



البنك الأهلي المتحد
ahli united bank

Ramadan
Prayer Timings

Day 19

Fajr 03:17 AM

Dhuhr 11:34 AM

Aar 03:02 PM

Maghrib 06:22 PM

Isha 07:52 PM

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Children up for adoption paraded in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A parade of adoptable children held in a Brazilian shopping center drew condemnation yesterday, with some comparing the event to the sale of animals or slaves.

"Adoption on the Catwalk" in the central-west state of Mato Grosso was designed to "give visibility to children and adolescents who are eligible for adoption," according to an official statement.

The parade -- organized by the local chapters of the Brazil Bar Association's Childhood and Youth Commission (CYC) and the Adoption Research and Support Association (AMPARA) -- was held in the Pantanal shopping mall in the capital Cuiaba.

"As we always say, what the eyes see, the heart feels," Tatiane de Barros Ramalho, president of the CYC and a lawyer said. An undated photo published on G1 news site purportedly showed a girl wearing a white t-shirt and a short pink skirt walking down a catwalk in front of onlookers, who were recording images with their smartphones.



03 Saffron surge
talk of the town

04 Bahrain
condemns
terrorist attack
in Somalia

05 50 children
saved after
police bust
paedophile site:
Interpol



HM King, UAE Crown Prince review regional developments

TDI | Abu Dhabi

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, yesterday discussed recent regional developments and its implication on the security and stability of the region.

During the talks, HM the King highlighted Bahrain's solidari-



His Majesty the King with His Highness Shaikh Mohammed during a discussion in Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, yesterday

ty with the UAE in any security measures it may take to protect its security, stability and inter-

ests.

The meeting held at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi

also discussed several issues of joint interest as well as ways to boost bilateral ties. HM the King

expressed pride in the cordial deep-rooted ties and appreciated the UAE's stances supportive to the Kingdom of Bahrain and its people.

HH the Crown Prince underlined the significance of coordination and cooperation within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council to serve GCC countries and confront current challenges.

HH the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi hosted an Iftar banquet in honour of HM the King.

Bahrain committed to regional security: Deputy King

TDI | Manama

Deputy King HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday stressed Bahrain's steadfast commitment to ensuring regional security, calling for "integrated efforts and partnerships to address them efficiently."

"Strong bonds that exist among citizens, shields and strengthens our community," said HRH Prince Salman.

His Royal Highness also hailed the collective efforts exerted by the citizens of Bahrain in overcoming challenges.

Deputy King HRH Prince Sal-



Deputy King during a Majlis visit yesterday evening

man was visiting the Majlis of Khalid Al-Sharif and the Majlis of the Kazerooni family.

Speaking to Majlis participants, His Royal Highness Prince Salman stressed Kingdom's commitment to development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

"The principles of the National Action Charter and the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 will continue to guide Bahrain's wide-ranging development initiatives and strategies," the Deputy King stressed.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

further highlighted the multi-lateral ties that exist between Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait, noting the continual support they extend to the Kingdom.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the Executive Authority and the Legislative Authority and highlighted the importance of reinforcing the private sector as the primary engine of growth.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa accompanied His Royal Highness to the Majlis visits.

Modi wave



India Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) and Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) president Amit Shah wave as they celebrate the victory in India's general election at the party headquarters in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed an "inclusive" future for all Indians after a landslide election victory that crushed the Gandhi dynasty's comeback hopes once again. (Stories on page 3, 6-7)

Saudi downs Houthi drone

Explosive-laden drone from Yemen targeted Najran airport: coalition

TDI | Agencies

Saudi Arabia yesterday shot down a bomb-laden drone deployed by Iran-aligned Houthis to attack an airport in the kingdom, the Riyadh-led coalition fighting on the side of Yemen's government said.

"An explosive-laden drone sent by the terrorist Huthi militia to target Najran airport" was intercepted and destroyed by the Saudi air force, coalition spokesman Colonel Turki al-Maliki was quoted by state media as saying.

The explosive-laden drone was intercepted by Saudi Air Defence team.

Al-Maliki said that Houthis deliberately target dignitaries, civilians, and civil facilities systematically, warning the Iran-backed militia not to continue targeting, otherwise, there will be a strong response.

The Yemeni rebels' Al-Masirah TV said the attack -- the third against Najran airport in



Colonel Turki al-Maliki

72 hours -- had targeted a Patriot air defence system.

Maliki said "the rebels attacked a civilian airport" and warned of a "response".

Maliki said on Tuesday that the rebels attacked a "civilian installation" in Najran province bordering Yemen with an explosives-laden drone, but did not report casualties.

The group also claimed responsibility for last week's armed drone strikes on oil assets in Saudi Arabia and on Sunday said they would attack 300

More US troops

TDI | Agencies

Pentagon yesterday confirmed that it was considering sending additional US troops to the Middle East.

Acting US Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan said this would bolster protection for American forces there, amid tensions with Iran.

"What we're looking at is: Are there things that we can do to enhance force protection in the Middle East?" Shanahan said.

"It may involve sending additional troops."

vital military targets in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

This is the third Houthi strike or attempt to strike Najran in a week, according to Saudi and Houthi reports.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa arrives in the United Arab Emirates on a visit to meet His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. HM the King was welcomed at Abu Dhabi International Airport by HH Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, HH Shaikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Lt-General HH Shaikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Bahrain's Ambassador to the UAE.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with BDF Commander-in-chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, National Guards Commander General His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, National Security Agency Chief Lt-Gen Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhil and senior officers in Sakhir Palace. HM the King exchanged Ramadan greetings and expressed pride in the huge role the BDF, National Guards, Interior Ministry and National Security Agency play in defending the national unity, gains and achievements and enforcing the law.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister inaugurates the Majlis of Eshaq Abdulrahman, Mohammed Yousif Najibi, and Mustafa Abullatif families



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visits the Majlis of the sons of the late Abdulkarim Al Ansari



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visits the Majlis of Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Mannai



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visits the Majlis of the Al Jishi and Al Khozaei families



Deputy Premier HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa with Mohammed Hassan Kamaluddeen who presented to him some of his literary work. HH Shaikh Mohammed lauded the efforts exerted by Kamaluddeen and wished him further success



BDF Commander-in-Chief during an inspection visit one of the BDF units. He got updated on the unit's military preparations and listened to a briefing on the unit's missions

Japanese govt invites application for MEXT scholarship 2020

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Bahrain has invited applications from Bahraini students for MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Scholarship 2020.

Bahraini students interested in studying at Japanese universities as "Research Students (postgraduate students)" are eligible to apply.

The scholarship benefits include travelling expenses between Bahrain and Japan, education fees and a monthly

allowance. The Japanese Government Scholarship Programme, established in 1954, was created to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries. The guideline and all the requested documents can be downloaded from URL: http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/jp/smap_stopj-applications-research.html Applicants must submit all requested documents to the Embassy by the 30th of May, 2019. The first screening will be held in June.

Sultan Ahmad Shah dies

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of Malaysia in Bahrain yesterday announced the passing of His Royal Highness Sultan Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar, former Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Supreme Ruler) of Malaysia on Wednesday in Kuala Lumpur.

His Royal Highness Sultan

Ahmad Shah ascended the throne as the 5th Sultan of the State of Pahang on 7 May 1974. He also served as the 7th Yang di-Pertuan Agong from 1979 to 1984. A Book of Condolence will be opened for signing at the Embassy of Malaysia, Building 2305, Road 2830, Block 428, Seef District on 26 and 27 May 2019 from 09:00 hours to 13:00hours.

big story

Saffron surge talk of the town

When Narendra Modi and BJP started making waves in India, delirious supporters banged their drums and smothered each other in saffron paint. The size of Modi's victory was such that, it was stunning even for the BJP, not to mention the opposition Congress. As was the case with expatriates here too. Discussions went on and on in the community numbered at an estimated 400,000 out of the Kingdom total population of 1.3 million. Tribune talked to a few people here to find out what their reactions are.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) and president of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Amit Shah gesture as they celebrate the victory in India's general elections at the Bharatiya Janata Party headquarters, in New Delhi

**TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran**

Indian election results dominated the discussions here yesterday in the Indian expatriate community as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landslide win produced divided opinions.

The news of Modi winning a second term generated mixed reaction among the NRIs in Bahrain. While some were excited with the results, others were less than enthused.

As suggested by many exit poll surveys, Modi unleashed a massive saffron surge sweeping most parts of India yesterday to win another five-year term.

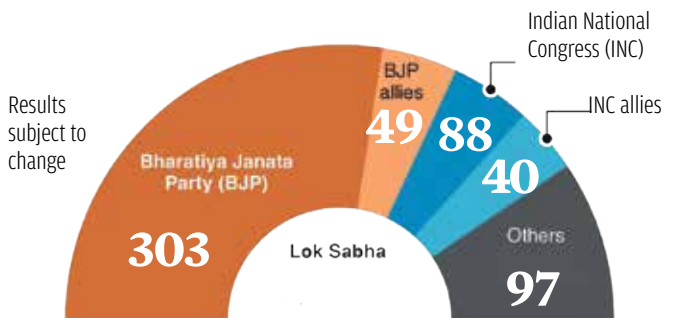
Although final results were yet to be published, a rolling vote count by the election commission showed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) increased its majority with 303 out of 542 elected lower house seats.

The BJP's main rivals Congress were on just 51 seats, with Rahul Gandhi -- the great-grand-

son, grandson and son of three premiers -- conceding defeat and congratulating Modi.

"Thank you, India! The faith placed in our alliance is humbling and gives us the strength to work even harder to fulfil people's aspirations," Modi tweeted.

The main opposition alliance Congress party admitted defeat early on as the party headed by Rahul Gandhi lost stunningly. Over 600 million people are believed to have voted in the elections that spanned over 6 weeks.



"Smriti Irani (of the BJP) has won in Amethi and I congratulate her. The people of Amethi have given their mandate," Gandhi told a news conference. Tribune spoke to a few Indian expatriates here to find out what their reactions are:

Well orchestrated plan

Modi executed a well-orchestrated plan through his election campaign. Ultimately, this is a huge defeat for Congress. While BJP managed to create a huge alliance which worked well to their favour, Congress remained grossly ineffective. I see this as a decisive factor. The alliances worked out well for BJP. Moreover, the opposition parties were not strong. There were 22 of them and all of them wanted Prime Minister's chair. Strategic alliances were lacking.

ABRAHAM JOHN

Congress must learn the lesson

Despite the strong support BJP enjoys, Modi should focus on gaining the confidence of minority communities and the NRIs. It is now clear that people of India trust the government and they feel that India is secure in Modi's and BJP's hands. Congress must take a lesson from this election and not just criticise leaders with baseless allegations. On the other hand, BJP government must take steps to secure the confidence of minority communities. The PM must interfere in certain issues of NRIs and gain their confidence

SUDHEER THIRUNILATH, SOCIAL WORKER

Unexpected, unfortunate

BJP's win is unfortunate and unexpected. This is a huge defeat to the Congress. Why this happened needs further analysis. I believe BJP and Modi have been cashing in on the communal differences by magnifying it. It remains to be seen how they will move forward. Modi has made statements about unity and moving forward as one, but only time could tell what will happen.

ABDUL RAHMAN ASEEL

Played religious cards

Modi has played the religious cards well. Modi knew what he was doing. He had a plan and executed it well. He also played the religious sentiments well during the campaign. Many things worked to his favour during the campaign including the confrontation and conflict with Pakistan. He used all of that to his advantage in the polls.

RAMSHAD ABDULKADER

Gulf Air upgrades Baku aircraft



The airline will operate its flagship Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner to allow more fans to travel

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air has upgraded its aircraft that is scheduled to operate to Baku's Heydar Aliyev International Airport on 29 May 2019 for fans of both Arsenal and Chelsea football clubs. The airline said it will operate its flagship Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner to allow more fans to travel and watch the big game between two English giants Arsenal and Chelsea in the final of UEFA Europa League.

With 26 seats in Falcon Gold and 256 in economy class seats, the state-of-the-art Dreamliner will be operated for the first time on the Bahrain-Baku route to cater to the increasing demand from football fans around the Gulf Air's network to witness the highly anticipated football match of the season. Gulf Air's CEO Krešimir Kucko said of this occasion: "The B787-9 has much more capacity than the regularly scheduled aircraft to Baku and we are happy to offer this opportunity to all football fans of Arsenal and Chelsea".

The airline operates 5 weekly flights between Bahrain International Airport and Heydar Aliyev International Airport. Baku as a Gulf Air destination has shown increasing demand since it was launched in 2018.

RERA launches property contract

TDT | Manama

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) yesterday launched a template for standard Seller/Broker contract, which the authority said, "will improve trust and confidence in the sector."

"The template will assist in bringing clarity and consistency to the sales process, which will ultimately improve the trust and confidence in the sector," Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chief Executive of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) said.

"Since RERA commenced operations in March 2018, we have encouraged sellers and brokers to sign contracts to protect their legal rights," added Shaikh Mohammed.

The Seller /Broker contract was developed following consultation with key stakeholders, including brokers, sales agents, buyers and sellers of real estate.

The contract template can be downloaded for free from the RERA website www.rera.gov.bh.

The RERA CEO, however, said that the utilisation of this contract is not mandatory.

"However, it is anticipated that this standard contract template will benefit stakeholders, particularly those engaging in the sales of single unit properties such as an apartment or villa."

Over the coming months, RERA will create a suite of contact templates and additional guidelines to assist with the buying and selling of real estate process.

Call '999' for ambulance

Interior Minister launches National Ambulance Centre

TDT | Manama

Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday ordered to activate the National Ambulance Centre in Jaw area.

The move follows the directives of His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

HRH CP ordered to provide ambulance services in Khalifa City, Jaw, Askar, Al Dur and Durat Al Bahrain area.

The centre will serve those areas through ambulances equipped with the latest medical equipment and top medics.

Citizens in the district could contact the operations room on "999" to request an ambulance.

The move is the first step to activate national ambulance centres in all governorates in the next phase.

Bahrain condemns terrorist attack in Somalia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned the terrorist attack that targeted a security checkpoint in Somalia's capital Mogadishu killing and injuring several people.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement, affirmed the solidarity of Bahrain with the Federal Republic of Somalia in combating extremism and terrorism in its efforts to maintain security and stability. Expressing Bahrain's deepest condolences to the families and relatives

of the victims, the Ministry wished the injured quick recovery.

The statement reiterated Bahrain's unwavering position, "which rejects violence, extremism and terrorism of all forms. A former Somali foreign minister was among five killed Wednesday

when a car bomb exploded in the capital Mogadishu, according to the country's information minister. The bombing was claimed by militant group Al-Shabaab, which said in a statement it had targeted a convoy escorting officials and lawmakers heading to the presidential palace.



Students with school officials during the Investiture Ceremony of The New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain for the academic session 2019-2020 held at the school yesterday. The elected leaders from Classes VII to XII were conferred with badges.

Banagas honours SHE drawing competition winners

TDT | Manama

Banagas held its annual Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) Drawing Competition for employees' children. The event consisted of several programmes including the celebration of Gurgaon night and the distribution of gifts to all employee's children.

The event was held under the patronage of Khalid Ahmed A.Karim, General Manager Production.

Khalid Ebrahim Al- Thawadi, Manager Maintenance, Dr Ahmed Ali Al Kaabi, Manager Administration, Abdulfattah Mohamed Al Janzoury, Manager Finance & IT, R. Srikumar, Acting Manager Operations, Trade Union members and a large number of employees were present on the occasion

Children Age Group from 5 - 8 Years winners: Noor Ali Kadhem, Adnan Hani Abdulla, Aisha Yusuf Al Mehaizea and Fatima Amer al Alawi.

Children Age Group from 9 - 12 Years winners are Husain Mohamed Ali, Mariam Husain Mihamed, Sayed Abbas Kadhem Sayed Abbas and Retaj Ahmed

Janahi.

Children Age Group from 13 - 16 Years winners are Fajer Mohamed Mahboob, Safa Abdulshaheed Fayeze, Fatima Abdulshaheed Fayeze and Ali Khalid Abdulla.

In pictures, winners and participants of Banagas annual Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) Drawing Competition during group photo sessions



world

50 children saved after police bust paedophile site: Interpol

● Police are trying to identify an additional 100 in images that had been shared on the internet

● Tokputza, 31, pleaded guilty to 50 counts of abuse of 11 babies and children -- one just 15 months old -- between 2011 and 2018.

AFP | Lyon, France

International police group Interpol said yesterday that nine people had been arrested in Thailand, Australia and the US and 50 children had been rescued after investigators took down an online paedophilia ring.

More arrests were expected as police in nearly 60 countries pursue investigations stemming from an Interpol operation launched two years ago into a hidden "dark web" site with 63,000 users worldwide. Fifty children were rescued



Officers collecting evidence from the website's main administrator, Montri Salangam's home (Courtesy of The Straits Times)

following the arrests. Police are trying to identify an additional 100 in images that had been shared on the internet's uncharted corners.

Interpol said its Operation Blackwrist began after it found material that was traced back to a subscription-based site on the dark web, where people can use encrypted software to hide behind layers of secrecy. Interpol enlisted help from

national agencies worldwide, with the US Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) department eventually tracking the site's IP address, where new photos and videos were posted weekly.

The first arrests came in early 2018, when the site's main administrator, Montri Salangam, was detained in Thailand, and another administrator, Ruecha Tokputza, was captured in Australia.



The first arrests came in early 2018, when the site's main administrator, Montri Salangam, was detained in Thailand, and another administrator, Ruecha Tokputza, was captured in Australia (The Straits Times)

'Child's worst nightmare'

Salangam, whose victims included one of his nephews, was sentenced in June last year to 146 years in prison by Thai courts, while an associate, a preschool teacher, got 36 years.

Tokputza was handed a 40-year prison term at his trial in Australia last Friday, the longest ever for child sex offences in the country.

The Australian Associated Press reported that Tokputza, 31, pleaded guilty to 50 counts of abuse of 11 babies and children -- one just 15 months old -- between 2011 and 2018.

"You are a child's worst nightmare, you are every parent's horror, you are a menace to the community," Judge Liesl Chapman said in Adelaide.

Interpol did not identify the others arrested.



Dark web sites can't be found through search engines, and users need to have the specific URL address to land on a site.

The HSI's regional attache in Bangkok, Eric McLoughlin, said in the statement that "numerous arrests" had been made in the US. Some held "positions of public trust," he said, and one individual was abusing his two-year-old stepbrother.

"Operation Blackwrist sends a clear message to those abusing children, producing child sexual exploitation material and sharing the images online: We see you, and you will be brought to justice," Interpol's Secretary General Juergeren Stock said.

S. Korea scraps joint Olympic hockey team with North

Seoul, South Korea

South Korea are dropping their plan for a joint women's field hockey team with the North at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, officials said Thursday, after Pyongyang failed to co-operate.

Sporting ties triggered a rapid diplomatic thaw on and around the peninsula last year, but are stagnating with the wider process over the North's nuclear arsenal deadlocked.

The two Koreas formed their first-ever unified Olympic team -- a joint women's ice hockey squad -- for the 2018 Winter Games in the South, where they proved a media sensation despite losing all five of their matches by a combined scoreline of 28-2.

The two Koreas then formed several joint teams for the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia and in February agreed to send unified basketball, judo, field hockey and rowing squads to Tokyo.

But just weeks later a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump collapsed in disagreement over sanctions relief and what Pyongyang would be willing to give up in return.

Two US navy ships sail though Taiwan Strait Taiwan

Taipei, Taiwan

Two American warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait, the US navy said Thursday, as Washington also kicked off multinational naval drills near Guam in operations bound to provoke a rebuke from Beijing.

The navy said the USS Preble, a destroyer, and USNS Walter S. Diehl, a supply ship, conducted a routine transit "in accordance with international law".

"The ships' transit through the Taiwan Strait demon-

strates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the navy said.

"The U.S. Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows."

US warships periodically conduct "freedom of navigation" exercises in the narrow waterway separating the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, triggering angry responses from Beijing every time.

Beijing views any ships passing through the strait as essentially breaching its sovereignty.

Made by foot

Mexican overcomes disability in style

Guadalajara, Mexico

When Adriana Macias graduated from law school, she found no firm was interested in hiring an attorney without arms.

So Macias, a 41-year-old Mexican woman who was born without them, began working as a writer, playwright, motivational speaker and now a fashion designer who has just launched a new clothing line.

She designed it -- as she does nearly everything -- with her feet.

She unveiled her debut collection at Fashion Week Mexico last month, where disabled models strutted the runway -- or rolled down it in wheelchairs -- showing off her fall-winter line of 12 flowing, vibrantly colored designs made so people with disabilities can easily put them on.

She herself uses custom-made clothes that allow her to dress herself using her feet.

"I'm putting out this clothing line with all these details designed to make the clothes accessible, very comfortable, very practical, but also very formal. I wanted (the show) to be inclusive because inclusiveness is a very important issue," she told AFP.

"People should not exist for clothes, clothes should exist for people." No more prosthetic arms



Adriana Macias - who was born without arms - prepares breakfast in Guadalajara, state of Jalisco, Mexico

Macias's parents taught her things other children did with from birth to use her feet for the their hands.

Today, she eats, drinks, writes, draws, cooks, cleans and even dresses her three-year-old daughter with her feet and legs.

Sitting cross-legged on her chair, she gestures with her feet when she speaks. Sometimes she rests her chin on her toes, which sport rings and nail polish, or uses them to brush back her long hair.

She used prosthetic arms until she was 20, but had to give them up when the added weight gave her shoulder problems.

"It was tough going off to university without my prostheses, taking off my shoes in class to write. It's considered bad manners to take off your shoes," she said with a smile and her usual lively determination.

She thrived at university anyway, earning a law degree, but got a cold welcome in the professional world.

"No one wanted to hire me," she said.

"Everybody thought it was weird or shocking that someone would show up at an office, take their shoes off and apply for work." That is when she began writing -- she has published three books and a play -- and also working as a motivational speaker and, now, a designer.

She even holds a Guinness world record, for "most birthday candles lit with the feet in one minute": 11.



Trump
congratulates
Modi, BJP on
'BIG' election
win

Congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi and his BJP party on their BIG election victory!" Trump tweeted. "Great things are in store for the US-India partnership with the return of PM Modi at the helm. I look forward to continuing our important work together!" Trump said.



Narendra Modi (C) flashes the victory sign next to Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) president Amit Shah (3L) and Minister of Home Affairs of India Rajnath Singh (3R) and other senior BJP leaders as they celebrate the victory in India's general election at the party headquarters in New Delhi



National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah (C), former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, shows a victory sign after winning his Srinagar constituency parliament seat in Srinagar

Modi makes clean sweep

Modi vows 'inclusive' India after landslide election win

New Delhi, India

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed an "inclusive" future for all Indians yesterday after a landslide election victory that crushed the Gandhi dynasty's comeback hopes once again.

"Together we grow. Together we prosper. Together we will build a strong and inclusive India. India wins yet again!" Modi tweeted as delirious supporters of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) celebrated nationwide.

"The faith placed in our alliance is humbling and gives us strength to work even harder to fulfil people's aspirations," he said before arriving at BJP headquarters flashing victory signs with both hands and being showered in petals.

Although final results were yet to be published, a rolling vote count by the election commission showed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) increased its majority with 302 out of 543 elected lower house seats.

The BJP's main rivals Congress were on just 51 seats, with Rahul Gandhi -- the great-grandson, grandson and son of three premiers -- conceding defeat and congratulating Modi. In an added personal humiliation Gandhi, 48, also admitted he had lost Amethi, a seat long held by his famous family, to a former television star running for the BJP.

The BJP's headquarters in Delhi erupted in celebration with drummers, fire-

crackers, dancing and singing as hundreds of party faithful thronged the yard and nearby streets waiting for Modi.

"Modi will make India great again. Modi is the strongest prime minister India has ever had and will get. We need to support his policies to prosper," said one supporter, Santosh Joshi.

At Congress headquarters, a handful of dejected supporters sat in groups under the shade of trees.

"We are sad but we will rise again. Modi won because of his lies and false promises. The country is in danger now," Rajesh Tiwari, a Congress supporter, said.

India's main Sensex index breached the 40,000-point level for the first time as the count pointed to a Modi win, following strong gains since Monday.

The vast size of India -- stretching from the Himalayas to the tropics, taking in polluted megacities, deserts and jungles -- made the world's biggest election a marathon six-week endeavour.

The campaign, estimated to have cost more than \$7 billion, was awash with insults -- Modi was likened to Hitler and a "gutter insect" -- as well as fake news in Facebook and WhatsApp's biggest markets.

Gandhi tried several lines of attack against Modi, in particular over a French defence deal and high unemployment and saying Modi was dividing the officially secular country.

The watchman

But Modi, 68, managed to deftly turn the election into a referendum on his rule while depicting himself, often in the third person, as the only one able to defend India.

In this he was given a major boost when a suicide bombing, claimed by a Pakistan-based militant group, killed 40 Indian paratroopers in Indian-administered Kashmir on February 14.

Doubts about the efficacy of India's subsequent air strikes on Pakistan, but the action enabled Modi to style himself the "chowkidar" ("watchman").

"We have shown the world that India is a great country. We have shown Pakistan that they cannot mess with us," said Vishal Sharma, a BJP supporter in Delhi.

2014					
BJP+ 336		OTH 146		CON+ 60	
BJP	282	AIADMK	36	CON	44
SS	18	TMC	33	NCP	6
TDP	15	BJD	36	RJD	4
LJP	6	TRS	11	JMM	2
SAD	4	CPM	9	IUML	2
RLSP	3	YSRC	8	RSP	1
AD	2	SP	4	KCM	1
NPF	1	AAP	4		
NPP	1	AIUDF	3		
OTH		OTH	18	OTH	

INDIA					
BJP+ 357		OTH 97		CON+ 88	
BJP	303	TMC	24	CON	52
SS	19	SP	7	DMK	23
JDU	16	BSP	14	RJD	2
AIADMK	1	BJD	14	NCP	5
LJP	6	YSRC	25	JDS	1
SAD	2	TRS	9	JMM	1
AD	2	AAP		RLSP	
NPP	1	TDP	4	HAM	
AGP	1	CPM	3	IUML	3
OTH	1	OTH	4	OTH	5

Sikkim (32)

2019			2014		
SDF	12		22		
SKM	11		10		
CON	0		0		
BJP	0		0		

Andhra (175)

2019			2014		
YSRC	147		66		
TDP	26		103		
BJP	0		4		
NPT	0		1		

Kerala



2019			2014		
UDF	19		12		
LDF	1		8		
NDA	0		0		

Odisha (147)

2019			2014		
BJD	107		117		
BJP	22		10		
CONG	14		16		
OTH	3		2		

Arunachal (60)

2019			2014		
BJP	26		11		
OTH	7		2		
CON	2		42		
PP	0		5		



Seats required for absolute majority 272 seats

303

Lok Sabha

49

88

40

97

Indian National Congress (INC)

INC allies

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

BJP allies

Others



Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Aditya Nath (C) flashes the victory sign to supporters along with Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya (R) and Dinesh Sharma (3L) during the party's victory celebration at party office in Lucknow

Imran Khan congratulates Modi

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and his party on their election victory, saying he looked forward to working with the premier for “peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia”. Congratulate Prime Minister Modi on the electoral victory of BJP and allies. Look forward to working with him for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia,” Khan tweeted.

In April, Khan said a Modi win could help settle the Kashmir issue and Islamabad has repeatedly stated it open to dialogue with Delhi



Xi extends ‘heartfelt’ congratulations

Chinese President Xi Jinping extended “heartfelt” congratulations to Prime Minister Modi on his election victory and vowed to work with him to take the bilateral ties to a new height.



Opposition in shambles

- Amit Shah wins Gandhinagar seat by over 5 lakh votes.
- World leaders including from China, Russia, Israel, Sri Lanka, Japan, Afghanistan congratulates Prime Minister Narendra Modi for BJP’s huge victory.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi wins Varanasi seat by a margin of 3.85 lakh votes
- Congress President Rahul Gandhi won from Wayanad, Kerala, with 12,76,945 but lost from his second seat Amethi, where he has been winning since 2004.
- Congress refutes reports of Rahul Gandhi’s resignation. Some news channels have reported that the Gandhi scion had tendered his resignation from the post of Congress president following poll drubbing.
- PM Modi removes ‘chowkidar’ prefix from Twitter, says take its spirit to next level
- India’s main Sensex index breached the 40,000-point level for the first time as the count pointed to a Modi win, following strong gains since Monday.

Invites Modi to Dhaka

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina who also shares strong chemistry with Modi extended an invitation to Modi to visit Dhaka. The two leaders agreed to identify dates for a meeting at the earliest.



Singapore congratulates Modi

Congratulations on your re-election, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The strong mandate reflects the results of your first term and the consequent trust that the people of India repose in your leadership. Singapore appreciates the personal focus you have placed on developing our bilateral relationship... Singapore also welcomes India’s deepening engagement of the region, in line with your Act East policy



Putin calls Modi

Russian President Vladimir Putin who was the first P-5 leader to telephone Modi expressed hope that the two leaders will work jointly to consolidate strategic partnership and further build on their chemistry.



Abe reiterates commitments

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe who shares a strong chemistry with Modi in his conversation reiterated commitment towards further strengthening the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership to achieve their shared vision of peace, progress and prosperity.



Australian PM congratulates Modi

Australian PM Scott Morrison hoped that he would be able to meet the Indian PM soon.



Rahul Gandhi concedes personal defeat in family bastion

New Delhi, India

Rahul Gandhi, leader of India’s main opposition Congress party, conceded yesterday he had lost his seat in the famous family’s long-held home constituency.

“Smriti Irani (of the BJP) has won in Amethi and I congratulate her. The people of Amethi have given their mandate,” Gandhi told a news conference.

At national level, Congress looked to have been given a hiding at the polls as Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party headed for a landslide victory.

Congress has held Amethi in Uttar Pradesh state since 1967 except for one three-year stint in 1977-80 and a separate one-year period in 1998-99.

Rahul Gandhi, 48, won the seat in 2004, 2009

a n d

2014 and the constituency is considered one of the two Nehru-Gandhi family bastions.

The heavy losses suffered by the Congress to Modi put paid to Gandhi’s hopes of becoming the fourth member of his famous dynasty to lead the world’s biggest democracy.

Votes counted so far indicated that the party won just 50 seats against 301 for the BJP, which secured an even bigger majority than at the last election in 2014.

“I can’t comment on the results today. I want to say that our fight is a fight for ideology. I want to tell our leaders, who won and lost, don’t worry, don’t lose confidence. We will fight together for our ideology,” Gandhi told the news conference. “It doesn’t matter what I think went wrong. Frankly people of India have decided that Modi should be the prime minister, as an Indian person I accept it,” he said.



Acre’s tambourine man

WAKE UP CALL

For more than 13 years, Michel Ayoub, a 39-year-old Christian construction worker from the old city of Acre, has been carrying out the ancient tradition of waking up Muslims for suhoor

AFP | Acre, Israel

Michel Ayoub begins each day at 2am, stepping on to the cobbled streets of Acre’s old city with tambourine in hand, awakening Muslims for Ramadan.

His role as the city’s “mosaharaty” is a traditional one during the holy month, but Ayoub is by no means a traditional holder of the position. He is Christian.

The 39 year old sees no contradiction in that, and neither do the Muslim residents of this ancient city in north-western Israel, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

“We are the same family,” says Ayoub, who wears traditional Levantine dress as he meanders the alleyways, a kaffiyeh draped over his shoulders, baggy sirwal trousers held around his waist with an embroidered belt, a black-and-white turban tied around his head.

“There is only one God and there is no difference between

Christians and Muslims.”

His voice rings out as he chants, piercing the silence of the empty streets decorated with traditional colourful lamps for Ramadan.

“You, sleeping ones, there is one eternal God,” he chants.

Houses begin to light up one by one. Some stick their heads out of their windows to greet him and tell him they have heard the call, awakening them for the suhoor.

Acre’s population of more than 50,000 includes Jews, Muslims, Christians and Baha’is.

It has been continuously inhabited since the Phoenician period, which began around 1500BC.

It was the main port of the medieval Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem and a major Ottoman walled city.

Napoleon tried to conquer the heavily fortified town in 1799 but was repelled by the Ottomans and a small British Royal Navy force.

The walled old city, complete with a well-preserved citadel, mosques and baths, is listed by Unesco as a World Heritage site.

Today it is part of Israel, which captured it in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war surrounding the state’s creation.

About 28 per cent of its population are Palestinians and their descendants who remained after the 1948 creation of Israel.

Most of the city’s Arabs are Muslims, but a minority, like Ayoub, are Christians.

The mosaharaty tradition had disappeared from Acre until Ayoub, who usually works in construction, revived it 13 years ago. He says it was his way to preserve his grandfather’s heritage.



Michel Ayoub (L) may even be training a successor to ensure

Michel Ayoub

Arab stand-up comedians star in Netflix series

Comedians of the World is the first of its kind to feature Arab comedians

Arab News | Dubai

Netflix introduced a new show that features stand-up comedians from the Arab world.

“Comedians of the World” – debuted on January 1 – was the first of its kind to feature Arab comedians, according to Netflix.

The series brought together 47 comedians from 13 regions around the world and was filmed in eight languages. Four comedians from the Middle East made the cut – Moayad Al-Nefae and Ibraheem Al-Khairallah from Saudi Arabia, Adi Khalefa from Palestine and Rawsan Hallak from Jordan. Each of the talents had a 30-minute stand-up special dedicated to them.

“After 12 years of doing stand-up comedy, this was like a big reward for me and I hope this is just the first step,” Khalefa told Arab News.

From Nazareth – commonly known as “the Arab capital of Israel” – Khalefa has performed in multiple comedy festivals around the world and his latest show, “Billiat-Show” – inspired by his personal, social and political experiences – sold out more than eight times.

For Al-Khairallah, being part of a platform that showcases internationally acclaimed comedians such as US funnyman Dave Chap-



Ibraheem Al-Khairallah

Adi Khalefa

1785

Benjamin Franklin announces his invention of bifocals

1813

South American independence leader Simón Bolívar enters Mérida, leading the invasion of Venezuela, and is proclaimed El Libertador (“The Liberator”)

1949

Federal Republic of [West] Germany created out of the American, British and French occupation zones



1958

Mao Zedong starts the “Great Leap Forward” movement in China

n revives the sound of suhoor



the tradition does not end with him – 15-year-old Ahmed Al Rihawi (R)

carrying on the mosaharaty tradition says he was “only doing my duty helping our Muslim brothers who are hunger and thirst”.

Ara Aker, 19, says she “grew up with the sound of Ayoub’s wake-up calls during Ramadan.”

“If he didn’t come one day, we would be lost,” she says through the window of her home.

Safia Sawaid, 36, exits her home to ask if she can take a photo with Ayoub and her children.

“It’s great to see someone so attached to

The historic port city of Acre, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the Middle East. The fortified old city, complete with a well-preserved citadel, mosques, and baths, is considered by the UNESCO as a World Heritage site. Acre was captured by the Israelis in 1948



our culture and our traditions,” she says. “I hope that he will continue every year.”

Ayoub may even be grooming a successor to ensure the tradition does not end with him.

Ahmed Al Rihawi, 12, accompanies him on his night-time mission, wearing sirwal trousers, a black vest and a turban.

“He is a promising mosaharaty,” Ayoub says. “He is very talented.”



Ayoub, centre, chats to a woman at suhoor

IT LOUD



pelle is an honour.

“I love Dave Chappelle so much, so when I go on Netflix and see a show I am featured in right next to a show of Dave Chapelle, I feel blessed,” he said.

Before stand-up comedy, Al-Khairallah worked in banking in Saudi Arabia and only took his act to the stage as a hobby.

Meanwhile, Hallak said that she feels proud to represent Arab and hijab-wearing women in comedy.

“It’s not easy to be an Arab female comedian, but it sends a strong message, because generally speaking, we don’t have the confidence to put ourselves out there and share our thoughts and opinions, but so far the response from my audiences has been good,” she said.

Hallak explained that viewers should expect her material to be based on lighthearted subjects that affect women.

“I like to focus on stories and issues that involve women, such as the latest fashion trends,” she said.

Meanwhile, Khalefa said he likes to talk about his feelings and anything that he finds funny – but if viewers expect comedy with a moral message, it just isn’t his style.

“Mr. Bean, who is a comedic genius, makes comedy about nothing and he is extremely

“It’s not easy to be an Arab female comedian, but it sends a strong message, because generally speaking, we don’t have the confidence to put ourselves out there and share our thoughts and opinions, but so far the response from my audiences has been good

RAWSAN HALLAK

respected. So, it is not necessary to have a message in your stand-up. But I like to vary my style too, so whatever I find funny, really,” he said.

For the stand-up stars, the Netflix show has given them an opportunity to take their brand of comedy to a global audience.

“Netflix has so many viewers worldwide, taking us from a local level to an international one,” Hallak said.



Rawsan Hallak

Four comedians from the Middle East made the cut — Moayad Al-Nefaie and Ibraheem Al-Khairallah from Saudi Arabia, Adi Khalefa from Palestine and Rawsan Hallak from Jordan

business

Huawei's own OS system may be ready this year: report

● The platform -- named "HongMeng" -- is undergoing trials and will gradually replace the Android system.

● The system could be ready in the first or second quarter of 2020

Beijing, China

Chinese telecom giant Huawei says it could roll out its own operating system for smartphones and laptops in China by the autumn after the United States blacklisted the company, a report said yesterday.

The international version of the system could be ready in the first or second quarter of 2020, said Richard Yu, the head of Huawei's consumer business, told US channel CNBC.

"Today, Huawei, we are still committed to Microsoft Windows and Google Android," Richard Yu, head of Huawei's consumer business, told CNBC. "But if we cannot use that, Huawei will prepare the plan B to use our own OS."

The Global Times, a Chinese state-run daily, reported on Monday that the platform -- named "HongMeng" -- was undergoing trials and will gradually replace the Android system.

"We don't want to do this but



We don't want to do this but we will forced to do that because of the US government. I think the US, this kind of thing, will also not only be bad news for us, but also bad news for the US companies because we support

RICHARD YU
HEAD OF HUAWEI'S CONSUMER BUSINESS

we will forced to do that because of the US government. I think the US, this kind of thing, will also not only be bad news for us, but also bad news for the US companies because we support" US businesses, Yu told CNBC. "We don't want to do this but we have no other solution, no other choice."

The US Commerce Department, which added Huawei and 68 of its affiliates to an "entity list" last week, on Monday announced a 90-day reprieve, allowing some services to continue.

Britain delays Brexit vote

London, United Kingdom

The British government yesterday postponed a crucial Brexit vote scheduled for the first week of June, following an outcry from hardline Brexiteers over concessions made by Prime Minister Theresa May.

The beleaguered premier is in the last throes of a tumultuous period in power focused all-but exclusively on guiding her fractured country out of the European Union.

"We will update the house on the publication and introduction of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill on our return from the Whitsun recess" on June 4, government official Mark Spencer told MPs.

Spencer said the government had planned to hold the vote on a landmark piece of legislation to implement Brexit on June 7 but had not been able to fix this date.

May is under intense pressure to resign after holding out the prospect of a parliamentary vote on a second referendum to try and persuade MPs to support the divorce deal she has struck with EU leaders.

The deal has already been rejected three times in parliament, forcing a delay to the planned date of Brexit on March 29, and still faces strong cross-party opposition.

'Brexit fiasco'

Meanwhile there are already several leading Conservatives,



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May during the weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) question and answer session in the House of Commons in London.

including members of her own cabinet, who are campaigning to take over from May when she quits.

The prime minister's woes were made worse on Wednesday when Andrea Leadsom -- one of cabinet's strongest Brexit backers -- resigned from her post as the government's representative in parliament over her handling of the slowly-unfolding crisis.

"I no longer believe that our approach will deliver on the (2016) referendum results," Leadsom said in her resignation letter.

In her response May thanked Leadsom for her "passion, drive and sincerity", but took issue with her assessment of the government's Brexit strategy.

"I do not agree with you that the deal which we have negotiated with the European Union means that the United Kingdom will not become a sovereign country," May said.

Many of Thursday's newspaper front pages pictured May leaving Downing Street late on Wednesday apparently with tears in her eyes. "May set to go after Brexit fiasco," said The Sun tabloid.

Thursday's European elections are being interpreted in Britain as a referendum on Brexit and on May's ability to get the job done. They make grim reading for the government team, with Nigel Farage's Brexit Party well ahead in the polls.

The current deadline for Brexit set by EU leaders is October 31.

The Brexit Party and leading Conservatives are calling for Britain to leave the EU on that date without an overall deal but businesses fear this could cause severe disruption.

British Steel's French workers fear layoffs after collapse

Paris, France

French officials were under pressure yesterday to save the jobs of hundreds of French steel workers at factories facing an uncertain future after the collapse of British Steel, whose assets will be sold to pay off its debt load.

"We knew something was wrong but not that the situation was as catastrophic as this -- it's like a gunshot," Djamel Hamdani, a union representative at British Steel's plant in Hayange, northeast France, told AFP.

The site, specialising in steel beams, employs some 420 workers, plus additional part-time hires and subcontractors.

It depends on raw steel supplied by British Steel's factory in Scunthorpe, England, one of the sites that could be sold or shuttered after the company was placed in compulsory liquidation on Wednesday.

"Scunthorpe's closure would lead to the closure of Hayange and of FNSteel in the Netherlands, pure and simple," Hamdani's CFDT union said in a statement.

British Steel bought the Dutch factory at Alblasserdam in 2017, when it employed nearly 300 people.



Workers leave from British Steel's Scunthorpe plant in north Lincolnshire, north east England

The firm's failure also jeopardises the futures of some 270 workers at the Ascovall factory in Saint-Saulve, northern France, which British Steel pledged to rescue from imminent bankruptcy just a few weeks ago.

The Ascovall site's future has been up in the air since a restructuring carried out by its former owner in 2015, when Emmanuel Macron, then the economy minister, told workers "there will not be any closure of the site, nor any forced layoffs".

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said Thursday that

"the game isn't over" despite British Steel's collapse, which he attributed to complications from Britain's looming exit from the EU.

"We knew that British Steel urgently needed to build up its capacity in continental Europe because, being based in the UK, it might not have had access to European clients," Philippe told CNews television.

The French government provided a 15 million euro (\$16.7 million) loan for Ascovall and British Steel had provided 5 million, while promising an ad-

ditional 40 million euro shareholder loan.

"I'm being very cautious about this, but I'm fairly optimistic. I think we can do this," Philippe said.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire will meet with Ascovall employee representatives Thursday and with Greybull Capital, British Steel's owner, on Friday, a CGT union official, Nacim Bardi, told BFM television on Wednesday.

"For now, the most important thing is to meet our main shareholder Greybull," he said.

Malaysian police raid Deloitte office in 1MDB probe



Picture courtesy of Malaysiakini

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysian police yesterday raided the Kuala Lumpur offices of auditor Deloitte as they ramp up investigations into a multi-billion-dollar corruption scandal, an official said.

Huge sums were stolen from Malaysian state fund 1MDB, allegedly by former leader Najib Razak and his cronies who spent it on everything from yachts to rare artwork.

Deloitte has come under scrutiny after it audited 1MDB's 2013 and 2014 financial statements.

Mazlan Mansor, the police's head of commercial crimes, confirmed to AFP that a raid had taken place on Deloitte's office "in the course of 1MDB investigations".

Police seized documents and files during the operation, The Star newspaper reported.

Malaysia's securities regulator had already fined the firm 2.2 million ringgit (\$525,000) in January for breaches related to a 1MDB bond issuance.

Deloitte was the third major accounting company to audit 1MDB's books, after KPMG and Ernst & Young.

Deloitte quit as 1MDB's auditor in 2016.

The same year, the firm said its audits of 1MDB's financial statements could no longer be relied upon after the US filed lawsuits linked to the scandal.

US authorities are seeking to claw back assets allegedly bought in America with funds stolen from 1MDB and believe \$4.5 billion was looted from the fund.

Germany fines Bosch over 'dieselgate' role

● The 90 million-euro sum is made up of a penalty of two million, while the remaining 88 million covers the estimated economic benefit Bosch gained from the crimes.

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

German prosecutors said Thursday they had fined car parts supplier Bosch 90 million euros (\$100 million) over its role supplying components in the "dieselgate" emissions cheating scandal.

In a statement, Stuttgart investigators said they had "levied a fine against Bosch for negligently infringing its quality control obligations."

The investigators added that the German company, the world's biggest auto parts maker, had agreed not to contest the fine.

The 90 million-euro sum is made up of a penalty of two million, while the remaining 88 million covers the estimated economic benefit Bosch gained from the crimes.

Beginning in 2008, Bosch "delivered around 17 million motor control and mixture control devices to various domestic and foreign manufacturers, some of whose software contained illegal strategies," the prosecutors found.

"Cars fitted with the devices emitted more nitrogen oxides than allowed under regulations."

Volkswagen admitted in 2015 to fitting 11 million cars worldwide with such technology.

The fallout has so far cost

the German car behemoth more than 30 billion euros.

Further legal proceedings are outstanding against both VW and former executives as individuals.

In its own statement, Bosch said it "will continue to expand its compliance organisation continuously in order to minimise the risk of violations of applicable law".

The firm promises "product development that is focused on the protection of human health and the environment".

It added that it had also retrained one-in-four of its workforce, or 100,000 work-



Beginning in 2008, Bosch "delivered around 17 million motor control and mixture control devices to various domestic and foreign manufacturers, some of whose software contained illegal strategies"

PROSECUTORS FOUND

ers, most of them in research and development, in a new code of conduct.

For Bosch, the fine closes legal proceedings against the company over dieselgate.

While prosecutors are still probing whether employees were involved in criminal actions, authorities believe "the initiative for the integration and form of the illegal strategies both came from employees at the car manufacturers" rather than suppliers like Bosch.



Grandma Ca

The 99-year-old standing up to Vietnam's coal rush



99-year-old Pham Thi Ca resting in her makeshift shelter in Van Phong Bay. Toothless and nearly blind, grandmother Pham Thi Ca refuses to leave her plot of land even after bulldozers demolished her house -- an extraordinary holdout against communist Vietnam's deepening addiction to coal.

Vietnam

Toothless and nearly blind, grandmother Pham Thi Ca refuses to leave her plot of land even after bulldozers demolished her house -- an extraordinary holdout against communist Vietnam's deepening addiction to coal.

The 99-year-old was offered money to move as authorities hoovered up land for a planned \$2.6 billion Japanese-funded coal plant in the remote Van Phong Bay she has called home since birth.

But when she said no, around 100 authorities showed up, forcibly removed her from the house and bulldozed it as she and her grandson looked on.

They were helpless to prevent the destruction of the property two years ago, but Ca, frail and wizened, has rebuffed all attempts to evict her from the land since.

"The authorities carried me away, but I refuse to move," explains Ca, who now lives in a makeshift shelter of corrugated tin, wooden beams and coconut fronds next to the pile of rubble that was once her home.

"My house is here, my land is here, so I will be buried here," she says, sitting on a small cot where she spends much of her time.

It's a story playing out across Vietnam, where a strong-fisted government is powering ahead

with coal projects to meet the soaring energy demands of a turbo-charged economy.

Coal accounts for about a third of Vietnam's current energy production and is slated to rise to about 50pc by 2030.

That means building more coal plants in places like Van Phong Bay despite a chorus of opposition from locals who complain of land grabs, loss of livelihood and environmental damage.

'I can't do anything'

Some 300 people have already been relocated from Ca's community in south-central Khanh Hoa province.

They were offered cash compensation and rooms in state housing -- but the residences were far from their farms and fishing grounds.

The \$43,000 inducement to leave their 9,000 square-meter plot was not enough to upend Ca's family.

"We cannot work there, there is no land for cultivation," says Ca's son Ho Huu Hanh, referring to the proposed relocation area.

He insists that they were never told about the planned coal plant and accuses authorities of bending the law to strongarm residents to leave.

The family lost their farmland anyway. Now Hanh works as a day-labourer or catches snails and small fish to get by, earning

about \$170 a month.

"I can't do anything, I feel so sorry for myself," he adds, crying.

Others in the area are worried about what the coal plant will do to fish and coral reefs in the bay where water temperatures could rise due to the plant's runoff.

Like many of the 20 or so coal plants already operating in Vietnam, the bulk of the funding for the yet-to-be-built Van Phong plant is external.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) last month approved a \$1.2 billion loan for the project, which is sponsored by the Sumitomo Corporation of Japan and is set to come online in 2023.

Covered in ash

Developing economies like Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia are particularly attractive for investors from Japan, South Korea and China as the developed world turns away from coal in search of clean energy.

Foreign investment has skewed Vietnam's energy strategy, locking it "into expensive and dirty power for decades," warns Julien Vincent, executive director at Market Forces, a non-governmental energy investment watchdog.

But for power-hungry Vietnam coal is for now cheaper, more reliable and more familiar

than renewables, which currently provide less than one percent of the country's power generation.

"Wind and solar are environmentally friendly but very unstable... we cannot just use renewable energy to supplement our big energy needs," says Bui Van Thinh, the director of Phu Lac wind farm in Binh Thuan province.

Still, many are pushing for renewables to be favoured over the 30 or so coal plants slated to come online by 2030.

"After 2020 we don't need to build new coal power plants," argues Nguyen Thi Hang, the head of the clean air and water program at Vietnamese NGO GreenID.

"Energy efficiency and renewable energy should be prioritised, gas can be considered as a midterm bridge."

Just down the road from the coastal perch of Thinh's 24-MW wind farm sits one of Vietnam's largest coal plants, the sprawling 6,200-MW capacity Vinh Tan complex.

The enormous site in a once-sleepy fishing village has for locals come at a price.

"It used to be nice, clean and pure here," recalls resident Nguyen Tai Tien.

"Now there is smoke... and every morning and afternoon we have to sweep our house and the roads because of all the ash," he adds.

"ScUber" launches submarine trips to Great Barrier Reef

● A piloted battery-powered "scUber", costing Aus\$1,500 (\$1,030) per person, will take 20 dives between May 27 and June 18 with each trip lasting an hour.

Sydney, Australia

A select few Australians will soon be able to briefly book an Uber submarine to the Great Barrier Reef, the ride-sharing giant said yesterday.

From next week -- in what Uber is pitching as a world first -- people in Queensland state will be able to order a ride through the Uber app on a two-person submarine and tour the World



A Uber submarine diving on the Great Barrier Reef at Heron Island in Queensland.



The Great Barrier Reef is home to more than 1,500 fish species and coral varieties, but has been seriously damaged by pollution and climate change.

(\$1,030) per person, will take 20 dives between May 27 and June 18 with each trip lasting an hour.

Down to 20 meters

The sub will take two passengers down to 20 meters below sea level and along designated dive paths around the reef, in partnership with environmental advocacy group Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef.

Susan Anderson, general manager for Uber Australia and New Zealand, said the company was committed to encouraging ride-sharing to make "conscious behaviour changes" to travel in more efficient and sustainable ways.

A scUber booking includes a helicopter trip to the submarine's dive location.

A piloted battery-powered "scUber", costing Aus\$1,500

Egypt inks deal with Cyprus for power link to Europe

Nicosia, Cyprus

Egypt has signed a deal with a Cypriot firm to lay a 310-kilometre (195-mile) cable under the Mediterranean to export electricity to Europe, the company said yesterday.

Nicosia-based EuroAfrica described the deal, worth an estimated two billion euros, as a “landmark.”

“Cyprus now becomes a major hub for the transmission of electricity from Africa to Europe,” said company chairman Ioannis Kasoulides.

It is estimated the project will take 36 months to implement from the start of construction, with the lowest point 3,000 me-

“Cyprus now becomes a major hub for the transmission of electricity from Africa to Europe,”

IOANNIS KASOULIDES
CHAIRMAN, NICOSIA-BASED EUROAFRICA

tres below sea-level.

Phase 1 will see the interconnector carry a capacity of 1,000 MW which can be upgraded to 2,000 MW at a later stage.

“The national electricity grid of Egypt will be linked to the European electricity system through Cyprus and will contribute to energy security,” Kasoulides said.

Following the crises in Crimea and eastern Ukraine, the EU has been keen to develop alternative sources of energy to reduce its dependence on imports from Russia.

In the past year, gas has started flowing from four major new fields off Egypt’s Mediterranean coast, and output is already sufficient to meet domestic needs.

The Arab world’s most populous country is now seeking to develop the infrastructure to export its newfound energy wealth, both as liquefied natural gas and as electricity.

Egypt is also seeking to import gas from fields off Cyprus and Israel to boost the profitability of the new liquefaction and export facilities it is developing on its Mediterranean coast.

In September, Egypt signed a deal with Cyprus to build an undersea pipeline to pump Cypriot offshore gas to Egypt for processing for export to Europe.

The plans have led to closer eastern Mediterranean ties, with Cyprus, Egypt, Greece and Israel holding regular high-level meetings.

Sensex hits record

Mumbai, India

Indian stocks jumped to record highs yesterday as early results in the world’s biggest election showed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on course for a second term.

Traders and business leaders welcomed trends in the vote count showing Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was set to win a majority, expressing hopes it could lead to deep economic reforms of Asia’s third-largest economy.

The Bombay Stock Exchange’s Sensex index rose more than two percent to pass the 40,000 mark for the first time ever while the Nifty crossed 12,000 points, also a new landmark.

India’s rupee also strengthened,

hitting 69.51 against the dollar from 69.67 late Wednesday.

“A perception that Modi is business friendly and an end to political uncertainty is boosting market sentiment,” independent Mumbai-based economist Ashutosh Datar said.

Indian stock markets have rallied since exit polls on Sunday pointed to a Modi triumph.

The benchmark Sensex rose more than 2pc to peak at 40,124.50, while the Nifty, a smaller index based on 50 Indian companies also increased more than 2pc, touching a new record of 12,041.00.

Modi was elected 5 years ago on his promise to shake-up India’s economy and create jobs for the millions.

Global stocks dive in ‘perfect storm’ as Europe heads to polls

London, United Kingdom

World stock markets plunged yesterday in a “perfect storm” as Europe headed to the polls amid fresh economic gloom, the China-US trade war raged on and beleaguered Prime Minister Theresa May delayed another key Brexit vote.

Europe kicked off voting across the continent in a contest in which rising populist forces are hoping to make significant gains, threatening closer EU integration.

Britain’s EU poll is an ironic twist for a country that decided almost three years ago to leave the bloc and whose leader had vowed to avoid the vote.

“The markets (are) caught in a perfect storm of UK political turmoil, US-China trade war mongering and European economic softness,” said Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell.

London’s FTSE 100 shares index was down 1.4pc in afternoon deals as the government postponed a crucial Brexit vote following an outcry from hardline Brexiters over concessions made by May -- who faces intense speculation over her future.

The pound forged another four-month low as May faces being ousted after a revised plan to push through her Brexit agreement, which sparked the resignation of cabinet member Andrea Leadsom.

Economic woes

Eurozone indices took a battering also on Thursday, with Frankfurt and Paris losing 1.5pc or more as survey data showed the bloc’s economic growth remained “subdued” in May.

“The last thing the market needed on Thursday was a reminder of the eurozone’s manufacturing and services sector woes,” added Campbell.

“For the region as a whole, the former fell even further into contraction territory.”

Frankfurt also tanked as the key Ifo survey signalled confidence among German business leaders struck its lowest level



Traders and financial professionals work during the opening bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City

Key figures around 1340 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 1.4pc at 7,231.58 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 1.7pc at 11,966.73
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 1.8pc at 5,283.61
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 1.6pc at 3,332.14
New York - Dow:	▼ 1.1pc at 25,481.08
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.6pc at 21,151.14 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 1.6pc at 27,267.13 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 1.4pc at 2,852.52 (close)
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2634 from \$1.2706 at 2100 GMT
Euro/pound:	▲ at 87.96 pence from 87.84 pence
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1115 from \$1.1161
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 109.98 yen from 110.50 yen
Oil - Brent Crude:	▼ \$1.80 at \$69.19 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▼ \$1.80 at \$69.57

in more than four years in May.

The European single currency meanwhile touched a near one-month dollar low.

On Wall Street, the Dow index lost around 250 points at the opening bell.

“US stocks are extending a recent slide in early action, courtesy of lingering trade concerns as the trade war between the US and China looks to be set for a prolonged fight, while global economic concerns remain following soft data out of Japan,

the Eurozone and Germany,” Charles Schwab analysts said.

Trade war dogs markets

China-US trade frictions continue to dog investor sentiment, particularly in the tech sector after Washington blacklisted Chinese giant Huawei.

Traders ran for the hills, with no signs of a let-up in the tariffs stand-off between the world’s top two economies.

“Risk appetite has clearly been pushed lower by the multi-

tude of events today,” Rabobank analyst Jane Foley told AFP.

“In particular, fear of a tech war or even a cold war between the US and China is now receiving greater attention.”

Tensions between China and the US have increased after Donald Trump banned telecoms giant Huawei from the US market and prevented American firms from selling to it.

The move has led a number of companies around the world to cut back their business with the firm, including Google, Japan’s Panasonic and EE in Britain, among others.

The row, which has seen the trade war widen to also become a battle over technology, has hammered the sector with major firms seeing their valuations tumble in recent weeks.

Back in Asia, Mumbai’s Sensex soared more than twopc to break the 40,000 for the first time ever as traders welcomed polls indicating business-friendly Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s BJP were on course to win another majority.

Oil prices plunged as global economic worries took their toll.

UK’s Boris Johnson ‘lied’ in Brexit campaign, court hears

London, United Kingdom

Britain’s former foreign Secretary Boris Johnson knowingly lied during the 2016 Brexit referendum campaign over the cost of the UK’s EU membership, a court heard on Thursday in an application with potentially far-reaching implications.

A private prosecution bid against Johnson accused him of misconduct in public office over the claim that Britain sends £350 million (\$440 million, 400 million euros) a week to the European Union.

In a hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court in London, lawyers for businessman Marcus Ball, who crowdfunded for the bid, lodged an application to summons Johnson.

After considering the arguments, judge Margot Coleman said she would issue her decision on Wednesday.

Johnson was not present, but his lawyer Adrian Durbishire said the former London mayor and pro-Brexit figurehead -- who is now bidding to replace Prime Minister Theresa May -- staunchly denied any wrongdoing.

IMF warns US-China trade war will ‘jeopardize’ global growth



Gita Gopinath, the International Monetary Fund’s chief economist

Washington, United States

The IMF sounded the alarm yesterday about the escalating US-China trade war, warning it will “jeopardize” 2019 global growth, undermine confidence and raise prices for consumers.

Gita Gopinath, the International Monetary Fund’s chief economist, directly refuted President Donald Trump’s claim that tariffs are paid by China and provide a windfall for the US treasury, and that his aggressive posture will help reduce the US trade deficit.

She and her co-authors warned in a blog post that the economic damage will be even

worse if Trump goes through with the threat to impose steep tariffs on all goods imported from China, as that “will subtract about one-third of a percentage point of global GDP in the short term.”

Optimism was high earlier this month that a deal was within striking distance but tensions erupted after Trump accused Beijing of backtracking on its commitments made over the year of negotiations.

He then more than doubled tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods to 25 percent and threatened to hit the remaining \$300 billion in products imported each year with duties at the same level.

“Consumers in the US and China are unequivocally the losers from trade tensions,” Gopinath stated, noting that the “tariff revenue collected has been borne almost entirely by US importers.”

IMF chief Christine Lagarde and other fund officials have repeatedly raised concerns about the trade war but the blog post quantified the realized and expected damage, presenting the case with greater urgency.

Trump says a primary goal of the aggressive tariff strategy is to reduce the trade imbalance with China, which totaled \$379 billion last year.

But Gopinath argues that while the tensions have damaged both countries, reducing overall trade and hurting companies, “the bilateral trade deficit remains broadly unchanged.”

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

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

CITYCENTRE
1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW * WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.30 + 1.30 + 3.15 + 4.15 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 8.45 + 9.45 + 11.30 PM + 12.30 MN DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.15 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM DAILY AT (VIP I): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
2-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN DAILY AT: 10.15 AM + 1.00 + 1.30 + 4.30 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM + 12.00 MN DAILY AT (3D): 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM
3-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY) * COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO



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

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

SEEF (II)

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

TURE) * EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM
10-THE CONVENT (PG-13) (HORROR) * MICHAEL IRONSIDE, ROSIE DAY, CLARE HIGGINS
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.00 + 8.00 + 12.00 MN 11-CONTRACT TO KILL (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) * STEVEN SEAGAL, RUSSELL WONG, JEMMA DALLENDER DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.00 + 10.00 PM
12- STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA) * TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
13-MR. LOCAL (PG-13) (TAMIL) * SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM



SEEF (I)

1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW * WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.45 + 4.30 + 7.15 + 10.00 + 12.45 MN
2-BETWEEN MAYBES (PG-15) (FILIPINO/ DRAMA/ ROMANTIC) NEW * GERALD ANDERSON, JULIA BARRETTO DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
3-SITA () (TELGU) NEW * KAJAL AGGARWAL, BELLAMKONDA SRINIVAS, SONU SOOD FROM FRIDAY 24TH DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM

4-ISHQ (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW * SHANE NIGAM, ANN SHEETAL DAILY AT: 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
5-LISAA () (TAMIL) NEW * ANJALI, MAKARAND DESHPANDE AND YOGI BABU DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
6-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) * AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
7-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

SAAR

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

AL HAMRA

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

WADI AL SAIL

1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW * WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD DAILY AT: 9.00 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM + 12.15 MN DAILY AT (3D): 8.30 + 11.15 PM
2-ISHQ (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW * SHANE NIGAM, ANN SHEETAL DAILY AT: 8.15 + 11.00 PM
3-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) * AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH DAILY AT: 8.45 + 11.30 PM
4-UGLYDOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) * EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS DAILY AT: 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Shazam!’ proves a compelling superhero movie

● A 14-year-old boy becomes a superpowered man at the click of his fingers – japes, of course, ensue

● The traditionally dour cinematic universe is given a much-needed jolt of energy in a light-hearted yet overly long mash-up of Big and Superman

Shazam! is a 2019 American superhero comedy film based on the DC Comics character of the same name. Produced by New Line Cinema and distributed by Warner Bros. Entertainment, it is the seventh instalment in the DC Extended Universe (DCEU). Directed by David F. Sandberg from a screenplay by Henry Gayden, and a story by Gayden and Darren Lemke, the film stars Asher Angel as Billy Batson, a teenage boy who can transform into an adult superhero, played by Zachary Levi. Mark Strong and Jack Dylan Grazer also



Jack Dylan Grazer and Zachary Levi in Shazam!

star. At the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 90% based on 360 reviews, with an average rating of 7.24/10. The website’s critical consensus

reads, “An effortlessly entertaining blend of humour and heart, Shazam! is a superhero movie that never forgets the genre’s real power: joyous wish fulfilment.” On Metacritic, it has a weight-


ed average score of 71 out of 100, based on 52 critics, indicating “generally favourable reviews.” Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of “A” on an A+ to F scale, while those at PostTrak gave

it an overall positive score of 83% and a 61% “definite recommend.” Nick Allen of RogerEbert.com said that “while Shazam! is goofier (and darker) than it may look, you’ll wish its superhero


came with a little more spark,” while The Hollywood Reporter’s Frank Scheck called the film “Big on steroids” and praised the tone and performances. Alonso Duralde of TheWrap wrote, “If the Wonder Woman and Aquaman movies represented DC Comics’ first big-screen steps away from the austere colour palette of the Zack Snyder movies, Shazam! takes us deeply into primary colours in a single bound... this new DC entry has a lovely lightness, both in the visuals and in its tone.”







Asher Angel plays Billy Batson, the boy who can say “shazam” and turn into ... a superhero




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Trafco Group's Staff Ghabga



Batelco's Annual Media Ghabga




Ramadan cooking

Afghan Tomato, Cucumber And Onion Salad (Salata)

Ingredients

- 3 tomatoes, finely diced
- Baby cucumber
- 1 diced sweet onion
- ¾ cup of freshly chopped cilantro
- 3 tbsp of freshly extracted lemon juice
- Salt to taste



How To Make:

1. Before combining all the veggies, peel and dice the cucumbers.
2. Once done, toss all the vegetables together.
3. Pour in some lemon juice and sprinkle salt before tossing again.
4. Refrigerate for an hour.
5. Garnish with cilantro before serving.

Gulf Air's Ramadan Media Ghabga in Riyadh



Seef Mall – Seef District's Gergaon celebration





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sports

Jamal, Saad clinch teqball crown

- Sixty four players, making up 32 pairs, competed at this day-long tournament
- Abdulla Ali and Hamed Abdulla settled for the silver
- Mohammed Al Ghenaïm and Sayed Fadel Radi took the bronze

TDT | Manama

Rashid Jamal and Salman Saad were crowned champions of the first-ever Teqball Championship. The maiden event was organized by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) at the Bahrain Table Tennis Association premises in Riffa, and attended by Riffa Club vice-chairman Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, BOC secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf and other senior BOC officials. Sixty four players, making up 32 pairs, competed at this day-long tournament, which eventually was won by the tandem of Jamal and Saad, who secured the title after a 2-0 win over the team of Abdulla Ali and Hamed Abdulla, who settled for the silver. The pair of Mohammed Al Ghenaïm and Sayed Fadel Radi took the bronze, thanks to their 2-1 win over Ali Al Nusuf and Isa Al Absi in the third-place tie. It was a joyful gathering for



Participants in action during teqball championship

some of Bahrain's elite football players as they competed in this first-of-its-kind sport introduced to Bahrain recently. There were two teqball tables that were made available at the venue for the competition. The tables that were presented in collaboration with Dividend Gate Capital. Four sports can be played on the Teqball ONE and Teqball SMART tables: teqtennis, teqpong, qatch and teqvolley. With these versatile ways of sporting and working-out, everyone can find the ideal sports activity independently of their age, sex and physical abilities. We are absolutely convinced that all



Four sports, namely teqtennis, teqpong, qatch and teqvolley can be played on the Teqball ONE and Teqball SMART tables

family members would soon discover the pleasures of sport on the Teqball table.

Teqball is a new sports equipment, which is perfectly suitable for professional footballers as well as amateur enthusiasts whose ambition is to develop their technical skills, concentration and stamina. The sport, run by Fédération Internationale de Teqball and is based in Switzerland, has been attracting some of the world's best football players from the English Premier League as well as from France, Germany, Hungary and Brazil. It received recognition of the Olympic Council of Asia during the general assembly meeting held in Indonesia at the 2018 Jakarta Asiad.

Dortmund snatch Brandt in multiple transfer swoop

AFF | Dortmund

Borussia Dortmund pulled off a transfer coup on Wednesday, snatching gifted international midfielder Julian Brandt from the grasp of Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich. Brandt, 23, lured from Bayer Leverkusen, joins new signing Thorgan Hazard, the younger brother of Chelsea star Eden, at the club who also snapped up German international defender Nico Schulz, in a transfer blitz. Brandt, already an established international with 24 caps, signed a five-year, 25-million-euro deal (\$27.9 million) that will keep him at Dortmund until 2024, the club said on its website. Despite the attentions of Bayern Munich, Brandt said he followed his gut in joining ambitious

Dortmund. "I am someone who sometimes follows his instincts and for me a good feeling is important," he said. "And I had a good feeling about Borussia Dortmund." The club finished just two points behind Bayern in a tense end to a brilliant title battle. Brandt said he was drawn by the fact that Dortmund would be fighting to go one better next season. "I want to progress and Dortmund just missed the title, so there is room for progress," he said. Club sports director Michael Zorc paid tribute to Brandt as a "professional with a lot of room for development." Earlier in the day the club confirmed the signing of Hazard on a five-year deal from Borussia Mönchengladbach. Julian Brandt



Australia's Khawaja given all clear after head knock

Reuters | London

Australia opener Usman Khawaja was cleared of serious injury after taking a nasty blow to the head and being forced to retire hurt from a World Cup warmup against West Indies in Southampton on Wednesday. Khawaja underwent scans on his jaw after being struck by an Andre Russell bouncer in the second over of Aus-

tralia's innings and escorted from the Rose Bowl's Nursery Ground. Australia went on to win the match by seven wickets. "It was very scary," Australia batsman Shaun Marsh, who scored 55 not out batting at number five, told reporters. "It copped him on the side of the cheekbone, I think. The main thing is he is okay and can bounce back pretty quickly."

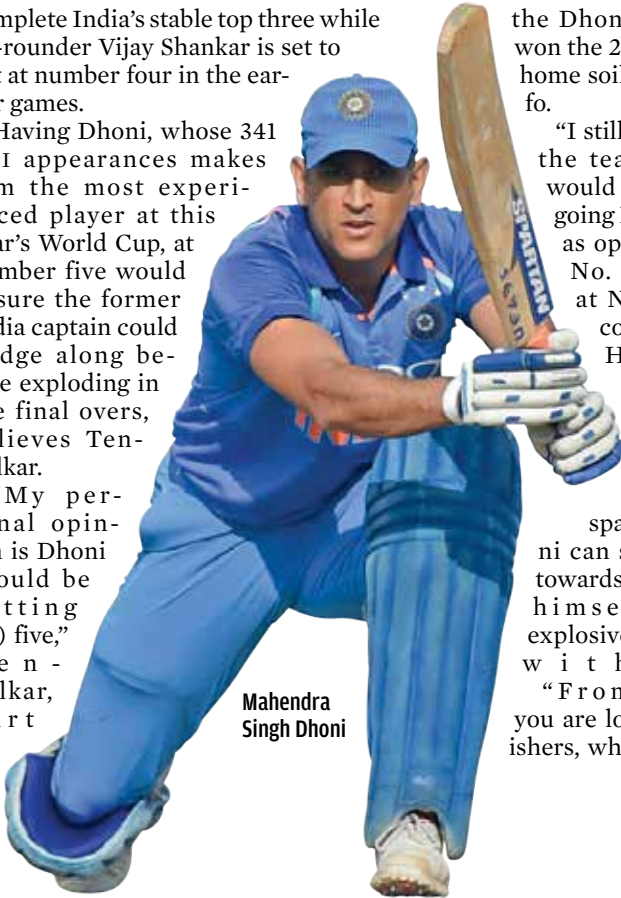
Dhoni best suited at No 5 for India, says Tendulkar

- MS Dhoni, who has 341 ODI appearances makes him the most experienced Indian player at this year's World Cup
- Dhoni has led India to two World Cup titles in 2007 (T20I) and 2011 (ODI)
- India face South Africa in their tournament opener on June 5

Reuters | New Delhi

India need to space out their experienced batsmen at the World Cup in England and veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni is best suited at number five, according to batting great Sachin Tendulkar. Skipper Virat Kohli joins openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma to

complete India's stable top three while all-rounder Vijay Shankar is set to bat at number four in the earlier games. Having Dhoni, whose 341 ODI appearances makes him the most experienced player at this year's World Cup, at number five would ensure the former India captain could nudge along before exploding in the final overs, believes Tendulkar. "My personal opinion is Dhoni should be batting (at) five," Tendulkar, part of



Mahendra Singh Dhoni

the Dhoni-led squad who won the 2011 World Cup on home soil, told ESPNcricinfo. "I still don't know what the team combination would be, but if you are going Rohit and Shikhar as openers, to Virat at No. 3 and whoever at No. 4 then Dhoni could be No. 5. Then Hardik Pandya, an explosive player, follows them. "That way the experienced batsmen are well spaced out and Dhoni can stretch the game towards the end where he himself can be explosive along with Hardik. "From No 5-8 you are looking at finishers, who stay till the end

and soak in that pressure. I feel we are well equipped to do that." Dhawan is the lone left-hander in India's strong batting lineup and Tendulkar said the opener must bat deep into the matches to help dominate the

bowlers, especially the leg-spinners. "A left-right combination always helps because that means the bowler has to adjust his line every now and then and the (bowling) captain has also to keep thinking," said Tendulkar, who remains the only cricketer with 100 international centuries against his name. "And if there is a partnership the job becomes even more tougher. So, yes, it is important for a left-hander to be there to put pressure on the legspinner or for that matter any bowler." England's home series against Pakistan has convinced Tendulkar that it would be a high-scoring World Cup played on flat tracks and with two new balls which negate reverse swing. "I believe if you have quality spinners to bowl in the middle overs they would end up picking wickets. "It is all about bowling in partnerships - if quality bowlers could bowl in tandem and create pressure on the batting line-up, that is one way of countering all these factors (that) I feel are not in favour of the bowlers."

I still don't know what the team combination would be, but if you are going Rohit and Shikhar as openers, to Virat at No. 3 and whoever at No. 4 then Dhoni could be No. 5. Then Hardik Pandya, an explosive player, follows them

SACHIN TENDULKAR

Hamilton and Bottas deliver perfect on-track Lauda tribute

Lewis Hamilton fastest for Mercedes in both practices at Monaco GP

AFP | Monaco

Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas delivered a perfect on-track tribute to Niki Lauda yesterday when they topped the times for the dominant Mercedes team in second practice at the Monaco Grand Prix.

The two Silver Arrows drivers were separated by only 0.081 seconds at the front of the pack with nearest pursuant Sebastian Vettel, in the leading Ferrari, seven-tenths adrift in third place.

Barely 72 hours after the death of their team's former non-executive chairman, the defending five-time champion and current series leader and his team-mate were in a class of their own on the unforgiving barrier-lined Mediterranean street circuit.

Hamilton was fastest in one minute and 11.118 seconds, his most eloquent statement since arriving in the principal-



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton drives during the first practice session at the Monaco street circuit

ity and side-stepping a routine pre-event news conference on Wednesday afternoon.

Many of the mourning

Mercedes' team, and others, wore black armbands or carried messages on their cars on a sombre day of hazy sunshine.

It was, as Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff had said of his fellow-Austrian before the opening session, as if the sport had just



Niki Lauda was instrumental in Hamilton's career-defining move from McLaren to the Silver Arrows team

lost not only a great three-time champion and larger-than-life personality, but something of its "heart and soul."

That loss was keenly felt, but had no effect on the teams and their speed as they raced as Lauda would have wanted, led by his Mercedes men.

Behind them and Vettel, Pierre Gasly was fourth for Red

Bull ahead of Alex Albon for Toro Rosso with Max Verstappen pushed down to sixth in the second Red Bull ahead of Kevin Magnussen in his Haas.

Antonio Giovinazzi was eighth ahead of his Alfa Romeo team-mate Kimi Raikkonen with Monégasque Charles Leclerc 10th in the second Ferrari in front of his home crowd.

Vettel produced the session's most notable incident when he locked up at Sainte Devote and narrowly missed hitting the barriers in the closing minutes.

By then, it was clear Mercedes were in total control as they worked towards extending their record run of five season-opening one-two finishes in Sunday's race to six.

That would rub salt into Ferrari's wounds as they struggle to keep pace with their rivals. The Italian team, for whom Lauda won two of his three titles, have not managed five one-twins in the last decade.

Benedetti wins Giro 12th stage, Polanc takes pink jersey

● **Bahrain-Merida's Damiano Caruso comes second**

AFP | Pinerolo, Italy

Italy's Cesare Benedetti won yesterday's 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia at Pinerolo in the Italian Alps ahead of compatriot Damiano Caruso. Slovenian Jan Polanc took the overall lead.

It was the first win for 31-year-old Bora rider Benedetti who led a long break-away group in the first mountain stage after the 158km run from Cuneo.

Polanc, also among the leading group, took the leader's pink jersey from UAE Emirates team-mate Valerio Conti of Italy.

Benedetti crossed just ahead of Bahrain-Merida's Caruso with Ireland's Edward Dunbar of Team INEOS third.

"I've worked a lot for the others in the past but today I got my opportunity," said Benedetti.



Winner Team Bora rider Italy's Cesare Benedetti (R) reacts as he crosses the finish line ahead of second-placed Team Bahrain rider Italy's Damiano Caruso (L) and third-placed Team Ineos rider Ireland's Eddie Dunbar (R)

"I'm not a talent, I'm not (usually) a winner, but the way I finished it off is exactly what I wanted to do."

It was the third stage win for Benedetti's Bora team after Germany's Pascal Ackermann's two sprint wins.

The first 15 finishers had all been part of a large early breakaway that built up a sizeable advantage. Polanc finished 25 seconds behind Benedetti but

more than nine minutes ahead of Conti and more than seven minutes ahead of fellow Slovene Primož Roglič, who climbed to second.

Behind the breakaway, the opening skirmishes between the favourites occurred in the main climb of the day, Montoso, the first ranked in the top category of this Giro.

Colombian Miguel Angel Lopez, third in 2018 Giro, and

Spaniard Mikel Landa went on the attack, 37km from the finish, taking about 30 seconds on their direct rivals in the standings.

Polanc -- a 27-year-old Slovenian who has won two Giro stages, each time in the mountains -- pulled on the pink jersey for the first time.

"It was a team tactic that I'd go in the breakaway so we could have a better control over the race," said Polanc.

"It was also a way to keep the Maglia Rosa (pink jersey) in the team.

"We were lucky to be able to play these cards and I'm very happy to have the jersey.

"I was thinking about the stage win as well but being the virtual leader I had to pull a lot more than others."

Friday's 13th high-mountain stage covers 196km and features three difficult summits -- Colle del Lys, Pian del Lupo and the final Colle del Nivolet climb, leading to Lago Serru, on a route that includes gradients of up to 15 percent.

Ronaldo included in Portugal squad for Nations League finals

AFP | Oeiras, Portugal

Captain Cristiano Ronaldo was included in Portugal's squad for next month's Nations League semi-final against Switzerland, head coach Fernando Santos announced yesterday.

Ronaldo, 34, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner missed group stages preferring to try and adapt to life in Juventus since moving from Real Madrid.

The Euro 2016 champions welcome the Swiss on June 5 in Porto and the Netherlands play England in Guimarães a day later before a third place

play-off and a final on June 9.

He lifted the Serie A title with his Italian club this season but failed to clinch a third straight Champions League after losing to Ajax in the quarter-finals.

Head coach Fernando Santos has chosen not to call up veterans Adrien Silva, Nani and Ricardo Quaresma and Sevilla forward Andre Silva misses out with a knee injury.

Highly-tipped Benfica uncapped youngster Joao Felix is also included alongside three other club teammates who won the Portuguese league champions this season.

Portugal squad to face Switzerland on June 5 in the Nations League semi-finals:

Goalkeepers: Beto (Goztepe/TUR), Jose Sa (Olympiakos/GRE), Rui Patricio (Wolves/ENG)

Defenders: Joao Cancelo (Juventus/ITA), Jose Fonte (Lille/FRA), Pepe (Porto/POR), Mario Rui (Naples/ITA), Nelson Semedo (Barcelona/ESP), Raphael Guerreiro (Borussia Dortmund/GER), Ruben Dias (Benfica/POR)

Midfielders: Bruno Fernandes (Sporting Lisbon/POR), Danilo Pereira (Porto/POR), Joao Moutinho (Wolves/ENG), Pizzi (Benfica/POR), Ruben Neves (Wolves/ENG), William Carvalho (Real Betis/ESP), Joao Felix (Benfica/POR)

Forwards: Bernardo Silva (Manchester City/ENG), Goncalo Guedes (Valencia/ESP), Rafa Silva (Benfica/POR), Dyego Sousa (Sporting Braga/POR), Diogo Jota (Wolves/ENG), Cristiano Ronaldo (Juventus/ITA)



Cristiano Ronaldo

Reduced Brazil squad begins preparations for Copa America

AFP | Teresópolis, Brazil

Copa America hosts Brazil began preparations for the tournament at their training centre in Teresopolis on Wednesday, despite missing most of their team.

Only seven players are expected at the Granja Comary football complex near Rio de Janeiro for the first week of training.

Neymar, the world's most expensive player, is due to appear on May 28 along with PSG teammates Daniel Alves, Thiago Silva and Marquinhos.

Everton winger Richarlison



Brazil's coach Tite (R) greeting his player Richarlison as he arrives for training

was the first to arrive Wednesday.

"I want to get on the field very quickly to train, I'm very happy to be here with the squad, it's a

unique moment," said Richarlison in a statement issued by the Brazilian football federation.

Richarlison was joined by Ajax Amsterdam's David Neres,

another 22-year-old striker.

Fernandinho, Gabriel Jesus and Casemiro also arrived later on Wednesday, while Ederson and Filipe Luis were expected on Thursday.

Alisson and Roberto Firmino, who will play the Champions League final on June 1 with Liverpool, will be the last to arrive.

Coach Tite made a brief appearance near the field where workers were still painting the lines.

Eight-time winners Brazil face Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru in the group stage, which start on June 14, after two friendlies against Qatar and Honduras.