

India thrash South Africa

Shahbaz Nadeem took the final two wickets in straight balls as India thrashed South Africa by an innings and 202 runs in the third Test yesterday to complete a 3-0 sweep of the series.

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THE DAILY **tribune**



Scarlett Johansson got a closure with 'Black Widow'

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New Dreamliner received

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, yesterday received its seventh Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner at Bahrain International Airport in its special 70th anniversary livery which showcases the airline's iconic vintage design from the last century with a revamped look.

A number of VIP guests from the aviation industry and members of the media joined Gulf Air's executive management at the welcoming event. See Page 3

Brexit bill 'in limbo'

London

Boris Johnson has hit the pause button on his Brexit legislation after MPs rejected his plan to get it through the Commons in three days.

MPs backed his Withdrawal Agreement Bill - but minutes later voted against the timetable, leaving it "in limbo".

After the vote, EU Council President Donald Tusk said he would recommend EU leaders backed an extension to the 31 October Brexit deadline.

Strong Japan ties



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday attended the enthronement ceremony of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, at the Tokyo Imperial Palace. HRH the Crown Prince conveyed the congratulations of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to HM the Emperor of Japan, wishing the country continued success and prosperity. HRH the Crown Prince expressed his pleasure in attending the ceremony and emphasised the Kingdom's continued commitment to expanding bilateral relations and co-operation with Japan. Following the ceremony, HRH the Crown Prince attended a dinner banquet, hosted by the Emperor of Japan, in honour of the official dignitaries and guests attending HM the Emperor or Japan's enthronement ceremony. The Minister Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, accompanied HRH the Crown Prince. Prince Charles, Princess Mary of Denmark were among the royals who attended the ceremony.

Tuesday's agreement with Moscow will see it preserve that zone between the towns of Tal Abyad and Ras Al Ain, giving Ankara a crucial presence inside the country.

Sochi

Russia and Turkey agreed on Tuesday to ensure Kurdish forces withdraw from areas close to Syria's border with Turkey and to launch joint patrols, in a deal hailed as "historic" by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

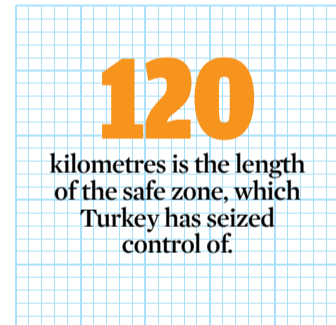
After marathon talks in Russia's southern city of Sochi, Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin announced the deal just hours ahead of a deadline for Turkey to restart its assault on Syrian Kurdish forces. The agreement cements Russia and Turkey's roles as the main foreign players in Syria, after US President Donald Trump announced the withdrawal of

A win-win deal?

Russia, Turkey reach 'historic' deal on Syria border



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaks during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi, Russia.



American forces from the country's north earlier this month.

That announcement cleared the way for Turkey to launch a cross-border offensive on October 9 against the Kurdish YPG militia, viewed by Ankara as "terrorists" linked to the

outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Turkey has seized control of a "safe zone" inside Syria about 120 kilometres long (75 miles) and 32 kilometres (20 miles) deep.

Tuesday's agreement with Moscow will see it preserve that zone between the towns of Tal Abyad and Ras Al Ain, giving Ankara a crucial presence inside the country.

From noon on Wednesday, Russian military police and Syrian border guards will "facilitate the removal" of Kurdish fighters and their weapons from within 30 kilometres (18 miles) of the border outside the zone.

PROUD MOMENT

Bahrain athletes win three gold medals in Military World Games

TDT | Manama

Bahrain won three gold medals and one bronze medal yesterday in the seventh CISM Military World Games in Wuhan, China.

The gold-medalists included Salwa Eid Naser in the Women's 400 metres, Winfred Yavi in the Women's 3,000m Steeplechase, and Abbas Abubakar in the Men's 400m. The bronze medal was won by Isah Musa after finishing behind Abubakar.

The Military World Games is a multi-sport event for military sportspeople, organised by the International Military Sports Council (CISM).

This year in Wuhan, more than 9,000 athletes are taking part, contesting 329 events in 27 sports.

The Games kicked off on October 18 but yesterday was the first day of Track and Field events.



Salwa holds up the Bahrain flag in Wuhan after winning the Women's 400m final.

Salwa won her final with a time of 50.15 seconds. Her gold medal is yet another addition to her already glowing list of accolades, which includes the Women's 400m

world title she won earlier this month.

Polina Miller (51.49s) of Russia won the silver medal and Ersetic Justyna Swietny (52.19s) of Poland claimed the bronze.

Bahraini Iman Essa also competed in the race but finished sixth in 52.88s.

In the Women's 3,000m Steeplechase,



This year in Wuhan, more than 9,000 athletes are taking part, contesting 329 events in 27 sports.

Winfred secured first place in nine minutes 19.24 seconds.

Marusa Mismas (9:24.47) of Slovenia was second and Luiza Gega (9:26.35) of Albania third.

Abubakar claimed his gold medal in the Men's 400m in 45.84 seconds.

Mazen Alyasen (46.24s) from Saudi Arabia was the runner-up, while Musa won the bronze for Bahrain in 46.70s.

Bahrain have now won five medals from the Games, and they are seventh on the overall medal tally.

Aside from yesterday's four medals, Sukhrob Boqiev won a bronze medal in Judo in the Men's under-60kg category.

China top the table with 94 medals in all, including 54 gold.

Russia are second with 76 total medals including 27 gold, while Brazil are third with 41 medals, 10 of which are gold.

The Games conclude on Sunday.



02 Key role of public staff in achieving SDGs stressed

03 Gulf Air flies high

04 Businessman faces trial 'after evading land registration fee'

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Longstanding Saudi ties stressed at meeting

Tokyo

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd Al Saud, Minister of State and Member of the Cabinet of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the longstanding ties between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, noting the importance of further strengthening co-operation across a wide range of fields.

HRH the Crown Prince, and HRH the Crown Prince holds talk with HRH Prince Turki in the presence of Shaikh Salman.



HRH the Minister of State and Member of the Cabinet reviewed ways to further strengthen relations, and discussed a number of regional and international issues of common interest.

For his part, HRH the Minister of State and Member of the Cabinet of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed his appreciation for HRH the Crown Prince's support in advancing Bahraini-Saudi relations.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and HRH the Crown Prince's Private Secretary, Shaikh Abdullah bin Isa Al Khalifa, also attended the meeting.



National Security Adviser and Royal Guard Commander, Major-General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, received at Al Rawdha Camp here yesterday, the Commander of United States Marine Corps Forces Central Command (MARCENT), Lieutenant General Carl Mundy, and his accompanying delegation. Major-General HH Shaikh Nasser welcomed the US MARCENT commander, and lauded the depth of the solid Bahrain-US relations. He stressed the steady growth of the distinguished relations between the friendly countries in all fields, especially regarding military and defence co-operation.



Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received at the BDF's General Command yesterday, the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, Alok Kumar Sinha, in the presence of Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Abdulla Al Nuaimi. The Commander-in-Chief lauded the depth of the friendly Bahraini-Indian relations, which, he said, are always progressing in various fields. He also discussed with the Indian envoy a number of issues of mutual interest. Director of the Court of the BDF's General Command, Major-General Hassan Mohammed Saad, Assistant Chief of Staff for Supply and Catering, Rear Admiral Yussef Ahmed Malallah, and a number of senior BDF officers attended.



Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received at the BDF's General Command yesterday, the Commander of United States Marine Corps Forces Central Command (MARCENT), Lieutenant General Carl E Mundy, and his accompanying delegation. Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Abdulla Al Nuaimi, and Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Dhiyab Al Nuaimi, were present. The commander-in-chief reviewed with the US delegation the existing Bahrain-US friendship relations, and ways to further strengthen them in various fields, especially regarding joint military co-ordination and defence co-operation.

Key role of public staff in achieving SDGs stressed

Manama

Cabinet Affairs Minister Mohammed Al Mutawa has stressed the importance of the leadership roles within various government departments to achieve sustainable development goals, pointing out that their continuous development is essential for the future of the governmental work.

The minister was speaking in a lecture given to Qiyadat Programme affiliates which is presented by Bahrain Institute for Public Administration (BIPA) as part of the national programme to develop the government leaderships.

The Cabinet Affairs Minister underlined the key role played by the government leaderships in implementing the Government Action Plan that was mapped out according to the comprehensive vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to achieve future aspirations, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) 2030, the Economic Vision 2030 and



Mr Al Mutawa

government leaderships is a scientific administrative approach that was tailored according to international specifications to meet local needs and achieve future aspirations.

He added that the programme gives the national competencies affiliated with it the opportunity to come up with projects and initiatives to achieve set up goals and promote the Kingdom's standing as a regional and international hub for civilisational, intellectual and scientific outcomes.

Dr bin Shams noted that investing in the government employees and providing them with success requirements stems from a belief in the importance of citizens as their pivotal role in all development fields.

He described the concept of leadership in government work as an intellectual approach that is continuously developing and a system based on anticipating the future and dealing with changes competently and effectively.

the Fiscal Balance Programme.

The minister asserted the government's commitment to international trends in the government work and anticipating future changes towards achieving Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

He pointed out that the future of the government work in Bahrain requires continuous development based on building citizens' capabilities and improving their experiences and performance by equipping them with the needed tools to face future challenges.

For his part, BIPA Director-General Dr Raed Mohamed bin Shams said that the national programme to develop

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BIG STORY



The new Dreamliner landed at Bahrain International Airport yesterday.

Gulf Air flies high

The national carrier receives seventh Dreamliner in its special 70th anniversary livery



Mr Krešimir Kucko with senior Gulf Air executives and staff.



Mr Al Zayani, Mr Krešimir Kucko and senior Gulf Air and government officials being briefed on the facilities of the aircraft.

● The new Dreamliner will join the Gulf Air fleet on its first commercial flight today from Bahrain International Airport to London Heathrow at 10:15 am local time.

● Next week Gulf Air will start operating to its newest destination, Maldives.

TDT | Manama
Abhitab Kumar

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom, yesterday received its seventh Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner at Bahrain International Airport in its special 70th anniversary livery, which showcased the airline's iconic vintage design from the last century with a revamped look.

A number of VIP guests from the aviation industry and members of the media joined Gulf Air's executive management at the welcoming event and viewed the new aircraft with its redesigned vintage version of the Golden Falcon Lockheed TriStar livery, representing Gulf Air's iconic design from the 1970s.

With the arrival of this special aircraft, Gulf Air has revealed its 70th anniversary logo, which will be used in the airline's marketing and promotional campaigns in 2020.

The new Dreamliner will



Mr Al Zayani at the welcoming event.



Mr Krešimir Kucko



Captain Waleed Al Alawi speaks to media members.

join the Gulf Air fleet on its first commercial flight today from Bahrain International Airport to London Heathrow at 10:15 am local time.

This will increase the total number of Dreamliners operated by the airline to seven aircraft which will be followed by the delivery of three more by end of 2020, the airlines said in a statement issued yesterday.

In 2018, Gulf Air launched its new brand identity at the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix and introduced its first Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner along with a series of new destinations.

The airline also

launched a new boutique strategy in early 2019.

As Gulf Air moves forward with its strategy, the airline pays tribute to the past with a revamped livery signalling a new era, the statement added.

Speaking to Tribune, Zayed Al Zayani, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, said it was a great day for Gulf Air.

"Marking 70 years is a huge achievement. We are



Marking 70 years is a huge achievement. We are the oldest airlines in the region and we need to continue growing.

MR AL ZAYANI

the oldest airlines in the region and we need to continue growing.

"We have laid out a five-year strategic plan with new destinations and more flights. We will be starting flights to Maldives next week.

"By adding long-range Boeings and medium-range Air Buses, we will continue to spread the wings and

carry the flag of Bahrain across the world."

Krešimir Kucko, Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer, told Tribune that one of the major corporate goals of the company is to make a global footprint relatively with smaller fleet.

He said Gulf Air is open to strategic alliances with other airlines across the globe. "Last year, we made agreements with many airlines including KLM.

"During the course of this year and next year, we plan to forge commercial co-operation with many other airlines. We also plan to extend our agreement with Etihad.

"Next year, we will get three more Dreamliners and we will be working out on expanding our destinations, both towards the East and West."

Captain Waleed Al Alawi, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, who flew the flight from Boeing field in Everett, Seattle to Bahrain, said it was a proud moment for all Bahrainis and Gulf Air staff.

"We flew all the way north over Greenland, Iceland and Northern Europe. The aircraft has old colours Gulf Air used to have in its golden days. We are going back to the golden days."



The new logo launched by the airline.

Businessman faces trial 'after evading land registration fee'

Accused charged with evading govt fee, forging official document

TDI | Manama

A businessman was recently referred to the Public Prosecution after being accused of attempting to invade paying land registration fee to the government while buying a property, Tribune has learnt.

The case came to light when the suspect approached the Survey and Land Registration

Bureau (SLRB) to register a land he had recently bought from a Bahraini woman.

At SLRB, the man didn't reveal that he had bought the land from the woman, instead, he claimed that the latter is his cousin and had granted him the land, hiding the fact that he paid for the said land, hoping that he could evade paying any fees to the bureau.



The SLRB employee requested the suspect to prove his relation to the seller by presenting the official documents that confirms it.

PROSECUTORS

Following the rules and regulations, the SLRB employee requested the suspect to prove his relation to the seller by presenting the official documents that confirms it, according to Prosecutors.

The suspect then provided the employee with the identity cards of his mother and the seller's mother, who according

to his claim are sisters.

However, the last names of both women (mothers) didn't match and the suspect was interrogated by the bureau and later referred to the Public Prosecution, after being accused of infringement of public money and forging official documents.

No further details on the suspect's nationality were available.

Fine raised from BD100 to BD1,000
TDI | Manama

A private transportation company's drivers got their BD100 fine multiplied by ten times when they objected the court order.

This came as the drivers were convicted of illegally transporting passengers in the Kingdom, while the license available to them by the Transportation and Telecommunications Ministry allows them to transport passengers outside Bahrain only.

The court initially fined each driver BD100 for the offence, but the defendants objected the sentence and refused to pay the fines.

In their defence, the drivers said the company they worked for is a public transportation company.

However, they didn't mention that the licence granted to the company prohibits it from offering passengers transportation services to customers inside Bahrain.

The court rejected the drivers' objection and fined each of them BD1,000.

The drivers immediately paid the multiplied fine at the court before exiting.

One of the drivers paid BD2,000 as he received two different fines.

National Communication Centre holds meeting

Manama

The National Communication Centre (NCC) yesterday held its regular meeting with Government Communication Network that comprises officials representing Government departments, at the Information Affairs Ministry complex.

The session reviewed the achievements attained last month and discussed new initiatives which will be outlined in the coming period as part of the Government's communication plans.

The meeting reviewed the "Update Me" initiative which was launched as part of cooperation between the Ministry of Information Affairs and the National Communication Centre (NCC).

The new initiative consists in broadcasting videos and meetings with representatives of the Government departments to clarify information and topics of interest to the public and keep the community informed on the latest developments and ambitious plans, which will come into force. The initiative aims also to highlight efforts exerted by all parties to promote and advance Bahrain and preserve its development gains.



The meeting in progress at Information Affairs Ministry complex.

NCC Communication and Media Director Fatima Al Sairafi thanked ministries and government departments for their cooperation with the centre, commending the efforts of the Government Communication Network to achieve desired goals and highlight national initiatives and development projects.

She outlined the initiative "Interview with Government Official" which was launched by the National Communication Centre

(NCC), in co-ordination with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), with the aim of building a constructive dialogue between officials and the media and highlight issues that concern the public opinion.

She said that the centre seeks to continue the initiative with various ministries and government bodies in order to achieve the desired goals, in tandem with the NCC strategy, which seeks to bolster relations between government departments with the

media.

NCC Strategic Planning acting director Maram Al Barduli stressed the NCC keenness on coordination to set communication priorities along a work mechanism aimed to unify the Government's media discourse. She outlined the NCC monthly and annual plans which lines up key events, programmes and activities at ministries and government departments so as to serve public interest, build

bridges of communication between government departments and consolidate national communication.

Digital Society Department chief Ahmed Al Ghatam delivered a presentation highlighting NCC-led efforts to highlight Bahrain's digital strides, adding that a report detailing the performance of government departments, as well as recommendations aims to enhance digital performance.

Free medical camp set

TDI | Manama

Palakkad Arts and Cultural Theatre (PAACT) in association with Al Hilal Hospital, Salmabad Branch, will organise a free medical camp on Friday, October 25 from 8 am onwards.

There will be free check-ups for blood pressure, blood sugar, total cholesterol, SGPT (liver screening) and creatinine (kidney screening).

The medical camp is open to all. To know more, please give a ring on 36002537, 33399451, 39814968 or 36393880.

Key healthcare investment forum kicks off today

TDI | Manama

The First Business Development Forum in healthcare sector (BDFEX) will kick off today, under the patronage of Lieutenant-General Dr Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, in a strategic partnership with Tamkeen Labour Fund, and jointly organised by Proact International Consultants from the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Gulf Company in Saudi Arabia.

The first of its kind in Bahrain, BDFEX will host six speakers from health leaders and experts from Bahrain and the GCC.

These speakers will address a number of themes, including encouraging the exploration and encouragement of more national industries in health, including the manufacture of medicines, medical equipment and medical supplies, in order to provide the requirements of health facilities such



Lt-General Dr Shaikh Mohamed

as hospitals, centres, clinics and pharmacies in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the GCC, in addition to attracting foreign investments.

The opening of the forum will announce a model for two health projects, the first of their kind in the Kingdom, the first private and integrated medical clinics complex, and the second industrial zone for health and medical industries.

BDFEX provides an opportunity to introduce national

initiatives to strengthen the health sector, particularly the National Health Insurance Programme in the Kingdom, which aims to improve the quality and efficiency of health services.

BDFEX is in line with the objectives of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, especially in terms of moving towards the knowledge economy and investing Bahrain's human and scientific potential in the development of the national economy and increase the gross domestic product.

It also fulfils the aspirations of the Economic Development Board, which focused on five sectors to develop the national economy.

Moreover, BDFEX forum aims to enhance the local content of health services and manufacturing by bringing new investments and technologies to achieve excellence and sustainable development in the health field in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Art expo



An art exhibition for artist Fuad Albinfalah was opened on Monday at Akkas Gallery. The exhibition, entitled "Tree Whispering", was attended by many art lovers and artists around the country. The work of Fuad Albinfalah centres around the use of organic materials like wood to create small and large-scale sculptural pieces. The artist manages to transform tree trunks and hefty branches into artistic objects that have a natural appeal to viewers. To achieve the final look of his sculptures, the artist polishes the surface until the exposed wood pieces gleam brightly, contrasting sharply with the dark colour of the scorched interior. Fuad Albinfalah has participated in many art exhibitions in Bahrain and other countries including the United States of America. He has been commissioned by different institutions in Bahrain and the Gulf to do large-scale sculptures including four pieces currently displayed around Bahrain Bay Area next to the Avenues Mall.

WORLD
world

India, Pakistan set to sign pilgrim corridor pact amid Kashmir tension



Laborers work at the sites of the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, which will be open this year for Indian Sikh pilgrims, in Kartarpur, Pakistan

Reuters | New Delhi

India and Pakistan are set to sign an agreement on Indian pilgrims visiting a Sikh shrine in Pakistan.

The pact will introduce visa-free access from India to the Pakistani town of Kartarpur, home to a temple that marks the site where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, died.

India's foreign ministry said in a statement late on Monday an understanding had been reached on most issues and India was prepared to sign the agreement today.

Pakistani officials were not immediately available for comment but Pakistan's Dawn newspaper cited a foreign ministry spokesman as saying agreement had been reached and the two sides would sign the pact soon.

The Sikh minority in India

has long sought easier access to the temple in Kartarpur, which is just over the border in Pakistan.

The new crossing will be inaugurated in early November, just before the 550th birthday of Sikhism's founder on Nov. 12, officials from both sides have said.

The shrine is about 4 km (2-1/2 miles) from the border. The crossing and corridor, including a road, bridge over the Ravi River and immigration office, will replace a drawn-out visa process and circuitous journey through Pakistan.

But there is still disagreement over a \$20 fee that Pakistan wants to charge each visitor.

India "has consistently urged Pakistan that in deference to the wishes of the pilgrims, it should not levy such a fee", India's foreign ministry said.

Russian icebreaker makes accidental Mayday call



A screengrab from a video shows a Russian icebreaking vessel with 33 people on board, which made a Mayday call

Reuters | Oslo/Moscow

A Russian icebreaking vessel with 33 people on board made a Mayday call during a storm off the coast of western Norway on Tuesday but Russian authorities said the distress signal had been issued by accident.

The Norwegian Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, which initially reported the call from the ship located about 22 km off the town of Aalesund, said its operation had been called off after the vessel regained engine power.

Russia's sea and river transport agency said the ship had issued the Mayday call by acci-

dent and it was not in distress, TASS news agency reported.

"There are no problems, the icebreaker is fine, the crew is safe. The distress signal was sent accidentally during an outage on some equipment during the storm," the Russian Federal Agency for Maritime and River Transportation was quoted as saying. The vessel had originally reported that it lost power on all four engines and was adrift in the storm, the Norwegian rescue service said.

Two tugboats and a Norwegian coastguard vessel were initially on their way to the scene, but were called off, a rescue service spokeswoman said.

Armed man hits pedestrians with hijacked ambulance in Oslo

● Police said the suspect had appeared to deliberately hit pedestrians

● Two babies were injured after the hijacked ambulance hit a family

Reuters | Oslo

An armed man stole an ambulance in Oslo yesterday, lightly injuring five people including two babies in an apparent attempt to target pedestrians, Norwegian police and hospital officials said.

The man was apprehended after police shot at the vehicle, police said, adding the suspect was not critically injured.

Police said the suspect had appeared to deliberately hit pedestrians, and that they had found a significant amount of what appeared to be illegal drugs following the arrest, as well as a shotgun and an Uzi semiautomatic weapon.

They would also investigate whether the suspect had ties to far-right extremists, although a motive had not been established, and it had yet to interview the suspect.

"Two babies were injured after the hijacked ambulance hit a family. They are twins, seven months old, they are being treated," Oslo University hospital spokesman Anders Bayer told Reuters.

The injuries were light however, police later said.

Public broadcaster NRK showed images of an ambulance driving in the Torshov neighborhood of Oslo while several gunshots rang out.

The hospital spokesman said the ambulance crew had



A damaged ambulance stands next to a building after an armed man who stole the vehicle was apprehended by police in Oslo, Norway



An overturn car is seen on the road after it was allegedly struck by the ambulance



Police officers apprehend an armed man who stole the ambulance

“There is nothing to indicate that this incident is terrorism related. The investigation is still in an early phase ... We are conducting a broad, intensive investigation”

ERIK HESTVIK
OSLO POLICE OPERATIONS LEADER

responded to a routine incident when their vehicle was taken.

"They were called to an ordinary traffic accident where they were met by the armed person," Bayer said, adding that the hospital had quickly tracked the ambulance via its built-in GPS device.

"Some minutes later one of our other ambulances managed to stop the hijacked vehicle by crashing into it. Then the police came after the crash and got him," he said.

The ambulance came to a halt

just over 1.5 km (1 mile) from where it was hijacked.

"An armed man stole an ambulance, drove away and hit some people. We got him now," the police spokesman told Reuters.

"There is nothing to indicate that this incident is terrorism related," Oslo police operations leader Erik Hestvik told reporters.

The police added in a statement: "The investigation is still in an early phase ... We are conducting a broad, intensive investigation."

Pakistan's imprisoned ex-premier rushed to hospital

AP | Lahore, Pakistan

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was convicted on corruption charges, was rushed to hospital from the prison after recent blood tests raised doctors' concerns, his physician said yesterday.

The former premier was taken to hospital late on Monday, said Sharif's doctor, Adnan Malik.

Doctors initially believed Sharif had contracted dengue fever, which is rampant in Pakistan, but on Tuesday the government issued a statement saying his concerning low platelet count may have been the results of medication he was taking.

Sharif was sentenced to 12 years in prison on corruption charges and seven years on a separate money laundering charge. He is also under inves-



Pakistani former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrives at a court in Lahore, Pakistan

tigation on other corruption allegations. Sharif has appealed the two convictions, insisting on his innocence.

In related developments, Sharif's son-in-law, Mohammad

Safdar, was arrested on Monday after he alleged that Sharif was being slowly poisoned — a charge that Pakistani authorities promptly denied.

The National Accountability

Bureau, which oversees investigations into corruption allegations, had questioned Sharif for the past week on corruption charges in connection with a sugar mill in which he held controlling shares while serving as prime minister.

The charges also allege that other members of his family, including his daughter Maryam Nawaz, retained shares. Sharif's daughter is appealing an earlier conviction on corruption charges against her. She was sentenced to seven years for her involvement in the purchase of apartments in London but is now out on bail during the appeal process.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's government has been relentless in pursuit of corruption cases but has come under fire for focusing most of its attention on its opponents.

Duterte in 'unbearable pain'

● The 74-year-old hurt his hip in the crash last week

AFP | Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, suffering from "unbearable pain" in his spine after a motorcycle accident, is cutting short a trip to Japan, his spokesman said yesterday.

The 74-year-old hurt his hip in the crash last week, with his health already the subject of intense speculation following his disclosure earlier this month that he is suffering from an unrelated autoimmune disease.

A statement from the leader's spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte would leave Japan sooner than planned, having attended the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito.

"The palace announces that the president will cut short his trip to Japan due to unbearable pain in his spinal column near the pelvic bone," he said.

Panelo said the pain was "a consequence" of the motorcycle accident that the presidency said Duterte had suffered on the palace grounds.

The leader fell off his vehicle just 10 days after he publicly revealed that he has myasthenia gravis, a condition that could potentially have serious complications.

Questions over his health have swirled since he took



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte will leave Japan sooner than planned, having attended the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito

office in 2016, with Duterte at times skipping events and meetings or discussing his various ailments in long and rambling speeches.

He has previously said he used to take fentanyl, a potent opioid painkiller, because of a spinal injury caused by other motorcycle accidents when he was younger.

According to Duterte, his doctor made him stop using fentanyl on learning he was "abusing the drug" by using more than the prescribed patches.

Duterte has also said he suffers from migraines and other illnesses including Buerger's disease, which is characterized by inflammation of blood vessels, usually due to smoking.

Duterte will see his neurologist Wednesday after flying back to Manila late Tuesday,

while his daughter Sara Duterte Carpio will represent him at the emperor's banquet late Tuesday, Panelo said.

The Filipino leader attended Naruhito's enthronement ceremony earlier Tuesday using a cane to help him walk, he added.

Senator Christopher Go, a former top Duterte aide who accompanied him on the Tokyo trip, earlier released a photo of the president sitting down with his forehead propped up by a cane.

The Philippine constitution requires the handover of power to the vice president if the leader dies or is incapacitated.

However Panelo said Tuesday "the public can rest assured that there is nothing to worry about as regards the physical health and condition of the president".

US awarded ownership of seized North Korean vessel



The Wise Honest is the first North Korean vessel to be seized by the US for sanctions violation

Washington

A New York court has formally handed the US ownership of a North Korean cargo ship seized for violating international sanctions, the Justice Department said.

The 17,061 ton bulk carrier Wise Honest -- the first North Korean vessel seized by Washington for sanctions violations -- was caught carrying a \$3 million shipment of coal in Indonesian waters last year and later handed over to US authorities.

The court in the Southern District of New York ordered the vessel to be forfeited to Washington and for the Treasury Department to "dispose of" it, an order released by the Justice Department showed.

The sale process has already taken place, according to the US Coast Guard, which earlier this month said the ship had been auctioned in a court-ordered process.

A tug had towed it away

from Pago Pago in American Samoa, where it was held, the Coast Guard added, without specifying the buyer or the price.

The families of both Otto Warmbier, a US student who died shortly after Pyongyang released him in a coma, and Kim Dong Shik -- a pastor believed to have been detained, tortured and executed in the North in 2000 -- had filed petitions making legal claims against the vessel.

In its statement the Justice Department thanked the Warmbiers for "their willingness to voluntarily withdraw their claim".

The seizure of the ship was the first by the US after years of high seas cat-and-mouse games when North Korean shippers renamed their vessels, used false flags and turned off their tracking devices to avoid detection.

Pyongyang has protested the seizure and warned of "undesirable consequences" if it was not returned.

TikTok removes Islamic State propaganda videos



Beijing

Social media app TikTok has taken down accounts that were posting propaganda videos for the Islamic State group, a company employee said Tuesday, in the latest scandal to hit the popular platform.

TikTok, which is owned by Chinese firm ByteDance, claimed some 500 million users globally last year, making it one of the most popular social apps.

An employee at TikTok said that about 10 accounts were removed for posting the videos.

"Only one of those videos even had views that reached into double digits before being taken down," said the staffer, who declined to be named.

The videos featured corpses being paraded through streets and Islamic State fighters with guns, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, which first reported the story on Monday.

The Journal said the posts were from about two dozen accounts, which were identified by social media intelligence company Storyful.

The pirarucu: the giant prized fish of the Amazon

The enormous animal, once threatened with extinction, is now on dinner plates in Rio

Rio de Janeiro

Its white flesh is tender and tasty, it can measure up to three meters long and weigh more than 200 kilograms: meet the pirarucu, one of the world's largest freshwater fish, and native to the Amazon.

The enormous animal, once threatened with extinction, is now on dinner plates in Rio de Janeiro's fanciest restaurants, thanks to a number of chefs who have championed the delicacy, and the indigenous communities who ensure its continued survival.

"Without them, there would be nothing left," says Frederic Monnier, the head chef at the city's hip Brasserie Rosario.

"What they're doing for the Amazon is priceless," adds Jessica Trindade, the Brazilian chef at Chez Claude, an institution in the city's restaurant scene.

Chef Marcelo Barcellos uses pirarucu in his moqueca, a fish stew swimming in palm oil and seasoned with coriander that is a signature Brazilian dish originating in the northeastern state of Bahia.

Served with a toasted manioc flour mixture and nuts that come straight from the Amazon basin, the moqueca delights foodies'



The pirarucu was saved thanks to a sustainable fishing program that put in place strict quotas -- it can only be fished from July to November



"It's a superior fish -- the quality is largely superior to what we get from fish farms," he said. "I became aware of the importance of the forest and the support given to projects that benefit local populations."

JESSICA TRINDADE
THE BRAZILIAN CHEF

taste buds and eyes, as the white fish contrasts with the yellow flour and green spices.

The taste is akin to that of other saltwater whitefish like pollock or cod.

Barcellos, the executive chef and owner of the restaurant Barba, is one of several Rio chefs who have happily added pirarucu to his menu.

But not that long ago, before pirarucu made it to the top tables in the Marvelous City, Arapaima gigas -- or Amazonian cod, as it is sometimes called -- almost vanished from menus.

It was brought back from the brink of extinction thanks to the establishment at a nature preserve of a sustainable fishing program with strict quotas.

Pirarucu can only be fished from July to November, the non-mating season.

'Superior fish'

Raising the pirarucu's profile with Rio's top chefs has certainly helped.

The Taste of the Amazon project has helped do that. Recently, nine chefs traveled to northern Brazil to observe how the Pauriari tribe has established sustainable practices for harvesting pirarucu.

Through their contact with the indigenous fishermen, the chefs learned which parts of the fish are the best. That knowledge ended up on their menus.

"It's an excellent product, with a fabulous flavor, without that earthy taste that some freshwater fish have," Trindade says.

For Ricardo Lapeyre of the Michelin-starred Laguiole Lab, the experience surpassed his expectations.

He figured he would take the trip just to learn a bit more about how to cook the fish, and bring some new ingredients back to his kitchen.

In the end, he is on board the pirarucu train, and is one of its biggest fans.

"It's a superior fish -- the quality is largely superior to what we get from fish farms," he said.

"I became aware of the importance of the forest and the support given to projects that benefit local populations."

Preservation

Adevaldo Dias, an official at ASPROC, the cooperative that manages the sustainable fishing of the pirarucu, was pleasantly surprised with how keen the chefs were to take part in the project.

"I was struck by their commitment, their understanding

of how this fish is good for the Amazon, and the need to pay fishermen properly," Dias explained.

The sustainable fishing project for the pirarucu was put in place 20 years ago.

Since then, the giant fish population has soared, from more than 2,500 in 1999 to more than 190,000 last year.

Thanks to ASPROC, the fishermen are paid seven reais (about \$1.75) per kilo (2.2 pounds), against the four reais they could count on by selling in local markets.

But restaurants pay a whopping 48 reais a kilo, because of transportation costs. The dish is then sold for about 70 reais (\$17).

Leonardo Kurihara -- the coordinator of Operation Native Amazon (OPAN), which is overseeing the Taste of the Amazon initiative -- chefs are vital because "they are at the other end of the chain, presenting the product to the consumer."



The pirarucu population has soared thanks to a sustainable fishing program in place in Brazil's Amazon

Fall of a royal consort leaves Thais open-mouthed

● **Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi's whereabouts are unknown**

● **Thailand has a harsh royal defamation law**

Bangkok

The very public downfall of the Thai king's 34-year-old consort -- stripped of all royal titles and military ranks by a late-night command -- left the country open-mouthed Tuesday at the latest abrupt act from its mercurial monarch.

Former royal bodyguard and army nurse Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi was dismissed from the rank of Chao Khun Phra, or noble consort, and accused of "disloyalty to the king".

Her whereabouts are unknown but the announcement has set social media alight with speculation and intrigue sparked by the rare glimpse behind cloistered palace walls.

But it wasn't the first time King Maha Vajiralongkorn has made his powerful presence felt since ascending the throne in 2016.

Here are five ways royal power has been displayed under Thailand's new king so far, from beefing up his security to taking direct control of a fortune.

'Disloyalty' in palace

The palace said Sineenat had not obeyed the king, had created conflict in the palace by going above her authority, and had acted "against the appointment of the Queen (Suthida)... for her own ambitions".

Her actions had also undermined the monarchy, it said.

Known as Koi, Sineenat is a qualified pilot and was the first woman to receive the consort title in nearly a century.

After she obtained it, the palace released images of a short-haired Sineenat in combat fatigues shooting weapons, flying a jet and preparing to parachute from a plane, as well as holding the king's hand.

It was a vivid contrast to the swift dismissal, which has

gripped Thai Twitter users.

#SaveKoi was one of the trending hashtags, while one user said they felt "sorry" for Sineenat.

Thailand has a harsh royal defamation law that means media must self-censor when reporting on the palace.

Sineenat's rapid fall from favour is not the only time the Thai public has been given a glimpse into the king's dramatic personal life.

Several relatives of his third wife Srirasmi were arrested as part of a police corruption probe and charged with lese majeste.

Vajiralongkorn divorced her and she lost her royal titles, and pictures later circulated of her with a shaven head.

Army units

The palace has also stepped up royal security under Vajiralongkorn, adding 1,600 police officers.

Two new army units were later put under the monarch's direct control in October by royal decree, only a few months after the May coronation.

It is unclear how many soldiers are in each regiment, but experts say a single division holds up to 5,000 troops.

The troop transfer saw push-back from the youth-propelled Future Forward Party in parliament who questioned the "urgency" of such a move -- an unprecedented political objection

to a royal command.

But the decree still passed with an overwhelming majority.

Banking billions

Among his successor's earliest moves was to assert full, personal control over the Crown Property Bureau (CPB), which has billions in assets in banks, companies and prime real estate.

The CPB committee was previously headed by the finance minister in an arrangement that gave a sheen of public oversight of a trust some experts estimate to be worth \$30-\$60 billion.

The CPB's full assets are privately held and remain a closely guarded secret.

Haircuts and salutes

Discipline, protocol and loyalty are virtues state officials say the king insists upon, especially among royal guards.

Vajiralongkorn reminded members of his beefed-up detail in April that their duty was to "preserve the nation, country, and monarchy".

The army introduced a new salute under Vajiralongkorn in which soldiers must puff out their chests and jerk their heads to the side.

And the country's police force has adopted a uniform crew-cut said to be at the king's request.

Charter changes

Any major legal changes in Thailand require the king's signature.

But King Vajiralongkorn ordered rewrites to part of the country's new constitution, including a vaguely worded clause that says any unforeseen issues should be handled based on "tradition".

They also scrap the need for the king, who spends much of his time in Germany, to appoint a regent when abroad.

While Thailand's constitutional monarchy is nominally above politics, Vajiralongkorn has taken actions that many see as smudging the line.

Before the March 24 election he torpedoed a bid by his older sister to become prime minister at the head of an anti-junta party, calling it "highly inappropriate".



King Vajiralongkorn married Queen Suthida in May



Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi worked as a senior officer in King Vajiralongkorn's bodyguard



Known as Koi, Sineenat is a qualified pilot and was the first woman to receive the consort title in nearly a century



King Vajiralongkorn inherited one of the world's richest monarchies from his beloved father Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died in October 2016.

World's loudest bird sings heart out in pursuit of love

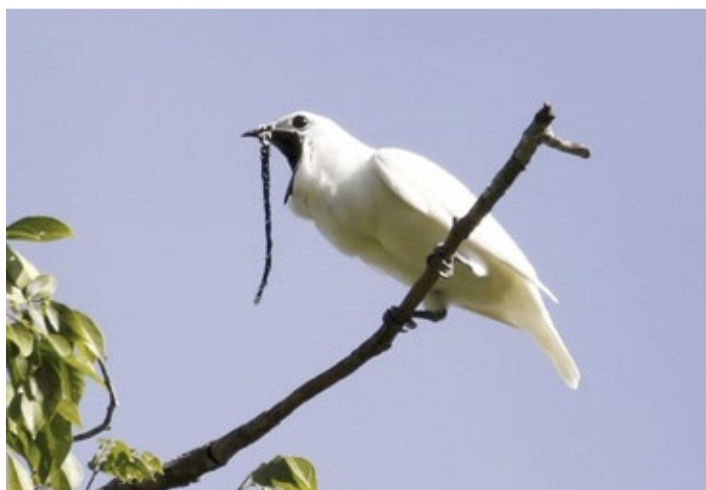
● **The researchers wrote that its calls are so loud, they wondered how white bellbird females listen at close range without damaging their hearing**

AFP | Washington

In the mountainous northern Amazon, a tiny white-plumed suitor turns to face his would-be paramour and belts out a deafening, klaxon-like call, reaching decibel levels equal to a pile driver.

Meet the white bellbird, which has just beaten out its rainforest neighbor, the screaming piha, for the title of the world's loudest bird.

Biologist Jeff Podos at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Mario Cohn-Haft of Brazil's Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia de-



A male white bellbird (Procnias albus) screaming its mating call

scribed the record-breaking finding in a paper published in the journal Current Biology on Monday.

The researchers wrote that its calls are so loud, they wondered how white bellbird females listen at close range without damaging their hearing.

The feat is all the more im-

pressive given the species' diminutive size: they're about as big as doves, weighing around half a pound (a quarter of a kilogram).

The males are distinguished by a fleshy black wattle adorned with white specks that falls from the beak, while the females are green with dark streaks and wat-

tle-less.

Podos said he was lucky enough to witness females join males on their perches as they sang.

"He sings the first note facing away, and then he does this dramatic, almost theatrical swivel, where he swings around with his feet wide open and his wattle is kind of flailing around," he said.

"And he blasts that second note right where the female would have been, except the female knows what's coming and she's not going to sit there and accept that so she flies backwards" by around four meters (13 feet).

It's not clear why the females voluntarily expose themselves to the noise at such proximity, which reaches peak levels of 113 decibels -- above the human pain threshold and equivalent to a loud rock concert or a turbo-prop plane 200 feet (60 meters) away achieving liftoff power.

”
And he blasts that second note right where the female would have been, except the female knows what's coming and she's not going to sit there and accept that so she flies backwards" by around four meters (13 feet)

BIOLOGIST JEFF PODOS

"Maybe they are trying to assess males up close, though at the risk of some damage to their hearing systems," Podos added.

Romeos or dorks?

Still, since the scientists didn't actually observe the birds ever mating, "We don't know if the

males we saw were accomplished males or dorks," said Podos.

The pair used high-quality sound recorders and high-speed video to slow the action enough to study how the bird uses its anatomy to achieve such levels of noise -- louder than much larger howler monkeys or bison, but probably not as loud as lions, elephants or whales.

"We don't know how small animals manage to get so loud. We are truly at the early stages of understanding this biodiversity," said Podos.

They also found that as the bird's call gets louder, it also gets shorter, and theorized the trade-off may be occurring because the birds' respiratory systems have a finite ability to control airflow and generate sound.

This, they said, would place a natural anatomical limit on how loud the bird could evolve to become through sexual selection, or selection for traits that are advantageous for reproduction.

Russia's resurgence, US decline in the Middle East

By pursuing limited goals with limited means and its interests with determination, Moscow has returned to a major role in the Middle East

HUSSEIN IBISH

The resurgence of Russian influence in the Middle East in recent years was highlighted by president Vladimir Putin's visits last week to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Moscow and Riyadh are at a fairly early stage of building a new relationship. But the UAE-Russia connection is developing into a mature and strikingly extensive partnership.

And it is not just in the Gulf that Russia is extending its regional clout. Along with its strong alliance with Iran, Moscow is the key backer of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad. Russia also enjoys much closer ties to Israel than it ever has during any previous era, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visiting Moscow more than Washington these days. Russia also has strained but important relations with Turkey, despite continued tensions over Syria. In short, everyone in the Middle East wants to talk to Moscow, a sharp contrast to just a few years ago.

For decades, Washington was the decisive outside power in the Middle East, holding sway over all parties and often serving the kind of balancing and medi-

ating role that many now look to from Moscow.

It is a stunning reversal of the ascendancy Washington secured at Moscow's expense in 1973, through the outcome and immediate aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war. That was arguably the deftest manoeuvre during Henry Kissinger's stewardship of US foreign policy and it had massive ramifications for decades that are only now fading into history.

By closely managing Washington's handling of the crisis, Mr Kissinger and his diplomats achieved three key goals.

Firstly, as Mr Kissinger wanted, Israel prevailed but emerged chastened, with a new sense of vulnerability and dependence on Washington. Secondly, Arab states did not win yet felt vindicated, especially Egypt, whose army performed far better at the outset of the war than expected.

This made a deal possible on both sides. Israel saw the need for territorial compromise. And Egypt had to accept that recovering territory lost in 1967 required an agreement, yet it experienced a restoration of national morale sufficient to allow concessions to Israel. The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was conceived in the womb of



A flypast for Mr Putin during his visit to the UAE last week.

time.

But Mr Kissinger's third and most important achievement was manoeuvring during and immediately after the fighting to ensure that Washington and not

Moscow played the key role at every stage. As the dust settled, all parties – with the exception of Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (both of which eventually came round)

The 'nation-state' is alive and kicking

SHOLTO BYRNES

In 1992, American political theorist Francis Fukuyama famously declared "the end of history". Now the former Belgian prime minister Guy Verhofstadt has made a similarly bold claim: he has pronounced the death of the nation-state.

Just as Mr Fukuyama did not literally mean that time had ceased its onward journey and that henceforth year would not follow year, so Mr Verhofstadt is not suggesting that national borders have melted away overnight. But his case is nearly as startling.

In a recent interview in the New York Review of Books, Mr Verhofstadt stated that the world today was "dominated by civilisations, not nation-states".

He cited China, India and the US as examples and he pointed to their difference from other countries in his book Europe's Last Chance.

India, for example, he said, had "2,000 nations, 20 different languages, four different religions but one single democracy".

By contrast with the "civilisations", Mr Verhofstadt continued in his interview, a continent of nation-states like Europe "will mean something only if it acts together".

If he was only making the point that smaller countries are likely to achieve more if they ally with a common purpose, Mr Verhofstadt would have been stating the obvious. But he went far further. "Sovereignty doesn't exist in a globalised world. Sovereignty means that you can decide your own path." Smaller states such as those in Europe, he added, "are not able to do that".

Thus Mr Verhofstadt effectively read the last rites of the nation-state – for, devoid of sov-



Member states of regional bodies such as Asean will never contemplate the loss of their own powers that the EU route to a federal superstate demands.

ereignty, it can hardly be said to exist in any meaningful sense.

This is provocative indeed and would, I imagine, be fiercely disputed by nearly every country in the world, small or large. Even a tiny principality such as Monaco exercises a degree of autonomy that contributes to its sovereignty.

And the vast majority of developing countries in Asia and Africa, many deeply conscious that they have only been masters of their own sovereign decision-making in the five or six decades since they won independence from colonial powers, are deeply protective of that self-determination.

Of course, sovereignty for any country that engages with the world is rarely complete. Every nation has to make compromises; they are usually termed "agreements" or "treaties".

But a jealous guarding of their own supreme authority is the precise reason why the member states of other regional bodies such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) and the South American trade bloc Mercosur will never contemplate the loss of their own powers that the European Union (EU) route to a federal superstate – or civilisation – demands.

Mr Verhofstadt says that these countries have no sovereignty. I suggest he tries telling them that.

Further, the idea that these groupings have no influence because they have not become "civilisations" is just not true. Asean, for instance, is often criticised for moving too slowly or not doing enough. But it has contributed enormously to largely keeping the peace in a region of 650 million with possibly the greatest

One could also add that smaller nation-states should continue to be able to "decide their own paths" if the international rules-based order means anything.

to be able to "decide their own paths" if the international rules-based order means anything and if global bodies such as the United Nations are even remotely doing their jobs.

So why would Mr Verhofstadt make such vehement assertions? Well, he is a fervent believer in the EU and has long been a prominent figure in its parliament. Ideologically, he is predisposed to believe that sovereignty can only be properly exercised through its institutions and officials. Perhaps he is right about Europe, continent in long-term relative decline that is predicted by Price WaterhouseCoopers to make up less than 10 per cent of global GDP by 2050.

But he is surely wrong about other countries. What about Indonesia, Brazil and Mexico, expected, according to the same survey, to be the fourth, fifth and

The former Belgian prime minister is overlooking the rules-based order that has been put in place to keep the domination of civilisations in check

1970

Gary Gabelich sets a land speed record in a rocket-powered automobile called the Blue Flame, fueled with natural gas.



1972

Vietnam War: Operation Linebacker, a US bombing campaign against North Vietnam in response to its Easter Offensive, ends after five months.

1973

Watergate scandal: President Nixon agrees to turn over subpoenaed audio tapes of his Oval Office conversations.

1982

A gunfight breaks out between police officers and members of a religious cult in **Arizona**. The shootout leaves two cultists dead and dozens of cultists and police officers injured.



Moscow's resurgence in recent years has been inversely proportional to a US decline. It is linked not to military or economic power but to will and engagement.

Moscow also benefits from merely not being Washington.

The story of declining confidence in the US by regional actors and the aversion to Middle East engagement by much of the US public and many politicians is a familiar tale.

It largely begins with the failure in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and the outbreak of the second intifada in 2000. The 2003 Iraq invasion and the myriad missteps of the Barack Obama administration led to a conscious sense of a broad US drawdown with strong public backing.

Now US President Donald Trump has added caprice and

unpredictability to the mix. His betrayal of the Syrian Democratic Forces has firmly cemented the impression that the US is an unreliable partner.

The resurgence of isolationist sentiments on both the political right and left in the US makes a dramatic reversal of this impression hard to imagine. Russia, by contrast, appears steadfast, loyal and tough in defence of its friends.

On paper, however, there is no parity between the two powers. The US has at least 50,000 troops and significantly more weapons, intelligence, infrastructure and other assets in the region than Russia.

The situation is even more imbalanced when it comes to trade. Russia's main significance for many Middle Eastern countries centres on oil and energy pricing and production. The US, by contrast, is a major power in almost all sectors.

Russia is often used as a foil to pressure the US into co-operating, as when some countries have threatened to buy its S-400 anti-missile system, when what they really want is an American system that Washington is withholding.

Yet Moscow has regained the will to engage and influence the

Middle East, just as Washington has lost it. Moscow might be a shadow of Washington but, as the thinking now goes, it at least fights what it wants.

In the diplomatic realm, Moscow now clearly wields superior effectiveness, having developed contacts with all parties and an ability to mediate, balance and help shape, rather than trying in vain to impose outcomes. Predictability and reliability, it emerges, are invaluable assets.

By pursuing limited goals with limited means and its interests with determination, Russia has returned to a major – and sometimes key – role in the Middle East. The US, by contrast, often lacks a consensus about what its aims and interests are, let alone how best to secure them.

From now on, though, Mr Putin might well begin to discover that some necessary tasks in the Middle East cannot be accomplished with limited means. Defeating with the disparate, fragmented Syrian opposition was not a major challenge. Other military and diplomatic aims won't be the same. As Russia re-emerges as a Middle East power in its own right, it might find itself hard pressed to deliver what many of its new friends are hoping for.

– determined to deal with and through the US, not Russia. From then on, Russia's influence steadily dwindled in the Middle East – until recently, that is.

Moscow's resurgence in recent years has been inversely proportional to a US decline. It is linked not to military or economic power but to will and engagement. In several key ways,

UN reform needed to meet global challenges

DR AZEEM IBRAHIM

Genocides do not start with mass murder. They always start with words. They always start by ensuring a given group is seen to be “different” and to have fewer rights than the bulk of the population. According to the UN, genocide has a precise definition: “Intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.” In this definition, “intent” is important and the destruction can be via mass murder or preventing births; it does not include cultural destruction or simply dispersing a given group from where they currently live.

In some ways, this is unsatisfactory. Crimes by a state against its entire population are excluded (so the Khmer Rouge did not engage in genocide, as they targeted all Cambodians), political groups are not protected and, due to the exclusion of cultural destruction, China's actions against the Uighurs are not genocide (even if they do seem to be aiming to destroy the Uighurs as a cultural and religious group). Equally, Myanmar expelling about 1 million of the 1.4 million Rohingya in the country since 2017 does not count as genocide (this is seen to be forcible removal). This is not to say that such actions do not constitute crimes against humanity or fall under other UN-sponsored definitions, but they are not genocide.

With its limited definition, the UN has been exposed again recently, as the organization has failed to take any effective measures in response to the crises in Syria and Myanmar. In both cases, a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) has used its veto to ensure that the



entire international system is held hostage: Russia has vetoed any initiative concerning Syria, while China has consistently opposed measures against the authorities in Myanmar.

The fundamental problem is that, in the current geopolitical climate, where talk of a new “Cold War” is increasingly justified, just about any global crisis is taking on a geopolitical dimension, where at least some permanent members of the UNSC take every opportunity to play out their respective global rivalries.

America's veto means nothing will ever be done about Israel and the Occupied Territories, Russia's veto means that Vladimir Putin can throw his weight around as much as

How would such an initiative even get off the ground when the erstwhile pillars of the global order have so thoroughly abandoned the idea of a rules-based world?

he wants in the former Soviet sphere of influence, while China's veto means the commercial interests of Beijing's Belt and

Road Initiative will always take precedence over any humanitarian concerns all across Asia.

Everything we need to do to meet the global challenges of this century will require a great deal of consensus, but nothing will get done if every last decision requires absolute consensus among global and regional powers with entrenched rivalries and historical axes to grind.

Perhaps suggesting the rebuilding of the global institutional order in the age of Donald Trump and Putin seems naive, even misguided. How would such an initiative even get off the ground when the erstwhile pillars of the global order have so thoroughly abandoned the idea of a rules-based world?



TOP
4
TWEETS

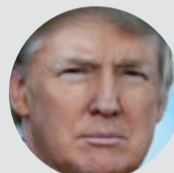
01



Congratulations @JustinTrudeau! India and Canada are connected by shared values and a strong commitment to democracy as well as plurality. Looking forward to working together to further strengthen bilateral relations.

@narendramodi

02



So some day, if a Democrat becomes President and the Republicans win the House, even by a tiny margin, they can impeach the President, without due process or fairness or any legal rights. All Republicans must remember what they are witnessing here - a lynching. But we will WIN!

@realDonaldTrump

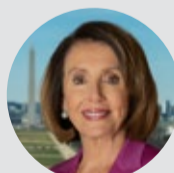
03



We can afford Medicare for All. What we cannot afford is losing more lives to endless wars and a health insurance industry that profits off sickness.

@IlhanMN

04



This week, President Trump has: Called the Constitutional ban on profiting off the presidency “phony”. Given blanket defiance of lawful subpoenas. Stood by his shakedown of a foreign power as “perfect”. He insists he is above the law. We are following the facts. #TruthExposed

@SpeakerPelosi

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

business

Pegasus adopts property management system



From left, Arun Kumar Mammaniya (Sales Manager, Pegasus Real Estate), Aziz Mithaiwala (Managing Director, Pegasus Real Estate & Sajin Hentry (Managing Director, Syskode Technologies).

TDT | Manama

Pegasus Real Estate, a real estate solutions provider, announced implementing an advanced property management system (PMS) in partnership with Syskode Technologies.

PMS is a cloud-based software platform that provides Pegasus with a seamless link between property owners and tenants via a dedicated property manager.

The system handles all aspects of property management operations ranging from

leasing to rent collection and maintenance management while keeping the property owner and tenant informed on a real-time basis.

Pegasus Real Estate's managing director Aziz Mithaiwala said the installation of Syskode Technologies will allow our property management division "full control at every stage of leasing and managing a property."

Syskode Technologies Managing Director Sajin Hentry said the software documents all property data, "enables quick reviews, and indicates actions to be taken."

BCCI's Health Committee taking part in BDFEX

The two-day event at Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel begins today

TDT | Manama

The Health Committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) headed by Dr Abdulmajed Al Awadhi is taking part in the Business Development Forum and Fair in the healthcare sector (BDFEX).

The two-day event at Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel begins today under the patronage of the President of the Supreme Council for Health (SCH) Lieutenant-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

The meeting brings together healthcare professionals, business owners, investors and decision-makers under one roof providing an invaluable opportunity to mull investment opportunities and spur the sector's progress.

They learned by doing

International Productivity Internship Programme, Eqtidar, celebrates the graduation of 62 Bahraini interns in Productivity Improvement Projects

TDT | Manama

Majority of the Eqtidar programme interns after their two-month on-job training said they like to "pursue a career in productivity and innovation."

When started two-months back with 62 Bahraini youths from various disciplines including Engineering, IT and Business Studies, the programme had this as its supreme goal.

Now after months of rigorous training, involving 42 real productivity improvement projects, the programme has achieved its objective "with zero withdrawal and zero failure".

Eqtidar has also led to saving 1,550,000 Bahraini dinars and improving 78 processes and work methods practised in the host companies.

The two-month programme presented the participants with international certification from the UK in Productivity Improvement Projects.

"The programme achieved 103 per cent success as it exceeded its target goal, with zero withdrawal and zero failure," Ebrahim Radhi, Principle consultants at Jafcon, said while celebrating the graduation of the Bahraini youth interns.

Eqtidar, Radhi said, achieved 99pc satisfaction rating and successfully attracted five-folds its capacity. Furthermore, it achieved the approval of 95pc of the well-reputed host companies."

The programme, he said,

granted Bahraini youth with an opportunity to gain practical experience and learn new skills in process re-engineering, cost reduction and other 21st century technologies. "The main methodology was Project-Based Learning (PBL) governed by the UK-Level 4 Qualification in Productivity Improvement Practices."

The collaborative scheme had universities as well as several local and international firms in Bahrain as partners.

"An enthusiastic and energetic group of trainees spent a couple of months with us to get practical experience, assist with the increasing workload and at the same time contribute towards improving the productivity of our processes," said Ahmed Jahromi, the Assistant General Manager of AXA Gulf Insurance.

Eqtidar programme, he said, excelled by all measures. "All the best to the innovative trainees and we now look forward to the next batch!"

Fourteen leading companies in Bahrain from sectors including Energy, Telecommunications, Construction, Banking, Logistics and Insurance, and representing government agencies, SMEs, international companies, startups and corporates took part.

Upon completion, 82 per cent of the participants - senior graduate students and recent graduates- expressed their interest in pursuing a career in productivity and innovation.

The Programme was organ-



In pictures, scenes from the graduation ceremony



ised in strategic partnership with the Labour Fund "Tamkeen" and jointly conducted by Jafcon and BSTD, and audited and certified by NOCN, the UK awarding body.

Chief Executive of Tamkeen

Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi said, "Expanding the provision of internationally certified programmes to educate and train more Bahrainis come at the top priorities of Tamkeen's responsibilities."

“
An enthusiastic and energetic group of trainees spent a couple of months with us to get practical experience, assist with the increasing workload and at the same time contribute towards improving the productivity of our processes
”

AHMED JAHROMI
 ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF AXA GULF INSURANCE.

AUB launches enhanced Premium Banking services

The bank is planning to open new Premium Banking Centers in Budaiya and Manama before the end of the year

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank (AUB) Bahrain yesterday announced launching its enhanced Premium Banking offering with unique features tailor-made to meet the needs of the growing affluent segment in Bahrain.

“
We have researched this intensively and aim to lead the way forward by combining a feature-rich offering, leading digital solutions all fronted by our specially trained Relationship Managers
”

SUVRAT SAIGAL, DGCEO RETAIL



AUB said the new personalized services are provided by dedicated Premium Banking experts fully equipped, specially trained and constantly available.

Some of the enhanced benefits include Doorstep Banking for Premium Banking customers to have their cash or cheque deposits picked up at their home or office, Overdraft Facility on request, FastTrack service at AUB Branches, global recognition across all AUB locations as well as a specially designed Premium banking Market updates.

AUB's Mastercard World debit Card gives customers exclusive

access to a host of premium features and benefits which include complimentary access to over 900 airport lounges, complimentary hotel nights and exclusive shopping offers.

At the launch, Suvrata Saigal, DGCEO Retail, said, "We have researched this intensively and aim to lead the way forward by combining a feature-rich offering, leading digital solutions all fronted by our specially trained Relationship Managers."

Looking ahead, Saigal said the bank is planning to open new Premium Banking Centers in Budaiya and Manama before the end of the year.

Britain lifts advisory against flying to Egypt

Reuters | Cairo

The British government has removed its advisory against flying to Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh resort, the British embassy in Cairo said in a statement yesterday. "This announcement follows our aviation security experts' close cooperation with their Egyptian counterparts. We will work closely with airlines who wish to resume flights," British Ambassador to Egypt Geoffrey Adams said in the statement.

BKIC announces quarterly, nine-month results

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (BKIC) yesterday announced its third-quarter results which the company said was hurt by increases in reserves, general and admin expenses and additional impairment on investments.

The company, Ebrahim Al Rayes, Chief Executive Officer, said, is currently developing the business of the next three years by implementing a digital transformation strategy.

For the three months ended 30th September 2019, BKIC's net profit attributable to the shareholders was BD 659 thousand compared to BD 1.12 million in the year-ago quarter, with a decrease of 41 per cent. Earnings per share were 5 fils compared to 8 fils in the 3rd quarter of last year.

Underwriting profits was BD 569,000, compared to BD



Ebrahim Al Rayes, Chief Executive Officer



Murad Ali Mohammed Murad, Chairman

644,000 in the 3rd quarter of last year, with a decrease of 12pc.

Gross premium revenue decreased slightly by less than 1pc from BD 14.6m to BD 14.5m.

Total comprehensive income attributable to the shareholders reached BD 1m compared to BD 483,000 in Q3-2018, registering an increase of 109pc.

The net income from investment decreased by 47pc, from BD 670,000 in the 3rd quarter of last year to BD 356,000 in the 3rd quarter of this year.

Nine-Month results

For the nine months, Net profit attributable to the shareholders was BD 2.73m, compared to BD 2.81m in the previous year, registering a decrease of 3pc. The decrease was mainly due to additional provisions of BD 434 thousand (one-off) for VAT on the unearned premium and BD 570 thousand for the incurred but not reported losses.

Earnings per share were 19 fils compared to 20 fils last year. Underwriting profits was BD 2.08m, compared to BD 1.84m of the same period last year, recording an increase of 13pc.

Gross premium revenue declined by 1pc, from BD 49.6m to BD 48.9m in the same period this year.

Total comprehensive income attributable to the shareholders reached BD 3m during the current period compared to BD 1.9m of the same period last year, registering an increase of 57pc.

Net income from investment increased by 7pc, from BD 1.82m in the first nine months of last year to BD 1.95m in the same period this year.

Commenting on the results, the Board of Directors expressed their satisfaction stating, "The Board is pleased to announce the positive results for the nine months of the current year which reflects the clients' confidence in company's services, the support of the business partners, and dedication of the management and employees towards business development. The Board hopes that the company continues to achieve the best results for the coming period."

Ebrahim Al Rayes - Chief Executive Officer, said that the company continues to maintain its leading position in the Bahraini insurance market in terms of Gross Premium which reflects the confidence of our valued customers.

Facebook probe widens

Reuters | Washington

ANew York-led probe of Facebook Inc into allegations that the company put consumer data at risk and pushed up advertising rates has expanded to include attorneys general from 47 US states and territories, New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement yesterday.

The investigation of Facebook announced in September had included Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and the District of Columbia. It now includes most US states as well as the US territory of Guam.

Harley-Davidson profit falls 24pc

Harley-Davidson Inc reported a 24 per cent drop in quarterly profit yesterday, hit by a slide in US sales and higher costs from tariffs imposed by Europe.

The company said its net income fell to \$86.6 million (£66.9 million), or 55 cents per share, in the third quarter ended Sept. 29 from \$113.9 million, or 68 cents per share, a year earlier.

Revenue from motorcycles and related products fell 4.9pc to \$1.07 billion.

Samsung, UAE funds lead \$55m investment in quantum startup

Reuters

US quantum computing startup IonQ said yesterday it raised \$55 million in a funding round that was led by venture funds backed by Samsung Electronics and the government of the United Arab Emirates.

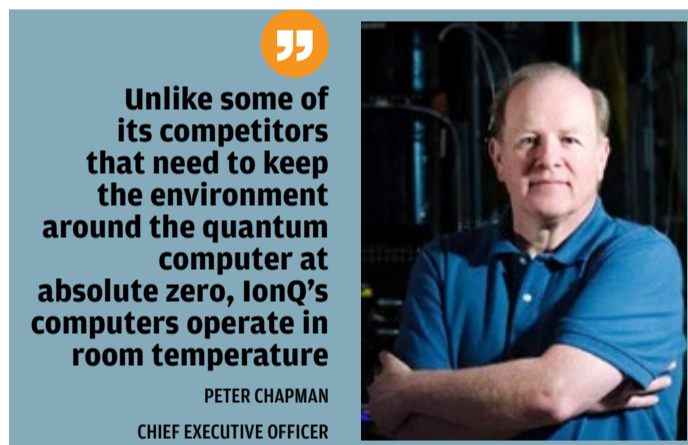
With the investments from Samsung Catalyst Fund and Mubadala Capital, Maryland-based IonQ said its total funds raised to date reached \$77 million. The company didn't disclose its valuation.

Researchers believe quantum computers could operate millions of times faster than today's advanced supercomputers, making potential tasks ranging from mapping complex molecular structures and chemical reactions to boosting the power of artificial intelligence possible.

Alphabet Inc's Google, International Business Machines Corp and Microsoft Corp have all either made investments or launched research projects around quantum computing.

IonQ already has 4 quantum computers, each the size of four regular refrigerators operating in Maryland, and rents out time on them to academics and businesses.

Unlike some of its competitors that need to keep the environment around the quantum computer at absolute zero,



“Unlike some of its competitors that need to keep the environment around the quantum computer at absolute zero, IonQ's computers operate in room temperature”

PETER CHAPMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

IonQ's computers operate in room temperature, said Chief Executive Officer Peter Chapman.

Chapman said most of IonQ's quantum computer parts are commonly available off-the-shelf, which helps to keep the cost down.

The high costs associated with building quantum computers, along with the cold environment they generally need, have been a challenge in making them a profitable business.

"I like to joke that Amazon delivers most of the parts for us," Chapman said.

The only custom part of IonQ's machine is a special chip that is made by an outside vendor. Chapman declined to name the vendor, but said the part is made with commonly available chip making technology.

Francis Ho, co-head of the

Samsung Catalyst Fund, said Samsung, a major chipmaker itself, invested in part because it hopes to one day possibly supply parts for quantum computers. But Ho said Samsung could also be a large potential customer.

Around the world, governments are concerned about quantum computing because it could be used to break today's encryption technology.

Chapman said although the company does not yet have substantial revenue, there are customers and countries it will avoid doing business with, including China.

Quantum computing "is at a nation-state level. It's really the US versus other countries who are busily trying to leapfrog the US and its technical dominance," said Chapman.

China issues tariff-free quota for US soybean purchases

● Trump said China had agreed to buy up to \$50 billion of US farm products

Reuters | Beijing

China yesterday issued major Chinese and international soybean crushers with tariff-free quota to import soybeans from the United States, according to three people briefed on a government meeting to discuss the issue.

The quota to import US soybeans was issued to state-owned crushers, privately owned crushers and major international trading houses with crushing plants in China, said two of the people.

A total of 10 million tonnes



A worker looks on as imported soybeans are transported at a port in Nantong, Jiangsu province, China

was issued at the meeting, which was hosted by the state planner, said one of the sources.

The volume was also reported by trade publication Agri-Census earlier on Tuesday.

The meeting comes after US President Donald Trump said China had agreed to buy up to \$50 billion (£39 billion) of U.S. farm products annually during trade talks earlier this month.

License to run Brazil's instant lottery Lotex awarded for \$200 million

Reuters | Sao Paulo

The government yesterday awarded a license to operate Brazil's Lotex instant lottery for a total aggregate amount of 818 million reais (\$200 million), organizers of the bidding said.

The Consórcio Estrela Instantânea, the sole contend-

er at the auction, placed the winning bid for the right to operate Lotex, the organizers said.

The consortium formed by UK-based International Game Technology and US-based Scientific Games International made an initial payment of 97 million reais for the right to operate Lotex.

World 'shocked' at Trump adviser's pen name for books: China

● Navarro that the name he used was "a whimsical device and pen name"

Reuters | Beijing

The world is "shocked" that White House trade adviser Peter Navarro made up a fictitious anti-China economist in his books, China's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday, adding that it is absurd and dangerous



White House trade adviser Peter Navarro

to make policy based on lies.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported last week that Navarro invented and quoted an economist named Ron Vara.

It said that according to Tessa Morris-Suzuki, an emeritus professor at Australian National University, Vara's name had appeared a dozen times in six of Navarro's nonfiction books but no such person could be found.

Navarro said in a statement that the name he used was "a whimsical device and pen name I've used throughout the years for opinions and purely enter-

tainment value, not as a source of fact".

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the international community had been "in uproar and shocked" by the report.

"Making up and peddling lies, even making policy based on lies, is not only ridiculous, but also extremely dangerous," she told a daily news briefing.

"It will not only impact and threaten normal international relations and order, but in the long run, it will ultimately harm the interests of the United States

itself." The United States has made things up before, on Syria and Iraq, and continues to do so on issues such as Xinjiang and Hong Kong, she added.

"We hope that certain people in the United States will return to rationality as soon as possible," Hua said.

"Some opinions or arguments that certain people in the United States are trying to sell must be carefully screened."

The United States and China have been locked in a trade war for more than a year. Chinese state media, though generally

not China's government, have repeatedly criticised Navarro, who has advocated a hard line against Beijing.

Washington and Beijing have levied punitive duties on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods, roiling financial markets and threatening global growth.

However the two sides have looked to try and end the dispute, with the United States announcing a "phase 1" deal with China on trade matters and suspending a scheduled tariff hike for October.

Saudi outperforms on Q3 results

● Alinma Bank sees biggest gain in 6 months

● Bank Albilad jumps on strong Q3 financials

● Deyaar surges on future prospect

● Qatar extends losses for fourth day

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose sharply yesterday, outperforming other regional markets on the back of strong corporate earnings, while Dubai rebounded through gains in financials and property shares.

The Saudi benchmark index added 1.4 per cent with Al Rajhi Bank increasing 2.8pc and Alinma Bank leaping 4.9pc, its biggest intraday gain since April.

The latter reported a rise in third-quarter profit to 713 million riyals (\$190.10 million) compared to 637 million a year earlier.

Among other lenders, Bank Albilad jumped 4.5pc after it reported strong third-quarter earnings on Monday.

National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia rose 2.8pc. On Monday, the firm posted a more than 80pc surge in third-quarter net profit, which it attributed to



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange

higher returns from operating segments powered by growth in logistics services.

Dubai's main index gained 0.9pc, snapping a three-day losing streak, with blue-chip developer Emaar Properties and Dubai Islamic Bank adding 1.4pc and 1.1pc respectively.

Deyaar Development soared 10.5pc to become the top gainer on the index. Deyaar said on Monday that its accumulated losses reached 1.51 billion dirhams (\$411.13 million).

By contrast, the developer said it would continue to launch

quality projects and was keen to diversify income resources through property and facilities management services.

In Abu Dhabi, the index rose 0.7pc as the country's largest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank gained 0.7pc and Emirates Telecommunications closed 1.1pc higher.

The United Arab Emirates' bank lobby is proposing limits on bank lending to the real estate sector to protect them from being overexposed to the sector, Reuters reported on Tuesday citing a senior bank executive.

Real estate and construction accounted for about 20pc of gross loans at the end of the first quarter, according to central bank data.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index edged up 0.2pc, led by a 0.3pc gain in Commercial International Bank and a 0.8pc rise in Eastern Company.

Extending losses for a fourth straight session, Qatar's index ended 0.2pc lower with Qatar Fuel dropping 1.9pc and Qatar International Islamic Bank was down 1.7pc.

No-deal more likely if lawmakers reject Brexit vote



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks ahead of a vote on his renegotiated Brexit deal, on what has been dubbed "Super Saturday", in the House of Commons in London

Reuters | London

A failure to pass a timetable for getting legislation in place for Britain's departure from the European Union on Oct. 31 increases the risk of the country leaving without an agreement, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman said on Tuesday.

Johnson is battling to get the legislation, called the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, through parliament to try to meet his deadline for quitting the EU at the end of October.

But opposition lawmakers fear they are not being given enough time to make their decision, which will be the biggest shift in British policy in more than 40 years, and may vote against the government's tight timetable as set out in a so-called programme motion.

"Voting down a programme motion has serious implications. It means legislation can drift on and on ... Voting down the programme motion risks handing control over the situation to the European Union and therefore making no deal more likely," he said.

"If the programme motion is passed then we have a clear path to leave the EU with a deal on Oct. 31. If the programme motion is not passed, and we cannot guarantee having a deal completed by October 31st, there is no guarantee the EU will grant an extension."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned parliament yesterday that if it delayed his Brexit legislation he would abandon his attempt to ratify the deal to leave the European Union and push for an election instead.

Dubai's Expo 2020 site rises from the desert

● Some 200 countries will take part in the fair, which runs from October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021

AFP | Dubai

With a year to go until the Expo 2020 trade fair, the mammoth venue in Dubai's desert is currently a tangle of steel, concrete and dust.

But the emirate hopes the event will deliver an economic shot in the arm when it launches in October next year.

Dubai, defined by its skyscrapers and mega-projects, may boast the most diverse economy in the Gulf region, but its vital property, tourism and trade sectors have been badly weakened.

The total value of real estate deals plunged 21.5 percent last year, while tourist arrivals remained stagnant at around 16 million.

This year, Dubai seems to be



The United Arab Emirates pavilion is being built in the shape of a falcon in flight

on the same path, hosting 8.3 million visitors in the first six months.

But officials in the emirate, known for its giant malls, luxury resorts and unlikely attractions including an indoor ski slope, are hoping the global trade fair will turn things around.

On a Tuesday tour of the

sprawling site, much of it off limits to the media, organisers said construction was "on track".

Dozens of trucks, some loaded with building materials, zipped in and out of the venue, on sand dunes in the south of Dubai.

Countless workers in yellow and orange vests plied the scaffolding of vast unfinished structures.

The first few white feathers are now recognisable on the wings of the United Arab Emirates pavilion, built in the shape of a falcon in flight.

When completed, the four-storey structure's vast wings will move to capture or repel sunlight.

The Al Wasl Plaza taking shape at the heart of the complex has a 550-tonne (606-ton) steel dome that forms a vast projection screen for light shows and images.

Some 200 countries will take part in the fair, which runs from

October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021.

Organisers say the \$8-billion Expo, with more than 200 restaurants and dozens of events each day, is much more than a six-month trade show.

"This is the first time that there's an Expo happening in this part of the world," said Sanjive Khosla, Expo 2020's Chief Commercial Officer.

"From a business event to a concert or festival, it is really diverse programming," he said. After the party is over, the goal is to turn the 4.4 square kilometre (1.7 square mile) site into a district including homes, an exhibition centre and headquarters for scores of companies.

"The plan for the future development is that it becomes Dubai's innovation district... that will then be the true legacy of Expo 2020," said Nadimeh Mehra, vice-president for the new mini city.

Apple CEO named chairman of top Chinese business school

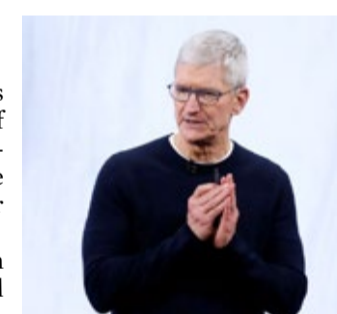
Reuters | Beijing

Apple CEO Tim Cook has been named chairman of the business school advisory board at an elite Chinese university attended by senior politicians in the country.

The announcement from Tsinghua University's School of Economics and Management (SEM) on Saturday did not specify when Cook assumed the role. Apple declined to comment.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is among top politicians who attended Tsinghua - sometimes dubbed "China's Harvard" - as an undergraduate.

The advisory board to Tsinghua's SEM school includes the



CEO Tim Cook

head of the school, businessmen and senior government officials.

Cook met with the head of China's market regulator last week, a week after Apple was caught in the middle of ongoing political tension between the mainland and protesters in Hong Kong.

Air taxi prototype exceeds 100 km/h

Reuters | Berlin

A prototype flying taxi has achieved speeds in excess of 100 km/h (62 mph), its German developer Lilium said yesterday, giving it confidence to expand production capacity ahead of a planned commercial launch in 2025.

Munich-based Lilium is one of a clutch of startups working on battery-powered aircraft that can take off vertically, potentially sparing future travellers the hassle of an airport check-in or delays due to road traffic.

Powered by 36 electric motors, the Lilium sports a fixed-wing design that its makers say will give it an efficiency and



Lilium shows its five-seater prototype in Munich

range advantage over more drone-like competitors, such as German rival Volocopter and Britain's Vertical Aerospace.



Dubai officials are hoping that Expo 2020 will reinvigorate their sluggish economy

CAMPUS

RCSI Bahrain delegation visit schools in Jordan



RCSI Bahrain students during the visit

TDT | Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) team was on the road again this week, as it continued its series of regional activities with a visit to Amman, Jordan.

Representatives of RCSI Bahrain's academic and operational functions met with high school students from over ten different high schools, including King's Academy, Amman Baccalaureate School and Cambridge High School, to present relevant information and advice on third level education.

The students learned about the history of RCSI Bahrain, the various courses the University offers and the relevant



Students of RCSI Bahrain talk with students in Jordan

admissions processes, as well as getting a taste of life as a student and what career opportunities may lie ahead post-graduation.

With a current student cohort of almost 40 nationalities, RCSI

Bahrain has welcomed more than 160 students from Jordan, almost 50 of whom have graduated and are now RCSI Bahrain alumni.

According to current senior medicine student, Abdallah

Halawallah, from Jordan, the sense of community and support from the diverse group of students at the University is always present and that unity translates into and strengthens students' clinical practice.

University seminar highlights Singaporean experiment



Participants during the seminar

TDT | Manama

The Singaporean experiment in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship was highlighted in a seminar that was recently hosted by the Arabian Gulf University (AGU).

Speaking at the seminar, which was organised by the Innovation and Technology Management Programme in the College of Graduate Studies in AGU, was the Director of the Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE) at the Singapore Management University (SMU) Dr. Koh Foo.

The session came as part of AGU's strategies to strengthen international cooperation, scientific partnerships and the exchange of knowledge. Dr. Foo reviewed several topics with the attendees, including the government innovation policies, scientific research, entrepreneurship and the investment environment in Singapore.

He also shared his views on the best means to utilise such topics to benefit Bahrain and the region, considering the shared similarities between

them and Singapore, with relation to geographical area, human capital, investment environment and infrastructure. Dr. Foo also highlighted that Singapore achieved the ninth international position in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) human development index in 2018.

The visiting official further stated: "Singapore's education policy focuses on excellence, quality and support for underprivileged students through government grants and fair opportunities for all citizens, irrespective of race and belief, enabling them to reach the highest government positions in light of the criterion of merit and fairness and the selection of young leaders to run the business."

Dr. Foo clarified that the highest wages in Singapore are the ones earned by public sector employees, adding that this enhances their efficiency and explaining that the country relies on attracting the best establishments, innovativeness and talents, in order to achieve an additional value.



Teachers of New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain attend a workshop on safety organized to educate and train the staff on various safety measures to be taken care of, in and around the school. The resource person B Mohan Pillai, Corporate HSSE Manager, RP Group of companies, focused upon educating teachers on the various kinds of accidents and hazards that they could encounter in and around the school and also taught them numerous ways of dealing with it

MKF launches recruitment tool on its website

TDT | Manama

AlMabarrah AlKhalifa Foundation (MKF) has launched an electronic tool through which graduates of Rayaat Scholarship Program can display their curriculum vitae (CV) on the Foundation's official website.

This feature goes in line with the Foundation's ongoing endeavors to launch initiatives that support Bahraini youth and enable them to achieve their full potential, as well as contribute towards finding relevant jobs for the qualified graduates.

This feature supports graduates in their job search journey by displaying comprehensive information such as graduates major, university name, additional courses and workshops certificates, as well as their previous work experiences. This tool will make it easier for recruiters in the private sectors to find employees whose qualifications and work experience match the vacancies required.

"Since its inception, the Foundation has sought to support young people to achieve their aspirations by providing

scholarships or training programs that enables them to build their future and reach their full potential. The newly added feature will serve as a link between graduates and employers in various companies throughout the Kingdom. The Foundation will continue its efforts in launching such initiatives that develop their students' skills and meet their various needs" commented Her Highness Shaikha Zain bint Khalid Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of AlMabarrah AlKhalifa Foundation.



Students of BIS during the 'Think Pink' week activities organised to educate the students and staff members and parents. Students were actively involved as they presented facts, cause, prevention and treatment of breast cancer through a special assembly, forum presentation and generating charity by selling cupcakes. A workshop was also conducted by Dr. Rajni Ramchandra of Al-Hilal hospital wherein she explained about the cancer, its types, various treatments and tips to prevent it

celebs

Scarlett Johansson



Bond film 'No Time To Die' readying 3 different endings



Daniel Craig

Los Angeles

Three different endings are being shot for the upcoming James Bond film, "No Time To Die", in a bid to avoid plot details from being leaked.

The ending of the new Bond movie is being kept a top secret, so much so that even Daniel Craig, who returns as Agent 007, has not been informed of details. Only, director Cary Joji Fukunaga is aware of which ending will finally be used in the film, reports mirror.co.uk.

One scene was filmed last week involved people being gassed on a dance floor.

Meanwhile, various sources have come up with different theories over what is going on. "Bond could be killed off -- an unlikely scenario -- and replaced by a woman," one source said.

"Everyone's in the dark, the secrecy is off the chart," another source pointed out.

What is known is that English actress Lashana Lynch will be given the 007 badge after Bond leaves M16 for a "tranquil life in Jamaica".

Tiger Shroff wants to be a complete performer like MJ



Tiger Shroff

New Delhi

Actor Tiger Shroff wouldn't mind picking up the microphone and singing a song as he wants to be a complete performer like Michael Jackson and Bruno Mars.

The "Heropanti" actor is one of the successful action heroes of Bollywood. He does manage to slip in a few music videos despite having a busy Bollywood career.

"Music videos are a nice breather. They are a little shorter. Music videos are short films in a way. They have a beginning, middle and an ending, so I enjoy that journey," Tiger, who has featured in music videos such as "Zindagi aa raha hoon main", "Chal wahan jaate hain" and "Befikra", said.

Scarlett Johansson got a closure with 'Black Widow'

Los Angeles

Actress Scarlett Johansson says she got a closure of sorts after doing the standalone movie "Black Widow".

Johansson's Black Widow aka Natasha Romanoff died in "Avengers: Endgame" this year.

During an appearance on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon", the actress asserted that her Marvel character is really dead.

The actress said she had just finished filming "Black Widow", a prequel, in London, reports dailymail.co.uk. The film is slated to release in 2020.

She described shooting for "Black Widow" as a cathartic experience, especially since she had been grappling with her character's death.

"It brought a closure to me that I needed, because I was kind of wiped out

after that last one -- emotionally and literally," she said.

Many fans didn't want to believe her character was gone. She acknowledged it, and said some had even tried to convince her that Black Widow existed in an alternate universe.

"But no, I think death is the final thing," she added.

"Black Widow" is set after the events of "Captain America: Civil War" but before the events of "Avengers: Infinity War". The film will trace the story of Romanoff, who will confront her past.

It is being reported that actor Robert Downey Jr will be back as the enigmatic superhero Iron Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe with "Black Widow". The characters will be back as "Black Widow" is a prequel taking place ahead of the events of "Endgame". It's unknown how big Downey Jr's role in the film will be.

Kate Beckinsale thinks she looks like Ryan Reynolds

Los Angeles

Actress Kate Beckinsale thinks she looks like actor Ryan Reynolds "in a shocking way".

The British actress was a guest on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" where she revealed that she thinks she looks like a famous leading man, reports online.com.

"I look exactly like Ryan Reynolds," Beckinsale told host Jimmy Fallon. "Like in a shocking way. Like, when sometimes, I see a bus going by with a poster on it I think, 'Damn, I look hot. Oh, wait, that's not me. Also, I've never done that movie'."

Fallon held up a

photo of Beckinsale and Reynolds side by side to see if the audience agreed. He confessed: "I don't really see it."

She assured the host that while the comparison was bizarre, they certainly share similarities. "I've wrestled with how, obviously, he's not even like a sort of slightly-girly-boy-bander type," the "Underworld" star explained. "He's like a big Canadian man and I really see myself in him."

So much so that she refuses to work with Reynolds.

"I can't be in the same room as him," she joked. "Because one of us, I think, would explode, or something would happen."



Kate Beckinsale

Katrina calls Nayanthara 'gorgeous south superstar'

Mumbai

Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif has collaborated with southern superstar Nayanthara for promotion of her make-up line Kay Beauty and heaped her with praises.

Katrina on Monday shared a black and white video on Instagram. In the clip, the two actresses were seen chatting.

"A big big thank you to the gorgeous South Superstar #Nayanthara for coming down to Mumbai in between her hectic schedule to be a part of the Kay Beauty campaign. So generous and gracious..." the "Bharat" star captioned the clip, adding: "forever grateful".

Katrina will be next seen in Rohit Shetty's upcoming cop film "Sooryavanshi", directed by Rohit Shetty. She is the new addition to Shetty's cop drama universe after the two "Singham" films



Nayanthara and Katrina

and "Simmba".

It brings back Katrina and Akshay together after nine years. The two have previously worked in films such as "Namastey London", "Sing Is Kinng", "Humko Deewana Kar Gaye", "Welcome" and "Tees Maar Khan".

Deepika becomes flag-bearer of Modi's 'Bharat ki Laxmi' initiative

Mumbai

Actress Deepika Padukone along with world badminton champion PV. Sindhu will be representing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign "Bharat Ki Laxmi", which celebrates womanhood.

Deepika and Sindhu shared a video on their social media pages. In the video, the two icons were seen talking about the initiative that aims at bring to light the commendable work done by women across the nation.

Modi on Tuesday tweeted: "India's Nari Shakti epitomises talent and tenacity, determination and dedication.

"Our ethos has always taught us to strive for women empowerment. Through this video, @Pvsindhu1 and @deepikapadukone excellently convey the message of celebrating #BharatKiLaxmi."



PV Sindhu and Deepika Padukone

Hilary Duff struggles with son's homework

Los Angeles

Actress-singer Hilary Duff, a former child star, is back to books again. This time for her child. She admits she struggles with her son Lucas second grade homework.

"This guy with his spirit and kindness," the 32-year-old captioned a selfie with her seven-year-old son, Luca, reports usmagazine.com.

"Homework is already no joke in 2nd grade. I stopped going to "real" school in 3rd grade so I'm actually doomed."

The former child star, who began homeschooling when she was 8 years old, added: "I am left scratching my head all the time looking at his homework and I'm terrified for next year! Although Singapore math is the difficult. Also learned a lot about tick birds this week."



Hilary Duff

Taapsee, Bhumi pledge to support girl child empowerment

Mumbai

Taapsee Pannu and Bhumi Pednekar have pledged to support the cause of girl child empowerment.

The two actresses joined hands with the NGO Plan India for this purpose.

Taapsee said: "I am very happy to be associated with such a great cause. Empowering girl child, educating them and making them independent, is something which we really need to do right now."

Adding their bit to the cause, Taapsee and Bhumi will also take a pledge for the cause. They will attend the event and interact with the Plan

India NGO children and get photo ops done. They will also handover the cheque to the NGO.

"Saand Ki Aankh" is also about empowering girls and women. I am glad that we can be part of something which stands for positivity and growth," Bhumi added.

Plan India's initiative to promote Girl Child is a joint effort with Palladium Mall, Mumbai, and the "Saand Ki Aankh" team.

Releasing this Diwali on October 25, "Saand Ki Aankh" is an inspirational journey of India's oldest sharpshooters, Prakash Tomar and Chandro Tomar.



Taapsee Pannu and Bhumi Pednekar

SPORTS

sports

Asian football final moved from N. Korea after blacked-out match

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

The final of an Asian club tournament has been moved from Pyongyang to Shanghai, football officials said, a week after North and South Korea played out a surreal World Cup qualifier in an empty stadium.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said it had been "compelled" to shift the November 2 AFC Cup match between North Korea's 4.25 SC and Al Ahed from Lebanon to a "neutral venue" due to logistical and other issues.

Its statement did not mention the inter-Korean showdown in Pyongyang but said that commercial partners had warned of challenges in broadcasting the highly anticipated final of Asia's second-tier continental competition.

Last week's match -- a historic encounter between two countries still technically at war -- took place with no live broadcast and no foreign media in attendance, and with FIFA president Gianni Infantino one of just a handful of spectators.

Infantino said he was "disappointed" after attending the match and "surprised" by the absence of fans and lack of media access.

Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min described the game, which ended 0-0, as "very aggressive" and one South Korean official likened it to warfare.

Last week's debacle raised doubts over the prospects for further North-South sporting co-operation, once a driver of nuclear diplomacy.

Endler-Trochu cruise in boys' doubles

Abernethy-Fuschillo upset rivals in boys' doubles at ITF Juniors at BTC

TDT | Manama

Boys' top seeds Mark Owen Endler of Great Britain and Pablo Trochu of France, along with girls' third seeds Caroline Fawzy and Hagar Ramadan from Egypt, cruised into their respective doubles quarter-finals yesterday in the 11th Bahrain ITF Tennis Juniors Championship 2019, being played at Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) in Juffair.

Endler and Trochu posted a resounding 6-0, 6-0 victory over Bahraini wild cards Mohamed Al Shehabi and Mohammed Alkhan to march through to the Boys' Doubles last eight.

Caroline and Hagar followed suit in the Girls' Doubles, booking their tickets to the quarters after beating Tanya Nanda of India and Andra Izabella Sirbu of Romania 6-2, 5-7, 10-3 in a super tie-break.

Meanwhile, the British pair of Daniel Abernethy and Matteo Fuschillo surprised boys' second seeds Boris Stastny of the Czech Republic and Umit Ege Cankus of Turkey 6-4, 6-4. It was the big upset of Day Two and it was another heart-breaking result for Stastny, who was the top seed in the Boys' Singles where he was also ousted in the first round on Monday.

Elsewhere yesterday, the two other seeded boys' pairings advanced to the next phase, as did girls' fourth seeds Anna Lajos of Hungary and Lia Mosimann of Switzerland. The top two girls' pairings had byes in the first round.



Archie Turner (L) and Oliver Richards of Britain in action

Tournament action continues today from 9am with matches in the Boys' Singles and Girls' Singles second rounds. The doubles quarter-finals will also be held later in the day from 4pm.

The 11th Bahrain ITF Tennis Juniors Championship 2019 is being held under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. It has been organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs, the Bahrain Tennis Federation and the International Tennis Federation (ITF); and is being supported by Bahrain National Gas Company, Bapco and Ebrahim K Kanoo.

The tournament is a part of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors, and it continues the tradition of BTC's hosting world-class tennis championships each year.

In other Boys' Doubles matches yesterday, third seeds Archie

Graham and Alexander Knox Jones from Great Britain were 6-4, 6-1 winners against Alexander Pustovit of Russia and Pierre Antoine Tailleu of France. The fourth-seeded Indian duo of Vansh Bhagtani and Rahul Jaideep also made it through, beating compatriot Gary Bahl

Results

BOYS' DOUBLES FIRST ROUND

1-M O Endler (GER)/P Trochu (FRA) bt M Al Shehabi (BRN)/M Alkhan (BRN) 6-0, 6-0
 3-A Graham (GBR)/A Knox Jones (GBR) bt A Pustovit (RUS)/P A Tailleu (FRA) 6-4, 6-1
 4-V Bhagtani (IND)/R Jaideep (IND) bt G Bahl (IND)/Y Manna (USA) 6-1, 4-6, 10-7
 D Abernethy (GBR)/M Fuschillo (GBR) bt 2-U E Cankus (TUR)/B Stastny (CZE) 6-4, 6-4
 O Richards (GBR)/A Turner (GBR) bt A Al Sharif (BRN)/O G Umur (TUR) 6-2, 6-1
 A Jovanovic (SRB)/F Mikkelsen (DEN) bt V Kolluru (IND)/A Singh (IND) 6-1, 6-4
 L D Constantin (ROU)/P Wheat-Lindsey (USA) bt H Parashar (IND)/A Yadav (IND) 6-4, 6-7 (5), 10-7
 E Donmezer (TUR)/W Jansen (GBR) bt Y C Binici (TUR)/S B K Mannju (IND) 6-2, 6-2

GIRLS' DOUBLES FIRST ROUND

3-C Fawzy (EGY)/H Ramadan (EGY) bt T Nanda (IND)/A I Sirbu (ROU) 6-2, 5-7, 10-3
 4-A Lajos (HUN)/L Mosimann (SUI) bt E G Alegria (PHI)/J I Mataac (PHI) 6-0, 6-0
 I Purser (GBR)/R Singh (IND) bt A Sutherland (GBR)/N Vivic (DEN) 6-3, 6-1
 P Auf (EGY)/J Elnemr (EGY) bt Z Baretto (IND)/S Jalligama (IND) 6-1, 6-1
 S M Masand (IND)/H Shah (IND) bt A E Alex (IND)/Y Alhagbani (KSA) 6-2, 6-0
 A Bartlett (GBR)/O Rook (GBR) bt R M Acena (PHI)/L Badde (LUX) 6-1, 6-3

and his American teammate Yousef Manna 6-1, 4-6, 10-7 in a super tie-break.

Also making it to the quarter-finals were the unseeded pairs of Britons Oliver Richards and Archie Turner, Andrej Jovanovic of Serbia and Felipe Mikkelsen of Denmark, Luca-Daniel Constantin of Romania and Patrick Wheat-Lindsey of the USA, and Enes Donmezer of Turkey and William Jansen of Great Britain.

In the Girls' Doubles, Anna and Lia were comfortable 6-0,

6-0 winners over Filipino duo Eira Gabrielle Alegria and Jan Inzi Mataac. Others to claim a quarter-finals place were Briton Issey Purser and Indian partner Rhea Singh, Egyptian pairing Perihan Auf and Jannah Elnemr, Indian tandem Saniya Manoj Masand and Hrudaya Shah, and British pair Aryana Bartlett and Olivia Rook.

Wednesday's Order of Play features a total of 24 matches, including 16 in the boys' and girls' singles second rounds and eight doubles quarter-finals.



Perihan Auf (L) and Jannah Elnemr of Egypt in action during their doubles match

Federer celebrates 1,500th match with Basel breeze

AFP | Basel, Switzerland

Roger Federer opened his bid for a 10th title at the ATP Swiss indoors in Basel on Monday, crushing German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk in what was the Swiss legend's 1,500th career match.

This landmark 6-2, 6-1 success in his hometown set the 38-year-old up for his tilt at a 103rd title.

"I thought the match was good," Federer said.

"I felt a nice spring in my step. I was quick to the ball and it didn't take me long to get used to the conditions, that's positive.

"There is a danger in playing Peter indoors since he's already had two solid qualifying matches. He also serves great indoors.

"But I was able to control things."

Federer is defending the 2018 title at his hometown event.



Swiss Roger Federer returns a ball to German Peter Gojowczyk

The victory improved his career record at the tournament to 72-9 and increased his Basel win streak to 21 straight matches.

Federer, who has made the Basel final on all of his last 12 visits, owns ATP titles this season in Dubai, Miami and Halle. The Monday rout took just

54 minutes with Federer forced to break back in the second set before sprinting to the win.

He will face the winner from Radu Albot and Dusan Lajovic in the second round.

Federer, the winner of the previous two editions, last lost here in the 2013 final to Juan Martin del Potro.

Blades burst Arsenal bubble

AFP | London

Unai Emery claimed Arsenal were unlucky to suffer a shock 1-0 defeat at Sheffield United as Lys Mousset condemned the Gunners to their latest away-day flop on Monday.

Emery's side are without an away Premier League win since the opening weekend of the season after failing to rise to the challenge posed by fired up United at Bramall Lane.

French forward Mousset, making his first Premier League start for United, punished poor Arsenal defending in the first half to score his second goal since signing from Bournemouth. That was enough to send Arsenal crashing to just their second defeat of the season, ending an eight-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

The north Londoners sit fifth in the league after a powder-puff performance that showed Emery's rebuilding job is still a work in progress.

But Emery insisted Arsenal



Lys Mousset gives Sheffield United the lead in the first half against Arsenal

deserved at least a draw and criticised the failure to give a penalty for a foul on Sokratis.

"We didn't deserve to lose. We can speak about two key moments, one is the goal and the other is a clear penalty with Sokratis. With VAR, the foul should have been reviewed, but we have to accept it," Emery said after Arsenal's winless run in the city of Sheffield extended to 26 years.

"We had more chances than them. If we scored one goal

then we could have controlled better."

Asked if Arsenal have a mental block in away games, Emery said: "We prepare for the matches the same home and away and think to win.

"We deserved more but they are a very strong defensive team."

Under Emery, Arsenal have kept just two clean sheets in 24 away league matches and once again they wilted too easily in a hostile environment.

Rapinoe named but Modric, Neymar miss out on Ballon D'Or shortlist



United States' forward Megan Rapinoe with the Golden Boot and Golden Ball awards she won after the women's World Cup this summer

AFP | Paris

While Megan Rapinoe is the leading candidate for the second ever women's Ballon D'Or, the holder of the men's award, Luka Modric, and the world's most expensive player Neymar missed out as France Football unveiled nominees in four categories on Monday.

Modric, fresh from guiding Croatia to a World Cup final, broke the 11-year Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi, who are both included, stranglehold on the men's award last year.

Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, who cost the French club 222 million euros (\$247 million) in 2017, failed to make the 30-man shortlist after a year overshadowed by injury, suspension and controversy for both club and country.

Messi has just collected the

FIFA Best award, as did Rapinoe, which split from the Ballon D'Or in 2016.

Rapinoe dominated the Women's World Cup, on and off the field, in the summer.

She was joint top scorer and was voted player of the tournament as she led the United States to victory in France in July.

The 34-year-old Reign FC playmaker, already a campaigner for LGBT rights and gender equality, made headlines during the tournament by publicly taking on US President Donald Trump. Last year, Norwegian Ada Hegerberg was the first women's winner.

The Lyon forward did not play in the World Cup but is among the 20 nominees as are stars who were present at the competition, such as Australia striker Sam Kerr, England's Lucy Bronze and France captain Amandine Henry.

India thrash South Africa

South Africa has suffered one of their worst Test series in decades after India's 3-0 clean sweep

● India won by an innings and 202 runs to wrap up the three match series

● Fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav again battered South Africa in Ranchi

AFP | Ranchi, India



India's players celebrate their innings victory in Ranchi.

Shahbaz Nadeem took the final two wickets in straight balls as India thrashed South Africa by an innings and 202 runs in the third Test yesterday to complete a 3-0 series rout.

The day's play lasted just 12 balls in a triumph emphatically ramming home India's feat in beating Australia's record of 10 straight home series wins, and consolidating their place at the top of the World Test Championship.

For Proteas, who lost two of the three matches by more than an innings, it was one of their worst series in decades.

"It's been a brilliant series for us," said India captain Virat Kohli as he hailed the performance of his batsmen and bowlers who made 497 for nine declared in their first innings.

Kohli made South Africa follow on after they were bowled out for 162 in their first attempt

in Ranchi.

Resuming on 132-8 in the second innings, Nadeem got substitute Theunis de Bruyn caught behind for 30 and then Lungi Ngidi for nought to dismiss the tourists for 133 on the fourth day.

"To be the best side in the world, you need to be multi-dimensional. All facets of your team have to fire," said Kohli.

The series saw Indian batsmen Mayank Agarwal (215), Kohli (254 not out) and Rohit Sharma (212) all hit double tons against South Africa.

After big wins in the first two tests in Visakhapatnam and Pune, fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav again battered South Africa in Ranchi, this time taking 10 wickets between them.

"The catching has been brilliant as well. It's great to see when you operate in such a



The series saw Indian batsmen Mayank Agarwal (215), Kohli (254 not out) and Rohit Sharma (212) all hit double tons against South Africa

way," said Kohli.

"We believe we can win anywhere in the world. England, Australia, South Africa -- good things are going to follow," he vowed.

'We were dominated'

South Africa captain Faf du

Plessis was left frustrated and despondent by the defeat.

He said the team had shown "good signs" at the start of the first Test, "but we went the other way and kept making more mistakes as the series went on.

"You got to give credit to the Indian team. This is a really tough Indian team under Virat," he added.

"Be it in the batting, bowling or even fielding, we were dominated across the series."

Du Plessis said India's fast bowlers had performed throughout the three matches.

"Our seamers were good for 30-40 minutes but theirs were able to do that throughout the day."

"It has been a really tough series for us but we need to ensure that when we tour again, we are better equipped. This is the toughest place to tour, the statistics say that."

Bangladesh players go on strike, tour of India in jeopardy

AFP | Dhaka

Bangladesh's cricketers will be on an indefinite strike until a list of demands are met by the country's cricket board (BCB), skipper Shakib Al Hasan said, putting next month's tour of India in doubt.

Players released a list of demands and the boycott has affected the ongoing National Cricket League, Bangladesh's first class cricket competition, and the national training camp ahead of the tour.

The tour of India, which starts on Nov. 3, includes three Twenty20 internationals and two test matches. Bangladesh announced a 15-man T20 squad with Shakib set to lead the side.

"From the National Cricket League to first-class (cricket), national team preparations, internationals... everything is included," Shakib told a news conference in Dhaka.

"Apart from the Under-19s and the other age-group teams, all first-class and national teams are included. When the demands are met, normal service will resume.

A BCB spokesman told Reuters the board would not make a statement until they were formally presented with the list of demands.

WEC Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain, National Day Festival set for brilliant spectacle at BIC

● Combined National day and World Endurance Championship race set to be biggest ever event at BIC outside of F1

● Regional superstar singer Balqees announced as first major concert act

● Entertainment package for four-day extravaganza to include major stunt acts, bands, performers and family attractions

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) welcomes back the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) this December, and for the first time ever it will be held together with the BIC National Day Festival.

This four-day extravaganza is scheduled to take place December 13 to 16 at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" in Sakhir, and it will be the biggest event held at BIC outside of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.



Officials during the press meet at BIC

Details of the massive occasion were announced at a press conference yesterday at the BIC premises in Sakhir. Speaking at the gathering were BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, FIA WEC CEO Gerard Neveu and FIA WEC former World Champion and current AF Corse talent James Calado.

The WEC returns with an extended eight-hour event, sponsored by long-term BIC partner Bapco. Both WEC and National Day will be open to the public from December 13, with WEC running for two days and National Day celebrations offering four days of entertainment, concluding on December 16.

The BIC also announced a major event package for the four-day festival, with regional superstar singer Balqees announced as first major concert

act, together with a vast array of stunt shows, entertainers, bands and performers.

Tickets are just BDI per person per day and can be purchased from today via the BIC Sales Department or from November 1 onwards at the BIC Welcome Centre or the BIC stand at Bahrain City Centre.

Shaikh Salman said, "The Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain, together with the BIC National Day Festival, makes for a unique celebration. We expect to attract some of our biggest ever crowds to enjoy the very best of endurance racing and the huge amount of entertainment on offer for National Day, including regional superstars for our supporting concert programme."

Gerard Neveu said, "The Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain, which will form the central part of the

circuit's National Day festival of motorsport, will mark the midpoint of Season 8 for us, and we are looking forward to providing visitors with exciting and unpredictable racing entertainment on track, as well as holding our traditional 'Rookie' test the day after our race for champions of the future."

Racing action

The Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain marks the fourth round of the 2019/2020 FIA WEC season. The gruelling eight-hour event makes it the second-longest race on the WEC calendar, behind only the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans. Just as in previous seasons, there will be competition in four categories, comprising the Le Mans Prototype 1 (LMP1), LMP2, Le Mans Grand Touring Endurance (LMGTE) Pro and the

We expect to attract some of our biggest ever crowds to enjoy the very best of endurance racing and the huge amount of entertainment on offer for National Day, including regional superstars for our supporting concert programme

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

LMGTE Amateur classes.

Among the leading sports prototype car brands to look forward to in the LMP classes are Toyota, Ginetta, Rebellion, Alpine, Oreca and Dallara. The GT cars that are set to take to the track in the LMGTE classes include the Ferrari 488 GTE Evo, the Porsche 911 RSR-19 and the Aston Martin Vantage AMR.

Motor racing fans attending the FIA WEC Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain will be able to enjoy an Open Paddock experience, offering a behind the scenes spectacle of the race experience. All racing will be open to the public on 13 and 14 December, with the race set to get underway at 3pm on the Saturday.