

'Our job not done'

Bahrain head coach Sam Vincent talks about how qualifying for the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 is just the first of many steps in developing Bahrain basketball | P 12

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Amber Heard not fired from 'Aquaman 2': Report

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Top Bahraini, Israel officials hold talks on investment, ties

HRH Prince Salman meets Sinopharm chairman remotely

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday held a remote meeting with China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation (Sinopharm) chairman Liu Jingzhen.



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister during the online meeting

During the meeting, His Royal Highness noted that overcoming challenges posed by COVID-19 requires ongoing and forward-looking international cooperation, both to mitigate the spread of the virus and expedite vaccine delivery.

He highlighted Bahrain's commitment to expand its cooperation with COVID-19 vac-

cine manufacturers as part of the national vaccination campaign, and underscored Sinopharm's contribution to global immunisation efforts.

His Royal Highness underlined the Kingdom's vaccine

partnership with Sinopharm, which has witnessed Bahrain's participation in phase-III clinical trials in cooperation with Abu Dhabi-based artificial intelligence and Cloud Computing company, Group 42 (G42).

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister affirmed that Bahrain's success in curbing the spread of the virus is anchored on the efforts of first responders and coordinated campaign efforts, as well as Team Bahrain's whole-of-society mitigation efforts.

Liu expressed his appreciation to His Royal Highness for contributing towards the global COVID-19 response.



Last update - 9:00 pm
 2 March 2021

Individuals vaccinated

(First dose)



(Second dose)



Dubai bans Ramadan tents

Dubai

All permits for Ramadan tents across Dubai have been cancelled as part of the ongoing COVID-19 safety measures, it was announced yesterday.

The cancellation means there will be no tents allowed outside mosques, houses or any other public places, a statement issued by the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department (IACAD) in Dubai explained.

Representatives give nod to state budget

Ministry of Finance and National Economy emphasises government's unwavering commitment to key fiscal balance targets

Part of unprecedented efforts to mitigate effects of lower oil prices and pandemic's impact

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives yesterday approved the Kingdom of Bahrain's 2021-2022 state budget.

Upon submission to parliament, the Finance and National Economy Ministry highlighted the government's unprecedented efforts to mitigate the effects of lower oil prices and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cross-government success in tightly controlling recurrent government expenditure (excluding emergency spend) was emphasised, which was BD63 million under budget in 2020.

The Ministry also emphasised the government's unwavering



Council of Representatives

commitment to the Fiscal Balance Programme's targets.

Past reforms implemented under the programme include a government-wide spending review, creation of spending efficiency taskforces, roll-out of a voluntary retirement scheme for public sector workers, and the implementation of VAT.

The Ministry underlined that strong economic growth projections - 5% for 2021 - demonstrated Bahrain's underlying competitiveness and strong economic fundamentals, which will provide the foundations for

fiscal recovery in the near- and medium-terms.

The state budget's fiscal results and projections for 2021-2022 show the Ministry expects total revenues to reach BD2,406 million in 2021 and BD2,457 million in 2022.

The government expenditure is expected to total BD3,614 million in 2021 and BD3,569 million in 2022, meaning the overall deficit is expected to be BD1,208 million in 2021 reducing to BD1,112 million in 2022.

Announcing the state budget, the Ministry outlined

the new measures taken which include: the creation of a revenue taskforce to support the government's drive to increase non-oil revenues and encourage partnerships with the private sector in the provision of government services; doubling of Mumtalakat's contribution to Government revenues; and increasing the size of the projects budget.

The Ministry noted that these measures complement the significant actions taken by the government since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expenditure remains under tight control: Shaikh Salman



Finance Minister Shaikh Salman
 TDT | Manama

Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa's statement during the parliamentary debate:

"This budget makes clear Bahrain's continued commitment to the Fiscal Balance Programme, despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, with core government expenditure remaining under tight control. New measures contained within the announcement, including establishing a revenue taskforce, will further drive the Kingdom's economic diversification, and grow the role of the private sector in government service delivery."

BAHRAIN COVID-19

ACTIVE CASES
6591

DEATHS
453

DISCHARGED
116487

NEW CASES
492

210 fils (includes VAT)



HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister edicts

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, issued edict (16) of 2021, appointing the following Directors at the National Bureau for Revenue (NBR):

Adel Yousef Al Gallaf, Director of the Tax Information Directorate.

Amel Abdulredha Makhlouf, Director of the Risk Analysis Directorate.

Mahmoud Foued Habib Khalifa, Director of the Operation and Auditing Directorate.

Isra Mahdi Abdullah, Director of the Tax Policies Directorate.

Sara Mohammed Al Kuwari, Director of the Planning and Development Directorate.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy shall implement the edict, which takes immediate effect upon publication in the Official Gazette.

His Royal Highness issued edict (14) of 2021, appointing Mahmoud Ahmed Ali Muqbel as the Director of Communication and Awareness at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism shall implement the edict, which takes effect upon publication in the Official Gazette.

HRH Prince Salman issued edict (15) of 2021, appointing Manal Ali Yousif Al-Doy as Director of Human and Financial Resources, and Shooq Al-Sayed Ismail Al-Alawi as Director of Handicrafts, at Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA).

BACA President shall implement the provisions of this edict, which takes immediate effect upon publication in the Official Gazette.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister also issued edict (13) of 2021, appointing two directors at the Ministry of Housing.

HM King restructures Health Ministry

● His Majesty appoints new officials

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Royal Decree 26/2021, restructuring the Ministry of Health, as follows:

The Health Minister shall oversee the Directorate of Communication.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health shall oversee the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health, who is responsible for the Directorate of Public Health; Directorate of Health Promotion; Assistant Undersecretary for Psychiatry and Special Care for the Elderly; and Directorate of Human Resources

Royal Decree 67/2017 on



HM the King

restructuring the Ministry of Health was abrogated.

The Minister of Health shall implement the provisions of this decree, which takes immediate effect and will be published in the Official Gazette.

HM the King yesterday issued Royal Decree 27/2021, appointing Redha Mohammed Hassan Al Adraj as Assistant Undersecretary for Housing Projects at the Ministry of Housing.

The Housing Minister shall implement the provisions of this

decree, which takes immediate effect and will be published in the Official Gazette.

His Majesty issued Royal Decree 28/2021, appointing Eman Ahmed Al Dossari as Undersecretary at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

The Royal Decree also stipulates the appointment of Khalid Fahad Al Alawi as Assistant Undersecretary for Industrial Development, and Nibras Mohammed Ali Talib as Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Registration and Companies at the same ministry.

Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister shall implement the provisions of this decree, which takes immediate effect and will be published in the Official Gazette.

His Majesty issued Royal Decree 29/2021, appointing Fatima Jaffar Mansoor Al-Sairafi as Deputy Chief Executive Officer

of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA)

The Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister shall implement the provisions of this decree, which takes immediate effect and will be published in the Official Gazette.

HM the King issued Royal Decree 30/2021, appointing two deputy chief executive officers at the National Bureau for Revenue (NBR).

Under the decree, Yussif Adel Mattar was appointed as Deputy Chief Executive for Policies and Planning, and Noor Hafedh Ibrahim as Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Tax Operations at the National Bureau for Revenue.

Finance and National Economy Minister shall implement the provisions of this decree which takes immediate effect, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Six-month support joy!

Tamkeen to extend assistance to businesses, tour guides affected by pandemic

● Business Continuity Support Program launched following HM King directive

● Initiative part of economic stimulus packages announced by government

● Within framework of supporting sustainability of development process

TDT | Manama

Another much-needed lifeline for the national economy and the private sector that has been adversely affected by the current coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

As part of the government's economic stimulus packages, Tamkeen yesterday announced that it will extend financial support to the tourism industry for another six months.

Institutions operating in exhibitions, conferences and gyms within the Business Continuity Support Program will be covered by the COVID-19 rescue plan.

The six-month assistance will also include tour guides in the tourism and hospitality sector registered with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

The support is due to the suspension of their activities in implementation of the precautionary measures.

The labour fund's financial support to small and micro companies is in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad



The mandate is in implementation of the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, at the Executive Committee meeting on February 25.

Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, at the Executive Committee meeting on February 25.

The extension is within the framework of supporting the

sustainability of the development process to assist the institutions affected by the pandemic, especially those whose scope of work is still affected by it.

Tamkeen launched the Business Continuity Support Program following the directive of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to unite the national efforts to combat the repercussions of COVID-19 on economic levels. The programme is part of the economic stimulus packages announced by the government.

Eligible micro and small enterprises (up to 50 employees) must have an active CR/valid license, be based and operating in Bahrain and with their employees registered under SIO/LMRA.

They must not be owned more than 50% by the government and not have active LMRA offenses or active violations with Tamkeen/LMRA.

GCC always committed to protecting and promoting child's rights



Ambassador Bucheeri speaks during the remote session

● 'Gulf Children's Day' is observed on January 15 every year to reaffirm the GCC countries' unwavering principle of further strengthening the protection of this important segment of society

TDT | Manama

GCC countries are committed to protecting and promoting child's rights at all levels, in line with the international legislation and conventions.

This was emphasised by Kingdom of Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva, Ambassador Dr Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri.

The Ambassador delivered a statement on behalf of the GCC countries, in the context of the annual meeting on the rights of the child within the 46th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, which was held remotely on Monday.

He pointed out that based on

considering child protection as one of the unwavering principles agreed upon by all the GCC countries, the GCC Secretariat General has recently, with the support of their member states, allocated a special day to the children of the Gulf to be observed on January 15 every year.

"Gulf Children's Day" represents an opportunity to reaffirm the continuation of GCC countries towards further strengthening the protection of this important segment of society, he said.

Dr Bucheeri added various events, programmes and educational campaigns are organised with the aim of spreading awareness on the importance of childcare.

He also pointed out the unprecedented challenges facing children nowadays in view of the growing threats posed by COVID-19, which create various issues that put children's rights at risk.

The Ambassador called for concerted efforts to take measures to reduce the suffering of children who are disproportionately affected by these circumstances, given that what children go through during this stage may leave severe and lasting effects.



Gyms in Bahrain are among hardest hit by the pandemic

Bahrain strongly condemns Houthi attack on Jazan region

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has strongly condemned and denounced the missile attack by the Houthi militia on the Jazan region, southwestern Saudi Arabia, which

injured several civilians and caused damage.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wished a speedy and full recovery to the victims of the cowardly terrorist act that targets the lives of innocent ci-

vilians.

The Ministry reiterated Bahrain's firm position that strongly supports Saudi Arabia and backs all the measures it takes to preserve its security, stability and solidarity.

Kingdom congratulates Bulgaria leader

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev on his country's Liberation Day.

New housing eServices details on bahrain.bh

Part of Housing Ministry's plan for digital transformation and deployment of advanced technologies

● They include 'Apply for Housing Request', 'Request Status Enquiry', 'Update Contact Details and IBAN', 'Apply for Mazaya Request', and 'Apply for Loan Request'

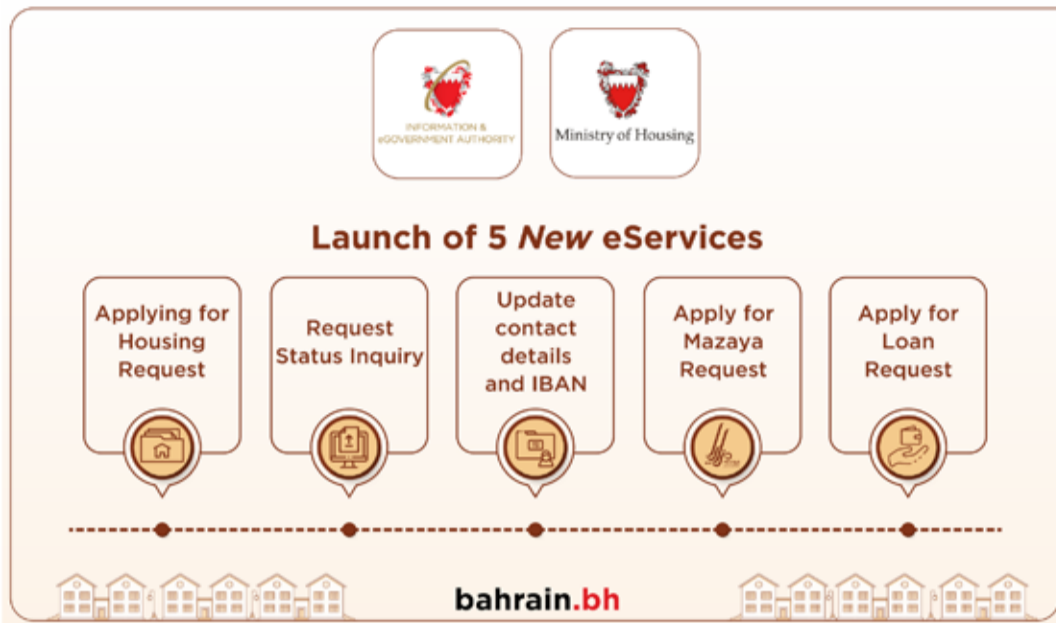
TDI | Manama

Details of the new housing eServices on the national portal bahrain.bh were announced by the Ministry of Housing and the Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA).

Launched by the Minister of Housing, Eng. Basim bin Yacob Al Hamar on Sunday, they include 'Apply for Housing Request', 'Request Status Enquiry', 'Update Contact Details and IBAN', 'Apply for Mazaya Request', and 'Apply for Loan Request'.

IGA Deputy CE of eTransformation, Dr Zakareya Ahmed Al Khajah welcomed the attention given by the Minister to digital transformation and the deployment of advanced technologies to improve the Ministry's services.

He commended the specialist teams at the ministry for their hard work in supporting the launch of the latest batch of eServices, which is part of the first phase of its digital transformation plan.



He praised the ministry's cooperation with the IGA throughout the study and evaluation of period prior to the launch. This is in line with the vision of the Kingdom's leadership and government to adopt advanced technologies and accelerating the pace of digital transformation, and with the Ministry's commitment to streamline its offerings.

Al Khajah said that the commitment shown by the ministry's specialist teams also supports the IGA's strategy and goals, which center on the digital transformation of government services using different elec-

tronic channels. Citizens who meet eligibility criteria can avail of the eServices via the National Portal, bahrain.bh.

They should select Ministry of Housing services, and then log in using their eKey account. The services can also be accessed via the ministry's official website, housing.gov.bh which redirects to the National Portal.

Ministry of Housing Assistant Undersecretary for Policies and Housing Services, Dr Khalid Al Haidan said that the 'Apply for Housing Request' service allows citizens to submit their applications for new housing units or allocations of land by the Minis-

try so individual can build their own units at their expense after receiving the land.

It also allows them to request ownership of apartments in a ministry's housing project building, provided that the applicant is a Bahraini between 21 and 50 years at the time of submission.

The housing requests can be availed of by several types of individuals, Category 1 being husbands, wives, and children; Category 2 covering parents living with one or more Bahraini sons who are minors, and Bahraini wives of expatriates who have one Bahraini national son who is a minor, and Category 3 con-



Dr Al Haidan



Dr Al Khajah



This is in line with the vision of the Kingdom's leadership and government to adopt advanced technologies and accelerating the pace of digital transformation, and with the Ministry's commitment to streamline its offerings.

sisting of sons who are single, 21 years of age, and living with one or both of their Bahraini parents.

The 'Request Status Enquiry' service offers individuals the

chance to receive the latest updates on their applications, while the 'Update Contact and IBAN bank Details' is available for those who have already submitted housing requests.

Al Haidan stated that the 'Apply for Mazaya Request' service allows citizens to apply for the social housing financing scheme, 'Mazaya', which secures bank financing for beneficiaries in exchange for 25% of their monthly income as installments.

The government, through the ministry, takes care of the remaining financial support covering the rest of the monthly bank installments. Applicants must be Bahraini and between 21 and 35 years of age at the time of submission.

The 'Apply for Loan Request' service allows citizens to request one of several types of financings offered by the ministry, including purchase of housing units or apartments, construction for landowners, and reconstruction.

Mosques to re-open for Fajr, Dhuhr and Asr prayers from tomorrow

TDI | Manama

Mosques will re-open across Bahrain for the Fajr (Dawn), Dhuhr (Noon) and Asr (Afternoon) prayers starting tomorrow.

The decision is based on the opinions of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and the recommendations of the National Medical taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and following consultations with the Sunni and Jaafari endowments, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments said.

The Ministry stressed the importance of adhering to all precautionary measures to ensure the safety of all and added



Al Fateh Grand Mosque

that decisions would be subject to periodic review based on developments.

Congregational and Friday prayers were suspended in Bahrain on March 28 after

mosques were shut to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.

Fajr prayers were allowed back in mosques on August 28, Dhuhr on November 1 and Asr on December 6.

Tubli wastewater treatment plant project on track

TDI | Manama

Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Esam bin Abdullah Khalaf has stressed the significance of the project to expand the Tubli wastewater treatment plant.

The Minister was assessing the progress of work on Phase Four of the expansion project that aims to accommodate the increased flow of waste water, taking the average daily flow capacity of 200,000 m³/day to



Construction work in progress

reach a full average daily flow capacity of 400,000 cubic metres/day.

The project includes a "collection room" for wastewater

streams 21 meters underground and a pump 25.1 metres underground that will receive wastewater flows from the collection room.



الشركة البحرينية للترفيه العائلي ش.م.ب
BAHRAIN FAMILY LEISURE COMPANY B.S.C

Invitation to the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the Company's Shareholders.

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Family Leisure Company B.S.C. cordially invites the shareholders to attend the Annual Ordinary General Assembly Meeting to be held on **Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 12.00 Noon** through virtual means of communication utilizing the "ZOOM APP" and organized by Bahrain Bourse; accordingly we draw the attention of the Shareholders to adhere to the following instructions to ensure the facilitation and success of the meeting through virtual media:

- 1) Send a request to attend the Ordinary General Assembly Meeting 24 hours before the meeting with a clear copy of proof of the personal identity of the Shareholder or his representative and the power of attorney, contact number and e-mail, so that we can confirm the participant's identity to registry@bahrainclear.com
- 2) Upon Bahrain Clear confirming the receiving all the required documents and information, the Shareholders who wish to participate in the meeting will be provided with visual communication procedures, prior to the meeting, so that they can access the APP or download on either personal computer or any hand held device, provided that the voice and video features are available and allowing access to the APP.

Accordingly, we request the shareholders to abide by the instructions above to smoothly and interactively contribute to the success of the meeting in accordance with the rules and regulations. If the required quorum is not met, a second meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st March 2021 at the same time and using the same method. The alternate date for the meeting in the absence of a quorum will be Wednesday, 07th April 2021 at the same time and using the same method to consider the following agenda.

A. Agenda of AGM

1. Reading out the previous AGM minutes held on 11th March 2020 and approving it.
2. Discussing the Chairman's report about the group business for the year ended 31st December 2020 and approving it.
3. Listening to the auditor's report on the Company's financial position for the financial year ending 31st December 2020.
4. Consider and approve the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020.
5. Discuss the corporate governance report for 2020 and comply with the requirements of the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.
6. To notify and approve the transactions carried out during the financial year ended 31 December 2020 with any of the related parties as described in note 27 of the financial statements in line with Article 189 of the Commercial Companies Law.
7. Discharge the members of the Board of Directors from their liabilities for the financial year ending 31st December 2020.
8. Appointment/Reappointment of external auditors for the year ending 31st December 2021 and authorize the Board of Directors to determine their fees.
9. New matters that may arise as per Article 207 of the Commercial Companies' Law.

Abdul Latif Khalid Al Aujan
Chairman of the Board

Importance notice to the shareholders:

- The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 are available on the Bahrain Bourse Website.
- You can obtain a copy of the power of attorney through www.bflc.com.bh
- Any shareholder registered in the company's register of shareholders on the date of the meeting shall have the right to attend in person or to give in writing any person to attend the meeting and to vote on his behalf, taking into consideration that his agent is not the Chairman or Members of the board of directors or employees of the Company.
- In case the shareholder is a company, the agent attending the meeting must submit a letter of authorization from the shareholder who is entitled to be the principal of that shareholder. The authorization must be written and issued by the person authorized by the company and stamped with the company's stamp.
- The power of attorney must be deposited at least 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting at Bahrain Financial Harbor - Bahrain Clear - Gate No. 4 - post Box 3203, Manama-Kingdom of Bahrain - Tel: 17261260 - Fax 17256362 or e-mail: csd.info@bahraimbourse.com with confirmation of receipt before the deadline.
- It is worth noting that the power of attorney issued after the deadline is not valid for meeting purposes.
- For any inquiries, please contact the Public Relation and Investor Relations Department at 17215080.

A unique 'family fun day' interactive experience

St Christopher's School Future Learning Summit will explore new and innovative ways of learning

● To be held on 19 March for students, families and educators from Bahrain and all over the world

● Exciting educational, immersive and online experience which is first of its kind in Kingdom

● It aims to inspire, motivate, empower and connect them with global experts to be future-ready

TDT | Manama

What do you get when you have a famous freestyle rapper; a world-leading magician; an astrophysicist YouTube star; a classical English actor; and a contemporary French music duo?

The 2021 St Christopher's School Future Learning Summit! The St Christopher's School Future Learning Summit is an exciting educational, immersive and interactive online experience and the first of its kind in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Proudly sponsored by HSBC Bank Middle East Limited Bahrain, Batelco and Springring, this unique, 'family fun day in' event will take place on 19 March and is designed for students, families and educators from Bahrain and all over the world.

"Following the huge success of our previous Future Learning Summits and the disappointment of cancelling last year's due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are delighted to announce FLS 2021 as a fully online event," said Gavin Boyle, Director of Learning at St Christopher's School.

"This year, FLS will consist of exciting practical and interac-



Ben Walden ... actor and director of Contender Charlie



Chris Turner ... British comedian and freestyle rapper



Dianna Cowern ... YouTube's Physics Girl



KIZ ... contemporary French music duo

tive sessions with speakers from around the globe. The aim of the event is to inspire, motivate, empower and connect students, families and educators with global experts to explore what it takes to be truly Future-ready in the modern world."

Chris Russell, CEO of HSBC in Bahrain, said: "This event once again demonstrates agile thinking and innovation with its move online. For HSBC these are two important qualities for building future skills and we are proud to invest in education that fosters

these qualities. HSBC is dedicated to supporting quality educational programmes that will develop a talent pool of young innovative and entrepreneurial talents."

FLS 2021 will explore new and innovative ways of learning.

In one session, we will explore how magicians create seemingly impossible feats and how this can be applied in the classroom and in our own creative pursuits.

This keynote explores the techniques such as the guiding of attention; the framing of

perception; and the staging of surprises.

Dianna Cowern is the creator and host of the viral "Physics Girl" YouTube series with over 1.7 million subscribers, where she explains the weird quirks of our universe. Her videos total over 125 million views.

She is an MIT graduate and an astrophysicist. She will be engaging the audience with exciting experiments that can be done in the home to explain real-world science whilst having fun as a family!

Chris Turner is an award-winning British comedian and freestyle rapper. In his session, he

will reveal his secrets and discuss how his performance techniques can be used to improve working memory and increase confidence when public speaking.

Ben Walden is an English actor and director of Contender Charlie, an organisation that encourages young people to explore their emotional and creative potential. Ben will use the power of storytelling and mythology to develop attributes such as leadership, self-confidence and problem-solving.

This will be an engaging and interactive session where participants will feel empowered to face the challenges of the modern world.

KIZ are a contemporary French music duo who will compose a song in real-time during the FLS from sounds captured from everyday objects submitted by the audience.

They will demonstrate how they layer sounds, create beats and loops to produce a unique composition. The FLS theme song will be played out live at the end of the Summit.



The interactive event will take place live online on 19 March from 12 to 16.30pm Bahrain time. Registration is now open online at www.futurelearning.me

The interactive event will take place live online on 19 March from 12 to 16.30pm Bahrain time. Registration is now open online at www.futurelearning.me

We encourage you to experience this unique 'family fun day in' together.

For more information about the St Christopher's School Future Learning Summit 2021 (FLS 2021), please visit www.futurelearning.me

"This event once again demonstrates agile thinking and innovation with its move online ... HSBC is dedicated to supporting quality educational programmes that will develop a talent pool of young innovative and entrepreneurial talents."

- CHRIS RUSSELL, CEO OF HSBC IN BAHRAIN



Education Minister renews Al Mawred Education Services licence

TDT | Manama

Education Minister Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi yesterday issued an edict, renewing the licence of the Al Mawred Education Services firm for overseas students for a renewable three-year period.

The firm shall comply with all licensing conditions, and the provisions of Decree-Law 2/1997 regarding educational services offices for overseas students, in addition to its related implementation edicts, and other laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Minister Al Nuaimi

Filipino Creatives Bahrain receives certificate of recognition from Philippine Embassy

TDT | Manama

The art group Filipino Creatives Bahrain received a certificate of recognition from the Philippine Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Philippine Ambassador Alfonso Ver and Cultural Centre head JieMarie Mortel-Ladrica awarded the certificate to the group.

At the same time, the newly elected officers of the group for the year 2021 had their oath-taking in the presence of Ambassador Ver and Mortel-Ladrica.

Present in the occasion were founding members Catherine Paje and Newlife Sarah



Ambassador Ver and Mortel-Ladrica preside over the oath-taking ceremony of the art group's newly elected officers

Mac-arambon who received the certificate of recognition and showed support to the incoming officers.

Filipino Creatives Bahrain is the first and only Filipino art group accredited by the Philippine Embassy Cultural Office. It has exhibited their works in Bahrain since their formation in 2018, including some of the biggest art exhibitions

in the Kingdom like "Bahrain Through Our Eyes", "Ma Arte" and "Crosscurrent: A Fusion of Art and Culture."

For this year, the group plans to hold an all-Filipino visual arts exhibition in celebration of the Philippine Independence Day in June and another big visual arts exhibition together with international artists at the Bahrain Art Center later this year.

The following are the Filipino Creatives Officers 2021: Hajji Celi Refugio (president), Alberto A. Magsuci (vice president), Maria Carmella R. Solido (secretary), Aren Joy M. Salazar (treasurer), Karlo Angelo V. Papa (Auditor), Rudy D. Pe-rey (Sgt. at Arms), Rodrigo C. Masaque (Sgt. at Arms), Emmanuel Joseph M. Reyes (P.R.O.) and Kieran B. Calvelo (P.R.O.).

Oil steady before OPEC+ talks on supply

Reuters | London

Oil prices held steady yesterday before this week's OPEC+ meeting, with producers expected to ease supply curbs as economies start to recover from the coronavirus crisis.

OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo said the outlook for oil demand was looking more positive, particularly in Asia.

Brent futures rose 2 cents to \$63.71 a barrel by 10:48 a.m. EST (1548 GMT). U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose 7 cents, or 0.1%, to \$60.71.

During the session, both Brent and WTI fell over \$1 a barrel to one-week lows. Last week, both touched their highest since January 2020. The rally faded on expectations the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies in the group known as OPEC+ would produce more oil from April, easing last year's deep supply cuts.

OPEC+, which meets on Thursday, could discuss allowing as much as 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) back into the market.

Abu Dhabi's ADNOC has told Asian oil buyers it plans to increase crude allocations in April, sources close to the matter told Reuters ahead of the OPEC+ meeting.

Top Bahraini, Israel officials hold talks on investment, ties

● **The meeting focused on boosting ties in various sectors and opportunities and potential joint projects**

● **Khalid Al Rumaihi, the CEO of Mumtalakat led the talks**

● **Israel expects trade with Bahrain to be around \$220 million in 2021**

TDI | Manama

Top Bahraini and Israeli officials yesterday held talks on enhancing investment and further collaboration between both countries.

With Khalid Al Rumaihi, the CEO of Mumtalakat, on the virtual meeting were Prof. Avi Simhon, the Head of Israeli National Economic Council

and the Economic Advisor to the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, and Lior Farber, the Deputy Director-General of Israeli Prime Minister's Office for Internal Affairs and Development.

The meeting focused on boosting ties in various sectors and opportunities and potential joint projects that could present future growth and development prospects for both nations.

The latest talks come close on the heels of a discussion by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister on investments.

Netanyahu's office also said he spoke about visiting Bahrain once coronavirus restrictions would allow it.

"The Bahraini regent also stated that he was interested in examining the possibility of Bahrain joining an investment in a vaccine manufacturing plant planned to be established in Israel together with other countries," the statement said.

Netanyahu had said he was "in talks with the heads of Pfizer and Moderna to open facilities in Israel."

Bahrain followed the United Arab Emirates in normalising ties with Israel, a breakthrough overseen by the former US President Donald Trump. The agreement, announced by Trump on 11 September 2020, was followed on by a joint statement, officially referred to as the Abraham Accords, by the United States, Israel and the UAE on 13 August 2020. The leaders formally signed the deal on 15 September 2020 at the White House in Washington, DC.

At that time, Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Zayani, said, "engagement and cooperation were the most effective and sustainable way of bringing about genuine and lasting peace in the region."

The ceremony also saw several memoranda of understanding covering trade, air services, telecommunications, finance, banking and agriculture.

Global oil demand recovery, gas growth ahead, say Aramco, Chevron CEOs



Michael Wirth



Amin Nasser

Reuters

Global oil demand is recovering and could return to around pre-pandemic levels next year, the chief executives of Saudi Aramco and Chevron Corp told an oil and gas conference yesterday.

The coronavirus pandemic last year wiped out a fifth of worldwide demand for fuel as billions of people stopped traveling and sheltered at home.

Global demand for oil has recovered to around 94 million barrels per day (bpd) and could reach 99 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2022, said Aramco CEO Amin Nasser at IHS Markit's online CERAWEEK conference.

Economies are improving in China, India and East Asia, with vaccine deployment as "cause for optimism" in the West, Nasser said. "I see demand and the market continuing to improve from here, especially from the second half of this year," he said.

Diesel demand is at or above pre-pandemic levels due to door-to-door deliveries, though jet fuel lags as people avoid long flights, said Chevron CEO Michael Wirth, who spoke on a panel with Nasser.

Both executives are bullish on natural gas. Saudi Arabia has targeted generating half of its electricity from natural gas and half from renewables by 2030.

Emissions of methane - a potent greenhouse gas that is the main component of natural gas - should be reduced and robustly monitored, Wirth said, adding that he expects greater regulation from the Biden administration.

"As we've seen recently in Texas and not too long before that in California, when the demands on a grid are at an elevated level we need to make sure we have reliable grid management and reliable power supply," Wirth said. "And natural gas should play a very, very important role."

India woos Tesla with cheaper production costs than China

● **Gadkari's pitch comes weeks after billionaire Elon Musk's Tesla registered a company in India**

Reuters | New Delhi

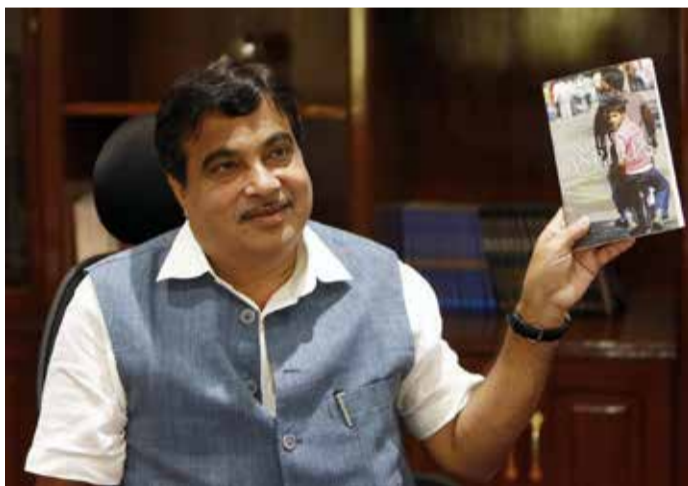
India is ready to offer incentives to ensure Tesla Inc's cost of production would be less than in China if the carmaker commits to making its electric vehicles in the south Asian country, transport minister Nitin Gadkari told Reuters.

Gadkari's pitch comes weeks after billionaire Elon Musk's Tesla registered a company in India in a step towards entering the country, possibly as soon as mid-2021. Sources familiar with the matter have said Tesla plans to start by importing and selling its Model 3 electric sedan in India.

"Rather than assembling (the cars) in India they should make the entire product in the country by hiring local vendors. Then we can give higher concessions," Gadkari said in an interview, without giving details of what incentives would be on offer.

"The government will make sure the production cost for Tesla will be the lowest when compared with the world, even China, when they start manufacturing their cars in India. We will assure that," he said.

India wants to boost local manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs), batteries and other



India's Transport and Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari displays a book written by him at his office in New Delhi, India

components to cut costly imports and curb pollution in its major cities.

This comes amid a global race by carmakers to jump-start EV production as countries work towards cutting carbon emissions.

Gadkari said that as well as being a big market, India could be an export hub, especially with about 80% of components for lithium-ion batteries being made locally now.

"I think it's a win-win situation for Tesla," Gadkari said, adding he also wanted to engage with Tesla about building an ultra high-speed hyperloop between Delhi and Mumbai.

India is drawing up a production-linked incentive scheme for auto and auto component makers as well as for setting up advanced battery manufacturing units, but the details are yet to be finalised.

Switching to cleaner sources of energy and reducing vehicle


pollution are seen as essential for India to meet its Paris Accord climate commitments.

India last year introduced tougher emission rules for carmakers to bring them up to international standards. It is now looking at tightening fuel efficiency rules from April 2022, which industry executives say may compel some automakers to add electric or hybrid vehicles to their portfolios.

Battered by the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry says it needs longer to make the transition.

Gadkari said he was not directly responsible for making the decision on whether to delay, but was confident India would meet its Paris treaty commitments without disrupting economic growth.

"Development and environment will go hand in hand. We will take some time but we will soon reach the international standard norms," he said.



شركة دلمون للدواجن
Delmon Poultry Company S.S.C

Invitation of Annual General Meeting

The Board of Directors of Delmon Poultry Company B.S.C. is pleased to invite the shareholder to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 2020 that will be held on **Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 10.30 am via (Zoom)**, Video-conferencing.

Steps to be taken by shareholders to enter the meeting with ease whilst maintaining confidentiality, as per the following:

1. Sending a request to attend the AGM with a clear copy of the identity card or passport copy of the shareholder or his representative along with the proxy card to the email: alyaa.s@dawajen.bh in order to verify the identity and description of the attendee at least 24 hours before the date of the AGM subject to providing the **email and the contact number** to those who wish to attend.
2. After receiving all the required document and information, those who wish to attend will be provided with the link of the visual communication system (Zoom) prior to the date of the AGM, allowing the attendee to install the program, whether on a mobile phone or a computer, and the activation of audio and video features are required.

In the event that the quorum is not met, the second meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st Mar 2021, provided that the third meeting will be held if necessary on Wednesday 7th Apr 2021 at the same time and through the same arrangements above.

The following AGM Agenda :

1. To read and approve the minutes of the previous AGM dated on 23rd Mar 2020.
2. Review and approval of the Board Directors' report for the year ended 31st Dec 2020.
3. Listen to external auditor's report regarding the Company's financial status 31st December 2020.
4. Review & approval of the audited financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2020.
5. Review and approval of the Board's recommendation of the following appropriations for the year 2020:
 - a) Distribution of cash dividends to shareholders of 10 % share nominal value, 10 fils per share of 305,953 for the financial year ended 31st December 2020, as below:

AGM Date	24 Mar 2021
Cum - dividend date (last day of trading with entitlement to dividends)	25 Mar 2021
Ex- Dividend Date (First day of trading without entitlement to dividends)	28 Mar 2021
Record Date (the day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends)	29 Mar 2021
Payment Date (the day on which the dividends will be paid to the entitled shareholders)	5 Apr 2021

b) Transfer to Retained Earnings BD 559,982.

6. Allocation of BD79,135 as Board of Directors remuneration, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Industry and commerce and Tourist.
7. To discuss and approve the Board of Director's Corporate Governance report for the year ended 31st December 2020; and comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and central Bank of Bahrain.
8. To notify and approve the related party transaction carried out during the financial year ended 31 December 2020 as stated in note # 29 of the Financial statement in line with Article 189 of the Commercial Companies Law.
9. Relieving the Board Directors of any liability regarding the decisions they have taken during the year ended 31st December 2020.
10. Appointment or reappointment of external auditors for 2021 and authorizing the Board of Directors to decide their fees.
11. Any other Business in accordance with Article 207 of the CCL.

Abdul Rahman Mohamed Jamsheer
Chairman

Notes:

1. You can obtain the financial statements for the fiscal year ending 31st December 2020 and a copy of the proxy card through the company's website www.dawajen.bh, as well as the Bahrain Bourse Site, or through Bahrain Clear as their address shown below.
2. Any shareholder whose name is registered in the shareholder's register of the company on the date of the meeting has the right to attend in person or to authorize in writing any person on his behalf to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf, considering that this agent is other than the chairman and members of the board of directors or employees of the company.
3. In the event that the shareholder is a company, the agent attending the meeting must present an authorization letter from the shareholder, and the authorization must be in writing and issued by the person who is authorized to the company and stamped with the company's seal and submitted before the deadline for depositing the proxy.
4. The proxy must be deposited 24 hours before the date of the meeting to the offices of Bahrain clear in Financial Harbor (fourth floor) phone # 17108836, email csd@bahrainclear.com, or through Delmon Poultry Company's Email on alyaa.s@dawajen.bh.
5. For further inquiries, please feel free to contact us on 17608272 - 17608282

News in brief

◆ **Sophisticated scanning technology is revealing intriguing secrets about Little Foot, the remarkable fossil of an early human forerunner that inhabited South Africa 3.67 million years ago during a critical juncture in our evolutionary history.** Scientists said yesterday they examined key parts of the nearly complete and well-preserved fossil at Britain's national synchrotron facility, Diamond Light Source. The scanning focused upon Little Foot's cranial vault - the upper part of her braincase - and her lower jaw, or mandible. Little Foot's species blended ape-like and human-like traits and is considered a possible direct ancestor of humans.



Painstaking study of 'Little Foot' fossil sheds light on human origins

◆ **Global CO2 emissions have returned to pre-pandemic levels and then some, threatening to put climate treaty targets for capping global warming out of reach, the International Energy Agency said yesterday.** Energy-related emissions were two percent higher in December 2020 than in the same month a year earlier, driven by economic recovery and a lack of clean energy policies, the IEA said in a report. "The rebound in global carbon emissions toward the end of last year is a stark warning that not enough is being done to accelerate clean energy transitions worldwide," IEA executive director Fatih Birol said in a statement.



◆ **Indonesia has detected two cases of the more infectious COVID-19 variant first discovered in Britain, officials said on Tuesday, marking a potential new complication for the country as it tries to contain one of the worst coronavirus outbreaks in Asia.** Dante Saksono Harbuwono, the deputy health minister, said the discovery of the variant represented a new challenge. Indonesia's COVID-19 task force also confirmed cases of the variant, known as B117, had been found but declined further comment.

Indonesia says identifies two cases of British COVID-19 variant



◆ **Mikhail Gorbachev, the historic reformer who presided over the collapse of the Soviet Union, marked his 90th birthday in quarantine Tuesday and like everyone else is "tired" of virus restrictions, his spokesman said.** Congratulations poured in from around the world, with Russian President Vladimir Putin, US leader Joe Biden and German Chancellor Angela Merkel all sending their best wishes, Gorbachev's spokesman said.

Gorbachev marks 90th birthday in quarantine



◆ **Chinese Huawei Technologies executive Meng Wanzhou was back in a Canadian court Monday to fight a final round against extradition to the United States, her lawyers challenging the crux of the case -- that she allegedly hid business dealings in Iran.**

◆ **Huawei exec's extradition fight enters final round in Canada**

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	29,317,024	527,472	115,122,847
2 India	11,136,452	157,360	
3 Brazil	10,589,608	255,836	
4 Russia	4,268,215	86,896	2,553,018
5 UK	4,182,009	122,953	
6 France	3,760,671	86,803	Recovered: 90,818,029
7 Spain	3,204,531	69,609	
8 Italy	2,938,371	97,945	New cases +121,401
9 Turkey	2,711,479	28,638	
10 Germany	2,457,348	71,078	New deaths +3,105
11 Colombia	2,255,260	59,866	
12 Argentina	2,112,023	52,077	
13 Mexico	2,089,281	186,152	
14 Poland	1,719,708	44,008	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	183,010		10,736		141,347	30,927
Saudi Arabia	378,002	+302	6,505	+5	368,926	2,571
UAE	396,771	+2,721	1,253	+15	383,998	11,520
Kuwait	192,031		1,085		180,155	10,791
Oman	142,169	+361	1,580	+3	132,945	7,644
Qatar	164,600	+463	259		154,420	9,921

Philippines fires diplomat whose maid attacks were caught on film

AFP News

The Philippines has sacked its former ambassador to Brazil, after she was caught on camera attacking a domestic worker at her official residence in Brasilia.

Marichu Mauro was recalled to Manila late last year after Brazil's GloboNews channel broadcast security camera footage filmed over eight months showing her repeatedly assaulting a member of her household staff.

The career diplomat has now been dismissed from the foreign service, President Rodrigo Duterte told a television audience on Monday.

"There are rules to be followed. If you disobey, you take the risk. If something goes wrong, it's gonna hit you," Duterte said.

Mauro's firing means she will lose her pension. She is also barred from standing for public office.

According to GloboNews, the Filipino worker was employed at the ambassador's official residence, a large gated compound



Millions of Filipinos escape low wages, unemployment and limited opportunities at home by going overseas, including as domestic workers

in Brazil's capital.

Footage of the abuse -- dated between March and October 2020 -- was used as evidence in a complaint lodged with the Philippine government against Mauro, it said.

Mauro was posted to Brazil in 2018, from where she oversaw the missions to Colombia, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.

Mauro has not responded to AFP's request for comment on her dismissal.

Millions of Filipinos escape low wages, unemployment and limited opportunities at home by going overseas, including as to become domestic workers. Their remittances are vital to the local economy.

But many of these workers face difficult or dangerous conditions, and reports of physical or psychological abuse are not uncommon, though most instances involve foreign employers.

Indonesia's Mount Sinabung volcano spews ash into sky



Reuters | Jakarta

Indonesia's Mount Sinabung volcano sent a cloud of hot ash as high as 5 km (3.1 miles) on Tuesday, in its first big eruption since August last year, the country's volcanology centre said.

Mount Sinabung's activity has increased since last year and the alert for the volcano in North Sumatra province has been placed at the second-high-

est level.

No casualties were reported, but an official had earlier urged people to stay at least 3 km from the crater, Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Centre said.

Videos on social media showed little panic among residents over the eruption, which sent a column of white ash into the blue sky.

Wirda Br Sitepu, a 20-year-old resident, told Reuters that the situation had calmed and

said "the mountain is not erupting, and the ash has decreased."

Indonesia straddles the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire", a highly seismically active zone, where different plates on the earth's crust meet and create a large number of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Indonesia has nearly 130 active volcanoes, more than any other country.

Sinabung had been inactive for centuries before it erupted again in 2010.

Woman dies from brain haemorrhage in Japan days after vaccine, but link uncertain

Reuters | Tokyo

A Japanese woman in her 60s died from a brain haemorrhage three days after receiving a Pfizer coronavirus vaccination, the health ministry said on Tuesday, adding that there may not be a link between the two. The woman was vaccinated on Friday and

is suspected to have suffered a brain haemorrhage three days later, on Monday, it said. It was Japan's first reported death following a vaccination.

"The brain haemorrhage that is suspected as a cause is relatively common among people from their 40s to their 60s, and at this time, based on examples overseas, there does not seem to

be a link between brain haemorrhages and the coronavirus vaccine," the ministry quoted Tomohiro Morio, a doctor advising the government, as saying.

"It may be a coincidental case, but there is a need to gather more information and make an assessment in upcoming working groups."

'The



Nigerian

● The pupils from Jangebe, a town in Zamfara state, were abducted just after midnight

● One father, whose seven daughters were among those kidnapped and freed, said the incident would not deter him from schooling his children

Reuters | Gusau, Nigeria

Gunmen have freed all 279 girls kidnapped from a boarding school in north-west Nigeria, officials said on Tuesday, as victims described how their abductors had beaten and threatened to shoot them.

The pupils from Jangebe, a town in Zamfara state, were abducted just after midnight on Friday. All had now been freed, Zamfara Governor Bello Matawalle said.

Two American

AFP News

An American father and son were handed to Japanese officials on Monday, their lawyer said, after losing an extradition battle over accusations they helped former Renault-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn to flee Japan.

Michael Taylor and his son Peter Taylor were arrested in May after Japan issued a warrant accusing them of helping Ghosn flee Tokyo for Lebanon in December 2019 -- reportedly hidden in a large box in a private jet -- as he faced financial charges in Japan.

Two weeks ago, the US Supreme Court rejected the Taylors' emergency appeal and cleared the way for their extradition following similar rulings by lower courts.

"This is a sad day for the family, and for all who believe that veterans deserve better treatment from their own country," Paul Kelly, their lawyer, said in a statement

1575

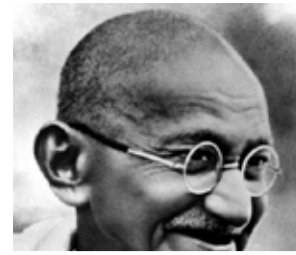
Indian Mughal Emperor Akbar defeats Bengali army at the Battle of Tukaroi

1887

Anne Sullivan begins teaching 6 year old blind-deaf Helen Keller

1939

Mahatma Gandhi begins a fast in Mumbai (Bombay) to protest against autocratic rule in India



1943

Battle of the Bismarck Sea: Australian and American air forces devastate Japanese navy convoy

They said they'll shoot'



n schoolgirls recount kidnap ordeal

Umma Abubakar, among those released, described their ordeal. "Most of us got injured on our feet and we could not continue trekking, so they said they will shoot anybody who did not continue to walk," she told Reuters.

Boarding schools in northern Nigeria have become targets for mass kidnappings for ransom by armed criminal gangs, a trend started by the jihadist group Boko Haram and continued by its offshoot, Islamic State West Africa Province.

Friday's raid on the Government Girls Science Secondary School was the second such abduction in little over a week in the northwest, a region increasingly targeted by gangs.

Governor Matawalle said "repentant bandits" working with the government under an amnesty programme had helped secure the Jangebe girls' release.

Initial reports put the number kidnapped at 317, but Zamfara government spokesman Sulaiman Tanau Anka said the total was 279, as some of the girls had run into the bush at the time of the raid.

'THEY HIT US WITH GUNS'

Reuters journalists in Zamfara's state capital, Gusau, saw dozens of girls in Muslim veils sitting in a hall in a state government building. A few parents arrived, and one father wept with joy after seeing his daughter.

Most of the girls appeared un-



Initial reports put the number kidnapped at 317, but Zamfara government spokesman Sulaiman Tanau Anka said the total was 279

harmful, but at least a dozen were sent to hospital.

Farida Lawali, 15, told how she and the other girls had been taken to a forest by the kidnappers.

"They carried the sick ones that cannot move. We were walking in the stones and thorns," she said, sitting in the government house building, covered in a light blue veil.

"They started hitting us with guns so that we could move," she added. "While they were beating them with guns, some of them were crying and moving at the same time."

President Muhammadu Buhari, who met his top security officials on Tuesday, said news of the girls' release brought "overwhelming joy".

He warned against paying ransoms to kidnappers, which the national government has denied doing.

"Ransom payments will continue to prosper kidnapping," Buhari said, urging the police and the military to bring the kidnappers to justice.

One father, whose seven daughters were among those kidnapped and freed, said the incident would not deter him from schooling his children.

"It's a ploy to deny our girls ... from getting the Western education in which we are far behind," Lawal Abdullahi told Reuters. "We should not succumb to blackmail. My advice to government is that they should take immediate precautions to stop further abductions."

The UN children's agency UNICEF urged the Nigerian government to protect schools so children will not be fearful of going to school, and parents afraid of sending their children to school.



In 2014, Boko Haram abducted more than 270 schoolgirls from the north-easterly town of Chibok, in Nigeria's most high-profile school kidnapping. Around 100 remain missing.

as handed to Japan over Ghosn's escape



Former Renault-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn (pictured September 2020) was arrested in November 2018 and had been expected to face trial on charges including understating his pay and misusing company assets

confirming they had been handed over to Japanese custody.

The US courts rejected the contention by the Taylors' lawyers that the two men would face tor-

ture-like conditions in Japanese prison sufficient to merit breaching the extradition treaty between Tokyo and Washington.

Peter Taylor and his father, a

former US Special Forces member turned private security contractor, had been imprisoned pending the outcome of the extradition fight.

US court documents show the two, and a Lebanese national, allegedly helped smuggle Ghosn out of Japan inside a large musical equipment case.

Prosecutors in one court filing called it "one of the most brazen and well-orchestrated escape acts in recent history."

Ghosn, who was a global business superstar when his career came crashing to an end, fled Japan while out on bail facing financial misconduct charges.

He was arrested in November 2018 and had been expected to face trial on charges including understating his pay and misusing company assets.

Ghosn, who has denied any wrongdoing, has said he fled because he could not get a fair trial in Japan.

UK's Prince Philip remains in hospital after two weeks

Reuters | London

Britain's Prince Philip was receiving treatment and undergoing heart tests yesterday, two weeks after the 99-year-old husband of Queen Elizabeth was admitted to hospital in London as a precaution after he felt unwell.

Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, was transferred on Monday from the private King Edward VII hospital to St Bartholomew's Hospital, which is a centre of excellence for cardiac care, for tests for a pre-existing heart condition and treatment for an unspecified infection which is not COVID-related.

His 14-night stay in hospital is the longest he has needed treatment, although Buckingham Palace has said

he is comfortable and responding to treatment.

Last week, his youngest son Prince Edward said his father was feeling a lot better but the palace says Philip is expected to remain in hospital until the end of the week at least.

The queen, 94, has remained at Windsor Castle, west of London, where the couple have been staying during the coronavirus lockdown, and has continued to carry out her official duties, albeit remotely.

Both she and Philip have received their first COVID-19 vaccine dose. Although son and heir Prince Charles visited Philip at the King Edward VII Hospital, visitors are only allowed into clinical areas of St Bartholomew's for very limited reasons.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Countries are not in a race with each other, this is a common race against the #COVID19 virus. @WHO and our COVAX partners will continue to work day & night towards our #VaccineEquity vision in every country within the first 100 days of this year. There are now 39 days left.

@DrTedros

02



"By December 2020, carbon emissions were 2% higher than in the same month the year before." Well, well, well... Looks like the so-called "ambitious commitments to include "green" policies in the economic recovery packages" aren't really working out...

@GretaThunberg

03



No child in America should go hungry. The American Rescue Plan will extend and invest in critical food programs to help ensure every family gets the food they need.

@JoeBiden

04



New drug coming out called Regretamine. Pop one & all regrets are gone.

@elonmusk

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

CELEBS

celebs



Amber Heard

Amber Heard not fired from 'Aquaman 2': Report

IAN S | Los Angeles

Hollywood actress Amber Heard has not been fired from the upcoming sequel to the superhero film franchise Aquaman, contrary to reports last week that suggested that the 34-year-old star has been sacked from her role.

As per a Screenrant report, prominent journalist Ryan Parker, without giving details, confirmed that the reports about Heard being firing from Aquaman 2 were

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Last week, reports suggested that Heard will not be returning for the sequel because of her bitter and public spat with ex-husband Johnny Depp

“inaccurate”. “Told by a reliable source that reports of Amber Heard being fired off ‘Aquaman 2’ are inaccurate,” he wrote on Twitter

Last week, several reports suggested that Heard, who plays Jason Momoa’s love interest Mera, will not be returning for the sequel because of her bitter and public spat with ex-husband, actor Johnny Depp.

This is not the first time that reports of Heard not returning to the DCEU franchise have surfaced. Last year, similar reports surfaced in November, but she had slammed such talk.

Gal Gadot expecting third child with husband Jaron Varsano

Fox | Los Angeles

Gal Gadot is pregnant with her third child with husband Jaron Varsano.

The “Wonder Woman” actress, 35, announced the news Monday morning on her social media channels.

“Here we go again,” she captioned a photo of herself, Varsano, and their two daughters, Alma, 9, and Maya, 3, touching her small baby bump.

The couple married in 2008.

Gadot previously gushed about motherhood to Baby magazine.

“[Alma] thinks [acting] is cool but it’s not that great to her,” she explained. “I’m just ‘mum’.

She doesn’t pay so much attention. Even when I’m talking to someone about Wonder Woman, she tries any which way she can to change the topic! But she has certainly learned that every woman is a wonder woman.

She literally says that which I love.”

“I was very nervous as a young mother,” admitted the “Fast & Furious” star.

“With Maya, I’m able to enjoy it all much more. I’ve also seen that having a second child changes the dynamics of your family, and I have to make sure that Alma still gets a lot of love and attention from me even though I’m spending so much time with Maya. But Alma is curious, and she loves her little sister. It’s a beautiful time for our family,” Gadot said.

And she also praised her husband for his support.

“He’s the best. I love every moment I spend with him and my daughters,” she said.

“He is also a very successful businessman and is very involved in that. But even though we are both busy with our work, family life comes first.

I am a very, very happy woman who can hardly wait to come home to my family every time I finish work on a film.”



Gal Gadot

Taylor Swift calls out Netflix’s ‘Ginny and Georgia’ for ‘deeply sexist joke’ about her

ANI | Washington

American singer and songwriter Taylor Swift recently fired back at Netflix’s ‘Ginny & Georgia’, criticizing the show for a line in the script that was a “deeply sexist joke” about her.

According to E! News, the tenth episode of the new series featured a scene where a female

character tells another woman, “What do you care? You go through men faster than Taylor Swift.”

Not long after, the word got back to Swift, and “Respect Taylor Swift” started trending on Twitter.

The Grammy winner tweeted, “Hey Ginny & Georgia, 2010 called and it wants its lazy, deeply sexist joke

back.” She added, “How about we stop degrading hard-working women by defining this horse s--t as FuNnY.”

Swift, who released her documentary Miss Americana on Netflix last year, had a few words for the streaming service, too. “Also, @netflix after Miss Americana this outfit doesn’t look cute on you,” she wrote. “Happy Women’s History Month I guess.”

After reading her response, several of Swift’s fans praised the

artist for speaking out. One of her followers tweeted, When Taylor Swift stands up for herself she’s also standing up for all women across the world.”

“She is done with the misogyny & the slut shaming. I’m so proud of her for standing up for herself & leaving no words unspoken. Still cannot believe this is still happening after years, YEARS of it before...RESPECT TAYLOR SWIFT,” tweeted another follower.



Taylor Swift



Ellie Goulding

Tom Holland credits Zendaya with helping him adjust to fame

ANI | Washington

Actor Tom Holland, widely known for playing the lead role in the ‘Spider-Man’ franchise, opened up about his struggle to adjust to fame and revealed how his co-star and actor Zendaya helped him adapt to the life in the spotlight.

As per People Magazine, in a new cover story for British GQ’s April issue, Holland opened up about training for his

new Apple TV+ movie ‘Cherry’ as well as how he has adjusted to fame since becoming a household name after playing the lead role in ‘Spider-Man’ movies.

The actor said consulting Zendaya

has helped him along the way. Holland said, “Talking to Zendaya’s helped me a lot, actually.”

“I used to come across sometimes as a bit of a d--- to fans, mainly as I was always so surprised that they’d want a picture with me or signature or whatever. I’d have the typical Londoner reaction, one of instant suspicion: ‘Why are you talking to me?’” the actor said.



Tom Holland

Ellie Goulding used hubby Casper Jopling’s coat to hide pregnancy

IAN S | London

Singer Ellie Goulding reveals she used her husband Casper Jopling’s coat to hide her pregnancy for the first six months, to keep the news private.

Chatting on a British cookery chat show, Ellie was asked how her pregnancy is going and how she hid it. “It’s different. I stole

my husband’s coat for about six months, the soon-to-be mother revealed, according to dailymail.co.uk

The singer, who is currently eight months pregnant added that lockdown helped the couple keep the pregnancy a secret.

“But that was really just in the shops, I didn’t go anywhere else. Out on walks, I just kept it covered up. It wasn’t really that hard, though, because of lockdown, I haven’t really seen anyone,” she said.

SUDOKU

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			4		7			
5	1	7			2	8		
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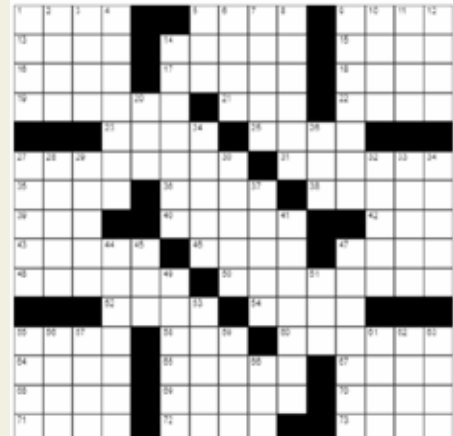
Yesterday’s solution

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

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- Huff and puff; 5- Verdi heroine; 9- Texas city; 13- Girder type; 14- Was Hamlet; 15- Turkish titles; 16- Spanish river; 17- Facial hair; 18- Openings; 19- Puget Sound city; 21- Aviv; 22- Estimator’s phrase; 23- Phnom; 25- Sharp; 27- Magnificence; 31- Visions; 35- 365 days; 36- Hurler Hersher; 38- Welcome; 39- Queue after Q; 40- Influential person; 42- Good boy; 43- Absolute; 46- Gutter location; 47- Once more; 48- Pretended; 50- Hermits; 52- Phooey!; 54- Female rabbits; 55- Hungary’s Nagy; 58- Frozen Wasser; 60- Type of ton; 64- Thin stratum; 65- Buy alternative; 67- Battering Babe; 68- Trademark; 69- Surgery souvenirs; 70- “... Walked Into My Life” (song from “Mame”); 71- Actor McGregor; 72- Architect Saarinen; 73- Not many;

Down

1- Painter Mondrian; 2- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 3- DEA agent; 4- Cavalry soldier; 5- Whiz; 6- Let’s just leave that; 7- Jeter of the Yankees; 8- Confused; 9- Cart driver; 10- Food thickener; 11- Hats; 12- buco (veal dish); 14- Forsake; 20- More than one male; 24- Dike, Eunomia and Irene; 26- Energy unit; 27- Thick sweet liquid; 28- Nuisance; 29- Starbucks order; 30- Rod used to reinforce concrete; 32- Ages; 33- Fight, disturbance; 34- Simmers; 37- Adored; 41- Suits; 44- Good spirit; 45- Nutritional fig; 47- Republic in central Europe; 49- Threat finale; 51- Levi’s rival; 53- One who cries “uncle”; 55- Wight or Man; 56- Feline line; 57- Hindu music; 59- Coal-rich region; 61- Lace collar; 62- Spillane’s “... Jury”; 63- Masticate; 66- Box-office letters;

Yesterday’s solution

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

Legendary jiu-jitsu champion Sergio Moraes joins KHK MMA's stable of coaches



Sergio Moraes (C) with Mohammed Shahid (R), CEO of KHK SPORTS SPC and Redha Munfaradi, President of the Bahrain Jiu-Jitsu federation

TDT | Manama

KHK MMA, the number one team in the world, has made a tremendous addition to its coaching stable. Brazilian Sergio Moraes, a legendary figure in the jiu-jitsu community, has joined KHK MMA full-time and will coach the likes of the Pride of Bahrain Hamza Kooheji, Murtaza Talha, and all the Bahrain National Team athletes.

Moraes is a three-time jiu-jitsu world champion, and has a long and successful career of his own in mixed martial arts. He's widely recognized as one of the best grapplers in the world and his win over Kron Gracie in 2008 is considered as one of the biggest fights in competitive jiu-jitsu.

Moraes arrived in Bahrain recently and was welcomed by Mohammed Shahid, CEO of KHK SPORTS SPC & Advisor to the President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, and Redha Munfaradi, President of the Bahrain Jiu-Jitsu federation, Shura council member, member of the (BCSC), and executive board member of ICM-UNESCO. The trio discussed their plans for the future of the KHK MMA team

” Sergio brings a lot of experience to an already world-class team of excellent fighters and we are excited to see what improvements he will bring to our athletes

REDHA MUNFARADI
PRESIDENT OF THE BAHRAIN JIU-JITSU FEDERATION

and how Moraes can positively impact an already world-class stable of fighters with his extensive knowledge in mixed martial arts.

Additionally, Monfaredi thanked His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his support in bringing in one of the top coaches in the world of combat sports and hailed the impact that Moraes will have on KHK MMA.

“I would like to thank HHSK for this excellent addition to the KHK team,” says Monfaredi. “Sergio brings a lot of experience to an already world-class team of excellent fighters and we are excited to see what improvements he will bring to our athletes.”

Mokaev takes on Abdul Hussein in Flyweight debut

Muhammad Mokaev will face fellow amateur world champion Abdul Hussein at BRAVE CF 49's featured Flyweight bout

● Hussein and Mokaev had been trading shots via social media over the last months

TDT | Manama

Two former IMMAF world champions, who hold two of the best amateur records in MMA, are set to meet inside the BRAVE Combat Federation Arena, this time as professional Mixed Martial Artists. Muhammad Mokaev will take on Abdul Hussein, in a BRAVE CF 49 featured Flyweight bout.

Hussein and Mokaev share more than a fantastic record of accomplishments in amateur MMA and a label of young stars of the sport. Both men were forced to leave their homeland and grow up as refugees.

Born in the Caucasus, Mokaev emigrated to the United Kingdom and, over there, became one of the most hyped names in MMA, drawing the attention of massive mainstream media outlets, such as BBC and CNN.



Abdul Hussein, on the other hand, was born in Iraq but left the country with his family towards Finland. In Scandinavia, alongside his brother, ABBA became one of the most prominent names in Finnish MMA, won the amateur world title, and made it to the big leagues joining BRAVE

Combat Federation.

Hussein and Mokaev had been trading shots via social media over the last months, in messages that included even an informal agreement between both parties for a BRAVE CF bout to settle their differences.

Muhammad Mokaev holds a



Muhammad Mokaev and Abdul Hussein were forced to leave their homeland and grow up as refugees

perfect professional record of 4 wins and no losses, and a combined record of 26-0, including his amateur bouts. Abdul Hussein boasts a pro record of 7 wins and one loss, and a combined record of 14-1.

BRAVE CF 49 will take place on March 25, in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The event will be the third of four scheduled fight cards for Kombat Kingdom, in a series that will culminate in the historical 50th BRAVE CF card. In the main event of the evening Jose Torres and Sean Santella will meet again in a BRAVE CF Flyweight World Title Tournament quarter-final bout.

Bayern, not Manchester City, are best club in Europe - Guardiola

Reuters | London

Manchester City are on a 20-game winning streak in all competitions but manager Pep Guardiola has dismissed suggestions that his club are the best in Europe.

David Moyes anointed Guar-



Pep Guardiola

diola's team as the continent's most dominant force after watching his West Ham side lose 2-1 at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday.

The result allowed City to open up a 12-point gap at the top of the Premier League but Guardiola said it was Cham-

pions League holders Bayern Munich and reigning English champions Liverpool who were still the continent's two leading sides.

“The crown, if you want to take it, you have to win. In March, nobody is champions,” Guardiola said.

Loman to face UFC veteran Lineker in ONE debut

TDT | Manila

Stephen “The Sniper” Loman, one of the best MMA fighters in the Philippines, will make his much-awaited ONE Championship bantamweight debut against UFC grizzled veteran John Lineker of Brazil on April 28.

As per MMAfighting.com, the Loman-Lineker clash will take place at the Singapore Indoor Stadium as part of ONE card and will air on TNT in the United States.

Before joining the Singapore-based promotion, the 29-year-old Loman – who holds a 14-2 record – was the longest reigning champion in BRAVE Combat Federation who fights in the bantamweight division.

“The Sniper” last saw action in November 2019 in BRAVE CF 30 and scored a unanimous decision win against Ilias Sannoudakis of Canada for his fourth title defense and fifth consecutive victory in BRAVE.

Lineker (33-9), for his part, is riding on a two-match win streak since his ONE debut last October 2019. His last match was a knockout win over former champion Kevin Belington in November 2020.



Loman to start from scratch again at ONE

The former UFC fighter Loman became the No. 1 bantamweight contender in ONE after knocking out Team Lakay's Kevin Belington in ONE: Inside the Matrix III at the Singapore Indoor Stadium last November.

Leaving the BRAVE Combat Federation and signing up with ONE Championship was a bold career move for Loman.

The Baguio-based stable Team Lakay fighter was the longest-reigning champion of BRAVE having held the bantamweight belt for three years.

Loman was riding high on an eight-fight win streak. He

claimed the BRAVE championship with a first-round technical knockout win over Canadian-Indian Gurdarshan “St. Lion” Mangat in 2017.

He defended the belt successfully on multiple occasions, headlining various events while emerging as arguably BRAVE's biggest star.

Team Lakay has established a commanding presence in ONE Championship, with former World Champions Eduard Folayang, Geje Eustaquio, Kevin Belington, Honorio Bannario, and reigning ONE Strawweight World Champion Joshua

” Fighting in a new promotion and a new environment will be a challenge but it's one I'm more than willing to face. I'm ready to show ONE Championship fans the best of Stephen Loman

STEPHEN LOMAN

“The Passion” Pacio leading the charge.

Earlier this year, he decided to vacate his throne at BRAVE to seek a new platform.

This time Loman would have to climb the championship ladder from scratch again. He, however, is unfazed about it.

“I'm excited to enhance my skills on this platform and showcase my style to millions of viewers across the globe. Of course, fighting in a new promotion and a new environment will be a challenge but it's one I'm more than willing to face,” he said. “I'm ready to show ONE Championship fans the best of Stephen Loman.”

He represents Team Lakay and has not lost a fight since 2016.

Pogacar signs new five-year deal with UAE Team Emirates

AFP | Dubai

Tour de France champion Tadej Pogacar has committed his future to UAE Team Emirates by signing a new deal to 2026, the cycling outfit announced on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old is one of cycling's brightest prospects and the announcement comes days after he claimed the honours at the season-opening UAE Tour.



Tadej Pogacar

Pogacar joined UAE in 2019 after training in the continental team Ljubljana Gusto Santi, and had already extended his contract last year until 2024.

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'Our job is not yet done'

Bahrain head coach Sam Vincent talks about how qualifying for the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 is just the first of many steps in the greater scheme of raising the level of Bahrain basketball; the Kingdom's potential on the game's international stage despite being one of the smaller countries in Asia; and the national team's goals in their upcoming tournaments

● **Coach Sam Vincent outlines four major steps for Bahrain as it looks to build on recent success in FIBA Asia Cup 2021 qualifying**

● **Bahrain to target for semi-finals in continental showcase this August, and then to go all out to capture elusive first GCC senior men's title in December**

● **Bahrain rise six places to 101st on latest edition of FIBA World Ranking, released yesterday by global basketball's governing body**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain may have successfully qualified for the continent's biggest basketball competition held just once every four years, but the job is not done and there are bigger goals that must be targeted for the overall benefit of the game in the Kingdom, says national team head coach and 1986 NBA champion Sam Vincent.

Last month, the Bahrainis closed out their qualification bid for this year's FIBA Asia Cup in style, finishing their group campaign with a 4-2 win-loss record, which included wins against India and Iraq—both bigger and more experienced teams who are classified much higher than Bahrain on the FIBA World Ranking.

Coach Vincent now hopes that nationals can ride their momentum from their qualifiers' success into other much greater achievements, which would help in the long run for the continued overall development of basketball in Bahrain.

"One part of the job is done," says Coach Vincent, a former point guard who won an NBA title with the Boston Celtics playing alongside basketball legends such as Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Robert Parish, Bill Walton and others.

"There are three or four parts: the first part was securing the invitation to the tournament, which we've done now. The next part is having a real top-notch training camp programme in place so that we can go and get our guys in great shape, really fit, and compete against some real strong competition so that we can get our confidence on another level and be able to go out and



Coach Sam Vincent

perform.

"The next part is the actual performance at the [FIBA Asia Cup], taking that preparation and taking that confidence, actually going into Jakarta and executing on all the things that we worked on... and the fourth and final piece is, after building this momentum and having this success, creating a programme that can sustain it and move forward."

Sustained development

Coach Vincent stresses on the importance of further pushing for a higher level of basketball both in the local game and for the national team, with the aim of one day being regarded amongst basketball's powerhouses in all of Asia.

"It's not a matter of putting all this hard work, time, effort, energy into something like a roller coaster that goes all the way up and then the next day comes all the way down; it's got to be sustained," he says. "There's got to be development programmes in place, scouting of the next generation of top players, and collegiate development opportunities for kids to go overseas and play. It's got to be a system and to me those are the four parts."

"We've only taken care of the first part. It's a complete vision of taking it from where it currently is to a much higher elevated level to where Bahrain can be recognised in the world as a strong basketball country that's competitive internationally, but also developing good-level talents that are playing around the world."

Cornerstones

Coach Vincent is excited to see that there are already a number of young players in the Kingdom who are the cornerstones of the future, such as national team forward Muzamil Ameer

“That’s what I’m excited about: can I actually take Bahrain to the final four of FIBA Asia? Out of all my basketball challenges and everything I’ve done; this is the one I’m embracing with two hands to really accept the challenge. Can it be done? I believe that we do have some strong pieces in place

COACH SAM VINCENT

and guard Mustafa Hussain, to name a few.

Both Muzamil and Mustafa are already with schools in the United States where they are able to improve their basketball prowess as student-athletes.

"I definitely feel like there are a couple of very solid legs in place," Coach Vincent says. "Muzamil is a very strong candidate. He is a very good player and he'll have a chance to play collegiate basketball in the US. Time depends on how hard he works and where he goes, but he's very talented."

"Mustafa is also now in the US and he's playing, growing and gaining more experience."

"When you look at the cornerstone of those guys, there is a good foundation of youth now getting exposure outside. Maybe you need to find one or two more, but I think you have a good foundation in place, and you just need to continue to build on it."



James Samuel Vincent was a former point guard in the NBA. He played seven years in the league and won an NBA title as a rookie in 1986 with the Boston Celtics, where he teamed up with the likes of Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Robert Parish, Bill Walton, Dennis Johnson, Danny Ainge and Rick Carlisle

'Hefty' challenge

For the upcoming FIBA Asia Cup, Coach Vincent has set a target of reaching the semi-finals—a challenge he admits is "hefty" for Bahrain considering the plethora of talent in Asian basketball—but he is determined to have the national team strive for that plateau.

"That's a pretty hefty goal, but it's something that I've set as my target, something I want the guys to strive for," he explains. "That's what I'm excited about: can I actually take Bahrain to the final four of FIBA Asia? Out of all my basketball challenges and everything I've done; this is the one I'm embracing with two hands to really accept the challenge. Can it be done? I believe that we do have some strong pieces in place."

The 57-year-old tactician says that the Kingdom's internationals have already been able to show what they can do against more heavily favoured opponents. In their FIBA Asia Cup qualifying group alone, Bahrain were the lowest-ranked team.

In the FIBA World Ranking, released yesterday by the sport's global governing body, the Bahrainis had risen six places to 101st after previously being ranked 107th.

Despite this, Bahrain are still behind qualifier opponents Lebanon (59th), as well as India (76th) and Iraq (79th), both of whom they defeated in each of their respective meetings.

"This is a clear indication of how big our victories were because we're beating teams that are ranked much higher than us," says Vincent, whose guidance and leadership—along with the work of

the national team's staff—has been the driving force of Bahrain's rise on the world ranking.

"When we play a country where they have millions [in population], I consider it a pretty major achievement to win those games. We go into most games as the underdogs. In population we're smaller and we have less international experience, but we fight and that's what I'm trying to encourage the guys [on], to learn how to stay tough and fight hard."

"And it doesn't matter if it's in sports or if it's some other career path. These skills that they learn are transferable to other areas that are going to be important as they leave sports and get into other areas. I think our guys are doing that and so far they're doing a pretty good job."

GCC championship

Aside from the FIBA Asia Cup, Coach Vincent also has his sights set on the GCC championship at the end of the year and leading Bahrain to that elusive first-ever Gulf title at the senior level.

"I think it's pretty unfortunate that Bahrain has never won the GCC," he says. "When I look at what I'm trying to accomplish—the final four of the Asia Cup is primary, but then there is the World Cup [qualifying] that we were invited to as well—out of both of those, winning the GCC is probably my biggest target."

"This is going to be a pretty important next seven, eight, nine months for basketball in Bahrain. If we can accomplish some of the things that we're striving for, I think we could get recognition and maybe more support."



Bahrain guard Hesham Sarhan in action for the national team in the recently concluded FIBA Asia Cup 2021 qualifiers

HOLDERS Ahli to face Muharraq in Khalifa bin Salman Cup quarters

● **Tournament draw held last night, as Manama take on Riffa in other game in last eight**

TDT | Manama

Holders Al Ahli have been drawn against bitter rivals Muharraq in the quarter-finals of this year's Khalifa bin Salman

Cup in basketball.

The draw for the single-elimination competition was held yesterday at the Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) president Waleed Al Alawi was on hand along with a limited number of officials. Ahli head coach Ahmed Jan and skipper Mohammed Qurban were also among those present.

Both Ahli and Muharraq have byes for the competition's pre-



BBA officials and club representatives at the draw with the Khalifa bin Salman Cup

liminary round and are through straight to the last eight. Manama and Riffa have also been awarded this privilege, and are to face off in the quarter-finals on the other side of the tournament bracket.

In the opening phase, Sitra will face Samaheej while Al Najma will take on Al Ettihad. The winners of those games will then go head-to-head, with the victor in that game taking on the winner of the Ahli-Muharraq clash

in the semi-finals.

On the opposite side of the bracket, Al Hala take on Isa Town and Nuwaidrat face Bahrain Club in the preliminaries. The winners of those games will then lock horns, with the victor in that contest moving on to the final four to face the team advancing from the Manama-Riffa contest.

The BBA announced that the BBA Cup's first stage will get underway on Saturday.