

Wahlberg had fun shooting with Uwais

Actor Mark Wahlberg enjoyed shooting with Indonesian actor Iko Uwais, and calls him a "sweet-heart". Wahlberg worked with Uwais on Peter Berg's 'Mile 22', which will release on August 17. **P17**

What a drone attack says about Venezuela's future?

THE DAILY **tribune**



Beyonce, Jay-Z honour Franklin **16 SHOW**

WORLD **12** Turkey takes aim at Apple

India Independence Day supplement with today's paper

Hariri seeks more time to form govt
Beirut

It may take Lebanese parties more time to form a coalition government, prime minister designate Saad Al-Hariri said on Tuesday more than three months after the general election.

"Perhaps we need more time to arrive at a final formula," he said to reporters before a meeting of members of parliament from his party in Beirut.

Lebanese politicians have repeatedly warned that the country — which has one of the world's highest rates of public debt — urgently needs to put a government in place, but they have jostled over cabinet positions.

"There is no doubt that some sides still stick to their terms, but, as we see, all of them retreat and concede a little," he said, adding that the new government needed to include all sides.

Ebola spreads to second province
Beni

Congo's latest deadly Ebola outbreak has spread into a neighboring province, the health ministry said yesterday, as health workers began using an experimental treatment for the disease.

Health officials are hoping the mAb114 therapy, isolated from a survivor of an Ebola outbreak in 1995, will be effective in this outbreak that so far has 30 confirmed cases including 14 deaths.

Five patients have been given the treatment, said the World Health Organisation's director-general, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Four other experimental treatments have been approved for use, he said.

'13,000 Indians invested BD640 million in Bahrain businesses'

According to official figures, the volume of foreign investment in the Kingdom is close to BD4 billion and the largest investing country was India.

TDI|Manama
Thamer Tayfour

The number of Indian investors in the Kingdom has crossed 13,000 and their total investment stand somewhere in the neighborhood of BD640 million, according to

statistics revealed by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

With 13,067 investors, Saudi tops the chart which is followed by India (13,002). While there are 3,871 investors from Pakistan, Bangladeshi contribution to the Kingdom's business sector is represented by 2,759 investors.

With 2,445 betting big on the Kingdom's economy, Egyptians come fifth. They are followed by Kuwait investors (1,905) and Yemeni investors (1,703) respectively.

According to official figures, the volume of foreign investment in the Kingdom is close



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The high number of foreign investors from India and rest of Asia reflect the growing opportunities and strength in the Bahraini economy.
MR AL KUBAISI

to BD4 billion and the largest investing country was India. "The high number of foreign investors from India and rest

of Asia reflect the growing opportunities and strength in the Bahraini economy," said economist and businessman Abdullah Al Kubaisi.

Mr Al Kubaisi pointed out that the Kingdom's strategic location in the heart of Arabian Gulf remains the prime reason luring the investors to the Kingdom.

"Many sectors including banking are doing excellent and are open to investors from across the world."

The Economic Development Board forecasts a growth of 4.3 per cent for the Kingdom's non-oil sector in 2018 while the GDP growth for the year is projected to be 3.4pc.

Deadly collapse



At least 35 people were killed yesterday when a giant motorway bridge collapsed in the Italian city of Genoa, with more feared dead in what one official described as an "immense tragedy". The collapse, which saw a vast stretch of the A10 freeway tumble on to railway lines in the northern port city, came as the bridge was undergoing maintenance work, and the country's deputy transport minister warned the death toll could climb further. See Page 13

Yemen awaits talks invitation

'The UN hasn't shared any details with us on talks'

The UN's peace envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, told the Security Council earlier this month that he wants to host warring parties in the Swiss city on September 6.

Geneva

Yemen's ambassador to the UN said yesterday that his government had not yet been invited to peace talks planned for next month, but that it was open to attending despite low prospects for success.



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The government is waiting for clarity from Griffiths on the mechanism and contents of the consultations.
ALI MAJAWAR

"We are waiting for the invitation," Yemen's envoy to the United Nations in Geneva, Ali Majawar, told reporters.

The UN's peace envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, told the Security Council earlier this month that he wants to host warring parties in the Swiss city on September 6.

A Yemeni government source, who requested anonymity, said that on August 3 that it would attend.

Majawar underscored that in the two weeks since Griffiths announced the talks, the UN has not shared any details, including on the crucial issue of whether the government and Iran-backed Al Houthis would be asked to meet face-to-face.

NEW BALL GAME

14-year-old US boy runs for governor

New York

Most 14-year-old American schoolboys might be fixated on baseball and dodging their homework. Not Ethan Sonneborn. He's running for governor in Vermont.

The teenager is taking advantage of a quirk in the constitution of the bucolic northeastern state that imposes no age limit on running for governor. Candidates only have to have lived in Vermont for at least four years.

Ethan, happily for his campaign, has lived in the state for 14. He faces a crowd-



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I think I'm the candidate who best represents the change we need.
ETHAN SONNEBORN

for president by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders in 2016.

ed field of adult rivals in Tuesday's Democratic gubernatorial primary.

His website proclaims him a champion for middle- and working-class families, with "the right ideas" on healthcare reform, economic development and education -- never mind that he's still years from graduating high school.

He identifies with the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, which has been increasingly in the ascendant in the United States since the ultimately thwarted run

Suspected terror attack



Forensic investigators work at the site after a car crashed outside the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London, yesterday. A man deliberately drove a car into London pedestrians and cyclists before ramming it into barriers outside Britain's parliament in what police said appeared to be the second terrorist attack at the building in just under 18 months. Three people were injured. The driver, a 29-year-old British citizen, was arrested by armed officers moments later. He was not cooperating with detectives, the British police counter-terrorism chief said.



03 Introduce background check for expatriates

04 VAT may bring 'temporary drop in business confidence'

05 Tortured housemaid fights for justice from hospital bed





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday at the Safriya Palace received Chairman of the Sunni Waqf (Endowment) Council, Dr Sheikh Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajiri, and Chairman of the Jaafari Waqf (Endowment) Council, Sheikh Muhsin Abdul Hussain Al Asfoor, accompanied by members of the two councils. HM the King lauded the two councils' keenness to follow up the affairs of places of worship and the preparation of imams and orators to disseminate the culture of tolerance, friendship, values of unity and national belonging, in addition to the development of the endowment for its role in promoting the social solidarity. HM the King paid tribute to the Bahraini people's good morals and mutual respect that bolster values of the Bahraini society.

Manama Dialogue preparation reviewed

His Majesty receives new Middle East executive director for IISS Lieutenant General Tom Beckett

Manama

International events including Manama Dialogue holds special significance in addressing contemporary issues, His Majesty stressed yesterday.

This came as His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received the new International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in the Middle East executive director Lieutenant General Tom Beckett at Al Safriya Palace yesterday.

HM the King hailed cooperation between the Kingdom and the think tank, stressing fruitful coordination in



His Majesty receives Lt General Tom Beckett.

preparing and organising the Manama Dialogue, which is considered one of leading political and intellectual events

that attract annually political, diplomatic and economic elites and decision-makers from all over the world to

discuss contemporary issues.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain hosts the Manama Dialogue out of its firm belief in the importance of dialogue as the most viable means to consolidate security and stability in the region," His Majesty said.

His Majesty underscored the importance of holding such international conferences which represent a promising opportunity for communication between civilisations and cultures, debating ideas and exchanging expertise which benefit shared interests.

HM the King hailed the success of the previous editions of Manama dia-

logue which enabled many powers and parties to settle certain pending issues, hailing positive cooperation to confront current regional challenges.

His Majesty wished success to the 14th edition of Manama Dialogue, which will be convened this year to discuss more important Arab and International issues.

The new IISS executive director expressed thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom for providing all facilities and capabilities to host the Manama Dialogue and ensure its success, as a key platform to debate crucial ideas and visions.

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BIG STORY

big story

Introduce background check for expatriates

Lawmakers call for strict measures from the part of government to keep foreign criminals out of the Kingdom

● The NPRA said that it has been taking many measures to conduct a criminal audit on passengers arriving through air, land and sea ports as it is vital to protect the security of the Kingdom.

● All measures will be implemented in cooperation with the Labour Market Regulation Authority, Interior Ministries and embassies.

TDT|Manama
Thamer Tayfour



Demand has intensified from various quarters to introduce background check for expatriates.



We, lawmakers, call upon the Interior Ministry along with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority to create a competent agency that can track the criminal backgrounds of expatriates arriving here.

MR AL DOSARI

many Asian mafias here controlling many illegal businesses. Almost all members of these mafias have criminal backgrounds in their home countries and they easily come here and pursue their criminal intentions while harming this country, which has to be stopped."

"We, lawmakers, call upon the Interior Ministry along with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority to create a competent agency that can track the criminal backgrounds of expatriates arriving here.

"What is important is that some of these gang members are even bribing security officials in their home countries to clear off charges. So it needs a concerted effort between the embassies and authorities here to ensure that no criminals enter the Kingdom."

Calls have intensified to introduce background checks to prevent expatriates with criminal backgrounds entering the Kingdom.

This follows the brutal murder of a Bahraini imam by a Bangladeshi suspect last week.

It has been also learnt that the crimes committed by expatriates in the Kingdom have been on the rise with many criminals from other countries coming to Bahrain in the absence of background checks.

The Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs (NPRA) has confirmed that 690 foreigners, who had criminal records in their home countries, have been arrested upon arriving in the Kingdom after receiving alerts

since 2014.

The NPRA said that it has been taking many measures to conduct a criminal audit on passengers arriving through air, land and sea ports as it is vital to protect the security of the Kingdom.

The authority said that there is an ongoing cooperation between

all concerned departments to ensure that no criminals enter the Kingdom from abroad.

"There are plans to implement the methods used in developed countries to keep the criminals out. These include asking them to produce a conduct certificate from security officials in their countries before their visas are stamped."

All measures will be implemented in cooperation with the Labour Market Regulation Authority, Interior Ministries and embassies, the NPRA added.

Speaking to Tribune, MP Hamad Al Dosari said that it is high time the Government adopt strict measures to keep foreign criminals out of the Kingdom.

"Believe it or not, there are

690 foreigners with criminal backgrounds have been arrested upon arrival in the Kingdom since 2014.

Prosecutors to seek death for accused in imam murder trial

● The defendant has confessed to the crime and he told prosecutors that he had informed his wife about plans to kill the imam.

TDT|Manama
Ali Tarif

The Prosecutors will seek death sentence for the 35-year-old Bangladeshi national accused of murdering Bahraini imam Abdul Jaleel Hamood.

Meanwhile, the police remand of the accused along with other suspects have been extended by another 15 days by the High Criminal Court.



Abdul Jaleel Hamood

Abdul Jaleel went missing on August 5 after performing Al Fajr (dawn) prayer.

His family members immediately alerted police, who found the imam's body cut into pieces inside a plastic bag near a scarpard in Askar.

The accused was a prayer caller (Muazzin) at the mosque and it has been learnt that the imam had warned him over trading in free visas, which led to an enmity between them.

The defendant has confessed to the crime and he told prosecutors that he had informed his wife about plans to kill the imam.

The suspect has been charged with premeditated murder, while the co-defendants face charges of attempting to conceal crime proof.

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VAT may bring 'temporary drop in business confidence'

EDB chief economist cites the UAE and Saudi example to allay worries over the implementation of VAT

● Minister of Finance Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammad Al Khalifa had previously affirmed that the Ministry's goal was to implement VAT by the end of 2018.

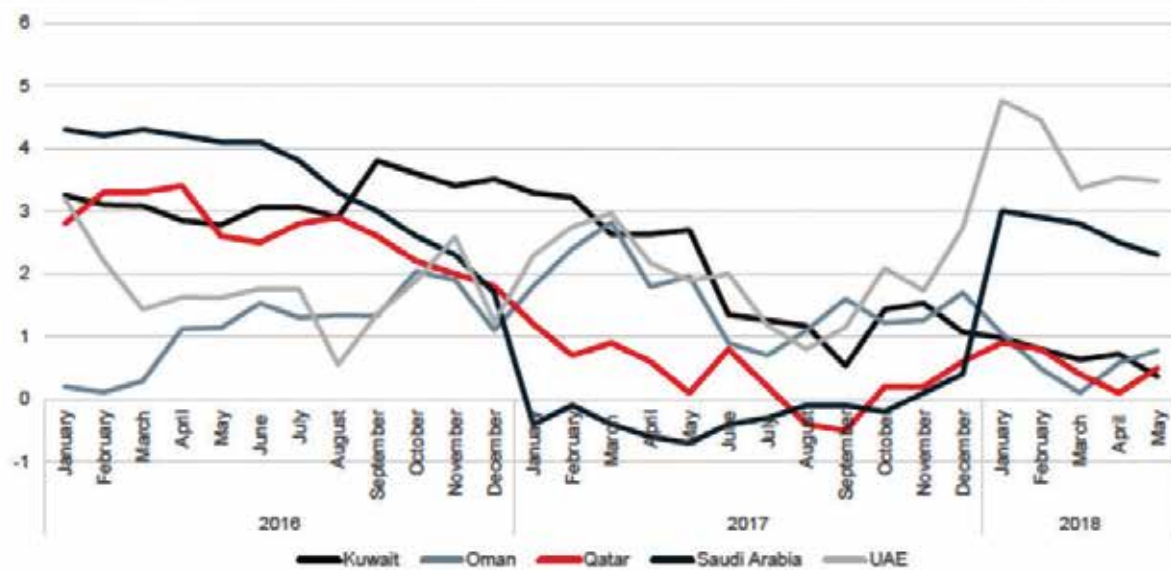
● VAT implementation is expected to cause a temporary fluctuation in business confidence but not cause any permanent disruption, says EDB Chief Economist Dr Jarmo Kotilaine.

TDI|Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The introduction of Value Added Tax in Bahrain is projected to have similar affects as to that of UAE and Saudi Arabia, which saw a buying frenzy prior to its implementation and a temporary drop in business confidence soon after, according to official forecasts.

VAT implementation is expected to cause a temporary fluctuation in business confidence but not cause any permanent disruption, said EDB Chief Economist Dr Jarmo Kotilaine. He said that Bahrain would experience a

Consumer price inflation, % (YoY)



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The effects of VAT on consumption are going to be quite temporary.

DR KOTILAINE

their introduction of VAT. The good news is that the inflation was low and it was for a brief period, since then the rate of inflation has been coming down,” he said.

“In most parts in the region, the house prices and rents are either stable or they are declining. So when we look as the biggest markets such as the UAE, prices are still declining. That means that there is very little new inflationary pressure coming in,” he added.

Minister of Finance Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammad Al Khalifa had previously affirmed that the Ministry's goal was to implement VAT by the end of 2018.

similar impact as seen in Saudi Arabia and UAE, where a spike in purchasing was noticed followed by a temporary dip in business confidence.

“The effects of VAT on consumption are going to be quite temporary. Before the introduction of VAT, we will see some people bring forward their expenditure because they may want to buy before VAT is introduced. Because of this when VAT comes in there may be a drop. But these kinds of things normalise relatively quickly,” he said.

He said that the introduction of VAT is not going to be disruptive. “I do not think it will be disruptive based on what we have seen in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The companies will adjust and plus the rate is not very high. By international standards, the rate is low.”

“About Saudi Arabia and the UAE, there was a lot of business confidence back when everyone was purchasing in anticipation of VAT implementation. The confidence plummeted after VAT,

but you can see that the graphs shows things have rebounded quite swiftly. What happened was that there was a bit of adjustment period, there was a bit of a concern and anxiety. But economic fundamentals were always looking good.”

He said that there has not been any indication so far to regard inflation as a concern. “Inflation is not much of a concern for the region; the two countries where we have seen a spike are Saudi Arabia and the UAE because of

Embassy marks Pakistan Independence Day



The Pakistan Embassy Bahrain held a special function to mark the country's 71st Independence Day. The flag hoisting ceremony was held in the morning at the Embassy attended by over 300 residents and guests. Murad Al Wazir, (HOC and Acting Ambassador of Pakistan Embassy) was the Chief Guest. The guests were welcomed by Saad Bin Rafiq, (CWA Pakistan Embassy). He highlighted the importance of the event and celebrations at Pakistan Embassy.



The Pakistan Club Bahrain celebrated the 71st Pakistan Independence Day in style. The flag hoisting ceremony was held in the morning at the Club attended by over 200 residents and guests. Murad Al Wazir, HOC of Pakistan Embassy was the Chief Guest. The guests were welcomed by Rehan Ahmed, Chairman, Pakistan Club. He highlighted the importance of the event and celebrations at Pakistan Club, which was formed in 1948 soon after creation of Pakistan in 1947. Sajid Shaikh, Ex- Member BCCI and prominent community leader spoke on the occasion. He appreciated the patronage of the Bahraini leadership in providing constant support to the Pakistani community in the Kingdom.

Premier's directive to relocate scrapyard lauded

TDI|Manama
Thamer Tayfour

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has directed to relocate the scrapyard in Mazraa to a site located between Jaw and the Tree of Life.

The directive was issued at the Cabinet session held on Monday.

The Prime Minister also assigned the Ministerial Committee for Building and Infrastructure to carry out a study to implement the directive

in cooperation with the Southern Governorate.

Speaking to Tribune, Southern Municipal Council Chairman Ahmed Al Ansari said that the directive to welcome the scrapyard is a welcoming move and will benefit the public to a large extent.

“The scrapyard had turned into a time bomb ready to explode anytime.”

He added that the area should be developed. “There are no streets or other facilities including electricity. No body can access the area. The

roads are full of potholes and unpaved.”

Mr Al Ansari said that the scrapyard posed a big danger to the public as many hazardous materials were dumped there.

Southern Municipal Council member Bader Al Tamimi said the new site located near Bridge 2 on King Hamad Street opposite Jau in the Hafeera Area should have highest standards implemented in place.

“I have been making this demand for the past 16 years to the Southern Municipal Council.”

Bahrain to host conference on excellence in social, volunteer work

● **Minister of Labour and Social Development, Jameel Humaidan, will patronise the conference titled 'Towards distinguished institutional work'.**

Manama

Bahrain Society for Voluntary Work (BSVW), in partnership with Princess Seeta bint Abdulaziz Award for Excellence in Social



Mr Humaidan

Work, will organise the first international conference on excellence in social and volunteer work from September 8 to 10.

Minister of Labour and Social Development, Jameel Humaidan, will patronise the conference titled 'Towards distinguished institutional work'.

The conference will focus on cooperation strategy and establishing relations and agreements, best management practices in sustainability, quality, transparency, excellence and governance, outstanding civil initiatives in social and voluntary work, in addition to the importance of institutional work for private charitable

organizations and endowments managements.

It will also shed light on the role of social partnerships in social and voluntary work, the role of media in strengthening the culture of social and volunteer work and motivating society members to engage in them, in addition to means of marketing the social and voluntary programmes through social media.

Secretary-General of the Princess Seeta bint Abdulaziz Award, Dr Fahad bin Hamad Al Maghlouth, expressed delight in working for the first time with the Bahraini side to boost the voluntary work among the youth. He said 12 Arab delegations would discuss their visions.

Tortured housemaid fights for justice from hospital bed

Ms Balela said her nipples and genitals were mutilated by the sponsor; embassy probing into claims

● **The Philippines Embassy confirmed that the embassy has been updated about the situation and that an investigation is underway.**

TDT|Manama
Mohammed Zafran

A 32-year-old housemaid, who was allegedly kept in captivity and abused for five years at a house in Busaiteen, is recovering from her wounds at a hospital in Manila.

Emma Balela said she was abused for five years by her unmarried female employer who she said did not pay her and held her in captivity.

She claimed that the torture she suffered included cutting her genitals as well as the mutilation of her nipples.

Living a life in captivity, she was only allowed to leave her room when she needed to clean the house or carry out chores.

Ms Balela recently flew back to Philippines after the sponsor's sister helped her escape.

Stephanie Esguerra who spotted Balela weeping at Bahrain International Airport helped her to come out of the ordeal.

"She has been admitted to St Luke's Medical Centre and she is recovering well. I am in contact with the embassy officials in Bahrain as well as the officials in Philippines, but I have some limitations in meeting her because I am not related to her.

"But they have assured me that they will update



A screenshot of the video showing Ms Balela weeping at the airport.

”
She was held captive in a room. She was even forced to sleep with animals. On top of this, she was not paid her salaries for five years. She tried to escape many times but was caught by the sponsor every time.

MS ESGUERRA

me and that my contact information was given to her and her family so that they can contact me anytime," Ms Esguerra said.

She added that it was the sponsor's sister that arranged the air ticket and allowed her to escape. "The sponsor's sister decided to rescue her and helped her retrieve her passport which the sponsor was hiding."

The sister then drove her to the airport. A dramatic chase ensued when the sponsor learned about the escape plan.

"The employer chased them all the way to the airport. She was determined to catch her and bring her back to the house. Luckily, she was not able to catch her at the airport.

"I noticed that she was sitting alone weeping and so I asked her about it and that is when she told me everything.

"She had to get off at Abu Dhabi airport as she was bleeding and not able to sit for long hours. The next day she boarded a flight to Philippines," she said.

Deaths

The 32-year-old was not even allowed to return home even for her mother's or father's funeral, both of whom died a year apart.

"I did not see my father when he died, nor did I see my mother when she died," said Ms Balela in a video posted by Ms Esguerra on her Facebook page.

"My nipples are gone and my genitals are also mutilated," she said.

Explaining the situation, Ms Esguerra, who is also now in Manila, said, "They both died soon after she came to Bahrain. They died a year apart, but she was not allowed to go back.

"She is only 32 and already going through her parents' deaths after being not allowed to attend funeral and on top of that being tortured."

Describing Ms Balela's account of the experience of the five years she worked at that house, she said that she had even tried to escape multiple times.

"She was held captive in a room. She was even forced to sleep with animals. On top of this, she was not paid her salaries for five years. She tried to escape many times but was caught by the sponsor every time," she said.

"She said that the torture was unbearable. She forcibly cut her private parts and nipples apart from causing other harm," she said.

Currently, Ms Balela's main concern is getting the five years' pending salary and for the sponsor to be brought to justice for her heinous crimes.

The Philippines Embassy confirmed that the embassy has been updated about the situation and that an investigation is underway.

Bahraini arrested carrying hashish, 133 narcotic pills

● **The 28-year-old was put on trial before the High Criminal Court after he was tested positive for different types of drugs.**

TDT|Manama
Ali Tarif

A Bahraini man, aged 28, was arrested in possession of 133 narcotic pills, according to court files.

The defendant was arrested during a police operation in which he was spotted in an abnormal state.

Police officers said that the defendant was walking in a suspicious manner.

”
He dropped a glass box he was holding after seeing us approaching him.

A N OFFICER

"He dropped a glass box he was holding after seeing us approaching him," a cop told prosecutors.

He added that when his colleagues picked it up, it turned out that it contained more than 133 narcotic pills as well as hashish.

The 28-year-old was put on trial before the High Criminal Court after he was tested positive for different types of drugs. He was charged with consuming drugs.

Bolstering cooperation



Secretary-General of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) Dr Khalifa bin Ali Al Fadhel yesterday received the UK's Deputy Ambassador Moqbel Ali and Head of the Programmes Department at the British embassy Chris Thompson. The meeting was attended by NIHR Assistant Secretary General Yasser Ghanim Shahin. Dr Khalifa bin Ali Al Fadhel welcomed the Deputy Ambassador, lauding the outstanding role of the British embassy in boosting cooperation between the two friendly countries. The meeting spotlighted ways of bolstering cooperation between NIHR and the British embassy through holding training programmes on human rights.

Strong China ties



Adviser of HM the King for Media Affairs Nabeel Al Hamer yesterday received Ambassador of China to Bahrain, An Wa'er. Mr Al Hamer praised the everlasting distinguished friendship between the two leaderships and peoples, citing the progress of these ties in various fields of work in the kingdom. The ambassador affirmed his continued efforts to boost the distinguished relations in the interest of both friendly countries and people.

Bahrain welcomes US designation of Al Muamen as dangerous terrorist

● **The ministry called for joint action and cooperation at all levels to ensure the eradication of all forms of terrorism and to deter all those who finance or support terrorism.**

Manama

Bahrain has welcomed the US Department of State (US-DOS)'s designation of Qassim Abdulla Ali Ahmed aka Qassim Al Muamen - a leader of Iran-based terrorist Al Ashtar Brigades - as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its sincere appreciation of this important step by

the United States, which is a reflection of the United States' great concern over the security and stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a strategic ally, and it sees this step as part of the ongoing US efforts to confront terrorism and combat its financing for the sake of international peace and security," said the ministry in its statement issued yesterday.

"Whilst the ministry stresses Bahrain's solidarity with the United States in its fight against terrorism wherever it is, it emphasises the need for the international community to cooperate with the United States' efforts and initiatives in confronting the crises of terrorism facing the world," it added.

The ministry called for joint action and cooperation at all levels to ensure the eradication of all forms of terrorism and to deter all those who finance or support terrorism.

A glimpse into poetic emotions

Omar Ahmed Al Khulaqi is among the new-generation poets who actively use social media as the main channel to reach readers

TDI|Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Bahraini poet Omar Ahmed Al Khulaqi is a busy man, straddling different worlds of art.

It was a few months ago he produced his first EP (extended play) titled 'OAK' with his friend Ashwin Shenoy.

And now he plans to publish his poetries he wrote on Instagram page under the title 'Beneath the OAK Tree'.

"I started writing about 11 years ago, in my ninth grade when I was in school. It was music lyrics, not poetry, interestingly that drew me to the power of words and their ability to impact the human soul," he told Tribune.

"My early writings mainly drew from the dark atmospheric worlds of the music I listened to. Slowly that began to get a bit tired and I began to pour my own emotions into my writing. So from writing about angels and demons, I began to unleash my own psychological explorations into poems.

"With each poem, I dug deeper and deeper into my own mind, while also enhancing my vocabulary and experimenting with different themes and images. So I would say poetry helped me reflect on my own personality and opinions, hopes and dreams.

"Gothic atmospherics and terror, horrors were still my favourite genres to write about. I had a long phase



Omar has busy schedules ahead.

where I was obsessed with manipulating the reader into falling into a cold twisted ending. At the same time, I wrote romantic poetry. So I would say those were the two prevailing moods.

"But over the past few years, I have been primarily writing spiritual poetry that relates to eastern philosophy and metaphysics. What I enjoy writing at the moment are quotes for Instagram. The picture format really constricts you and I feel that it has challenged and improved the potency of my poetic expression."

Speaking on his collaboration with Ashwin, Omar said, "My EP collaboration with Ashwin Shenoy was a one year project that started in the summer of 2016. Ashwin is a good friend of mine and I've always been a fan of his musical abilities and his creative mind. I had asked him several times that I'd be honoured if he could turn one of my poems into a song. He is someone I felt would do a good job, and would turn them into his own, a unique vision.

"After a while, he began sending me a few recordings that he played on the guitar and then he began studio recording, editing and mastering them. During the recording process, we had discussions over the phone about certain aspects of the songs like instrumentation etc.

"I also designed his album cover art and booklet after discussing the album concept with him at length. The album

is short, but each song tells a story with a strong theme and each song connects to the overarching concept of the album, which is about one's inner transformation. The album is rich and layered both in lyrical meaning and in musical texture. It has multiple music influences that create a varied palette of emotion.

"I have published some of the poems in a few books those being, 'My Beautiful Bahrain' and 'More of Beautiful Bahrain'. I am planning to publish a debut book of my poetry in the upcoming year just not sure when exactly."

"As a poet, challenges are universal and don't apply to Bahrain alone. The poetry reading audience is generally small and the written word is losing ground to the emergence of spoken word poetry which is more theatre, open mic based and social-justice driven in content."

Omar opined that social media has become the latest tool for artists to interact with their audience. "While I do enjoy some spoken word artists, I don't see myself as a performer, so I would say that's my weakness, but I may decide to work on it in the future.

"I am trying to build an audience on social media, especially Instagram as I see it as a viable and accessible path for exposure. But I feel Instagram is still limited and I might be thinking of taking up blogging seriously in the future and targeting a wider audience, especially in the age group."

Festival to throw spotlight on Indian heritage

TDI|Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) is all set to organise an Indian Heritage Festival on December 14, 2018.

The festival, which will be held under the patronage of the Embassy of India, will be hosted under the title 'Tribute to Bahrain' and the organisers say it will serve as a catalyst to showcase various cultural happenings and events from different states of India.

Speaking to Tribune, Nisha Rangarajan, a member of the organising committee said, "The Indian Heritage festival comes in line with the annual Art Carnival titled 'Spectra 2018'. This event

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The event will be highlighting the culture, cuisine, commerce and entertainment elements from the subcontinent.

MS RANGARAJAN

aims at unearthing artistic talent among the youth and creating a future generation who would be catalysts for social change.

"The 10th year of Spectra which is to be held on the same day at the Bahrain International Ex-

hibition Centre. We at ICRF are determined to give all a cultural visual treat and to carry home the Indian feel and portray the Incredible India.

"Competitions for best Indian attire, the highest revenue making stall and various other competitions are lined up where the winners will be honoured at an award function which will be held later on the same day."

"The event will be highlighting the culture, cuisine, commerce and entertainment. The festival is expected to draw 8000-10000 people who will experience and revel in the colours of the subcontinent, all at a convenient and easily accessible location, where the entry will be free for all."

National Committee on Childhood restructured

● **The Premier's Edict stipulated restructuring the committee chaired by the Minister of Labour and Social Development, with the new membership.**

Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa the Prime Minister yesterday issued Edict 28/2018 restructuring the National Committee on Childhood.

The Premier's Edict stipulated restructuring the committee chaired by the Minister of Labour and Social Development, with the new membership.

The new members are Khaled Abdulrahman Ishaq, representing Labour and Social Development Ministry, Shaikha Aisha bint Ali Al Khalifa, representing Labour and So-

cial Development Ministry, Mai Hassan Al Asmi, representing Labour and Social Development Ministry, Brigadier Mona Ali Abdul Raheem, representing Interior Ministry, Khalid Mahmoud Al Saeedi, representing the Ministry of Education, Rana Ahmed Khalifa Ahmed, representing the Supreme Council for Women, Attorney General Ameena Isa Mubarak, representing the Public Prosecution, Amer Sameh Al Khafash, representing Information Affairs Ministry, Dr Eshraq Abdulaziz Al Aamer, representing Health Ministry, Shaikha Noura bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, representing Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry, Fatima Abdullah Al Dhaen, representing Foreign Affairs Ministry, Dr. Sheikha Ahmed Abdullah Al Junaid, representing the University of Bahrain, Eman Faisal Janahi, representing Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry, Fawzia Mahrous Al Mahrous, representing the Bahrain Society for Children Development and Manal Ali Qutub Al Awadhi, representing Wish of A Child Society.

business

Hala Bahrain, ABTTA in deal

The launch is in line with the objectives of the \$1.1 billion Airport Modernisation Programme

TDI | Manama

Hala Bahrain signed an agreement with the Association of Bahrain Travel & Tour Agents (ABTTA) to provide tourists or small groups visiting Bahrain with meet and greet packages.

Hala Bahrain Director of the Board Ayman Zainal and ABTTA Chairman, Jehad Ameen signed the agreement during a ceremony at the Hala Bahrain lounge at Bahrain International Airport (BIA).

The agreement, according to Ameen, will simplify arrival procedures for tourism groups and save them time and effort.

"Most tourists form opinions about a country as soon as they arrive at the airport, which is why we pride ourselves on making a good first impression that reflects the warm hospitality Bahrain is known for," said Ayman Zainal.

Under the agreement, ABTTA members that provide Hala



Hala Bahrain and ABTTA officials during the signing

Bahrain's services to their customers will pay minimal fees on packaged services, where

visitors will be fast-tracked through all airport formalities,

and connected to a tour guide at the Arrivals waiting area.

The launch is in line with the objectives of the \$1.1 billion Airport Modernisation Pro-

gramme (AMP) and the strategy to diversify the airport's revenue streams through the creation of a wider range of commercial offerings. Established in 2017,

Hala Bahrain is a subsidiary of BAC. Its offerings include car rental, taxi, and meet and greet services that will help passen-



Phil Williams

Gulf Brands names General Manager

TDI | Manama

Gulf Brands International, a leading importer, distributor and retailer of beverages in Bahrain, has named Phil Williams as General Manager.

He replaces Ron Peters who has taken on a new group-wide leadership role as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Gulf Hotels Group.

Phil joins Gulf Brands International from Spinneys Abu Dhabi where he led the retail division, operating and developing nine hugely successful retail stores.

Phil's extensive career has seen him specialise in brand building, marketing, on trade sales and retail operations within the industry in the UK and Middle East.

Thieves take wing with 1m euros of Red Bull in Belgium

Brussels, Belgium

Thirsty thieves stole more than 300 pallets of Red Bull cans worth around one million euros from a depot in Belgium in

what police described yesterday as a "very professional" heist.

The energy drink -- whose slogan is "Red Bull gives you wings" -- was stolen on Sunday from an industrial estate in Menin

district, on the French border.

The team of thieves took around 12 hours and made repeated trips to take the equivalent of 11 trucks worth of drink from the depot, which is

on the motorway linking the Belgian city of Ghent to Lille in northern France.

A Belgian police source said they were using CCTV images to identify the suspects, and would

not rule out that they had inside help.

Belgium's Dutch-language Het Laatste Nieuws newspaper made fun of the brand's slogan, saying that "it seems 950,000

cans have themselves been given wings". Red Bull was created in the 1980s by the Austrian businessman Dietrich Mateschitz and is a major sponsor of sports including motor racing.

BANK ALKHAIR B.S.C. (c)				BANK ALKHAIR											
INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 30 June 2018 (Reviewed)				INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the six months period ended 30 June 2018 (reviewed)				INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME for the six months period ended 30 June 2018 (reviewed)							
		(Amounts in US\$ thousands)				(Amounts in US\$ thousands)				(Amounts in US\$ thousands)		(Amounts in US\$ thousands)			
		30-Jun 2018	31-Dec 2017	30-Jun 2018	30-Jun 2017			(Three months ended)		(Six months ended)		30-Jun 2017			
		(Reviewed)	(Audited)					30-Jun 2018	30-Jun 2017	30-Jun 2018	30-Jun 2017				
ASSETS				OPERATING ACTIVITIES				Income from non-banking operations							
Cash and balances with banks	5,512	8,172	Loss for the period	(2,149)	(3,286)	Fees and commission	4,172	6,143	6,718	8,407	Net income / (loss) from investments	4,431	(3,122)	4,696	(2,049)
Placements with financial institutions	23,566	6,588	Adjustments for:			Rental income	605	605	1,211	1,211	Finance income	88	281	339	617
Financing receivables	3,333	8,956	Gain on sale of investments	(4,872)	(338)	Share of profit / (loss) from associates, net	642	434	357	(947)	Other income	171	258	327	258
Investments	48,395	70,644	Fair value loss on investments	(57)	947	Foreign exchange (loss) / gain	(361)	167	(297)	158	Total income	17,368	12,234	29,206	22,583
Investment in associates	126,077	126,035	Share of profit / loss from associates	854	947	Expenses of non-banking operations	5,370	4,831	10,585	9,648	Staff cost	3,558	3,347	7,482	6,910
Investment in real estate	224,852	224,873	Depreciation	(85)	(15)	Finance cost	3,069	2,831	6,055	5,573	Legal and professional expenses	242	553	2,558	1,013
Other assets	37,976	28,483	Sukuk amortisation	(85)	(15)	Depreciation	480	381	854	947	Premises cost	290	248	547	477
Equipment	9,018	9,491	Charge / (reversal) of impairment	937	(984)	Business development expenses	127	80	264	134	Other operating expense	947	1,346	2,053	2,161
			Changes in:	(8,461)	(329)	Total expenses	14,073	13,617	30,418	26,663	Income / (loss) for the period before impairment provision	3,295	(1,383)	(1,212)	(4,280)
TOTAL ASSETS	477,749	482,242	Financing receivables	4,688	6,961	Impairment (charge) / reversal	(1,003)	-	(937)	994	Income / (loss) for the period	2,292	(1,383)	(2,149)	(3,286)
			Other assets	(9,603)	(5,785)	Attributable to:					Shareholders of the Bank	9	(4,152)	(5,665)	(7,293)
			Due to financial institutions	(13,151)	(4,195)	Non-controlling interests	2,273	2,769	3,516	4,007		2,282	(1,383)	(2,149)	(3,286)
			Due to customers	12,248	6,274										
			Other liabilities	793	5,487										
			Net cash (used in) / from operating activities	(10,778)	8,432										
			LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY												
			LIABILITIES												
			Due to financial institutions	56,631	71,342										
			Due to customers	179,620	167,372										
			Other liabilities	54,353	53,570										
			TOTAL LIABILITIES	290,604	292,284										
			OWNER'S EQUITY												
			Share capital	207,962	207,962										
			Statutory reserve	664	664										
			Fair value reserve	244	487										
			Foreign currency translation reserve	(5,600)	(5,179)										
			Accumulated losses	(121,352)	(115,687)										
			Equity attributable to the shareholders of the Bank	81,918	68,247										
			Non-controlling interests	105,227	101,711										
			TOTAL OWNER'S EQUITY	187,145	169,958										
			TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY	477,749	482,242										

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY

for the six months period ended 30 June 2018 (reviewed)

	Equity attributable to the shareholders of the Bank					Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Investments fair value reserve	Foreign currency translation reserve	Accumulated losses		
As at 1 January 2018	207,962	664	487	(5,179)	(115,687)	88,247	101,711
(Loss) / income for the period	-	-	-	-	(5,665)	(5,665)	3,516
Foreign currency translation differences	-	-	-	(100)	-	(100)	-
Share of changes in reserves of investment in associates	-	-	(243)	(321)	(564)	(564)	(564)
As at 30 June 2018	207,962	664	244	(5,600)	(121,352)	81,918	105,227
As at 1 January 2017	207,962	664	151	(6,469)	(98,478)	103,830	94,246
(Loss) / income for the period	-	-	-	-	(7,293)	(7,293)	4,007
Foreign currency translation differences	-	-	-	18	-	18	-
Share of changes in reserves of investment in associates	-	-	403	688	-	1,091	1,091
As at 30 June 2017	207,962	664	554	(5,763)	(105,771)	97,646	98,253

*Auditors' Report Emphasis of matter Paragraph:

As at 30 June 2018, the current contractual liabilities of the Group exceeded its liquid assets. As a result, the ability of the Group to meet its obligations when due, depends on its ability to roll over short term liabilities and timely disposal of assets. Further, the Bank's capital adequacy ratio and equity as of 30 June 2018 was below the minimum regulatory capital requirements. These factors indicate the existence of material uncertainties, which may cast doubt about the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. To address these, the management has taken a number of initiatives including discussions with creditors who have shown willingness in the past to roll over short term placements, putting together a robust assets sales plan and particularly the ongoing support from major shareholders who have also in the past provided support when it was needed. The management is also working on the conversion of the Bank into a holding company as approved by the shareholders. The Board of Directors has reviewed these initiatives and is satisfied with the appropriateness of the going concern assumption for preparation of the interim condensed consolidated financial statements. Moreover, the accumulated deficit of the Group exceeded 50% of its paid-up capital as at the reporting date. The Bahrain Commercial Companies Law requires that, where the accumulated losses of the Group exceed its share capital by more than 50%, the shareholders should resolve to continue with the operations of the Group.

For further information, please visit the Bank's website at www.bankalkhair.com

Licensed as wholesale Islamic bank by the CBB.

UK investor stops Iran solar project

London, United Kingdom

British group Quercus, an investor in renewable energy, said yesterday it will halt work on a major solar plant in Iran after the country was hit by US economic sanctions.

"Following the US sanctions on Iran, we have decided to cease all activities in the country, including our 600 MW (megawatt) project," Quercus chief executive Diego Biasi said.

The US last week reimposed sanctions on Iran after President Donald Trump's withdrawal from a nuclear accord in May.

Trump insisted that the 2015 deal with Iran -- designed to prevent the Islamic republic from developing a nuclear weapon and that was signed also by Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia -- did not go far enough.

Several major foreign companies have either already exited Iran or are planning to cease activities in the country as a result of the US sanctions impacting their business activities.

Coca-Cola takes stake in BodyArmor

New York, United States

Coca-Cola has taken a stake in BodyArmor, a sports drink supported by Kobe Bryant, in the soda giant's latest bid to challenge market leader Gatorade, the two companies announced yesterday. Coca-Cola will take a minority stake in BodyArmor that could later be increased and grant the smaller company access to the Coca-Cola bottling system. Terms were not disclosed in a joint statement.

The move comes as Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, which owns Gatorade, face challenges growing soda sales because of concerns about obesity and artificial sweeteners. The press release emphasized that BodyArmor contains no artificial colours or flavours and that a diet version of the drink is naturally sweetened.

Tesla committee to consider going private

Washington, United States

Tesla's board of directors said yesterday it formed a special committee to consider chief executive Elon Musk's proposal to take the electric auto giant private.

Musk disclosed on Monday that he had been in talks with Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund and other potential investors on a plan that would delist Tesla from the stock market.

By going private, Tesla could operate without requirements for financial reports and other pressures of a publicly traded firm. But it could also lose visibility and limit its ability to raise capital.

Equities enjoy modest recovery

● Investors shifted back into buying mode but kept a nervous eye on Ankara

● Frankfurt and Paris both gained, while London lagged in the afternoon

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Turkey's lira recovered steadily yesterday, taking the pressure off stock markets although a boost from early bargain-hunting fizzled out, leaving most European share indices little changed on the day. Even as the selling pressured abated, investors kept a nervous eye on Ankara after Monday's bloodletting which saw the lira hit record lows and equity markets go into freefall on concerns Turkey's financial crisis could spread globally.

"The Turkish lira has finally found some support after two days of intense selling that triggered panic across the markets," said Fawad Razaqzada, market analyst at Forex.com, adding that the lira had clawed back



Pedestrians stand in front of a stock indicator board showing share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo

most of the previous day's losses.

'A long way to go'

"But it has a long way to go following its 13 per cent or so drop on Friday and its previous declines," he said.

In European deals, the Turkish unit advanced to 6.47 to the dollar and 7.39 to the euro, which was well off the all-time record lows seen the previous day, after Turkey's central bank vowed to boost liquidity.

In Europe, London and Paris equities were down at the close, while Frankfurt was flat.

In New York, however, the

Dow, S&P 500 and the Nasdaq all posted gains of around half a percent, with analysts reporting that investors were less worried about Turkey's crisis affecting other emerging economies.

The improving exchange rate of the Turkish currency helped ease fears for other emerging currencies which have become entangled with the lira's woes.

"Turkey's central bank managed to calm down the currency markets for the time being by committing to provide liquidity for the embattled Turkish lira," said Fiona Cincotta, senior market analyst at traders City Index.

Key figures at 1540 GMT

Dollar/Turkish lira:	▼ 6.47 lira from 6.88 lira late Monday
Euro/Turkish lira:	▼ 7.39 lira from 7.87 lira
Euro/dollar:	▼ \$1.1370 from \$1.1410
Pound/dollar:	▼ \$1.2757 from \$1.2771
Dollar/yen:	▲ 110.84 yen from 110.70 yen
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.4 pc at 7,611.64 points (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 12,358.87 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.2 pc at 5,403.41 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 3,409.44
New York - Dow Jones:	▲ 0.4 pc at 25,296.25
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 2.3 pc at 22,356.08 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.7 pc at 27,752.93 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.2 pc at 2,780.96 (close)

Rate hike needed

But concerns remain about how the crisis will pan out, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in combative mood, accusing Washington of plotting against his country, and calling for a boycott of US electronic goods.

"A sizable rate increase by the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) followed by drastic measures to reduce the fiscal deficit still appears to be the most viable option to re-anchor the lira and pull the country's economy from the brink," said

Dean Popplewell, a market analyst at OANDA.

On the Milan stock exchange, shares in motorway operator Atlantia were sharply lower after a bridge collapsed on the A10 Italian motorway which the company runs.

They were down by around 5.5pc in late trading, having earlier been suspended temporarily when their drop exceeded the permitted 10-percent threshold.

In Asia, Shanghai and Hong Kong equities sank into the red on downbeat Chinese data, which also weighed on commodities.

Saudi pips Iraq as top oil supplier to India

Reuters | New Delhi

Saudi Arabia replaced Iraq as top oil supplier to India in July after a gap of more than a year, according to data from industry and shipping sources, as a higher intake of Iranian oil ahead of US sanctions altered trade routes.

Many European refiners are winding down purchases of Iranian oil after the United States imposed sanctions on Tehran, leading to higher supplies to Asia, mainly India and China.

The United States in May quit the 2015 nuclear deal and announced reimposition of sanctions on Tehran. While some sanctions were implemented from Aug. 6, those affecting Iran's petroleum sector will come into force from Nov. 4.

Imports of Iranian oil by India, Tehran's top oil client after China, surged to a record

768,000 barrels per day (bpd) in July due to higher intake by state refiners, tanker arrival data showed.

Saudi Aramco raised July Arab Light crude price to Asia to 4-year high while Iraq increased the official selling prices for Basra Light crude to Asia by \$0.40 a barrel.

Apart from Iran, India also boosted intake of Venezuelan and Nigerian oil.

India's imports of Venezuela oil in July rose to 423,500 bpd, an increase of 37 percent from June, as some of the delayed cargoes from May arrived in July.

Narrowing of Brent's premium to Dubai prompted Indian refiners to lift more Nigerian grades, said Sri Paravaikarasa, head of East of Suez Oil at consultancy FGE.

India's monthly oil imports from Nigeria jumped by about 50 percent to 422,000 bpd in July, the data showed.

Rupee hits 70 to the dollar

● Turkish crisis concerns sparked the sold off

● The currency is expected to stabilise around 69

● South Africa, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Russia all hurt

AFP | Mumbai, India

The Indian rupee hit a record low of 70 to the dollar yesterday as emerging market currencies are sold off by investors spooked by the Turkish financial crisis.

The under-pressure rupee touched 70.09 briefly during mid-morning trade as fears grow that the plight of Turkey's lira will spread to other emerging countries.

South Africa, Argentina,



Representative picture

Mexico, Brazil and Russia have all seen their currencies slip over the past week because, like Turkey, they remain heavily dependent on foreign capital, especially the dollar.

"Investors are concerned that the rupee has crossed the 70 benchmark today," N. S. Venkatesh, chief executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India, said. But he added that he expected the currency to stabilise at around 69, describing India's economy as "strong".

"The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy has shown concern for the rupee's fluctuations so investors should not be worried by knee-jerk reactions in the forex market," Venkatesh said.

India's central bank has raised interest rates twice this year, to help increase the value of the rupee. Its fall is leading to a widening of India's current account deficit, when the value of imports exceeds the value of exports, experts say.

Malaysia to alter tourism logo with ape in shades

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysia's new government will change an official tourism logo featuring an orangutan wearing sunglasses after it sparked a storm of mockery, a minister said yesterday.

The "Visit Malaysia 2020" logo has an image of the orangutan with its arm around a proboscis monkey, a picture of a turtle -- also sporting shades -- and multi-coloured, uneven lettering.

It was released in January as part of a campaign to attract more tourists to the tropical Southeast Asian country but it was widely panned for being ugly and outdated, with thou-



The official tourism logo featuring an orangutan wearing sunglasses. (Photo: Tourism Malaysia/Facebook)

sands signing a petition calling for it to be dumped.

Despite the criticism, the

then-tourism minister stood by the design, which also includes a retro image of Kuala Lumpur's



The decision was welcomed online, with one Facebook user posting: "Finally! Down with that awful logo. Tasteless and ugly."

iconic Petronas Twin Towers.

But the scandal-plagued government of prime minister Najib Razak was booted out of power

in May, and new Tourism Minister Mohamaddin Ketapi is now pledging to alter the logo.

A contest will be held to re-design it, he was cited as saying in local media, but he insisted it was not being dumped entirely.

"We're not ditching it but we'll improve it. There were many complaints it wasn't nice," he was quoted as saying by news portal Malaysiakini.

The minister told another outlet that the orangutan in sunglasses might have to go as many had criticised it as "hideous".

Malaysia, which boasts white-sand beaches, biodiverse diving spots, tropical forests and a variety of cultures, welcomed 25.9 million visitors in 2017.

Lack of food pushes 2.3mn to flee Venezuela: UN

AFP | United Nations, United States

About 2.3 million Venezuelans have fled their crisis-hit country mainly because of a lack of food as severe shortages of medicine has left thousands at risk, the UN spokesman said yesterday.

The Venezuelans have fled to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil.

"People cite the lack of food as their main reason for leaving," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric. About 1.3 million Venezuelans are suffering from malnourishment.

Severe shortages of medicine and medical supplies have led to a "sharp deterioration of the quality of hospitals," he said, citing UN humanitarian officials.

UK unemployment rate falls to 4.0pc

London | United Kingdom

Britain's unemployment rate dropped to 4.0 percent in the second quarter to stay at the lowest level for 43 years, official data showed yesterday.

The jobless rate compared with a rate of 4.2 percent in the three months to the end of May -- which had also been a 1975 low -- the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

Both employment and wages growth remained subdued in the second quarter.

"Slower employment growth may well be at least partly caused by employers finding it harder to find suitable candidates -- in some cases significantly influenced by fewer workers coming from the EU" amid Brexit, noted Howard Archer, chief economic advisor at EY ITEM Club.

Eurozone growth revised higher

Brussels | Belgium

Economic growth in the Eurozone was better than previously thought in the second quarter, matching Brexit-bound Britain's, according to a revised estimate by the EU yesterday.

Figures released by Eurostat showed that growth hit 0.4 per cent in the 19-country single currency bloc in the April to June period, and had not slowed to 0.3pc as previously thought.

The new figure means growth has remained the same as in the first quarter of 2018.

It also means that British growth no longer outpaces the eurozone's in the second quarter. Figures released on Friday had showed that the UK's Gross Domestic Product grew 0.4 percent in the three months to the end of June.

Stocks rise as Lira stabilises



Saudi Arabia's stock index climbed 0.3pc

National Commercial Bank recovers in Saudi

Dubai market ends lower on Emaar, Emirates NBD

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi stocks rose modestly yesterday, recouping part of recent losses - notably among banks - as concerns about contagion from sharp declines in the Turkish lira eased. As the lira stabilised, Qatar stocks ended 0.9 per cent higher, helped by a 1.5pc rebound in Qatar National Bank from sharp falls in the past two days. It has a Turkish subsidiary, QNB Finansbank.

Saudi Arabia's stock index

climbed 0.3pc, with its biggest bank, National Commercial Bank, rising 0.7pc. Arqam Capital estimated NCB's exposure to Turkey at 8pc of its assets and 12pc of its loans.

Dubai's stock index ended slightly lower as its top bank, Emirates reversed earlier gains to end 1.9pc lower. The bank, which in May agreed to buy Turkey's Denizbank in a \$3.2 billion deal, had tumbled 4.6pc on Monday.

Loss-making builder Drake & Scull jumped 1.3pc from a record low and was the market's most heavily traded stock. It appointed Yousef Al Mulla as chief executive, replacing Fadi Feghali who took over only in April, and said it was devising a fresh restructuring plan.

Emaar Properties gave up early gains to end 0.4pc lower. Dubai's biggest property firm

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.3%	7,893
DUBAI	▼ 0.2%	2,841
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.6%	4,830
QATAR	▲ 0.9%	9,639
KUWAIT	■	at 5,378
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.4%	1,341
OMAN	▼ 0.2%	4,373
EGYPT	▼ 1.1%	15,356

reported a 16pc year-on-year rise in second-quarter net profit on a 55pc leap in revenues.

DAMAC Properties lost 0.5pc after its second-quarter profit from continuing operations fell 46pc. It was confident of its financial position despite registering its worst quarter for booked sales since going public five years ago, its chief financial officer said.

Germany bounces back

Frankfurt am Main | Germany

Germany has bounced back from an early 2018 slowdown, official data showed yesterday.

Growth rebounded from its first-quarter slide to reach 0.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter between April and June, according to preliminary data from federal statistics authority Destatis.

Analysts surveyed by data company Factset had predicted expansion would remain at the pace seen between January and March, when growth slowed to 0.4pc.

"Contrary to the national soccer team, the German economy did not have a rude

awakening at the start of the summer," ING Diba bank analyst Carsten Brzeski said.

The figures showed Europe's largest economy had grown 2.0 percent year-on-year by the end of the second quarter, a result likely to comfort observers who had feared a slowdown throughout 2018 after the weaker first three months.

Germany also outperformed the average of the 19-nation eurozone, whose growth slowed to 0.3pc between April and June. Other major economies Italy and France reported below-average expansion.

Growth was lifted by "positive domestic impulses", Destatis said/

Oil prices up on supply concerns

Reuters | New York

Oil prices rose more than 1 per cent yesterday, tracking the stock market higher after a rise in Turkey's lira quelled fears of emerging market weakness and as market participants focused on lower crude supply from Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Brent crude futures for October delivery rose 74 cents to \$73.35 a barrel by 11:00 am (1500 GMT) US. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures rose 70 cents to \$67.90 a barrel.

Prices rebounded from the previous session's slide that came as a financial crisis in Turkey sparked fears that possible contagion throughout emerging economies could hurt fuel demand.

Turkey's lira, which crashed to an all-time low against the dollar on Monday, recovered about 5 percent on Tuesday. U.S. stock indexes broadly gained, supporting oil futures.

"The equities and the U.S. dollar are keying primarily off of the unfolding saga in Turkey



and although the lira has posted a significant rebound today, the standoff between Turkey and the U.S. is showing no sign of progress," Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates, said in a note.

"Consequently, worries over contagion are apt to increase in the process of reducing risk appetite and renewing downside pressures on oil pricing."

Also supporting oil prices were concerns over lower global crude supply from top producers. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said on Monday that Saudi Arabia had cut production.

United States warns on Russia's new space weapons

Reuters | Geneva

The United States voiced deep suspicion yesterday over Russia's pursuit of new space weapons, including a mobile laser system to destroy satellites in space, and the launch of a new inspector satellite which was acting in an "abnormal" way.

Russia's pursuit of counter-space capabilities was "disturbing", Yleem D.S. Poblete, US Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, told the UN's Conference on Disarmament which is discussing a new treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space.

A Russian delegate at the conference dismissed Poblete's remarks as unfounded and slanderous.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, at the Geneva forum in February, said a priority was to prevent an arms race in outer space, in line with Russia's joint draft treaty with China presented a decade ago.

But Russian President Vladimir Putin unveiled in March "six new major offensive



US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin

weapons systems", including the Peresvet military mobile laser system, Poblete said.

"To the United States this is yet further proof that the Russian actions do not match their words," she said.

Referring to a "space apparatus inspector", whose deployment was announced by the

Russian defense ministry last October, Poblete said: "The only certainty we have is that this system has been 'placed in orbit'."

She said its behavior on-orbit was inconsistent with anything seen before, including other Russian inspection satellite activities, adding: "We are concerned with what appears

to be very abnormal behavior by a declared 'space apparatus inspector'."

Russia's pursuit of counter-space capabilities "is disturbing given the recent pattern of Russian malign behavior," she said, and its proposed treaty would not prohibit such activity, nor the testing or stockpiling of an-

ti-satellite weapons capabilities. Alexander Deyneko, a senior Russian diplomat in Geneva, dismissed what he called "the same unfounded, slanderous accusations based on suspicions, on suppositions and so on".

The United States had not proposed amendments to the Sino-Russian draft treaty, he said. "We are seeing that the American side are raising their serious concerns about Russia, so you would think they ought to be the first to support the Russian initiative. They should be active in working to develop a treaty that would 100 percent satisfy the security interests of the American people," he said.

"But they have not made this constructive contribution," he said. China's disarmament ambassador Fu Cong called for substantive discussions on outer space, leading to negotiations.

"China has always stood for peaceful use of outer space and we are against weaponization of outer space, an arms race in outer space, or even more turning outer space into a battle field," he said.

What a drone attack sa

A democratic transition for the Latin American country requires a firm engagement by the international community, the government and the opposition



DAVID SMILDE

It was a perfect metaphor to describe the government of President Nicolás Maduro. In a military parade designed to show him as a powerful commander in chief, Maduro was interrupted mid-speech by an explosion. Live state television immediately cut to a shot of the orderly formations of National Guardsmen facing the stage. But when a second explosion rang out, the National Guardsmen scattered and ran for cover. State television coverage broke to a triumphant cartoon image of a running stallion.

The first task of any autocrat is to look strong and invincible. But the Aug. 4 assassination attempt made Maduro look weak and vulnerable. That an amateurish drone attack could get so close to the president shows the deterioration of Venezuela's state apparatus at the highest levels. That the soldiers would break and scatter to save their own hides reveals the superficiality of the support that the president has around him.

What would have happened had the assassination attempt been successful? Without any viable opposition, it most likely would have empowered Chavista military loyalists to take charge and make Venezuela into a true military dictatorship. Or it could have begun an armed conflict between rival factions within Chavismo.

No one knows whether the Maduro regime will last decades or days. But this drone attack should be a warning to international stakeholders. To achieve an orderly, democratic and nonviolent solution to the Venezuelan crisis, international pressure must be complemented by constructive engagement of both the government and opposition.

Firmly in control of his party and government, and with the opposition in disarray, Maduro appears to be in a strong position. But the reality underneath is like a foundation of sand in a rain-storm. Inflation that could reach 1 million per cent, declining oil production and defaulted loans leave

an economy that will contract by double digits for the third year in a row. The Maduro government is not capable of paying its bills and has few friends to turn to.

Since mid-June, nurses have been on strike, protesting the salaries of less than a \$1 per month. This week the government raised their wage to about \$7, which still won't go very far with the rapidly growing inflation. With a tone of irony, the nurses are demanding the same salaries as military officers. But even the highest-ranking colonel makes only around \$50 a month. Maduro is at the point where he cannot pay public employees relevant salaries.

While many government and military officials have their hands in corruption schemes that provide them with ample rewards, they know that Maduro is running Chavismo, the political system built by former president Hugo Chávez, off a cliff. If they get to the point that they see their livelihoods at risk, they are not going to turn around and run like the National Guardsmen did on Aug. 11. They will walk forward and force Maduro himself off the stage.

There is considerable international pressure on the Maduro regime. Fourteen Latin American countries, the United States, Canada and the entire European Union have refused to recognize Maduro's May 20 re-election. The United States, Canada, the European Union, Switzerland and Panama have all imposed sanctions of some sort. And initiatives by the United Nations Human Rights Council and

The governments of Uruguay, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and the new administration in Mexico could play such a role, perhaps facilitated by the United Nations or a European country with experience in peace negotiations.



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro parti

review of accusations of crimes by the Criminal Court all provide extraor on the Maduro government. These necessary but are unlikely to lead to by themselves.

Countries concerned about Ven match their pressure with engage

Israel, this is not who we are

The country should uphold democratic values instead of exclusively subscribing to the politics of a radical minority



RONALD S. LAUDER S

For many Israelis, Jews and supporters of Israel, the last year has been a challenging one. In the summer of 2017, Israel's government withdrew from an agreement that would have created an egalitarian prayer area at the Western Wall and proposed a strict conversion law that impinges on the rights of non-Orthodox Jews. This summer the Knesset passed a law that denies equal rights to same-sex couples. A day later came the nation-state law, which correctly reaffirms that Israel is a Jewish state, but also damages the sense of equality and belonging of Israel's Druze, Christian and Muslim citizens.

Last month, a Conservative rabbi was detained for the alleged crime of performing a non-Orthodox wedding ceremony in Israel.

In several municipalities, attempts were made to disrupt secular life by closing convenience stores on the Sabbath.

These events are creating the impression that the democratic and egalitarian dimensions of the Jewish democratic state are being tested.

For 4,000 years, the Jewish people were seen as the world's moral compass.

The issue at hand is first and foremost a moral one, but the new nation-state legislation may also have severe national and international reper-



Arab parliamentarians protest Israel racist laws in the Knesset

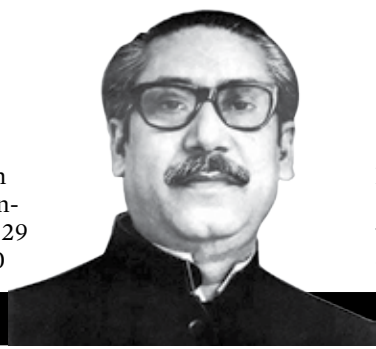
cussions. In Israel, it will heighten the sense of polarization and discord. Abroad, Israel may find itself associated with a broken values system and questionable friends. As a result, future leaders of the West may become hostile or indifferent to the

Jewish state.

Tragically, the new policies will Israel but weaken it, and in the lon endanger Israel's social cohesiven success and international standing

1998

Omagh bombing in Northern Ireland, the worst terrorist incident of The Troubles, kills 29 people and injures about 220



1975

Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is killed along with most members of his family during a military coup

1947

India gains independence from Great Britain, remains a dominion until 1950

1620

Mayflower sets sail from Southampton, England, with 102 Pilgrims

ays about Venezuela's future?



icipates in a televised event with soldiers in the centre of Caracas

ne International ordinary pressure measures are positive change Venezuela need to ment. It is im-

portant that the "Lima Group" of 14 nations has emerged to pressure Venezuela. But there also needs to be a "group of friends" that can engage the Maduro government and facilitate a transition. Such diplomacy should not be seen as an alternative to pressure, but as a complement running parallel to it. In the 1980s the Contadora Group of foreign

ministers from Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela was key to the eventual emergence of a peace plan, putting an end to the wars in Central America. The governments of Uruguay, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and the new administration in Mexico could play such a role, perhaps facilitated by the United Nations or a European country with



Tragically, the new policies will not strengthen Israel but weaken it, and in the long run they may endanger Israel's social cohesiveness, economic success and international standing.

worldly culture and morality. Conservatives and liberals, we all believe in a just Zionism and a pluralistic Judaism that respects every human being. So when members of Israel's current government unintentionally undermine the covenant between Judaism and enlightenment, they crush the core of contemporary Jewish existence.

Already today, the main challenge facing the Jewish diaspora is a deep — and deepening — generational divide. All over the world, and especially in North America, Jewish millennials are raising doubts that their parents and grandparents never raised. The commitment to Israel and Jewish institutions is not unconditional.

experience in peace negotiations. Such engagement should include a discussion of mechanisms of transitional justice that could ensure officials they can change course without being the object of persecution.

International engagement does not need to come from the very top or be held in the public eye. Initiatives such as the Boston Group, which facilitates contact between United States lawmakers and Venezuelan officials, can work directly without recognition. Indeed, it was through this mechanism that Sen. Bob Corker secured the release of a United States citizen from a Venezuelan jail, just days after Maduro's re-election.

The United States and other countries also need to stop facilitating the extremist voices of Venezuelan politicians in exile — who, after all, do not suffer the consequences of their unrealistic schemes — and prioritize the many politicians still in Venezuela. International allies need to make their support contingent upon unity among opposition leaders. As others have noted, the differences between politicians like María Corina Machado and the former presidential candidate Henri Falcón are far from insurmountable.

The government's crass manipulation and outright fraud in elections over the past two years have weakened the hand of opposition moderates and strengthened the long-term message of radicals: "you don't remove dictators with votes." But this idea is historically inaccurate. Pressure leading to a pact leading to a vote is the classic way to overcome authoritarian rule. It was through a plebiscite that the Chilean opposition defeated the dictator Augusto Pinochet in 1988. A year later, the Solidarity movement in Poland accepted a limited vote and stunned the government by sweeping the election, leading to its demise. And it was through negotiations, and a vote, that South Africa overcame apartheid.

In none of these cases did dictators simply roll over and give up after a weekend of dialogue. Nor did they play fair. In each case, it was through months and years of hardball politics and arduous negotiations that democratic challengers were able to outsmart and outmanoeuvre authoritarian governments.

(David Smilde is a professor of sociology at Tulane University and a senior fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America)

Passing the torch to this younger generation is already a difficult undertaking — as many leaders, educators, rabbis and parents will attest. But when Israel's own government proposes damaging legislation, this task may well become nearly impossible.

If present trends persist, young Jews might not acquiesce to an affiliation with a nation that discriminates against non-Orthodox Jews, non-Jewish minorities and other communities. They may not fight the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, they may not support Israel in Washington and they may not provide it with the strategic rear guard that Israel so needs.

Let us not forget: A vast majority of the world's Jews do not identify as Orthodox. They are traditional, secular, Conservative, Reform or completely unaffiliated. Orthodoxy should be respected, but we cannot allow the politics of a radical minority to alienate millions of Jews worldwide. We are one people, few in number, and we must stop sowing division among ourselves.

I have always stood by Israel and I always will. But now, as a loving brother, I ask Israel's government to listen to the voices of protest and outrage being heard in Israel and throughout the Jewish world. I call upon Israeli leaders to rethink their destructive actions during this summer of disharmony.

This is not who we are, and this is not who we wish to be. This is not the face we want to show our children, grandchildren and the family of nations. Let us work together to change course and ensure that Israel will continue to be the Jewish democratic state it is meant to be.

(Ronald S Lauder is a columnist with The New York Times.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



They were all in on it, clear Hillary Clinton and FRAME Donald Trump for things he didn't do." Gregg Jarrett on @foxandfriends If we had a real Attorney General, this Witch Hunt would never have been started! Looking at the wrong people.

@realDonaldTrump

02



My thoughts are with those injured in the incident in Westminster and my thanks to the emergency services for their immediate and courageous response.

@theresa_may

03



Like people all around the world, Hillary and I are thinking about Aretha Franklin tonight & listening to her music that has been such an important part of our lives the last 50 years. We hope you'll lift her up by listening and sharing her songs that have meant the most to you.

@BillClinton

04



Enough is enough! No one in America should go deeply in debt or bankrupt for the crime of getting an education. It is time to reduce the burden of student debt and make public colleges and universities tuition free.

@SenSanders

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

WORLD

Israel may reopen Gaza goods crossing

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel will reopen its only goods crossing with the Gaza Strip today if calm is maintained, after having prevented most deliveries since July 9 over border tensions, the defence ministry said Tuesday.

"Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman this afternoon held a situation assessment" with security chiefs, his office said in a statement on Tuesday.

"In the meeting it was decided that if the quiet which has been maintained on the Gaza border continues until tomorrow morning, Kerem Shalom crossing will open tomorrow at 9:00 am (0600 GMT) and the fishing zone will be expanded back to nine miles from the beach."

Brazil seizes 1.3 tons of cocaine on Italian ship

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Brazilian authorities said Monday they seized 1.32 metric tons (2,910 pounds) of cocaine aboard an Italian-flagged ship in Brazil's main port of Santos, near Sao Paulo.

"The drugs were divided into 1,202 tablets distributed in 41 sacks" in two containers on the Grande Francia ship, which had arrived from Argentina, the customs department said.

According to G1 news site, the ship was attacked by pirates on Sunday. However it was unclear whether the incident was connected to the drugs discovery.

The federal police in Santos said that a pirate incident had occurred but targeting a different vessel.

Tourist killed by rotor in Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal

An Indian tourist died in Nepal Tuesday after he walked into the tail rotor of a helicopter at a remote helipad near the border with China, officials confirmed.

The 42-year-old man was disembarking from the chopper at Hilsa -- the staging point for popular pilgrimage sites in neighbouring Tibet -- when the accident happened.

"He was hit on his head by the tail rotor after he got off from the helicopter and died on the spot," said district police chief Gahendra Bahadur Bogati.

Nepal has a booming private helicopter industry, flying tourists and goods to remote corners of the Himalayan nation where road access is limited or impossible.

Turkey takes aim at Apple

● Turkey would us boycott US electronic goods like the iPhone

● Erdogan said Turkey was facing an "economic attack" and a "bigger, deeper operation"

● A campaign on social media says #ABDyeReklamVerme (don't give ads to America)

● Trump tweeted that Washington was doubling aluminium and steel tariffs for Turkey

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said Turkey would boycott US electronic goods like the iPhone in retaliation for punitive sanctions from Washington, as the Turkish lira finally clawed back some ground after going into a tailspin over the tensions.

The dispute between the NATO allies -- brought to a new inten-



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan speaks on an iPhone (Courtesy of ibna)

sity by Turkey's holding of an American pastor for two years -- has raised questions over the future of their partnership and fanned fears of a looming economic crisis in Turkey.

"We will boycott US electronic goods," Erdogan said in a speech in Ankara, again showing no sign of compromise in the dispute.

"If (the United States) have the iPhone, there's Samsung on the other side," he said, referring to US giant Apple's iconic phone

and the top South Korean brand. "We (also) have our Venus and Vestel," he said about homegrown Turkish electronics brands.

Shares in Vestel zoomed up seven percent on the Istanbul stock exchange after Erdogan's remarks.

'Economic attack'

Erdogan has been repeatedly photographed with Apple products including the iPhone and

iPad.

He also made his now famous speech on the night of the July 2016 failed coup calling citizens out into the street through Facebook, an iPhone app.

Some joked bitterly on social media that the plunge of the lira would make Apple products unaffordable for Turks in any case.

The lira's plunge -- which had been ongoing for weeks -- was turned into a rout on Friday when US President Donald

”
If (the United States) have the iPhone, there's Samsung on the other side

ERDOGAN SAID, REFERRING TO US GIANT APPLE'S ICONIC PHONE AND THE TOP SOUTH KOREAN BRAND

Trump tweeted that Washington was doubling aluminium and steel tariffs for Turkey.

Turkish Airlines also announced on Twitter that it would join a campaign circulating on social media with a hashtag #ABDyeReklamVerme (don't give ads to America).

"We, as the Turkish Airlines, stand by our state and our people. Necessary instructions on the issue have been issued to our agencies," Yahya Ustun, spokesman for the country's flag-carrier, wrote on Twitter.

Erdogan said Turkey was facing an "economic attack" and a "bigger, deeper operation".

"They don't hesitate to use the economy as a weapon," he said. "What do you want to do? What do you want to achieve?" he added, referring to the US.

Tunisia draft bill to give women equal inheritance

Tunis, Tunisia

Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi on Monday announced plans to submit a draft bill to parliament equalising inheritance rights between men and women.

"I propose to make equal inheritance a law," he said in a televised speech on Tunisia's Women's Day.

The text of the bill will be presented to lawmakers after the end of the parliamentary recess in October, he said.

The proposal to equalise inheritance is among the most hotly debated of a raft of proposed social reforms, guided by a commission the president set up a year ago.

The commission suggested inheritance should by default be shared equally among male and female heirs.

Similar to many Muslim-majority countries, Tunisian law currently stipulates that male heirs should receive double the assets given to females of the same level of kinship.

"We will overturn this situation" and make equality the rule, while unequal sharing of inheritance will require special dispensation, Essebsi said.

"It is my duty as president of all Tunisians to unite and not to divide," he said.

Following the announcement, around 2,000 supporters of the change rallied in the capital Tunis, police said.

Taliban capture army base in N. Afghanistan

Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan

Taliban fighters overran an army base in northern Afghanistan, officials said Tuesday, killing at least 17 soldiers with dozens feared captured in a stinging blow to security forces already struggling to push insurgents from eastern Ghazni.

The fall of the base in Ghor-mach district of volatile Faryab province came with security forces -- who have struggled to hold back the Taliban since NATO combat troops pulled out in 2014 -- already stretched by the days of fighting in Ghazni, a



Afghan amputees march to demand an end to the war as they pass through Guzara district of Herat province

strategic provincial capital two hours from Kabul.

Militants gained control of the base after days of heavy

fighting, according to army spokesman for northern Afghanistan Mohammad Hanif Rezaee.

Adorable moment: Dog drags little girl to safety

Daily Mail

This is the adorable moment a dog rescues a little girl from ocean waves after thinking she's in trouble of being washed away.

Matyas was swimming in the ocean near Gouville-sur-Mer, France, with his owner's granddaughter when a small ripple crashed over her.

Deciding it was too dangerous for the little one to continue her leisurely swim, the pooch gently grabbed hold of her shirt with his teeth and dragged her towards the beach.



Matyas was swimming in the ocean near Gouville-sur-Mer, France

The youngster found this highly amusing and let out pearls of laughter as she was guided towards safety.

Eventually Matyas determined that the little girl was a safe enough distance away from the unpredictable ocean and lets up on his grip.

The footage was shared online and had over 1million views. It was filmed on August 3, 2018.

Social media users were quick to comment on the heartwarming clip.

One wrote: 'Nice to have such a smart dog around... he watches

that little girl better than many adults would.'

Another said: 'He's doing his job protecting her. Good doggy'

Others added: 'That was great to watch the little girl's laughter was so joyful to listen too, and the dog is absolutely special and wonderful beautiful video.'

There was large debate online as to the breed of the dog with many suggesting Matyas to be either a Sarplaninac, a Leonberger, a Keeshond, or a Newfoundland dog.

It is currently unclear as to what breed the pooch is.

Bridge collapse kills 30

30 dead in Italy motorway bridge collapse which is the deadliest of its kind in Europe since 2001

● 200 metres (650 feet) of the "Morandi" bridge had fallen away

● Death toll is expected to climb

● Cars and trucks were trapped in the rubble

Genoa, Italy

About 30 people were killed yesterday when a giant motorway bridge collapsed in heavy rain in the Italian city of Genoa in what the government called an "immense tragedy".

The collapse, which saw a vast stretch of the A10 freeway tumble on to railway lines in the northern port city, came as the bridge was undergoing maintenance work and as the Liguria region, where Genoa is situated, experienced torrential rainfall.

"Unfortunately there are around 30 dead and many injured in a serious condition," Interior Minister Matteo Salvini told reporters.

Rescuers scouring through the wreckage, strewn among shrubland and train tracks, said there were "dozens" of victims, as rescue helicopters winched survivors on stretchers from the ruined bridge.

Cars and trucks were tangled in the rubble and nearby buildings damaged by vast chunks of concrete, according to an AFP photographer at the scene.



A view of the Ponte Morandi motorway bridge, after one of its section collapsed injuring several people.

The incident -- the deadliest of its kind in Europe since 2001 -- is the latest in a string of bridge collapses in Italy, a country prone to damage from seismic activity but where infrastructure generally is showing the effects of economic stagnation.

'Unacceptable to die like this'

Aerial footage showed more than 200 metres (650 feet) of the viaduct, known locally as the Morandi bridge, completely destroyed.

"I'm following with the utmost apprehension what is hap-



Rescuers are at work amid the rubble of a section of a giant motorway bridge that collapsed earlier

Trump slams former WHouse aide Omarosa as 'dog'

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump yesterday lashed out at his former White House aide Omarosa Manigault Newman in especially angry terms, slamming her as a "dog" and "crazed" as their mud-slinging match escalated.

Manigault Newman -- who gained fame as a contestant on Trump's reality TV show "The Apprentice," and then secured a \$180,000-a-year staff job at the White House -- on Monday released a recording of a private conversation she had with the president after she was fired.

Trump had already branded "Omarosa" -- as she is commonly known in America -- a "lowlife" after she released a recording of



Omarosa Manigault Newman (L) appears alongside Donald Trump (R) (File)

Manigault Newman on Monday released a recording of a private conversation she had with the president after she was fired

her firing by chief of staff John Kelly, seemingly recorded in the White House Situation Room.

But on Tuesday, he ratcheted up the war of words -- to a level of nastiness rarely seen, even from a president who has shown he doesn't pull punches when insulting his critics.

"When you give a crazed, crying lowlife a break, and give her a job at the White House, I guess it just didn't work out. Good work by General Kelly for

quickly firing that dog!" Trump tweeted. The recordings by the disgruntled 44-year-old Manigault Newman, once an ardent Trump ally, represents a stunning breach of presidential trust.

On Tuesday, she explained to CBS News why she made the recordings: "I'm the kind of person who covers her own back. In Trump World, everyone lies."

"Everyone says one thing one day and they change their story the next day. I wanted to have this type of documentation... in the event I found myself in this position where, as you said, they're questioning my credibility."

Manigault Newman's tell-all book, "Unhinged," hits bookstores on Tuesday.

"
I have gone over this bridge hundreds of times, and I commit to digging and finding out who is responsible

DANILO TONINELLI
TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE MINISTER

uria region where Genoa is situated had issued a storm warning Tuesday morning.

The national motorways body said on its website that "maintenance works were being carried out on the base of the viaduct", adding that a crane had been moved on site to assist the work.

History of collapses

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker in a statement expressed "my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who have died, and to the Italian people".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel also sent her condolences.

Genoa, home to half a million people, is located between the sea and the mountains of north-western Italy.

Its rugged terrain means that motorways that run through the city and the surrounding area are characterised by long viaducts and tunnels.

The Morandi viaduct, completed in 1967, overspans dozens of railway lines as well as an industrial zone housing several factories.

One factory, immediately next to one of the viaduct's support columns, was virtually empty on Tuesday due to a national holiday, and seems to have sustained minimal damage.

In March last year, a couple were killed when a motorway overpass collapsed on their car near Ancona on the country's Adriatic coast.

A pensioner died in October 2016 when his car was crushed by a collapsing bridge over a dual carriageway between Milan and Lecco.



Sri Lanka arrests intel officer over killings

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan police yesterday arrested a navy intelligence officer in connection with atrocities committed during the island's bloody civil war, including the assassination of a prominent Tamil politician.

Lieutenant commander Sampath Hettiarachchi was wanted in connection with the abduction and illegal detention of 11 young men between 2008 and 2009, police said, the final phase of the war between government forces and ethnic Tamil separatists.

The 11 men are believed to have been killed while being illegally held by the navy. Their bodies were never found.

The then-navy spokesman D.K.P. Dissanayake is also a suspect in the case. He was arrested last year and is currently on bail.

Ebola death toll in DR Congo at 41

Beni, DR Congo

Forty-one people have died in the latest outbreak of Ebola in DR Congo, health authorities said on Tuesday, adding that doctors were using a novel drug to treat patients.

Out of 57 recorded cases as of Monday, 41 were fatal, the Congolese Health Ministry and UN's World Health Organization (WHO) said. Fourteen of the deaths had been confirmed by lab tests, the ministry said.

Last Friday, the ministry put the tally at 37 deaths, either confirmed or suspected. The outbreak is the country's 10th since 1976, when the disease was first identified in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) near the Ebola River, a tributary of the Congo.

Its epicentre is Mangina in the region of Beni, in the strife-torn eastern province of North Kivu.

Four injured in French knife rampage

Pèrigueux, France

An Afghan asylum-seeker was arrested after launching a drunken and frenzied knife attack in the sleepy southwestern French town of Perigueux, injuring four people including one seriously, police said.

The incident began Monday evening with the 19-year-old man, who was known to have psychological problems according to local authorities, lashing out at cars outside his home.

The head of the ambulance service for the area, Jean-Jacques Girard, told the regional Sud-Ouest daily that he was seen "kicking and banging a first vehicle with his feet and fists, then a second" and also "rounding on female motorists".

WORLD

features

The show must go on!

Iraq's top musicians play on despite unpaid wages



Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra conductor Mohammed Amin Ezzat leads musicians

Officially created in 1970 after several unsuccessful attempts, Iraq's national orchestra has survived decades of upheaval.

Baghdad, Iraq

In a dusty Baghdad dance studio, conductor Mohammed Amin Ezzat tries to fire up the musicians of Iraq's National Symphony Orchestra, whose enthusiasm has been dampened by eight months without pay.

An ageing air conditioner fights to beat back the summer heat in the cramped space at the capital's School of Music and Ballet as the 57-year-old maestro leads the group through a rehearsal of Modest Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain".

The shaggy-haired Ezzat and the 40 musicians surrounding him are gearing up to perform at Baghdad's National Theatre on Saturday, but the group's morale is at an all-time low.

The ensemble has lost more than half its members since the start of the year, when the government issued a directive barring state employees with two jobs from receiving two salaries.

The anti-corruption measure was sug-

gested by the World Bank and should affect only about a third of the orchestra's musicians, but because of delays in carrying out the reform wages have been withheld from the entire group.

"The orchestra is in great danger," Ezzat said. "Some don't have enough money to come, and others are disappointed by the impact of politics on the orchestra."

'On the precipice'

Officially created in 1970 after several unsuccessful attempts, Iraq's national orchestra has survived decades of upheaval.

It has survived wars, an invasion, a 12-year international embargo and a devastating three-year battle against Islamic State group jihadists, which came to an end last year.

But this may be the last straw for the outfit, a collateral victim of Iraq's "war on corruption".

"Not being paid for eight months has had a terrible psychological effect on the musicians, but we'll continue to resist

peacefully with our music," said Ezzat, who became the orchestra's first Iraqi conductor in 1989.

"We're on the precipice but sure that we won't jump."

When all its salaries are tallied up -- including the maestro's \$1,200 a month, peanuts for a major conductor -- the orchestra costs the state about \$85,000 (73,000 euros) a year.

The sum is a pittance compared to the exorbitant figures syphoned off by ministers and high officials who have either fled or been arrested.

The conductor, his daughter Noor, a timpanist, and his sons Hossam and Islam, who play the cello and viola respectively, have all been without a salary since January.

But according to Raed Allawi, the head of administrative affairs at Iraq's culture ministry, there is no reason to panic -- the wages will soon be paid.

"The finance ministry has asked for a regularisation of contracts. Verification measures are under way and this

explains the late payment of wages," Allawi said.

"The orchestra is one of the country's cultural showcases (and the ministry) respects its artists and their talent."

For the symphony's musicians, however, these are empty words they have heard already.

'Two professions, same passion'

Saad al-Dujaily, a professor of medicine and a flutist, thinks the measure is regressive.

"I've been an obstetrician and a flute player since I was very young," he said.

Because of the directive, the 57-year-old practitioner -- who teaches at Baghdad's al-Nahrain University and plays in the national orchestra -- is now entitled to only one salary.

"In Iraq, we're proud to have more than one job, to have more than one love, to practise two professions with the same love and passion," said Dujaily, who plans to continue with the orchestra to help preserve its quality.

Further along into the rehearsal, the studio's electricity cuts, a common occurrence in a country plagued by power outages.

The orchestra cannot afford the diesel to fuel the building's generator.

But the musicians play on in the windowless room, using their cell phones to illuminate the sheet music.

"There have been crises in the past, but this is the worst," said Doaa Majid al-Azzawi, an oboe player.

"Especially since my father and I are musicians. We don't know what will happen, but if the orchestra has to stop, it's culture in Iraq that will be dealt a deadly blow," the 25-year-old said.

When the studio's lights eventually make a flickering return, so too does the players' enthusiasm, and the music swells.

"As long as we live, music will live. It's our culture,"

said Noor, the conductor's daughter.



Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra musicians take part in a rehearsal

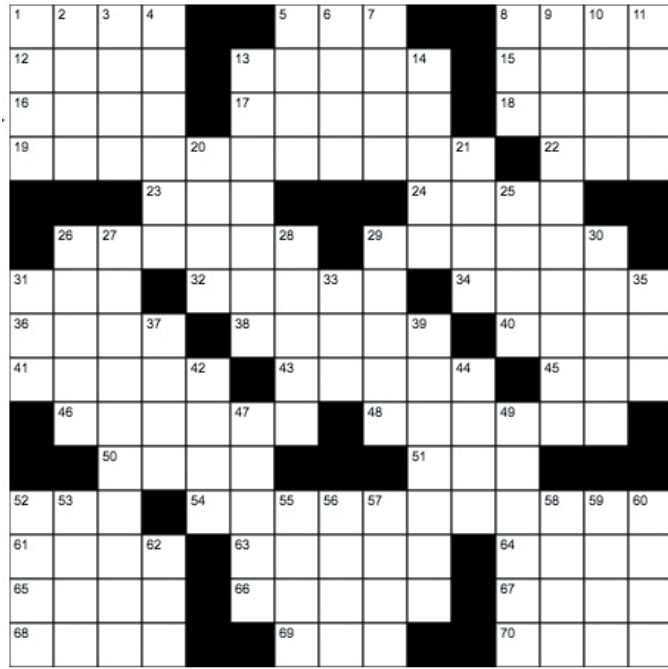


Dusty instruments are seen on the floor during a rehearsal of Iraq's National Symphony Orchestra

Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra musician Duaa Majid Aubej takes part in a rehearsal

entertainment

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



54- Denizens; 61- Fly; 63- Carried; 64- Prescription info; 65- Pot starter; 66- Stiff bristles; 67- Catchall abbr.; 68- Manipulates; 69- ___ Clemente; 70- ___ avis;

Down

1- Goblet part; 2- Intro to physics?; 3- Stable staple; 4- Understands; 5- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko; 6- Compass direction; 7- ... ___ saw Elba; 8- JFK watchdog; 9- Illegible; 10- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 11- Close with force; 13- Most profound; 14- World-weariness; 20- Course list?; 21- Diver Louganis; 25- Oscar Madison, for one; 26- ___ salts; 27- Fertilize an animal; 28- Street show; 29- Type of question; 30- Spread apart; 31- Urban scourge; 33- Neth. neighbor; 35- Sixth sense; 37- Rational; 39- Shore; 42- Mata ___; 44- Old card game; 47- Pennies; 49- Stevedore; 52- Son of Rebekah; 53- Ages and ages; 55- Weed whackers; 56- ___ girl!; 57- Legume; 58- ___ chance!; 59- Romanov ruler; 60- Actress Ward; 62- Hi-___;

Across

1- Problem with L.A.; 5- Call, in poker; 8- Animal pelts; 12- Eye drop; 13- The Wreck of the Mary ___; 15- Blue dye source; 16- Jazz singer James; 17- German industrial city; 18- Extent of space; 19- Public assembly; 22- Freddy Krueger's street; 23- Energy; 24- Bear in the air; 26- Disney honcho; 29- Cedes; 31- LP speed; 32- Grammarian's concern; 34- Flip out; 36- Venomous snakes; 38- Long lock of hair; 40- OPEC units; 41- Law of Moses; 43- Sea eagles; 45- One circuit; 46- Threaten; 48- Annie with a gun; 50- Richard of "Chicago"; 51- ___ Paulo; 52- Poet's dusk;

BEETLE BAILEY



WORD OF THE DAY

Gaffer

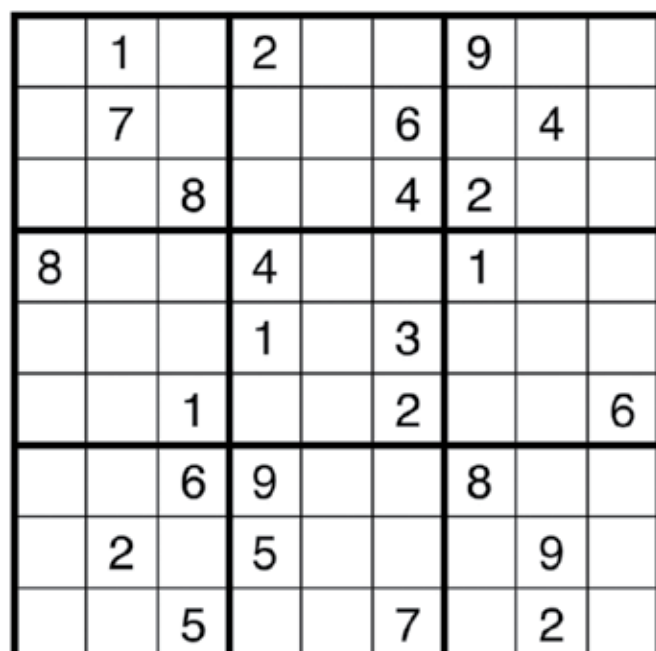
Definition:
 1 : an old man — compare gammer
 2 a British : foreman, overseer
 b British : employer
 3 : a head glassblower
 4 : a lighting electrician on a motion-picture or television set

Did You Know?

Though movie and cinema buffs associate gaffer with Hollywood, the word actually pre-dates motion pictures by about 300 years. The first recorded use of gaffer dates from the 16th century, when it was used as a title of respect for an older gentleman. Later it was used as a generic noun for any elderly man, and then it picked up the sense

“foreman” (still used in British English), perhaps because the foreman was the most experienced and, most likely, the oldest person in a work crew. Today gaffer is usually applied to the head lighting electrician on a movie set. The gaffer's assistant is called the best boy.

SUDOKU



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play

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

YOUR STAR TODAY



Aries

This is a terrific time to start some physical activity that takes you outside and gets your blood pumping. Don't think this means you have to become the star player at a tennis club. A simple walk around the block every morning may be all you need to feel a boost in physical and mental energy.



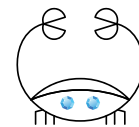
Taurus

You may feel like you're being tested in some way and must prove that what you're doing is valid and correct. Fortunately, you should feel an emotional boost that will help you be confident about who you are, regardless of what other people think. The biggest tests are those that you give yourself.



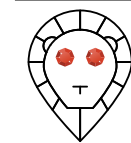
Gemini

You're able to assert yourself with more confidence than usual. You should have a grounded perspective regarding your emotions. You aren't afraid to speak your mind in a situation where normally you'd only say anything that helps keep the peace. Other people may prefer that you keep things on an even keel, but you aren't working for them. You're working for yourself.



Cancer

Just when you feel like you've come to a point of emotional stability and calm, something happens to throw you off balance. You may be uneasy with the notion of stability and feel what you really want is risk, action, and excitement. This inner conflict makes it hard for you to operate.



Leo

You have lots of energy and self-confidence, but it may also put you at risk for dangerous experiences and accidents. You could find that you're more aggressive, especially if someone crosses you. An emotional irritation could manifest in physical ways like reckless driving or arguments.



Virgo

Be happy with yourself and others. Stop trying to find fault with everyone you interact with. By criticizing what they do and how they do it, you could wake up one morning and find that you have no friends. By only seeing the bad in people, you may talk yourself out of relationships with them.



Libra

You may be bursting with energy and yearning to travel. At the same time, your emotions could find a way to block these thoughts. You may feel like there's some sort of weight holding you down, making it difficult to act freely. This could cause you to act fitfully, leaving you frustrated and defeated.



Scorpio

You may feel a bit blue due to a nagging weightiness that pins you down to reality instead of being free to fly. You may act out in an effort to prove to yourself and others that you're somehow above Earthly things. Get over the mental block that says being grounded is a bad thing. Plant your feet firmly on terra firma.



Sagittarius

You're able to work much more efficiently and effectively. Your energy is strong and you don't need to fight in order to get your voice heard. Attend to details and don't get discouraged by any discomfort that might arise. As long as you approach things with a positive attitude, everything should work out fine.



Capricorn

Different people measure success by different scales. You shouldn't get discouraged if your accomplishment today seems small compared to what others have done in the same period. Comparisons will make it difficult for you to feel like you're getting anywhere.



Aquarius

You could feel as if the battle has begun and you're the target. If you don't have a solid force behind you, this period could be difficult. Emotionally, this may not be your best day. Instead of feeling your feelings, you examine them in a methodical, rational manner.



Pisces

It could be scary for you to do anything risky for fear of conflict or failure. Perhaps you've tried to become invisible in different situations so you can avoid being noticed. These defence mechanisms may serve you for a while, but acting out of fear or guilt won't get you where you need to go.

Beyonce, Jay-Z honour Franklin

IAN S | Detroit

Beyoncé and Jay-Z sent their love and well-wishes to Aretha Franklin by dedicating their Detroit OTR II show to the Queen of Soul.

Queen B made the sweet tribute after performing the opening number at Ford Field.

"This show tonight is dedicated to Aretha Franklin," she said, as seen in Mojo in the Morning's video. "We love you. We thank you for changing all of our lives with your beautiful music."

According to the Detroit Free Press, the couple's opener, DJ Khaled, also played Franklin's hit "Respect," generating roars



Jay-Z and Beyoncé

of applause from the audience.

The concert location was a special one as the "Natural Woman" singer grew up in Detroit and lives in Michigan.

On Monday, reports started spreading that Franklin was "gravely ill." Evrod Cassimy, an anchor for Local 4 in Detroit, broke the news and claimed the

18-time Grammy winner was

"resting and surrounded by family and friends." Cassimy then asked people for their prayers on behalf of Franklin and family.

On Tuesday, Franklin's nephew, Tim Franklin, told People the music icon was at home with her family.

Trevor Donovan to star in World War II movie

ANI | Los Angeles

American star Trevor Donovan is all set to feature in the World War II action movie, 'Wolf Hound'.

Inspired by the real-life plot designed to fly Allied aircraft as Trojan horses, the movie will see the '90210' alum as a fighter pilot, German ace Major Erich Rall.

The action takes place in 1944 when a fighter pilot escorts a bomber into the Nazi territory before engaging in a one-on-one aerial encounter with a Nazi ace pilot.

Interestingly, Donovan's real-life grandfather had served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Meanwhile, Donovan will also star in the upcoming action-comedy movie 'Hot Water', 'The Baxter Family', and 'Runaway Romance'.



Trevor Donovan

Backstreet Boys to be presenters at VMAs

IAN S | New York

Backstreet Boys is among the list of celebrities who will be presenters at the 2018 MTV Video Music Awards.

Along with the pop group, "Night School" co-stars Tiffany Haddish and Kevin Hart will be handing out trophies, as will Millie Bobby Brown, who is featured in Maroon's star-studded music video for the song "Girls like you" with Cardi B, reports ew.com.

Anna Kendrick taunts Ryan Reynolds

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actress Anna Kendrick, who has won 2018 Teen Choice Award for favourite Twitter personality, teased actor Ryan Reynolds who was nominated in the same category. The award ceremony took place on Sunday.

"This means so much to me. Thank you so much. It means the world to me, and I feel so lucky that I get to make 'Pitch Perfect'," the 30-year-old said while accepting the award, reports people.com.

"I have so much fun on Twit-



Anna Kendrick

ter and I know that Mindy (Kaling) and Kumail (Nanjiani) and stuff were nominated, and also I know Ryan was nominated, so in your face, Ryan."

CHANGE OF NAME

"I, **PARDEEP SINGH** s/o **RAM LAL** holding Indian Passport No. H 2421433 dated 29.12.2008 issued at **JALANDHAR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VPO-SAIDOWAL KALAN, DISTT- GURDASPUR, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **PARDEEP** (Surname) **SINGH**.

Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, "Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **PARTAP SINGH** s/o **DALJIT SINGH** holding Indian Passport No. H 1601226 dated 14.11.2008 issued at **JALANDHAR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILL- SIBOCHAK, PO-HAJIPUR, TEHSIL- MUKERIAN, DISTT- HOSHIARPUR**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **PARTAP** (Surname) **SINGH**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, "Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **HARKESH** s/o **SATPAL** holding Indian Passport No. N 8296833 dated 18.03.2016 issued at **CHANDIGARH** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE & POST - BHAIROMUNNA, LUDHIANA, PIN: 141112, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **HARKESH** (Surname) **SATPAL**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **YUSUB ALI** s/o **USMAN ALI KHAN** holding Indian Passport No. P 1086671 dated 31.10.2016 issued at **JEDDAH** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **W NO. 19, AGUNA MOHALLA, VP. BISSAU, DIST. JHUNJHUNU, RAJASTHAN**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **YUSUB** (Surname) **ALI**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **KULDEEP** s/o **SUBHASH CHAND** holding Indian Passport No. P 8300254 dated 22.03.2017 issued at **CHANDIGARH** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE & POST - BARNA, THANESAR, KURUKSHETRA, PIN: 136119, HARYANA**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **KULDEEP** (Surname) **SUBHASH CHAND**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **TASLEEM** s/o **ALIMUDDIN** holding Indian Passport No. N 1542978 dated 06.01.2016 issued at **JEDDAH** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **NAVAB PATTI TOWN MIRAN PUR, WARD NO 6, POST - MIRANPUR, MUZAFFAR NAGAR, UTTARPRADESH**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **TASLEEM** (Surname) **ALIMUDDIN**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **KARAN** s/o **LALIT MOHAN** holding Indian Passport No. K 7177909 dated 12.12.2013 issued at **DOHA** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE & POST- PURHIRAN, DIST. HOSHIARPUR, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **KARAN** (Surname) **LALIT MOHAN**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **RAHUL** s/o **SOM RAJ** holding Indian Passport No. M 2054877 dated 03.09.2014 issued at **JALANDHAR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE & POST- BHANGALA, TEH MUKERIAN, HOSHIARPUR, PIN: 144306, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **RAHUL** (Surname) **SOM RAJ**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **SHAKIL** s/o **SHAMIM** holding Indian Passport No. M 2599800 dated 07.10.2014 issued at **BAREILLY** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **HOUSE NO. 111, VILLAGE- SURJAN NAGAR, TEHSIL- THAKURDWARA, MORADABAD, PIN: 244602, UTTAR PRADESH**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **SHAKIL** (Surname) **SHAMIM**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **VINOD** s/o **RAMESH PRASAD** holding Indian Passport No. P 4035254 dated 08.09.2016 issued at **LUCKNOW** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE & POST- GAURIJAGDISH, PS-SEVRAHI, KUSHI NAGAR, PIN: 274406, UTTAR PRADESH**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **VINOD** (Surname) **RAMESH PRASAD**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **PRAKASH** s/o **HANUMANA RAM** holding Indian Passport No. M 3748073 dated 25.11.2014 issued at **JAIPUR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **NAYAKA REGAR BASTI, SANDWA, TEH SUJANGARH, CHURU, PIN: 331517, RAJASTHAN**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **PRAKASH** (Surname) **HANUMANA RAM**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **KAMALJIT** s/o **AVTAR CHAND** holding Indian Passport No. M 8971670 dated 31.05.2015 issued at **MUSCAT** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE & POST- GARHPADHANA, PS RAHON, DISTT- NAWANSHAHR**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **KAMALJIT** (Surname) **AVTAR CHAND**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **RAJPAL** s/o **JOGINDER PAL** holding Indian Passport No. N 6747242 dated 02.02.2016 issued at **JALANDHAR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE- ALLOWAL, POST- KOT SANTOKH RAI, DHARIWAL, GURDASPUR, PIN: 143519, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **RAJPAL** (Surname) **JOGINDER PAL**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **FEEROZ** s/o **MHO ISTHKAR** holding Indian Passport No. N 3192593 dated 18.09.2015 issued at **GHAZIABAD** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **HOUSE NO. 146, VILLAGE- SISONA, MUZAFFAR NAGAR, PIN: 251001, UTTAR PRADESH**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **FEEROZ** (Surname) **MHO ISTHKAR**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **FARROK** s/o **NAJIR AHMED** holding Indian Passport No. L 3322999 dated 07.08.2013 issued at **MUSCAT** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **PAHADPUR DHURIAPAR, URWA BAZAR, GORAKHPUR**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **FARROK** (Surname) **NAJIR AHMED**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **SHATYENDRA** s/o **CHHANGUR** holding Indian Passport No. M 7559130 dated 14.03.2015 issued at **LUCKNOW** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **HOUSE NO. 1495, VILLAGE & POST- GAURI JAGDISH, KUSHI NAGAR, PIN: 274406, UTTAR PRADESH**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **SHATYENDRA** (Surname) **CHHANGUR**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **NINDER** s/o **GARDHARI LAL** holding Indian Passport No. R 1349418 dated 28.06.2017 issued at **JALANDHAR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE- GADANI, POST- DHILLWAN, KAPURTHALA, PIN: 144804, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **NINDER** (Surname) **GARDHARI LAL**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **SUDAMA** s/o **SHIVNATH** holding Indian Passport No. M 1835397 dated 02.09.2014 issued at **LUCKNOW** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **HOUSE NO. 44, VILLAGE- GANESHPUR BHITOLI, POST- PACHRUKHIYA, MAHARAJGANJ, PIN: 273302, UTTAR PRADESH**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **SUDAMA** (Surname) **SHIVNATH**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **NIZAMUDDEN** s/o **SHAMSUDDEN** holding Indian Passport No. J 2708005 dated 07.09.2010 issued at **LUCKNOW** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **BHAGWABHEET, PURAH, PURA QALANDER, FAIZABAD**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **NIZAMUDDEN** (Surname) **SHAMSUDDEN**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

"I, **AMIT** s/o **RAJENDAR** holding Indian Passport No. L 4467678 dated 24.09.2013 issued at **LUCKNOW** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILLAGE & POST- BARAHARA BARAIPUR, MAHARAJ GANJ, PIN: 273301, UTTARPRADESH**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (given name) **AMIT** (Surname) **RAJENDAR**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain."

SHOW

show

THE MEG
(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
⊗ JASON STATHAM, RUBY ROSE, BINGBING LI

CINECO (20) (IMAX 3D): 10:30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM (VIP I): 11:00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM (ATMOS): 11:30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN 11:30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
SEEF (II) (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
SEEF (I) 11.00 AM + 12.00 + 1.30 + 2.30 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 6.30 + 7.30 + 9.00 + 10.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

SAAR 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

DUCK DUCK GOOSE

(PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊗ JIM GAFFIGAN, ZENDAYA, GREG PROOPS
CINECO (20) 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM
SEEF (II) 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM
SAAR 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45

THE CATCHER WAS A SPY

(PG-15) (DRAMA/WAR/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
⊗ PAUL RUDD, CONNIE, NIELSEN, MAEK STRONG
CINECO (20) 12.00 + 4.00 + 8.00 PM + 12.00
SEEF (II) 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM

BLINDSPOTTING

(15+) (COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW
⊗ DAVEED DIGGS, RAFAEL CASAL, ETHAN EMBRY
CINECO (20) 2.00 + 6.00 + 10.00 PM
SEEF (II) 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

REDBAD

(18+) (ADVENTURE/ACTION) NEW
⊗ JONATHAN BANKS, LISA SMIT, LOES HAVERKORT
CINECO (20) 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (II) 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)
⊗ TOM CRUISE, HENRY CAVILL, VING RHAMES
CINECO (20) 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM + (12.45 THURS/FRI) (VIP II): 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II) 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
SAAR 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

SKYSCRAPER

(PG-13) (ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)
⊗ DWAYNE JOHNSON, NEVE CAMPBELL, PABLO SCHREIBER
CINECO (20) 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
SEEF (II) 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 +

9.45 PM + 12.00 MN
WADI AL SAIL 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM

THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME

(15+) (ACTION/COMEDY) NEW
⊗ MILA KUNIS, SAM HEUGHAN, KATE MCKINNON
CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
SEEF (II) 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM
SAAR 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

HOTELTRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER

(PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/DRAMA)
⊗ ADAM SANDLER, ANDY SAMBERG, FRAN DRESCHER
CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM (DUBBED IN ARABIC): 11.30 AM + 4.30 + 9.30 PM
SEEF (II) 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

THE FIRST PURGE

(18+) (ACTION/CRIME/HORROR)
⊗ MARISA TOMEI, LEX SCOTT DAVIS, LUNA LAUREN VELEZ
CINECO (20) 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊗ PAUL RUDD, EVANGELINE LILLY, MICHAEL PENA
CINECO (20) 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION)
⊗ BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD, CHRIS PRATT, JEFF GOLDBLUM
CINECO (20) 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (II) 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

OCEAN'S EIGHT

(PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)
⊗ SANDRA BULLOCK, CATE BLANCHETT, ANNE HATHAWAY
CINECO (20) 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

THE ESCAPE PLAN 2: HADES

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)
⊗ SYLVESTER STALLONE, DAVE BAUTISTA, XIAMING HUANG
CINECO (20) 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM

THE INCREDIBLES 2

(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊗ CRAIG T. NELSON, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, CATHERINE KEENER
CINECO (20) 11.45 AM + 4.15 + 8.45 PM

AL ABLA TAMDAM

(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
⊗ YASMIN ABDULAZIZ, HAMDI ALMIRGHANI, BAYOUMI FOUAD
CINECO (20) 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

BAD CAT

(15+) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊗ MARISA TOMEI, LEX SCOTT DAVIS, LUNA LAUREN VELEZ
SEEF (II) 10.45 AM + 12.30 + 2.15 PM

HARB KARMOZ

(PG-15) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA)
⊗ AMIR KAKAR, GHADA ABDEL RAZEK, MOSTAFA KHATER
SEEF (II) 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM
WADI AL SAIL 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM

KARWAAN

(PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA/COMEDY)
⊗ IRRFAN KHAN, DULQUER SALMAAN, MITHILA PALKAR
SEEF (II) 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM
SAAR 1.15 + 6.15 + 11.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM

KOODE

(MALAYALAM)
⊗ PRITHVIRAJ, NAZRIYA NAZIM, PARVATHY
SEEF (II) 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM
AL HAMRA ON THURSDAY 9TH: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

MULK

(PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA)
⊗ TAPSEE PANNU, RISHI KAPOOR, ABDUL QUADIR AMIN
SEEF (II) 10.30 + 3.45 + 9.00 PM
SAAR 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM

KUSINA KINGS

(PG-15) (FILIPINO/COMEDY) NEW
⊗ ZANJOE MARUDO, EMPYO MARQUEZ, NATHALIE HART
SEEF (I) 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM

VISHWAROOPAM 2

(PG-15) (HINDI/ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
⊗ KAMAL HAASAN, RAHUL BOSE, SHEKHAR KAPUR
STARTING FRIDAY 10TH
SEEF (I) 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN FRI)
AL HAMRA FROM FRIDAY 10TH: 6.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN FRI)

KHALAWEEES

(PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW
⊗ AHMAD EID, ETHIN AMIR, TARIQ ABDULAZIZ
SEEF (I) 11.00 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 4.15 + 6.00 + 7.45 + 9.30 + 11.15 PM

LASHTAM PASHTAM

(PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA/COMEDY) NEW
⊗ TISCA CHOPRA, OM PURI, PRIYANSHU CHATTERJEE
SEEF (I) 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

SRINIVASA KALYANNAM

(TELGU) NEW
⊗ NITHIN, RASI KHANNA, PRAKASH RAJ, MAMILLA SHAILAJA PRIYA
AL HAMRA FROM FRIDAY 10TH: 12.00 + 3.00

Wahlberg had fun shooting with Uwais

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actor Mark Wahlberg enjoyed shooting with Indonesian actor Iko Uwais, and calls him a “sweetheart”.

Wahlberg worked with Uwais on Peter Berg’s ‘Mile 22’, which will release on August 17.

“He is spectacular and a sweetheart. Iko is very funny, very sweet but a bada** too. We had a lot of laughs and I loved hanging out with his crew,” Wahlberg said.

“He was teaching me Indonesian and I was teaching him a lot of English slang,” he added.

Wahlberg was impressed with Uwais’ ability to feel comfortable in an environment that was infused with a lot of improvisation.

He said, “I like to throw some curveballs and obviously we’re improvising within the context of the scene, and he just did an outstanding job.”

Talking about his Hollywood debut, Uwais said, “This is really a beginning for me. It’s a great collaboration between martial arts and Hollywood action.”

Written by Graham Roland and Lea Carpenter, ‘Mile 22’ is a story of an American intelligence officer who tries to smuggle a mysterious police officer with sensitive information out of a foreign country.



Iko Uwais and Mark Wahlberg

Glenn Close says she’s a late bloomer

Reuters | Los Angeles

Glenn Close may be known for playing strong, often ruthless women, but like her long subdued character in “The Wife” she says she’s only just starting to feel comfortable in her own skin.



Glenn Close

Close plays Joan, the self-effacing spouse of a successful novelist in “The Wife,” which opens in the United States on Friday as women in Hollywood and beyond are demanding a louder voice.

Decades of suppressing her own talents and desires in support of her husband’s career begin to unravel when he wins the Nobel Prize for literature and a biographer probes the couple’s life.

“The film took 14 years to get made and who knew that it would be incredibly relevant?” Close, 71, told Reuters. The film is based on the 2003 book of the same name by Meg Wolitzer.

Close’s performance has

won rave reviews, sparking talk of a potential seventh Oscar nomination next year. The Hollywood Reporter said the actress “commands the centre of ‘The Wife’: still, formidable and impossible to look away from.”

Despite a 40-year career, three Emmy awards, three Tonys and six Oscar nominations, the star of “Fatal Attraction” and the TV drama “Damages” says she feels she is just beginning.

‘The Meg’ takes \$45m bite out of N America

AFP | Los Angeles

The North American box office was under attack from shark thriller “The Meg” over the weekend, industry data showed Monday, as it more than doubled the earnings of its closest competitor to claim top spot.

The Warner Bros. adaptation of Steve Alten’s “Meg: A Novel of Deep Terror” (1997) took \$45.4 million in its first weekend in theaters, as viewers rushed to see Jason Statham as a rescue diver who tries to save scientists in a submarine from a huge, prehistoric shark attack.

Second place went to Tom Cruise’s “Mission: Impossible - Fallout,” from Paramount, with \$19.4 million earnings ending a two-week run at the top, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations.

“Fallout,” the sixth stunt-filled edition in the popular “M:I” franchise, sees Cruise again do his own vertigo-inducing, cliff-hanging, exploding-car stunts -- and has raked in \$161.3 million during three weeks in cinemas.

In at third was Disney’s live action “Christopher Robin” -- the story of Winnie the Pooh’s now grown-up and stressed-out friend, and how they reunite -- with ticket sales of \$13 million.

Meanwhile, despite a poor reception from critics, Sony’s newly released “Slender Man” took fourth place with \$11.4 million.

The supernatural horror story follows a group of friends who, enthralled by online stories about the mysterious Slender Man, try to prove he doesn’t really exist -- only for one of them to go missing.

Del Toro to star in ‘White Lies’

ANI | Los Angeles

Academy award-winning actor Benicio Del Toro is all set to reteam with writer Oliver Stone for his next turn in the director’s chair, ‘White Lies’.

The New York-set drama will offer an intimate exploration of family, loss, and love. The story will revolve around Jack (Del Toro), a child of divorce who repeats his parents’ mistakes in his own marriage as well as with his

troubled son.

Feeling trapped, he then embarks on a lust-filled journey in order to free himself. However, Jack ends up becoming more lost. The story takes a turn when he meets a woman whose life is quite opposite to his own, according to the report.

Produced by Fernando Sulichin, the movie will go on the floors in spring 2019. Del Toro and Stone will collaborate for the second time after 2012’s ‘Savages.’

Alonso to retire

The Spaniard confirms F1 departure at end of the season after 17 years

AFP | London

Two-time world champion Fernando Alonso announced yesterday that he will retire from Formula One at the end of the season after his recent struggles with underachieving McLaren.

The 37-year-old Spaniard -- who has 32 Grand Prix wins to his credit in 17 seasons -- has become increasingly disenchanted with Formula One as the once all-powerful McLaren team have fallen way off the pace.

Alonso -- who in 2005 became the youngest ever Formula One world champion while driving for Renault before defending his title the following year -- has garnered 44 points this season and is ninth in the drivers' championship.

Alonso went on to drive for McLaren for a year in 2007 followed by a return to Renault and then four years at Ferrari, before beginning his second spell with McLaren in 2015.

"I have seen you (Formula One) changing, sometimes for good, others, in my opinion, for bad," said Alonso, who on three occasions finished runner-up in the drivers' championship while at Ferrari.

"And this year, while still driving at my best, is how I want to remember you."

Alonso, whose best finish for McLaren so far was 10th in 2016, said he would carry on endeavouring to finish with a flourish.

"After 17 wonderful years in this amazing sport, it's time for me to make a change and move



Fernando Alonso was first introduced to race car in October 1998 by Adrian Campos. He impressed in three days of testing and was signed-up to race in the 1999 Spanish Euro Open Movistar of Nissan series. He won the championship from Manuel Giau by a single point

on," said Alonso in a statement. "There are still several Grands Prix to go this season, and I will take part in them with more commitment and passion than ever."

He left the door slightly ajar, saying in a statement posted on the McLaren website he could return when it is "the right moment for me to be back in the series", but the personal message on his Twitter account sounded like a farewell.

'Exploring new adventures'

Alonso, whose first win came in the 2003 Hungarian Grand Prix but who hasn't won since the Spanish Grand Prix five years ago, says new challenges await.

The former Ferrari star is known to be keen to complete



Fernando Alonso

the 'Triple Crown' of world Formula One champion, winning the 24 Hour Le Mans race and the Indy500 -- he has achieved the first two of those aims.

"Let's see what the future brings; new exciting challenges are around the corner," said Alonso.

"I'm having one of the happiest times ever in my life but I need to go on exploring new adventures."

McLaren -- whose unpopular racing director Eric Boullier resigned in early July -- issued a statement bordering on a eulogy to the Spaniard.

"Fernando is not only an outstanding ambassador for McLaren but also for Formula 1," said Zak Brown, McLaren Racing's CEO in a statement.

"His 17 years in the sport, as arguably the pre-eminent driver of his generation and undoubtedly an F1 great, have added another layer to Formula 1's rich history.

"There is a time for everyone to make a change and Fernando has decided the end of this season to be his.

"We respect his decision, even if we believe he is in the finest form of his career."

Global athletes arrive in Morocco

TDT | Manama

Athletes from USA, Italy, France, Netherlands, Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, Syria, Serbia, Mexico and Sweden have arrived to compete in the first global mixed martial arts event hosted in the continent of Africa.

Brave 14 is held under the patronage of King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

The event marks for the first time the flagship sports media event from Bahrain is hosted in Morocco. The athletes will have a weeklong stay in Morocco for the first time.

The media day will be hosted

ed in Royal Tulip, Tangier on 16th August ahead of the public weigh-ins hosted on 17th August. The fight night will take place on 18th August at the Omni Sport Indoor Club in Tangier.

The main event will feature Ottman Azaitar, who is the brother of Abu Azaitar facing Danijel Kokora from Serbia. Ottman Azaitar is the lightweight champion of Brave Combat Federation.

Ottman was crowned as the champion by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa during Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions hosted in Bahrain.

Brave CF extends contract for S African

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation extended the fight contract for the middleweight fighter Chad Hanekom ahead of Brave 20 hosted in Johan-



Chad Hanekom

nesburg, South Africa.

Chad Hanekom signed an extended three fight contract with Brave Combat Federation. Hanekom had made two appearances in the promotion in Brave 10 and Brave 13.

During Brave 13, Hanekom had claimed the performance of the night bonus with a first round Kimura submission.

With a professional fight record of 5-1-0 the South African athlete trains at Coach Richie Quan's Fight Fit Militia.

Hanekom is expected to fight during Brave 16 hosted at the Mubadala Arena in Abu Dhabi, UAE on 21st September, 2018 under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Cycling has become a circus: Nibali

Cycling News | Paris

Bahrain-Merida's Vincenzo Nibali has spoken out about the behaviour of fans at last month's Tour de France, where a spectator caused the crash on Alpe d'Huez that left him with a broken vertebra and forced him to abandon the race.

Nibali appeared to be brought down when his bike was hooked by the strap of a spectator's camera. The incident took place on a stretch of road where visibility had been reduced by the release of a flare. Nibali's Bahrain-Merida team have said that they are considering legal action against Tour organisers ASO for failing to manage the crowds on Alpe



Vincenzo Nibali

d'Huez. On the climb, another spectator stepped into the road to hit Chris Froome (Team Sky)

In some circumstances, cycling has become a circus. There must be fans, but like that isn't good. People drink too much, they're doing anything just to appear on TV

VINCENZO NIBALI

as he rode past. "In some circumstances, cycling has become a circus,"

Nibali told La Gazzetta dello Sport, as he steps up his training so he can ride the Vuelta a Espana.

"There must be fans, but like that isn't good. People drink too much, they're doing anything just to appear on TV. With people in the middle of the road, often with flags, we're riding blind, without being able to see where we're going and praying to heaven that the road opens up in front of us.

"The team and I paid heavily for this situation, because 70 per cent of a team's visibility comes at the Tour. Beyond the damage to your health, economically, what is the value of the damage suffered?"

Media in Pakistan welcomes Bahrain's initiative

TDT | Manama

The media community in Pakistan welcomed the initiative by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to host the first global mixed martial arts event in Pakistan in the month of October.

Pakistan had featured athletes in Brave Combat Federation, notably Haider Farman from Team Fight Fortress. Haider had competed in Bahrain during Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions. He faced Atif Mohammad from India in a strawweight bout.

Farman made a historic victory by unanimous decision. The initiative to host an event

in Pakistan was also welcomed by athletes in Pakistan praising the Kingdom of Bahrain for being the driving power in the world of combat sports.

"We are excited to welcome Brave Combat Federation to Pakistan. The dream of HH Shaikh Khalid is beyond the Kingdom of Bahrain and is also the dream of athletes around the world. We are proud to join such a global initiative led by one of the most respected figures in the Middle East. As more and more nations join and support Brave Combat Federation, this is indeed becoming a global movement to unite the world through sports", said Haider Farman.

Federer 'anxious' ahead of return in Cincinnati

AFP | Cincinnati, United States

Roger Federer on Monday said he is eager to make his start at the Cincinnati Masters as the world number two begins his delayed summer hardcourt season.

With the US Open a fortnight away, the 37-year-old Swiss is keen to test his form prior to the August 27 kick-off of the last Grand Slam of the season.

The 20-time major winner

skipped Toronto last week to pace himself with the tournament at Flushing Meadows followed by the Laver Cup in Chicago in mid-September.

"I've trained hard, I'm anxious. I chose to skip Toronto for the health of my body," the seven-time Cincinnati champion said. "I don't want to be hurt, there is too much to play."

But the Swiss admitted that sitting out competition is difficult.

Sri Lanka edge out S Africa by 3 wickets

AFP | Colombo

Spinner Lakshan Sandakan starred in Sri Lanka's hard fought three-wicket win over South Africa in the only Twenty20 international after bowling out the visitors for their lowest total in the game's shortest format.

Electing to bat in the only T20 match of the tour, South Africa were bowled out for 98, a total the hosts surpassed with four overs to spare.

The Proteas, who lost the

two-Test series 2-0 and then came back to clinch the one-day internationals 3-2, were two runs less than their previous low score of 100 against Pakistan in 2013.

Dinesh Chandimal, who returned from his ban for breaching the spirit of the game, remained unbeaten on 36 to guide the team home in a tricky chase.

But it was Sandakan's bowling figures of 3-19 with his left-arm wrist spin that set up the win. He was ably supported by fellow spinners Dhananjaya de Silva



Hashim Amla walked back for a duck

and Akila Dananjaya who took two wickets each.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock top-scored with 20 before being run out but the rest of the South African batting fell flat in 16.4 overs.

Sri Lankan batsmen also made heavy weather of their 99-run target as the South African bowlers led by paceman Kagiso Rabada made the hosts work hard for their win.

Rabada, fellow paceman Junior Dala and spinner Tabraiz Shamsi took two wickets each

Facebook to broadcast La Liga in South Asia



Messi fans in India will now be able to watch Barcelona for free on Facebook

● **Company signs exclusive three-year agreement to screen all 380 Spanish top-flight football matches across the region**

AFP | Madrid

Lionel Messi, Gareth Bale and a host of La Liga stars will be beamed for free to viewers in the Indian subcontinent as part of a landmark deal with Facebook to broadcast live matches, the Spanish top flight division said yesterday.

All 380 football matches of the new 2018-2019 La Liga season, which begins Friday, will be available to watch on the social media network in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri

Lanka, La Liga said in a statement.

"We are delighted to team up with Facebook and be able to bring the action closer to all followers of La Liga in the Indian subcontinent," said La Liga President Javier Tebas.

"La Liga is a reference in world football and it is a great satisfaction for us that now, the number of people who can watch matches live in this geographic area will be greater than

348m

Facebook will show the games for free to its 348 million users in the region, including 270 million in India

ever and they will be able to do so for free through Facebook."

The deal will last for the next three seasons and will include pre- and post-match analysis programmes.

The financial details of the agreement were not disclosed in the statement but Spanish sports daily Marca reported that the deal was worth 90 million euros (\$105.5 million).

In June La Liga announced it had renewed its contract for five seasons, between 2019-2024, for the international broadcast rights for the Spanish championship for around 4.48 billion euros -- or about 896 million euros per season, a 30 percent increase over the previous agreement.

The Facebook deal is the latest sign of interest on the part of tech firms in sports broadcasting.

In June Amazon has secured

the rights to show English Premier League football matches in a pioneering move for the online sector in the bidding war for sports events.

The global online retailer will show 20 Premier League matches a season for three years in the UK, starting from the 2019/20 season, the league said Thursday.

The US company breaks up the recent dominance of Sky and BT Sport of lucrative Premier League TV rights in a first for the online sector that is threatening to shake up the traditional sports rights market.

India has a billion-plus mobile phone users -- more than any other country on earth -- and close to half a billion people with internet access, most via their smartphones, that make streaming video from sites like Facebook possible.

Former Brazil striker Ronaldo leaves Ibiza

AFP | Madrid

Retired Brazilian striker Ronaldo left a clinic in Ibiza on Tuesday following a four-night stay for treatment for a flu infection.

"He left this morning at 10:30am, not wanting to depart from the side where the press were waiting," said a spokesman for the clinic in the centre of Ibiza.

A spokesman for the former player confirmed his departure in an email message.

Ronaldo said Sunday he was being treated for a severe bout of flu infection after being taken to hospital Friday.

Local newspaper Diario de Ibiza said the former Real Madrid star had been treated in intensive care for pneumonia at the city's public hospital before being transferred to the clinic.

The 41-year-old, who was



Ronaldo

named FIFA's world player of the year three times prior to his retirement from football in 2011, is a regular visitor to Ibiza, where he owns a house.

He won his first cap for Brazil as a 17-year-old and went on to score 62 goals in 97 international appearances, including both goals when Brazil beat Germany 2-0 in the 2002 World Cup final.

Cheryshev joins Valencia on loan



Denis Cheryshev

AFP | Madrid

Russia winger Denis Cheryshev, one of the standout performers at the World Cup this summer, has returned to Valencia for a second stint on loan from Villarreal.

The 27-year-old, who scored four goals as Russia reached the quarter-finals on home soil, will rejoin Valencia on a season-long loan having spent six months at Mestalla in 2016. Cheryshev moved to Spain

as a child and came up through the Real Madrid academy before joining Villarreal on a five-year deal in 2016 after a series of loan spells. He will again link up with Valencia coach Marcelino, after playing under him at Villarreal in 2014-15.

Cheryshev provides another attacking option to a club that has brought in Michy Batshuayi, who is on loan from Chelsea, and former Atletico Madrid striker Kevin Gameiro in the close season.

FIFA threatens to suspend Nigeria, Ghana

AFP | Lausanne, Switzerland

FIFA on Tuesday threatened to suspend the Nigeria and Ghana football federations over government interference.

Nigeria will face the wrath of world football's governing body unless "the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) offices are not handed back to the legitimate NFF executive committee under President Amaju Melvin Pinnick", a FIFA statement warned.

Nigeria put itself on a collision course with FIFA in July when the government's sports ministry directed the NFF to comply with a court order to overturn Pinnick's election and recognise Chris Giwa as its head.

The long-running dispute

over who is in charge of the NFF dates back to 2014.

Giwa first claimed to have won election to the top job.

However, FIFA did not endorse the vote and threatened suspension unless it was re-run.

Pinnick won the re-run, although the vote was also deemed to have been flawed. Giwa then launched court action over the result.

FIFA said the ban would only be lifted once Pinnick has confirmed the NFF is back under his effective control.

Ghana's problems stem from a corruption scandal engulfing suspended GFA federation boss Kwesi Nyantaki.

FIFA are on the warpath after the country's Attorney General ordered the GFA to be dissolved.

Salah reported for using mobile

AFP | London

Egyptian star Mohamed Salah could be in trouble with police after his club Liverpool passed a video apparently showing him using his mobile phone while driving.

A spokesman for last season's Champions League finalists said they passed the video, which circulated on social media, on to police after talking with Salah.

"The club, after discussion with the player, have made Merseyside Police aware of the footage and the circumstances surrounding its capture," said the spokesman cited on the BBC.

"We have spoken to the player also and will deal with follow-up internally. Neither the club or player will make any further comment on this matter."

Merseyside Police tweeted they had received the footage.



Mohamed Salah

"We have been made aware of a video believed to show a footballer using a mobile phone whilst driving. This has been passed to the relevant department. Thanks for letting us

know," they tweeted on their official account.

Salah, who had a remarkable first season with Liverpool scoring 44 goals in all competitions and opened his account for this

campaign with a goal in their opening 4-0 thrashing of West Ham on Sunday, could if found guilty of using his mobile face a fine of up to £1000 (\$1300, 1100 euro) and points on his licence.



Mohamed Salah holds the best disciplinary record in the Premier League. In 31 league games last season, he has committed only 14 fouls and has not been booked or sent off even once

Serena dominates at Cincinnati

Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka make winning start

AFP | Cincinnati, United States

Serena Williams re-established her customary superiority, hammering Daria Gavrilova 6-1, 6-2 to reach the second round of the Cincinnati Masters on Monday.

The 23-time Grand Slam champion showed full recovery in her first match since suffering the worst defeat of her career two weeks ago in San Jose when she was crushed 6-1, 6-0 in 51 minutes by British No. 1 Johanna Konta.

But the 36-year-old was all business Monday as she cleaned up on Australian Gavrilova, with Williams winning an 11th straight match here.

"I'm feeling pretty good tonight. It's never easy, no matter what the scoreline says," Williams said.

"I definitely felt relaxed after the first break, but you've got to keep going and try to go in for the whole thing."

Though she has not played the tournament in three years, Williams lifted back-to-back titles in 2014 and 2015 after losing the 2013 final to Victoria Azarenka.

Andy Murray's injury comeback was sidetracked as the three-time Grand Slam champion lost 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 to Lucas Pouille.

But fellow injury patient Stan Wawrinka

opened with a defeat of 12th seed Diego Schwartzman 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic survived a stiff test, needing nine match points to outlast Steve Johnson of the US 6-4, 7-6 (7/4). Djokovic is coming off a third round loss at last week's Toronto tournament.

Murray, returning from January hip surgery, was unable to get past the French 16th seed, hampering his preparations for the US Open starting on August 27.

"Physically, I felt okay. It's quick conditions here," Murray said. "He was a little bit sharper than me out there."

"I maybe wasn't reacting as quickly to some shots I would have liked."

Murray last played 11 days ago in a Washington third-round match which took him three hours to win and ended at 3 a.m.

The 31-year-old two-time Wimbledon winner is working his way back slowly and felt he could not subject his body to a quarter-final just over 12 hours later, prompting him to withdraw from that event.

"After Washington, I took four, five days off the tennis court. I did a lot of training, a lot of rehab."

"As the year goes on, I'll be able to get

a little bit more consistency like on the practice court and on the tennis court."

Pouille had lost his previous three matches to Murray, the last at Dubai in 2017.

Spanish 13th seed Pablo Carreno Busta started his week with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 defeat of France's Richard Gasquet, while Japan's Kei Nishikori put out Russian Andrey Rublev, 7-5, 6-3.

Peter Gojowczyk of Germany defeated Joao Sousa 2-6, 6-4, 7-5 and will next line up against seven-time winner Roger Federer, at second the highest seed in the field after the withdrawal of Rafael Nadal.

Canadian Denis Shapovalov beat US tournament debutant Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 7-5.

Sam Querrey beat ninth-seeded American compatriot John Isner 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5).



Serena Williams

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INDIA
INDEPENDENCE DAY
August 15



THE DAILY **tribune**

Happy Independence Day



As India celebrates its 72nd Independence Day today, Indians across the world are all excited for the important day. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the National Flag from the ramparts of the Red Fort, today to celebrate the Independence Day. After unfurling the Tricolour, Narendra Modi will address the nation. Thereafter, Mr Modi will inspect the Guard of Honour. This year, the Navy

being the Coordinating Service, the Guard of Honour will be commanded by Commander PR Jagan Mohan of the Indian Navy.

After inspecting the Guard of Honour, the Prime Minister will proceed to the ramparts of the Red Fort where he will be greeted by the Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Defence Dr. Subhash Bhamre, the Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat, the Chief of the Naval Staff

Admiral Sunil Lanba and the Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa. The unfurling of the tri-colour will synchronize with the 21 Gun Salute fired by the valiant gunners of the elite 2281 Field Battery (Ceremonial). After unfurling the National Flag, the Prime Minister will address the Nation. After the Prime Minister's address, school children and NCC Cadets will sing the National Anthem. Seven hundred cadets of the National Cadet Corps drawn from 16 schools of the Delhi Directorate comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force wings are participating in the flag hoisting ceremony this year. The cadets will take part in the singing of patriotic songs and the National Anthem along with the school children. 3,500 girls from 36 schools of Directorate of Education, Government of Delhi will sing the National Anthem and 5,000 boys from 72 schools will witness the event. On this occasion, these school children will display the formation of 'Bharat'.

Flag Hoisting Ceremony in Bahrain

India's 72nd Independence Day celebrations in Bahrain will bring a new dawn in the history of the Indian diaspora here with major community organisations coming together to attend the mega celebratory event at the new embassy building premises in Seef. Indian Ambassador Alok K Sinha will hoist

the flag. The ceremony will be held at 06.45 a.m. today at the Indian Embassy Seef complex (Building No.1090, Road No.2819, Block No.428, Al-Seef, Manama, Bahrain). Members of the Indian community and friends of India in the Kingdom of Bahrain are invited to attend the event.



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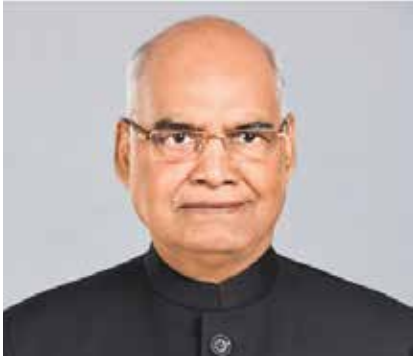


INDIA
INDEPENDENCE DAY
August 15



THE DAILY **tribune**

Let's stand together...



Addressing the nation on the eve of the 72nd Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind said that August 15 is a sacred day for every Indian. Here are the excerpts from the President's speech:

Dear Fellow Citizens

My greetings to you as we complete 71 years as an independent nation. For every Indian, whether living at home or anywhere else in the world, August 15 is sacred. It is marked on our calendars as a celebration of our sovereignty. Our Tricolor is a symbol of our national pride. It is a constant reminder of our striving and our self-belief. It is a day to look back with satisfaction and gratitude for what we have been able to achieve due to the efforts of successive generations of our elders. And it is a day to renew our resolve to fill the gaps that still remain

in our nation building project – gaps that our talented young people will no doubt fill.

Freedom came to our country on the Midnight of August 14-15, 1947. It was the result of years and decades and centuries of sacrifice and valour on the part of our ancestors and our revered freedom fighters. These were men and women of rare courage and foresight. They came from all regions of the country, all sections of society, all communities and all social and economic groups. They could easily have compromised and settled for some personal benefit, but they did not. Their commitment to India – to a free, sovereign, plural and egalitarian India – was absolute. It was my privilege to honour these freedom fighters on the anniversary of 'Quit India Day' on 9th August in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

We are fortunate that we have inherited the legacy of such remarkable patriots. They left us with a free India, but they also left us with unfinished tasks for the development of our society, for the empowerment of the proverbial last person, for their liberation from poverty, and social and economic inequality. Every breath in our collective life as a nation is a tribute to our freedom fighters – and a commitment to accomplish whatever is still unaccomplished.

Our farmers grow food for tens of

thousands of fellow citizens whom they have not individually met and will never meet. They are upholding our freedom by ensuring food security and nutrition for our children. As we assist our farmers by providing access to technology and other facilities for enhanced productivity and enhanced incomes, we live up to the principles of our freedom struggle.

Women have a special role in our society. The expansion of freedom in our country in many senses amounts to the expansion of freedom for women in our country. This is true whether we see them as mothers, sisters, daughters or simply as women who are entitled to a life of their choosing – and deserving of the opportunity and the security to fulfil their potential. They could do this as sheet-anchors of our families or as absolutely critical entrants to our institutions of higher learning and our workforce. The choice is theirs; as a nation and as a society we must ensure that they have the right and the ability to exercise that choice.

Our young people, both boys and girls, represent the hope and optimism of India. Our freedom struggle saw the active participation of the young and the old, but its energy was provided by the young. They chose different modes or activism in their quest for liberty – but their resolve and their idealism, their passion for a free India, for a better India, for a more

equal India, was nonnegotiable.

After four years, we will be marking the 75th anniversary of Independence. In less than 30 years, our people will celebrate the 100th anniversary of India as a free nation. The decisions we take today, the foundations we lay today, the projects we undertake today, the social and economic investments we make today – whether for the immediate future or for the medium term – will determine where we stand. The pace of change and development in our country is rapid and appreciable. And as per our civilisational traditions, it is driven by our people, by civil society and by a partnership between citizen and government. Its focus, again in keeping with the essence of Indian thought, is on a better life for the less fortunate.

Independence Day is always special, but this year there is an unusual significance attached to it. In a few weeks, on 2nd October, we will begin the commemoration of the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji did not just lead our freedom struggle. He was and still is our moral compass. In my capacity as the President of India, I have been fortunate to have travelled around the world, particularly to a few countries of Africa. Everywhere, across continents, Gandhiji is mentioned, cherished and remembered as an icon for all humanity.

He is the embodiment of India.

This Independence Day, so close to the 150th anniversary commemoration of Gandhiji, let each of us adapt his ideas and maxims, in whatever manner we can in our everyday work and conduct. I can think of no better way to celebrate our freedom. I can think of no better way to celebrate Indianness. And this Indianness is not for us alone. It is part of what our country and our civilisation bring to the global stage.

Together we can help every citizen in our country. Together we can conserve our forests and natural heritage, we can safeguard our monuments for future generations, we can renew our rural and urban habitats. Together, we can eliminate poverty, illiteracy and inequality. We can and we must do this together. The government has a leading role but not the sole role. Let us use the government's programmes and projects to further our own efforts. Let us make that sense of ownership our motivation.

With those words, I once again wish you and your families all the best for Independence Day and best wishes for a bright future.

Thank you
Jai Hind!

Ram Nath Kovind
President of India

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and India in our hearts, we wish you a

Happy Independence Day.

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INDIA
INDEPENDENCE DAY
August 15



THE DAILY **tribune**

A new era of economic transformation



On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day of India, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to members of the Indian community in the Kingdom of Bahrain. India and Bahrain enjoy excellent relations which are symbolized by civilisational connect and age-old cultural ties. The high level visits between the two countries have nurtured this relationship and have provided a strong foundation for deeper engagement. Today, India's relations with Bahrain is at an all-time high and has considerably widened to cover a range of areas including Security, Infrastructure

and Investment, High-tech, Health, Renewable Energy and Food Security.

Today, India is entering into a new era of economic transformation. Indian economy has become one of the fastest growing economies in the world. India has the advantage of demographic dividend, where 65% of our population is young. Our youth has new dreams, and has the energy, enthusiasm and capacity to achieve these dreams. Skilled human resources, improvement in ease of doing business and a huge market are some of the factors empowering India into a most preferred manufacturing destination. Keeping in view the strengths, the government has launched a number of schemes such as Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, and Start-Up India that have also created opportunities for greater economic engagement with Bahrain.

Bahrain, the Gateway to GCC market, has also embarked on the journey of diversification of its economy with liberalisation of FDI regime in a number of promising sectors such as financial

services, ICT, logistics, manufacturing and tourism. The developments in India and Bahrain have created many synergies between the two countries thus opening up new avenues for enhanced trade and investment ties. Bahrain continues to remain one of India's key partners with the bilateral trade surpassing US\$ 1 billion.

The Indian Community in Bahrain is a significant anchor to enhancing the India-Bahrain ties. The Indian Community has made crucial contribution to the development and success of Bahrain and we are proud of their contribution. Bahrain is an excellent host. I would like to convey our gratitude to the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain for providing an environment where the Indian Community enjoys cultural and traditional festivities the same way as they do it in India.

I conclude by wishing growth, development and prosperity to the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of India.

Alok K Sinha
Indian Ambassador

A proud moment for Indians



It was a proud moment for the Indian expatriates in Bahrain when the new Indian Embassy Complex in Seef was inaugurated by India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in the presence of Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa. Shaikh Khalid affirmed that the inauguration of the new Indian Embassy Complex in Manama reflects the depth of the friendly relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of India, noting both countries' constant progression and keenness to expand these relations and enhance cooperation and joint work in order to benefit both countries and peoples. For her part, Swaraj expressed her pleasure to be present in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the inauguration of the new Indian Embassy Complex, which reflects the historical and cultural ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of India, stressing that this step will contribute to strengthening the relations between the two friendly countries and peoples, as well as the Indian community present in the Kingdom. She also conveyed her appreciation for the mutual trust and constant efforts at the highest levels to develop bilateral relations in the interest of the two friendly countries.



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India and Bahrain enjoy excellent



Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India, meets His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during her visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain in July 2018.



Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India, meets Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

India and Bahrain have enjoyed excellent bilateral relations characterized by economic and cultural exchanges. Our bilateral trade has grown by 5,000 years ago. The civilization in Bahrain dates back to the prehistoric period. The ancient Bahraini trade routes to have carried goods and trade of Bahrain from the Indian subcontinent around 350,000 years ago. The total population of Bahrain is an important and ancient relations with India.



15 AUGUST
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bilateral relations

Bahrain enjoy excellent bilateral relations characterized by cordial political, cultural contacts. Trade and commercial relations go back to about 2000 years tracing their origin to the era of Dilmun Civilization in India. An ancient trade route is believed to have flourished between the two nations. Presence of about 10 Indian nationals in Bahrain's population of 1.2 million is an indicator of our bilateral relations.



Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India, meets His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister at Gudaibiya Palace in Manama.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa visited the historic site of Taj Mahal in Agra city in the State of Uttar Pradesh in northwest India in 2014.



india
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on the occasion
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THE DAILY **tribune**

The Wonder That's India

India is a country which is geographically rich and diverse, with lush valleys, snow peaks, mountains, lakes, green meadows, plateaus, large deserts and beautiful beaches and backwaters. It is a country with many natural wonders and magical places. Here is a list of FIVE most beautiful places in India that travellers should consider visiting.



1. Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal meaning "Crown of the Palace" is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra. The Taj Mahal was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 for being "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage". It is regarded by many as the best example of Mughal architecture and a symbol of India's rich history. The Taj Mahal attracts 7–8 million visitors a year. In 2007, it was declared a winner of the New7Wonders of the World (2000–2007) initiative.



2. Akshardham

Akshardham or Swaminarayan Akshardham complex is a Hindu temple, and a spiritual-cultural campus in Delhi, India. Also referred to as Akshardham Temple or Swaminarayan Akshardham, the complex displays millennia of traditional Hindu and Indian culture, spirituality, and architecture. Inspired by Yogiji Maharaj and created by Pramukh Swami Maharaj, it was constructed by BAPS. The temple, which attracts approximately 70 percent of all tourists who visit Delhi, was officially opened on 6 November 2005 by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.



3. Best for Beaches: Goa

India's top beach destination, Goa lures visitors with the promise of parties and lazy days by the sea. However, there's more to Goa than just hedonism. The state also offers an eclectic blend of history, nature, culture, and adventure activities. It's divided into north and south Goa, with the north being more developed and action-packed. If you're looking for quiet beaches, head south!

15th of August Independence day

Independence day is a good time to examine who we are and how we got here.

Happy Indian Independence Day

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UAE Exchange wishes India a Happy Independence Day.

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4. Bekal Fort

Bekal Fort was built by Shivappa Nayaka of Keladi in 1650 AD, at Bekal. It is the largest fort in Kerala, spreading over 40 acres (160,000 m²). The fort appears to emerge from the sea. Almost three quarters of its exterior is in contact with water. Bekal fort was not an administrative centre and doesn't include any palace or mansion. An important feature is the water-tank, magazine and the flight of steps leading to an observation tower built by Tipu Sultan.



Standing at the centre of the fort, this offers views of the coastline and the towns of Kanhangad, Pallikkara, Bekal, Kottikkulam, and Uduma. The fort's zigzag entrance and surrounding trenches reveal its defensive strategy. Holes on the outer walls are designed to defend the fort effectively from naval attacks: The upper holes meant for aiming at the farthest targets; lower holes below for striking as enemy nearer and the lowest holes to attacking enemy closest to the fort.

5. The Golden Temple

The Golden Temple is a Gurdwara located in the city of Amritsar, Punjab, India. It is the holiest Gurdwara and the most important pilgrimage site of Sikhism. Over 100,000 people visit the holy shrine daily for worship. The temple is spiritually the most significant shrine in Sikhism.





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THE DAILY **tribune**

Lulu International Exchange: Bridging Trust Across Nations



India, which is celebrating its 72nd Independence Day, is today one of the world's fastest growing economies. Over the past seven decades, India has shown its prowess in various fields and Indians around the world can take pride in the giant leaps the country has taken. India's growth rate is expected to rise from 6.7% in 2017 to 7.3% in 2018 and 7.5% in 2019, according to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook update.

NRIs today are some of the biggest investors in India, and remittances are an integral part of this growth story. India continues to be the world's top recipient

of inward remittances, with nearly \$69 billion coming into the country in 2017— an increase of 9.5% from the previous year, according to the World Bank report.

In relation to the increased need for financial services, companies in the region have evolved likewise to cater to the South Asian expat community. LuLu International Exchange, an ISO 9001: 2015 certified organization, with easily accessible and widely networked branches across the region, acts as the go-to financial services outlet for expats.

With products like 'LuLu Now', which allows immediate credit to designated

bank accounts instantly, LuLu International Exchange remains at the forefront of technological innovation in this sector. Furthermore, 'LuLu Money' app has various features including instant online transactions, payment tracking in real time, rate alert setting and payment history, among others.

LuLu International Exchange currently has more 12 branches spread across Bahrain. On the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day of India, LuLu International Exchange would like to salute and congratulate the great nation of India and its people.

The New India Assurance Company sends Best Wishes

The New India Assurance Company sends Best Wishes to all Indians on the occasion of the 72nd Indian Independence Day. The New India Assurance Company was founded by Sir Dorabji Tata in 1919. It is an Indian Multinational General Insurance Company, headquartered in Mumbai and today operates in 28 countries.

The global business crossed Rs.26,554 crores (US\$ 4.08 Billion) in March 2018. New India Assurance have been market leaders in India in non-life business for more than 40 years. New India is the only Direct Insurer in India who is rated A- (Excellent) by AM Best Company since 2007 and AAA/Stable by CRISIL since 2014, indicating that it has the highest degree of financial strength to honour its policyholder's obligations. The long and rich history of friendship that the Kingdom of Bahrain and India share facilitated New India Assurance to begin operations in the kingdom in 1959, under the aegis of the Arabian Gulf Agency. Through these 59 years, New India Assurance has provided general insurance products and services to the Bahrain's growing business requirements. Now operating through its four offices located in Manama, Busaiteen, Exhibition Road and Sanad, the company provides all kinds of general insurance products including, motor insurance, marine cargo, marine hull (cargo and pleasure ships and boats), property, engineering, liability, professional indemnity, directors and officers liability and much more. The company is celebrating its 100th year of foundation. On the inaugural occasion of the centenary celebration in New Delhi, India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Honourable Vice President of India complimented New India Assurance for playing an important role in the government-backed various insurance schemes in India for common citizens. New India Assurance provides services to the corporates as well as individual customers.

The Company works with its vision in mind to be the most respected, trusted and preferred non-life insurer in the Kingdom of Bahrain as well as in the world. Website: <https://www.newindiabahrain.com>. Email : newindia@intercol.com. Tel : +973-17225158



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