

● The establishment of the centre is the latest in a series of developments made by the government of Bahrain to combat trafficking in persons.

Manama

Bahrain, in co-operation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), will establish a Regional Centre of Excellence for capacity building in the field of combatting trafficking in persons.

Dr Hatem Aly, the UNODC Representative for GCC, said that they have been working with the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons (NCCTIPS) in the Kingdom for several years, and that the establishment of this centre will be a quantum leap in the field of combating trafficking in persons for the MENA Region.

The specifics of the co-operation was detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed by CEO of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and Chairman of the NCCTIPS, Ausamah Al Absi, and Dr Aly.

The centre, which will be housed at the LMRA's Expat Protection Centre in Northern Sehla, will serve as a platform for the setting of standards and training for all aspects of combating trafficking for the Middle East and North Africa.

Additionally, the centre will act as a forum allowing experts in



Mr Al Absi after signing the contract with Dr Aly.

the field of counter-trafficking to exchange their experiences and expertise.

During the signing of the memorandum, Mr Al Absi stressed on the invaluable efforts and measures taken by the Kingdom to combat trafficking in persons, and to create a fair and safe working environment in Bahrain.

Bahrain's tireless efforts to combat trafficking resulted in sustaining its Tier 1 ranking in the US Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons

“The centre is a testament to the Kingdom's investment in a human-led and hands-on approach to combat trafficking in persons.”

MR AL ABSI

Report for the second consecutive year as the only country in

ing in Persons Report last year, there has been an increase of delegates from regional governments visiting Bahrain to have a first-hand look at how the Kingdom executes its anti-trafficking framework, and Bahraini officials have been sought out and invited abroad as trainers.

“Groups within the relevant Bahrain's official agencies have been trained to an international standard on all areas of combating this crime. Bahraini experts have been building a compendium of global experiences through local and regional workshops to refine their practice.

“And today, through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, we are laying the foundation for the establishment of a regional centre of expertise and training in combating trafficking in persons.”

The centre is a testament to the Kingdom's investment in a human-led and hands-on approach to combating trafficking in persons, the official opined.

Mr Al Absi said he envisages that the centre will lead to an increase of expertise within the government by capacitating officials as UNODC certified trainers.

The establishment of the centre is the latest in a series of developments made by the government of Bahrain to combat trafficking in persons and the exploitation of vulnerable persons.

For his part, Dr Aly stressed the importance of Bahrain's new Centre of Excellence, stating:

“The UNODC is keen on supporting this initiative that will set the nucleus of home-grown solutions based on relevant issues, standardise them, document them, and regionally implement them, thus creating the critical mass of officials and practitioners in the MENA region capable of effectively combating trafficking and exploitation.”

BD50 weekly draw for online traffic dept service users

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Residents who avail the online services offered by the General Directorate of Traffic stand a chance to win BD50 every week from next month onwards, it is learnt.

Authorities have announced that a weekly prize of BD50 will be given to chosen members of the public every week.

The initiative begins on first July and will last a year. “The General Directorate of Traffic has announced the allocation for one year a weekly prize of BD50, starting July for the users of the traffic e-services through the national portal Bahrain.bh or e-traffic application available to be downloaded in the smartphones,” the traffic directorate stated.

“In addition to e-government platforms at the General Directorate of Traffic and public places, Bahrain Credits “Imtiaz” supports the initiative, and it is a step to promote more people to benefit from the e-traffic services that are updated regularly in co-operation with the Information and eGovernment Authority.

“It is worth mentioning that the e-traffic services include renewing driving licences, re-registering vehicles, paying traffic fines.”

This follows a recent campaign by the directorate, which saw law abiding motorists showered with gifts. As part of the campaign, citizens who have always followed the traffic rules were given gifts.

The group identified law abiding motorists, and gave them gifts vouchers, electronic gadgets and other gifts. The campaign was being carried out in partnership with Bahrain National Insurance, as well as Sadeem Cards, Credimax, LuLu Hypermarket, Sofitel Bahrain and Qadoo Sweets.

Business dinner held



Prominent businessmen and dignitaries attended a business dinner hosted by Pakistani Ambassador Afzal Mahmood at his residence.

WORLD

US writer says Trump sexually assaulted her in mid-1990s

● According to E. Jean Carroll, the rape occurred in either 1995 or 1996, when Trump was a prominent real estate developer

Washington

An advice columnist for Elle fashion magazine said Friday that Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in the dressing room of a New York department store more than two decades ago, an accusation swiftly denied by the US president.

According to E. Jean Carroll, the rape occurred in either 1995 or 1996, when Trump was a prominent real estate developer and she was a well-known magazine writer and host of a television show.

The account, revealed in an excerpt of Carroll's latest book and published Friday by New York magazine, makes her at least the 16th woman to have accused Trump of sexual misconduct before he became president. Trump reacted with a statement saying he'd never met Carroll, and that the incident "never happened."

Carroll, 75, says she ran into Trump at the Bergdorf Goodman department store in Manhattan while they were both shopping. She says that in an initially friendly encounter, Trump asked her for advice on



US Journalist E. Jean Carroll

Donald Trump (file)

buying a piece of lingerie for an unnamed woman. Then jokingly, they each suggested that the other should try it on.

"The moment the dressing-room door is closed, he lunges at me, pushes me against the wall, hitting my head quite badly, and puts his mouth against my lips," Carroll wrote.

Pinning her against the wall, Carroll says, Trump proceeded to pull down her tights, unzip his pants and penetrate her --

all while himself fully dressed -- until she finally managed to push him out and run from the dressing room.

Carroll never went to the police because, she said, she was afraid of repercussions.

Carroll wrote that she did not come forward sooner because she was afraid of "receiving death threats, being driven from my home, being dismissed, being dragged through the mud."

"Joining the 15 women who've come forward with credible stories about how the man grabbed, badgered, belittled, mauled, molested and assaulted them, only to see the man turn it around, deny, threaten, and attack them, never sounded like much fun," she wrote.

Trump shot back that Carroll was an attention seeker.



I've never met this person in my life. She is trying to sell a new book --that should indicate her motivation. It should be sold in the fiction section

DONALD TRUMP

"I've never met this person in my life. She is trying to sell a new book --that should indicate her motivation," he said in a statement. "It should be sold in the fiction section."

He also said that New York magazine is a "dying publication" and had tried to "prop it self up by peddling fake news."

Three dead in central Paris fire: rescue services



Firefighters said that the layout of the building made the rescue operation more complicated

Paris

Three people died and another was seriously injured in a fire that broke out in a building in central Paris in the early hours yesterday, fire services said.

One of the victims died after jumping out of the window of the six-storey block of flats situated in the 11th district, which also housed a restaurant and a hammam, a spokesman for the fire services said.

The blaze was reported at around 5:00 am (0300 GMT) and it took nearly four hours for 200 firefighters to bring it under control, according to fire captain Florian Lointier.

The cause of the fire, which still wasn't fully extinguished by 10:00 am, is still unknown. Prosecutors have already

opened an investigation.

Lointier said that the layout of the building, which dates from 1970 and was undergoing repair work on its facade, made the rescue operations "complicated".

The heat from the blaze was very intense, he added.

A total of 27 people were treated for smoke inhalation, the rescue services said.

"We were asleep and at around 5:00 am, I smelt smoke. I opened the window and a fire truck was already there," said one witness, Jerome Cariati, who lives in an adjacent street.

"There was thick, black smoke and a nasty smell. There was shouting and a lot of noise. The people were standing in the street with nothing on their feet. They seemed in a state of shock."

Nine killed in Hawaii twin-engine plane crash

Washington

A light aircraft crashed in northern Hawaii killing nine passengers Friday, authorities said.

The twin engine King Air plane went down near an airfield on Oahu island's North Shore, according to Hawaii's Department of Transport (HDOT).

"With extreme sadness HDOT reports there were 9 souls on board... with no apparent survivors," it said on its Twitter account.

Honolulu Fire Department Chief Manuel P. Neves confirmed there were no survivors. He said the aircraft was a skydiving plane that crashed at 6.30pm (0430 GMT) on takeoff, according to local news channel Hawaii Now.

TV footage showed flames billowing into the air from the wreckage.

According to its website, the single-runway Dillingham Airport primarily serves commercial glider and sky diving operations.

Iran executes 'defence ministry contractor' over spying for CIA

● Zavar's ex-wife was convicted of "involvement in espionage" and is serving a 15-year jail sentence

Tehran, Iran

Iran has executed a "defence ministry contractor" convicted of spying for the US Central Intelligence Agency, semi-official news agency ISNA reported yesterday.

"The execution sentence was carried out for Jalal Haji Zavar, a contractor for the defence ministry's aerospace organisation who spied for the CIA and the American government," ISNA reported, quoting the Iranian military.

ISNA said he was convicted by Iran's military court and that he was executed, at an unspecified time, at the Rajayi Shahr prison in the city of Ka-

raj, west of Tehran.

The agency did not say when Zavar was arrested, noting however that his contract with the defence ministry had been terminated during the Iranian year 1389 (March 2010-2011).

He was identified as a spy by the defence ministry's intelligence unit, ISNA said.

During the investigation the suspect "explicitly confessed to spying for the CIA" in return for money, ISNA said, adding that "documents and espionage devices were found at his house".

Zavar's ex-wife was convicted of "involvement in espionage" and is serving a 15-year jail sentence, the agency said.

The report comes days after Iran said it had dismantled a "new" US spy network in the country linked to the CIA.

State news agency IRNA said on Tuesday that Tehran had carried out the operation in cooperation with "foreign allies", without naming any state.



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Sudan protesters hold night gatherings

● Last week, hundreds of protesters took to the streets reviving calls for civilian rule across several Sudanese states

Khartoum, Sudan

As night fell, residents of a southern district in Khartoum briskly moved to set the stage for Sudanese protest leaders giving a brief on the movement's latest updates.

Grappling with a power outage, blocked internet access and heightened security, people from the Jabra district had few means to organise the meeting which drew dozens from the neighbourhood.

Within a few hours, power generators were fetched, loud speakers set up, plastic chairs lined up and cars blazed their headlights on the podium where protest leaders were to give their speech.

Roadblocks were also set up to secure the entrances of the area.

"The campaign keeps us updated with whatever new is happening about the situation in Sudan," said Mujahed Abdelnaby who was attending the gathering.

Sudan's ruling generals have largely cut internet services in the wake of a deadly dispersal of a sit-in outside the army headquarters where thousands had



Members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) ride on an armed vehicle with the Sudanese national flag, in the capital Khartoum

been camped since April 6.

The crowds who were initially demanding the ouster of veteran leader Omar al-Bashir stayed put after his fall to call on the generals who took over to hand power to civilians.

But on June 3 armed men in military fatigues launched a bloody crackdown on the encampment, killing more than 100 people according to medics linked to protesters. Official figures stand at 61.

Since then campaigning has been restricted, particularly with increased deployment of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces across Khartoum.

The forces, which are led by the deputy chief of Sudan's transitional military council, are accused by protesters of leading the encampment's dispersal.

The council, which had pre-

viously vowed not to disperse the sit-in, denied ordering the violence and said it had only planned a purge of a nearby area called Colombia notorious for drug peddling.

'No longer scared'

Last week, protest leaders from the Alliance for Freedom and Change started organising daily simultaneous gatherings to revive the protest movement.

"We just want to keep the communication going with the people to confront the blackout imposed by the military council," said Waheeb Mohamed Saeed, a leading activist within the alliance.

Ahead of his speech at Jabra, he explained the campaigns are circulated via text messages and word of mouth among residents. Demonstrators, meanwhile,



started chanting to rhythmical beats their catchcry of "freedom, peace and justice".

"We will bring civilian rule no matter how long it takes," they vowed.

Similar rallies, gatherings and marches were regularly announced online, drawing thousands prior to the sweeping in-

ternet blackout.

"We have been calling for the resumption of internet services as part of conditions to restart negotiations," Saeed said.

Talks between protest leaders and the military council had collapsed before the dispersal of the sit-in.

Both sides recently agreed to

mediation efforts led by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Protest leaders say the mediation is pegged on releasing all detainees and ensuring freedoms.

But the military council's chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan called for "unconditional" negotiations to be resumed.

Around the world, people likelier to return wallets with more cash

● The global average for reporting a lost wallet was 40 per cent, which grew to 51pc when it had money

● The experiment, which cost \$600,000, is unparalleled in its magnitude

● More than 17,000 identical wallets were dropped

● Some had no money, while others contained the equivalent of \$13.45

Washington

Does the amount of cash in a lost wallet impact how likely a person is to return it?

Classical economic theories suggest that the greater the temptation, the less likely we are to be honest -- but a new study turns the idea on its head, finding that altruism, and a powerful aversion to viewing oneself as a "thief," outweigh the financial incentives.

A team of researchers studied these questions in a huge experiment spanning 355 cities in 40 countries -- one of the most rigorous investigations so far into the intersection of economics and psychology.

The results, published Thursday in *Science*, also reveal extreme differences between countries, with Switzerland and



A clear wallet and its contents used in a study of how people in 40 countries decided to return, or not, "lost" wallets

Norway topping the honesty list, and Peru, Morocco and lastly China rounding out the bottom three.

But although rates of civic honesty varied greatly from country to country, one thing remained remarkably constant: wallets with money, as opposed to no money, boosted reporting rates.

The global average for reporting a lost wallet was 40 percent, which grew to 51 percent when it had money.

"The evidence suggests that people tend to care about the welfare of others and they have an aversion to seeing themselves as a thief," co-author Alain Cohn from the University of Michigan said.

Researchers from the University of Zurich and the University of Utah were also part of the work.

The researchers then polled a group of 279 top-performing

professional economists to see if they would have accurately predicted the outcome, which only 29 percent did.

"Our results suggest that even experts tend to have cynical intuitions about other people's motivations, often exaggerating the role of financial incentives and underestimating the role of psychological forces," added Cohn.

The experiment, which cost \$600,000, is unparalleled in its magnitude. More than 17,000 identical wallets were dropped off at banks, cultural establishments like theaters and museums, post offices, hotels, and police stations or courts of law.

The wallet would be placed on the counter by the research assistant, who would deliver it to an employee telling them they had found it on the street but were in a hurry and had to go.

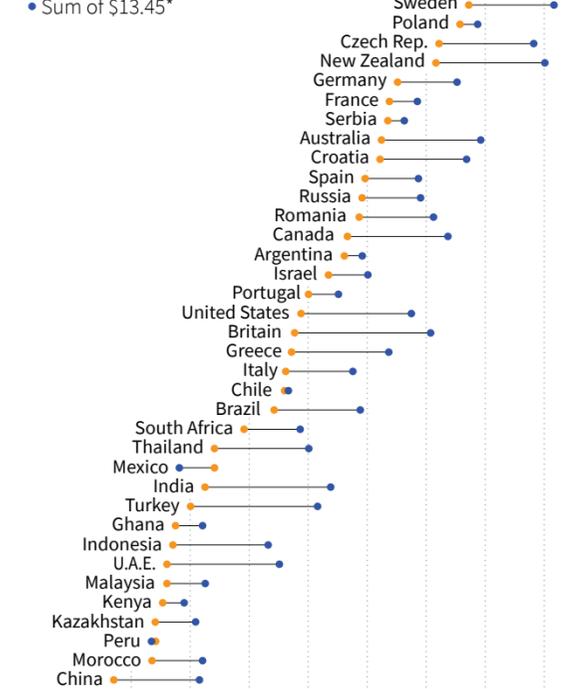
Each contained a grocery list, a key, and three business cards

To return (or not) 'lost' wallets

Results of a study on how people in 40 countries (covering 355 cities) decided to return or not 'lost' wallets

% of wallets returned, containing cards, a key and:

- No money
- Sum of \$13.45*



Source: A. Cohn et al., *Science* *Adjusted in each country in relation to purchasing power © AFP

in the local language using fictitious but commonplace male names and an email address, signaling the owner was a local resident.

Some had no money, while others contained the equivalent of \$13.45, adjusted for purchasing power in the target country.

In three countries (the US, UK and Poland), they repeated the experiment with even more money: \$94.15, which boosted reporting rates by an average of 11 percentage points compared to the smaller amount.

They also found that having a key boosted reporting rates

by 9.2 percentage points in the three countries.

Since the key is valuable to the owner but not the finder, this pointed toward an altruism concern in addition to the cost of negatively updating one's self image.

Switzerland tops

The proportion of employees who got in touch with the owner surpassed 70 percent in Switzerland and Norway.

At the other end of the table was China, with fewer than 10 percent of employees returning the wallet when it was empty, though the figure more than doubled when it contained yuan.

Countries' relative wealth or poverty was found to be insufficient in explaining the disparities, said Cohn, adding that education and political systems could play a role.

On the whole, countries which are more democratic and where citizens feel they are a part of the decision-making process tend to score higher on civic honesty.

Local cultural values that emphasize moral norms extending beyond one's "in-group" also appear to be associated with greater rates of reporting.

That could explain why countries where family ties have traditionally been very strong, such as Italy, have a lower rate of return than more individualist nations in northern Europe, said co-author Christian Zund.

"Three of the authors have Swiss nationalities, so we were -- of course, we were happy to see that Switzerland ranked among the top countries," concluded Cohn.

Hong Kong police vow to pursue protesters

Hong Kong, China

Hong Kong police yesterday vowed to pursue anti-government protesters who launched a 15-hour siege of their headquarters as historic rallies aimed at ousting the city's pro-Beijing leader evolve.

Thousands of largely young protesters surrounded the headquarters throughout Friday and into the small hours of Saturday morning, the latest manifestation of angry demonstrations roiling Hong Kong.

The international finance hub has been rocked by the worst political unrest since its 1997 handover to China.

Millions have marched this month to oppose a hugely unpopular proposed law that would have allowed extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

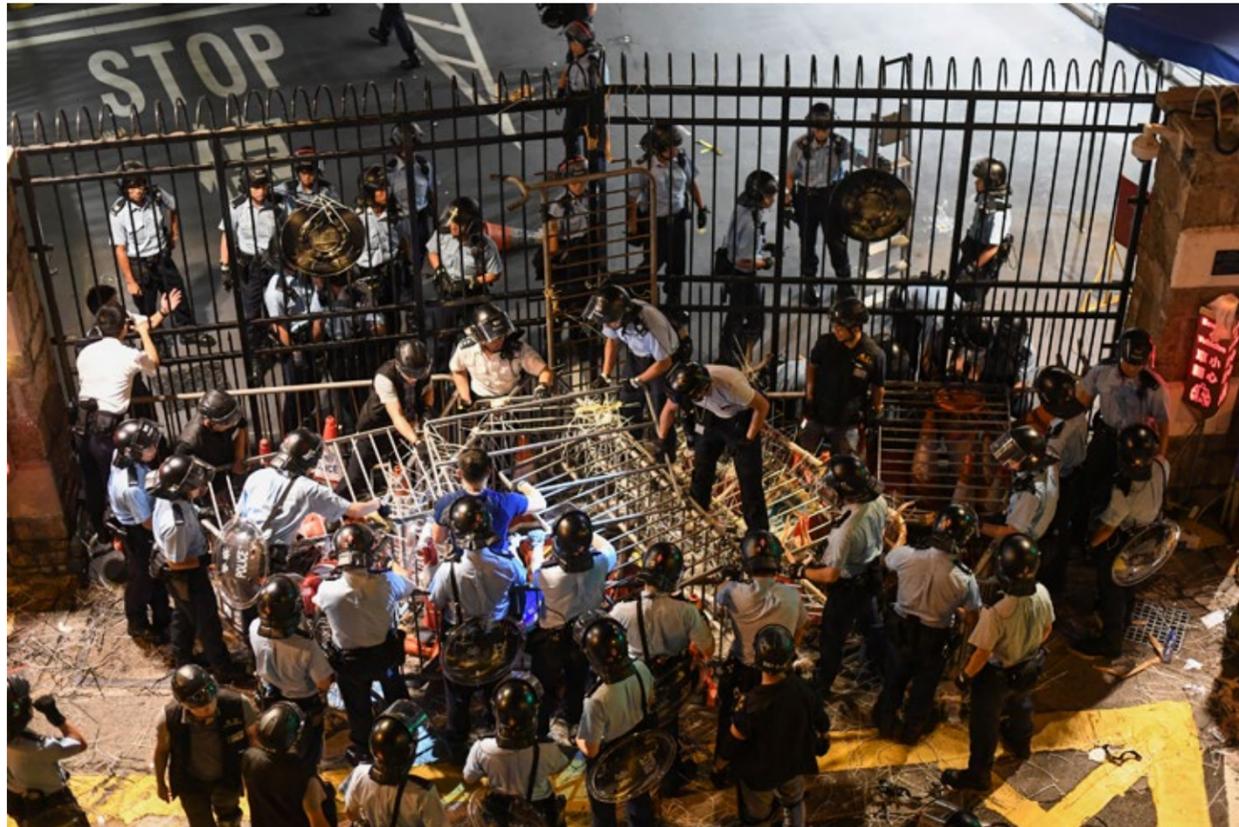
Officers also used tear gas and rubber bullets last week to clear protesters during another massive demonstration outside the city's parliament, fanning widespread anger at the police.

The spark for the current wave of protests was an attempt by chief executive Carrie Lam to pass the Beijing-backed extradition law, which she has now postponed following the huge public backlash.

But the demonstrations have morphed into a wider movement against Lam's administration and Beijing after years of sliding political freedoms.

Guerrilla protests

Protest leaders plan to hold another huge rally on July 1 but student-led groups -- communicating through encrypted messaging apps -- have begun em-



Police clear barricades which were set up by protesters outside the police headquarters in Hong Kong

bracing spontaneous, fast-moving acts of civil disobedience.

"We need to flow like water", one protester called Chris said, espousing a famous philosophy from martial arts superstar and Hong Kong legend Bruce Lee.

It was unclear if demonstrators would rally in large numbers for a third weekend, with the streets quiet and popular protest sites nearly devoid of people on Saturday.

Eric, a 22-year-old office worker and protester, said he

would wait to see what directions came through on social media in the coming days.

"There are many camps and each person has their own way of resistance," he told AFP.

During Friday's demonstrations outside police headquarters, large crowds of protesters blockaded entrances, taped over CCTV cameras and shouted at police.

Many chanted "release the righteous" and "shame on police thugs" -- references to those detained during violence last week

between demonstrators and the police.

Opposition groups have demanded an investigation into allegations of police brutality and the release of those detained during the clashes.

Officers remained inside their fortified building throughout Friday.

The protest was noisy but peaceful -- with the exception of thrown eggs and demonstrators shining laser pens at the windows.

The crowds eventually dis-

persed in the early hours of Saturday some 15 hours after their demonstration began.

In a statement Saturday morning, police called the protest "illegal, irrational and unreasonable" saying it would "stringently follow up" on those behind the blockade.

Supporters were later seen handing flowers to officers.

"We are very angry, we think Hong Kong is a very peaceful place, we should express our ideas in a peaceful way," Tsoi Hak-hin, 52, said.

Police have defended using tear gas and rubber bullets on June 12 as a necessary and proportionate response to meet violent protesters who were trying to break into the city's parliament.

But rights group Amnesty International said Friday it had verified multiple instances of police violence that breached international laws while influential legal bodies in Hong Kong have backed an inquiry into police tactics.

Sliding freedoms

Although Hong Kong was returned from British to Chinese rule in 1997, it is still administered separately under an arrangement known as "one country, two systems".

The city enjoys freedoms unseen on the mainland but many residents have been alarmed in recent years by what they feel is a tighter grip by Beijing.

Hong Kong's leaders are not elected and calls for universal suffrage have fallen on deaf ears.

In 2014, pro-democracy protesters seized key intersections for two months but failed to win any concessions from Beijing.

Since then, many of that movement's leaders have been jailed while some Beijing critics have found themselves banned from politics or even disappearing into Chinese custody.

Opposition to the extradition bill managed to unite a wide cross section of Hong Kong.

Critics feared the law would ensnare both Hong Kongers and foreigners in mainland China's opaque and politicised justice system, and also give Beijing a tool to target critics based in the semi-autonomous territory.

Sri Lanka extends emergency in surprise move

Colombo

A state of emergency was extended by Sri Lanka's President yesterday, going back on pledges to relax the tough laws introduced after the Easter Sunday attacks that killed 258 people.

Maithripala Sirisena said in a decree he believed there was a "public emergency" in

the country, and was invoking provisions of the public security act extending the state of emergency. The tough laws, granting sweeping powers to police and security forces to arrest and detain suspects, were due to expire yesterday.

Just over 100 people, including 10 women, are in custody in connection with April's Easter Sunday suicide attacks.

Parents avoid UK jail after sending IS son money

London

The parents of a British Muslim convert dubbed "Jihadi Jack" were spared jail Friday after being convicted of funding terrorism by sending him money after he joined the Islamic State group.

Organic farmer John Letts, 58, and former charity fundraiser Sally Lane, 56, tried to send £1,723 (\$2,200, 1,900 euros) to

their son, despite multiple police warnings not to.

Prosecutor Alison Morgan said they had "turned a blind eye to the obvious": that their teenage son had joined the IS jihadist group in Syria.

Jurors at the Old Bailey in London, England's central criminal court, found the couple guilty of one count of funding terrorism in September 2015.

They were sentenced to 15

months in jail, but the sentence was suspended for 12 months.

A Canadian dual national through his father, Jack Letts left the family home aged 18 in May 2014 and embarked on what his parents saw as a "grand adventure" to learn Arabic in Jordan. From Jordan, he moved to Kuwait and got married in Iraq before travelling to Syria.

The parents, in statement read by their lawyer outside

court, said: "We have been convicted for doing what any parent would do if they thought that their child's life was in danger.

"No one during our trial even suggested that the £223 that we actually managed to send to Jack was in fact used for terrorism. "Having escaped from ISIS (Islamic State), he is in limbo.

"If there is evidence he has committed a crime then he should be tried."

Scientists find earliest clues of Parkinson's in brain

● **Scientists found that changes in the serotonin system in the brains of Parkinson's sufferers started to malfunction well before other symptoms occurred**

● **The research was published in The Lancet Neurology**

Paris, France

Scientists said Thursday they had found the earliest signs of Parkinson's disease in the brain years before patients show any symptoms, a discovery that could eventually lead to better



Parkinson's is estimated to effect up to 10 million people worldwide



Picking up on the condition earlier and being able to monitor its progression would aid the discovery of new and better treatments that could slow the loss of brain cells in Parkinson's

BECKIE PORT

RESEARCH MANAGER AT PARKINSON'S UK, WHO WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE STUDY.

screening for at-risk people.

Parkinson's, a neurodegenerative disorder that causes patients movement and cognitive problems, is estimated to effect up to 10 million people worldwide.

It is diagnosed by a build-up in the brain of a specific protein, a-synuclein, the cause of which is unclear.

However some people are born with a genetic mutation that makes them almost certain to develop the disease at some stage in their life.

Researchers from King's College London compared data from 14 individuals carrying the mutation with that of 65 non-genetic Parkinson's patients and 25 healthy volunteers.

They found that changes in the serotonin system in the brains of Parkinson's sufferers

started to malfunction well before other symptoms occurred.

"We found that serotonin function was an excellent marker for how advanced Parkinson's disease has become," said Heather Wilson, from the university's Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience.

"Therefore, brain imaging of the serotonin system could become a valuable tool to detect individuals at risk of Parkinson's diseases, monitor their progression and help with the development of new treatments."

Suspected causes of the disease before the study included levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine, and there is growing evidence of a possible link between Parkinson's and gut function, though this is poorly understood.

TELL YOUR HEART THAT THE FEAR OF SUFFERING IS WORSE THAN THE SUFFERING ITSELF. AND NO HEART HAS EVER SUFFERED WHEN IT GOES IN SEARCH OF ITS DREAM.
PAULO COELHO

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Iran threatened to block Hormuz. Will we now take it seriously?

The Iranian regime appears to have concluded that offence is the best form of defence and is consequently moving towards a war-footing



BARIA ALAMUDDIN

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran on June 13, hoping to ease tensions between Iran and the US. When Abe offered to convey an Iranian reply to a message from President Trump, Khamenei declined. Indeed, it appears that Khamenei's reply at that exact moment was already being sent in the form of twin attacks against commercial tankers in the Gulf. A Norwegian-owned ship loaded with petrochemicals erupted into flames. The other targeted ship was carrying Japanese cargo (methanol) in transit to Singapore. Was this a calculated snub to Abe's peace-making efforts?

Although US and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) officials were quick to identify Iran as the likely culprit, it is right to allow a full investigation before definitively apportioning blame. However, experts agree that four previous attacks against oil tankers last month had Iranian fingerprints, and there is only one serious suspect in the frame.

Iran has repeatedly threatened to obstruct commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Just days ago, in a fire-breathing speech, Hizbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah threatened US forces with "annihilation" and proclaimed that "the entire region will burn ... a barrel of oil will be \$200 or \$300."

Nasrallah's prediction was uncannily accurate, with oil prices rocketing within minutes of the tanker attacks. Even Mohammed Javad Zarif, Iran's usually



Shinzo Abe and Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

mild-mannered foreign minister, recently threatened that the US "cannot expect to stay safe."

How, then, can these cheap mobsters feign outrage about fingers pointing at them when things start blowing up?

Tehran knows that its disintegrating economy cannot withstand a possible six more years of Trump. The regime appears to have concluded that offence is the best form of defence and is consequently moving toward a war-footing. Qassem Soleimani, the Quds Force commander, last

month instructed proxies in Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen to prepare to target Western assets.

The Gulf of Oman attacks came the day after Iranian missiles hit a crowded arrivals hall at Abha airport, in Saudi Arabia's southwest, causing dozens of casualties. The moderate climate of this attractive region makes it a favoured summer destination for Saudi and Gulf holidaymakers. The airport was thus at its busiest. A Houthi spokesman claiming responsibility for the Abha strikes threatened to target all Saudi airports.

Indeed, missiles were fired at yadh airport in 2017.

Such provocations are attempts to embroil Middle Eastern states in the conflict. Iran's proxy armies across the region. The prospects for stability would be bleak, in fact. There has been a recent in unrest in Qatif, and it is a matter of time before it stirs the pot again in Bahrain villages. How long before it joins the fray, bringing down and destruction on Lebanon and southwestern Syria?

Bahrain's efforts to host peace summit



SALAH UDDIN SHOAB CHOUHURY

The conference aims to bring together government and business leaders from Europe, the Middle East and Asia

During June 25-26, the Kingdom will host one of the most significant events of the year. According to the White House, this conference will bring together government and business leaders from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan and few more countries have agreed to attend the unveiling of the economic component of a new US peace plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

According to diplomatic analysts, the United States is leading a process of regional economic co-operation for the benefit of the entire Middle East. This includes promoting ties with the pragmatic Arab countries in the region, via security co-operation and joint economic initiatives.

A central part of these efforts is the planned Bahrain 'Peace and Prosperity' economic workshop.

The US administration and Bahrain announced in mid-May that they would host the economic workshop in the Bahraini capital of Manama in late June, and that it "will facilitate discussions on an ambitious, achievable vision and framework for a prosperous future for the Palestinian people and the region".

American officials have said that the meeting will deal with the economic portion of its apparently forthcoming plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a plan whose unveiling has been delayed by political instability inside Israel.

Jason D Greenblatt, an assistant to President Donald Trump and special representative for international negotiations said, "This is exciting -- an opportunity of a generation. We are grateful to the Kingdom for extending the invitation to us to host the June 25 and 26 workshop with them for the benefit of Palestinians and others in the region, offering us a unique opportunity to communicate our economic vision".

He said, "The workshop is a pivotal opportunity to convene government, civil society, and business leaders to share ideas, discuss strategies and galvanise



The summit is expected to serve a platform for the international community to support Palestinians, both economically and politically.

support for potential economic investments and initiatives that could be made possible by a peace agreement.

"This workshop will facilitate discussions on an ambitious,

achievable vision and framework for a prosperous future for Palestinians, including enhancements to economic governance, development of human capital, and facilitation of rapid private-sector

growth. The results of the discussions could lead to significant investment in the talented Palestinian and regional population. History shows that most national conferences on the

2013

Nik Wallenda becomes the first man to successfully walk across the Grand Canyon on a tight rope.



2014

The last of Syria's declared **chemical weapons** are shipped out for destruction.

2016

The **United Kingdom** votes in a referendum to leave the European Union, by 52% to 48%.

2017

A series of terrorist attacks took place in **Pakistan** resulting in 96 deaths and wounded 200 others.



Global levels of oil demand in the short term tend to be highly inelastic, meaning that relatively modest shocks in available supply can have a drastic impact on prices.

represent a blunt message to the world: "We can still hurt you."

Maritime experts point out that it is impossible to fully protect civilian shipping. Hundreds of oil tankers and commercial ships are continually moving through the Hormuz chokepoint. The repeated nature of these attacks means that oil prices may remain elevated. Shipping and insurance costs could soar, with severe knock-on effects for the global economy, particularly since the afflicted companies have signalled that they will suspend Gulf operations and other corporations may follow. As was the case when Iran mined Gulf waters during the 1980s, there are also dangerous environmental consequences for fish stocks and complex ecosystems when huge tankers loaded with petroleum products are torpedoed.

Enough of Iran's good-cop-bad-cop games: Seducing the Europeans with smiling, but impotent, Zarif and Rouhani, while Khamenei and Soleimani implement a strategy infinitely more aggressive than anything Khomeini ever dreamed up. Russia is urging negotiations to calm tensions, yet it was Moscow that opened a

Pandora's box by aiding Tehran's expansion in Syria and elsewhere. What does Putin care that there were Russian nationals on the targeted ships?

This terrorist regime and its proxy figureheads have repeatedly and explicitly warned us that they intend to engulf the region in flames and torch the global economy. Why do we always fail to take Iran at its word? When tensions flared in May, European observers queued up to blame the Trump administration and portray this as a failure of US policy. These latest unprovoked attacks suggest that the escalation is fuelled from one side only. World leaders must not sit back and wait to see what action (if any) Trump will take. This calls for a unified response by entities such as NATO, particularly as member states including Norway are involved.

Global levels of oil demand in the short term tend to be highly inelastic, meaning that relatively modest shocks in available supply can have a drastic impact on prices. With one-fifth of the world's oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, Iran believes that it can hold the world's economy to ransom and send oil prices skyrocketing.

This crisis has gone way beyond previous bouts of macho posturing and sabre-rattling between Tehran and Washington.

World leaders generally lack the stomach for decisive action in order to reestablish an effective containment strategy against Iran, but they may quickly discover that they have little choice when the alternatives are global economic meltdown or a prolonged and destructive regional war.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)

Deterrence only works when it is shown to be serious. The US administration has played its hand badly, gaining a reputation for barking very loudly, but failing to bite. Khamenei was likely reassured by Trump plaintively declaring that he does not want conflict. Given that soaring oil prices could torpedo a teetering world economy, and with the US leader staking his 2020 reelection prospects on economic growth, the Gulf attacks seem calculated by Khamenei to hit Trump where it hurts. Furthermore, the attacks

It need special applause

li-Arab conflict have focused on the search for a diplomatic solution. Such was the case with the Lausanne Conference (1949), the Geneva Conference (1973), the Madrid Conference (1991), the Annapolis Conference (2007) and more.

On the other hand, the four regional conferences held between 1994 and 1997, including the multilateral negotiations on issues of water, the environment, arms control, and refugees, were closely aligned with the diplomatic process (the Oslo Accords and the peace treaty with Jordan) and designed to strengthen and entrench it. The collapse of the Oslo process meant also the demise of the multilateral track.

In recent years, especially because of dynamic efforts initiated by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Manama has already built the image of one of the very few nations in the Middle East, which has been wholeheartedly promoting peace and stability.

On the other hand, Bahrain is a time-tested ally of the United States while ever since the signing of a defence pact between Manama and Washington and a free trade agreement in 2006, hundreds of

History shows that most international conferences on the Israeli-Arab conflict have focused on the search for a diplomatic solution.

Such was the case with the Lausanne Conference (1949), the Geneva Conference (1973), the Madrid Conference (1991), the Annapolis Conference (2007) and more.

US firms already are operating in Bahrain.

Moreover, the US Fifth Fleet is headquartered in Manama, evidently proving the existing warm relations between Bahrain and the US. The upcoming conference would open a new vista of opportunity for the US and Middle Eastern companies in further strengthening the existing cordial relations with Bahrain by boosting trade and investment.

One of the most important points about Bahrain is that its leadership has taken special initiatives in ensuring that his country does

not support any kind of religious extremism.

The Kingdom also has inter-faith relations with the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles and in December 2018, it named Rabbi Marc Schneier as special adviser on the Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence that he had founded in Manama.

Schneier has been working for the past 15 years to create inter-faith bridges between Israel, the Gulf States.

Houda Ezra Nonoo, a Jewish Bahraini woman, served as her country's ambassador to the US from 2008 to 2013. All this places Bahrain in an excellent position to host Trump's economic summit, which in any case fits in with the Kingdom's defence and economic interests.

One of the key points centering the upcoming Bahrain Peace Conference is the sincerest willingness of the Trump administration and the rulers of Bahrain is ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East, which is crucial for each of the nations in that part of the world.

(Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury is the editor of Blitz. Follow him on Twitter at Salah_Shoaib)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



After years of mistreatment and indefinite detention of prisoners, the United States must close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay.

@RoKhanna

02



Millions of people will enter this weekend filled with fear. Children who are U.S. citizens will wonder if their mothers will be ripped from home in the pre-dawn hours before church on Sunday. And why? So Trump can vilify immigrants as part of a political campaign. It's shameful.

@KamalaHarris

03



This was Philadelphia after an oil refinery exploded this morning. So... what's that about how climate change isn't an existential crisis that will disproportionately impact working class people & burn its way up? We need a solution on the scale of the crisis: #GreenNewDeal

@AOC

04



Nice to be back in Israel. Looking forward to meeting with Israeli PM Netanyahu tomorrow & my counterparts from Israel & Russia, Meir Ben-Shabbat & Nikolay Patrushev, to discuss regional security.

@AmbJohnBolton

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

Combating climate change in your home



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

It has been a topsy-turvy summer for us in Bahrain this year. Although we're not complaining, May was relatively balmy and the 35 degree Celsius average temperature was cut by cool evening breezes that made our Ramadan fasting without water easier to sustain. But June began and continued in an uncomfortable blaze as if summer is catching up with us after a lull and I worry that the months ahead will be tough. Should the government bring forward their July labour laws that made it mandatory for companies to change outdoor workers' timing to the cooler morning hours?

For the many amongst us who think climate change is over-rated and fictional, I must remind you of what a dangerous near-reality it is for small islands like Bahrain. In the vast Pacific Ocean, more than 15 small-island countries like Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, the Galapagos with their fabled wealth of biodiversity and the tourist haven of Maldives, with its picture-perfect beaches and sunsets... they are all living everyday with the threat of being swallowed by the sea.

The village of Vunidogoloa in Fiji became the first to relocate due to coastal erosion in 2018 - the threat is that close. The UN's climate-science arm has predicted that oceans around the world could rise up to three feet by the end of the 21st century and destroy many low-lying island nations.

When people think about how their lives will be affected by climate change, they might imagine living in a world with shorter winters and longer summers. They might envision coastal cities losing ground to sea level rise. They might even expect more extreme weather, such as hurricanes or wildfires.

All of those effects have struck various parts of the world. But climate change is also affecting what we eat. With warmer temperatures and more pests, farms will produce less food. And farmers will have to work harder to grow what food they do bring to harvest. Some crops might even be less nutritious.

While much of the damage is done, you and I can change the course of this destruction. We need to adopt a watchful way of living that is not wasteful and conserve the resources of our planet. Not just plastics, the new enemy, but also wastage of electricity and water, wastage of food - they all add up. How many of us are guilty of leaving the tap running when we brush our teeth, hosing down our cars or overloading our plates at the buffet? Simple, thoughtless actions can add up and break the planet. So along with avoiding plastics, let's reassess our habits and pledge to adopt one good planet-saving action at least each week.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

business

Al Salam Bank launches win 10pc cashback promotion

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank-Bahrain announced the launch of a new summer offer on its range of Visa Credit and Prepaid cards.

Running from 18 June to 31 August 2019, the campaign offers 10 per cent cash back to the top 12 cardholders who use their cards the highest number of times while travelling abroad or shopping online.

The promotion builds on the success of a pre-summer promotion this year, which saw 10 cardholders win 5pc cash back on their international transactions.

Al Salam Bank's Head of Retail Banking, Mohammed Buhijji said: "It may not be the biggest spenders who win, but the ones who incorporate our credit and prepaid cards into their travel lifestyles the most."



Mohammed Buhijji, Al Salam Bank's Head of Retail Banking

Customers will also enjoy a special rewards programme by earning Gulf Air miles when shopping with Al Salam Bank's cards, which can be redeemed for a number of benefits including free flights, membership and flight upgrades, lounge access, excess baggage, and much more.

IGA, Microsoft renew pact

TDT | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA) has renewed its partnership with Microsoft to implement a number of initiatives within the 'Cloud First' Policy.

The initiative, IGA said, is designed to accelerate digital transformation across the Kingdom and deliver economic prosperity through Vision 2030.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain has prioritised the development of its ICT sector at the national level since the launch of Vision 2030," said Mohamed Ali AlQaed, Chief Executive of Information & eGovernment Authority.

He added: "The Microsoft Cloud enables digital transformation for governments, and empowering them to solve com-



Officials following the deal signing

mon challenges related to citizen engagement, worker productivity, cost efficiency and service innovation".

In March, the IGA on behalf of the Bahrain Government renewed its Enterprise Agreement for Microsoft 365 and mandated migration to the trusted Microsoft Cloud for Exchange Online and Enterprise Mobility and Security.

Microsoft 365 combines Office 365, Windows Enterprise, Mobility and Security into one intelligent solution.

Under the protection of the Microsoft Cloud, the kingdom's public entities receive advanced email security and threat protection for all employees. In a subsequent rollout phase, government employees will get access to leading collaboration

tools such as Teams and Yammer, to support Bahrain's Connected Government initiative.

"In line with Microsoft's mission to empower every individual and organization to achieve more, our commitment to the government and people of Bahrain is absolute," said Sheikh Saif Hilal Al Hosni, Country General Manager for Microsoft Bahrain & Oman.

Ebdaa backs special needs employees

● The bank recently slashed working hours of employees who are taking care of their differently abled family members

TDT | Manama

Ebdaa Bank for microfinance announced rolling out measures to support the bank's employees and customers with special needs.

Chief Executive of Ebdaa Bank Dr Khaled Al Ghazzawi confirmed bank's recent decision to allow employees with special needs or those taking care of disabled family mem-



Chief Executive of Ebdaa Bank Dr Khaled Al Ghazzawi

bers to have their working hours slashed as well as propose amendments to develop their careers.

"The needs of this employee vary according to the type of disability, whether it is physical, hearing, or vision disability. The bank is aiming to provide all means to help disables to

ensure their work performance with ease," said Dr Al Ghazzawi. Dr Al Ghazzawi noted that Bank aims to employ more disabled, and added: "The bank plans to cooperate with concerned authorities to train bank's employees on how to better serve disabled customers and learn banking terminologies in sign language to ease communication with deaf disabled."

"The basic concept of microfinance banks, including the Ebdaa Bank, is to support the neediest segments of society, such as low-incomers, youth and women. Supporting people with special needs from employees, customers or borrowers, is at the top of our priorities," added Dr Al Ghazzawi.

US blocks more Chinese tech firms

● Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi are set to meet next week on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan.

Washington

The US Commerce Department blacklisted five Chinese tech entities Friday in a new move against Beijing's supercomputing industry likely to raise tensions ahead of a meeting between President Trump and Xi Jinping next week.

The notice targets Sugon -- a prominent Chinese supercomputer manufacturer -- along



Earlier this month, Beijing summoned executives from American firms Dell and Microsoft and South Korea's Samsung, among others, to warn them that any moves to ramp down their businesses in China may lead to retaliation, The New York Times reported

with three of its microchip subsidiaries and a computing institute owned by the People's Liberation Army.

All of the entities will be effectively barred from obtaining US technology after the government determined they were "acting contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States."

Trade tensions between the world's top two economies have spilled over into the tech sector in recent months, with Trump's administration moving to essentially ban Chinese tech firm Huawei from the huge US market on security grounds.

In May, it added Huawei to an "entity list" of companies barred from receiving US-made components.

Manara begins phase 2 of 'Investment Gateway-Bahrain'

TDT | Manama

Manara Developments Company, a leading real estate developer has announced the commencement of phase two of its large-scale "Investment Gateway - Bahrain" in line with its schedule.

As of June 2019, the project has completed 26 per cent of its landfill target of phase two, as the main project contractor laid more than 2.7 million cubic meters of landfill sand and will continue for approximately 18-21 months for the BHD 100m infrastructure construction phase to proceed.

Upon completion, the "Investment Gateway - Bahrain" project will span a total surface area of 29 million square feet making it the largest light industry project available for freehold ownership in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Managing Director of Manara Developments, Dr Hassan Al Bastaki commented on the second phase of "Investment Gateway - Bahrain" stating: "The Government of the King-



IGB - Phase 2 - site progress

dom of Bahrain has extended support on numerous occasions that have brought this project to its significance today as it has approved the classification

of the project as an investment zone of a unique standard. The classification allowed non-Bahraini investment bodies to own property within the project thus

driving a higher volume demand and global expertise towards it."

Phase two of the "Investment Gateway - Bahrain" Project will bring an injection of approxi-



The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain has extended support on numerous occasions that have brought this project to its significance today as it has approved the classification of the project as an investment zone of a unique standard

DR HASSAN AL BASTAKI
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MANARA DEVELOPMENTS

mately BHD 500 million towards the landfill and construction of infrastructure notwithstanding the construction works to commence on the land plots by investors that are estimated at BHD 200,000 each in addition to creating 0,000 to 10,000 jobs at the very least.

The project also allows an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to take part in the second phase to freely develop their operations in line with their business needs that are of a unique nature.

The project would provide approximately 1,600 land plots ranging between 450 to 1,200 square meters with the flexibility to merge and adapt plots based on the needs of each business.

Amongst the main distinguishing factors of this project is its interconnection between more than one port and Bahrain International Airport along with a road network and bridges leading to these ports, which facilitate and reduces transportation costs significantly.

Johnson 'row' rocks UK leadership race

● Loud altercation involving screams, shouts and bangs were reported at Johnson's south London property

● London's Metropolitan Police said it responded to a call from a local resident

● Johnson's partner Carrie Symonds could be heard telling the former London mayor to "get off me" and "get out of my flat"

London, United Kingdom

Britain's leadership contest was rocked yesterday by reports that police were called to a late-night "row" between frontrunner Boris Johnson and his partner, just hours before campaigning opens to win over grassroots Conservatives.

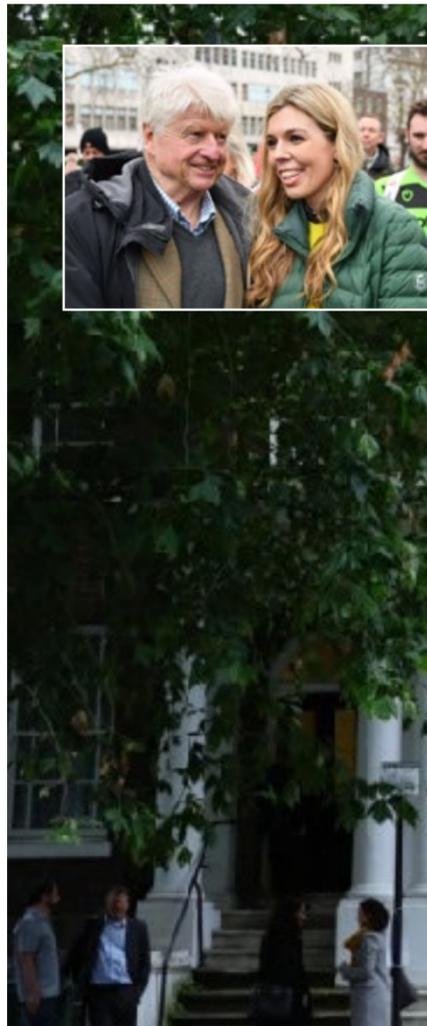
The *Guardian* said officers were alerted early on Friday after a neighbour said there had been a loud altercation involving screams, shouts and bangs at the south London property, shortly after Johnson had secured his place in the final run-off to become prime minister.

The paper said late Friday Johnson's partner Carrie Symonds could be heard telling the former London mayor to "get off me" and "get out of my flat".

London's Metropolitan Police said it responded to a call from a local resident but that "all occupants of the address... were all safe and well".

Johnson is the runaway favourite to beat Jeremy Hunt, but will face questions over the incident on Saturday when he and Hunt kick off a month-long nationwide tour to win over the grassroots Conservatives, who have the final say.

Whoever takes the Tory party leadership in the week beginning July 22 -- and therefore becomes prime minister -- will



Boris Johnson's London home (Courtesy of the Scotsman). Inset, Boris Johnson's partner Carrie Symonds with his dad Stanley

JEREMY HUNT



Aged 52

- ◆ British Foreign Secretary
- ◆ As health secretary, saw bitter pay dispute with junior doctors
- ◆ Dislikes the idea of a no-deal Brexit but doesn't rule it out

BORIS JOHNSON



Aged 55

- ◆ Former British foreign secretary
- ◆ Figurehead of 2016 campaign to leave the European Union
- ◆ Intends to take Britain out of the EU on Oct 31, deal or no-deal

then face the looming Brexit deadline of October 31.

The battle is likely to feature pledges from both contenders to take Britain out of the European Union safely and in one

piece, succeeding where outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May repeatedly failed.

But the race might ultimately turn into a popularity contest between Johnson -- pugnacious

but affable with a tendency for gaffes -- and the more diplomatic, low-key Hunt.

The "row" was splashed across the front pages of most newspapers on Saturday, and while bookmakers were still betting for Johnson, pundits warned the incident could harm his chances.

"Much will depend on the next 24 hours and whether the audio said to have been recorded by a concerned neighbour emerges," said *The Times* newspaper.

"At the very least it will ensure a leadership race that had started to look like a formality might in fact be something of more consequence."

Fearing Farage

After the MPs whittled down

the original field of 13, it is now up to the 160,000 or so paid-up Conservative members who select the centre-right party's next leader.

According to Times commen-

tator Matthew Parris, the group comprises "classic shire Tories", as well as poorer urban workers who are anti-European and more populist in their views.

The winner will need to succeed where May failed in pushing a deal with the EU through parliament, or face the prospect of leaving without a deal, which MPs have warned could collapse the government and trigger a general election.

With arch-Brexiteer Nigel Farage's new Brexit Party ahead in the polls, Johnson is widely viewed as the one Conservative who could compete in the party's heartlands.

A poll for *The Daily Telegraph* -- the paper for which Johnson writes a column -- showed six out of 10 Brexit Party backers jumping over to the Conservatives should the man known simply as Boris take charge.

Hunt and Johnson will appear Saturday in Birmingham, central England, for the first of 16 "hustings" -- occasionally rowdy events where candidates field audience questions -- three days before the third anniversary of the Brexit vote.

'Bottler'

Foreign minister Hunt launched an early attack on his rival, accusing him of ducking a television debate.

"This is supposed to be his finest hour ... but if you're going to hide away, that's not democracy," he wrote in Saturday's *Daily Telegraph*.

"Conservative Party members can only make that choice if you have a proper debate and you can't have that debate if one of the candidates is bottling all opportunities."

Both Johnson and Hunt have vowed to extract better terms from Brussels -- or walk away without any strings attached, but European leaders appear unmoved.

"Maybe the process of Brexit will be even more exciting than before because of some personnel decisions in London, but nothing has changed when it comes to our position," European Council President Donald Tusk said.

Pompeo to assure India on tech visas

Washington, United States

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will assure India on a visit next week that the United States is not planning to slash visas commonly used by Indian technology workers, an official said Friday.

The United States has backed internet behemoths and major corporations in opposing India's orders that all online data be stored within the country, a move to ensure that authorities in New Delhi have access to it.

A US official denied reports that Washington was linking the issue to H-1B visas for professionals, for which the vast majority of recipients are Indian.

"We attach great importance to the US-India relationship," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

"Indians have contributed under the H-1B program to the US economy and I think the sec-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

retary will be able to assure the Indian leadership that we have no plans to place caps on H-1B work visas for nations that are having foreign companies store data locally," she said.

The official acknowledged that President Donald Trump's administration was undertaking a review of the H-1B program

but said it was "not targeted at India."

"It's completely separate from our ongoing discussion with India on the importance of ensuring better trade," she said.

Pompeo will be seeking to build defense relations with India during his visit starting Tuesday, which will include a

speech in New Delhi on the future of the relationship between the world's two largest democracies.

The trip comes after the convincing re-election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a Hindu nationalist who has supported stronger ties with Washington.



The United States each year grants 85,000 H-1B visas, which are valid for three years to professionals sponsored by employees.

US Fed says large banks prepared to withstand economic crisis

Washington, United States

Major banks operating in the United States would be able to withstand a severe global economic crisis with funds to spare, the Federal Reserve said Friday.

The Fed announced the results of its annual bank stress tests, showing the 18 largest financial institutions would suffer losses but still have enough of a capital buffer to continue operating.

"The results confirm that our financial system remains resilient," Fed Vice Chairman Randal Quarles said.

During the 2008 financial crisis, the collapse of the mortgage securities market essentially froze the financial system and the US government had to spend billions to bail out banks.

Banking reform laws required the institutions to sig-

nificantly increase their capital and shore up their internal risk management to avoid another government rescue.

"The nation's largest banks are significantly stronger than before the crisis and would be well-positioned to support the economy even after a severe shock," Quarles said in a statement.

The Fed subjects banks to a potential global crisis in which the US economy contracts by eight percent and unemployment jumps to 10 percent.

Credit card loans showed the highest losses under the "severely adverse scenario," followed by commercial and industrial loans, at \$73 billion and \$107 billion respectively, according to the report.

Those two categories amount to 44 percent of the total estimated losses of more than \$410 billion.

ABC Bank, Arab Bank, GPIC to sponsor 100th anniversary of banking sector

TDT | Manama

ABC Bank, Arab Bank and Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) announced their intention to sponsor the 100th-anniversary celebration of Bahrain's Banking Sector.

The event will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa on December 11, Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) announced.

Bahrain's banking sector, occupies the second position in the sectors that contribute to the GDP, after oil, contributing more



Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery



Dr Waheed Al Qassim



Mohammed Assim

than 16 per cent of the GDP. CEO of BAB Dr Waheed Al Qassim stressed that the leading

national institutions and companies' support to BAB will help the association move forward in

achieving the objectives of the celebration.

BAB confirmed ABC Bank's

gold sponsorship of the 100th anniversary of the Banking Sector and Arab Bank's silver sponsorship of the celebration.

"This support reflects the Bank's strong commitment to supporting the development of the banking sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the national economy as a whole," said Regional Managing Director, Bahrain Arab Bank Mohammed Assim.

Gulf Petrochemical Company (GPIC) has supported the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the banking sector in the

Kingdom as a bronze sponsor of the event.

Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery, President of Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), said: "The celebration of the centennial of the banking sector in Bahrain represents a good opportunity to promote investment in the Kingdom and benefit not only Bahraini financial and banking institutions, but also all economic, industrial, service and logistics companies and other companies working to support the national economy in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

Daimler recalls more cars over emissions cheating: report

Berlin, Germany

German auto giant Daimler has been ordered to recall a further 60,000 diesel cars believed to have been equipped with emissions-cheating software, the mass-circulation daily Bild reported on Saturday.

The German Federal Motor Transport Authority or KBA already ordered Daimler last year to recall 700,000 diesel vehicles worldwide, including 280,000 in Germany, because of software that lowered the amount of dangerous particles their engines emitted during testing.

That recall -- which Daimler is appealing -- covered a range of different models, including

its Vito, C-Class, V-Class and GLC cars.

But now the KBA has told the carmaker to recall its Mercedes-Benz GLK 220 CDI models built between 2012 and 2015, Bild reported.

Contacted by AFP, a company spokesman confirmed the information.

"An investigation has been under way since April," he said. The so-called "Dieselgate" scandal erupted in Germany in 2015 when Europe's biggest carmaker Volkswagen admitted to installing so-called "defeat devices" in 11 million vehicles worldwide that allowed them to cheat emissions testing.

India asks scooter, bike makers to draw up plan for EVs: sources



A worker checks the power supply to recharge an electric scooter inside a workshop in Ahmedabad, India

Reuters | New Delhi

India's central think-tank has asked scooter and motorbike manufacturers to draw up a plan to switch to electric vehicles, days after they publicly opposed the government's proposals saying they would disrupt the sector, two sources told Reuters.

Niti Aayog officials met with executives from companies including Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp and TVS late on Friday, giving them two weeks to come up with the plan, according to one of the executives.

The think-tank, which is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and plays a key role in policymaking, had recommended that only electric models of scooters and motorbikes with engine capacity of more than 150cc must be sold from 2025, sources have

told Reuters.

Automakers opposed the proposal and warned that a sudden transition, at a time when auto sales have slumped to a two-decade low, would cause market disruption and job losses.

During Friday's meeting government officials argued that switching to EVs is of national importance so India does not miss out on the global drive towards environmentally cleaner vehicles, one of sources said. But industry executives responded that a premature switch with no established supply chain, charging infrastructure or skilled labour in India, could result in India losing its leadership position in scooters and motorbikes, the second source said.

"There were clearly drawn out positions," said the source, adding there were "strong opinions" at the meeting.

S.east Asian leaders throw weight behind China-led trade pact



Foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from left, Laos Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, Malaysia Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah, Myanmar's Union Minister for International Cooperation Kyaw Tin, Philippines' Foreign Minister Teodoro Locsin, Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Thailand Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai, Vietnam Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, Brunei Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Erywan Yusof, Cambodia Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, Indonesia Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi pose for a group photo during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting ahead of the ASEAN summit in Bangkok

Bangkok

Southeast Asian leaders gathered in Bangkok yesterday determined to drive forward the world's largest commercial pact, with the trade war between the US and China clouding the outlook for their export-led economies.

Disputes in the flashpoint South China Sea and Myanmar's persecution of Rohingya Muslims are expected to be tussled over by leaders today, the final day of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

But trade has taken centre stage with ASEAN leaders keen to hasten the signing of a China-drafted commercial deal covering around half the world's population.

While tit-for-tat tariffs between the world's biggest two economies have seen some manufacturers flee China to safer ASEAN hubs, economists say the big picture for global growth is bleak and member countries are keen to boost trade with the RCEP.

A draft of the chairman's statement seen by AFP said the bloc was committed to finishing RCEP "negotiations within this year" and would "exert relentless efforts to reach this target."

"The faster it (RCEP) gets implemented the better," Martin M. Andanan, Philippines Communications Secretary, told reporters earlier.



The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) includes all 10 ASEAN economies, plus India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Progress on the deal has stuttered in recent months with India digging in over fears cheap Chinese goods could flood its massive consumer market.

Rohingya talks

ASEAN is frequently criticised as a soft forum where diplomatic niceties often outweigh concrete action on pressing problems.

Foreign ministers discussed the repatriation of more than 740,000 Rohingya refugees that have fled Myanmar into Bangladesh.

Malaysia, which speaks up most strongly for the Rohingya, said the perpetrators of violence against the Muslim minority must "be brought to justice".

Repatriation "must include the citizenship of the Rohingya," Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Bin Abdullah said according to a tweet by his ministry.

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi is in Bangkok for the meeting.

ASEAN has come under fire for suggesting the refugees should go back to Myanmar within two years, according to a leaked report seen by AFP -- though virtually none have volunteered to return so far, citing safety concerns.

The bloc also agreed on Saturday to "take concrete actions in combating" marine debris -- including plastic -- across the region in the "Bangkok Declaration", though activists have said it doesn't go far enough in curbing single-plastic use.

Regional leaders are set to continue to tackle thorny South China Sea issues on Sunday, with a draft Code of Conduct agreement up for review. Observers however doubt any major progress will be made.

Discussions so far have been overshadowed by a recent dust-up in the sea between a Chinese ship that rammed a Filipino fishing boat and caused it to sink.

Beijing claims most of the resource-rich waterway.

Manila said a joint investigation into the incident has been launched, adding that the run-in would not derail Code of Conduct talks.

WTO chief says states preparing for trade court shutdown

Geneva, Switzerland

The head of the World Trade Organization said Thursday that member states are preparing for a shutdown of the body's dispute settlement system, following months of deadlock triggered by the United States.

The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), sometimes dubbed the supreme court of world trade, is in crisis due to Washington's refusal to approve any new judges for its appellate division.

President Donald Trump's administration has accused the DSB of overstepping its authority by issuing broad rulings that he says violate national sovereignty.

WTO members "are working hard to find a solution to the appellate body impasse in time to avoid a paralysis," WTO director general Roberto Azevedo told reporters in Geneva.

"But they are beginning to realise that they have to work also with a scenario where no solution is achieved," he added.

The WTO faces a December deadline when, due to mandatory retirements, the appellate body will not have enough judges to hear cases.

UN food agency to elect chief as climate change ups hunger

Rome, Italy

Candidates from China, France and Georgia are vying to head the UN's food agency, as the fight to eradicate world hunger takes a blow from global warming and wars.

The election of the new chief of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will be held Sunday at the headquarters in Rome during the agency's 41st conference, which brings together 194 member countries.

FAO has sounded the alarm over rising food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition, and the new head will have to ramp up support for small-holder farms and fisheries to combat the ills of intensive farming, food waste and poverty.

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN.
 DAILY AT (VIP): 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

2-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
 *TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 PM.
 DAILY AT: (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM. + 12.30 + 2.45 + 7.15 PM.

3-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW
 *MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM.

4-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) NEW
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJAN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM.

5-SINHUBAADH (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 *VIJAY SETHUPATHI, ANJALI, VIVEK PRASANNA
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM. + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM. + 11.45 PM.

6-SHADDA (PG-15) (PUNJABI) NEW
 *DILJIT DOSANJH, NEERU BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM.

7-UNDA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 MAMMOOTTY, ASIF ALI, ARJUN ASOKAN
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.

8-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 *PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 2.45 PM.

9-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM.
 DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 9.30 + 12.00 MN.

10-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)
 *RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
 DAILY AT: (KIDS CINEMA): 5.00 PM.
 DAILY AT: 12.30 NOON.



11-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM)
 *KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
 DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.30 PM.

CITYCENTRE

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 12.00 MN
 DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
 DAILY AT (IMAX3D): 12.45 + 7.45 + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 DAILY AT (VIP I): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

2-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
 *TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
 DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 10.30 AM + 3.15 + 5.30 + 10.15 PM
 DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

3-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW
 *MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

4-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR) NEW
 *AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

5-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) NEW
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJAN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

6-UNDA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 MAMMOOTTY, ASIF ALI, ARJUN ASOKAN
 DAILY AT: (9.30 AM + 10.00 AM. + 10.15 AM. THURS/FRI/SAT)

7-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.00 + 3.15 + 4.30 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 8.45 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM + 12.00 MN
 DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.00 NOON + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

8-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

9-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)
 *RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
 DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

10-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)
 *ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

11-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

12-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 *PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
 DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

13-THE POISON ROSE (PG-15) (DRAMA/THRILLER) NEW
 *MORGAN FREEMAN, JOHN TRAVOLTA, BRENDAN FRASER
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.30 + 10.00 PM

14-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
 *RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

15-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION)
 *SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

16-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)
 *AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

17-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 *BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
 DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.30 PM

SEEF (I)

1-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

2-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

3-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR) (NEW)
 *AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

4-THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR (PG-15) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) (NEW)
 *YARA SHAHIDI, CHARLES MELTON, JOHN LEGUIZAMO
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM

5-THE DEAD DON'T DIE (15+) (COMEDY/ HORROR) (NEW)
 *BILL MURRAY, ADAM DRIVER, TILDA SWINTON
 DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM

6-ABOVE SUSPENSION (18+) (CRIME/DRAMA) (NEW)
 *EMILIA CLARKE, THORA BIRCH, JACK HUSTON
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.15 + 8.45 PM

7-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

8-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW
 *RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

9-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)
 *ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
 DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM

10-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM

11-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/ROMANTIC)
 *SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
 DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM

12-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
 *RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

13-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)
 *AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (II)

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

2-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) (NEW)
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJAN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

3-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

4-UNDA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 MAMMOOTTY, ASIF ALI, ARJUN ASOKAN
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

5-SINHUBAADH (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 *VIJAY SETHUPATHI, ANJALI, VIVEK PRASANNA
 DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

6-SHADDA (PG-15) (PUNJABI) NEW
 *DILJIT DOSANJH, NEERU BAJWA

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM

SAAR

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

2-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

3-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 5.00 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

4-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR) (NEW)
 *AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 4.00 + 9.30 PM

5-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) (NEW)
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJAN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.00 PM

6-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

AL HAMRA

1-UNDA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 MAMMOOTTY, ASIF ALI, ARJUN ASOKAN
 DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

2-SINHUBAADH (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 *VIJAY SETHUPATHI, ANJALI, VIVEK PRASANNA
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 6.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

2-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM

3-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 12.00 MN

4-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR) (NEW)
 *AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
 DAILY AT: 11.30 PM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

5-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) (NEW)
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJAN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 10.45 PM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

6-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

Lady Bird: a hilarious love letter to teenagers and their mothers

Lady Bird is an American comedy-drama film written and directed by Greta Gerwig in her solo directorial debut.

The film stars Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf, Tracy Letts, Lucas Hedges, Timothée Chalamet, Beanie Feldstein, Stephen McKinley Henderson, and Lois Smith. Set in Sacramento, California, between the fall of 2002 and the summer of 2003, it is a coming-of-age story of a high school senior and her turbulent relationship with her mother.

Lady Bird received a standing ovation at its international premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, and was praised for Ronan and Metcalf's performances, and Gerwig's direction.

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an approval rating of 99% based on 357 reviews, with an average rating of 8.7/10. The website's critical consensus reads "Lady Bird delivers fresh insights about the turmoil of adolescence and reveals debuting writer-director Greta Gerwig as a fully formed filmmaking talent." On November 27, 2017, the film became the most-reviewed film ever to remain at 100% on the site with 164 positive reviews, beating previous re-



Saoirse Ronan and Laurie Metcalf are electric as warring daughter and mother in Greta Gerwig's beautifully observed comedy-drama

cord holder Toy Story 2, which has 163 positive reviews. It stayed at 100% until the 196th review was negative.

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 94 out of 100, based on reviews from 50 critics, indicating "universal acclaim."

A.O. Scott of The New York Times described Lady Bird as "big-screen perfection ... exceptionally well-written, full of wordplay and lively argument. Every line sounds like something a person might actually say, which means that the movie is also exceptionally well acted." Todd McCarthy of The Hollywood



Saoirse Ronan and Laurie Metcalf in Lady Bird

Reporter wrote the film was "modestly scaled but creatively ambitious" and "succeeds on its own terms as a piquant audience pleaser", and gave praise to Ronan, whom he said "just seems to

keep getting better all the time."

Peter Debruge of Variety praised Gerwig's direction and script as well as Ronan's performance. Mick LaSalle of the San Francisco

Chronicle wrote the film was "simply beautiful" and "warm and inspired", hailing the performances of Ronan and Metcalf as well as Gerwig's direction and screenplay.

celebs



Eiza Gonzalez

Eiza Gonzalez boards thriller 'I Care a Lot'

Los Angeles

“Baby Driver” star Eiza Gonzalez is set to share screen space with Peter Dinklage and Rosamund Pike in the thriller “I Care a Lot”.

The film marks Dinklage’s first acting gig post the final season of HBO’s epic fantasy drama “Game of Thrones”. His role is being kept under wraps.

Pike will be essaying the role of Marla Grayson, a highly successful legal guardian with a knack for using the law to her benefit and her clients’ detriment. But when she cherry picks her seemingly perfect client, she soon realizes looks are deceiving.

Madonna talks about latest studio album 'Madame X'

Los Angeles

American pop singer-songwriter Madonna whose 14th studio album ‘Madame X’ released a week ago, took the stage at iHeartRadio Theater to interact with a group of fans and media about the origin of her latest song.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the star whose latest album is expected to debut at No. 1 on Billboard’s Hot 200 chart, interacted with fans on Thursday night according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The conversation which was moderated well by Cubby Bryant and Christine Nagy, offered more insight of Madonna’s creative process while waxing nostalgic about her beloved hit songs such as “Vogue” and “Like a Virgin.” The 60-year-old singer who

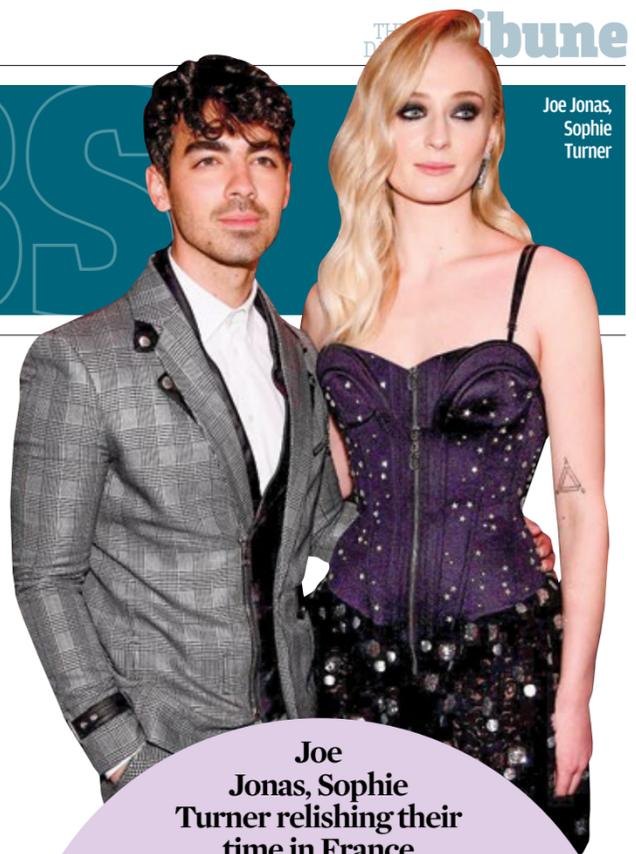
looked gorgeous in a sparkling blazer, bustier, silk shorts and her signature Madame X eyepatch -- also spoke about using art as activism in 2019’s divisive socio-political climate and joked about the possibility of running for president.

However, the singer did her best not to talk about the current President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, whom she has publicly criticized in the past. “Let’s not go there,” she said at one point when his name slipped out of her mouth.

The Hollywood Reporter highlights parts of the discussion, which also included interesting points about her being relocating from the U.S. to Portugal, her relationship with social media, collaborating with Latin artists and her role as a mother of six.



Madonna



Joe Jonas, Sophie Turner

Joe Jonas, Sophie Turner relishing their time in France

Los Angeles

Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner are relishing their time in the city of love, Paris, France, days before they are set to tie the knot for the second time.

According to Page Six, the two made their trip to Paris for Jonas’ appearance on the menswear shows. Jonas who joined the Berluti runway show on Friday was seen seated in the front row wearing a white shirt with colored prints and paired it with a pair of navy blue pants. However, Turner didn’t join him for the event. The two left everyone startled earlier in May when the duo tied the knot in a surprise wedding in Las Vegas.

This happened after they made a stunning appearance at the Billboard Music Awards.

Recently, Turner and Jonas threw their bachelor parties ahead of their second wedding.

Jumpin’ Jack Flash Jagger back on stage after heart surgery

Los Angeles

Mick Jagger swaggered back to the stage on Friday in his first concert after undergoing heart surgery in April as the Rolling Stones kicked off a delayed North American tour.

The veteran British band opened its No Filter tour in Chicago at the city’s 61,500 seat Soldier Field stadium, after delaying the 17-date U.S. and Canada tour to allow for Jagger’s medical treatment.

Opening to a sold-out crowd, the band kicked off with its classic hit “Street Fighting Man” as the Stones frontman, dressed in skinny black jeans and a black and white jacket, strutted across the stage, singing and pumping his fist.

Jagger, 75, underwent heart valve replacement surgery in New York in early April, and in May reassured fans that he was back in shape by posting video on Twitter of him dancing in a studio.

“He (Jagger) went through it very easily,” Stones guitarist Keith Richards told the Toronto Sun in an interview ahead of the Chicago concert. “He’s in great shape — rocking. As I say, it seemed to be no problem at all really.”

The 1960s band, whose current members Jagger, Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts are now all in their 70s, has played more than 40 tours, making the quartet some of the most enduring and successful rock musicians of all time.



Mick Jagger



Shawn Mendes

Camila Cabello, Shawn Mendes get candid about collaborating in ‘Senorita’

Los Angeles

As they teamed up for their latest steamy track ‘Senorita’, Camila Cabello and Shawn Mendes opened up about working together and how the song came into being.

E! News cited V magazine’s digital issue featuring the two and sharing a lot of inside details!

Cabella shared the time it took to complete the song and said, “The song is actually like eight months in the making.”

On which Mendes spoke out, “It took me 10 months to convince Camila to sing this with me.”

“This is true. My fans are just absolutely gonna hate me now,” Cabello replied.

She added, “They’re like, ‘She’s so stupid.’ Honestly, it just takes the right time for things to happen, I feel. You know?”

The two also disclosed that

they have earlier tried to team up for other songs. Cabello said, “We wanted to do a song called, ‘I Know What You Did Last Winter’ and ‘I Know What We Did Last Fall.’”

“[Our managers] were like, ‘No,’ and we were like, ‘What?!’ We almost fired them. We were like, ‘What do you mean? How’s that not a good idea?’,” Cabello added.

‘Senorita’ marks the second collaboration of the two after their last track together ‘I Know What You Did Last Summer’ which released in 2015.

Mendes shared that this song kept him anticipated and said, “I think this is probably the most anticipation I’ve ever had to release a song. Besides ‘I Know What You Did Last Summer.’”



Camila Cabello

Kobe Bryant and wife Vanessa welcomes baby girl

Los Angeles

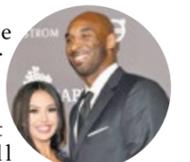
Sportsperson-turned-filmmaker Kobe Bryant and wife Vanessa Laine welcomed their fourth daughter on Thursday.

According to Page Six, the proud parents have named the little bundle of joy Capri Kobe Bryant.

“Our baby girl is here!!! So thankful for our newest baby blessing.”

The mother of four also added that she will

nickname the newbie as Koko. The 40-year-old filmmaker also shared his excitement on social media. “We are beyond excited that our baby girl ‘Koko’ has arrived!! #bryantbunch #4princesses #blessed,” he wrote.



Kobe Bryant and Vanessa



Katherine Schwarzenegger and Chris Pratt

Katherine Schwarzenegger wishes husband Chris Pratt in an adorable post

Los Angeles

The newlywed couple Katherine Schwarzenegger and Chris Pratt are leaving no stone unturned to express their love for each other. As Pratt turns 40, his wife was the first one to wish him on the special day in an adorable manner.

Schwarzenegger posted a collage on Instagram in honour of Pratt’s birthday, which included beaming shots of the couple doing all sorts of different activities. From biking, golfing and sitting in a hot tub to a silly selfie of the two doing face masks, the collage showed off the newlywed couple’s moments of love from the past when the duo was dating.

“Happy birthday to my darling angel face! So beyond blessed to laugh with you, love you, go on adventures with you and live this magical life with you. You make life joy-filled! I love you so much! Happy happy!” the 29-year-old author captioned the post.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas joins UTA post her exit from WME

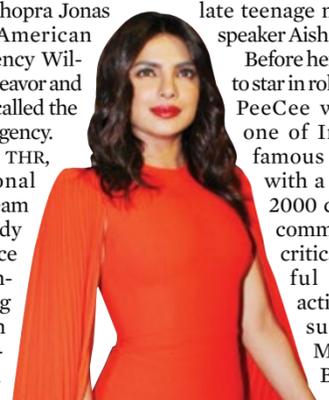
Los Angeles

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has left American talent agency William Morris Endeavor and joined another called the United Talent Agency.

According to THR, the international superstar will team next with Mindy Kaling to produce and star in an untitled wedding comedy, which will be co-produced by Dan Goor. The actor

is also all set to star in ‘The Sky Is Pink’, playing the mother of the late teenage motivational speaker Aisha Chaudhary.

Before her major jump to star in roles in the U.S., PeeCee was already one of India’s most famous celebrities, with a Miss World 2000 crown into a commercially and critically successful Bollywood acting career in such films as Mary Kom, Barfi! and Fashion.



SPORTS

sports

Hamilton powers to French GP pole

● **Five-time world champion, who struggled to match Valtteri Bottas' pace in practice sessions, reels off fastest lap**

● **Hamilton holds off challenge of Bottas and Leclerc**

AFP | Le Castellet, France

Lewis Hamilton timed his best lap to perfection yesterday when he took pole position ahead of his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas with a blistering late effort at the French Grand Prix.

The five-time world champion, who had struggled to match the Finn's pace in the previous two practice sessions, reeled off a fastest lap in one minute and 28.319 seconds to beat him by 0.286 seconds.

It was the 86th pole of his career for Hamilton, who won last year's race from pole, and a record-increasing 63rd front-row lock-out for Mercedes. Hamilton has taken 60 of his poles with Mercedes.

It was a master-class from the dominant Silver Arrows team while their rivals laboured in pursuit, with Monegasque Charles Leclerc taking third for Ferrari ahead of Max Verstap-

pen, fourth for Red Bull.

British rookie Lando Norris impressed with a fine effort to take fifth ahead of his resurgent McLaren team-mate Carlos Sainz and, surprisingly, a despondent Sebastian Vettel finished down in seventh in the second Ferrari after a gearbox issue during Q3.

Daniel Ricciardo was eighth for Renault ahead of Frenchman Pierre Gasly in the second Red Bull and Antonio Giovinazzi of Alfa Romeo.

"It's not an easy track," said Hamilton. "It's very technical and Valtteri has been very quick all weekend. I've been chipping away and the last two laps were the ones."

Bottas said: "I think Lewis had a really good lap. It's between super close between us all weekend and it's about fine details."

A happy Leclerc said: "At the end, I am pretty happy with my lap and unfortunately it wasn't enough! A good start will be very important tomorrow."

Searing heat and gusty winds On an afternoon of searing heat and a gusty wind at the remote Le Castellet circuit, the track temperature was 55 degrees as the session began and the air was 30, conditions that ensured plenty of complaints about the smooth, if slippery, asphalt surface.

As he had on Friday afternoon and yesterday morning, Bottas was quick to set the pace and



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton leaves the pits during the qualifying session



It was the 86th pole of his career for defending world champion Lewis Hamilton

topped Q1 ahead of Hamilton with Leclerc a close third.

Out went Daniil Kvyat, of Toro

Rosso, who will start at the back of the grid after taking a new engine, Romain Grosjean in his Haas, Lance Stroll of Force India and the two Williams of George Russell and Robert Kubica.

Both Mercedes and Ferrari started Q2 on mediums and Hamilton responded with a lap in 1:29.520, only for Bottas to reply with 1:29.437, taking an extra lap to do so.

As these are intended to be their race-starting tyres, Hamilton's more cautious approach may have preserved some life he can make use of on Sunday.

Alexander Albon, 11th for Toro Rosso, also impressed but

missed out on the top-ten shootout along with Kimi Raikkonen in the second Alfa, Nico Hulkenberg of Renault, Sergio Perez and Kevin Magnussen.

On their first Q3 runs, it was Hamilton on top by two-tenths with Leclerc third and Vettel forced to pit after missing an upshift -- his gearbox not responding as required.

That left the four-time world champion, already in a solemn mood after the rejection of Ferrari's appeal against the Montreal penalty which cost him victory in Canada, sounding ironically grim ahead of the final showdown.

Europe and IMMAF-WMMAA celebrate Bahrain's top ranking

TDI | Manama

Team Bahrain has had a phenomenal start to the year as they progressed through to first place of the MMA ranking after victorious campaigns at the Asian and African Open Championships. It is the first time the country has topped the list after only four years of the official beginning of a mixed martial arts program.

The achievement didn't go unnoticed at ongoing European Championships, which are being held in Rome, Italy. The IMMAF-WMMAA and national federations celebrated Bahrain's topping of world rankings and honoured efforts of Bahrain MMA Federation, and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

A message of congratulations to Team Bahrain was put out on the big screen during all matches.

Meanwhile, on second day of competitions that included Team Bahrain, six of the Kingdom's competitors kept their medal hopes alive, with Magomed Idrisov, Abdulmanap Magomedov, Shamil Gaziev, Murad Guseinov, Abdulla Alyaqoob and Ramazan Gitinov each picking up crucial wins in Rome.

Federer to meet Goffin in 'special' 13th Halle final



Roger Federer from Switzerland returns the ball during his match against Pierre-Hugues Herbert from France

AFP | Halle Westfalen, Germany

Roger Federer said it was a "special" feeling to reach the final of the ATP event in Halle for a 13th time after beating Pierre-Hugues Herbert 6-3, 6-3 in yesterday's semi-final.

Federer is chasing a record-extending tenth title at the pre-Wimbledon grass court event this year, having suffered a surprise defeat to Croatian Borna Coric in last year's final.

"It is very, very special. I am glad I got another chance this year, because last year I really didn't know if I would ever play another Halle final," he said.

World number 43 Herbert, 28, struggled in his first-ever meeting with 20-time major winner Federer, who is hoping to win a ninth Wimbledon title

next month.

The straight-sets victory provided welcome respite for the Swiss star, who was forced to battle through gruelling three-set encounters with Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Roberto Bautista Agut earlier in the week.

"I feel in a similar situation to last year. I was perhaps more tired last year because I had played in Stuttgart the week before," said Federer.

"I hope I can call on that extra bit of energy, because I am going to need it tomorrow."

The 37-year-old Swiss will face David Goffin in the final, after the Belgian fought to victory over rising Italian star Matteo Berrettini earlier yesterday.

"Goffin plays well from the back of the court, he plays aggressively and returns well," said Federer.

Sanchez sends Chile into quarter-finals

Manchester United forward Sanchez hits second-half winner against Ecuador to send Chile through to Copa America quarter-finals

AFP | Salvador, Brazil

Alexis Sanchez put a miserable club season with Manchester United behind him as he sent Chile into the Copa America quarter-finals with the winning goal in Friday's 2-1 win over Ecuador.

Jose Fuenzalida gave reigning champions Chile an eighth-minute lead but Enner Valencia equalized for Ecuador from the spot.

Sanchez bagged the winner, his 43rd goal for his country, but Chile finished with 10 men after Gabriel Achilier's red card a minute from time.

The 30-year-old Sanchez started only nine Premier League matches, scoring just once, in an injury-interrupted season for the Red Devils in which he struggled to make an impact when he did play.

But he scored for the second game running in Salvador as Chile joined Colombia as the only teams to qualify for their first two games.

However, he revealed afterwards that he turned his ankle during the first half, aggravating an old injury.

"I think I have a sprain, I hope it's not too serious. At half-time they strapped it up, I played on with a bit of pain," he said.



Ecuador's Pedro Velasco, left and Chile's Alexis Sanchez go for a header

Chile top Group C with a perfect six points ahead of their clash with Uruguay at Rio's iconic Maracana on Monday.

Ecuador are left staring elimination in the face after a second straight defeat, knowing they must beat Japan in Belo Horizonte on Monday to stand any chance of progressing.

"We put in a huge effort but we're making the mistake of switching off and that's why they scored silly goals," moaned Valencia.

"We'll try and beat Japan and then see where that takes us."

Chile began as they had left off in their 4-0 thrashing of Japan last Monday, opening the scoring after just eight minutes. Ecuador made a hash of clear-

ing a corner and Fuenzalida sent an angled volley from the edge of the area into the far bottom corner.

Ecuador brought the same muscular approach to the game that had seen them reduced to 10 men in their opener against Uruguay -- a 4-0 loss.

Sebastian Mendez found himself in the referee's book after just three minutes for a robust challenge on Charles Aranguiz.

Rushes of blood

However, it was Chile who were lucky to reach the break with a full complement after goalkeeper Gabriel Arias suffered two rushes of blood to the head.

First he clattered into Mendez

inside the area, allowing Valencia to chip home the equalizer from the spot on 28 minutes.

Arias escaped further sanction, though, and that saved him five minutes before the break when he charged rashly out of his area to try to beat the speedy Romario Ibarra to the ball on the flank.

Ibarra went down from the slightest brush of contact and after a lengthy VAR delay, Arias was shown a yellow card.

In what proved a niggly encounter, referee Patricio Loustau showed nine yellow cards and a red.

"We lacked the intelligence to control the game after the first goal," said Chile coach Reinaldo Rueda.

"Ecuador reacted really well and equalized in a moment in which we lost our shape."

Chile were back in front early in the second period after more poor Ecuador defending.

Aranguiz was allowed to turn and cross far too easily on the right and Sanchez was left unmarked at the back post to side-foot a volley beyond the despairing dive of Alexander Dominguez.

Ecuador were bossing possession but were toothless up front, while Sanchez and Eduardo Vargas provided far greater cut and thrust for Chile.

Shami hat-trick seals India win

Mohammed Shami shines in tight game after coming in as replacement for injured Bhuvneshwar Kumar

AFP | Southampton

Mohammed Shami took a dramatic hat-trick to finally clinch a thrilling 11-run

for four.

With an incredible triumph within touching distance, Nabi was caught by Pandya at long on two balls later.

Shami then clean-bowled Aftab Alam and Mujeeb Ur Rahman to seal a nerve-jangling win with a hat-trick.

"This win is right up there. We thought 250 was par and 270 would have been an outstanding effort. A team like Afghanistan doesn't let you play how you want to play," India captain Virat Kohli said.

"At the halfway mark we had some doubts in our mind but everyone had belief in the changing room."

Frustrated Afghanistan skipper Gulbadin Naib added: "We bowled really well. We did well in batting, but credit to Bumrah for how he bowled in the last two or three overs.

"If you chase 250 then middle order batsmen should go longer and take responsibility."

Earlier, an increasingly fraught India were furious when the umpire turned down a huge lbw shout at the start of the 29th over from Bumrah, who rapped Shah on the pads -- Kohli's side had no reviews left.

Just three balls later Shah, on 36, top-edged a hook and Chahal took a fine low catch running in from fine leg, sending the massed ranks of flag-waving Indian supporters wild.

With his final ball of the over Bumrah turned the game sharply back in India's direction when

win over Afghanistan after the minnows threatened one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history in Southampton yesterday.

Afghanistan, appearing at only their second World Cup, lost the toss but restricted India to 224 for eight in their 50 overs, giving themselves a genuine chance for a huge upset.

They were well set at 106-2 in the 29th over, even though the run-rate was starting to edge up, but two wickets in one over from paceman Jasprit Bumrah removed Rahmat Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi.

Mohammad Nabi and Najibullah Zadran batted sensibly to keep their side in the hunt, but when Zadran was caught by Yuzvendra Chahal off Hardik Pandya, Afghanistan were 166-6 in the 42nd over.

Nabi was still there in the final over, with 16 required and drilled Shami's first ball down the ground

India

K. Rahul c Zazai b Nabi	30
R. Sharma b Rahman	1
V. Kohli c Shah b Nabi	67
V. Shankar lbw b Shah	29
MS Dhoni st Alikhil b Rashid	28
Jadhav c sub (Zadran) b Naib	52
H. Pandya c Alikhil b Alam	7
M. Shami b Naib	1
K. Yadav not out	1
J. Bumrah not out	1
Extras (w7)	7
Total (eight wickets, 50 overs)	224

Afghanistan

Hazratullah Zazai b Shami	10
Gulbadin Naib c Shankar b Pandya	27
Rahmat Shah c Chahal b Bumrah	36
H. Shahidi c and b Bumrah	21
Asghar Afghan b Chahal	8
Mohammad Nabi c Pandya b Shami	52
Najibullah c Chahal b Pandya	21
Rashid Khan st Dhoni b Chahal	14
Ikram Alikhil not out	7
Aftab Alam b Shami	0
Mujeeb Ur Rahman b Shami	0
Extras (b4, lb4, w9)	17
Total (all out, 49.5 overs)	213

Tight Afghan attack

Afghanistan have been the whipping boys of the tournament in England and Wales, often looking out of their depth against the more established teams.

Yesterday's match was only the third one-day international between the two teams and defeat for India would have been a major embarrassment despite last year's tie in the Asia Cup.

India were on the back foot right at the start of the match when in-form opener Rohit Sharma, who has scored two hundreds so far in the tournament, was dismissed for just one by off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

The rest of India's powerful top order all got established, with Kohli making 67 from 63 balls, but none went on to play a decisive innings for the two-time champions.

Off-spinner Mujeeb was particularly impressive, conceding just 26 runs in his 10 overs, while leg-spinner Rashid Khan bounced back from the most expensive spell in World Cup history against England to take 1-38.

Kohli, who scored half-centuries against Australia and Pakistan, reached his third consecutive fifty of the tournament off 48 balls, with four fours, but was caught by Shah off the bowling of Nabi.

Kedar Jadhav reached his fifty off 66 balls, giving the scorecard a look of respectability and the total ultimately proved just too much for Afghanistan.

India's Mohammed Shami, right, celebrates after dismissing Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi



When the captain has so much trust in you, it gives you a lot of confidence to express yourself. That helps me keep a clear head

JASPRIT BUMRAH

Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
Australia	6	5	1	0	0	0.849	10
New Zealand	5	4	0	0	1	1.591	9
India	5	4	0	0	1	0.809	9
England	6	4	2	0	0	1.457	8
Sri Lanka	6	2	2	0	2	-1.119	6
Bangladesh	6	2	3	0	1	-0.407	5
West Indies	5	1	3	0	1	0.272	3
South Africa	6	1	4	0	1	-0.193	3
Pakistan	5	1	3	0	1	-1.933	3
Afghanistan	6	0	6	0	0	-1.712	0

Today's matches

Pakistan vs South Africa



Babar Azam

Rassie van der Dussen

Lords Cricket Ground - London
12:30pm

- » Pakistan and South Africa have both won just once so far at this World Cup, with one game rained off each too.
- » Pakistan's lone win came against hosts England, but they have lost to Australia and India in their two completed matches since.
- » South Africa's hopes of reaching the semi-finals are all-but over after a narrow defeat to New Zealand in their most recent game.

Pakistan

Pakistan have failed to kick on from beating England in their second game of the tournament, when they posted 348/8 at Trent Bridge in a 14-run victory. They were frustrated by the rain when their next match, against Sri Lanka, was called off, and have lost to Australia and India since. They bowled Australia out for 307 in the first of those with Mohammad Amir claiming 5-30 but could only reach 266 in reply.

Probable XI

Imam-ul-Haq, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Mohammad Hafeez, Sarfaraz Ahmed (c, wk), Shoaib Malik, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Hasan Ali, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Amir

Head to Head

South Africa have a dominant head-to-head record in ODIs against Pakistan, with their 3-2 series win at home in January taking them to 50 wins in this fixture. With Imam-ul-Haq in good batting form for Pakistan, the series was an even one. Quinton de Kock scored 83 from 58 runs in the decider at Cape Town, however, as South Africa chased 241 in just 40 overs to win by seven wickets.

South Africa

South Africa's hopes of a last-four place appear to be over after just one win and one no result from their six matches so far. Realistically needing to win their final five games to stand any chance of finishing in the top four, South Africa did the job in the first - bowling Afghanistan out for 125 on their way to a dominant nine-wicket win. They could not back it up, however. They were restricted to 241/6 against New Zealand at Edgbaston, in a match reduced to 49 overs apiece, and lost by four wickets with just three balls remaining.

Probable XI

Quinton de Kock (wk), Hashim Amla, Faf du Plessis (c), Aiden Markram, Rassie van der Dussen, David Miller, Chris Morris, Dwaine Pretorius, Lungi Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Imran Tahir

Ton-up Williamson revives New Zealand against West Indies

AFP | Manchester

Kane Williamson's latest World Cup batting masterclass helped New Zealand recover from a woeful start to post a total of 291-8 against the West Indies yesterday.

New Zealand were 7-2 inside the first over after fast bowler Sheldon Cottrell removed openers Martin Guptill and Colin Munro for golden ducks at Old Trafford.

But Williamson's career-best 148 -- his second successive World Cup hundred after a match-winning 106 not out against South Africa at Edgbaston on Wednesday -- turned the tide.

The New Zealand captain received sound support from Ross Taylor (69) during a third-wicket stand of 160.

However, Cottrell helped leave the West Indies with a reachable target thanks to an impressive 4-56 in his maximum 10 overs, including the key wicket of Williamson.

He also held three catches and ran out dangerman Colin de Grandhomme (16).

Taylor gave his innings away when he could not clear Jason Holder at mid-off after chipping a catch off Chris Gayle, to leave New Zealand 167-3 in the 31st over.

But Williamson carried on in typically calm fashion.

He went to his 13th one-day international hundred with his eighth four when he pulled a loose delivery from fast bowler Kemar Roach.

He then hoisted Cottrell legside for the only six of his innings.

Williamson surpassed his previous best score in 137 ODI innings -- 145 against South Africa in Kimberley in 2013 -- before he fell skying Cottrell to wicket-keeper Shai Hope.

In all, Williamson faced 154 balls, in-



Kane Williamson plays a shot

cluding 14 fours and one six.

He has now scored 373 runs, including two hundreds, in four innings this World Cup at an average of 186.5.

Earlier, West Indies made a sensational start after Holder sent New Zealand, the 2015 losing finalists, into bat.

Cottrell was on target first ball with a delivery that thudded into the pads of Martin Guptill.

Umpire Ruchira Palliyaguruge initially said "not out" but the West Indies successfully reviewed the decision, with replays showing the ball would have hit leg stump.

Munro too fell first ball, beaten completely by another yorker that smashed into his stumps.

For the second time in the over Cottrell,

still a serving member of the Jamaica Defence Force, greeted a wicket with his trademark military salute.

It was only the second occasion when both openers in a World Cup match had fallen for first-ball noughts, with Sri Lanka's Lahiru Thirimanne and Tillakaratne Dilshan collecting golden ducks against Afghanistan in 2015.

Williamson and Taylor, however, repaired the damage in style for a New Zealand side who have yet to lose at this World Cup.

The West Indies were seventh in the 10-team round-robin group table before the start of yesterday's matches and struggling to qualify for the semi-finals.

West Indies were 227/8 in 41 overs at the time of closing.