

Tributes to Michael Jackson flow on 10th death anniversary

Michael Jackson's estate paid tribute to his artistry and charity Tuesday as fans make final preparations for gatherings to celebrate his memory on the 10th anniversary of the King of Pop's death. **P14**

THE DAILY **tribune**



Iggy Azalea to release new album on July 19

14 CELEBS

SPORTS 16 Aussies hammer England

Tony Blair to speak at workshop

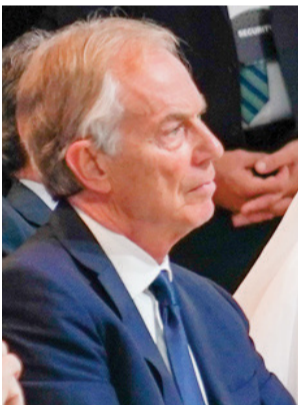
TDT | Manama

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair will speak today at the 'Peace to Prosperity Workshop' being held in the Kingdom.

Blair served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1997 to 2007 and Leader of the Labour Party from 1994 to 2007.

He was Leader of the Opposition from 1994 to 1997. As of 2017, Blair is the last British Labour Party leader to have won a general election.

On the day that Blair resigned as Prime Minister, he was appointed the official Special Envoy of the Quartet on the Middle East, an office which he held until May 2015. He currently runs the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.



Tony Blair

Blair joined the Labour Party shortly after graduating from Oxford in 1975. In the early 1980s, he was involved in Labour politics in Hackney South and Shoreditch, where he aligned himself with the "soft left" of the party.

Opportunity of the century



Mr Kushner details the plan at the workshop attended by HRH the Crown Prince and other dignitaries.

Kushner says US has not 'given up' on Palestine; unveils 'Peace to Prosperity' plan

● **Mr Kushner said that the new plan could help double Palestine's GDP and create a million new jobs, cutting down poverty.**

● **The workshop was attended by HRH the Crown Prince, senior government officials, experts and dignitaries from across the world.**

prosperous future". He described the proposals, which envision \$50 billion being invested in the region over 10 years, as "the opportunity of the century".

"We wouldn't shy away from problems as there is a spring in the end. It is good to see investment coming from all over the world.

"Let us focus on peace, security and prosperity. Palestinians need freedom for worship and a better life. We have reached to this point after numerous stud-

ies. This is a concrete plan for building tourism so that West Bank can become a blooming economy," Mr Kushner said.

Highlighting that the aim of the Trump administration is to keep people safe across the globe, he said: "Mr Trump's vision is to keep people safe in the US and throughout the world. We had the best economy ever during this period. Dignity, prosperity and security and peace is the pathway to the people."

Mr Kushner said that the new plan could help double Palestine's GDP and create a million new jobs, cutting down poverty.

"If implemented correctly and competently, the economic plan will lead to growth and better lives. To create this vision we have drawn from the lessons of the most successful economic transformations of the last 75 years.

"We studied along with the world's leading experts and thinkers and economists from

To create this vision we have drawn from the lessons of the most successful economic transformations of the last 75 years.

MR KUSHNER

Singapore South Korea, Japan, Peru, Poland, China and America. We took the elements that we thought could apply and we tried to avoid the areas where we've seen mistakes and other attempts that people took over the years to try to implement these reforms.

"What we have developed is the most comprehensive economic plan that has ever been created specifically for the Palestinians and for the broader Middle East. We can turn this region from a victim of past conflicts into a model for commerce

advancement throughout the world.

"The United States and President Trump are committed to finding a better future for the Palestinians for the Israelis and for the entire Middle East. By working together we can reach our ultimate goal, which is a real peace that leads to prosperity," Mr Kushner said.

Mr Kushner urged investors from across the world to invest in the region and Palestine. "Right now the entrepreneurs have to see this region as a centre of opportunity. With a right plan, right environment along with a constructive discussion and support from the IMF this change can be made. Should we stay with a broken system or come up with new solutions?" he asked.

The workshop was attended by HRH the Crown Prince, senior government officials, experts and dignitaries from across the world.



04 US ties stressed

05 'Collaborative initiative aims to further enhance entrepreneurship ecosystem'

06 Statistics highlights success in Kingdom's tourism sector

10 years is the time of transition sought under the plan to empower the Palestinian economy and create millions of new jobs.



50 billion
 The plan seeks \$50 billion in investment for the Palestinians in the form of more than 150 projects.

Project

The most ambitious of the proposed projects is a new transportation channel between the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.



For neighbours

The plan allocates \$27bn for those two territories, and the remaining \$23bn for Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel.



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Three-pillar plan

Plan calls for the comprehensive development of Palestine

TDT | Manama
P Unnikrishnan

The 'Peace to Prosperity' Plan proposed by Jared Kushner, senior adviser to US President Donald Trump, is based on three pillars.

The first one is to unleash Palestine's economic potentials while the second is to empower the Palestinian people. And the third pillar is all about enhancing the Palestine governance.

"You can't do one without the other two and you need to be doing all three at the same time in order to make this work," Mr Kushner said.

"We've built it based on a lot of the work that's been done in the past. We believe over time that we can double the GDP of the Palestinians, we can create over a million new jobs we can reduce the unemployment rate to single digits and we can reduce the poverty rate by 50 per cent.

"This is not an easy thing to do but it's something that can be implemented. We've had this peer-reviewed it extensively and we have invited everyone here and everyone throughout the world. We have released this publicly to give us their thoughts and feedback," he said.

With regard to the first pillar, the idea is to generate rapid economic growth and job creation. This part of the plan will create a business environment that provides investors with confidence that their assets will be secure by improving property rights, the rule of the law, fiscal sustainability, capital markets and anti corruption policies.



HRH the Crown Prince with Mr Kushner, other dignitaries and officials at the workshop.

The plan will reduce constraints on Palestinian economic growth by Opening the West Bank and Gaza to regional and Global Markets. Major investments in transportation and Infrastructure will help the West Bank and Gaza integrate with neighbouring economies increasing competitiveness of Palestinian exports and reducing complications of transport and travel.

To complement these investments, this plan will also support steps to improve Palestinian cooperation with Egypt, Israel and Jordan with the goal of reducing regulatory barriers

to the movement of Palestinian goods and people.

The first pillar of the plan aims to construct essential infrastructure, promote private sector growth and strengthen regional development and integration.

The second pillar envisions to support Palestine people through education workforce development and improved quality of life.

This will supports the development and training of Palestinian educators while expanding access to educational opportunities to undeserved communities and demographics.



We believe that we can double the GDP of the Palestinians. We can create over a million new jobs.

MR KUSHNER

Other projects will help encourage educational reforms and innovation. By providing financial incentives to support the development of improved academic standards and curricula, this plan will help turn the West Bank and Gaza into a cen-

tre of educational excellence.

Apart from enhancing the quality of education, the plan also calls for implementing workforce strengthening programmes and transforming the Palestinian healthcare sector to improve the overall quality of life.

Enhancing Palestine governance forms the third pillar of the plan. This will help Palestinian public sector to provide the services and administration necessary for the Palestinian people to have a better future.

If the government realises the potential in investing in its people and adopting the foun-

dational elements identified in this plan, job growth will ensure and the Palestinian people and their economy will thrive.

Speaking at the workshop yesterday, Stephen A Schwarzman, the chairman and CEO of The Blackstone Group, said this was a sensible dream, which is going to come true.

"The changes won't happen overnight as we are talking about a place with 72 years of complexity, a place with no natural resource. But the dream can come true. There are countries like Singapore, Dubai in great examples to follow. We need to create a mechanism to

Meet the speakers at the workshop



Mohammed Al Sheikh

Mohammad Al Shaikh is a Saudi minister of state and a member of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs. Mohammad earned a bachelor's degree from Umm Al Qura University and a master's degree in law from Harvard University. Between 1998 and 2001, he was a lawyer for the World Bank in Washington, DC, and then went into private practice in New York between 2001 and 2003. He returned to Saudi in 2003 when he opened his own practice. In September 2012, he was designated as the Saudi Arabian Government's representative at the World Bank.



Mohamed Alabbar

Mohamed Alabbar is an Emirati businessman and global entrepreneur. He is best known as the founder and chairman of Emaar Properties, the leading developer of iconic assets such as the Burj Khalifa and the Dubai Mall, as well as the chairman of Eagle Hills, the Abu Dhabi based private investment and real estate development company. He is also the founder and director of noon.com, a game changing e-commerce ecosystem for the Arab world and largest GCC e-commerce company and the chairman of Americana Group, a pioneer in food industries.



Christine Lagarde

Christine Lagarde is a French lawyer and politician serving as the Managing Director (MD) and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 2011. She previously held various senior ministerial posts in the Government of France: she was Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industry (2007-2011), Minister of Agriculture and Fishing (2007) and Minister of Commerce (2005-2007). Lagarde is the first woman to head the IMF. A noted anti-trust and labour lawyer, Lagarde was the first female chairman of the major international law firm Baker and McKenzie, between 1999 and 2004.



Dr Tomislav Mihaljevic

Tomislav Mihaljevic, MD, joined the Cleveland Clinic in 2004 as a cardiothoracic surgeon and went on to serve as CEO of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates before becoming CEO of the Cleveland Clinic. Growing up in Zagreb, Croatia, Dr Mihaljevic had just graduated from medical school when an unthinkable war broke out in 1991. After continuing his training in cardiac surgery in Zurich, he came to the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston in 1995. He then joined the Cleveland Clinic. He was renowned for specialising in robotically assisted cardiac surgeries.



Thomas J Barrack

Thomas J Barrack Jr is an American private equity real estate investor and the founder and executive chairman of Colony Capital Inc. Barrack is a close friend of President Donald Trump and has represented Trump on television news segments. He also served as the chairman of the Presidential Inaugural Committee and was senior adviser to Trump's campaign. Barrack is a trustee at the University of Southern California and a member of the University Board of Pepperdine University. He has also served on the board of directors of Accor, Kerner, First Republic Bank, Continental Airlines, Korea First Bank and Megaworld Properties and Holdings.



Mike Wilkinson

Mike Wilkinson heads Bechtel's risk management group, part of the company's legal and risk management department. He became manager of risk management in January 2013 and is based in London. Mike joined Bechtel in 2004, and the following year became principal counsel for Bechtel's Mining and Metals global business unit, headquartered in Brisbane. He also provided legal support to other Bechtel business units active in Australia. Mike came to Bechtel with 15 years of legal expertise in major mining, civil, and power projects at law firms in Australia and the United Kingdom.



PEACE TO PROSPERITY WORKSHOP
JUNE 25-26, 2019 - MANAMA, SAUDI ARABIA

for Palestinians

Improving Palestine governance given special focus



Mr Alabbar and Mr Schwarzman at the panel discussion moderated by Nik Gowing.



A segment of the audience at the workshop.

create confidence at a place, where we have 31 per cent unemployment.

is to develop proper infrastructure. We did projects in countries like Uganda and Poland, where a better life is guaranteed

with an integrated economy.” Leading businessman and founder of Emaar Properties, Mohamed Alabbar, said the plan

will take Palestine to greater heights. “It is quite unfortunate that there are no representatives for Palestine here. But I

can say that I represent them. “We have invested in more than 17 countries. I have lots of hope in young people. People

want a decent life and we need to work hard to make this happen. I am very positive about this great initiative.”

Meet the speakers at the workshop



Hazem Ben-Gacem

Hazem Ben-Gacem is Investcorp's Co-Chief Executive Officer leading the firm's Private Equity business in Europe, Middle East and Asia, its recently launched global private banking operation and Placement and Relationship Management in the Gulf, MENA and Asia. Hazem is also the Managing Partner of the Investcorp Technology Partners group of funds and sits on Investcorp Group's Executive Committee. Prior to his appointment as Co-CEO, Hazem led Investcorp's European private equity team, based out of London. During that period, he was involved in over 30 of Investcorp's private equity investments in Europe and the US.



Selim Bora

Selim Bora, a renowned leading business executive, holds a bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgical Engineering, from the Middle East Technical University of Ankara, as well as a Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from the Alfred University of New York. In 1993, Bora joined the Summa International Construction company as Business Development Manager, first in Turkmenistan and then in Kyrgyzstan. In 1995, he was named Regional Manager of Summa International for the Russian Federation, based in Moscow. Mr Bora became President of Summa international Construction Co Inc in 1999 after holding the position of Vice-President.



Faisal J Abbas

Faisal J Abbas is the editor-in-chief of Arab News. He was formerly the editor-in-chief of Al Arabiya English. He is a renowned blogger and an award-winning journalist. Faisal covered the Middle East extensively working for Future Television of Lebanon and both Al Hayat and Asharq Al Awsat pan-Arab dailies. He blogs for The Huffington Post since 2008, and is a recipient of many media awards and a member of the British Society of Authors, National Union of Journalists, the John Adams Society as well as an associate member of the Cambridge Union Society.



Jeffrey Sonnenfeld

Jeffrey Sonnenfeld is an academic, Lester Crown Professor in the Practice of Management at Yale School of Management, and Senior Associate Dean for Leadership Studies. Sonnenfeld is the founder of Chief Executive Leadership Institute (CELI), a non-profit educational and research institute focused on CEO leadership and corporate governance. Before joining Yale in 1999, he taught for ten years as a professor at the Harvard Business School and nine years as a professor at Emory University's Goizueta Business School. Sonnenfeld is the founder of Chief Executive Leadership Institute (CELI), a non-profit educational and research institute.



Luis Alberto Moreno

Luis Alberto Moreno, a Colombian citizen, has led a profound transformation of the IDB Group since he was first elected President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in 2005, and re-elected in 2010 and 2015. As President of the IDB, he also chairs the Board of Executive Directors of IDB Invest, the Group's private sector arm, as well as the Donors' Committee of the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), an innovation laboratory for development. Under Moreno's leadership, the IDB Group has consolidated its role as the principal source of long-term financing for Latin America and the Caribbean, while providing cutting-edge knowledge and technical advice for social, economic and institutional development.



Randall L Stephenson

Randall Lynn Stephenson is an American telecommunications executive. He is the current chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of AT&T Inc. since May 9, 2007. He served as National Chair of the Boy Scouts of America from 2016 to 2018. In July 2001, he was appointed chief financial officer for SBC, helping the company reduce its net debt from \$30 billion to near zero by early 2004. From 2003 to 2004, Stephenson served as chairman of the board of directors for Cingular Wireless. In 2004, he was appointed by President Bush as National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee member.



Bahrain Exhibition Center - Hall 2
25 to 29 June 2019







9:30 AM to 1:30 PM 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

ALHAWAJBH


BAZAAR
AL HAWAJ
بازار الحجاج



Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received at Gudaibiya Palace, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, US Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, US President's Senior Advisor Jared Kushner, US President's Middle East Special Envoy Jason Greenblatt and US Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook, marking their visit to the Kingdom to take part in the "Peace to Prosperity" economic workshop, being held in Manama.

HM the King received a letter from US President Donald Trump dealing with relations of friendship and co-operation between the two countries.

President Trump hailed deep partnership with the Kingdom of Bahrain, praising the outstanding organisation of the workshop.

HM the King hailed the US president's keenness on further bolstering strong historic relations of friendship binding the two countries.

His Majesty welcomed the US delegation and their visit to

US ties stressed

His Majesty receives US delegation in the presence of HRH the Crown Prince



HM the King holds discussions with the US delegation in the presence of HRH the Crown Prince, Royal Family members and senior officials.

the Kingdom of Bahrain, wishing all the participants in the workshop to reach construc-

tive and supportive results towards consolidating peace, development and prosperity

for all countries and peoples in the region. HM the King took pride in

strong strategic relations and historic and advanced partnership binding the Kingdom and

the United States of America, hailing steadily-growing cooperation in all fields.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday at the Qudaibiya Palace received Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, marking her participation in the Peace to Prosperity workshop. HM the King welcomed the IMF Managing Director's participation in the key workshop, commending the high-level of relations and cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the IMF. HM the King expressed appreciation of the IMF role in maintaining the safety of the international economy, addressing the economic and financial challenges faced by the world and promoting sustainable development efforts.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met with the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Minister of State for Financial Affairs, Obaid bin Humaid Al Tayer and the Minister of State to the UAE, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Global Market, Ahmed bin Ali Al Sayegh, on the side-lines of the Peace to Prosperity Workshop, which is hosted in partnership with the United States. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the longstanding ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE, which continue to thrive under the leadership of His Majesty, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and President of the UAE, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday met with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Minister of State Mohammed bin Abdul Malik bin Abdullah Al AshSheikh and the Minister of Finance Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Jadaan on the sidelines of the Peace to Prosperity Workshop - hosted in partnership with the United States. HRH the Crown Prince noted that the two Kingdoms maintain a historical and robust relationship that continues to grow under the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. HRH the Crown Prince recognised the importance of further deepening this multifaceted cooperation in order to maximise opportunities for development as well as economic growth.

Ministers hold meeting with SCW Secretary-General

Manama

A joint work meeting was held between Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan and Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Hala Al Ansari.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry, the Labour and Social Development Ministry and SCW.

Discussions focused on ways of boosting the role of the family



The meeting in progress.

reconciliation offices at the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry through integration with the family guidance offices at the community centres of the Labour and Social Development Ministry to settle family disputes before reaching courts.

The meeting also shed light on ongoing preparations to open the family reconciliation offices at Sitra and Muharraq community centres.

Implementation of a training plan for the staff of the family reconciliation offices and the social guidance centres was also reviewed.

'Collaborative initiative aims to further enhance entrepreneurship ecosystem'

Initiative aims to create a common platform to support entrepreneurs



A segment of the audience.



A panelist discussion in progress.

● The forum included keynote speeches, research presentations, thematic plenaries and a stakeholder consultation roundtable.

● It discussed and elaborated on many themes including the shaping of business ecosystems.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The Collaborative, an initiative to help researchers from academia, start-ups, and corporate work together towards the development of Bahrain, was launched yesterday.

The initiative was launched at the Second Digital Business Ecosystem Research Forum, which was organised by the University of Bahrain.

It focused on researchers and practitioners, who explore information systems and digital entre-

preneurship in the Kingdom and across the region.

On the sidelines of the event, the event's chair, Dr Noora Al Ghatem said: "The initiative was launched to create a common platform, where we can work together with the industry and public sector researchers while helping the entrepreneurs and the ecosystem.

"It was launched because we saw that there was a need for us to work closely with industry and government. We came up with the idea for researchers from various sectors to come together in a platform and we defined the

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The initiative was launched to create a common platform, where we can work together with the industry and public sector researchers while helping the entrepreneurs.

DR AL GHATEM

areas where we should work on together, whether it is by devel-

oping mutual studies or developing courses.

"We even aim to include researchers from outside Bahrain who are experts in various fields," she added.

The forum included keynote speeches, research presentations, thematic plenaries and a stakeholder consultation roundtable.

It discussed and elaborated on many themes such as the shaping of business ecosystems, implications of these ecosystems for global scaling of start-ups in the GCC, building collaborative capacity to support start-ups, and how to link research on the topic

to practice.

The topics discussed included public and private sector collaboration and ICT projects, digital entrepreneurship and ecosystem, national ICT initiatives and programmes, ICTs for socio-economic development and ICT and social innovation.

Many panel discussions were held during the event and the topics discussed included 'A Prospective View of Global Scalability of Startups', 'Unpacking Social Innovation in the form of Digital Entrepreneurship' and 'Linking Theory to Practice towards Meaningful ICT Innovations'.

Lawsuit against EWA's VAT decision adjourned

TDT | Manama

The Second Supreme Civil Court of Appeal yesterday adjourned a lawsuit filed by Bahraini lawyer against the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), urging to scrap its decision to impose taxes on its customers, to September 2.

This came after the same court previously announced that it would issue its final verdict on June 25 this year.

The court earlier rejected the case, but Mohammed Al Thawadi, the plaintiff, appealed against the court's judgement, as he insisted that EWA's decision, which came into effect on January 1, 2019, to impose Value Added Tax (VAT) on its customers is unconstitutional.

In the trial, EWA, which was represented in the court by the State Cases Authority, claimed that the appellant has no interest to file the lawsuit, but Mr Al Thawadi quoted a statement of Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza, affirming that "the increase in electricity and water fees is subject to government approvals".

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The authority is the sole provider of such services in the country without competition, contrary to the conditions of imposing the tax on commodities.

MR AL THAWADI

As reported earlier by Tribune, Bahraini Lawyer Mohammed Al Thawadi appealed against the verdict of the High Administrative Court, announced on February 26 this year, to reject the lawsuit he initiated against EWA, as he claimed that the authority's decision to impose Value Added Tax (VAT) on subscribers by the beginning of this year is unconstitutional.

The lawyer insisted that the decision is unconstitutional, stating that Articles 15 and 17 of the Constitution of the Kingdom, which stipulate that taxes should only be imposed through a legislation.

Mr Al Thawadi justified his decision to complain against EWA by stating that the authority is the sole provider of such services in the country without competition, contrary to the conditions of imposing the tax on commodities.

He also accused EWA of not adhering to the Unified GCC VAT Agreement, which he quoted some of its provisions saying: "Article 29 did not stipulate the imposition of taxes on electricity supply services, but on the contrary, it gave each state the right to exempt some sectors in accordance with local law.

"Additionally, Article 30 expressly stipulated the exemption of government bodies from paying taxes, and therefore it is not permissible for the authority to collect taxes."

In his appeal, the lawyer also demanded a clarification from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, to confirm if commercial establishments are permitted to provide electricity and water supplies in the Kingdom, as alleged by the authority, and the conditions required to obtain such a permit.

BD500 fine for jumping five red light

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini man's attempt to evade paying BD500 in traffic fines was foiled by the court, which gave him two options; either pay the fines in the court immediately or face jail.

This occurred at the Traffic Court yesterday, when the man attended the session after he objected a verdict that was previously issued against him.

The man was earlier ordered to pay BD500 for crossing five red signals (BD100 for each offence).

Documents of the case show that he came to know about his fines during his visit to the General Directorate of Traffic.

He objected the order and decided to take the matter to the court. But, traffic surveillance cameras and his statements proved that he had committed the same offence five times in different locations.

The man pleaded to the judge to reduce the fines, claiming that it's beyond his financial capacity and that he is broke.

However, the judge decided to uphold the previous order and demanded him to pay the BD500.

Thinking that he would be allowed to

leave the court room, the man told the judges that he will pay on another date, but the latter informed him that he will be immediately taken to jail if didn't pay the amount instantly.

Interestingly, out of his fear of detention, the man paid the full amount instantly before leaving the court room.

As Law 23 of 2014 came into effect few years back, stricter punishments against traffic violators have been introduced.

This includes fines and imprisonment for offences such as crossing a red light, driving under the influence or driving without licences.



Law 23 of 2014 states strict punishments for traffic offences committed by drivers.

Statistics highlight success of Kingdom's tourism sector

Intensive promotion campaigns across the world reap benefits

● **Tourism numbers surge as BTEA carries out intensive promotion campaigns from Russia to the UK.**

● **Tourism sector all set to emerge as one of the major contributors to the national economy.**

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) announced the key achievements of its representative offices during the first quarter of 2019, revealing tourism statistics for each of the offices.

The representative office in Germany witnessed an increase in the sales of travel agencies by 59 per cent, an increase the number of tourist trips by 17pc in comparison to the same period last year, the BTEA said in a statement issued.



The Indian representative office witnessed an increase of 690pc in the sales of travel agencies, an increase in the number of trips by 3pc and total arrivals by 32pc compared to the same period last year, the statement noted.

"The Russian office reported an increase of 728pc in the sales of travel agencies, and increase in the number of trips by 107pc and an increase in total arrivals by 101pc compared to the same period last year.

"In addition, Saudi Arabia wit-



The overall aim is to further develop the local tourism sector in line with BTEA's strategy which focuses on four pillars, namely: Awareness, Attraction, Access and Accommodation.

SHAIKH KHALED

nessed an increase of 31pc in sales of travel agencies and an increase of 8pc in the number of trips by 8pc in addition to an increase total arrivals by 4pc compared to the same period last year.

"The UK representative office saw an increase of 42pc in the sales of travel agencies and an increase in the number of trips by 5pc in addition to an increase in total arrivals by 11pc compared to the same period last year."

Commenting on the results, the Chief Executive Officer of BTEA,

Shaikh Khaled Bin Humood Al Khalifa, said that the growth of the representative offices was primarily due to the intensive promotions campaigns organised by BTEA throughout the year, which resulted in fruitful partnerships with a number of tourism companies in order to bring in more tourist groups to the Kingdom.

"The overall aim is to further develop the local tourism sector in line with BTEA's strategy which focuses on four pillars, namely: Awareness, Attraction, Access and Accommodation."

BTEA's representative offices, located in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Kingdom, Germany, India, China and Russia, are each working to develop the tourism sector and promote the tourism brand 'Ours Yours' aimed at showcasing the Kingdom of Bahrain as the ideal tourism destination to the regional and international markets, further promoting the Kingdom's touristic offering as a main contributor to the overall economic growth in line with the Economic Vision 2030.

Focus on US ties



Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed Al Zayani received US Ambassador to Bahrain Justin H Siberell. They reviewed topics of shared interest, noting the important role of the private sector of both countries in boosting the bilateral trade volume availing from the Free Trade Agreement signed between Bahrain and the United States. The minister pointed out that Bahrain always seeks to boost its economic relations with all countries especially those with which Bahrain has signed co-operation agreements in the interest of both countries and peoples.

"Step Afrika!" to perform at Bahrain Summer Festival

TDT | Manama

As part of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities' (BACA) annual Bahrain Summer Festival, the US Embassy will organise the visit of American dance company "Step Afrika!" from June 25 - 29, 2019.

The group will have two main appearances during the summer festival. On Thursday, June 27, they will present a mini-performance to children at the Nakhool Tent near Riffa Fort at 6:00 pm, the embassy said in a statement issued.

On Friday, June 28, Step Afrika! will present its major performance on the stage of the Cultural Hall in Manama at 8:00 pm. Both performances are free and open to the public, the statement added.

"The performance group blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, African traditional dance, and influences from a variety of other dance and art forms.

"Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humour, and audience participation.

"The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each performance unique.

"Step Afrika promotes stepping as an educational tool for young people, focusing on teamwork, academic achievement and cross-cultural understanding."

NCC's support to 'Bahrainina' Plan implementation stressed

Manama

The National Communication Centre (NCC) yesterday held a regular meeting of the Government Communication Network in the presence of representatives of ministries and government entities.

The meeting discussed the government communication plan for the next phase, as well as unifying efforts to promoting outputs of the national plan for the consolidation of national affiliation and values of citizen-

ship "Bahrainina".

It also discussed enhancing partnerships and co-operation between the NCC and other government bodies for establishing co-ordination and determining communication priorities, in addition to unifying the government's media discourse through an effective communication system.

NCC Executive Director Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Manna'i highlighted resolve to support the Government Communication Network to serve the set goals and to ensure bringing

out government initiatives and development plans.

Al Manna'i said the NCC, in line with the directives of Information Minister Ali Al Romaihi, would be a supporter of the implementation of goals of Bahrainina Plan.

Member of Bahrainina Plan's Executive Office, Yusuf Mohammed, gave a presentation of the national plan and stages of implementations.

The meeting reviewed and evaluated the NCC's main local, regional and international communication projects imple-

The NCC, in line with the directives of Information Minister Ali Al Romaihi, would be a supporter of the implementation of goals of Bahrainina Plan.

MR AL MANNA'I

mented in collaboration with several media organisations in the past period, which contributed to highlighting Bahrain's

leading development successes, in addition to raising awareness of the government work priorities and building bridges of communication with citizens.

The government communication network consists of representatives of communication and media managements.

It holds its meetings on a regular basis to discuss government activities and projects in accordance with strategic perspectives for accentuating the government initiatives and accomplished development projects.

Call to highlight drug addiction dangers

TDT | Manama

Success in the war against drug abuse must involve raising public awareness of the dangers of addiction, according to health experts.

Officials at a three-day forum marking International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in the United Arab Emirates said a new focus was required to help tackle the issue.

Speaking at an event organised by Dubai's Erada Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation, senior police officers called for a more centralised, co-ordinated approach.

Academics also claimed policy should be inclusive of all community members rather than just those directly involved in combating illegal narcotics.

"Crackdowns on distribution includ-



International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on June 26.

ing drug busts are not the only forms of fighting this crisis," said Brigadier Eid Mohammed Thani Hareb, of Dubai Police anti-narcotics department.

"Our efforts in spreading awareness are broken and we need a nationwide effort to unite them."

Established by the United Nations, International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on June 26.

WORLD
world**Honduran forces fire on students, 5 hurt: officials**

Five students of the National Autonomous University of Honduras received bullet wounds during a demonstration against the country's president

Tegucigalpa

Honduran military police opened fire on protesting students at a university on Monday, wounding at least five, campus and hospital officials said.

Hundreds of students at the National Autonomous University of Honduras were demanding the resignation of the country's president, Juan Orlando Hernandez, after demonstrations against him intensified last week when three people were killed in protests.

"About 40 military police entered the university campus without authorization," Armando Sarmiento, director of institutional development at the Tegucigalpa-based university, told AFP.

They pursued the students "shooting them with live rounds," Sarmiento said.

Five students received bullet wounds, but all were out of

danger, said Laura Schoenherr, spokeswoman for the Escuela Hospital.

FUSINA, a combined national security force, said in a statement that the students had attacked with "modified Molotov cocktails to make them more lethal."

Four "alleged students" were wounded, FUSINA added, along with two soldiers burned by the Molotov cocktails.

Police had initially fired tear gas, prompting students to throw stones, after which the riot police chased the students and opened fire with rifles.

Protests against Hernandez intensified last week after starting more than a month ago when doctor and teacher unions held strikes against health and education laws in the Central American country.

Troops patrolled the streets of Tegucigalpa last Friday after three people were killed in violent protests against Hernandez.

Ethiopia holds funeral service for murdered army chief**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Ethiopia yesterday held a funeral service for its army chief who was assassinated by his bodyguard over the weekend, an incident believed linked to an alleged coup bid in northern Amhara state.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed wept and mourners wailed as the coffin of Seare Mekonen, draped in the Ethiopian flag, was carried to the front of a room filled with soldiers in military fatigues, in footage carried by state media.

Ethiopia has been left reeling after this weekend's violence, a massive blow to Abiy who has embarked on an ambitious project of economic and political reforms in the nation.

Egypt raids businesses over funding plot**Cairo, Egypt**

Egyptian authorities raided 19 businesses yesterday accused of funding a plot to overthrow the state, the interior ministry said.

Footage broadcast on Egyptian television showed police officers raiding the firms in the capital Cairo and the cities of Alexandria and Ismailia.

The busts were in response to the businesses allegedly funding a plot "intent on overthrowing the state and its institutions" this month, the interior ministry said in a

statement.

A total of 250 million Egyptian pounds (\$15 million) was seized in the raids, according to the ministry video.

The government did not detail the type of businesses targeted, but said they were affiliated with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group.

They were part of a plan along with groups "claiming to represent civil political forces" which sought to carry out "violent acts and unrest against the state", according to the interior ministry.

Pompeo hopes for Afghan peace deal 'before Sept 1'

● The next round of talks between the Taliban and the US are set to begin on June 29 in Doha

● The Taliban have insisted that foreign troops must leave, and refused to speak with the Afghan government

Kabul, Afghanistan

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday he hopes for a peace deal with the Taliban "before September 1", speaking as he made his first visit to Kabul since Washington launched talks with the insurgents last year.

Pompeo met with President Ashraf Ghani as well as General Scott Miller, who leads NATO's Afghanistan mission and the US war effort in the country, as well as other high-level Afghan officials during the unannounced one-day visit to the Afghan capital.

He said peace was Washington's "highest priority". Last September the US began a fresh push to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table to end America's longest war.

"I hope we have a peace deal before September 1, that's certainly our mission set," Pompeo said during the visit.

US officials have previously said they are hoping for a deal before the upcoming Afghan presidential elections, which



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, center left, walks with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's Chief of Staff Abdul Salam Rahimi, as he arrives at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan yesterday, during an unannounced visit.



Iran and Afghanistan share a 900 kilometre (600 mile) border and have long had a complex relationship. Iran nearly went to war with the Taliban regime in 1998, and quietly backed the US invasion of 2001.

have already been delayed twice and are now set for September.

The next round of talks between the Taliban and the US are set to begin on June 29 in Doha.

The talks have centred on four issues: counter-terrorism, the foreign troop presence, an intra-Afghan dialogue, and a permanent ceasefire.

The Taliban have insisted that foreign troops must leave, and refused to speak with the Afghan government in Kabul, whom they deem "puppets".

Iran factor

Pompeo said the US is nearly ready to conclude a "draft text" outlining Taliban promises nev-

er to allow Afghanistan to be used as a base for international terrorism again.

"In light of this progress we've begun discussions with the Taliban regarding foreign military presence which today remains conditions-based," he said.

"And while we've made clear to the Taliban that we're prepared to remove our forces, I want to be clear we've not yet agreed on a timeline to do so."

But Tehran has more recently sought to build relations with the Taliban, mindful of preserving interests in the neighbouring country.

IS head in Yemen captured by special forces: coalition**Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

Saudi and Yemeni special forces have captured the head of the Islamic State group's branch in Yemen, the Saudi-led military coalition backing the country's government announced yesterday.

The leader identified as Abu Osama al-Muhajir was caught in an early June raid along with other members of the jihadist group including its chief financial officer, coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki said in a statement.

Saudi special forces in cooperation with their Yemeni counterparts "conducted a successful operation that resulted in the capture of the leader of the Daesh (IS) branch in Yemen -- Abu Osama al-Muhajir," Maliki said.

"A house kept under close surveillance proved the presence of the terror group's leader, and other elements, along



Saudi Special Forces arrested the head of ISIS in Yemen, Abu Osama Al Muhajir, in a joint raid with Yemeni forces. (Courtesy of the National/SPA)

with three women and three children."

Maliki did not specify the location of the house or where the raid was conducted, but said there were no civilian casualties.

IS has lost its self-styled "caliphate" across large parts of Syria and Iraq but is said to run camps and has a number of ac-

tive fighters across Yemen.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), considered by the US as the radical group's most dangerous branch, is also active in Yemen.

Last month, four suspected Al-Qaeda members were killed in a suicide attack claimed by IS in Bayda province, a local official said.

French restaurant run by Argentine chef crowned world's best
Singapore, Singapore

French restaurant Mirazur run by Argentine chef Mauro Colagreco was yesterday crowned the world's best restaurant at an awards ceremony put on by British trade magazine Restaurant.

In second spot in the World's 50 Best Restaurants was Noma in Copenhagen, and in third was Asador Etxebarri in Spain.

In fourth place was Bangkok's Gaggan, whose owner-chef Gaggan Anand has won praise for his modern spin on his native Indian cuisine.

Restaurant magazine, owned by William Reed Media, launched the awards in 2002 and they are now as coveted by restaurants as Michelin stars, although the methodology used to select the best restaurants has faced criticism.

Can Boris Johnson really deal with Brexit complexities?

Regardless of who ends up in 10 Downing Street, the UK's departure from the European Union is the only issue that matters

DAMIEN MCELROY

On Friday, the would-be Conservative leader and prospective UK prime minister Boris Johnson hit the headlines once again. Mr Johnson, who is known for his chaotic, clownish persona, is no stranger to the front pages.

This time, however, the press attention came after police were called by neighbours, in the early hours of Friday morning, to "a loud argument" at the south London flat he shares with his partner Carrie Symonds.

Police have since disclosed that although they visited the scene, they found no cause for action.

Mr Johnson's opponent in the Tory leadership race, Jeremy Hunt, could not be more different. He is a former head boy and still carries himself with a calm and sensible earnestness.

Irreverence is unlikely to cure Britain's problems but Mr Johnson is almost certain to triumph in the leadership battle.

One recent anecdote of Mr Johnson's is telling.

As Foreign Secretary, he repeatedly asserted that the UK was leaving the EU but not leaving Europe. The country would, he said, "be outside the cathedral, but support it like a flying buttress".

He then revealed that interpreters had mistranslated his words as "flying bucket".

Mr Johnson is formidably educated and has, over the years, carved out a lucrative writing career. However, when it comes to matters of diplomacy, he is as likely to offend as he is to flatter.

Confronted with difficult questions, he seeks refuge in non-sequiturs. Asked for his global vision, he has commented about his family's cosmopolitan background.



A poster of prime minister hopeful Boris Johnson on a fence opposite his house in London.

"I've managed to strategically litter the world with my ancestors," he told Chatham House in 2016. Interesting, but not a real answer.

The words Mr Johnson uses are colourful, but deployed at high risk. There is no filter on either his discourse or his actions.

During his tenure at the Foreign Office, he seized on the idea that he and "T-Rex" (the former US secretary of state, Rex Tillerson) would seal a breakthrough in the Yemen conflict.

While Mr Johnson's plan caused

no rancour, there was no prospect of it gaining traction.

It is hard to imagine he can provide real answers on how to restore British prestige, do business with US President Donald Trump, handle relations with China or reconcile foreign policy with domestic pressures.

Mr Johnson has risen to the top as a direct result of Brexit, the issue that will make or break his prospective tenure in 10 Downing Street. His supporters can only hope that, by sheer force of will, he

will be able to smash through the obstacles that ended Theresa May's premiership.

When the Conservative leadership race is over, in the week of July 22, the same walls she faced will begin to close in on whoever becomes prime minister.

Donald Tusk, president of the EU Council, said last week that the UK was wasting the time, leading up to the October 31 Brexit deadline. The Irish leader Leo Varadkar has said there is now "enormous hostility" in the rest of the EU to a further

The briefest of ceasefires highlights p

KAREEM SHAHEEN

It was one of the Syrian conflict's shorter-lived ceasefires. Within hours of an announcement by Turkey and Russia that they had brokered a deal to halt the fighting in Idlib, Syrian government forces had resumed shelling rebel areas and a Turkish observation post. The tentative hopes of long-suffering civilians were dashed once again.

The fighting in Idlib, which resumed over the last two months, threatens a massive humanitarian catastrophe. Around 3 million people, many of them displaced from other parts of the country, live in Syria's last rebel-held province, which is ruled primarily by militants once affiliated with Al Qaeda. Bombarded by the brutal regime of Bashar Al Assad from the outside and tormented by religious extremists from within, tens of thousands have fled to the Turkish border, and hundreds have already been killed.

Moscow, the Assad regime's main backer, and Ankara, which enjoys widespread influence among the opposition, had apparently hoped to buy some time ahead of a destructive regime campaign to reclaim Idlib.

The failure of the ceasefire, and the ensuing tit-for-tat shell-

ing between Turkish forces and Syrian government troops, have highlighted the intractability and sensitivity of the Syrian war's endgame. It also underscores the fact that even the vaguest contours of a solution remain elusive, despite the regime's military victories.

First, the Assad regime exists in a bizarre dichotomy, where it enjoys impunity in the way it chooses to prosecute this long and grinding war, but also lacks the basic trappings of a sovereign nation state. Russia, which has acted as the regime's enforcer and sole purveyor of legitimacy on the international stage, negotiated a ceasefire deal without even involving Syria, as it has done in other parts of the country. The regime, which picks and chooses whether to adhere to the agreements of its patron, decided simply that it was not bound by this particular deal. It is an arrangement that gives the Russians plausible deniability when it comes to Assad's war crimes, and allows his regime to do what it wants.

The reality is that the Assad regime cannot be trusted to enforce any deal to halt the fighting, let alone a broader political solution that actually grapples with the roots of the Syrian conflict. Its behaviour in Idlib has parallels to its routine detention and torture



A man sits among the debris near the town of Saraqeb in Syria's rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib.

of refugees who decided to return to the country, despite assurances that they would not be persecuted.

It is clear that those who want to negotiate with the regime and ex-

tract some nebulous concessions in exchange for peace are deluding themselves that it intends on any level to adhere to agreements that diminish its power over Syrians.

The second element that the fighting highlighted is the international dimension, which complicates any attempt at finding even short-term solutions. Even if Tur-

While foreign powers act in their own interests, the lives of ordinary Syrians are being forgotten

1848

End of the June Days Uprising in **Paris**.

1857

The first investiture of the Victoria Cross in **Hyde Park, London**.

1870

The Christian holiday of **Christmas** is declared a federal holiday in the United States.



1886

Henri Moissan isolated elemental Fluorine for the first time.



Mr Johnson has risen to the top as a direct result of Brexit, the issue that will make or break his prospective tenure in 10 Downing Street. His supporters can only hope that, by sheer force of will, he will be able to smash through the obstacles.

that a majority of MPs could not block a no-deal exit.

Short of that extreme measure, the next prime minister will have a nuclear option of calling a general election, with the objective of gaining a majority for a hard exit from the EU.

Under the intense pressure of Brexit, the country's two-party system appears to have shattered.

An opinion poll released last week showed a four-way tie at low levels. The Brexit Party on 23 per cent, the Liberal Democrats back from the political dead at 21 per cent and both Conservative and Labour on 20 per cent.

Apparently, Mr Johnson declared his wish to rule the world as a boy. His will to succeed is palpable and the position of UK prime minister is now finally within his grasp.

The only thing that matters is how he would choose to tackle Brexit, should he become the nation's leader. Mr Johnson's record suggests he will want to get out of the EU and hope for the best.

The alternative is that he reworks that flying buttress idea, in the hope Europe will not kick over Britain's bucket.

of a clean break from the EU by the October deadline is a huge challenge.

A prime minister seeking to honour that commitment must override parliament to force a no-deal outcome, in which Britain leaves in open conflict with Brussels.

The alternative is equally bleak – essentially gaining approval for the withdrawal agreement that Mrs May failed to pass three times.

Dominic Raab, one of the failed leadership candidates, suggested suspending parliament to ensure

extension.

There is little evidence that Mr Hunt would do the job any better than Mr Johnson. It is true that Mr Hunt, who followed Mr Johnson as foreign secretary, has achieved a level of respect that his predecessor never managed.

On Brexit, however, he is promising much the same as Mr Johnson. He also suffers from the perception that, as a leader, he would be little more than a "Theresa in trousers".

Delivering the promises made to Conservative party members

Blight of Idlib's people



The failure of the ceasefire, and the ensuing tit-for-tat shelling between Turkish forces and Syrian government troops, have highlighted the intractability and sensitivity of the Syrian war's endgame.

forces in Syria – or, indeed, to the regime itself, which has proven adept at playing its allies against each other.

The reality is that international actors have almost perfected their ability to fight for diametrically opposed goals and agendas inside Syria, without significant clashes that risk a broader regional war. The skirmishes between the Syrian government and Turkish forces are unlikely to develop beyond that, with Syria's foreign minister declaring that the regime does not intend to do battle with Ankara. The firepower will instead be directed at hospitals and civilians in the rest of Idlib, once again guaranteeing that only Syrian civilians

pay the price for the sins of the foreign powers that pretend to be their friends.

Finally, we are no closer to a solution that, at the very least, ends the fighting in Syria. If the regime proceeds with its planned military offensive, a course that it appears set on pursuing for the time being, a bloodbath and the worst humanitarian disaster of the war will follow.

But the status quo is also awful. Nearly 3 million people are living a destitute existence that could be shattered at any moment by warplanes, artillery or poison gas. They have nowhere else to go and are condemned to live under the totalitarianism of Hayat Tahrir Al Sham militants, who rule by force of arms, or the secular totalitarianism of the Assad regime across the frontlines.

There is no clear way out of this morass. The international community is exhausted by Syria, and has delegated peacemaking to regional and global powers, who are determined to act in their own perceived national security interests.

What Idlib has shown us with the on-again, off-again ceasefire is that Syrians will have no say in how the conflict is resolved, but will always be made to pay the price for it.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I will never forget the shock I felt when I was told I was diabetic. But I will be forever grateful to all those who taught me how to manage my condition and reduce the impact it has on my life.

@theresa_may

02



The American people deserve freedom – true freedom. And you are not truly free when you graduate college with hundreds of thousands of dollars in student debt.

#CancelStudentDebt @BernieSanders

03



Swami Satyamitranand Giri Ji epitomised spirituality and wisdom. He devoted his life towards empowering the poor, marginalised and downtrodden. He was extremely proud of India's rich history and culture. My tributes to this divine soul. Om Shanti.

@narendramodi

04



Today is the anniversary of the #Emergency declared in 1975. For the last five years, the country went through a 'Super Emergency'. We must learn our lessons from history and fight to safeguard the democratic institutions in the country

@MamataOfficial

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

Wide Angle

International migration: Where are we going?



JOEL INDRUPATI

If you ask me, I would say that we were, we are, and we will always be migrants.

Over the centuries, man has always sought food for himself and his family and moved towards environs conducive for his search.

To farm and to fish, he stayed on river banks or lived in seaside towns and villages.

To trade and to earn, he led his caravans of camels across hot desert sands, or he caught the trade-winds in his boats' sails, and crisscrossed the high seas.

Even if he was rooted to his birthplace for generations, he often visited distant lands, for greater education or for wider experience.

When threatened by political power, when frustrated by military might, or when depressed by economic difficulties, in order to protect and provide for his family, man often left his roots, for greener pastures.

And, when he painfully realised, that grass is not as green on the other side as he thought it was, or when he understood that he had only seen a fleeting mirage, he just moved on. He still moves on.

But can we grudge him his desire to move?

I don't.

These days – with fenced-or-walled-or-patrolled national borders, with multi-lateral immigration treaties, and with customs and immigration laws - it is just not 'legally' possible to move as freely as birds or animals do.

Today, it is only when a migrant worker fails to appreciate and accept the destination country's cultural and religious practices - and only when the migrant worker makes unreasonable demands from the

host country and threatens it with needless terror – that he might face resistance.

And, can we grudge the host country, its right to resist unreasonable entrants?

I don't think we can.

But, the fact of the matter is that generalisations of religions, nationalities and cultures are subverting rational thinking in immigration policies.

I admit I do not have a strong power-point to bring down my gavel on the table now. But I am still inclined to share some statistics we cannot ignore.

A United Nations report, "Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision" gives us interesting data.

The number of international migrants – persons living in a country other than where they were born – reached 244 million in 2015 for the world as a whole.

It's a staggering 41 per cent increase compared to 2000, and the new figure includes 20 million refugees.

But, we can see that only 8 per cent of all migrants are refugees. Which means, that 92 per cent had changed countries, for real work -- which host countries had offered them.

Interestingly, the number of international migrants has grown faster than the world's population. "As a result, the share of migrants in the global population reached 3.3 per cent in 2015, up from 2.8 per cent in 2000."

International migration, therefore, is a reality we must learn to accept. And respect.

"India, has the largest diaspora in the world, followed by Mexico and Russia", the report says.

In 2015, 16 million people from India were living outside of their country, compared to 12 million from Mexico. Other countries with large diasporas included the Russian Federation, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Ukraine.

In 1970, there were only 70 million international migrants. Today, at 244 million, the rise is astounding.

The demand for knowledge workers and skilled labour, from overseas, rises when domestic supplies are in deficit. And some countries find it easier to import these, from abroad.

International migration is real, and it is rising rapidly. And countries which close their borders might do so at their own peril.

business



Participants during Bahrain Bourse's 3rd semi-annual brokers meeting at the Bourse's premises in the Bahrain Financial Harbour, yesterday. The meeting updated brokers on key developments at the Bourse including the newly proposed investor account opening process and the implementation of VAT on Bahrain Bourse's services, commencing on the 1st of July 2019

TRA's role in telecoms sector development praised

TDT | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority's (TRA) Board yesterday reviewed the progress of projects proposed in the Fourth National Telecommunications Plan (NTP4) including that of the realisation of the single fixed fibre National Broadband Network.

During their second meeting held at TRA's headquarters in the Seef District, the board of directors of TRA also reviewed latest market indicators, market review for international connectivity, the progress of spectrum and frequency distribution for launching 5G networks in the Kingdom.

Expressing appreciation of



The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority's (TRA) Board of Directors held their second meeting this year at TRA's headquarters in the Seef District

the progress achieved, the board hailed actions taken by TRA to rectify the telecoms towers situation in the Kingdom.

Moreover, the Board ex-

pressed their appreciation to TRA for its efforts in launching registration for Domain Names (.bh & البحرين) through several local and global channels.

Updates on SIM Card Registration Regulation and its progress indicators as to prepaid and postpaid registration were also reviewed.

BCCI seminar on "The Technical Regulations for Plastic Products"

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is holding an awareness-raising seminar on the technical regulations for plastic products.

The event will be held today from 9:30 am in Al Majlis Hall on the third floor of Bait Al Tijjar

The event will be held today from 9:30 am in Al Majlis Hall on the third floor of Bait Al Tijjar in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism.

The seminar aims at raising the awareness of plastic manufacturers and suppliers of the technical regulations, and provide them with guidelines.

BCCI extends an invitation to the business community to attend the seminar.

Alba, GPIC win top RoSPA awards



Alba received the Gold Medal Award 2019 by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)

● The Awards were presented during a ceremony under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) and the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) won top awards

from the United Kingdom's Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

The awards were presented during a ceremony under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and attended by RoSPA Vice President Lord Jordan of Bournville, dignitaries in the field of occupational safety and representatives of companies around the world.

Alba received the RoSPA Gold Medal Award 2019 in recognition of its out-



GPIC President Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery received the Awards for GPIC

standing practices to ensure a safe and healthy work environment. GPIC received two awards – one for its outstanding role in the field of safety and health and safety practices in the chemical industry and the RoSPA International Award for Excellence in Health and Safety.

The Gold Medal Award was received by Alba's Safety, Health & Environment Manager, Nezar Hameed during the ceremony held at ExCeL, London. President Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery received the Awards for GPIC.

On this occasion, Alba's Chief Execu-

utive Officer, Tim Murray, said: "We are honoured to receive this prestigious accolade, for the sixth year in a row. We look forward to keeping the Safety momentum as we are on course for Alba's transformation to be the largest smelter in the world with the full ramp-up of its Line 6 Expansion Project by 31 July 2019."

In a statement, Dr Jawahery expressed pride in the company's approach under the leadership of the Board of Directors, led by Dr Ahmed Al-Sharyan, especially about investing in human resources.

BCCI holds discussion on "Labour Market Challenges"

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is holding the final session of its focus-group discussion themed "Labour Market Challenges".

The event falls in line with the directives of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa on empowering the private sector, and in a bid to conduct a comprehensive study on market challenges and propose solutions.

The meeting will be held on Thursday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am in Al Majlis Hall of Bait Al Tijjar and will deliberate about the impact of flexi work permit and irreg-



BCCI, Bait Al Tijjar

ular workers on local businesses and the national economy. BCCI extended an invitation to its members to enrich the session with their valuable input.

NBK joins hands with ParkPass

● ParkPass membership gives NBK customers access to multiple valet parking locations in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced signing a partnership with ParkPass, Bahrain, to give its customers complimentary access to valet parking services in multiple locations in Bahrain through ParkPass membership.

Customers can now avail of this exclusive offer using their NBK Gold credit card.



From right, Ali Fardan, GM, NBK, Omar Al-Khan, Managing Partner, Park Pass

The membership gives access to multiple valet parking locations in Bahrain such as Bahrain City Centre, Seef Mall, Al A'ali Mall, Moda Mall, Oasis Mall Juffair, Galleria Mall, Bahrain Bay (The Park & The Wharf), Block 338 and King Hamad University Hospital.

"We are extremely happy to have entered this partnership with ParkPass and are hopeful that more and more people of Bahrain will start using our credit cards and benefit from our unique offers," stated Ali Fardan, General Manager, NBK.

"We are excited that the customers will benefit substantially from this tie-up", said Omar Al-Khan – Managing Partner of ParkPass.

Souqalmal.com sets foot in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Souqalmal.com said it has landed an e-broker license in Bahrain and CBB approval to launch its flagship insurance comparison services in the country.

The ball was set rolling this April when the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) made sweeping regulatory and economic changes to support the introduction of insurance aggregators in Bahrain.

According to Founder and CEO, Ambareen Musa: "Bahrain ranks 3rd globally in Internet penetration and 10th globally in mobile penetration. Boasting one of the highest online and mobile penetration rates in the world, and a rapidly transforming digital landscape, Bahrain was the ideal market for us to

Boasting one of the highest online and mobile penetration rates in the world, and a rapidly transforming digital landscape, Bahrain was the ideal market for us to expand into."

expand into."

Dalal Buhejji, Senior Manager, Business Development – Financial Services of the Bahrain Economic Development Board noted: "We are delighted to welcome Souqalmal and we look forward to the transformation it will bring to the Insurance sector. Their expansion to the Kingdom is a clear indication of the opportunities available for companies with innovative digital solutions."

AMBAREEN MUSA

FOUNDER AND CEO, SOUQALMAL.COM

Currently, insurance penetration in the country, according to Bahrain FinTech Bay's Insurance Digitalization Report 2019, stands at just 2.27 per cent.

Findings from the report highlight the current lack of readily accessible consumer-relevant information in the local insurance market. The report shows that nearly 45pc of the surveyed insurers in Bahrain do not provide detailed product descriptions of insurance

products online, while 34pc do not provide any online product informational at all.

Bringing one of its core strengths – Its financial literacy initiative – to Bahrain, *Souqalmal.com* says it aims to fill this gap.

Khalid Saad, CEO of Bahrain FinTech Bay said, "We are delighted that one of the region's leading FinTechs is establishing a base in Bahrain and calling Bahrain FinTech Bay home."

Credited with being the first-ever personal finance comparison website in the UAE launching operations in 2012, Souqalmal.com has now become the fastest-growing insurance aggregator in the UAE. Today, the company offers the widest selection of insurance coverage to its users, ranging from car, travel, home and health insurance to more niche products like yacht and fleet insurance.

Al Baraka names new General Manager for ABG Sudan

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Banking Group (ABG) has named Elrasheed Abdelrahman Ali as the new General Manager of Al Baraka Bank Sudan, succeeding Abdullah Khairy who retired in June 2019.

Adnan Ahmed Yousif, Chairman of Al Baraka Bank Sudan and President & Chief Executive of Al Baraka Banking Group, thanked Abdullah Khairy for his efforts and leadership throughout his tenure as the GM of the Bank.

Adnan Ahmed Yousif added: "Elrasheed previously served as Deputy General Manager of Al Baraka Bank Sudan. His long-term experience and high-efficiency work style will enable him to lead the Bank towards further progress and growth during the next phase." Elrasheed has over 40 years



Elrasheed Abdelrahman Ali

of experience in a number of leading positions in Sudanese banks. He joined Al Baraka Bank Sudan in 2000 as Investment Manager and took charge as Deputy General Manager in 2015.

Beyontec, AJMS to develop IFRS 17 solution



From left, Sabarinathan R, EVP - Beyontec, Vivek Sethia, Co-founder & Director -Beyontec, Abhishek Jajoo, Partner & CEO - AJMS Global and Sridhar Rajam, Director - AJMS Global

TDT | Dubai

Beyontec Solutions, a global insurance technology solutions provider, and AJMS, a leading accounting, tax and governance, risk & compliance (GRC) consulting firm, have entered into a strategic partnership to develop a comprehensive IFRS 17 solution for the Middle East and African insur-

ance industries.

"We are delighted to partner with AJMS for developing the IFRS 17 specific software product as we see great synergies in our understanding of the insurance industry, and the combined ability to proactively consult and transition insurers into the new standards," said Vivek Sethia, Co-founder & Director -Beyontec.

AJMS will drive the product blueprinting for the new IFRS 17 solution being developed by Beyontec.

"Our insurance experience, IFRS consulting and implementation knowledge complement their deep domain knowledge and skill sets that are needed to develop a comprehensive solution on time," said Abhishek Jajoo, Partner & CEO of AJMS.

£778 million budget passed for Birmingham Commonwealth Games

London, United Kingdom

The British government voted a budget of £778million (\$990 million) for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Tuesday, double the amount contributed when the event was held in Glasgow five years ago.

The Games, in which 5,000 athletes from 71 nations compete in 19 sports between July 27 and August 7, will be the biggest sporting and cultural event staged in the West Midlands.

Birmingham beat Liverpool in a truncated all-English race to host the event in December 2017 after original host Durban was stripped of the Games after running into financial problems.

Central government will provide three quarters of the funding (£594 million) with a further £184m to be raised by

The last time the Commonwealth Games were held in the UK, Glasgow was given £372 million

Birmingham City Council.

The pot of public money will underwrite the city's preparations for the 11 days of sport and provide key funding for the Games' two main building projects: the redevelopment of Alexander Stadium and the construction of an aquatics centre.

"Having our budget confirmed is a key milestone for us and we can now look forward to delivering a fantastic Games for the people of Birmingham, the West Midlands and the coun-

try," Birmingham 2022's chief executive Ian Reid said.

However, the Commonwealth Games Federation is keen to highlight that Birmingham 2022 should cost the British public £200 million less than Gold Coast 2018 cost Australians when operational and capital costs are considered.

Commonwealth Games Federation president Dame Louise Martin said: "We are pleased to have confirmation of the public investment in Birmingham 2022, which reinforces the Commonwealth Games' position as a cost-efficient multi-sport event focused on delivering numerous long-term benefits for the host city.

"An important element of the budget detail is the significant decrease in direct Games delivery costs compared to Gold Coast 2018."

Al Hawaj shopping Bazaar opens doors with hot deals



The Bazaar continues until Saturday from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and resumes from 4 pm to 10 pm

TDT | Manama

Al Hawaj Shopping Bazaar brings exciting summer deals this June at Hall 2A of Bahrain International Exhibition

Centre (BIEC).

The Bazaar which began yesterday and continues until Saturday runs from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and resumes from 4 pm to 10 pm.

Discounts are available on a wide array of fabulous brands in perfumes, cosmetics, watches, skincare, leather bags, luggage items, gift sets, electronics, home appliances, and crystal

jewellery and accessories.

Also available are a wide range of world-famous brands: Swarovski, Samsung TCL, Samsonite, American Tourister, Guess and GC. Other special

offers are available for various range of customers.

In addition to a huge number of perfumes, cosmetics and skin care, Samsung is participating in this bazaar with a large col-

lection of home electronics with attractive offers and discounts.

Visit the BIEC for the Al Hawaj Shopping Bazaar. Entry is free. For more information call 16160000.

Investors rush to safety on US-Iran tensions

● Japan's currency, viewed also as a haven investment, jumped to a near six-month high

● Bitcoin held above \$11,000 after breaking the marker on Monday

● European stock markets were steady in afternoon deals

● Traders are keeping tabs on developments in the China-US trade standoff



A trader works after the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

London, United Kingdom

Rising tensions between the United States and Iran dampened the mood in equity markets yesterday as investors turned to safe havens the yen and gold, with the latter striking a near six-year high.

Oil prices steadied despite the US imposing further sanctions on key crude producer Iran, with investors bidding their time ahead of next week's key OPEC meeting on output.

Traders looked ahead also to crucial trade talks due this week between US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

"Geopolitical tensions weighed on the (stock) markets

yesterday after the US imposed new sanctions on Iran," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell. "Investors (are) switching their attention once again to gold as a safe-haven asset."

The precious metal struck \$1,439.65 an ounce yesterday, its highest level since September

2013, with a softer dollar lending additional support, according to traders.

Japan's currency, viewed also as a haven investment, jumped to a near six-month high at 107.41 yen to the dollar.

Meanwhile the return on 10-year German government bonds, another safe haven investment,

hit a record low of -0.33pc, which means investors are paying Berlin to hold their money.

Bitcoin held above \$11,000 after breaking the marker on Monday for the first time in 16 months.

The latest round of US sanctions against Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and military top brass meanwhile meant the "permanent closure of the path to diplomacy" with Washington, the Islamic republic's foreign ministry said.

Trump unveiled the new restrictions on Monday, days after Iran shot down a US drone that Tehran said had entered its air-

Key figures around 1330 GMT

Gold:	▲ at \$1,429.65 per ounce from \$1,407.41
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 107.03 yen from 107.29 yen at 2050 GMT
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1393 from \$1.1395
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2717 from \$1.2740
London - FTSE 100:	▲ less than 0.1pc at 7,401.92 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.1 at 12,260.31
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ less than 0.1pc at 5,519.65
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.2pc at 3,449.67
New York - Dow:	▲ less than 0.1pc at 26,739.42
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.5pc at 21,176.13 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 1.2pc at 28,185.98 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.9pc at 2,982.07 (close)
Brent North Sea oil:	▲ 0.14 cents at \$65.00 per barrel
West Texas Inter:	▼ four cents at \$57.86 per barrel
Bitcoin -	▲ at \$11,231.68 from \$10,925

Geopolitical tensions weighed on the (stock) markets yesterday after the US imposed new sanctions on Iran

RUSS MOULD

INVESTMENT DIRECTOR AT AJ BELL.

space.

Foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi's tweet provided a catalyst to sell Asian shares Tuesday.

However European stock markets were steady in afternoon deals, with Wall Street also little changed at the opening.

Traders were keeping tabs on developments in the China-US trade standoff as both countries' leaders prepare for crunch talks on the sidelines of this week's G20 summit in Japan.

World stock markets last week rallied after Trump flagged positive phone talks with Xi.

On Tuesday, Chinese state me-

dia said top-level negotiators for both sides had held more discussions ahead of the meeting, and "exchanged opinions on economic and trade issues".

The call took place "at the request of the US side" and they agreed to maintain contact, the Xinhua news agency said.

"The prolonged trade war between the two largest economies has downgraded global growth as more barriers to trade means higher prices," said OANDA senior market analyst Alfonso Esparza.

"Optimism remains high, but more details need to emerge before the market can fully price in how far apart the two sides really are."

Saudi stocks end losing streak

● Saudi snaps four-day losing streak

● Eight of 11 Saudi banks rise

● Egypt falls for a sixth day

● Financials drag Abu Dhabi, Dubai

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market snapped a four-day losing streak in late wave of buying yesterday, while other major Middle East bourses dropped after the United States imposed sanctions on Iran's leadership.

Saudi Arabia's share index was up 0.6 per cent with gains coming in last 30 minutes of trading. Banks led the late rally with Riyad Bank adding 2.8pc and Saudi British Bank climbing 2.7pc.

The head of state-run energy giant Saudi Aramco said it could use its spare capacity to meet customer demand, in comments designed to ease concerns over oil supply security caused by recent attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route.

Real estate shares also supported the index rise with Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development gaining 2.8pc.

Saudi Arabia earlier this week launched its new special residency scheme aimed at attracting wealthy and high-skilled



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.6pc » 8,650 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.5pc » 4,989 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.6pc » 2,623 pts
QATAR	▼ 0.5pc » 10,451 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.3pc » 13,831 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.5pc » 1,462 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.5pc » 3,891 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.2pc » 6,381 pts

foreign workers. The measure will allow expatriate workers freedom of movement, the right to own property and allow them to do business in the kingdom.

However other major Gulf markets fell after US President

Donald Trump targeted Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top Iranian officials with sanctions on Monday, increasing pressure on Iran after Tehran downed an unmanned American drone.

The Abu Dhabi index closed 0.5pc lower, weighed down by a 0.4pc drop in Emirates Telecommunications Group and a 0.7pc decline in the country's major lender First Abu Dhabi Bank.

In Dubai, the index was also down 0.6pc, with blue chip developer Emaar Properties dropping 1.3pc and its top lender Emirates NBD Bank slipping 0.9pc.

Qatar's index gave up early gains to trade 0.5pc down at

Saudi Arabia earlier this week launched its new special residency scheme aimed at attracting wealthy and high-skilled foreign workers.

close. Petrochemical maker Industries Qatar decreased 1.3pc and Qatar Islamic Bank dropped 1.1pc.

Egypt's blue-chip index was down 0.3pc, to register its sixth consecutive session of losses.

The market has been on the back foot after Egypt's first democratically elected president Mohamed Mursi died while on trial in a Cairo court.

US consumer confidence hits 21-month low

Washington, United States

in a

Anxieties jumped among American consumers this month as President Donald Trump's trade wars dragged on, sending an index of consumer confidence to a 21-month low, survey data showed yesterday.

Greater shares of the public now say jobs currently are hard to get and expect business conditions in the next six months to worsen, according to the Conference Board.

The unexpected weakening in confidence reversed two months of gains and could weaken retail sales at the end of the second quarter.

The Consumer Confidence Index sank nearly 10 points to a reading of 121.5, its lowest since September of 2017 and well below the result economists had expected.

"The escalation in trade and tariff tensions earlier this month appears to have shaken consumers' confidence," Lynn Franco, the board's senior director for indicators, said in a statement.

"Although the Index remains at a high level, continuing uncertainty could result in further volatility in the Index and, at some point, could even begin to diminish consumers' confidence in the expansion."

The index for the present situation fell more than eight points to 162.6 its lowest level

year while expectations fell more than 10 points to 94.1, the lowest level since January.

The share of those saying jobs are now "hard to get" rose 4.6 points to 16.4 percent. Meanwhile, hopes for higher income and stronger job creation sagged.

Those saying they expected business conditions to worsen jumped 4.3 points to 13.1 percent, also the highest level since January.

Late last month, President Donald Trump threatened to impose stinging tariffs on all US imports from Mexico, demanding that Mexican authorities do more to curb migration toward the southwest US border.

He withdrew the threat provisionally early in June but officials are currently preparing to slap tough new duties on \$300 billion in Chinese imports, which raise prices on popular consumer items like mobile telephones, laptops and apparel.



CAMPUS

CPISP initiates Candidacy Programme



The pre-selected students who reached the final stage of the Candidacy Programme selection process during an induction session

TDT | Manama

The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme (CPISP) has initiated its 'Candidacy Programme', which is the last stage of its process to select the recipients of ten scholarships for the year 2020.

The CPISP, in cooperation with Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), held an induction session to brief the sixty pre-selected students from public and private schools on

the courses and training they will receive during the Candidacy Programme.

CPISP Director, Dr. Cynthia Gessling, congratulated the pre-selected students for reaching the final stage of the selection process, praising HRH the Crown Prince's vision to develop young Bahrainis through education and training.

Dr. Gessling explained that during the Candidacy Programme, the students will complete a number of specialized

courses on critical thinking, academic writing, leadership, and communications.

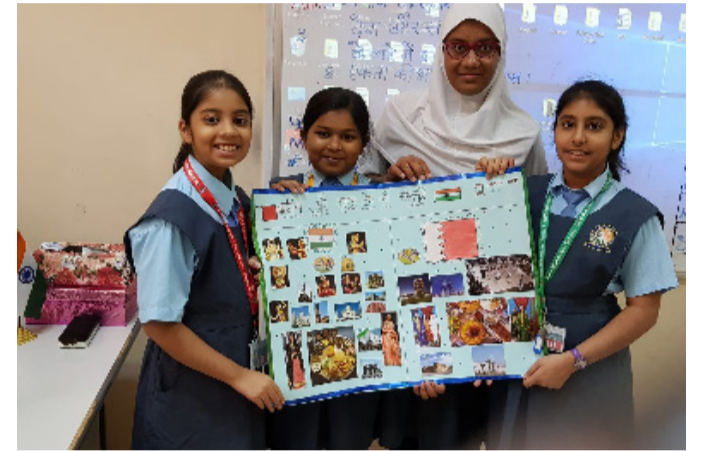
Also, the students will receive personality and career path assessments, preparation courses for the IELTS and SAT exams, and a Level 3 Certificate in Team Leading - granted by the UK-based Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Dr. Gessling highlighted that these courses aim to develop both personal and academic skills.

The CPISP will announce the

10 recipients of the Scholarship early next year, who will be selected based on their Grade Point Averages (GPA), their IELTS and SAT tests scores, and their results on the critical thinking and leadership courses.

Dr. Gessling thanked BIBF for its support and continued cooperation with the Programme, praising the quality of training offered by the Institute. She also wished the students a successful and productive experience.

NMS celebrate French and Sanskrit Week



Students present a chart during language week celebration

TDT | Manama

The New Millennium School marked the celebration of French and Sanskrit language week in the school from 9th to 13th June.

To improve the linguistic skills of the students in various languages, a number of literary activities were conducted while the students contributed to the event in their own way.

The students of French Language, carried out research and brought out the contrast and comparison of the political systems of France and India. They also had a cultural display and culinary session that brought out the uniqueness of the language and tradition.

The students of Sanskrit language delivered speeches on

various topics, recited Shlokas and poems and also prepared charts highlighting the significance of the language.

Furthermore, to promote the understanding of the artistic potential among the students, a variety of creative events were conducted during the special assembly. The students showcased many activities pertaining to the basic life skills and launched campaigns on the topic 'Clean NMS-Green NMS'.

Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geetha Pillai and Principal Arun Kumar Sharma complimented the students for their excellent feat in the Language week and appreciated the efforts of all the parents and teachers for the successful completion of this special week.

Capital School students attend Gravity's STEM learning course

TDT | Manama

Twenty students along with teachers from Capital School took part in Gravity's newly launched STEM Learning programme.

The trip was organized to create a unique experience for the students as part of the physics class curriculum in which the students were able to learn some of the laws of physics through flying in the wind tunnel, guided from start to finish by Gravity's qualified instructors and friendly staff.

STEM is Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and Gravity's STEM programme is designed to show students how science and technology are relevant to our lives and encourage them to build interest in these subjects and careers.



Capital School students during their visit to Gravity

Gravity's STEM tackled topics such as aerodynamics, physics and engineering. The students from Capital School engaged in this unique programme by at-

tending a lecture from Gravity's technical manager, and going on a tour around the entire facility to see the different components of a wind tunnel.

The students then participated in a short activity which was followed by some body flight demonstrations by Gravity's instructors.



Students take part in activities during the language week

Brendon Hopkins appointed as St Christopher's Chair of the Board of Governors

Brendon Hopkins, Group CFO of Bank ABC has been elected as the new Chair of St Christopher's School Board of Governors, with effect from 5 July. Brendon takes over from Tim Murray, CEO of ALBA, who is stepping down to return to the US after serving on the Board of the school for four years - two of which as Chair.

Brendon has served on the Board for the past two years as Founder Governor representing Bank ABC, as well as being the Honorary Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee of the Board. He and his wife, Sarah, have lived in Bahrain for five years, and have three children who attend St Christopher's Infant and Junior schools.

RCSI Bahrain celebrates medicine and nursing class of 2019

TDT | Manama

Ahead of its 10th Conferring Ceremony later this week, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) recently celebrated the graduating classes of 2019 during the annual School of Medicine and School of Nursing and Midwifery dinners.

University faculty, staff and alumni joined senior students, as they took a look back at their journey through University, following the culmination

of their final exams.

During the event, the respective Heads of Schools, Professor Joe McMenamin and Professor Seamus Cowman, spoke warmly of the departing students, congratulated them on their achievements and wished them the very best of luck in their future careers.

A number of academic and extracurricular awards were presented during the events, including medals for academic performances over course of their studies, as well as prizes for distinguished interns and clinical tutors.



Graduating class of RCSI Bahrain's School of Nursing and Midwifery

celebs

Iggy Azalea to release new album on July 19

Los Angeles

Rapper Iggy Azalea has announced that she would be releasing her new album on July 19.

The LP would mark Azalea's first since her debut record 'The New Classic', which released back in 2014.

"In My Defense: July 19th Pre Order: June 28," Azalea posted on Instagram along side the album art.

She also shared the inspiration behind her album art.

"It's a statement about women not having the ability to defend themselves under public gaze, not rebirth. I guess I don't feel women are really given a fair chance to be 'heard out' so how could anyone survive that amount of judgement."

"I wore a 'going out' dress and clutch because I wanted it to feel like I had been out somewhere and was clearly unprepared for a fight," Azalea tweeted.



Iggy Azalea

Beyonce 'wrote and performed' song for 'The Lion King', says director

Los Angeles

Beyonce, who landed her voice in the upcoming Disney remake 'The Lion King', has also written and performed a song for the film's soundtrack.

"We have all the original songs, but there's a song that she performed and wrote in the spirit of the production along with working with Lebo M., who's part of it with Hans Zimmer," People quoted director Jon Favreau saying during an interaction with Fandango on Monday. However, he kept Beyonce's track title a secret. The recently released tracklist for the film has a song titled "TBA", which is expected to be Beyonce's music.

"They were all collaborating with her and helping to bring this new piece of music into a film where there's already a very established musical personality to the piece," Favreau added.

Praising the composer Lebo M, he said, "So it was nice of them to have them working with her to allow the new song to feel organically a part of the new production."

The 37-year old has voiced Nala, Simba's bae in the film.



Beyonce

Was told not to talk too much about 'woman stuff' early in my career: Jessica Chastain

Los Angeles

Jessica Chastain says in the beginning of her career, she worried about the repercussions of being outspoken about women empowerment.

The actor said she was even advised by a male directors to not speak too much about "woman stuff".

Chastain, who has been at the forefront of pay parity movement in Hollywood, believes women no longer feel scared to criticize the industry.

"One big difference is the freedom women have to speak about the industry. In the beginning, I did feel a little bit of nervousness about criticising an industry that I was very lucky to

be involved in. After working my whole life to try to create a career, perhaps I was damaging it. I even had male directors say to me: 'You're talking too much about this woman stuff,' Chastain told The Independent.

A lot has changed in the gender politics in Hollywood after it was hit by the #MeToo movement in the wake of Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal, which birthed another campaign in Time's Up.

"But I've noticed that things are different for women coming into this industry. I just did a press tour (for Dark Phoenix) with Sophie Turner, and the freedom that she has to express herself and talk about injustices that she may see, it just comes naturally to her without a second thought. That means women now feel they can speak out without having their careers harmed," Chastain added.



Jessica Chastain

Marisa Tomei wants to star in sitcom

Los Angeles

Marisa Tomei says she wants to go back to the small screen and do a sitcom.

The 54-year-old actor, where she got her start in 1987's "A Different World", said she had the realisation after starring in a recreation of an "All in the Family" episode.

She played Edith Bunker in ABC's recent "Live In Front of a Studio Audience" event.

"I've wanted to do a show for a while because I want to be in one place for a bit of time. Part of it is just a different phase of life. After this 'All in the Family' live thing, I'm snake bit."

Pamela Anderson dumps soccer star boyfriend Adil Rami, accuses him of cheating, abuse

Los Angeles

Pamela Anderson dumped her boyfriend of more than two years, French soccer star Adil Rami, accused him of cheating on her and alluded that he may have been abusive during their relationship.

The "Baywatch" beauty posted a picture with her now-ex on Instagram Tuesday, writing, "It's hard to accept. The last (more than) 2 years of my life have been a big lie. I was scammed, led to believe ... we were in big love. I'm devastated to find out in the last few days that he was living a double life. He used to joke about other players who had girlfriends down the street in apartments close to their wives. He called those men monsters. But this is worse. He lied to

all. How is it possible to control 2 women's hearts and minds like this - I'm sure there were others. He is the monster. How could I have helped so many people @ndvhofficial and not be wise enough or able to help myself?"

Anderson, 51, tagged the National Domestic Violence Hotline's official Instagram account in her post. She went on to detail more allegations against the Marseilles-based soccer player, saying she spoke to his ex-girlfriend, Sidonie Biémont, with whom he shares twins Zayn and Madi, born in 2016, and hinted that Rami and Biémont's relationship wasn't actually over when she dated him.



Adil Rami and Pamela Anderson

George Clooney to direct, star in 'Good Morning, Midnight' film adaptation



George Clooney

Los Angeles

George Clooney has been roped in to direct and star in a feature film adaptation of Lily Brooks-Dalton's novel 'Good Morning, Midnight'.

The post-apocalyptic narrative focuses on the parallel stories of Augustine, played by Clooney, a lonely scientist in the Arctic, who tries to make contact with an astronaut on board a spacecraft trying to return home to Earth.

As part of the Netflix project, Mark L. Smith will adapt the screenplay from the famous sci-fi thriller, Variety reported.

Clooney and Smokehouse Pictures' Grant Heslov will produce the film.

"Grant and I couldn't be more excited to be involved with this incredible project. Mark is a writer we've long admired and his script is haunting. We're thrilled to be working with our friends at Netflix as well," said Clooney while talking about his upcoming project.

The two-time Oscar winner Hollywood star recently worked as the executive producer on Hulu's Catch-22 starring Christopher Abbott. The 'Syriana' star appeared in three episodes of the show.

Tributes to Michael Jackson flow on 10th death anniversary

Los Angeles

Michael Jackson's estate paid tribute to his artistry and charity Tuesday as fans make final preparations for gatherings to celebrate his memory on the 10th anniversary of the King of Pop's death.

"Ten years ago today, the world lost a gifted artist and extraordinary humanitarian," the Jackson estate said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"A decade later, Michael Jackson is still with us, his influence embedded in dance, fashion, art and music of the moment. He is more important than ever."

The estate called on fans to honor Jackson's memory by engaging in charitable acts "whether it's planting a tree,



Michael Jackson

volunteering at a shelter, cleaning up a public space or helping someone who is lost find their way. ... This is how we honor Michael," the statement read.

Fans plan to gather at Jackson's last home in the Holmby Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles, where the singer received a fatal dose of the anesthetic propofol on the afternoon of June 25, 2019. He was declared dead at a hospital at

age 50.

They also plan a vigil at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California, where Jackson was laid to rest two months later.

Some planned to gather around Jackson's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The anniversary comes a few months after the HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland" brought back child molestation allegations against Jackson and threatened to upend an image that had been largely rehabilitated since his death. Jackson's estate and his family have vehemently denied the stories told by two men in the documentary.

One group of fans planned a Hollywood rally Tuesday to declare his innocence. He was acquitted of the sexual abuse of a different boy in a 2005 trial.

Taylor Swift files to trademark her cats' names

Los Angeles

Taylor Swift's undying love for cats is no secret. The singer owns three cats and a lot of her Instagram posts are dedicated to her precious little cuddle buddies.

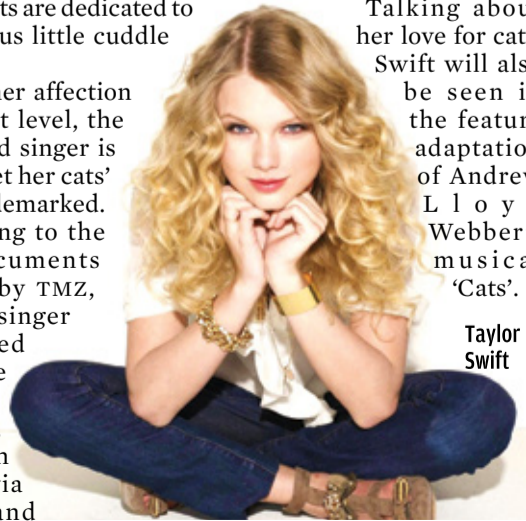
Taking her affection to the next level, the 29-year-old singer is all set to get her cats' names trademarked.

According to the court documents obtained by TMZ, the 'ME!' singer has applied for the trademark, "Meredith Grey, Olivia Benson, and

Benjamin Swift."

Benjamin Button is a recent addition to her family. The singer adopted the cat after he featured in her 'ME!' video earlier this year.

Talking about her love for cats, Swift will also be seen in the feature adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical 'Cats'.



Taylor Swift

SPORTS

Cavani heads Uruguay over Chile

● A late header from Edinson Cavani gave Uruguay top spot in Group C

● Uruguay to meet Peru in quarter-final

● Heartache for Japan, Ecuador as draw sends Paraguay into Copa quarters

Reuters | Rio De Janeiro

A late header from Edinson Cavani gave Uruguay a 1-0 win over Copa America holders Chile on Monday which saw them snatch top spot in Group C at their opponents' expense and set up a quarter-final meeting with Peru.

The striker glanced Jonathan Rodriguez's cross into the net in the 82nd minute to break the deadlock in a finely balanced game played with a fierce competitive edge even though both



Uruguay's Edinson Cavani (C) is marked by Chile's Charles Aranguiz (L) and Paulo Diaz

teams had already sealed their place in the last eight.

Cavani had been sent off in

Uruguay's 1-0 defeat to Chile in 2015 Copa America quarter-finals after being provoked

by Gonzalo Jara and he and his team mates celebrated the goal as if it had won them a trophy.



Luis Suarez appealed for a penalty when goalkeeper Gabriel Arias blocked a shot with his arm - inside the his own six-yard box

Chile, who had eased to victory in their first two games with Japan and Ecuador, came close to taking the lead in the second half when Paulo Diaz headed towards goal, but Uruguay defender Jose Gimenez nodded the ball off the line.

Uruguay's Luis Suarez had the best opportunity before the interval when he found space in the area but opted to shoot rather than pass to his unmarked team mates and his attempt was

deflected wide.

A spectator got onto the pitch late in the game and after evading security guards was tripped by Chile defender Jara.

Uruguay finished top of Group C with seven points, with Chile coming second on six and having to settle for a more challenging last-eight fixture with Colombia, who are the only side to have won all their three games in the tournament.

Meanwhile, Japan and Ecuador were left heartbroken as their 1-1 draw in Belo Horizonte on Monday saw them miss out on the Copa America quarter-finals, with Paraguay qualifying instead.

Japan and Ecuador faced a must win match in their bid to reach the knock-out stages as one of the two best third-placed finishers.

Peru had already secured their spot from Group A while Paraguay, in Group B, were left sweating on Monday's result having finished their campaign on Sunday with two points from three games.

Wimbledon seeding system disrespects rankings: Nadal

AFP | Madrid

Rafael Nadal has complained about Wimbledon's seeding system after the Spaniard was placed at number three, behind Roger Federer, for next week's grand slam in London.

The other three major tournaments all match their seeding to the official world rankings but Wimbledon uses its own formula to dictate the order, combining ranking points with form in grass-court competitions.

It means Nadal will be seeded three and Federer two at the All England Club this year, despite their positions being the reverse in the rankings list.

"Wimbledon is the only tournament of the year that does it like this," Nadal told Spanish television channel Movistar on Monday night.

"Obviously it would be better to be two than three but if they think I have to be three I will accept three and fight to win the

matches I have to win.

"Having said that, the only thing that doesn't seem right about this issue is that it is only Wimbledon that does it. If they all did it, it would seem more correct.

"It's not only about my particular case. There have been many occasions when players have played well all year on all surfaces but Wimbledon does not respect the ranking they have earned.

"And for this reason they get more complicated draws."

Nadal is yet to play an official match on grass this year while Federer warmed up for Wimbledon last week by winning his 10th title at the grass-court tournament in Halle.

Federer and top seed Novak Djokovic will be at opposite ends of the Wimbledon draw, separated until the final, but Nadal is guaranteed to have either Federer or Djokovic in his half, and could meet them in



Rafael Nadal celebrates recording match point in his final match against Dominic Thiem at Roland Garros (file photo)

the semis.

"For me personally, it means if I am three, to get to the final, Djokovic or Federer will be in my half," Nadal added.

"But that can only happen in the semi-finals and to get there I have to win five matches. Today

I'm far away."

Nadal claimed his 18th major title earlier this month by winning the French Open for a record-extending 12th time. He now sits behind only Federer's 20 grand slam triumphs in the all-time list of male champions.

Brazil's Coutinho owns up to poor Barca season

AFP | Porto Alegre, Brazil

Brazil midfielder Philippe Coutinho admitted on Monday he had a poor season with Barcelona over the last 10 months but insisted it would serve as a "lesson" for the future.

Coutinho was widely criticized this season for his performances at the Camp Nou but it hasn't stopped him retaining the favor of Brazil coach Tite, playing every minute for the Selecao at their home Copa America so far.

"Honestly, it wasn't a good season. It didn't produce what I



Coutinho joined Barcelona for a reported 160 million euros in January 2018

wanted, it didn't go as I hoped," said the 27-year-old, who joined Barca for a reported 160 million euros in January 2018.

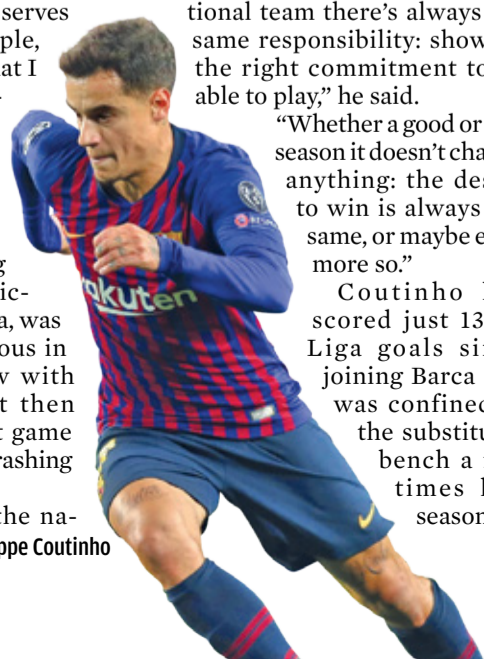
"But I hope it serves me as an example, as a lesson so that I want more, concentrate even more to be able to succeed."

Coutinho scored in Brazil's opening 3-0 Group A victory over Bolivia, was pretty anonymous in their 0-0 draw with Venezuela but then played his best game yet in the 5-0 thrashing of Peru.

"Here with the national team there's always the same responsibility: showing the right commitment to be able to play," he said.

"Whether a good or bad season it doesn't change anything: the desire to win is always the same, or maybe even more so."

Coutinho has scored just 13 La Liga goals since joining Barca and was confined to the substitutes bench a few times last season.



Philippe Coutinho



Ross Taylor

Imam-ul-Haq

- With five wins from five completed games (plus one no result), New Zealand were top of the 2019 Cricket World Cup table after six games.
- Pakistan have won just twice, but one of those wins was in their most recent match - beating South Africa by 49 runs.
- New Zealand beat West Indies last time out, having previously won at Edgbaston against South Africa - Kane Williamson scoring back-to-back centuries.

New Zealand

New Zealand have won all five of their completed matches so far at this Cricket World Cup, only missing out when the rain forced a no result against India.

The rain and the schedule meant a long wait between fixtures for Kane Williamson's side, but the captain has led from the front on their return. Against South Africa, he scored an unbeaten century as New Zealand chased 242 to win by four wickets in the final over.

Pakistan

Pakistan got back to winning ways last time out, posting 308/7 against South Africa at Lord's before restricting the Proteas to 259/9.

They had lost their previous two matches - batting second on both occasions. They could only reach 212/6 from 40 overs in reply to India's 336/5 from 50 at Old Trafford, losing by 89 runs on the DLS method. Against Australia, meanwhile, they folded for 266 at Taunton in reply to the Aussies' 307.

Probable XI

Martin Gupthill, Colin Munro, Kane Williamson (c), Ross Taylor, Tom Latham (wk), Colin de Grandhomme, Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner, Trent Boult, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry

Probable XI

Imam-ul-Haq, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Mohammad Hafeez, Haris Sohail, Imad Wasim, Wahab Riaz, Sarfaraz Ahmed (c, wk), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Amir, Shaheen Afridi

Head to Head

New Zealand and Pakistan drew their most recent ODI series, in the UAE in November 2018, with one win apiece and one result. New Zealand won the opening game, with Ross Taylor's 80 leading them to 266/9 before Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson helped restrict Pakistan to 219 all-out. Taylor's 86 not out could not lift New Zealand beyond 209/9 next up, however. Ferguson took three more wickets, but Fakhar Zaman's 86 helped Pakistan home with 9.3 overs - and six wickets - to spare. Pakistan have now won 54 of their 106 previous games against New Zealand, while the Black Caps have won 48.

Aussies hammer England

● Australia became the first team to reach semi-finals after defeating England by 64 runs

● Australia deliver hammer blow to England's Cricket World Cup hopes

● Hosts face missing semi-finals after Lord's batting collapse

AFP | London

Australia captain Aaron Finch hit a hundred before left-arm quicks Jason Behrendorff and Mitchell Starc shared nine wickets as the reigning champions thumped England by 64 runs at Lord's yesterday to book their place in the semi-finals of the World Cup.

Finch made exactly 100 in a total of 285-7 before England slumped to 221 all out with 32 balls left.

The recalled Behrendorff took 5-44 -- his first five-wicket haul in a one-day international -- while Starc became the leading bowler at the tournament with 19 scalps thanks to a haul of 4-43.

For England, who entered the showpiece event as the top-ranked side in ODI cricket, this was a second straight defeat after their shock 20-run loss to Sri Lanka.

The host nation, bidding to win a first World Cup title, can still qualify for the semi-finals but they are likely to need to beat at least one of India and New Zealand in their remaining two group games.

"There are teams that you have confidence playing against but I have had plenty of low scores against England as well," said man-of-the-match Finch.



Australia's Aaron Finch plays a shot

"It was nipping around first thing. We were as tight as we could be and then took advantage of any width."

England's reply saw them lose a wicket off just the second ball of their chase, with the struggling James Vince -- only playing because Jason Roy was out with a hamstring injury -- bowled by a Behrendorff inswinger.

Starc then took two wickets in nine balls.

Test skipper Joe Root was plumb lbw to an inswinger for eight before England captain Eoin Morgan (four) fell into a hooking trap when a top-edge was held safely by Pat Cummins at fine leg.

Australia, who had lost 10 of their

previous 11 ODIs against England, were in complete charge with the hosts now 26-3.

England have surged to the top of the ODI rankings on the back of aggressive run-scoring but the worry for Morgan's men is that too many of their top-order appear to know only one way to bat.

Careless England

Jonny Bairstow, for example, fell next to a careless hook off Behrendorff before Stokes and Jos Buttler (25) repaired some of the damage with a fifth-wicket stand of 71.

Buttler was well caught by Usman Khawaja, running round and staying just inside the deep square leg bound-

Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
Australia	7	6	1	0	0	0.906	12
New Zealand	6	5	0	0	1	1.306	11
India	5	4	0	0	1	0.809	9
England	7	4	3	0	0	1.051	8
Bangladesh	7	3	3	0	1	-0.133	7
Sri Lanka	6	2	2	0	2	-1.119	6
Pakistan	6	2	3	0	1	-1.265	5
West Indies	6	1	4	0	1	0.190	3
South Africa	7	1	5	0	1	-0.324	3
Afghanistan	7	0	7	0	0	-1.634	0

ary off Marcus Stoinis.

Stokes defiantly hit Glenn Maxwell for two sixes in three balls but, shortly before completing his fifty, the all-rounder pulled up with a calf injury.

Starc was brought back to take a key wicket and duly obliged with a thunderbolt yorker, his 18th wicket of the tournament, that ended Stokes's 115-ball innings of 89, including eight fours and two sixes.

Stokes's dismissal left England 177-6 in the 37th over and effectively ended the contest. Starc ended the match when he dismissed Adil Rashid.

Earlier Finch, dropped on 15, and fellow opener David Warner (53) came through some testing early overs to share a stand of 123 as too many of England's pacemen, with the exception of Chris Woakes, dropped short.

The skipper's exit sparked a late flurry of wickets but Australia had enough runs on the board.

Both Warner, the World Cup's leading run-scorer, and Steve Smith were booed as they entered and exited the field following their recent return from year-long bans for ball-tampering.

Finch went to his century thanks to a misfield by Woakes but next ball he miscued a hook off Jofra Archer and Woakes held the catch at fine leg.

Australia

A. Finch c Woakes b Archer	100
D. Warner c Root b Ali	53
U. Khawaja b Stokes	23
S. Smith c Archer b Woakes	38
G. Maxwell c Buttler b Wood	12
M. Stoinis run out	8
A. Carey not out	38
P. Cummins c Buttler b Woakes	1
M. Starc not out	4
Extras (lb4, w4)	8
Total (seven wickets, 50 overs)	285

England

J. Vince b Behrendorff	0
Bairstow c Cummins b Behrendorff	27
J. Root lbw b Starc	8
E. Morgan c Cummins b Starc	4
B. Stokes b Starc	89
J. Buttler c Khawaja b Stoinis	25
C. Woakes c Finch b Behrendorff	26
Moeen Ali c Carey b Behrendorff	6
A. Rashid c Stoinis b Starc	25
J. Archer c Warner b Behrendorff	1
M. Wood not out	1
Extras (lb5, b1, w3)	9
Total (all out, 44.4 overs)	221

The skipper faced 116 balls, with 11 fours and two sixes in his second century of this World Cup following his 153 against Sri Lanka.



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