

Riffa Sports Club made an instant impact in Arab football with an excellent away victory.

P15

Readjusted bills by September

Manama

The Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) has announced that the readjusted bills for June, July and August would be issued with the September bills respectively.

The readjustment followed directives issued by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier to re-issue the June, July, and August electricity and water bills for citizens at their primary residence (single account), based on last year's issued amount, given that the amount is lower compared to bills issued in 2019 for the same period.

"HRH the Crown Prince's directives are part of a drive to ensure the sustainability of Bahrain's resources and in order to meet the aspirations of citizens and the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals."

'Bahrain duty-bound' to secure maritime routes

Manama

The Kingdom is duty-bound to join the global efforts to secure maritime routes, said His Majesty yesterday.

This came as His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, visited the Royal Bahrain Naval Force yesterday.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was received by Lieutenant General Abdullah Bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Minister for Defence Affairs, General Dhiyab Bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief-of-Staff, as well as the Commander of the Royal Bahrain Naval Force and a number of senior officers.

Also present were US Amba-

sador Justin Siberell, Vice-Admiral James Malloy, Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command and Commander of the US Fifth Fleet, and Commodore Dean Basset, United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander and Deputy Commander of the Combined Maritime Forces.

His Majesty the King commended the efforts of the brave personnel of the Royal Bahrain Naval Force in carrying out their noble duty, alongside their courageous brothers from the Bahrain Defence Force, to defend their country and its civilisational gains.

His Majesty praised their important participation in guaranteeing the freedom of interna-



His Majesty

Global security and stability depends on the free flow of commerce and ultimately its security depends on what happens in this critical region.

HIS MAJESTY

tional maritime navigation and combatting piracy in the region, expressing appreciation for the fruitful efforts of the Commander and personnel of the Royal Bahrain Naval Force.

His Majesty also met a number of officers from the Bahrain Defence Force, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the US Naval Support Activity, and the UK Maritime Component Command.

"We are witnessing continued success in the coordination and cooperation initiatives between us, which reaffirms our sound security and defence directions, and is a source of satisfaction and pride in the vital and constructive role of our forces working together to enhance

our security and defend our interests.

"We also find in these efforts an honourable example of responsibility and professionalism in carrying out all tasks with determination and dedication.

"The most important of these is the duty to preserve the safety of maritime navigation and secure international corridors for trade and energy, the protection of which is a responsibility we all bear out of our duty to the stability of the region and the world as a whole."

His Majesty then visited the Naval Support Activity headquarters in Bahrain, where he was received by Vice Admiral James Malloy and Ambassador Siberell.

Tanker row persists

Iran warns US against seizure attempt

Iran said on Monday any US attempt to seize the tanker would have "heavy consequences."

Switzerland represents US interests in Iran, which has no diplomatic relations with the United States.

Dubai

An Iranian tanker sailed through the Mediterranean towards Greece yesterday after it was released from detention off Gibraltar, and Tehran said that any US move to seize the vessel again would have "heavy consequences."

The Grace 1, renamed the Adrian Darya 1, left anchorage

off Gibraltar about 11 pm on Sunday. Refinitiv ship tracking data showed on Monday that the vessel was heading to Kalamata in Greece and was scheduled to arrive next Sunday at 0000 GMT.

The seizure of the tanker by British Royal Marines near Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion of carrying oil to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions led to a weeks-long stand-off between Tehran and the West. It also heightened tensions on international oil shipping routes through the Gulf.

Gibraltar, a British overseas

We are happy this ordeal has ended and I hope this will lead to less escalation.

territory, lifted the detention order on Thursday but the next day a federal court in Washington issued a warrant for the seizure of the tanker, the oil it carries and nearly \$1 million.

Gibraltar said on Sunday it could not comply with that request because it was bound by EU law. Washington wanted to detain the tanker on the grounds that it had links to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which it has designated a terrorist organisation.

"We are happy this ordeal has ended and I hope this will lead to less escalation," Iranian

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said while visiting Finland.

He also said the US warrant had no legal basis and was politically motivated to "make more escalation."

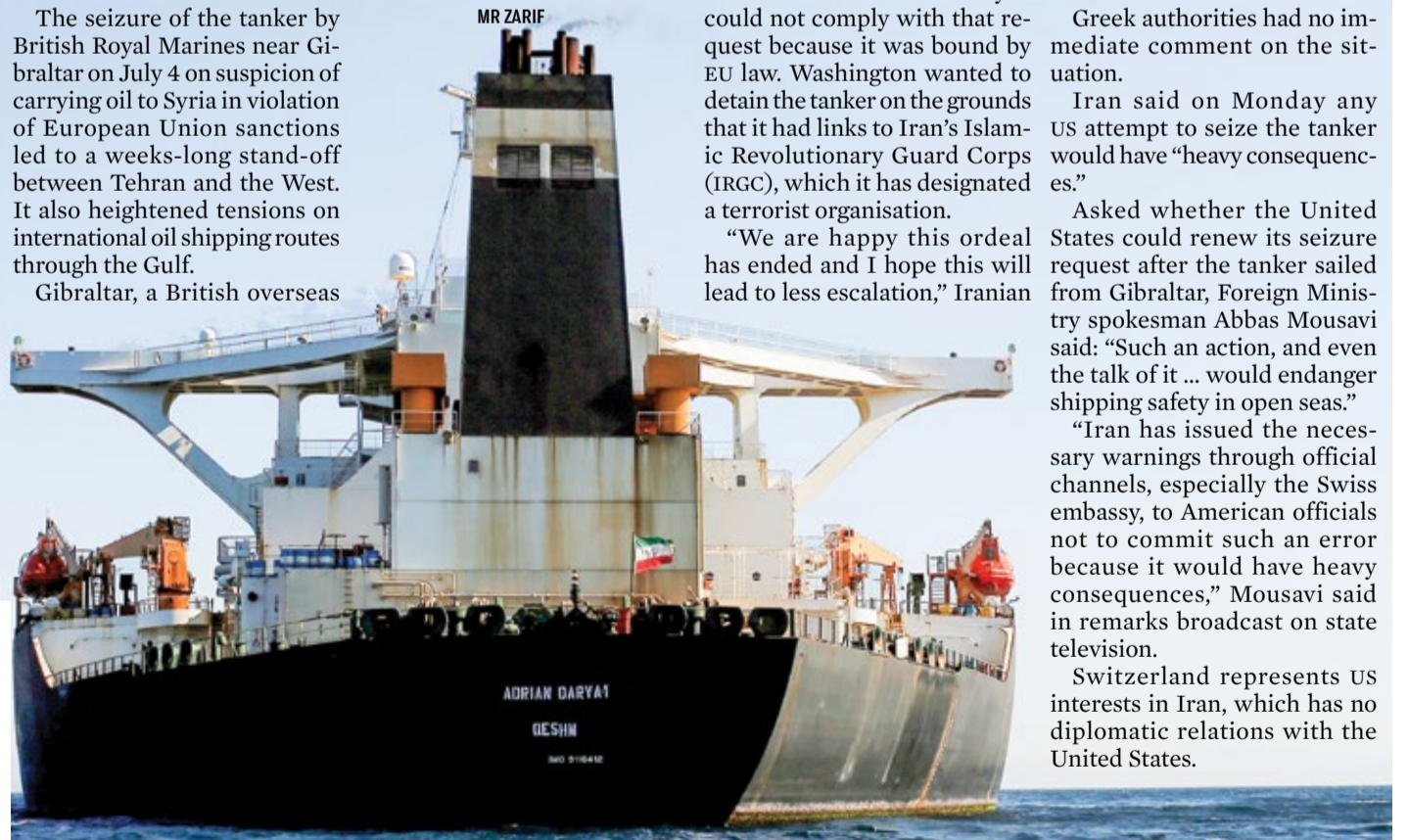
Greek authorities had no immediate comment on the situation.

Iran said on Monday any US attempt to seize the tanker would have "heavy consequences."

Asked whether the United States could renew its seizure request after the tanker sailed from Gibraltar, Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said: "Such an action, and even the talk of it ... would endanger shipping safety in open seas."

"Iran has issued the necessary warnings through official channels, especially the Swiss embassy, to American officials not to commit such an error because it would have heavy consequences," Mousavi said in remarks broadcast on state television.

Switzerland represents US interests in Iran, which has no diplomatic relations with the United States.



An Iranian flag flies on Iranian oil tanker Adrian Darya 1, previously named Grace 1.

MYSTERY BOTTLE

50-year-old message discovered

Alaska

A man discovered a 50-year-old letter in a bottle from the Russian Navy on the shores of western Alaska.

Tyler Ivanoff found the handwritten Russian letter early this month while gathering firewood near Shishmaref about 600 miles

(966 kilometers) northwest of Anchorage, television station KTUU reported.

"I was just looking for firewood when I found the bottle," Tyler Ivanoff said. "When I found the bottle, I had to use a screwdriver to



The bottle carrying the message.

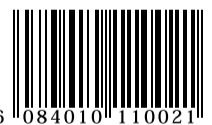
get the message out."

Ivanoff shared his discovery on Facebook where Russian speakers translated the message to be a greeting from a Cold War Russian sailor dated June 20, 1969. The message included an address and a request for a response from the person who finds it.



- 02 Cabinet welcomes Modi visit
- 03 Nature lovers call for action after six turtles found dead
- 04 iGA in deal with councils for developing eServices

210 fils (includes VAT)



EVERY TUESDAY SEAFOOD NIGHT

Timing: 19:00 hrs - 23:00 hrs

BD 8.500*

Enjoy a wide variety of fresh Seafood cooked in International style, with aromatic spices and rich flavour, balanced to perfection.

For reservations, please call 1736 0000 or WhatsApp 366 00 433

*Price is subject to 10% service charge, 5% government levy and 5% VAT



His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa the Prime Minister received His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. Their Royal Highnesses during the meeting confirmed that the Kingdom has taken mega strides in sustainable development in various fields, commensurate with the wise vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa thanks to the proven capability, achievement and innovativeness of Bahraini nationals in various fields.

Cabinet welcomes Modi visit

Session stresses importance of visit in bolstering bilateral ties

● His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa will be hosting a banquet dinner in honour of Indian prime minister.

● HRH the Premier gave directives to complete the service needs of the Khalifa Town and to speed up the construction of a health centre there.

Manama

The Cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, yesterday welcomed the upcoming visit of the Indian Prime



HRH the Premier chairs the Cabinet in the presence of HRH the Crown Prince.

Minister Narendra Modi and his accompanying delegation to the Kingdom.

The session stressed the importance of the visit in supporting the solid friendly Bahraini-Indian relations and bolstering bilateral co-operation at various levels.

Mr Modi's visit to Bahrain on August 24 and 25 will be a remarkable milestone in Bahrain-India ties.

During the visit, the prime minister will address the Indian community. The Indian Embassy in Bahrain in a tweet asked Indians to register to attend Mr Modi's

public address.

Indian Prime Minister would also be holding talks with HRH the Premier to discuss bilateral relations and also regional and international issues of mutual interest.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa will be hosting a banquet dinner in honour of Indian prime minister.

Among other things, the Cabinet welcomed the signing of the Constitutional Document in Sudan, describing it as a historic move towards achieving peace and reconciliation, as well as for safeguarding Sudan's security and



Narendra Modi

stability to meet the aspirations of the brotherly Sudanese people for a better future.

HRH the Prime Minister gave directives to the Justice, Islamic

Affairs and Endowments Ministry to cooperate with the Bahrain Bar Society (BBS) and co-ordinate with the Legislative branch to issue a new world-standard law on the legal profession.

HRH the Premier also instructed the same ministry to remove all obstacles faced by lawyers, especially regarding the execution of court rulings.

The Justice Ministry was also requested to co-ordinate with the judiciary to develop work with lawyers regarding the procedures of the Execution Directorate, and the need to develop the current

electronic system and increase its efficiency.

The Prime Minister gave orders to develop the current scholarship programme and its work mechanisms, and entrusted the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training with the matter.

HRH the Premier gave directives to complete the service needs of the Khalifa Town and to speed up the construction of a health centre there.

The Prime Minister also gave instructions to complete the service needs in Salman Town, allocate a site to establish a health centre in Budaiya, develop infrastructure in Eker and Zallaq, meet the housing needs in Jid Al Haj, Jannusan and neighbouring villages, and study the establishment of a traditional market in Damistan.

The Ministerial Committee for Infrastructure and Development Projects was requested to follow up on the implementation of HRH Premier's directives to meet service needs in the above mentioned regions.



Indian Ladies Association (ILA) members celebrated the Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan at a labour camp in Hidd. The festival reflects the bond between a man and his sister. ILA members tied 'Rakhi' to more than 95 workers. This programme was organised by ILA Excom on behalf of its worker's welfare sub-committee (WWC).



Supporting the Kingdom's ban on single-use plastic bags, the Philippine Embassy in Manama has launched its solid waste management project by upcycling old tarpaulin banners into reusable bags to replace non-biodegradable plastics and solid wastes. Madame Caroline Belinda Ver, spouse of Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain Alfonso Ver, launched the project at a session organised by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) at the Migrant Workers and Other Filipinos Resource Centre (MWOFR) attached to the Embassy. According to the recent environmental forum which was held in Bahrain, one reusable bag can replace at least 170 single-use plastic bags. The samples of reusable shopping bags made by the participants are expected to carry the same capacity as the ones currently used by Bahrain's largest hypermarket and department store chains.



Clampdown on traffic violations near schools

Manama

The Director-General of Traffic, Brigadier Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa yesterday announced zero tolerance towards traffic violations near schools to protect the safety of students.

He said that the department will put in best efforts to ensure the safety of children as the new

school season is set to begin, in terms of traffic regulations, awareness and training, also, to setting solutions to traffic-related issues.

The Director-General noted that all traffic departments had been working hard and co-ordinating with concerned authorities to ensure safety around school surroundings.

A series of lectures for bus drivers, community police,



”

The department will put in best efforts to ensure the safety of children as the new school season is set to begin.

SHAIKH ABDULRAHMAN

guards and administration and teaching teams in public and private schools would be held to enhance traffic awareness.

They would cover illegal practices by drivers, including over speeding, the use of mobile phones and wrong parking.

He urged the public not to hire illegal bus drivers who didn't get official licences from the Ministry of Transportation to transport students.

They didn't also receive training from the traffic department, and their vehicles weren't inspected to ensure that they are meeting the criteria, such as placing cameras and fire extinguishers.

The Director-General concluded by highlighting that the awareness of the Bahraini community led to the reduction of serious traffic accidents near schools in recent years.

Nature lovers call for action after six turtles found dead

Authorities urged to take special steps to protect marine life

● The pictures of the dead turtles were widely circulated on social media networks.

● In April, five turtles belonging to an endangered species were returned to sea by the authorities.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Environmentalists and nature lovers have called for action after six turtles were found dead on Malkiya beach.

Many carcasses of turtles were found on different shores of the Kingdom during the previous months, setting the alarm bells ringing for the environmentalists.

“The news of finding six dead sea turtles in just one week is alarming,” said Chairman of the Animal and Environment Welfare Society, Shaikha Marwa



One of the dead turtles that were found on Malkiya beach.

bint Abdulrahman Al Khalifa.

The pictures of the dead turtles were widely circulated on social media networks.

Shaikha Marwa said that preserving marine life is of utmost importance, urging the public

as well as government bodies to work hand in hand to conserve the environment.

He said that many countries have taken advanced steps to protect the marine life and that Bahrain should follow suit.

These frequent death of turtles have become a consistent challenge to the conservation efforts by Bahrain authorities.

In April, five turtles belonging to an endangered species were returned to sea by the au-

”
The public as well as the government should work hand in hand to conserve the environment.

SHAIKHA MARWA

thorities.

The turtles were found in poor health by some residents in the area and were taken to the authorities.

“The turtles regained their health after being cared for a period of three months by a group of experts belonging to the Supreme Council for Environment and Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,” the sources added.

Mahmoud Faraj, Chairman of the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said that the turtles were returned to the sea near Hawar Islands in co-operation with the Supreme Council for Environment.

Three of the five turtles were received by BSPCA from resi-

dents who found them on different coasts in the Kingdom. The other two were received by the Supreme Council of Environment.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday that an investigation has been launched after 28 cows were allegedly poisoned to death in a farm in Hamala.

According to reports from the area, the cows may have been poisoned. It is not clear who could have poisoned the cattle.

The farm owner, MP Ahmed Al Demistani said that the farm belongs to him and that the alleged poisoning has cost him thousands of dinars.

The Interior Ministry has stated that it has launched an investigation after receiving a complaint.

“Legal procedures were taken and inspections have been done at the farm. Samples have been taken from the farm where the dead cattle was found.

“The samples will be examined by the concerned department and the case document will be presented to the Public Prosecution.”

Bahrain resident donates land to flood victims

TDT | Manama

A Bahrain resident has made the whole humanity proud by donating a plot, which she purchased only a month ago, to flood victims in her village, who have lost their homes.

Indian national Jiji George told Malayala Manorama that she decided to give her land to five families after coming to know about their ordeal caused by heavy floods.

At least 121 people have died in flood-hit Kerala according to a state-wide calamity report issued by the government in the second spell of south-western monsoon rains since August 8, this year.

At least 40 people have been injured in flood-related incidents while over 21 people are believed to be missing in the state after heavy flooding.



At least 121 people have died in the flood-hit Indian state of Kerala.

As many as 1,789 houses have been completely damaged due to flooding and over 26,000 people have taken refuge in relief camps.

“I was shocked to see the im-



Ms Jiji

ages of flood victims and their sufferings and decided to do something from my part,” Ms Jiji said.

The 37-year-old, who works with a private firm in Adliya, immediately rang up her mother

and three children and conveyed her decision.

They would instantly give their consent to the move and Ms Jiji called the local legislator to the State Assembly and informed her decision.

The legislator was tasked to pick the five families, who would be the beneficiaries.

Social media was all in praise for Ms Jiji as the vernacular report went viral.

“I am really happy for what I have done to my brothers and sisters. We can earn money and wealth any time.

“What is most important is to help others when they are in need.

“My decision would have stemmed from the challenges I have faced in life.”

Ms Jiji has been a resident in the Kingdom for more than ten years now.

Manama

The Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) will partner with municipal councils and the Capital Secretariat for the development of eServices.

This came as iGA Chief Executive Mohammed Ali AlQaed received in his office at Isa Town yesterday the Chairman of the Capital Municipal Council, Saleh Tarradah, the Chairman of Northern Municipal Council Ahmed Al Kooheji, the Chairman of Southern Municipal Council Chairman Bader Al Tamimi and Muharraq Municipal Council Vice Chairman Hassan Al Doy.

Mr AlQaed commended the efforts taken by the municipal councils and the Capital Secretariat in developing the Kingdom's municipal sector.

He stressed iGA's commitment to enhance co-operation among all public sector service providers, including municipal councils, adding that the iGA looks forward to directing the combined efforts of these organisations towards improving the efficiency and quality of services provided to the public.

The meeting discussed methods of strengthening communi-

iGA in deal with councils for developing eServices

Move in line with speeding up the Kingdom's digital transformation



Mr AlQaed with council officials.

cation with the public, including the possibility of the remaining councils joining the Tawasul suggestions and complaints system, and developing the eServices of the Councils and Secretariat, in line with efforts to speed up the Kingdom's digital transformation.

The Municipal Council and Capital Secretariat leaders praised the iGA's role in supporting government institutions and its co-operation with the councils in various fields, particularly those related to eServices and improving communication with the public.

AGU voluntary team spreads hope in Sri Lanka

Manama

A voluntary team from the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) recently returned from a trip to Sri Lanka, where the team members joined hands with volunteers from different countries in the region to help the less fortunate in remote areas there.

The team is known by the name "A Cloud of Hope" and consists of 34 graduates from the College of Medicine and Medical Science in the university, in addition to volunteers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt and Syria.

During their journey, team members extended a helping hand to the needy and diseased persons there, providing them with medical care and health services in public hospitals.

The trip was organised in co-operation with local charity and voluntary organisations in Sri Lanka. It also included visits to elderly care homes, public schools, places of worship and villages.



'A Cloud of Hope' members in Sri Lanka.

On the occasion, Yousif Al Tandeel, Founder of the team, commented: "Team members provided a variety of medical

and health services to over 1,000 people there, including children, adults and elderly citizens.

"We have also distributed ful-

ly equipped school bags among needy students and orphanages. Needy families were also provided with basic aids, especially

orphans and the elderly."

Mr Al Tandeel expressed his delight to successfully conduct the humanitarian journey, highlighting that team members showed a spirit of generosity and goodwill, and cooperated among themselves to provide humanitarian support to the needy.

The volunteers also held basic first aid courses and health guidance in both schools and temples, and contributed to the painting and renovation of some school facilities and provided them with chairs, coolers and other facilities.

"A Cloud of Hope" had organised similar trips to India, Tanzania and other countries, where they spread knowledge and awareness among less fortunate people, in addition to other needs and commodities.

The team's activities also include visiting public hospitals and health centres here, where they pay periodic visits to cancer patients, especially children, to encourage them and support in their battle with the disease.

Man jailed for escaping from court

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a Bahraini man to six months behind bars for escaping from the court.

The defendant is said to have taken advantage of a police officer's fault of not securely handcuffing him.

Therefore, he uncuffed one of his hands and ran away, heading to Ras Ruman village, according to prosecutors.

"He later fully removed the handcuff from his other hand and entered one of the houses there."



He wore an Abaya and women's shoes in order to mislead us.

POLICE OFFICER

Two new academies to boost arts, heritage and music

Jeddah

Saudi Arabia is to set up arts academies, including two in the next two years, offering a step toward academic qualification and enlarging the Kingdom's footprint in heritage, arts and crafts, and music.

The initiative is part of the Ministry of Culture's Quality of Life programme.

The minister, Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Farhan, said investment in "capacity building" was one of the most important elements in encouraging the cultural sector, which enjoyed unlimited support from King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"The music academy in particular will be "the core of music production and talent development in Saudi Arabia."

MAMDOUH SAIF

The Kingdom was rich in diverse arts, talents and artistic production, Prince Badr said, and the academies would be a first step toward academic qualification in the arts within the Kingdom.

One academy specialising in heritage and traditional arts and crafts will start receiving

applications in autumn 2020, targeting 1,000 students and trainees in long- and short-term programs.

A second academy dedicated to music will receive 1,000 students and trainees from 2021.

The music academy in particular will be "the core of music production and talent development in Saudi Arabia," Saudi musician, composer and producer Mamdouh Saif said.

The music industry was a large and diverse field, Saif said, and education was crucial.

"The academy is the right place to launch the music industry in Saudi Arabia, and it will have a significant impact on Saudi youth, and young people in surrounding countries," he said.

Man jailed for running drugs racket

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a GCC citizen to 15 years behind bars and he was fined BD5,000 too for spearheading a drug peddling network.

Three other men involved in the same case were sentenced to 10 years behind bars each.

The trio are from Bahrain, but the GCC Citizen was ordered to be deported once he serves his jail term.

According to court files, the tip-off was sent to police officers revealing that the GCC national man was operating the drug racket with the help of his co-defendants.

5,000
Bahraini dinars in fine was imposed on the defendant for running a drug peddling network.

Therefore, an inspection warrant was issued to search the homes of the defendants.

An anti-drug squad was sent to the homes of the defendants and found different types of drugs stored there.

The accused men were charged with selling drugs.

"He wore an Abaya and women's shoes in order to mislead us," a police officer, who was in the team, which arrested the defendant, said.

The defendant told prosecutors: "As soon as I entered another house, telling him that I was from the police, he yelled at me and I ran away. I sneaked into another house, but police officers arrested me."

"We were shocked to see a man wearing an Abaya entering our house. We shouted, but he held our maid in an effort to force us to keep him inside. But we continued screaming and he left," a member of the house, which the defendant trespassed, said.

world

Sudan Bashir's graft trial starts

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan's deposed military leader Omar al-Bashir, who ruled the country for 30 years, arrived in court yesterday in Khartoum for the start of his trial on corruption charges.

Bashir, 75, was forced from power on April 11, after months of protest against his regime and appeared before a prosecutor for the first time on June 16.

Now detained, the general was informed by the prosecutor's office that he faced charges of "possessing foreign currency, corruption and receiving gifts illegally".

A reporter outside the Judicial and Legal Science Institute where the trial is taking place said Bashir arrived in a huge military convoy.

In April, Sudan's army ruler General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said more than \$113 million worth of cash in three currencies had been seized from Bashir's residence.

In May, the prosecutor general also said Bashir had been charged over killings during the anti-regime protests which eventually led to his ouster.

Protests against Bashir's rule erupted on December 19 after his government tripled the price of bread.

The most serious indictments facing Bashir, who ruled the country since seizing power in

Omar al-Bashir Former leader of Sudan



Aged 75
Career soldier

*International Criminal Court
AFP Photo*

- **1973**
Participated in the Arab-Israeli war
- **June 30, 1989**
Overthrows elected government, supported by Islamists
- **2003**
Sends troops to put down rebellion in Darfur. 300,000 killed in conflict, according to UN
- **2005**
Peace agreement with southern rebels after 21 years of civil war
- **2009**
ICC* issues arrest warrant against him for war crimes and crimes against humanity for genocide (in 2010)
- **2010**
Elected president during elections boycotted by the opposition. Re-elected in 2015
- **2011**
South Sudan proclaims its independence. Khartoum loses 3/4 of its oil reserves
- **2013**
Protests repressed, dozens of dead says government, more than 200 says Amnesty
- **Since December 2018**
Wave of protests against bread price increase, then for regime change
- **2019**
April 6: Start of new protests outside the military headquarters
April 11: Army announced Bashir has been removed from power and detained
April 16: Transferred to prison
May-June: Charged over the killings of protesters and with corruption
August 17: Start of trial on corruption charges

a 1989 coup, have been filed by the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC).

They include war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide for his role in the war in Darfur, where a rebellion erupted in 2003.

The United Nations says the conflict has left more than 300,000 people dead and 2.5 million displaced, with hundreds of thousands still living

in miserable and impoverished camps.

The ICC has for years demanded that Bashir stand trial, and has renewed its call since his fall.

In a statement issued last week, Amnesty International warned that his graft trial should not distract from the heavier charges he faces in The Hague.

"While this trial is a positive

step towards accountability for some of his alleged crimes, he remains wanted for heinous crimes committed against the Sudanese people," Amnesty's Joan Nyanyuki said.

"Omar al-Bashir has evaded justice for far too long as the victims of horrific crimes still wait for justice and reparations more than a decade since the ICC issued the first warrant for his arrest," she said.

Kuwait says emir recovered from 'setback'



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khaled al-Sabah (R), meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Kuwait City.

Kuwait City, Kuwait

Kuwaiti state media on Sunday reported Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah had "recovered", shortly after Iran's foreign minister indicated that the 90-year-old was unwell.

The emir "has recovered from a setback and is in good health now", Kuwait's official news agency KUNA said, citing a palace statement, without specifying the nature of the "setback".

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had earlier on Sunday wished Sheikh Sabah a "speedy recovery" after talking with the Gulf state's officials.

"Good talks with Kuwaiti crown prince (Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah) and foreign minister. Praying for Emir's speedy recovery," Zarif wrote on Twitter.

The emir, who ascended to power in January 2006, was seen in public last week during Muslim prayers and appeared in good health.

Prior to KUNA's report late on Sunday, there had been no word on the emir's health in official media or Kuwaiti newspapers.

Zarif said that during the talks, he stressed that Iran's proposal for a regional dialogue forum and non-aggression pact would eliminate the need to rely on foreign powers.

Unlike its strained relations with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Iran maintains good ties with Kuwait, which has acted as mediator to improve ties between Tehran and Arab Gulf states.

Sheikh Sabah had a pace-maker implanted in 2000 and underwent successful urinary tract surgery in the United States in August 2007.

Russian sailor's message in bottle found 50 yrs later in Alaska

Washington, United States

Alaska discovered a bottle with a handwritten message inside wishing the finder "happy sailing" more than 50 years after it was dropped into the sea by a Russian sailor.

"Sincere greetings! From the Russian Far East Fleet mother ship VRXF Sulak," it read. "We wish you good health and long years of life and happy sailing. 20 June 1969."

Tyler Ivanoff, a teacher's aide in Shishmaref, Alaska, spotted the bottle on the shore near his village, and pried off the plastic stopper with his teeth.

"It was still dry on the inside and still smelled like wine or whatever, old alcohol. The note was dry," he told the Nome Nugget newspaper.

Ivanoff posted a picture of the bottle and the note on Facebook on August 5.

But the yarn doesn't end there.

Rossiya 1, a Russian television network, tracked it by its return address in Vladivostok to a retired Soviet ship captain now living in Crimea.



The bottled message found on the shores of western Alaska (Courtesy of AP)

Anatoly Botsanenکو, interviewed by the station in a naval uniform, said he served on the Sulak in 1969 when he was 35. Peering at the message on the reporter's smartphone, Botsanenکو said, "That's not my handwriting." But he then recognized the return address as his old home in Vladivostok.

"It's pretty cool how a small photo grew into a story," Ivanoff posted on Facebook.

Blasts rock eastern Afghan city

● As many as 10 blasts were reported in and around the city in Nangarhar province

Jalalabad, Afghanistan

Scores of people including children were wounded Monday after a series of explosions shook the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, as the country's independence day was marred by bloodshed.

As many as 10 blasts were reported in and around the city in Nangarhar province, authorities said, and casualty numbers rose as the day wore on.

"The explosions were caused by IEDs in different parts of the city and as groups of people were celebrating independence day," the Nangarhar governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani said, referring to improvised explosive devices.

Jalalabad is the scene of frequent bomb attacks, and the surrounding terrain is home to both Taliban fighters and the Islamic State group's local affiliate.

At least 52 people were wounded, Khogyani said. Zahir Adel, a spokesman for a local hospital, said 66 wounded people had been brought in. An AFP correspondent saw children among the victims.

This year's August 19 celebra-



A volunteer carries an injured boy to a hospital, following multiples of bomb blasts in Jalalabad

tions mark 100 years of Afghan independence from British influence.

The day was supposed to be one of national pride and unity, but was overshadowed by an IS suicide attack Saturday on a crowded Kabul wedding hall that killed at least 63 people.

In Kabul, locals took to the streets to wave the black-red-and-green Afghan flag, but several public events to commemorate the date were scrapped as Kabul mourns and due to fears of a fresh attack.



Trump said he was pleased with talks on ending the war, 18 days after the Sept 11, attacks that prompted the US invasion of Afghanistan

"We postponed the celebrations to honour the victims, but we will definitely take revenge for our people," Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said.

"We will avenge the blood of our people, every drop of it."

Mayhem from Afghanistan's war continues to wreak havoc on Afghans every day, even though the US and the Taliban are in final negotiations for a deal that would see US troops begin to quit Afghanistan and could potentially lead to a reduction in violence.

'Dark tourism' destinations

HBO's 'Chernobyl' sparks tours, stokes fears in Lithuania



Women pose in front of a bus that was used during the shooting of the HBO series "Chernobyl" during a guided tour



Tour guide Jurgita Norvaisiene points at a measurement device during a guided tour inside the monitoring room of the inoperative Ignalina nuclear power plant in Visaginas



People stand in the monitoring room during a guided tour inside the inoperative Ignalina nuclear power plant in Visaginas, Lithuania

Fans of HBO's hit series "Chernobyl", detailing the world's worst nuclear disaster, can get a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the Emmy-nominated TV drama by taking a new tour of its set at a Soviet-era reactor in Lithuania

Ignalina, Lithuania

Walking along the top of Lithuania's decommissioned nuclear reactor, the set of HBO's critically acclaimed "Chernobyl" TV series, tourist Vytas Miknaitis says he's not "afraid at all".

"They know what they're doing," the retired computer engineer from Chicago says, referring to organisers of the three-hour tour of the Ignalina power station in eastern Lithuania. Similar in design to Chernobyl, some 450 kilometres (280 miles) away, the Ignalina reactor provided the backdrop for the show's outdoor scenes, shot last year.

The Baltic state's only nuclear power plant built in Soviet times was open to the public even before the "Chernobyl" drama first aired in May but has since seen a steady uptick in visitors on the heels of the show's success.

Tourists don white overalls, walk on top of the reactor and tour the various work stations, including a command post built to resemble the one in the series. They can even pretend to be the protagonists pushing the various buttons.

Ignalina plant spokeswoman Natalija Survila-Glebova said that the series had attracted a new stream of visitors, mostly Lith-

uanians but also foreign tourists from countries like Poland, Latvia and Britain.

Last month, there were 900 visitors, she said, adding that tours were "almost completely booked through the end of the year". Due to the ongoing dismantling work, tours are only open to adults.

Dark tourism

The Soviet Union's Chernobyl plant, in what is now Ukraine, was the scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster, when one of its reactors exploded in 1986 during testing.

It polluted a big part of Europe, with the area immediately around the power plant the worst affected.

In recent years, the abandoned site has become a "dark tourism" destination, even before the eponymous TV drama that has picked up 19 Emmy nominations.

Lithuania, which like Ukraine is a former Soviet republic, began decommissioning Ignalina in December 2009.

The European Union made its closure a condition of the small country's 2004 entry into the bloc as the plant had two reactors that were the same model as those at Chernobyl.

Drab is fab

"Chernobyl" tours

have also sprung up in other parts of Lithuania where the series was filmed, including the capital, Vilnius.

Visitor Vytautas Kastanauskas, who works in tourism, marvelled at how the producers were able to recast parts of the picturesque city as a Soviet-era industrial outpost.

"The atmosphere of the time and the nature of the relationships between people, everything was recreated perfectly in the series," the 47-year-old, who experienced Soviet times, said.

The northern Fabijoniskes neighbourhood was transformed into Pripjat, a city of nearly 50,000 people near Chernobyl that was abandoned after the disaster.

The makers of "Chernobyl" used the drab, grey district, with row upon row of Soviet-era housing blocks, as the location to shoot Pripjat's mass evacuation.

And one young Lithuanian has even refurbished his grandparents' Fabijoniskes apartment in the Soviet style and opened it up to visitors and Airbnb stays.

Jurate Pazikaite, of the Vilnius Film Office, says that the series has "focused a lot of attention" on the city of around half a million people, putting it on the map as a prime location for filmmakers.

Tax breaks for production companies introduced in 2014 have lured a growing number of crews, she said.

The BBC's 2016 miniseries adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace" cast Vilnius as both 19th-century Moscow and the Austrian Alps.

A new HBO drama series, "Catherine the Great" starring Oscar winner Helen Mirren, has also partly been shot in the Lithuanian capital.

Emergency iodine, sirens

But the "Chernobyl" series is not only generating curiosity and pride in Lithuania.

It has also fed into unease that was already felt over a new nuclear plant, set to open in neighbouring Belarus.

Spearheaded by the Russian state energy corporation, Rosatom, the plant, featuring two reactors, each with a capacity of 1,200 megawatts, is expected to go online later this year.

Lithuania says that the facility in the northwestern Belarusian town of Ostrovets, just 20 kilometres (12 miles) from its border, does not meet safety standards.

Minsk rejects the claim.

"The Chernobyl series has affected us deeply, my friends and I talk about this topic (nuclear risk)," says Ieva Nagyte, a 27-year-old, who works at the Vilnius Academy of Arts.

"If the Ostrovets nuclear reactors exploded, I'm not sure we'd know what to do," she said.

However, Lithuanian authorities are preparing for the worst -- they have stockpiled iodine tablets used to ward off certain forms of radiation poisoning, established evacuation routes and are testing emergency sirens, according to the internal affairs ministry.

The Chernobyl series has affected us deeply, my friends and I talk about this topic (nuclear risk). If the Ostrovets nuclear reactors exploded, I'm not sure we'd know what to do

IEVA NAGYTE
A 27-YEAR-OLD, WHO WORKS AT THE
VILNIUS ACADEMY OF ARTS



The Ignalina nuclear power plant is pictured in Visaginas, Lithuania

Tensions spike as Turkish convoy enters northwest Syria



A convoy of Turkish military vehicles is pictured near the town of Maar Hitat in northern Syria's Idlib province

● The Syrian government reacted angrily after the convoy entered Idlib province

Maaret al-Noman, Syria

A Turkish military convoy crossed into jihadist-run northwest Syria Monday, sending tensions soaring between Damascus and rebel-backer Ankara which said its forces were targeted with an air strike.

The Syrian government reacted angrily after the convoy entered Idlib province and headed towards a key town where regime forces are waging fierce battles with jihadists and rebels.

After eight years of civil war, the jihadist-run Idlib region on the border with Turkey is the last major stronghold of opposition to President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

The region of some three million people was supposed to be protected by a Turkish-Russian

buffer zone deal signed last year, but instead regime and Russian forces have upped their deadly bombardment of the bastion since late April.

Following days of inching forward on the ground, Russian-backed regime forces on Sunday took control of the edges of the town of Khan Sheikhun to the south of the stronghold.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, reported Syrian and Russian air strikes aimed at hindering the convoy's advance through Idlib province.

Turkey's defence ministry "strongly" condemned the attack, which it said had killed three civilians and wounded 12.

"Despite repeated warnings we made to the authorities of the Russian Federation, the military operations by the regime forces continue in Idlib region in violation of the existing memorandums and agreements with the Russian Federation," it said in a statement.

The Damascus regime meanwhile denounced the convoy's crossing over from Turkey.

"Turkish vehicles loaded with munitions... are heading towards Khan Sheikhun to help the terrorists," a foreign ministry source said, using the regime's blanket term for Turkish-backed rebels and jihadists.

This confirmed "the support provided by the Turkish regime to terrorist groups," state news agency SANA reported the source as saying.

Rebel killed

Yesterday afternoon, a correspondent saw the convoy stop on the Aleppo-Damascus highway in the village of Maar Hatat, just north of Khan Sheikhun.

Warplanes and helicopter machine guns targeted nearby areas, he said.

Earlier, a Russian air strike hit the rebel vehicle leading the convoy just outside Maaret

Turkey's defence ministry "strongly" condemned the attack, which it said had killed three civilians and wounded 12

al-Noman, 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of Khan Sheikhun, killing a Turkish-backed fighter from the Faylaq al-Sham group, the Britain-based Observatory said.

After the convoy made it inside the town, Russian and Syrian warplanes targeted its outskirts in an apparent "attempt to prevent the convoy from advancing", Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

On Sunday, pro-regime forces backed by Russian air strikes took control of Khan Sheikhun's northwestern outskirts.

Fighting continues to the east and west of the town, the Observatory says.

Any seizure of Khan Sheikhun and territory further east would encircle a patch of countryside to its south, including the town of Morek that is home to a key Turkish observation post.

It would also see the regime secure a position on a key highway connecting government-held Damascus with the northern city of Aleppo, which the regime retook from rebels in December 2016.

Russia probes 'foreign meddling' after protests

Moscow, Russia

Russia's parliament yesterday agreed to probe "foreign meddling" in the country's affairs, following a wave of protests that Moscow has accused Western governments and media of backing.

A committee will investigate reports by foreign media as

well as "embassies which distributed information" about the demonstrations, lower house speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said.

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets of Moscow in recent weeks to protest the authorities' decision to block prominent opposition figures from standing in local elections.

Palestinian president fires advisers as financial crisis hits

● Tax transfers, which account for some 65 percent of PA revenues

● Abbas has accused Israel of blackmail and refused to take any of the tax transfers

Ramallah, Palestinian Territories



Mahmud Abbas

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas has fired all of his advisers, his office said yesterday, amid a financial crisis in the occupied West Bank that has prompted deep salary cuts.

Abbas's office did not provide further details on the number of advisers or the costs involved, pointing only to a brief statement issued through official Palestinian news agency WAFA.

The move comes amid a spending crunch following Israel's decision in February to withhold around \$10 million a month in tax transfers.

Israel collects some \$190 million a month in customs duties levied on goods destined for Palestinian markets that transit through its ports.

It then transfers the money to the Palestinian government.

The amount it deducted -- \$138 million for the year -- corresponds to what Israel says the Palestinian Authority paid prisoners in Israeli jails, or their families, in 2018.

Prisoners who have car-

ried out attacks on Israelis are among those receiving the payments, and Israel says that encourages further violence.

Abbas has accused Israel of blackmail and refused to take any of the tax transfers, which account for some 65 percent of PA revenues.

The PA has cut salaries for most its tens of thousands of employees by half to keep the government afloat.

On top of the tax dispute, the United States has also cut hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Palestinians via various programmes.

Jihad Harb, a Palestinian political analyst, said it appeared Abbas had decided to sack his advisers after receiving a report in June on payments to ministers and officials.

"It is clear that president Abbas received the report from the committee that examined the salaries and benefits of employees," Harb said.

He "wants to reduce his office's spending by taking austerity measures to confront the current budget crisis."

Controversial study links fluoride in water to lower IQ

● Fluoridated water is supplied to around two-thirds of US residents

Washington, United States

A study published yesterday links exposure to fluoridated tap water during pregnancy to lower IQ scores in infants, but several outside experts expressed concern over its methodology and questioned its findings.

Fluoride has been added to community water supplies in industrial countries to prevent tooth decay since the 1950s.

Very high levels of the mineral have been found to be toxic to the brain, though the concentrations seen in fluoridated tap water are generally deemed safe.

"We realized that there were major questions about the safety



Representative picture (Courtesy of Askthedentist)

of fluoride, especially for pregnant women and young children," Christine Till at Canada's York University, senior author of the paper published in JAMA Pediatrics, said.

"We know that decisions need to be based on evidence, and we had no evidence on whether fluoride in pregnancy was safe, and regardless of the outcome, that knowledge was really critical."



Fluoride is an ionic compound derived from fluorine, which is the single most reactive element; it is naturally found in many rocks. About 95 percent of the fluoride added to public water supplies is produced from phosphorite rock

The study looked at 601 mother-child pairs across six Canadian cities, with 41 per cent living in communities supplied with fluoridated municipal water.

The researchers said fluoridated water is supplied to around two-thirds of US residents, just over a third of Canadian residents and three percent in Europe.

After controlling for other toxins in their analysis, they found an increase in concentration of fluoride in pregnant mother's urine of one milligram a liter was associated with a 4.5-point lower IQ score in boys -- but not girls -- at age three or four.

When estimating the daily maternal fluoride intake instead of fluoride in urine, they found a one milligram increase in intake was associated with a deficit of 3.7 IQ points for both boys and girls.

Anticipating controversy, JAMA Pediatrics took the un-

usual step of issuing an Editor's Note that said the decision to publish the article was "not easy."

"Given the nature of the findings and their potential implications, we subjected it to additional scrutiny for its methods and the presentation of its findings."

But experts in fields ranging from statistics to toxicology to neuroscience expressed serious reservations.

"The key words in the paper are 'higher levels,'" said Oliver Jones, Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry, RMIT University.

"The authors state that an increase of one milligram per liter (1 mg/L) increase in fluoride was associated with a 4.49 point lower IQ score but fluoride intake appears to have been below 1 mg/L for most people in the study, even for those with fluoridated water."

World can't turn a blind eye to Qatar's funding of terrorism

From Al Qaeda to Hamas, the country has actively promoted Islamist causes and shielded their financiers

JORDAN COPE

A country smaller than Armenia in both land mass and population, Qatar commands a global presence disproportionate to its size. With plans to host the World Cup in summer 2022, Qatar remains at the forefront of the world's attention. While this spotlight has occasionally shed light on abuses of workers' rights in the build-up to the World Cup, far too little attention has been heeded to perhaps Qatar's most looming concern - its role as a sponsor of terror.

To this day, Qatar remains one of Hamas's largest funders and supporters. Qatar has pledged more than \$1.1 billion to Hamas since 2012. However, Hamas is an extremist group with a malign influence on the Arab-Israeli conflict and an extremist agenda. Doha has also welcomed high-profile Hamas figures, inviting senior officials such as Khaled Meshaal, the former chief of Hamas's political wing. Ever since, Meshaal has taken full advantage of his hosts, arranging a Hamas conference at Doha's Four Seasons hotel and revealing the group's new charter in the city's Sheraton hotel. Ultimately, Qatar has encouraged the Iranian-backed group to operate with impunity.

In addition to harbouring Hamas, the Qatari government has sought to amplify the organisation's voice and mission, as well as that of other terrorist groups. Through its state-owned, state-funded news channel Al Jazeera, the Qatari government has shared streams of Hamas's conferences and speeches. Al Jazeera has also glorified other terrorist organisations, dedicating airtime, for example, to an



Qatar is accused of funding many terror organisations including Somalia's Al Shabab militia.

interview with a member of the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad.

Qatar's support for terror is not exclusively expressed through its support for Hamas, a reality that becomes more self-evident when analysing Qatar's ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. Recognised as a terrorist group by, among others, the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Russia, Syria and Saudi Arabia, the Muslim Brotherhood is accredited as the source and inspiration for Hamas and, by some scholars, as the inspiration for Al Qaeda when accounting for Sayyid Qutb's impact on MB's ideology. Qutb was a prominent MB leader who was convicted and hanged for plotting the assassination of former Egyptian

president Gamal Abdel Nasser. An Islamist organisation intent on establishing an ever-expanding caliphate, the Muslim Brotherhood has received more than \$1 billion from the Qatari government.

Other benefactors of Qatari funding include Ahrar Al Sham, a Syrian militant group intent on establishing an Islamist state in the country, and Kataib Hezbollah, an Iranian-sponsored Shia militia bent on advancing the objectives of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. In 2017, Qatar paid hundreds of millions of dollars, including \$25 million to Kataib Hezbollah and a suspected \$50m to the leader of the IRGC, to release 25 Qataris taken hostage during a hunting trip in

Through its funding of terrorism and its harbouring of terrorists and their financial backers, Qatar has embraced its role as a sponsor of terror.

southern Iraq. While Qatar currently harbours 20 high-ranking members

leaders; in 2013 and 2014, he also began fundraising for the Taliban. Despite having every reason to suspect Al Subaiy's conduct, the Qatari government turned a blind eye, allowing him to continue with impunity for years.

Qatar has also proactively shielded US-sanctioned financiers of Al Qaeda, granting them Qatari IDs and thus, a safe haven. Cue Ashraf Muhammad Yusuf Uthman Abd Al Salam. A Jordanian, Abd Al Salam was sanctioned for dispatching hundreds of thousands of dollars to Al Qaeda's branches in Iraq, Pakistan, and to the former Al Nusra Front, now Hayat Tahrir Al Sham, in Syria. Similarly, Jordanian Abd al Malik Muhammad Yusuf Uthman Abd Al Salam, also known as Umar Al Qatari, was arrested in Lebanon while bound for Qatar, with thousands of dollars intended for Al Qaeda in his possession. Al Qatari is also thought to have transferred tens of thousands of dollars to a leader of Al Qaeda's branch in Syria, and to have fundraised and transferred tens of thousands of euros for senior Al Qaeda officials. Through granting IDs to some of Al Qaeda's key financiers, Qatar defends Al Qaeda's infrastructure from its deepest roots, thereby emphasising its commitment to sponsoring terrorism.

Through its funding of terrorism and its harbouring of terrorists and their financial backers, Qatar has embraced its role as a sponsor of terror. While the impending World Cup is bound to impress spectators seeing Qatar for the first time, meaningful discussion regarding the nation's role in sponsoring terror must be brought to the forefront. If football is a serious subject, the prospects of international security must be even more so.

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

Afghanistan still has no relief from militancy

This is in regard to the report ISIS claims suicide bombing that killed 63 at wedding in Afghan capital.

This gruesome incident is clear proof that Afghanistan remains under the threat of terrorist groups. The high number of casualties after the attack is truly horrifying.

More must be done to bring back peace and prosperity to a once thriving land.

What will it take for the international community to take action? Attacks in Afghanistan have had a huge death toll last year and continue to cause unrest in Kabul.

This should be enough proof that an entire population is suffering and needs our help.

It is the world's responsibility to stop aggression by extremists such as ISIS and

the Taliban and at least attempt to reduce the number of civilian casualties.

The country has suffered from political instability for decades. Despite several peace initiatives, life continues to be hard for ordinary people.

In the present context, it would be difficult for the Taliban and the Afghan government to reach a peace deal.

R Nair



1989

The pleasure boat **Marchioness** sinks on the River Thames following a collision. Fifty-one people are killed.

2006

Sri Lankan Civil War: Sri Lankan Tamil politician and former MP **S. Sivamaharajah** is shot dead at his home in Tellippalai.



2007

China Airlines Flight 120 caught fire and exploded after landing at Naha Airport in Okinawa, Japan.

2008

Spanair Flight 5022, from Madrid, Spain to Gran Canaria, skids off the runway and crashes at Barajas Airport. Of the 172 people on board, 146 die immediately, and eight more later die of injuries sustained in the crash.

Climate anxiety will have a disastrous effect on teenagers

Recent studies showing populations stress about the impact of global warming should be a warning to us all



Shrinking of the Okjokull glacier in Iceland.



JUSTIN THOMAS

Whenever awoken by a thunderstorm as a child, I would become paralysed by dread. This was during the height of the Cold War and my mind would fill with thoughts of nuclear strikes and radiation.

I wasn't alone in experiencing the nuclear night terrors. In 1977 the American Psychiatric Association set up a taskforce to look specifically at the psychosocial impacts of nuclear developments on young minds.

Today, however, the spotlight shines on a new threat. The global climate emergency has replaced the threat of nuclear annihilation as the spectre of our age.

Last week, the first ever national survey of the mental health impact of climate change reported that the residents of Greenland are experiencing unprecedented levels of stress and anxiety. Although not yet recognised as a diagnosable illness, a 2017 report by the American Psychological Association, called *Mental Health and Our Changing Climate*, used the term *ecoanxiety* to describe "a chronic fear of environmental doom". This was precisely the type of anxiety reported by many of the Greenlanders in the

recent survey.

The Greenland study involved about 2 per cent of the nation's population. More than one third – a total of 38 per cent – reported feeling fearful about the changes resulting from global warming. Greenland, with its proximity to the Arctic Circle, can be considered the front line of the climate emergency. But these concerns are shared far and wide.

The World Health Organisation predicts 250,000 deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 due to the "well-understood impacts of climate change". Unfortunately, many impacts of climate change are not well understood and this is particularly true of the psychosocial consequences. For example, how does it feel to lose a glacier – to watch a vast expanse of the geological landscape disintegrate to nothing?

Up until recently, most Icelanders had no idea how it would feel to witness the final demise of a glacier. Earlier this year, however, Icelandic author Andri Magnason was asked to write the text for a plaque commemorating the first Icelandic glacier to be officially declared dead. The eulogy dedicated to the glacier named Okjokull, or Ok for short, read as follows: "Ok is the first Icelandic glacier

The World Health Organisation predicts 250,000 deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 due to the "well-understood impacts of climate change".

to lose its status as a glacier. In the next 200 years, all our glaciers are expected to follow the same path. This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it."

Along with dying glaciers, we are also witnessing an unprecedented rate of habitat loss and species extinction. The Australian philosopher Glenn Albrecht coined the term *solastalgia* to describe the mental anguish we experience when we sense our natural environment is being desecrated or otherwise damaged.

In addition to a sense of grief, changes to the environment can also challenge a person's

sense of place and identity at a fundamental level. How would the people of Al Ain feel if the spring waters dried up or how might the people of Abu Dhabi feel if one half of its name – the dhabi, or gazelle – ever became extinct?

Like *ecoanxiety*, *solastalgia* is not yet recognised as a psychiatric disorder and perhaps that is for the best. To me, *ecoanxiety* and *solastalgia* sound like natural responses to ecological loss or the threat of it. There is, however, evidence that climate change is implicated in more severe and debilitating mental health issues.

In a review of the research to date, an article published last year in the *International Journal of Mental Health Systems* suggested links between extreme weather events and a host of psychological issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse and suicidal ideation.

One of the big unanswered questions about the impact of the climate crisis, however, concerns its influence on the psychological development of young children. How will the personalities of children growing up in the shadow of such environmental uncertainty be affected?

A similar question was asked

by the American Psychiatric Association's task force, the one exploring the nuclear threat back in 1977. That particular team concluded that the fear of a nuclear holocaust was detrimental to personality development. Some adolescents, they claimed, were likely to become disillusioned and unwilling to delay gratification or make plans for the future. The researchers predicted that more young people would indulge in drug use and other escapist activities as a result. Could we be facing a similar predicament as a result of the climate crisis?

At present, though, many young people are responding to the climate emergency with lifestyle changes and vigorous demands for decisive remedial action. For example, consider the activism and inspiring work of Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg. The 16-year-old is presently making a zero-carbon transatlantic trip by yacht to attend the UN Climate Action Summit in New York next month.

Whether or not such activities can reverse current climate trends is debatable. But from a psychological perspective, perceiving oneself as being part of an attempted solution is far healthier than resignation, denial or escapism.



TOP
4
TWEETS

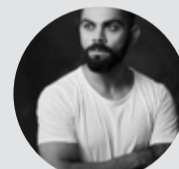
01



Reports of suffering are rare upsetting, but it's a mistake to think we can do nothing about it. Many problems we face are of our own making. Since we are social animals who need friends, the least we can do is smile and respond to others warm-heartedly—that will make a difference.

@DalaiLama

02



From starting as a teenager on the same day in 2008 to reflecting on the journey 11 years after, I couldn't have dreamt of the blessings God has showered me with. May you all get the strength and power to follow your dreams and always follow the right path. #forevergrateful

@imVkohli

03



"To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there." – #KofiAnnan often said this to me, & to the world. Today, a year after his passing, I remember my mentor, boss & friend.

@ShashiTharoor

04



Democrats want Open Borders and Crime! So dangerous for our Country. But we are building a big, beautiful, NEW Wall! I will protect America, the Dems don't know where to start!

@realDonaldTrump

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

business

Saudi outperforms on banks

- Nine of eleven Saudi banks rise
- Saudi Telecom gains on contract termination
- Al Yamamah Steel drops after reporting Q3 losses
- All but one real estate shares fall in Dubai

Reuters | Bengaluru

Saudi Arabian stocks were lifted yesterday as most of its banking shares rose amid rising oil prices, while other Middle Eastern bourses in the region were lacklustre.

Crude oil prices rose following a weekend attack on a Saudi oil facility by Yemeni Houthi forces and as traders looked for signs of progress in US-China trade negotiations.

Saudi Arabia's index rose 0.5 per cent with Al Rajhi Bank, adding 0.8pc and Saudi Telecom increasing 2.4pc.



Traders on the floor of Bahrain Bourse (file)

The telecommunication firm said it was working to terminate a TV broadcasting agreement with General Sport Authority and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, citing a lack of commercial feasibility for the

agreement.

Capping the gains was Al Yamamah Steel Industries which lost 3.4pc though it reported narrower loss for the third quarter.

Qatar's index closed 0.2pc up

extending gains in the previous session when it ended a three-day losing streak. The index has steadied after the central bank on Thursday said Qatar's economic growth would accelerate over the next two years amid

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.5pc to 8,566 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.2pc to 5,028 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.2pc at 2,791 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.2pc at 9,806 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.7pc to 14,304 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.1pc at 1,529 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.2pc to 3,868 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.5pc at 6,606 pts

expectations of stable oil prices and continued strong exports.

Among the boosts to the index were Barwa Real Estate gaining 2.7pc and Qatar Navigation rising 2.3pc.

In Abu Dhabi, the index fell for the second consecutive day to close 0.2pc down as First Abu Dhabi Bank declined 0.4pc and Emirates Telecommunications Group lost 0.5pc

Dubai's index reversed course to close 0.2pc down as Emaar Properties < EMAR.DU > and its unit Emaar Malls dropped 0.8pc and 2.1pc respectively.

In Egypt, the blue-chip index fell 0.7pc with Commercial International Bank losing 0.5pc.

BCCI to hold workshop on SASO standards

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) said it will hold an awareness-raising workshop on the requirements of the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organisation (SASO).

This came as BCCI officials met with merchants in Dragon City to discuss challenges regarding exporting their goods to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and obtaining (SASO) certificate of conformity.

The commercial markets committee and the transportation and logistics committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), officials from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism and a number of Dragon City merchants were present.

In this regard, BCCI pledged all efforts to empower the private sector and reinforce its vitality and contribution to the national economy.

The meeting also commended the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism on consolidating efforts with the Chamber in its endeavour, in the manifestation of successful public-private partnership.

Further, the ministry's official reinstated its commitment to working closely with the private sector represented by BCCI.

BisB honours fastest online finance top-up customer



Manal Abdulla, the fastest Top-Up customer in the bank being honoured

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has honoured Manal Abdulla, the fastest Top-Up customer in the bank, who took only 1 minute and 44 seconds to top up her finance online on the BisB Mobile App without

visiting the branch.

BisB said has launched a 4 minutes Online Personal Finance Top-Up solution in line with the Bank's mandate to simplify customers' money matters.

Retail General Manager of BisB, Dalal AlQais stated: "We invite our current customers to

try this new service which can go a long way in simplifying all their transactions."

The Online Finance Top-Up service on BisB Digital App instantaneously calculates the extra financing the bank can provide to customers based on their income and monthly financial commitments.

US gives Huawei 90 day reprieve on ban: Ross

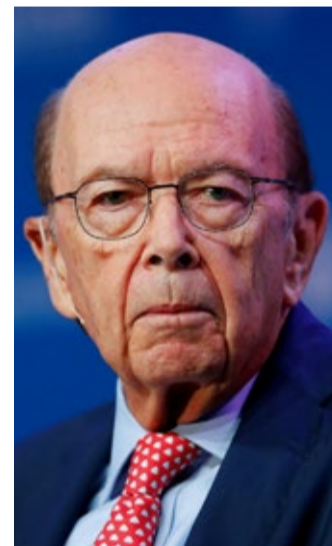
Washington, United States

The United States gave Huawei a 90-day reprieve yesterday on a ban against buying US technology, but added nearly four dozen subsidiaries of the Chinese telecoms giant to the prohibition.

"As we continue to urge consumers to transition away from Huawei's products, we recognize that more time is necessary to prevent any disruption," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement.

The ban is part of a sweeping effort by President Donald Trump's administration to restrict Huawei, which officials claim has links to Chinese intelligence that makes it a security threat.

Ross announced that another 46 Huawei affiliates are being added to the list of banned companies, meaning over 100 are now subject to the restric-



Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross

tions.

But the Commerce Department has extended a temporary license for US companies to work with the Chinese firm and its subsidiaries for another 90 days.

"We are giving them more time to wean themselves off," Ross said on Fox Business Network, noting that the new deadline for implementing the ban is November 19.

"Technically Huawei says they're privately-owned company, but under Chinese law, even private companies are required to cooperate with the military and with the Chinese intelligence agencies and they're also required not to disclose that they are doing so," Ross said.

Trump on Sunday repeated that "we don't want to do business with Huawei for national security reasons."



Huawei is the number two global smartphone vendor and is considered the world leader in fast fifth-generation or 5G equipment, but is hampered by lack of access to key hardware and software, including smartphone chips

Bank of England chief pulls out of Chinese event

London, United Kingdom

Bank of England governor Mark Carney has withdrawn from a high-profile business event with China's ambassador to London, sources said yesterday, as pro-democracy protests continue in Hong Kong.

Carney had been due to speak at the dinner, aimed at boosting Chinese business links, which is scheduled for September 3 at the Guildhall, the administrative centre of the City of London financial district.

However he will not now attend because of "diary issues", a source close to the matter said.

Some local politicians are reportedly unhappy at the timing of the event, as Hong Kong police continue to clash with democracy activists.

"The City must use this event to remind China of its responsibilities on human rights, democracy and free speech in Hong Kong," City Councillor Richard Crossan told Monday's edition of London's free daily financial newspaper City AM.

US economists expect recession in 2020 or 2021

Washington, United States

A majority of economists expect a US recession in the next two years, but have pushed back the onset amid Federal Reserve actions, according to a survey released yesterday.

The survey came out after President Donald Trump pushed back against talk of a looming recession as a raft of US data reports last week showed a mixed picture on the economy.

"I'm prepared for everything. I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich," Trump told reporters Sunday.

"I gave a tremendous tax cut, and they're loaded up with money. They're buying. I saw the Wal-Mart numbers, they were through the roof," he said.

"And most economists actually say that we're not going to have a recession. But the rest of the world is not doing well like we're doing."

His chief economic advisor Larry Kudlow also downplayed talk of a recession.

"I sure don't see a recession," he told NBC's Meet the Press.

"Consumers are working at higher wages. They are spending at a rapid pace. They're actually saving also while they're spending... So I think actually the second half, the economy's going to be very good in 2019," he said.

"We're doing pretty darn well in my judgment. Let's not be afraid of optimism."

The National Association for Business Economists (NABE) found far fewer experts now think the next recession will start

this year compared to a survey in February.

NABE conducted its policy poll as Trump put the Fed under constant attack, demanding more stimulus, but before the central bank cut the benchmark lending rate on July 31.

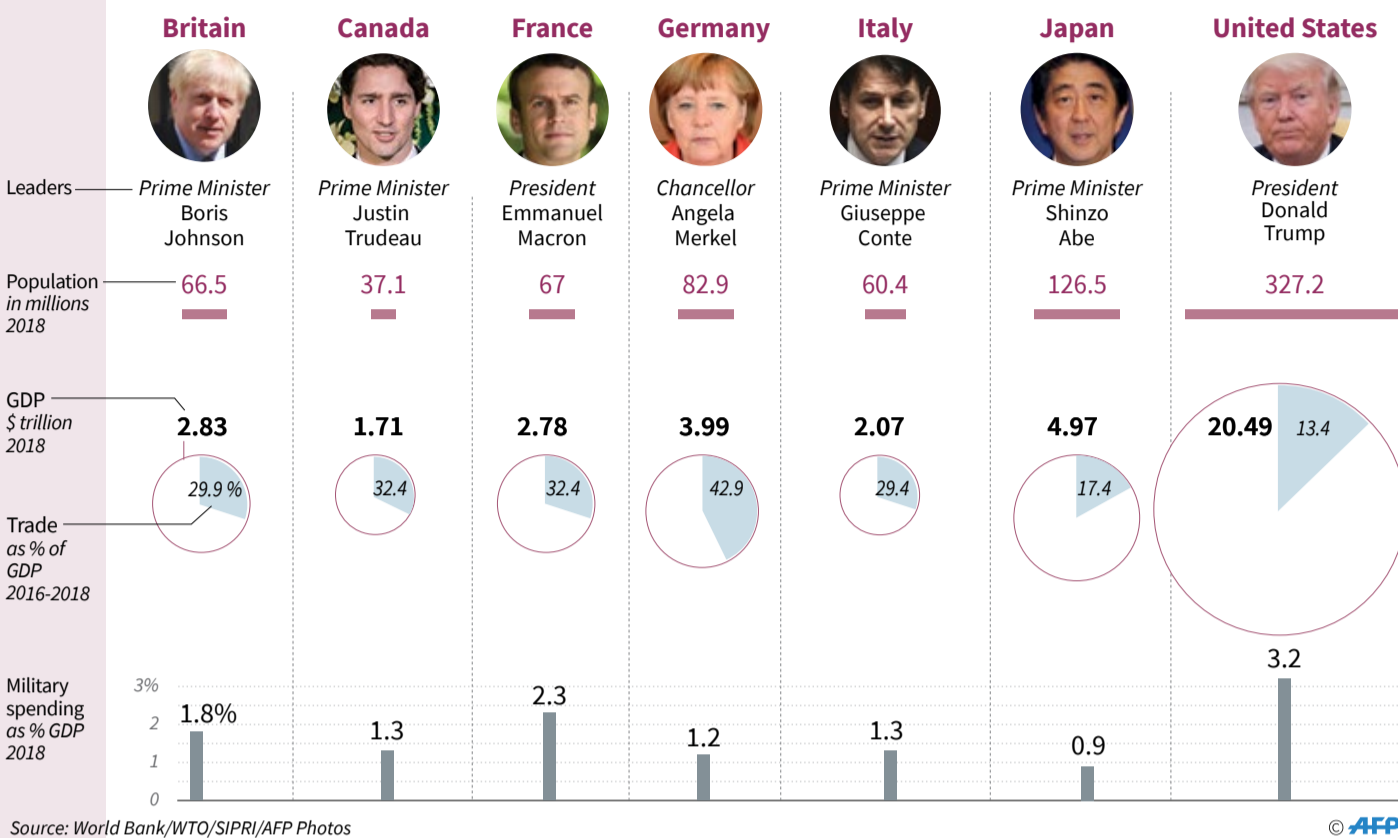
However, the Fed was already sending strong signals that it intended to pull back on the rate increases made in 2018 due to concerns starting to dog the economic outlook, including the trade war with China.

"I'm prepared for everything. I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich"

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



G7 nations



Trade war skepticism

"Survey respondents indicate that the expansion will be extended by the shift in monetary policy," said NABE president Constance Hunter, who is chief economist at KPMG.

Only two percent of the 226 respondents now see a recession

this year, compared to 10 percent in February's survey, NABE said.

However, "the panel is split regarding whether the downturn will hit in 2020 or 2021," Hunter said in a summary of the survey, which showed 38 percent expect a contraction of growth next year, while 34 percent don't see it until the following year.

More economists shifted their recession prediction to 2021, narrowing the gap from the prior report, which had many more expecting the change next year.

The results show 46 percent expect at least one more rate cut this year from the Fed, while

about a third see policy holding where it is now, with 2.25 percent as the top end of the policy range.

Economists are skeptical about a resolution to Trump's trade wars, although 64 percent said a "superficial agreement is possible," NABE said.

But that was before Trump announced another round of tariffs of 10 percent on the remaining \$300 billion in goods not yet hit by US punitive duties. The new measures will take effect in two stages, on September 1 and December 15.

As Trump continues his vocal campaign criticizing the Fed, the

NABE survey found economists are concerned about the impact: 55 percent said his remarks do not influence Fed decisions but do "compromise the public's trust in the central bank."

And over a quarter of respondents said the criticism will "cause the Fed to be more dovish than otherwise, thus threatening its independence."

The survey also asked about fiscal policy, and a majority of economists said Trump's tax cuts "had an overall negative impact on housing activity over the past 18 months," due to changes in deductions allowed for mortgage interest.

China plans to make Shenzhen a 'better place' than Hong Kong

● Policy document included goals such as transforming Shenzhen's "economic strength and development quality" into one of the best in the world by 2025

Beijing, China

China's government has unveiled plans to boost the mainland city of Shenzhen and make it into what state media called a "better place"

than neighbouring Hong Kong, following another huge pro-democracy rally in the semi-autonomous financial hub.

Weeks of rallies, demonstrations, and occupations have plunged Hong Kong into crisis -- which Beijing is now framing as an opportunity for Shenzhen's development.

Yesterday, state-run media outlined a set of guidelines released by the central Chinese government that aims to turn Shenzhen into a pilot area of "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

Without giving much in the way of specific details, the policy document included goals such as transforming Shenzhen's "economic strength and development quality" into

one of the best in the world by 2025.

It also outlined an intention to build greater integration with Hong Kong and Macau.

By 2035, the southern Chinese city will "lead the world" in overall economic competitiveness, the document said.

But Hong Kong is at risk of falling behind, hinted the nationalist state-run Global Times, citing experts.

"If Hong Kong is still not ready to embrace opportunities to join the country's development... the city's development would be 'very limited in the future while Shenzhen is running at a much faster speed'," said Tian Feilong, a professor at Beihang University, speaking to the Global Times.

Shenzhen's gross domestic product (GDP) was behind that of Hong Kong in 2018, according to end-of-year exchange rates, but grew at a fast 7.6 percent clip year-on-

year to 2.4 trillion yuan (\$352 billion).

Hong Kong's economy clocked in at 2.8 trillion Hong Kong dollars (\$363 billion) in 2018 but at a slower 3 percent growth rate.

Shenzhen's Composite Index, which tracks stocks on China's second exchange, closed up more than 3 percent Monday.

'Cohesiveness of Hong Kong'

Published on Sunday, the timing of the policy document coincided with the eleventh week of demonstrations in Hong Kong -- the biggest challenge to China's rule of the semi-autonomous city since its 1997 handover from Britain.

Initially triggered by opposition to a planned extradition law, the protests have evolved into a wider movement for democratic reforms.

The former British colony of Hong Kong operates under a "one country, two systems" framework, which gives citizens rights unseen on the

mainland, such as freedom of speech.

Across the border, Shenzhen sits behind the country's "Great Firewall", which restricts access to news and information, but has risen to become a symbol of the transformative reforms China launched 40 years ago.

The policy document said that individuals who are from Hong Kong and Macau but work and live in Shenzhen would be treated as residents.

The guidelines also support creating a "more open and convenient" entry and exit system at its borders, and allowing foreign permanent residents to launch science and technology enterprises -- potentially trying to encroach on Hong Kong's territory as an easy place for international businesses to be based.

After it was given Special Economic Zone status, Shenzhen transformed from a sleepy fishing village to a technological juggernaut.

The city is already a key part of Beijing's "Greater Bay Area" policy, which plans greater integration between Hong Kong, Macau and mainland Guangdong province, where Shenzhen sits.

However, experts expressed doubt on how easy integration would be.

"Because of the ongoing political crisis, China is increasing inspections at the border between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and that undermines this grand integration projection," said Ben Bland, director of the Southeast Asia project at the Lowy Institute.

According to Sunday's policy document, Beijing is keen to pull the three regions even closer -- "enriching" the practice of one country, two systems and "continuously enhancing the sense of identity and cohesiveness of Hong Kong and Macao compatriots" via cross-border cultural activities.

Stock markets rally on fresh trade talk hopes

London, United Kingdom

Stock markets rallied yesterday after US President Donald Trump's top economic adviser hailed "positive" trade talks with Chinese negotiators.

"As the new week kicks off, stocks are in demand amid increased optimism over US and China reaching a trade deal and as investors anticipate stimulus measures to shore up slowing economies," noted Fiona Cincotta, analyst at City Index trading group.

"After a disastrous previous week which saw equities experience the worst week this year, risk appetite was showing strong signs of improving."

Washington and Beijing are working to revive pivotal talks aimed at ending a trade war that has roiled world markets, Trump's chief economic advisor Larry Kudlow said Sunday.

'Talking!'

The US president himself weighed in on Twitter, saying, "We are doing very well with China, and talking!"

In another tweet, he added that the US economy was "poised for big growth after trade deals are completed," and that China is "eating Tariffs."

There remains a high level



Traders work after the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

of concern however about the global outlook and particularly the US economy after the yield on 10-year US Treasury bonds last week slid below that of the two-year note, while the 30-year yield fell below two per cent for the first time ever.

This so-called "inversion" -- when short-term interest rates

are higher than longer-term ones -- is viewed as a harbinger of recession.

A majority of economists expect a US recession in the next two years, but have pushed back the onset, according to a survey Monday from the National Association for Business Economists.

'Pleasant start'

The German economy could meanwhile enter a recession in the third quarter because of a "sharp" decline in industrial production held back by international trade tensions, the Bundesbank warned Monday.

"The economy could contract

Key figures around 1540 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 1.0 pc at 7,189.65 points (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 1.3 pc at 11,715.37 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 1.3 pc at 5,371.56 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 1.2 pc at 3,369.19
New York - Dow:	▲ 1.1 pc to 25,161.88
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.7 pc at 20,563.16 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 2.2 pc at 26,291.84 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 2.1 pc at 2,883.10 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1093 from \$1.1089 Friday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2136 from \$1.2149
Euro/pound:	▲ at 91.41 pence from 91.25 pence
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 106.55 yen from 106.36 yen
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ 69 cents at \$59.33 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 82 cents at \$55.63 per barrel

again slightly," Germany's central bank said in its monthly report, following a 0.1-pc decline in gross domestic product in the second quarter.

According to Germany's Der Spiegel newspaper, Angela Merkel's government is ready to boost public spending.

China has meanwhile announced an interest rate reform that it said would lower borrowing costs for companies.

"The week is off to a pleasant start, with traders seemingly buoyed by Chinese lending rate

reforms and the prospect of German fiscal stimulus," said Oanda analyst Craig Erlam.

In foreign exchange, the pound dropped on reports the UK government expects that a no-deal Brexit on October 31 could cause serious food, fuel and medicine shortages.

The government's leaked readiness report found British businesses remain largely unprepared for no-deal -- despite a Bank of England survey in March finding around 80 pc judged themselves ready.

UK to end EU free movement immediately after Brexit

● Freedom of movement as it currently stands will end on October 31

● Around 3.6 million EU citizens already in Britain have been told to apply for "permanent settled status"

● So far only around one million have signed up for the status.

London, United Kingdom

Britain said yesterday it will immediately end freedom of movement for people from the European Union after Brexit on October 31, in a policy shift under Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"Freedom of movement as it currently stands will end on October 31 when the UK leaves the EU," a Downing Street spokeswoman said.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

She added the government planned "tougher criminality rules for people entering the UK" as part of the new hardline stance.

"Details of other changes immediately on October 31 for a new immigration system are currently being developed," the

spokeswoman said.

The change comes amid growing fears Britain is set to leave the 28-member bloc without a divorce deal in two and a half months.

Around 3.6 million EU citizens already in Britain have been told to apply for "permanent settled

status", under an interior ministry scheme started by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May.

So far only around one million have signed up for the status.

May's government said in January that it would end free movement "as soon as possible" after a no-deal Brexit, but keep allowing EU arrivals "for a transitional period only".

Legislation drawn up to deal with the issue is stuck in parliament in the House of Commons gridlock over Brexit.

Johnson has said he favours a skills-based immigration system post-Brexit, but Downing Street is yet to unveil full details.

Critics representing EU citizens claim he is trying to evade parliamentary scrutiny of his changed stance towards new arrivals after Brexit -- and fear those already in Britain could get mistakenly caught out.

"Ending freedom of movement abruptly on Oct 31st will lead to mass discrimination against potentially over 2 million EU citizens," the 3million lobby group said on Twitter, calling the move "reckless".

Germany warns of possible recession, mulls stimulus

● "The economy could contract again slightly" this summer, Germany's central bank said in its monthly report

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

The German economy could enter a recession in the third quarter, the Bundesbank warned yesterday, as the debate on government measures to support the economy swelled in Berlin.

"The economy could contract again slightly" this summer, Germany's central bank said in its monthly report, following a 0.1-percent decline in gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter.

"According to data currently available, industrial production is expected to shrink markedly in the current quarter as well."

Having seen a decline in trade against the backdrop of the US-China trade war, two of its main customers, Europe's biggest economy will enter what it technically defines as a recession should GDP shrink further.

Alarmist signals are reviving the political debate between those who support the German government's dogma of balanced budgets and those seeking more flexibility in order to revive the economy.

Germany can afford it on paper after five consecutive years of budget surpluses and interest rates for long-term loans that are extremely attractive to the federal government.

As US-China tensions intensify, economists have urged Berlin to fork out cash to avoid a recession, but Chancellor Angela Merkel's government has previously said things



German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz

were not yet bad enough to warrant loosening the purse strings.

Balanced budget

Citing anonymous sources, Der Spiegel news magazine said Friday that the government "had no intention of continuing to set aside money in the event of a recession".

That would mean abandoning the so-called "black zero" doctrine committing the German state to a balanced budget.

On Sunday, German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz hinted at a potential intervention, stating that Germany could "fully face up to" a new economic crisis.

"It is sometimes important, when things change completely, for example, for us to have enough strength to react," he said during an open house day at government offices.

"If we have debt in Germany that is less than 60 percent of our GDP, that is the strength we need to stand up to a crisis," he added.

Scholz pointed to the estimated 50 billion euros (\$55 billion) that the 2008-09 financial crisis had cost the German government.

"We have to be able to muster that and we can muster that -- that's the good news."

Japan's trade surplus with US soars

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States grew more than 15 per cent in July, data showed yesterday, as negotiators from the two economic powerhouses prepare to restart talks over a free trade deal.

According to Japanese finance ministry statistics, the trade surplus with Washington climbed to 579.4 billion yen (\$5.5 billion) last month, a 15.6-percent year-on-year gain and the fifth consecutive monthly rise.

Japanese imports from the US rose 3.5 percent, led by aircraft and crude oil, but this was outweighed by an 8.4-percent climb in exports driven by chip-making equipment and construction machinery, the ministry data showed.

Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe enjoy close ties but the bullish US president has frequently claimed that Tokyo has an advantage in bilateral trade and has called for a "more fair" relationship.

On a visit to Japan in May,



Japan's trade deficit with China -- the 16th consecutive monthly deficit -- stood at 383.8 billion yen. With the European Union, Japan booked a trade deficit of 67.9 billion yen

Trump said he was expecting to announce "some things" on trade negotiations in August, but no firm deadline has been set yet for an agreement.

The two main trade negotiators, Japan's Economy Minister Toshiyuki Motegi and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer are slated to meet in Washington on Wednesday and Thursday.

The data showed that Japan had an overall trade deficit of 249.6 billion yen last month, a 9.8-percent increase year-on-year.

SHOW



ALADDIN (PG)(ADVENTURE)
 CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

WELAD RIZK 2 (15+)(ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 AHMAD EIZZ, AMR YOUSIF,

HELLO, LOVE, GOODBYE (PG-15)(FILIPINO/DRAMA)
 OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
 KATHRYN BERNARDO, ALDEN RICHARDS, MAYMAY ENTRATA

TOY STORY 4 (G)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM
 TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK

SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK (15+)(HORROR)
 CITY CENTRE: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM
 ZOE MARGARET COLLETTI, MICHAEL GARZA, GABRIEL RUSH

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15)(ACTION)
 CITY CENTRE: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM
 TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA



ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD (18+)(DRAMA/COMEDY)
 OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM.
 CITY CENTRE : 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM.
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX2D): 12.45 + 6.45 + (12.45 MN. THURS./FRI.)
 CITY CENTRE VIP (I): 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM.
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
 SAAR: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM
 LEONARDO DICAPRIO, BRAD PITT, MARGOT ROBBIE

DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD (PG)(ADVENTURE/)
 OASIS JUFFAIR 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.15 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 3.15 + 8.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 SEEF (II): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
 SAAR: 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
 ISABELA MONER, Q'ORIANKA KILCHER, BENICIO DEL TORO

MISSION MANGAL (PG-13)(HINDI/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)
 OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SAAR: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 AKSHAY KUMAR, VIDYA BALAN, ANIRBAN BHATTACHARYYA

BATLA HOUSE (15+)(HINDI/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)
 OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.15 + 5.45 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
 JOHN ABRAHAM, MRUNAL THAKUR, NORA FATEHI

MASTER Z: IP MAN LEGACY (PG-15)(ACTION/CRIME)
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM
 JIN ZHANG, DAVE BAUTISTA, MICHELLE YEOH

THE CURRENT WAR (PG-15)(DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)
 SEEF (II): 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
 BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH, TOM HOLLAND, NICHOLAS HOULT

T-34 (PG-15)(ACTION/WAR/DRAMA)
 SEEF (II): 11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 + 12.00 MN
 ALEXANDER PETROV, VINZENZ KIEFER, VICTOR DOBRONRAVOV

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM NARRATIVE (PG-13)(ANIMATION/)
 Japanese (Arabic & English subtitle)
 SEEF (II): 1.30 + 5.45 + 10.00 PM
 J. DAVID BRIMMER, DANIEL J. EDWARDS, ERIKA ISHII

FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW (PG-15)(ACTION)
 OASIS JUFFAIR :12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + (12.45 MN THUS./FRI.)
 CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX2D): 4.00 + 10.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE VIP (II): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM.
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SAAR: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM
 DWAYNE JOHNSON, JASON STATHAM, IDRIS ELBA

THE LION KING (PG)(ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
 OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR : 1.00 + 8.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS./FRI.)
 SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM
 SAAR: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM
 DONALD GLOVER, SETH ROGEN, CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2 (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE)
 OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM

CRAWL (18+)(THRILLER/HORROR)
 CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM
 KAYA SCODELARIO, BARRY PEPPER, ROSS ANDERSON

MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15)(ARABIC/COMEDY)
 CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
 MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHAMED THARWAT



CHAL MERA PUTT (PG-15) (PUNJABI)
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.
 HAQI ALI, SIMI CHAHAL, AMRINDER GILL

THANNEER MATHAN DINANGAL (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)
 OASIS JUFFAIR :12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 VINEETH SREENIVASAN, IRSHAD, MATHEW THOMAS

AMBILI (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
 OASIS JUFFAIR :11.30 AM + 5.15 + 11.00 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
 AL HAMRA : 6.00 + (12.00 MN. THURS./FRI.)
 SOUBIN SAHIR, NAVEEN NAZIM, TANVI RAM

COMALI (PG-13) (TAMIL)
 OASIS JUFFAIR :12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 AL HAMRA : 9.00 PM
 JAYAM RAVI, KAJAL AGGARWAL, SAMYUKTHA HEGDE

RAKSHASUDU (PG-15) (TELUGU)
 AL HAMRA : 12.00 NOON
 SAI SRINIVAS BALLAMKONDA, ANUPAMA PAREMESHWARAN

KOLAIYUTHIR KAALAM (PG-15) (TAMIL)
 AL HAMRA: 3.00 PM
 NAYANTHARA, LEE NICHOLAS HARRIS, RO ASHIKA
 NERKONDA PAARVAI (PG-15)

OASIS JUFFAIR : 2.15 + 8.00 PM
 VIDYA BALAN, AJITH KUMAR, SHRADDHA SRINATH

JABARIYA JODI (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC)
 OASIS JUFFAIR : 3.00 + 8.30 PM
 SIDHARTH MALHOTRA, PARINEETI CHOPRA, APARSHAKTI KHURANA

MOVIE REVIEW

The Wandering Earth: planetary disaster goes global

Chinese commercial cinema reaches a significant landmark with its first-ever sci-fi megahit

● China's first big-budget science fiction epic is often familiar, but it does spectacle on an impressive scale

The Wandering Earth is a 2019 Chinese science fiction film directed by Frant Gwo, loosely based on the 2000 novella of the same name by multi-award-winning author Liu Cixin. It stars Qu Chuxiao, Li Guangjie, Ng Man-tat, Zhao Jin-mai, Wu Jing and Qu Jingjing. Set in the far future, The Wandering Earth follows a group of astronauts and rescue workers guiding the Earth away from an expanding Sun, while attempting to prevent a collision with Jupiter. The film was theatrically released in China on 5 February 2019 (Chinese New Year's Day), China Film Group Corporation, followed by North America and Australia on 8 February 2019.

The film received a generally positive reception in China.



Wu Jing as astronaut Liu Peichiang in 'The Wandering Earth'

Several state-run media publications have given the film a positive review.

Specifically, Zhong Sheng, in the People's Daily, writes that the film is "not superheroes

saving the world but mankind changing their destiny together."

On Douban, during the initial

release, the movie had a 8.5 rating; then suddenly fell to 7.9 as of the early morning of February 23 in China. It was reported some reviewers were offered money for posting negative reviews on the rating platform. Douban banned nearly 50 users for violating guidelines and thousands of comments were removed.

The rating finally stabilized at 7.9. Some commenters, specifically on Douban, who give



In China, 'The Wandering Earth' has generated \$700 million at the box office. But Netflix quietly added the hit, which could mark a new era in sci-fi films

the film negative reviews were accused to be in bad faith or trolling, but the accusations are disputed.

Tasha Robinson of The Verge describes the film as "rich, gorgeous, and goofy".

Travis Johnson, of Flicks.com.au gave the film four out of five stars and, whilst criticizing the film for its lack of character development, praised the visuals and called it the best science fiction film of 2019.

Ben Kenigsberg in The New York Times wrote that the film is "as awash in murky computer imagery, stupefying exposition and manipulative sentimentality as the average Hollywood tentpole", but that it proved that the Chinese film industry "can hold its own at the multiplex."

Simon Abrams of RogerEbert.com gave the film three and a half stars out of the four, saying that the experience was "visually dynamic, emotionally engaging."

In the United States the reviewer aggregate site Metacritic gave an overall Metascore of 57 signifying mixed to average reviews based on eight critics.

celebs



Paris Hilton

Kim Kardashian admits she would do anything for Paris Hilton
Los Angeles

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian West has always been there for the people who support her, especially for her close friends. Proving the same, she was spotted helping her longtime friend Paris Hilton, in shooting for her music video, reported People.

"I'm gonna go and be in this music video with Paris for one of her new songs," Kim told Sister Khloe Kardashian in the 17th season of 'Keeping up with the Kardashians'. Khloe, who looked amazed with the news noted that "it's so nice that you're doing that for her" given Kim's 2019 Met Gala preparations and the arrival of her new son, Psalm West, coming forward.

"I really would want to do anything for her; she literally gave me a career. And I like totally acknowledge that," the Beauty mogul said.



Kim Kardashian



Lauren Hashian and Dwayne Johnson

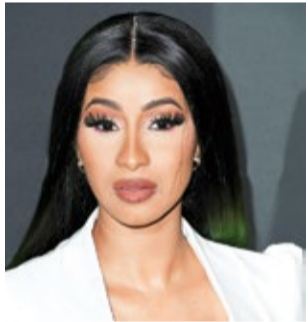
Dwayne Johnson marries longtime girlfriend Lauren Hashian
Los Angeles

Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson has tied the knot with his partner of over 10 years, Lauren Hashian. The duo tied the knot in Hawaii on August 18, Monday, and Johnson shared the news on Instagram. "We Do," he captioned the pictures from their special day.

Johnson, 47, and Hashian, 34, have two children together: Jasmine Lia, three, and Tiana Gia, one.

The pair met back in 2006 when Johnson was filming "The Game Plan". He started dating Hashian after his split from his first wife, Dany Garcia, in 2007.

Cardi B's daughter gives side-eye to mom
Los Angeles



Cardi B

Los Angeles

Cardi B and Offset's daughter seems to be as sassy as her mother and the proof is an adorable yet funny video that the rapper shared on her Instagram.

In the clip, 13-month old Kulture Kiarri Cephus can be seen giving her mother the side-eye or stink-eye during an outing in a clothing store.

In the same video, the 26-year-old singer also documented her own faux shocked reaction and captioned the video with a peeved look and rolling eyes emojis.

However, the 'I like it' singer later deleted the video, after it went viral.

This isn't the first time that Cardi B shared a distinct clip of her firstborn on social media.

In July, she posted footage of Kulture dancing along with a few kids on 'Baby Shark.'

"My baby is naturally hype, slick and funny and ok yea a little attitude too but I'm putting that part on her dad part," she wrote alongside.

According to E-News, earlier this month, Cardi B and Offset threw Kulture an overwhelming 1st birthday party in New York City.



Millie Bobby Brown

Harry Styles and Millie Bobby Brown spotted shaking a leg at Ariana Grande concert
Los Angeles

Los Angeles

Former 'One Direction' bandmate Harry Styles and American actor Millie Bobby Brown were spotted showing off their perfect dance moves during Ariana Grande's concert at the O2 Arena in London on Saturday night.

The two stars were spotted by fans while shaking a leg at Grande's first London show on the Sweetener tour.

"HARRY STYLES IS LITERALLY 5 METRES AWAY FROM ME," a Twitter user wrote while sharing pictures and videos of both Styles and Brown chatting and dancing at the concert.

While Grande performed her hit track 'Dangerous Woman,' Styles and Brown started dancing with each other.



Harry Styles

"Enjoy this video of Harry Styles and Millie Bobby Brown dancing," the same Twitter user shared. In another video, the pair could be seen speaking to one another during a different song.

Style's outing comes just days after it was reported that he denied the role of Prince Eric in Disney's live-action remake of 'The Little Mermaid,' despite being in talks for over a month.

"While he is a fan of the project, he has respectfully declined the offer," a source close to the film told PEOPLE last week.

Disney has further restrained itself from commenting on who is being considered to play the handsome prince.



Ariana Grande

Kate Micucci to star in 'Supergirl' S5 premiere
Los Angeles

Los Angeles

Kate Micucci will feature in the fifth season premiere of "Supergirl". According to TVLine, the actor will have a cameo as a museum employee in the episode, airing October 6.

Executive producer Jessica Queller said the team is excited to have Micucci on board.

"She's amazing and so sparkly and hysterical," Queller said.

Julie Gonzalo of "Veronica Mars" fame and "Game of Thrones" actor Staz Nair are also joining the show as series regulars.

Jennifer Cheon Garcia ("Van Helsing") has a guest-starring role in the premiere.



Kate Micucci

Nikki Bella gushes over Artem Chigvintsev as they start dating
Los Angeles

Los Angeles

Nikki Bella after dating John Cena is now thanking the "Universe" for giving Artem Chigvintsev in her life.

In a recent photo that the 'Total Bella' star posted on Instagram, she and her now-boyfriend Chigvintsev can be seen totally in love.

"Today is a new beginning for both Artem Chigvintsev and I. As I start a new amazing journey with Total Bellas and my life, my Artem Chigvintsev is starting the same," the retired WWE star began her heartfelt post.

"And I am so excited for him to be on this journey with me. I'm thankful for him to showcase his life, love, ups, and downs not only for me but for my Bella Army and my Total Bellas viewers," she added.

The 37-year-old professional dancer who is now expected to make more and more TV appearances with the 35-year-old reality TV personality further continued saying that, "sometimes we have a door shut and we don't understand why, but honestly there is always a reason. I have been through that. And not through that just as a break-up but through that professionally and personally. And when those other doors open they open SO big! Believe in God, the Universe, our Angels and so much greater beyond what we can see."

Nikki Bella and Artem Chigvintsev



'The Morning Show' trailer: Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon's newsroom battle will leave you intrigued!
Los Angeles

Los Angeles

The trailer of 'The Morning Show', featuring Oscar-winning actor Reese Witherspoon, and Emmy Award winners Jennifer Aniston and Steve Carell, is finally here.

Apple released the trailer of the show, which will appear on the tech giant's Apple TV+, the new streaming platform from the makers of iPhone. Apple TV shared the intriguing trailer on its official YouTube handle.

The recently released trailer has it all from Aniston and Witherspoon's facing off to Carell's breakdown.

In the trailer, Aniston's character declares it's going to be a "new era" at the morning talk show. An anchor on the show-within-the-show, she addresses her audience alone at the news desk, bringing them "sad and upsetting news" about her co-host, played by Carell, who she says was fired after allegations were made against him.



Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon

SPORTS

Riffa Sports' partnership with KHK MMA off to winning start

Riffa Sports Club ease past Ittihad Tanger in Arab Champions Cup

TDT | Manama

Riffa Sports Club made an instant impact in Arab football with an excellent away victory.

It was the first match held under the new partnership with KHK MMA, which is set to empower the biggest team in the Kingdom of Bahrain nationally and internationally.

The match against Ittihad Tanger was held away in Tanger, Morocco, and ended with a 2-0 score in favour of Bahrain's national champions.

The match was held in the preliminary round of the King Mohammed VI Champions Cup and means Riffa is leading its group, alongside Al-Zawraa of Iraq, which beat Somalia's Horseed in the first round.

The Bahraini Premier League winners need to top their group to progress to the next phase of the tournament, which will put together the best of the best in the Arab World.

Both goals of the match were scored in the second half, as Riffa captain and leader Ko-



Riffa Sports Club players celebrate after a goal

mail Hasan Alaswad scored the first goal of the season, getting a great rebound after a penalty save.

The second goal was a work of art, as Hashim Isa Radhi lost its

marker and flicked the ball with his heel towards the net, after a great cross.

Riffa SC will once again represent the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Champions Cup when fac-

ing Horseed, from Somalia, also in Morocco, as the KHK MMA supported team looks to get two victories out of two games. The game will take place on August 21, at 8 PM (Bahrain time).

Concussion substitute stars as Australia draw second Test



Australia's Marnus Labuschagne reacts as the ball, bowled by England's Jofra Archer (unseen) hits him on the helmet

AFP | London

Marnus Labuschagne made history as international cricket's first concussion substitute before his valuable fifty helped Australia draw the second Ashes Test against England at Lord's on Sunday.

Labuschagne was not confirmed as playing until Sunday morning when Australia star Steve Smith was ruled out with concussion, having been hit by a Jofra Archer bouncer during his 92 on Saturday.

Previously, a substitute would only have been permitted to field.

But this series is the first in the ICC's inaugural World Test Championship featuring new rules that allow replacement players to bat or bowl if they are covering for concussed team-mates.

Labuschagne, in just his sixth Test, responded to his late call-up by top-scoring with 59, having been hit on the grille of his helmet second ball by a 91.6 mph Archer bouncer, in Australia's eventual second-innings 154-6.

"Marnus played superbly," said Australia captain Tim Paine. "He got hit hard in the face second ball and I thought he showed great character, great skill and technique."

England pressed hard late on to level the series at 1-1 after captain Joe Root declared to set Australia a stiff target of 267 in 48 overs following Ben Stokes's 115 not out.

It seemed the match was destined for a draw, with Australia 132-3 after tea in a Test where five sessions were washed out and rain also delayed Sunday's start by over an hour.

Brazil's Dani Alves scores winner on Sao Paulo debut

AFP | Sao Paulo, Brazil

Brazil veteran Dani Alves scored the winning goal on his debut for Sao Paulo on Sunday, weeks after signing a three-year deal with the club.

Alves, 36, found the back of the net in the 40th minute to score the only goal of the game against Ceara.

Alves and Spanish international Juanfran, 34, are the stars for Sao Paulo, who snapped up both players after their contracts with European clubs expired.

Alves' return to Brazil after 17 years playing for top clubs in Europe has had a big impact on his home country.

The right-back played for Sevilla before going on to play for Barcelona, Juventus and PSG, collecting nine national league titles along the way -- six in Spain, one in Italy and two in France.

He has collected 40 trophies in all with club and country including three Champions League titles with Barcelona and two UEFA Cups with Sevilla.

He has also won two Copa Americas with Brazil, most recently in July when he was named player of the tournament as he captained them to victory over Peru in the final at the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro.

Keys locks up WTA Cincy title

Madison Keys claims career's fifth title with victory over Svetlana Kuznetsova in final

AFP | Cincinnati

Madison Keys came from a break down in both sets to defeat Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) on Sunday to win the WTA Cincinnati crown.

The 2017 US Open finalist notched her fifth career title and second this season after a win in Charleston in April.

She'll return to the top 10 in the world rankings with the US Open a week away.

Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam champion working her way back up the rankings after a series of injuries, was broken back in the 10th game of each set by 16th-seeded Keys -- who fired 13 aces on the way to victory.

"If my team had told me a week ago that I would be here, I would have laughed in their face," admitted Keys, who had endured two opening-match defeats since a second-round exit at Wimbledon.

Keys belted a total of 43 winners with 33 unforced errors and broke Kuznetsova three times.

Kuznetsova was the fourth Grand Slam winner Keys beat during the week, a string that included Spain's Garbine Muguruza, reigning Wimbledon champion Simona Halep and



Madison Keys poses with trophy after defeating Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia

Venus Williams.

"It was a tough draw from the very start," Keys said. "I definitely think I played some of my best tennis consistently this week.

"I'm obviously really happy and really proud of myself," she added, while stressing she won't let the performance put more pressure on her at the US Open. "It's definitely more of a building block," she said.

Despite leading both sets, Kuznetsova never had a set point in either, Keys winning the final four games of the first set before dropping her serve

in the third game of the second.

Keys broke Kuznetsova to level at 5-all and ran out the winner in the ensuing tiebreaker as the Russian sent a service return long on Keys's second match point.

"I just really focused in on obviously really important games and was able to make her play a lot of balls," Keys said.

"I think when I was doing a good job at moving forward and kind of trying to neutralize some of her deep, heavy, spinny shots, I was able to get out in front in the point and play a little bit more offense."



Madison Keys jumped eight spots in the WTA rankings and is now at the 10th place

Former world number two Kuznetsova, who received a wildcard into the draw, beat top seed Ashleigh Barty, world number three Ashleigh Barty and 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens on her way to the final.

"I had a lot of matches where they could have gone either way, including this one," said Kuznetsova, who will jump from 118th to 31st in the rankings and said she'd had a "great week."

"I had chances but she hit the ball well and was more aggressive. I'm happy with how I played, I'm feeling great," she said.

"It could give me more motivation in the future," Kuznetsova added. "I just want to rest and get ready for the Open."

Balotelli signs for home town team Brescia

AFP | Milan

Mario Balotelli will return to Italy with home town team Brescia after it was confirmed on Sunday he has signed for the newly-promoted club.

The Italian forward has penned a "multi-year contract" and will be officially presented yesterday, the northern team confirmed on their website.

"Mario returns home," Brescia said in a statement.

"The return to Italy, after three years, was made possible by Mario's determination and enthusiasm to return to Brescia, the city where he grew up and where, since he was a child, he stood out for his physical and technical skills," the club continued.

Balotelli, who was born in Sicily but adopted and raised just outside Brescia, has reportedly agreed a three-year deal with the Serie B champions after being released by Marseille in June.



Mario Balotelli

Fiorentina await Ribery 'with open arms'

AFP | Milan

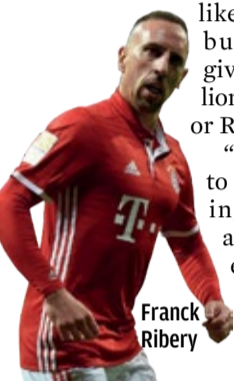
Italian club Fiorentina have targeted French winger Franck Ribery, the Tuscany club's sporting director Daniele Prade confirmed on Sunday.

The 36-year-old former French international left Bayern Munich as a free agent at the end of last season after 12 seasons with the German giants.

"Ribery? We like him a lot, but like all great players he is considering his options," Prade said after Fiorentina's 3-1 Coppa Italia win over Monza.

"We want him and would like to have him, but we cannot give tens of millions like the Arab or Russian teams.

"But if he wants to continue playing football at a highest level Fiorentina awaits him with open arms."



Franck Ribery

Bayern Munich offer Coutinho fresh start on loan

AFP | Madrid

Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho has joined Bayern Munich on a one-year loan worth 8.5 million euros (\$9.5 million) with an option to buy, the Spanish club confirmed yesterday.

"The agreement provides for an option for Bayern to buy at a 120-million-euro fee," Barcelona said.

The 27-year-old Brazilian joined Barcelona from Liverpool in January 2018 for an initial 120 million euros in a deal that included another 40 million euros in potential add-ons.

Philippe Coutinho

Title lands Medvedev in top five

● Daniil Medvedev dominates David Goffin in Cincinnati final

● Medvedev won his first-ever ATP Masters 1000 title

AFP | Cincinnati

Daniil Medvedev, coming off back-to-back ATP finals defeats, held off David Goffin 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 Sunday to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters.

The ninth-seeded Russian finished with an ace after saving break points in the final game, lifting a first Masters 1000 trophy after settling for runner-up finishes to Nick Kyrgios in Washington and Rafael Nadal in Montreal last weekend.

"These have been the best three weeks of my life," Medvedev said. "My mentality was the best, my serve was the best, my tennis has been really consistent."

"I didn't have one bad match, I hope to continue this way for next few weeks."

After his full-on post-Wimbledon schedule, the winner admitted:



Russia's Daniil Medvedev returns to Belgium's David Goffin

"I'm so exhausted, I almost can't talk now."

He also revealed that he was starting to cramp in the final game, when he tossed his racket in anger before saving break points.

"I think my Montreal final against Rafa was important," he said of hanging on. "I was maybe able to use that experience that I had and David did not."

Medvedev, who only recently

gained the ATP Top 10, now will find himself ranked fifth as a result of his three-week run of form.

"I don't check the rankings every two minutes, but I do look after I do well at a tournament," he said. "If I had lost I'd be seventh, now I'm fifth."

Medvedev followed up his semi-final upset of defending champion Novak Djokovic as he controlled feisty Belgian Goffin

to win an ATP leading 31st hard-court match.

He has the most match wins on any surface this year with 43. Spanish superstar Nadal, who did not play this week -- is second with 41, followed by Roger Federer on 39.

Medvedev stamped himself a contender for the US Open, the final Grand Slam of the season that starts in Flushing Meadows in a week.



Daniil Medvedev cracked the top five in the ATP rankings for the first time in his career

Goffin was competing in his second final of 2019 after losing to Federer in Halle.

"Congratulations to your team," he told Medvedev, "Once again, an unbelievable week for you, fantastic."

"I think you are ready for New York."

Medvedev powered to a 4-1 lead in the opening set but had to win it in a tiebreaker as Goffin, coached by 2002 Australian open winner Thomas Johansson, fought back.

But Medvedev's break in the opening game of the second set was all he needed as he avenged a loss to Goffin at Wimbledon this year.

PSG suffer defeat at Rennes with 16-year-old in starring role

AFP | Rennes, France

Champions Paris Saint-Germain slipped up in their second league game of the season losing 2-1 to Rennes on Sunday in a repeat of April's French Cup final with a 16-year-old playing a starring role.

Edinson Cavani scored after less than 15 minutes of play for the visitors in Brittany before Mbaye Niang and Romain del Castillo responded for the home side.

PSG were without forward Neymar for a third successive game this term with the world's

most expensive player continuing to be the subject of interest from Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Angolan-born 16-year-old Eduardo Camavinga starred in Rennes midfield, and proved to be key in his team's winning goal, along with experienced playmaker Clement Grenier.

Rennes boss Julien Stephan said Camavinga, the first player born since January 2002 to feature in Europe's top five leagues, had continued to improve since making his first team debut in April.



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe (C) vies with Rennes' French forward Romain Del Castillo

"It's more than six months he's been training with the professionals. He's settled in well with the squad," he told broadcaster Canal+.

"We've prepared him with the players, the staff and the whole club so he can evolve in the right conditions."

"He started doing it at the end of last season and he's confirming all the talent we think he has at the start of this season," he added.

PSG skipper Thiago Silva admitted his side stepped off the gas after their good start through Cavani's effort.

Trippier and Morata combine to give Atletico winning start

AFP | Madrid

Alvaro Morata headed in a sumptuous Kieran Trippier cross to ensure a new-look Atletico Madrid beat Getafe 1-0 on Sunday and made a winning start in La Liga.

Trippier looked right at home at the Wanda Metropolitano when his bending ball was nodded in by Morata before two red cards in four minutes, one for each team, made it 10 against 10 before half-time.

Getafe striker Jorge Molina and Atletico left-back Renan Lodi were the players sent off and then Morata missed a penalty, earned after a mesmerizing run from Joao Felix, Atletico's 126 million euro signing from Benfica.

It was enough for Felix to depart to a standing ovation and Atletico held on, even if this was perhaps not the statement opening to the season that Diego Simeone might have hoped for.

After losing Antoine Griezmann to Barcelona, Atletico have spent close to 250 million euros this summer, just over half of

that on Felix, whose electric run lit up an otherwise rather disjointed contest.

The 19-year-old is supposed to be the heartbeat not only of a new team but a different style too, one that is more attractive to watch and that could even pip Barcelona and Real Madrid to the title.

But Getafe were stubborn opponents, showing again why they finished fifth last season, only narrowly missing out on a place in the Champions League to Valencia on the final day.

Felix aside, Atletico's other debutants impressed, including Lodi, before he was sent off, and Trippier, the first Englishman to play for Atletico since the Spanish Civil War and 20th in the history of the Spanish top flight.

The former Tottenham defender's pin-point cross was the highlight of a confident performance that earned regular praise from the home fans.

The early signs were encouraging as Trippier and Lodi pushed high and wide, like wingers, and the former almost played Koke in with a superb



Atletico Madrid's Spanish forward Alvaro Morata (C-R) scores a header past Getafe's Togolese defender Dakonam Djene

first-time pass.

Felix showed some nice touches and his team-mates were quick to protest on his behalf after Leandro Cabrera barged him over.

Trippier was the team's best outlet and Atletico might have scored had he managed to pick

out either Felix or Morata in the middle after a brilliant pass from Saul Niguez.

He had another chance moments later though and this time Trippier was more precise. A bending cross from the right allowed Morata to head in and Trippier enjoyed the celebra-

tions, rousing the crowd on his way back and accepting a huge roar in return.

Getafe had struggled to find a way into the match but two red cards in four minutes threatened to shift the balance.

First, referee Cuadra Fernandez turned a yellow card into a



We faced a team who tactically moves well defensively. They have not left Felix space in the first half so that he can take advantage of his game

DIEGO SIMEONE
ATLETICO BOSS

red for Molina after consulting VAR, the striker catching Thomas Partey late down the back of his heel. Then Lodi was handed a second yellow for planting his hand in the face of Damian Suarez.

Atletico dropped Saul into left back before Felix was sacrificed later in the second half, Mario Hermoso coming on for his debut where Lodi had started.

But not before Felix produced the most exhilarating moment of the match, for which an otherwise rather muted debut will be remembered.