



Zero COVID-19 deaths, but 468 new active cases

● New infections include 123 expat workers, 340 contacts of active cases, five travellers

TDT | Manama

Zero lives were taken by the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bahrain yesterday, keeping the number of virus-related casualties in the Kingdom at 190.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry announced early this morning that it conducted 10,749 COVID-19 tests yesterday, from which 468 new cases were detected.

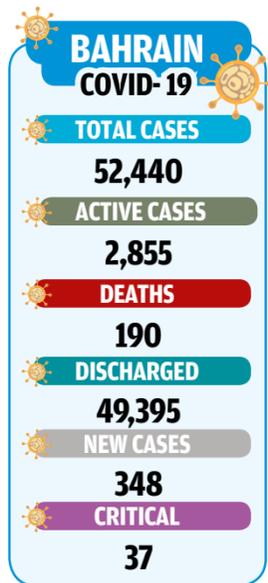
These included 123 expatriate workers, 340 contacts of active cases, and five travel-related cases. Their detection brought the overall number of confirmed registered cases in the Kingdom to 52,440, ever since the first case was reported in February.

There were also 348 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 49,395.

After confirming that the individuals were free of COVID-19, they were released from their respective treatment or quarantine centres.

The total number of current active cases increased to 2,855, with 52 receiving treatment, of which 37 were in critical condition.

The total tests conducted in Bahrain increased to 1,118,837.



210 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain-US committed to strengthening relations

HM the King, HRH the Crown Prince receive the US President's senior advisor Jared Kushner

● More than 120 years of diplomatic relations, 75 years of military cooperation hailed

● US Administration's significant efforts praised in supporting regional peace

● Gulf solidarity, stability depends, on all issues, on Saudi Arabia, Kushner told

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, along with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, met yesterday with the US

President's senior advisor Jared Kushner and an accompanying delegation at Safriya Palace.

During the meeting, HM the King highlighted the historic ties between the Kingdom and the US, which span more than 120 years of diplomatic relations and more than 75 years of military cooperation.

HM King Hamad emphasised the strength of bilateral relations, noting their continued progress in many fields, supported by a joint commitment to deepening ties to benefit the interests of both countries and the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf.

HM the King welcomed Kushner's visit to the Kingdom and noted the US Administration's significant efforts to support peace and stability in the region.

HM King Hamad further emphasised that GCC solidarity and stability depends, on all issues, on Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques; affirming



HM the King with HRH the Crown Prince and Kushner at Safriya Palace

Bahrain's unwavering support to its brotherly Kingdom in achieving further regional prosperity and stability.

HM the King also highlighted the UAE's historic and continued

efforts to support the interests and causes of Arab and Islamic nations, and their determined endeavours to reach a just and comprehensive solution that guarantees the Palestinian people their legitimate rights and lasting peace in the region.

HM the King conveyed his greetings to US President Donald J Trump and wished the US further success and prosperity.

Reform swiftly or face sanctions, Macron tells Lebanese leaders

Reuters | Beirut

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned Lebanese politicians that they risk sanctions if they fail to set the nation on a new course within three months, stepping up pressure for reforms in a country collapsing under the weight of an economic crisis.

Visiting for the second time in less than a month, Macron marked Lebanon's centenary by travelling to a forest outside Beirut to plant a cedar tree, the emblem of a nation facing the biggest threat to its stability since the 1975-1990 civil war.

In central Beirut, riot police and armoured personnel carriers fired teargas to disperse protesters outside parliament as they vented anger at the mismanagement and corruption that has dragged Lebanon into crisis. Some protesters hurled rocks.

Riot police were also deployed outside the venue where Macron met Lebanese political and religious leaders. One group held a banner reading: "Legitimacy comes from the people".

"It's the last chance for this system," Macron was quoted as



Macron is seen at the Beirut port blast site

saying. "I am putting the only thing I have on the table: my political capital."

Macron, who toured Beirut's port that was devastated in an August 4 explosion, adding to the national crisis, said he wanted "credible commitments" and a follow-up mechanism from Lebanon's leaders, including a legislative election in six to 12 months.

Should they fail to shift in the next three months, punitive measures could be imposed, including withholding bailout money and sanctions on the ruling class, the French president said.

Pressure from Macron, who said he would visit again in December, has already pushed major parties to agree on a new

It's the last chance for this system
 FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON

prime minister, Mustapha Adib, who has called for the rapid formation of a government and promised to implement reforms swiftly to secure a deal with the International Monetary Fund.

Forming a cabinet has taken months in the past. But Macron said he would push politicians to move fast and said billions of dollars in funds pledged at a 2018 Paris donor conference in Paris would not be released without reforms.

Saudi king sacks two defence officials over alleged corruption

AFP | Riyadh

Top Saudi military commander and his son were sacked on Monday over graft allegations, state media said, in the government's latest anti-corruption purge.

Joint forces commander Prince Fahad bin Turki—a senior royal family member—and Abdulaziz bin Fahad, the deputy emir of northern Al Juf region, were fired and placed under investigation for corruption, according to the report.

Several other officers and civilian employees of the defence ministry were also being probed for corruption, it added, citing a royal decree from King Salman.

Prince Fahad served as the commander of the Saudi-led military coalition fighting Iran-linked Houthi rebels in neighbouring Yemen.

He was replaced by Mutlaq bin Salim, the deputy chief-of-staff, on the recommendation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, state media said.

Italian FM meets Libya rivals to push for end to war

AP | Cairo

Italy's chief diplomat paid an unannounced visit to Libya yesterday to press for an end to the bloody civil war following cease-fire initiatives by the UN-supported government and rival parliament.

Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio met with Fayez Sarraj, head of the Government of National Accord based in the capital Tripoli, before heading

to eastern Libya to meet with Aguila Saleh, speaker of the rival Tobruk-based House of Representatives, Libyan officials said.

Sarraj's office said in a statement that he discussed with Di Maio yesterday "points of agreement" with Saleh on implementing a permanent cease-fire and demilitarisation of the key city of Sirte and the nearby area of Jufra.

Congratulatory cables sent

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to President Nguyen Phu Trong of Vietnam on his country's Independence Day.

His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, also sent congratulatory cables to President Trong.

HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince each sent similar cables to Vietnam's Vice-President Dang Thi Ngoc

Thanh, and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

Meanwhile, HM King Hamad received a cable of thanks from President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon, in reply to HM's congratulations on Gabon's Independence Day.

HM the King also received a cable of thanks from President Alassane Ouattara of Ivory Coast, in reply to HM's congratulations on his country's National Day.

HM King Hamad further received a cable of thanks from President Patrice Talon of Benin, in reply to HM's congratulations on Benin's National Day.

Nepal lifts virus ban for Bahrain royal climbing expedition

Agencies | Manama, Kathmandu

Nepal is making an exception to its coronavirus (COVID-19) ban on foreign arrivals, with Bahrain's team of elite Royal Guard servicemen set to tackle two major peaks, it has been reported.

The Himalayan country shut its borders in March, including grounding international flights just ahead of the busy spring season, devastating the local tourism sector.

But the Kingdom's multi-member party have been given special permission to enter Nepal to climb the 8,163-metre Mount Manaslu and the 6,119-metre Lobuche.

Government spokesman Yuba Raj Khatri said on Monday that the team is being allowed to enter via a chartered flight. They are due to arrive as early as mid-September, as they are also planning to climb Everest—the world's tallest mountain—next year.

More than 50 Sherpas will join the expedition, with helicopters used to minimise contact, said organiser Seven Summit Treks.

Nepal reopened its mountains—including Everest—in late July for the autumn climbing season, in anticipation that international flights would resume in mid-August. But a jump in virus infections in recent weeks saw the government delay opening up such flights.



Mount Everest is called "Sagarmatha" in Nepali, "Chomolungma" in Tibetan, and "Zhumulangma" in Chinese. The China-Nepal border runs across its summit point

Limited international flights resumed yesterday but only for citizens and foreign diplomats. Domestic flights have not restarted.

Foreigners have also been banned from entering Nepal by land.

The absence of foreign climbers has exacerbated the financial fallout for tourist operators.

The country of 28 million people recorded 9,000 new coronavirus infections and 91 deaths over the last 10 days. It has reported a total of nearly 40,000 cases and more than 200 deaths.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 highest peaks, and foreign climbers are a major source of revenue.

Repatriation flight departs for Trivandrum



A view onboard the repatriation flight

TDT | Manama

An Air India Express flight carrying 176 passengers departed Bahrain yesterday for Trivandrum.

The repatriation flight was part of the Indian government's Vande Bharat Mission to fly home Indian nationals

stranded abroad amidst the global coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. Among the passengers on board were three infants, according to the Indian Embassy's social media.

Several other flights are scheduled to leave until September 9 for various other Indian cities.

HM the King condolences with Indian president

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of condolences to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind on the demise of former President

Pranab Mukherjee, wishing the deceased mercy and forgiveness, and patience for his family.

His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His

Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister also sent cables of condolences to President Kovind on the demise of former President

Mukherjee. They wished the deceased mercy and forgiveness, and patience for his family.

HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince sent similar cables to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

HRH the Crown Prince receives US senior advisor



HRH the Crown Prince with Kushner at Al Salhiya Palace

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister,

received yesterday the US President's senior advisor Jared Kushner at Al Salhiya Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince hosted a lunch banquet on the occasion of the senior advisor's visit to the Kingdom.



HH Shaikh Nasser with Kushner

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His Majesty the King's Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs representative, National Security Advisor, and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al

Khalifa also attended, along with Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Award selection committee meets

TDT | Manama

Minister of Health Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh chaired yesterday the first meeting of the selection committee for the Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Award for Bahraini Doctors, which is an initiative of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

The award is to be presented annually, for the first time this year, during Bahraini Doctors' Day celebrations on the first Wednesday of November in honour of outstanding Bahraini doctors in medical, clinical and treatment research.

The Health Minister stressed that Bahrain is grateful to have a group of renowned experts in the medical field for this prestigious award.

The selection committee includes top officials from Bahrain and six international experts in the field of medical research from different countries.

During yesterday's meeting, a number of topics were discussed, including the establishment and formation of a secretariat for the award, its statute, and the tasks of the committee.

The proposed schedule of the



The Health Minister chairing yesterday's virtual meeting

committee's meetings and work was also reviewed, and the candidates' form and evaluation criteria for the winners' selection process were also tackled.

The Health Minister called on all Bahraini doctors to apply and participate in the award, which aims to appreciate and motivate medical professionals for their dedication and efforts.

The committee noted that the final day to receive applications for the award will be on Saturday, September 5.

Yesterday's virtual meeting was attended by committee

members including HRH the Prime Minister's Court advisor Abdullah Abbas Hamad, HRH the Prime Minister's Court Evaluation and Analysis director Farida Abdul Rahim Khonji, Bahrain Medical Society president Dr Ghada Al Qasim, World Health Organisation Eastern Mediterranean Region director Dr Ahmed bin Salem Al Mandhari, Arabian Gulf University president Dr Khalid Abdul Rahman Al Ohaly, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland-Medical University of Bahrain president Professor Samir Al Atoum, and

medical research experts Professor Hanan Hassan Balkhi (Saudi Arabia), Professor Kenneth Christopher (US), Professor Sotirius Nedios (Germany/Greece), and Professor Cathal Kelly (Ireland).

HRH the Prime Minister earlier this year issued directives to celebrate Bahraini Doctors' Day and launch the \$200,000 award carrying his name.

The award shall be granted in two categories: the Innovation and Creative Award in Therapeutic, Clinical and Medical Research, and the Extended Loyalty and Giving Award.



Health Minister calls on Bahraini doctors to participate in the award before the application period closes on Saturday

SCIA president becomes Muslim Council of Elders member

TDT | Manama

Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA) president Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa has joined the Muslim Council of Elders.

Muslim Council of Elders chairman Grand Imam Sheikh Dr Ahmed Al Tayeb, Sheikh of

Al Azhar, issued an edict appointing Shaikh Abdulrahman as member, in recognition of his long-standing efforts and the SCIA's pioneering role in the Kingdom.

The Muslim Council of Elders is an independent international organisation that was established in Ramadan 21, 1435 Hijri, corre-

sponding to July 18, 2014, to promote peace in Islamic societies.

Based in Abu Dhabi, the council seeks to harness efforts to advocate the unity of the Islamic nation, extinguish fires and end conflicts ravaging Muslim countries, due to decades-long sectarianism and violence.



Shaikh Abdulrahman

Foreign Minister receives Italian Ambassador

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Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullahif bin Rashid Al Zayani received in his office yesterday Italian Ambassador Paola Amadei, in the presence of Bahrain Ambassador to Italy Nasser Mohammed Al Belooshi.

The Foreign Ministry's European Affairs and the European Union director Ambassador Shaikha Aisha bint Ahmed bin Saqr Al Khalifa was also present.

During their meeting, the Foreign Minister praised the distinguished friendship and cooperation between Bahrain and Italy and its development and prosperity in various fields. He stressed the importance of

continuing cooperation and joint coordination and promoting it to broader horizons, in support of the common interests of the two friendly countries.

Ambassador Amadei expressed her pride in the advanced bilateral relations between the Kingdom and Italy. She expressed her country's aspiration to develop these relations at all levels, for the benefit of both nations.

Ambassador Amadei wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

Other ways to enhance cooperation and joint coordination were also discussed, in addition to issues of common interest.



The Foreign Minister with Ambassador Amadei and other officials during their meeting

TRA recognised for excellence

Authority becomes first organisation in Bahrain to receive prestigious European Foundation for Quality Management award

TDT | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) announced yesterday that it had received the European Foundation for Quality Management's (EFQM) "Recognised for Excellence Four-Star Level" Award—becoming the first organisation in Bahrain to have received such an honour.

The TRA began its work towards meeting the EFQM's requirements in 2013, when an assessment team from their headquarters in Belgium set forth recommendations that would help the TRA qualify for recognition, which led to the first milestone, receiving the certificate for "Commitment to Excellence", and becoming a member of EFQM.

The TRA set a work-plan based on EFQM's recommendations that target areas of focus, such as leadership, strategy, people, and stakeholders.



This prestigious award is a testament to the vision of our Kingdom's wise leadership and their continuous support towards the pursuit of excellence.

TRA ACTING GENERAL DIRECTOR SHAIKH NASSER BIN MOHAMED AL KHALIFA

Between 2013 and 2017, the TRA began a number of strate-

gic projects that would bridge the gap towards excellence, including the development of a strategy system, leadership programme, career development programme, succession planning, performance management system, reward system, and a number of other major projects that impacted their results to a point where the TRA was ready to submit its outcomes to the EFQM.

"This prestigious award is a testament to the vision of our Kingdom's wise leadership and their continuous support towards the pursuit of excellence," said TRA acting general director Shaikh Nasser bin Mohamed Al Khalifa.

"It is an honor for the TRA to be the first organisation to receive this award for all its directorates in Bahrain, and we welcome the opportunity to share our experience with any organisation seeking to achieve the same."

Also commenting in the ceremony, EFQM CEO Russel Longmuir stated: "Normally it would take an organisation three years to increase by a star, and in a very short journey the TRA managed to get four stars, which is a pretty amazing achievement. I have to say how important this is"

"In 31 years, we have assessed more than 50,000 organisations and the TRA is the first to have a remote site visit. They are world leaders in that sense and I have

to congratulate them for their agility and their response to this massive challenge we are facing.

"To accept that challenge and move forward with a remote site visit, and still deliver four stars, is a phenomenal achievement."

Founded in 1989, EFQM is the world's foremost leader in management frameworks, fusing data-driven insights, curated learning, and development and networking opportunities for the benefit of organisations worldwide.

In being recognised by EFQM, a comprehensive and complete review of all aspects of an organisation and how well it is being managed and led is assessed. An organisation's strategic challenges and objectives together with a review of performance and results are all taken into account

DID YOU KNOW

Courts issue 28,000 judgments so far during pandemic



Al Buainain

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's courts have issued more than 28,000 judgments during the past six months, from February to July, Court of Cassation head and Supreme Judicial Council vice-president Chancellor Abdulla bin Hassan Al Buainain announced yesterday.

The Court of Cassation chief expressed his deep appreciation for the efforts of the members of the judiciary in achieving this number, while adhering to the precautionary measures put in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

He expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments for their efforts, and praised the role of lawyers and their cooperation in implementing the procedures.

The Court of Cassation head stressed that the precautionary measures put in place are based on preserving the rights of litigants and achieving justice through the continuation of court work, while at the same time protecting the health and the safety of lawyers, litigants and auditors in avoiding all forms of gatherings in various judicial facilities.

He added that the settlement of more than 28,000 cases during this period, which is still ongoing, reflects the firm and accumulated achievements of the justice system in Bahrain, and its keenness to carry out its responsibilities in preserving the rights and freedoms of all.

He noted that the electronic services have contributed to supporting the work of the courts, enhancing the speed of adjudication of cases, and facilitating the services of litigants and lawyers. He added that work continues on judicial development, especially in its electronic transformation.

Labour Minister issues regulations for private training centres

Precautionary measures include:

- Taking the temperature of employees, training staff, trainees on a daily basis

- Sterilising all shared tools and facilities before and after use

- Ensuring social distancing and limiting the number of trainees to 10 per class

- Providing face masks and banning snacks, drinks at the facility

TDT | Manama

Training institutions will need to adhere to a series of basic precautionary requirements as they resume operations tomorrow amidst the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan issued a circular yesterday that included all the measures that need to be followed.

The Labour Minister affirmed that the gradual resumption of training comes within the framework of the public's requirement in reviving this sector, due to its importance in investing in human resources.

The circular stated that owners of training institutions, members of the administrative and training staff, and all trainees must adhere to Health Ministry directives to prevent the risks of the spread of COVID-19.

Precautionary measures include taking the temperature of all employees, training staff, and trainees on a daily basis, sterilising all shared tools and facilities before and after use, ensuring social distancing, and limiting the number of trainees to 10 individuals per class. In addition, face masks must be provided and snacks and drinks at the facility must be banned.

The circular encouraged the continuation of virtual training as the best option during the current challenging conditions.

Legislative, executive branches' cooperation hailed

TDT | Manama

Shura Council chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh affirmed yesterday that the integration of efforts and joint constructive work between the legislative and executive branches have resulted in the success of developing national legislation.

He stressed continuing this coordination in order to promote the comprehensive development march that the Kingdom has been witnessing since the launch of the reform project by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. This came during his meeting with Shura and Parliament Affairs Minister Ghanem bin Fadl Al Buainain, where they discussed a number of issues and arrangements in preparation for the third ordinary session of the fifth legislative session.

The Shura chairman praised HM the King's continuous support for legislative work and his directives that represent the basis for



Al Saleh, right, during his meeting with Al Buainain

all legislative achievements in Bahrain.

He also appreciated the government's keenness, under the leadership of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and with the support and follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to open more prospects for cooperation and consultation on various issues.

The Shura chairman said that past sessions wit-

nessed joint work between the legislative and executive authorities, and continuous meetings have reflected national responsibility and affirmed the values and principles of democracy, while harnessing efforts to build on the prosperity and progress achieved in various fields.

The minister affirmed that the esteemed government will spare no effort in strengthening cooperation and coordination with the Shura Council, to continue reaping legislative achievements and successes in the interest of the nation.

Customs fees, taxes payable online

Interior Ministry launches new channel as part of digital transformation of all services

TDT | Manama

Customs fees and taxes can now be paid via the national portal bahrain.bh without the need to physically visit service centres, the Ministry of Interior's Customs Affairs announced yesterday.

Customs Affairs Finance head Hamad Buhijji said: "The new service, provided in collaboration with the Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA), is in line with the directives of Minister of Interior General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa to digitally transform all the ministry's services.

"Customs fees, and the tax payment service, in particular, attract a high volume of requests, standing at approximately 73,000 transactions prior to

the service going online."

He praised the partnership between Customs Affairs and the IGA, and expressed his appreciation for the authority's efforts in making this service available to the public following a restructuring and revamping of processes and procedures, which are aimed at making it as accessible as possible.

Beneficiaries of the new service include customs brokers; importers with Bahraini or GCC citizenships; Bahrain or GCC commercial registration holders; governmental and non-governmental entities; international organisations, military missions, embassies and consulates; universities, schools, and other academic, professional, and technical training institutions accredited by the Ministry of Education;

Customs fees, and the tax payment service, in particular, attract a high volume of requests, standing at approximately 73,000 transactions prior to the service going online.

CUSTOMS AFFAIRS FINANCE HEAD HAMAD BUHIJJI



and Bahrain Customs itself.

Payments can be made via credit or debit cards by visiting bahrain.bh and selecting "Pay Customs Fees and Taxes". Users should then enter their Customs Declaration Numbers and Im-

porter Identity Numbers.

To view importer identity types, users can select "Help" or "Continue", which will display the details of the customs declaration including the Declaration Number, Importer Identity

Number, total fees in Bahraini Dinars, and other details of due fees and taxes.

Applicants should enter personal contact details such as phone numbers or e-mails and make their payments to complete their transactions.

Once done, payment details will be automatically displayed, showing the payment receipt, the customs declaration, fees, and the applicant's details. Beneficiaries must keep a copy of the receipt either by printing it or having it e-mailed to them.

The new service aims to streamline online transactions, help maintain social distancing practices throughout the coronavirus pandemic, and enhance government performance, saving the beneficiaries' time and effort.



The new service aims to streamline online transactions, help maintain social distancing practices throughout the coronavirus pandemic, and enhance government performance

Ma'an programme committee discusses plans for new academic year

TDT | Manama

Capital Governor and Ma'an (Together) programme against violence and addiction head Shaikh Hisham bin Abdurahman Al Khalifa directed yesterday to prepare a plan to implement the programme in schools, in line with the precautionary measures in place to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Education.

This came as the Ma'an chief presided over the sixth meeting of the programme's executive



A screenshot of the committee's meeting taking place

to send their children to regular classes or have them continue with distance learning, takes into account all humanitarian conditions of students and their families.

It also reflects the keenness of the wise leadership to provide all conditions that help maintain the health and safety of all members of society.

A presentation was made during the meeting about the preparations of the programme and the mechanism of implementation in schools during the new academic year, which includes the adoption of both classroom teaching and distance learning.

The Ma'an chief directed to prepare for all developments that would maintain the continuity of the Ma'an programme, for the benefit of all youth and to increase their awareness and protection from all negative behaviours related to violence and addiction.

committee, which was held through virtual communication technology.

The Ma'an head said that the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, leaving it to parents to choose whether

Works Minister stresses keenness to implement Cabinet's directives

TDT | Manama

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Eng Essam bin Abdulla Khalaf held a distant meeting with Muharraq second constituency representative MP Ibrahim Al Nufaeie.

The virtual meeting focused on the constituency's service needs.

The Works Minister lauded the major role played by the members of the legislative branch in serving the nation and its citizens, stressing the importance of continuous cooperation between the legislature and the executive to achieve public interests.

He emphasised the Works Ministry's keenness to implement the directives of the Cabinet, chaired by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, by sparing no effort in order to deliver the best ser-



The Works Ministry will spare no effort in order to deliver the best services to citizens and residents

WORKS, MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS AND URBAN PLANNING MINISTER ENG ESSAM BIN ABDULLA KHALAF

vices to citizens and residents. Al Nufaeie commended the efforts of the Works Ministry to implement service projects across the kingdom.

BIPD achievements amidst virus crisis hailed

TDT | Manama

Information Minister and Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD) Board of Trustees chairman Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi underscored the institute's achievements amid the exceptional circumstances of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

He pointed out the ongoing Implementation of programmes aimed at backing national efforts to curtail the impact of the pandemic.

The minister was speaking as he chaired yesterday, through the visual communication technology, the third regular meeting of the BIPD board, in the presence of board members and the institute's executive director.

Discussions focused on previous achievements and the institute's remaining



The Information Minister during the board's virtual meeting

programmes for this year.

The board members praised the institute's previous accomplishments despite the exceptional cir-

cumstances, pointing out the implementation of 45 functions which benefited 4,577 participants from all components of Bahraini society.

The meeting also cast light on the programmes carried out to boost political awareness among citizens, according to the provisions of the constitution and the National Action Charter, and to provide support to parliamentary and municipal work in the Kingdom.

The BIPD board reviewed the mechanisms followed by the institute in implementing programmes through the use of modern technology, in tune with the decisions of the coordination committee, led by HRH the Crown Prince, and the precautionary measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

The board also reviewed programmes the institute intends to carry out in light of its plan for the next phase, which include training and awareness activities for targeted groups.

Information Minister receives master's thesis copy



The Information Minister is presented the master's thesis copy by Al Qassem

TDT | Manama

Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi received in his office yesterday staff member Haya Saleh Al Qassem, who presented the minister with a copy of her master's thesis in media from the University of Bahrain College of Arts.

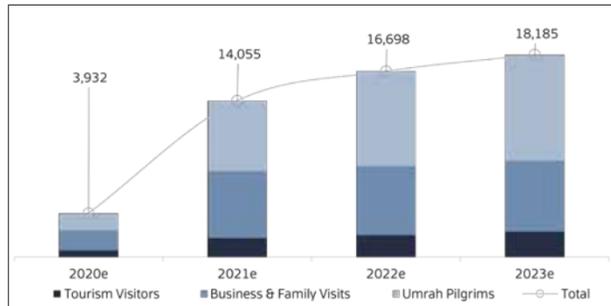
The thesis was on the role of planning to develop media performance on television at the Ministry of Infor-

mation Affairs.

The Information Minister congratulated Al Qassem for obtaining the master's degree, and expressed his pride in the efforts of the young national professionals in raising their qualifications and obtaining higher educational degrees, as well as for their outstanding contributions in the field of research.

The Information Minister wished Al Qassem further success in her professional career.

Lower claims, mandatory insurance to boost Saudi Insurance Cos: SICO



Health Insurance for the new segment would positively boost the premium collection for Saudi health Insurers (in '000)

TDT | Manama

People making less frequent hospital visits, amid the COVID-19 lockdown, and greater enforcement of mandatory health insurance by Saudi Government would temporarily boost the second quarter 2020 earnings of Saudi healthcare insurance companies, said a SICO research report.

The short-term views are in the latest report published by SICO Research, a division of Bahrain-based regional asset manager, broker and investment bank SICO.

The report, which “perceives a positive outlook for the insurance market” says as lockdown eases, “more than 80 per cent of those deferred claims will spill over to the second half of the year.”

SICO report also tells insurance companies in the Saudi motor sector not to expect higher claims on the back of the lower claims during lockdown.

“These benefits will boost earnings, although they might be partially offset by the two-months premium waiver offered by the insurers,” the report adds.

Medium to long-term view

With revenues expected to be driven by mandatory new policies purchases and higher

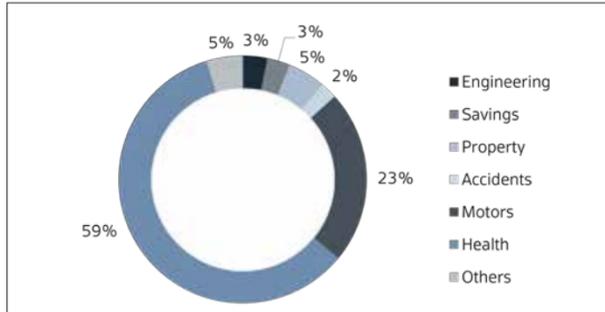
premium led by medical inflation, the report says medium to long-term also bodes well for Saudi health insurance.

“Insurance policies by Saudi residents is expected to increase owing to greater enforcement of mandatory health insurance for Saudi nationals in the private sector and as public sector entities opt for private health insurance to lower the burden of medical infrastructure on the Saudi government. As more Saudi nationals join the workforce and replace expats, this may lead to higher valued insurance products,” the report highlights.

Starting FY20, it has become mandatory for Umrah and tourist visa holders to purchase health insurance. This new revenue is expected to contribute 7-8 per cent in additional premium to the health insurance sector, once the ongoing situation stabilizes, the report adds.

The Saudi government, the report says, is targeting a total of 15 million pilgrims in 2020-2021, growing to 30 m by 2030 compared to the 9 m visitors it received in FY18-19. An additional 10 m pilgrims would add an expected 6pc to the sustainable health premium collection.

GWP per life has witnessed strong growth in the KSA, with a 7pc CAGR in 2012-2019 and



Saudi Insurance Sector premium break-down

an average of 12pc in the past two years. Changes to the ‘Table of Benefits’ every three to four years combined with high medical inflation are expected to continue supporting gross written premium growth by an average of 4-6pc each year.

Motor insurance

The report expects the fragmented nature of the Saudi motor insurance market to continue pressurizing margins, as

recent regulations resulting in stricter enforcement of motor insurance may result in higher volumes.

The emergence of online motor aggregators is expected to further encourage price competition and squeeze insurance margins as they receive commissions, with motor GWP migration to online aggregators in 2019 amounting to approximately SAR 2-2.5 billion out of a total of SAR 9 bn.

AM Best affirms gig-Bahrain credit rating of A- (Excellent)

TDT | Manama

AM Best International announced affirming the financial strength rating A- (Excellent) and the long-term issuer credit rating of “A-“ of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (gig-Bahrain). The outlook for both ratings is stable.

The ratings, after its annual review, AM Best said, reflect gig-Bahrain’s balance sheet strength, which AM Best categorizes as very strong, as well as its strong operating performance, neutral business profile and appropriate enterprise risk management. The ratings also factor in the financial strength of gig-Bahrain’s parent company, Gulf Insurance Group K.S.C.P.

Dr Abdulla Sultan, CEO of gig-Bahrain stated that the management is very pleased with the A- Credit Rating, given the company has recently witnessed one of the most difficult global economic cycles in recent history.

He further stated that 2019 was a particularly difficult year



Dr Abdulla Sultan, CEO of gig-Bahrain

for the company as Bahrain had experienced economic challenges due to severe price-fluctuations in the world oil market and continued rise in public debt. “Fiscal balancing measures introduced by Bahrain helped the economy to some extent. Also, 2020 witnessed the worst ever pandemic followed by a sudden sharp further drop in oil prices in March 2020.”

It may be noted that gig Bahrain and its subsidiary gig Bahrain-Takaful are the only local Bahraini insurance companies to be rated A-.

AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BAHRAIN BRANCH

Condensed statement of financial position As at 30 June 2020		
	30 June 2020 (Unaudited) BD	31 December 2019 (Audited) BD
ASSETS		
Right-of-use assets	28,145	2,848
Property and equipment	5,520	6,307
Loans to policyholders	982,284	1,127,532
Investment securities:		
Available-for-sale	34,261,125	40,709,326
At fair value through profit or loss	25,082,492	26,443,130
Reinsurance contract assets	759,773	221,576
Premium debtors and other receivables	1,266,017	781,335
Cash and bank balances	2,931,682	1,286,964
Total assets	65,317,038	70,579,018
HEAD OFFICE EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office equity		
Head Office account	5,630,300	8,911,552
Available-for-sale investments fair value reserve	2,106,762	1,328,695
Total Head Office equity	7,737,062	10,240,247
LIABILITIES		
Provision for employees' end of service indemnity	15,017	10,684
Insurance contract liabilities	53,770,632	55,151,966
Due to policyholders	933,865	3,015,940
Lease liabilities	23,926	2,883
Accounts payable	2,836,536	2,157,298
Total liabilities	57,579,976	60,338,771
Total Head Office equity and liabilities	65,317,038	70,579,018

Country Manager
Fadi Abou Ghali

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For more information, visit www.metlife.com.

Condensed statement of profit or loss (unaudited) For the six month period ended 30 June 2020		
	2020 BD	2019 BD
Income		
Gross insurance premium	7,672,273	7,366,010
Insurance premium ceded to reinsurers	(1,793,078)	(1,582,838)
Net insurance premium	5,879,195	5,783,172
Interest and other investment income	744,568	881,953
Commission income	158,538	128,564
Allowance for doubtful debts no longer required written back	-	13,849
Net income	6,782,301	6,807,538
Expenses		
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses	(1,819,911)	(1,648,433)
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses recovered from reinsurers	740,042	547,034
Insurance benefits	(3,160,892)	(3,221,756)
Expenses for the acquisition of insurance and investment contracts	(369,336)	(147,419)
Other operating expenses	(567,479)	(552,060)
	(5,177,576)	(5,022,634)
Profit for the period	1,604,725	1,784,904
Condensed statement of comprehensive income (unaudited) For the six month period ended 30 June 2020		
Profit for the period	1,604,725	1,784,904
Other comprehensive income/(loss):		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net changes in the fair value of available-for-sale investment securities	778,067	1,656,423
Total other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period	778,067	1,656,423
Total comprehensive income for the period	2,382,792	3,441,327

Auditors
Deloitte & Touche (M.E.)

Israel, UAE will cooperate on financial services

Deal signed for cooperation in financial services

Banking services, payment regulations deals on way

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israel and the United Arab Emirates agreed yesterday to set up a joint committee to cooperate on financial services, aiming to promote investment between the two countries, an Israeli statement said.

An Israeli delegation is in Abu Dhabi on a trip to finalise a pact marking open relations between Israel and the Gulf state.

Representatives from both countries signed the understanding, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in the statement.

One focus, Netanyahu said, would be on “cooperation in the field of financial services and removing financial barriers for making investments between the countries, as well as pro-



A high-level delegation from the US and Israel arrives in the UAE (file)

moting joint investments in the capital markets.”

The countries will also collaborate in banking services and payment regulations, he said.

Israeli officials have been quick to play up the economic benefits of the accord, which once formalised would also include agreements on tourism, technology, energy, healthcare and security, among other areas.

A number of Israeli and Emirati businesses have already signed deals since the normalisation deal was announced.

Classifieds

THE DAILY **tribune**

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US isolated as it vetoes UN resolution on foreign militants

Reuters | New York

The United States on Monday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on foreign militants fighting with groups like Islamic State because it did not address repatriation, an issue that has long pitted Washington against its European allies.

The other 14 council members voted in favor of the resolution drafted by Indonesia, isolating the United States.

The US ambassador to the United Nations, Kelly Craft, said the draft text aiming to reinforce international action on counterterrorism "was worse than no resolution at all."

"It fails to even include reference to the crucial first step - repatriation to countries of origin or nationality," she said. "The United States will not participate in such a cynical and willfully oblivious farce."

Malaysia to bar long-term pass holders from India, Indonesia, Philippines

● The entry ban includes permanent residents, expatriates, students and those on spouse visas and participants of Malaysia's My Second Home programme

Reuters | Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia said it would bar entry of long-term immigration pass holders from India, Indonesia and the Philippines from Sept. 7, in a bid to curtail imported coronavirus cases amid a spate of new clusters in the country.

Health authorities in Southeast Asia's third-largest economy have recorded over 9,300 cases as of Tuesday, and 128 deaths, with new cases found in clusters detected in at least four states.

The entry ban on pass holders from the three countries



Shoppers wearing protective masks shop in Chinatown, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

will include permanent residents, expatriates, students and those on spouse visas and participants of Malaysia's My Second Home programme, senior minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said.

"The decision was made on the advice of the health ministry to clamp down on the spread of imported COVID-19 cases," Ismail Sabri said in a televised news conference.

India is the third most affected country by the pandemic behind the United States and Brazil, with its coronavirus tally reaching nearly 3.7 million on Tuesday.

A total of 7,505 people have died of the coronavirus in Indonesia, the highest in the region, while the Philippines, which has reported over 224,000 cases, has seen a continuous rise in infections.

India leads global rise in new weekly COVID-19 cases, while deaths down - WHO



A rickshaw way puller wearing a protective face mask waits for customers in the old quarters of Delhi, India

Reuters | Geneva

India reported the most new COVID-19 cases of any country in the past week, its nearly half a million fresh infections pushing the global tally up by 1 per cent, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday.

Overall global new deaths in the past seven days fell by 3 per cent compared to the previous week, the WHO reported, adding that overall new infections around the world rose by 1.8 million.

The respiratory disease is also spreading in the Americas, which continues to account for more than half of reported cases and deaths worldwide, although there have been slight decreases in some areas, WHO said in its latest update.

Peru, Mexico, Colombia and Argentina have seen "increasing trends", it said.

Spain, Russia, France, and Ukraine reported the highest number of new cases in Europe in the week to Aug. 30, with a resurgence in Spain matching peaks seen last March and April, the UN agency said. New cases in Italy jumped by 85pc, it said.

China pushing to double nuclear warhead arsenal

China's nukes will evolve over the next decade: Pentagon



People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers march next to the entrance to the Forbidden City in Beijing

● The number is expected to double over 10 years

● China is developing the capacity to do develop an air-launched ballistic missile as well

AFP News

The Chinese military is pressing to double its 200-plus nuclear warheads within a decade with the ability to launch them aboard ballistic missiles by land, sea and air, the Pentagon said in a report yesterday.

Aside from aiming for technological parity with the United States, the People's Liberation Army is also focused on conducting joint operations, to be able to deter or defeat any US effort to intervene on Taiwan's behalf, the report said.

It said that PLA has already matched or surpassed the United States military in several areas, including shipbuilding, land-based ballistic and cruise missiles, and air defense systems.

And in its first public estimate of China's nuclear capacity, the annual report said the country has warheads numbering "in

the low 200s" in its nuclear stockpile, much less than the 300 or more estimated by independent analysts.

That number is expected to double over 10 years. China can already launch nuclear weapons by ballistic missile from land and sea, and is developing the capacity to do develop an air-launched ballistic missile as well, the report said.

"It is likely that Beijing will seek to develop a military by mid-century that is equal to -- or in some cases superior to -- the US military, or that of any other great power that the PRC views as a threat," the report said.

If China achieves that goal and the United States fails to address it, the report said, it "will have serious implications for US national interests and the security of the international rules-based order."

200
Chinese land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles that are "capable of threatening the United States is expected to grow to roughly 200 in the next five years

News in brief

◆ **Japan's health ministry said on Tuesday it planned to participate in the World Health Organization's COVID-19 vaccine programme known as COVAX.** A ministry official told reporters Japan would join COVAX, which had an Aug. 31 deadline for countries to express interest.

The decision is non-binding, the official said, and financial contributions would be decided ahead of a Sept. 18 deadline. The COVAX programme, launched in late April, is designed to serve as an insurance policy to secure access to COVID-19 vaccines.



Japan to participate in WHO vaccine programme

◆ **Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who has consistently downplayed the severity of the coronavirus outbreak,** said on Monday that nobody will be forced to have the vaccine against the pandemic once it is developed.

Bolsonaro says nobody will be forced to have virus vaccine



◆ **Turkish police have arrested Islamic State's top figure in Turkey and they suspect the militant group planned to carry out attacks,** Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said yesterday. He said the operation to capture the suspect was launched after security forces recently detected an increase in activity by the jihadist militants, based in neighbouring Syria and Iraq.

◆ **Lawyers for Donald Trump will ask a federal appeals court yesterday to block the Manhattan district attorney from accessing the US president's tax returns** in connection with a criminal probe of his business practices. Trump has spent a year fighting a grand jury subpoena from District Attorney Cyrus Vance to the president's longtime accounting firm Mazars USA, for eight years of Trump's personal and corporate returns.

Trump appeals to block accessing tax returns

◆ **South Korean prosecutors indicted the Samsung Group's Jay Y. Lee on Tuesday on suspicion of accounting fraud and stock price manipulation in connection with a 2015 merger,** dealing a new blow to the head of one of Asia's most valuable companies. Lee, who has already served jail time in connection with a separate case, and 10 other current and former Samsung executives were indicted over the merger of two Samsung affiliates that helped Lee

Samsung leader Jay Y. Lee indicted in South Korea on allegations linked to 2015 merger



assume greater control of the group's crown jewel, Samsung Electronics. The indictment paves the way for Lee, 52, to undergo trial on the allegations. He will not be detained as a Seoul court denied a request from prosecutors in June for an arrest warrant.

◆ **Canadian researchers said Monday they are investigating a popular superfood -- the acai berry -- as a treatment to prevent Covid-19's most severe symptoms.** Past studies have shown the berry's extract may act as an inflammation inhibitor, which doctors believe could help prohibit the severe inflammatory response caused by the coronavirus.

Canadian researchers said Monday they are investigating a popular superfood -- the acai berry -- as a treatment to prevent Covid-19's most severe symptoms.



Global		Countries worst affected						
Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
1 USA	6,224,252	+12,456	188,019	+283	72,929	20,589	41	964
2 Brazil	3,919,452	+8,551	121,727	+212	291,514	21,227	1,519	9,073
3 India	3,758,705	+70,766	66,419	+984	61,491	8,930		7,145
4 Russia	1,000,048	+4,729	17,299	+123	77,657	7,620	90	20,045
5 Peru	652,037		28,944		81,024	4,215	154	16,759
6 South Africa	627,041		14,149		115,895	2,901	65	42,380
7 Colombia	615,168		19,663					
8 Mexico	599,560	+3,719	64,414	+256				
9 Spain	462,858		29,152	+58				
10 Argentina	417,735		8,730	+70				
11 Chile	413,145	+1,419	11,321	+32				
12 Iran	376,894	+1,682	21,672	+101				
13 UK	337,168	+1,295	41,504	+3				
14 Saudi Arabia	316,670	+898	3,929	+32				

Covid-19 Cases: 25,772,530

Deaths: 857,348

Recovered: 18,043,222

New cases: +144,239

New deaths: +2,924

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	98,939		5,421		72,929	20,589	41	964
Saudi Arabia	316,670	+898	3,929	+32	291,514	21,227	1,519	9,073
UAE	70,805	+574	384		61,491	8,930		7,145
Kuwait	85,811	+702	534	+3	77,657	7,620	90	20,045
Oman	85,928	+206	689	+4	81,024	4,215	154	16,759
Qatar	118,994	+216	198	+1	115,895	2,901	65	42,380

'Hotel Rwanda' hero taken from Dubai?

● **Rwandan police said Rusesabagina was arrested on terrorism charges on an international arrest warrant**

● **His daughter, Anaise said that her father had last called them on Thursday from Dubai**

● **Human Rights Watch said in 2017 the government routinely tortured detainees**

Reuters | Nairobi

The family of Paul Rusesabagina - hailed a hero in a Hollywood movie about Rwanda's 1994 genocide - have accused authorities in Kigali of kidnapping him, speaking out a day after he was paraded before media in handcuffs.

Rusesabagina was played by Don Cheadle in the Oscar-nominated film 'Hotel Rwanda', which told how hotel manager Rusesabagina used his job and his connections with the Hutu elite to protect Tutsis fleeing the slaughter.

Rwandan police said Rusesabagina - who called for armed resistance to the government in a YouTube video - was arrested on terrorism charges on an international arrest warrant. His family dispute that.

"He was kidnapped and taken by extraordinary rendition to Rwanda," his daughter Carine



Paul Rusesabagina, the man who was hailed a hero in a Hollywood movie about the country's 1994 genocide is detained and paraded in front of media in handcuffs at the headquarters of Rwanda Investigation Bureau in Kigali, Rwanda

“He was kidnapped and taken by extraordinary rendition to Rwanda”

HIS DAUGHTER CARINE KANIMBA POSTED ON FACEBOOK

Kanimba posted on Facebook.

The spokesman for the Rwanda Investigation Bureau did not respond to a request for comment. The ministers for justice and foreign affairs did not respond to messages seeing comment.

Another daughter, Anaise, told the BBC World Service radio that her father had last called them on Thursday from Dubai.

"I believe he was kidnapped because he would never go to Rwanda on his own will," Anaise told the BBC.

Authorities in Dubai, part of the United Arab Emirates, did not return calls seeking comment on the arrest or whether the two nations have an extradition agreement.

Rusesabagina moved abroad after the genocide and won worldwide acclaim, receiving the United States' highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 2005.

But some genocide survivors and President Paul Kagame have disputed Rusesabagina's account of rescuing Tutsis or accused him of exploiting the genocide for commercial gain.

Calls for armed struggle

A Belgian citizen who resides in the United States, Rusesabagina has called for armed rebellion against Kagame, who came to power in 1994 when he led troops into Rwanda to end the genocide.

In December 2018, Rusesabagina posted a video on Youtube denouncing Kagame and calling for an armed struggle.

The video identified him as

the president of the Mouvement Rwandais pour le Changement Démocratique and the National Liberation Forces, which have been linked to attacks in Rwanda.

"The time has come for us to use any means possible to bring about change in Rwanda as all political means have been tried and failed," he said. "Rwandan people can no longer stand the cruelty."

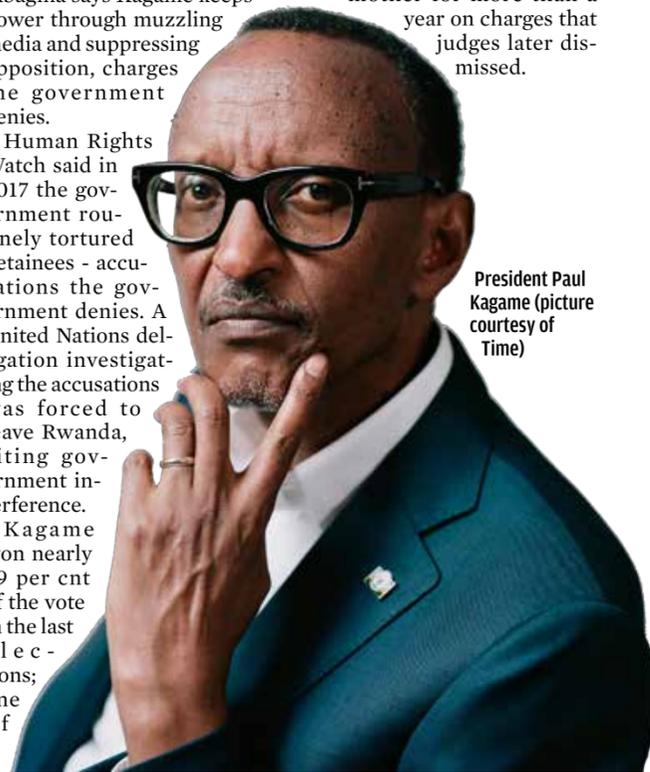
Kagame's stabilisation of Rwanda, economic reforms and anti-corruption drive won international plaudits - but Rusesabagina says Kagame keeps power through muzzling media and suppressing opposition, charges the government denies.

Human Rights Watch said in 2017 the government routinely tortured detainees - accusations the government denies. A United Nations delegation investigating the accusations was forced to leave Rwanda, citing government interference.

Kagame won nearly 99 per cent of the vote in the last elections; one of

Rusesabagina was played by Don Cheadle in the Oscar-nominated film 'Hotel Rwanda', which told how hotel manager Rusesabagina used his job and his connections with the Hutu elite to protect Tutsis fleeing the slaughter.

his main opponents, Diane Rwigara, was jailed with her mother for more than a year on charges that judges later dismissed.



President Paul Kagame (picture courtesy of Time)

Earth's ice sheets tracking worst-case climate scenarios

AFP News

The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets, which hold enough frozen water to lift oceans 65 metres, are tracking the UN's worst-case scenarios for sea level rise, researchers said Monday, highlighting flaws in current climate change models.

Mass loss from 2007 to 2017 due to melt-water and crumbling ice aligned almost perfectly with the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change's (IPCC) most extreme forecasts, which see the two ice sheets adding up to 40 centimetres (nearly 16 inches) to global oceans by 2100, they reported in Nature Climate Change.

Such an increase would have a devastating impact worldwide, increasing the destructive power of storm surges and exposing coastal regions home to hundreds of millions of people to repeated and severe flooding.

That is nearly three times more than mid-range projections from the IPCC's last major Assessment Report in 2014, which predicts a 70-centimetre rise in sea level from all sources, including mountain glaciers and the expan-

Greenland ice sheet retreat

Calculation using high emission scenario, considered close to conditions today

Extent of ice sheet in 2008

Estimated extent of ice sheet by 2100

Greenland's potential contribution to sea level rise

Melting at present rate

In 50 years 2.5-10 cm

In 80 years 12.7-33 cm

In 200 years 48-160 cm

Ilulissat

Nuuk

500 km

Record heat in Antarctica

20 degrees barrier broken for the first time on the continent February 9

Argentina

Atlantic Ocean

Seymour Island

20.75°C

ANTARCTICA

South Pole

Indian Ocean

Pacific Ocean

1000 km

Ross Sea

sion of ocean water as it warms.

Despite this clear mismatch between the observed reality of accelerating ice sheet disintegration and the models tracking those trends, a special IPCC report last year on the planet's frozen regions maintained the same end-of-century projections for Greenland, and allowed for only a small increase from Antarctica under the highest greenhouse gas emissions scenario.

"We need to come up with a new worst-case scenario for the ice sheets because they are already melting at a rate in line with our current one," lead author Thomas Slater, a researcher at the Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling at the University of Leeds, said.

"Sea level projections are critical in helping governments plan climate policy, mitigation and adaptation strategies," he added.

Ice sheet losses at the upper end of the IPCC forecasts would by itself expose some 50 million people to annual coastal flooding worldwide by mid-century, according to research published last year.

Balance upended

Total sea level rise of at least a metre would likely require spending upward of \$70 billion a year in sea walls and other defences against flooding.

Several factors explain

why the climate models underlying UN projections for sea level might have given short shrift to ice sheets, according to the new analysis.

Ice sheet models do well in describing the long-term impact of gradual global warming, which has seen temperatures at the poles rise far more quickly than for the planet as a whole.

But they have failed to account for short-term fluctuations in weather patterns that are, themselves, deeply influenced by climate change.

"For Greenland, much of the ice loss is now being driven by surface melt events during hot summers -- processes not captured in the AR5 simulations," said Slater, referring to the 2014 IPCC report, the fifth since 1992.

"We need to understand these better to improve our sea level rise predictions."

Until the turn of the 21st century, the West Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets generally accumulated as much mass as they shed. Runoff, in other words, was compensated by fresh snowfall.

But over the last two decades ago, the gathering pace of global warming has upended this balance.

Last year, Greenland lost a record 532 billion tonnes of ice -- the equivalent of six Olympic pools of cold, fresh water flowing into the Atlantic every second. This run-off accounted for 40 percent of sea level rise in 2019.

A new generation of climate models that better reflects how ice sheets, the oceans and the atmosphere interact will underpin the IPCC's next major report, which will be completed next year, said Slater.

In another study published earlier this month in The Cryosphere, a journal of the European Geosciences Union, Slater and colleagues calculated that Earth's ice masses -- including mountain glaciers, the Arctic ice cap, and both ice sheets -- lost nearly 28 trillion tonnes of mass between 1994 and 2017.

Less than half of that amount contributed to sea level rise. The Arctic ice cap, for example, forms in the ocean, and thus does not increase sea level when it melts.

The rate of ice loss, they found, has increased nearly 60 percent of that time period.

Night view of glaciers at Chiriguano bay in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica

Hamas, Israel strike deal to end Gaza escalation

● The fire bombs have triggered more than 400 blazes in Israel

● An Egyptian delegation had been shuttling between the two sides

● A Hamas source said there had been “a total halt” to balloon and other attacks against Israel

AFP News

Gaza's rulers Hamas said Monday they had reached a deal with Israel to end more than three weeks of cross-border attacks.

In the latest escalation, Israel has bombed Gaza almost daily since August 6 in response to airborne incendiary devices and, less frequently, rockets launched across the border.

The fire bombs have triggered more than 400 blazes and damaged swathes of farmland in southern Israel, according to the fire brigade.

After talks with Qatari envoy Mohammed el-Emadi, “An understanding was reached to rein in the latest escalation and end (Israeli) aggression against our people,” said the office of the Palestinian group's Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar.

An Egyptian delegation had been shuttling between the two sides to try to broker the renewal of an informal truce under which Israel committed to ease its 13-year-old blockade of Gaza in return for calm on the border.

A Hamas source said there



Palestinians have been using improvised balloons to carry incendiary materials across the Gaza border into Israel, which imposes a tight blockade on the enclave

had been “a total halt” to balloon and other attacks against Israel, in agreement with other factions in the coastal strip, home to some two million people.

“Fuel supplies will return and the power station will be restarted from Tuesday,” the source said.

A punitive Israeli-imposed ban on fuel deliveries cut electricity to just four hours a day, supplied from the Israeli grid.

Crossing to reopen

COGAT, the Israeli defence ministry unit that oversees civilian affairs in the occupied Palestinian territories, said in a statement that after “efforts to calm the situation”, it would “resume the routine activity of the Kerem Shalom Crossing, including the entry of fuel products”, starting Tuesday.

“In addition, the fishing zone

of the Gaza Strip will be expanded to 15 nautical miles,” it said.

But, COGAT warned: “If Hamas, which is accountable for all actions that are taken in the Gaza Strip, fails to stand (by) its obligations, Israel will act accordingly.”

The Hamas source added that work would be allowed to start on the construction of a new power line, while a \$30 million Qatari aid tranche for Gaza would be expanded to \$35 million, with the difference used to cover public servants' salaries.

The fire balloons launched in recent weeks were widely seen as an attempt by Hamas to improve the terms of the informal deal.

Sources close to Hamas had said it also wanted other measures to ease living conditions in the territory, including the extension of an industrial zone

2007

Disagreements over implementation have fuelled repeated flare-ups, which has controlled Gaza since 2007.

in the east and an increase in the number of Israeli work permits issued to Gazans once anti-coronavirus restrictions have been lifted.

But disagreements over implementation have fuelled repeated flare-ups, which has controlled Gaza since 2007. Such flare-ups escalated into full-blown conflicts in 2008, 2012 and 2014, and mediators have been working to prevent a new war.



Israel has bombed Gaza almost daily since August 6 in response to airborne incendiary devices and, less frequently, rockets launched across the border



Israeli infantry soldiers gather next to tanks and an armoured personnel carrier near the Israeli border with the Gaza Strip in mid-August

‘Follow me on LinkedIn,’ UK PM tells biz

Reuters | London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson opened an account on professional networking site LinkedIn yesterday, saying he wanted to use it as a way to talk more directly to the business community.

Listing his job title as “Prime Minister of the United Kingdom”, Johnson's first post on the website was a video thanking businesses for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and promising to “do right by them too”.

“Businesses of all sizes are vital to this country and I want to connect more directly with you

as we build back better, stronger than ever before,” he said.

Despite him being seen as pro-business when he championed financial services when he was mayor of London, Johnson's record has been clouded by his widely reported dismissal of companies' concerns about Britain's exit from the European Union.

By joining LinkedIn and its 700 million users worldwide, Johnson is opening another route to bypassing traditional media outlets that have been sharply critical of his sometimes rocky, year-old administration, replete with U-turns on key pol-



Boris Johnson

icies including those dealing with the coronavirus outbreak.

Johnson has already used Facebook to broadcast question and answer sessions with

the public, and plans to televise daily briefing with reporters later this year.

This week the government will launch a campaign to encourage employees back to the workplace after the coronavirus-enforced lockdown, seeking to prevent further damage to businesses in city centers that rely on passing trade.

His video promised updates on government support to business and encouraged workers to contact him directly with their concerns. “Please, do go ahead, follow me on LinkedIn and let me know which topics you'd like to hear more about,” he said.

Sudan's Bashir appears at trial over 1989 coup

Reuters | Khartoum

Ousted Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir appeared in court yesterday at the start of a trial over the military coup in which he took power in 1989.

Giving his profession as “former president of the republic”, Bashir seemed in good physical condition as he appeared in a metal courtroom cage wearing white prison-issue clothes and a medical face mask that he lowered to identify himself.

In footage carried by Sudanese state TV he said he was resident in Khartoum's Kober prison, 76 years old, and had two wives.

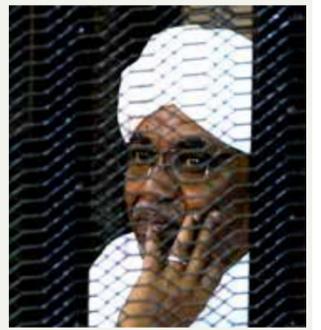
Some of Bashir's former associates appeared alongside him at the trial, which had been postponed because of overcrowding at the scheduled opening last month.

Military officers ousted Bashir in April 2019 after months of street protests, leading to a power-sharing agreement between the military and civilian groups.

Tuesday's court hearing came a day after Sudan's transitional leadership signed a peace deal with some of the rebel groups that had battled Bashir's military and allied militias in Darfur.

Bashir is separately facing prosecution over his alleged role in the repression of protests against his rule, and in December was sentenced at another trial to two years in prison on corruption charges.

He is also wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of alleged genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.



Sudan's former president Omar Hassan al-Bashir sits inside a cage at the courthouse where he is facing corruption charges, in Khartoum, Sudan

India accuses China of fresh ‘provocative actions’ at Ladakh

● China denied that it started the latest flare-up

● Indian troops had deployed on four strategic hilltops

● The Indian official said the Chinese soldiers were backed up by military vehicles

Reuters | New Delhi

India's foreign ministry yesterday accused Chinese troops of taking “provocative actions” on the disputed Himalayan mountain border while commanders from both sides were holding talks on Monday to defuse tensions between the Asian giants.

“Due to timely defensive action, the Indian side was able to prevent these attempts from unilaterally altering the status quo,” ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said in a statement.

Indian troops had deployed on four strategic hilltops after what New Delhi called an attempted Chinese incursion along a border in the western Himalayan region of Ladakh over the weekend, an Indian official said.

China denied that it started the latest flare-up, with an embassy spokeswoman in New Delhi accusing Indian troops of trespassing across the Line

of Actual Control (LAC) - the de facto border - and conducting “flagrant provocations”.

Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a border confrontation for months in the high-altitude snow deserts of Ladakh, and have held talks to reduce friction. The two have disputed the course of the frontier for over half a century.

The Indian official, who was briefed on the latest incident, said the Indian troop move responded to an attempt by a large number of Chinese infantry to push through a key mountain pass late on Saturday.

“We mobilised and occupied the four heights,” the official said, adding all four hilltops were on India's side of the LAC.

The Indian official said the Chinese soldiers were backed up by military vehicles and drew close enough to engage Indian troops in verbal arguments, but there were no clashes.

He said the incident occurred on the southern bank of Pangong Tso, a picturesque lake where Indian and Chinese troops have been facing off since April.

The Indian official said the Chinese had also been consolidating positions on the northern bank of the lake with what appeared to be new defensive positions.

But Ji Rong, a spokeswoman for the Chinese embassy in New Delhi, said Indian troops had violated the LAC at Pangong Tso's southern bank and near another mountain pass.



A view of Pangong Tso lake in Ladakh region

Turkey extends gas exploration

● Greece accuses Turkey of violating its sovereignty

● The European Union is watching the conflict with growing concern

AFP News

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday played up Turkey's military might after extending a Mediterranean gas exploration mission that has pitted it against Greece and the rest of the EU.

Turkey's push into disputed waters has raised the stakes in the energy-rich but volatile region, reviving long-standing hostilities between the two neighbours.

Greece accuses Turkey of violating its sovereignty, while Ankara says its NATO ally is pursuing a "maximalist" approach that offers no room for talks.

The European Union is watching the conflict with growing concern, with Germany spear-



Turkey's push into disputed waters has raised the stakes in the energy-rich but volatile region

heading efforts to get the sides to temper the rhetoric and settle their differences through talks.

Turkey deployed the Oruc Reis research vessel and warships to the disputed waters on August 10 and prolonged the mission twice.

Greece responded by staging naval exercises with several EU allies and the United Arab Emirates not far from smaller ones Turkey conducted between Cyprus and Crete last week.

Turkey's most recent exten-

sion of the mission was until Tuesday, raising the possibility of a respite in a fast-escalating conflict that includes deals the two countries struck with war-torn Libya and Egypt.

But in a message on NAVTEX, the international maritime navigational telex system, Turkey said late Monday the seismic vessel's stay in the eastern Mediterranean would be extended until September 12.

The

Turkish message said the Oruc Reis was being accompanied by Turkey's two other auxiliary vessels, the Cengiz Han and the Ataman.

Showing no sign of compromise, Erdogan said Turkey would not be intimidated by Greece's alliance with European military powers such as France. "Even if hostile fronts unite, they cannot stop the rise of Turkey," Erdogan said.

"It's laughable now to use as bait a country (Greece) which could not even fight its way out of a paper bag against a regional and global power like Turkey," Erdogan said in a speech at his palace in Ankara.

Erdogan said attempts to deny Turkey's right to the Mediterranean's "riches" were "an example of modern colonialism".

'Greece will lose'

Ankara's relations with Athens have deteriorated sharply, with strains over issues including migration and Turkey's decision to convert Byzantine-era churches into mosques including the Istanbul landmark Hagia Sophia.

Images published in the media last week showing

“Even if hostile fronts unite, they cannot stop the rise of Turkey. It's laughable now to use as bait a country (Greece) which could not even fight its way out of a paper bag against a regional and global power like Turkey”

ERDOGAN

in the Antalya province.

The Oruc Reis mission is being conducted near that island, with the navy also scheduling a series of live fire exercises further to the east this month.

Turkey accused Greece of trying to "arm the island" despite a 1947 peace treaty that established its demilitarised status.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Greece appeared to be arming its security personnel on the islands beyond the limits established by international law.

"You can have police and gendarmerie officers for internal security... without heavy weaponry, but there is a limit," Cavusoglu told reporters.

"If there is a militarisation that goes beyond that, it will be Greece who loses."

But a Greek official said soldiers had already been stationed on the island and the photos were from a "routine troop rotation".

The EU has repeatedly urged Turkey to stop the exploration activities and threatened to slap sanctions on Ankara if it refused to solve the dispute through talks.

Greek soldiers arriving on the island of Kastellorizo, known as Meis in Turkish, appear to have opened another front in the dispute.

The island is only two kilometres (1.2 miles) from Turkey's ancient

town of Kas



Turkey deployed the Oruc Reis research vessel and warships to the disputed waters on August 10 and prolonged the mission twice

Two dead as Mauritius oil spill clean-up boats collide



The spill was declared an ecological disaster for the Indian Ocean archipelago, and a massive clean-up operation was launched

AFP News

The prime minister of Mauritius said Tuesday two sailors were dead and two others missing after a tugboat assisting in a major oil spill clean-up off the Indian Ocean island collided with a barge.

A search was under way for the missing crew after the accident late Monday as the boats returned from where a tanker crashed into a reef in late July, leaking more than 1,000 tonnes of oil into the island's picturesque waters.

"It is tragic that we lost two of the tugboat crew, while two others are still missing," Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said after visiting rescued sailors in hospital.

"We are doing everything we can to locate them, with all our means and with the help of fishermen in the area.

On behalf of the government, I extend my sympathies to the family."

The spill was declared an ecological disaster for the Indian Ocean archipelago, and a massive clean-up operation was launched to scrub the pristine coastline and azure seas of thick sludge.

The collision between the tugboat and an unmanned barge which it was towing occurred off the northeast coast as the boats were returning from the spill site where the MV Wakashio ran aground, the barge operator Taylor Smith Group said.

The eight crew aboard the stricken tug abandoned ship, the Mauritius Ports Authority said, adding there were rough seas at the time.

Four were later rescued and taken to shore, officials said.

France's Charlie Hebdo reprints Mohammed cartoons for trial



Several of France's most celebrated cartoonists were killed on January 7, 2015, when brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi went on a gun rampage at Charlie Hebdo's offices in Paris

AFP News

French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, the target of a massacre by gunmen in 2015, said yesterday it was republishing hugely controversial cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed to mark this week's start of the trial of alleged accomplices to the attack.

"We will never lie down. We will never give up," director Laurent "Riss" Sourisseau wrote in an editorial to go with the cartoons.

"The hatred that struck us is still there and, since 2015, it has taken the time to mutate, to change its appearance, to go unnoticed and to quietly continue its ruthless crusade," he said.

Twelve people, including some of France's most celebrated cartoonists, were killed on January 7, 2015, when brothers Said and Cherif

Kouachi went on a gun rampage at the paper's offices in Paris. The perpetrators were killed in the wake of the massacre but 14 alleged accomplices in the attacks, which also targeted a Jewish supermarket, will go on trial in Paris on Wednesday. The latest Charlie Hebdo cover shows a dozen cartoons first published by the Danish daily Jyllands-Posten in 2005 -- and then reprinted by the French weekly in 2006, unleashing a storm of anger across the world.

In the centre of the cover is a cartoon of the prophet drawn by cartoonist Jean Cabut, known as Cabu, who lost his life in the massacre.

"All of this, just for that," the front-page headline says.

The issue will be available from French newstands just as the trial gets underway on Wednesday morning and can already be read by subscribers online.

US considers sanctions on Belarusians for election fraud, violence against protesters



Law enforcement officers block a street during a rally of opposition supporters protesting against presidential election results near the Independence Palace in Minsk, Belarus

Reuters | Washington

The United States is considering imposing sanctions on seven Belarusians it believes were involved in falsifying the Aug. 9 election and in violence against peaceful protesters, a senior U.S. State Department official said on Tuesday.

"We've got a group of seven people that we are working with Treasury for the evidentiary package" to impose sanctions, the official told Reuters. "It is a minimal effort to ... not just name and shame but to show that when people both steal elections and commit violence against peaceful protesters exercising funda-

mental freedoms of assembly and speech that there needs to be some accountability," the official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the United States could consider imposing sanctions on Russia if it were to intervene overtly with force in Belarus, where protests erupted after an Aug. 9 election that the opposition says was rigged to prolong President Alexander Lukashenko's 26-year rule.

Lukashenko denies electoral fraud and has shown no sign of backing down despite the threat of Western sanctions. The official did not name the seven Belarusians and noted that Lukashenko is already under US sanctions.

Jackie Chan's luxury Beijing condos up for auction in ownership row

● Chan and his wife Joan Lin and son Jaycee Chan have lived in the high-end properties since 2007

AFP News

Two luxury Beijing apartments seized from martial arts film star Jackie Chan will be put up for auction for around \$10 million due to an ownership dispute, according to court documents seen by AFP.

The action star, 66, best known for hit movies "Rush Hour" and "Police Story", sparked controversy in 2013 when he joined China's top political advisory body despite being born in Hong Kong, where his reputation has taken a beating over his pro-Beijing stance.

Chan and his wife Joan Lin and son Jaycee Chan have lived in the high-end properties since 2007.

But a legal dispute between two real estate firms has resulted in the properties being commandeered and put up for sale, despite appeals by the star.

Chan signed an agreement with Yujia Real Estate in 2006 to buy the two units, which cover more than 1,200 square metres (13,000 square feet), according to a court judgment published in July.

The actor paid 13 million yuan (\$1.9 million) -- a 20.6 million yuan discount over the original purchase price, in exchange for a celebrity endorsement of the



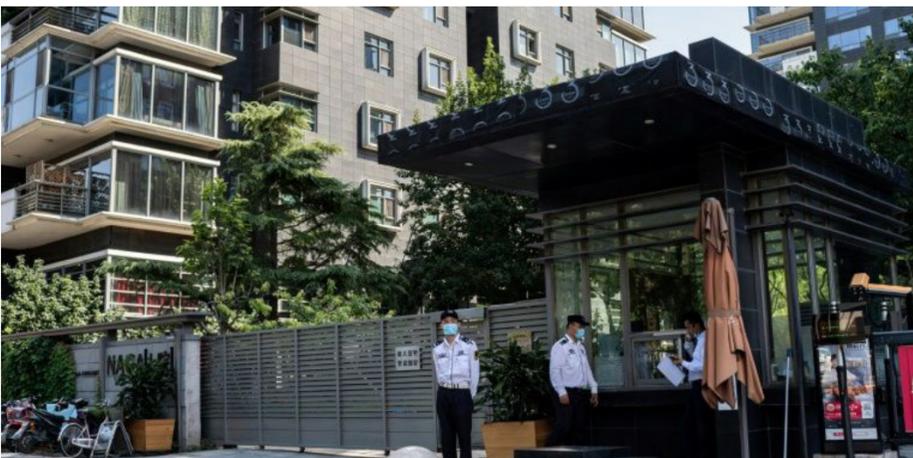
Martial arts star Jackie Chan has seen his reputation nosedive in his native Hong Kong due to his pro-Beijing stance

compound in a prime area of central Beijing.

But court papers outline problems including a change in Yujia's company name, as well as tax arrears, which delayed

the transfer of the property rights to Chan.

Another developer, Tenhong Real Estate, later filed for arbitration with Yujia to settle debts and the two properties were



Security guards stand at the main gate to a luxury apartment building in Beijing where two flats were seized from Hong Kong-born actor Jackie Chan in an ownership row

among those seized in 2017.

According to an online listing seen by AFP, the price for the two flats in the Chinese capital will now start from 71.9 million yuan (\$10.5 million), with bidding to begin later this month.

A virtual tour of the property showed a maze-like space with a pool table, at least two walk-in wardrobes, a wine fridge and a framed photograph of Chan meeting former US president Barack Obama.

The property was also the scene of a 2014 drug scandal involving Chan's son Jaycee, who served six months in a Chinese prison after he was found to be providing a venue for others to use drugs and possession of 100 grams (3.5 ounces) of marijuana.

The properties are now valued at more than 100 million yuan, according to the auction listing.

Brazil's Bolsonaro to undergo surgery for kidney stone



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

AFP News

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said yesterday he had been diagnosed with a kidney stone and would undergo surgery in September to remove it.

The far-right leader, 65, has had a series of health issues, including four surgeries stemming from an attack in which he was stabbed in the abdomen during his 2018 presidential campaign.

"I felt a little pain, so I went for a checkup. But I'm fine. It's an age thing," Bolsonaro told CNN Brasil.

He said doctors had performed an ultrasound and told him the kidney stone was slightly larger than a bean.

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

Bolsonaro is also coming off a bout with Covid-19 that put him in quarantine for nearly three weeks in July.

The president, who has repeatedly downplayed the

coronavirus pandemic, said his infection was never serious, thanks to his "athletic past" and his course of treatment with hydroxychloroquine.

He has controversially pushed the anti-malaria medication as a wonder drug for Covid-19, despite studies showing it is ineffective against the disease.

That has earned him criticism in Brazil, which has the second-highest number of infections and deaths in the pandemic, after the United States: more than 3.9 million and 121,000, respectively.

Bolsonaro was stabbed in the stomach by a suspected radical leftist during a campaign rally in September 2018, just over a month before he was elected president.

The attack forced him to undergo four operations on his stomach, the most recent in September 2019.

In March, he said he needed to undergo a fifth operation related to the incident, which he said "should be the last."

Junk food linked to age-marker in chromosomes: study

Short telomeres are a marker of biological ageing at the cellular level, and the study suggests that diet is a factor in driving the cells to age faster

AFP News

People who eat a lot of industrially processed junk food are more likely to exhibit a change in their chromosomes linked to ageing, according to research presented Tuesday at an online medical conference.

Three or more servings of so-called "ultra-processed food" per day doubled the odds that strands of DNA and proteins called telomeres, found on the end of chromosomes, would be shorter compared to people who rarely consumed such foods, scientists reported at the European and International Conference on Obesity.

Short telomeres are a marker of biological ageing at the cellular level, and the study suggests that diet is a factor in driving the cells to age faster.

While the correlation is strong, however, the causal relationship between eating highly processed foods and diminished telomeres remains speculative,



Short telomeres are a marker of biological ageing at the cellular level, and a new study suggests that diet is a factor in driving the cells to age faster

the authors cautioned.

Each human cell has 23 pairs of chromosomes that contain our genetic code.

Telomeres do not carry genetic information, but are vital for preserving the stability and integrity of chromosomes and, by extension, the DNA that all the cells in our body relies on to function.

As we get older, our telomeres shorten naturally because each time a cell divides, part of the

telomere is lost.

That reduction in length has long been recognised as a marker of biological age.

Scientists led by professors Maria Bes-Rastrollo and Amelia Marti, both of the University of Navarra in Spain, wanted to explore a suspected connection between the regular consumption of highly processed junk food and shrinking telomeres.

Not real food

Earlier studies had pointed to a possible link with sugar-sweetened drinks, processed meats and other foods loaded with saturated fats and sugar, but the findings were inconclusive.

Ultra-processed foods are industrially manufactured substances composed of some mix of oils, fats, sugars, starch and proteins that contain little if any whole or natural foods.

They often include artificial flavourings, colourings, emulsifiers, preservatives and other additives that increase shelf-life and profit margins.

These same properties, however, also mean that such foods are nutritionally poor compared to less processed alternatives, the researchers said.

Earlier studies have shown strong correlations between ultra-processed foods and hypertension, obesity, depression, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer.

These conditions are often age-related in so far as they are linked to oxidative stress and inflammation known to influence telomere length.

Marti and colleagues looked at health data for nearly 900 people aged 55 or older who provided DNA samples in 2008 and provided detailed data about their eating habits every two years thereafter.

The 645 men and 241 women were equally divided into four groups, depending on their consumption of ultra-processed foods.

Those in the high-intake

group were more likely to have a family history of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and abnormal blood fats.

That also consumed less foods associated with the Mediterranean diet -- fibre, olive oil, fruits, vegetable and nuts.

Compared to the group who ate the fewest ultra-processed foods, the other three showed an increased likelihood -- 29, 40 and 82 percent, respectively -- of having shortened telomeres.

The findings were published earlier this year in the peer-reviewed American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.



Earlier studies have shown strong correlations between ultra-processed foods and hypertension, obesity, depression, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer.

(picture courtesy of Health 24)

CELEBS

celebs



Katy Perry

Katy Perry opens up about her previous marriage to Russell Brand

ANI | Washington

American singer-songwriter Katy Perry recently opened up about her marriage to English comedian Russell Brand, nine years after the pair split back in 2011.

According to People Magazine, during an interview with '60 Minutes Australia' that aired on Sunday, the 35-year-old pop songstress spoke candidly about her marriage to Brand, and described the relationship as the "first breaking of my idealistic mind." "I was having great success at 23, 24 and 25 and then I met someone that was interesting and stimulating. It was

just like a tornado, it was everything happening at once," the 'Roar' songstress revealed.

Perry added that she has "always resonated with friction and resistance and challenges," and said that she knows that about herself.

Brand and Perry married back in 2010 before eventually ending their 14-month marriage the following year.

In a July 2013 cover story with 'Vogue', the 'Smile' songstress revealed that Brand was the one who decided to end their marriage when he sent her a text message informing her that he planned to file for divorce.

At the time, Perry told the outlet, "He's a very smart man, and I was in love with him when I married him. Let's just say I haven't heard from him since he texted me saying he was di-

vorcing me December 31, 2011." During her chat with '60 Minutes



Brand and Perry married back in 2010 before eventually ending their 14-month marriage the following year

Australia', Perry also opened up about her current relationship with fiancé and actor Orlando Bloom, calling it, "a healthy frictional, very open, very communicative, nothing is swept under the mat type of relationship."

"It's like, we should probably walk into the other room to discuss something where we disagree because we'll just do it in public. But I think if we can get to the ends of our lives together, we'll be each other's greatest teachers," she added.

As per People Magazine, recently, Perry and the 43-year-old actor Bloom welcomed a new addition to their family - a daughter named set to tie the knot in Japan earlier this summer but decided against Daisy Dove Bloom. And the couple were it due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Hailey Baldwin reveals what makes her 'really annoyed' with husband Justin Bieber

Fox | Los Angeles

Just because Hailey Baldwin and Justin Bieber seem to have a fairytale romance doesn't mean they don't have some quirks that get under one another skin.

Baldwin, 23, and Bieber, 26, briefly began dating in 2015 before splitting shortly after. They reconciled in 2018 and have since married.

The model recently spoke with Elle, and revealed that there's something about her hubby that gets on her nerves.

"I don't consider myself as somebody who has the longest lashes in the world," she explained. "It's fine. I've accepted it. I can live with it. They're visible, they're there, but they're not super long."

Baldwin added: "My husband actually has way longer lashes than I do, and I get really annoyed."

In the interview, Baldwin also discussed helping to teach the "Yummy" singer

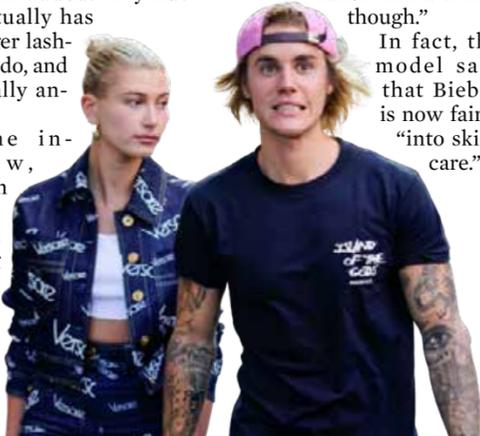
Justin was struggling a bit with acne. I tried to help him clear that and get that under control and it is working. It's gone, and he's really happy

HAILEY BALDWIN

about skincare.

"Justin was struggling a bit with acne. I tried to help him clear that and get that under control and it is working. It's gone, and he's really happy," she said. "I give him all of the tips that I use personally and I've given him products that I use. I'm always big on keeping your skin hydrated. It's taken him a while, though."

In fact, the model said that Bieber is now fairly "into skincare."



Hailey Baldwin and Justin Bieber

Mariah Carey addresses 'extremely uncomfortable' pregnancy interview on Ellen

HuffPost | Los Angeles

Mariah Carey has shared her thoughts on an interview she gave on Ellen DeGeneres' talk show 12 years ago, in which the singer was pressured into addressing a pregnancy that she had been trying to keep private.

In 2008, Mariah was being interviewed on Ellen, when the conversation quickly turned to rumours at that time suggesting the chart-topping star was pregnant.

While the We Belong Together singer urged Ellen to "not discuss that", the host then brought out some champagne, encouraging Mariah to drink some, and claiming they should

toast to "not being pregnant".

In fact, the star was in the early stages of a pregnancy at that time, but miscarried shortly after the interview took place.

Since allegations of a "toxic workplace" behind the scenes of Ellen's show have come to light, a number of past interviews have resurfaced on social media, including the Mariah appearance from 2008.

Asked about the moment during a new interview with Vulture, Mariah revealed: "I was extremely uncomfortable with that moment is all I can say. I really have had a hard time grappling with the aftermath."

Mariah added that she was

deliberately trying not to speak about the pregnancy because of a previous miscarriage, stating: "I don't want to throw anyone that's already being thrown under any proverbial bus, but I didn't enjoy that moment."

"[There's] an empathy that can be applied to those moments that I would have liked to have been implemented. But what am I supposed to do?"

Mariah became a mother in 2011, welcoming twins Moroccan and Monroe with then-husband Nick Cannon.

Past Ellen interviews with Sofia Vergara have also come under scrutiny in recent times, though the Modern Family actor has insisted that she always felt like she was "in on the joke"

whenever the presenter would poke fun at her.

"Two comedians having fun with each other to entertain," Sofia tweeted.

"I was never a victim guys, I was always in on the joke."



Mariah Carey

Paris Hilton says Carter Reum is her reason for 'being so happy'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Paris Hilton says her boyfriend Carter Reum is her reason "for being so happy".

The 39-year-old star has celebrated her anniversary with her man and marked the occasion with a sweet social media post gushing over their romance.

She wrote: "When we first met, I had no idea of the amazing journey I was about to embark on."

"My life was always empty, like I

was missing something. But when I met you, I knew you were the one. You've filled my heart with so much love."

"I believe that everything happens for a reason because everything in my life, all the good and the bad, has led me right to you."

"You are my reason for me being so happy and feeling like the luckiest girl in the world! I love making you happy and promise to make you smile forever. Love so much handsome! Happy anniversary! (sic)"

It's not clear what milestone Paris was marking with the loved up Instagram post, as she has taken to the site a number of times this year to celebrate other anniversaries with her man.

Last month, she wrote: "Happy Anniversary my love! From the moment you walked into my life you changed it in every way. Every day with you has been a blessing. You have shown me what true love really is."

SUDOKU

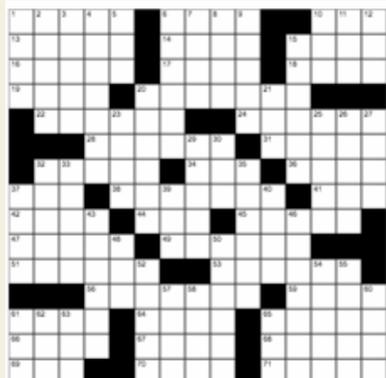
1	4			7	6	2		
		2		6				1
						9	8	
	7	3		1	9			
				3				
			6	5		7	4	
	9	5						
6			9		1			
3	4	8					9	7

Yesterday's solution

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

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- Improvise; 6- Remove from text; 10- Air-gun ammo; 13- Heat home; 14- Off-ramp; 15- Hog fat; 16- Courtyard; 17- Money; 18- Historical chapters; 19- Irritated state; 20- Storm; 22- Bayer alternative; 24- Oppose; 28- Plan; 31- Shades; 32- Office person; 34- culpa; 36- Type of tide; 37- kwon do; 38- Religious discourses; 41- Apt. divisions; 42- Pismires; 44- Skater Babilonia; 45- Eats to a plan; 47- Path; 49- Unless; 51- Kathmandu resident; 53- Relax; 56- 16th president of the U.S.; 59- Hwys.; 61- Matron; 64- Sphere; 65- Make one; 66- Manipulator; 67- Pond organism; 68- Nervous person, maybe; 69- Make a choice; 70- Abby; 71- As resort;

Down

1- Rock blasters; 2- Roman goddess of the moon; 3- Caesar's tongue; 4- Copy; 5- Short life?; 6- Respectable; 7- Test; 8- Speech issue; 9- Early anesthetic; 10- Place for ordering alcoholic drinks; 11- Bikini part; 12- Radical '60s org.; 15- Reveals; 20- Coupon; 21- A collection of articles; 23- Mercury and Saturn, e.g.; 25- Lifeless; 26- Joins; 27- Cookbook amts.; 29- Mingle; 30- Corp. noncho; 32- Boat often made of birchbark, canvas, or fiberglass; 33- Cessation; 35- Like llamas; 37- Mountain lake; 39- Actress Charlotte; 40- Drinks slowly; 43- Less fresh; 46- Endless; 48- Lilly and Company; 50- Underground room; 52- Out of favor; 54- New York city; 55- For sake; 57- Racer Yarborough; 58- Gymnast Korbut; 60- Spanish muralist; 61- The Righteous Brothers, e.g.; 62- Viper; 63- Assembled; 65- Lazy River;

Yesterday's solution

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

Djokovic marches on with straight-set win, Coco falls

Novak Djokovic continued flawless season with a speedy 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 victory against Damir Dzumhur

● Anastasija Sevastova knocked off Gauff in three sets

AFP | New York

Pre-tournament favourite Novak Djokovic marched into round two of the US Open Monday as he launched his bid for a 18th Grand Slam with a straight-sets win.

The world No. 1 dispatched unheralded Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia-Herzegovina, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1, under floodlights at an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

The Serbian superstar took just 23 minutes to win the first set before laboring to a narrow victory in an hour-long second set.

With Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer absent, Djokovic is looking to close the gap on them in the race for the all-time men's singles Grand Slam record.

Djokovic currently has 17, behind Nadal on 19 and Federer on 20.

Adrian Mannarino, also of France, defeated Italy's Lorenzo Sonego 6-1, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 in a match that lasted two hours and 41 minutes.

Meantime, Coco Gauff's hopes of launching another deep run at a Grand Slam ended in the first round with the US teenager succumbing in three sets to Latvia's



Novak Djokovic serves during the match against Damir Dzumhur

Anastasija Sevastova.

Gauff, who created a sensation at Wimbledon last year when she became the youngest player in the tournament's history to qualify for the main draw before reaching the fourth round, was beaten 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

The 16-year-old former junior world number one from Delray Beach had battled back to level the match against the 31st-seeded Sevastova after dropping the first set.

Earlier, fifth seed Alexander

Zverev was made to work hard as he progressed into round two of the US Open Monday following a three-hour-long tussle with 2017 finalist Kevan Anderson.

The German, seeking his first Grand Slam title, took the first set on a tie-break 7-6 (7/2) before losing the second 7-5 in an eerily empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

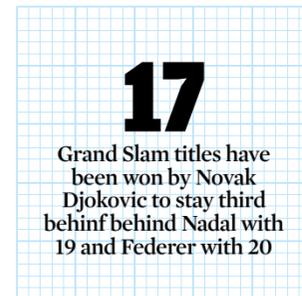
Ultimately, the 23-year-old proved too much for the South African veteran, winning the

third set 6-3 and the fourth 7-5.

Afterwards he shared a moment on a big screen with his tennis-playing brother Mischa Zverev who was beamed into the stadium from his sofa at home.

Fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas eased into the second round of the Flushing Meadows tournament, which is being played without fans due to coronavirus, with a straight-sets win over Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

The Greek player needed just



17 Grand Slam titles have been won by Novak Djokovic to stay third behind Nadal with 19 and Federer with 20

one hour and 38 minutes to dispose of the world number 41, 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

The 22-year-old Tsitsipas, sixth on the ATP rankings, will play American wildcard Maxime Cressy after he defeated Slovakian Jozef Kovalik, ranked 123 in the world, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Britain's Cameron Norrie enjoyed one of the day's most impressive wins, charging back from two sets down to sink Argentine ninth seen Diego Schwartzman, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 7-5.

Elsewhere in the men's draw on day one, 12th seed Canadian Denis Shapovalov required four sets to overcome US wildcard Sebastian Korda.

The 21-year-old left-hander won the first set 6-4 before losing the second by the same score. But he rallied to win the next two 6-3, 6-2.

Frenchman Gilles Simon enjoyed a straightforward victory over Egypt's Mohamed Safwat. The 35-year-old triumphed 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Rashford joins forces with supermarkets to fight child poverty



Marcus Rashford

AFP | Berlin

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford has joined forces with major supermarkets and food providers in Britain to form a taskforce to help fight child food poverty.

The England striker's campaign pressured the UK government into a U-turn in June to provide free school meal vouchers to pupils over the summer holidays.

As schools across England return this week, the 22-year-old said his initial campaign was a short-term fix and that the "Child Food Poverty Task Force" will promote longer-term solutions.

Retailers and food manufacturers including Aldi, Lidl, Kellogg's and Tesco will offer their expertise and reach by dedicating their platforms over the next six weeks to sharing stories of those most affected by child food insecurity in the UK.

Rashford has spoken about his own experience of using food vouchers growing up in a low-income household and wants to help remove the stigma of asking for help.

"I feel like at times people think they are being looked down on if they ask for help," he told the BBC.

Kohli says didn't miss cricket much during long coronavirus break

AFP | Dubai

India skipper Virat Kohli has said he did not miss cricket as much as he expected during the months-long break caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Kohli, who also captains Indian Premier League side Royal Challengers Bangalore, recently started training in the United Arab Emirates for the virus-delayed start of the glitzy Twenty20 tournament on September 19.

"When I had our practice session yesterday, it is (when) I realised how long it has been," Kohli said during an interview posted on RCB's YouTube channel yesterday.

"When I was heading towards the practice session, I felt nervous, bit jittery, but I was OK. Honestly, I didn't miss the game as much as I thought I might.



When I was heading towards the practice session, I felt nervous, bit jittery, but I was OK. Honestly, I didn't miss the game as much as I thought I might

VIRAT KOHLI



Virat Kohli

"Maybe because I'd been going on for nine, 10 years before that and this was the only break I was ever going to get (which was) that long."

Kohli and his wife Anushka Sharma, a Bollywood star, recently announced they were expecting their first child in January.

"The best thing was Anushka and myself were at home. We never got so much to spend together since we started seeing each other (in 2013)," Kohli said.

"Just being in your own home with the one you love, you couldn't ask for anything better. We just made the most of the whole time."

Kohli, one of the top batsmen in the world in all formats of the game, will remain in a bio-bubble with his Bangalore teammates throughout the 53-day tournament.

Osaka wears mask in memory of Breonna Taylor at US Open

AP | New York

Before and after her first-round victory at the US Open, Naomi Osaka wore a mask bearing the name of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman who was fatally shot by police.

It's just one of seven face coverings, each in honour of a different person, that Osaka brought to Flushing Meadows — the same number of wins it takes to claim a Grand Slam trophy. The world's highest-earning female athlete hopes she can get the chance to raise awareness about racial injustice by using each mask during her stay in New York.

"It's quite sad that seven masks isn't enough for the amount of names, so hopefully I'll get to the finals so you can see all of them," said Osaka, the champion at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open.

"I'm aware that tennis is watched all over the world, and maybe there is someone that doesn't know Breonna Taylor's story. Maybe they'll, like, Google it or something," Osaka said. "For me, (it's about) just spreading awareness. I feel like the more people know the story, then the more interesting or interested they'll become in it."

On the court, she overcame some uneven play late Monday night to beat 81st-ranked Misaki



Naomi Osaka wears a mask in honour of Breonna Taylor as she hits a return during her match against Misaki Doi

Doi 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 in an all-Japanese matchup in an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The No. 4-seeded Osaka's movement was an issue at times; she is coming off a left hamstring injury that forced her to withdraw from the final of the Western & Southern Open on Saturday.

"Physically I feel like I could be better. But I can't complain because I won the match," Osaka said. "During the match, it slowly got a little bit worse. Yeah, I just feel like there's some recovery time that I'm lacking that I wish I could get back. For

the most part, I'm managing."

It was during the Western & Southern Open last week that Osaka took a public stand by saying she would refuse to play her semifinal, joining athletes in various other sports who walked out to protest the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a police officer in Wisconsin.

Osaka's move prompted tournament organizers to halt action entirely for a day. When play resumed, Osaka agreed to compete, after all, because the day off for the Western & Southern Open brought additional attention to the issue.



It was during the Western & Southern Open last week that Osaka took a public stand by saying she would refuse to play her semifinal, joining athletes in various other sports who walked out to protest the shooting of Jacob Blake

Osaka walked out on court for her match Monday night with a black mask and white lettering with the name of Taylor, a 26-year-old who was fatally shot when police officers burst into her Louisville, Kentucky, apartment using a no-knock warrant during a narcotics investigation in March.

Osaka put the mask back on for her postmatch interview.

"A lot of people ask me if I feel more stressed out ever since I started speaking out more. To be honest, not really," Osaka said. "At this point, like, if you don't like me, it is what it is. You know what I mean?"

Arsenal complete signing of Brazilian defender Gabriel

AFP | London

Arsenal completed the signing of Brazilian defender Gabriel Magalhaes from Lille yesterday for a reported £22 million (\$30 million).

The 22-year-old bolsters Mikel Arteta's defensive options as the Gunners look to return to the Champions League this season after a four-year absence.

Gabriel joined Lille in 2017 and, after loan spells at Troyes and Dinamo Zagreb, he impressed as Lille finished fourth in the curtailed 2019/20 Ligue 1 season.

"He has many qualities which will make us stronger as a defensive unit and as a team," said Arteta. "He has proved with Lille that he is a defender with many outstanding attributes and we are looking forward to watching him grow as an Arsenal player."

Gabriel adds to Arsenal's growing Brazilian contingent since the club's former midfielder Edu left his role as



Gabriel Magalhaes

coordinator for the Brazilian national team to become technical director last year.

He joins experienced international duo David Luiz and Willian, who is Arsenal's only other signing so far in the close season.

"He is a player we have been studying for a while and he was in demand from many clubs, so we are proud to have agreed and completed this transfer with Lille and the player," said Edu.

"Gabriel is a player of high quality and Mikel and his coaches are looking forward to integrating him into the club."

PSG say two players have tested positive for the coronavirus

AFP | London

Two Paris St Germain players have tested positive for COVID-19 and gone into quarantine, the club announced on without revealing their identity.

But French media said Argentine internationals Angel Di Maria and Leandro Paredes had cut short their holidays in Ibiza after contracting the novel coronavirus.

"Two Paris Saint-Germain players are suspected of being

infected with COVID-19," said a club statement. "The state of their health is very reassuring. They have already been subjected to the appropriate health protocols."

Both now face missing PSG's belated start to the Ligue 1 season away at Racing Lens on Sept. 10 and at home to Olympique Marseille three days later. The pair both featured for the French club in the 1-0 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League final in Lisbon on August 23.

Roglic wins first Tour de France mountain stage

Roglic sends warning to rivals with stage four victory, Alaphilippe stays in yellow

● Primoz Roglic excels in the Alps a month after Dauphiné collision

AFP | Paris

Race favourite Primoz Roglic edged yesterday's first summit finish of the Tour de France to win the fourth stage, but failed to drop any of his key rivals in the process, including overall leader Julian Alaphilippe.

On a perfect day for racing, Roglic climbed to third overall behind Alaphilippe and Adam Yates as he edged home his Slovenian compatriot Tadej Pogacar on the rolling 160.5km run to the finish line situated 1,850m above sea level.

The Alpine stage had been billed as the moment the true form of the various contenders would be revealed and it was here in 1971 that great Spanish climber Luis Ocana beat Eddy Merckx by nine minutes.

Nothing of that nature emerged yesterday, as the desperate jostling and posturing over the final kilometre of the 7.1km climb ascent to Orcieres-Merlette -- at a 6.7 percent average incline -- culminated with 16 riders finishing on the same time, with the top three taking small time bonuses of 10, six and four seconds.

The key weapon Roglic has



Slovenia's Primoz Roglic celebrates as he crosses the finish line

in his armoury is his fabulous strength which gives him an irresistible late kick, and while he used this to win, defending champion Egan Bernal and fancied Frenchman Thibaut Pinot also held on.

"It was quite a hard day actually and it was a nice win," said former ski jumper Roglic, who has kept a low profile since a horrible crash saw him pull out of last month's Criterium Dauphine before the final stage despite leading the race.

“It was quite a hard day actually and it was a nice win. I feel a little better every day, not quite the same as I was but I saw on stage two that I could still ride a bike”

PRIMOZ ROGLIC

"I feel a little better every day, not quite the same as I was but I saw on stage two that I could still ride a bike," added Roglic, who had to chase Alaphilippe after the home favourite's stage-winning performance on Sunday.

"Deceuninck (Alaphilippe's team) set a high pace, so I knew we were just racing for the win today and not the overall lead.

"We know what kind of champion Julian is, we saw last year he almost finished top.

Bayern title haul should feed Germany's Euro ambitions: Suelle

AFP | Berlin

Bayern Munich's treble-winning season should feed the hunger for titles in the national team as Germany prepare to host Spain in their Nations League opener on Thursday, the Bavarian club's defender Niklas Suelle said yesterday.

The city said the club, who last month were knocked out of the Champions League in the semi-finals, could have fans back in their ground against Mainz 05 on Sept. 20 if novel coronavirus infection rates in the region remain at current levels.

"After a detailed examination the Leipzig health authority has approved the strict health plan of Bundesliga club RB Leipzig," the city said in a statement.

"This means for the first game of the season on Sept. 20 up to 8,500 spectators can be allowed in."

Leipzig get approval for some fans in stadium at season opener

TDI | Manama

RB Leipzig have become the first Bundesliga club allowed to have some fans back in their stadium for their season opener next month after the city's health authority yesterday gave the green light for up to 8,500 spectators to attend.

The city said the club, who last month were knocked out of the Champions League in the semi-finals, could have fans back in their ground against Mainz 05 on Sept. 20 if novel coronavirus infection rates in the region remain at current levels.



RB Leipzig received permission to host 8,400 fans for their first Bundesliga game of the season in mid-September



A general view inside RB Leipzig's Red Bull Arena

"After a detailed examination the Leipzig health authority has approved the strict health plan of Bundesliga club RB Leipzig," the city said in a statement.

"This means for the first game of the season on Sept. 20 up to 8,500 spectators can be allowed in."

All fans will have to wear face masks and will be placed in small groups spread across the 42,000-capacity stadium. There will be no visiting spectators and all supporters must provide personal details and be local residents.

"With this approval we want to dare to go a bit towards normalcy," Leipzig mayor Burkhard Jung said.

"We are aware that the pandemic is far from beaten. But wherever possible -- under strict conditions -- people must be allowed to return to their daily routines."

Bundesliga clubs have been playing without fans since March. The league was interrupted between March and May due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resumed without spectators.

Sevilla re-sign Barcelona's Rakitic

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona said yesterday they had agreed to sell Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic back to Sevilla.

Under the deal the southern side will pay the Catalan outfit 1.5 million euros (\$1.8 million) plus nine million euros in variables for the 32-year-old, Barca said in a statement.

"FC Barcelona publicly express their gratitude to Rakitic for his commitment and dedication and wish him good luck and success in the future," the statement added.

Rakitic, who had a year left on his contract at the Camp Nou, spent three seasons with Sevilla and won the Europa League in the 2013/14 season right before he made his big switch in 2014.

He was one of several Barcelona players who were reportedly told they were not part of new manager

Ivan Rakitic

4 league titles, four Copa del Rey trophies, the Champions League and Club World Cup have been won by Rakitic during his spell at Barcelona

Ronald Koeman's plans.

On Monday, Lionel Messi boycotted Barca's first pre-season training session as the striker upped the stakes in his battle to leave this summer.

After skipping coronavirus tests on Sunday, Messi missed Koeman's first session in charge since being appointed last month.

It appears increasingly likely Messi will try to force a transfer by refusing to play in La Liga next season, which begins on September 12.

