

Lewis Hamilton tops times ahead of Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas at season-opening Austrian Grand Prix | P 08

THE DAILY tribune



Bloom is 'excited' for the birth of his daughter with Perry 7 CELEBS

BUSINESS 4 Britain, India to develop satellite constellation

King congratulates Donald Trump on Independence Day

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to US President Donald Trump, marking his country's Independence Day.

HM the King extended deepest congratulations to President Trump on this occasion, wishing further progress and prosperity.

Similar messages of congratulations were also sent by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Southern governorate to hold virtual workshop

TDT | Manama

The Southern Governorate announced holding a virtual workshop titled "Al Janubiya app and Remote Communication" on July 6 at 11:00 am.

The workshop will tackle the role of electronic communication in monitoring and identifying the citizens' needs and opinions.

The event will present samples of the services delivered by the Al Janubiya app, such as the "Live Chat" service that offers quicker, easier and real-time interaction.

Southern Governorate's citizens may register through the email pr@southern.gov.bh or WhatsApp to 322344.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES
28,410

ACTIVE CASES
4,997

DEATHS
95

DISCHARGED
23,318

NEW CASES
573

CRITICAL
48

210 fils (includes VAT)



Blasts in Iran were attacks?

Reports suspect Israeli cyber attack

Iran says determined the cause

Warns of strategy change if foreign involvement found

TDT | Agencies

Israeli hands are allegedly behind the mysterious blasts that rocked Iranian facilities, unconfirmed reports said.

Several reports claim that an Israeli cyberattack caused the fire at the enrichment facility and explosion at a missile factory.

Neither Iran nor Israel confirmed or rejected the speculations.

Iranian security body, without denying the reports, said it had determined the cause of an "accident" at a nuclear site but declined to release details, citing security reasons.

It, however, citing unnamed Israeli social media accounts claims that the Jewish state was behind the incident, issued a warning.

"If there are signs of hostile



A handout picture provided on Thursday by Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation shows the damaged building at the Natanz facility

countries crossing Iran's red lines in any way, especially the Zionist Regime (Israel) and the United States, Iran's strategy to confront the new situation must be fundamentally reconsidered," Iran's Supreme National Security Council said.

A spokesman for Iran's Supreme National Security Council, referring to one of the country's main uranium enrichment plants said, "Investigations by relevant bodies have accurately determined the cause of the accident at... Natanz nuclear complex."



Iran restarted enriching uranium at Natanz last September after having agreed under the accord to put such activities there on hold.

"Due to certain security concerns the cause and details of this accident will be announced at the proper time," state news agency IRNA quoted Keyvan Khosravi as saying.

The Islamic republic's nuclear body said the incident happened Thursday at a warehouse under

construction at the complex in central Iran, saying it caused no casualties or radioactive pollution.

Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation gave no further details, but Natanz governor Ramezan-Ali Ferdowsi told the *Tasnim news agency* that a fire had bro-

“
If there are signs of hostile countries crossing Iran's red lines in any way, especially the Zionist Regime (Israel) and the United States, Iran's strategy to confront the new situation must be fundamentally reconsidered

IRAN'S SUPREME NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ken out at the site.

Hours after the announcement on Thursday, IRNA published an editorial warning Iran's arch-foes against hostile actions.

Iran's nuclear body has yet to provide an explanation for the cause of the incident, which came six days after an explosion near a military complex in Parchin area southeast of Tehran rocked the Iranian capital.

Authorities blamed that blast on "leaking gas tanks".

Parchin is suspected of having hosted conventional explosion tests with nuclear applications, which the Islamic republic denies.

Drones targeting Saudi shot down

Coalition forces intensify attacks on Iran-backed Houthi militia

TDT, Agencies | Manama

The Saudi-led military coalition has intensified its military campaign against Iran-backed Houthi militia with the coalition intercepting and downing four explosive-laden drones aimed at Saudi Arabia, yesterday.

The drones moving in the direction of Saudi were downed by the coalition over territory controlled by the Houthis, said

COL Turki Al-Malki, the official spokesman of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen.

"Joint Coalition Forces intercepted and destroyed this morning (4) bomb-laden UAVs launched by the terrorist, Iran-backed Houthi militia toward the Kingdom, (3) of which were dealt with in Yemeni airspace.

Al-Malki said the forces are capable of "confronting and thwarting these threats by

surveying and destroying the bomb-laden UAVs directly following their launch from areas under the Houthi militia's control."

The Joint Forces Command, he said, will implement all necessary measures to protect civilians and civilian objects following the customary International Humanitarian Law.

The Western-backed coalition announced on Wednesday the launch of a new military oper-

ation against the Houthis after they stepped up cross-border missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Last week, Houthi fighters fired missiles that reached the Saudi capital Riyadh in the first such assault since a six-week ceasefire prompted by the novel coronavirus epidemic expired in late May. The coalition said it intercepted the attack.

The coalition intervened in Yemen in March 2015 after the



The drones moving in the direction of Saudi were downed by the coalition over the Houthi territory

Houthis ousted the internationally-recognised government from the capital, Sanaa, in late 2014. The Houthis say they are fighting a corrupt system.

Tragedy strikes

Mass burial for scores killed in Myanmar jade mine disaster

Hpakant | Myanmar

Dozens of jade miners were buried yesterday in a mass grave after a landslide in northern Myanmar killed over 170, most of them migrant workers seeking their fortune in treacherous open-cast mines near the China border.

Women wept by the open plywood caskets, some marked with just a name, a few with a solitary photo, before the bodies were carried into a huge grave gouged from the red earth by



A digger sealed the grave with earth, with many victims yet to be identified

a mechanical digger near the scene of the landslide.

It was the worst accident in memory to befall Myanmar's notoriously dangerous jade mines.

The tragedy occurred on Thursday when a hillside collapsed in heavy monsoon rains, sending a deluge of smothering mud over the workers who were scouring the land for fragments of jade.

"The search and rescue missions continued today... 172 bodies were found by midday," the Myanmar Fire Services Depart-

ment said in a Facebook post, raising the overnight toll by 10.

They join scores killed each year in Hpakant, an area in close to the Chinese border in Kachin state, where billions of dollars of the precious stone is believed to be scoured each year from bare hillsides by poor migrant workers seeking to strike it rich.

As photos of the dead circulated on social media Facebook users began to identify workers hundreds of miles from home, leaving moving tributes to friends and family members.

23,318 recoveries, 584,070 tests, 95 deaths

Global cases reach over 11,061,500 and deaths 525,530, GCC cases top 470,000

TDT | Manama

A 64-year-old Bahraini man is the latest casualty to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the Kingdom, which has claimed 95 lives as of yesterday.

Bahrain's Ministry of Health announced the death on its twitter handle yesterday and offered condolences to the family of the deceased.

No further details of the victim or his family were released.

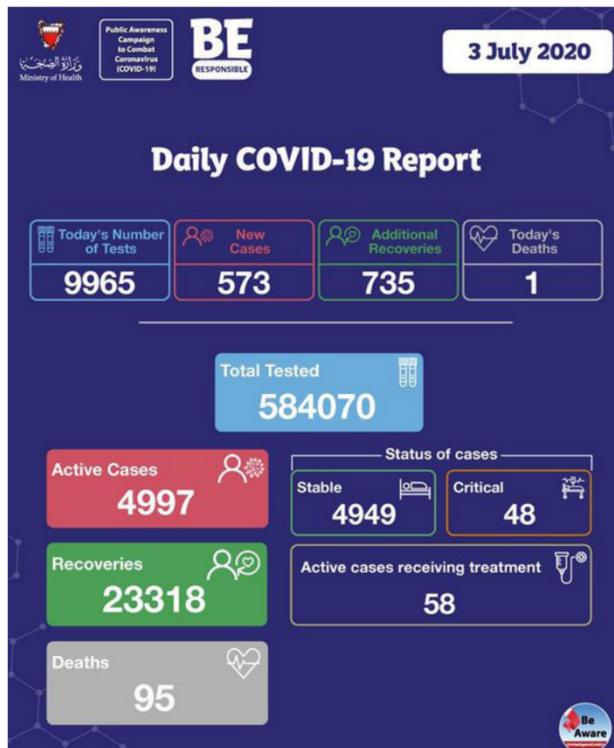
As of yesterday, there are 58 active coronavirus patients in the Kingdom, receiving treatment at various facilities, of which 48 people are in a critical condition.

Some 4,949 cases of the total 4,997 active cases are stable.

The country has also reported curing 23,318 patients of their infections, after conducting 584,070 tests.

Health authorities conducted a total of 9,965 tests yesterday to detect 573 new cases and report 735 additional recoveries.

The Kingdom reported its first case on 21 February 2020 when a school bus driver, who came from Iran via Dubai, tested positive to the virus.



The cases continued to spike rapidly afterwards resulting in the Kingdom imposing strict preventive measures, though it didn't impose strict lockdown, unlike immediate neighbours.

Mosques opening delayed

Bahrain recently also delayed again the reopening of mosques for fear of a spike in cases. The country's Supreme Coun-

cil for Islamic Affairs unanimously decided at an online meeting Wednesday to keep the mosques closed, citing a continued increase in infections and deaths.

However, the decision will be reviewed every two weeks by the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, the National Task Team for Confronting COVID-19, the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs as well as the Sunni and Jaafari endowment departments.

Virus fighting robots

Meanwhile, reports had also surfaced of the Kingdom acquiring new methods to keep public spaces disinfected.

A new "coronavirus-fighting" robots designed by Fab lab Bahrain in collaboration with the Ministry's of Youth and Sports Innovation centre reportedly will be used to work autonomously at public spaces.

The machine reportedly uses ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) to disinfect commonly used areas.

UVGI is a known disinfection method that utilises short-wavelength ultraviolet C (UV-C) light to kill or inactivate a range of microorganisms by disrupting their DNA or RNA. This leaves them unable to perform vital cellular functions.

However, since UV-C can irritate eyes and skin, the technology is only for use in unoccupied areas.

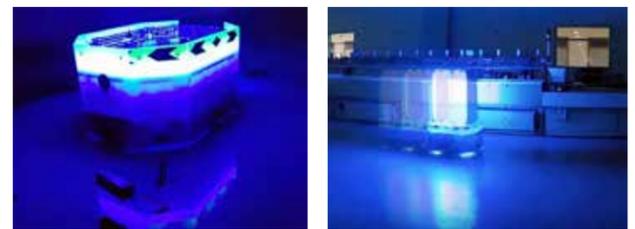
470,000 cases in GCC

Meanwhile, the number of infections and deaths in the six-nation GCC group continues to increase and has now reached over 470,000. The number of deaths climbed to over 2,888.

Globally, virus cases have risen to over 11,061,000 and death to above 525,500. Amid the depressing numbers, the number of recoveries- now at over 6,199,300 -gives a ray of hope in the fight against the deadly pandemic.

Saudi: 50 deaths in 24 hours

In Saudi Arabia, the virus claimed another 50 lives yes-



The new COVID-fighting robot that uses ultraviolet (UV) light to disinfect public spaces as well as offices.

terday bringing the number of deaths to 1,802. Cases now exceed 200,000 with the 4,193 new patients joining the tally. The total number of recoveries in the kingdom increased to 140,614. To tide over the economic shock sparked by the crisis, Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud yesterday issued a decree to extend several government initiatives for an additional period. According to SPA, the extended initiatives focus on supporting Saudi employees, suspending imposition of fines and postponing the payment of some government services fees. This announcement follows the Kingdom's decision to triple VAT from 5 per cent to 15pc.

UAE cases reach 50,000

In UAE, the total number of cases is close to touching the 50,000 mark, with the death toll reaching 317. The number of recoveries in the Kingdom is 38,994 and active cases 19,488. There is one critical patient in the Kingdom that has conducted 3,500,000 tests.

1,374 new cases in Oman

Oman reported 1,374 new cases yesterday taking its over-

all infection to 43,929. Oman's ministry of health also reported five new deaths, increasing the fatalities there to 193. Overall recoveries from the deadly virus there have reached 26,169, which an increase of 851 cases in the past 24 hours.

813 cases in Kuwait

In Kuwait also the situation of virus continues to remain more or less the same with its adding another 813 cases and one more death, yesterday.

Overall infections in the country now reached 48,672 and death toll 360. Kuwait, meanwhile, started the second phase of restoring normal life, which will last for three weeks. In this phase, the public and private sector establishments will resume work albeit with 30 pc capacity. Works will also begin in shopping malls, financial sector, construction sector, retail shops and pick-up from restaurants and cafes.

Qatar reported 756 new cases raising the total number of patients there to 98,653. With three more deaths, total death toll there rose to 121. Recoveries increased by 1,986 in the past 24 hours to reach 88,583 in total.

Learning is fun

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(10AM - 1PM, SUNDAY TO THURSDAY)
JUNIOR (GRADE 2 TO GRADE 4)

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<p>MIND & BODY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Exercises and Warm Ups Personality development Memory Improvement Skills Art & Craft Baking & Salad making 	<p>INFOTAINMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Excursions Gaming Quizzing Vedic Maths & Abacus 	<p>COMMUNICATION SKILLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story Telling Group Discussion Public Speaking Skills Activities & Role Plays Writing & Reading Skills

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Most people (about 80pc) recover from the disease without needing hospital treatment



Northern Governor, Ali bin Al-Shaikh Abdulhussain Al-Asfoor, launching disinfection campaigns part of the national efforts to combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The campaigns aim to raise awareness on the importance of continuing the sanitisation process, as the best means to reduce the spread of the pandemic. The campaign was launched in cooperation with the General Directorate of Civil Defence and the Northern Governorate Police Directorate, and the participation of MPs, municipal council members and NGOs.

Disinfection: Muharraq Municipality announces closure from July 5 to 23

TDT | Manama

Muharraq Municipality's main building in Busaiten will remain closed from July 5 to 23 for maintenance and disinfection.

All employees will work from home during the closure to ensure that transactions of the citizens and residents are not delayed.

Customers are requested to visit the official website of the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry (www.mun.gov.bh) or use the Ministry's social network accounts to carry out their transactions and follow up on all procedures.

Bahrain Teachers college registration opens



Bahrain Teachers College (BTC).

TDI | Manama

Are you thinking of becoming a teacher?

If then, the time has come for you to reach Bahrain Teachers College (BTC).

Especially if you have a bachelor's degree.

BTC is inviting application from eligible candidate for its 2020-2021 programme.

Registration will start on Sunday and run until Thursday.

To apply log on to ministry's portal www.moe.gov.bh.

Eligibility criteria

Prospective candidates have to be Bahraini nationals, holders of the high school degree (unified tracks, vocational apprenticeship, advanced stream, technical and religious tracks), with a minimum cumulative

average of 80 per cent.

Public and private school candidates have to be a graduate of the academic year (2019-2020) or the two previous ones, who have completed 12 school years and have registered with the University of Bahrain.

Students who were excluded from the University of Bahrain or the Bahrain Teachers Colleges are not allowed to register.

Eligible candidates should pass evaluation tests, physical and medical fitness, and have a clean legal record unless rehabilitated, and good conduct.

www.uob.edu.bh

UoB admission criteria are available on the university's portal (www.uob.edu.bh).

For queries and follow up, dial Human Resources Directorate hotline: 17278222.



Affiliated with the University of Bahrain, the Bahrain Teachers College (BTC) is responsible for all teacher preparation and academically-based in-service teacher professional development in the Kingdom of Bahrain

Taking the green leap

Adhari Nurseries central in supporting Bahrain's green projects



Pictures courtesy of AlAyam

TDI | Manama

Adhari Plantation Nurseries Centre

which sprawls over 30 thousand square meters, has attained self-sufficiency in helping Bahrain maintaining its green cover.

The project, maintained by Ministry's Nurseries Development section, produces up to 100,000 seedlings of seasonal summer flowers per season to support various street beautification projects.

It was earlier reported that Bahrain's streets are set to be beautified by using one million seedlings of seasonal summer flowers produced by the Works Ministry.

The nursery, Minister of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, Essam Khalaf said, was instrumental in creat-

ing 10 thousand square meters of green areas, as it produced more than half-a-million petunias, more than three million seedlings of different varieties of seasonal flowers, as well as more than 250 thousand trees and shrubs of various types.

The project also supports the maintenance of gardens on several main streets, "such as Sheikh Isa bin Salman Street, starting from the Port of Salman to the intersection of Janabiya, and Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Street from the Seef intersection to the intersection of Zallaq and the intersections."

Parks of various municipalities, governorates, street projects, governmental agencies, schools, hospitals, and NGOs are also beneficiaries of the park.

"Our strategy is to enhance

the number of environmentally friendly trees and shade trees appropriate for Bahrain's climate," the minister said adding, the production in this regard has reached more than 250 thousand seedlings and trees.

Some of the shade trees and fruit trees produced are capable of reaching more than 20 meters of height.

"The yellow flame tree or the yellow poinciana tree is fast-growing and reaches up to a height of 15 to 20 meters," the minister said.

Cactus which reaches up to a height of 8 meters and Side tree up to a height of 10 meters and a width of 6 meters and having edible fruits are some of the other varieties.

He added, "The nursery also produces neem trees, which reaches a height of 15 meters. It is one of the most popular ornamental trees."

Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, said the project contributed to enhancing local production, hone the skills of Bahrainis and reduced the operational costs.

The officials said the ministry is developing agricultural production programmes associating both modern and contemporary methods.

He said plans are also anvil to make the project more appealing to students as well as for a farmers' market.

Meanwhile, it was earlier reported that the works of Manama water garden have attained more than 85 per cent completion with the ministry planting various fruit trees including lemon, pomegranate, mango and fig, as well as aromatic trees such as Indian jasmine at the facility.

Bahrainona: Photographic perspectives of the fabulous island

TDI | Manama

Friday Dawn Shooters (FDS), an enthusiastic group of photographers in Bahrain have released a first of its kind e-book, titled 'Bahrainona: Visuals from our timeline'.

The coffee-table-style e-book holds a collection of over 500 stunning photographs show-

casing the beauty of the island nation. The images shot exclusively in Bahrain, feature landscapes, cityscapes, street-shots, birds, animals, and people.

Pictures in the collection stand testimony to the immense beauty of the Kingdom and draw viewers into exploring unseen facets of the place.

Most of the photos featured in 'Bahrainona' were taken during weekly photo-walks organized by FDS. Started by a small group of photography enthusiasts in 2013, the group now consists of over 200 members.

They meet at dawn at pre-announced locations every Friday to explore

the full photographic potential of the place. Members of the group are hardcore photography enthusiasts who show the utmost dedication and passion towards the art of photography.

FDS also organizes regular photography workshops and genre-oriented photo-walks.

FDS chief editor

Fahad Asab and his team including Deepak Sudhakaran, Asim K. V., Preju Suresh, Fathema Qader, and Dr Krishna Kumar put in all their efforts to create this delightful book. The 'Bahrainona' e-book can be read on https://issuu.com/fdsbahrain/docs/bahrainona_final



The cover of 'Bahrainona: Visuals from our timeline'

Most of the photos featured in 'Bahrainona' were taken during weekly photo-walks organised by FDS. Started by a small group of photography enthusiasts in 2013, the group now consists of over 200 members.



FDS chief editor Fahad Asab



A curated collection of exclusive photographs from the e-book.

Britain, India to develop satellite constellation

Jointly buys OneWeb satellite company for \$1 billion in auction

● Agreement remains subject to approval by OneWeb's creditors, the Bankruptcy Court, and applicable regulators, with completion expected by the fourth quarter of 2020.

Reuters | London

Britain has joined forces with India's Bharti Global to buy the collapsed satellite operator OneWeb, with the two sides pledging \$1 billion between them to develop a constellation that could boost broadband and other services.

Under the deal announced on Friday, Britain will invest \$500 million and take a significant equity share in OneWeb while

Bharti will invest the same amount and provide commercial and operational leadership.

The deal means the two sides will be pitted against Elon Musk's SpaceX in the race to build low earth orbit satellites to provide high-bandwidth and low-latency communications services.

"Our access to a global fleet of satellites has the potential to connect millions of people

worldwide to broadband, many for the first time," Business Secretary Alok Sharma said. "And the deal presents the opportunity to further develop our strong advanced manufacturing base right here in the UK."

The deal could provide a boost to Britain's manufacturing sector, which has endured several years of uncertainty over future trading rules due to Brexit, and has now lost thousands of jobs

“The combination of HMG and Bharti will bring immediate value as we develop as a global leader in low latency connectivity. This successful outcome for OneWeb underscores the confidence in our business, technology, and the work of our entire team.”

ADRIAN STECKEL
CEO OF ONEWEB



A scale model of an Airbus OneWeb satellite and its solar panel are pictured as Airbus announces annual results in Blagnac, near Toulouse, France

due to the COVID-19 crisis.

OneWeb filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy at the end of March after its biggest investor SoftBank Group Corp pulled funding, with an auction held on Thursday.



Bharti, through Bharti Airtel, is the third largest mobile operator in the world, with over 425 million customers.

Bharti Airtel has its own extensive mobile broadband networks and enterprise business, which will act as the testing ground for all OneWeb products, services, and applications.



The deal is subject to a U.S. court approval and regulatory clearances, and is expected to close before the end of the year, the government said in a statement.

UK scraps sales tax on personal protective gear until October



Clinical staff clean Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Royal Papworth Hospital

Reuters | London

Britain's finance ministry said yesterday it will extend the scrapping of sales tax on personal protective equipment (PPE) for infectious diseases until the end of October.

"Extending the zero VAT rate on PPE will provide the relief needed by care homes in particular, so that as many people as possible continue to be protected against the coronavirus," junior finance minister Jesse Norman said in a statement.



The Bahrain Chapter of the ICAI, organised a tree plantation drive on the occasion of the 72nd Chartered Accountants Foundation day. Over 11 trees consisting of Neem and other diverse varieties were planted in Bhavans Bahrain Indian School, Budiaya, campus. School Director CA Himanshu Verma, Principal Saji Jacob and staff joined BCICAI Chairperson CA Maheshkumar Narayan, CA Ajaykumar C, Secretary and other Executive committee members on this occasion.

Gilead's remdesivir gets conditional EU clearance

Reuters | Brussels

The European Commission said yesterday it had given conditional approval for the use of antiviral remdesivir in severe COVID-19 patients following an accelerated review process, making it the region's first therapy to be authorised to treat the virus.

The move comes just a week after the European Medicines Agency (EMA) gave its go-ahead for the drug produced by Gilead



Representative picture (Courtesy of ET)

Sciences to be used in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age who are also suffering from pneumonia and require oxygen

support.

It also comes just days after the company allocated nearly all of its supply of the antiviral to the United States over the next three months, stirring concerns about availability elsewhere.

"We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to secure efficient treatments or vaccine against the coronavirus," said Stella Kyriakides, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, in a statement.

Oil falls below \$43 on virus fears

Reuters | London

Oil fell below \$43 a barrel yesterday as a resurgence of coronavirus cases raised concern that fuel demand growth could stall, although crude was still headed for a weekly gain on lower supply and wider signs of economic recovery.

The United States reported more than 55,000 new coronavirus cases on Thursday, a new daily global record for the pandemic. The rise in cases suggested U.S. jobs growth, which jumped in June, could suffer a setback.

"If this trend continues, oil demand in the region is at risk," said Louise Dickson of Rystad Energy.

Brent crude was down 56 cents, or 1.3 per cent, at \$42.58 a barrel by 1352 GMT, and US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 58 cents, or 1.4pc, to \$40.07.

"The fragile U.S. economic rebound is at risk of being undone by the latest surge in new infections," said Stephen Brennock of oil broker PVM.

Both benchmarks rose more than 2pc on Thursday, buoyed

\$42.6
was the price of Brent crude by 1352 GMT

by strong US June jobs figures and a drop in US crude inventories. Brent is still on track for a weekly gain of 5pc.

Signs of economic recovery, and a drop in supply after a record supply cut by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies, known as OPEC+, have helped Brent more than double from a 21-year low below \$16 reached in April.

Boosting recovery hopes, a private survey showed on Friday that China's services sector expanded at the fastest pace in over a decade in June.

OPEC oil production fell to its lowest in decades in June and Russian production has dropped to near its OPEC+ target.

Audi, EnBW to turn electric car batteries into grid support tools

● A used EV battery still can function for another three to 10 years

Reuters | Frankfurt

German carmaker Audi and utility EnBW are setting up an electric car battery operation at EnBW's Heilbronn plant to build scalable storage facilities by the end of this year, drawing on retired batteries to help power grids. Electric vehicle battery recycling and reuse has become a priority for car and battery makers while renewable energy companies face the problem of how to absorb surpluses of wind and solar power to avoid waste and disruption to the stability

of grids, slowing the transition to purely carbon-free energy systems.

Alexander Kupfer, project head of circular economy at Audi and in charge of his firm's activities at the site, said the co-operation

was



Representative picture

“We want to develop a plug and play battery storage solution for the energy industry”

ALEXANDER KUPFER, PROJECT HEAD OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY AT AUDI

part of Audi's recycling commitments.

"We want to develop a plug and play battery storage solution for the energy industry," Kupfer said in an interview.

"The storage facility in Heilbronn will be the blueprint for a scalable product that can be sold in growing numbers."

Audi has been testing the behaviour of electric car batter-

ies, which represent a third of an EV's unit costs, in a research setting in Berlin for three years.

The batteries to be used for the commercial phase of the project come from test cars, which have run hundreds of thousands of kilometres, Kupfer said.

"A used EV battery still can function for another three to 10 years," he said.

EnBW, a market leader in renewable energy, will construct storage containers at the Heilbronn power and heat cogeneration plant, that would serve as a reference site.

Thereafter, EnBW would develop similar storage tools for sale to industrial power customers, local utilities or decentralised generation plants.

Financial details were not disclosed.

SOCIETY



President Abdul Fattah el-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt receives the credentials of Ambassador Hesham bin Mohammed Al-Jowdar, as the Kingdom of Bahrain Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt and Permanent Representative to the Arab League



Passengers collect boarding passes at Bahrain International Airport for Air India Express Flight IX 1178 from Bahrain to Delhi as part of Vande Bharat Mission by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



Passengers during check in process for Pravasi Yatra Mission flight IX 1376 to Kozhikode at Bahrain Airport yesterday



Members during a joint handover event organised by All the Rotary Clubs of Bahrain on 29th June 2020 via Zoom. A handover is when the current President of the Club "hands over" their leadership to the next club president of the new Rotary year. Usually the event is organised jointly as a social evening with dinner however due to the current situation the members are unable to gather in a large crowd. This did not deter the Rotary members, seeing this as an opportunity to connect online on a casual basis.



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Riffa Campus students celebrating various special days in the school calendar online. The International Yoga Day was celebrated at the Riffa Campus on June 21 with little ones practising yoga virtually. The children were on to their yoga mats performing various yoga poses and shared their health benefits among peers. Celebrating relationships, crafts were designed for their loved ones on Mother's Day and Father's Day. On World Environment Day (June 5) students showcased their love and responsibility by growing and nurturing plants in their home garden and planting seedlings in recycled bottles and pots

Narendra Modi's trip to Ladakh comes after a deadly clash with Chinese soldiers that saw 20 Indian troops killed last month



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) walks with military commanders as he arrives in Leh, the joint capital of the union territory of Ladakh

India's Modi makes surprise China border visit after clash

Reuters | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew yesterday into the northern border region where Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a standoff, and said the military stood ready to defend his country. His comments prompted Beijing to call for restraint at the tense border area in the northern Himalayan region of Ladakh. Modi, making his first trip to the Ladakh region since the Indian army lost 20 soldiers in a clash with Chinese soldiers last month, said his country's commitment to peace should not be seen as a sign of weakness. "Today India is becoming stronger, be it in naval might,

air power, space power and the strength of our army. Modernization of weapons and upgradation of infrastructure has enhanced our defence capabilities multifold," he said in a speech to soldiers near Leh, the regional capital. India says Chinese troops have intruded across the Line of Actual Control, or the ceasefire line separating the two armies in the high altitude Ladakh region, and the clash on June 15 occurred because Chinese troops sought to erect defences on India's side of the de facto border. China says the whole of the Galwan valley where the clash occurred is its territory and that it was frontline Indian troops that had breached the border, which is not demarcated.

Today India is becoming stronger, be it in naval might, air power, space power and the strength of our army. Modernization of weapons and upgradation of infrastructure has enhanced our defence capabilities multifold

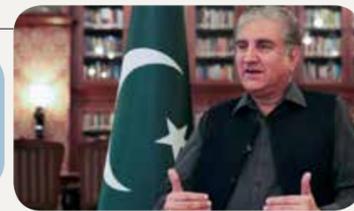
NARENDRA MODI

China's foreign ministry said yesterday the two countries were holding talks to reduce

tensions. Spokesman Zhao Lijian, responding to a question about Modi's visit to the border region, said both sides were in communications through diplomatic and military channels to ease the situation. "In these circumstances, neither side should take actions that might complicate the border situation," he said at a daily news briefing in Beijing. Modi referred to expansionism in his speech to soldiers, saying it caused problems. "(The) Prime Minister said that the time for expansionism is over. This is the era of development," the Indian government quoted Modi as saying, in a press release. "He recalled that it is this mindset of expansionism that did great harm."

News in brief

Pakistani foreign minister tests positive for COVID-19



Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said he had tested positive for COVID-19, days after holding high profile meetings including one with US special representative on Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad in Islamabad. In the last few days, Qureshi has had contact with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in parliament and in a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Kim Jong Un says North Korea prevented coronavirus from making inroads



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told a meeting of the politburo of the ruling Workers Party the North had stopped the novel coronavirus from making inroads in the country. He warned against self-complacency or relaxation in the anti-epidemic effort and urged North Koreans to maintain "maximum alert".

France gets new PM as Macron charts 'new course'



French President Emmanuel Macron named a senior bureaucrat to replace Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, whose government resigned after a poor local election showing for the ruling party. The new premier, Jean Castex, officially a member of the right-wing opposition but in charge of overseeing the country's progressive emergence from coronavirus lockdown, is taking over as Philippe leaves the post after three years, the Elysee Palace announced.

A powerful Afghan warlord accused of kidnapping and raping a political opponent and of committing rights abuses for decades has been given the country's highest military rank, a top official said. Abdul Rashid Dostum, 66, was awarded the rank of marshal in a decree issued by President Ashraf Ghani, making him the only third such recipient in Afghan armed forces.

Afghan warlord accused of rights abuse awarded highest military rank

The search for 14 people missing after their fishing boat and a cargo ship collided off the Philippines has turned into a retrieval operation with little hope of finding them alive, the coast guard said. The vessels crashed last Saturday night in waters southwest of Manila, capsizing the Philippine fishing boat Liberty 5 off the coast of Occidental Mindoro province. The crew of the Hong Kong-registered cargo ship MV Vienna Wood has been detained as investigators prepare to lay criminal charges over the incident.

22 pilgrims killed as train rams van in Pakistan

AFP | Karachi

At least 22 Sikh pilgrims -- 19 from the same family -- were killed yesterday when a train smashed into a van in the east of Pakistan, authorities said. The vehicle's driver was crossing an unmanned level crossing when it was hit by an oncoming train near the small city of Farooqabad. "The crossing was unmanned and the driver of the van took a hasty decision by driving onto the tracks," Pakistan Railways spokeswoman Quratul Ain said, adding that the passengers were all Sikh pilgrims. "Around 20 people lost their lives in [the] tragic collision. Two injured succumbed to injuries later, raising the death toll to 22", Pakistan's ministry of interior said in a statement.



Residents gather around the wreckage of the van following the accident

Earlier a local police spokesman Wajid Abbas confirmed at least 19 dead were from the same family. In total there were 30 pilgrims in the van. No train passengers were injured. The pilgrims from the north of the country were returning from a visit to Nankana Sahib, the birth-

place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak, near the megacity of Lahore. Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted that he was "deeply saddened" by the deaths. Images broadcast on local television showed the mangled van on the train tracks.

India approves human trials for second vaccine candidate

Reuters | Bengaluru

Zyudus has received approval from Indian regulators to begin human studies for its COVID-19 vaccine contender, the drugmaker said yesterday, as the novel coronavirus infections continue to surge in the world's fourth worst-hit nation. The potential vaccine showed a "strong immune response" in animal studies, and the antibodies produced were able to completely neutralize the wild type virus, Zy-



A small bottle labeled with a 'Vaccine' sticker is held near a medical syringe in front of displayed 'Coronavirus COVID-19' words in this illustration

us, part of Cadila Healthcare Ltd, said in a statement to Indian stock exchanges. India's approval for Zyudus comes days after privately held Bharat Biotech got a similar green light for human studies for its vaccine candidate. Zyudus will begin human trials this month in over 1,000 subjects in multiple sites in India, it said. The company also plans to ramp up its production capacity for the vaccine contender to serve Indian and global demand, it added.



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
Saudi Arabia	201,801	+4,193	1,802	+50	140,614	59,385	2,291	5,797
UAE	49,469		317		38,664	10,488	1	5,002
Kuwait	48,672	+813	360	+1	39,276	9,036	144	11,397
Oman	42,555	+1,361	188	+3	25,318	17,049	114	8,335
Oman	43,929	+1,374	193	+5	26,169	17,567	113	8,603
Egypt	71,299		3,120		19,288	48,891	41	697



Marble statues that were made in Sagyin are displayed for sale in a shop



Marble carvers who work for Kyi Khaing work at a workshop

Many of the several thousand villagers in Sagyin earn a modest living from the marble mines

Carving Buddha in Myanmar village 'blessed' with marble bounty

Reuters | Sagyin, Myanmar

The fine white dust that shrouds much of his northern Myanmar village also covers sculptor Chin Win as he leans over a half-finished Buddha statue.

"We are blessed to carve Buddha," he said at his stone workshop surrounded by the seven white hills that give Sagyin village its name, which means "marble" in Burmese.

For generations, artisans in this part of Buddhist-majority Myanmar have carved out a living from the marble, fashioning

mostly colossal Buddha statues to be sold in the nearby city of Mandalay or exported to neighbouring China and Thailand.

Many of the several thousand villagers here earn a modest living from the marble mines, hauling the slabs down the hill, carving them into statues, or exporting them overseas.

Burmese marble, which ranges from pure white to bluish grey, is prized for its hardness and texture. A 45-tonne slab can sell for \$40,000. In Sagyin, specks of the stone are used for everything from brushing teeth to washing clothes.

"We grew up breathing the dust," said Chin Win, 35, who has been carving statues since he was 11 years old. "We use it as toothpaste, for soap powder, lipstick."

'Not safe'

The stone used to be chiselled by hand. Now, much of the work is done with machines.

"I was born in this village and for generations this is what we have done: the men work on

marble carving and the women work in the marble mines or polish the marble statues," said 25-year-old Mya Lay, in a house fashioned from dry bamboo sheets, with a floor made of marble chippings.

For years, she has walked down from the mines from morning till sunset carrying large marble slabs on her head, laborious work for about \$3.50 per day.

"If I could I would leave the

village and find a job in the city," she said, adding that she wanted a better life for her daughter.

Some fear the clouds of dust that cloak the village could make them sick. Inhaling marble dust in other contexts has been linked to silicosis, a serious lung disease that can be deadly.

Few workers wear masks or other protective clothing, and several nursed rasping coughs, although they said the coughing could also be the result of smoking.

Kyi Khaing, a workshop owner, said most residents are too poor to worry about their health.

"I think the marble dust is not safe, but most people here only focus on survival, rather than their healthcare," he said.

New challenges

A bigger worry is the impact of the novel coronavirus, which

originated in China late last year and has since spread globally, infecting more than 10.4 million people.

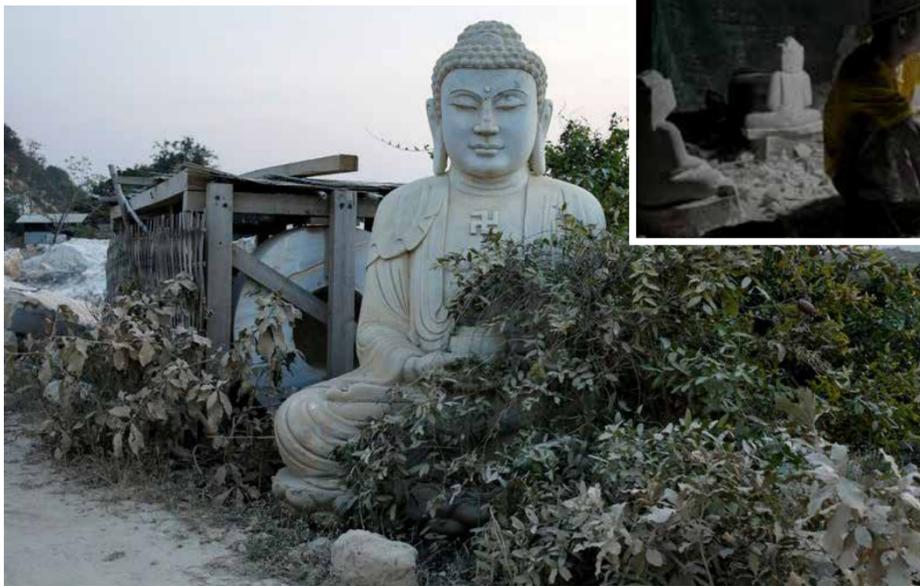
Myanmar has reported only 299 cases of the virus, and six deaths, but trade with China, which buys most of Sagyin's statues, has been hit.

The closure of the border between the two countries has meant Kyi Khaing, 49, has been unable to export his wares.

"The finished products are just sitting still," he said. "I haven't been able to deliver them anywhere. The buyers stopped coming as well."

Still, Kyi Khaing thinks some things in Sagyin will remain constant.

"I believe until I die we will still have marble here," he said. "Anywhere you dig, there are marble stones."



A finished marble statue of a Buddha is left near Irrawaddy River to be transported by boat to a buyer



YOU KNOW WHAT

Burmese marble, which ranges from pure white to bluish grey, is prized for its hardness and texture. A 45-tonne slab can sell for \$40,000



Marble carvers carve a statue of a Buddha

Confusion, resistance as Indonesian capital starts single-use plastics ban

Reuters | Jakarta

Confusion reigned in malls and markets in Indonesia's capital as a new ban on single-use plastics in one of the world's biggest ocean-polluting nations failed to gain much traction.

Despite repeated announcements over loudspeakers and signs and banners forbidding single-use plastic bags, it was business as usual at one Jakarta market, where shoppers and vendors were unsure what they should use instead.

"I'm confused and also my buyers are even more confused," said Hadi, a vendor, who like many Indonesians uses only one name. "I sell fish and there is nothing I can use except plastic bags."

Plastic bags of all sizes and colours were openly in use all around the ageing Lenteng Agung traditional market on the second day of the plastics ban.

Shopper Khairani said she backs the ban but only if there are viable alternatives.

"With fish and chicken,



A worker wearing a face shield and protective mask use a tote bag to replace plastic at a supermarket in Jakarta

you cannot use anything other than plastic," she said, carrying two plastic bags in each hand.

"So we reduce our use of unnecessary plastic, but that does not mean there are no plastic bags (in use) at all."

Indonesia's plastics problem is an acute one, with the archipelago nation ranked second behind China for its volume of plastics that end up in the seas.

Together with the Philippines and Vietnam, those countries make up more than half of ocean

plastics.

"It's a good idea to reduce plastic bag usage, but it needs to be more intensely communicated to encourage people to bring their own bags," said shopper Farhan Ahmad.

The new regulation requires shops and stalls to provide environmentally friendly bags on pain of written warnings, hefty fines, then suspension or rescinding of permits.

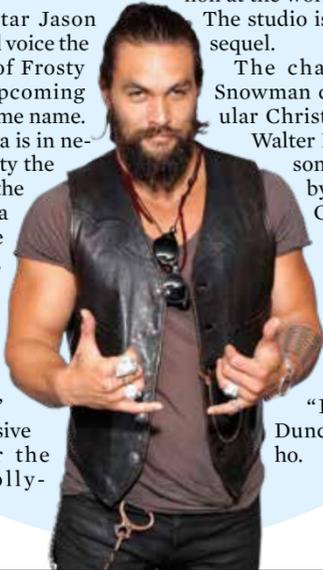
"The rules are only two days old," said meat seller Novi Yanti. "We can't do it right away, it takes time."

CELEBS

Jason Momoa to voice Frosty the Snowman

IANIS | Los Angeles

“Aquaman” star Jason Momoa will voice the character of Frosty the Snowman in an upcoming live-action film of the same name. At the moment, Momoa is in negotiations to star as Frosty the Snowman in the film. If the deal is sealed, Momoa will voice Frosty in the live-action/CG hybrid, reports variety.com. Momoa will also produce the Warner Bros project. The actor’s “Aquaman” was a massive hit for the Holly-



Jason Momoa

wood studio, raking in \$1.14 billion at the worldwide box office. The studio is also developing a sequel. The character Frosty the Snowman comes from the popular Christmas song written by Walter Rollins and Steve Nelson. It was first recorded by Gene Autry and the Cass County Boys in 1950 after the success of Autry’s “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”. Momoa will next be seen in sci-fi saga “Dune” as Duncan Idaho.

Bloom is ‘excited’ for the birth of his daughter with Perry

Fox | Los Angeles

Orlando Bloom recently revealed the moments he’s looking forward to sharing with his newborn daughter. “I’m excited,” he gushed on “Good Morning America” of his and fiancée Katy Perry’s impending bundle of joy. “It’s a magical time when the world feels like it’s asleep and you’ve got a sleeping baby [in your arms].” Bloom, 43, added that he’s happily anticipating “those quiet times at home just you and the family and the little one, and nursing

and just sort of being present and seeing where you can help and what you can do to nurture the life into the world.” “I’m really looking forward to those very late nights where I’ll probably be getting up and doing a breastfeeding-bottle-thing, because I won’t be, obviously, breastfeeding,” the actor continued. “I’m looking forward to that because I love those quiet times when the world feels like it’s asleep and you’ve got a sleeping baby [in your arms].” Bloom is already a father to 9-year-

old son Flynn, whom he shares with his ex-wife Miranda Kerr. This child will be Perry’s first. For Mother’s Day, Bloom shared a sweet message for his fiancée.

“Happy days to all the mums out there and to my marvelous mamma to be,” he wrote alongside a video of Perry, 35, dancing while he had whipped cream on his face. The “Pirates of the Caribbean” actor also had a touching message for his father, Colin Stone, for teaching him how to be a dad. “You’ve taught me wisdom, kindness & compassion and what it means to be someone people can depend on. Lessons I will continue to do my best to share with my boy and the lil girl to come,” Bloom wrote.



Orlando Bloom and Katy Perry

Elle Macpherson is not stressed about ageing

IANIS | Los Angeles

Supermodel Elle Macpherson believes in inner beauty more than the outer charm. In an interaction with Red magazine, the 56-year-old opened up about her changed lifestyle, reports fema-



lifestyle. “Genetics can only get you so far. By the time you reach 50, you realise it’s all about caring for your body and your levels of vitality, so you can do the things you want to do. I’ve tried all sorts of workouts and diets, but now a lot of the things I did in my 30s and 40s no longer work for me. I used to think I was healthy because I could survive on three hours sleep and snack on coffee ... In people’s eyes, I suspect I still looked great, but I didn’t feel great. That was demoralising. I didn’t have a sense of vitality. I felt unlike myself, sort of fragmented,” she shared. She also does not give heed to ageing. “I don’t feel the pressure to look a certain way any more - I’m much more interested in my wellbeing. I believe real beauty is soul deep, not skin deep. It’s a way of being, a way of living. Without ageing, I could never have the gift of being a mother to two grown young men. It’s wonderful. Our relationship has evolved as they’ve grown. They’re very attuned on many levels and I learn a lot from them,” Elle said.

Elle Macpherson

Kate Beckinsale claps back at troll who criticized her for dating younger men

Fox | Los Angeles

Kate Beckinsale clapped back at several trolls after they took to the comments section of her Instagram and critiqued her love life. The “Underworld” star posted an innocent video of her and her cat Olive with several googly eye stickers on their faces. “Nightclubs are closed but we have googly eyes and mostly it’s the same except less risk of illness and no one has we’d all over the ladies’ loo seat,” Beckinsale, 46, captioned the clip.

Despite the post being centered around her cat, fans commented snarky remarks about her dating life. “Are you married?” one person asked to which Beckinsale responded, “To the cat yes.” Another fan said, “SHE NEEDS A MAN... BAD!!!!” The “Serendipity” actress responded, “Hmm.” “You need a man,” another commented. Beckinsale replied, “Tell me why? To stop me sticking eyes on the cat? What if he liked eyes on the cat? What if I won’t stop? How

will he help this situation.” The actress later had a sassy comeback to a fan who asked, “Why do you keep dating guys that could be your children?” “Every relationship I have had has been solely to annoy you,” she said. Beckinsale’s reported boyfriend is Goody Grace, 23, who is two years older than her daughter, Lily Sheen.

Prior to her relationship with Grace, she dated comedian Pete Davidson, 26. In May, Beckinsale addressed the public’s scrutiny over her dating younger men. “It can feel like a little bit of a political act to be a woman over 32 who’s having any fun at all. ‘Oh my god, I’m going to sit home and anticipate menopause while crocheting,’” she told Women’s Health.



Kate Beckinsale

Mindy Kaling’s ‘Never Have I Ever’ renewed for second season

IANIS | Los Angeles

Mindy Kaling’s coming-of-age comedy series “Never Have I Ever”, about an Indian teenager growing up in the US, will be getting a second season. With the show, she has used her “relationship with being Hindu” and the experience of “straddling the lines of two cultures” to narrate the story of a 15-year-old Devi, first-generation Indian American, and her desperation to feel that she belongs in the society. With Maitreyi Ramakr-

ishnan, Poorna Jagannathan and Richa Moorjani leading the cast, the coming-of-age story examines Indian culture against an American backdrop, its values and grief through the story of Devi as she navigates ups and downs of high school. Netflix has renewed Kaling’s series for a second season. The news comes just over two months after the show launched to critical acclaim, reports variety.com. Mindy co-created “Never Have I Ever” with Lang Fisher and also co-executive produced the show.

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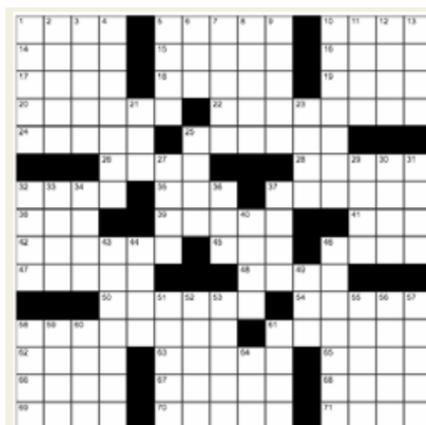
SUDOKU

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

Yesterday’s solution

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

How to play
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.



CROSSWORD

Across

1- Hey, over here!; 5- Mission-stopping command; 10- High level of satisfaction; 14- On with; 15- Hue; 16- Opera set in Egypt; 17- Hint; 18- Napoleon on Elba, e.g.; 19- Hwys; 20- Names; 22- Ceremonial robe; 24- Inscribed pillar; 25- Blues great Smith; 26- Dies; 28- Computer key; 32- Does in; 35- Chatter; 37- Fancy home; 38- Tee follower; 39- Open, as a gate; 41- Lord, is; 42- Ripe; 45- Chem., for one; 46- Brio; 47- Shorthand taker; 48- Dreg; 50- Chinese martial art; 54- Fine fiddle; 58- Prophecy; 61- Mental condition; 62- Composer Khachaturian; 63- Sao; 65- Seed cover; 66- Enlist again; 67- Montezuma, for one; 68- Fender ding; 69- Shed feathers; 70- City in West Yorkshire; 71- Son of Zeus;

Down

1- Treaties; 2- Cleft; 3- Brown; 4- Lattice; 5- High cards; 6- Spar; 7- Martini garnish; 8- Actor’s parts; 9- Long lock of hair; 10- Article of clothing; 11- Lo-cal; 12- Garden of; 13- Bride seat; 21- Always; 23- Rail supports; 25- Pinto or lima; 27- Malaria symptom; 29- Follow; 30- Blues singer James; 31- Bridle part; 32- Electrical units; 33- Noteworthy achievement; 34- Celebration; 36- Small shot; 37- Ashtabula’s lake; 40- Legal rights org.; 43- Disheveled; 44- Defeat decisively; 46- “CHiPs” star; 49- That, in Tijuana; 51- Sherpa’s home; 52- Fill with glass; 53- Wind instrument; 55- Less common; 56- Roomy dress cut; 57- Shoulder muscles, briefly; 58- Grange; 59- Black-and-white cookie; 60- Actor Julia; 61- Soft shoes; 64- Conducted;

Yesterday’s solution

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

Hami, Mercedes dominate season-opening practice

Lewis Hamilton tops times ahead of Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas at season-opening Austrian Grand Prix

AFP | Spielberg, Austria

Lewis Hamilton began his quest for a record-equaling seventh world title by topping the times yesterday as Formula One roared back with a full day's practice for the belated season-opening Austrian Grand Prix.

Three months after the cancelled traditional curtain-raiser in Australia and six months on from the last race, it was business as usual from the dominant 'black arrows' Mercedes men with Valtteri Bottas next fastest as the sport re-started after its longest off-season.

Hamilton, in commanding form in both the morning and afternoon sessions, was quickest in one minute and 4.304 seconds to lead Bottas by 0.197 seconds and third-placed Sergio Perez, in Racing Point's pink Mercedes, by 0.657.

Sebastian Vettel, in his last season with Ferrari, was fourth for the Italian outfit ahead of McLaren-bound Daniel Ricciardo of Renault and Lando Norris of McLaren.

Lance Stroll, in the second Racing Point car, modelled on the hugely-successful 2019 title-winning Mercedes, was seventh ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari and his future team-mate Carlos Sainz of McLaren.

The long-awaited track ac-



Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton during practice

tion brought an end to Formula One's longest break following the lifting of lockdown restrictions in Europe caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hamilton, who has been an outspoken supporter of the campaign for equality and diversity since the death of American George Floyd last month, revealed a statement 'Black Lives Matter' helmet before climbing into his Mercedes.

His Mercedes W11 car was also running in revised new black livery, instead of the team's traditional silver, with a message to 'End Racism' on the halo.

"For a long time, we've been planning for the livery change

For a long time, we've been planning for the livery change for the car, for the (driver) suit change and I have also designed my helmet in black

LEWIS HAMILTON

for the car, for the (driver) suit change and I have also designed my helmet in black," said Hamilton, speaking on a video released on social media.

"Normally, my helmet is white, my suit is white and ob-

viously the car is in silver. This is why - it's the whole reason that the helmet has changed its colour and the suit and the car.

"It's supporting equality, above all, and just really continuing to solidify that important message as we currently have 'the mic' and people are starting to listen. So, it's an opportunity to push that message and really hold people accountable.

"It's not good enough, even if someone says to you 'we've been doing something' or 'we've been trying'. They need to try harder because it is still a big issue that the world is fighting 60 years later, after Martin Luther King was fighting for it and gave his life."

Zidane wants Messi to stay in Spain despite Barca exit claims



Barcelona's Argentine forward Lionel Messi (L) walks past Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane (file photo)

AFP | Madrid

Lionel Messi was reported on Thursday to be planning to leave Barcelona in 2021, but Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane was hoping the Argentine maestro will stay in Spain.

Messi's current contract expires next year and he has halted negotiations due to frustrations with the direction of the club, said Spanish radio station Cadena Ser.

Barca sit second in La Liga with five games left, four points behind Real Madrid, who edged past Getafe 1-0 on Thursday to put the title within their grasp.

"I don't know what will happen but we hope not because he is in this league and we want the best in this league," said Real coach Zidane afterwards, when asked about the possibility of Messi leaving.

Messi said in February he did not believe Barcelona could win the Champions League on current form.

The 33-year-old has also had disagreements with the board, reacting publicly when



Lionel Messi has also had disagreements with the board, reacting publicly when sporting director Eric Abidal appeared to blame the players for the sacking of Ernesto Valverde in January

sporting director Eric Abidal appeared to blame the players for the sacking of Ernesto Valverde in January.

Barcelona's presidential elections are due to be held in 2021, when current president Josep Maria Bartomeu will have to step aside.

Among those set to run against Bartomeu's successor is Victor Font, who wants to appoint Messi's former team-mate Xavi Hernandez as coach.

Quintana hit by car on training ride in Colombia

AFP | Bogota

Colombian Tour de France hopeful Nairo Quintana was knocked down by a car in central Colombia, a local town hall said on its Twitter account.

The 30-year-old winner of two Grand Tours complained of "pain in one knee" and "scratches on an elbow", Mery Mozo, the mayor of the Motavita municipality, told Blu Radio.

The accident occurred on Thursday when "a driver performed an improper manoeuvre and hit him," added the town hall.

The town hall posted pictures of Quintana sitting on a plastic chair by the side of the road, talking to the mayor and police, with his brother and Arkea-Samsic teammate Dayer alongside him seemingly unhurt.

There were no visible injuries to Quintana, who was wearing a scarf over his face in one picture, but he was wearing a brace on his left knee.

The mayor said the car tried to get away but was blocked by Quintana's entourage.



Nairo Quintana

Quintana -- the winner of the Giro d'Italia in 2014 and Vuelta a Espana two years later -- was taken to his home in Boyaca, where he received medical attention.

The diminutive climber is training in the mountains in his homeland ahead of the August restart to the cycling calendar.

Quintana was in fine form for his new team before the season was suspended in March, winning two minor French stage races and the final stage of the prestigious Paris-Nice.

He has finished on the podium three times at the Tour de France but compatriot Egan Bernal last year became the first South American to win the Grand Boucle, cycling's most prestigious race.

Klopp and Guardiola defend Liverpool's attitude after 4-0 loss

AFP | London

Juergen Klopp and Pep Guardiola insisted that Liverpool had been fully focused and hadn't taken their foot off the gas, despite Manchester City's comfortable 4-0 win over the newly crowned champions at the Etihad on Thursday.

City looked sharper and hungrier for most of the game, taking a 3-0 lead by half-time, while Klopp's Liverpool were well below their usual levels of intensity.

Liverpool had previously lost only one league game this season, leading some observers to suggest last week's title win - their first in 30 years - and subsequent celebrations had affected play on Thursday.

But manager Klopp was having none of it.

"If you want to lead this story in the direction that we're not focused, then do it," Klopp said. "I liked my teams' attitude - I saw a brilliant attitude - I saw boys who were fighting with all they have.

"It has nothing to do with last week, to be honest. It hurts like defeats hurt. What I wanted to



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola and Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp (L) embrace after the match

see tonight was a team who is ready to fight against Man City, who obviously had a point to prove," the German said.

"If there is a team in the world that can smash us like this, it is probably City but we will come again. Make a few things better and it could look differently, but for tonight that is it," he added.

City manager Guardiola said there was no question of Liver-

pool having suffered any kind of 'hangover' from their title win.

"I think they drunk a lot of beer the last week, but they were here with no beer in their blood and to win this game," the Spaniard said.

"I saw a team with incredible focus, with energy and a desire to win the game, and I saw from the first minute they were focused to play hard," he added.

Lampard, Ancelotti call for VAR 'reflection'

AFP | London

Frank Lampard called for a "big reflection" on VAR at the end of the season after another controversial incident involving the technology in the midweek Premier League fixtures.

Tottenham were controversially denied an equaliser against Sheffield United on Thursday when Harry Kane's goal was chalked off for a dubious handball against Lucas Moura.

In a Premier League season marred by debatable calls, Spurs boss Jose Mourinho, whose side lost 3-1, said he feared for the future of football if the system were not addressed.

Chelsea boss Lampard, who played under Mourinho as a player at Stamford Bridge, said the goal should have stood.

"It was certainly one where common sense could have been involved but if the rule book states something, then the handball is given," he told reporters yesterday.