

**Between Maybes:**  
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# THE DAILY **tribune**

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# GCC, Arab summits vital to region: PM

TDI | Manama

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, yesterday asserted Bahrain's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia in all measures it takes to strengthen the region's stability and peace.

The emergency Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Arab summits, HRH the Premier said, is vital considering the critical situation the region is currently going through.

"Whoever seeks their country's stability should be keen on Saudi security and stability, and has to counter any attempts to target it," the Prime Minister said calling on to adopt unified GCC and Arab stances in support of sisterly Saudi Arabia.

The session wished the two emergency summits every success in coming up with resolutions that would serve the interests of GCC, Arab and Islamic countries and their peoples.

The Cabinet also condemned in strongest terms the brutal attack on Holy Makka by the



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa chairs the regular weekly Cabinet session at the Gudaibiya Palace, yesterday

Houthi militias with a ballistic missile.

The session described the attack as a despicable assault on the sanctity of the holy sites that provokes all Muslims, affirming Bahrain's full-fledged solidarity with Saudi Arabia.

The Cabinet then welcomed the visit carried out by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the United Arab Emirates, and his meeting with the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, HH

Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

HRH Premier lauded the long-standing distinguished solid relations between Bahrain and the UAE, and their joint keenness to strengthen them further.

The Premier further voiced deep pride in the feelings expressed by well-wishers while congratulating him on being selected on honoured by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a World Leader in the health field.

The Prime Minister also ex-

tended thanks to WHO Director-General and all those who attended the honouring ceremony in Geneva.

### GCC march hailed

The Cabinet lauded the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as an entity that was established to strengthen the security and stability of its member states and enhance their peoples' progress and prosperity.

Commenting on the GCC's 38th Anniversary, the Cabinet stressed the importance of pre-

serving the GCC and praised the landmark achievements attained.

### 'Complete projects in Muharraq'

The Prime Minister gave directives to complete development projects in Muharraq regarding services, education and facilities, according to the pre-set schedule.

HRH Premier highlighted the importance of the new Muharraq Central Market, which was opened under his patronage last Wednesday, in providing more services for the Muharraq citizens.

**BD 230 million to finance VRS** See page 02

## Queen Elizabeth II thanks Bahrain's leadership

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of thanks from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and the Commonwealth in reply to his congratulatory cable on her birthday anniversary.

HM the Queen expressed thanks and appreciation to HM the King for his noble sentiments, wishing him steady good health and happiness and further progress and prosperity to Bahrain.

Similar cables were also sent by Her Majesty to His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

## US 'not looking for regime change' in Iran



Trump AFP | Tokyo

The United States is not seeking regime change in Iran, President Donald Trump said yesterday, as tensions between the two countries rise with Washington deploying troops to the region.

"We're not looking for regime change, we're looking for no nuclear weapons," Trump said at a press conference in Tokyo, adding that he thinks "we'll make a deal" with Tehran.

## Crown Prince calls for greater ties with Jordan

TDI | Manama

HRH the Crown Prince yesterday called for further deepening the bilateral cooperation between Bahrain and Jordan.

During a meeting with HRH Prince Hashim bin Al Hussein, His Majesty King Abdulla II's Chief Royal Councillor at Riffa Palace, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa highlighted the longstanding bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



HRH Crown Prince with HRH Prince Hashim bin Al Hussein

For his part, HRH Prince Hashim expressed his appreciation and gratitude to HRH the

Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister on his warm

hospitality, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain further prosperity. The Crown Prince hosted an Iftar banquet in honour of HRH Prince Hashim and the accompanying delegation.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy and HE Shaikh Salman bin Khaled Al Khalifa, Director General of the Royal Family Council attended the meeting.

### GAME CHANGER

## Dubai group 'agree terms' for Newcastle takeover

AFP | London

Representatives of Dubai-based Sheikh Khaled Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said yesterday they had "agreed terms" with Newcastle United owner Mike Ashley, moving closer to completing a deal to buy the Premier League club.

A statement from billionaire Sheikh Khaled's Bin Zayed Group said: "We can confirm that representatives of His Highness Sheikh Khaled Bin Zayed Al

Nahyan are in discussions with Mike Ashley and his team, about the proposed acquisition of Newcastle United Football Club.

"We have agreed terms and are working hard to complete the transaction at the earliest opportunity."

The statement said Sheikh Khaled considered it "an honour to have the opportunity to build on the strong support, history and tradition of the club".

Reports at the weekend said Sheikh Khaled, a relative of Manchester City



Sheikh Khaled Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has reportedly agreed terms to buy Newcastle

owner Sheikh Mansour, was close to sealing a £350 million (\$443 million) takeover.

A spokesman for the club "politely declined" to comment, but sources close to the club have indicated there was interest.

Ashley, the founder of the Sports Direct retail chain, bought the club for £134.4 million in 2007 but has faced a string of protests from supporters disgruntled at what they see as a lack of investment in players.



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# BD 230 million to finance VRS

TDT | Manama

Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday approved one-time funding of BD230 million to finance the government's Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

The fund, HRH Premier while chairing the weekly Cabinet meeting said, will be moved to the public account from the surplus of the Insurance against Unemployment account.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Social Insurance



HRH Prime Minister chairing the weekly Cabinet

Organisation, the move is in line with Law 4/2019 on amending some provisions of Decree-Law 78/2006 on Insurance against Unemployment.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy was requested to take the necessary procedures to transfer the amount.

## Hospitals to be run by a board

The session endorsed a recommendation by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on a draft-decree to form a board of trustees for government-funded hospitals

and another for primary health care centres.

The two boards of trustees will carry out the tasks stipulated in the Social Insurance Law promulgated by Law 23/2018.

## No impact on realty

The Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) yesterday informed the Cabinet that the adjusted electricity tariffs for Bahrainis with more than one account and non-Bahrainis have had no impact on the real estate sector or its stagnation.

On the contrary, the study

revealed that the new tariffs contributed significantly to rationalising the consumption of electricity and water across Bahrain.

## Hire unemployed doctors

The session endorsed a proposal to recruit unemployed doctors stressing that the project has been implemented already through various programmes endorsed by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet then endorsed a proposal to exempt foodstuffs sold in school canteens from the Value Added Tax (VAT).



The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) held an Annual Family Health and Safety evening at the Gulf Hotel. Company President Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery, members of the Executive Management, Labour Union Chairman and representatives, employees and their families attended.



Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, signing in the book of condolences yesterday at the Malaysian embassy to Bahrain, in honour of the demise of the Sultan Ahmad Shah, the father of Malaysia's current King, Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin. The minister extended his sincere condolences to the Malaysian government and people.



The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" in partnership with MENA Center for Investment celebrated the graduation of Intelaaq Student Consultancy Programme participants at Muharraq Model Youth Centre, on Monday. The ceremony witnessed the graduation of more than 90 students from three different batches. The three batches included participants from the University of Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic, Bahrain Training Institute, Ahlia University, Royal University for Women, and many other institutes. Registration is now open for Intelaaq's eighth and ninth batches of the program due to begin in early July 2019.

## Attempt to burn police vehicle: Court rejects appeal

TDT | Manama

Two Bahrainis found guilty of attempting to burn a police patrol vehicle and torching the walls of a school in the Northern Governorate got their three-year imprisonment sentences upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court also upheld the BD500 fine imposed on each of them.

Court records show the suspects were arrested with four minors while participating in an illegal gathering near a school in Diraz village on 20

**Court records show the suspects were arrested with four minors while participating in an illegal gathering near a school in Diraz village on 20 March 2018.**

March 2018. The suspects, court files say, hurled Molotov cocktails at a police vehicle that arrived at the scene.

However, the Molotov cocktail instead his a school wall, causing it to catch flames.

Public Prosecution accused them of causing damages to public property, serving a terrorist purpose and endangering the lives of people.

The Prosecution also accused them of attempting to torch a police vehicle and participating in an illegal gathering of more than 15 individuals to disrupt public order.

The Court sentenced them to three years of imprisonment and fines of BD500 each. The suspects choose to appeal the verdict, which was turned down yesterday by the appeals court.

## Court cuts sentence in fake bomb case

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday reduced to five years the ten-year jail term awarded to a Bahraini man accused of planting a fake bomb in the Capital Governorate.

The appellant was among a group of six accused of disrupting public order by placing a fake bomb on a public road in the Capital Governorate

On 6 September 2015, the group burnt tyres on Oman Avenue and placed there air-conditioners cylinders wrapped with electrical wires. The device, resembling an explosive device, terrified commuters and

**The appellant was among a group of six accused of disrupting public order by placing a fake bomb on a public road in the Capital Governorate**

residents in the area.

Following an investigation, one of the suspects landed in police custody. He revealed the identities of others involved in the crime.

The involvement of the suspects in the crime was proved using DNA samples collected from the crime scene.

The Public Prosecution accused them of burning objects to serve a terrorist purpose and endangering lives and properties. The prosecution also charged with planting a fake explosive device on a publicly, joining an illegal gathering of more than five individuals and engaging in violence.

The prosecution referred the suspects to the court, which sentenced them to 10 years of imprisonment. However, the appellant pleaded not guilty and the court commuted the sentence by half to five years.

# big story

# 40 violations found at pharmacies

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) conducts close to 600 inspections in pharmacies here during 2018 finding several violations mostly in the pricing and selling of drugs.



Representative picture. (Courtesy of the National)

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Around 40 violations were found last year at the pharmacies in Bahrain related to selling, pricing and licensing of medicines.

The findings follow close to 600 inspection visits by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) inspection team in 2018.

One of the most common types of violation detected during NHRA inspection was selling related. The authority spotted 15 of them.

Altogether NHRA spotted five types of violations which were recurring.

The second most detected violation was related to Pricing. NHRA found eight during visits.

Others are pharmacy set up violations (5), licensing violations (6) and temperature/humidity/fridge violation (6).

### Pharma count jump

The NHRA said there are currently 263 licensed pharmacies in the Kingdom, an increase of 50 from the prior year.

In 2017, there were 213 pharmacies.

Of the 263 pharmacies, 59 are associated with hospitals, while 204 are private pharmacies.

### Most in Capital

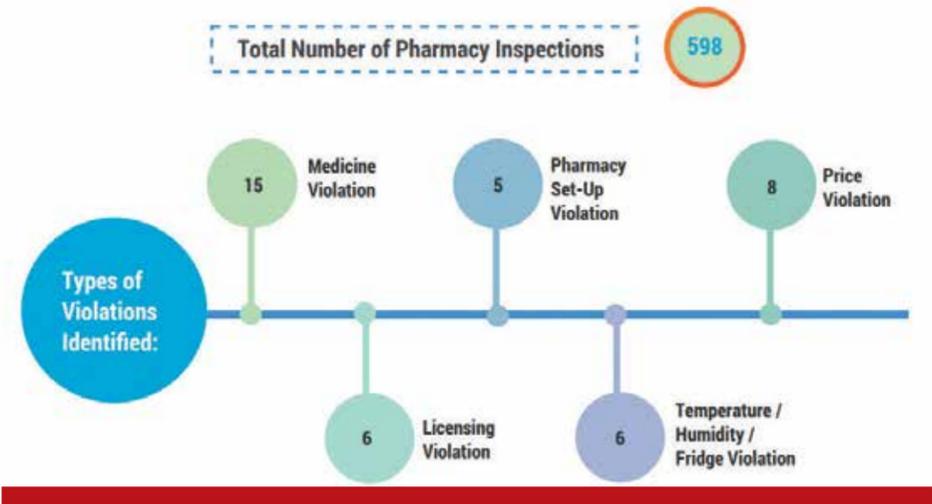
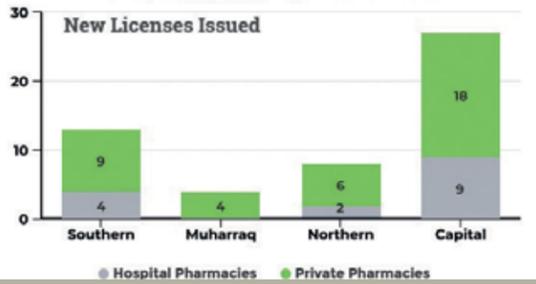
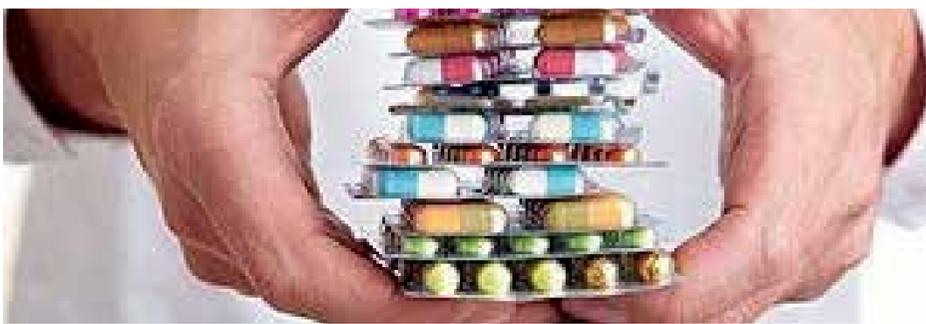
According to NHRA, Capital Governorate witnessed the most number of opening in the year 2018. As of now, there are a total of 95 pharmacies in the Capital.

Closely following is Northern Governorate in the second spot with 61 pharmacies. Southern has 57 and Muharraq 51.

### New openings

Capital Governorate also enjoys the record for new pharmacy openings in 2018.

A total of 27 new pharmacies



## Online registration on way



The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) said plans are on the anvil to develop a system for registering pharmaceutical products online. "This year the focus is on developing an online Pharmaceutical Products Registration and Management system," NHRA revealed. The move, NHRA said, will facilitate hassle-free registration and customs release of pharmaceutical products, along with the DUR system.

were launched in the capital last year - Eight in the Northern Governorate, four in the Muharraq Governorate and 13 in the Southern Governorate.

### DUR System

NHRA cited the development

'Drug Utilization Review System' (DUR) as one of the top achievements in the department of pharmaceutical regulations in 2018.

"The DUR system plays a key role in the National Health Insurance sector by tracking all

pharmaceutical products imported and utilized in the Kingdom," the NHRA said adding: "A total of 3170 medicines have been registered and a temporary registration has been granted to 3391 pharmaceutical products during the year."

## Court to announce verdict in Qatari funding case in April



Both the suspects were arrested at Bahrain International Airport

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the verdicts against two Bahraini men found guilty of receiving funds from a Qatari minister to disrupt the Parliamentary elections last November.

The Fourth High Criminal Court, in its February 6 judgment, awarded the first accused a five-year jail term and a fine of BD2,000. The Court gave the second accused a three-year jail term and BD1,000 penalty.

The first suspect was also a candidate in the Parliamentary elections here.

Court files say he was arrested, upon his arrival in the Kingdom from Qatar through Kuwait last October, with BD12,000 in undeclared cash.

Further investigations proved that the suspects often received money from his Qatari contact also a former Qatari Interior Minister Abdullah bin Khalid Al Thani.

Transactions were made either through bank accounts or received by hand from Qatar by

**The Fourth High Criminal Court, in its February 6 judgment, awarded the first accused a five-year jail term and a fine of BD2,000. The Court gave the second accused a three-year jail term and BD1,000 penalty.**

making frequent visits.

Customs officials arrested him while he was returning from one such visit to collect cash from Qatar.

Investigators also found that the suspect received the money to support his campaign for the 2018 parliamentary elections.

In return for the cash, the suspect was bound to serve Qatari interests by harming the Kingdom's legislative works from the Parliament.

Officials recorded the arrests at the Bahrain International Airport.

During the investigation, the first suspect denied the accu-

sation levelled against him by claiming that he 'forgot' to declare the money and was not 'attempting to hide'.

He also denied the accusation that the money was for his electoral campaign. "It was received for fixing rainwater isolation equipment".

However, a telephonic conversation made by the suspect confirmed the accusations. Judicial permission was issued to record his calls.

Investigators also found that both the suspects received a total of BD235, 804 from the same Qatari official during the period from 2013 to 2018.

According to court files, the Qatari official also has his name on an international terrorism list issued by the Anti-Terror Arab Quartet - Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Public prosecution charged the suspects with exchanging intelligence information with a foreign country to undermine the national interests and illegally receiving money without disclosing it to the Customs Department.

## Stray dogs attack man in Manama



One of the dogs that attacked the man spotted later

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

A man sustained several bite injuries after he was viciously attacked by a pack of dogs yesterday morning in Manama.

The man, an expatriate, said he was chased and attacked by the dogs at a parking lot in Manama.

Describing the ordeal, he said that usually, he keeps an eye out for strays.

But on that day, "I failed to notice these strays at the parking."

"Suddenly one of them growled and lunged at me.

"I was shocked and tried to run, but it was not enough."

It's just pure luck that the man managed to escape.

The man reported the incident to the nearest police station and immediately went to



One of the dogs bit the man's leg

Salmaniya Hospital.

"I spent 20 BD there for the anti-tetanus vaccination and medicine," he said.

He told *Tribune* that it is dangerous to let children roam around in the area as chances

are high that the pack is still there.

In a similar incident recently, a man suffered injuries following what he described as an attack by a 'large aggressive dog' in Salmaniya.

## DNA lands man in trouble over refusing paternity

TDT | Manama

A man who refused to have a DNA test after a DNA test proved that he was the legitimate father. The man, holding a Bahraini nationality, also denied his marriage to the girls' mother, an African by nationality.

According to the court records, the man tied the knot with the woman in 2006. They also have two girls of nine and two years of age.

**The man, holding a Bahraini nationality, also denied his marriage to the girls' mother**

The Court ordered the man to take a DNA test after accepting a video documenting his marriage in the Shariat Court as evidence. The man, however, claimed before that court that it was his birthday party.

Public Prosecution accused

the man of abandoning his wife and kids, which also resulted in the nine-year-old girl to skip school unable to afford fees.

The man, the court was told, also refused to get necessary identification documents for his wife.

The High Criminal Court ordered him to process their legal identification documents and to pay them a monthly remuneration and house rent. The Court also ordered the man to pay his wife BD150 for Eid.



BAHRAIN AIRPORT COMPANY  
wishes to invite proposals for the following Public Tender

Tender Title	Tender No.	Tender Doc. Fees	Initial Bond	Tender Closing	
Access Control Management System at Bahrain Airport Company	BAC/ICT/80/2019	BD 15/- non-refundable	BD 500	Day/ Date	Time
				25th June 2019	1:30 PM

• Companies with the required experience are kindly requested to collect the appropriate tender Documents at Bahrain Airport Company (Building 124, Road 2403, Muharraq 224 Gulf Air Building 1st Floor Wing B) Procurement Department Tel: 17353258, 17353296 during the following working hours (8:00am – 2:00pm) after payment of tender fees specified above.

• Deposit each Tender Submission in the tender box provided at the Bahrain Airport Company, Procurement Department on the above closing date before 01:30 pm. Along with an initial bond for the amount specified above or at the rate of 1% of the quotation value whichever amount is the lesser, provided that no initial Bond's value shall be less than BD 500/-, in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.

• Articles of the Decree by Law No. 36 for 2002, regarding the regulation of Government Tenders and Purchases, together with its executive regulations issued in Decree No. 37 for 2002, must be observed [www.tenderboard.gov.bh](http://www.tenderboard.gov.bh)

• The following conditions must also be observed:

1. Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate for the current year, which must include the Tender Subject as one of its activities.
2. Submit their Proposed Minimum Annual Guarantee and Proposed Fee Percentage (according to conditions) as per the criteria outlined.
3. Enclose a copy of a valid Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
4. All documents submitted as part of the tender (original or copies) must bear the stamp of the bidding Company / Establishment.
5. Kindly provide a business card when collecting the RFP document

• This advertisement is considered as complementary to the Tender Documents.

world

# Trump not bothered by NK missile tests

● **Trump was invited to Japan to be the first world leader to meet with its new emperor**

AP | Tokyo

President Donald Trump said yesterday that he is not “personally bothered” by recent short-range missile tests that North Korea conducted this month, breaking with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is hosting the president on four-day state visit full of pageantry.

Standing beside Trump at a news conference after hours of talks, Abe disagreed with the US president, saying the missile tests violated UN Security Council resolutions and were “of great regret.” Abe, who has forged a strong friendship with Trump and agrees with him on many issues, is concerned because the short-range missiles pose a threat to Japan’s security.

Trump was invited to Japan to be the first world leader to meet with its new emperor. Despite being far from Washington, he didn’t miss the chance to lob another broadside against former Vice President Joe Biden, one of the Democrats seeking to challenge Trump in next year’s presidential election. North Korea’s Kim Jong Un recently criticized Biden as having a low I.Q. and Trump told the world he agreed with the authoritarian leader’s assessment.



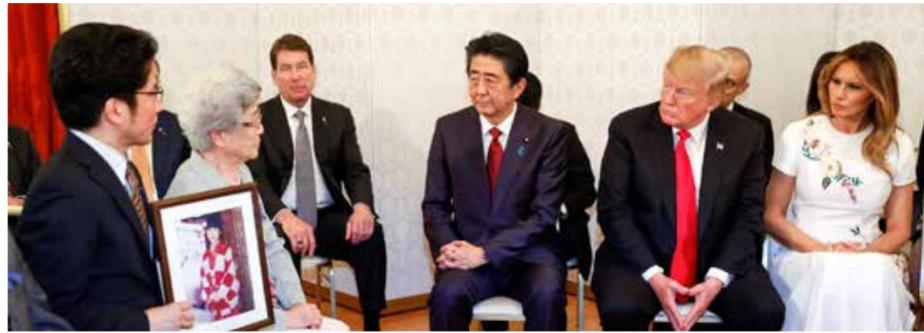
US President Donald Trump (L) speaks during a joint press conference with Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Akasaka Palace in Tokyo



Trump and First Lady Melania Trump are greeted by Japan’s Emperor Naruhito (C) and Empress Masako (R) upon their arrival at the Imperial Palace

“All I know is there have been no nuclear tests, no ballistic missiles going out, no long-range missiles going out and I think that someday we’ll have a deal. No rush

DONALD TRUMP



US President Donald Trump (2nd R) meets family members of Japanese abductees by North Korea, with First Lady Melania Trump (R) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (3rd R) at Akasaka State Guesthouse in Tokyo

the weekend that they violated U.N. resolutions.

Trump continues to hold out hope of eventually getting Kim to agree to give up his nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, despite two summits he’s had with the North Korean leader that produced no concrete pledge to denuclearize the peninsula.

Trump praised Kim, calling him a “smart man” who might

have launched the missiles earlier this month to “get attention.”

“All I know is there have been no nuclear tests, no ballistic missiles going out, no long-range missiles going out and I think that someday we’ll have a deal,” Trump said, adding that he is in “no rush.”

Abe reiterated his previous statement that the tests were carried out in defiance of the UN. The leaders held hours of talks

after the US president — at Abe’s invitation — became the first world leader to meet Japan’s new emperor, Naruhito, who ascended to the throne May 1.

The meeting with Naruhito and his wife, Empress Masako, was preceded by a grand outdoor welcome ceremony at Japan’s Imperial Palace, where Trump walked solo across red carpets, reviewing Japanese troops as the guest of honor.

**NKorea calls Bolton ‘war monger’**



AP | Seoul, South Korea

North Korea yesterday called US National Security Adviser John Bolton a “war monger” and “human defect” after he described its recent tests of short-range missiles as a violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

In the statement carried by the North’s Korean Central News Agency, the North Korean spokesman said his country was exercising its right of self-defense with the launches. North Korea has never recognized the UN Security Council resolutions, which it views as denying its “rights to existence and development of a sovereign state,” the statement said.

The spokesman said Bolton was an “ignorant” hard-liner who throughout different US administrations pushed provocative policies against North Korea including endorsements of pre-emptive strikes and regime change.

## Melania enjoys nature-themed Japan culture



Children perform a traditional dance for U.S. first lady Melania Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s wife Akie Abe

Tokyo

First lady Melania Trump had a nature-oriented Japanese cultural experience Monday at Akasaka Palace, where she learned that bamboo trunks can create music and also serve as flower vases.

Melania and Japanese first lady Akie Abe were entertained by tunes from a “shakuhachi” bamboo flute, played by flutist Yosuke Irie, with a set of bamboo trunks standing upright like a screen behind him. The bamboo installation

then turned into a set of vases as flower artist Kumiko Kato built a sculpture out of it, decorating the vases with curved oak branches, maple leaves, blue hydrangea flowers and other plants, while the flutist played background music that included “Amazing Grace.”

Melania also learned how to summon carp at a pond in the garden: She clapped her hands, following the example of Mrs. Abe, and the fish raced to her.

Children performing Japanese dance put a smile on Melania at the end of the highly stylized and educational program.

## Malaysia’s last male Sumatran rhino dies



Veterinarians and rhino keepers have been providing round-the-clock medical treatment

● **Wildlife experts estimate that only about 30 to 80 Sumatran rhinos remain in the world**

Reuters | Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia’s last male Sumatran rhinoceros has died, an official said on Monday, dashing efforts to save the critically endangered species in the country.

The rhino, named Tam, was about 30 years old and lived at a wildlife reserve in Sabah state

on Borneo island since his capture in 2008, Christina Liew, state minister for tourism, culture and environment, said in a statement.

The Sumatran rhino, the smallest species of rhinoceros, was declared extinct in the wild in Malaysia in 2015. Iman, a female captured in 2014, is now the only surviving member of the subspecies left in the country.

Another female rhino, Puntung, died in captivity in 2017.

Wildlife experts estimate that only about 30 to 80 Sumatran rhinos remain in the world, mostly on the Indo-



**The rhino known affectionately as Tam, captured by a wildlife team in August 2008 when he was roughly 20 years old**

nesian island of Sumatra and on the Indonesian side of Borneo.

Their isolation, caused by habitat loss and poaching, means they rarely breed and may go extinct in a matter of decades, according to conservation group International Rhino Foundation.

Since 2011, Malaysia has tried to breed the species in captivity through in vitro fertilization, but without success.

Liew said Tam’s genetic material has been preserved for future attempts to reproduce Sumatran rhinos.

# Banksy, the elusive artist



An unnamed man supposed to be British street artist Banksy sitting next to a montage of oil paintings entitled "Venice in oil" portraying a massive cruise ship surrounded by tiny Venetian gondola boats.

AFP

Five years ago, British street artist Banksy adorned the side of a once uninspiring white brick building in Bristol with the familiar image of a girl gazing out solemnly.

The dank courtyard beneath the stencil has, like many other spots the mysterious artist has decorated in his purported home city in southwest England, become one of Britain's most photographed places.

A parody pastiche of "Girl with a Pearl Earring" by Dutch Golden Age painter Johannes Vermeer, it bears all the hallmarks of Banksy's cheekily irreverent style.

The elusive Briton, whose identity is said to be known to only a handful of friends, has positioned the work so that a hexagonal security alarm box sits in place of the earring.

The creation, now one of his most famous, is known as "The Girl with a Pierced Eardrum".

It attracts admirers daily, many of them tourists on a well-trodden trail heavily documented on social media.

"Well Hung Lover", around 15 minutes walk away, is another popular stop.

Depicting a naked man hanging from the ledge of a window, below a lingerie-clad woman and a suited man looking out, it has graced the wall of a former

sexual health clinic since 2006. Standing on the street transfixed by the image, a group of French schoolchildren listen attentively to a guide narrating the remarkable backstory of the king of street art.

#### 'Nobody ever listened to me'

Banksy's most famous, or perhaps infamous, work is now called "Love is in the Bin".

Moments after the painting "Girl with Balloon" sold for £1,042,000 (\$1.4 million, 1.2 million euros) last year -- a joint record for the maverick artist -- it literally went through the shredder, which was hidden in the frame.

The buyer went through with the purchase, and some art experts say it is now worth more than it had been before the stunt.

Despite years in the international spotlight as he became one of the most famous artists of his generation, remarkably little is known about Banksy.

"Nobody ever listened to me until they didn't know who I was," he has said with characteristic irony. Legend has it he was born in Bristol in 1974.

He attended an educational project offering young graffiti artists the chance to practise their art without breaking the law, according to John Nation, sometimes nicknamed the "godfather" of Bristol street art.

"As a young boy, he'd come

to the centre and watch people paint," he told the Huffington Post. "He was heavily into hip hop culture, graffiti."

Banksy then purportedly joined the DryBreadZ Crew (DBZ), a gang of street artists formed in the early 1990s.

It was a time of cultural blossoming for the city, which included the so-called Bristol Sound of Massive Attack and Portishead, pioneers of trip hop music.

#### 'Accepted'

In 2001, the artist reportedly accompanied Bristol amateur football club Easton Cowboys on a tour of Mexico, playing as a goalkeeper and producing several stencilled works while there.

His notoriety mushroomed as his politically pointed murals -- denouncing consumerism, the fate of refugees in Europe and other issues -- began to appear around the world, from Calais to Gaza.

But Banksy appears to have never forgotten Bristol, regularly returning to erect new works.

Over the last two decades he has helped to make this city of 460,000 inhabitants on the Avon River one of the world capitals of street art, laying the ground for the 150 or so artists who work there today.

"Banksy has led the charge and his popularity and his rise have allowed street art to be ac-



An alleged work by British street artist Banksy depicting a migrant child wearing a lifejacket holding a pink flare, is painted on the outer wall of a house overlooking the canal Rio de Ca Foscari, in Venice

cepted," said Jody Thomas, a local street artist.

#### 'He's like Santa Claus'

Walking around the city, the unique relationship it has forged with this art form is ubiquitous.

The Bedminster neighbourhood has become an open-air museum studded with urban frescoes.

In Stokes Croft, between DJ shops and falafel restaurants,

Banksy's "Mild Mild West" mural -- depicting a teddy bear ready to fight with anti-riot police -- looms large.

What Banksy has given to Bristol, the city has returned to him, by helping to preserve his anonymity as if there is a secret pact with its inhabitants.

"There's been occasions where his identity may have been on the verge of (coming) out and other people have had

conversations or taken actions (so) that it's not happened," said Steve Hayles, of the Upfest Gallery.

"He's like Santa Claus," he added, noting: "People don't want to ruin the illusion".

"You don't want people going up to your kids and (saying) Santa Claus isn't real.

"In the same way that you don't want to go up to people and go... 'well this is Banksy'."

## Germany commits to ensuring security for Jews with skullcaps



People wear Jewish skullcaps, as they attend a demonstration against an anti-Semitic attack in Berlin

AP | Berlin

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman has stressed Germany's responsibility to ensure security for all Jews wearing skullcaps anywhere in the country without having to fear an anti-Semitic attack.

Steffen Seibert's comments came after the government's anti-Semitism commissioner, Felix Klein, was quoted Saturday as saying he "cannot recommend to Jews that they wear the skullcap at all times

everywhere in Germany." That was criticized strongly by Israel's president, among others.

Seibert said Monday "it's the job of the state to ensure that anybody can move around securely with a skullcap in any place of our country."

Government statistics released earlier this month showed that the number of anti-Semitic and anti-foreigner incidents rose in Germany last year, despite an overall drop in politically motivated crimes.

## IS claims responsibility for B'desh explosion

AP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

A global monitoring group said the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for an explosion targeting a police van in Bangladesh's capital, but police said Monday they were not sure who was

behind it. Police said Sunday night's explosion in Dhaka's Malibagh area left three people injured, including a police officer. After the explosion, the van caught fire.

US-based SITE Intelligence said in a Twitter post that IS was behind the explosion.

# Four suspects arrested after Lyon bomb attack



Soldiers of French anti terrorist plan "Vigipirate Mission", secure the area, near the site of a suspected bomb attack in central Lyon

AP | Paris

French police have arrested four suspects following a blast in the city of Lyon that wounded 13 people last week, authorities said yesterday.

TV footage showed a police operation underway Monday in a small town outside Lyon involving officers wearing ski masks. Police had launched a large manhunt after a device exploded Friday on a busy pedestrian street in France's third-largest city.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner announced the first arrest on Twitter, a development later confirmed by Paris prosecutors, who handle all terrorism-related cases.

The prosecutors' office later said three other suspects, including a woman, were detained and formally arrested. According to French media,

they included the mother and the brother of the main suspect.

Lyon mayor Gerard Collomb, a former interior minister, said one of the suspects is an IT student who was arrested as he stepped off a bus.

"It's a relief for all Lyon inhabitants. I believe the case has been resolved," Collomb told BFM TV. "If there was a network, it has been identified and will certainly be dismantled."

French President Emmanuel Macron has called the explosion an "attack" but no group has claimed responsibility for the explosion yet. An investigation has been opened for "attempted murder in relation with a terrorist undertaking" and "criminal terrorist association."

Last week, France's counter-terrorism prosecutor, Remy Heitz, described video surveillance that showed a suspect heading toward the center of

Lyon on a bike Friday afternoon. The man was seen arriving on foot, pushing his bike along a pedestrian-only street, then leaving a paper bag on a concrete block in the middle of the street near a bakery.

The suspect immediately returned to his bike and left the same way. One minute later, the explosion shattered the glass of a refrigerator in the bakery, Heitz said. Regional authorities said the 13 wounded suffered mostly minor injuries.

It was unclear whether the suspect first arrested Monday was the same person, although Collomb said the detained student was identified thanks to video surveillance.

Investigators at the scene have found screws, ball bearings, batteries, a triggering device that can be used remotely and plastic pieces that may come from the explosive device.

## Taliban attacks kill 10 Afghan troops, 4 police



Afghan National Army members attend their graduation ceremony

AP | Kabul, Afghanistan

A roadside bombing claimed by the Taliban killed 10 Afghan soldiers in the country's west while insurgent attacks on security checkpoints in northern Afghanistan killed four policemen, local officials yesterday.

The soldiers were driving back to base after picking up their salaries in the country's western Farah province. They were travelling in a Humvee when the explosion took place on Sunday afternoon in the Bala Buluk district, said Shah Mahmud Nahimi, a provincial councilman.

"The blast was so intense that no one in the Humvee survived," he added.

Elsewhere, the Taliban targeted several checkpoints in northern Sari Pul province on Sunday night, killing four members of the security forces and wounding 22, said Zabiullah Amani, the provincial governor's spokesman.

# Mexico auctions seized vehicles outside presidential mansion

AP | Mexico City

Seventeen black, bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburbans stretched in a neat, polished row outside the onetime official residence of Mexico's presidents. Nearby stood a 2007 Lamborghini Murcielago and a 2016 Ford Shelby pickup truck with a video camera embedded in the front grill and a hand-held radio next to the driver's seat.

All were put up for auction Sunday by the Institute to Return the Stolen to the People, the new name for a branch of the Finance Ministry that is in charge of selling property seized from purported drug dealers and tax cheats as well as government vehicles and other property that is no longer in use.

Holding the auction outside Los Pinos, a mansion nestled on an edge of the capital's Chapultepec Park, carried extra significance since President Andrés Manuel López Obrador turned the once heavily guarded compound into an open cultural center when he took office Dec. 1.

Ricardo Rodriguez Vargas, head of the institute, said the goal Sunday was to raise 30 million pesos (\$1.5 million) from the sale of 82 vehicles. The money is to be sent to two poor communities in the southern state of Oaxaca to improve roads, schools and other infrastructure. Those municipalities were chosen because almost all their residents live in poverty, he said.

Some of the vehicles put up for sale had been collecting dust in government warehouses for 10 years.



People look inside a 2007 Lamborghini Murcielago to be auctioned

**The top seller was the cherry red Shelby pickup with a license plate from the northern state of Sinaloa, home to one of Mexico's most brutal drug cartels. The fully loaded monster truck, a virtual office on wheels with leather seats and oversized side-view mirrors, went for 1.9 million pesos (\$99,685).**

It was the most heavily attended auction in the history of the Finance Ministry, Rodriguez said, with 800 people registering to bid. For every person sitting in the auction area under the shade of a white tarp there were at least another five outside ogling the vehicles, taking selfies with their favorite cars or watching the bids rise from beyond the cordoned auction pit.

Holding the auction on the grounds of the former presidential mansion was symbolic, said Ricardo Alvarado, a researcher with Mexicans Against Corruption and Impunity, a watchdog group. "Using a space that's characteristic of the luxury of

past administrations is without a doubt a symbol of what this government intends to do with austerity," he said.

López Obrador has slashed government salaries, including his own, and aggressively trimmed budgets. He plans to sell the presidential jet and travels on commercial airplanes, wears a Timex watch and claims to own fewer than a dozen suits. He is also targeting corruption and theft of state-produced gasoline.

The armored Suburbans, many of which were at least a decade old, drew little interest from bidders Sunday, but the competition was fierce for three classic Volkswagen sedans —



People look at cars to be auctioned



A man poses for photos next to a Chevrolet Camaro 2010 to be auctioned at the Los Pinos Cultural Center

the original Beetles — as well as for pristine Audi and BMW hatchbacks with leather bucket seats. Muscle cars, such as an orange Corvette and canary yellow Chevrolet Camaro, also saw intense bidding.

Men in fluorescent yellow

vests floated between bidders, yelping like Mariachi crooners as offers got loftier and loftier. Red auction paddles soared in the air, encouraged by a moderator in a little black dress who seduced buyers with warnings like: "Don't let it go!"

*Even if the new British prime minister wants a consensus on Brexit, the chance of achieving one is miniscule, writes professor Chris Grey*



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May reacts as she announces her resignation outside 10 Downing street in central London

# Theresa May divided



CHRIS GREY

Less than 48 hours after Theresa May threw in the towel as British prime minister, admitting: "I have not been able to deliver Brexit," her Tory party cohorts have been queuing up to replace her. Among the Conservative ministers and MPs who have thrown their hats into the ring are former Brexit secretary Dominic Raab, former leader of the House of Commons Andrea Leadsom, health secretary Matt Hancock, foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt, backbencher Esther McVey and international development secretary Rory Stewart. Boris Johnson and current environment secretary Michael Gove are preparing to face off once again.

But whoever inherits May's job will also inherit most of the problems she faced in delivering Brexit, some of them made worse by the mistakes she made and the decisions she took.

At the heart of these problems is the legacy of the 2016 referendum. The Leave campaign assiduously avoided specifying any particular form of Brexit. All that was promised was that it would not be economically damaging, and that it would be quickly and easily achieved.

The latter set expectations that could not be met; hence the repeated refrain from Leave voters now is: "Just get on with it". With May having been in office for just under three years, and having twice postponed the planned date to leave the European Union, her successor will be under enormous pressure to meet the current deadline of October 31.

The combination of the time needed for the leadership election and the summer political break means the new leader will really only have a couple of months to deliver.

And be min would so if th made As mean bitter tions memb Brexit mark with ti nomic as a p betwe After for ha the si ion, th the re It is i party advoc But which ratify with t regula tariff UK ha this w Agree in Nor So i pens, land a agree to be This b remai North aspect would Opp pro-B ist MP she n reason for he

# Bitcoin could change the game for foreign aid

Corruption aside, aid is at risk of getting eaten up along the way by overhead and administrative costs



A loaded C-17 cargo plane with food, water and medicine for a humanitarian mission to Colombia to aid Venezuelans is seen at the Homestead Air Force Base in Homestead, Florida



ALEX GLADSTEIN

Today's humanitarian aid model is fundamentally broken. Whether you're a foundation making a donation to a nonprofit abroad, a government distributing aid to another government, or an individual sending emergency funds to family members across borders, your money only gets to where it needs to go after passing through intermediaries. Even in the simplest payment scenario, there's your bank; a coordination network; and the aid recipient's bank. But often, there are even more middlemen, with money moving along complex chains of third parties. Such a system has obvious flaws. One is that each intermediary be-

tween you and the person or organization you are trying to help can delay, surveil, censor or steal your funds. In 2012, the UN's then-secretary general Ban Ki-moon said that "corruption prevented 30% of all development assistance from reaching its final destination."

Corruption aside, aid is at risk of getting eaten up along the way by overhead and administrative costs. In a research study done by Oxfam, only 7% of \$28 million in US aid meant for Ghana probably made it into that country between 2013 and 2015 due to a lack of available data. Even if all goes well, it can take several days, weeks or even months for the recipient to finally receive the aid. And in a world where 1.7 billion people don't have a bank account, many can't even ultimately claim your donation.

The way aid moves today is corruptible, inefficient and slow. Research from organizations like the World Bank and the charity organization GiveDirectly suggests that distributing aid via direct cash trans-

fers can be extremely efficient. How can we truly reach the area if there are so many barriers, even for small areas where Bitcoin changes the game? With Bitcoin, you can move directly to anyone you want in a matter of minutes. You can move to the recipient of your aid for third parties to process the payment through a global competition-based institution. To use Bitcoin, you just need a smartphone and the latest software. In emerging economies, a smartphone is nearly as common as a smartphone today. While a large number of people in the poorest countries do not have a bank account, nearly half do have a smartphone. This number will only continue to rise in the coming years. They don't need a passport, a bank account, or a company to access the internet.

1974

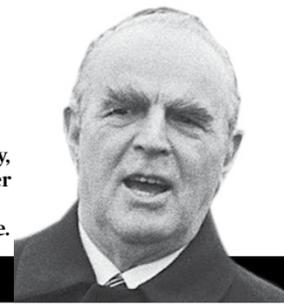
Northern Ireland's power-sharing Sunningdale Agreement collapses following a general strike by loyalists.

1975

Fifteen West African countries sign the Treaty of Lagos, creating the Economic Community of West African States.

1977

In Southgate, Kentucky, the Beverly Hills Supper Club is engulfed in fire, killing 165 people inside.



1979

Konstantinos Karamanlis signs the full treaty of the accession of Greece with the European Economic Community.

# May's successor faces an even more divided country than the one she inherited

Like May, any successor will need to be mindful that voters were promised there will be no costs to leaving – even more so if the person chosen is one of those who made that promise.

For defining what Brexit actually means, this continues to be a matter of dispute. From the outset, the main options were a soft Brexit, meaning, primarily, membership of the single market, or a hard Brexit, which would mean leaving the single market and seeking a free trade agreement with the EU. These are entirely different economic and political models, but both require as a precondition a withdrawal agreement between the UK and the EU.

After some initial ambiguity, May opted for a hard Brexit, with the UK leaving not just the single market but also the customs union and the system which exempts the UK and the rest of the bloc from tariffs on goods. It is inconceivable that the Conservative Party will now elect as leader anyone who advocates a softer Brexit than this.

A hard Brexit has a consequence that would destroy May's attempts to negotiate the withdrawal agreement she struck with the EU. By definition, being outside the territory of the single market and the territory of the customs union means the UK is leaving a hard border with the EU. And that would compromise the Good Friday Agreement that ended the armed conflict in Northern Ireland.

In order to ensure that, whatever happens, there is an open border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, the withdrawal agreement specifies a backstop arrangement to be used unless another solution is found. A backstop would mean the UK as a whole remaining in the EU customs union and Northern Ireland also remaining in many parts of the single market. That way, there would be no need for border checks.

Opposition to the backstop from the most vocal Brexit MPs in her own party and Unionists from Northern Ireland, whose votes were needed for a majority, was the main reason why May failed to achieve support for a deal on multiple occasions and was



Recent pictures of the eight contenders declared as of May 26 to replace Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May when she resigns on June 7: (top L-R) Britain's Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, Britain's Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary Michael Gove, former Brexit secretary Dominic Raab, (bottom L-R) Britain's International Development Secretary Rory Stewart, former works and pensions secretary Esther McVey, former leader of the House of Commons Andrea Leadsom, and Britain's Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock, all pictured in Downing Street, central London

forced to resign.

The key political conundrum is that these pro-Brexit MPs opposed May not because she failed to give them the hard Brexit they wanted but because in agreeing the backstop, she was asking them to recognise the practical realities inherent in a hard Brexit and the compromises needed to implement it. This they will not do.

Instead, they want the backstop to be removed from the withdrawal agreement altogether, in favour of as yet unspecified or untested "alternative arrangements", or to have a time limit on it (which by definition would mean it was no longer a backstop). If the EU will not agree then they propose to

leave with no deal at all.

It is almost certain that May's successor will come to office promising to pursue this approach. It is also likely that the EU will not accept the backstop being abandoned or diluted. Indeed it is not clear that they could do so without violating World Trade Organisation rules, even if the Good Friday Agreement was not an issue. So if the new leader sticks to the Brexiteers' plan, there will be a no-deal Brexit (although some think the British parliament would find a way of preventing this). If they do not stick to the plan, the Brexiteers will revolt again.

But if the UK leaves with no deal, the Irish border issue doesn't disappear. So in the

event of a no-deal Brexit, there will immediately need to be new negotiations – about the border, trade and many other things – for which the EU's precondition will be what was agreed in the withdrawal agreement, including the backstop.

This will bring things back to accepting something like May's deal but with the addition of a major economic crisis. The only other possibilities would be to abandon Brexit altogether or shift to a soft Brexit – each of which would cause a major political crisis. For that matter, a no-deal Brexit would itself cause a political crisis since it is not remotely what Leave voters were promised in 2016.

That all roads lead to crisis reflects the fact that public debate is now so toxic, any outcome will be regarded by some part of the electorate as a betrayal. May's main failure was that she did not try to build a consensus, difficult as that would have been, on a realistic way of doing Brexit until it was too late. Her attempt to hold cross-party talks ended in failure earlier this month and precipitated her departure.

Political discourse is now dominated by the language of sabotage, betrayal and treachery. May did little to challenge that and sometimes encouraged it. Positions on all sides have polarised. So even if a new leader were minded to seek consensus, the possibility of achieving it is very small. But in any case, it also means that the new leader is inevitably going to hold a position that will polarise things further.

In the end, the only way forward might be another referendum or perhaps a general election. But all the signs are that these would yield very close results and fail to provide any real resolution, for May bequeaths to her successor an even more divided country than the one she inherited.

Yet for all her faults and mistakes, the core challenge of delivering Brexit is not one of leadership but of Brexit itself, as her replacement will shortly discover.

*(Chris Grey is a professor of organisation studies at Royal Holloway, University of London and the author of The Brexit Blog)*



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



We are immensely proud of India's culture. Similarly, we are also optimistic about India's future. We are working to create an India that is powerful and prosperous, empowered and inclusive.

@HHSkMohd

02



On Memorial Day, we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives for our country and the families who lost loved ones. Today, we reaffirm a grateful nation's commitment to everyone who has served and to their families.

@BernieSanders

03



South Africa sends heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi and the BJP party on a decisive victory. We wish you everything of the best as you return for a second term and we look forward to further strengthening the good relations between our two countries.

@CyrilRamaphosa

04



We are free, in the greatest country in the world, because of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We honor the brave men and women who gave for us today & all days. We thank God for those who serve and sacrifice & pray for them and their families. Freedom isn't free.

@MeghanMcCain

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

H



US soldiers load a C-17 cargo plane with food, water and medicine for a humanitarian mission to Venezuela, at Homestead Air Force Base in Homestead, Florida

ly effective. But to innovate in this many intermediaries? Here's the equation. You can send money in the world in seconds. As your funds move, it's not possible to censor or steal, as this is done through a decentralized network. To receive Bitcoin, you connect your smartphone with Bitcoin. According to a survey, 45% of citizens already own a smartphone. While that means a large number of people in the world's poorest countries can't have the internet, yet, the fact that Bitcoin is significant and this is expected to rise in popularity to receive Bitcoin, without a passport or an ID or a bank account they don't have from a government to accept the funds. It

is a true peer-to-peer transaction, done over a global, neutral payment rail. Of course, what isn't guaranteed is that the recipient can turn Bitcoin into local currency so they can buy the food, medicine or help that they need. That's a major challenge, but it's changing in a big way.

According to a global analysis of Bitcoin exchange data, individuals in West Africa, Latin America and East Asia are seeing a significant increase in their ability to sell Bitcoin for local currency. In an interview with researchers at the Open Money Initiative, I learned that the "liquidity

time" of Bitcoin in Venezuela today is 15 minutes. Meaning, if you're in Caracas, I can send you Bitcoin from Miami and you can be holding bolivars in your hand within 15 minutes of my Bitcoin arriving on your phone. To give you an idea of the scale of Bitcoin activity in Venezuela today, consider that on April 26, 639 million bolivars were traded on the Caracas Stock Exchange. During that same week, the average daily volume of Bitcoin traded on one online platform alone – LocalBitcoins – was 5.2 billion bolivars.

LocalBitcoins is one of several online marketplaces – like Paxful, Hodl

With Bitcoin, you can send money directly to anyone in the world in a matter of minutes. As your funds move to the recipient, it's not possible for third parties to censor or steal, as payment processing is done through a global competition, not by a centralized institution

Hodl and Bisq – that work a bit like eBay. For example, if you're in New York and I'm in Lagos and you send me 1 bitcoin (roughly \$7,800 at today's price), I'd create an account on the LocalBitcoins website and make a post, saying I'm selling 1 bitcoin for the going rate of around 2.8 million Nigerian naira. When I get a good offer, I click accept. I send my Bitcoin to LocalBitcoins, you send your naira to me, and my Bitcoin is only released to you when I confirm that I've received your naira. Or, we can choose to meet and make the trade in person, where you give me cash and I send you Bitcoin, smartphone-to-smartphone. And – voila – I just received Bitcoin from across the world and turned it into local, spendable currency.

When the highway blockade occurred on the Colombian border, preventing much-needed aid from getting into Venezuela, millions of dollars of Bitcoin were freely moving in and out. A big perk of using Bitcoin is that

even when brick-and-mortar banks close, the Bitcoin network never shuts down. As global Bitcoin infrastructure improves and local exchange becomes more widely available, its value proposition for humanitarian aid – especially in disaster zones and tough political climates – will only increase. If you are one of the billions of people stuck in a country restricted by capital controls, suffering from hyperinflation, trapped behind sanctions or simply lacking identification or a bank account, donors can now use Bitcoin to reach you directly.

If you are a gift-giving foundation, foreign ministry or development advisor, could sending your aid via Bitcoin be a better way? Bitcoin's peer-to-peer digital payments network could be the future of humanitarian aid.

*(Alex Gladstein is Chief Strategy Officer at the Human Rights Foundation. He has also served as Vice President of Strategy for the Oslo Freedom Forum since its inception in 2009)*

# business

## VCBank buys majority stake in Caribou Coffee and Fuddruckers

● Caribou is ranked among the top three international coffee shop chains operating in the Kingdom

● US\$ 2.5 million was invested in extending the Caribou Coffee network through the opening of seven new outlets.

● VCBank and the founding partner plan to invest a further US\$ 5 million

“We are confident about the prospects and growth of this sector, which will continue to be driven not just by domestic demand, but also by Bahrain’s growing reputation as an attractive tourist destination.”

ABDULLATIF JANAH, VCBANK BOARD MEMBER & CEO



TDT | Manama

Venture Capital Bank (VCBank), a Bahrain-based Shari’ah-compliant investment firm, acquired a significant stake in the Caribou Coffee and Fuddruckers Restaurant franchises in Bahrain.

From its first outlet in Bah-

rain in 2007, Caribou has grown its network to 22 stores and is ranked among the top three international coffee shop chains operating in the Kingdom.

Caribou stores are strategically well located across all of Bahrain and it offers its customers high-quality speciality beverages in first-class atmosphere.

Fuddruckers opened its doors in 1995 as one of Bahrain’s earliest family-friendly casual dining restaurants, and today has six outlets across the country.

Abdullatif Janahi, Board Member and CEO of VCBank, commented: “We are very excited about the Bank’s entry into Bahrain’s food and beverage

(F&B) sector, through well-known and proven brands such as Caribou and Fuddruckers.”

“We are confident about the prospects and growth of this sector, which will continue to be driven not just by domestic demand, but also by Bahrain’s growing reputation as an attractive tourist destination. Bahrain

welcomed 12 million visitors during 2018 who spent in total BD 960 million mainly on accommodation, F&B, shopping and leisure (average expenditure of BD 80 per tourist per day). The continued success of the F&B sector will contribute to the Kingdom’s GDP growth,” Janahi added.

Since commencing the Bahrain franchise acquisition process last year, US\$ 2.5 million was invested in extending the Caribou Coffee network through the opening of seven new outlets. These are located in Hala Plaza in Zinj, Royal Hospital for Women and Children in Riffa, Arcapita Building, Avenues Mall at Bahrain Bay, Garden Plaza in Budaiya, Hamala Hills Mall and the Walk Shopping Mall in Riffa.

### More investment planned

VCBank and the founding partner plan to invest a further US\$ 5 million in both franchises in the coming few years. This will be used to renovate and uplift some of the older Fuddrucker restaurants and give them a

new modern look and feel, and to open new Fuddruckers outlets in Saar and Muharraq. The Bank also plans to open several Caribou kiosks in busy office complexes and several ‘drive-thru’ service stores, following the success of the ‘coffee-to-go’ concept in the Arcapita Building and the ‘drive-thru’ service concept in Hala Plaza.

“This acquisition marks VCBank’s fourth investment to date in the F&B and related agribusiness sectors in the MENA region and Turkey, where we have developed considerable knowledge and expertise since 2011. Our investments include an investment in Oba Makarna, Turkey’s largest and leading pasta producer and the second largest in the world in terms of pasta production capacity; Goknur, Turkey’s largest fruit juice concentrate and fruit puree producer; and Topsy, a farmland investment in Turkey with more than one million organic fruit trees planted across 10 million square meters of farmland,” Janahi pointed out.

## BAB in deal to launch sign language banking dictionary

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) signed a Memorandum of understanding MoU with Bahrain Deaf Society aims to launch a unified dictionary for banking terminologies in sign language.

The agreement signed by BAB Chief executive Dr Waheed Al Qassim and president of Bahrain Deaf Society Salma Alasfoor. Present were Mahdi Alnaimi head of translators’ committee and Yusuf Hasan, Director of Retail Banking Supervision at the Central Bank of Bahrain.

“This comes in the framework of BAB’s social responsibilities towards Bahraini society to support special needs people and to integrate them in the community,” Dr Al Qassim added.



Officials during the signing of the deal

## Nasdaq withdraws offer to acquire Oslo stock exchange

● Euronext manages stock exchanges of Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Lisbon and Dublin

AFP | Oslo

US stock market operator Nasdaq said Monday it was withdrawing its offer of nearly 700 million euros (\$784 million) to acquire the Oslo Stock Exchange, clearing the way for its European competitor Euronext.

“This decision has been made because under the current circumstances the minimum acceptance condition for

completion of the offer is incapable of being satisfied,” the company said in a statement.

Nasdaq, which controls all the other Nordic stock exchanges, has been battling with Euronext to acquire the stock exchange since the start of the year.

Nasdaq had the blessing of the bourse’s board and management, but Euronext gained an advantage by securing the support of a majority of the Oslo exchange’s shareholders.

The US stock operator’s hopes were dashed on May 13 when the Norwegian government declared that both Euronext and Nasdaq were “suitable owners”. Euronext aims to complete the transaction by the end of June.

## Al Salam Bank holds exclusive training programmes

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank-Bahrain (ASBB) announced holding three training sessions of its exclusive training programme “Succession Executive Planning & Capacity Building” at the Wyndham Grand Manama.

The training programme hosted inspirational top tier leaders in the banking and technology sectors as key speakers.

Ashar Nazim, Group CEO of Aion Digital, Murad Ali Murad, Chairman of Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) and Abdul-



Participants during a group photo opportunity

hakeem Al Khayat, Managing Director and CEO of KFH shed lights on their significant journey in their professional world.

On this occasion, Anwar Murad, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of ASBB, said, “We are pleased to collaborate with The BIBF and CASS Business School in facilitating global training standards for our valued human assets.” The programme was designed in collaboration with The Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) and CASS Business School in UK.

# Tumo teaches them to dream

In robotics classes, Armenian teens dream of high-tech future

*Tumo is a cutting edge, after-school learning centre, where around 7,000 Armenians aged 12 to 18, from all walks of life, study*



Tumo's chief development officer Pegor Papazian says the ambition is to become "one of the world's most competitive labour markets"

*for free. Packed with hundreds of computers with industry standard software, 3D printers, video cameras and an animation studio, Tumo gives youngsters an opportunity to study web design, robotics, animation, music, digital media and more.*

AFP | Yerevan

In a sleek classroom in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, one of the poorest post-Soviet republics, 14-year-old Nazeli Ter-Petrosyan peers at the screen of her Apple Mac.

During a computer programming course offered at the high-tech Tumo school, Ter-Petrosyan and her classmates learn how to digitise medieval texts.

"I'm developing a programme to enable artificial intelligence to read old manuscripts," said the teen.

Her computer screen features a page from a 15th century Bible held at Armenia's famed repository of ancient writings, the Matenadaran.

Armenia, which is known for its rich history and troubled



Tumo gives youngsters the chance to study web design, robotics, animation, music and digital media, among other things

past, has grappled with poverty, unemployment and a brain drain since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

But despite a stagnant economy, Armenia's tech sector has been booming over the past decade, boosting hopes that one day the resource-poor country can become a global IT powerhouse.

Tumo is a cutting edge, after-school learning centre, where around 7,000 Armenians aged 12 to 18, from all walks of life, study for free.

Packed with hundreds of computers with industry standard software, 3D printers, video cameras and an animation studio, Tumo gives youngsters an opportunity to study web design, robotics, animation, music, digital media and more.

The project has been so successful that there is already a Tumo school in Paris and plans for others in Europe and the United States are under way.

In one of the centre's workshops, students are buzzing with excitement as they learn how to build robots from Lego kits and programme them to perform tasks like collecting rubbish or making a salad.

"We are working on projects that we will be able to later use in our everyday life," said Davit Harutyunyan, 14, as he showed off a half-assembled robot.

## One third in poverty

The South Caucasus country of three million people boasts a vibrant startup scene and its tech workers have been a driving force behind a wave of peaceful protests that ousted the old elite from power in 2018.

Tumo aims to raise the next generation of tech professionals and play a role in creating a knowledge-based economy in a country where 30 per cent of the population live in poverty.

"We've got very ambitious plans," chief development officer Pegor Papazian said.

"We want to become one of the world's most competitive labour markets," added Papazian, who holds a master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States.

The non-profit centre was founded in 2011 by Sam and Sylva Simonian, a US-based couple who are part of the influential Armenian diaspora formed



German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited the Tumo school last year, calling it a "philosophy"



The project in Armenia has been so successful that there is already a Tumo school in Paris and plans for others in Europe and the United States are under way



Tumo is a cutting edge, after-school learning centre in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, teaching youngsters high-tech skills

largely as a result of World War I massacres by the Ottoman forces.

The school occupies two floors of a six-storey pink tufa stone building, located on the outskirts of Yerevan in the shadow of Mount Ararat which stands just across the border in Turkey.

The Simonians provided the initial investment of \$60 million to set up the project but it is now largely self-sustaining, with the centre renting out several floors to tech companies.

The school's gleaming facade and huge windows contrast with dilapidated Soviet-era residential buildings nearby.

Inside the futuristic, open-plan premises, mobile computer workstations allow students to move around freely.

"In Armenia what Tumo offers is extraordinary," Julian Sefton-Green, a professor of new media education at Deakin University, in the Australian city of Melbourne, told AFP in emailed comments.

Tumo offers "a particular vision of a techno future," said Sefton-Green, who visited the school and studied its educational model.

## From Merkel to Kanye West

On average, students spend two to three years at the centre.

They create their own learning plans and are assisted by instructors, many of whom come from companies such as Google and Pixar.

There are no grades and, at the end of their studies, students receive digital portfolios showcasing their work.

Tumo has established three satellites across the country and Azerbaijan's breakaway region of Nagorny Karabakh.

Plans are under way to open more than 20 centres over the next 10 years.

Papazian said the staff had been struck by the poverty in which some of their students live. "We are helping them discover a new world," he added.

The authorities have embraced the initiative and it has become a ritual for foreign dignitaries and other top guests to visit the school.

Grammy-award winning rapper Kanye West, whose wife Kim Kardashian is of Armenian descent, toured the premises in 2015.

Last year, the school also earned rave reviews from German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"This Tumo is not for Armenia only. It's international. It's a philosophy," she said in August during the first visit to Armenia by a German chancellor.

In some ways, the Tumo project could be viewed as being ahead of its time for Armenia, which still lacks the rule of law and a stable economy, among other things.

Sefton-Green said that only time would tell if the pioneering school would help reshape the country.

"Unless there is structural economic response to the kind of investment Tumo has offered, it is possible that benefits will not be felt," he said.

"However the country itself is in a good place to be able to rise to these kinds of challenges."

## Solidarity Bahrain announces key employee promotions

● Solidarity promoted Mohammed Awachi as the Assistant General Manager (AGM), Corporate Support, Ali Shaban as a Senior Motor Manager, and Ahmed Al Hulaibi as a Manager, Investments and Special Projects



Ali Shaban

TDT | Manama

Solidarity Bahrain, one of the largest insurance companies in Bahrain and a subsidiary of Solidarity Group Holding has announced the promotion of a number of employees from different departments.

Promotions include managerial positions to support the development of Bahraini's staff career progression while enhancing Solidarity's level of services led by young Bahraini talents.

Solidarity promoted Mohammed Awachi as the Assistant General Manager (AGM), Corporate Support, Ali Shaban as a Senior Motor Manager, and Ahmed Al Hulaibi as a Manager, Investments and Special Projects.

Ashraf Bseisu, Solidarity Group Chief Executive, congratulated Awachi, Shaban, and Al Hulaibi on their new roles.

On the other hand, Jawad Mohammed, Chief Executive Officer, Solidarity Bahrain stated: "These promotions are part of our ongoing efforts towards investing in our employee experience."

Furthermore, Awachi welcomed the promotion and thanked the management, and stated: "I am grateful for this promotion, and I look forward towards expediting the realization of our vision of becoming the kingdom's leading insurance company."



Mohammed Awachi



Ahmed Al Hulaibi

Ali Shaban, ACII, is an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute, has joined Solidarity Bahrain for more than 10 years and is managing Motor portfolio, a major business line of Solidarity's. Ahmed Al Hulaibi, CFA, a Chartered Financial Analyst with more than 8 years of experience and he is a key member in group's strategic projects.

## Gold rises to one-week high



A gold ingot and gold coins are seen in this illustration picture

Reuters

Gold hit a more than one-week peak on Monday as trade tensions between the United States and China lifted appetite for assets seen as a haven from risk, while weak U.S. economic data boosted hopes for a rate cut from the Federal Reserve.

Spot gold inched up 0.1% to \$1,285.60 per ounce by 0940 GMT. The metal touched \$1,287.32 earlier in the session,

its highest since May 17.

US gold futures were 0.2% higher at \$1,285.60 an ounce.

US President Donald Trump said on Monday he was "not yet ready" to make a deal with China, hinting that the world's biggest economies are far from a trade agreement.

Among other precious metals, silver was up 0.1% at \$14.57 per ounce.

Platinum eased 0.1% to \$801.50 an ounce and palladium fell 0.3% to \$1,331.60.

# UK Brexit Party scores big

● UK's governing Conservative Party was all but wiped out in voting

● Brexit Party had won 28 of the 73 British EU seats

● The pro-EU Liberal Democrats took about 20% of the vote and 15 seat

● Labour came third with 10 seats

● Scotland and Northern Ireland are due to announce their results

● The result raises the likelihood of a chaotic "no deal" exit from the EU

AP | London

Veteran euroskeptic Nigel Farage said Britain should get set to leave the European Union without a divorce deal, after an election across the bloc saw his Brexit Party and pro-EU forces carve up the votes at the expense of the long-dominant larger parties.

The UK's governing Conservative Party was all but wiped out in voting for the European Parliament, as pro-Brexit and pro-EU voters both punished it for leading the country into a political impasse, and failing to lead it out of the EU.

With results announced Monday for all of England and Wales, the Brexit Party had won 28 of the 73 British EU seats up for grabs and almost a third of the votes. The pro-EU Liberal Democrats took about 20% of the vote and 15 seats — up from only one at the last EU election in 2014.

Labour came third with 10 seats, followed by the pro-European, environmentalist Greens with seven. The ruling Conservatives — apparently blamed by voters for failing to deliver Brexit in March as planned — were in fifth place with just three EU seats and under 10% of the vote.



Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage reacts after the European Parliament election results for the UK South East Region are announced at the Civic Centre Southampton, Southern England



The results reflect an electorate deeply divided over Britain's 2016 decision to leave the EU, but united in anger at the two long-dominant parties, the Conservatives and Labour, who have brought the Brexit process to deadlock.

Scotland and Northern Ireland are due to announce their results later.

The election leaves Britain's EU exit ever more uncertain, with both Brexiteers and pro-EU "remainers" able to claim strong support. Labour and the Conservatives, who in different ways each sought a compromise Brexit, were hammered.

The result raises the likelihood of a chaotic "no deal" exit from the EU — but also of a new referendum that could reverse the decision to leave.

"This is the vote that says, put no-deal Brexit back on the table," Farage said.

A triumphant Farage said his party would "stun everybody" in the next British general election if the country didn't leave the EU on the currently scheduled date of Oct. 31.

The election is likely to harden the rhetoric of candidates to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May, who is stepping down as Conservative leader next month after failing to deliver Brexit.

Most businesses and economists think leaving the EU with no agreement on departure terms and future relations would cause economic turmoil and plunge Britain into recession. But many Conservatives think embracing a no-deal Brexit may be the only way to win back voters from Farage's party.

Boris Johnson, the current favorite to replace May as Britain's next prime minister, tweeted: "The message from last night's results is clear. It is time for us to deliver Brexit and set out our positive plans for the country."

Another leadership contender, former Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab, said "voters have sent us a very clear message: unless we get on and actually leave the EU they will rightly kick us out at the next election."

Farage's Brexit Party was one of several nationalist and populist parties making gains across the continent in an election that saw erosion of support for the traditionally dominant political parties.

Labour paid for a fence-sitting Brexit policy that saw the

party dither over whether to support a new referendum that could halt Brexit.

Some senior Labour figures said after the party's weak performance that it must now take a strong stance in favor of a second referendum on Brexit.

"There should be a (new Brexit) referendum and we should campaign to remain," said Labour foreign affairs spokeswoman Emily Thornberry.

But party leader Jeremy Corbyn declined to make his position clear. He still said the country needed either a general election or a referendum on Brexit.

"With the Conservatives disintegrating and unable to govern, and parliament deadlocked, this issue will have to go back to the people, whether through a general election or a public vote," he said.

British politics has been in crisis since electors voted 52%-48% in June 2016 to leave the EU. But its departure, scheduled for March 29, has been delayed because lawmakers have rejected the divorce terms struck between the government and the bloc.

After three defeats for her Brexit deal in Parliament, May threw in the towel on Friday, announcing that she will step down as party leader on June 7.

Britain participated in the EU election because it is still a member of the bloc, but the lawmakers it elects will only sit in the European Parliament until the country leaves the EU.

## Oil steadies as trade fears balance tension, supply cuts

Reuters | London

Oil steadied on Monday, trading below \$69 a barrel, as concern over the U.S.-China trade dispute and global economic outlook offset support from Middle East tensions and supply cuts.

Figures on Monday showed that profits for Chinese industrial companies shrank in April while new orders for U.S.-made capital goods fell more than expected in a further sign that the economy is slowing.

The main factor preventing crude prices from rising on the geopolitical news is the concern about the global economy, said Petromatrix oil analyst Olivier Jakob.

**\$68.74**  
a barrel was the price of  
brent crude by 0839 GMT

"The macroeconomic outlook does not look good," Jakob said.

Brent crude, the global benchmark, was up 5 cents at \$68.74 a barrel by 0839 GMT, having fallen by about 4.5% last week. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was down 36 cents at \$58.27.

Both crude contracts regis-



Representative picture

tered their biggest weekly price declines of the year last week. Public holidays in the United States and Britain on Monday limited participation, keeping volumes low. Rising tension be-

tween the United States and Iran, with Washington's announcement on Friday that it would deploy more troops to the Middle East, has had little impact on the market so far.

# SHOW

## OASIS JUFFAIR

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

## CITYCENTRE

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



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

## SEEF (II)

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

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



## SEEF (I)

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

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

## SAAR

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

## AL HAMRA

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

## WADI AL SAIL

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

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Between Maybes: An effective love story that goes beyond your usual love team

Hazel Ilagan was a popular child actress whose showbiz career was on the wane as she grew beyond her teenage years. Louie Puyat was a Pinoy who lived in Japan since he was 10 years old, now making a living as a fisherman and a waiter in the outskirts of Saga City.

One day, Hazel impulsively left for Japan after a major argument with her nagging mother, and fortuitously found herself in the restaurant where Louie worked. Despite their differences in interests and attitudes, Louie agreed to guide Hazel around town, and eventually, with her life choices.

Julia Barretto had a tough role to play. Hazel is a very immature and petulant spoiled brat who believed that everyone around her is at her beck and call. Needless to say, this was one loud, annoying, self-centered character who was quite unlikable. The script blamed her parents for raising her wrongly with their misguided intentions. But really, as she grew up to young adulthood, shouldn't she already know right from wrong? She was already aware that her popularity was sagging, yet there she was still acting like a diva.

For me, "Between Maybes" belonged more to Gerald Anderson. Since he grew up in Japan, his Louie had fully imbibed the Japanese way of life. He was a true gentleman who never took



A scene from 'Between Maybes'

advantage of this rebelling girl who was practically giving herself to him. He was kind and patient, keeping a respectable distance through all her foolishness, until that moment came when he already felt that she was finally already thinking straight. His calm face and demeanor was the personification of Japanese zen. Anderson and Barretto, being from different batches of actors, eight years apart in real life, were not predictable casting choices for a romantic pair. Louie was older and had already made the major decisions in his life -- decisions that Hazel was only about to make in her life. This was why there was a need to cast someone older (and wiser) to guide this poor little lost girl to make the right choices in life. However, this is

played Louie's boss in Saga with the unfortunate name of Ms. Sadako (like the girl who crawled out of the TV in "Ringu"), who showed concern over his loneliness.

The script gave Barretto some pretty awkward things to do and lines to say. During the first day she met Louie, she was also the one who broached the subject of a sexual hookup right there and then in her hotel room. Later in the film, she also took the initiative for her to stay overnight in Louie's house, and then in his room. While I realize that sexual mores among the millennials are more liberal nowadays, these scenes did not sit well with a person my age who would be protective of Hazel as my own daughter.

The shots by director of photography Carlos David S. Mauricio were vibrantly beautiful with amazingly bright colors, especially those scenes in the seaside village outside Saga, Japan. The eclectic musical soundtrack went from "squammy" hip-hop to cheesy '90s pop, but the main theme song was the chill and romantic "Your Universe," as sung by Acel Van Ommen.

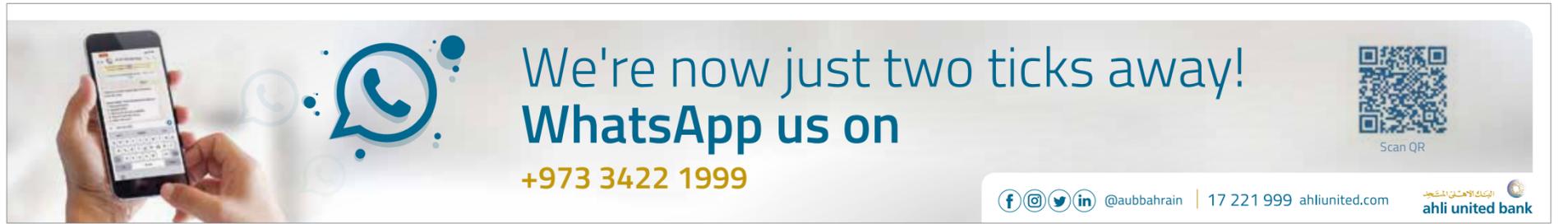
Overall, this film directed by Jason Paul Laxamana not only looked and sounded gorgeous, but it also delivered an important lesson about making mature decisions in life as responsible adults.

also the reason why the romance angle does not stick too well. Louie felt too much like an elder brother to Hazel rather than a boyfriend.

In supporting roles were Yayo Aguila as Myra, Hazel's stage mother from hell, and Christian Vasquez as Jerry, her wimpy father. Aguila's characterization of Myra is a resonant cautionary message to enthusiastic parents who are pushing their cute kids into showbiz and striking while the iron is hot without regard for the child's welfare. A Japanese actress Kayoko Iwasaki



**Escape is an underlying theme of Jason Paul Laxamana's carefully plotted Between Maybes. Within the construct and common pleasures of the commonplace rom-com, the film builds very familiar fantasies, only to twist them and put upon the pedestal the supremacy of real life**



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*Al Hawaj Majlis in Budaiya with VIPs and friends*



*Alhoty's Annual Ramadan Ghabga*



Alhoty's staff members and partners during annual Ramadan Ghabga organized on May 16 at the Lagoon Beach Resort and Spa. The activity was attended by Redha Fathalla, Managing Director of Alhoty and senior management

*Bahrain Polytechnic Student Council's Annual Ghabga*



Bahrain Polytechnic Students and staff during the annual Ghabga organized at the campus on 16th May. The gathering was attended by Shaikh Ali bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Deputy CEO: Resources and Information Affairs, and around 400 attendees consisting of students, staff, and graduates

*Motorcity – Isuzu's Ramadan Iftar*



Guests and employees during Motorcity's Ramadan Iftar. The event was organised for its customers in conjunction with its commercial partner brand Isuzu, at the Crowne Plaza Bahrain. Motorcity Chairman Waleed Kanoo welcomed guests at the event in the presence of Motorcity management, as well as guests from Isuzu Motors International

# SPORTS

## sports

# Hamilton talent saved us from defeat says Mercedes boss

Lewis Hamilton's individual ability 'saved' Mercedes and delivered the team's emotional tribute victory to Niki Lauda at Sunday's dramatic Monaco Grand Prix, according to team chief Toto Wolff

AFP | Monaco

Lewis Hamilton's individual ability 'saved' Mercedes and delivered the team's emotional tribute victory to Niki Lauda at Sunday's dramatic Monaco Grand Prix, according to team chief Toto Wolff.

Without his "performance of a champion" drive on badly-worn and incorrectly-chosen medium compound tyres, in which he resisted near-incessant pressure from Max Verstappen's Red Bull, the Silver Arrows' season-opening winning streak may have been over.

"Obviously, it was the wrong call," admitted Wolff, referring to the decision to fit 'mediums' instead of 'hards' at Hamilton's pit-stop after only 10 laps.

"We thought the tyre would make it to the end.

"But, of course, it didn't. He saved us. His driving saved us. It is something that we really need to analyse now.

"We calculated that the medium would make it, if we changed on lap 15 or 16, with the right management. It seemed a straightforward strategy.



Lewis Hamilton holds up his Niki Lauda helmet in tribute after winning the Monaco Grand Prix

"It didn't seem like a huge stretch, but then we realised 20 laps into it that some graining was appearing on the front left - and he started to complain.

"Under-steer resulted from the graining and it was clear it

would be very, very difficult to make it to the end....

"Everybody knew it would be a huge stretch and, probably 20 laps from the end, he had nought percent rubber left and with massive under-steer at

slow speeds.

"You could see that around the Loews hairpin - the car wouldn't turn anymore... We were close to losing and if it was a normal track - like in Montreal - you lose that race."

Hamilton secured his third Monaco victory career 77th by resisting every attack from Verstappen, behind him on hard tyres, with one of the greatest stints of defensive racing ever seen on the unforgiving streets of the Mediterranean circuit.

His agitated radio exchanges with engineer Pete Bonnington punctuated the contest and allowed him relief from his concentration during what he later described as the hardest race of his life.

"It's just difficult when you're out on your own for so long and 'Bono' can't say anything," said Hamilton.

"Nothing he can say, or anyone can say, or do to help - it was all down to me to bring it home for the team and for Niki. The just felt immense."

Three-time world champion Austrian Lauda, Mercedes non-executive chairman, died last Monday, aged 70.

It was a measure of his achievement that Hamilton's former team-mate and rival Nico Rosberg gave him unstinting praise.

## Al Nusuf hails success of Heritage festival

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf commended the tremendous success of the first edition of the "Nasser bin Hamad Ramadan Heritage Festival held recently.

The event was under the patronage of Representative of HM the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who attended the closing ceremony on Saturday.

Al Nusuf expressed gratitude to Shaikh Nasser for attending the festivities, organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC)'s Heritage Sports Committee during the holy month of Ramadan.

The BOC secretary general said that the festival has achieved the desired objectives, with significant number of sport enthusiasts and fans turned up at the festival venue to witness the action.

Al Nusuf also noted the efforts of the organisers in the success of the event programme, held at the hall of the Bahrain Sports Federation for Disabilities, where Shaikh Nasser witnessed the final rounds of the electronic and heritage games, before honouring the winners.

## Brave CF expands in Colombia with second event

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has reaffirmed its commitment with the Latin America sports market by announcing recently its return to Colombia, this time for an event in Bogota, the country's capital, in partnership with LFC.

President Mohammed Shahid was in the city to officially launch the show and was greeted to a packed crowd of journalists, who were all excited by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's vision for the sport.

For Shahid, the return to Colombia is a testament to BRAVE's vision of empowering the business of mixed martial arts in all corners of the world and taking the sport to the next level. He also praised the success of the conference, as he held court to dozens of journalists from all over the country gathered to hear more about BRAVE's vision for the development of Colombian MMA and the role the country will play in implementing HH Shaikh Khalid's vision for the world of MMA.

"Colombia is a very important place for the implementation of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's vision

for the sport. Not just Colombia, but all of South America and the Spanish-speaking MMA community. We are glad to have held a successful press conference discussing the long-term future of mixed martial arts in the region with BRAVE Combat Federation at the helm of this development. MMA today is an event business and BRAVE CF is here to take this mixed martial arts to the sports business".

Also in attendance for the landmark pre-fight event was MMA legend Stephan Bonnar, who himself is a supporter of BRAVE's mission of globalizing the sport and has shared his support for BRAVE's future endeavors and HH Shaikh Khalid's vision.

"It was great to have Stephan Bonnar with us. He's a pioneer of the sport and someone who had a big role in taking MMA to where it is today and he's excited to be a part of the next evolution of the sport through HH Shaikh Khalid's vision", commented Shahid.

BRAVE's return to Colombia will take place on September 7th, the same date when the only truly global MMA promotion landed for the first time in the country last year for BRAVE 15.

## Team Vineeth cruise past Team Fuad in FCTG tournament

TDT | Manama

Team Vineeth scored 3-2 against Team Fuad in division one of the 15th FCTG Team Tennis Tournament, being held at Bahrain Tennis Federation courts in Isa Town.

The tournament, which is sponsored by Grand Safir Hotel Bahrain, is organized by Filipino Club Tennis Group (FCTG).

Pravin and Nilesh won over Haroon and Riad 6-0, 6-3, Praveen and Stalin scored 6-2, 4-6, 10-5 tight win against Mohammed Sanad and Hisham. Uday and Imran sealed the victory for Team Vineeth after a 6-2, 6-4 win against Adnan and Abdulrahman Rajab.

Team Fuad won two consolation matches when Fuad and Khalid defeated Vijay and Ra-



Team of Pravin and Nilesh with the team of Riad and Haroon

jesh 0-6, 3-6, while Mohammed Salman and Abdulrahman Thawadi beat Shwetank and Lloyd 2-6, 1-6.

In division two, Team Ching 1 scored a narrow 3-2 win against Team Ching 2.

Team Ching 1 took the lead 2-0 when Alvin and Henry de-

feated Abby and Chiqui 6-2, 4-6, 10-4 while Maria and Sheng scored 2-6, 7-5, 10-7 tight victory against Isa and Ray.

Team Ching 2 clawed its way back as Thess and Zyra scored 7-6, 6-2 against Helen and Lenlen, Ellen and Joy defeated Kathy and Malou 6-0, 2-6, 10-5

to level the match to 2-2.

In the decisive fifth match, Ebrahim and Vic defeated Lara and Joan 6-2, 6-4 to claim victory for Team Ching 1.

Both teams will be playing in the semi-finals along with Team Leah.

### Other Results

Division One: Team Viomel beat Team Vineeth 3-2, Team Randy beat Team Fuad 3-2, Team Mundeng beat Team Aldwin 4-1, Team Aldwin beat Team Roni 3-2, Team Faro beat Team Randy 3-2, and Team Mundeng beat Team Manny 4-1.

Division Two: Team Leah beat Team Mac 3-2, Team Ching 1 beat Team Aalya 3-2, Team Ching 2 beat Team Mac 3-2, Team Aalya beat Team Ana 3-2, and Team Ching 1 beat Team Leah 4-1.

## Al Qaseer bowls perfect game in The Godfathers Tournament

TDT | Manama

Ali Al Qaseer stole the spotlight on a day when Ahmed Algaoud, Patrick Toney and Leah Siruno scored the daily high series in The Godfathers Tournament, currently being played at Funland Centre.

As the competition's qualifying round headed into its final days, Al Qaseer bowled a

rare perfect game of 300 pins on Sunday. It was the first of the event and it earned him a generous cash prize. He was congratulated by Funland General Manager Adel Rasti and his fellow competitors after play.

Al Qaseer's perfect game was part of an exciting night of action during which Algaoud, Toney and Siruno were also in

top form. Each bowler rolled a leading score in their respective groups, with Algaoud posting a 697 amongst the elite bowlers of Group A, Toney scoring a 672 to lead the intermediate players of Group B, and Siruno registering a 517 series to top the beginners of Group C.

The qualification phase continues until Wednesday. At the end of this stage, the first and

second from each group advance directly to Round Three, while those ranked third through 12th move on to Round Two. These stages will be played on Thursday and Friday (May 30 and 31) night, along with the ensuing Step-ladder Final round.

With just two days of trials remaining, the hunt for a spot in the top two of each division continues to intensify.

# Nadal cruises through at Roland Garros

● **Rafael Nadal starts bid for title No 12 in style with win over Yannick Hanfmann**

● **Serena survives scare**

● **Wozniacki knocked out**

AFP | Paris

Defending champion Rafael Nadal got his bid for a record-extending 12th French Open title off to the perfect start by brushing aside German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann in the first round at Roland Garros yesterday.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion cruised to a 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 victory on the rebuilt Court Philippe Chatrier to set up a clash with another German qualifier -- world number 114 Yannick Maden -- in round two.

Nadal had suffered three consecutive semi-final defeats earlier in the clay-court season, but appeared to find his best in an Italian Open title success sealed with victory over old rival Novak Djokovic, while his French Open win-loss record now reads 87-2.

"It's always amazing to play here, the new Chatrier is very nice," the second seed said. "It's been an important place in my career.

"I played a good tournament in Rome which was very important for

my confidence. Now we'll see."

The 32-year-old Nadal raced into a 3-0 lead in the opening set before a second break of serve in the eighth game sealed it after just 40 minutes.

The second set was over in a flash as Nadal crushed nine winners past his beleaguered opponent.

The winning line honed into view when Nadal broke after a lengthy game to take a 2-1 advantage in the third, and the Spaniard completed the job on his first match point as world number 184 Hanfmann blasted long.

Meanwhile, Serena Williams survived a first-set scare before defeating Russia's Vitalia Diatchenko 2-6, 6-1, 6-0 to reach the second round.

The 37-year-old American, who is attempting to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Grand Slam titles, racked up her 800th career main draw win with her victory in front of a half-full Court Philippe Chatrier

## Wozniacki dumped out

Earlier yesterday, former world number one Caroline Wozniacki collapsed to a 0-6, 6-3, 6-3 loss to Russian world number 68 Veronika Kudermetova in the first round.

The Danish 13th seed had retired injured from her two previous matches in the lead-up to Roland Garros, and fell away badly after a strong first set.

"I think she got very lucky at the start of the second set and took advantage of the opportunities she got," said Wozniacki.

"I ran out of steam in the end and made some unforced errors that I don't usually do, so that was very frustrating."

Sixth seed and two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova was forced to pull out before her scheduled opener against Sorana Cirstea with a left arm injury, but said she should be fit for Wimbledon, which starts on July 1.

"(I'll be out for) two to three weeks, so I'll do some fitness and everything that I can do to prepare my body for the tennis on the grass," said the Czech.

Dutch fourth seed Kiki Bertens looked in fine fettle, though, beating home player Pauline Parmentier 6-3, 6-4.

Elsewhere in the women's draw, Australian eighth seed Ashleigh Barty saw off American Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-3, while Britain's Johanna Konta clinched her first Roland Garros win at the fifth time of asking with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over German Antonia Lottner.

In the men's event, Australian Alex De Minaur, seeded 21st, beat the United States' Bradley Klahn 6-1, 6-4, 6-4, although Georgian 15th seed Nikoloz Basilashvili fell to a surprising 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 thrashing at the hands of Argentinian world number 78 Juan Ignacio Londero.

Russian 12th seed Daniil Medvedev also exited the tournament, blowing a two-set lead to lose 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 against Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert.



Spain's Rafael Nadal serves the ball to Germany's Yannick Hanfmann

## Pochettino upbeat about Kane ahead of CL final

AFP | London

Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino has said Harry Kane is in a "very positive situation" and could be fit to face Liverpool in Saturday's Champions League final in Madrid.

England forward Kane has been out of action since suffering an ankle injury during the first leg of the quarter-final against Manchester City.

But Pochettino, speaking to reporters yesterday, indicated Kane was close to a return.

"Harry Kane in the last week, Friday and Saturday, started to be involved in the group, it's a very positive situation for him," Pochettino said.

"We will wait and see how he is progressing in his problem."

The Spurs manager was equally positive regarding the prospects for the injured trio of Davinson Sanchez, Jan Vertonghen and Harry Winks.

Meanwhile Pochettino faced fresh questions about his own future.

The Argentinian has been linked with Juventus following the recent departure from the Italian giants of Massimiliano Allegri, but Pochettino insisted his focus was firmly on

Spurs' first appearance in a European Cup final.

"Today no one is more important than the game that we have ahead, Tottenham deserve that we are all 100 percent focused on the game. We can make history, we can provide our fans the best happiness in football," he said.

Spurs midfielder Moussa Sissoko said the players were in a positive frame of mind ahead of a final against English rivals Liverpool, five-time kings of European club football.

"The spirit is fantastic, every time we were close to be out but we showed a lot of character to win the game," said Sissoko.

"We know we can challenge against every team," the Frenchman added. "I am not scared of Liverpool or any team."

"We all need to challenge and we have to give our best and if we do it, we can beat any team. In the past we have showed it."



Harry Kane

## Morata determined to extend Atletico stay

Reuters | Madrid

Spain striker Alvaro Morata says he wants to remain at Atletico Madrid until the end of his career and has no plans to return to Chelsea, who he left in January to join the Spanish side on an 18-month loan deal.

"I am very clear that I want to stay here. Leaving here has not crossed my mind. I hope it gets resolved as soon as possible, I'm happy here and I want to be here for the rest of my career," Morata told Spanish newspaper Marca.

"As long as the club wants me and the fans are happy I want to be here. I've found happiness here. I'm where I want to be."

Morata has rediscovered his form at Atletico after a poor spell at Stamford Bridge, scoring six goals in 13 La Liga starts, but Chelsea have the option to recall Morata from his loan spell.

"If it was up to me it would have been sorted a long time ago, that's what I want," Morata added. "I'd have liked to have signed my contract with Atletico already. I did everything to come here and I'll do everything to stay."



Alvaro Morata

## Archer, Root strike as Afghanistan collapse in England warm up

AFP | London

Jofra Archer and Joe Root took three wickets apiece as Afghanistan slumped to 160 all out in a World Cup warm-up match at the Oval yesterday.

England, fresh from their 12-run defeat by world champions Australia in their pre-

vious warm-up fixture, were too strong in the field for rank outsiders Afghanistan in south London.

Fast bowler Archer, in what is tournament hosts England's last match before they open the World Cup against South Africa at the Oval on Thursday, struck twice with the new ball before ending some late resistance from

Mohammad Nabi.

Afghanistan were in danger of being dismissed for under 100 before Nabi, with 44, helped the last two wickets add 68 runs.

Archer dismissed Hazratullah and Rahmat Shah in a brisk new-ball spell.

Meanwhile opener Noor Ali saw scrapped his way to 30 before he played on to Ben Stokes.

Hashmatullah could not get going and that prompted Asghar Afghan to attack the occasional off-spin of Test captain Root.

But, having missed out on a first-ball full toss, Asghar tried to drive Root over the top but found Jason Roy in the deep instead.

Afghanistan lost their next

four wickets in a mere seven deliveries, Hashmatullah and Najibullah Zadran carelessly run out, Gulbadin Naib holing out to Moeen Ali and Rashid Khan steering Root to slip for a golden duck.

Nabi's defiant hitting, which included three sixes, at least ensured England would have some sort of target to chase.

He was last man out when a thick edge off Archer carried to Jonny Bairstow on the boundary.

Before play started, England were boosted by the news that fast bowler Mark Wood had been passed fit to face South Africa after a foot injury and that one-day captain Eoin Morgan was back in the team following a fractured finger.