

Bahrain set for Estonia friendlies

Kingdom's senior men's national handball team to face off with European counterparts in three tune-up games as part of preparations for Tokyo Olympics kicking off later this month | P12

WORLD 7 Xi hails 'irreversible' rise of China at party centenary

THE DAILY **tribune**

Demi Lovato's talk show gets premiere date, set to air on Roku Channel

9 CELEBS

BUSINESS 6 130 countries back global minimum corporate tax of 15%



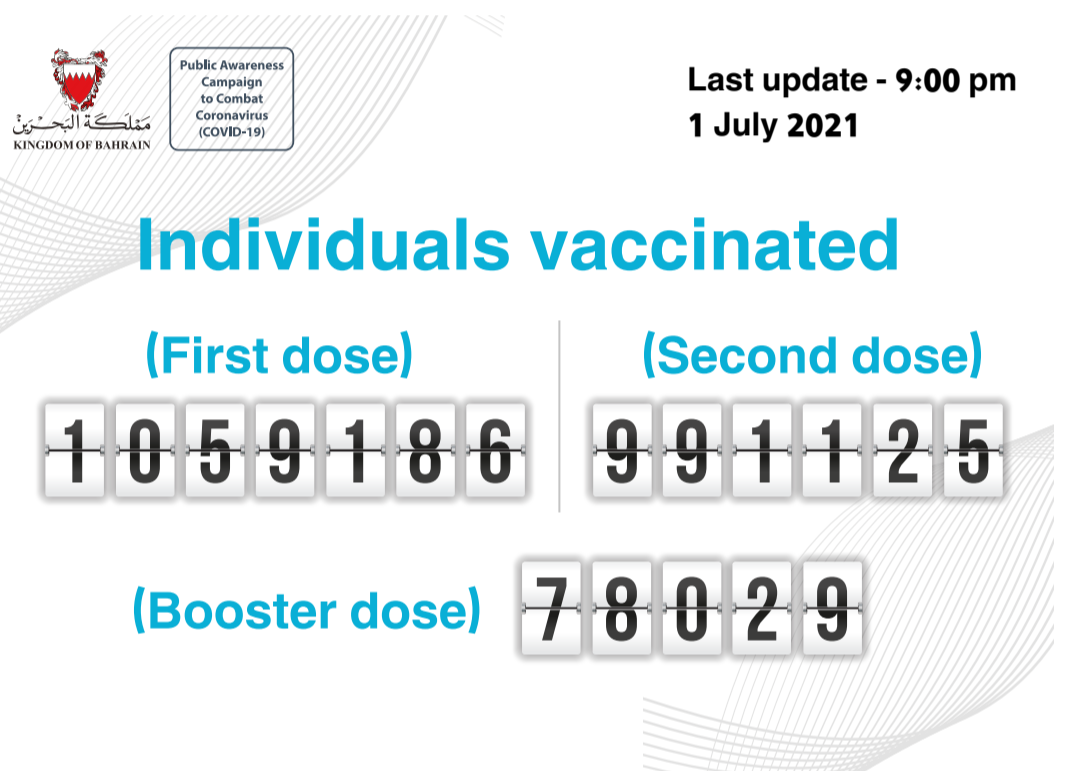
Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

Register now
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VACCINATE AND STAY SAFE

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chairing the 387th meeting of the Government executive committee, held remotely. The meeting reviewed legislation governing sustainable development and measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.



Global award for Women's empowerment P5



Preparing for the future

HRH the CP & PM pledges to continue youth development initiatives

- Meets 22nd winners of CPISP
- HRH CP and PM urges students to take full advantage of the opportunity

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa pledged yesterday to continue investing in Bahrain's youth development initiatives to encourage innovation, creative thinking and boost Bahrain's development drive.

"This would help Bahrain continue on its development path and attain the desired progress in all areas in line with the sustainable development goals," said the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

"Investing in youth initiatives will open up quality opportunities and new horizons for Bahraini youth to achieve their goals and support the development drive of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa," added



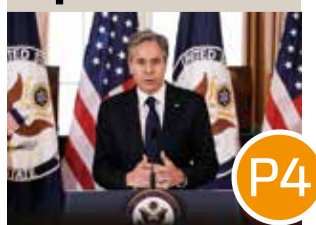
The Crown Prince International Scholarship Programme allows students to choose any majors from universities they gain acceptance. So far, the programme awarded 207 scholarships since its establishment in 1999.

ed HRH Prince Salman. His Royal Highness was speaking during a virtual session with the winners of the twenty-second batch of the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme. (Continued on page 3)



Britain's William and Harry put feud aside to unveil Princess Diana statue P8

Bahrain maintains tier-1 status in US Combating Trafficking report



To turn Bahrain green again

Let us all adhere to COVID-19 preventive measures

Green level When the average percentage of active cases for a period of 14 days is less than 2%.

Work policy: Applying 50% work-from-home policy across all government entities.

The following activities are for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals:

- Shops
- Shopping malls
- Providing the option to attend education and training institutions
- Holding private events in homes
- Sports centers and swimming pools
- Restaurants and cafes
- Organising events and conferences in external spaces
- Recreational activities
- Barber shops, salons and spas
- Entering government centers
- Public attendance of sporting events in outdoor areas

Limited for:

- Vaccinated green shield holders
- Those recovered from COVID-19
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a vaccinated or a recovered person
- Cinemas
- Organizing indoor events and conferences
- Attendance of indoor sporting events

Yellow level Starting from Friday, 2 July 2021. When the average percentage of active cases for 7 days is between 2% and less than 5%.

Work policy: Applying 50% work-from-home policy across all government entities.

The following activities are for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals:

- Retail shops
- Providing the option to attend education and training institutions
- Standalone government centers
- Holding of private events at home, with no more than 30 attendees

Limited for:

- Vaccinated green shield holders
- Those recovered from COVID-19
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a vaccinated or a recovered person
- Shopping malls
- Restaurants and cafes
- Sports centers and swimming pools
- Cinemas with up to 50% of the facility's capacity
- Barber shops, salons and spas
- Recreational activities
- Events and conferences
- Audience attendance at sporting events

The essential sectors that will remain open are:

Hypermarkets, supermarkets, grocery stores, and stores that sell meat products and fresh vegetables, bakeries, fuel and gas stations, private health clinics, with the exception of some health services for which a circular is to be issued by the National Health Regulatory Authority, banks and currency exchange services, administrative offices of institutions and companies, whose activities are not directly customer facing, import and export distributors, automobile repair and spare parts shops, businesses operating in the processing, construction and maintenance sectors, factories, telecom operators, pharmacies.

Orange level When the average percentage of active cases for 4 days is between 5% and less than 8%.

Work policy: Applying 70% work-from-home policy across all government entities. **Mandatory rapid testing.**

Vaccinated and not-vaccinated individuals can:

- Hold home gatherings with a limit of no more than 6 people
- Have the option to attend education and training institutions

Limited for:

- Vaccinated green shield holders
- Those recovered from COVID-19
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a vaccinated or a recovered person
- Holding outdoor events and conferences for 50 people, and in the indoor areas for 30 people
- Restaurants and cafes outdoor service for 50 people, and in the indoor areas for 30 people per reservation
- Outdoor sports centers and sports halls
- Shops outside of shopping malls
- Shopping malls
- Barber shops, salons and spas (services that do not require removing the mask)
- Outdoor cinemas
- Outdoor recreational activities
- Entering government centers
- Public attendance of sporting events in outdoor areas

The essential sectors that will remain open are:

Hypermarkets, supermarkets, grocery stores, and stores that sell meat products and fresh vegetables, bakeries, fuel and gas stations, private health clinics, with the exception of some health services for which a circular is to be issued by the National Health Regulatory Authority, banks and currency exchange services, administrative offices of institutions and companies, whose activities are not directly customer facing, import and export distributors, automobile repair and spare parts shops, businesses operating in the processing, construction and maintenance sectors, factories, telecom operators, pharmacies.

Red level When the average percentage of active cases for 3 days is 8% or more.

Work policy: Applying 70% work-from-home policy across all government entities. **Mandatory rapid testing.**

Closure of all below sectors:

- Suspending attendance at all educational and training institutions, activate distance learning, with the exception of attendance for international examinations.
- Restaurants and cafes
- Shops outside of shopping malls
- Holding of private events at home
- Cinemas
- Events and conferences
- Recreational activities
- Salons and spas
- Sports centers and swimming pools
- Audience attendance at sporting events

Limiting shop and restaurant services to external orders and delivery

Limited for:

- Entering government centers
- Vaccinated green shield holders
- Those recovered from COVID-19

The essential sectors that will remain open are:

Hypermarkets, supermarkets, grocery stores, and stores that sell meat products and fresh vegetables, bakeries, fuel and gas stations, private health clinics, with the exception of some health services for which a circular is to be issued by the National Health Regulatory Authority, banks and currency exchange services, administrative offices of institutions and companies, whose activities are not directly customer facing, import and export distributors, automobile repair and spare parts shops, businesses operating in the processing, construction and maintenance sectors, factories, telecom operators, pharmacies.

Bahrain moves to yellow level today

TDT | Manama

Lights will blink green on your area if the COVID-19 test positivity rates for the last 14 days are less than 2%.

The grading is as per a brand new "COVID-19 Alert Level Traffic Light System", which comes into life today.

Other lights - yellow, orange and red - indicate increasing

COVID-19 threat levels and restrictions.

The greenlight comes with many perks like entrance for vaccinated and non-vaccinated people to shops, shopping malls, restaurants and cafes, government centres, training programmes, barbershops, salons, spas and more.

However, even in green light areas, entry to cinemas, indoor events and conferences, and indoor sporting events are reserved for those having a "green shield" on the BeAware Bahrain app. The key here is making sure

not to turn on yellow, orange or red lights, which comes with increased restrictions.

Introducing the system, the National Medical Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus said green is the safest zone.

The yellow light indicates that test positivity or the percentage of active cases in that area is between 2% and 5%.

Likewise, Orange blinks if the active case percentage in an area is between 5% and 8% for the last four days.

Finally, Red light comes up when the average percentage of

Green	When the average percentage of active cases for a period of 14 days is less than 2%.
Yellow	When the average percentage of active cases for 7 days is between 2% and less than 5%.
Orange	When the average percentage of active cases for 4 days is between 5% and less than 8%.
Red	When the average percentage of active cases for 3 days is 8% or more.

active cases in an area crosses the 8% threshold for the last three days. Meaning, an area currently blinking green could

turn yellow, orange or red when the test positivity rate breaches the threshold set for each light. Raising the threat level will be

immediate if active cases jump, says the Taskforce team.

However, once slipped to yellow, orange, or red, turning it back to green won't be easy.

Taskforce says an area or locality should remain at least a week at each level to reach green. For example, a green sector could plunge to a red level without touching yellow and orange lights but will have to go through all others to reach green. The thresholds set for each alert level are subject to change according to data and developments.

The dawn of a new day.

Today marks a new beginning for Edamah. We are proud to share our brand-new identity with you – and the world. Established in 2006, we are the real-estate development arm of Mumtalakat, the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Our track-record includes an array of impactful developments, and we will continue to strive towards the positive transformation of Bahrain's diverse and dynamic property sector with iconic, market-led solutions. Our new image symbolises our evolution and reflects our ability to inspire, develop and stay true to our renewed purpose, 'Building for Bahrain'.

Edamah
edamah.com

Apply for Liquidity support: Government tells SMEs, cos

The fund offers up to BD300,000 for SMEs and BD1 million for large companies

TDT | Manama

Private sector companies and institutions could now make financing requests to the Liquidity Fund as part of an economic stimulus package to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

The fund offers up to BD300,000 for SMEs and BD1 million for large companies as directed by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The National Bank of Bahrain, the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, the Bahrain Islamic Bank and the Bahrain Development Bank are the participating banks.

The applicant doesn't need to have an existing bank account in one of the national banks to apply.

Big Cos should apply through nbbonline.com

Bahraini companies having an annual income of BD3 million and more should make their applications from July 1 to August 1 via the nbbonline.com website.

Eligible companies should have an active Bahraini CR, audited financial statements for two fiscal years, including for 2018 and 2019, a positive profit

margin for 2019, internally audited financial statement for 2020, and interim financial statements for 2021.

Besides, they should be in one of the affected sectors, have an operational history for four consecutive years, and demonstrate they are solvent with a positive net worth.

SMEs through bdb-bh.com

SMEs having an annual income of less than BD3 million should apply between July 1 and September 30 through bdb-bh.com.

Companies that participated in the previous rounds could request to extend the repayment period or increase the facility amount to the maximum allowed. All support requests will be subject to the discretion of the banks.

Bank's review and credit evaluation will determine a company's financing facility value.



Eligibility criteria for SMEs (revenue less than BD3 million):

- Active Bahraini CR
- Operating in Bahrain At least 12 months
- Assessment showing sustainable business and not filed for bankruptcy
- Possess audited financial statements for three years, including 2019, or less based on years in operations (if less than three years)
- Positive gross margin at least one year out of the last three years, or based on years in operations (if less than three years)
- Operates in one of the "impacted sectors" announced in the Minister of Labour & Social Development decision No. 47 for 2021.



What is EU's vaccine passport? Will it affect Bahraini travellers?

TDT | Manama

With the new 'vaccine passport' programme gets into force in the European Union, concerns are mounting for people all over the globe, including those in the Middle East, who had travel plans to countries in the Euro-

pean Union. The reason - only four vaccines are currently on the European Union's "green pass", which allows restriction-free travel across Europe.

Only those who had inoculated using any of these vaccines, the European Medicines Agency says, are eligible for the "green

pass", which acts as digital proof that a person has either been vaccinated against Covid-19 or received a negative test result or recovered from the infection.

What if a person took a jab not approved by EMA and wants to travel to EU countries? Will they be banned?

No, is the answer.

According to EMA, the certificate "is for facilitating free movements of citizens in the EU" during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is not 'absolutely' compulsory.

They had made clear that the certificate "will not be a pre-condition to free movement, which is a fundamental right in the EU."

Those who do not possess the certificate will be subject to the usual travel restrictions and quarantine rules, in effect in countries of the union.

As a case in point, Bahrainis travelling to France will have to produce a negative RT-PCR report before boarding and repeat the test after reaching France

for inoculating using one of the vaccines not approved by EMA.

Bahrainis thus reached there will also have to undergo "mandatory quarantine supervised by security."

In a nutshell, the EU "green pass" facilitates travel and not rejects anyone.

Does it matter which vaccine received?

To find out, let's look at the vaccines approved by EMA. So far, the EMA list has only four vaccines - Vaxzevria (Oxford-AstraZeneca), Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech), Spikevax (Moderna)



and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).

However, the agency clarifies: "When it comes to waiving free movement restrictions, Member States will have to accept vaccination certificates for vaccines which received EU marketing au-

thorisation. Member States may decide to extend this also to EU travellers that received another vaccine."

"It is also for the Member States to decide whether they accept a vaccination certificate after one dose or after completing a full vaccination cycle."

What details are on the certificate?

The green pass will have a name, date of birth, date of issuance, the name of the vaccine or the details of the negative test result or recovery from Covid-19.

How do you get the certificate?

EMA says the national authorities are in charge of the programme. The document can be issued by test centres or health authorities or directly via an eHealth portal.

The digital version is storable on a mobile device while also available as a paper version. The certificate contains a digital signature which is verified by scanning an enclosed QR code.

How will it help the free movement?

The European Commission said it has a gateway through which it is possible to verify the signatures across the EU.

"When travelling, the EU Digital COVID Certificate holder should in principle be exempted from free movement restrictions."

The Member States, the statement says, should refrain from imposing additional travel restrictions on the holders of an EU Digital COVID certificate unless it is necessary and proportionate to safeguard public health.

How will it work?

The EU Digital COVID Certificate contains a QR code with a digital signature to protect it against falsification.

The QR code is scanned and the signature verified.

Each issuing body (e.g. a hospital, a test centre, a health authority) has its digital signature key. All of these are in a secure database in each country.

The European Commission has built a gateway to verify all digital certificates across the EU. The personal data of the certificate holder does not pass through the gateway. The European Commission also helped the Member States to develop national software and apps to issue, store and verify certificates.

Will it affect travellers from Bahrain to countries in the European Union?

Certainly not, is the answer.

There are hardly any reasons for concerns to Bahraini travellers, who are having travel plans covering the EU member states, for the vaccines on the EU list are also in use here in Bahrain.

In all, Bahrain had approved six vaccines for use in the Kingdom.

Now, let's compare that with those on the EU list.

Pfizer/BioNTech or Comirnaty

Authorised

One of six vaccines in use here is the BNT162b2 of Pfizer/BioNTech, which reportedly is the same as the Comirnaty approved by the EMA.



Reports say both vaccines have the same manufacturing process and procedures and meet the identically finished product specifications.

Singapore said it has started labelling their BNT162b2 as Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty in the records to remain EU compliant.

This vaccine, the EU says, has a 95% efficacy against the virus, and most side effects are mild to modern in severity and are gone within a few days.

ASTRAZENECA or Vaxzevria ((ChAdOx1-S [recombinant])

Authorised

This vaccine is on the EU list by its new name Vaxzevria - labelled previously as the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, as in use here in the Kingdom.



According to EMA, the main trials showed that the vaccine has around 60% efficacy.

Why not Covishield?

Though Vaxzevria has been among the vaccines approved by EMA, Covishield, derived from AstraZeneca shot, is not on the list as the Serum Institute of India has not applied for approval.

EMA says even if the vaccine is the same, different manufacturers of the same product need to submit separate applications for approval from EMA. "This is because the EMA takes into consideration local manufacturing facilities."

However, the German embassy in Bahrain has tweeted that they will accept those who took the Covishield jabs, which is also part of the international COVAX alliance.

Germany accepts Pfizer, J&J, Covishield / AstraZeneca

Authorised



The German embassy, in a tweet, clarified that Bahraini citizens who had passed 14 days after taking the second dose of Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Covishield/AstraZeneca are eligible to receive the "green pass".

Kai Boeckmann, the German Ambassador to Bahrain, said that the booster doses from the EMA approved vaccines are accepted only for "COVID recovered" travellers.

Germany would not provide a "green pass" to travellers who had taken other booster shots in combination with Sputnik and Sinopharm jabs, not recognised at the moment.

Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Ad26. COV2.5

Authorised

Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine Janssen is on the EMA "green list" and has also been authorised for emergency use in the Kingdom by the National Health Regulatory Authority in February this year.



Janssen was the fifth vaccine to be approved by the Kingdom for emergency use.

EMA says the jab offers 67% efficacy, and most of its side effects are mild to moderate in severity and last only a few days.

Unlike others, Janssen is a single-injection vaccine, usually into the muscle of the upper arm.

Sputnik, Sinopharm

Not Authorised

Sputnik is the next vaccine available for citizens and residents in the Kingdom.

This vaccine is not on the EU approved list eligible for the green pass.

As of now, no word is available on when this would appear on the EU list.

The COVID-19 vaccine developed by Sinopharm/China National Pharmaceutical Group is also not on the current EU list.

This year's programme had over 358 applicants, ten students win the scholarship

(Continued from page 1)

Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, the Advisor for Political and Economic Affairs at the Court of the Crown Prince and Head of the Financial and Administrative Committee of the CPISP, and members of the Board of Directors of the Scholarship Programme were present.

Congratulating the students on their selection to this year programme, His Royal Highness praised them for passing



the assessment tests with flying colours.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the success achieved by the programme, since its inception, in empowering young people, refining their

skills, and helping them attain top positions in serving the nation.

This year's programme had 358 Bahraini applicants who underwent a comprehensive assessment test to determine their eligibility. The evaluation process also considered their Grade Point Average, IELTS score, SAT score, leadership training, and a critical thinking course by the CPISP as part of the candidacy training.

Existing cases dropped 88%: Dr Al Manea

Restrictions, booster dose brought down active cases, urges extreme caution against the pandemic

● Sotrofinab used to treat 223 COVID-19 cases

● All of them recovered

● Urged to remain cautious against Delta variant

● 49% of the children between 12 and 17 years got their jabs

● Senior citizens urged to take a booster dose

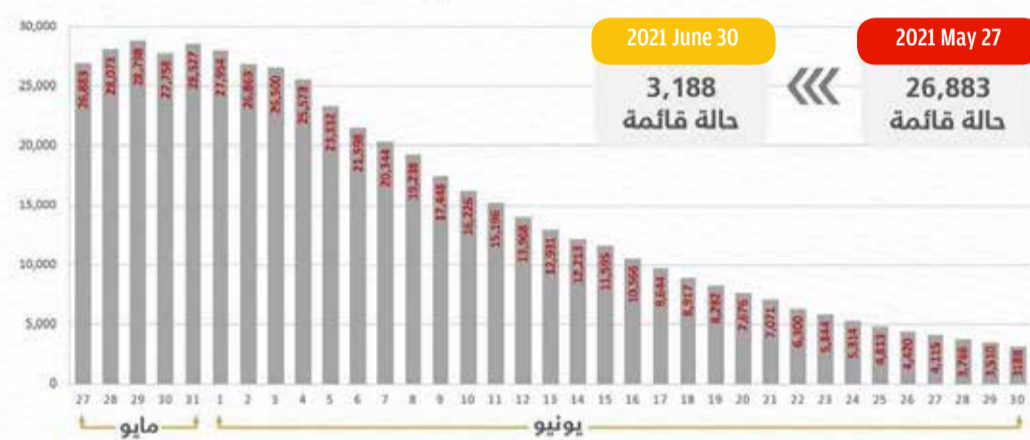
TDT | Manama

Bahrain witnessed an encouraging dip in active Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the past few weeks, thanks to the tough new restrictions and vaccination efforts, said a top task force official.

"There is an 88% dip in the active COVID-19 cases from 26,883 on 27th May 2021 to 3,188 on 30th June 2021," said Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Health and Member of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus.

"The credit for this goes to additional restrictions and decision to administer booster dose," he added.

He was addressing a press conference held at the Crown



Prince Centre for Training and Medical Research, Bahrain Defence Force Hospital on the latest COVID-19 developments

along with other members Lt Col Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, Infectious Disease Consultant & Microbiologist at the BDF Hos-

pital, and Dr Jamila Al-Salman, Consultant of Infectious and Internal Diseases at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

He, however, reminded all not to fall into a false sense of security and laxity, to cause the infection to spike again.

Continue adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures, irrespective of whether "we are in red, yellow, orange or green levels."

Maintaining the green level, he said, is a shared responsibility, which all the citizens and residents in the Kingdom should take care of. "Opening up some of the sectors does not mean that we had overcome the virus."

Sotrofinab effective

On the drug Sotrofinab, Lt Col Dr Manaf Al Qahtani said Bahrain is pursuing all effective mechanisms and latest treatments to reduce the risk of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Health Regulatory Authority approved "Sotrofinab" by GlaxoSmithKline for emergency use earlier in June for COVID-19 treatment.

Sotrovimab-VIR-7831 by GSK and Vir Biotechnology is an investigational single-dose monoclonal antibody. It is for treating mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults and paediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg) with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalisation or death.

Dr Al Qahtani said the Kingdom used the drug to treat more than 223 COVID-19 patients, and

all of them recovered and returned to their life activities.

"Monoclonal antibodies are proteins that mimic the ability of the human immune system to fight viruses, which attacks the spike of the virus to bar entry into human cells in about 60 minutes," said Dr Al Qahtani.

He also cautioned that the coronavirus is constantly evolving, and the only way out is adhering strictly to preventive measures, taking vaccination and booster dose. "We should also ensure vaccination of children to ensure their safety."

Booster dose essential

On booster dose, Dr Jameela Al-Salman said the authorities would contact all those who are registered to receive the booster dose six months after taking the second dose of Sinopharm vaccine.

She said it is vital for all senior citizens to register for the booster dose to avoid complications. Dr Al Salman further said that they witnessed a remarkable turnout of parents registering their children for vaccination. "49% of the children between 12 and 17 years of the age had received their jabs," she said.

"No complications of severe side effects observed among people in the age group 12 to 17," the doctor said.

Dr Al Salman also warned that the Delta variant produces high risks for people in all age groups, especially children. "Vaccination is the only way to protect them."

Illegal massage parlour: Police arrest four women

TDT | Manama

Capital police yesterday arrested four women for running an illegal massage centre in violation of coronavirus (COVID-19) preventing measures.

The suspects of Asian and African nationalities were taken into custody in a joint operation by the Capital Governorate Police Directorate, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry.

The arrest followed a tip-off received on the illegal activities practised by the suspects.

An investigation was quickly opened, which resulted in the identification and arrest of the suspects.

Officers found the suspects were practising various massage services flouting all coronavirus restrictions.

The case is now with the Public Prosecution.

Salon closed Separately, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism announced closing a men's salon in the northern governorate for violating COVID-19 restrictions.

During an inspection, officers spotted several customers inside the salon flouting social distancing and other mandatory restrictions.



Education Ministry Dr Majid Ali Al Nuaimi yesterday honoured 150 top-achieving secondary education graduates during a virtual ceremony. The minister stressed that the ceremony crowns the tremendous efforts exerted by the students throughout the academic year, noting that the number of visits to the portal EduNet has reached 68 million.



Ambassador of Bahrain to Jakarta, Dr Mohammad Ghassan Mohammed Adnan Sheikh, holding a meeting at the headquarters of the Indonesian President's Office with Dr H Moeldoko, the Chief of Staff of the Indonesian President's Office and a retired general. They hailed the strong bilateral ties and agreed to broaden bilateral relations to meet common interests. Discussions also focused on other issues of common interest.



Ambassador of Bahrain to Indonesia, Dr Mohammed Ghassan Mohammed Adnan Sheikh, and Prof Dr Muhammad Syarifuddin, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indonesia, holding a meeting. Deputy of non-Judicial Affairs, Dr Sunarto, and Secretary, Dr Hasbi Hassan, were present. Discussions focused on bilateral ties and ways to strengthen them. They also discussed several issues of mutual interest.



Labour and Social Development Minister and the Board of Directors Chairman of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, holding a meeting with the newly-appointed Japanese Ambassador to Bahrain, Miyamoto Masayuki. Humaidan reviewed the efforts to develop human resources, reform the labour market, ensure social protection for workers. The Japanese Ambassador expressed delight over representing his country in Bahrain, praising the existing solid relations between the two friendly countries.

Bahrain maintains tier-1 status in US Combating Trafficking report

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has maintained its tier-1 status in the annual report of the US Department of State for combating people trafficking for the fourth year in a row.

Congratulating His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the achievement, Labour Market Regulatory Authority Chief Executive Officer, Jamal Abdulaziz Al Alawi, said the annual report is considered the highest international ranking in this field.

"This achievement is the result of the guidance, wise vision, and care of His Majesty the King in the promotion of equality and human rights for all citizens and residents without discrimination," the LMRA Chief said.

Al Alawi further congratulated His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,



Labour Market Regulatory Authority Chief Executive Officer, Jamal Abdulaziz Al Alawi

the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, noting that the integration of all public sector efforts had made Bahrain an inspiring global role model.

Al Alawi pointed out that the US report hails Bahrain's for establishing a regional centre for training and capacity-building

to combat people trafficking in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the GCC countries.

The US Department of State's report also praises the opening of labour claims registration offices at the LMRA and providing administrative assistance to expatriate workers in filing labour claims and following them up through the electronic system by The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments.

The report also praises Bahrain's Wage Protection System - inaugurated last May - which works on documenting the workers' salaries payment process in institutions subject to the Labor Law.

The report points out that Bahrain has translated its work in combating people trafficking into a practical and institutional system with the participation of various ministries and private entities.

Timely action averts huge tragedy in Tubli

TDT | Manama

Timely action by civil defence forces yesterday averted a major tragedy, after a furniture factory in the Tubli area was engulfed in fire.

The blaze could have taken several lives with it, but the efficient and quick action of the authorities prevented it.

According to the General Directorate of Civil Defence, their officers in the control room received a report of a massive blaze in Tubli yesterday morning.

Soon a team of officers rushed to the scene with firefighting mechanisms.

There was a threat of the fire spreading to nearby facilities but brought it under control quickly with several teams working from different directions to douse the fire.

Quick actions prevented the fire from spreading to other sections of the factory and nearby shops.

The exact cause of the fire or the extent of the damage is not known.

An investigation is ongoing.



Register for summer programme

TDT | Manama

Registrations are open for a virtual summer programme for students from July 11 to August 12, said the Education Ministry.

To register, log on to the "Summer Club Registration" service on the e-government website between July 1 and 6.

The programme, scheduled from Sunday to Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm, includes 48 diverse fields for students of all levels.

Specialists and teachers from the education ministry are participating.

The event has the participation of the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), the Bahrain Voluntary Society (BVS), Ministry of Interior, Fine Artist Mohsen Al-Gharib, University of Bahrain (UoB), National Space Sciences Authority (NSSA), Arabian Gulf University (AGU), Bahrain Stargazers Astronomical Club, Bahrain Mind and E-Sports, and Bahrain Chess Academy.

Minister of parliament affairs responsible for tender board

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday named the Minister of Parliament Affairs as the Minister responsible for the Tender Board before the legislative branch. The appointment is effective upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

Global award for Women's empowerment

TDT | Manama

Applications are open for the second round of Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa's Global Award for Women Empowerment.

The award aims at highlighting the contribution of the public and private sector, civil society and women's rights champions to worldwide efforts for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in partnership with UN Women and Bahrain.

It also aims to promote women's empowerment and equality between men and women, encourage innovative approaches and solutions to achieve women's empowerment in policy and programming and provide a global space to celebrate these achievements.



The award is in partnership with the UN Women and Supreme Council for Women

The announcement was during the Generation Equality Forum, hosted by the Government of France and co-organised with the Government of Mexico, under the supervision

of UN Women.

"The international commitment to the award not only confirms the global efforts towards enhancing the status of women but also contributes directly to

achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly gender balance and equal opportunities," said the Supreme Council for Women in a statement.

Nasser Bin Hamad Youth Award registration opens

TDT | Manama

Youth Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Support and Initiatives Sarah Ishaq announced that registration is open for the Nasser Bin Hamad International Youth Creativity Award. To register, log on to www.nbhaward.bh

"The award is for three age groups, the first from 14-17 years, the second from 18-24 years, and the third from 25-35," said Ishaq.

Architecture, Art, Film Making, Graphic Design, Photography and Science are the award categories.

The award, she said, aims at achieving justice and competitiveness among all age groups.

Desperate attempts to tarnish Bahrain

Interior Ministry rejects Al Jazeera reports as false and systematic hostile approach

TDT | Manama

Interior Ministry yesterday rejected reports by the Qatari Al Jazeera channel against "reform and rehabilitation centre" as misleading and "desperate attempts" to tarnish Bahrain's national and civilised accomplishments.

Interior Ministry said that Bahrain's human rights institutions are in the league of professional rights institutions in the World, and attempts to tarnish its reputation is unacceptable.

Al Jazeera, the ministry said, is broadcasting programmes with the help of suspicious organisations claiming to be in the field of rights and several others funded by external parties.

"These systematic and deliberate attempts, which included many fallacies, represents a continuation of the aggressive



approach against Bahrain and politicisation of media content against the Kingdom and its people," the statement said.

The Interior Ministry points out that a report by Police Media Centre reveals the depth and dimensions of the channel's incendiary approach during the past ten years.

The channel, the ministry

said, not even aired a piece of single positive news about Bahrain during this period, contradicting the standards of media professionalism.

The ministry said that an analysis of the channel's content points out that it is targeting Bahrain with fabricated and false information to create chaos and destabilise the Kingdom.

"They seldom understand the principles of good neighbourliness and the outcomes of the Al-Ula Summit."

Fair trial ensured

The Interior Ministry also clarified that those serving their terms in the Correction and Rehabilitation centres are convicted in various criminal and terrorist cases and reached there after exhausting all legal options.

"They all underwent a fair trial with legal bodies to defend them and in the presence of representatives of civil society organisations and Bahraini human rights institutions," the ministry said.

Speakers of the Al Jazeera programme accuses Bahrain of misconduct without providing any material evidence, the ministry said. "Such programmes

are not unusual for the channel which specialises in interfering in the affairs of others by repeating false allegations that has absolutely nothing to do with the established rules of law and criminal justice.

"What a fugitive speaker mentioned through the channel about his father, who is serving life in prison, and claims of torture denies the truth and reality." The health conditions of the person in question are stable, and he is under regular monitoring.

Interior Ministry said that it would continue its approach based on law enforcement and the promotion of human rights.

The incitements campaigns, the ministry said, would only increase its adherence and commitment to preserving the security and safety of citizens and residents.

Bahrain Chamber holds symposium on industrial property control



● **Over 30 thousand counterfeit products seized in 2020**

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber, in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism, recently held a virtual symposium on Industrial Property Control.

Commencing the symposium, acting director of foreign trade and industrial property of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Rana Al Ahmed stressed the importance of protecting industrial and intellectual property to safeguard the rights of both producers and consumers.

He pointed out that trademarks, patents, and industrial

designs can be registered and protected locally via the ministry's website. International protection is available via the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

The symposium also shed light on the difference between industrial property and intellectual property and outlined the merits of registering patents, industrial designs and trademarks.

The symposium highlighted Bahrain's efforts in combating counterfeiting, the role of the trademark, patent, and industrial design in curbing counterfeiting.

It was revealed that authorities seized 35015 counterfeit products from 29 enterprises in 2020. The symposium comes in line with the Bahrain Chamber's efforts to raise awareness and encouraging best practices.

130 countries back global minimum corporate tax of 15%

● **Tax of at least 15% could yield around \$150 billion in additional global tax revenues**

● **Nine countries that did not sign include low-tax EU members Ireland, Estonia and Hungary**

Reuters | Paris

Most of the countries negotiating a global overhaul of cross-border taxation of multinationals have backed plans for new rules on where companies are taxed and a tax rate of at least 15%, they said on Thursday after two days of talks.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, which hosted the talks, said a global minimum corporate income tax of at least 15% could yield around \$150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually.

It said 130 countries, representing more than 90% of global GDP, had backed the agreement at the talks.

It added that new rules on



The new minimum tax rate of at least 15% would apply to companies with turnover above a 750-million-euro (\$889-million) threshold, with only the shipping industry exempted.

where the biggest multinationals are taxed would see taxing rights on more than \$100 billion of profits shifted to countries where the profits are earned.

"With a global minimum tax in place, multinational corporations will no longer be able to pit countries against one another in a bid to push tax rates down,"

US President Joe Biden said in a statement.

"They will no longer be able to avoid paying their fair share by hiding profits generated in the United States, or any other country, in lower-tax jurisdictions," he said.

The Group of Seven advanced economies agreed in June on a minimum tax rate of at least 15%. The agreement will go to the Group of Twenty major economies for political endorsement at a meeting in Venice next week.

Technical details are to be agreed by October so that the new rules can be implemented by 2023, a statement from countries that backed the agreement said.

The nine countries that did

not sign include low-tax EU members Ireland, Estonia and Hungary.

Welcoming the deal as the most important international tax deal reached in a century, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said he would try to win over those holding out.

"I ask them to do everything to join this historical agreement which is largely supported by most countries," he said, adding that all big digital corporations would be covered by the agreement.

The new minimum tax rate of at least 15% would apply to companies with turnover above a 750-million-euro (\$889-million) threshold, with only the shipping industry exempted.

The new rules on where multinationals are taxed aims to divide the right to tax their profits in a fairer way among countries.

Companies considered in scope would be multinationals with global turnover above 20 billion euros and a pre-tax profit margin above 10%, with the turnover threshold possibly coming down to 10 billion euros after seven years following a review.

Extractive industries and regulated financial services are to be excluded from the rules on where multinationals are taxed.

Facebook partners with 'Assassin's Creed' maker in cloud-gaming push

Reuters

Facebook Inc has teamed up with French video-game maker Ubisoft Entertainment SA to bolster its cloud-gaming platform with popular titles such as "Assassin's Creed", the social media giant said on Thursday.

Facebook Gaming currently has more than 25 games including "Roller Coaster Tycoon Touch" by Atari, and "Lego Legacy Heroes Unboxed" and "Dragon Mania Legends" by Gameloft.

With the Ubisoft tie-up, Facebook said its users will now have access to titles including "Hungry Shark Evolution", "Hungry Dragon" and the blockbuster "Assassin's Creed" franchise.

The San Francisco-based company also said its cloud-streamed games are now available to more than 98% of the population in the United States, adding that the roll-out has begun in Canada and Mexico, and will reach Western and Central Europe by early next year. In October, Facebook had launched a free-to-play cloud gaming feature on its social media platform, allowing users to stream and play games without downloading them.

World Bank gives \$150 million to Yemen projects amid aid shortfall

● **Around 80% of Yemen's population, or 24 million people, rely on humanitarian relief to survive**

● **The United States last week called on the international community, especially Yemen's neighbours, to fulfil pledges to increase humanitarian funding**

Reuters | Dubai

The World Bank will give Yemen \$150 million in grants for health, nutrition and sanitation projects, helping address a funding shortfall facing the war-torn country.

A serious gap in funding for aid appeared last year. More funds started flowing since April after U.N. officials said Yemen could see the world's worst famine in decades, but aid groups say the humanitarian operation still does not have enough cash to see out 2021.

"The project will provide much needed emergency funds to help deliver quality health-care for the poorest and most vulnerable, including those living in remote areas, said Tania Meyer, the World Bank's Yemen country head.

The World Bank's Yemen Emergency Human Capital Project (YEHCP) works with UN agencies and Yemen's local authorities. The funding boost will go towards essential



The World Bank Group building is viewed on an empty street in Washington, D.



Yemen had been the poorest country in the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa region before war broke out more than six years ago, plunging the country into what the United Nations describes as the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

Yemen's \$3.85 billion 2021 humanitarian response plan stood at only 43% funded earlier this month.



health, nutrition, water and sanitation services to 3.65 million Yemenis, the World bank said.

The war has killed tens of thousands of Yemenis, mostly civilians, and left millions on the brink of famine. Around 80% of Yemen's population, or 24 million people, rely on humanitarian relief to survive.

The United States last week called on the international community, especially Yemen's neighbours, to fulfil pledges to increase humanitarian funding, warning that aid programs could otherwise be forced to close.

Yemen's \$3.85 billion 2021 humanitarian response plan stood at only 43% funded earlier this month.

UAE bans citizens from travelling to India, Pakistan and some other countries, - WAM

Reuters | Cairo

The United Arab Emirates announced yesterday a travel ban on citizens to India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Namibia, Zambia, Congo, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, South Africa and Nigeria, state news agency (WAM) reported.

The Foreign Ministry and the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority stressed that, with the start of the travel season, citizens need to comply with all precautionary and preventive measures related to COVID-19, WAM added.

IMF approves \$200 million increase in financing for Jordan

Washington

The International Monetary Fund yesterday said its executive board had approved a \$200 million increase in financing available to Jordan under its Extended Fund Facility after com-

pleting a second review of the programme.

The IMF said completion of the second review under the EFF would allow Jordan to immediately access \$206 m, bringing total disbursements to around \$900 million since the start of 2020.

Jordan's King Abdullah heads to US to meet Biden

Reuters | Amman

Jordan's King Abdullah left for the United States yesterday for a three-week visit that includes the first meeting by an Arab leader with President Joe Biden at the White House since he took office, a palace statement said.

The statement said the monarch, accompanied by his wife Queen Rania, would attend an investors meeting followed by a private itinerary ahead of a working visit to Washington for talks with congressional leaders and administration officials.



An official said the king's talks with Biden were expected some time after mid-July.

Xi hails 'irreversible' rise of China at party centenary

Chinese president says only the Communist Party could 'save' China and that people and party cannot be separated

● Xi warns against foreign bullying at 100th birthday of Communist Party

AFP | Beijing

President Xi Jinping hailed China's "irreversible" course from humiliated colony to great power at the centenary celebrations for the Chinese Communist Party yesterday, in a speech reaching deep into history to remind patriots at home and rivals abroad of his nation's -- and his own -- ascendancy.

Speaking above the giant portrait of Mao Zedong, which dominates Tiananmen Square, from the podium where the famous chairman proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949, Xi said the "era of China being bullied is gone forever" praising the party for uplifting incomes and restoring national pride.

Drawing a line from the subjugation of the Opium Wars to the struggle to establish a socialist revolution in China, Xi said the party has brought about "national rejuvenation" lifting tens of millions from poverty and "altered the landscape of world development."

Xi, wearing a 'Mao-style' jacket, added the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation has entered an irreversible historical course" and vowed to con-



Participants wave national and party flags before the event marking the 100th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of China, on Tiananmen Square in Beijing

tinue to build a "world-class" military to defend national interests.

In the summer of 1921 Mao and a clutch of Marxist-Leninist thinkers in Shanghai founded the party which has since morphed into one of the world's most powerful political organisations.

It now counts around 95 million members, garnered over a century of war, famine and turmoil, and more recently a surge to superpower status butting up against western rivals, led by the US.

In a ceremony of pomp and patriotism, thousands of singers, backed by a marching band, belted out stirring choruses including "We Are the Heirs of Communism" and "Without the Communist Party there would be no New China" as maskless invitees cheered and waved

flags in a packed Tiananmen Square.

A fly-by of helicopters in formation spelling '100' -- a giant hammer and sickle flag trailing -- and a 100-gun salute followed, while young communists in unison pledged allegiance to the party.

Power, popularity and purges

Xi, whose speech braided the economic miracle of China with the longevity of the party, has cemented his eight-year rule through a personality cult, ending term limits and declining to anoint a successor.

He has purged rivals and crushed dissent -- from Uyghur Muslims and online critics to pro-democracy protests on Hong Kong's streets.

The party has pivoted to new challenges; using tech to renew its appeal for younger genera-

“The Chinese people will never allow any foreign forces to bully, oppress, or enslave us. Whoever wants to do so will face bloodshed in front of a Great Wall of steel built by more than 1.4 billion Chinese people

XI JINPING

tions -- 12.55 million members are now aged 30 or younger -- while giving a communist finish to a consumer economy decorated by billionaire entrepreneurs.

On Beijing's streets, praise for the party was effusive from those willing to speak to foreign media.

"We should thank the party and the motherland," said Li Luhao, 19, a student at Beihang University performing in the celebration.

A man surnamed Wang, 42, said: "When I was a child there was a blackout for one hour every night and electricity shortages."

"Now the streets are full of light. Food, clothes, education, traffic are all better."

Xi has presented a defiant face to overseas rivals led by the US, revving up nationalist sentiment, batting back criticism of his government's actions in Hong Kong, towards Taiwan and the treatment of the Uyghurs.

News in brief

Hundreds evacuated as fires add to deadly Canada heat wave



Hundreds of people were evacuated in western Canada as fires added to the unprecedented heat wave in the region, which for days has been baking in record-breaking temperatures. The village of Lytton, 250 kilometers (155 miles) northeast of Vancouver, was evacuated on Wednesday night because of a fire that spread quickly.

The US House of Representatives voted along party lines to investigate the deadly Capitol insurrection of January 6, green-lighting a Democratic-controlled select committee after Senate Republicans blocked an independent, 9/11-style commission.

Only two Republicans joined Democrats in the 222-190 vote to create the panel, which House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said will report on "conclusions and recommendations for preventing any future assault."



House approves committee to probe US Capitol assault

Zuma foundation says jail sentence unconstitutional as his arrest looms



The foundation representing South Africa's ex-president Jacob Zuma, sentenced to jail for defying a top court, condemned the judgment as unconstitutional, as loyalists travelled to their ex-leader's home ahead of a deadline to turn himself in by the end of the week or face arrest.

In an unprecedented ruling, the Constitutional Court on Tuesday convicted Zuma for "egregious" and "aggravated" contempt of court after he refused to comply with an order to appear before graft investigators.

The US state of Texas executed a man convicted of a violent triple murder, who was the first to get a stay of execution due to the pandemic.

John Hummel, 45, received a lethal injection at the Huntsville penitentiary in the southern state and was pronounced dead at 6:49 pm local time (23:49 GMT). Hummel was handed the death penalty after he stabbed his pregnant wife and father-in-law to death in 2009, and then beat his five-year-old daughter to death with a baseball bat before setting fire to their home in Fort Worth, Texas.



After pandemic-related reprieve, Texas executes death row inmate

Philippines on alert after Taal volcano eruption



The Philippine seismological agency called for the evacuation of thousands of people near a volcano south of Manila after an eruption sent steam and rock fragments hundreds of metres into the sky. Taal volcano, which sits in a picturesque lake, has been belching sulphur dioxide for several days, creating a thick haze over the capital and several surrounding provinces, and prompting health warnings.

Former US Defence Secretary Rumsfeld dead at 88



Donald Rumsfeld

Reuters | Washington

Donald Rumsfeld, a forceful US defence secretary who was the main architect of the Iraq war until President George W. Bush replaced him as the United States found itself bogged down after 3-1/2 years of fighting, has died at age 88, his family said in a statement on Wednesday.

"It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Donald Rumsfeld, an American statesman and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather," the statement said. "At 88, he was surrounded by family in his beloved Taos, New Mexico."

The statement did not say when Rumsfeld died.

Biden in Florida to see condo collapse site, death toll at 18

Reuters | Miami

President Joe Biden flew to Florida yesterday to "comfort" families of people killed or still missing in the rubble of a beachfront apartment building, where hopes of finding survivors had all but evaporated.

Biden and First Lady Jill Biden left the White House early for the flight to Miami, and then traveled by motorcade to nearby Surfside, where the death toll in the tragedy now stands at 18, and more than 140 still unaccounted for.

Aboard Air Force One, deputy spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said the first couple would convey empathy to heartbroken families and thanks to the emergency crews sifting through the wreckage.

"The president and the first lady will meet with the families who have been forced to endure this terrible tragedy, offer them comfort during this unimaginable, difficult time," she told reporters.

Asked about dwindling chances of anyone being found alive, Jean-Pierre said the



Emergency workers conduct search and rescue efforts at the site of a partially collapsed residential building in Surfside



Investigators have not concluded what caused nearly half of the 40-year-old condo complex to crumble in one of the deadliest building collapses in US history

White House was "hoping for the best."

"This is a rescue operation," she said. "We haven't got any indication of it not being exactly that -- search and rescue, looking for loved ones."

The dead confirmed so far include two children, aged four and 10, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said late Wednesday.

Yesterday, Levine Cava said the search and rescue operation had been temporarily halted due to "structural concerns" about the pile of debris.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	34,541,274	620,274	183,200,380
2 India	30,453,526	400,265	
3 Brazil	18,559,164	518,246	Deaths
4 France	5,775,301	111,082	3,966,198
5 Russia	5,538,142	135,886	Recovered:
6 Turkey	5,430,940	49,774	167,729,675
7 UK	4,828,463	128,162	New cases
8 Argentina	4,470,374	94,304	+237,336
9 Italy	4,260,788	127,587	New deaths
10 Colombia	4,240,982	106,544	+3,688
11 Spain	3,821,305	80,883	
12 Germany	3,736,424	91,487	
13 Iran	3,218,860	84,389	
14 Poland	2,880,010	75,044	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	281,282		16,169		211,384	
Saudi Arabia	487,592		7,819		467,633	
UAE	634,582	+1,675	1,819	+8	612,998	+1,556
Kuwait	356,687		1,969		336,122	
Oman	270,504	+1,959	3,140	+40	236,988	+2,127
Qatar	222,071	+118	590	+2	219,799	1,682

Classifieds

THE DAILY **tribune**

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RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or HR@RAMSIS.COM.BH

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Al Hekma International School Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39669704 or AHIMS@BATELCO.COM.BH

M I CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17009161 or M.I.75@HOTMAIL.COM

Healthy Vibes Restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38977605 or MAHMOODALMAGHRABI95@HOTMAIL.COM

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a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17325339 or ENGAMR332@GMAIL.COM

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MINAL TRADE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33556626 or MOHD18279@GMAIL.COM

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ST. CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL 'ISA TOWN' has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER (HISTORY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17605424 or Recruitment@school.st-chris.net

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Britain's William and Harry put feud aside to unveil Princess Diana statue

AFP | London

British Princes William and Harry put their differences aside yesterday when they unveiled a statue to their late mother Princess Diana on what would have been her 60th birthday, saying they hoped it would be a lasting memorial to her life and legacy.

The brothers, whose falling-out has been the subject of intense media scrutiny, looked relaxed together as they revealed the statue they commissioned in honour of Diana in the Sunken Garden of Kensington Palace in central London, her former home.

The bronze statue depicts Diana, who was killed in a Paris car crash in 1997, surrounded by three children, which Kensington Palace said represented "the universality and generational impact" of her work.

"Today, on what would have been our mother's 60th birthday, we remember her love, strength and character - qualities that made her a force for good around the world, changing countless lives for the better," the brothers said in a statement.

"Every day, we wish she were still with us, and our hope is that this statue will be seen forever as a symbol of her life and her legacy."

William and Harry were joined by their mother's brother Charles Spencer



Britain's Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, look at a statue they commissioned of their mother Diana

and her sisters Sarah McCorquodale and Jane Fellowes for the small, private event at the Sunken Garden, one of Diana's favourite places.

Tribute

The statue, which is blueish green in colour and designed by sculptor Ian

Rank-Broadley whose effigy of Queen Elizabeth has been used on British and Commonwealth coins, was commissioned by the princes in 2017 as a tribute to their mother.

William's office said they wanted it to reflect her positive impact in Britain and globally, and to help future gener-



The statue is the second memorial to Diana in London, after a 210-metre (689-foot) long fountain was unveiled in Hyde Park in 2004 after years of bureaucratic wrangling and squabbling over the design

ations understand "the significance of her place in history".

Beneath the statue is a plinth bearing Diana's name and the date of the unveiling, while in front lies a paving stone engraved with an extract inspired by the poem "The Measure of A Man".

William was 15 and Harry 12 when the limousine carrying their mother and her lover Dodi al-Fayed crashed in a tunnel in Paris as it sped away from chasing photographers.

Both brothers have spoken of the deep trauma her death caused, and how it affected their mental health for years afterwards. Almost a quarter of

Today, on what would have been our mother's 60th birthday, we remember her love, strength and character - qualities that made her a force for good around the world, changing countless lives for the better

PRINCES WILLIAM AND HARRY

a century since the fatal crash, Diana remains a captivating figure for many.

Footage from the unveiling ceremony showed William and Harry talking together, with no sign of the rows that have so clouded their relationship in recent years that the once close siblings now barely speak to each other.

Since giving up royal duties last year, Harry has launched some barbed attacks on his family and the royal institutions, including an accusation of racism that he and his wife Meghan made in an interview with US chat show host Oprah Winfrey. Media reports have said the claim infuriated William.

The brothers last saw each other in April at the funeral of their grandfather Prince Philip, the queen's husband of more than 70 years, after which they are reported to have argued.

NOTICE

I, ARJUN RAJPUT s/o Amarnath Rajput holding Indian Passport No. R3721014 dated 23/9/2017 issued at Amritsar having permanent residence at A-47 Inderjeet Colony, 100ft Road, Amritsar India, presently residing at Building No 273, Block No 309 Road 919 Segaya, Kingdom of Bahrain, will henceforth be known as (given name) Arjun (surname) Rajput. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106 Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Turkey formally quits treaty to prevent violence against women

● Ankara says women are protected by laws, not Istanbul Convention

AFP | Istanbul

Turkey officially withdrew yesterday from an international treaty to prevent violence against women, enacting a decision that drew condemnation from many Turks and Western allies when President Tayyip Erdogan announced it in March.

Thousands were set to protest across Turkey, where a court



Activists participate in a protest against Turkey's withdrawal from Istanbul Convention



Femicide has surged in Turkey, with one monitoring group logging roughly one per day in the last five years

appeal to halt the withdrawal was rejected this week.

"We will continue our struggle," Canan Gullu, president

of the Federation of Turkish Women's Associations, said on Wednesday. "Turkey is shooting itself in the foot with this decision."

She said that since March, women and other vulnerable groups had been more reluctant to ask for help and less likely to receive it, with COVID-19 fuelled economic difficulties causing a dramatic increase in violence against them.

The Istanbul Convention, negotiated in Turkey's biggest city and signed in 2011, committed its signatories to prevent and prosecute domestic violence and promote equality.

CELEBS

celebs

James Franco pays \$2.2M to settle sexual misconduct lawsuit

Fox | Los Angeles

James Franco has signed off on paying \$2,235,000 to settle an Oct. 2019 lawsuit alleging he and his associates coerced students into performing explicit sex scenes on camera. The proposed figure was revealed in court filings that were made public on Wednesday, and a Los Angeles judge will need to approve it.

In 2019, Sarah Tither-Kaplan and Toni Gaal filed a class action complaint in Los Angeles County Superior Court, alleging that Franco and his partners "engaged in widespread inappropriate and sexually charged behavior towards female stu-

dents by sexualising their power as a teacher and an employer by dangling the opportunity for roles in their projects."

They argued they were victims of fraud, paying \$300 a month for an acting school opened by Franco and his business partner Vince Jolivette in 2014 at which they claimed they were intimidated and sexually objectified.

They further alleged that those who were willing to disrobe in front of Franco and his friends were given special treatment.

Franco's attorneys have previously denied the claims in the suit as "false and inflammatory, legally baseless and brought as a class action with the obvious

goal of grabbing as much publicity as possible for attention-hungry Plaintiffs."

The settlement would mean Tither-Kaplan and Gaal would drop their claims without prejudice, with other members of the class given roughly two months to opt out should they choose to further pursue their case. Any unclaimed money would be contributed to the National Women's Center.

Because the lawsuit is a class action, details of the settlement that are usually hidden from public record were disclosed in the filing. Of the \$2,235,000 in the agreement, \$894,000 would go to the named plaintiffs, and \$1,341,000 would go into

YOU
KNOW WHAT

As part of the agreement, all parties to the suit would release a joint statement in which Franco could continue to deny the allegations in the complaint. It reads in full

a common fund for the rest of the members of the class action. Tither-Kaplan would receive \$670,500, and Gaal would receive \$223,500 — both minus attorney fees.

As part of the agreement, all parties to the suit would release a joint statement in which Franco could continue to deny the allegations in the complaint. It reads in full:

"The parties and their counsel are pleased to have resolved portions of this dispute and pending lawsuit. While Defendants continue to deny the allegations in the complaint, they acknowledge that Plaintiffs have raised important issues; and all parties strongly believe that now is a

critical time to focus on address the mistreatment of women in Hollywood. All agree on the need to make sure that no one in the entertainment industry — regardless of sex, race, religion, disability, ethnicity, background, gender or sexual orientation — faces discrimination, harassment or prejudice of any kind."

James Franco



Demi Lovato's talk show gets premiere date, set to air on Roku Channel

ANI | Washington

Singer-actor Demi Lovato's upcoming talk show, titled 'The Demi Lovato Show' originally ordered by now-defunct startup Quibi, will finally premiere next month on Roku's free, ad-supported streaming channel.

As per Variety, all nine episodes of the show with the pop star hosting a range of celebrity guests and experts, are scheduled to be premiere on July 30 exclusively on the Roku Channel.

Lovato's show will address "some of today's edgiest social topics in frank and honest discussions," according to Roku.

Guests on the short-form series include Jameela Jamil, Lucy Hale and transgender beauty icon Nikita Dragun, with more to be announced.

In each 10-minute episode, Lovato will lead discussions across a range of topics including, police reform, feminism, trans rights, sex positivity, and mental health.

"The Demi Lovato Show" is the first of more than a dozen Quibi programs (rebranded as Roku Originals) to premiere for the first time anywhere.

"Some conversations can be difficult, but I've never been one to shy away from speaking candidly about things. We wanted to create a space that

Some conversations can be difficult, but I've never been one to shy away from speaking candidly about things. We wanted to create a space that normalizes living your own truth -- where people can speak, engage and more importantly, learn, together

DEMI LOVATO

normalizes living your own truth -- where people can speak, engage and more importantly, learn, together," Lovato said in a statement about the talk show.

The star added, "There's something therapeutic about having raw discussions that people can relate to and with 'The Demi Lovato Show' no topics are off limits and opinions are welcome. I'm so excited for people to see how these conversations unfold on The Roku Channel."

Demi Lovato



The Weeknd joins forces with 'Euphoria' creator for HBO drama series

ANI | Washington

Grammy-winning singer The Weeknd has landed his next big gig. The 'Starboy' hitmaker is set to develop a series for HBO alongside 'Euphoria' creator Sam Levinson.

As per Variety, the singer will star in the forthcoming series currently titled 'The Idol'. However, it's unclear at this time which character the star will portray on the show.

The Weeknd will also serve as a co-writer and executive producer on the upcoming project.

The series will follow a female pop singer who starts a

romance with an enigmatic L.A. club owner who is the leader of a secret cult.

The Weeknd, whose real name is Abel Tesfaye, will serve as co-writer and executive producer along with Levinson and Reza Fahim, with all three credited as creators of the show.

Joseph Epstein will also write and executive produce in addition to serving as showrunner. Mary Laws will write and co-executive produce. Levinson will executive produce via Little Lamb along with Ashley Levinson and Kevin Turen. Aaron L. Gilbert will execu-

The Weeknd will serve as a co-writer and executive producer on the upcoming project

tive produce via Bron Studios. Wassim "SAL" Slaiby and La Mar C. Taylor will co-executive produce.

This would not be the first time The Weeknd has written for television. He wrote and starred in an episode of the cult hit animated series 'American Dad' on TBS in 2020. He also played himself in the critically-acclaimed film 'Uncut Gems' opposite Adam Sandler.

The Weeknd



Britney Spears blasts paparazzi for body shaming her on vacation

Cover Media | Los Angeles

Britney Spears has slammed photographers for pursuing her during a Hawaiian vacation.

The pop star shared her frustration with her lack of privacy amid her public battle to end the restrictive 13-year conservatorship managed by her father, Jamie

Spears, in an angry Instagram post. "So being here in Maui is pretty crazy now... the paps (paparazzi) know where I am and it's really not fun!!!! It's pretty hard going anywhere cause these silly faces keep popping up to take my picture," the Toxic singer wrote.

"But not only do they take my picture... they distort my body and mess with the image and it's embarrassing!!!! I know my body is not perfect but I definitely do NOT look like how they portray me. It's rude and it's mean so paps kindly

F**K YOU AND F**K OFF (sic)."

A video linked to the post opens with the message, "Dos and Don't if you are a pap, fan, or ANYONE in my space," which included the tip: "Don't talk to me while I'm texting. It's rude."

Britney Spears



SUDOKU

4				7	9			
7			4	1				
1	9							4
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3	6		2					
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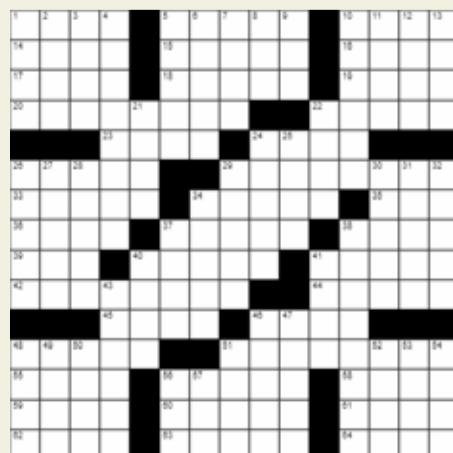
Yesterday's solution

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

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- Thrust with a knife; 5- Golden Horde member; 10- Buck follower; 14- Certain something; 15- Trample; 16- "David Copperfield" wife; 17- Let's just leave... that; 18- President Garfield's middle name; 19- Galoots; 20- Like Wittenberg University in Ohio; 22- Discharge; 23- Looking up; 24- Timbuktu's land; 26- Opposed to cation; 29- Lucid; 33- Explosive weapons; 34- Lofty nest; 35- Cheer for Manolete; 36- Wings; 37- Dark; 38- Latvia's capital; 39- Purse; 40- European kingdom; 41- Flat-topped hills; 42- Echo-free; 44- Until now; 45- They're all charged up; 46- Attention-getting sound; 48- French wine valley; 51- Woman who brings you the bacon; 55- One of the Baldwins; 56- Severe; 58- To... (perfectly); 59- Blackbird; 60- Japanese three-line verse; 61- Anatomical passage; 62- "The Morning Watch" author; 63- Rich tapestry; 64- Zip;

Down

1- Travel on water; 2- Ballerina's skirt; 3- Small...; 4- Casual coatlike garment; 5- Former Russian rulers; 6- In check; 7- Undecided; 8- Dr.'s org.; 9- Tach reading; 10- Slow movement; 11- Weapon in Clue; 12- Minerals; 13- Kiln for drying hops; 21- Seemingly forever; 22- Nobelist Wiesel; 24- San Rafael's county; 25- Busy; 26- Addis...; 27- Atari founder Bushnell; 28- Icon; 29- Piece of history; 30- Like a subway; 31- Aquarium buildup; 32- Minimum; 34- "Delta of Venus" author Nin; 37- On top of; 38- Hold back; 40- Sneaker or loafer; 41- Pole; 43- Ringlike formation; 46- Anorak; 47- Nasal cavity; 48- Tibetan monk; 49- Designer Cassini; 50- Able was...; 51- Small dam; 52- Bluesy James; 53- Bird feed; 54- Lab fluids; 56- Doo-wop syllable; 57- Paving material;

Yesterday's solution

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

Scrappy Barty battles into Wimbledon third round

Roger Federer oldest man in Wimbledon third round for 46 years

● Murray fights back to beat Otte in five sets

AFP | London

Ashleigh Barty's bid to win the Wimbledon singles title on the 50th anniversary of fellow indigenous Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley's first victory stayed on course yesterday.

However, Barty produced a far from perfect performance in her 6-4, 6-3 win over Russia's Anna Blinkova as she progressed to a third round meeting with Czech Katerina Siniakova. "She pushed me incredibly hard," said Barty.

"A few points here and there it could have been a different story."

Barty is seeded to meet this year's French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková in the last 16.

Krejčíková brushed aside second round opponent German veteran Andrea Petkovic 7-5, 6-4.

Barty is popular on Centre Court but nothing compared to Coco Gauff due to her exploits aged 15 in 2019 reaching the Last 16 as a qualifier.

'Coco Mania' has not diminished on Centre Court despite a two-year hiatus and the 17-year-old did not let the crowd down with a 6-4, 6-3 win over former



Ashleigh Barty hits a return

semi-finalist Elena Vesnina.

"It feels like I have changed and grown a lot," said Gauff.

"Two years ago not many people knew my name at least before I beat Venus and now it (Wimbledon) feels more like home."

Two fewer seeds will be standing in Barty's way as she looks to add the senior singles title to her 2011 junior Wimbledon win.

Third seed Elina Svitolina, a Wimbledon semi-finalist two years ago, said she needs a rest after losing 6-3, 6-4 to Poland's Magda Linette.

"I think mentally today I was not really in a good place," said Svitolina.

French Open semi-finalist Maria Sakkari, the 15th-seeded Greek, lost to Shelby Rogers of the United States 7-5, 6-4.

Cameron Norrie awaits the winner of the Federer and Gasquet clash after the fast-improving Briton swept aside Australian wildcard Alex Bolt 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.

Roger Federer became the oldest man in 46 years to reach the Wimbledon third round with a straight sets win over Richard Gasquet.

Federer, 39, defeated his French rival 7-6 (7/1), 6-1, 6-4 to make the last 32 for the 18th time.

Australia's Ken Rosewall was 40 when he made the third round at the All England Club in 1975.

Federer, who has eight Wimbledon titles, beat Gasquet for the 19th time in 21 meetings and will take on Cameron Norrie of Britain for a place in the last 16. "I know Richard really well,

She pushed me incredibly hard. A few points here and there it could have been a different story

ASHLEIGH BARTY

we've played so many times against each other. It's always a pleasure playing against him," said Federer.

"It was a wonderful match, I'm happy with my performance. A tough first set, I was happy with the second set and I was better in the third, so I'm very, very happy."

Norrie joins fellow Britons Dan Evans and two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray in the third round.

It is the first time three British men have reached the third round since 1999, when Tim Henman, Greg Rusedski and Danny Sapsford reached the last 32.

"Come on Gasquet," joked Norrie.

"If there's a time to play Roger, now's the time I guess, but he's still a decent player."

Norrie was followed onto Court One by men's second seed Daniil Medvedev and the Russian made short work of 18-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz, the youngest player in the men's draw.

Tour de France withdraws complaint against spectator who caused pileup



KTM rider Cyril Lemoine of France receives medical attention (file photo)

AFP | Paris

The Tour de France has withdrawn its legal complaint against the spectator who caused a spectacular mass pileup on the opening day of the race, its director Christian Prudhomme said yesterday.

The woman was arrested Wednesday at a police station in Landerneau in Brittany, where stage one finished on Saturday, and is still in custody.

"The incident has been blown out of all proportion," Prudhomme said.

"So we'd like to calm things down now that the message has got across that the roadside fans need to be careful."

The accident happened between Brest and Landerneau when the woman, facing away from the riders and towards the cameras, held up a cardboard sign which read "Allez Opi-Omi", which translates as "Go, grandpa and granny".

German cyclist Tony Martin, positioned on the edge of a group of tightly packed riders, hit the sign and fell, bringing

BETTER YOU KNOW

The accident happened when the woman, facing away from the riders and towards the cameras, held up a cardboard sign which read "Allez Opi-Omi", which translates as "Go, grandpa and granny"

down dozens of others who were following behind him.

The pileup delayed the stage for five minutes while bikes and bodies were untangled.

Amid the chaos, the woman was seen reeling away in horror before disappearing into the roadside crowd, her sign folded away beneath her arm.

Dortmund agree Sancho transfer to Man Utd for 85 mn euros

AFP | London

Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund confirmed yesterday that they have agreed a deal to allow England winger Jadon Sancho to join Manchester United for a fee of 85 million euros (\$100 million, £73 million).

In a statement, Dortmund said they had reached an agreement for the English club to pay a "fixed transfer fee of 85 million euros" for the 21-year-old.

"The contractual details now have to be coordinated and completed," Dortmund said in their statement.

"Moreover, the formal processing of the transfer is still subject to the successful completion of all necessary medical tests and examinations."

Dortmund did not give details on the length of the contract, but reports have said it would last five years.

Sancho will become the second most expensive English footballer when he joins United, who signed Harry Maguire two years ago from Leicester for £80 million.

United have been keen to bring Sancho to Old Trafford since last year.

After failing to meet Dortmund's £100 million asking price last year, the Premier League club have been in protracted negotiations since the



Jadon Sancho of England in action during an England training session

50

goals were scored by Sancho in 137 appearances in all competitions for Dortmund

end of the season in a bid to tie up the transfer.

United's initial £67 million offer was rejected but they improved the bid sufficiently to convince Dortmund to sell, albeit at a lower price than they wanted 12 months ago due to the financial fall-out from the coronavirus pandemic.

Sancho's contract with Dortmund had been due to run to June 30, 2023 and his transfer is one of the most expensive in Bundesliga history.

The 100-million-euro mark had been smashed by the 2017 transfer of French forward Ousmane Dembele from Dortmund to Barcelona for 105 million euros.

Attacking midfielder Kai Havertz was transferred last summer for 80 million euros from Bayer Leverkusen to Chelsea.

It will be a return to Manchester for the 21-year-old, who was a graduate of Manchester City's academy before joining Dortmund in search of regular first-team action in 2017.

New Messi deal delayed by La Liga financial controls, says president

AFP | London

Barcelona's attempts to offer Lionel Messi a new contract are being held up because of La Liga's financial control measures, the club's president, Joan Laporta, said yesterday after the Argentine became a free agent.

Messi, who joined Barca aged 13 in September 2000, has no current contractual link with the Catalans after his deal expired on June 30 and while Laporta said the club's all-time top scorer wishes to stay, he added their attempts to tie him to a new deal had to fit with the league's requirements.

It's going well, he wants to stay and we're making all the efforts to ensure he does. But we have to balance it with financial fair play. There are many options and we're contemplating which is the best for both parties. But we want him to stay and so does he, we want to give him the most competitive team possible

JOAN LAPORTA



Barcelona's Lionel Messi reacts during a match (file photo)

"It's going well, he wants to stay and we're making all the efforts to ensure he does. But we have to balance it with financial fair play," Laporta told Spanish radio station Onda Cero yesterday.

"There are many options and we're contemplating which is the best for both parties. But we want him to stay and so does he, we want to give him the most competitive team possible."

La Liga introduced financial control measures in 2013 establishing a maximum amount of money each club can spend on its playing squad and coaching staff each season, conditioned by their income.

Barca have the highest revenues in world soccer according to this year's Deloitte Mon-

ey League, although income dropped by 125 million euros last year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the start of the 2019-20 season Barca were allocated a maximum budget of 1.47 billion euros by La Liga which shrank to 733 million for the last campaign and is expected to fall even further after a whole season without ticket sales and a depressed transfer market.

Messi had the most lucrative contract in world sport, according to a January report in El Mundo, and if Barca are to get a new deal for him over the line they will have to further reduce their wage bill, which Laporta said last month contained many players on salaries "out of sync with the current market".

Djokovic and Federer named in Olympic tournament



Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer

Reuters | Tokyo

World number one Novak Djokovic and 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer were both named on the list of players for the Tokyo Olympics yesterday -- a boost for a tournament hit by high-profile withdrawals.

Women's world number one Ashleigh Barty and Japan's Naomi Osaka head the field in the women's singles.

A first-time gold-medal winner is assured in the women's singles with Puerto Rico's defending champion Monica Puig unable to compete because of injury.

Two-time champion Andy Murray, whose ranking has slipped to 118 as he battles to come back from hip surgery, will be aiming to win gold for the third Olympics in succession.

Djokovic, who is bidding at Wimbledon to match Federer and Rafael Nadal's record Grand Slam haul, won a singles bronze medal at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing when Federer won doubles gold.

Hamilton heads to Austrian GP facing uphill battle to revive F1 title defence

Lewis Hamilton will not let 'negative bubble' derail his F1 title hopes

● World champion refusing to let car worries ruin his focus

● Verstappen leads standings by 18 points in dominant Red Bull

AFP | Vienna

Lewis Hamilton faces an uphill battle to keep his title defence alive and to slow Max Verstappen's momentum this weekend when the Formula One circus reassembles at the Red Bull Ring for Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix.

Just five days after the Styrian event in which the Dutchman drove to a commanding lights-to-flag triumph at the same scenic circuit -- finishing more than 35 seconds clear of Mercedes' seven-time champion -- Verstappen is hoping for a repeat.

Another win would be Verstappen's fifth of the season and extend his 18-point lead on the 36-year-old Briton, who has gone four outings without a victory and called on his team to rekindle the form that earned them the last seven constructors championship titles.

"I don't accept anything," said Hamilton in response to suggestions that Mercedes' decision to develop next year's car at the expense of the current one will



Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes reacts after the Styrian Grand Prix (file photo)

condemn him to a performance deficit for the rest of this season.

"I think we've still got many races ahead of us and we've got to keep pushing. We're world champions... and we can definitely improve if we put our minds to it."

"If we're not going to develop and improve our car for the rest of the year, this is the result you're going to see, because, as I said, they've really eked out performance in the last few races."

"I'm not going to question the team's logic and how they go through their process, (but) give us an upgrade. We would love an upgrade, but I don't think it's in the pipeline at the moment."

Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff made clear no major upgrades were planned this year

following last Sunday's race in which Hamilton and teammate Valtteri Bottas finished second and third behind Verstappen.

But technical boss James Allison revealed on the F1 Nation podcast that the team would be upgrading their W12 car.

"What Toto points out is that next year's rules are a big and hairy affair and demand a huge amount of attention," said Allison.

"So, most of the focus of our factory has switched over, but that doesn't mean that there aren't things still in the food chain from prior to that focus switch."

He added that Mercedes "have a reasonable number of things that are going to make our car faster in the coming races".



Mercedes's focus has already shifted to developing the 2022 model which is being built to new regulations and under the constraints of the budget cap

'Never good enough'

Verstappen, mindful that Mercedes are expected to fight back, has encouraged Red Bull to keep developing their car as much as possible.

"Yes, we do have a very good package, but I want to see it every weekend because each track is different," he said. "It's still about finding the perfect set-up because it can be quite sensitive in some areas to make it work -- and it's never good enough."

"I always want to improve every week because even after a weekend like we had, of course, when it looks amazing and we won with a big margin, it's never good enough."

As the season unfolds, both teams' number two drivers are



I don't accept anything. I think we've still got many races ahead of us and we've got to keep pushing. We're world champions... and we can definitely improve if we put our minds to it

LEWIS HAMILTON

likely to play an increasingly important role and this weekend will see Red Bull's Sergio Perez seeking to mark his 200th race with a "special" result, while Bottas bids to consolidate his recovery after a run of faltering performances.

Rumours that the Finn is set to be replaced by Briton George Russell, currently at Williams, have swirled around him all season, but Allison defended him staunchly.

"He is worthy of his place in the team -- a top-rank driver, very keen to show his determination to succeed," he said.

Bottas is one of only three drivers to have won at the Austrian track. He won in 2017 and 2020 while Hamilton, in 2016 and 2020, and Verstappen in 2018, 2019 and 2021 have also triumphed.

Unless the weather intervenes, it is unlikely that another name will be added the list this weekend.

Machaev to take on Magomedov in pivotal Bantamweight bout at BRAVE CF 52

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation has announced three more fights for its upcoming trip to Italy, in association with The Golden Cage. Leading the pack for BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood fight announcements is a tremendous Bantamweight bout between Gamzat Magomedov and Mochamed Machaev.

Gamzat Magomedov is coming off perhaps the biggest win of his pro career when he avenged his teammate Hussein Ayyad against Matiss Zaharovs at BRAVE CF 49. An amateur world champion for IMMAF in 2017, Magomedov is riding a three-fight win streak coming into the Machaev fight.

"The Beast" Mochamed Machaev, meanwhile, is riding high after being named the Breakout Fighter of The Year for BRAVE CF in 2020. He was the only fighter to compete - and win - three times last year, with all bouts coming at Featherweight. Now Machaev will make his Bantamweight debut against one of the top fighters in the division in Magomedov.

Aside from Magomedov vs Machaev, BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood will also feature two huge Lightweight bouts. Valeriu Mircea will look to bounce back at 155lbs when he takes on promotional newcomer Ayub Gaziev, while Husein Kadimagomaev takes on Agshin Babayev.



BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood will be headlined by a vacant Light Heavyweight title bout between Middleweight world champion Mohammad Fakhreddine

and top contender Mohamed Said Maalem. Italy will become the eighth European country to host a BRAVE Combat Federation show, and 23rd overall.

Two huge additions made to BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood stacked card



TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation's first show in Italy has two welcome additions in the Featherweight and Middleweight divisions. BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood takes place August 1st, in Milan, in association with The Golden Cage and two more bouts have been announced for the show.

Middleweight sensation Enrico Cortese will make his much-anticipated return to action at home as he looks for his third win in as many outings for BRAVE CF when he meets Rustam Chsiev, one of the division's finest grapplers worldwide.

In Featherweight action, former world champion Elias Boudegzdame returns to BRAVE Combat Federation after nearly three years away as he meets Declan Dalton, one of the standouts 145-pound fighters in Ireland.

BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood will be headlined by a hotly-contested match-up for the vacant Light Heavyweight belt between Middleweight world champion Mohammad Fakhreddine and top contender Mohamed Said Maalem,



Current BRAVE CF 52 fight card

Light Heavyweight: Mohammad Fakhreddine (MW-C) vs Mohamed Said Maalem

Middleweight: Enrico Cortese vs Rustam Chsiev

Featherweight: Elias Boudegzdame vs Declan Dalton

Bantamweight: Gamzat Magomedov vs Mochamed Machaev

Lightweight: Husein Kadimagomaev vs Agshin Babayev

Lightweight: Valeriu Mircea vs Ayub Gaziev

Fakhreddine aims to become BRAVE Combat Federation's first-ever double-weight world champion, and Arab MMA's most accomplished fighter ever with a win over arch-rival Said Maalem.

The show will also feature a pair of big Lightweight bouts as Husein Kadimagomaev and Ayub Gaziev look for victories against Agshin Babayev and Valeriu Mircea, respectively, as well as a Bantamweight battle between IMMAF world champion Gamzat Magomedov and BRAVE CF Breakout Fighter of The Year Mochamed Machaev.

Bahrain set for Estonia friendlies

Kingdom's senior men's national handball team to face off with European counterparts in three tune-up games as part of preparations for Tokyo Olympics kicking off later this month

● **Bahrain national team continue daily preparations under head coach Aron Kristjansson**

● **Estonia scheduled to arrive today for warm-up matches, set to be played at Khalifa Sports City in Isa Town**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national handball team are all set to take on their counterparts from Estonia in three friendly matches over the coming week, to be held in the Kingdom.

The tune-ups are part of their preparations for the Tokyo Olympic Games kicking off later



Bahrain's players during a scrimmage in training

this month, where the nationals will be making an historic first-ever appearance in a team sport at any Olympiad.

The Estonians are scheduled to arrive in Bahrain today. The first friendly will be played to-

morrow at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town. The two teams will then also face off once again on Monday and Wednesday at the same venue.

The Bahrainis have been conducting daily training at the Bah-

rain Handball Association arena in Um Al Hassam.

Head coach Aron Kristjansson has been supervising their training programme ever since his arrival last week.

A roster of 24 players have

been taking part, including Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed Mirza, Mohammed Abdulhusain, Hassan Shehab, Hassan Al Samaheji, Ali Mirza, Jassim Al Salatna, Ahmed Almaqabi, Ali Eid, Mahdi Saad, Mohammed Habib, Mohammed Abdulredha, Ali Abdulqader, Ajmed Jalal, Belal Basham, Kumail Mahfoodh, Hasan Madan, Qassim Al Shuwaikh, Hussain Mahfoodh, Mohammed Nasser, Qassim Qambar, Hassan Mirza, Hisham Ahmed Isa and Muntadher Ebrahim.

Aside from their warm-up games against Estonia, the nationals are also set to face off with Argentina upon their arrival in Tokyo. They are hoping to play further friendlies, with the other possible opponents being Brazil, Germany and Norway.

For the men's handball tournament at the Olympics, Bahrain will be playing in Group B of

the preliminary stage. They will be up against Egypt, Portugal, France, Germany, Brazil, Spain and Argentina.

Group A consists of Norway, France, Germany, Brazil, Spain and Argentina. Action kicks off on July 24 and will continue until August 8.

The Bahrainis open their tournament campaign against Sweden on day one. They then take on Portugal on July 26, and then face Denmark two days later. Bahrain then square off with fellow-Asian side Japan on July 30, before completing the preliminaries against Egypt on August 1.

The Bahrainis booked their berth at the Tokyo Games after winning the Men's Asian Qualification Tournament held in Doha in October of 2019, defeating South Korea in the final.



Bahrain booked their berth at the Tokyo Olympic Games after winning the Men's Asian Qualification Tournament held in Doha in October of 2019, defeating South Korea in the final

No sign of Ronaldo leaving Juventus, says football director



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts during a match

AFP | Milan

There are no signs Cristiano Ronaldo will leave Juventus, the club's football director said yesterday, dismissing speculation that the prolific goalscorer could move to another club.

"We are very happy that Ronaldo will rejoin the team once the rest period after the European Championship is over," Federico Cherubini said.

Ronaldo, current top scorer at Euro 2020 after his five goals for Portugal, has scored 101 for Juventus in three seasons.

"There has been no sign from Ronaldo about a possible move ... and no sign from Juve," Cherubini said.

Ronaldo remains "pivotal" for Juventus, Cherubini added at a news conference, saying, however, that he did not have a crystal ball to predict the future.

"But let me reaffirm I'll be happy if he stays."

Cherubini said Juventus were already "competitive" and would not be very active on this summer's transfer window.

There has been no sign from Ronaldo about a possible move ... and no sign from Juve

FEDERICO CHERUBINI

"But we'll stay vigilant to pick opportunities in line with the technical and financial parameters of our plan," he said.

Juventus Chairman Andrea Agnelli added he was "absolutely certain" the club will participate in the 2021-2022 Champions League despite fallout from the club's backing of a controversial Super League in Europe.

On Wednesday the Serie A club said it planned to raise up to 400 million euros (\$475 million) in a new share issue to offset the hit to finances from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Juventus also said on Wednesday it had appointed former Ferrari racing team principal Maurizio Arrivabene as its chief executive officer for football as part of a broader revamp of its sporting management structure.

Rivals Ahli, Manama to meet in basketball Super Cup

● **Bahrain Basketball Association announces 2021/2022 season calendar of competitions**

● **Zain Bahrain Basketball League set to tip off in September and continue until April next year**

TDT | Manama

The 2021/2022 national basketball season will tip off in September with the Super Cup between Al Ahli and Manama.

The single-game affair will take place on September 9, and it pits Ahli, who are the defending back-to-back league champions, against Manama, the Khalifa bin Salman Cup runners-up.

The Super Cup is the traditional start to a new campaign.



Al Ahli players celebrate with the Super Cup from last season's game (file photo)

This year's game will be a rematch of last year's clash, which was won by Ahli 82-80 following a Mohammed Qurban buzzer-beater.

The season calendar was released yesterday by the Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA).

The Zain Bahrain Basketball League will get underway a few

days later on September 14 and will continue until December 15 to complete a single round-robin. Following this, the top six teams qualify for the ensuing stage, which will be held next year from January 22 to March 8.

The final four is then scheduled for March 13 to 22, after

which the best-of-three finals will take place from March 26 to April 2.

The bottom six clubs will be in the Silver League, in which games will be held from January 23 to March 9.

Meanwhile, the first phase of the BBA Cup will take place between October 27 and November 17, to be followed by phase two from February 4 to 24.

The Khalifa bin Salman Cup knockout tournament will tip off on January 14 and conclude with the final, scheduled for April 18.

The local season will also feature three breaks to allow for Bahrain's national team players to focus on their representation of Bahrain in international play. These include Bahrain's preparations for the two stages of qualifying for the FIBA World Cup, as well as the Gulf Games which are scheduled to be held in December later this year.

Cavendish closing on Merckx record after new Tour de France win

AFP | Paris

The Mark Cavendish comeback gathered pace yesterday as he won his second stage in three days with a triumph on a day for pure sprinters along a 1.7km home straight at Chateauroux.

After a barren five-year spell on the Tour, the win on stage six took Cavendish's tally on the world's greatest bike race to 32, just two short of Belgian great Eddy Merckx's all-time record of 34.

"Please don't ask me that question," Cavendish said at the line when asked about the record.

On a pancake flat sixth stage run over a scenic 160km through the Loire Valley, Dutch rookie Mathieu van der Poel kept hold of the yellow jersey on a race that, for this first time on



Mark Cavendish celebrates as he crosses the line

this edition, passed off without any major incident.

The stage finished in the actor Gerard Depardieu's hometown, a town Cavendish knows well after two previous stage victories in 2008 and 2011 on a finale that suits out-and-out sprinting and yesterday he once again

produced a deadly last-second pounce for the line.

Two days ago Cavendish shook his head in disbelief after winning stage four, but he was all grace and smiles after launching his 70km/h (43.5mph) finish after a sign from world champion teammate

Julian Alaphilippe.

The Isle of Man rider also kept the green jersey although he came outside the top three in the intermediate sprint won by Italian Sonny Colbrelli, who wagged his finger at Cavendish after what he felt was running across his line.



The Manx Missile claimed his 32nd sprint win and is now just two short of Eddy Merckx's all-time record of stage wins