

**Fakhreddine aims double-champ status against Said Maalem**

Mohammed Fakhreddine, who currently holds the BRAVE CF Middleweight world title, is set to fight for his second belt at BRAVE CF 50 | **P 11**

**WORLD 6** Meghan accuses royal family of 'perpetuating falsehoods'

# THE DAILY tribune

Constance Wu joins Chris Pratt's Amazon series 'The Terminal List'

**10** CELEBS

**BUSINESS 5** Saudi offers to extend oil cuts





Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

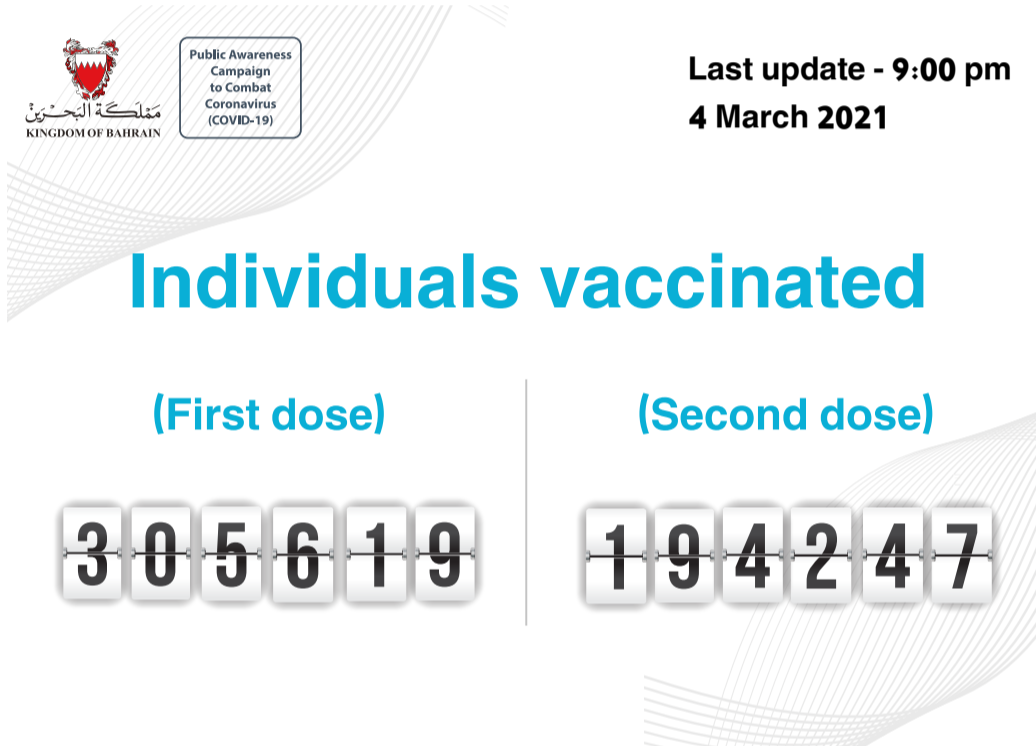
## Comply with all COVID-19 measures



#Commit4Bahrain



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chairs the 371st meeting of the Government Executive Committee, held remotely. The meeting reviewed international examinations, procedures for further developing Bahrain's real estate sector, transport and taxis regulation and measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.



**BIC launches F1 ticket sales for vaccinated and COVID-19 recovered fans**

**P12**



# Cowardly attacks

Bahrain condemns attacks against Saudi Arabia; Coalition thwarts Houthi missile, drones

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

3151398

ACTIVE CASES

6739

DEATHS

462

DISCHARGED

117656

NEW CASES

588

CRITICAL

60

- Bahrain expressed its full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Iran-backed Houthi militia claimed attacking Aramco facilities in the port city of Jeddah
- Saudi said Royal Saudi Air Force intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile

TDT | agencies



Arab Coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki

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The Royal Saudi Air Force has intercepted and destroyed this morning (Thursday) a ballistic missile launched systematically and deliberately by the terrorist Houthi militia to target civilians and civilian objects in Jazan

SAUDI PRESS AGENCY SAID, QUOTING AN ARAB COALITION STATEMENT

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned the launch of a ballistic missile by Iran-backed terrorist Houthi militia against Saudi Arabia as a "cowardly terrorist attack targeting civilians."

In a statement condemning the attack, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs praised the Saudi

Royal Air Defence Forces and coalition forces, for their readiness and vigilance, in intercepting and destroying the missiles and drones before hitting civilian targets.

Bahrain expressed its full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the security

measures it takes to deter the Houthi terrorist attacks and protect citizens and residents on its territories.

Arab coalition yesterday thwarted attacks by Iran-backed Houthi militia targeting civilian objects, which Iran-backed Houthi militia claimed as Ara-

mco facilities in the port city of Jeddah.

Media reports said that a missile launched by the Houthis towards the southern city of Jazan was intercepted and destroyed.

"The Royal Saudi Air Force has intercepted and destroyed this morning (Thursday) a ballistic missile launched system-

atically and deliberately by the terrorist Houthi militia to target civilians and civilian objects in Jazan," Saudi Press Agency said, quoting an Arab coalition statement.

"The terrorist Houthi militia is purposely escalating the deliberate, hostile, terrorist targeting of civilians and civilian objects using ballistic missiles and bomb-laden UAVs. These terrorist acts amount to war crimes."

Aramco's oil production and export facilities are mostly in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, more than 1,000 km (620 miles) across the country from Jeddah.

The Arab Coalition announced overnight that it had intercepted two explosives-laden drones launched toward Khamis Mushait, a southwestern city home to the King Khalid Air Base.

Yemen's Houthi movement regularly launches drones and missiles into Saudi Arabia, many of which Riyadh says it intercepts.



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa during an inspection visit to a BDF unit. Shaikh Khalifa reviewed training facilities and military systems and praised the BDF staff for their work and patriotic duty. The Commander-in-Chief expressed pride in the commitment of the BDF staff in serving the nation. He stressed the importance of giving combat and administrative readiness full attention while keeping pace with development plans.



BDF Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, receiving at his office at the General Command Bahrain Brigadier General Mohammed Ali Al Samadi, the military attache at the Embassy of Jordan. The Chief of Staff expressed his appreciation of the role the attache plays in strengthening the military cooperation between the two brotherly countries. Discussions focused on defence cooperation. Major General Dr Youssef Rashid Fleifel, the Chief of the Military Judiciary, and President of the Military Court of Cassation, was present.



The Ambassador of Bahrain to Saudi Arabia, Shaikh Hmoud bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, in the presence of OIC Secretary-General, Dr Yusuf bin Ahmed Al-Othaimen, signed the Articles of the OIC's Women Development Organisation. Shaikh Hmoud said the signing represents an important achievement for Bahrain in supporting and empowering women.



Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan al-Hassan, Head of Public Security, with Brigadier General Ahmed bin Saleh Lahoub, the Military Attache of the Embassy of Yemen to Bahrain. During the meeting, they reviewed the existing bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and areas of security cooperation and coordination, in addition to issues of common interest.



The Director-General of the Southern District Municipality, Asim Abd Al-Latif Abdullah, during a field visit to Horat Sanad to learn about the service needs of the people there. Municipal Council members, representative of the Fourth District, Omar Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, and several employees and specialists in the municipality were present. The director-general listened to citizens' needs and complaints regarding services provided to them. He also reviewed the progress of services related to cleaning, intensifying the green area, and other new facilities. Municipals officials also took legal actions against several violations detected during the tour.



Health Undersecretary Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea, during a field visit to Al Aali field centre. The facility functions as an "optional home quarantine" facility and quarantine centre for children and women. Al Manea toured the facilities and hailed the efficiency and determination with which the health workers are fighting the pandemic. Asymptomatic active COVID-19 patients have the option to self-isolate at home from 07 June 2020, where positive patients reach the Shamel Field Hospital for triaging and assessment.



The northern municipality announced holding a campaign to remove advertisements placed illegally there. Officials removed 35 advertisement boards placed without necessary license from Sadad, Al-Malikiyah, Karzakan, Damistan, Hamala, Al-Jisra, and Al-Janabiyah regions. The move is as per law Law No. 14 of 1973 concerning the Organisation of Advertising. Accordingly, it is not permitted to advertise without obtaining an advertisement permit from the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban planning.

# 441 hrs of fasting this Ramadan

TDT | Manama

Ramadan this year will last for a period of 30 days or 720 hours, during which Bahrainis will observe 432 to 441 hours of fasting, said a top astronomer.

Astronomer researcher Ali Al-Hajri said the first day of Ramadan is most likely to fall on 13 April 2021 as per the astronomical calendar. "Based on moon sighting, the first day, most likely, will be on 14 April 2021."

He added: "Bahrainis will have the shortest fasting period at the beginning of the month and the longest towards the end." Ramadan, one of the five pillars of Islam, requires Muslims to abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to dusk.

"Sunni community will have



Astronomer researcher Ali Al-Hajri said the first day of Ramadan is most likely to fall on 13 April 2021

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Bahrainis will have the shortest fasting period at the beginning of the month and the longest towards the end

ASTRONOMER RESEARCHER ALI AL-HAJRI

432 hours and 56 minutes of fasting and 287 hours and 4 minutes for Iftar, while for Shia community this will be 441 hours and 12 minutes, and 278 hours and 48 minutes, respectively," explained Al Hajri.

For the most part, Sunnis and Shias observe Ramadan the same way, but there are some differ-

ences. For one, Sunnis break their fast at sunset, once the sun is no longer visible, but there is still light in the sky. However, for Shias, they wait to break after it gets completely dark.

"So, the Sunni community, at the beginning of the month, will have 14 hours and 3 minutes of fasting and 9 hours and 57 minutes for Iftar. These calculations change by the end of the holy month, where the fasting period will be 14 hours and 47 minutes, and Iftar will be 9 hours and 13 minutes."

For the Shia community, the fasting period, at the beginning of the holy month, will be 14 hours and 20 minutes. Iftar will be 9 hours and 40 minutes. Towards the end of the month, the fasting period increases to 15 hours and 4 minutes, and Iftar to 8 hours and 56 minutes.

## No Friday prayers at mosques

TDT | Manama

Mosques in the Kingdom will remain closed to worshippers at noon, except for the Ahmed Al-Fateh Islamic Centre mosque.

A circular by the Sunni and Jafari endowments administrations called on not to open mosques at noon on Fridays during the current period.

The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs decided to resume opening mosques for Fajr, Zuhr and Asr prayers, except Friday prayers.

## Full compliance with COVID-19 measures crucial: SMC Chief

TDT | Manama

The chances of a faster exit from the pandemic depend on ensuring proper compliance to coronavirus safety measures, said a top SMC doctor.

The best chance of faster recovery rests on people showing full commitment to COVID-19 measures issued by the National Medical Taskforce, Dr Nabeel Ahmed Al Asheeri, the Chief of Medical Services of Salmaniya Medical Complex, said.

Negligence or failure will compound the situation and lead to a spike in the number of cases, he warned.



The doctor also urged all members of the society to respect social distancing and avoid large family gatherings. "They pose an ominous risk in transmitting and spreading

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The best chance of faster recovery rests on people showing full commitment to COVID-19 measures issued by the National Medical Taskforce

DR NABEEL AHMED AL ASHEERI

the mutated coronavirus, especially since most of the cases are related to family gatherings," he said.

Wearing the facemask, washing the hands regularly, sanitising surfaces, leaving home only when necessary, and getting vaccinated are highly recommended in confronting the virus.

Dr Al Asheeri called on to exercise caution in dealing with the elderly and those with underlying diseases.

"All of us have a crucial role in protecting themselves, their families and their community from infection."

## Bahraini health workers top choice for recruitment



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Bahraini volunteer health workers will get priority in health sector hiring

HEALTH UNDERSECRETARY DR WALEED KHALIFA AL MANEA.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will not renew temporary contracts awarded to foreign health workers, said a top health official who also affirmed that those jobs would go to Bahrainis.

"Bahraini volunteer health workers will get priority in health sector hiring," said Health Undersecretary Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea.

Appointments depend on vacancies available, qualification, experience and civil service laws and regulations.

He said the foreign health workers were hired on temporary contracts in limited numbers during the pandemic to meet exceptional circumstances.

"Those hired had specialisations which Bahrainis don't have. The circumstance also didn't allow the government to wait for Bahrainis to complete their training and qualification."

Al Manea confirmed that there would be no more renewals for foreign workers in the health sector.

## Delay pre-dawn meal to avoid dropping sugar level during fasting: Dr Al Saad

TDT | Manama

Dr Areej Al-Saad, a Clinical Dietitian at King Hamad University Hospital, called on diabetic patients to delay their pre-dawn meal as much as possible to avoid a drop in their sugar level during the fasting period.

Al-Saad also called on diabetic patients to end fasting immediately upon detecting a sharp drop or sharp rise in blood sugar.

Al-Saad was talking during a lecture organised by the Department of Integrated Sciences at the College of Health and Sports Sciences at the University of Bahrain in cooperation with King Hamad University Hospital.

"Check sugar level regularly, and do not eat large quantities of food during breakfast so that the sugar level does not rise sharply," the doctor said.

"The body needs energy and carbohydrates over three meals. So, do not eat the su-hour early and delay it as much as possible to avoid a drop in sugar level during the fasting period."

"Avoid high-fat meals and



Dr Areej Al-Saad

salty foods to avoid thirst, as well as foods rich in sugar during the pre-dawn meal.

"Eat more fresh vegetables and a snack between breakfast and the pre-dawn meal to reach a nutritional balance between the two meals.

"Drink more water, not juices, and exercise or do physical activity at least two hours after breakfast."

Several members of the academic and student bodies at the university were present. Dr Rabab Asghar Abdel Wahab, the Head of the Integrated Sciences Department, conducted the lecture.

## Gulf Air to trial IATA travel pass

● Travel pass app helps passengers securely manage their travel as per government requirements for COVID-19 testing or vaccine information

TDT | Manama

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is partnering with Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain, to trial the IATA Travel Pass mobile app.

The app helps passengers securely manage their travel as per government requirements for COVID-19 testing or vaccine information.

Gulf Air said the initiative help pave the way for the re-establishment of global connectivity while managing the risks of COVID-19.

'Digital passport'

The deal allows Gulf Air passengers to create a 'digital passport' to match their travel itineraries with the COVID-19 health requirements of their destination country and validate compliance.

During the trial, the ser-

”  
IATA Travel Pass acts as a 'digital passport' enabling travellers to securely and effortlessly navigate their travel plans, knowing that their verified travel credential is based on the latest COVID-19 information, strict data privacy regulations and entry rules for their destination

CAPTAIN WALEED ABDULHAMEED ALALAWI, GULF AIR'S ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



vice will be available to Gulf Air's customers travelling on select routes to and from z Bahrain.

Gulf Air said it is proud to partner with IATA to trial IATA Travel Pass to simplify and enhance compliance with COVID-19 health requirements and ensure passengers can fly with confidence.

"IATA Travel Pass acts as a 'digital passport' enabling travellers to securely and effortlessly navigate their travel plans, knowing that their verified travel credential is based on the latest COVID-19 information, strict data privacy regulations

and entry rules for their destination," said Captain Waleed Abdulhameed Alalawi, Gulf Air's Acting Chief Executive Officer.

"This is an important step in enabling international travel during the pandemic, giving people the confidence that they are meeting all COVID-19 entry requirements. IATA Travel Pass holds the key to the safe restart of the travel and tourism industry, which is an important contributor to the Kingdom of Bahrain's economy," said Nick Careen, IATA Senior Vice President for Airport, Passenger, Cargo and Security.

# Future shines bright for Bahrain

Dr Mirza inaugurates second solar panels factory in the Kingdom

● The 2 million dinar factory, built on four thousand square meters, can produce 80,000 solar panels annually.

TDT | Manama

Dr Abdul Hussain Mirza, the President of Sustainable Energy Authority, opened Solartec Green Energy Factory, the second of its kind for solar panels in the Kingdom.

The 2 million dinar factory, built on four thousand square meters, can produce 80,000 solar panels annually.

The production capacity is also equivalent to 25 Megawatts of clean solar energy annually.

"This will have a positive impact on encouraging the use of clean and contribute to creating professional and specialised job opportunities," said Dr Mirza.

In his inaugural speech, Dr Mirza outlined the achievements of Bahrain in solar energy production, after the endorsement of the national renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, in January 2017.

"Such achievements were possible thanks to the cooperation of private and public sectors under the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister."



Dr Mirza with other officials during the inauguration



**Bahrain is determined to raise the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix to 5% by the year 2025 and 10% by 2035**

DR ABDUL HUSSAIN MIRZA, THE PRESIDENT OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY

"Bahrain is determined to raise the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix to 5% by the year 2025 and 10% by 2035," said Dr Mirza. The SEA presi-

dent also revealed that the Kingdom had achieved 70% of the first target for 2025.

For his part, Rabie Abdullah, CEO of Solartec Factory, thanked the leadership and expressed his appreciation to Dr Mirza and Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, for their continuous support.

Solartec also said that its manufacturing plant in the Kingdom functions using its solar farm, ensuring a minimal carbon footprint and within stringent European Union standards for legal and health & safety requirements.

According to the company's website, the American Mission Hospital A'ali (1MW) is one of its projects.

Solar One, inaugurated in 2017, was the first solar panel manufacturer in the Kingdom. The factory had an initial production capacity of 60,000

solar panels, or 15 MW of power, a year at the time of opening. Solar One is now operating as a full-on project developer, adding an EPC arm to the company in mid-2017. The company said it had served over 100 clients in 5 countries.

Solar One also claims to have contributed over 2 MW of clean energy to Bahrain's energy mix.



The world has installed 68 GW of solar PV power plants in just 2 years (2012 & 2013), almost the same as it installed in the previous 40 years combined

Many renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro and biomass are mainly derived from solar energy. Therefore, solar acts as a mother of most energy sources.



By 2050, International Energy Agency (IEA) says that the solar will be world's single largest source of electricity, supplying close to 30% of total. That's up from 1% currently.

Albert Einstein was the first scientist who got the Nobel Prize for his work on photo-voltaic effect.

## NPRA to collect BD5 visa endorsement fee during the approval

TDT | Manama

Starting this Sunday, the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs will collect a BD5 visa endorsement fee while processing an application.

As of now, the NPRA collects the visa fees from an arriving traveller at the port of entry.

"The new decision will save the travellers time and ease the procedures for entering the country," said NPRA in a statement.

The authority also said



the move is not valid for visas issued before Sunday.

## 2,481 students benefit Education Ministry's talent project

TDT | Manama

A total of 2,481 students benefited from a programme for outstanding and talented students by the Bahrain Ministry of Education Special Education Directorate.

Dr Suad Al-Sayed Ibrahim Jaafar, the head of the Department of Special Education, said the project reached students from 27 primary and preparatory schools using a digital platform.

The directorate said it conducted 261 enrichment activities, 171 virtual events, and 69 training workshops for teachers through the platform.

During a survey held among parents, 98.2% of the respondent confirmed that the study materi-



A student participating in the programme

als were appropriate.

Around 65% of the parents confirmed that the materials do not constitute a burden on their children.

The survey also found that 68% of the respondents preferred the digital platform, while 19% ministry's educational portal.

A survey among students who took part found that 90% of the students are interested in continuing the programme.

Around 75% said the project helped them develop their skills, while 76% said the mentoring session boosted their confidence level.

Around 74% of students found the science lessons helpful, while 83% said they enjoyed all the activities.

## Lavrov to visit UAE, Saudi, Qatar to discuss energy coordination: Ifax

Reuters | Moscow

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar on March 8-12 to discuss coordination on energy markets, the Interfax news agency reported yesterday.

## US weekly jobless claims rise moderately

Reuters | Washington

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose last week, likely boosted by brutal winter storms in the densely populated South in mid-February, though the labor market outlook is improving amid declining new COVID-19 cases.

That was confirmed by other data on Thursday showing job cuts announced by U.S.-based companies plummeted 57% in February. The labor market has lagged an acceleration in overall economic activity, driven by nearly \$900 billion in additional pandemic relief provided by the government in late December.

# Saudi offers to extend oil cuts

Reuters

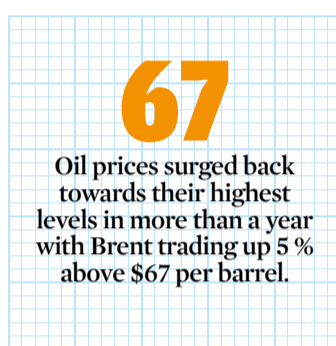
Saudi Arabia is considering extending its voluntary oil production cuts by one month into April, an OPEC+ source said yesterday as the kingdom and Russia said oil markets recovery was still fragile.

Oil prices surged back towards their highest levels in more than a year with Brent trading up 5% above \$67 per barrel.

With oil above \$60 a barrel, some analysts have predicted the OPEC+ group of producers will increase production by about 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) while Saudi Arabia will partially or fully end its voluntary cuts of 1 million bpd.

But both Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, lynchpins in the OPEC+ group, called for caution on Thursday.

"The uncertainty surrounding the pace of recovery has not receded," the Saudi minister said. "At the risk of sounding like a stuck record, I would once again urge caution and



vigilance."

Russia's Novak echoed those comments saying the oil market had not fully recovered and new coronavirus infections were still creating uncertainty.

Russia has been insisting on raising output to avoid prices spiking any further and lending

support to shale oil output from the United States, which is not part of OPEC+.

But in February Moscow failed to raise output, despite being allowed to do so by OPEC+, because harsh winter weather hit its production at mature fields.

A source familiar with Russian thinking said Moscow wanted to raise its output by 0.125 million bpd from April.

OPEC+ cut output by a record 9.7 million bpd last year as demand collapsed due to the pandemic. As of March, it is still withholding around 7 million bpd, about 7% of world demand. The voluntary Saudi cut brings the total withheld to around 8 million bpd.

## UK starts probe on Apple over alleged App Store monopoly

Reuters

Britain's competition regulator said yesterday it has opened an investigation into Apple Inc after complaints that the iPhone maker's terms and conditions for app developers are unfair and anti-competition.

The probe will consider if Apple has a dominant position in the distribution of apps on its devices in the UK, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said.

Payment policies related to Apple's App Store have for long drawn complaints from app developers as it requires them to use its payment system, which charges commissions of between 15% and 30%.

The company has also been at loggerheads with Epic Games, the creator of popular game Fortnite, which last year tried to avoid the 30% fee by launching its own in-app payment system, leading to Apple banning Fortnite from its store.



The iPhone maker said on Thursday it will work with the regulator.

"The App Store has been an engine of success for app developers, in part because of the rigorous standards we have in place — applied fairly and equally to all developers — to protect customers from malware and to prevent rampant data collection without their consent," Apple said in a statement.

The company is also being investigated on similar grounds by the Dutch competition authorities, who are nearing a draft decision, Reuters reported last month.

# US launches \$9 bn coronavirus aid for low-income lending

Reuters | Washington

The US Treasury yesterday launched a new programme to infuse \$9 billion into minority and community lenders to boost financing for small businesses and consumers struggling with the coronavirus pandemic in low-income and underserved communities.

The Emergency Capital Investment Programme, funded as part of a \$900 bn COVID-19 aid bill signed into law at the end of 2020 by former president Donald Trump, will provide \$9 bn in capital to Community Development Financial Institutions and minority depository institutions.

These institutions, from small mortgage lenders to minority-owned banks and rural



The U.S. Treasury building is seen in Washington

credit unions and other lenders, will be able to increase loans and grants to their communities and extend forbearance to struggling customers, Treasury officials said.

The programme sets aside \$2 bn for participating institutions with less than \$500 million in assets and another \$2

bn for those with less than \$2 bn in assets. Treasury officials said equity and subordinated debt investments into these institutions will lower their cost of capital, allowing them to reach more difficult lending cases.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement that the programme, negotiated in part by her predecessor, Steven Mnuchin, was aimed at reducing "financial services deserts" in low-income communities that have worsened during the pandemic.

"The Emergency Capital Investment Programme will help these places in that the financial sector hasn't typically served well. It will allow people to access capital, especially in communities of colour."

## Honda to sell limited batch of level 3 self-driving cars



Reuters | Tokyo

Honda Motor Co Ltd yesterday said it will sell a limited batch of its flagship Legend sedan equipped with level 3 autonomous driving technology that enables vehicles to navigate congested highways.

When the level 3 "Traffic Jam Pilot" is activated, a driver can watch movies or use the navigation on the screen, helping to mitigate fatigue and stress when driving in a traffic jam, Honda said in a statement.

The Japanese automaker's plan to sell 100 of the vehicles

with the advanced technology would represent a significant step towards its goal of being the first company to mass produce a car with level 3 technology. The Legend's "Traffic Jam Pilot" system can control acceleration, braking and steering under certain conditions.

It can also alert the driver to respond when handing over the control, such as vibration on the driver's seatbelt, Honda said. And if the driver continues to be unresponsive, the system will assist with an emergency stop by decelerating and stopping the vehicle while alerting surrounding cars with hazard lights and the horn, it added.

# ByteDance developing Clubhouse-like app

Reuters

TikTok owner ByteDance is working on a Clubhouse-like app for China, sources familiar with the matter said, as the global success of the US-based audio chat service inspires a rush of copycats in the country.

At least a dozen similar apps have been launched in the past month, with momentum picking up after Clubhouse was blocked in China in early February. Clubhouse had seen a surge in users who participated in discussions on sensitive topics such as Xin-



jiang detention camps and Hong Kong independence.

New offerings include Xiaomi Corp's reworking of its Mi Talk app into an invitation-only audio service targeted at professionals last week. More are currently under development, industry executives say.

ByteDance's plans are still in the early stages, said two sources who were not authorised to speak to media and declined to be identified.

Discussions about TikTok and ByteDance on Clubhouse had

prompted interest in the genre from ByteDance executives including CEO Zhang Yiming, said one of the sources.

The success of Clubhouse, which can host up to 8,000 people per chat room and has seen a discussion between Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk and Robinhood CEO Vlad Tenev boost user numbers, has rammed home the potential of audio chat services.

But similar apps in China are expected to take on Chinese characteristics that will accom-

modate censorship and government oversight.

One such example is Nasdaq-listed Lizhi Inc's Zhiya app which was launched in 2013 and whose users usually talk about video games or sing songs.

The app requires real name registration, a trait Lizhi CEO Marco Lai says is key in China. The company also employs staff to listen to conversations in every room and deploys artificial intelligence tools to weed out "unwanted" content, such as pornography or politically

sensitive issues.

The app was briefly taken down by Chinese regulators in 2019, but reinstated after Lizhi made rectifications.

Lizhi's Lai said that outside of politics there was plenty of room for audio chat apps in China.

"Adults in China do not like to express their views in public, we have been taught to keep a low profile since we were young," he said. "A good approach in China, though, is entertainment, you invite everybody to have fun."



Roman Emperor Julian moves from Antioch with an army of 90,000 to attack the Sassanid Empire, in a campaign that brings about his own death

Persian scholar Naser Khosrow begins the 7 year Middle Eastern journey which he will later describe in his book Safarnama

English King Henry VII grants John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) a commission to explore for new lands



Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri, popularizes the term and draws attention to the division of Europe

TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



India is honoured to be at the forefront of popularising Millets, whose consumption furthers nutrition, food security and welfare of farmers. This also offers research and innovation opportunities for agriculture scientists and start-up communities.

@narendramodi

02



Over the past year, #COVID19 has disproportionality hit people with #obesity, who are more likely to be hospitalised & have a higher likelihood of severe disease & death. At the same time, the pandemic has made combating the obesity epidemic even more difficult. #WorldObesityDay.

@DrTedros

03



I'm horrified by the escalation of violence in Myanmar and the killing of pro-democracy protesters. We stand with the people of Myanmar in calling for an immediate end to military repression, the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and others, and the restoration of democracy.

@BorisJohnson

04



We need to transform how we view & value nature. Nature's resources still don't figure in our calculations of wealth. If we reflect nature's true value in all our policies, plans & economic systems the rewards will be immense.

@antoniouterres

# Myanmar protesters return as UN urges end to violence

Protesters return to streets as thousands attend funeral for 19-year-old woman killed in bloodiest day since coup

Dozens of people were killed in the deadliest day of the crackdown by Myanmar's military against anti-coup protesters

AFP | Yangon

Defiant anti-coup protesters returned to the streets across Myanmar yesterday after the deadliest day of the junta's crackdown, as the United Nations called on the military to "stop murdering" civilians.

Myanmar has been in uproar since the military seized power on February 1, ending a decade-long experiment with democracy and triggering a mass uprising that the junta has increasingly sought to quash with lethal force.

Wednesday was the bloodiest day so far, with the UN saying at least 38 people died, as online images streamed out of Myanmar showing security forces firing into crowds and blood-covered bodies with bullet wounds in their heads.

UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet yesterday urged security forces to "halt their vicious crackdown on peaceful protesters".

"Myanmar's military must stop murdering and jailing protesters," she said in a statement.

"It is utterly abhorrent that security forces are firing live ammunition against peaceful protesters across the country."

The UN rights office also said it has verified at least 54 deaths since the coup -- though the actual number could be far higher -- and over 1,700 people have been detained.

State-run media yesterday blamed the "riots" on protesters and said security forces "used only crowd control weapons to keep the injuries to a minimum".

Demonstrators returned to the streets again in Yangon and Mandalay, the nation's two biggest cities, as well as other towns that have been hotspots for unrest.

In recent days, Yangon's San Chaung township has descended into chaos as security forces massed there to stop anti-coup protesters from gathering.



People attend the funeral of Angel a 19-year-old protester also known as Kyal Sin who was shot in the head



Myanmar's military must stop murdering and jailing protesters. It is utterly abhorrent that security forces are firing live ammunition against peaceful protesters across the country

MICHELLE BACHELET  
UN RIGHTS CHIEF

A residential neighbourhood known for its hip cafes, restaurants and bars, its streets yesterday were transformed with barricades built from sandbags, tyres, bricks and barbed wire.

Passersby walked on images of junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, which protesters plastered on the ground to slow chasing security forces who will avoid stepping on the portraits.

"Yesterday was horrific... it was devastating to learn the military in Myanmar has never changed since 1962," activist Thinzar Shunlei Yi told AFP.

But "resistance is now our duty", she said, pledging to protest every day.

## 'Fear, false news'

The junta has sought to hide its crackdown from the rest of the world, choking the internet and banning Facebook -- the most popular social media platform.

Six journalists were arrested on the weekend and charged under a law prohibiting "causing fear, spreading false news, or agitating directly or indirectly a government employee", according to their lawyer Tin Zar Oo.

Among them was Associated Press photographer Thein Zaw, who was arrested Saturday as he covered a demonstration in Yangon. Video emerged on Wednesday of him being held in a chokehold by police as he was handcuffed.

However protesters, citizen journalists and some media groups have continued to send images out of Myanmar, and yesterday the funeral of a 19-year-old woman killed in Mandalay was streamed live on Facebook.

The victim, Kyal Sin, had been wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with "Everything will be OK" in big letters on the front when she was shot in the head.

"She was very angry about what was happening around the country," said her friend Linlao Waddy. "She always said she needed to protest for the country."

# SpaceX Starship rocket prototype nails landing... then blows up

Elon Musk's last two prototypes reached similarly high altitude, but crashed and landed in fireballs

Reuters | Los Angeles

The third time appeared to be the charm for Elon Musk's Starship rocket - until it wasn't.

The latest heavy-duty launch vehicle prototype from SpaceX soared flawlessly into the sky in a high-altitude test blast-off on Wednesday from Boca Chica, Texas, then flew itself back to Earth to achieve the first upright landing for a Starship model.

But the triumph was short-lived. Listing slightly to one side as an automated fire-suppres-



SpaceX Starship SN10 explodes after landing at South Padre Island, Texas

sion system trained a stream of water on flames still burning at the base of the rocket, the spacecraft blew itself to pieces about eight minutes after touchdown.

It was the third such landing attempt to end in a fireball after an otherwise successful

test flight for the Starship, being developed by SpaceX to carry humans and 100 tons of cargo on future missions to the moon and Mars.

For Musk, the billionaire SpaceX founder who also heads the electric carmaker Tesla Inc,



A first orbital Starship flight is planned for year's end. Musk has said he intends to fly Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa around the moon with the Starship in 2023

the outcome was mixed news.

The Starship SN10 came far closer to achieving a safe, vertical touchdown than two previous models - SN8 in December

## Greece assesses damage from 6.3 magnitude quake



A church damaged in the quake

AFP | Athens

Engineers in central Greece yesterday were assessing the damage from a strong 6.3 magnitude quake that injured at least 11 people, damaged hundreds of buildings and spread panic.

The recovery work began as scores of people from the villages of Damasi and Mesochori, some 240 kilometres (149 miles) north of Athens, spent the night away from their homes after Wednesday's quake, many sleeping in their cars.

Civil protection officials said tents had been set up at Damasi's outdoor stadium for temporary accommodation, in addition to five hotels in the nearby town of Trikala and the main city of Larissa.

Repeated aftershocks have struck the area, including a strong 5.2 magnitude tremor on Wednesday evening.

Crews inspected schools, hospitals and other vital public buildings in the area, in addition to homes, state news agency ANA said, adding that schools were closed yesterday.

State TV ERT said more than 300 homes had suffered various degrees of damage. Locals said stone buildings over 60 years old had been the hardest hit.

The earthquake also appears to have affected the water supply around the Larissa area, with many households reporting cloudy water.







# CELEBS

## celebs

### Constance Wu joins Chris Pratt's Amazon series 'The Terminal List'

ANI | Washington

Hollywood actor Constance Wu will be returning to series television as the female lead opposite Chris Pratt in Amazon's conspiracy-thriller series 'The Terminal List', based on Jack Carr's bestselling novel.

According to Deadline, Pratt will executive produce the series along with Antoine Fuqua, who will direct, along with writer David DiGilio.

'The Terminal List' follows James Reece (Pratt) after his entire platoon of Navy SEALs is ambushed during a high-stakes covert mission. Reece returns home to his family with conflicting memories of the event and questions about his culpability. However, as new evidence comes to light, Reece discovers dark forces working against him, endangering not only his life but the lives of those he loves.

Wu will be portraying the character of Katie Buranek, a risk-seeking war correspondent who uses her byline to

speaking truth to power. Katie left her desk at a prestigious news outlet to pursue high-impact stories on her own terms. Now at a crossroads in her career, she finds an unlikely ally in rogue Navy SEAL James Reece. She seeks to re-enter the mainstream by bringing the truth about Reece and the conspiracy he is fighting against to light.

Carr will also serve as an executive producer along with Pratt and Jon Schumacher through Indivisible Productions and Fuqua will do it through Fuqua Films (The Equalizer, Training Day). DiGilio will write, show-run, and executive produce.

Constance Wu



### Eddie Murphy on Hollywood: White men run this business

FIANS | Los Angeles

Hollywood star Eddie Murphy said that there is no diversity in the film industry. The actor said that this disparity is not just race-based but gender based, too.

"It's been this way for years and years, but it's not just African-Americans. It's also about women and other minorities, too. White men run this business. It's always been this way," the actor said in an interview to Radio Times, according to dailymail.

Eddie Murphy



co.uk. However, he went on to say that he has never been subjected to racism in his career. "In terms of my work and my career, race has never been an issue. I've been making movies for 40 years and never once could I not get a movie made because I was black. I transcended that stuff," he said.

Murphy, 69, shot to superstardom with blockbuster roles in numerous films including 48 Hrs, the Beverly Hills Cop series, Trading Places (1983) and The Nutty Professor.

### Michael B. Jordan seeks revenge in Tom Clancy action thriller 'Without Remorse'

Amazon Prime Video's movie is based on the bestselling book by Clancy

Fox | Los Angeles

Michael B. Jordan is "more dangerous and effective than any man" in the Navy SEALs in the trailer for Amazon Prime Video's "Without Remorse."

The teaser for the

Stefano Sollima-directed action thriller, based on Tom Clancy's 1993 novel, sees Jordan as elite Navy SEAL Sr. Chief John Kelly. When a squad of Russian soldiers kills his family in retaliation for his role in a top-secret operation, Kelly pursues the assassins at all costs. While



Michael B. Jordan

seeking justice, he uncovers an international conspiracy that threatens to engulf the U.S. and Russia in an all-out war.

"They took everything from me," Jordan's character says in the trailer. "I'm gonna make it right."

Set in Clancy's Jack Ryan universe, "Without Remorse" is the explosive origin story of John Clark. The trailer teases Jodie Turner-Smith as a fellow SEAL and Jamie Bell as a shadowy CIA agent.

The cast also includes Lauren London, Brett Gelman, Jacob Scipio, Jack Kesy, Colman Domingo, Todd Lassance, Cam Gigandet, Luke Mitchell and Guy Pearce.

Written by Taylor Sheridan and Will Staples, "Without Remorse" initially was set to premiere for Paramount on Sept. 18, 2020, and later Oct. 2, 2020. But with the film adaptation over at Amazon, "Without Remorse" will now debut globally April 30 on Prime Video.

Akiva Goldsman, Josh Appelbaum, André Nemec, and Jordan produce the action thriller.

### Katherine Heigl will talk to daughters about their biological mothers

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Katherine Heigl is happy to talk to her two daughters about their biological mothers as much as they're "comfortable" with.

The '27 Dresses' star - who adopted Naleigh, 12, and Adalaide, eight, and has son Josh, four, with her husband Josh Kelley - admits her children do have "more questions" about their biological families now they are older.

She shared: "They do have more questions as they get older. We have said to them, this is your story. We don't have any information about your

biological fathers, but we do have a bit about your biological mothers.

"If you guys want to talk more about them, you can have as much or as little information as you want. Tell us what you're comfortable with knowing."

And the 42-year-old actress admitted the lockdown owing to the coronavirus pandemic has given her the most "consistent" time spent with her children.

Speaking to the April issue of Parents magazine, she added: "This is the longest period I have consistently spent with my children. At first I loved cooking inspired meals, but now I'm like, 'Kids, just make yourself a sandwich.'"

They do have more questions as they get older. We have said to them, this is your story. We don't have any information about your biological fathers, but we do have a bit about your biological mothers

KATHERINE HEIGL

Meanwhile, Katherine previously banned screen time in her home after her daughters got "addicted" to gaming through the lockdown.

Katherine Heigl



### Iggy Azalea says eating her son's food 'is the best thing about having a kid'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Iggy Azalea has joked that eating her son's food is the "best thing about having a kid".

The 30-year-old rap star has revealed via social media that she loves eating her baby boy's yoghurt, jokingly suggesting that

it's one of her favourite things about motherhood.

Iggy - who announced in June that she'd given birth to a son called Onyx Kelly - wrote on Twitter: "The best thing about having a kid is you can steal their baby yogurt. (sic)"

The 'Fancy' hitmaker often discusses her baby boy on social media, and she previously revealed she wants to get a tattoo of Onyx.

Iggy admitted she was keen to get a permanent inking, but she wasn't sure where she wanted it.

She shared: "I want to get an onyx tattoo (of course) but I don't know if I should add into my sleeve more or do it in another place.

If I did, it would make my sleeve extend into my upper arm and not be all below my elbow. I'm so torn. (sic)"

Iggy Azalea



**TENDER NOTICE**  
The Embassy of India, Bahrain invites bids/quotations for Cleaning Services at its Chancery cum residential complex.  
For details, please check the Tenders page of the Embassy's website at <http://eoi.gov.in/bahrain> or send email to [hoc.bahrain@mea.gov.in](mailto:hoc.bahrain@mea.gov.in)

**SUDOKU**  
Yesterday's solution  
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  
Down  
Yesterday's solution

# Fakhreddine aims double-champ status against Said Maalem

Mohammed Fakhreddine, who currently holds the BRAVE CF Middleweight world title, is set to fight for his second belt at BRAVE CF 50

● Fakhreddine will face Mohammed Said Maalem for the Light Heavyweight title

TDT | Manama

A historic figure in Middle Eastern MMA, Mohammed "The Latest" Fakhreddine will have the chance to make history and extend his legacy at BRAVE Combat Federation by becoming the promotion's first double champion ever.

Fakhreddine, who currently holds the BRAVE CF Middleweight world title, is set to fight for his second belt at BRAVE CF 50. He will face Mohammed Said Maalem in a five-round Light Heavyweight title match-up scheduled for the historical event.

With a professional record of 14 wins and 4 losses, Fakhreddine has been one of the most pivotal names in the history of BRAVE Combat Federation, having been the very first star to sign with the truly global promotion, even before its debut event, which he was supposed to headline.

Since then, Fakhreddine fought in three different weight classes and took part in the prestigious KHK World Title, the

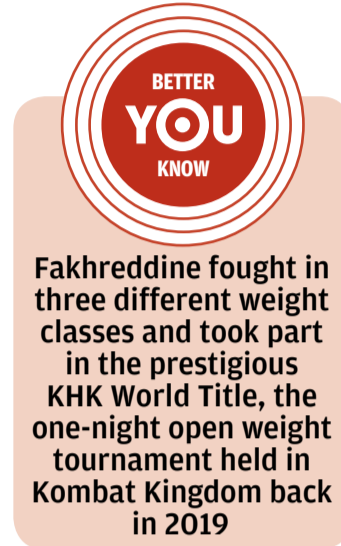


one-night open weight tournament held in Kombat Kingdom back in 2019.

Fakhreddine achieved his long-time dream of capturing the world title in September, 2020, when he knocked out the former Middleweight champion Daniel Pereira. He's now in prime position to do what no one else has done in BRAVE CF,

holding two belts at the same time, and, once and for all, writing his name in the history of the promotion.

Mohamed Said Maalem boasts a professional record of 11 wins and 3 losses, and is currently on a 6-win streak, which includes two BRAVE CF wins. Since he beat Zvonimir Kralj, Said Maalem has engaged in a



Fakhreddine fought in three different weight classes and took part in the prestigious KHK World Title, the one-night open weight tournament held in Kombat Kingdom back in 2019

war of words with Fakhreddine through social media, which they are now set to settle inside the cage.

BRAVE CF 50 will be a historical fight night celebrating the emblematic milestone for the truly global MMA promotion. In this meantime, BRAVE CF has visited 21 countries in only exactly 1651 days of operations, an unparalleled achievement in the industry.

The landmark event will feature in total three title fights with Arab icon Jarrah Al-Silawi defending his Super Welterweight crown against Ismail Naurdiev, while Lightweight king Amin Ayoub looks to maintain his throne when he faces top contender Ahmed Amir.

## BRAVE CF welcomes hospitality partner Nordic Palace & Spa for 21 days of MMA mayhem



TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation welcomes Nordic Palace & Spa abroad for the Return of Kombat Kingdom taking place March 11th till April 1st with fight cards showcasing the best talents around the globe with four special fight cards.

Nordic Palace & Spa prides itself for being a place to relax, indulge, unwind away from home, and experience hospitality at its finest. The oasis of escape from the busy city has become a beloved destination for families, tourists, and business travellers to create unforgettable memories in the heart of a fast-paced city.

"Being a luxurious hotel in the heart of the bustling Al Seef District of Manama, we value providing high quality and elevated experiences for tourists and business travellers alike," says Christelle Van Ende- Director of Hospitality, Nordic Palace & Spa.

The largest sports media property in the Middle East

BRAVE CF shares Nordic Palace & Spa's mission to provide comfort for all international visitors. As the promotion gears towards having 4 events with over 70 fighters from various international destinations, it is looking forward to showing its hospitality alongside a noteworthy business.

"We are honoured to be Hospitality Partner of BRAVE Combat Federation's upcoming series of events, The Return of Kombat Kingdom and be part of providing fighters with an unforgettable yet elegant experience visiting the Kingdom of Bahrain."

BRAVE CF is hosting 4 events at the Kingdom of Bahrain started with BRAVE CF 47: Asian Domination on March 11th, BRAVE CF 48: Arabian Night on March 18th, BRAVE CF 49: Super Fights on March 25, and BRAVE CF 50 on April 1st to celebrate the historic moment of reaching 50 events and visiting 21 countries faster than any other promotion in the world.

## 12 countries to be represented at BRAVE CF 47

TDT | Manama

BRAVE CF 47: Asian Domination will be the first of four huge events taking place at Kombat Kingdom, the Kingdom of Bahrain. And the fastest-growing MMA organization has released the full fight card for the event, which will showcase the top Asian fighters with the best match-ups in the continent. The show will take place one week from today, on March 11th.

In the main event, a Lightweight clash of epic proportions will take place as Abdisalam Kubanychbek, from Kyrgyzstan, meets Rolando Dy, from the Philippines. The winner will be hailed as the best in Asia in their weight-class as well as becoming the next in line to fight for the world title - which is currently held by Amin Ayoub.

In the co-main event, two of the brightest stars in the Featherweight division will collide. Husein Kadimagomaev will face off against Tae Kyun Kim, from South Korea, with the winner moving forward in the hunt for a Featherweight world title shot of their own. Both young men are undefeated as professional fighters, with 7-0 records to their names.

Also set for Asia's biggest event is an India vs Pakistan match-up between Mohammad Farhad and Uloomi Karim, in the Bantamweight division.

BRAVE CF 47: Asian Domination is also set to have the debut



of top fighters in the region, such as Kazakhstan's Asu Almabayev, who takes on Ryskulbek Ibraimov - another debutant, from Kyrgyzstan -, as well as a Super Welterweight match-up between Nursulton Ruziboev, from Uzbekistan, who meets Andreas Stahl.

BRAVE CF 47: Asian Domination will have 12 nations represented and will take place in Bahrain, on March 11th. The show kicks off 21 days of MMA Mayhem, with three more events taking place in the next three weeks, culminating in a historic BRAVE CF 50.

### BRAVE CF 47 Fight Card

Lightweight: Abdisalam Kubanychbek vs Rolando Dy
Featherweight: Tae Kyun Kim vs Husein Kadimagomaev
Super Welterweight: Nursulton Ruziboev vs Andreas Stahl
Bantamweight: Mohammad Farhad vs Uloomi Karim
Flyweight: Asu Almabayev vs Ryskulbek Ibraimov
Featherweight: Agshin Babayev vs Abdul Azim Badakhshi
Catchweight (68 kg): Nemat Abdrashitov vs Anzor Abdulkhozaev
Catchweight (63 kg): Rana Rudra vs Ali Guliev
Flyweight: Rahmatullah Yousufzai vs Jenel Lausa

## Hassan Fakhreddine following footsteps of his world champion older brother at BRAVE CF

TDT | Manama

The Lebanese Assassin Hassan Fakhreddine is making his comeback to mixed martial arts at BRAVE CF 48: Arabian Night on March 18th for a chance to raise the Lebanese flag within the BRAVE arena and make his family proud.

Growing up in a family of combat sports practitioners, Hassan's main goal had always been to build a legacy and make history in combat sports. He dedicated his life towards pursuing one goal: to become a world champion.

Hassan has been practicing combat sports since he was 14 years old, indulging himself in the boxing scene since a young age in San Diego, CA. By the time he turned 23, he entered the world of mixed martial arts and started a journey towards greatness.

As a middleweight contender, fighting in the same division as his older brother, the current Middleweight BRAVE CF Champion Mohammed Fakhreddine, Hassan is committed to making his family proud and coming out on top.

"Mohammad is a role model for many Lebanese fighters and I'm one of them. I look up to him for what he has done in the sport, despite all the hardships he went through he still came up on top with an unbreakable will and heart made of steel," says Hassan.



Hassan has immense footsteps to follow being the brother of the most famous Arab fighter ever. He will be going against Eslam Mostafa Abdel Menem from Egypt who holds a 2-0 record on a fight card dedicated to showcasing the best rising talent in the middle east.

"I don't know much about my opponent but I know he's undefeated and is walking into the cage thinking he will remain undefeated," says Hassan. "To him I would like to say, not under my watch. I'm walking over anybody that will stand in

my way." March 18 makes an important night for plenty Arab fighters who lacked the opportunity to prove themselves in mixed martial arts and demonstrate their abilities on a global scale.

"BRAVE CF gave many fighters the opportunity to fight and represent their countries. It gives them the right exposure to change their fighting careers, not just in the MENA region but around the world," says Hassan. "BRAVE CF will continue to grow at a fast pace consistently and I'm proud and honoured to fight under this promotion."

# Riffa crowned HM the King's Cup champions

Jassim Al Shaikh, Komail Alaswad both on target for victors in second half to lift them past Al Ahli in tournament final



HH Shaikh Khalid presents HM the King's Cup to Riffa team members and officials



Riffa team members celebrate in the awarding ceremony with HM the King's Cup

● **Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa attends final**

● **Riffa claims seventh King's Cup title. Their last triumph was in 2019, which was also the last time they played in the championship game**

TDT | Manama

Riffa were last night crowned champions of this year's His Majesty the King's Cup.

Riffa clinched the coveted title after outclassing Al Ahli 2-0 in the tournament final, played at the National Stadium in Riffa.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa was in attendance, along with other high-ranking BFA and club officials.

Both teams later received their respective awards in a ceremony.

Bahrain national team stars Jassim Al Shaikh and Komail Alaswad were on target for the winners. Both goals came in the second half, when Riffa proved their supremacy over their ri-

vals.

With the result, Riffa claimed their seventh HM the King's Cup title. Their last triumph was in 2019, which was also the last time they played in the championship game.

Al Ahli were gunning for their ninth crown. Their last victory in the competition was in 2003.

Last night's match was tightly contested over the first 45 minutes, and neither team were able to break the deadlock despite having some chances on target.

After the interval, however, Riffa raised their level and threatened multiple times. Al Shaikh finally rewarded their efforts with the game's opening goal in the 56th minute, when he received a pass from teammate Mahdi Humaidan on the



Following their HM the King's Cup triumph, Riffa are in line to capture an impressive title double in the 2020/2021 national football season, as they are currently the leaders in the Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

edge of the penalty box. Al Shaikh then unleashed a shot that flew straight to the left of goal despite pressure from the Ahli defence.

Both Al Shaikh and Humaidan were facing their former team, having both starred for Ahli in past seasons.

Alaswad then added Riffa's second in the 77th minute with a brilliant solo effort. He did well to create some space from his Ahli markers a few yards outside of the area, enough to be able to fire in a left-footed strike into the bottom-right corner of the net, far from the reach of Ahli goalkeeper Abdulla Hasan Aldawadi.

Riffa could have added a few other goals throughout the second half, but attempts from their other stars including Humaidan,

Mohammed Marhoon and Ali Madan were just narrowly off target.

Riffa's triumph in HM the King's Cup is their first major accolade of the 2020/2021 national football season. They are currently also the front-runners for the title in the Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Riffa qualified for yesterday's title-decider after defeating East Riffa 2-1 in the semi-finals, while Ahli ousted last year's losing finalists Hidd 5-3 in a penalty shootout.

HM the King's Cup is the richest tournament in Bahrain football. Last year's winners were Muharraq, but they were unable to make it past the quarter-final stage this season, where they were eliminated by Ahli.

## BIC launches F1 ticket sales for vaccinated and COVID-19 recovered fans

● **Bahrain Grand Prix will take place between 26 and 28 March**

● **Tickets are available with a single discounted price of BD100 for tickets across stands for the three-day event**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" announced the launch of ticket sales for The Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

To ensure that the event can proceed in a safe environment, and in line with Government health advice, tickets will only be available to vaccinated or COVID-19 recovered individuals.

The 2021 edition of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will take place between 26 and 28 March and tickets are on sale now at [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) with a single discounted price of BD100 for tickets across stands for the three-day event.

Fans this year will experience the



Action from a previous Formula One race at BIC

excitement of being present at the first race of the 2021 F1 season, with the thrilling racing this brings, together with entertainment and extensive food and beverage offerings within a COVID-19 safe area.

Full eligibility criteria for those wishing to attend the race is available at [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com).

Comprehensive measures will be put in place at the circuit to ensure specta-

tors can enjoy the excitement of F1 in a safe environment.

Due to restrictions, there will be no Paddock Club or corporate lounges for the 2021 race weekend.

BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa commented, "We are delighted to be able to launch our ticket sales today, once again giving fans the opportunity to witness the spectacle of F1. In November and December last

“We are delighted to be able to launch our ticket sales today, once again giving fans the opportunity to witness the spectacle of F1. In November and December last year, we had the honour to host our healthcare heroes as spectators, and we are pleased this time be open for a broader group of fans, with tickets available to buy for this prestigious first race of the season.”

BIC CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA



BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa

year, we had the honour to host our healthcare heroes as spectators, and we are pleased this time be open for a broader group of fans, with tickets available to buy for this prestigious first race of the season.”

"I am thankful for all the support we receive from across Government in Bahrain and the coordination that makes Bahrain a successful F1 every year. I especially thank The National

Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus and Ministry of Health in Bahrain for their planning and guidance, which will allow us to offer a safe experience for fans.

"We would urge eligible fans to reserve their tickets now for the best possible seats to witness the first edition of F1 2021," he added.

For more information, visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com).