





متابكة البحرين
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Getting vaccinated, booster shots and vaccines for 12-17 year olds protects everyone

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VACCINATE AND STAY SAFE

Bahrain thanked by Jordanian Monarch



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman




HM King Abdullah II

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received cables of thanks from Jordanian Monarch His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, in reply to their congratulatory cables on the anniversary of his accession to power.

The Jordanian Monarch expressed his deep appreciation to HM the King's noble feelings, praying Allah the Al-

mighty to perpetuate HM with good health and happiness and Bahrain with further progress and prosperity. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister also received a similar cable from His Royal Highness Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, Crown Prince of Jordan.



متابكة البحرين
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Last update - 9:00 pm
15 June 2021

Individuals vaccinated

(First dose)

1 0 3 2 8 3 2

(Second dose)

8 7 2 5 0 8

Manama 'healthiest city' in Middle East



P4

Royal call for 'integrity, honesty' in government

HRH Prince Salman orders deeper investigation into 'violations' at three Ministries

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has ordered an investigation into alleged violations at three Ministries.

This came as HRH Prince Salman yesterday remotely met the Auditor-General of the National Audit Office (NAO), Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, who presented a forensic audit report on observations of non-compliance within the Education, Works, Municipalities

Affairs and Urban Planning and Labour and Social Development Ministries.

The report revealed a number of violations that require legal intervention.

HRH Prince Salman directed the Public Prosecution Service, the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, or the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs, to investigate the observations of non-compliance within the NAO.

His Royal Highness highlighted that the principles of accountability and professionalism are

The principles of accountability and professionalism are of paramount importance to the success of government workstreams

HRH PRINCE SALMAN



HRH Prince Salman emphasises accountability and professionalism in government

of paramount importance to the success of government workstreams.

He added that NAO's forensic audit reporting continues to support public service integrity and

protect the use of public funds.

Shaikh Ahmed expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet HRH Prince Salman and for HRH's support for the work of NAO.

He emphasised the NAO's continued commitment to upholding operational best practice across government workstreams.

Senior government officials also attended the meeting.

Stepping up its defiance

Iran's 60% uranium output 'suitable for nuclear bomb'

Dubai

Iran has made 6.5 kg (14 lb) of uranium enriched to up to 60%, the government said yesterday, detailing a move that rattled the country's nuclear talks

with world powers by taking the fissile material a step towards nuclear weapons-grade of 90%.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei was quoted by state media as saying the country had also produced 108 kg of uranium

enriched to 20% purity, indicating quicker output than the rate required by the Iranian law that created the process.

Iran said in April it would begin enriching uranium to 60% purity, a move that would take

the uranium much closer to the 90% suitable for a nuclear bomb, after Tehran accused arch-foe Israel of sabotaging a key nuclear site.

Yesterday's disclosure came as Tehran and Washington hold

indirect talks in Vienna aimed at finding ways to revive a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Iran's hardline parliament passed a law last year to oblige the government to harden its nuclear stance.



Royal 'generosity' is a source of pride for all

Shaikh Nasser thanks HM King for continuous support to humanitarian work

● His Highness presents RFH's annual report of achievements

● Foundation efforts pay off despite COVID-19 challenges

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Honorary President of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF), received a letter of thanks from HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Nasser expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for HM the King's support for humanitarian work in Bahrain and abroad, and prayed to God Almighty to bless HM's efforts.

HH Shaikh Nasser presented to HM the King the annual report of the achievements of



HM the King



HH Shaikh Nasser

RHF for 2020 that highlights the work undertaken and the activities performed by the Foundation in implementation of HM the King's directives.

The Foundation was able to achieve many strategic goals through its numerous programmes, activities and development projects for different groups, and to strengthen the values of loyalty, sense of belonging and patriotism under the leadership of His Majesty.

The Foundation also supported the Kingdom's efforts dur-

ing the coronavirus pandemic through the national campaign "Fina Al Khair", which achieved great success and an unparalleled response by all and proved the people's cohesion with HM the King's wise leadership.

The Foundation also carried out many relief and humanitarian operations for brotherly and friendly countries and peoples.

HH Shaikh Nasser extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to HM King Hamad for his continuous support of the Foundation and for his direc-

"I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to HM King Hamad for his continuous support of the Foundation and for his directives to provide decent lives for orphans, widows and the needy in the Kingdom."

- HH SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

tives to provide decent lives for orphans, widows and the needy in the Kingdom.

In his response letter, HM King Hamad expressed thanks and appreciation to HH Shaikh Nasser for his tremendous efforts in all fields, especially humanitarian work, which has become an honorable feature of Bahrain thanks to the results it has invariably produced and

that are a source of pride for all.

His Majesty expressed his happiness with the positive results cited in the annual report of the Foundation that represent a new addition to Bahrain's record of civilised and humanitarian achievements.

The results also enhance the humanitarian and social role of the institution that has become, thanks to God Almighty and to HH's tireless efforts, synonymous with goodness, generosity and success at home and abroad.

The Foundation's work scores high on the achievement dimension in light of the successes achieved amid the challenges caused by the coronavirus and the difficult conditions that it created for those in need of support and to whom we pay special attention and provide special care, HM the King said.

HM King Hamad praised the important achievements in the report on the charitable and humanitarian levels and expressed sincere thanks to all members of the Foundation for their sincere dedicated efforts and strong commitment.

HM King appoints Nogaholding board members

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Decree 71/2021, appointing the members of the Board of Directors of the Oil and Gas Holding Company B.S.C. (closed) (Nogaholding).

According to the decree, the board shall include Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa as Deputy Chairman, and Khalid Amro Al Rumaihi, Dr Mohammed Mubarak in Daina, Faisal Mohammed Al Mahroos, Abdulla Jehad Al Zain, Hadyah Mohammed Fathalla, Lord Edmund John Phillip, Bob Warren Dudley and Tony Hayward as members for a renewable three-year term.

39 restaurants, cafes violate health protocols

TDT | Manama

The Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health has reported 39 violations as it continued its inspection visits to ensure full application of precautionary measures to address COVID-19.

The restaurants and cafes were referred to the relevant authorities for legal action.

The department on Monday inspected an additional 165 food and beverage establishments in its campaign to ensure public health and safety.

Establishments that failed to meet the required standards were warned to address the issues and rise up to the needed responsibility levels and implement anti-COVID measures.

Frontline health worker dies

TDT | Manama

The Health Ministry has announced the death of one of its Bahraini COVID-19 frontline employees.

The Ministry expresses its sincere condolences and heartfelt consolations to the family and friends of the deceased, Isa Ashor Madan.

The Ministry, however, didn't specify the reasons for his death.

Man imprisoned for 'slapping'

TDT | Manama

A man who slapped an Asian car-washer has been sentenced to three months in prison, the Public Prosecution announced.

A short clip showing the defendant attacking the victim has gone viral on social media platforms.

He was detained and charged with assault.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS					
At 31 December 2020			For the year ended 31 December 2020					
	2020	2019		2020	2019			
	BD '000	BD '000		BD '000	BD '000			
ASSETS								
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	4,505	4,275	OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Balances with banks	6,808	2,536	Net Profit for the year	5	677			
Placement and other balances with the Head Office	20,668	27,616	Adjustments for:					
Loans and advances	369	3,842	Provision for credit losses, net	20	15			
Non-trading investments	142	1,272	Realised gain on sale of FVOCI debt investments	(30)	(6)			
Other assets	180	303	Depreciation	99	77			
Equipment	177	149	Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	94	763			
TOTAL ASSETS	32,849	39,993	Changes in operating assets and liabilities:					
LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS								
Liabilities								
Deposits from customers	13,013	23,961	Placement and balances with the Head Office	6,961	11,719			
Deposits from the Head Office	6,022	2,132	CBB mandatory reserve deposit	56	43			
Other liabilities	215	283	Loans and advances	3,533	4,526			
Total liabilities	19,250	26,376	Other assets	69	218			
Head Office funds								
Contributed capital	7,500	7,500	Deposits from customers	(10,948)	(16,715)			
Retained earnings	6,095	6,090	Deposits from the Head Office	3,890	(16)			
Fair value reserve	4	27	Deposits from banks	-	(10)			
Total Head Office funds	13,599	13,617	Other liabilities	(68)	(94)			
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS	32,849	39,993	Net cash from operating activities	3,587	834			
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME								
For the year ended 31 December 2020								
	2020	2019	INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
	BD '000	BD '000	Purchase of equipment	(72)	(115)			
Interest income	1,242	3,089	Proceeds from sale of FVOCI debt investments	1,141	761			
Interest expense	(638)	(1,723)	Net cash from investing activities	1,069	646			
Net interest income	604	1,366	NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,656	1,480			
Other income	11	42	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	6,716	5,236			
Gain on derecognition of FVOCI investment	30	6	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	11,372	6,716			
Net operating income	645	1,414	Cash and cash equivalents comprise					
Operating expenses			Cash in hand	432	355			
Staff costs	(261)	(298)	Balances with the CBB (excluding mandatory reserve)	4,035	3,824			
Depreciation expense	(99)	(77)	Placements and balances with banks	6,905	2,537			
Other operating expenses	(260)	(347)	with original maturity of less than ninety days	11,372	6,716			
Total operating expenses	(620)	(722)	STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS					
Net profit before provision for credit losses	25	692	For the year ended 31 December 2020					
Provision for credit losses, net	(20)	(15)		Contributed capital	Retained earnings	Fair value reserve	Total	
Net profit for the year	5	677		BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	
Other comprehensive income			At 1 January 2020	7,500	6,090	27	13,617	
Other comprehensive income that will be reclassified (or recycled) to profit or loss in subsequent periods:			Net Profit for the year	-	5	-	5	
Net change in fair value of investments at FVOCI	7	18	Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	(23)	(23)	
Gain on sale of FVOCI investments transferred to profit or loss	(30)	(6)	Total comprehensive income for the year	-	5	(23)	(18)	
Net change in fair value of investments at FVOCI	(23)	12	At 31 December 2020	7,500	6,095	4	13,599	
Total comprehensive income for the year	(15)	659	At 1 January 2019	7,500	5,413	15	12,928	
The above statements of financial position, comprehensive income, cash flows and changes in the Head Office funds have been extracted from the financial statements of the Branch for the year ended 31 December 2020, on which a disclaimer of opinion was issued by the auditors Ernst & Young, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain on 14 June 2021.								

HRH Prince Salman inaugurates water and power plant

Al Dur phase 2 set to start operations

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday inaugurated Al Dur phase 2 Independent Water and Power plant.

Located at Al Dur and managed 100% by the private sector, Al Dur phase 2 generates 1,000 MW of electricity and processes 25 million gallons of water per day, increasing capacity by 24% and 15%, respectively.

During the visit, HRH Prince Salman noted that the investment in and the development of the Kingdom's water and electricity infrastructure, in partnership with the private sector, supports ongoing housing, development and investment initiatives.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Eng. Al Mubarak, Shaikh Nawaf, and a number of senior officials and Ambassadors.

His Royal Highness highlighted Bahrain's commitment to continue to develop water and energy projects, alongside supporting infrastructure projects through innovative developmental initiatives. Thus creating new opportunities for citizens as key members of Team Bahrain whilst also enhancing service delivery excellence.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister was briefed on Al Dur phase 2 operation's, which is an extension of phase 1 inaugurated by HM the King, before touring the facilities.

He expressed his appreciation to the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs (EWA), the CEO of EWA, Shaikh Nawaf bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, and the



HRH Prince Salman is being briefed on Al Dur phase 2 operation

Ministry's employees for their significant contribution to sustainability in the sector.

EWA Minister Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak commended His Majes-

ty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives to ensure citizens remain at the heart of ongoing development initiatives, before commending His Royal Highness's support for water and



Al Dur phase 2 generates 1,000 MW of electricity and processes 25 million gallons of water per day, increasing capacity by 24% and 15%, respectively.

electricity service quality.

Minister Al Mubarak highlighted that the Al Dur 2 plant development is being implemented through a public – private contract (IWPP), which governs the establishment, ownership and operations in accordance with the BOO system to meet future energy and water demands.

HRH Prince Salman values COVID frontliners' key role

Two exceptional steps of promotion in civil service announced

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister, highlighted His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's continued appreciation for first responders in combatting COVID-19 to safeguard the health of all in the Kingdom.

HRH Prince Salman directed the granting of two additional promotional steps in the civil service or their equivalent for first responders in Bahrain.

His Royal Highness com-

mended the vital role played by first responders, and their patriotic contributions to the Kingdom's successes and achievements throughout these unprecedented times.

He extended his gratitude to those who have placed the well-being of the entire country at the forefront of all their efforts, safeguarding the health of citizens and residents.

Financial aid package similar to last year's

TDT | Manama

MP Sayed Falah Hashim confirmed that the new financial aid package for the private sector is similar to the second economic-stimulus package the government provided to the Bahrain-based companies last year following the COVID-19 outbreak.

MPS have discussed with the Cabinet providing a special mental and financial support to those who lost their parents.

MP Hashim also revealed that the government's rep-



MP Hashim

the leadership of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince Prime Minister, discussed with us several items listed on the meeting agenda, including giving much-needed financial and psychological

aids," said MP Hashim. "We have many children who are facing an unknown future because some of them lost their fathers. In some cases, we have families, whose mothers and fathers demised because of COVID-19. This is a serious situation that everyone has to consider seriously."

When asked if they are expecting a decision on this point any time soon, he replied: "We are expecting our suggestions to be discussed next week during the next Cabinet meeting."

Speaker receives Pakistani Ambassador



Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal received the newly appointed Pakistan Ambassador to Bahrain Muhammad Ayub. The Speaker congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment, wishing him success in his diplomatic mission to support the march of the strong historical relations between the two friendly countries, praising the bilateral relations strength. The Ambassador expressed his country's appreciation to Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, stressing his country's interest in expanding areas of cooperation between the two countries to serve common interests, especially in the parliamentary field.

BDF Commander-in-Chief receives US Military Attache



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received the US Military Attache Colonel John Gondol. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa praised the historical relations between Bahrain and the US, reviewing ways of strengthening them and the development they are witnessing at various levels, especially with regard to military coordination and defense cooperation.

Boost for economy

Business sector hails HM King's royal directives to extend COVID-19 relief package



Al Amin



Janahi



Bin Hindi

TDT | Manama

Praises poured in for His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa following his royal directives to extend a COVID-19 relief package for three more months.

The financial and economic stimulus package worth BD485 is designed to help Bahraini citizens and privately-owned businesses during this time of pandemic.

As part of this extension, the government will pay the salaries of Bahraini private sector employees for three months from June 2021 to August 2021 aside from waiving the monthly fees for businesses hardest hit by the global health crisis.

HM King has directed His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to oversee the implementation of the relief aid.

Empowering private sector

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) praised HM the King's royal directives, saying that they reflect the keenness of the wise leadership on supporting the private sector and empowering it to overcome the pandemic.

The Chamber underlined the importance of the stimulus package in bolstering the stability of the national economy and putting it on the path to recovery and growth.

It stressed on the need to revise and revamp the national economy to enable it to withstand and overcome current and future challenges and crises.

“We welcome the good government's initiatives to help the Bahraini people during these exceptional times. The citizens are the pillars of progress so it is important to ease the burden on them”

KHALID AL AMIN, BCCI FOOD WEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Positive outlook

BCCI Food Wealth Committee Chairman Khalid Al Amin said His Majesty's directives to continue supporting the affected people reflect the wise leadership's positive outlook on the Kingdom's economic stability.

"We welcome the good government's initiatives to help the Bahraini people during these exceptional times. The citizens are the pillars of progress so it is important to ease the burden on them," said Al Amin.

Deep care for citizens

Bahrain Businesswomen Society (BBWS), in a statement, said the royal directives reflect the deep care and great attention of His Majesty King Hamad to support the citizens and the most affected sectors, and take into account their needs.

BBWS President Ahlam Janahi pointed out that the decisions would contribute effectively to revitalising the market and avoiding the effects of the COVID-19 on the Bahraini commercial street, especially in the small and medium enterprises sector, to which most of the soci-



Najebi

ety members belong, and which represents about 98% of the total commercial registrations in Bahrain.

Significant impact

The Bahrain Businessmen Association (BBA) said the number of support initiatives will have very positive and significant impact on the country and the citizen. BBA president Ahmed Abdullah bin Hindi stressed the importance of the dignified and immediate response of the government.

Bin Hindi said: "Without a doubt, such qualitative initiatives came at the right time, especially with the continuity of previous packages and the severe economic damage COVID-19 has caused to many institutions of the economic sector in the country."

Frontrunner in development

Seef Real Estate Company Board of Directors Chairman Issa Mohammed Najebi said the new national package of support makes the Kingdom once again a frontrunner in the sustainability aspects of development despite the challenges that the pandemic still poses. Najebi stressed that the flexible policies and the insightful visions of the wise leadership and the government in its balanced handling of the COVID-19 crisis would lead the Kingdom to safety, prosperity and sustainable development.

Manama 'healthiest city' in Middle East

Top World Health Organisation award given to Bahrain capital for advanced health services and balanced quality of life for citizens and residents

● A fruitful outcome of investment in health infrastructure and urban development

TDT | Manama

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Manama a "Health City 2021", the first capital city in the Middle East to have received such an honour, adding a new international achievement to the Kingdom's rich record of accomplishments.

The declaration was made during a virtual ceremony held by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.

Health Minister Faeqa bint Said Al Saleh, Capital Governor Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ahmed Al Mandhari, and a number of Bahraini officials participated in the online ceremony.

Minister Al Saleh lauded the constant support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to



Minister Al Saleh with Governor Shaikh Hesham

the health sector, and the sound directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to intensify efforts that achieve the best for the citizens and residents.

She said that it has led to naming Manama as the Health City 2021, adding to Bahrain's achievements in the health and environmental fields, in addition to social and urban development.

Al Saleh congratulated Capital Governor Shaikh Hesham on the exploit which contributes to achieving most sustainable development goals and consolidating the Kingdom's international status.

The Minister pointed out that Manama's advanced health services and programmes have contributed to its adoption as the "Health City 2021".

The Capital Governor dedicated the international achieve-



A new international achievement for Bahrain

ment to HM King Hamad and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, noting that it is the fruitful outcome of Bahrain's investment in health infrastructure and urban development and keenness to improve the quality of life at all levels.

The Governor paid tribute to Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa for his close follow-up and directives to consolidate the "health city" concept, contribute to im-

proving the quality of life and focus on distinction in serving the citizens and residents.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to the Health Minister, the World Health Organisation, Regional Technical Officer for Community-Based Initiatives and Healthy Settings, Dr Samar Al Faqih, and the Health Cities' Committee at the Capital Governorate, for their contributions to Manama's achievement. Dr Al Mandhari said that Ma-



Manama is the second capital in the region to receive the title, and the second city in Bahrain, after Umm Al Hassam.

nama is the second capital in the region to receive the title, and the second city in Bahrain, after Umm Al Hassam.

He lauded the interactive health, cultural, social, economic, environmental and community partnership programmes launched by the Capital Governorate.

Dr Al Mandhari also asserted that Bahrain's experience in combating the COVID-19 pandemic is among the most successful at the international level.

Foreign Minister attends Arab meetings in Doha

● Top regional and international issues discussed

Doha

Foreign Minister Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani participated yesterday in the consultative meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers, which was held in Doha.

Chaired by Qatari Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, the session was attended Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

The Ministers discussed a number of issues related to the process of joint Arab action, the challenges facing the Arab world, the political and security situations in a number of Arab countries, and means to



Minister Al Zayani at the meeting

enhance cooperation and joint coordination towards regional and international issues and topics.

Dr Al Zayani also participated in the meeting of Arab League Council in its extraordinary session which focused on issue of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), at the request of Egypt and Sudan.

The ministers approved a resolution submitted by Egypt, which affirmed that the water

security of Egypt and Sudan is an integral part of Arab national security, and rejected any action or measure that would prejudice their rights in the Nile waters.

The resolution also stressed the importance of reaching a fair, balanced and legally binding agreement on the Renaissance Dam that achieves the common interests of the three countries and preserves the water rights of of Egypt and Sudan.

The resolution expressed concern about the stalled negotiations due to the positions adopted by Ethiopia, and its announced intention to continue filling the reservoir of the Renaissance Dam during the upcoming flood season in the summer of 2021.

It considered the move as a unilateral measure that violates the rules of international law, which may cause harm to the water interests of Egypt and Sudan, especially the water facilities in Sudan, the most important of which is the Roseires Dam.

The resolution called on Ethiopia to refrain from taking any unilateral measures that harm the water interests of Egypt and Sudan, including refraining from filling the Renaissance Dam reservoir without reaching an agreement on the rules for filling and operating the dam.

Bahrain strongly condemns terrorist attack in Somalia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain strongly condemned the terrorist attack that targeted an army camp in Mogadishu, Somalia, leaving dozens dead and injured.

The Foreign Ministry extended sincere condolences to the families of the victims, the Somali government and

people, wishing the wounded quick recovery.

It affirmed Bahrain's solidarity with the Somali government in its efforts to eliminate terrorist organisations.

It reiterated its unequivocal rejection of all forms of extremism and terrorism, urging concerted efforts to combat terrorism and dry up its sources of funding.

NSSA participates in global space science conference

TDT | Manama

The National Space Science Agency (NSSA) participated in the first international forum on "Space Science: Importance, Challenges, and New Opportunities in the Space Industry and the Islamic World", hosted in Rabat by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IC-ESCO) in partnership with the American Space Foundation.

The forum was held with the participation of more than 34 elite experts in space sciences and related industries, a number of astronauts, representatives of space agencies and ministries of science and technology in a number of member countries of the organisation, and researchers and entrepreneurs from the Islamic world and beyond.

It discussed several topics, such as awareness of space ecosystems, the importance of space technology for humanity, space commerce and job opportunities available in the space industry, and ways to qualify and develop the future workforce for innovation in the space field.

"There is undoubtedly pride in the Bahraini experience in the space technology field and the efforts made to achieve development goals."

- DR MOHAMED EBRAHIM AL ASEERI, NSSA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NSSA CEO Dr Mohamed Ebrahim Al Aseeri said that there is undoubtedly pride in the Bahraini experience in the space technology field and the efforts made to achieve development goals.

He noted that the Kingdom has made great strides in the right direction since it has achieved many goals that are the focus of this forum in the past few years.

BDF Commander-in-Chief receives Romanian military attache



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received Romanian Military Attache Colonel Dorel Sandu. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa praised the existing relations between the two friendly countries, which are constantly witnessing development and progress in various fields, especially in the field of military cooperation.

Speaker reviews cooperation with Belgian Chamber of Representatives head



Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal virtually met President of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, Eliane Tillieux. The meeting reviewed a number of topics of common interest. The Speaker praised the deep Bahraini-Belgian relations, and the keenness of the Kingdom to develop cooperation in various fields, in light of the comprehensive development process of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Zainal affirmed the council's keenness to exchange meetings with the Belgian Chamber of Representatives at the level of members and the General Secretariat.

Bahrain Chamber launches Iqlaa booklet for entrepreneurs

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Chamber announced launching a booklet titled (Iqlaa) on programmes and institutions that supports entrepreneurs.

The booklet, Chamber said, is available on its website and mobile application.

Speaking about the initiative, Bahrain Chamber's Chief Executive Officer Shaker Al Shater explained (Iqlaa) booklet is a fundamental guidebook for all who wish to start a business."

He added: "Entrepreneurs and start-ups may not be aware of the many government and private organisations and banks that offer services and programs for them, hence the need for this comprehensive guidebook."

"We believe in the potentials of the youth and aspire to encourage them to venture in the market and turn their ideas into successful businesses."



Bahrain Chamber's Chief Executive Officer Shaker Al Shater

The (Iqlaa) booklet is available in Arabic and English and contains four main sections, namely: Virtual Commercial Registration, Incubators and Business Accelerators, Entities and Associations that Support SMEs, Financial Entities that Support SMEs.

Use this link for the english edition of Iqlaa <https://bahrainchamber.bh/en/content/iqlaa-0>

Bank ABC, FAB arrange a US\$250 million term loan for BankDhofar

TDT | Manama

Bank ABC (Arab Banking Corporation) and First Abu Dhabi Bank acted as joint coordinators, underwriters, initial mandated lead arrangers and bookrunners on a US\$ 250,000,000, two-year Syndicated Term Loan Facility for BankDhofar. In addition, FAB is the Agent on the transaction.

The Facility, signed on 6 June 2021, will be utilised by Bank Dhofar to refinance an existing US\$ 250,000,000 facility dated 13 June 2018.

The syndication was launched in May 2021 and was over two times oversubscribed, thanks to the strong participation of regional and interna-



Abdul Hakeem Al Ojaili, BankDhofar's Chief Executive Officer

tional banks. Nine banks, excluding the Joint Coordinators, from the GCC, Europe and Asia participated in the Facility. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank,

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait – DIFC Branch, Bank of Baroda, Doha Bank, State Bank of India WBB Bahrain joined as mandated lead arranger.

Commercial Bank of Dubai joined as lead arranger. Banque Du Caire, HSBC Bank Middle East Ltd and Mashreqbank joined as an arranger.

BankDhofar's Chief Executive Officer, Abdul Hakeem Al Ojaili, stated: "Despite continuing challenges in the market, the success and oversubscription of this transaction is an evidence of the confidence in BankDhofar and sovereign by international and regional banks, as well as the long-term credit strength and continued growth of the Omani economy."

Major markets end mixed

● Saudi inflation rate rises again in May

● DAMAC's founder offers to take firm private

Reuters

Major stock markets in the Gulf ended mixed yesterday, with financial shares weighing on the Saudi index and property stocks bolstering Dubai.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index dropped 0.8%, weighed down by a 2.1% decline in Al Rajhi Bank and a 2.3% slide in Saudi Telecom Company.

The kingdom's inflation rate rose for the second consecutive month in May, climbing to 5.7% from 5.3% in April, again reflecting a tripling of value-added tax (VAT) to 15% last year, official data showed yesterday.

The VAT increase, which went into effect in July, came as the Saudi government sought to bolster its coffers after being

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.8% to 10,831
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.1% to 6,741
DUBAI	▲ 0.1% to 2,869
QATAR	▼ 0.2% to 10,793
EGYPT	▼ 0.4% to 9,891
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.2% to 1,564
OMAN	▲ 0.4% to 4,049
KUWAIT	▲ 0.2% to 6,922

hit by last year's oil price crash and the pandemic, as well as voluntary oil production cuts to help stabilise world prices.

Dubai's main share index added 0.1%, helped by a 0.7% increase in blue-chip developer Emaar Properties.

However, Dubai Islamic Bank fell 0.8%. The largest Islamic lender in the United Arab Emirates gave an initial price guidance of about 135 basis points over mid-swaps for five-year US dollar-denominated sukuk, or Islamic bonds, a document showed on Tuesday.

Dubai's stock market is set for another delisting, raising a

question mark over the future of one of the Gulf's major exchanges, which was launched two decades ago.

A \$595 million bid to take DAMAC Properties private by the firm's founder Hussain Sajwani is the latest blow to the exchange, even as the Gulf city state's property market showed signs of life in the first quarter.

DAMAC shares finished 0.8% higher.

In Abu Dhabi, the index was up 0.1%, with Aldar Properties rising 0.8%.

The Qatari index lost 0.2%, hit by a 1% fall in Commercial Bank.

Qatar Financial Markets Authority approved the merger of Masraf Al Rayan and Al Khalij Commercial Bank. Shares in both banks traded flat.

The merger will lead to the creation of one of the largest Sharia-compliant banks in Qatar and the Middle East.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index fell 0.4% with most of the stocks on the index in negative territory, including its top lender Commercial International Bank.

Truce finally

US, EU agree truce in 17-year aircraft subsidy conflict

Reuters | Brussels

The United States and the European Union have agreed a truce in their near 17-year conflict over aircraft subsidies, suspending for five years one set of Trump-era tariffs which had soured relations between them.

The two sides have been battling since 2004 in parallel cases at the World Trade Organization over subsidies for US planemaker Boeing and European rival Airbus, which each argued exposed the other to unfair competition.

They agreed in March to a four-month suspension of tariffs on \$11.5 billion of goods from EU cheese and wine to US tobacco and spirits, which the WTO had sanctioned. Businesses have so far paid over \$3.3 billion in duties.

Yesterday they said they would remove the tariffs for five years, while still working on the overarching agreement on subsidies they had envisaged in March.

"With this agreement, we are grounding the Airbus-Boeing dispute," EU trade chief Valdis Dombrovskis said in a statement during an EU-US summit with US President Joe Biden.

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said the two sides had agreed to clear statements on what support could be given to large civil aircraft producers. They would also work to counter investments in aircraft by "non-market actors", she said, referring specifically to China.

"We have committed to meaningful cooperation," she said.

Stimulus extension to bolster economy: Bahrain Chamber

TDT | Manama

The Royal directives extending the stimulus package reflect the keenness of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to support the private sectors and empowering it to overcome the repercussion of the COVID-19 outbreak, said the Bahrain Chamber in a statement.

The Chamber said the stimulus package extended for a further three months from June to August 2021 is crucial to bolstering the stability of the national economy and putting it on the path to recovery and growth.

The statement stressed the need to revise and revamp the national economy to withstand and overcome current and future challenges and crises.

The Chamber also asserted readiness to join efforts with the government spearheaded by His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to counter the economic impact of the pandemic and reinvigorate the national economy.

We're looking for the next global tech innovator in Bahrain. Could that be you?

KPMG Private Enterprise unveils a new competition for the tech innovators of today and titans of tomorrow

TDT | Manama

The search is on. KPMG is looking for Bahrain's top tech innovators who are ready to become the next tech titans with the launch of the KPMG Private Enterprise Tech Innovator Bahrain competition <https://home.kpmg/bh/en/home/insights/2021/06/technology-innovator.html>

Following the success of KPMG's Best British Tech Pioneer, which has crowned innovators such as Echo Health and What3Words, the competition has grown to include technology innovators in the GCC region, including Bahrain and 15 other countries across most major regions of the world. Wherever they are in their business life-

cycle - from startup to accelerated growth - they are being invited to pitch their innovations and present their growth ambitions to panels of local and global industry experts, and to be recognised as a leading tech innovator.

Participants will have the opportunity to be recognised as one of Bahrain's most successful technology innovators. Shortlisted businesses will be provided with exclusive networking opportunities among industry experts and other tech innovators, and winning companies will gain exposure by being featured in KPMG's "Winners Report" and media profiles.

The Tech Innovator in Bahrain, and the winner in each of

the other participating countries, will progress to the Global Tech Innovator final at Web Summit 2021 in Lisbon in November, where they will be recognized on the global stage.

Harish Gopinath, Partner, KPMG Enterprise at KPMG in Bahrain, commented on the competition and said, "The technology sector in Bahrain is emerging strongly, and has been an essential contributor to the sustainability and growth of our economy. At KPMG, our aim is to support the continued growth of the top tech innovators who are driving market transformation with their innovative ideas, solutions, products and services. Whether they are tech-enabled, tech-led or tech-driven, we're inviting them to consider this



Harish Gopinath, Partner, KPMG Enterprise at KPMG in Bahrain extraordinary platform opportunity to take their business to

the next level."

"The first step is very simple: participation in the KPMG Private Enterprise Tech Innovator competition to make important connections and gain recognition among some of the most trusted advisors, industry leaders and influencers in Bahrain," Gopinath added.

About the competition

The inaugural KPMG Private Enterprise Tech Innovator competition is being hosted in the following 16 countries - Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, Nordic Region, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, UK, United Arab Emirates and USA. The tech innovator finalist in each country will be recognized on

the world stage at Web Summit 2021 where they will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their growth plans.

It's time to take the first step

There is only one question that needs to be answered today: could you be the inaugural KPMG Private Enterprise Global Tech Innovator in Bahrain with the ambition to become a future tech titan? If the answer is "YES", then take the first step.

Applications are now open for Bahrain's competition <https://home.kpmg/bh/en/home/insights/2021/06/technology-innovator.html>

Tell us about you, your business and your ambitions, and we will support you in taking the next step from there.

News in brief

◆ **At least 15 people were killed on Tuesday in a suicide bombing as recruits lined up outside an army camp in the Somali capital Mogadishu, a Reuters witness who counted the bodies at Madina Hospital said.** Officials at the hospital confirmed the dead were killed in an attack earlier in the day at a checkpoint outside the General Degaban military training camp in the capital. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Islamist group al Shabaab frequently carries out bombings in the Horn of Africa country. Dozens of people crowded outside Madina Hospital searching for their missing relatives.



At least 15 killed in suicide bombing at army camp in Somalia

◆ **A US aircraft carrier group led by the USS Ronald Reagan has entered the South China Sea** as part of a routine mission, the US Navy said yesterday, at a time of rising tensions between Washington and Beijing, which claims most the disputed waterway.

US Navy says carrier group operating in S.China Sea



“While in the South China Sea, the strike group is conducting maritime security operations, which include flight operations with fixed and rotary wing aircraft, maritime strike exercises, and coordinated tactical training between surface and air units,” the US Navy said. “Carrier operations in the South China Sea are part of the US Navy’s routine presence in the Indo-Pacific.”

◆ **Israel told its citizens they could stop wearing masks indoors on Tuesday, ending one of its last main restrictions** as new COVID-19 infections continued to wane even as vaccinations tapered off after a record rollout. Children headed to school and adults to work without masks for the first time in more than a year. Israelis have not had to wear masks outdoors since April. About 55% of Israel’s 9.3 million population are fully vaccinated - a turnout largely unchanged by this month’s expansion of eligibility to include 12- to 15-year-olds.

Israel scraps indoor mask order as COVID-19 infections wane



Maradona’s nurse first to be questioned over his death

◆ **A nurse who was among the last people to see Diego Maradona alive** was questioned on Monday by Argentine prosecutors over accusations of neglect in the football icon’s final days. Ricardo Almiron, 37, was Maradona’s nighttime carer and is suspected of lying when he claimed the World Cup winning captain was sleeping and breathing normally hours before he died. An autopsy revealed he was dying at that time.



Astra cocktail fails to prevent COVID-19 symptoms



A vial labelled with the AstraZeneca coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine

Reuters

AstraZeneca said yesterday a late-stage trial failed to provide evidence that its COVID-19 antibody therapy protected people who had contact with an infected person from the disease, a small setback in its efforts to find alternatives to vaccines.

The study assessed whether the therapy, a cocktail of two types of antibodies, could prevent adults who had been exposed to the virus in the past eight days from developing COVID-19 symptoms.

The therapy, AZD7442, was 33% effective in reducing the risk of people developing symptoms compared with a placebo, but that result was not statistically significant — meaning it might have been due to chance and not the therapy.

The Phase III study, which has not been peer reviewed, included 1,121 participants in the United Kingdom and the United States. The vast

majority, though not all, were free of the virus at the start of the trial.

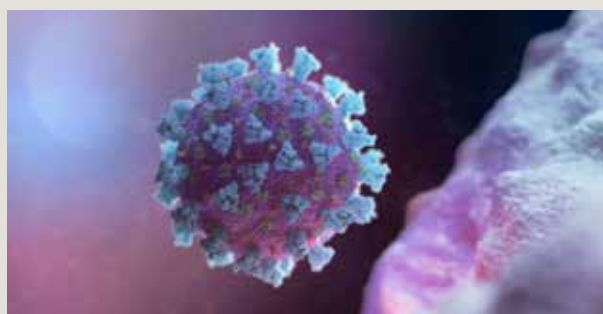
Results for a subset of participants who were not infected to begin with was more encouraging but the primary analysis rested on results from all participants.

“While this trial did not meet the primary endpoint against symptomatic illness, we are encouraged by the protection seen in the PCR negative participants following treatment with AZD7442,” AstraZeneca Executive Vice President Mene Pangalos said in a statement.

The company is banking on further studies to revive the product’s fortunes. Five more trials are ongoing, testing the antibody cocktail as treatment or in prevention.

The next one will likely be from a larger trial testing the product in people with a weakened immune system due to cancer or an organ transplant, who may not benefit from a vaccine.

Targeted alternatives



AZD7442 belongs to a class of drugs called monoclonal antibodies which mimic natural antibodies produced by the body to fight off infections.

Similar therapies developed by rivals Regeneron and Eli Lilly have been approved by U.S. regulators for treating unhospitalised COVID patients.

European regulators have also authorised Regeneron’s therapy and are reviewing those developed by partners GlaxoSmithKline and Vir Biotechnology as well as by Lilly and Celltrion.

Regeneron is also seeking U.S. authorisation for its therapy as a preventative treatment.

But the AstraZeneca results are a small blow for the drug industry as it tries to find more targeted alternatives to COVID-19 inoculations, particularly for people who may not be able to get vaccinated or those who may have an inadequate response to inoculations.

The Anglo-Swedish drugmaker, which has faced a roller-coaster of challenges with the rollout of its COVID-19 vaccine, is also developing new treatments and repurposing existing drugs to fight the virus.

AstraZeneca also said on Tuesday it was in talks with the U.S. government on “next steps” regarding a \$205 million deal to supply up to 500,000 doses of AZD7442. Swiss manufacturer Lonza was contracted to produce AZD7442.

The full results will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed medical journal, the company said.

China says radiation levels

Media reports said that abnormal levels of radioactive gas had leaked from Taishan plant

Reuters

China said yesterday that radiation levels around the Taishan nuclear project in the southeastern province of Guangdong remained normal, following media reports of a leak at one of its reactors.

French utility EDF, one of the project’s owners, said on Monday that it was investigating media reports that abnormal levels of radioactive gas had leaked from the plant.

CNN had reported that Framatome, the EDF unit that designed Taishan’s reactors, was warning



A nuclear reactor and related facilities as to be operated by China Guangdong Nuclear in Taishan, Guangdong province, October 1

of an “imminent radiological threat” at the project following a build-up of krypton and xenon.

Zhao Lijian, a spokesman for China’s foreign ministry, told a news briefing that the plant was fully compliant with all requirements and there were no signs of abnormalities in its vicinity.

World Wide Web c

Berners-Lee, a London-born computer scientist, invented the World Wide Web in 1989

The digitally signed Ethereum blockchain non-fungible token includes the original source code, an animated visualization, a letter written by Berners-Lee and a digital poster of the full code from the original files

Reuters

The original source code for the World Wide Web that was written by its inventor Tim Berners-Lee is up for sale at Sotheby’s as part of a non-fungible token, with bids starting at just \$1,000.

Berners-Lee, a London-born computer scientist, invented the World Wide Web in 1989, revolutionising the sharing and creation of information in what is seen as one of the most significant inventions since



World Wide Web founder Tim Berners-Lee for a photograph following a special event at the British Library during the Festival 2018 in London, Britain

the printing press appeared in the 15th Century Germany.

The digitally signed Ethereum blockchain non-fungible token, a kind of digital asset which can be bought and sold, includes the original source code, an animated visualization, a

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	34,335,515	615,247	177,155,777
2 India	29,617,058	377,061	
3 Brazil	17,454,861	488,404	Deaths
4 France	5,741,354	110,454	3,829,347
5 Turkey	5,336,073	48,795	Recovered:
6 Russia	5,236,593	127,180	161,385,805
7 UK	4,573,419	127,907	New cases
8 Italy	4,245,779	127,038	+132,775
9 Argentina	4,145,482	86,029	New deaths
10 Colombia	3,777,600	96,366	+1,746
11 Spain	3,741,767	80,517	
12 Germany	3,724,348	90,534	
13 Iran	3,049,648	82,351	
14 Poland	2,877,819	74,626	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	273,795		15,654		201,739	56,402
Saudi Arabia	468,175	+1,269	7,606	+16	450,255	10,314
UAE	601,950	+2,127	1,734	+4	581,139	19,077
Kuwait	329,526		1,828		311,559	16,139
Oman	238,566	+2,126	2,565	+33	212,064	23,937
Qatar	219,887		579		217,143	2,165

Egypt upholds death sentence for 12 Muslim Brotherhood figures

Reuters

Egypt’s highest civilian court on Monday upheld death sentences for 12 senior Muslim Brotherhood figures over a 2013 sit-in which ended with security forces killing hundreds of protesters, judicial sources said.

The ruling, which cannot be appealed, means the 12 men could face execution pending approval by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. They include Abdul Rahman Al-Bar, commonly described as the group’s mufti or top religious scholar, Mohamed El-Beltagi, a former member of parliament, and Osama Yassin, a former minister.

Many Muslim Brotherhood figures have been sentenced to death in other cases related to the unrest that followed the military’s ousting of Brotherhood president Mohamed Mursi in 2013, but the Court



Muslim Brotherhood’s senior member Mohamed El-Beltagi sits behind the bars during a court session in Cairo, Egypt

of Cassation ordered retrials. Monday’s ruling relates to a mass trial of hundreds of suspects accused of murder and incitement of violence during pro-Brotherhood protests at Rabaa al-Adawiya square in Cairo in the weeks after Mursi’s overthrow.

In September 2018, an Egyptian criminal court sentenced 75 people to death and issued varying jail terms for more than 600 others.

Abraham Lincoln says "A house divided against itself cannot stand" accepting Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the Senate



Bloomsday (date of events in James Joyce's Ulysses)

Israel complies with UN Security Council Resolution 425 after 22 years, which calls on Israel to completely withdraw from Lebanon. Israel withdraws from all of Lebanon, except the disputed Sheba Farms

Levels normal around Taishan reactor



Part of the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant, under construction, is seen under construction in 2013.

"So far China's nuclear power plants have maintained a good operating record, with no incidents affecting the environment and public health," Zhao said.

EDF said on Monday that the problem at the plant could have been caused by fuel rods supplied by Framatome.

"Under normal operating conditions it is true some gases like krypton and xenon will escape and be detected but in this case the concentrations are much higher, so something is happening," said Tatsujiro Suzuki, a former vice-chairman of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission.



The Taishan project, completed in 2019, consists of two French-designed reactors, and is located around 200 km (124 miles) from Hong Kong.

Earlier, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam told reporters that the Hong Kong Observatory and the Water Supplies Department have been monitoring radiation levels and have so far not detected anything abnormal.

Li Ning, a Chinese nuclear scientist based in the United States, said the dangers at Taishan have been exaggerated.

"Because nuclear power plants, once built and in operation, are under very strict control and local areas are excluded from further development, background radiation levels around them can often be lower than historical levels," he said.

India's top court ends proceedings against Italian marines



Italian sailors Salvatore Girone (R) and Massimiliano Latorre leave the police commissioner office in the southern Indian city of Kochi

Reuters

India's top court said on Tuesday it has closed all proceedings against two Italian marines over the shooting of two fishermen off the southern Indian coast in 2012, after Rome paid \$1.36 million in compensation.

Salvatore Girone and Massimiliano Latorre were arrested in February 2012 over the shooting. They said the killings were accidental, as they mistook the fishermen for pirates and fired warning shots while on duty on the Italian oil tanker "Enrica Lexie".

The case caused friction between the two countries for years. "Compensation paid by the Italian government, over and above payments already made is adequate," said Justice M R Shah, one of the judges hearing the case in India's Supreme Court, closing the case against the two men in India.

Italy has paid 100 million Indian rupees (\$1.36 million) in compensation, split between the families of the victims and the boat's owner, Shah said.

European Union commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said in a tweet on Tuesday the verdict is "a success of Italian diplomacy."

A spokesman for Italy's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether the men will be prosecuted in Italy.

But Italian foreign minister Luigi Di Maio said in a tweet that all legal proceedings were now closed.

"Thanks to those who worked on the case with perseverance, thanks to our tireless diplomatic corps," he said. "This long affair has finally come to an end."

Reuters

Twitter yesterday introduced an "Arabic (feminine)" language setting enabling the social media site to speak to users using feminine grammar, part of what it said was an inclusion and diversity drive.

"We want our service to reflect the voices that shape the conversations that take place on our service," said Rasha Fawakhiri, Twitter's communications head for the Middle East and North Africa.

In Arabic, verbs agree with the gender of their subject. Masculine forms are used to address mixed or unknown audiences and are the default in most texts.

Twitter did not introduce a non-binary gender language option in Arabic, but Fawakhiri said the company has other gender neutral projects in the works for the site. It has plans to add a designated gender pronoun field to Twitter profiles so people can display how they prefer to be addressed.

Until now, the instruction for the user to Tweet in Arabic had appeared only in the masculine form "gharrid". With a change of settings, this command can now appear on Twitter as "gharridi", the feminine form.

Twitter says it is the first social media site to introduce an "Arabic (feminine)" language option. Dubai-based global logistics company Aramex in April added a similar language option to its corporate website.

"We want to provide people with the option of how they prefer to be addressed," Fawakhiri said.

Twitter started with Arabic and the initiative could be expanded to other languages, Fawakhiri said.

Last year the company amended some of the language used by its engineers in their processes to be more inclusive. This included "they/them/their" pronouns and replacing "man hours" with "person or engineer hours", and "master/slave" with "leader/follower".

Code up for auction as NFT



Berners-Lee poses for a speech at the Mozilla

Created in Europe in

theorem blockchain (NFT), a one-of-a-kind record of ownership code, an letter written by

Berners-Lee and a digital poster of the full code from the original files.

NFTs have exploded in popularity in recent months, including at auction. A digital-only artwork by American artist Mike Winkelmann, known as Beeple, sold for nearly \$70 million at Christie's in March.

"Why an NFT? Well, it's a natural thing to do ... when you're a computer scientist and when you write code and have been for many years," Berners-Lee said in a statement. "It feels right to digitally sign my autograph on a completely digital artefact."

The files contain 9,555 lines of code including implementations of the three languages and protocols invented by Berners-Lee: HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol), and URIs (Uniform Resource Identifiers).

Also included are original HTML documents that instructed early web users on how to use the application.

Bids for the NFT, a way of asserting ownership of a digital asset, start at \$1,000 in a standalone online auction titled "This

Changed Everything" running from June 23-30.

While working at Europe's physics research centre CERN in 1989, Berners-Lee laid out his vision for what he initially called "Mesh".

His boss at the time wrote "vague but exciting" on the cover of Berners-Lee's 1989 paper "Information Management: A Proposal".

Berners-Lee in 1990 was building an application he called "WorldWideWeb". It was originally developed in Objective C programming language on a NeXT computer, founded by Apple founder Steve Jobs after his ouster from Apple.

"Sir Tim's invention created a new world, democratizing the sharing of information, creating new ways of thinking and interacting, and staying connected to one another," said Cassandra Hatton, global head of science and popular culture at Sotheby's.

"Over the past several centuries humankind has seen a succession of paradigm shifts that have brought us forward into the modern era ... but none has had the seismic impact on our daily lives as the creation of the World Wide Web."

US to take steps against white supremacists and militia groups

Reuters

Five months after the attack on the US Capitol, the Biden administration will unveil steps for federal and local officials and social media companies to battle national security threats posed by white supremacists and militia groups.

US Attorney General Merrick Garland will release a plan for increased information sharing, additional resources to identify and prosecute threats, and new deterrents to prevent Americans from joining dangerous groups.

The administration conducted a sweeping assessment earlier this year of domestic terrorism that labeled white supremacists and militia groups as top national security threats. The issue took on new urgency after the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump



US President Joe Biden

who were trying to overturn Joe Biden's election victory.

The strategy stopped short of calling for new laws to fight domestic threats.

"We concluded that we didn't have the evidentiary basis, yet, to decide whether we wanted to pro-

ceed in that direction or whether we have sufficient authority as it currently exists at the federal level," said a senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in advance of the announcement.

In his budget proposal released last month, Biden, who succeeded Trump on Jan. 20, is seeking \$100 million in additional funding to train and hire analysts and prosecutors to disrupt and deter terrorist activity.

"The threat is elevated," the administration official said. "Tackling it means ensuring that we do have the resources and personnel to address that elevated threat."

The administration is also toughening the federal government's screening methods to better identify employees who may pose insider threats. They are looking to share those techniques with private companies.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Once the adults have been overwhelmingly vaccinated, which is what we can achieve in a short space of time, we will be in a far stronger position to keep hospitalisations down, to live with this disease & to complete our cautious but irreversible roadmap to freedom. 4/4

@BorisJohnson

02



Democracy thrives when the infrastructure of democracy is strong; when people have the right to vote freely, fairly, and conveniently; when a free and independent press pursues the truth; when the law applies equally to everyone, regardless of who they are or what they look like.

@JoeBiden

03



The #COVID19 virus is moving faster than the global distribution of vaccines. To end the pandemic, our shared goal must be to vaccinate at least 70% of the world's population by the time the @G7 meets again next year. To do that, we need 11 billion doses.

@DrTedros

04



Congratulations and best wishes to all the athletes selected for the @RefugeesOlympic Team! Your perseverance and determination are an inspiration to us all.

@antonioguterres

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

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THE DAILY **tribune**

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China's trekking elephants wait for youngster to catch up

● A 10-year-old got sidetracked from the family walk several days ago, and is now lagging around 14 kilometres (nine miles) behind

● The herd has travelled around 500 kilometres

AFP | Beijing

A herd of elephants on a mammoth trek across China is taking an enforced break -- as they wait for a wayward youngster to catch-up.

The 10-year-old got sidetracked from the family walk several days ago, and is now lagging around 14 kilometres (nine miles) behind.

Despite repeated calls from increasingly impatient adults, the dawdling dumbo appeared in no hurry.

Chen Mingyong, a professor at Yunnan University who is monitoring the herd's huge hike, told Chinese media that the matriarchs are trumpeting for the youngster to get his skates on.



The elephant herd has travelled around 500 kilometres, and is now lingering a couple of days south of the city of Kunming

But state broadcaster CCTV -- which is carrying a 24-hour live feed of the migration -- said he shows no sign of wanting to rejoin the group.

Male elephants usually leave their mother's herd to live alone or in small groups with other males as they reach sexual maturity.

The herd has travelled around 500 kilometres, and is now lingering a couple of days south of Kunming, the provincial capital of Yunnan province.

The migration has captivated Chinese social media and drawn international attention while costing local farmers more than a million dollars in losses.

Wildlife officials at the weekend said they were planning to use "food bait and roadblocks" to guide the elephants to a suitable habitat.

Over 3,500 residents have been evacuated to make way for the elephants, and hundreds of trucks have been deployed to keep them away from densely

populated areas, official news agency Xinhua reported.

Experts are unsure why the herd left their home at the Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve late last year.

The wild elephant population in Yunnan stands at around 300, up from 193 in the 1980s, Xinhua said. Human-elephant conflicts in the region have intensified in recent years due to unfettered development projects that encroach on the animals' natural habitats.

Billionaire admits cheating to beat Indian chess champ



Viswanathan Anand, who has won five world titles and is regarded as India's greatest ever player, suffered a shock defeat to a young billionaire but it was later found that behind the scenes help was utilised during the charity match

AFP | New Delhi

A young Indian billionaire has admitted to cheating in a shock win over five-time chess world champion Viswanathan Anand, saying it was for "fun and charity".

Online brokerage firm founder Nikhil Kamath took on Anand during an online charity event on Sunday and caused quite a stir when he came out on top in a 30-minute rapid game.

The next day he admitted to using "computers" and the help of "people analyzing the game" to gain the upper hand.

"It is ridiculous that so many are thinking that I really beat Vishy sir in a chess game, that is almost like me waking up and winning a 100mt race with Usain Bolt," Kamath tweeted.

"In hindsight, it was quite silly as I didn't realise all the confusion that can get caused due to this. Apologies."

Anand, acclaimed as the greatest player India has produced, played -- and beat -- a number of celebrity guests including cricketer Yuzvendra

Chahal and Bollywood actor Aamir Khan during the event.

The 51-year-old grandmaster appeared to play down the whole affair.

"Yesterday was a celebrity simul for people to raise money. It was a fun experience upholding the ethics of the game," he wrote on Twitter.

"I just played the position (on the) board and expected the same from everyone."

India's chess federation saw the incident as violating the spirit of the game.

"We don't expect anybody to get help from computers, at the national and state level we are following the protocols," the federation's secretary Bharat Chauhan told local media.

#photo1
"(Kamath) was doing it for charity, he shouldn't have done. This is really bad," he added.

Anand won his first world title aged 30, and enjoyed great rivalries with the likes of Russian champions Gary Kasparov, Vladimir Kramnik and Soviet-born Israeli Boris Gelfand.

Ikea fined Euro 1 million over staff spying scandal, ex-France chief handed suspended sentence

AFP News

A French court yesterday ordered IKEA to pay a 1 million euro fine for spying on its French staff, after the world's biggest furniture retailer was found guilty of improperly gathering and storing data on its

employees.

The French branch of the Swedish company was accused of snooping on its workers over several years, and breaching their privacy by reviewing records of their bank accounts and sometimes using fake employees to write up reports on staff.

Prosecutors had been pushing for a 2 million euro fine against the firm, which is owned by the Ingka Group.

"IKEA Retail France has strongly condemned the practices, apologised and implemented a major action plan to prevent this from happening

again," the company said.

The flatpack furniture firm's former chief executive in France, Jean-Louis Baillet, was also found guilty in the case and handed a two-year suspended prison sentence. Judges fined him 50,000 euros for storing personal data.

CELEBS

Paris Jackson reveals she gets 'severe paranoia' from paparazzi

ANI | Washington

American actor and singer Paris Jackson, recently revealed that she suffers long-term anxiety and trauma from enduring countless camera clicks by paparazzi since she was a child.

According to Fox News, opened up on the subject while stopping by 'Red Table Talk' for a frank discussion about living under the media glare.

Jackson said, "I experience auditory hallucinations sometimes with camera clicks and severe paranoia and have been going to therapy for a lot of things but that included. I'll hear a trash bag rustling and flinch in panic. I think it's standard PTSD."

Jackson, the daughter of pop legend Michael Jackson, has a one-on-one discussion

with fellow paparazzi target and friend Willow Smith on Wednesday's edition of the online talk show that airs on Facebook Watch.

During the show's introduction, Smith said she met Jackson on the set of mom Jada Pinkett Smith's TV show 'Hawthorne'. Smith and Jackson soon forged a bond over growing up with parents in the spotlight, and over the love of music, modelling, and issues like mental health, sexuality and body image. One way Jackson says she keeps some privacy is by asking people in her home to sign non-disclosure agreements.

Jackson, who has dated men and women, told Smith that while there is tension with some of her family members over her sexuality, she has leaned on her brothers Prince and Prince Michael II, and longtime family friend Omer Bhatti.



Paris Jackson

Jessica Henwick joins Daniel Craig in 'Knives Out 2'

ANI | Washington

Netflix's upcoming 'Knives Out' sequel has added actor Jessica Henwick to the already packed star cast of the film.

As per Deadline, the actor has joined the first sequel to 'Knives Out', teaming up with a star-studded list of previously announced cast members including Kate Hudson, Kathryn Hahn, Dave Bautista, Janelle

Monae, Leslie Odom Jr. and Edward Norton.

Actor Daniel Craig, who essayed the role of master sleuth Benoit Blanc in the hit 2019 whodunnit, will reprise the role in the sequel.

The upcoming second installment will be written and directed by Rian Johnson. He is also set to produce with Ram Bergman under their T-Street banner. Plot details are being kept under wraps but the follow-up will be another star-studded murder mystery anchored by Craig's character Blanc.

'Knives Out' was released via Lionsgate in 2019, earning a total of USD 311.4 million at the box office on a USD 40 million

budget. Johnson, who earned a 2020 Oscar nomination for the 'Knives Out' screenplay, told The Hollywood Reporter that he began working on the script shortly after the first film was released.

In a massive USD 469 million deal, Netflix recently won the rights for two sequels and a readymade franchise. The only contingencies of the deal were that Craig must star in both the sequels and that each must have at least the budget of the 2019 movie.

The original 'Knives Out' starred Craig, Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis, Ana de Armas, Christopher Plummer, Michael Shannon, and Toni Collette, among many others.



Jessica Henwick

YOU KNOW WHAT

It is currently unclear whether or not any of the original film's cast members will join Craig for the new murder mystery

Peaky Blinders' star Paul Anderson to star in WWII action feature 'Immortal'

ANI | Washington

British actor Paul Anderson, best known for playing Arthur Shelby in 'Peaky Blinders', is set to star in WWII action feature 'Immortal', the third feature from Finnish director Jalmari Helander and is set to start shooting in Lapland this September.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Sony Pictures Worldwide Acquisitions (SPWA) has swooped on world distribution rights outside of the Nordics, where Nordisk Film has taken rights.

Set in 1945, 'Immortal' will tell the story of ex-soldier Arthur Aatami, played by Helander's long-time collaborator Jorma Tommila, who discovers gold in the deep wilderness of Lapland. When he attempts to take his loot into the city, a squadron of Nazi soldiers led by a brutal SS officer (Anderson) gets in his way and a battle for the gold ensues between the lone soldier and the Nazis.

Petri Jokiranta, who has also produced Helander's two previous features, is producing the film through Subzero Film Entertainment. Mike Goodridge, Gregory Ouanhon and Antonio Salas are executive producers.

The film, which will be released in English and Finnish, is backed by the Finnish Film Foundation, Business Finland - Audiovisual Production Incentive and MTV Cmore. "To make an action film in Finland has been a dream of mine since I was 10 years old," Helander said.

Anderson, also seen in 'The Revenant', 'In the Heart of the Sea' and '71', will soon also be appearing in Guillermo Del Toro's 'Nightmare Alley'.



Paul Anderson

Margot Robbie announces to take break from social media

ANI | Washington

Hollywood star Margot Robbie recently shared an announcement with her 23.7 million Instagram followers that she will be taking a break from social media. Writing "Ciao for now," she broke the news online.

"Jumping off social media for the time being," she wrote

alongside a photo of herself celebrating 'Promising Young Woman', the Oscar-winning film produced by her company LuckyChap Entertainment that starred Carey Mulligan and was written and directed by Emerald Fennell.

She wrote, "Check out @luckychapentertainment if you're interested in what we're up to, otherwise ciao for now!"

It's been over a month since Robbie last posted on Instagram, sharing a video from Chanel's Cruise 2021/22 show in May. In fact, the 'I, Tonya' alum' often goes weeks or months

without publishing content on her account. So, some fans didn't seem too surprised by the move.

"Girl you were already off of social media. Love u though," one commenter wrote.

Another joked, "Oh my god, you finally posted." Robbie didn't give a reason for her social media departure, although she has been quite busy lately.

As per E! News, she's set to star in and produce the new movies 'Barbie' and 'Marian', and fans can see her reprise her role as Harley Quinn in the DC Entertainment film 'The Suicide Squad', which debuts in August.



Margot Robbie

Catherine Zeta-Jones: It gives me joy to be an empty nester

IANIS | Los Angeles

Catherine Zeta-Jones says her husband Michael Douglas and she are about to become empty nesters, a term the actress finds cold but when she really sits down and thinks about it, it gives her joy to be one.

An empty nester refers to a parent whose children have grown up and left home, and Zeta-Jones made the comment on Drew Barrymore's talk show, when the host asked her how she felt about the fact that her daughter was 18 and about to go off to college.

"It's so bizarre because both my stepmom and I are just about to become empty nesters. That word for me that term was so cold. What do you mean empty nest, they're not going anywhere, they're just going off to school. When I really sit down and think about it, it gives me joy to be an empty nester," Zeta-Jones replied.

Catherine Zeta-Jones

She talked about her mother: "I see what both Michael and I have done. Look I'm not bragging, you never know as a parent. I had a wonderful blueprint of what a mother should be. Strict, but gave good freedom. It was manners and discipline. She gave us a long leash, but we never ever tried to get off the leash. You can go and have fun."

"Go and explore but these are the parameters. With my children, I tried to instill those qualities. The best I can!" Zeta-Jones said on 'The Drew Barrymore Show'.



YOU KNOW WHAT

It's been over a month since Robbie last posted on Instagram, sharing a video from Chanel's Cruise 2021/22 show in May

SUDOKU

3								
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Yesterday's solution

2	9	4	5	1	3	7	8	6
1	6	8	7	4	2	3	9	5
5	7	3	6	8	9	2	4	1
4	5	1	3	2	8	9	6	7
8	2	9	4	7	6	5	1	3
6	3	7	9	5	1	8	2	4
3	8	6	1	9	7	4	5	2
9	1	5	2	3	4	6	7	8
7	4	2	8	6	5	1	3	9

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

CROSSWORD

Across
1- The doctor...; 5- Yard tunneler; 9- Graph prefix; 13- Tied; 15- Enthusiastic vigor and liveliness; 16- Holiday lead-ins; 17- Scoff; 18- Barber's call; 19- Network of nerves; 20- DDE's rival; 21- Savvy about; 23- Like anaerobic soil; 25- It's used to walk the dog; 26- Stir up; 27- Cavalry soldier; 30- Henpeck; 31- Firm; 32- State of USA; 37- "The Morning Watch" author; 38- Bottom line; 40- "Song of the South" song syllables; 41- Affluent; 43- Judge, e.g.; 44- On in years; 45- Go along with; 47- Baseball deals; 50- Barbershop request; 51- Potential mate; 52- DEA agent; 53- Barker and Bell; 56- Hostilities; 57- According to the Bible, he was the first man; 59- Russian drink; 61-...majestø; 62- Spanish snack; 63- Cruising vessel; 64- Ancient theaters; 65- Paradise lost; 66- Dreg.

Down
1- Ingrid's "Casablanca" role; 2- Having a sound mind; 3- Locks up; 4- Miss-named?; 5- Wise counselor; 6- Muffin topper; 7- Loose; 8- Spellbind; 9- Lost in Paris?; 10- Declares; 11- Knot again; 12- Wait...; 14- Sagging; 22- Comic Louis; 24- Eastern discipline; 25- Warble; 26- "Puppy Love" singer; 27- Warm up; 28- Anger; 29- Hurler Hershiser; 32- Siouan speaker; 33- Seraglio; 34- "Garfield" canine; 35- Run into; 36- Saab model; 38- Put up with; 39- Track numbers; 42- List heading; 43- Crafty; 45- Cossack chief; 46- Boxer's warning; 47- Adjusted pitch; 48- Wash cycle; 49- Lost; 51- Silage storage tower; 52- Neck part; 53- Clublike weapon; 54- Tennis great Arthur; 55- Fast fliers; 58- June honoree; 60- Actor Kilmor.

Yesterday's solution

S	I	E	N	A		O	T	O	E	S		A	F	T
A	R	I	O	T		N	E	W	L	L		A	R	E
G	E	N	R	E		S	E	E	D	S		R	A	H
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S	P	A		D	E	M	O	S		I	B	E	A	M
A	L	P		E	L	I	O	T		S	E	E	Y	A
L	E	T		N	I	T	R	O		T	Y	K	E	S

Messi frustrated after Argentina draw with Chile

Lionel Messi free-kick cancelled out as Chile hold Argentina in Copa America

● Paraguay bounce back to beat 10-man Bolivia

AFP | Brasilia

Argentina superstar Lionel Messi scored a stunning freekick but Chile hit back to earn a 1-1 draw in the Copa America on Monday.

Messi's magical left foot gave dominant Argentina a deserved first half lead but Eduardo Vargas equalized in the second half after Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez saved veteran midfielder Arturo Vidal's penalty.

Despite Argentina's dominance, Messi lamented that "we weren't calm, we didn't have control of the ball."

His coach Lionel Scaloni saw things differently, though.



Argentina's Lionel Messi shoots at goal

"We deserved to win but in the end we drew. In any case, it's only the start of a very tough tournament," said Scaloni.

Before the Group A game started in the Nelson Santos stadium in Rio de Janeiro, there was a light and effects tribute to Argentina legend Diego Maradona, who died in November aged 60, although the ground was empty due to coronavirus restrictions.

The first chance fell to Messi on eight minutes as Leandro Paredes picked out Nicolas Tagliafico on the left and the full-back nodded the ball down for his captain, who sent a volley wide.

Minutes later, Giovanni Lo Celso crossed from the left but a sliding Lautaro Martinez could only spoon the ball over the bar from inside the six-yard box.

Argentina were in total command and Lo Celso picked out Nicolas Gonzalez to shoot from

20 yards but goalkeeper Claudio Bravo got down well to his right to tip the ball around the post. From Messi's corner Gonzalez headed over the bar and moments later he was released by Lo Celso but shot straight at Bravo.

It would be a frustrating night for Gonzalez.

Argentina got the goal their domination deserved on 33 minutes, and inevitably it was Messi who scored, curling a free-kick from 25 yards out just beyond Bravo's dive.

They should have had a second soon afterwards but teed up by Gonzalo Montiel 10 yards out, Martinez screwed his shot horribly wide.

"I would be worried if the team wasn't creating chances. The important thing is we are, we're getting lots of players in the box. And it will go in," said Scaloni.

”

We needed to be calm, have control of possession and play more quickly. The penalty changed the match, too

LIONEL MESSI

'Defiant' Chileans

Chile started the second half with more intent and Erick Pulgar played Vargas into the area but his shot on the stretch was saved by Martinez.

However, Vidal stormed in to try to fire home the rebound and was caught by Tagliafico as he shot.

Referee Wilmar Roldan consulted VAR and then awarded a penalty.

Angel Romero scored twice as Paraguay bounced back to beat 10-man Bolivia 3-1 in Goiania and top Group A.

Erwin Saavedra gave Bolivia the lead from the penalty spot on 10 minutes after a long VAR review.

Paraguay dominated throughout but the game changed deep into first half stoppage time when Bolivia's Jaime Cuellar was sent off for a second booking.

Alejandro Romero Gamara restored parity just past the hour mark and Romero put Paraguay in front three minutes later.

Romero sealed the win 10 minutes from time as Paraguay enjoyed almost 80 percent possession and had more than 30

Bahrain to go for Arab athletics gold



Bahrain's Abdelrahman Mahmoud...looking to capture shot put gold (file photo)

● Fourteen-member national athletics team set to compete in biennial competition

● Five-day multi-event championship set to get underway today in Tunisia

TDT | Manama

Defending champions Bahrain are participating in the 22nd Arab Athletics Championships in Tunisia with a 14-member team, the Bahrain Athletics Association (BAA) has announced.

The competition is scheduled to get underway today and it will continue until Sunday.

The Bahraini delegation at the event is headed by BAA board member and national teams director Mohammed Abdulaziz.

The national squad consists of four women and 10 men.

The women are led by Tejitu Daba Chalchissa, who will be competing in the half-mar-

athon. Taking to the track will be Tigist Gashaw in the 5,000m and 1,500m; while Manal Al Bahrawi will be running the 1,500m and 800m; and Bontu Edao Rebitu will complete in the 10,000m.

For the men, Bahrain will be represented by Al Siddique Mkho in the 5,000m and 1,500m; Mohammed Ayoob and Abdulrazzaq Ismail in the 800m; Abraham Rotich in the 1,500m; Zuhair Awad in the 5,000m; Dawit Fikadu and Abdunasser Almy in the 10,000m; Josha Limoshin in the half-marathon; Marwan Madani in the discus throw; and Abdelrahman Mahmoud in the shot put.

A total of 20 countries are taking part in the championship, including Bahrain, Lebanon, Algeria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Morocco, Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Qatar, Libya, Djibouti, Somalia, Comoros and hosts Tunisia.

Bahrain were the overall champions in the previous Arab championship held in Egypt in 2019. They clinched a total of 24 medals then, including 15 gold, five silver and four bronze.

Morata jeered as wasteful Spain frustrated by Sweden



Spain's Gerard Moreno in action with Sweden's Marcus Danielson

AFP | Seville

Spain's new team struggled with the familiar problems on Monday as a string of missed chances allowed Sweden to hang on for a goalless draw in their Euro 2020 opener in Seville.

Alvaro Morata wasted the best opportunity of a dominant first half, in which Spain churned out 419 passes, the most of any team on record in the opening 45 minutes of a European Championship fixture. Morata was whistled by his own fans when substituted with 25 minutes left, with Luis

Enrique now facing questions over his decision to leave out Gerard Moreno, the Villarreal striker who scored 23 goals last season.

Spain lost their rhythm after the interval and Sweden might even have won it, the excellent Alexander Isak hitting the post before his strike partner Marcus Berg missed a sitter from two yards out.

"They decided to defend, defend and defend. It was a very unfair result," said Luis Enrique, who also complained about the pitch. "The players struggled to control the ball," he said.

Ronaldo breaks Euro goalscoring record as Portugal beat Hungary

Reuters | London

Cristiano Ronaldo netted a double to become the European Championship's all-time leading scorer as Portugal struck three times late on to beat a stubborn Hungary 3-0 in their Euro 2020 opener at a packed Puskas Arena yesterday.

The holders, who appear to have a much stronger squad than when they won their first major title five years ago, laboured for long periods in Budapest.

But Raphael Guerreiro made the vital breakthrough in the 84th minute and Ronaldo slammed in a penalty shortly afterwards before tapping home in injury time.

The Juventus striker has now scored 11 goals in the tournament, two more than French great Michel Platini, who netted nine times when he led France to glory in 1984.

The 36-year-old is also just three goals away from matching Iranian Ali Daei's all-time international scoring record of 109.

Ronaldo chose by far the biggest crowd of the tournament



Portugal's Nelson Semedo in action with Hungary's Attila Fiola

to break the record in front of, with Budapest the only Euro 2020 venue not to limit fan capacity due to Covid-19.

The Puskas Arena has a capacity of almost 68,000 fans.

World Cup winners France and three-time European champions Germany meet in the other Group F game later in the day at Munich's Allianz Arena.

Portugal coach Fernando Santos opted to play Liverpool forward Diogo Jota and Bernardo Silva alongside Ronaldo ahead of Joao Felix.

It almost paid instant divi-

dends, as Jota forced Hungary goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi into a smart save with a left-footed drive in the fourth minute, although he perhaps should have squared the ball for an unmarked Ronaldo.

Five minutes later, Jota, who was out injured for most of the latter stages of the club season, volleyed Bruno Fernandes' free-

11

goals have been scored by Cristiano Ronaldo in the tournament, two more than French great Michel Platini, who netted nine times when he led France to glory in 1984

kick over the crossbar.

Ronaldo created an opportunity for Bernardo Silva in the 28th minute by winning the ball back high up the pitch, only for the Manchester City winger to delay his shot too long and see the opening snuffed out by an excellent tackle from Hungary centre-back Willi Orban.

Hungary offered very little from open play, although they sent Portugal a warning shortly before half-time when Adam Szalai headed a free-kick too close to Rui Patricio.

Results

EURO 2020

Team	Goals	Opponent	Goals
Hungary	0	Portugal	3
France	1	Germany	0

*Scores as of closing

Ahli all set for Gulf basketball campaign

Bahrain champions receive national basketball federation president Waleed Al Alawi prior to flying out to Dubai for competition

● Ahli representing Bahrain in tournament as one of five teams competing for the title, as well as a place in FIBA Asia Champions Cup

● Bahrainis scheduled to open campaign on Friday against Al Shamal of Qatar, in the first of three games over three straight days

TDT | Manama

Bahrain champions Al Ahli are finalising their preparations for the 40th Gulf Basketball Association Championship, which tips off in Dubai on Friday.

The competition also acts as a qualifying tournament for this year's FIBA Asia Champions Cup.

Ahli are taking part as the winners of the national league as well as the prestigious Khalifa bin Salman Cup.

In support of Ahli's representation of the Kingdom in the event, Bahrain Basketball Association president Waleed Al Alawi visited the team during their practice session at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Also present were BBA and Ahli officials, as well as the team members including head coach



BBA president Waleed Al Alawi, left, speaks to the Ahli players during his visit to training alongside officials

Ahmed Jan.

Al Alawi wished Ahli the best in the championship and urged the players to give their best.

There are five clubs set to take to the hardwood for the competition. Along with Bahrain's Ahli, the others are hosts Shabab Al Ahli Club of Dubai, Al Nasser of Saudi Arabia, Al Shamal of Qatar and Al Kuwait of Kuwait.

Play will consist of a single round-robin, after which the semi-finals will take place followed by the final. The winners will move on to compete in the FIBA Asia Champions Cup, which is scheduled to be held later this year.

The Bahraini outfit will be relying on their top local players such as Mohammed Qurban, Maitham Jameel, Hesham Sar-



To bolster their squad for the GBA championship, Ahli have signed the talented American pairing of Mike Harris and Manny Harris.

han, Ahmed Aldurazi and Subah Hussain, to name a few.

To bolster their squad, Ahli have signed the American pairing of Mike Harris and Manny



Ahli's players during their practice session

Harris.

Mike Harris already has experience with Ahli, having helped them secure this past season's titles in both the national league as well as the prestigious Khalifa bin Salman Cup.

Manny Harris is joining the team for the first time. He had also suited up in his playing career with clubs in Israel, Greece, Lithuania, Turkey, Ukraine and the Philippines, among others.

Ahli open their tournament campaign with a tough three-game schedule over three straight days. They first go

against Shamal on Friday, and then take on Kuwait on Saturday before playing Shabab Al Ahli the very next evening.

Following a rest day on Monday, play resumes on Tuesday when Ahli face Nasser.

The semi-finals are then scheduled to be held on June 25, followed by the final the next evening on the 26th.

The FIBA Asia Champions Cup, previously known as the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) Champions Cup until 2002, is the Asian club championship for professional basket-

ball. It is organised by FIBA Asia, and takes place once a year.

Last year's competition was postponed due to the pandemic. In 2019, Muharraq represented Bahrain and were able to make it through to the final four where they lost to Al Riyadi of Beirut. They then bowed to Palayesh Naft Abadan of Iran in the bronze medal game, and had to settle for third place.

Only one Bahraini club has ever medalled in the FIBA Asia Champions Cup. It was Manama in 2000, when they won the bronze medals.

BRAVE CF leading the way for European MMA development

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation has been making major moves in the mixed martial arts scene globally but most recently has been sending shock waves throughout the European continent by highlighting the best fighters, empowering mixed martial arts federations, and helping local promotions gain worldwide recognition.

As of lately, the promotion reached a new milestone and was crowned the biggest global promotion in Europe due to having the largest active market share in the continent and the most extensive European scouting network.

The fruition of the vision of the founder His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to reform the MMA industry from an event business to a sports business and give opportunity to fighters and the whole industry around the world, regardless of marketability, language, nationality, or region echoed heavily throughout the continent in 2020.

Last year BRAVE CF broke records and made history as the only promotion to host 7 events in Europe in one year, and the promotion's return to the continent in January of 2021 further amplified the noise. Questions started rising about the endless possibilities ahead of BRAVE CF in Europe as it is a territory where many global promotions attempted succeeding at and



Valeria Lang and Valentina Shevchenko

Europe is a key market for global sports regulation and development and we intend to develop MMA in this market and give the biggest opportunity to the top European fighters and make them global stars

VALERIA LANG

failed.

In an exclusive interview, KHK Sports and BRAVE CF Chief Operating Officer Valeria Lang opened up about the promotions endeavours in the European scene and touched

on plans for the future of European MMA.

"We are very excited at BRAVE CF to be leading the European MMA scene today," says Lang. "Europe is a key market for global sports regulation and development and we intend to develop MMA in this market and give the biggest opportunity to the top European fighters and make them global stars."

Lang also added, "I believe that BRAVE CF will be the MMA story of Europe. We have a model for Europe that is guaranteed success."

With 6 months left in the year and another European BRAVE CF event scheduled for Milan, Italy on August 1st, the development of MMA in Europe has huge potential, and BRAVE CF may be the right catalyst for the vision.

BRAVE CF president celebrates promotion's footprint in Europe: 'breaking records and making history'

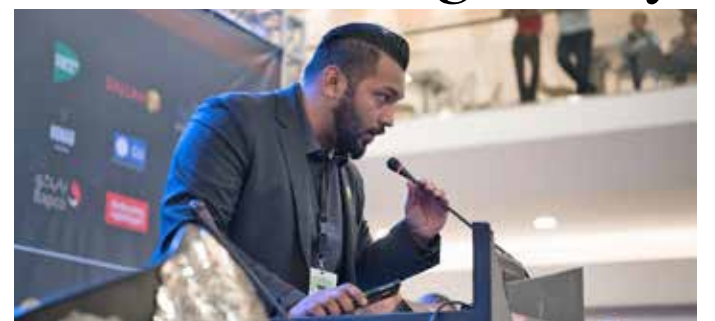
TDT | Manama

Founded in the Kingdom of Bahrain by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with a global orientation, BRAVE Combat Federation quickly became one of the biggest international MMA promotions in the world, a position that only became more and more solidified throughout the years.

As the overseas expansion reached new regions, such as South America and Africa, apart from Asia, one continent in particular started getting more and more traction within BRAVE CF and became a hub for the international events promoted by the organization: Europe.

Now, only three years after its maiden European event in Northern Ireland, BRAVE CF has officially established itself as the biggest MMA promotion in Europe, with the largest active MMA market share in the continent, hosting events in three different regions and 8 European countries.

Apart from it, BRAVE Combat Federation has established the most comprehensive scouting network in Europe, leading up to more than 80 European fighters, from 30 different nations, signed up to this point. To accommodate this amount of talent, BRAVE CF was the only global MMA promotion in history to host 7 events in Europe in



BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid

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MOHAMMED SHAHID

a single year.

BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid celebrated the achievements, while commenting on how they play a key role in the bigger picture plan for the fastest-growing MMA pro-

motion in the world.

"The vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa was clear to us from the first day: to reform the MMA industry from an event business to a sports business. To give opportunity to fighters and the whole industry around the world, regardless of marketability, language, nationality, or region. Talent would be the only variable", Shahid stated.

"This vision has today seen the development of MMA and opportunities spread all over Asia, Africa, South America and now it's showing in Europe", he continued.

"Breaking records and making history towards the new age of MMA. An absolute honour to be a small part of this global vision".

The BRAVE CF European series of events will continue on August 1st, when the truly global MMA promotion lands for the first time in Italy, hosting its 52nd edition in the world's fashion capital Milan.

Bahrain outclass Hong Kong

Kingdom's senior men's national football team wrap up World Cup-Asian Cup joint-qualification campaign with resounding 4-0 victory in final Group C match

● **Sayed Hashem Isa fires in brace, Sayed Dhiya Saeed and Ismaeel Abdullatif add others in four-goal second-half show**

● **Bahrainis finish third in Group C of joint-qualifying, exit World Cup contention but advance in Asian Cup qualification**

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Bahrain wrapped up their campaign in the joint-qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023 last night with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Hong Kong at the National Stadium in Riffa.

Sayed Hashem Isa had a brace while Sayed Dhiya Saeed and substitute Isameel Abdullatif supplied the other goals in the contest, which was the Bahrainis' eighth and last assignment in qualification Group C.

Despite the win, the Bahrainis were unable to push through to the next round of World Cup



Bahrain's Sayed Hashem Isa battles for possession with Hong Kong's Clayton Michel Afonso

qualifying. The nationals did, however, advance in Asian Cup qualification.

All four of Bahrain's goals came after half-time.

Following a goalless first period, it did not take long for Saeed to find the target as the Bahraini skipper was able to squeak in the opener just four minutes after the re-start.

Hong Kong goalkeeper Yapp Hung Fai made a pair of fine saves on successive attempts by Saeed and Mahdi Humaidan. But on the ensuing high rebound, Saeed was able to outjump his markers and get enough of a touch with a header to send the

ball past the goal line.

Just five minutes later, Isa doubled Bahrain's advantage from the penalty spot. The influential forward was tripped in the area by Hong Kong's Huang Yang, and he stepped up to take the penalty himself, which he



Bahrain finish with four wins from eight matches in Group C, which they complete with 15 points. The nationals lost just once and drew the three other times

fired in to the left of goal.

Isa then made it 3-0 in the 70th minute after some crafty, quick passing from his teammates. Mohammed Marhoon found an unmarked Rashed Alhooti on the left of the box, and the wily defender sent in a low cross to a perfectly positioned

Isa in the face of goal, and he needed only to tap the ball home.

Abdullatif then applied the final nail in the coffin a minute before full time with Bahrain's second penalty of the game after fellow-sub Ali Madan was taken down in the area by Hong Kong's Chung Wai Keung. Abdullatif made no mistake with his spot kick, which he placed into the bottom-right corner.

The result earned Bahrain their fourth win in Group C as they finished with 15 points. The nationals lost just once in their eight games, while drawing the three other times. Hong Kong suffered their fifth loss and wrapped up the joint-qualifiers with five points.

Bahrain head coach Helio Sousa fielded last night a starting 11 that included Sayed Mohammed Jaafar in goal; Ahmed Bughammar, Abdulla Al Hazza, Ahmed Merza and Alhooti in defence; Saeed, Mohammed Ab-

Group C standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Iran	8	6	0	2	30	18
Iraq	8	5	2	1	+10	17
Bahrain	8	4	3	1	+11	15
Hong Kong	8	1	2	5	-9	5
Cambodia	8	0	1	7	-42	1

dulwahab, Kumail Alaswad and Humaidan in midfield; and the strike-partnership of Isa and Abbas Al Asfoor.

There were eight groups in all in this now-completed second round of joint-qualifiers, with five nations in each group. To end this stage, the eight group winners and the four best runners-up advanced to the third round of World Cup qualifying, and also secured their Asian Cup berths.

The next best 24 teams, which includes Bahrain, will compete in a separate competition for 12 remaining Asian Cup slots.

Iran edge past Iraq to top Group C table

● **Russian Premier League Player of the Year Sardar Azmoun scores winning goal, lifting Iran to sixth win**

● **Iran top Group C while Iraq finish as runners-up, as both teams advance in World Cup qualifying and secure Asian Cup berths**

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Iran battled past Iraq 1-0 last night to secure first place in Group C of joint-qualification for the FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023.

The match was played at the



Action from the match

Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium at Muharraq Club in Arad.

Russian Premier League Player of the Year Sardar Azmoun scored the game's lone

goal in the 35th minute of play.

Ehsan Hajsafi supplied the assist with a fine cross from the left of the box to an unmarked Azmoun right in front of goal. Azmoun pounced and sent

the ball into the bottom-right corner of the net, for what eventually proved to be the winner.

The result gave Iran their sixth victory after eight matches as they leapfrogged the Iraqis to first place in Group C with 18 points.

It was the first loss for Iraq in qualification. They finished as group runners-up with 17 points.

As the top two teams in the group, both Iran and Iraq advance to the Asian Football Confederation's third round of World Cup qualifying. They have also secured their berths in the Asian Cup.

Finishing below them on the Group C table were Bahrain with 15 points, Hong Kong with five and Cambodia with just one point.

Bahrain drawn in tough pool for U21 world volleyball championship

● **Tournament draw held virtually yesterday, Bahrainis set to play Poland, Cuba and co-hosts Bulgaria in first round**

● **The under-21 worlds are scheduled to take place September 23 to October 3, co-hosted by Bulgaria and Italy**

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Bahrain's junior national volleyball team were drawn alongside Poland, Cuba and co-hosts Bulgaria in Pool B for the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship, scheduled to take place later this



A screenshot of Bahrain being drawn from the pots yesterday during the virtual ceremony

The draw for the global competition, organised by the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), was held yesterday in a virtual ceremony streamed

online from Rome, Italy.

The tournament is scheduled to be held between September 23 and October 3 and will be co-hosted by Bulgaria and Italy.

Bahrain's junior squad is coached by Brazilian Issanaye Ramires, and the team features many of the Kingdom's top rising talents.

The Bahrainis qualified for the under-21 worlds based on their FIVB U21 World Ranking. The nationals were one of four teams to book their slots this way, with the others being Poland, the Czech Republic and Morocco.

In addition to Bulgaria and Italy as co-hosts, 10 other teams qualified via separate continental tournaments, making for a 16-nation field.

Following yesterday's draw, the teams in Pool A include Italy, Egypt, the Czech Republic, and



The previous under-21 world championship was held in Bahrain in 2019, when the hosts put on a spirited fight in front of their home crowd and took an impressive eighth place overall

another to-be-determined qualifier; Pool C consists of Iran, Argentina, Morocco and Belgium; while Pool D features Russia, Brazil, Cameroon and Canada.

Following the first stage, the

top two teams from each pool move on to the final eight in Pools E and F in the second round. The bottom two will play for the ninth to 16th places in Pools G and H.

That will set the stage for the last four, and then the bronze and gold medal games, plus the final classification matches.

Individual awards will be handed out to the Most Valuable Player, Best Setter, Best Outside Spiker, Best Middle Blockers, Best Opposite Spiker and Best Libero.

The previous under-21 worlds was held in Bahrain in 2019. Iran won the gold medals then, while Italy claimed the silver and Brazil clinched bronze.

The Bahrainis put on a spirited fight in front of their home crowd, as they took an impressive eighth place after reaching the knockout quarter-finals.

Top-seed Medvedev knocked out of Halle in first round

AFP | Halle

World number two Daniil Medvedev was a first-round casualty at the ATP grass court tournament in Halle yesterday as he suffered a shock defeat to Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff.

Struff, ranked 45th in the world, bounced back from 5-2 down in the first set to claim a 7-6(8/6), 6-3 victory over the Russian, who was the top seed in Halle.

"This is the biggest win, rankings wise, of my career and to do it here on home soil is very special. I only live an hour from here," said Struff, 32, after his first career win over Medvedev at the fourth attempt.