

**Aubameyang double leads Arsenal to FA Cup triumph**  
 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored twice to win his first trophy as Arsenal captain | P 08

**WORLD 6** Florida teen mastermind charged in epic Twitter hack

# THE DAILY **tribune**

Beyonce delights fans with stylized visual album **7 CELEBS**

**BUSINESS 5** Microsoft in talks to buy TikTok: NYT





Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Avoid Eid gatherings..

and commit to social distancing

## BE Determined

### UAE tells Turkey to stop meddling in Arab affairs over Libya



Anwar Gargash  
Reuters | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates minister of state for foreign affairs said on Saturday that Turkey should stop interfering in Arab affairs, criticising comments on Libya made by Turkey's defence minister. Turkish media had reported the Turkish minister making remarks critical of the UAE's actions over Libya. "Relations are not managed by threats and there is no place for colonialist delusions in this day and age," Anwar Gargash wrote on Twitter.

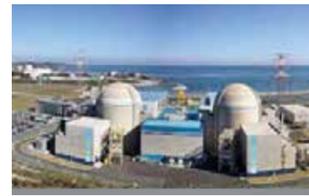
## UAE successfully starts up first Arab nuclear plant

AFP | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates yesterday announced the startup of its Barakah nuclear power plant, scoring another first for the Arab world. The announcement, coinciding with the holiday of Eid al-Adha, comes hot on the heels of the UAE's launch of the Arab world's first probe to Mars. "UAE first nuclear reactor at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant has achieved first criticality and successfully started up," tweeted Hamad Alkaabi, the country's representative to

the International Atomic Energy Agency. "This is a historic milestone for the nation with a vision set to deliver a new form of clean energy for the nation," he tweeted in English, along with a photograph of technicians raising their arms in celebration. The UAE premier and ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, tweeted that work at Barakah had "succeeded in loading nuclear fuel packages, carrying out comprehensive tests and successfully completing the operation".

"Congratulations on realising this historic achievement in the energy sector & marking this milestone in the roadmap for sustainable development," Sheikh Mohammed said. The UAE started loading fuel rods into the reactor at Barakah in February, after regulators gave the green light for the first of the plant's four reactors, opening the way for commercial operations. The plant on the Gulf coast west of Abu Dhabi had been due to go online in late 2017 but faced a number of delays that



Barakah nuclear plant

officials attributed to safety and regulatory requirements. The Nawah Energy Company said at the time that Unit 1 would begin commercial operations after a "series of tests" leading to the start-up process. During the process, the unit

When fully operational, its four reactors have the capacity to generate 5,600 megawatts of electricity, around 25 percent of the nation's needs.

would be synchronised with the power grid and the first electricity produced. Barakah, which means "blessing" in Arabic, is a regional first -- Saudi Arabia has said it plans to build up to 16 nuclear reactors, but the project has yet to materialise.

# Targeted US, ended up hitting themselves

Experts believe Iran's capsized vessel could pose a navigation hazard

● IRGCN wanted to reuse the mockup in future

TDT | agencies

Well, Well, Well! It looks like Iranians have created a nice little hazard for themselves right outside Bandar Abbas. The new satellite images shared on social media appears to tell that. The giant mockup of a US Navy Nimitz-class aircraft belted and dragged out to open sea for target practice in naval war-games seems to have capsized just outside the port of Bandar Abbas.



Satellite image of the capsized mockup of a US Navy Nimitz-class aircraft

Images posted by open-source intelligence researchers Aurora Intel and Chris Biggers shows the vessel leaning over steeply to one side, with half of its flight deck submerged. "Imagery courtesy of @planetlabs from today shows the #IRGC's fake #US Navy Nimitz-class carrier capsized just south of Bandar Abbas Port, #Iran after the Great Prophet

XIV war games. I assume we will see more propaganda soon," tweeted Aurora Intel. Forbes says the mock-up was constructed back in the 2014-2015 period claiming it as a movie prop. However, in February 2015, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) dragged it out for target practise and damaging it to a great deal. Later in 2019, the mockup was against seen repairing in satellite imagery, only to be used at the Straits of Hormuz for an assault practice. The war games which saw anti-ship missiles, rockets and JetRanger helicopters in action, culminated with commandos rappelling onto the carrier's deck by helicopter. Experts concluded after the exercise, and analysing the minimal damages suffered, that IRGCN wanted to keep the mockup carrier in better condition for it

Imagery courtesy of @planetlabs from today shows the #IRGC's fake #US Navy Nimitz-class carrier capsized just south of Bandar Abbas Port, #Iran after the Great Prophet XIV war games. I assume we will see more propaganda soon  
AURORA INTEL.

to be reused in future.

However, that ambition seems to have received a big blow with the inadvertent capsizing of the mockup. The incident, experts say, may have been due to damages sustained during the exercise or mishap in towing the bulgy vessel, or a combination of both. The exercise using mockup has served a propaganda purpose both for Tehran and IRGCN, whose forces received a rare chance to practise their strategy in motion. Experts believe the capsized vessel could pose a navigation hazard considering its position close to the entrance of Bandar Abbas.

### Coronavirus pandemic will be with us for a long time, WHO warns

Reuters | Dubai

The World Health Organisation yesterday warned the coronavirus pandemic was likely to be "lengthy" after its emergency committee met. The committee "highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic", the WHO said in a statement, and warned of the risk of "response fatigue" given the socio-economic pressures on countries. "WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 to be very high," said its latest statement.

### Kuwait bans flights to 31 'high risk' countries

Dubai

Kuwait has banned until further notice commercial flights to 31 countries it said that it regarded as high risk due to the spread of the coronavirus. The countries include India, Pakistan, Egypt, the Philippines, Lebanon and Sri Lanka, which all have large numbers of expatriates in Kuwait. The list also includes China, Iran, Brazil, Mexico, Italy and Iraq. The authorities have said Kuwait International Airport would run at about 30pc capacity from Saturday.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

**TOTAL CASES**  
41,190

**ACTIVE CASES**  
2,832

**DEATHS**  
147

**DISCHARGED**  
38,211

**NEW CASES**  
208

**CRITICAL**  
43



# Causeway opens for truck movement

Bahraini trucks given green light to cross King Fahd causeway

● The roadway linking Bahrain and Saudi Arabia was shut on March 7

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has shown the green light for goods movements through King Fahd Causeway as both Saudi and Bahrain continue to ease COVID-19 restrictions.

As per the new order, starting today, trucks from the Bahraini side will be allowed to resume their trips to Saudi Arabia via the King Fahd Causeway.

"The reopening of the causeway was coordinated with the Saudi Customs Authorities",



Representative picture (Courtesy of AlAyam)

said Mohammed Hassan Al-Isa, the Exits Customs director at

the Customs Affairs.

and Saudi Arabia was shut on March 7 this year as part of pre-

cautionary measures to curb the spread of the deadly pandemic.

Following which, on July 23, Saudi announced opening the sea-link for Saudi citizens wishing to return without prior permission.

The 25-kilometre long causeway, a series of bridges and causeways, connects al-Khour of Khobar in Saudi Arabia to Al Jasra in Bahrain.

One of the embankments knows as the 'middle island' houses the customs and immigration facilities, besides a mosque, gardens and restaurants. Last year Bahrain received a total of 11.1 million visitors, with 88 per cent are coming through the King Fahd causeway, accounting for 9.7 million visitors.

## A digital boost to COVID-19 fight

Municipal payments gone cashless



Payment service page of mun.gov.bh

TDT | Manama

Municipal payments in the Kingdom had gone completely cashless, since April, in a move strengthening Bahrain battle against COVID-19 outbreak.

The system, in place since last April, effectively reduced the need for a personal presence in completing municipal services, Esam Khalaf, the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, said.

The digital move also fell in conformity with the measures implemented by the Government of Bahrain to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing.

Which means, municipalities in the Kingdom hadn't accepted any cash payments since April.

Payments were completed either through iGA's National Payment Aggregator (NPA) or payment channel SADAD.

Thus, the number of transactions made through the national payment platform rose to 6,572 and SADAD to 6,878, since its introduction.

"One of the most important goals of this project was to reduce the need of physical presence for availing municipal services," said Khalaf.

"Customers can now complete their transactions from anywhere, at any given time, and receive payment proof digitally."

To make a payment, log on to <https://www.mun.gov.bh/>, create an account, and use a credit or a debit card to complete the transaction.

Payments can also be made through Sadad Kiosks, Sadad website, Sadad App, Benefit Pay or STC Pay.

## Capital governorate holds sterilisation drive

TDT | Manama

The Capital Governorate yesterday conducted a campaign to sterilise the streets and alleyways in Juffair as part of a drive to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the Kingdom.

The campaign was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Capital Governorate Police Directorate.

Sheikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa, the Capital Governor, Brigadier Ibrahim Saif Bakheet Al-Najran,



In pictures, the capital governorate officials sterilising shops

Director-General of the Capital Governorate Police Direc-

torate and Director-General of the Capital Governorate Police Directorate, Brigadier Ibrahim Al-Najran and 30 volunteers from the Al-Naeem Volunteer Youth Team took part in the sterilisation drive.

Sheikh Hisham praised the directorate for enhancing community cooperation and growing awareness among people on coronavirus preventing measures.

"Peoples awareness to the risks of the virus outbreak is crucial in overcoming the cri-



sis," Sheikh said, urging all to adhere strictly to the preventive measures put forward by competent authorities.

Volunteers who took part in the sterilisation drive attended training sessions held by the governorate in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

Besides Juffair, the volunteers and civil society organisation also contributed in the sterilisation of Jid Ali, Umm Al Hassam, and Complex 388 in Adliya, while also inspecting barber-shops and beauty salons there to ensure preventive measures.



## Gulf Air lands in Kuwait



Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain, yesterday resumed its Kuwait services after being suspended for a few months amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Gulf Air said it's continuously working closely with government authorities throughout the destinations on its network to resume operations as soon as airports open. In pictures, a Gulf Air aircraft after landing into the state of Kuwait.

## Coffee shop in capital shut over COVID-19 violations

TDT | Manama

Authorities here yesterday shut down one of the coffee shops in the Manama for violating coronavirus (COVID-19) preventive measures.

The raid was conducted jointly by Department of Food Control in cooperation with the Inspection Department of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

The cafe, officers said, violated laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom banning the internal food services in the restaurants and cafes, expect in those authorised by BTEA.

The cafe was closed immediately and legal measures are taken. As per a circular issued on 28 July 2020, restaurants approved by BTEA and those located in 4 and 5-star hotels are allowed to operate by taking reservations for special occasions that do not exceed 20 people per group and provided that reservations do not exceed one at each time.

The move was as directed by the Government Executive Committee chaired by the HRH the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme



Picture courtesy of @MOH\_Bahrain

Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

However, outdoor dining at restaurants and coffee-shops are

Based on the recommendations made by the National Medical Taskforce to Combat COVID-19, the following establishments will re-open on the dates outlined below:



banned until 3 September 2020, as of now.

The phased reopening will be dependent on several indicators including the total number of positive results against the total number of daily COVID-19 tests, number of cases requiring intensive care, and the occupancy rate in isolation and treatment facilities.

# Hajj success proves Saudi's outstanding ability: HM King

HRH the Premier, HRH Crown Prince hail Saudi Arabia's "sacred responsibility" in organising Hajj rituals



”  
**The success of this year's Hajj season proves anew Saudi Arabia's outstanding ability to organise Hajj rituals while providing the highest levels of comfort, protection and safety for pilgrims**

HRH PM



”  
**The success of this year's Hajj season proves Saudi Arabia's outstanding ability and keenness to assume its responsibilities of organising Hajj rituals**

HM THE KING



”  
**The success of this year's Hajj pilgrimage reflects the keenness of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to assume the sacred responsibility of organising the Hajj rituals**

HRH CROWN PRINCE

● Although no official figure has been given, local media report there are around 10,000 pilgrims

● Health ministry spokesman said that there were no Covid-19 infections, nor any other major diseases among pilgrims during the Hajj pilgrimage

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday hailed the huge success garnered by this year's Hajj pilgrimage, amid exceptional circumstances, as a direct proof to Saudi Arabia's outstanding ability.

The success proves "Saudi Arabia's outstanding ability and keenness to assume its responsibilities," said King Hamad in the message to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. HM King said the efforts exerted by King Salman and his government to hold Hajj rituals while implementing adequate precautionary measures ensured the highest levels of safety and health for pilgrims.

King Hamad prayed to Allah the Almighty to grant Hajj pilgrims many rewards and forgiveness, wishing Saudi Arabia and its brotherly people further progress and prosperity, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

**Outstanding ability: HRH PM**

HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa said the success proves "anew Saudi Arabia's outstanding ability to organise Hajj rituals" and to provide pilgrims with the highest levels of "comfort" and "safety".

The premier also praised King Salman's noble stances in support of Arab and Islamic nations, which, he said, "reflect the pivotal role Saudi Arabia plays, under its wise leadership."

HRH Premier further congratulated Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Advisor to King Salman and Mekka Region Governor, HRH Prince Khalid Al Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who is also the Head of the Haj Central Committee on Eid Al-Adha and Haj success.

**Sacred responsibility: CP**

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister said, "The success of this year's Hajj pilgrimage reflects the keenness of Saudi Arabia to assume the sacred responsibility of organising the Hajj rituals."

HRH commended Saudi Arabia's tremendous efforts, led by King Salman and the government, to hold the Hajj pilgrimage by implementing adequate precautionary measures to ensure the highest levels of safety and health for pilgrims.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman also congratulated Saudi Crown Prince HRH Prince Mohammed and Governor of Makkah region HRH Prince Mohammed on



Even the pebbles used this year to symbolically "stone the devil" have been sanitised, as part of elaborate amenity kits provided by authorities that include disinfectant and masks.



Pilgrims praying on Mount Arafat, southeast of the holy city of Mecca, during the climax of the Hajj pilgrimage this week

the Hajj success.

**The 'green' Hajj**

Hajj held this year amid exceptional circumstances resulting from the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), ends also leaving a smaller carbon footprint, less waste and opening up the prospects of a 'green Hajj'.

The event, which drew 2.5 million people last year and completed this year with just around 10,000 pilgrims, according to experts, was by all accounts a breath

of fresh air.

According to a Greenpeace expert, it was not about the size of the crowd, but "collective behaviour" that effected the change.

"This year's Hajj, although taking place at a difficult time globally, can be a source of hope," he said.

The scenes in Mecca since the Hajj began on Wednesday are very different from those of past years

Rather than the vast crowds that move between the sites, casting rubbish as they go and sometimes prone to deadly crushes, the movement of the pilgrims has been

limited and orderly.

Even the pebbles they use to symbolically "stone the devil" have been sanitised, as part of elaborate amenity kits provided by authorities that include disinfectant and masks.

"Everything is clean and there are only a few municipal workers collecting the small amounts of garbage," Azim Allah Farha, a pilgrim from Afghanistan who has performed the hajj several times before, said at Mount Arafat, the site of one of the main rituals.

One of those workers, Rahim Fajreddine, recalls t h e

hundreds of tonnes of rubbish -- plastic bags, cans and food plates -- left in past years at the rocky hill outside Mecca where pilgrims pray and repent in the high point of the hajj.

"Large numbers of workers had to be mobilised to remove all the debris they left behind as they passed," he recalled.

**Eco awakening**

Until recently, the concerns were not really about the environment, but about accommodating as many pilgrims as possible, for the long waiting lists for Muslims, who must complete the Hajj at least once in their lifetime if they are able.

Plans are now set to welcome 30 million pilgrims annually by 2030, Saudi authorities say.

As part in 2018, authorities launched a water recycling programme and posted several signs in multiple languages to encourage pilgrims to dot their bit.

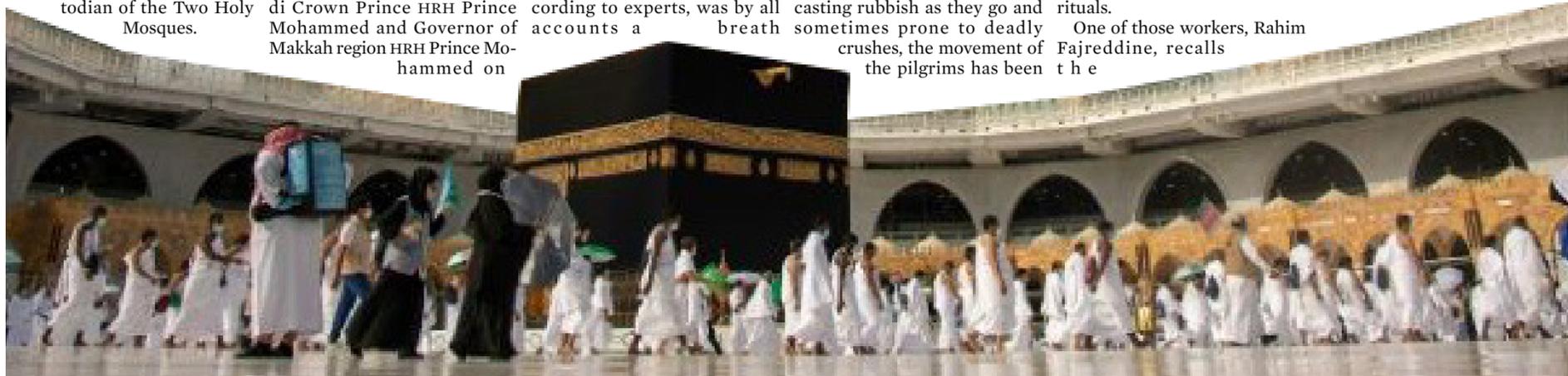
This year, despite the scaled-down pilgrimage, the municipality deployed over 13,000 cleaners to keep the holy site pristine.

**This is the future**

Nouhad Awwad, the Greenpeace campaigner, said although this year's smaller environmental footprint was greatly due to the pandemic, in going forward this will be the desired outcome.

She imagines "a Hajj with its millions of pilgrims in total symbiosis with their environment, in a Mecca powered by solar energy".

"This is the future we should all be working towards," she insisted.



Pilgrims circumambulate the Kaaba in the Grand mosque in the holy Saudi city of Mecca

## CAPTAINS CORNER

## Preserving our Bahraini marine legacy



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Shrimp is a tasty morsel and it is considered a luxury seafood ingredient all over the world. This year in Bahrain, the annual six-month ban on fishing for shrimp was lifted just in time for fragrant shrimp biryani over the Eid break.

Just before the ban was lifted though, we had headlines about how inspectors caught fishing boats returning loaded with illegally caught shrimp and the clear violation of rules which have banned trawling nets in the process. Of the four main causes, fishermen have overfishing as most detrimental to Bahrain's marine life. Overfishing has led to the disappearance of some fish breeds as well as a 75% drop in the population of shrimp.

**Bahrain has a rich legacy of coexisting with the sea. We must do everything we can to pass on this heritage to future generations.**

All of this points to a drastic lack of knowledge on the part of the fishermen as to why these rules are in place. Already overfishing has resulted in a drastic reduction in fish populations, particularly shrimp and fish breeds that are solely found in Bahrain. Sand extraction of the ocean bed is also continuously destroying fisheries, habitats, corals, and killing marine organisms. As if this were not dangerous enough, the shoreline pollution is in a very bad state – one has to only visit any seashore in Bahrain to see the appalling heaps of garbage that damage our beaches.

How can we stem the tide of marine wealth loss? It is not enough to regulate fishing with set time slots and equipment. I believe that we must launch an educational campaign to raise responsibility – and not just for fishermen. How about a campaign to teach consumers to respect the source of our marine wealth. Let's say you are going to have a seafood meal in a restaurant – if you order fish that is not in the 'overfished' category, then the restaurant can give you a discount. Such a campaign helped to bring back the popular hammour from the brink of extinction in the UAE.

Bahrain has a rich legacy of coexisting with the sea. We must do everything we can to pass on this heritage to future generations.

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

# New education policy 2020

## Educational perestroika in the Indian system?

By Anand Nair

The Indian Cabinet approved the National Education Policy 2020 on July 29, 2020. The New Education Policy of India aims at an education system that contributes to an equitable vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all. It also aims at developing a deep sense of respect towards the fundamental rights and duties by instilling skills and adequate values. The new policy would see an overhaul of the system in place in higher education. An educationist mentioned, "The preliminary findings lead to the possibility of less stress on boards, common college entrance test as part of sweeping education reforms. The Ministry of Human Resources in India will now be known as the Ministry of Education."

The current 10+2 structure in which the policy covered schooling from Class 1 to 10 (age 6-16 years) and then Class 11-12 (age 16-18 years) gives away to the 5+3+3+4 pattern; first five years of study will be foundation stage. The curriculum will be designed by NCERT and all state boards will operate within the framework as prescribed by NCERT. The pre-primary stage which will begin at the age of 3 will have three years of study followed by 2 years of Grade 1 and 2. The focus here will be art integrated education and play-way method with less emphasis on the textbooks. Grade 3 and 4 will prepare students for the future. They will be introduced to Science, Mathematics, Social Science, Environmental Sciences and Humanities based subjects. Class 6 to 8 will be considered as the Middle school. During this stage, the curriculum will be fixed as per the textbooks prescribed. Vocational training will be introduced to the children during this stage of development.

### Logical thinking

Grade 9 to 12 will be the final stage in this process. Here the emphasis will be on establishing logical thinking, reasoning, and mathematical aptitude. Class 9 to 12 will focus on the research-based aptitude of the student. Critical thinking will be primarily focused upon. Students will get to choose multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects across the spectrum. There will be no separation like Science, Commerce or Humanities. Someone selecting Physics as a major can even select Psychology as a minor. A pool of subjects will be made, and students can select subjects from the given pool. Another noteworthy feature has been that all studies till Grade 5 can be made in the regional or local language. There has been a lot of emphasis on regional language as a mother tongue or regional language to be a medium of instruction till Grade 5 as per this policy. There will be at least nine bagless days in a year for the students. Computer coding and related subjects will be imparted to students from Grade 6 onwards. This will pave the way for the introduction of AI courses at the Middle school itself. An internship can



Pictures courtesy of DNA

- Emphasis on regional language education
- Multiple pathways to learning; involving both formal and non-formal education modes
- To bring drop out children back to school
- Alternative and innovative education centres
- The focus will be on achieving desired learning outcomes at all levels
- Suitable for all categories business and personal presentation
- Common standards for public and private school education
- Curriculum and pedagogy to be transformed by 2022 to promote skill-based and minimize rote based learning
- Revision of NCF for school education and NCF for teacher education 2009 by 2021

begin at this stage and the child can acquire practical knowledge too. Grade 9 to 12 exams will be based on Semester pattern. The core competencies of the children will be tested in the exams rather than their ability for rote learning. Exams will be based on questions that test the thinking skill of the child. The child will be free to answer the paper in the language of his choice, but this requires a lot of clarity before being implemented.

### Holistic Progress Card

The Report Card will be reflective of a child's overall progress with a 360-degree Holistic Progress Card. Progress card will include self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher assessment. The assessment parameters are to be decided by a special think tank constituted for this purpose. Teachers will be prepared for a transformation in the assessment system by 2022-23. Schools will become nodal centres of learning and there will be enabled sharing of human and infrastructure resources. The integration of vocational education at all levels have been a major decision. This will be based on the practice-based curriculum.

All admissions to higher education (4 years) will be through a Common Aptitude Test (CAT) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The marks obtained by the student in Grade 12 and from CAT will be the criterion for admissions for

graduation. Credit Bank for multiple courses opted by a graduate student during graduation will be made.

The policy targets all school and college dropouts to return to the mainstream. Graduation to be of three or four years. Multi entry and multi exit will be the feature of any graduate programme. Graduation dropouts to get a certification if the exit is after a year, Advance Diploma if the exit is after two years, Bachelor's degree after three years and Bachelor's degree with research if a student completes 4 years of graduation. There will be a lot of emphasis on research-based education.

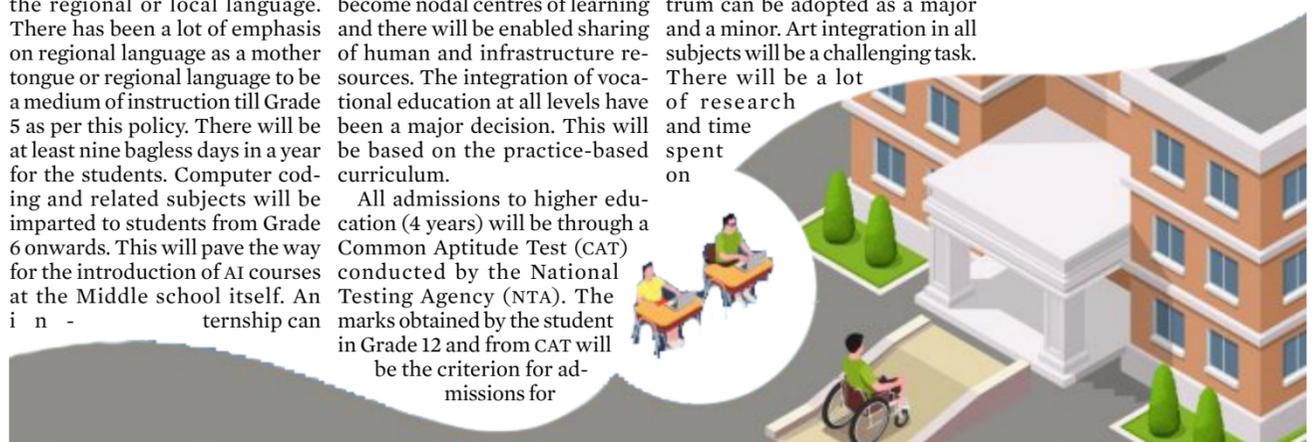
### Paradigm shift

The policy aims at the overall holistic development of the child. It brings in practical and trade training to be a part of the education system and brings in better adoption of technology for learning. Subjects across the spectrum can be adopted as a major and a minor. Art integration in all subjects will be a challenging task. There will be a lot of research and time spent on

inventing new pedagogies to bring about a paradigm shift in the policy. The challenge is herculean and the road too long. In the days to come there will be various debates on the positives and negatives of NEP 2020 but let education lead to learning and bridge the gap between reality and fantasy.

The schools have a daunting task ahead. School systems must adapt to the proposed multidisciplinary approach and this requires a change of attitude. Teacher training programmes must be inculcated at every nodal school level to prepare and equip the teaching fraternity for the sweeping changes. Reforms are not free from glitch or criticisms. The days ahead will no doubt be challenging for education in India, but implementation is the key.

(Writer is the Vice Principal of Indian School, Bahrain)



## Microsoft in talks to buy TikTok: NYT

Reuters

Microsoft Corp is in talks to buy ByteDance-owned TikTok, the New York Times reported on Friday, citing a source.

The discussions between Microsoft and TikTok were first reported earlier on Friday by FOX Business, the Times said.

President Donald Trump said on Friday he would sign an executive order as soon as Saturday to ban TikTok in the United States.

While Microsoft already owns professional social media network LinkedIn, it would face fewer regulatory hurdles in acquiring TikTok than its more direct competitors, such as Facebook Inc, one of the sources said.

But ByteDance's valuation expectations for TikTok of more than \$50 billion, and its insistence on retaining a minority stake in the app complicated deal talks, another source said.

"Not the deal that you have been hearing about, that they are going to buy and sell... and Microsoft and another one. We are not an M&A (mergers and acquisitions) country," Trump said.

It was not immediately clear what authority Trump had to ban TikTok, which has up to 80 m users in US.

# Samsung's last computer factory in China to shut

● 1,700 employees on contract at Samsung Electronics Suzhou Computer will be affected

● The factory shipped \$4.3 billion worth of goods out of China in 2012

Reuters | Seoul

Samsung Electronics Co will halt operations of its last computer factory in China, the South Korean tech giant said on Saturday, the latest manufacturer to shift production from the world's second-biggest economy.

Companies are rethinking their production and supply chains amid rising Chinese labour costs, a US-China trade war and the blow from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Around half the 1,700 employees on contract at Samsung Electronics Suzhou Computer will be affected, excluding those involved in research and development, the South China



Representative picture (Courtesy of TechBriefly)

Morning Post reported on Friday, citing a notice to Samsung staff.

The factory shipped \$4.3 billion worth of goods out of China in 2012, a figure that had sunk to \$1 billion by 2018, the Hong Kong newspaper said.

A Samsung spokeswoman declined to comment on the factory's revenue and shipments, or details regarding employees.

"China remains an important market for Samsung and we will continue to provide superior products and services for Chinese consumers," the company said in a statement.



Samsung shut its last smartphone factory in China last year. Its remaining facilities include two semiconductor manufacturing sites in Suzhou and Xi'an.

## James Murdoch resigns from News Corp board over editorial differences

Reuters

James Murdoch has resigned from News Corp's board, citing disagreements over certain editorial content published by the company's media outlets, the news publisher disclosed in a regulatory filing on Friday.

While tendering the resignation, Murdoch also cited differences over certain strategic decisions of the company.

The departure of the son of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch would leave the News Corp



James Murdoch

board with 10 directors.

The Wall Street Journal owner in May had posted a \$1 billion quarterly loss due to a writedown in the value of its Australian pay TV unit and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its businesses.

## Fauci urges caution on China and Russia virus vaccines



Antony Fauci (Picture courtesy of Business Insider)

AFP News

Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious disease official, raised concerns Friday regarding the safety of COVID-19 vaccines under development by China and Russia.

Several Chinese companies are at the forefront of the global vaccine race, while Russia has said it hopes to be the first in the world to produce a vaccine for the public, with a target date of September.

But the medicines will likely face heightened scrutiny given that the regulatory systems in both countries are far more opaque than they are in the West. Fauci, who was asked during a Congressional hearing whether the US could make use of Chinese or Russian vaccines if they arrived first, indicated that was unlikely.

"I do hope that the Chinese and the Russians are actually testing the vaccine before they

are administering the vaccine to anyone," he said.

He added: "Claims of having a vaccine ready to distribute before you do testing, I think, is problematic, at best.

"We are going very quickly. I do not believe that there will be vaccines, so far ahead of us, that we will have to depend on other countries to get us vaccines."

Last month, Chinese media announced a coronavirus vaccine developed by CanSino Biologics was being used to immunize the Chinese military -- making it the first approved for people, albeit in a limited population.

Many scientists however raised ethical concerns because the vaccine has not yet begun its final stages of testing.

Two other Chinese companies Sinovac and Sinopharm, have launched final phase three trials in Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, respectively.

## Canada says requirements for Huawei CFO's extradition to US met, documents show

Reuters

Canada's attorney general says the requirements for extraditing Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou to the United States on charges of bank fraud have been met, documents submitted in a British Columbia court show.

Meng, 48, was arrested in December, 2018, on a warrant from the United States, which alleges that she misled the bank HSBC about Huawei's business dealings in Iran.

Meng has been on house arrest in Vancouver since then, fighting extradition, and has said she is innocent. Her case has caused a diplomatic row between Canada and China, which has demanded that Meng be released. China detained two Canadians after Meng's arrest.

The documents, which were filed last week and released to media on Friday, are a precursor to the formal hearing on committal, or whether Meng should be extradited to the United States. Those hearings will take place in April 2021.

The documents outline the evidence in support of Meng's custody and conclude that the test for committal has been met.

The extradition hearings are not a full trial on the charges laid by the United States, the documents state, only whether there is the potential for those charges to be found valid.

"The evidence demonstrates that Ms. Meng deliberately made dishonest representations to HSBC in an attempt to preserve Huawei's relationship with the bank," lawyers for the Canadian Minister of Justice



Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou

and Attorney General David Lametti wrote.

"Since Ms. Meng concedes that she is the person sought for

prosecution for the conduct set out in the extradition request, all of the formal requirements for committal are established."

Huawei declined to comment and pointed instead to its past legal submissions on its arguments.

In May, a judge in British Columbia's Superior Court found that the legal standard of double criminality - meaning that Meng's actions could be considered a crime in both Canada and the United States - had been met, dealing a blow to hopes for a quick end to the trial.

The next hearings, scheduled for Aug. 17-21 in Vancouver, will discuss whether the attorney general's assertion of privilege in declining to release some documents requested by Huawei relating to Meng's initial arrest is valid.

## Apple tops Aramco as most valuable publicly listed company

● Saudi Aramco, which had been the most valuable publicly listed company since going public last year,

Reuters

Apple Inc's surged over 10 per cent to a record high on Friday after reporting blockbuster quarterly results, helping the iPhone maker eclipse Saudi Aramco to become the world's most valuable publicly listed company.



The logo of Apple company is seen outside an Apple store in Bordeaux, France

Apple's stock ended the session at \$425.04, putting its market capitalisation at \$1.82 trillion, according to the share count provided by Apple in a regulatory filing on Friday.

It was Apple's largest one-day percentage gain since March 13, and it added \$172 billion in market capitalization during the session, greater than the entire stock market value of Oracle Corp.

Saudi Aramco, which had been the most valuable publicly listed company since going public last year, had a market capitalisation of \$1.760 trillion as of its last close, according to

Refinitiv data. Aramco had a market capitalisation of \$1.760 trillion as of its last close, according to Refinitiv data.

Refinitiv data.

After Apple bought back \$16 billion worth of shares in the June quarter, it had 4,275,634,000 outstanding shares, as of July 17, according to the filing.

With Friday's stock gain, Apple's has surged about 45pc year

to date, with investors betting that it and other major US technology companies will emerge from the coronavirus pandemic stronger than smaller rivals.

In its quarterly report, Apple announced a four-for-one stock split, with trading on a split-adjusted basis starting on Aug. 31. It will be Apple's first share split since 2014.

Over 20 analysts raised their price targets for Apple's stock following the company's report, according to Refinitiv. However, the new median analyst price target of \$409.63 is more than \$15 short of Friday's closing price.

# Florida teen mastermind charged in epic Twitter hack

Twitter says the hackers used a phone to fool the social media company's employees into giving them access to accounts

AFP | San Francisco

Criminal charges were filed against the suspected teenage mastermind of an epic Twitter hack and two others who allegedly helped hijack celebrity accounts to swindle people out of more than \$100,000 in a cryptocurrency scheme.

Prosecutors in Florida said they filed 30 felony counts against 17-year-old resident of the state identified as the "mastermind" of the cyberattack. He was arrested in Tampa, Hillsborough State Attorney Andrew Warren said.

Separately, the US Attorney's Office in San Francisco announced charges against three people, one of them from Britain, for roles in the mid-July cyberattack that rocked Twitter. US officials said 19-year-old Mason "Chaewon" Sheppard of Britain along with Nima Fazeli, 22, of Florida face criminal charges in the case.

Details about the third individual were not released by US officials because he is a minor, but it appeared they were referring to the Florida teenager being prosecuted as adult in that state.

The attack on Twitter involved a combination of "tech-



Twitter logo is seen on a smartphone

nical breaches and social engineering" that let hackers hijack accounts of politicians, celebrities, and musicians, according to federal prosecutors.

### Follow the money

The three defendants are accused of hacking Twitter accounts, creating a scam Bitcoin account, and sending out imposter tweets from hijacked account offering to double Bitcoin cryptocurrency deposits.

"This case serves as a great example of how following the money, international collabora-

tion, and public-private partnerships can work to successfully take down a perceived anonymous criminal enterprise," said criminal investigation special agent Kelly Jackson of the Internal Revenue Service.

The attack which Twitter said resulted from a "phone spear phishing" attack enabled hackers to take control of accounts of famous people such as Bill Gates, Elon Musk and former US president Barack Obama and dupe people into sending Bitcoin.

"These crimes were perpetrated using the names of famous people and celebrities, but they're not the primary victims here," Warren said in a release.

"This 'Bit-Con' was designed to steal money from regular Americans from all over the country."

### Scamming by phone

Hackers who accessed dozens of high-profile Twitter accounts in mid-July gained access to the system with an attack that tricked a handful of employees into giving up their credentials, according to a company update.

Twitter said this week that the July 15 incident by Bitcoin scammers stemmed from a "spear phishing" attack which deceived employees about the origin of the messages.

Twitter said the hackers "targeted a small number of employees through a phone spear phishing attack," according to a Twitter Support statement.

"This attack relied on a significant and concerted attempt to mislead certain employees and exploit human vulnerabilities to gain access to our internal systems."

Twitter said that following the incident it has "significantly limited access to our internal tools and systems" and is taking additional steps to tighten security. The massive hack of high-profile users from Elon Musk to Joe Biden affected at least 130 accounts, with tweets posted by the usurpers duping people into sending Bitcoin to accounts that Warren said were associated with Clark.

The official accounts of Apple, Uber, Kanye West, Bill Gates, Barack Obama and others were also affected. Faked tweets were sent from 45 accounts, according to Twitter, and the hackers accessed private messages of 36 and downloaded Twitter data from seven.

### News in brief

**5 killed in Nepal landslides**

Five people including three children were killed in two landslides in Nepal, raising to 175 the toll of dead since the monsoon



season began in May, a home ministry official said. A 30-year-old woman and her three children, aged between 10 months and nine years, were killed when a landslide triggered by heavy rains swept their house away in Gulmi district in the west of the Himalayan nation on Friday, Murari Wasti said. One person was killed in another landslide in Sunsari district in east Nepal.



**Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi on Friday called an early general election for June 6, 2021, roughly a year ahead of when it would normally be held.**

**Iraq PM calls early election**

Early elections are a key demand of Iraqi anti-government protesters who staged months of mass demonstrations last year and were killed in their hundreds by security forces and gunmen suspected of links to militia groups. Iraqi's parliament must still ratify the election date.

**US federal officers will stay in the protest-wracked city of Portland until local law enforcement officials finish a "cleanup of anarchists and agitators," President Donald Trump said.**

The forces -- whose deployment was seen by many as part of the president's law-and-order strategy for re-election and exacerbated tensions between authorities and anti-racism protesters -- had been scheduled to begin their phased pullout from Portland.



**Eight military personnel remained missing at sea Friday nearly a full day after a US Marine**

**8 still missing after US Marine amphibious vehicle sinks**

amphibious assault vehicle sank in deep water off the California coast during training exercises. Officials at Camp Pendleton in southern California said that one of eight Marines rescued in the mishap off the shore of San Clemente Island was declared dead after being taken to hospital and two more remained in intensive care. The fate of seven other Marines and one sailor was unknown nearly 24 hours after the accident as rescue operations involving multiple aircraft and boats continued, said Lieutenant General Joseph Osterman.

**A federal appeals court overturned Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's death sentence for helping carry out the 2013 attack, which killed three people and wounded more than 260 others.** Tsarnaev and his older brother set off a pair of homemade pressure-cooker bombs near the finish line of the world-renowned race, tearing through the packed crowd and causing many people to lose legs.

**Hundreds of anti-racism protesters took over one of Lisbon's main squares on Friday to demand justice for Bruno Candé, a Black actor shot dead in a busy street last weekend.**

Candé, 39 and of Guinean origin, was shot several times by a white man in his eighties at Avenida de Moscavide, around 10 km from Lisbon's city centre, according to police. A suspect was detained and is awaiting trial. Portugal's criminal investigation police agency, the PJ, has not confirmed what motivated the attack.



The hackers targeted 130 accounts - they managed to tweet from 45 accounts, access the direct message inboxes of 36, and download the Twitter data from seven

## Expect 'lengthy' coronavirus pandemic WHO warns

AFP | Geneva

The World Health Organization yesterday warned the coronavirus pandemic was likely to be "lengthy" after its emergency committee met to evaluate the crisis six months after sounding the international alarm.

The committee "highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic", the WHO said in a statement, and warned of the risk of "response fatigue" given the socio-economic pressures on countries.

The panel gathered for the fourth time over the coronavirus crisis, half a year on from its January 30 declaration of a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) -- the WHO's highest level of alarm.

"WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 to be very high," it said.

## Recovered from virus, Brazil's Bolsonaro says nothing to fear

AFP | Rio de Janeiro

Fresh off a bout of COVID-19, President Jair Bolsonaro said nearly everyone will probably end up catching the new coronavirus, urging Brazilians to "face up to it" and saying there was nothing to fear.

The far-right leader's latest bid to downplay the pandemic came as Brazil closed in on the grim milestone of 100,000 people killed by the virus, the second-highest death toll in the world, after the United States.

Bolsonaro, who is just coming off three weeks in quarantine with a case of the virus, pointed to his own case as an example.

"I'm in the high-risk group," the 65-year-old president told journalists during a visit to the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul.

"I knew I was going to catch it someday, as I think unfortunately nearly everyone here is going to catch it eventually. What are you afraid of? Face up to it," he said.

"I regret the deaths. But people die every day, from lots of things. That's life."

Bolsonaro has faced criticism for his handling of the pandemic as it has surged in Brazil, the country with the second-highest number of cases and deaths in the world: more than 2.6 million and 92,000, respectively.



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro takes a ride his motorcycle

Bolsonaro, who has compared the virus to a "little flu," has fought stay-at-home measures to contain it and regularly flouted social distancing guidelines, hitting the streets of Brasilia to exchange handshakes and hugs with supporters.

He tested positive for the virus on July 7 after coming down with a fever, and spent three weeks in isolation at the presidential palace.

On Thursday, in his first public event since his illness, he greeted a crowd of supporters in the northeastern state of Piaui, removing his face mask to loud cheers.

The same day, the president's office announced his wife had tested positive for the virus.



# NASA astronauts riding SpaceX capsule poised for weekend return

Upon a successful splashdown, the spacecraft will have completed its final key test to prove it can transport astronauts to and from space

● The mission marked the first time NASA launched humans from US soil since its shuttle program retired in 2011

AFP | San Francisco

The two NASA astronauts who rode to the International Space Station aboard SpaceX's new Crew Dragon are due to return today after a nearly four-month voyage that marked NASA's first crewed mission from home soil in nine years.

US astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley, who launched to the space station in May, are expected to board Crew Dragon around 5:30 p.m. ET and splash down at one of seven landing sites in the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean at about 2:48 p.m. ET today.

"The hardest part was get-



NASA astronaut Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley arrive at the International Space Station aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule in this still image taken from video

ting us launched, but the most important part is bringing us home," Behnken said during a

farewell ceremony yesterday aboard the space station.

NASA and SpaceX officials chose the coast of Panama City, Florida as the "prime" splashdown location for Crew Dragon on Sunday, but that selection may change as the Air Force's 45th Space Wing monitors the path of Hurricane Isaias, a category 1 cyclone approaching Florida's east coast.

"We have plenty of opportunities here in August and we're in no hurry to come home," NASA's

commercial crew manager Steve Stich said, adding the next return opportunity opens on Monday should Isaias force a delay.

Stich said Crew Dragon, an acorn-shaped pod that can seat up to seven astronauts, has been in a "very healthy" condition since docking on May 31 with the space station, where astronauts have been conducting tests and monitoring how the spacecraft performs in space.

Upon a successful splash-

down, the spacecraft will have completed its final key test to prove it can transport astronauts to and from space — a task SpaceX has accomplished dozens of times with its cargo-only capsule but never before with humans aboard.

"The water landing portion of it is pretty challenging from a physiological standpoint, just after coming back from being in microgravity," Hurley, a veteran of two shuttle missions, told reporters in a phone briefing on Friday.

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX became the first private company to send humans to orbit in May with the launch of Behnken and Hurley, who will have spent more than two months on the space station upon returning.

The mission marked the first time NASA launched humans from U.S. soil since its shuttle program retired in 2011. Since then the United States has relied on Russia's space program to launch its astronauts to the space station.

Hoping to galvanize a commercial space marketplace, NASA awarded nearly \$8 billion to SpaceX and Boeing Co collectively in 2014 to develop dueling space capsules, experimenting with a contract model that allows the space agency to buy astronaut seats from the two companies.

Thousands march in Berlin against coronavirus curbs



Demonstrators during a protest Reuters | London

Thousands marched in Berlin yesterday to protest against measures imposed in Germany to stem the coronavirus pandemic, saying they violated people's rights and freedoms.

The gathering, estimated by police at 17,000, included libertarians, constitutional loyalists and anti-vaccination activists. There was also a small far-right presence with some marchers carrying Germany's black, white and red imperial flag.

Protesters danced and sang 'We are free people!' to the tune of rock band Queen's 'We Will Rock You'. Others marched with placards saying 'We are making a noise because you are stealing our freedom!' and 'Do think! Don't wear a mask!'.

"Our demand is to return to democracy," said one protester who declined to give his name. "The mask that enslaves us must go."

The protests followed a rallying call from Michael Ballweg, an entrepreneur and political outsider who has organized similar rallies in Stuttgart and is running to become mayor of the southwestern city.

**Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX became the first private company to send humans to orbit in May with the launch of Behnken and Hurley, who will have spent more than two months on the space station upon returning**

BETTER YOU KNOW

## Chilean dogs sniff out coronavirus in early stages

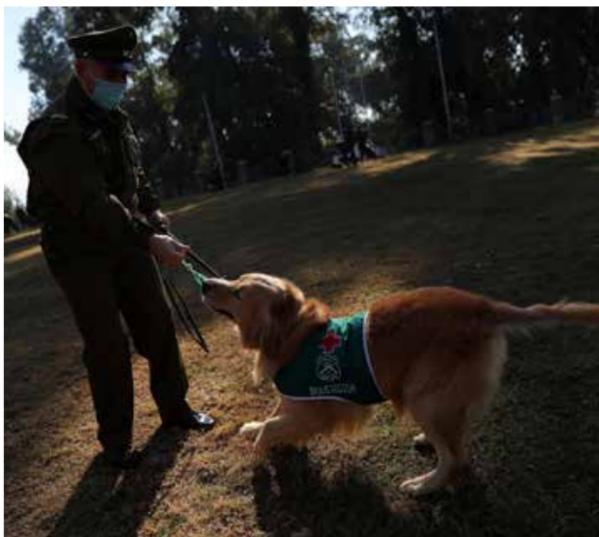
Reuters | Santiago

Chilean police are training sniffer dogs to detect the coronavirus in people's sweat at an early stage, after a similar trial in the UK showed encouraging results.

Four dogs have been selected for the initial training, a mix of labradors and golden retrievers who sport green "biodetector" jackets for their task. They are being trained at the Chilean Carabineros' specialist training base in the capital Santiago.

Sniffer dogs are best-known for detecting drugs, explosives and people but have also previously been trained to detect other diseases including malaria, cancer and Parkinson's disease.

Lieutenant Colonel Cristian Acevedo Yanez, director of the police specialty training school, said dogs had more than 3 million olfactory receptors, more than 50 times those of humans, so were uniquely placed to help



A Chilean police officer works with the dog at a dog training school

fight the coronavirus.

He said the canines could play a critical part as Chile seeks to gradually reopen its schools and shops and get people back to work.

"The role of police is to strengthen our detection abilities in this 'new normal,'" he said. "The idea is that our dogs would be in busy places such as schools, bus terminals and airports, and could detect people at an early stage of the disease to be able to isolate them and perform the appropriate PCR test, avoiding mass contagions," he said.

"Essentially what these dogs, four at first, and their guides, will do is save lives."

## Hamster hero? How a Japanese cartoon became Thai youth protesters' symbol

Reuters | Bangkok

Thailand's emerging student pro-democracy movement has adopted a Japanese cartoon hamster, Hamtaro, as a creative way to get support from young people around the country.

University and high school students have rallied almost daily in the past two weeks to demand the dissolution of parliament, an end to harassment of government critics, and amendments to the military-written constitution that critics say help maintain the influence of the army over the political system.

This past week, three of the protests were themed around "Hamtaro," where protesters ran around public places in circles, like a hamster wheel, while singing a modified version of the cartoon's jingle, saying the government loves feasting on taxpayer's money and demanding Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha dissolve parliament.

"The Hamtaro cartoon is what on television every morning, so it connects with us easily," said Pumiwat Rangkasitwit, 20, a student activist from a group called New Life Network.

Japanese publishing house Shogakukan, which owns the license to Hamtaro, declined



A demonstrator holds a soft toy "Hamtaro" during a protest

**Young people grew up with these popular culture characters and they help add new dimensions to our movement, making it relatable and easy to communicate with young people**

JUTATIP SIRIKHAN

to comment on the use of the cartoon in Thai protests when contacted by Reuters.

Student groups have used social media to find new ways for protests, via hashtag #Ideaformob, leaders told

Reuters.

Groups are also planning other themes for protests, including Japanese cartoon character Naruto and Harry Potter.

"Young people grew up with these popular culture characters and they help add new dimensions to our movement, making it relatable and easy to communicate with young people," said Jutatip Sirikhan, 21, president of the Student Union of Thailand.

Activist Chutimon Kritsanapanee, 21, from Kasetsart University in Bangkok, said: "Some people may not be able to relate but the main thing is we want to tell others about the failure of this government through these gimmicks."

YOU KNOW WHAT

**Sniffer dogs are best-known for detecting drugs, explosives and people but have also previously been trained to detect other diseases including malaria, cancer and Parkinson's disease**

# CELEBS

## celebs



Beyoncé

### Beyoncé delights fans with stylized visual album

AFP | New York

Pop royalty Beyoncé released her much-hyped visual album "Black Is King," an aesthetically ambitious video billed as a companion to her 2019 album of songs inspired by Disney's live-action remake of "The Lion King." The highly stylized visual narrative released on the Disney Plus streaming platform runs an hour and 25 minutes and, akin to "The Lion King," tells the story of a young boy who navigates an onerous world, finding himself far from

his family.

The work is an ode to the black experience rife with vibrant imagery celebrating the African diaspora, an aesthetic exploration of black history, power and success that also references colonialism, economic disparity and racism.

Beyoncé had described the work as a "labour of love," that now serves "a greater purpose" than its original role as a companion piece to "The Lion King: The Gift," given the current sociopolitical climate.

Mass anti-racism protests ignited following the police killing of a black man, George Floyd, in May as the coronavirus pandemic ravages the United States, disproportionately infecting people of colour.

"Many of us want change," Beyoncé wrote on Instagram, rare personal words from the guarded celebrity.

"I believe that when Black people tell our own stories, we can shift the axis of the world and tell

**"I believe that when Black people tell our own stories, we can shift the axis of the world and tell our REAL history of generational wealth and richness of soul that are not told in our history books"**

BEYONCÉ

our REAL history of generational wealth and richness of soul that are not told in our history books."

#### Lush visuals

Powered by lush visuals and Beyoncé's soaring vocals, "Black Is King" places heavy emphasis on notions of family and motherhood along with more philosophical threads of origin and legacy.

A-listers including the superstar's hip hop mogul husband

Jay-Z, actress Lupita Nyong'o, jack-of-all-trades Pharrell Williams and model Naomi Campbell all feature in the production.

Beyoncé's mother Tina Knowles-Lawson and former Destiny's Child bandmate Kelly Rowland also make appearances, as well as daughter Blue Ivy and rare footage of her twins, Rumi Carter and Sir Carter. The film follows Beyoncé's venerated 2016 visual album "Lemonade," which emphasized black womanhood against the backdrop of America's heritage of slavery and culture of oppression.

Since that Grammy-winning work Beyoncé has prized the visual at the forefront of her art, no longer focused on dominating the pop charts.

Simultaneously one of music's most private but most-watched stars, the 38-year-old uses her massive social media platform to curate her image and promote her work imbued with broad social commentary on topics including

gender and race.

But Beyoncé also has faced criticism, especially from outside the United States, for deploying what some call stereotypical visuals of "African tradition" -- face paint and feathers, for example.

Many social media users noted that Disney Plus is not accessible in African nations, and that while Beyoncé has performed some shows on the continent, her tours haven't included dates there in years.

"Someone with the range must unpack how our beloved queen Beyoncé is reducing blackness and Africanness to aesthetics and the western imaginations of our existence," tweeted one user, Paballo Chauke.

"They must also speak about how it's now profitable to do such gimmicks."

Still, the Bey Hive -- Beyoncé's legion of ardent fans -- voiced elation over the release of "Black Is King," which quickly became a top trending hashtag.

### Billie Eilish releases new song 'My Future', an ode to future self

ANI | Los Angeles

Singer Billie Eilish released her much anticipated new song 'My Future' and it is all about learning to accept oneself and who you are becoming. The 'Bad Guy' singer shared the information about her new song on Instagram and posted a brief clip from the official music video.

"MY FUTURE SONG AND VIDEO OUT NOW OUT NOW OUT NOOOOOW," the Grammy-winner wrote.

The three-minute and 28-second-long video featured a cartoon illustration of Billie, who is seen pondering about her life amid a rainy, dull landscape.

"Cause I'm in love with my future, can't wait to meet her," croons the singer as the second half of the video becomes bright, with sunlight hitting and greenery flourishing all around.

'My Future' track marks the 18-year-old singer's first new single since her record-breaking 'Bond' theme for the much-anticipated spy-thriller 'No Time To Die'. The star who made history in this year's Grammy is the youngest artist

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Billie Eilish set the stage of the 62nd Grammy Awards on fire as she stole the major big titles. Her debut album, 'When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?' led her to Grammy history when she swept the four big awards



Billie Eilish

ever to write and record a Bond theme.

Earlier in March, the singer considering safety precautions of her fans postponed her 'Where Do We Go?' world tour until further notice.

The young musician set the stage of the 62nd Grammy Awards on fire as she stole the major big titles.

Her debut album, 'When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?' led her to Grammy history when she swept the four big awards.

### Courteney Cox to reprise 'Scream' role in film reboot

Fox | Los Angeles

Courteney Cox is returning for the next iteration of the famed "Scream" film franchise.

The "Friends" star confirmed that she will reprise her role as news reporter Gale Weathers in an Instagram post.

"I can't wait to see this face again," Cox posted of the iconic black-and-white mask that has seen many Halloween nights over the course of its four films that began in 1996 and have grossed more than \$600 million in the global box office.

Also slated to return for the fifth installment is Cox's ex-husband David Arquette as Dewey Riley.

"I am thrilled to be playing Dewey again and to reunite with my Scream family, old and new," Arquette previously said in a statement, according to The Holly-

wood Reporter. "Scream has been such a big part of my life, and for both the fans and myself, I look forward to honoring Wes Craven's legacy."

Cox appeared in all of the previous "Scream" films, released in 1996, 1997, 2000 and 2011 respectively.

"We can't imagine 'Scream' without the iconic Gale Weathers and are so incredibly thrilled and humbled to have the opportunity to work with Courteney," Radio Silence, the film-making arm behind the reboot told the Deadline.

"We're absolute mega fans of her work and we're so excited to join her in the next chapter of the 'Scream' saga!"

Filming on the all-new "Scream" is set to kick off later this year in Wilmington, N.C.



Courteney Cox

### Aniston extends birthday wishes to Kudrow

ANI | Los Angeles

Actor Jennifer Aniston has extended birthday wishes to her 'Friends' co-star and long-time pal Lisa Kudrow, who turned 57.

The duo and the rest of the show's cast have remained friends since the show ended its run in 2004, and the actors have occasionally been spotted together.

To make her good friend's day special, Aniston hopped on to Instagram late Thursday and shared some pictures and videos of Kudrow, as she wished her a happy birthday. Sharing a goofy throwback picture of the two, Aniston wrote on Instagram stories, "Happy birthday my sweetest floosh".

While in another picture, the 51-year-old star is seen sharing a hug with Kudrow and wrote 'I love you' alongside.

The 'Just Go With It' actor also shared two videos, where Kudrow is seen sharing a stage with singer Taylor Swift. The duo is seen singing Kudrow's famous comedy song 'smelly cat' from the show.

#### SUDOKU

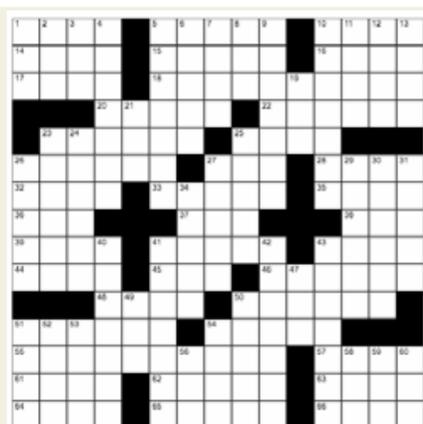
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Yesterday's solution

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**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- Goes back; 5- Stage items; 10- All-male; 14- Harvest; 15- Competitor; 16- Tent stick; 17- Airline to Tel Aviv; 18- Covent Garden, for one; 20- Western; 22- Song leader in a synagogue; 23- Fingerless hand cover; 25- The \_\_\_ the limit; 26- Weights; 27- Farm female; 28- Toward the mouth; 32- "That smarts!"; 33- English royal house; 35- Do followers; 36- Marseilles Mrs.; 37- Vietnam's \_\_\_ Dinh Diem; 38- Lilliputian; 39- Insect stage; 41- Hound's trail; 43- Trace; 44- Humble homes; 45- Paving material; 46- African antelopes; 48- Hit the mall; 50- Edits; 51- Become visible; 54- Fleet; 55- Excessive; 57- Roundish projection; 61- Gossip; 62- Short letters; 63- Goes wrong; 64- Tolkien tree creatures; 65- Give; 66- Cease;

Down

1- Bard's "before"; 2- \_\_\_ canto; 3- Noise made by a sheep; 4- Stain; 5- Expression of objection; 6- Grow to maturity; 7- Above; 8- Hole number; 9- Shirker; 10- Underwriter; 11- Advertise boastfully; 12- What's more; 13- Will of "The Waltons"; 19- Cut and dried grass; 21- Packed away; 23- Hawaiian dress; 24- Commence; 25- Faint; 26- Pizazz; 27- Gardening tool; 29- Reverse; 30- Recompense; 31- Eats to a plan; 34- Remove a covering; 40- States; 41- Hoarding; 42- Storm; 43- Manipulates; 47- Maui memento; 49- If I \_\_\_ a Hammer; 50- Devoured; 51- White House staffer; 52- Nabokov novel; 53- Dessert wine; 54- Pro follower; 56- And not; 58- Meal crumb; 59- Friend in the 'hood; 60- Uncommon sense;

Yesterday's solution

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# Aubameyang double leads Arsenal to FA Cup triumph

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored twice to win his first trophy as Arsenal captain

● **Chelsea goalscorer Christian Pulisic was forced off just after half-time with a hamstring injury**

AFP | London

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang inspired Arsenal to a record 14th FA Cup win as the Gunners captain struck twice to beat Chelsea 2-1 in the final at an empty Wembley yesterday.

Christian Pulisic had given Chelsea the dream start, but the Blues unravelled after Aubameyang was brought down by Cesar Azpilicueta inside the area and converted the resulting penalty.

A brilliant finish from Aubameyang 23 minutes from time earned Mikel Arteta silverware in his first season as Arsenal boss before Chelsea were controversially reduced to 10 men when Mateo Kovacic was shown an extremely soft second yellow card.

Arteta said ahead of the final he hoped a taste of success would encourage Aubameyang, who only has a year left on his contract at the Emirates, to commit to a new long-term deal.

The Gabon international's



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of Arsenal scores his sides second goal

double took his tally for the season to 29 and ensured the Gunners will not miss out on European football next season for the first time since 1995/96 as they qualify for the Europa League.

An FA Cup final unlike any other with nearly 90,000 empty seats saw the traditional singing of "Abide With Me" performed on the Wembley roof.

Chelsea had already achieved their primary goal from Frank Lampard's first season in charge by securing a place in next season's Champions League last weekend and early on they

It was a difficult start. Sometimes you can go down. But if there's something I know about this group of players, it's that they weren't going to give up. They reacted straight away and played the best 30 minutes since I arrived

MIKEL ARTETA

seemed set to cap a top-four finish with Lampard's first trophy as a manager.

Emiliano Martinez flew to his left to turn Mason Mount's shot behind, but Arsenal did not heed that warning as Chelsea's front three combined perfectly for the opener on five minutes.

Mount's low cross was flicked on by former Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud and Pulisic continued his scoring streak since football's return in June by showing quick feet before prodding the ball home.

Arteta has gained plenty of plaudits for his tactical nous

during his first eight months in a managerial role and the Spaniard managed to reorganise the Gunners during the first-half drinks break to change the momentum of the game.

A minute after play resumed, Nicolas Pepe thought he had curled home a brilliant equaliser from the edge of the box, only to be denied by Ainsley Maitland-Niles being flagged for off-side in the build-up.

While Chelsea have already significantly strengthened their forward line for next season with the signings of Timo Werner and Hakim Ziyech, Arsenal are hoping just to hold onto their key man in Aubameyang.

Just like in the semi-final win over Manchester City, he proved to be the match winner as he raced onto Kieran Tierney's hopeful ball over the top and outpaced Azpilicueta before being brought down by the Chelsea captain just inside the area.

Azpilicueta escaped the double punishment of a red card, but VAR confirmed the spot-kick and Aubameyang coolly slotted home.

Chelsea were further hit by two big injury blows either side of half-time as Azpilicueta and Pulisic pulled up with hamstring injuries that will almost certainly rule them out of the Champions League last 16, second leg against Bayern Munich next weekend

Rangers get off to winning start at Aberdeen



Ryan Kent shoots to score Reuters | London

Steven Gerrard was pleased with the resilience displayed by Rangers as they got their quest to deny Celtic a record-breaking 10th consecutive Scottish Premiership title off to a winning start with a 1-0 win at Aberdeen.

Ryan Kent scored the only goal of the first Scottish Premiership game for 147 days after the 2019/20 season was ended early due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Rangers lost a series of points from winning positions in the second half of last season to finish 13 points behind Celtic when the campaign was curtailed in March.

And Gerrard was pleased his side saw the game out comfortably despite failing to add to their lead.

"I'm pleased we showed signs today we are capable of staying in there and getting over the line," the former Liverpool captain told Sky Sports.

"In an ideal world we want it to look great in every game, but over the course of 38 games you've got to stay tough, stay together and put your body on the line. They pushed us all the way, but this is a big three points."

## Hamilton takes pole for British GP in record time

● **Lewis Hamilton powered to a 91st career pole position at Silverstone**

AFP | Silverstone

Lewis Hamilton smashed the track record twice yesterday to grab a record seventh British Grand Prix pole position with a stunning performance in a tense qualifying session.

Hamilton, who on Sunday seeks a record-increasing seventh Silverstone victory, finished ahead of his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas by more than three-tenths of a second after the Finn had been fastest in final practice and then again in both Q2 and Q3 when he also set lap records.

The defending six-time champion and current series leader bounced back from a ragged performance, including a spin, in the first parts of qualifying to claim his 65th pole with Mercedes and the record-increasing 91st of his career.

It was also a record eighth successive Mercedes pole success in Britain on a day when



Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes GP celebrates in parc ferme

they were clear of their nearest rivals Red Bull by a full second, Max Verstappen taking third place on the grid ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Rising British star Lando Norris, 20, was fifth for McLaren ahead of Lance Stroll in Racing Point's 'pink Mercedes', Carlos Sainz in the second McLaren, Daniel Ricciardo and his Renault team-mate Esteban Ocon and Sebastian Vettel, who was 10th for Ferrari.

"This track is awesome! But it is tough out there - with the winds, it is like juggling balls on a moving plate," said a delighted Hamilton.

"I had a spin and as you know qualifying is all about confidence and I was struggling in the first sectors of every lap, but I took some deep breaths, composed myself and in Q3 I had a clear lap and the second one was even better!"

"It still isn't perfect, but it never gets old."

He added that it was strange to drive without any fans in the circuit. "Usually, it's all sirens, flags and smoke and the atmosphere is buzzing - you get out of the car and have a different energy so I miss them, but I hope everyone is safe and happy at home."

## Mokaev dominates arch-rival McVeigh at BRAVE CF 37, wants spot in Poland card

TDT | Manama

The world of MMA stood still for 15 minutes as the biggest prospect in the sport took his first steps in the professional scene with a successful and dominant performance.

The pound-for-pound number one amateur fighter in the world Muhammad Mokaev did more of the same on his pro debut and dominated Glenn McVeigh en route to a unanimous decision victory at BRAVE CF 37, the first-ever show of the fastest-growing MMA organization in Sweden.

For his part, McVeigh hung tough and showed he belonged in the cage, having a good performance in the first round and impressing with his submission defense in the second and third rounds. However, the short-notice debutant had too much on his hands and wasn't able to stop Mokaev's takedowns and great striking offense.

Both men hyped up the fight in the last few days as McVeigh tagged BRAVE CF president almost imploring for the fight and saying he could "smash the bum Mokaev". The two-time amateur world champion didn't



Muhammad Mokaev and Glenn McVeigh in action during their bout

like the words and promised to make him pay.

They were close to starting fighting twice before actual fight night, in an impromptu meeting in the host hotel lobby, and then in the post-weigh-ins staredowns. Inside the BRAVE CF Arena, they kept the trash talk on high volume, and the lack of fans made for great viewing as fans at home were treated to their exchanges - with the referee having to ask both men

to "watch their words" at one point.

After the bout, Mokaev said their beef was squashed but admitted he still had a problem with McVeigh giving him a finger in a pre-fight post on social media. "The Punisher" also asked for a fight in Poland, where BRAVE CF makes its debut on September 5th. Now with a 1-0 pro record, the sky is the limit for Mokaev.