

Ukraine look for 'decent fight' against Bahrain

Helio Sousa: Friendly match in Kharkiv will be a good 'test' against 'such a strong team' | P12

China says Martian rover takes first drive on Mars

THE DAILY **tribune**



Dwayne to voice Krypto the Super-Dog in Warner Bros. 'DC League of Super-Pets'

BHB launches investor relations best practice guide

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Gatherings increase the risk of COVID-19 infection

In 1958 US considered nuclear strike on China over Taiwan: documents

AFP News



Daniel Ellsberg

US military planners pushed for nuclear strikes on mainland China in 1958 to protect Taiwan from an invasion by Communist forces, classified documents posted online by Daniel Ellsberg of "Pentagon Papers" fame show. US planners also assumed that the Soviet Union would aid China and retaliate with nuclear weapons -- a price they deemed worth paying to protect Taiwan, according to the document, first reported by the New York Times.

Former military analyst Ellsberg posted online the classified portion of a top-secret document on the crisis that had been only partially declassified in 1975.

Ellsberg, now 90, is famous for his 1971 leak to US media of a top-secret Pentagon study on the Vietnam war known as the Pentagon Papers.

Go directly to BIECC if tested +ve in rapid test

TDT | Manama

Go directly to Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre if tested positive in a rapid COVID-19 test, said the Health Ministry yesterday.

The new directives, the ministry said, comes into play for those emerging positive to a rapid COVID-19 test.

If positive, report that immediately to the ministry through the "BeAware" application.

There is no "need to call 444" for that, the ministry clarified.

Just drive through for a PCR

test at the Convention Centre. "Do not forget to carry the rapid test device with you" to the centre and bring it after placing the device in a "transparent airtight bag."

Care is required to "isolate yourself, avoid interactions with others, and wear a mask," the new directive highlights.

If you have tested positive following a rapid COVID-19 test

- You must report the result via the "BeAware" application
- Go directly to the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center drive through for a PCR test
- Without the need to call 444
- Do not forget to carry the rapid test device with you following placement in a transparent airtight bag

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Last update - 9:00 pm
22 May 2021

Individuals vaccinated

(First dose)

8 7 6 4 4 0

(Second dose)

6 8 3 2 2 3

Calm prevails, talks begin

Egyptian mediators try to build on the Israel-Hamas ceasefire

Palestinian conflict injuries risk 'overwhelming' health facilities: WHO

TDT | Manama

Calls for a longer-term calm were raised by Egyptian mediators yesterday as Gaza Strip went on assessing the damage from 11 days of hostilities with ceasefire holding on.

An Egyptian delegation in Israel is mulling ways of firming up the ceasefire, including aid for Palestinians in Gaza.

The delegates have been shuttling between Israel and Gaza, with talks continuing yesterday, the officials said.

A UN report had said that ap-



Palestinians shake hands after returning to their destroyed houses following Israel-Hamas truce, in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip

proximately 800,000 people in Gaza do not have regular access to clean piped water, as nearly 50% of the water networks are out of service following the recent raids.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also said the 11-day attack destroyed or damaged nearly 17,000 residential and commercial units, 53 education facilities,

six hospitals, and 11 primary health care centres.

Palestinian officials put the reconstruction costs at tens of millions of dollars and the death toll at 248 people.

The devastation has also raised concerns about the humanitarian situation in the densely populated enclave, pounded by Israel with airstrikes and artillery fire. Re-

ports also said the US Secretary of State would visit Israel and the Palestinian Authority in West Bank on Wednesday and Thursday, hoping to build on the ceasefire.

US President Joe Biden had pledged to work with the United Nations on bringing humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Gaza.

The State Department announced Blinken's visit on Thursday, without declaring dates, and said he would "discuss recovery efforts and working together to build better futures for Israelis and Palestinians". World Health Organisation spokeswoman Margaret Harris had said that Gaza's health facilities are in danger of being overwhelmed by the thousands of injuries and called for immediate access into Gaza for health supplies and personnel.

Hariri will not form cabinet catering to president's wishes



Reuters

Lebanon's prime minister-designate Saad al-Hariri said yesterday he will not form a cabinet that simply caters to President Michel Aoun's wishes.

"I will not form a government as the team of his Excellency the President wants it, nor any other political faction. I will only form the kind of government needed to stop collapse and prevent the big crash that is threatening the Lebanese," Hariri told a parliament session on Saturday.

The United Nations says approximately 800,000 people in Gaza do not have regular access to clean piped water, as nearly 50 percent of the water network was damaged in the recent raids by Israel.



Gaza has for years been subjected to an Israeli blockade that restricts the passage of people and goods, as well as restrictions by Egypt.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED
4468716

ACTIVE CASES
20724

DEATHS
809

DISCHARGED
193337

NEW CASES
2719

CRITICAL
199



SMC occupancy rate within normal levels: Dr Al Ansari

TDT | Manama

The COVID-19 pandemic has not stressed the capacity of Salmaniya Medical Complex, said a top official. Government Hospitals Chief Executive Dr Ahmed Al Ansari, in a statement, said that the occupancy rates of the Salmaniya are within the normal limits.

The hospital, he said, is now experiencing an occupancy rate of 70% to 80%.

The Chief Executive also thanked the tremendous efforts of the medical team for keeping the rates well within the normal limits.

Dr Al Ansari said the capacity expansion is helping SMC



to provide the highest level of service amid the outbreak of the deadly pandemic.

The BD 120,000 expansion project of the Emergency Department at SMC provided 50 beds with medical equipment each to zone A and zone B of the hospital.

Zone A is for emergency cases, while Zone B is for taking care of suspected COVID-19 infection cases.

Zone B also have 14 beds set aside for dialysis patients.

The hospital also has six beds in the intensive care zone with an ambulance entrance for ur-



Dr Ahmed Al Ansari

gent cases.

Radiology devices, ventilators, electronic pressure gauges, vital signs monitoring devices, health information system and communications devices are also in place as part of the project.

Customs win BV award for COVID-19 safety standards



TDT | Manama

Customs Affairs announced winning an award by Bureau Veritas for maintaining COVID-19 preventive measures in line with international medical standards.

Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the President of Customs Affairs, received the award from Zulfiqar Haider, CEO of BV in Bahrain. Numan Munawar, the Director of Systems Documentation Services, was present.

Works Minister visits BD78 million Tubli wastewater expansion project



Works Minister Essam Khalaf during a visit to the Tubli Wastewater Plant Expansion project

TDT | Manama

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, Essam Khalaf, has inspected the BD78 million Tubli Wastewater Plant Expansion

project to review its progress. The project, funded jointly by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as part of the Gulf Development Programme, is now in its Phase 4 development.

It aims at boosting the performance of the Tubli Wastewa-

ter Plant and the production of treated water for irrigation and agriculture.

Upon completion, the project will enhance the average daily flow capacity by 200,000 m³/day to 400,000 cubic metres/day.

The ministry, Essam Khalaf said, is also implementing another project in parallel with the Tubli Wastewater Plant Expansion.

The project includes the construction of laboratories, workshop, and an administration and

the Sanitation Affairs Directorate.

The Saudi Fund for Development is funding the project, the minister said.

The minister also said that the Government of Bahrain would fund the operation and mainte-

nance of the old and new plant for ten years.

The Works Ministry Undersecretary, Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Khayyat, and Assistant Undersecretary for Sanitation, Ibrahim Hassan Al-Hawaj, were present during the visit.

EWA rolls out video communication service

● The service handled 28,000 video calls during the trial period

● Electricity and Water Authority also opens a service for hard-of-hearing people

TDT | Manama

Electricity and Water Authority announced launching a new set of visual services for subscribers to overcome the challenges posed by the deadly coronavirus pandemic. The services, using Skiplino, open a direct visual link with EWA employees, bypassing service centres.

The services also cater to those who are hard-of-hearing. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, and Shaikh Nawwaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the CEO of EWA, inaugurated the



EWA Minister and CEO during the inauguration of the services

new services.

EWA, the minister said, is one of the first governmental agencies to launch a visual communication service for subscribers.

"The move follows the digitisation plan the authority is rolling out, including for insurance payment through the e-government portal.

Shaikh Nawwaf said the new services allow subscribers to book an appointment through the Skiplino app available both for Apple and Android. Sheikh Nawwaf added: "Upon booking a service, an employee of the concerned department will contact the subscriber visually using the app to complete

the transactions." "The service experienced great success during its trial period by making 28 thousand video calls through our virtual branch during the first quarter of the year."

"This year, EWA call centre processed 268,110 calls according to the performance indicators approved by the authority," Sheikh Nawwaf said. The service for deaf and mute people allows them to communicate visually through the number 33267444 without prior appointment.

The minister and the CEO further affirmed that the Electricity and Water Authority plans to launch more new electronic services in the future.



Alfonso A. Ver, Ambassador of Philippines, holding an online session with Filipino nationals at Jaw and Asri correctional facilities. Ambassador Ver gave assured continued support to Filipino nationals in prison.

Philippines embassy announces Kalayaan online fair

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of the Philippines in Manama announced holding an exclusive preview and opportunity to shop at an online fair.

The fair, dubbed 'Habi Kalayaan online fair', is organised by the International Bazaar Foundation in cooperation

with the HABI Textile Council of the Philippines.

The fair, the embassy said, offers one of a kind pieces, limited edition collections, handwoven treasures and collectables in celebration of Philippine Independence Day.

"It is a showcase of sustainable fashion and other lifestyle products using traditional and contemporary textiles from different parts of the Philippines," the embassy statement said. The embassy welcomes all to join the fair that showcases locally made products and Philippine culture.

Log on to www.shophabifair.com from 00:00H on 10 June 2021 until 23:59H on 11 June 2021 to access the online fair.

Preview is available from 8 to 9 June.



Log on to www.shophabifair.com from 00:00H on 10 June 2021 until 23:59H on 11 June 2021 to access the online fair.

Roads for Isa Town, skilled workers for Bapco, lifts for judicial council and more

Tender board opens 97 bids received for 15 government tenders

TDT | Manama

The Works Ministry is moving on with plans to develop the internal roads of Block 805 in Isa Town.

Authorities will construct a six-meter wide two lanes single carriageway asphalt paved internal roads over 2,750 meters.

Construction of footpaths, drainage, kerbing and other necessary earthworks are also part of the project, which the ministry plans to complete in 36 weeks.

Tendering works are completed, with the board receiving 20 bids for the project.

The tender board website says the bids ranged between BHD 608,128.463 and BHD 305,955.058, with 'Inter Lock Maintenance Construction' quoting the lowest amount.

The deal emerged as Tender Board, the independent regulatory body charged with overseeing government tendering, opened 97 bids received for 15 tenders opened for six administrative bodies in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning also had the board open five more tenders.

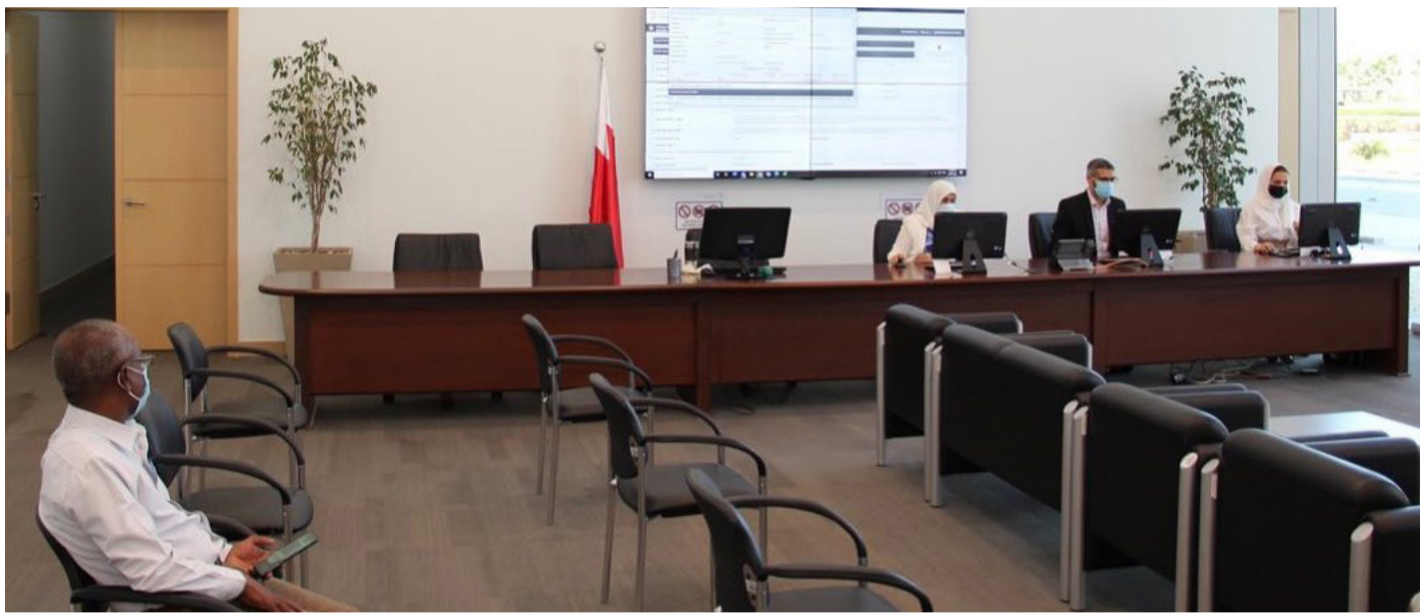
Cleaning services

One of the tenders was for garbage collection and cleaning services for Industrial Areas, Bahrain Logistics Zone and Agricultural Areas at Howrat A'ali.

The contract offered for 28 months attracted six bidders. Their quotes ranged between BHD 7,735,834.700 and BHD 208,294.161. Modern Global Cleaning made the lowest quote.

Lifts for Judicial council

The ministry is also replacing two of the existing traction passenger lifts at the supreme judicial council diplomatic area in Manama. A tender placed for the job attracted four quotes.



The tender board's bid opening committee

BIA is looking for low-bed semi-trailer

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Airport is to purchase a low-bed semi-trailer for its departments.

A tender opened for the purchase will close on 8 June 2021. BIA also requires the trailer to be delivered within a maximum of 10 weeks.



A quote of BHD 25,200.000 by Winter Tech Trading & Contracting emerged as the lowest bid.

School repair works

Ahead of the next academic year, the Work Ministry is also planning to complete the general repair works at Al Rawdha Primary Boys School & Al Ma'ameer Primary Boys School.

The schools will undergo civil and structural maintenance works such as internal and external painting, cracks repair, repair of ceilings and floorings, repair and replacement of doors and windows and renovation of

toilets. Works also aim at improving the water and electrical distribution networks and replace water tanks. The schools will also get new electrical power rooms.

The contract aiming completion of the entire works in three months received six bids ranging from BHD 275,440.000 to BHD 373,156.256. The tender board said Technical Construction Company made the lowest quote.

Entrance to Hidd

Yet another tender opened for the ministry was for constructing the main entrance to Hidd in Complex 111, Road 1117

MoE hiring transportation service

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education said they are looking for a contractor to provide transportation service for students to schools and institutes affiliated with the ministry.

A public tender opened on the 19th of this month requires picking up students from assembly points and dropping them off at schools across the governorates.

Successful contractors should also provide transportation service for all activities, programmes and events of the Ministry of Education for 40 months.

The tender requiring an initial bond of BD5,000 closes on the 20th of next month.

EWA purchasing tools

Moving on, the board said a tender by the Central Warehouse-



es Department of the Electricity and Water Authority for purchasing spare parts for the Water Transportation Department received two bids. The department also had three other tenders opened for purchasing electrical circuit breakers, electrical tools, and cable connectors.

The tender requiring an initial bond of BD5,000 closes on the 20th of next month.

The tender requiring an initial bond of BD5,000 closes on the 20th of next month.

Bags for economy class

In the aviation sector, the board opened two tenders for Gulf Air. The first for the maintenance of the aircraft technical

support line at Dubai International Airport received six bids. The second tender for supplying comfortable bags for economy class attracted four bidders.

Preventive maintenance for Bapco



In the oil and gas sector, the committee opened a tender for the Bahrain Petroleum Company offering a 5-year contract to provide preventive maintenance, repair and paint services for its auto equipment. The work found three bids.

The committee also opened a single bid for a tender by Tatweer Petroleum, offering a long-term agreement to supply spare parts for a ground valve.

Bapco hires skilled workers

Finally, the committee opened a tender for Bapco supplies company for outsourcing skilled workers.

The contract called for providing trained personnel to work as service station forecourt attendants at BRC service stations. The Service Station operations will be under 24-hour supervision of BRC, represented by a Shift Supervisor based at the sales office of the station.

The contract found 13 takers who made bids ranged between BHD 444,906.000 and BHD 2,494,800.000 to take up the work. The first choice cleaning services company emerged as the lowest bidder.

Athlete Nasser Bakhit dies in an accident on Al Riffa street



TDT | Manama

Bahraini sports yesterday lost one of its star athlete, Salem Nasser Bakhit, to a tragic road accident in the Al Haniniya area in Riffa, plunging the Kingdom into deep despair.

Reports say the mishap occurred when the car Bakhit was

Bakhit's personal bests of 2.19 metres outdoors and 2.13 metres indoors, both set in 2006, are current national records.

driving lost control and rammed into a garden fence.

Salem Nasser Bakhit, born in 1977, is a Bahraini athlete who specialises in the high jump. One of his top success is the silver medal at the 2002 Asian Championships.

Bakhit's personal bests of 2.19 metres outdoors and 2.13 metres

indoors, both set in 2006, are current national records.

The Ministry of Interior, in a Tweet, said a 44-year-old man lost his life in a road accident on Al Riffa Street.

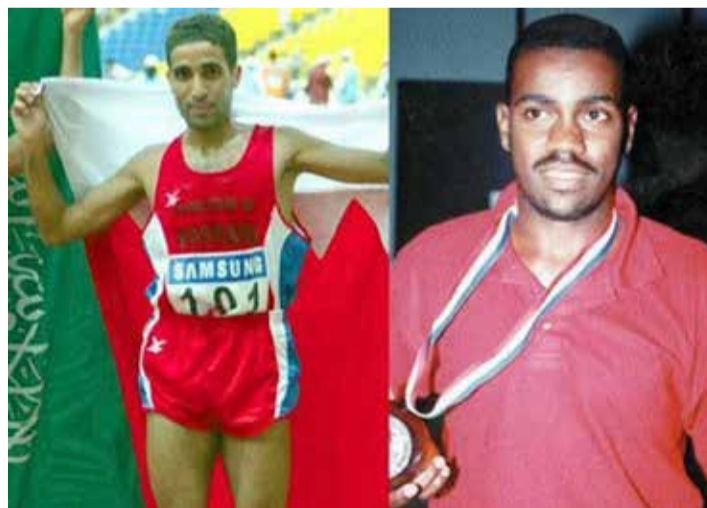
The ministry said the accident took place early morning yesterday in Al Haniniya District, and the driver of the vehicle died on

impact. Police responded to the incident immediately and transferred the victim to a hospital.

Authorities at that time hadn't disclosed the identity of the victim.

Interior Ministry also tweeted that competent authorities are at the scene.

An investigation is ongoing.



CAPTAINS CORNER

Taking off
into the world
of safer travel

CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

In the 'nineties, a friend approached me with a business proposal to invest in a security printing press to print air tickets and bank cheques. Although it was well before the internet took over our lives, I did not show interest – later, the friend always said it had been a wise decision because we now hardly need security printing for travel. Whether by bus, rail or air, we can download our travel document on our smartphone and move from one place to another. Although bank cheques are still used widely, digital transactions are slowly gaining ground.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we travel even further. True, the travel industry took a major knock because of governments

around the world placing restrictions on travel in a bid to control the pandemic. But far greater has been the implementation of several technological measures to making travel safer healthwise and while airports continue to look to low-tech solutions like masks and social distancing to help reduce the risk of Covid-19, some are also turning to technology to boost safety and promote consumer confidence.

From touchless kiosks to using your face as a passport, thermal cameras to CT scanners that create 3D models of bags to better detect dangerous materials or threats without having to handle the baggage, the technological advances and new safety features in travel are transforming airports across the world.

In our Bahrain of course, we have the spanking new Bahrain Airport and the Kingdom is one of the first governments to participate in the IATA health passport experiment with its national carrier, “to help pave the way for re-establishing global communication with coronavirus risk management.”

Travellers with a biometric passport, bound for London, Athens and Singapore, were able to try the app that helps them manage their travel in line with any government requirements for COVID-19 testing or any information about the vaccine.

Further, Gulf Air passengers are now able to create a “digital passport” that allows them to match their travel routes with the coronavirus health requirements at their destinations, and verify their compliance with them.

All these tech changes will stay with us even after the pandemic and I am sure we can build on our collective progress as we learn to pick up threads in the post-pandemic world.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

From touchless kiosks to using your face as a passport, thermal cameras to CT scanners that create 3D models of bags to better detect dangerous materials or threats without having to handle the baggage, the technological advances and new safety features in travel are transforming airports across the world.

Police directorates call for full
adherence to COVID protocols

TDT | Manama

Police directorates and Security departments in the Kingdom have urged citizens and residents to adhere strictly to COVID-19 measures to help battle the outbreak effectively.

In a statement, the directorates urged people to continue wearing face masks, restrict gathering to members of the same family, follow COVID-19 protocols at mosques and funerals, ensure social distancing in public places to protect society.

“Violators of COVID-19 protocols will attract stringent penalties and legal actions,” top police officials in the four governorates said.

“There is a need for full commitment to precautionary measures recommended by the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus to address the pandemic effectively.”

Police directorates and security departments said that full compliance and individual awareness is most important for limiting the spread of the virus.

The directorates said they booked 79,034 people for not wearing face masks, pressed 9,188 charges against people not maintaining social distancing measures and carried out 10,261 awareness campaigns.

During the past week, the Northern Governorate Police Directorate carried out 22 awareness campaigns, charged 616 people for not wearing a face mask in public places and shops, and took 13 measures for maintaining social distancing standards. The Capital Governorate Police Directorate carried out 420 awareness campaigns, registered 929 cases of not wearing a face mask, and took 15 measures to maintain social distancing standards.



Police officers during a campaign to check COVID-19 related violations



Violators of COVID-19 protocols will attract stringent penalties and legal actions

TOP POLICE OFFICIALS IN THE FOUR GOVERNORATES SAID

In turn, the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate booked 1,177 people for not wearing a face mask, carried out 21 awareness campaigns, and took 12 measures

to maintain social distancing. The Southern Governorate carried out 27 awareness campaigns, pressed charges against 111 violations for not wearing a face mask, and took 13 measures to maintain social distancing standards.

National Ambulance centre responded to 13,563 calls related to COVID-19 cases. The Ministry of Transportation attended 889 calls which included transporting 1,786 patients during the past week. MoT attended to 97,273 cases since the start of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Civil Defence officials carried out 294,123 disinfection

and sterilisation operations and supervised several with the participation of volunteers.

They also trained 1,230 volunteers to carry out sterilisation of mosques.

The officials are also continuing to hold training courses on the correct methods of disinfection operations.

The courses organised by the Civil defence had 1,187 people from the private sector and 1,051 people from government agencies. The number of volunteers since March of last year had reached 6,134.

COVID-19 violations: Five restaurants shut

TDT | Manama

The Public Health Administration announced the closure of 5 restaurants for a week and took actions against 53 restaurants for violating Covid-19 precautionary measures.

The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority joined hands for the campaign.

The closures were during an inspection campaign that covered 190 restaurants in various provinces.

Restaurants should follow



protective measures outlined by the National Taskforce for combating the COVID-19 pandemic as per Ministerial Resolution No. 51 of 2020.

Accordingly, only those completed 14 days after taking their second Covid-19 jabs, those who had recovered, and above 18-years of age are allowed entry at res-

taurants and cafes.

Restaurants are also required to measure the temperature of visitors and reduce their capacity of permissible percentage.

Parking and customer waiting areas should have marks to ensure social distancing and prevent crowding.

Restaurants should also sterilise and disinfect surfaces and follow-up of all required preventive and precautionary measures.

Officials also ordered shops found not fully adhering to the instructions to correct them immediately.

Twitter account hacked,
says Health Ministry

Hackers also posted a tweet

TDT | Manama

The Twitter account of the Health Ministry of Bahrain has been hacked briefly by some malicious hackers.

In a tweet, the ministry wrote, “Twitter account had been hacked this evening, Friday.” The hackers

also posted a “wrong and incorrect” tweet, Health Ministry said.

That tweet now stands deleted.

The ministry also confirmed launching an investigation into the incident.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

“Competent authorities began the investigation immediately and took the necessary measures,” ministry said.

Long-term Bahrain resident dies

TDT | Manama

A long term resident of Bahrain, Joseph Mathew (65), passed away in Bahrain on Thursday following a cardiac arrest in the Middle East Hospital.

Mathew, the General Manager of Aircor Air Conditioning Co., has been in Bahrain for 35



Joseph Mathew

years.

He is survived by his wife Latha and daughters Dr Angelin Mariya Mathew and Angina Joseph Mathew. Sony Varghese is Son-in-law and Reydon grandchild.

The funeral will be in Kottayam in the south Indian state of Kerala.



The Maharashtra Cultural Society, in collaboration with Angel Toastmasters Club, organised a “Speech Craft” programme to help its members develop their leadership and communication skills. The first meeting was held on 18 May 2021.

Access to Bahrain Clear only for vaccinated investors, says BHB

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse yesterday said that it would allow only fully vaccinated investors to access Bahrain Clear's Investor Services Center.

Entry will be for investors who had completed 14 days following their second dose and fully recovered investors who are above 18 years.

The decision is part of the efforts of Bahrain's government entities to combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and based on the recommendations of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

To gain entry, investors should show the green badge on their BeAware Bahrain application starting today until 3rd June 2021 or based on the recommendations of the National Medical Taskforce. All investors should also pre-book their appointments with Bahrain Clear via the Skiplino application before visiting Bahrain Clear's Investor Services Centre.

Fed officials, new data, lowering job expectation

Reuters

Federal Reserve officials and new Dallas Fed data have begun lowering expectations for May jobs growth in the United States as business hiring plans continue to outrun the supply of people able or willing to work.

Dallas Federal Reserve president Robert Kaplan said Friday that hiring difficulties have continued through May, and will likely lead to another weak jobs report following the lower-than-expected 266,000 positions added in April.

A survey published by the Dallas Fed earlier in the day, meant to provide a mid-month check on national employment trends, pointed to weakening job growth as well.

That has been attributed to a number of factors including ongoing unemployment benefit payments and a lack of child care, and "these structural issues, which we saw in the report for April...all those tensions are not going to go away" immediately, Kaplan said at a Dallas Fed conference on technology. "We think you are going



Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan

to see another odd or unusual report...Businesses are telling us they got plenty of demand but they cannot find workers either skilled or unskilled."

Fed officials had hoped to see a "string" of months in which a million or more new jobs were added to US payrolls, helping the country quickly claw back the 8.2 million positions still missing from before the pandemic.

St. Louis Fed president James Bullard earlier this week however called that figure "hyped up," and said a "more realistic" expectation was for perhaps half a million jobs a month.

The comments highlight a growing dilemma at the Fed as it wrestles over how long to keep emergency levels of economic support in place as the pandemic ebbs and the economy revs up for what may be the strongest year of economic growth since the early 1980s.

Philadelphia Fed President Patrick Harker on Friday became the second Fed official, along with Kaplan, to urge a faster start to talks over when and how quickly to reduce the central bank's \$120 billion in monthly bond purchases.

"It is something that, in my mind, we should start to have a conversation about sooner rather than later," Harker said at a virtual event organized by the Washington Post.

Atlanta Fed president Raphael Bostic and Richmond Fed president Thomas Barkin, speaking at the same event with Kaplan, both stuck to their positions that more hiring needs to take place before they'd be ready to discuss a bond purchase "taper."

"Right now we are not in a position where that's in play for moves," Bostic said, a view that is currently a near consensus at the Fed, even as some begin to warn of a possibly overheating economy.

BHB launches investor relations best practice guide

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse announced launching an Investor Relations Best Practice Guide as part of its efforts to encourage Investor Relations Best Practices across listed companies.

The guide aims to highlight the importance of the Investor Relations function and the effect of implementing Investor Relations best practices on the valuation and competitiveness of listed companies in the market.

Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, said: "The Guide aims to build long-term effective Investor Relations programmes within listed companies to enable transparent communication between the company, investors, and analysts to foster efficiency and transparency."

Director of Marketing and Business Development and Board Member of Middle East Investor Relations Association, Marwa Al-Maskati, said: "The launch of the Investor Relations Best Practice Guide complements Bahrain Bourse's efforts to promoting investor relations in Bahrain's capital market in collaboration with Middle East Investor relations



The guide aims to highlight the importance of the Investor Relations function and the effect of implementing Investor Relations best practices on the valuation and competitiveness of listed companies in the market.

Associations (MEIRA)."

The guide includes guiding principles of Investor Relations, outlines the operating and regulatory environment, and provides guidance on Investor Relations' strategies in line with best international practices. It also includes case studies from listed companies' Investor Relations best practices.

Export Bahrain streamlined trade links with 51 countries: official

TDT | Manama

Export Bahrain, since its inception, was instrumental in streamlining exports from Bahrain to 51 countries, said a top official.

Fatima Rostam, Head of Export Operations at Export Bahrain, also said that Export Credit Insurance for Small and Medium Enterprises, subsidies, and consultations are among the top services offered by the agency.

Rostam was speaking during a webinar organised by the Bahrain Chamber on export credit insurance solutions in cooperation with "Export Bahrain" and The Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation "DHAMAN".

The webinar focused on export credit insurance solutions and encouraging small and medium-sized companies into international markets.



On the right Chairperson of the Finance, Insurance and Tax Committee of the Bahrain Chamber Sawsan Abulhasan, next to her Sadiq Al Dakheel, Senior Manager at SNIC Insurance

In his address, Sawsan Abulhasan, the head of Finance, Insurance and Tax Committee of the Bahrain Chamber, underlined the importance of diversifying business activities and mulling opportunities in international markets to lower risks, enhance competitiveness, and

bolster business sustainability. Senior Operations Officer and Head of Marketing at the Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation "Dhaman", Saleem Lahiani, highlighted the risks associated with international trade and the importance of obtaining credit

insurance coverage to mitigate such risks.

He explained the benefits of export credit insurance which include facilitating access to foreign markets, enhancing the competitiveness of companies in international markets, and mitigating risks associated with the non-payment of importers.

"Ensuring this also bolsters foreign currency reserves of the Kingdom, trade balance, and job opportunities," he said.

Adel Zainal, the owner of Al-Baraka Distilled Water Filling Factory, shared his experience with Export Bahrain.

Export Bahrain aims at supporting and assisting Bahrain-based small and medium-sized enterprises to enhance the scope of their businesses by exporting local services and products to international markets.

LBS selects Al-Dairi as an associate expert for joint study

TDT | Manama

The London Business School has selected Dr Abdulhasan Al-Dairi, President of the Bahrain Small and Medium Enterprises Society and General Coordinator of the United International SMEs Organisations for a joint study with the European Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development across the MENA region.

Dr Al-Dairi is among a list of the prominent and influential international figures in the field of entrepreneurship and SMEs development.

The project seeks to conduct a joint survey on the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic and lessons learned to support the entrepreneurship sector, SMEs, and country economies in general, especially in the Middle East and North Africa region.



Dr Abdulhasan Al-Dairi

Dr Al-Dairi said that it is a great honour for Bahrain and the result of more than twenty years of diligent work in developing small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurship.

Bapco holds annual HSE awards ceremony for 2020

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) held its annual Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) awards ceremony on Thursday to reward Bapco and contractors' employees for their outstanding HSE achievements for last year.

The event was held with a limited number of attendees and was live-streamed to all concerned employees.

Bapco's Chairman & Chief Executive Dr Dawood Nassif and Hafedh Al-Qassab, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, BMP Project Director and Chairman of the Environment, Health & Safety Committee, thanked both Bapco and contractors for maintaining excellent HSE performance during 2020.

Bapco Crisis Management



In pictures, the award ceremony

Team members were recognised for their hard work and professionalism in caring for the workforce, their initiatives for educating staff on the pandemic and related mitigations, and ensuring the workplace was safe.

Bapco's winning departments are Risk Category 1: Shutdown & Major Maintenance Department, Risk Category 2: Process Control Engineering Department, Risk Category 3: Operational Excellence Department. As for Contractors, the winners are Large Contractor: Ahmed Mansoor Al Aali (AMA), and Small Contractor: Worley Bahrain WLL. Employees were honoured for their excellent HSE performance and active contributions to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

CHALLENGING THE MEANING OF LIFE IS THE TRUEST EXPRESSION OF THE STATE OF BEING HUMAN
VIKTOR E. FRANKL

News in brief

Nigeria's top army commander killed in air crash ♦ Nigeria's top-ranking army commander Lieutenant General Ibrahim Attahiru was killed when his plane crashed in the country's north, an air force spokesman said. Chief of Army Staff Attahiru was just appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari in January in a shakeup of the top military command to better fight surging violence and a more than decade-long jihadist insurgency.



Biden says US will vaccinate South Korean soldiers against COVID-19 ♦ President Joe Biden said that he and South Korean President Moon Jae-in had agreed on a comprehensive partnership on COVID-19 vaccines and that the United States would provide vaccinations for 550,000 South Korean soldiers. Speaking during a news conference at the White House, Moon said the vaccine partnership would contribute to boosting supplies in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.



Myanmar ethnic army attacks jade mining town ♦ Forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), one of the ethnic factions opposed to Myanmar's coup, attacked military positions at the northwestern jade mining town of Hkamti, local media reported. The attack marks an advance into new territory by the KIA at a time Myanmar has been plunged into chaos since the army seized power on Feb. 1, detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and cut short a decade of democratic reforms.



US authorities have confiscated roughly \$90,000 from a Utah man who sold footage of a woman being fatally shot during the Jan. 6 attack on the US Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump, according to court filings. ♦ US authorities have filed additional criminal charges against the man, John Earle Sullivan, a self-described political activist who is accused of entering the Capitol building and participating in the riot, the filings unsealed on Thursday showed.



Biden says he won't let Justice Dept seize reporters' phone, email records ♦ US President Joe Biden said he would not allow his Justice Department to seize the phone or email records of reporters, saying any such move would be "simply wrong." Biden's comments came a day after CNN reported that the Justice Department had told its correspondent Barbara Starr that the former Trump administration had secretly obtained two months of her phone and email records in 2017.



COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	33,871,086	603,665
2 India	26,522,164	299,150
3 Brazil	15,976,156	446,527
4 France	5,593,962	108,526
5 Turkey	5,178,648	46,071
6 Russia	4,992,554	118,125
7 UK	4,460,446	127,716
8 Italy	4,188,190	125,153
9 Germany	3,648,020	87,887
10 Spain	3,636,453	79,620
11 Argentina	3,447,044	73,391
12 Colombia	3,177,212	83,719
13 Poland	2,864,546	72,691
14 Iran	2,823,887	78,381

Global tally
166,867,602
Deaths: 3,464,665
Recovered: 147,811,307
New cases: +402,419
New deaths: +7,165

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	251,539		14,611		185,243	51,685
Saudi Arabia	439,847	+1,142	7,237	+13	423,795	8,815
UAE	554,516	+1,596	1,648	+4	534,481	18,387
Kuwait	297,206		1,719		282,913	12,574
Oman	208,607		2,239		192,973	13,395
Qatar	215,160	+330	543	+2	210,589	4,028

Figures as of closing

Biden, South Korea's Moon express willingness to engage North Korea

Reuters | Washington

US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday injected fresh urgency into attempts to engage North Korea in dialogue over its nuclear weapons, with Biden saying he would meet its leader Kim Jong Un under the right conditions.

Biden and Moon said the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is their goal, with Biden stressing he was "under no illusions" about the difficulty of getting North Korea to give up its nuclear arsenals after his predecessors failed.

"We both are deeply concerned about the situation," Biden said at a joint news conference, adding that he and Moon shared a willingness to engage diplomatically with the North and "to take pragmatic steps to reduce tensions."

North Korea has rebuffed US entreaties for diplomacy since Biden took over from Donald Trump, who had three summits with Kim and famously exchanged "beautiful letters" with the third-generation leader.

Kim refused to give up his nuclear weapons but did impose a freeze on testing them. He has not tested a nuclear bomb nor launched an inter-continental ballistic missile since 2017, although experts believe his arsenal has steadily grown.

Biden said he would be willing to meet Kim under the right conditions - if he agreed to discuss his nuclear program and that his advisers first met with their North Korean counterparts to lay the groundwork.

"I would not do what had been done in the recent past; I would not give him all he's looking for - international recognition as legitimate and allow



US President Joe Biden, US climate envoy John Kerry, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin participate in an expanded bilateral meeting with South Korea's President Moon Jae-in at the White House, in Washington

"I would not do what had been done in the recent past; I would not give him (Kim Jong Un) all he's looking for - international recognition as legitimate and allow him to move in the direction of appearing to be more ... serious about what he wasn't at all serious about"

JOE BIDEN

him to move in the direction of appearing to be more ... serious about what he wasn't at all serious about."

Biden's comments appeared to reflect a shift in his thinking given that the White House said in March it was not his intention to meet with Kim.

Special envoy

Biden appointed veteran State Department official Sung Kim as special US envoy for North Korea.

South Korea had been push-

ing for the appointment of an envoy, and Moon, for whom engagement with North Korea is a legacy issue before he leaves office next year, said Sung Kim would help explore whether North Korea is willing to engage diplomatically. He said he expected a positive response.

Sung Kim is a Korean-American diplomat who served as special envoy for North Korea under President Barack Obama and helped set up Trump's summits with Kim Jong Un.

Jenny Town of 38 North, a Washington-based North Korea project, said Sung Kim's appointment was positive after the administration had signaled it was in no hurry to fill the post.

However, it has given no indication of what concessions it might offer to bring about talks. A joint summit statement called for full implementation of international sanctions Pyongyang wants lifted.

"The problem has been that the administration has only talked about denuclearization and continues to characterize any interactions with North Korea as nuclear negotiations," Town said.

China takes

China joins the United States

● The Zhurong rover drove down the ramp of the lander on to the surface of Mars

Reuters | Beijing

A remote-controlled Chinese motorised rover drove down the ramp of its landing capsule yesterday and onto the surface of Mars, making China the first nation to orbit, land and deploy a land vehicle on its inaugural mission to the Red Planet.

Zhurong, named after a mythical Chinese god of fire, drove down to the surface of Mars at 10:40 am Beijing time (0240 GMT), according to the rover's official Chinese social media account.

China this month joined the United States as the only nations to deploy land vehicles on Mars. The former Soviet Union landed a craft in 1971, but it lost communication seconds later.

The 240-kg (530-pound) Zhurong, which has six scientific instruments including a high-resolution topography camera, will study the planet's surface soil and atmosphere.

Powered by solar energy, Zhurong will also look for signs of ancient life, including any subsurface water and ice, using a ground-penetrating radar during its 90-day exploration of the Martian surface.

Zhurong will move and stop in slow intervals, with each interval

Myanmar junta leader says Suu Kyi will soon appear

AFP | Yangon

Myanmar's junta leader Min Aung Hlaing said deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi was healthy at home and would appear in court in a few days, in his first interview since overthrowing her in a Feb. 1 coup.

The coup has plunged the Southeast Asian country into chaos and one of several ethnic armed groups opposed to the ruling junta advanced to attack a military post in a northwestern jade mining town yesterday, local media said.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate for her long struggle against previous military rulers, is among more than 4,000 people detained since the coup. She faces charges that range



Protesters making the three-finger salute while holding posters featuring detained civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi during a demonstration

from illegally possessing walkie-talkie radios to violating a state secrets law.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is in good health. She is at her home and healthy. She is going to face trial at the court in a few days," Min Aung Hlaing said by video link with the Hong Kong-based Chinese language broadcaster Phoenix Television, in excerpts released yesterday.

The interviewer asked him what he thought of the performance of Suu Kyi, 75, who is widely admired in the country of 53 million for her campaign that had brought tentative dem-

ocratic reforms which were cut short by the coup.

"She tried all she could," Min Aung Hlaing responded.

Suu Kyi's next court appearance is due on Monday in the capital Naypyidaw. So far she has appeared only by video link and as yet to be allowed to speak directly to her lawyers.

The junta has cited security reasons for not allowing her to speak to her lawyers in private at a time the military authorities have not established control of the country in the face of daily protests, strikes and renewed insurgencies.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is in good health. She is at her home and healthy. She is going to face trial at the court in a few days"

MIN AUNG HLAING

Nepal calls new

AFP | Kathmandu

Nepal's parliament was dissolved for the second time in five months yesterday and new elections called for November as the Himalayan country battled political turmoil alongside the coronavirus pandemic.

President Bidhya Devi Bhandari made the order after declaring that neither Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli nor Sher Bahadur Deuba, leader of the opposition Nepali Congress, had a majority to form a new government.

Political rivalries between the communist prime minister and his former Maoist allies hit a new peak as the country battles a severe coronavirus wave with acute shortages of oxygen and vaccines.

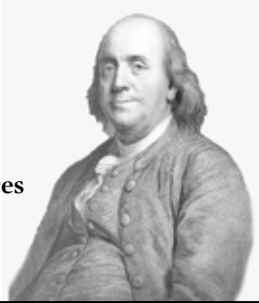
Authorities have been reporting about 200 deaths a day, but experts say there are a lot more and the United Nations has launched an emergency Covid-19 appeal saying that Nepal is at "breaking point".

Bhandari dissolved parliament in the early hours of Saturday after a new breakdown in talks.

"The president... has dissolved the current House of Representatives and fixed the first phase of general elections on November

1785

Benjamin Franklin announces his invention of bifocals



1813

South American independence leader Simón Bolívar enters Mérida, leading the invasion of Venezuela, and is proclaimed El Libertador ("The Liberator")

1949

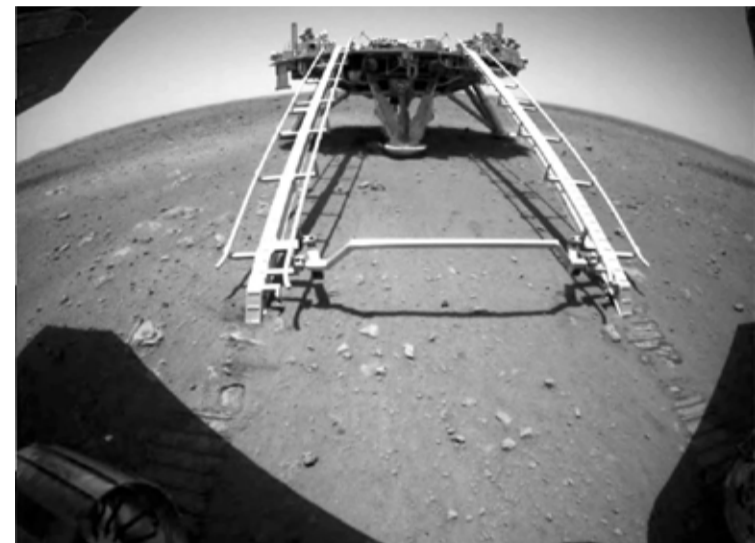
Federal Republic of [West] Germany created out of the American, British and French occupation zones

1958

Mao Zedong starts the "Great Leap Forward" movement in China

says Martian rover first drive on Mars

US and China are the only nations to operate rovers on Mars



Chinese rover Zhurong of the Tianwen-1 mission drives down the ramp of the lander onto the surface of Mars

estimated to be just 10 metres (33 feet) over three days, according to the official China Space News. "The slow progress of the rover was due to the limited understanding of the Martian environment, so a relatively conservative working mode was specially designed," Jia Yang, an engineer involved in the mission, told China Space News.

Jia said he would not rule out a faster pace in the later stage of the rover's mission, depending on its operational state at the time.

Jia said the rover was designed to be highly autonomous because the distance to Mars, at 320 million km (200 million miles), means a signal takes 40 minutes to travel both ways, posing a hurdle for real-time control of the rover.

Martian temperatures are also

a problem, he said: a nighttime drop to minus 130 degrees Celsius (minus 200 degrees Fahrenheit) freezes carbon dioxide, covering the uneven ground with a layer of dry ice - a terrain risk for the rover.

Zhurong has an automated suspension system that can lift and lower its chassis by 60 centimetres (2 feet), the only rover with such a capability, according to China Space News.

The rover is covered by nano-aerogel plates to protect its body from the cold.

Ancient ocean

Dust storms could also affect the rover's ability to generate power through its solar panels, Jia said. To overcome this, the panel surface is made with a material that cannot be easily stained by

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Powered by solar energy, Zhurong will also look for signs of ancient life, including any subsurface water and ice, using a ground-penetrating radar during its 90-day exploration of the Martian surface

dust and can easily shake dust off by vibration, he said.

China's uncrewed Tianwen-1 spacecraft blasted off from the southern Chinese island of Hainan in July last year. After more than six months in transit, Tianwen-1 reached the Red Planet in February where it had been in orbit since.

On May 15, the landing capsule carrying the rover separated from Tianwen-1 and touched down on a vast plain known as Utopia Planitia, believed to be the site of an ancient ocean.

The first images taken by the rover were released by the Chinese space agency on Wednesday.

The coordinates of the landing site are 109.9 degrees east and 25.1 degrees north, China Space News said.

Tianwen-1 was one of three probes that reached Mars in February.

Brazil senator says Bolsonaro never wanted COVID-19 vaccines, preferred herd immunity



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro attends an event at Planalto Palace in Brasilia Reuters | Brasilia

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro never wanted to buy COVID-19 vaccines and originally bet on herd immunity beating the coronavirus, the senator leading the upper house's inquiry into the government's handling of the crisis said on Friday.

In an interview, Senator Renan Calheiros said it is too early to say if Bolsonaro had committed any criminal offense in his management of the public health crisis, and that more investigation is required.

"I think everything points in that direction," Calheiros said, regarding Bolsonaro's preference for herd immunity.

"The president first denied the disease, called it a flu, and then argued against social isolation and lockdown. Then he played down the use of masks and encouraged crowds to gather," Calheiros said.

"Why is that? Because of herd immunity, the natural immunity ... you have to encourage crowds and the spread of the virus," Calheiros added.

"This is why he never wanted a vaccine," Calheiros said of Bolsonaro, noting that the president was slow in spending billions of dollars given to him by Congress earlier in the

”
The president first denied the disease, called it a flu, and then argued against social isolation and lockdown. Then he played down the use of masks and encouraged crowds to gather

SENATOR RENAN CALHEIROS

pandemic to buy vaccines from overseas.

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a given population achieves immunity to a disease, sometimes through widespread infection, thereby reducing the chances of person-to-person spread.

The president's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Calheiros is a veteran lawmaker and Bolsonaro critic. His report is expected to focus on the government's delays in securing vaccines, including the details of drawn-out negotiations with foreign drugmakers, and missteps in Amazonas where an infectious new variant arose.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



More than 50 million vaccine doses have been given to adults in England. This is a huge milestone in the largest NHS vaccination programme in history, and a fantastic team effort that has saved thousands of lives. Play your part and come forward for your doses when called.

@BorisJohnson

02



I was honored to host H.E. Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea. The alliance between our two nations is stronger than ever and the linchpin of peace, security, and prosperity for Northeast Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and the world.

@POTUS

03



Humanity is waging a war on nature - and we will all be losers if we don't achieve peace with the planet. Solutions exist. Together, we can halt biodiversity loss and build a future where we live in harmony with nature. #BiodiversityDay

@antonioguterres

04



With the Gaza ceasefire in place, attention can now return to "the misery at the heart of the conflict" -- the everyday indignities, and violence, for Palestinians under Israeli occupation that add up to the systematic oppression of apartheid.

@KenRoth

elections amid pandemic crisis



Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli gestures upon his arrival at the parliament

12 and the second phase on November 19," his office said in a statement.

Oli was reappointed the prime minister only last week as no leader could muster a majority after the veteran communist lost a vote of confidence.

The 69-year-old had a month to win a new vote of confidence in parliament but the president called on other parties to try to form a government as Oli struggled to win support.

Bhandari, who hails from the ruling party and is considered close to Oli, has been criticised for agreeing so quickly to Oli's recommendation for a new election.

Saudi returns to Venice with a bold architectural statement on pandemic living

TDT | Manama

Saudi Arabia has returned to Venice for a second time at the Architecture Biennale, with a bold response to how we live with pandemics.

The Biennale's theme, 'How Will We Live Together?' has brought together acclaimed curators Uzma Z. Rizvi and Murtaza Vali, and architects Hussam Dakkak, Basmah Kaki and Hessa AlBader from Studio Bound. Looking at current



Officials at the event

”
As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of global lockdowns, our belief remains resolute: that culture will create new ways to connect people, build bridges between nations and make our shared world a better place

SAUDI CULTURE MINISTER HH PRINCE BADR BIN FARHAN AL-SAUD

and historical perspectives of quarantine and widening the definition of public and private spaces, the team has responded with 'Accommodations', which analyzes how design either unites - or separates - people. Dr. Sumayah Al-Solaiman, CEO of the Saudi Architecture and Design Commission, and previous curator of the Pavilion in 2018, commissioned the exhibit.

Saudi architecture and de-

sign is rapidly developing its voice internationally, blending heritage-inspired with contemporary to design and build new spaces. This ethos will be on full display at the Saudi pavilion through the work of the design collective Studio Bound, a group who are currently leading a number of projects at UNESCO heritage sites in the Kingdom, as well as key projects along the Red Sea Highway.



Political rivalries between the communist prime minister and his former Maoist allies hit a new peak as the country battles a severe coronavirus wave with acute shortages of oxygen and vaccines

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

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ALROWISH CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17592120 or hani.814@hotmail.com

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CELEBS

celebs

Dwayne Johnson to voice Krypto the Super-Dog in Warner Bros. 'DC League of Super-Pets'

ANI | Washington

The Warner Bros film production company has cast American actor Dwayne Johnson in its upcoming 'DC League of Super-Pets' movie to voice the role of Krypto the Super-Dog.

Variety reported that 'DC League of Super-Pets' is a fictional team of super-powered pets in the DC Universe. The original membership included Krypto the Superdog, Streaky the Supercat, Beppo the Super-Monkey and Comet the Super-Horse, with the shape-shifting alien Protty II later joining.

Jared Stern is writing and directing the film, with Sam Levine to co-di-

YOU KNOW WHAT

Johnson's co-stars have not been cast yet, but the studio hopes to enlist an A-list cast of two- and four-legged heroes and villains

rect as his debut feature to star Superman's best friend. Johnson's co-stars have not been cast yet, but the studio hopes to enlist an A-list cast of two- and four-legged heroes and villains.

Johnson is producing the movie through his company Seven Bucks Productions, along with his partners Dany Garcia and Hiram Garcia, in addition to voicing the main character.

Dwayne Johnson



Lady Gaga recalls she had 'total psychotic break' after being raped

ANI | Washington

Explaining the way she underwent a 'total psychotic break,' American pop star Lady Gaga has said she was never the same after she was raped as a teenager.

The 35-year-old star opened about the trauma of being raped at the age of 19 in the Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry produced 'The Me You Can't See' docuseries that explores mental health and emotional well-being with stories from people around the world.



I had a total psychotic break and for a couple years I was not the same girl. It's like your brain goes offline and you don't know why no one else is panicking but you're in an ultra state of paranoia

LADY GAGA

TMZ reported that Gaga narrated the whole story mentioning that her body went numb as a result of burying the pain.

The Grammy award-winning star said that she was sick for weeks after a producer allegedly threatened "to torch" her tunes if she didn't take off her clothes, and she said during the incident she "froze and basically blacked out."

She said she vomited and got sick after the rape, which caused her to get pregnant and had lasting effects. TMZ reported that the songstress said

the trauma caused her to have a "total psychotic break and for a couple of years I was not the same girl."

The 'Bad Romance' star had first made the revelation of being raped back in 2014. Without mentioning the name of her assailant, she revealed back then that she has dealt with self-harm, including throwing herself against a wall and cutting herself.

Talking further about the same, Gaga said that it has been a slow process for her to regain her mental health and overcome the fears that she could be easily triggered and slip back into dark thoughts of wanting to cut herself and thinking about dying.



Kate Hudson joins cast of Netflix's star-studded 'Knives Out 2'

ANI | Washington

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

As per The Hollywood Reporter, the actor has joined the first sequel to 'Knives Out', teaming up with a star-studded list of previously announced cast members including 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 fran-

chise. 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. It is currently unclear whether or not any of the original film's cast members will join Craig for the new murder mystery, which is planning to start production in Greece this summer.

Kate Hudson



Tom Cruise nailed classic 'Mission: Impossible' stunt on final attempt

ANI | Washington

One of the most iconic shots from the first 'Mission: Impossible' movie starring Hollywood star Tom Cruise nearly did not happen because he was having a difficult time pulling it off.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, in a series of snip-



Tom Cruise

pet interviews the star did with director-screenwriter Christopher McQuarrie for Paramount's anniversary Blu-ray of the 1996 film that kick-started the billion-dollar franchise, Cruise explained that he kept falling too far when he was suddenly lowered via a cable into CIA headquarters vault.

Cruise said he was unable to balance fast enough on the cable. "We were running out of time, and I kept hitting my face and the take didn't work," the actor said, explaining he finally asked crewmembers for British pound coins to put in his shoes as counterweights.

The next film titled 'Mission: Impossible 7' from the blockbuster franchise is slated to come out in May 2022.

Kelly Macdonald to be part of English adaption of 'Call My Agent'

IANIS | Los Angeles

Actress Kelly Macdonald will be part of the upcoming English version of the popular French series "Call My Agent". She will be playing an exaggerated version of herself in the upcoming series.

Helena Bonham Carter and Olivia Williams are also part of the series, according to the Daily Mail newspaper's Baz Bamigboye column. John Morton, who is making the show, said he found the task challenging.

"I'm thrilled, startled and daunted to be given the chance to re-create such a wonderful show as 'Call My Agent!' for an English language audience," said Morton.



Kelly Macdonald

SUDOKU

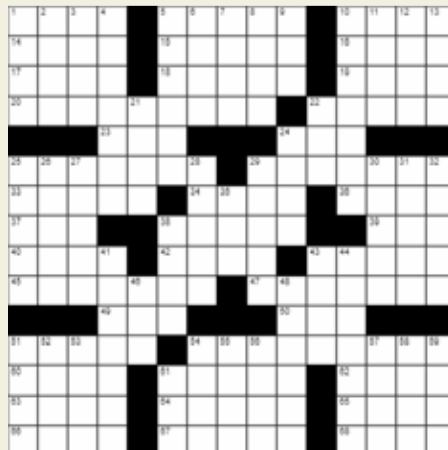
			3			8		2
9	2		5				3	1
							5	
			4		7		5	9
7								6
5	4		9		8			
		7						
4	6					5		7
8		5					9	

Yesterday's solution

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

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- Stepped; 5- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 10- Baby's cry; 14- Roof overhang; 15- Haggard; 16- River to the Caspian Sea; 17- Beat it!; 18- San ____, California; 19- Actress Turner; 20- Mythical moon-dwellers; 22- Western; 23- Neighbor of Leb.; 24- Queue after Q; 25- Ten plus five; 29- Woman's strapless top; 33- ____, my case; 34- Frozen treats; 36- Writer Sarah ____, Jewett; 37- Goose egg; 38- Knock off; 39- One ____, time; 40- Land in water; 42- Apex, pinnacle; 43- External; 45- Fetter; 47- Seesaws; 49- Black gold; 50- Tiny toiler; 51- Stretch of land; 54- Legalistic pronoun; 60- Kachina doll maker; 61- Heat home; 62- Travel on; 63- Not new; 64- Roomy dress cut; 65- Geraint's beloved; 66- Shrivelled, without moisture; 67- Monetary unit of Iceland; 68- Stains;

Down

1- Dick Tracy's love; 2- Speed contest; 3- Roundish shape; 4- Hates intensely; 5- Regard with approval; 6- Fiddlesticks!; 7- Must've been something ____, 8- More than one female sheep; 9- Numero ____, 10- Of a light brown color; 11- Smell ____, 12- Long luxuriant hair; 13- Banned apple spray; 21- Russian no; 22- CIA forerunner; 24- Subterfuge; 25- Conclusion; 26- Whiskey type; 27- Gal's guy; 28- Family tree member; 29- Attack on all sides; 30- Beside oneself; 31- Go into; 32- Brings up; 35- Engine part; 38- Equal a bet; 41- Destruction of the natural environment; 43- Vintner's prefix; 44- Spoken; 46- Equipment; 48- Simpler; 51- In this way; 52- Red flower; 53- Impersonator; 54- Crafty; 55- Filament; 56- Bygone Dodge; 57- Overgrown with ivy; 58- Pop singer Brickell; 59- Cincinnati team; 61- Fannie ____,

Yesterday's solution

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

Monaco polesitter Leclerc faces anxious wait over crash-damaged Ferrari

● Leclerc beats Verstappen to sensational Monaco pole as late crash prevents others improving

AFP | Monaco

Charles Leclerc will start on pole for his home Monaco Grand Prix after setting the fastest time in qualifying yesterday despite crunching his Ferrari into a wall which could yet lead to a grid penalty depending on the extent of the damage.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen will set off alongside the locally-born Leclerc on the front row of Formula One's iconic street race with world champion Lewis Hamilton in unfamiliar territory back on the fourth row.

Qualifying was red flagged at the end after Leclerc's smash, depriving the likes of Hamilton and Verstappen a chance to better Leclerc's time with a



A truck takes pole-sitter Leclerc's damaged Ferrari back to the pits

flying lap. Leclerc, who has a pointless record in his local race, admitted he was "worried" about a penalty for a change of gear-box. "It's a shame to finish in the wall, it doesn't feel the same but I'm incredibly happy about my

lap. "I could feel I was quite emotional in the car - now it's Q3, now it's time to put everything together. I managed to do so and I'm incredibly happy." With his teammate Carlos Sainz on the second row along-

side the Mercedes of Valtteri Bottas after posting the fourth fastest time Ferrari were confirming their impressive form in practice. "It's tomorrow that we score points but we are incredibly surprised to be on pole and fourth

It's a shame to finish in the wall, it doesn't feel the same but I'm incredibly happy about my lap. I could feel I was quite emotional in the car - now it's Q3, now it's time to put everything together. I managed to do so and I'm incredibly happy

CHARLES LECLERC

place for the race tomorrow," added Leclerc who has given Ferrari a real shot at their first grand prix win since 2019 after a sharp slump last season. Verstappen, who trails Hamilton by 14 points in the drivers' world championship, bemoaned the red-flag suspended conclusion to Q3. "The red flag ruined the chance for pole. Nevertheless, a good weekend and we recov-

ered well from Thursday so not too bad."

Hamilton, who has won three of this season's four races, said it was a case of going "back to the drawing board now".

"There is a lack of grip, so that leaves you to overdrive the car and unfortunately it just didn't improve," said the seven-time world champion.

With overtaking difficult on Monaco's tight and twisting circuit, Hamilton's chances of moving up to 99 grand prix wins look compromised.

"I guess the minimum will be hopefully finish seventh, and then hope we can get higher," he said.

Monaco's mythic circuit is back on the F1 menu after last year's race was dropped from the coronavirus-disrupted season.

The presence of 7,500 fans is also an indication that gradually a degree of normalcy is returning to the sport's land-scape.

The same could be said about Ferrari's return to form.

City wouldn't have won title with similar injury issues: Klopp



Jurgen Klopp, Manager of Liverpool interacts with Pep Guardiola, Manager of Manchester City during a match (file photo)

Reuters | London

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said Manchester City would not have won the Premier League this season if they had had to deal with an injury crisis like that of the Merseyside club.

Liverpool were without central defenders Virgil van Dijk and Joe Gomez for most of the campaign due to knee injuries, while Joel Matip was sidelined because of an ankle injury.

Fabinho, who was moved from midfield to central defence to help plug the gaps, also picked up a muscle problem, while forward Diogo Jota and midfielder Jordan Henderson were also out for large parts of the season due to injuries.

"It is how I said before this year, with the amount of injuries we have had, it was not the year to become champions. No chance. For nobody," Klopp said before Sunday's final league game against Crystal Palace.

"As good as they are, if (Manchester) City have their three centre-halves out, no," they don't win the league. "Three centre-halves of United, no."

Liverpool, who stormed to the title last season, were eighth in March with Cham-

Liverpool, who stormed to the title last season, were eighth in March with Champions League qualification looking unlikely, but Klopp's side went on a nine-match unbeaten run to move up to fourth

Champions League qualification looking unlikely, but Klopp's side went on a nine-match unbeaten run to move up to fourth

Chelsea (67 points), Liverpool and Leicester City (66 points each) are in a three-way battle for the last two Champions League places ahead of Sunday's final round of matches.

"We have fought back a bit, accepted the difficulties and made the best of it," Klopp said. "And if we win on Sunday, and if we qualify for the Champions League, then we made the best of it. That is it."

Table with movie listings for FAST & FURIOUS - 9, MORTAL KOMBAT, TOM & JERRY, and WRATH OF MAN, including showtimes for Oasis Juffair, City Centre, and Seef.

Table with movie listings for MUMBAI SAGA, WRATH OF MAN, and RADHE, including showtimes for Oasis Juffair, City Centre, and Wadi Al Sail.

Table with movie listings for GOZILLA VS. KONG, RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON, and COUNTDOWN, including showtimes for Oasis Juffair, City Centre, and Wadi Al Sail.

Table with movie listings for PETER RABBIT 2, AHMED NOTREDAM, GREAT WHITE, DEMON SLAYER, and ONE PIECE, including showtimes for Oasis Juffair and City Centre.

Table with movie listings for DEMON SLAYER: MUGEN TRAIN, MOTICHOOR CHAKNACHOOR, ONE PIECE: STAMPEDE, and THE LAST DOOR'S HOUR, including showtimes for Oasis Juffair and City Centre.

Table with movie listings for BY CHANCE, DOCTOR SLEEP, and COUNTDOWN, including showtimes for Oasis Juffair and City Centre.

Table with movie listings for CHARLIE MCDERMOTT, HOUSEFULL 4, KHAVAL MAATA, ZOMBIELAND: DOUBLE TAP, KAITHI, SAFE, ACTION, JHALLE, ANDROID KUNJAPPAN, MALAYALAM VERSION 5.25, 41, JABARDAST SHANKARA, MARJAAVAAN, and HAUNT, including showtimes for City Centre and Seef.

BRAVE CF staked with #1 ranked Nordic European fighters

Many athletes are emerging from Nordic Europe - with several of them choosing BRAVE CF

● Nordic region is slowly becoming a hub of MMA

TDI | Manama

In recent years, mixed martial arts (MMA) has experienced an emergence in the mainstream consciousness of Nordic Europe.

Now that the region is slowly becoming a hub of the sport, it has also started to produce a crop of top-notch athletes—with several of them choosing to strut their wares in BRAVE Combat Federation.

Among the highly-touted athletes that came out of the growing Nordic European MMA scene is Olli “The Amazing” Santalahti, a well-rounded super welterweight who owns an impressive professional record of 12-3 with five wins via submission and three by knockout.

Unanimously recognized as the top-rated 175-pounder in the territory, Santalahti put the organization's entire division on notice by taking a short-notice bout against Lebanon's Georges Eid at BRAVE CF 48: ARABIAN NIGHT last March.

Even though he managed to eke out a split decision victory over his game Lebanese counterpart in an exhilarating clash, the 27-year-old Finnish stand-out is far from satisfied with his performance in his promotional debut and makes no secret of his



objective to climb the ranks.

“I am really hungry to get back in there. My debut happened on days' notice, but it was an opportunity that's hard to pass up. Now I am eagerly waiting to showcase my whole skill set because I have so much to offer. When I get back inside the cage, I will surely go for the finish,” Santalahti declared.

Joining Santalahti as a member of the roster is compatriot Abdul “ABBA” Hussein, a sub-

mission specialist who holds a 7-2 standing and has been a flyweight mainstay since 2018.

Meanwhile, Danish spitfire Louis “Spartacus” Glismann (8-2) is likewise doing his share of work in putting a premium on the Nordic European brand of MMA as part of BRAVE CF, winning two of his last three assignments in exciting fashion.

Completing the lineup is a stable of Swede exports led by Zvonimir “The Croatian Sensation”

“I am really hungry to get back in there. My debut happened on days' notice, but it was an opportunity that's hard to pass up. Now I am eagerly waiting to showcase my whole skill set because I have so much to offer. When I get back inside the cage, I will surely go for the finish

OLLI SANTALAHTI

Kralj (7-4), a 100-percent lethal finisher who is ranked as the No. 1 heavyweight in Nordic Europe.

Holding up the fort alongside Kralj are Anton “The Pleasure Man” Turkalj (7-0), David “Fat Boy Slim” Jacobsson (8-3), Andreas “Real Steel” Stahl (12-4) and Bilal “Borz” Tipsaev (1-1).

Santalahti is admittedly blown away by the level of talent that BRAVE CF possesses, leading him to laud its scouting program.

“I can say that BRAVE CF is taking over Europe,” he said. “The fighters they are getting are high level. Though they originated from the Middle East, I think they are also the top European organization at the moment.”

“BRAVE CF is a high-level organization, and it's my pleasure to be part of the roster,” Santalahti added.

Ever since its inception in 2016, BRAVE CF has bolstered

its profile as a global MMA promotion, staging 50 shows in 21 different countries—six of which are European nations such as Northern Ireland, England, Sweden, Russia, Slovenia and Romania.

Despite the ravaging effects of COVID-19 last year, BRAVE CF remained committed to its mission to empower the European MMA scene by hosting four consecutive cards in Sweden during the weekends of August 2020.

Overall, BRAVE CF was able to hold seven events in a calendar year in the region, doing it under extraordinary circumstances due to the global health crisis.

This past January, the organization even kicked off the year with BRAVE CF 46 in Sochi, Russia.

BRAVE CF will be breaking new ground in Europe on June 4, adding Belarus to the long list of countries that the company has visited through the years.

In partnership with Rukh Sport Management, BRAVE CF 51: THE FUTURE IS HERE is set to emanate from the state-of-the-art Falcon Club Arena in the Belarusian capital of Minsk.

Santalahti believes that BRAVE CF will push the boundaries further in the years to come.

“To me, this is just the start. I eagerly wait for fighters from other countries in Europe to join BRAVE CF,” he stated. “They did events in Sweden last autumn. Hopefully, they can also come to Finland and hold an event in my home country. The possibilities are endless.”

‘Saddle sore’ Hindley pulls out of Giro



Jai Hindley
AFP | Milan

Australia's Jai Hindley, a runner-up in last year's Giro d'Italia, was forced to pull out of this year's race before yesterday's mountainous 14th stage to the fearsome Monte Zoncolan.

His Team DSM revealed the 25-year-old rider had “suffered intensely with a serious saddle sore that has prevented him from riding his best over the last week.”

“The 2020 runner up is no longer fit to race, and will instead head home to recover.”

“This is obviously not how I wanted my Giro to end,” said Hindley.

“The team have really put in a lot to try and help, but the situation isn't improving and I really can't continue anymore.”

Hindley was 25th in the overall standings.

“Jai has been suffering pretty hard over the last few days with a saddle sore,” said team doctor Anko Boelens.

“We had hoped things would improve, but his condition has deteriorated significantly after the stage yesterday.”

“His pain levels are no longer tolerable and with some huge days in the mountains coming up, he cannot continue the race like this.”

Ronaldo ‘still a Juve player,’ insists Pirlo before crunch finale

AFP | Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo remains very much a Juventus player, coach Andrea Pirlo insisted yesterday with the Portuguese star's future in doubt going into the final game of the season.

Juve's Champions League hopes are no longer in their hands as they head for 11th-placed Bologna needing a win and hoping rivals Napoli and AC Milan slip up.

However, Pirlo does not believe that the game will be Ronaldo's final one with the club if they fail to qualify for elite European football.

“No, I see him still in the ‘Bi-



Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo and Cristiano Ronaldo during a match

anconero' jersey and focused,” Pirlo told a pre-match press conference.

“He proved it the other night, sacrificing himself because he wanted to win the Coppa Italia.

“I see him focused on tomorrow, then there's time to discuss the rest.”

Juve's nine-year title run was ended by Inter Milan and failure to qualify for the Champions League would be a financial blow.

The competition is worth on average 80 million euros (\$94 million) a season to teams.

Failure to qualify would make Ronaldo's annual salary of 31 million euros a year difficult to sustain.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner was recruited in 2018 from Real Madrid to help Juventus win the title after two lost finals in 2015 and 2017.

The 36-year-old is the top scorer in the competition with 134 goals.

In the meantime, Ronaldo is set to become the first player to finish the season top scorer in three major leagues -- England, Spain, and Italy. He has scored 28 goals so far, six more than Inter's Romelu Lukaku and Atlanta's Luis Muriel.

Meanwhile Pirlo also insisted the match would not decide his own future after an erratic first season, during which he won two trophies.

Dr Shehab wins Bahrain-France Friendship Tennis at BTC



Winners with officials at the awarding ceremony

TDI | Manama

Dr Fouad Shehab won the second Bahrain-France Friendship Open Tennis Day, organised by Bahrain Tennis Club on Friday.

The event was held under the patronage of French Ambassador Jerome Cauchard.

A total of 20 participants took part. They competed in doubles, where each team consist-

ed of a Bahraini and a French player. The teammates change every match, with the aim of giving everyone an opportunity to participate and get to know each other.

Shehab emerged as the winner at the end of the event. Aurelien Chaussy was the runner-up, while Abdulla Mohammed Ahmed claimed third place.

Following play, an awarding

ceremony was held, attended by BTC president Khamis Al Muqla, Ambassador Cauchard, Ahlia University Board of Trustees chairman Professor Abdullah Alhawaj, Ahlia University president Professor Mansoor Al Ali, and French Embassy Cooperation and Cultural Affairs Counsellor Emmanuel Mayer.

On this occasion, BTC presented an honorary membership to Ambassador Cauchard.

US teen Gauff sweeps past Wang to win second WTA title in Parma

AFP | Parma

American teenager Coco Gauff swept aside China's Wang Qiang to win her second WTA career title on clay in Parma yesterday.

Third seed Gauff won

through 6-1, 6-3 against Wang, the sixth seed, in 74 minutes to add to her hardcourt title in Linz in 2019.

After reaching the semi-finals on clay in the Italian Open in Rome last week, 17-year-old Gauff dropped only one set en

route to the title in Parma, just one week before Roland Garros.

Gauff, who is ranked 30 in the world and has won 20 of her last 26 matches, saved each of four break points in her first meeting with the 29-year-old Wang.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Juve's nine-year title run was ended by Inter Milan and failure to qualify for the Champions League would be a financial blow

Ukraine look for 'decent fight' against Bahrain

Helio Sousa: Friendly match in Kharkiv will be a good 'test' against 'such a strong team'

● Bahrain's international friendly match with Ukraine kicks off at 9pm, Bahrain time, at Metalist Oblast Sports Complex

● Bahrainis preparing for joint-qualifiers for FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023, while Ukraine gearing up for Euro 2021

TDT | Manama



Bahrain's Helio Sousa, right, at the national team's training yesterday

Ukraine are looking to have a "decent fight" in their friendly match against Bahrain tonight in the city of Kharkiv, says Ukrainian national team coach and former star player Andriy Shevchenko.

The tune-up is part of both teams' preparations for upcoming international play next month, and each side will be looking to make the most of the contest.

The Bahrainis are gearing up for their remaining joint-qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023, while Ukraine are prepping for their Euro 2021 campaign.

The match is scheduled for a 9pm kick-off, Bahrain time, and it will be played at Kharkiv's Metalist Oblast Sports Complex, with local fans in attendance.

Speaking in a Press conference

yesterday ahead of the friendly, Shevchenko admits to knowing little about Bahrain, but that has no effect on their objectives in the match.

"The coach of this team is Portuguese, he worked with clubs and the youth team in his homeland; so, he is an experienced, good specialist," Shevchenko said of Bahrain's Helio Sousa.

"In general, we have little information, but we need this meeting as preparation, so we are more focused on our own game."

He added: "We had a very difficult preparation period; the guys are under load."

"Tomorrow it will be possible to make six substitutions, I plan to give many the opportunity to play."

"We were looking for such

a rival on this date, so that we could adequately assess the situation after a week of hard training. We selected a sparring partner for the circumstances in which we are. We want to have a decent fight tomorrow.

Shevchenko, the former Milan, Chelsea and Dynamo Kyiv star revealed that the Ukrainians will be missing two key players in Dynamo's Vitaliy Buyalsky and Shakhtar's Viktor Kornienko.

"We have losses, two players dropped out," he explained. "Buyalsky has a serious injury, we hope for his speedy recovery, but he will not prepare for the Euro."

"Kornienko has a sore throat, he left the location of the team, I did not see the point that he was with us in this condition. The



Bahrain's star forward Ali Madan in action during training

rest of the players are preparing, they have no problems."

Shevchenko also called on Kharkiv's football fans to attend the match and support the na-

tional team. "I am asking Kharkiv residents to come to the stadium tomorrow to support the team, it is important for us, 50 percent



Ukraine's Andriy Shevchenko speaks during his Press conference



The national team of Ukraine demonstrates a qualified and meaningful game. Our opponent's players have an athletic and technical game, plus Ukraine is very interesting to act tactically

HELIO SOUSA

of the seats in the arena can be filled," he said. "This is a friendly but very important match for us, because it is part of the preparations for the European Championship."

Meanwhile, Sousa said in his Press conference yesterday: "It is very interesting for us to test ourselves in a match with such a strong team. The national team of Ukraine demonstrates a qualified and meaningful game. Our opponent's players have an athletic and technical game, plus Ukraine is very interesting to act tactically."

SQUADS

Bahrain

Ahmed Abdulla, Ali Haram, Ali Madan, Hamad Shamsan, Hashim Isa, Hazza Ali, Jassim Al Shaikh, Komail Alaswad, Mahdi Humaidan, Mohammed Marhoon, Redha Isa, Sayed Baqer, Sayed Shubbar Alawi, Ahmed Nabeel, Mahdi Abduljabbar, Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Abdulla Hazaa, Ebrahim Lutfallah, Sayed Qasem Alawi, Mohammed Marhoon, Jassim Khulaif, Abbas Fadhel, Sayed Dhiya Saeed.

Ukraine

Heorhiy Bushchan, Andriy Pyatov, Anatoliy Trubin, Oleksandr Karavayev, Ilya Zabarny, Vitaliy Mykolenko, Oleksandr Tymchuk, Oleksandr Syrota, Denis Popov, Mykola Matvienko, Serhiy Kryvtsov, Taras Stepanenko, Marlos, Georgy Sudakov, Serhiy Sidorchuk, Mykola Shaparenko, Viktor Tsygankov, Bohdan Lednev, Artem Bondarenko, Yevhen Makarenko, Alexander Zubkov, Artem Dovbyk, Artem Besedin.

Bahrain book Arab Futsal Cup semis berth

● Nationals register resounding 6-2 victory over Mauritania to stay unbeaten after two games

● Five Bahrainis score in the match, led by Jassam Saleh, who fired in a brace

TDT | Manama



Action from Bahrain's win last night over Mauritania

Bahrain booked their tickets to the semi-finals of the fifth Arab Futsal Cup 2021 yesterday following a come-from-behind 6-2 victory over Mauritania in their second Group A game.

The nationals maintained their winning ways in the competition after also taking their first game against Kuwait held on Thursday.

Finding the net for Bahrain yesterday were Jassam Saleh, who scored twice, and Saleh Ahmed, Falah Abbas, Ammar Hassan and Ali Alwani, who each fired in a goal apiece.

The Bahrainis are now assured of a place in the last four. They top Group A with six points.

Tournament hosts Egypt drew with Kuwait in yesterday's other game. Egypt are

now second on the table with four points, Kuwait third with one and Mauritania at the bottom with zero points.

The Bahrainis and Egyptians face off in their final group en-

counter tomorrow. That game is scheduled for a 4pm kick-off, Bahrain time. The game will determine the winner of the group heading into the final four.

The semi-finals are scheduled to be held on Thursday, to be followed by the bronze and gold medal games on Saturday.

Bahrain are making their debut in the tournament this year and are hoping to secure a medal on their very first try.

The Arab Futsal Cup last took place in 2008, also in Egypt, when Libya were crowned back-to-back champions, after having also won in 2007.

Egypt won the tournament's first two editions, held in 1998 and 2005. They also were the runners-up the two previous times.



Bahrain are making their debut in the tournament this year and are hoping to secure a medal on their very first try

Al Najma win first-leg in play-off for premier league spot



Action from Al Najma's win last night over Al Ettifaq

TDT | Manama

Al Najma defeated Al Ettifaq 1-0 last night to move one step closer to keeping their place in next season's Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Yesterday's game was the first-leg of the two teams' play-off clash.

Najma are fighting to stay in the premier league after finishing the past season in eighth place while Ettifaq are looking to earn promotion after going third in the second division.

The second and final leg will

be played on Wednesday.

An own goal by Ettifaq's Momodou Jallow was enough to separate the two sides in yesterday's contest.

His 72nd minute gaffe came after Najma's Abdulrahman Yusuf sent in a cross from beyond the half-field line. Jallow attempted to head the ball away to safety, but instead he inadvertently headed it over his own goalkeeper and straight into the net.

Ettifaq were unable to make up for the mistake over the remainder of the contest while Najma could not add to their lead.

Copa del Rey win was 'turning point' for Barcelona: Messi



Messi collects Copa del Rey cup Reuters | London

Barcelona forward Lionel Messi described the club's Copa del Rey win this season as a "turning point", but gave no indication of his own future in Catalonia in an interview published in the Argentine press yesterday.

Messi, who was allowed to skip Barcelona's final La Liga game yesterday in order to prepare for the Copa America, is out of contract at the end of June, although negotiations are reported to be ongoing.

The 33-year-old, however, praised the dressing room, which he described as "very young, with a lot of new players" and the excitement generated by the 4-0 win over Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey final, Barca's first trophy in two years.