

American actress Pompeo robbed in Italy

“Greys Anatomy” star Ellen Pompeo says she had her purse snatched by a thief while she was on a vacation in Italy. She took to Instagram on Friday to share her experience, reports etonline.com. **P17**

THE DAILY tribune



Nicki Minaj not dating Eminem **17** SHOW

WORLD **13** Ireland aborts ‘abortion ban’

Saudi coalition foils attempted attack

Dubai
The Saudi-led coalition said it has foiled an attempted attack by an unmanned drone in Saudi Arabia’s southern city of Abha. Colonel Turki Al Maliki, spokesman for the Arab Coalition fighting in Yemen, said the Saudi Air Defence unit assigned to the airport detected an unknown body at 13:45 pm local time and destroyed it, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Coalition experts who inspected the wreckage said it was of a drone that belonged to the terrorist Houthi militia, identified as an Iranian UAV Ababil.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday received a delegation of US Congressmen, headed by Congressman Darrell Issa, at Riffa Palace. The Crown Prince stressed the importance of further strengthening cooperation and coordination with the United States across various fields, highlighting the longstanding strategic partnership between both countries.

Works Ministry renovates 2,690 houses under special scheme

● The budget allocated for the project this year is **BD2.4 million.**

TDI|Manama

Under the Cities and Villages Development Project, the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning has completed the renovation of 2,690 houses this year, it emerged. Ministry Undersecretary Dr Nabil Mohammed Abu Al Fateh said the ministry has also signed contracts to complete the renovation and main-

tenance of 135 houses belonging to low-income families. The number of completed houses is expected to exceed 2,900 by the end of this year. He explained that the project aimed at the development of cities and villages while improving the lives of low-income families. “The budget allocated for the project is BD2.4 million for the financial year 2018-2019.” “The ministry has been able to achieve important milestones in this project. Restoration of 2,900 houses to raise the standard of living of some families is particularly important in a community as closely as the Bahraini community,” he explained.

Pakistan announces general elections

Islamabad
Pakistan will hold general elections on July 25, a presidential spokesman said yesterday, offering the prospect of what would be only the second ever democratic transfer of power in the nuclear-armed country. “The president has approved July 25 as the date for holding general elections in the country,” a spokesman from Mamnoon Hussain’s office said.

Cyclone dies, horror lives on

Mekunu, which has been downgraded to a tropical storm, may affect parts of Saudi Arabia until Tuesday

● The storm flooded Socotra’s villages and capsized boats, leaving much of the island without access to communications.

Muscat

Two people, including a child, were killed and three others went missing in the Omani province of Dhofar after Cyclone Mekunu hit the southern region of the Gulf Arab country, Omani police and state news media said yesterday. The three missing were Asian nationals, state news agency

ONA reported. Mekunu started to weaken to a tropical storm in Oman and authorities began clearing operations yesterday after the heavy rain but warned residents to stay in their homes, with run-off from river valleys flooding most main roads in Dhofar. The cyclone also killed at least seven people in the Yemeni island of Socotra, a Yemeni official said on Saturday. At least 40 people were missing. Yemen declared a state of emergency on Thursday for Socotra, which lies between southern Yemen and the Horn of Africa and is renowned for its unique animal and plant life. The storm flooded Socotra’s villages and capsized boats, leaving much of the island without access to communications.



An Oman official directs a loader driver Friday to tear away a median to drain a flooded street in Salalah after Cyclone Mekunu causes heavy rains.

As wind and rain began to pummel southern Oman during the day, they extended the closure of the city’s airport until Saturday. Meanwhile, latest satellite images, analysis of weather maps and the results of numerical

models of Cyclone Mekunu have shown that it has become a second class cyclone and is expected to move north to northwest, with the eye of the storm away from Saudi Arabia. The center of the storm is likely to be about 350 kilometers away and the wind speed around the center, is expected to be between 157 to 167 km/h, according to the General Authority of Meteorology and Environment Protection (GAMEP). The commission’s predictions indicate that the tropical situation, in Oman and the Republic of Yemen is likely to change. The cyclone, which has been downgraded to a tropical storm, may affect parts of the Kingdom, starting from the dawn on Saturday to next Tuesday.

TASTY TALK

Pair of Japanese premium melons sell for record \$29,300

Tokyo

A single pair of premium melons yesterday fetched a record 3.2 million yen (\$29,300) at auction in Japan, where the fruit is regarded as a status symbol. Seasonal fruit offerings in Japan routinely attract massive sums from buyers seeking social prestige, or from shop owners wanting to attract customers to “ooh and aah” over the extravagant edibles.



The winning bid was placed by a local fruit packing firm for the first Yubari melons to go under the hammer this year at the Sapporo Central Wholesale Market in northern Hokkaido, officials said. The figure — enough to buy a new car in Japan — topped the previous record for the luxury fruit, which fetched 3.0 million yen two years ago. “Yubari melons are growing well this year as sunshine hours have been long

since early May,” said market official Tatsuro Shibuta. Yubari melons are considered a status symbol in Japan — like a fine wine — with many being bought as a gift for friends and colleagues. The best-quality Yubari melons are perfect spheres with a smooth, evenly patterned rind. A T-shaped stalk is left on the fruit, which is usually sold in an ornate box.



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Strong US ties stressed

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has stressed that international cooperation is of utmost importance under the current circumstances, noting that Bahrain seeks to strengthen its relations with various countries, including the United States of America.

The Premier affirmed Bahrain's keenness to ensure that its ties with US should always be strong to pave the way for constantly bolstering cooperation between them, being allies with long-standing relations.

"We want to see every country in the region enjoying security and stability, and we very much count on the United States to ensure balance and stability in the region and the world," he said.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the region's security situation should always remain stable, given its political and economic weight, as well as its global influential role, noting



HRH the Premier in conversation with Mr Issa

that the events are unfolding rapidly and they have to be dealt with in a way that achieves the aspirations of the region's countries and peoples.

HRH the Premier was speaking while receiving a US Congress delegation, led by Congressman, Darrell Issa.

The Prime Minister asserted that US President, Donald Trump, came at a crucial time, and has taken the right de-

velopment process, stressing that the kingdom allocates great importance to economy and that the government is doing its utmost to diversify the sources of non-oil income resources.

The delegation praised HRH Premier's successful leadership of the government, as well as his influential contributions to regional stability and development thanks to his statesmanship and experience.

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Hi-tech scanners to screen containers, trucks

Manama

Bahrain has imported four hi-tech scanners to screen containers and lorries.

The Customs Affairs had signed an agreement with the Swiss-based Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) to import the latest generation of the hi-tech Nuctech equipment.

"The King Fahd Causeway and the Khalifa bin Salman Seaport will each get two scanners to screen trucks and container," said Customs President Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al-Khalifa.

The new scanning technologies fulfill the second goal of the customs strategic plan (2017-2020) to supply this vital sector with financial resources and cutting-edge technologies.

The ministry invited bids in mid-2017 to supply the customs affairs with latest scanning equipment. The package



The new scanners will slash the waiting time for checking goods and enhance the performance of the customs procedures.

SHAIKH AHMED

was then awarded to SGS. The scanners are expected to be installed, along with their facilities and compartments, within 14 months.

The customs officers will be able to process 120 trucks on average per hour, using the new hi-tech devices, up from 20 lorries at present.

"The new scanners will slash the waiting time for checking goods and enhance the performance of the customs procedures," said Shaikh Ahmed.

'Executive-legislature relations vital for growth'

The Crown Prince affirmed that the Kingdom's development programme is built on solid foundations, enabling Bahrain to overcome different challenges facing the region.

Manama

The Crown Prince has emphasised the significance of strong relations between the executive and legislature branches for the development of the nation.

This came as His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister,

visited the majlis of Al Fadhala family, Al Rumaihi family and Al Kaabi family. The Crown Prince affirmed that the Kingdom's development programme is built on solid foundations, enabling Bahrain to overcome different challenges facing the region.

Prince Salman highlighted that collaboration between the Executive and Legislative branches has further advanced the Kingdom's development

and promoted the role of the private sector as an engine for growth, noting that within the past three years 134 laws have been introduced to deliver on the objectives of HM King Hamad's vision.

The Crown Prince affirmed that Bahrain's institutions are underpinned by a robust regulatory and strategic framework, which comprises the Kingdom's constitution, the National Action Charter and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, all of which are designed to enhance development opportunities for citizens.



The Crown Prince extended his best wishes on the holy month of Ramadan. The hosts and guests expressed their gratitude for HRH the Crown Prince's visit and acknowledged his continuous contribution to the Kingdom's development.

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A batch of 74 Bahrain Bayan School students graduated at a ceremony under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad's representative for charity work and youth affairs HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa. The school's 24th graduation was attended by senior officials, academicians and school staff.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, received a delegation of US congressmen, led by Darrell Issa. The delegation, on an official visit to the kingdom, also includes Congressmen Stephen Lynch and Matthew Gaetz. The minister praised the historical and strategic relations between Bahrain and the United States of America and their continuous development at all levels, affirming the keenness of the Kingdom to promote the interests of the two friendly countries and meet the aspirations of their peoples.

BIG STORY
big story

Can a victim marry her rapist?

Nineteen women organisations including Bahrain Women Union have come out in open against Article 353 of Bahrain Penal Code

● Call to scrap the draconian article gains momentum

TDT|Manama
Thamer Tayfoor/Muhannad Mansour

Lawyers in the Kingdom say it's high time to scrap the legal loophole that allows rapists to escape jail if they marry their victims.

They allege Article 353 is still being retained in the Bahrain Penal Code because of the presence of backward-looking elements in the society, who continue to wield strong influence on the lawmakers.

Senior lawyer Ahmed Al Mulla said the clause no longer exists in many Arab countries. "Egypt was the first country to introduce this law, followed by all Arab countries. However, due to pressure from human rights groups, many countries including Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria and Lebanon have scrapped the 'marriage clause,'" he said.

"In Morocco, a 16-year-old girl committed suicide, after being forced to marry her rapist, through a family settle-



We have reviewed the matter with Interior Ministry, the Supreme Judicial Council, the NIHR and legal advisers to the council. They all rejected the removal of the article.

MR BINHOWAIL

ment to extricate him from death penalty. Lawyers and civil rights activists fought hard to repeal the article."

Echoing a similar view, lawyer Faisal Al Jamaan said, "Rape is the highest level of violence against women. It degrades and humiliates her. There is no official statistics in Bahrain on this subject. Social order, customs and traditions in Bahrain and other GCC countries reject marriages between rapists and their victims."

"In Bahrain, many rape cases have ended in marriages to preserve the honour of families. The community pressure plays an important role in these circumstances," she pointed out.

On May 8, 2018, the House of Representatives discussed the amendment of Article 353. However, the draft law was withdrawn and the voting was postponed.

Nineteen women organisations including Bahrain Women Union have come out in open against the "draconian" article. They even expressed their anger over the inhuman side of forcing the victim to live with her rapist.

Meanwhile, on the flip side, a lawmaker affirmed that the Council of Representatives is not showing any leniency towards rapists as accused by women organisations.



Article 353 of Bahrain Penal Code states that no person shall be sentenced to a penalty for committing any of the crimes stipulated in the preceding articles if a valid marriage is held between him and the victim. If he has been given a final verdict before the marriage contract, execution shall cease and his criminal effects shall end.

Defending the committee's decision not to scrap Article 353, Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee Chairman Abdulla BinHowail said, "Emotions shouldn't be involved while discussing such sensitive matters and legislations."

"These organisations portray that the committee is against the punishment of rapists, which is incorrect. The committee seeks the toughest punishment for rapists, but these procedures should be taken in co-ordination with the related official authorities," BinHowail said.

Elaborating further, the lawmaker explained, "We have reviewed the matter with Interior Ministry, the Supreme Judicial Council, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) and legal advisers to the council. They all rejected the removal of the article."

"The offender will be punished, whether he marries the victim or not. What the committee suggested, in consensus with the concerned authorities, is to maintain the article and follow judges' assessment, with regard to exempting the offender if he marries the victim, which is very much rare in our society," he added.

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The Bitcoin bug

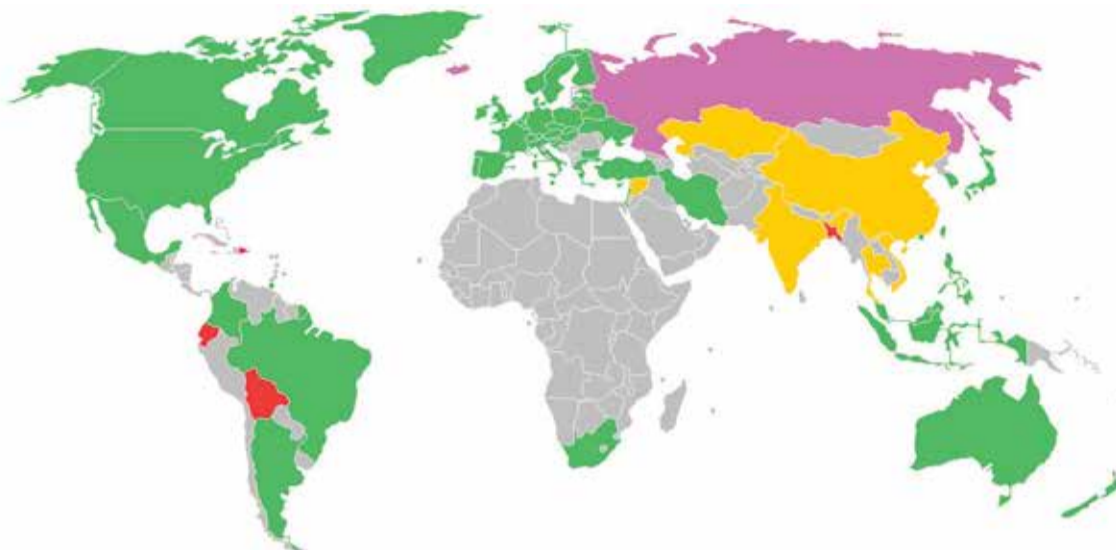


Central Bank of Bahrain doesn't recognise trading in cryptocurrencies

● There are no laws in Bahrain that regulate the Bitcoins system, therefore it's not 100 per cent safe.

● Bitcoins trade have been booming on Bahraini websites and social media networks

● With the beginning of this year, more countries have begun to legally recognise bitcoins, including European Union (EU) states, Canada, the US and several African and Asian countries



■ Permissive (it's legal to use bitcoin)
 ■ Contentious (some restrictions on legal usage of bitcoin)
 ■ Contentious (interpretation of old laws, but bitcoin isn't prohibited directly)
 ■ Hostile (full or partial prohibition)

TDT|Manama
 Muhannad Mansour

Amidst rumours doing rounds about Bahrain opening its first Bitcoin shop, investors here are unclear over the legal aspects with regard to investing in cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoins have been making headlines all over the world, with many countries recognising it as an approved currency, while an equal numbers of countries warning of its negative impacts on the economy.

Managing Director of INFINITIWARE, a Bahraini artificial intelligence company, Ameen Al Tajer, explained to Tribune that "Bitcoins are basically a digital currency created by an anonymous person or entity named Satoshi Nakamoto almost a decade ago".

"Unlike ordinary financial systems, they're operated by a decentralised authority. Nakamoto introduced this system in 2008 shortly after the global recession occurred, as an alternative for the ordinary centralised banking system, which was blamed for the recession. The new system allows in-

dividuals to make transactions using the peer-to-peer (P2P) technology, removing third parties or any centralised authorities over transactions. Fundamentally, using this technology protects users' privacy by not revealing their identity and location. As a system, it has its pros and cons," Mr Al Tajer commented.

He affirmed that the system isn't regulated nor recognised by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and many other governmental authorities of the world. On January 7 this year, CBB Governor Rasheed Al Miraj warned of the speedily spreading Bitcoins, stressing that "It's not included in the currencies recognised by the CBB Law", but at the same time confirming that "CBB cannot prevent Bahrainis from using it in transactions abroad". The governor's statements came during a discussion at Shura Council.



The new system allows individuals to make transactions using the peer-to-peer (P2P) technology, removing third parties or any centralised authorities over transactions.

MR AL TAJER

He told council members, "Bitcoins are a virtual currency that is traded in some countries. There are countries that have banned their use and their circulation is not legal in Bahrain. But we cannot prevent Bahrainis from investing in it outside Bahrain. However, we warn against dealing with it."

But, in the absence of official regulations, Bitcoins trade have been booming on Bahraini websites and social media networks. Additionally, an actual shop is set to open soon in Riffa area, as mentioned by an online ad.

So with this new financial fad closely approaching Bahrain, how safe is it to invest in Bitcoins?

Mr Al Tajer clarified that there are no laws in Bahrain that regulate the Bitcoins system, therefore it's not 100 per cent safe.

"In this system, transactions are operated anonymously. But this has its ad-

vantages and disadvantages. It protects users' privacy, but at the same time, it could be utilised to serve some illegal activities. Some users' could be easily victimised by scammers. Most scams are done through Initial Coins Offering (ICO), in which users are offered to buy shares of projects using bitcoins, similarly to actual projects. In such a non-regulated system, if the money is lost, there is no possible way of retrieving it. That's how scammers get away with their cons," Mr Al Tajer said.

With the beginning of this year, more countries have begun to legally recognise bitcoins, including European Union (EU) states, Canada, the US and several African and Asian countries. This also includes Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which allow the trade of Bitcoins following strict regulations that exempt official monetary authorities of bearing any responsibility of users' protection.

According to reports, it's highly anticipated that Bahrain will soon permit the new system by issuing certain official regulations. The speculations appeared as the Kingdom recently announced the adoption of the Blockchain technology to operate some services of the General Directorate of Traffic, a governmental authority. But Mr. Al Tajer underlined that the adoption of the Blockchain system doesn't necessarily pave the way for the approval of Bitcoins in Bahrain, stating that "they're different".

The expert added, "What's being promoted isn't true. The Blockchain system isn't a parallel of the Bitcoins system. Although they follow similar methods, they're not typical. It follows cryptocurrency methods to process transactions. With the recent announcement of the government, it's expected for more similar technologies to be adopted here to complete transactions at official authorities in a secure and quicker manner. But Bitcoins may take a while before they're legally traded in the Kingdom."

Air conditioners, a special blessing for vendors

● The vendors say it has been an excessively hot year and the heat was affecting their business.

TDT|Manama

Air conditioners installed inside the Central Market in Manama offer special blessings to vendors as well as consumers alike.

Air conditioners have been a long-time demand from the part of vendors here. And now the cooling system will boost the massive fruit and veggie shopping extravaganza during the Ramadan season, they said.

The shoppers were facing a lot of problems because of the scorching heat in the summer season beneath the Central Market roof.

They said it has been an excessively hot year and the heat was affecting their business and during summer weather with high temperatures and high humidity the fruits get decayed easily.

Meanwhile, the vendors said the outbreak of Nipah virus in the Indian state of Kerala has not affected fruit business in the central market.

"We deal with imports of fruits mainly from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and



A view of the Central Market, and, right, newly-installed air conditioners



Saudi Arabia." The UAE and Bahraini governments earlier urged their citizens in Kerala and elsewhere in south India to exercise caution following a

deadly Nipah virus outbreak that has killed at least 10 people.

On Twitter, the Bahraini consulate in Mumbai urged citizens "to be

cautious" till the situation is under control", while the UAE consulate in Kerala advised Emirati nationals to take precautions and follow the in-

structions of Indian authorities. It also gave contact numbers for UAE citizens to call in the event of emergencies.

A fine balance

Many welcome the move by Shura Council, while some express reservations

TDT|Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The recent move by the Shura Council to impose fines up to BD50,000 and maximum jail sentences of three years for defaming individuals on social media has evoked mixed response from the public. The proposed amendment to 2014 Cyber Crimes Law will now be reviewed by the Cabinet before referring back to the National Assembly in six months.



Iran has one of the toughest punishments for cyber crimes in the whole world. Punishments can range from fines up to 15 years in prison and in some cases even death penalty.



<p>”</p>  <p>There are laws against defamation and slander in most countries, including Bahrain. So it makes sense to have a law for insulting someone on social media. This law, if passed, will make people think twice and choose their words carefully before posting something.</p> <p>HASHEM MANDEEL, CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>”</p>  <p>The law is not adequate and clearly defined, hence it should not be approved as every human has a different evaluation of what is insulting him and what not. How can a court judge decide on that matter, I mean what is insult, what is fun?</p> <p>KAI MIETHIG, TOP EXECUTIVE</p>	<p>”</p>  <p>Some people misuse social media without knowing the effects it would cause in a society. I've seen many keyboard warriors spreading rumors. No character assassination should be tolerated in our beautiful kingdom.</p> <p>MUHAMMAD FAROOQ, SALES MANAGER</p>	<p>”</p>  <p>If implemented, the law would bring a negative image to the Kingdom. It's like showing an apple to a child and threatening him with consequences if he eats it. Even if he doesn't want it, the threatening would certainly arouse some interest to make a try.</p> <p>DAWOOD FAKHRUDDIN, CONTENT WRITER</p>
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FEMI ANNA ISLAND TOPPER



Femi Anna Ivan who scored 97.6% is the Island Topper

Schools shine in CBSE XII exams

The Central Board of Secondary Education declared the CBSE Class 12 results via its official website on Saturday. The overall pass percentage increased to 83.01 per cent from 82.02 per cent seen last year. Girls performed better than boys in the CBSE Class 12 results with a pass percentage of 88.31 per cent in comparison to boys' 78.99 per cent. The top position in the CBSE Class 12th results was secured by Meghna Srivastava, who got 99.8 per cent with a score of 499 marks out of 500. Meghna comes from the humanities stream and is a student of Step By Step School in Noida.

”
Meghna Srivastava, who has topped the CBSE Class 12 examination, said there was no secret formula for her success and it was only consistent hard work that had paid off.



Meghna Srivastava



CBSE Result 2018 for Class 12th: Overall pass percentage is 83.01% & the top three regions are Trivandrum (97.32%), Chennai (93.87%) and Delhi (89%).

THE INDIAN SCHOOL

In keeping with the tradition of academic excellence, the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) has achieved a pass percentage of 99.3, the highest in seven years, in Class XII exam in which a total of 665 students appeared. ISB has noted that 17 of their students have achieved A1 in all subjects. Blessy Joy Sathya who secured 97.2 per cent (486 out of 500) is the school topper. Karthik Madhusoodanan who scored 96.4% (482 out of 500) achieved the second place and Namitha Ann Binu with 96% (480 out of 500) secured the third place in the school. All the three school toppers are from the Humanities stream. Simreen Kaur stood first in the Science stream securing 95.8 per cent. Nithesh Hariharan who scored 95.6 achieved the second place while Alvin Antony Shaju and Athira Suja Prakash who scored 95.4% shared the third place. Shalini Sethu Madhav stood first in Commerce stream securing 93.8 per cent. Anjana Sundar who scored 93.2% won the second place and Anabelle Maria Pinto with 92.6% won the third place. ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, Members of the Executive Committee and Principal V R Palanisway congratulated the students, the teachers and the parents for architecting excellent results in the exam.



Blessy Joy Sathya Karthik Madhusoodanan Namitha Ann Binu



Simreen Kaur Nithesh Hariharan Athira Suja Prakash



Alvin Antony Shaju Shalini Sethu Madhav Anjana Sundar

99.3
is the highest pass percentage achieved by The Indian School in the past seven years.



Anabelle Maria Pinto

THE NEW MILLENNIUM SCHOOL-DPS

The ninth batch of XII students achieved 100% success in the New Millennium School-DPS Bahrain. Of the 67 students who appeared in the Science stream, 27 students secured above 90 % marks and 26 students excelled with A grade in all subjects. Of the 28 students who appeared in the commerce stream, 11 students secured above 90 % marks and 12 students excelled with A grade in all subjects. In Humanities stream 5 students secured above 90 % marks and 5 students excelled with A grade in all subjects. In the SCIENCE stream BALUSU BHANURAM topped the school with 97.4 %. In the commerce stream Shukti Jain topped the school with 97.4 %. In the humanities stream Femi Anna Ivan topped the school with 97.6 %. 102 students passed with first division (ie. 60% and above) and 79 students excelled with distinction (ie.75% and above).



Femi Anna Ivan Shukti Jain Balusu Bhanuram



Nathasha Nikita Dias NISHA DHANASEKARAN MAHALAKSHMI RAGHAVAN



Aparna Shree Sivanandam Sindhuja Sundar Reet Varma

School Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geetha Ravi Pillai congratulated the students, staff members, Principal and parents for their sincere efforts and guidance and wished the students all the success throughout their life.



Kshitij Betjewargi

NEW INDIAN SCHOOL



Gayathri Saravanan Gaurangi Rahul Pradhan Aron George Sunil Dona Binu

The New Indian School (NIS) secured 96% pass percentage. Out of 125 students, who appeared for the examination, 81 students have scored first class including 48 students with distinction. 105 students have got A1 grade in different subjects. Gayathri Saravanan emerged the topper from the Science Stream with 95.4%, Gaurangi Rahul Pradhan won the second position with 93.4% and Aron George Sunil took the third position with 92%. In the Commerce Stream Dona Binu is the topper with 89.6%; Bony Ann Thomas took the second position with 88.8% and Megha Annie Alex took the third position with 86.2%. Chairman Dr. T.T. Thomas, Director Dr. V. Gopalan and Principal K. Gopinath Menon expressed happiness at the outstanding results and thanked, teachers and parents for their combined efforts.



Bony Ann Thomas Megha Annie Alex

Girls did better than boys with a pass percentage of 88.31 per cent against boys' 78.99 per cent, officials at the CBSE headquarters said.

IBN AL HYTHAM ISLAMIC SCHOOL



Raseena Mariam Adarsh Shinju Chandran Fatima Muhammad Muhammed Munir

The eighth batch of Ibn Al Hytham Islamic School, consisting of 94 students appeared at the All India Senior Secondary School Examination (Class XII) 2018, conducted by CBSE. 35 students passed in the Science Stream while 57 students passed in the Commerce Stream. Raseena Mariam won the first position with 91.20% and Adarsh Shinju Chandran won the second position with 90.60% in Science Stream. And in commerce Stream Fatima Muhammad Muhammed Munir achieved top position with 84.80 % and the second position was won by Athifa Sarafuddeen Thyvalappil with 84.20%. School Chairman Shakil Ahmed Azmi and Principal Dr. Mohammad Tayyab congratulated the students and parents for the achievement and wished the students the best career ahead.



Athifa Sarafuddeen Thyvalappil

AL NOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Students of Al Noor International School have achieved 100 percent success in Class XII exam. In the Science stream Ashwin Kadungattil Suresh is the top scorer. Mehak Hameed Sheikh is the top scorer in the Commerce stream. School Chairman Ali Hassan Ali Hassan Director Muhammad Mashood and Principal Amin Heleiwah congratulated the students and teachers for the result.



Ashwin Kadungattil Suresh



Mehak Hameed Sheikh

business

Al Khobar becomes first Mena city to pilot 5G

● The 5G ultra-high speed mobile broadband is set to revolutionise the internet in the years ahead

The National | Al Khobar

Al Khobar, a city in Saudi Arabia's oil-rich Eastern Province, became the first city in the Middle East and North Africa to test 5G wireless connectivity after it launched a pilot project last week, the Kingdom's Ministry of Culture and Information said.

"Because the capabilities of this technology are very high, it will pave the way for the development of other technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), virtual reality and robots," the ministry cited a United Nations telecoms body report on the pilot as saying. The 5G ultra-high speed mobile broadband is set to revolutionise the internet in the years ahead.

Developing next-generation broadband and other communications technologies is one of the pillars of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 economic diversification plan to reduce the country's



Al Khobar to award 5G licences to operators by end of 2019. - Pic Bloomberg



Launch will pave way for entry of technologies such as Internet of Things, virtual reality and robots

dependence on hydrocarbons. A sophisticated digital infrastructure is seen as crucial to supporting the development of the private sector and creating jobs for Saudi nationals. The Kingdom set up the National 5G Taskforce last year with the aim of overseeing the administrative, regulatory and other changes required to introduce next-generation mobile broadband. Led by a steering committee, it oversees the progress

and engages with stakeholders including the government, telecoms operators, equipment vendors etc. Al Khobar's pilot was subsequently launched after Saudi Arabia's national telecoms regulator, the Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC), issued licences for testing a 5G mobile network using 100 megahertz (MHz) channels with a bandwidth of 3.6-3.8 gigahertz (GHz) – the speeds required for 5G.

Riyadh to exclude German firms from govt tenders

● Move likely to hit Siemens, Bayer and Boehringer Ingelheim as well as carmaker Daimler

● Saudi Arabia is a significant trade partner for Germany, generating 2017 exports worth 6.6 billion euros (\$7.7 billion), according to Germany's statistics office

Middle East Monitor | Riyadh

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has ordered that no more government contracts be awarded to German companies, in a sign of continued irritation over Berlin's foreign policy in the Middle East, German magazine Der Spiegel reported on Friday.

Citing no sources, it said the move was likely to hit major companies such as Siemens, Bayer and Boehringer Ingelheim as well as carmaker Daimler.



Saudi Crown Prince

Saudi Arabia is a significant trade partner for Germany, generating 2017 exports worth 6.6 billion euros (\$7.7 billion), according to Germany's statistics office.

Siemens last year won an order worth around \$400 million to deliver five gas turbines for a combined heat and power plant being built in Saudi Arabia. Daimler soon after secured an order for 600 Mercedes Benz Citaro buses from Saudi bus operator SAPTCO.

A senior German businessman in Saudi Arabia, who asked to remain anonymous, told Reuters on Friday that especially the healthcare sector was currently feeling added scrutiny when applying for Saudi tenders.

Qatar bans products from Arab Quartet



Inspectors will visit stores to insure compliance with the ban. Pic Bloomberg

Bloomberg | Doha

Almost a year after Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Qatar, the country has decided to stop consuming goods from its rivals.

Qatar's economy ministry ordered shops to strip shelves of products imported from the four countries, according to a circular sent yesterday.

Inspectors will visit stores

to insure compliance with the ban.

A spokesman for the economy ministry didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt cut economic and diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing the country of financing terrorist groups, having close ties with Iran. The rift forced Qatar to shift import routes to Kuwait and Oman, and buy goods from Iran and Turkey.

Egypt bans YouTube for a month

IANIS | Cairo

Egypt's top administrative court ordered yesterday to block YouTube streaming website for one month over hosting a video that denigrates Prophet Muhammad of Islam, the Egyptian lawyer who filed the lawsuit said.

"The ruling is final, unappealable and enforceable," Xinhua quoted lawyer Mohamed Hamed Salem as saying. A lower administrative court has previously ordered the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA) to do so, but the latter appealed against the ruling, citing it was hard to implement.

The top administrative court rejected the NTRA appeal on Saturday and upheld the temporary ban as a final, unappealable ruling.

The lawsuit dates back to 2013 when the Egyptian lawyer demanded to ban YouTube in Egypt until the offensive clip on Prophet Muhammad (PUBH) and other anti-Islamic videos are removed. "The ruling is a punishment for YouTube website that will cost it massive economic losses," Salem said.

The controversial video first appeared on YouTube in 2012, raising a wave of anti-American outrage in the Muslim world.

Alwane Bahrain teams up with 'Khair Plus'



Emad Al Asfoor and Ammar Awachi

TDT | Bahrain

Alwane Bahrain Society has joined hands with "Khair Plus" initiative to promote it among women societies and female volunteers. The initiative will provide a professional website along with a package of solutions that includes payment solutions, for societies to utilize without bearing any cost. Ammar Awachi, chairman of Alwane Society, said that a package of IT support that "Khair Plus" avails is also offered to female entrepreneurs, businesswomen and businesses that run social responsibility projects to develop the community. Awachi emphasized on the importance of extending the proper support to women who run civil societies, entrepreneurs, businesswomen in order to shift

their mindset toward a knowledge-based economy and utilization of new tech trends in order to maximize the benefit.

Emad Al Asfoor, CE of Bab Al Bahrain company, the proprietor of "Khair Plus" said that the initiative in its 4th phase was able to provide more than 40 civil societies with e-payment solutions and funds management with high accuracy and transparency. Al Asfoor added that he is proud of the achievement made so far.

Al Asfoor shed light on the importance of cooperating with Alwane Bahrain Society to maximize the efforts to reach out to the targeted audience being, in this case, female entrepreneurs, businesswomen and women societies for the purpose of encouraging them to take advantage of the new digital solutions.

Kuwait's VAT delay is credit-negative: Moody's

The National | Kuwait

Kuwait's decision last week to delay the implementation of VAT is "credit-negative" for the country as it signifies a slowing down of fiscal reform efforts amid rising oil prices, according to a Moody's report.

The decision may cost Kuwait up to 1.6 per cent of its \$114 billion of gross domestic product in foregone revenues, although the net fiscal effect will more than offset by the recent rise in oil prices, the rating agency said.

"The decision clearly illustrates how if oil prices remain around their current levels, the resolve for reform among some GCC countries is likely to weaken," the report said. "It significantly increases the probability that some countries may delay or even cancel their VAT plans."

Kuwait announced last Tuesday it would delay the introduction of a 5 per cent VAT until 2021, three years after the original implementation date agreed with the other GCC countries to reduce their dependence on oil revenues. Only Saudi Arabia and the UAE have implemented it so far, while the remaining countries have notionally agreed to implement it this year or at the start of 2019.

Apple may launch NFC features with nextgen 'iOS 12'

● Since Apple first launched NFC-capable devices iPhone 6 and 6s in 2014, its implementation of NFC has been primarily restricted to "Apple Pay" transactions



Apple staff are already using NFC

IAN S | San Francisco

With Apple Worldwide Developers Conference 2018 (WWDC) set to kick-off on June 4, the company is likely to announce a change in near-field communication (NFC) policies when it releases its next-generation 'iOS 12' operating system (OS).

"The change to the near-field communication, or NFC, chip, which is expected to be announced next month, could pave the way for people to use iPhones for other security-sensitive interactions, from paying transit fares and opening car doors to verifying their identity in other ways," tech website *The Information* reported late on Friday.

Notably, since Apple first launched NFC-capable devices iPhone 6 and 6s in 2014, its implementation of NFC has been primarily restricted to "Apple Pay" transactions. "Apple employees are already using their iPhones to unlock doors at Apple Park, likely via custom badge readers detailed in Federal Communications Commission filings last year,"

the report added. With the new capabilities, iPhones would be able to unlock NFC-enabled doors and potentially transmit data to transit systems, personal authentication devices and more.

“The change to the near-field communication, or NFC, chip, which is expected to be announced next month, could pave the way for people to use iPhones for other security-sensitive interactions, from paying transit fares and opening car doors to verifying their identity in other ways

THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEBSITE

US reach deal to put China's ZTE back in business

● ZTE was banned in April from buying US technology components for seven years for breaking an agreement reached after it violated US sanctions against Iran and North Korea

Reuters | Washington

The Trump administration told lawmakers the US government has reached a deal to put Chinese telecommunications company ZTE Corp back in business after it pays a significant fine and makes management changes, a senior congressional aide has said.

US President Donald Trump appeared to confirm the deal in a tweet late on Friday. "I closed it down then let it reopen with high level security guarantees, change of management and board, must purchase US parts and pay a \$1.3 billion fine."

The reported deal involving China's second-largest telecommunications equipment maker ran into immediate resistance



After ZTE makes a series of changes it will be allowed to do business in US

in Congress, where Democrats and Trump's fellow Republicans accused him of bending to pressure from Beijing to ease up on a company that US intelligence officials have suggested poses a significant risk to US national security.

ZTE was banned in April from buying US technology components for seven years for breaking an agreement reached after it violated US sanctions against Iran and North Korea. After ZTE makes a series of changes it would now be allowed to re-

sume business with U.S. companies, including chipmaker Qualcomm Inc.

The deal, earlier communicated to officials on Capitol Hill by the Commerce Department, requires ZTE to pay a substantial fine, place U.S. compliance officers at the company and change its management team, the aide said.

The Commerce Department would then lift an order issued in April preventing ZTE from buying US products. ZTE shut down most of its production af-

“I closed it down then, let it reopen with high level security guarantees, change of management and board, must purchase US parts and pay a \$1.3 billion fine

DONALD TRUMP

ter the ruling was announced. Fox News said Trump told them on Thursday that he had negotiated the \$1.3 billion fine with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a phone call.

ZTE, which is publicly traded but whose largest shareholder is a Chinese state-owned enterprise, agreed last year to pay a nearly \$900 million penalty and open its books to a U.S. monitor. The penalty stemmed from for breaking an agreement after it was caught illegally shipping U.S. goods to Iran and North Korea, in an investigation dating to the Obama administration.

Kenya to rein in mobile lending craze

Reuters | Nairobi

Kenya built a reputation as a pioneer of financial inclusion through its early adoption of a mobile money system that enables people to transfer cash and make payments on cell-phones without a bank account.

Now, a proliferation of lenders are using the same technology to extend credit to the banked and unbanked alike, saddling borrowers with high interest rates and leaving regulators scrambling to keep up.

This week, the finance ministry published a draft bill on financial regulation which covers digital lenders for the first time. A key aim is to ensure that providers treat retail customers fairly, it said.

"We have a lot of predatory lending out here, which we want

to regulate," Geoffrey Mwa, director general of budget, fiscal and economic affairs at the treasury, told reporters on Thursday. As it was for mobile cash, Kenya is something of a test case for the new lending platforms. Several of the companies involved, including US fintech startups, have plans to expand in other frontier markets, meaning Kenya's regulation will be closely watched.

From having had little or no access to credit, many Kenyans now find they can get loans in minutes.

George Ombelli, a salesman for a company importing bicycles who also owns a hair salon and cosmetics shop with his wife, has borrowed simultaneously from four providers over the past year.

He took small loans from two



Some fintech lenders are expanding

Silicon Valley-backed US fintech firms, Branch and Tala, to see what rates he would get, as well as from a new mobile app launched by Barclays Kenya in March and a business loan from Kenya's Equity Bank.

Citing a slowdown in his business due to elections-related political turmoil last year, Ombelli said he has fallen behind on some of his payments. He fears he will be reported to one of Kenya's three credit bureaux,



From having had little or no access to credit, many Kenyans now find they can get loans in minutes. 2.7 million people have been negatively listed on Kenya's Credit Reference Bureaux

jeopardizing his chances of being able to borrow more to grow his business.

"I've realized having too many loans is a problem," the 38-year-

old father of three said in an interview in a coffee shop in Nairobi's business district.

He is not alone. In the last three years, 2.7 million people out of a population of around 45 million have been negatively listed on Kenya's Credit Reference Bureaux, according to a study by Microsave, a consultancy which advises lenders on sustainable financial services. For 400,000 of them, it was for an amount less than two dollars.

Global implications

Some of the fintech lenders are expanding into other African countries and into Latin America and Asia, saying their aim is to help some of the billions of people who lack bank accounts, assets or formal employment climb the economic ladder.

US adds 15,000 visas for non-farm workers



Kirstjen Nielsen

Reuters | Washington

The Trump administration will make available an additional 15,000 H-2B visas, meant for temporary non-agricultural workers, this fiscal year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said on Friday. The increase would help relieve U.S. businesses that depend on seasonal labour during the busy summer tourist season.

Many of them had complained that a visa shortage was pushing them toward economic ruin.

The U.S. government had issued 66,000 such visas this year, through a lottery for the first time, versus the usual first-come, first-served basis.

"The limitations on H-2B visas were originally meant to protect American workers, but when we enter a situation where the program unintentionally harms American businesses it needs to be reformed," DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in a statement.

Microsoft starts building tool to spot bias in AI algorithms

IAN S | San Francisco

After Facebook announced its own tool to detect bias in an algorithm earlier this month, a new report suggests that Microsoft is also building a tool to automate the identification of bias in a range of different Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms.

The Microsoft tool has the potential to help businesses make use of AI without inadvertently discriminating against certain groups of people, MIT Technol-



The new tool can stop discrimination against certain people

ogy Review reported on Friday. Although Microsoft's new tool may not eliminate the problem of bias that may creep into Machine-Learning models altogether, it will help AI researchers catch more instances of unfairness, Rich Caruna, a senior researcher at Microsoft who is working on the bias-detection dashboard, was quoted as saying.

"Of course, we can't expect perfection -- there's always going to be some bias undetected

or that can't be eliminated -- the goal is to do as well as we can," he said.

The issue of bias will become crucial as more customers make use of these algorithms to take important decisions.

At its annual developer conference on May 2, Facebook announced its own bias-catching tool, called Fairness Flow, as the social network has found that the number of people using AI to make important decisions is increasing at the company.

Markets drop as oil, energy suffer worst losses in months

Gold slipped 0.1pc to \$1,303.70 an ounce. Silver lost 0.8pc to \$16.55 an ounce. Copper fell 0.6pc to \$3.08 a pound

● US markets will be closed Monday for the Memorial Day holiday.

AP | New York

Energy companies and oil prices took their worst losses in months Friday on reports OPEC countries plan to produce more oil soon. Stock indexes finished an indecisive week with small losses.

US crude oil sank 4 per cent after multiple reports indicated that Russia and OPEC could start producing more oil soon. They cut production at the start of 2017 following a big buildup in supplies that had pushed prices lower.

In November they extended that cut through the end of 2018, but according to reports this week, they might agree to start raising production in June. US crude finished at a three-year high Monday and has fallen 6pc since then.

The drop in the price of oil has meant sharp losses for energy companies, but it gave airlines a boost as investors anticipated lower fuel costs. Bond yields declined again, which hurt banks but helped dividend-payers like household goods makers.

Wall Street also focused on quarterly results from retailers. Gap plunged after it said its namesake brand is still struggling, but Foot Locker soared after it said sales of premium shoes improved.

The S&P 500 index slid 6.43



A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (Courtesy of WSJ)



The drop in oil prices meant sharp losses for energy cos, but it gave airlines a boost as investors anticipated lower fuel costs

of smaller-company stocks lost 1.29 points, or 0.1pc, to 1,626.93.

US crude dropped to \$67.88 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 3pc to \$76.44 a barrel in London. Increased oil production and lower prices could reduce profits for energy companies. Exxon Mobil fell 1.9pc to \$78.71 and Chevron gave up 3.5pc to \$122.19.

Among airlines, Delta gained 2.7pc to \$55.87 and American rose 3.1pc to \$44.91. The stocks have skidded over the last few months as the rising price of oil increased their fuel costs and cut into their profits. Delta stock is flat in 2018 and American Airlines has fallen 14pc.

Bond prices kept rising. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.93pc from 2.98pc. The falling yields helped household goods makers break

out of their recent struggles. Toothpaste maker Colgate-Palmolive added 2pc to \$63.75 and cereal maker Kellogg rose 2.7pc to \$65.23. The stocks, and others that pay large dividends, have lagged behind the rest of the market as investors found technology firms and consumer-focused companies more attractive thanks to signs of strong growth in the US economy.

Fiat Chrysler fell 2pc to \$21.82 after saying it's recalling 4.8 million vehicles in the US because in rare circumstances drivers may not be able to turn off the cruise control. The company warned owners not to use cruise control until the vehicles can be fixed with a software update. Drivers can still stop the cars using the brakes.

Wholesale gasoline slid 2.3pc to \$2.18 a gallon. Natural gas remained at \$2.94 per 1,000 cubic feet. Germany's DAX rose 0.6pc and the CAC 40 in France fell 0.1pc. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.2pc. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 0.1pc and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.2pc. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.6pc.



Tesla seeks to dismiss securities fraud lawsuit: US court document

Reuters | San Francisco

Tesla Inc on Friday asked a court to dismiss a securities fraud lawsuit by shareholders who said the electric vehicle maker gave false public statements about the progress of producing its new Model 3 sedan.

In a filing in federal court in San Francisco, Tesla said that its statements about the challenges the company faced with Model 3 were "frank and in plain language," including repeated disclosures by Chief Executive Elon Musk of "production hell."

The company says its Model 3 has experienced numerous "bottlenecks" from problems with Tesla's battery module process at its Nevada Gigafactory to general assembly at its Fremont plant.

Tesla is under pressure to deliver the Model 3 to reap revenue and stem massive spending that has put Tesla's finances in the red. The ramp of the Model 3, Tesla said in the court filing, was "the first



Tesla CEO Elon Musk (Courtesy of the Guardian)

of its kind," with difficulties likely to crop up after it got underway.

The lawsuit filed last October seeks class action status for shareholders who bought Tesla stock between May 4, 2016 through October 6, 2017, inclusive. It said shareholders bought "artificially inflated" shares. Tesla made such statements during the lead-up to, and early production of, its Model 3 sedan and failed to disclose that the company was "woefully unprepared" for the vehicle's production, the lawsuit said.

Audi CEO: Crisis not over, vows to stay on

Frankfurt

Audi Chief Executive Rupert Stadler said the diesel emissions affair was not over and promised to stay at the helm of the German luxury car maker.

Stadler also told the Augsburg Allgemeine newspaper that he did not rule out further vehicle recalls. Audi said this month it had discovered emissions-related problems with a further 60,000 cars, dealing a fresh setback to its parent Volkswagen more than 2-1/2 years after it first admitted to cheating US diesel tests.

"We are still running into issues that we report im-



Audi CEO Rupert Stadler

mediately to regulators," Stadler told the newspaper. "The diesel crisis hasn't yet ended."

Audi's chairman appealed to workers earlier this year to ignore a media report that Stadler was about to be ousted in an effort to quell further unrest Volkswagen.

End 'hide and seek' Brexit approach, Barnier tells UK

Brussels

The EU's Brexit negotiator urged the British government on Saturday to stop playing "hide and seek" over its aims for trade ties and warned that delays in agreeing on judicial oversight risk wrecking any Brexit deal.

In pointed remarks after an ill-tempered week of talks in Brussels, Michel Barnier insisted he would not be intimidated by what he called a "blame game" from London of accusing the EU of inflexibility in rejecting British demands for close cooperation on security, trade and other issues after Brexit.

In the text of a speech in Portugal to experts in EU law, he accused British leaders of failing to understand that it was the unique legal structures of the EU, to which Britain had contributed for 45 years, which underpinned trust among member states. These, he said, could not be



Michel Barnier, the European Union's chief Brexit negotiator

extended to a non-member. The former French minister's comments come two days after an EU official dismissed as "fantasy" London's ideas for a customs deal, the border with Ireland and other issues.

British ministers said those remarks were not "helpful". Both sides are hoping to make progress on a treaty before Prime Minister Theresa May meets the other 27 EU national leaders in a month in Brussels.

They aim to agree a treaty by October.

Pre-deal oil levels possible: Russia

Russia had pledged to cut oil production by 300,000 bpd to 10.947 mln

● Putin said that the price of \$60 "suits Russia"

● Russia's output reached a 30-year high of 11.247 million bpd

● OPEC and non-OPEC ministers meet in Vienna on June 22-23

Reuters | Moscow

A return to the oil production levels that were in place prior to the 2016 deal to cut output is one of the options for easing curbs, Russia's energy minister said.

Sources said this week that Saudi Arabia and Russia were discussing raising OPEC and non-OPEC oil production to ease

17 months of strict supply curbs amid concerns that a price rally has gone too far.

"We have agreed that within a month we will additionally study this issue ... I can say that one of the options which could be considered is attaining the levels which were in place at the time of the signing of the agreement," RIA news agency on Saturday quoted the minister, Alexander Novak, as saying.

OPEC and non-OPEC ministers meet in Vienna on June 22-23, and a final decision will be taken there. The existing deal came into force on January 1, 2017, and envisaged that global oil producers would cut their combined output by 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd).

An industry source said that one of the options under discussion was to cap oil production in Russia at the level of October 2016, the baseline level for the current agreement. In Oc-



Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak

tober 2016, Russia's oil output reached a 30-year high of 11.247 million bpd.

Russia had pledged to cut oil production by 300,000 bpd to 10.947 mln. But in March and in April this year it failed to fully comply with the deal, pumping at the pace of 10.97 million bpd, a 11-month high. OPEC's semi-annual meeting in Vienna on June 22 will be followed



OPEC and non-OPEC ministers meet in Vienna on June 22-23, and a final decision will be taken there

by a meeting with non-OPEC producers including Russia the following day.

Novak was also quoted as saying he expected Iran to reduce its output by no more than 10 percent as a result of the move by the US to withdraw from a nuclear deal and reinstate sanctions against Tehran.

Qatar, region's bad boy

One must comprehend that the Qatari problem is rooted deep in the waters of the Gulf



KHALIFA A ALFADHEL

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt severed political and diplomatic relations with Qatar in June 2017 because of its direct and sometimes tacit support of terrorists and radical groups throughout the Middle East. The Anti-Terror Quartet was supported by numerous peace-loving states, which reaffirmed their pledge to the global war on terror. The Trump administration also confirmed on many occasions its maintenance of regional peace and security, through its commitment to the elimination of radicalism, not limited to its clear policy against Iran and the controversial nucle-

The invasion of Dibal is a recent episode that violates the basic norms of international law. Qatar detained Dutch civilians for being construction workers and continues to mistreat foreign labourers.



Qatar is accused of supporting many terror organisations including Hezbollah in Lebanon

ar deal, in addition to its pressure on the Qatari regime to relinquish its immoral ambition.

However, one must comprehend that the Qatari problem is rooted deep in the waters of the Gulf. Qatar had a serious maritime dispute with its neighbour Bahrain, when it annexed the historical capital of Zubarah (north-

west of the Qatar peninsula) in 1937, in what could be considered under international law. Qatar forcefully displaced the indigenous people of Zubarah, where the Arab tribes loyal to the King of Bahrain were forced to flee after a massacre of the locals — an episode that would have been considered by today's modern human rights regime a serious human rights violation that would have required the intervention of the international community. However, this is just considered to be

“history” to many, and perhaps only a story to tell generations to come about the hostility of the Qatari regime.

After both Bahrain and Qatar became members of the UN in 1971, and were founding members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE and Oman, Qatar launched a military attack on Dibal — a small shoal a few miles off the coast of Bahrain — in 1986. The Qatari military kidnapped a number of Dutch workers who were installing a coastal securi-

Referendums losing integrity -

Social media advertising makes it hard to know who is influencing



JOCHEN BITTNER

Irish voters have decided to legalise abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. The debate itself contained few new arguments; instead it circled around a question most other European countries have asked themselves over the past 40 years: What is the proper balance between the mother's right to self-determination and the unborn child's right to life?

But there's another question, less about the substance of the issue and more about the campaign around it: In an era of global social media and well-funded foreign activists, what does it mean for a country to hold a vote at all? And if a democracy is no longer insulated from foreign influence, what integrity can any referendum claim?

Forget hacking and illegal vote-buying. What happened in Ireland is more transparent,

but also, for that reason, more troubling.

The vote, Ireland's fifth referendum in five years, was aimed at repealing the Eighth Amendment, which bans abortion except in cases where the mother's life is in danger. For such a small country, the vote has attracted enormous global attention, perhaps because Ireland remains a bastion of Catholicism in Europe.

But Ireland is also a place that should be relatively safe from outside influence. Given its long history in the shadow of Britain, the country has long held its sovereignty and self-determination especially dear. Also, as a relatively small country, voters are used to personally knowing their political representatives, who spend a lot of time campaigning door to door.

Ireland also has rules and laws in place to check undue influence: The Broadcast Authority of Ireland ensures balanced reporting on radio and television, and many of the country's major newspapers and magazines have followed. What's more, it is illegal to take money from abroad for political purposes:

The government has ordered Amnesty International Ireland to return 137,000 euros (about \$160,000) donated by George Soros, the American billionaire, allegedly to promote the repeal of the Eighth Amendment.

None of these safeguards, however, can protect Ireland when it comes to social media. And, in fact, Ireland's experience is demonstrating just how vulnerable voters are to online influence.

Abortion is, of course, an issue that is far from unique to Ireland; it is part of a larger cultural struggle, being fought around the world, over the conviction that liberalism has gone too far. For anyone in the world anxious to defend — or destroy — that status quo, the next battleground is Ireland. No wonder many Irish feel as comfortable in this referendum campaign as a fly under a magnifying glass.

“Democracy for sale in social media's Wild West,” wrote The Business Post on May 6, highlighting the latest findings of the Transparent Referendum Initiative, a group established to monitor social media advertising before the vote. The group studied



A 'yes' campaign supporter is jubilant over the referendum victory in Ireland.

hundreds of Facebook users and the sorts of referendum-related ads that appeared in their feeds. Supporters of Dublin's Gaelic football club were targeted by anti-abortion ads, while those

who identify as customers of the city's Brown Thomas department store would get pro-abortion ads.

In many cases, those ads traced back to foreign activist

groups, like Live Action and the Radiance Foundation, both American organisations.

Or consider that Save the 8th, the most prominent organisation against repealing

1933

The Walt Disney Company releases the cartoon *Three Little Pigs*, with its hit song "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?"

1965

Vietnam War: American warships begin the first bombardment of National Liberation Front targets within South Vietnam.

1996

First Chechen War: the Russian President Boris Yeltsin meets with Chechnyan rebels for the first time and negotiates a cease-fire.



2006

The 6.4 Mw **Yogyakarta earthquake** shakes central Java with an MSK intensity of VIII (Damaging), leaving more than 5,700 dead and 37,000 injured.



on.

ty station, in accordance with a unanimous GCC resolution adopted two years earlier. The purpose of the station was to monitor Iranian naval activity, which could have affected the interests of all stakeholders, especially since this period was the aftermath of the revolution under Khomeini. Bahrain did not retaliate for the invasion, because of the mediation and good offices of neighbours, which resulted in a Qatari retreat a few weeks later.

The Qatari regime did not stop there; it took the issue to the In-

ternational Court of Justice, and submitted forged documents to the tribunal, regarding Dibal and other disputed islands. Qatar gave up the counterfeit papers after the confirmation of their falseness by international experts. The pattern shows established Qatari behavior of aggression against its restrained neighbour Bahrain, which had sovereignty over the Qatari peninsula from as early as 1762.

The invasion of Dibal is a recent episode that violates the basic norms of international law.

Qatar detained Dutch civilians for being construction workers, and continues to mistreat foreign labourers, especially in the construction sites of the FIFA World Cup stadiums and other facilities, which Doha will host in 2022. There is no guarantee to restrict the behavior of Qatar from its neighbours, especially with its declared close co-operation with Iran, which is in its own right a state sponsor of terror.

(Khalifa A Alfadhel is a visiting fellow at the University of Cambridge.)

- Irish lessons

ing the voters



None of these safeguards, however, can protect Ireland when it comes to social media. And, in fact, Ireland's experience is demonstrating just how vulnerable voters are to online influence.

for Save the 8th, rejected the notion that there was anything amiss in such cross-border activism, or in using data analysis to microtarget voters. But he also warned that outside activists might have limited success in a place like Ireland. "They think what works in Alabama will work here," he told me. "It doesn't. I wish they'd leave."

He also said that the growing concern in Ireland over foreign influence was a diversion. "The media and the yes side are so obsessed with the online ads, because when the political es-

tablishment loses, they will need an explanation for the defeat," he said.

Days after our meeting, Google announced that it would ban all referendum advertising from its platforms, including YouTube, to safeguard what a company spokesman called "election integrity," a decision that McGuirk and other anti-abortion campaigners were quick to denounce. Facebook has announced similar limits.

Calls are growing in Ireland for new regulations on social media advertising targeted at voters, but if anything is done, it will come too late for the May 25 vote.

In any event, experienced campaigners on both sides here believe they will win or lose the argument the old-fashioned way: walking the neighbourhood, knocking on people's doors, engaging in real-life conversation and showing how much politicians and campaigners actually care about their cause.

Let's hope they're right.

(Jochen Bittner is a political editor for the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit* and a contributing opinion writer.)
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TWEETS

01



Wisdom is the ability to use the resources we are given in order to maximize happiness and wellbeing for all. So let us not pray for wealth; let us pray for the wisdom to use the many blessings we have been given for the betterment and advancement of this nation.

@akrammikas

02



This is the time Indian Railways should do away with Non veg food. It would keep the pantry kitchens healthy, hygienic, eco friendly & pure This would be honouring the largest vegetarian populated nation of the world.

@RailMinIndia @narendramodi @SriSri @meenakshiidevi

03



Be friendly with trolls. Be polite and civil and explain your argument in a cool manner. It confuses the hell out of them, and doesn't give them the recreational antagonism they crave.

@matthaigt

04



#PaidFamilyLeave is not a nationally mandated benefit in the US. 46 states leave the decision up to employers. However, only 15% of workers have access to #PaidFamilyLeave at their workplaces. We need a national #PaidLeave policy to ensure #FamilyBenefits for all in our country!

@IvankaTrump

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

Exploring Seoul's recipe for success



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD



After a long trip across time zones, we reached this clever little East Asian nation for a tour of the LG manufacturing unit.

With consolidated sales of USD 14.1 billion and operating profit of USD 1.03 billion for the first quarter of 2018, LG's Home Appliance & Air Solutions sector alone weighed in with revenues of USD 4.59 billion (operating profits of USD 515.51 million).

While the LG company also has four other sections - Home Entertainment, Mobile Communications, Vehicle Components and Business-to-Business - it quickly became apparent that our visit would focus on the cash cow of the LG portfolio: its home appliances segment of washing machines, refrigerators, gas and microwave ovens and air conditioners.

Our visit was run against the backdrop of the historic North-South meet of the leaders of the two Koreas which will undoubtedly open up new markets for South Korean manufacturers in the electronics and technology-starved North.

I could not help but marvel at how far this beautiful country has come within just one generation. South Korea has managed to transform its economy from being one of the poorest countries in the 1960s to becoming the world's 13th largest economy in 2014, according to the World Bank.

At the heart of this change lies innovation.

Competing against China's low labour costs, and Japan's high-tech, capital-intensive industries, the South Korean government has focussed on building a creative economy with the emphasis on higher value-added manufacturing that thrives on innovation and new, cutting-edge technology. The annual spend on R&D as a share of GDP in S.Korea at 4.24% in 2016, was second-highest among the world's most advanced nations.

"South Korea notched top scores worldwide for manufacturing value-added as well as for tertiary efficiency - a measure that includes enrollment in higher education and the concentration of science and engineering graduates," said a recent Bloomberg report.

Every experience has a deeper meaning if we only look for it. I may not be an expert on microwave ovens and washing machines but the passion and the creativity that LG has invested in these everyday appliances and translated into corporate profits is an eye-opener. It is a lesson that the Arab world too would do well to emulate. We must encourage our brightest minds to think R&D, our governments must fund think-tanks and research projects. The results may not be immediate, but we can no longer afford to be mere consumers - we must remake ourselves in the Korean mould for the millinennium ahead.

(Capt Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune.)

WORLD
world**Heavy rain hits parts of UAE**

Khaleej Times | Dubai

Light to heavy rain has been reported in the UAE, according to the National Centre for Meteorology (NCM).

"Light rain over Al Saa," the NCM tweeted at 4.40pm yesterday.

The NCM had earlier said the Cyclone Mekunu - that is tearing through Salalah in Oman - will not reach the UAE. "However, the medium and high clouds and moist air mass may lead to rain convective cloud formations in the eastern and southern parts of the country," the authority had said.

The NCM has predicted "partly cloudy and hazy" weather with chances of rain for the next two days. "Temperatures tend to decrease slightly, clouds will appear over eastern and southern areas and may develop to convective clouds with rainfall at times," the NCM predicted.

Blowing dust will be caused by "light to moderate winds freshening at times".

Jailed UK-Iran aid worker to face 2nd trial on new security charges

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a project manager with Thomson Reuters, was arrested in April 2016

● She was convicted of plotting to overthrow Iran's clerical establishment

Reuters | Dubai

A detained British-Iranian aid worker sentenced to five years in jail in Iran is to face a second trial on new security charges, the semi-official Tasnim news agency yesterday quoted Tehran Revolutionary Court's head Musa Ghazanfarabadi as saying.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a project manager with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, was arrested in April 2016 at a Tehran airport as she was heading back to Britain with her two-year-old daughter after a family visit.

She was convicted of plotting



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe poses for a photograph with her daughter, Gabriella (Courtesy of RadioFreeEurope)

to overthrow Iran's clerical establishment, a charge denied by her family and the Foundation, a charity organisation that is independent of Thomson Reuters and operates independently of Reuters News.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson discussed

Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case with Iranian officials after flying to Tehran in December to try to seek her release.

"Ghazanfarabadi said the charge against Zaghari in the new case is security-related but did not say whether it was espionage or another charge," Tasnim

reported.

"Zaghari is to present an attorney and then the court will



Iran does not recognize dual citizenship, which limits the access foreign embassies have to their dual citizens held there. Iran's Revolutionary Guards have arrested at least 30 dual nationals during the past two years, mostly on spying charge

convene," Ghazanfarabadi said.

Britain's Foreign Office, when approached for comment, said it would not provide a commentary on "every twist and turn".

On Monday, British media reported that Zaghari-Ratcliffe had been told to expect another conviction after being taken to court last Saturday "for spreading propaganda against the state".

In a statement on Monday, the Thomson Reuters Foundation said it totally rejected "the renewed accusations that Nazanin is guilty of spreading propaganda" and said it continued to assert her full innocence.

In response to an urgent question in parliament on Tuesday about her situation, British Foreign Office minister Alistair Burt said Prime Minister Theresa May had raised all consular cases with President Hassan Rouhani in a call earlier this month.

Venezuela frees US missionary Josh Holt after two years

Holt was in Caracas to marry his Venezuelan girlfriend Thamy Candelo (BBC)

Reuters | Washington/Caracas

American missionary Josh Holt, held by Venezuela without trial on weapons charges since 2016, was heading home with his wife yesterday after the country's government unexpectedly released him.

The freeing of the Mormon missionary from Utah came despite deepening US-Venezuelan tensions that in the last week saw tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats, Washington's refusal to recognize the May

20 re-election of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and the imposition of new US sanctions on Caracas. Speaking at a news conference, Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez said Holt and his wife, Thamy, were freed as part of efforts by Maduro's government to maintain "respectful diplomatic relations" with Washington.

Holt and his wife had been charged with espionage, violence and spreading activities against Venezuela's constitutional order, he said.

Leaders of two Koreas hold surprise meeting

Reuters | Seoul/Washington

South Korean President Moon Jae-in held a surprise meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday to ensure the upcoming high-stakes summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump is a success, South Korean officials said.

The unannounced meeting is the latest dramatic turn in a week of diplomatic flip-flops surrounding an unprecedented summit between the United States and North Korea, and the strongest sign yet that the two Korean leaders are trying to keep the on-again off-again summit on track.

Their two-hour talks at the Panmunjom border village came a month after they held the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade at the same venue on April 27 and declared they would work toward a nuclear-free Korean peninsula



South Korean President Moon Jae-in shakes hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during their summit

and formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

"The two leaders candidly exchanged views about making the North Korea-US summit a successful one and about implementing the Panmunjom Declaration," South Korea's presidential spokesman said in a statement. He did not confirm how the secret meeting was

arranged or which side asked for it.

Moon, who returned to Seoul on Thursday morning after meeting Trump in Washington earlier this week in a bid to keep the summit on track as initially planned, for June 12 in Singapore, was due to announce details of the meeting with Kim early on Sunday.

Nipah mystery deepens, bats not the reason

Representative picture (Courtesy of AFP)

India Times | Kerala

The deadly Nipah Virus outbreak in Kerala which has claimed 12 lives so far many not have been caused by fruit bats, experts have said.

After the blood and serum samples of 21 bats was tested at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal, this claim has turned out to be negative.

The samples from other animals like cow, goat, rabbit, dog and cat which were also sent for testing also turned out to be negative, indicating that the virus has not spread to animals in the area, where the deaths have been reported.

Suspicion of fruit bats spreading the virus started making rounds due to the past history of the virus outbreak in countries like Malaysia and Bangladesh.

There are also reports that Mohamed Sabith, the first member of the family to die of Nipah was sent back home from Saudi Arabia after falling ill. Some locals had claimed that he had traveled to Malaysia, where Nipah was first reported.

Puppy diplomacy: Japan's Abe presents puppy to skater

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe poses with an Akita Inu puppy

● The three-month old puppy has been offered to the Winter Olympic gold medallist

Moscow

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, on a three-day visit to Russia, took part yesterday in the handing over of an Akita puppy to Russian Olympic

champion figure skater Alina Zagitova.

The three-month old female puppy has been offered to the teenage Pyeongchang Winter Olympic gold medallist by a group dedicated to preserving the Japanese breed.

Abe, who arrived in Russia on Thursday for an economic forum in St Petersburg, is due to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin later on Saturday in the Kremlin.

Accompanied by his wife, Abe

petted the fluffy dog before it was handed over to the 16-year-old Zagitova.

Zagitova fell in love with the breed while training in Japan before and during the Olympics

Zagitova fell in love with the breed and asked her parents to let her have an Akita puppy if she won the Games

and asked her parents to let her have an Akita puppy if she won the Games.

The puppy is called Masaru, which is a male name that means "win" or "victory".



Ireland aborts 'abortion ban'

Politicians on both sides agreed that the referendum had passed by a large margin.

● Voters backed the change by more than two-to-one

● Prohibition on abortion was partly lifted in 2013

● Government plans to bring in legislation by the end of the year

Reuters | Dublin



A woman carries a placard as Ireland holds a referendum on liberalising abortion laws

Ireland has voted by a landslide to liberalise some of the world's most restrictive abortion laws in what its prime minister described as the culmination of a "quiet revolution" in what was one of Europe's most socially conservative countries. Voters were estimated to have backed the change by more than two-to-one, according to two exit polls released on Friday evening, and the government plans to bring in legislation by the end of the year.

"It's incredible. For all the years and years and years we've been trying to look after women and not been able to look after women, this means everything," said Mary Higgins, obstetrician and Together For Yes campaign-

er. After official results began to be announced on Saturday, politicians on both sides agreed that the referendum had passed by a large margin. Final results were due later on Saturday.

"The public have spoken. The result appears to be resounding ... in favour of repealing the 8th Amendment" constitutional ban on abortion, Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, who campaigned for repeal, told journalists in Dublin.

"What we see is the culmination of a quiet revolution that has been taking place in Ireland over the last couple of decades," said Varadkar, who became the



Three years ago, Ireland became the first country in the world to adopt gay marriage by a popular vote

Abortion policies (Reuters)

Is abortion permitted when a woman's life is in danger? Grounds on which abortion is permitted by country (WHO)

Country	Life	Health	Mental Disability	Rape	on Request
Bahrain	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
China	✓	✗	-	✓	✓
Cuba	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Egypt	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Germany	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
India	✓	✗	✓	-	✗
Kuwait	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Saudi	✓	-	✗	✗	✗
Turkey	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Philippines	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

country's first openly gay prime minister last year.

If confirmed, the outcome will be the latest milestone on a path of change for a country which only legalised divorce by a razor thin majority in 1995.

"For him (his son), it's a different Ireland that we're moving onto. It's an Ireland that is more tolerant, more inclusive and where he can be whatever he wants without fear of recrimination," said Colm O'Riain, a 44-year-old teacher with his son Ruarai, who was born 14 weeks premature in November.

A spokesman for an anti-abortion umbrella group Save The

8th John McGuirk conceded there was "no prospect" the country's abortion ban, imposed in a 1983 referendum, would be retained.

"What Irish voters did yesterday is a tragedy of historic proportions," Save The 8th said. "However, a wrong does not become a right simply because a majority support it."

Voters were asked if they wish to scrap the amendment, which gives an unborn child and its mother equal rights to life. The consequent prohibition on abortion was partly lifted in 2013 for cases where the mother's life was in danger.

68 dead in Dhaka's anti-drug campaign

IANIS | Dhaka

The number of people killed in an anti-drug campaign in Bangladesh has climbed to 68 in the last 11 days, after the death of another nine suspected drug-traffickers.

In the eastern Comilla district, two suspected traffickers, with 16 and eight cases open against them, respectively, were killed in a clash with the police on Friday night, the head of investigations at the Bramonpara police station, told Efe news.

Another five drug-traffickers and peddlers were killed in clashes with the police in the districts of Mymensingh, Chandpur, Thakurgaon, Pabna and Kurigram.

Apart from this, another two people were killed in the districts of Dinajpur and Joypurhat in separate encounters with the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), two spokespersons from the elite police force said.

According to the RAB, 3,300 people have been arrested during the campaign that was launched beginning of May and 2,795 drug dealers and users have been handed fines or jail terms.

On May 3, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had launched the anti-drug campaign.

Chinese jets complete night landings on carrier

Shanghai

Chinese fighter pilots have carried out night landings on the country's first aircraft carrier, the official China Daily reported on Saturday, the latest demonstration of military muscle as Beijing's pushes to modernise its armed forces.

Pilots flying J-15 jets landed at night on the Liaoning, the official paper said, citing a video posted by China's navy. It said this was a complex manoeuvre that marked a "huge leap towards gaining full combat capability".

China has ambitious plans to overhaul its armed forces as it ramps up its presence in the disputed South China Sea and around self-ruled Taiwan, an island China considers its own. The official newspaper of the



Chinese J-15 jets complete night landings on carrier in push to modernise (Courtesy The Hindu)

People's Liberation army also said on Saturday that Chinese fighter jets had recently carried out live-fire drills in the South China Sea. Last month, Presi-

dent Xi Jinping presided over the navy's largest-ever military display, with 76 fighter jets and a flotilla of 48 warships and submarines.

Pakistan Army summons former ISI chief Dulat over claims in new book "Spy Chronicles"

IANIS | Islamabad

The Pakistan Army has summoned former ISI chief Lt. Gen. Asad Durrani (ret'd) to explain his position on views attributed to him in a book of dialogues with former Indian intelligence chief A.S. Dulat, accusing him of violating the "Military Code of Conduct".

Durrani, who was ISI's Director General between 1990 and 1991, has been summoned to General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on May 28.

He will be asked to explain

his position on views attributed to him in the book "Spy Chronicles", Pakistan Army spokesperson Maj. Gen Asif Ghafoor said in a tweet. "Attribution (is being) taken as (a) violation of Military Code of Conduct applicable on all serving and retired military personnel," he added.

Durrani and former Secretary of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Dulat have participated in a book of dialogues, moderated by journalist Aditya Sinha.

"Spy Chronicles," throws

light on the perspectives, assumptions and observations of the two spymasters on Kashmir; Hafiz Saeed and 26/11; Kulbhushan Jadhav; surgical strikes; the deal for Osama bin Laden; how the US and Russia feature in the India-Pakistan relationship; and how terror undermines the two countries' attempts at talks.

In the book Durrani makes an assessment that "the ISI probably learnt about" Osama bin Laden and "he was handed over to the US according to a mutually agreed process".

Hilarious corrections made to Donald Trump's letter go viral

Daily Mail | London

Corrections made to Donald Trump's letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un have started going viral - with the President landing an F grade for his writing skills.

Social media users took Trump to task over the letter he sent to North Korea's leader this week informing him that their planned summit was now canceled.

Various versions of the letter have since surfaced online showing them completely covered in red pen markings.

The amended letters all provide Trump with a number of corrections, ranging from grammatical errors to factual inaccuracies.

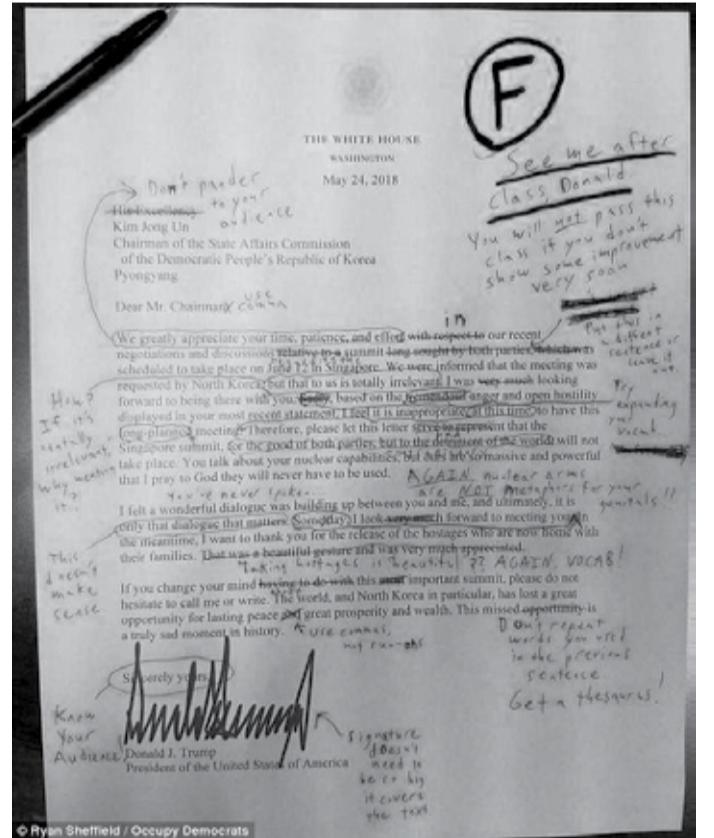
"See me after class Donald. You will not pass this class if you don't show some improvement very soon," read one note left on his letter.

That letter, which was given a F grade, also provided various pieces of advice including 'this doesn't make sense' and 'get a thesaurus'.

The notes also urged Trump to work on his vocabulary, particularly pointing to a section where he used the word 'beautiful' to describe Kim Jong-un releasing American hostages.

Trump had written: "I want to thank you for the release of the hostages who are now home with their families. That was a beautiful gesture and very much appreciated."

The person marking the letter offered up this piece of advice about Trump's vocabulary: "Taking hostages is 'beautiful'?? AGAIN, VOCAB!"



Social media users took Trump to task over the letter he sent to North Korea's Kim Jong-Un



The amended letters all provide Trump with a number of corrections, ranging from grammatical errors to factual inaccuracies.

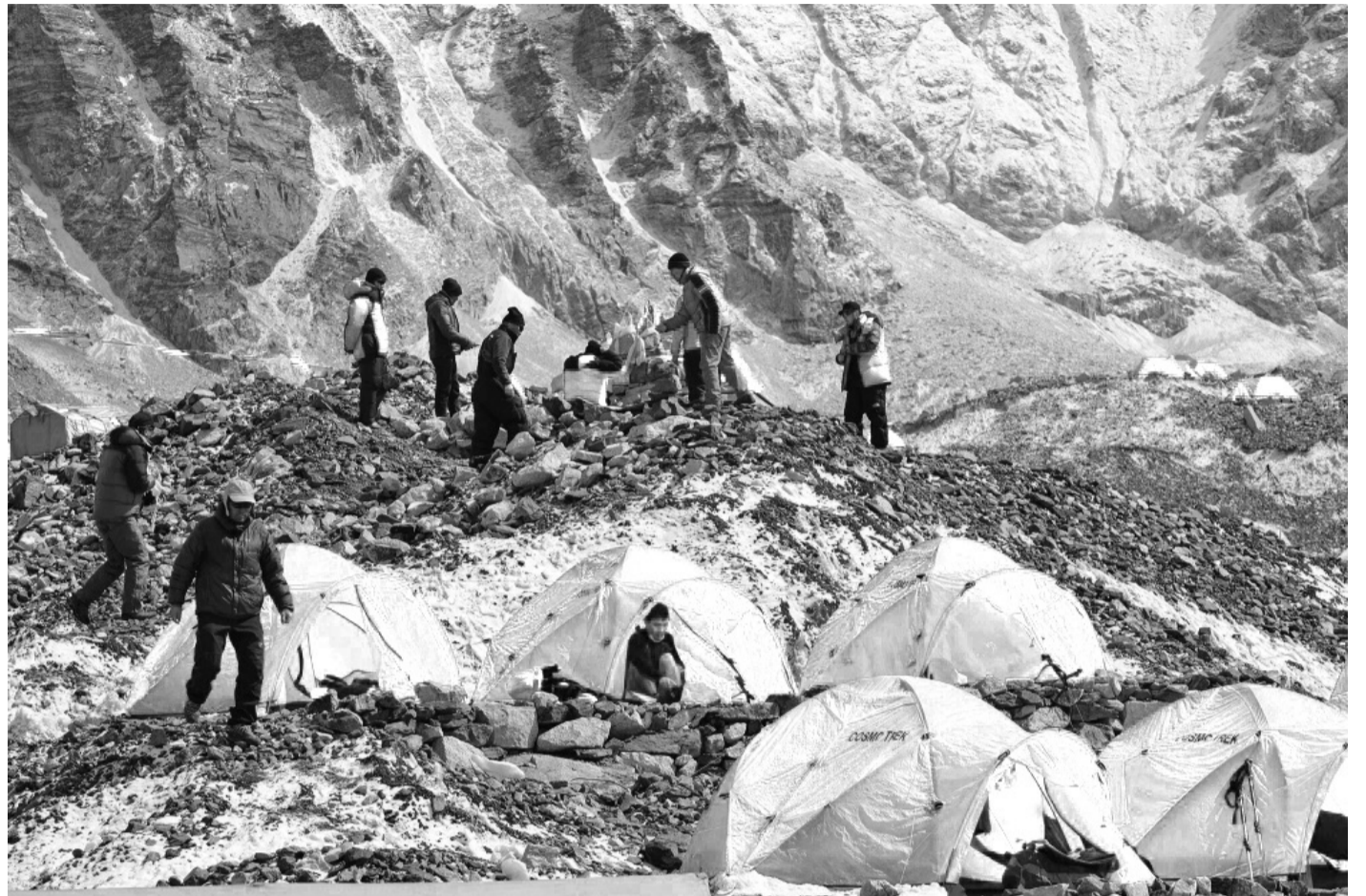
Another version of the letter, which was given a D grade, noted that Trump had specifically mentioned something was irrelevant but still included it anyway.

"If it's irrelevant, why mention it at all?" a note on the letter read. The amended letters surfaced after Trump abruptly pulled the plug on Thursday on the high-stakes summit with North Korea.

He canceled the summit that was due to take place in Singapore next month.

features

Life is cushier than ever on top of the world



Today's climbers enjoy creature comforts unthinkable when Hillary and Norgay first stood atop the peak 65 years ago

AFP

Wi-Fi, baked goods and trendy coffee: gone are the days of deprivation at Everest base camp, with hipster perks and modern conveniences ensuring life is cushier than ever on the roof of the world.

The Khumbu glacier at the foot of Everest transforms every spring into a high-altitude metropolis of surprising luxury for the hundreds of climbers aiming for the peak of the world's highest mountain.

Canned food and bulky satellite phones are a thing of the past.

Today's climbers enjoy fresh salads, Instagram and creature comforts unthinkable when Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first stood atop the 8,848 metre (29,029 foot) peak 65 years ago.

"The first question people ask when they arrive at base camp

is where's the Wi-Fi. The second question is where's the hot shower," said Everest veteran Russell Brice, owner of Himalayan Experience, one of the oldest and most established expedition operators.

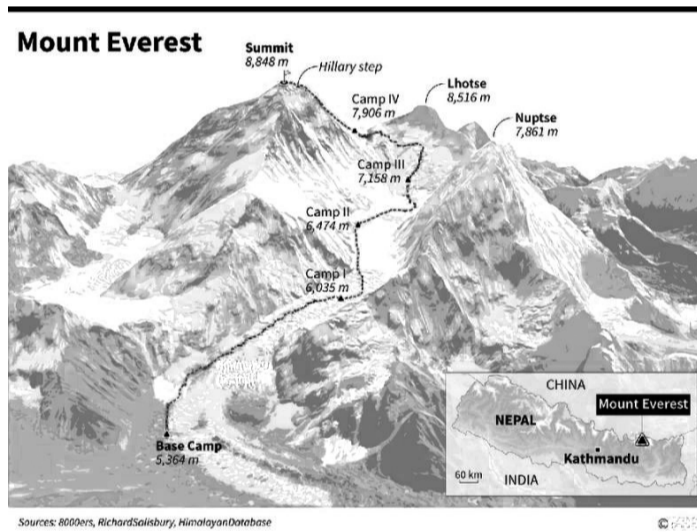
The first intrepid teams to attempt Everest took a month to reach base camp on the Nepal side of the mountain.

The journey was cut to eight days with the construction of a small mountain airstrip at Lukla, the gateway to the Everest region.

Around 2,500 yaks make that journey at the beginning of the spring climbing season in April to turn the rock-strewn glacier into the world's highest city for two months of the year.

Tents have carpeted floors and bouquets of plastic flowers. Piping hot showers running on solar power offer respite from the freezing temperatures outside.

A brigade of helicopters keeps the tent town stocked with daily deliveries of fresh supplies to cater for the 1,500 or so people



at base camp.

Climbers who want a break from high altitude life can even hitch a heli ride back to Kathmandu for some R and R before returning to attempt the summit.

At Alpine Ascents' camp, breakfast comes with Turkish drip coffee.

"Cappuccino machines don't work at altitude," director Gor-

don Janow explained.

Meanwhile over at Seven Summit Treks' camp, the smell of freshly baked cinnamon rolls from its bakery greets climbers returning from an acclimatisation run high on the mountain.

Fresh salads are served up by Adventure Consultants, a New Zealand-based operator, whose chef once worked in a restaur-

ant with three Michelin stars in France.

"People seem to like simple foods. Of course being here is so far removed from cities and normal life that basic salads and fresh vegetables seem to keep everyone happy," said chef James Perry.

He swapped a fully kitted-out kitchen in an ambassador's residence in Brussels for two gas hobs and a temperamental oven at base camp.

"Each have their own peculiarities," he replied diplomatically when asked who was more difficult to please: climbers or ambassadors?

'Evolution' of base camp

Greg Vernovage of International Mountain Guides, one of the largest teams on the mountain, said the modern-day perks were part of the natural "evolution" of base camp.

But others lament the direction it is going.

Everyone on "the Hill" used

to know each other, veterans say, and shared everything from radio frequencies and weather forecasts to banter over an afternoon "guides' brew" -- whisky, honey and water.

Today, they say the village atmosphere is gone.

Base camp is a warren of tents as more climbers than ever try to reach the top of the world.

Last year saw a record 373 permits granted to foreign climbers to venture up Everest from the Nepal side, and this year fell just shy of that.

Money has also sown division in the once close-knit community.

Crowds are growing as prices drop, with bargain operators offering cheaper -- and many fear unacceptably risky -- ways for glory-chasers to summit.

Foreign operators -- most charging climbers around \$65,000 to reach the summit -- complain that Nepali outfits skirt safety and invite crowding by offering packages for as little as \$20,000.

Women surfers ride out waves and harassment

AFP | Rabat

Moroccan women surfers have become a common sight as they skim the waves off the coast of the capital, Rabat, but they still can face prejudice and harassment back on land.

"It's easier in the winter because the beaches are empty," said surfer Meriem, 29, who, like most of the women surfers, wears a wetsuit.

"In the summer we suffer a lot of harassment, that's why we pay attention to what we wear."

The engineer, who took up the sport four years ago, said



Moroccan women surfers have become increasingly common but some still face prejudice or harassment back on land



A United Nations study in 2017 found that nearly 72 percent of men and 78 percent of women think "women who dress provocatively deserve to be harassed".

she's lucky to have grown up in a "tolerant" family.

For many Moroccan women from conservative backgrounds, such activities are off limits.

"Some families are ashamed that their daughters practise water sports," said Jalal Medkouri, who runs the Rabat Surf Club on the capital's popular Udayas beach.

The gentle waves nearby are ideal for beginners, but nestled at the foot of the 12th century Kasbah and easily visible from the capital's bustling touristic heart, the beach is far from discreet.

Yet some club members say attitudes are changing.

Rim Bechar, 28, said that when she began surfing four years ago, "it was a bit more difficult".

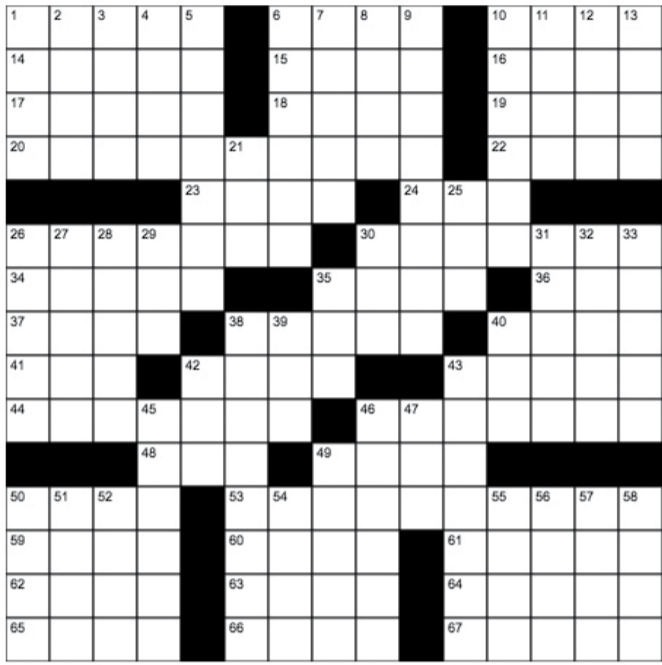
"At first, my father accompanied me whenever I wanted to surf," she said. But now, "people are used to seeing young women in the water, it's no longer a problem."

Today, she surfs alone, stays all day and goes home without problems, she said.

Surfers first took to the waves off Morocco's Atlantic Coast in the 1960s, at the popular seaside resort of Mehdia, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of the capital. Residents say soldiers at a nearby French-American military base were the first to practise the sport there.

entertainment

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



50- Dick and Jane's dog; 53- Highest rank in scouting; 59- — d'oeuvre; 60- Dies —; 61- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 62- Sacramento's — Arena; 63- Bites; 64- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame architect; 65- Unwilling to listen; 66- Exultation; 67- Misplaces;

Down

1- Winter fall; 2- Galileo's birthplace; 3- — the crack of dawn; 4- Merlin, e.g.; 5- Endless; 6- Five iron; 7- Angler's basket; 8- Wings; 9- No long-distance charge; 10- Canal site; 11- Pianist Gilels; 12- Seaweed; 13- Former partners; 21- Marry; 25- Electric fish; 26- Rock concert venue; 27- Urchin; 28- Departing; 29- Groove; 30- Bus. card info; 31- Sturm und —; 32- Scottish seaport; 33- Orlando attraction; 35- They're related; 38- According; 39- Astronaut Grissom; 40- Bud's bud; 42- DDE opponent; 43- Garden's necessity; 45- Many; 46- "Honor Thy Father" author; 47- Charlemagne's realm: Abbr.; 49- Open-mouthed; 50- Food fish; 51- Skin opening; 52- Killer whale; 54- Seed covering; 55- Crooner Perry; 56- "My fault!"; 57- 1997 Peter Fonda role; 58- Mai —;

Across

1- Froth; 6- Future doc's exam; 10- Short dog, for short; 14- Try to bite; 15- Woody's son; 16- U.S. trading place; 17- Missouri feeder; 18- Authenticating mark; 19- Khartoum's river; 20- Paddle wheel; 22- European chain; 23- Singer Sedaka; 24- Not masc.; 26- Raise the level; 30- Foot lever; 34- Fauvist painter Dufy; 35- Ship's backbone; 36- Agent; 37- Give out; 38- Nimble; 40- Secular; 41- Diarist Anais; 42- Son of —; 43- Scout master?; 44- Fishermen; 46- Notion; 48- Sugar suffix; 49- Over-50 org.;

BEETLE BAILEY



WORD OF THE DAY

Riposte

Definition

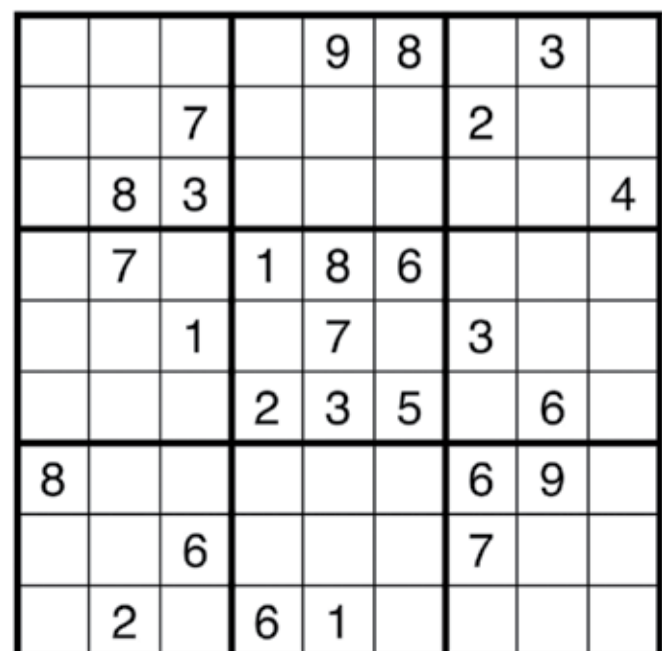
- 1 - a fencer's quick return thrust following a parry
- 2 - a retaliatory verbal sally : retort
- 3 - a retaliatory manoeuvre or measure

Did You Know?

In the sport of fencing, a riposte is a counter-attack made after successfully fending off one's opponent. English speakers borrowed the name for this particular manoeuvre from French in the early 1700s, but the French had simply modified Italian

risposta, which literally means "answer." Ultimately these words come from the Latin verb respondere, meaning "to respond." It seems fitting that riposte has since come full circle to now refer to a quick and witty response performed as a form of retaliation.

SUDOKU



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

YOUR STAR TODAY



Aries

Recent opposition standing in the way of long-term goals is apt to ease a bit today. Situations surrounding these issues should become clearer, and you should have a better idea of what exactly it is that you're up against. You'll find that this is a very climactic time for you in a great number of ways.



Taurus

It's time to review your dreams and fantasies. It could be that you've been neglecting them lately. Perhaps things you've been working toward haven't exactly panned out the way you'd hoped. The good news is that things should be turning around in your favour starting today.



Gemini

Things that have been out of whack in your life should begin to come back into balance. The bad news is that it may take a while for the pendulum to return to the optimal point. The good news is that this shift is taking place at all. It will be a gradual change, but you're at a pivotal point in which you can set your sights on exactly what you want.



Cancer

The tide will start to ebb today just after it reaches its highest point. There is a pause now, and you'll find that things are about to pick up considerably again. The shift that's happening within you is profound. Even though you may not notice its effects all at once, you should trust that things will be coming your way as the weeks go by.



Leo

You may have been engaged in a battle with the facts lately. Perhaps new information has forced you to take a step back as you contemplate the next move in your game plan. Research time is over and now you need to get back into the game with full force.



Virgo

Goals that may have seemed unreachable in the recent past are finally starting to come into focus. It could be that you've been neglecting your dreams because they only seemed to move farther away every time you addressed them. Have faith that your luck is starting to change.



Libra

You may have had a hard time launching long-term personal projects lately. Today marks a critical starting point toward attaining your goals. Perhaps there has been some confusion or delay in this area. You'll find that things are suddenly becoming much clearer.



Scorpio

Shake off the dust of the past few weeks and put the confusion behind you. Your tremendous imagination and creative ability have been dormant lately because you may have not known how best to channel them. Perhaps they've been used negatively, leading to fall-out in certain areas of your life. The good news is that things are changing.



Sagittarius

Long-term projects that you've been working on are apt to shift into forward gear today. This change may be subtle, but it's quite powerful and extremely helpful to whatever it is you have going. Dreams that may have seemed difficult to achieve now have more of a chance to actually manifest.



Capricorn

Parts of your life that may have recently taken a backward turn now get back on track. You should find that large projects involving electricity, gadgets, or any mechanical parts will finally be favoured now.



Aquarius

Issues involving fashion, magazines, and the spoken or written word will all slowly begin to take a turn in a positive direction today. You may find that these things have been somewhat obscured lately, or at least their development has been more backward than forward.



Pisces

It could be that you've been losing faith in your dreams and fantasies lately. Now is the time to refocus on what you want and move forward with confidence. You've done enough reflecting and reviewing. It's time to implement and create. Dream big and don't let others stand in the way of your progress. Today's shift may be subtle, but it should indicate smooth sailing for the next few weeks.



May	Ramadan	Day	Imsak	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
27	11	Sun	03:05 am	03:15 am	4:46 am	11:35 am	03:02 pm	06:23 pm	07:53 pm



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), hosted an outstanding Ramadan Ghabga at Art Rotana Amwaj for its staff filled with many surprises and competitions.

Media role stressed

Information Affairs Minister, Ali bin Mohammed Al-Romaihi, has stressed that Bahrain is rich with its human assets as well as with its creative and talented youth.

The minister praised the role of the national media and technical competencies to enhance the media messages and highlight the continuous development and civilisational achievements attained by the Kingdom under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

While patronising the annual Ramadan Ghabga for the ministry's staff and the ceremony to honour retiring employees and those with distinguished media achievements, Al-Romaihi highlighted the keenness of the ministry to support and motivate Bahraini media competencies, as well as to develop their professional and competitive capabilities as the cornerstone of the media development process.



Al-Romaihi thanked the honourees for their patriotic duties of developing the national media and its awareness-raising, educational and development roles efficiently, wishing them further success.

KSA, Vatican playing major role in defeating extremism, says Interfaith official



Last month, Vatican officials led by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran visited Saudi Arabia for the first time and the delegation met with King Salman and high-level Saudi officials in Riyadh.

“Mutual visits from these two religion powerhouses will lead the way for others”

The way for the meeting was paved by Dr. Mohammed Al-Issa, the head of the Muslim World League (MWL), said Sultan Al-Mousa, a member of the Vatican interfaith committee. “He has led the way to meet the pope since September 2017. He faced some challenges in these efforts, he organized the meeting and on the basis of this meeting, the interfaith committee of dialogue was created,” Al-Mousa said. He said that two major world religions were working together to raise

awareness campaigns for the oppressed around the world. “Mutual visits from these two religion powerhouses will lead the way for others,” he said. “The dialogues that have been held are not exclusive to us, on the contrary there are many mutual aspects such as renouncing terrorism from all religions. Awareness campaigns are now being held to help all the oppressed worldwide, whether the oppressed be in Myanmar or Tibet.”

Sachi defeats Diplomat Radisson by 3 wickets

In the Carrefour Bahrain Ramadan Cricket Blitz 2018 7-A-side soft ball cricket matches played at the Indian Club premises, Sachi Building Construction defeated Diplomat Radisson by 3 wickets yesterday. Batting first Diplomat scored 22 all out in just 3.2 overs. The main bowler Bharat who just bowled 0.2 overs took 2 wickets. In reply to this Sachi Building Construction chased the target in 2.3 overs losing 3 wickets. The main scorer is Sachin took 9 runs in 7 balls played.

Second match was played between Super Net Telly King and Sherwin William Paints.



Batting first SNTK scored 28 runs in 5 overs losing 5 wickets; the main batsman Nishad scored 10 runs in 12 balls played. The main bowler for SWP Shehryrar Khan took 2 wickets for 8 runs. In reply to this SWP chased the target easily in 3.5 overs losing one wicket; the main scorer Shehryrar Khan scored 25 runs in 16 balls played. The match was won by Sherwin William Paints by 5 wickets.

Ramadan cooking

Slow Cooker Oats



Ingredients

- 1 cup steel cut oats
- 3 1/2 cups water
- 1 cup peeled and chopped apple
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Method

1. Place the steel cut oats, water, apple, raisins, butter, cinnamon, brown sugar, and vanilla extract into a slow cooker,

and stir to combine and dissolve the sugar. Cover the cooker, set to Low, and allow to cook 6 to 7 hours (for firm oats) or 8 hours (for softer texture).

Rooh Afza, just can't resist it!

The well-known Rooh Afza has borne witness to more than 100 years of subcontinent history including Partition, the event that resulted in the formation of Pakistan from previously undivided India.

Originally created by a Unani hakim or doctor as a herbal concoction to beat the heat, it has gone on to become a staple across India and Pakistan. In 1908, in the bylanes of Old Delhi, Hakim Hafiz Abdul Majeed decided to create a herbal mix that would help Delhi's masses stay cool in summer.

Selecting herbs and syrups from traditional Unani medicine, he created a drink that would help counter heat strokes, bring down palpitations and prevent water loss. He named it Rooh Afza, which in Urdu literally

meant something that refreshes the soul.

Mirza Noor Ahmad, an artist, prepared the labels of Rooh Afza in several colours in 1910. Such colourful prints could not be processed in Delhi then. It was, therefore, printed under a special arrangement by the Bolton Press of the Parsees of Bombay (Mumbai).

A few decades later, Abdul Majeed decided to turn this medicament into a drink. The reception to the first batch ever made of Rooh Afza was an indicator of its future.

“When they actually made Rooh Afza for the first time, the flavour and the smell were so enticing that a crowd began to gather around asking, ‘Ho kya raha hai?’ [What is happening? Right now it is one of the most sold drink during Ramadan.]



show

PARMANU (HINDI / ACTION / DRAMA / HISTORY) John Abraham, Boman Irani, Diana Penty DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15 Cineco (20) 12.45, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00, 11.45 Pm Seef (I) 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45, 11.30 Pm Saar 8.30, 11.15 Pm Wadi Al Sail 8.15, 11.00 Pm
KAALI (TAMIL / ACTION) Vijay Antony, Sunaina, Anjali DANA CINEMA 10:30,15:45,21:00
NADIGAIYAR THILAGAM (TAMIL / BIOGRAPHY / DRAMA) Keerthi Suresh, Dulquer Salmaan, Samantha Ruth Prabhu DANA CINEMA 12:45,18:00,23:15 Seef (II) 11.00 Am, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00 Pm
ARAVINDANTE (MALAYALAM / DRAMA) Vineeth Sreenivasan, Sreenivasan, Nikhila, Urvasi DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30 Seef (I) 11.15 Am, 1.45, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15, 11.45 Pm Al Hamra On Thursday 24Th: 3.00, 6.00 Pm, 12.00 Mn From Friday 25Th: 6.00 Pm, (12.00 Mn Fri)
SOLO: STAR WARS STORY: 3D (ACTION / ADVENTURE / FANTASY) Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30
DEADPOOL 2: 2D (ACTION / ADVENTURE / COMEDY) Josh Brolin, Morena Baccarin, Zazie Beetz DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00, 00:15 Cineco (20) 11.00 Am, 11.30 Am, 1.30, 2.00, 4.00, 4.30, 6.30, 7.00, 9.00, 9.30, 11.30 Pm, 12.00 Mn Daily At (Vip li): 10.30 Am, 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.00 Pm Seef (I) 10.30 Am, 11.30 Am, 1.00, 2.00, 3.30, 4.30, 6.00, 7.00, 8.30, 9.30, 11.00 Pm, 12.00 Mn Saar 9.00, 11.30 Pm Wadi Al Sail 8.30, 11.00 Pm
SOLO: STAR WARS STORY: 2D (ACTION / ADVENTURE / FANTASY) Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15 Cineco (20) Daily At (Imax 3D): 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45, 11.30 Pm Daily At (Atmos): 10.30 Am, 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15 Pm, 12.00 Mn Daily At (Vip I): 12.00, 2.45, 5.30, 8.15, 11.00 Pm Seef (I) 10.30 Am, 12.30, 1.00, 3.15, 3.45, 6.00, 6.30, 8.45, 9.15, 11.30 Pm, 12.00 Mn Daily At (3D): 12.00, 2.45, 5.30, 8.15, 11.00 Pm Saar 8.45, 11.30 Pm

Wadi Al Sail 8.30, 11.15 Pm (3D): 8.00, 10.45 Pm
INTERROGATION (BIOGRAPHY / DRAMA / SPORT) Margot Robbie, Sebastian Stan, Allison Janney DANA CINEMA 11:00,12:45,14:30,16:15,18:00,19:45,21:3 0,23:15,01:00 Cineco (20) 11.45 Am, 1.45, 3.45, 5.45, 7.45, 9.45, 11.45 Pm Seef (II) 11.30 Am, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30 Pm Wadi Al Sail 9.00, 11.00 Pm
NELA TICKET (TELUGU / DRAMA) Ravi Teja, Malavika Sharma, Brahmanandam DANA CINEMA 10:30,13:15,16:00,18:45,21:30,00:15 Seef (I) From Friday 25Th:12.00, 6.00 Pm, 12.00 Mn Al Hamra From Friday 25Th: 3.00 Pm
KINGS (CRIME / DRAMA / ROMANCE) Halle Berry, Daniel Craig, Lamar Johnson DANA CINEMA 11:00,12:45,14:30,16:15,18:00,19:45,21:3 0,23:15,01:00 Cineco (20) 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00, 12.00 Mn Seef (II) 11.45 Am, 1.45, 3.45, 5.45, 7.45, 9.45, 11.45 Pm Saar 9.00 Pm
BHASKAR ORU RASCAL (TAMIL / COMEDY / DRAMA / FAMILY) Arvind Swamy, Aftab Shivdasani, Amala Paul DANA CINEMA 10:30,13:15,16:00,18:45,21:30,00:15 Seef (I) 3.00, 9.00 Pm Al Hamra 12.00 Noon, 9.00 Pm
The Cured (18+) (Drama / Horror / Thriller) New Ellen Page, Sam Keeley, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor Cineco (20) 10.30 Am, 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30 Pm, 12.30 Mn Seef (II) 12.15, 2.15, 4.15, 6.15, 8.15, 10.15 Pm, 12.15 Mn Saar 11.00 Pm Wadi Al Sail 7.45, 9.45, 11.45 Pm
Avengers: Infinity War (Pg-15) (Action / Adventure) Karen Gillan, Robert Downey Jr., Tom Holland Cineco (20) 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00 Pm, 12.00 Mn Seef (II) 11.30 Am, 2.30, 5.30, 8.30, 11.30 Pm
Raazi (Pg-15) (Hindi / Thriller / Drama) Alia Bhatt, Vicky Kaushal, Jaideep Ahlawat Cineco (20) 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45, 11.30 Pm Seef (II) 12.00, 2.45, 5.30, 8.15, 11.00 Pm
Rampage (Pg-15) (Action / Thriller / Sci-Fiction) Dwayne Johnson, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Will Yun Lee

Cineco (20) 10.30, 12.45, 3.00, 5.15, 7.30, 9.45, 12.00 Mn
A Wrinkle In Time (Pg-13) (Adventure / Fantasy) Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon Cineco (20) 12.00, 2.15, 4.30, 6.45, 9.00, 11.15
Life Of The Party (15+) (Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Gillian Jacobs, Julie Bowen Cineco (20) 12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15, 11.30
Breaking In (Pg-15) (Thriller / Crime) Gabrielle Union, Billy Burke, Richard Cabral Cineco (20) 11.00 Am, 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00, 11.00
A Quiet Place (15+) (Thriller / Horror / Drama) Emily Blunt, John Krasinski, Noah Jupe Cineco (20) 11.30 Am, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30
Peter Rabbit (Pg) (Adventure / Comedy / Family) Rose Byrne, Domhnall Gleeson, Sam Neill Cineco (20) 10.45 Am, 12.45, 5.15, 9.45 Pm
Tomb Raider (Pg-15) (Action / Adventure) Alicia Vikander, Hannah John-Kamen, Walton Goggins Cineco (20) 11.45 Am, 4.15, 8.45 Pm
Masha & The Bear (G) (Animation / Adventure / Comedy / Family) Angelica Keamey, Boris Kutnevich Cineco (20) 1.15, 5.30, 9.45 Pm
Overboard (Pg-15) (Comedy / Romantic) Anna Faris, Eva Longoria, Eugenio Derbez Cineco (20) 11.00 Am, 3.15, 7.30, 11.45 Pm
The Commuter (15) (Thriller / Crime) Liam Neeson, Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson Cineco (20) 2.15, 6.45, 11.15 Pm
Black Panther (Pg-15) (Action / Adventure / Thriller) Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o Cineco (20) 2.45, 7.15, 11.45 Pm
102 Not Out (Pg) (Hindi / Comedy / Drama) Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor, Jimit Trivedi Seef (II) 11.15 Am, 1.15, 3.15, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15, 11.15
Uncle (Malayalam) New Mammootty, Karthika, Jot Mathew, Muthumani Seef (I) 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45, 11.30

Nicki Minaj not dating Eminem



The Internet was quickly set alight on Thursday when it was revealed that she was only joking about the romance, reports dailymail.co.uk.

The 35-year-old star had taken to Instagram to promote a new single. One of her followers boldly enquired: "You dating Eminem?" She wrote back: "Yes."

But sources close to Minaj say she was only joking. "There's nothing romantic between the two."

Minaj and Eminem, real name Marshall Mathers III, have long known each other, as they worked together on her hit 2010 single "Roman's revenge."

American actress Pompeo robbed in Italy

"Greys Anatomy" star Ellen Pompeo says she had her purse snatched by a thief while she was on a vacation in Italy.

She took to Instagram on Friday to share her experience, reports etonline.com.

"My purse was stolen from right under my nose," posted Pompeo, after thanking local police for their help.

The 48-year-old added: "I blame the rose! But Grazia to whoever stole it for dropping it on the street exactly intact I was tracking my phone and chasing you down... had I caught you... it would not have ended well for you... I am nice but let's not forget my heritage... NAPOLITANO."

Adding several Italian phrases, the

"I blame the rose! But Grazia to whoever stole it for dropping it on the street exactly intact I was tracking my phone and chasing you down"

ELLEN POMPEO

star, who is married to Chris Ivery, then asked followers to "forgive my horrible Italian"



Ellen Pompeo

I did not assault women: Morgan Freeman

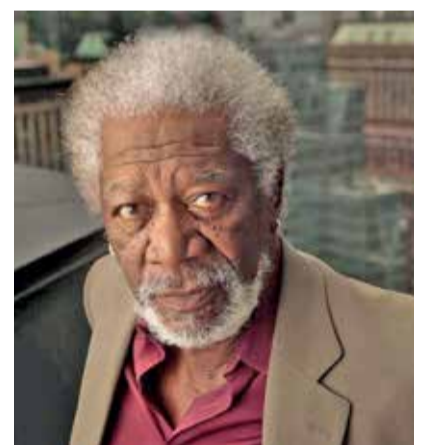
Legendary actor Morgan Freeman, who has been accused of sexual harassment by eight women, has said he did not create "unsafe work environment" and he did not "assault women".

Through his publicist Stan Rosenfield, Freeman came out with a statement on Friday, reported variety.com.

The statement read: "I am devastated that 80 years of my life is at risk of being undermined, in the blink of an eye, by Thursday's media reports."

"All victims of assault and harassment deserve to be heard. And we need to listen to them. But it is not right to equate horrific incidents of sexual assault with misplaced compliments or humour.

"I admit that I am someone who feels a need to try to make women-and men-feel appreciated and at ease around



Morgan Freeman

me. As a part of that, I would often try to joke with and compliment women, in what I thought was a light-hearted and humorous way."

Harvey Weinstein released on \$1m bail over rape



Harvey Weinstein

Former Hollywood film mogul Harvey Weinstein has been released on \$1m (£751,000) bail after being charged in New York with rape and sexual abuse.

Weinstein, 66, also agreed to wear a GPS tracker and to surrender his passport after turning himself in to police on Friday.

He denies non-consensual sex and his lawyer said he would plead not guilty.

The actress Rose McGowan, who accused Weinstein of rape, told the BBC it was an "amazing day for his survivors".

"It's a very significant moment, it's a concrete slap in the face of abusive



Weinstein agreed to wear a GPS tracker and to surrender his passport after turning himself in to Police

power," she said. "It's just the beginning of that process and if we can see this through to the end, I hope we emerge victorious."

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sports

Can Uruguay create history?

The Hindu | London

After a swift start to its qualification campaign, Uruguay collapsed losing three successive matches – 3-1 in Chile, 4-1 at home to Brazil, 2-1 in Peru. Until then manager Oscar Tabarez's strategy was to drop deep and hit on the counter, relying on Edinson Cavani and Luiz Suarez upfront.

But as key components of his team – particularly the midfield – started ageing and two teams which didn't even qualify for the World Cup – Italy and Ireland – thrashed Uruguay, Tabarez changed his tactics. Some of the best talents from the under-20 team such as Federico Valverde of Real Madrid and Rodrigo Bentancur of Juventus were promoted to occupy key positions in the midfield. Pace was added on the wings and in the full-back regions and Uruguay qualified with ease.



Edinson Cavani

This supply-line of players is probably Uruguay's biggest strength. Of the last 24 players Tabrez has added after the 2014 World Cup in Rio, only three hadn't featured in junior competitions. Such youthful exuberance coupled with the experience of Cavani, Suarez and defender Diego Godin, makes it the favourite to top Group 'A' ahead of Russia, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

South American CONMEBOL region charts with 10 goals. Quick, strong, good both in the air and with his feet, Cavani is known for his incredible work-rate and positioning. The 31-year-old has a penchant for scoring spectacular goals, but is oddly

The Goal-poacher: Cavani

Edinson Cavani topped the



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018

18 days to go.....

profligate when presented with simple chances. Of late though he hasn't missed much, as his performance in the China Cup in March showed, scoring both in the semifinal against Czech Republic and the final against Wales.

The Key Player: Luiz Suarez

Luiz Suarez and Edinson Cavani both play the No.9 position for their respective clubs but that hasn't stopped them from combining effectively as a strike duo nationally. Suarez is Uruguay's all-time leading scorer with 50 goals, while Cavani has 42. But Suarez has more than double the number of assists which makes him crucial to his country's chances.

Mexico head to Russia with one aim 'to win': Moreno

AFP | Los Angeles

Mexico head to the World Cup in Russia with a clear objective, to reach the final and win it, defender Hector Moreno said Friday.

"We are going to play the World Cup to win it," the Real Sociedad defender said as Mexico prepared to face Wales on Monday at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. "For me the important thing is to get home and not have any regrets." "We know that we are not favourites. We know that no one thinks that Mexico will win. I think the Mexican team is ready."

Moreno, 30, is part of the 28-player preliminary World Cup squad named by coach Juan Carlos Osorio this month.

Hector Moreno is aiming to play in a third World Cup after South Africa in 2010 and Brazil 2014.



Mexico's defender Hector Moreno is aiming to play in a third World Cup after South Africa in 2010 and Brazil 2014



Hector Moreno

Osorio was also bullish on the chances that Mexico, who have fallen in the last 16 in the last six World Cups, can surprise in Russia.

"We believe that we can go to the final, as athletes and human beings it's our right to believe, because we work hard for it," Osorio said.

Coutinho reveals his biggest football Idol

Soccer Laduma | Rio de Janeiro

FC Barcelona superstar Philippe Coutinho, who will take great form into the 2018 FIFA World Cup with Brazil, has revealed who his biggest footballing idol was growing up.

The playmaker has been in fantastic touch since he joined the Catalan giants in January, and has already contributed to 16 goals in 22 games for his new club.

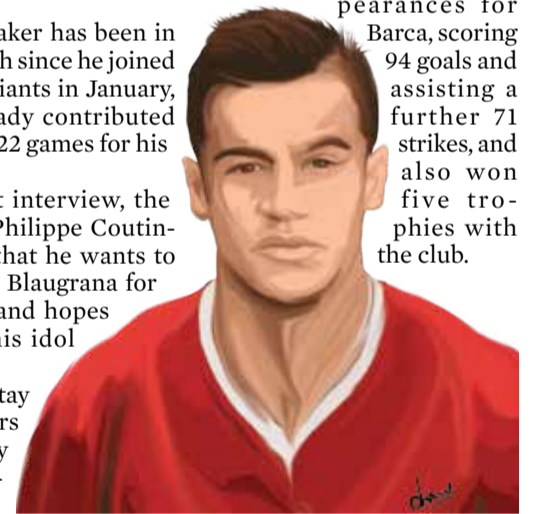
In a recent interview, the 25-year-old Philippe Coutinho revealed that he wants to stay with the Blaugrana for a long time, and hopes to emulate his idol Ronaldinho.

"I hope to stay for many years to win as many titles as possible," he told

Sport. "When Barca's interest came up, I thought that it had always been my dream to come. That's something I can't deny."

"My biggest idol was Ronaldinho, now I have the same opportunity."

Ronaldinho made 207 appearances for Barca, scoring 94 goals and assisting a further 71 strikes, and also won five trophies with the club.



PLAYER OF THE DAY

Peru's Paolo Guerrero appeals to Swiss court

Paolo Guerrero had just completed a six-month ban by FIFA

Reuters | London

Peru captain and top scorer Paolo Guerrero on Friday asked Switzerland's highest court to overturn a drugs-related ban that will keep him out of Peru's first World Cup in 36 years, the Peruvian Football Federation said.

Guerrero had just completed a six-month ban by FIFA after testing positive for a byproduct of cocaine consumption when the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) extended the suspension, ruling him out of the World Cup. Guerrero denies having used cocaine.



Paolo Guerrero

The world players' union FIF-Pro and the captains of Peru's World Cup group rivals in Russia next month have appealed to soccer's world governing body FIFA to lift the ban. Both FIFA and CAS are based in Switzerland.

Guerrero filed an appeal before the Federal Swiss Federal

Tribunal with written support from the head of the Peruvian Football Federation, Edwin Oviedo, the federation said.

"He is the unquestioned captain of the Peruvian team and a national emblem of hope for the whole country," Oviedo said in his sworn statement to the court.

Saudi Arabia's Al Shehri not short of creative spark

Reuters | Hong Kong

What Yahya Al Shehri lacks in stature he more than makes up for in influence in the Saudi Arabia side that is heading to the World Cup finals in Russia.

Standing at just 1.6 metres tall, the versatile attacker plays a major role in the creation and scoring of opportunities for Saudi Arabia and he was a central figure in the country's qualification for the World Cup for the first time since 2006.

Although capable of playing on the wing, Al Shehri is most effective when given licence to roam behind lone striker Mohammed Al Sahlawi.

He can often be seen dropping deep to collect the ball from defensive midfielder Abdullah Otayf or the centre backs in an attempt to start Saudi Arabia's attacking moves.



Robert Lewandowski

With 16 goals in ten appearances, the Poland captain was the top scorer in Europe's 2018 World Cup qualifiers. Lewandowski, hailed as "the best striker in the world" by coach Adam Nawalka, also became his country's all-time leading scorer.

Daniel Olejniczak set for face off against Cian Cowley



Oktawian Daniel Olejniczak

● **Oktawian Daniel Olejniczak had success in his previous fight against Steve Owens at BAMMA 35 in Dublin**

TD | Manama

Oktawian Daniel Olejniczak will be facing Cian Cowley from Straight Blast Gym Ireland.

Cowley is a decorated Muay Thai fighter who trains at SBG Ireland with the likes of Conor McGregor and IMMAF gold medallist Frans Mlambo.

Olejniczak had success in his previous fight against Steve

Owens at BAMMA 35 in Dublin, which he won via unanimous decision.

The bout marks the first event for Cian Cowley after the incident at UFC 223.

Cowley was part of a large contingent which joined McGregor in his attack on the red corner fighters' bus following the UFC 223 media day at Barclays Centre in Brooklyn on April 5.

Cowley was charged with one count of criminal mischief and is due to return to a New York courtroom in June.

McGregor was charged with three counts of assault and one of criminal mischief for allegedly hurling a dolly through the van's window.

Chad Hanekom addresses the humanitarian crisis in Syria



Chad Hanekom

● **Chad Hanekom will face Tarek Suleiman from Syria on June 9 at the SSE Arena in Belfast**

TD | Manama

Chad Hanekom addresses the present humanitarian crisis in Syria amidst the discussion about his upcoming appearance in Brave 13 at Belfast.

Hanekom will face Tarek Suleiman from Syria on June 9 at the SSE Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Hanekom is currently undergoing training at the Fight Militia in South Africa and will be competing to redeem the defeat he suffered in his first ever appearance in Brave Combat Federation.

"I don't have anything to say to my opponent. Trash talking is not really my style; I prefer to let my performance dictate my status. I acknowledge him and what he brings to the fight. It is what it is. I do however understand the humanitarian crises faced within his nation of Syria. And although we are competing, I support peace to prevail in his nation and for the people of Syria," said Hanekom.

McIlroy, Molinari tied for lead

Reuters | London

Rory McIlroy's challenge for the BMW PGA Championship faltered as McIlroy suffered an off-day and was caught by charging Italian Francesco Molinari yesterday.

The Northern Irishman began his third round three shots

clear of the field on 12-under but found the Wentworth course far less obliging and dropped three shots in his opening six holes before dragging his round back together.

McIlroy finished with birdies on 17 and 18 for a one-under 71 to share the lead with Molinari.

Ricciardo takes Monaco F1 pole with track record lap

● **Sebastian Vettel in the Ferrari was second, with Lewis Hamilton in the Mercedes in third position**

The Guardian | Monaco

Daniel Ricciardo secured pole position for Red Bull at the Monaco Grand Prix after utterly dominating on the streets of Monte Carlo, with the Australian proving to be the class of the field in a Red Bull that has truly found its form on this circuit. Sebastian Vettel in the Ferrari was second, with Lewis Hamilton in the Mercedes in third.

Ricciardo put in the culmination to what has been a superb weekend thus far by delivering a flawless and superb run on his first lap in Q3 that was a full four-tenths clear of his rivals. It was a masterclass in Monaco and although he could not improve it on his second run, he did not need to. Vettel could only close the deficit to two-tenths, with Hamilton four-tenths back.



Daniel Ricciardo drives

Ricciardo had gone quickest in Q1, four-tenths up on Vettel, and was again in the second session but only one-tenth up on Kimi Räikkönen behind him. It had looked tight going into the shootout but the Australian proved untouchable. He has topped every session in practice and qualifying, and in doing so set a new track record on six separate occasions.

This is Ricciardo's second career pole position, having taken his first here in 2016, a race he was set to win until a pit-stop error cost him time and left the Australian angry and

disappointed. It was also the last time Red Bull claimed the top spot and Ricciardo, out of contract at the end of this year, is highly bankable on current form. He won with a fine drive in China and was in good shape at Baku before the accident with team-mate Max Verstappen that ended their race.

He has not won in Monaco but has been on the podium here on three of his four visits with Red Bull, and it is a race he has been clear he dearly wants to win. He was hugely strong in practice, quickest in the opening two sessions and then topped the table



This is Daniel Ricciardo's second career pole position, having taken his first here in 2016, a race he was set to win until a pit-stop error cost him time and left the Australian angry and disappointed

yesterday morning, and will be optimistic of his chances of converting pole into a win.

The Red Bull has yet to have a chance to show its real race pace in clean air at the front from the off, and Ricciardo will expect to exploit his opportunity on a circuit where track position is all.

Always strong through the slow corners, the downforce-dependent nature of Monaco plays to the Red Bull's strengths and masks its power deficit.

BOC: Sports day efforts noted

TD | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) board member Rashid Abdullatif Al Zayani commended the efforts of the Bahrain International Circuit during the 2018 Bahrain Sports Day.

This was announced at a meeting with BIC chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, who received a special memento in appreciation to their contributions in making this event an all-round success.

Al Zayani noted the significant efforts of the circuit as one of the leading sports organisations in the kingdom, and stressed the importance of such partnerships initiated for the development of the nation.

The event, which was organ-



Rashid Al Zayani (R) presents trophy to Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa

ized by the BOC last February, saw a wide range of activities, which included some free kart-

ing races that involved a record 246 contestants, 82 more compared to last year's edition.

Lorenzo could end up on satellite Yamaha

Autosport | London

Triple MotoGP world champion Jorge Lorenzo could end up on a satellite Yamaha bike next year, as opportunities for him to secure a factory team spot decrease.

Lorenzo, who secured all 44 of his MotoGP wins and his titles as a works Yamaha rider, has struggled to replicate his frontrunning form since switching to Ducati on a two-year deal at the start of 2017. The Spaniard now looks increasingly unlikely to sign a second contract with Ducati, with Pramac riders Danilo Petrucci and Jack Miller seen as more affordable options.

Surfing is similar to MMA: Zane

● **This is for the first time a fighter with a background in professional surfing had signed with the promotion**

● **Zach Zane has an impressive record of 7 wins out of his 10 fights**

TD | Manama

Zach Zane had signed to compete in Brave 13: Europe Evolution hosted on 9th June at the SSE Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Zane fights out of Wailuku, Hawaii in the United States



Zach Zane

of America. Zane had started training martial arts at the age of four under his grand father. A part from competing in Mixed martial Arts, Zane is also a pro-

fessional surfer. This is for the first time a fighter with a background in professional surfing had signed with the promotion. "Surfing is similar to mar-

tial arts, it is about the skills to adapt. At no time the sea remains the same. So is the sport of mixed martial arts. The sport, tactics and opponents are never the same or predictable. It is about adapting to the change and taking control of the situation," said Zane.

Zane is set to compete against Declan Dalton who is from Belfast and has an impressive record of 7 wins out of his 10 fights.

"Basically all those who I fight with end up becoming friends. I don't have to hate people or talk trash each time a fight is announced. However when the cage door shuts, it is time for business and there will be no mercy. I will be at my very best will capitalise every opportunity to win," added Zane.

Bale blitz sinks Reds

Real Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1 to lift Champions League for third time in a row

● Real Madrid's Gareth Bale scores twice in a final packed full of memorable moments

● Liverpool's Mohamed Salah was forced off with a shoulder injury

● Karim Benzema of Real Madrid opened the scoring in bizarre fashion

PA Sport | Kiev

Real Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1 to win the Champions League for a third successive season thanks to a spectacular two-goal substitute appearance from Gareth Bale and a performance to forget for Loris Karius.

Bale, who had been controversially left on the bench despite his recent good form, scored twice in a final packed full of memorable moments for good and bad reasons.

Liverpool started strongly without creating any real chances of note but were dealt a major blow when Mohamed Salah



Sergio Ramos holds the Champions League trophy aloft after Real Madrid's win



Gareth Bales scores an overhead kick to give Real Madrid the lead

went off injured in the 29th minute. The Egypt international, who has scored 44 goals in all competitions this season, hurt his left shoulder while battling for the ball with Madrid captain Sergio Ramos.

Salah attempted to continue but went down to the turf once again before he left the pitch in tears to be replaced by Adam Lallana. Soon after Dani Carvajal was forced to depart for Madrid through injury. He hurt his hamstring when he tried a backheel to Ronaldo.

Minutes before half-time Madrid thought they had taken the lead when Karim Benzema fired home from close range after Karius had parried a Cristiano Ronaldo header, but the was ruled out for offside against Ronaldo.

Moments later Benzema was influential again when he teed up Nacho who fired into the side-netting as Madrid stepped up, while the break couldn't

3-1

was the final score with Bale who had been controversially left on the bench despite his recent good form, scoring twice

come soon enough for Liverpool who were reeling from the loss of their talisman.

Three minutes into the second-half Isco struck the crossbar when he should have scored but the breakthrough came in the 51st minute in unfortunate circumstances for Liverpool goalkeeper Karius.

After collecting a through ball from Toni Kroos, Karius attempted to throw the ball out only for Benzema to stretch a

leg out and poke the ball home.

It didn't take Liverpool long to get back on level terms. Dejan Lovren headed goalward from a corner and Sadio Mane nipped in front of Keylor Navas to poke home. Much of the talk prematch had been about Zinedine Zidane's decision to leave Bale on the bench, but he was introduced in the 60th minute for Isco. And he wasted no time in underlining his continued importance to Madrid with a stunning overhead kick that restored their lead within four minutes of his entrance.

Mane struck the foot of the post with a driven effort from outside the box in the 70th minute as Liverpool tried to warn Madrid that the tie was not over.

But a second mistake from Karius, who spilled a long shot from Bale into his net in the 83rd minute, sealed victory for Madrid and a 13th European Cup success.

Dominic Thiem clinches Lyon title

● Dominic Thiem beats Gilles Simon 3-6 7-6(1) 6-1

● Thiem has eight claycourt titles in his career

Reuters | Lyon

Dominic Thiem warmed up for the French Open by winning the Lyon Open title yesterday with a gritty 3-6 7-6(1) 6-1 victory over French veteran Gilles Simon in the fi-

nal. The 24-year-old was starting at defeat while down a set and a break but dug deep to prevail in two hours 24 minutes for his 200th tour match victory and his 10th ATP title.

"I'm super happy. I fought really hard for this title," Thiem said. "I'm really happy that I won. It's always something special. It's my tenth title, which is a great number. I have a little 'decima', I think."

Thiem has eight claycourt titles in his career and is seen as one of the few players capable of denying world number one Rafa Nadal a record-extending 11th title at Roland Garros.

The Austrian snapped Nadal's year-long winning streak of 50 consecutive sets when he beat the Spaniard in the Madrid Open quarter-finals earlier this month. His tenacity and endurance will serve him well at the claycourt grand slam that begins on Sunday.

Thiem was forced to play twice on Friday, coming through a three-setter in the semi-final against Dusan Lajovic after earlier completing his quarter-final against Guillermo Garcia-Lopez which had been suspended due to fading light the previous day.

Jos Buttler, Dom Bess keep England alive

● Jos Buttler reached 66 not out and Bess an unbeaten 55 to take England to 235-6.

BBC | London

Jos Buttler and Dom Bess both made fifties to give England a lead of 56 in the first Test against Pakistan.

The recalled Buttler and debutant Bess came together when England still needed 69 to make Pakistan bat again and shared an unbroken stand of



Dom Bess and Jos Buttler revived England's innings.

125. Buttler reached 66 not out and Bess an unbeaten 55 to take England to 235-6.

Despite 68 from captain Joe Root, a collapse of four wickets

for 19 runs had earlier left England in danger of losing by an innings inside three days.

Pakistan remain strong favourites.