



**YOU DON'T MISS IT**  
 International community urged to take resolute steps to confront Iran  
 ▶▶ P 03

**Hydroxychloroquine, HIV drugs halted in COVID trials**

Reuters | Geneva

The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday that it was discontinuing its trials of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and combination HIV drug lopinavir/ritonavir in hospitalised patients with COVID-19 after they failed to reduce deaths.

"These interim trial results show that (the drugs) produce little or no reduction in the mortality of hospitalised COVID-19 patients when compared to standard of care. Solidarity trial investigators will interrupt the trials with immediate effect," the WHO said in a statement, referring to large multi-country trials that the agency is leading.

The U.N. agency said that the decision, taken on the recommendation of the trial's international steering committee, does not affect other studies where the drugs are used for non-hospitalised patients or as a prophylaxis.

Another arm of the WHO-led trial is looking at the potential effect of Gilead's antiviral drug remdesivir on COVID-19.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

- TOTAL CASES: 28,857
- ACTIVE CASES: 4,802
- DEATHS: 96
- DISCHARGED: 23,959
- NEW CASES: 447
- CRITICAL: 46

210 fils (includes VAT)



**Fire flares at Iranian power plant**

Four incidents within a span of just two weeks

The blaze affected a power station transformer in Ahvaz

Reuters | Dubai

A fire broke out at a power station in southwestern Iran yesterday, Iranian media reported, the latest of several recent fires and explosions within a span of just two weeks.

The blaze, which affected a transformer in the power station in the city of Ahvaz, was put out by fire fighters and electricity was restored after partial outages. State-run power company TAVANIR spokesman Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said to the semi-official news agency Tasnim.

On Thursday as reported by Tribune, a fire broke out at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility but officials said operations were not affected.

A former official suggested the incident could have been

an attempt to sabotage work at the plant, which have been involved in activities that breach an international nuclear deal.

Nineteen people were killed on Tuesday in an explosion at a medical clinic in the north of the capital Tehran, which an official said was caused by a gas leak.

On June 26, an explosion occurred east of Tehran near the Parchin military and weapons development base that the authorities said was caused by a leak in a gas storage facility in an area outside the base.

**HRH the Premier names new security Chief**



HRH the Premier with Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid  
 TDT | Manama

Advisor to HRH Premier, Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al Khalifa will now oversee the security of the Prime Minister.

This was announced by His

Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa in an edict, yesterday.

The edict entrusts Shaikh Khalifa with the management of the Prime Minister's security affairs.

**'Remarkable'**



Frontline health worker checking equipment at an isolation and treatment centre

**WHO supremo calls Bahrain's COVID-19 battle 'comprehensive' and 'extremely effective'**

TDT | Manama

World Health Organisation showered its praises on Bahrain yesterday by calling its battle against the deadly coronavirus pandemic as "proactive and extremely effective".

Measures adopted by Bahrain were "comprehensive" and effective in slowing the spread of the virus, said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General, in a letter to Bahrain.

The letter addressed to the Health Minister, Faega bint Said

Al-Saleh yesterday, came in response to her congratulations for the 73rd World Health Assembly's session, which was held for the first time at a distance.

The global session achieved forecast goals by coming up with important health-related decisions to address the repercussions of COVID-19.

Dr Tedros praised Bahrain's continuous efforts and coordination with WHO to follow up on the development of the virus and efforts towards finding a cure.

He noted that Bahrain has played a remarkable role in curb-



WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS



**Bahrain has adopted a comprehensive approach to handle the coronavirus pandemic by taking precautionary measures in a proactive and extremely effective way to slow the spread of the virus**

ing the spread of the virus.

He also praised Bahrain's solidarity with the other member states of the organisation in tak-

ing comprehensive measures and unifying efforts to quickly find the necessary treatment.

Dr Tedros recently congratu-

**How Bahrain has stepped up**

A complete plan was drawn up to recruit, qualify and train the necessary manpower. The precautionary measures have greatly helped to reduce the spread of the virus in the Kingdom. Bahrain was the first Arab country to join a "solidarity test" to test the first vaccine, and start clinical trials of treatment with blood plasma.

- » High standard tracking
- » Proactive assessment of impacts of contacts
- » Increased capacity of hospitals, precautionary quarantine centres, isolation and treatment centres
- » Never a shortage of laboratory tests, intensive care equipment, or personal protective equipment
- » Successful handling of complex cases
- » Effective treatment protocols which helped in treating many existing cases

lated the Kingdom's unique decision to honour distinguished Bahraini doctors for their outstanding medical research, initiated by HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. He lauded the Bahraini Doctor Day, and allocating a special award for doctors, named after HRH the Premier.

Bahrain's frontline health sector workers were greatly appreciated for their unwavering efforts. He underlined that Bahrain, by doing so, has inspired various countries in the region to emulate these steps.

**CORONA PROTECTION, NOW IN 24 CARATS**

**Latest innovation to ward off coronavirus: A gold face mask**

AFP | Pune

An Indian man said he paid about BHD 1,500 (\$4,000) for a face mask made of pure gold to protect him from the coronavirus (COVID-19) raging in the country.

Gifted craftsmen took eight days to create the bespoke gold mask, which weighs 60 grams (two ounces), said businessman

Shankar Kurhade, from the Indian city of Pune in Maharashtra, one of the worst hit states in the country.

"People are asking me for selfies," Shankar told AFP. "They are awestruck when they see me wearing the gold mask in markets."

"It is a thin mask and has tiny pores that is helping me to breathe," he said.



Shankar Kurhade wearing his gold face mask

"I am not sure if it will be effective to protect me from a coronavirus infection, but I am taking other precautions," the 49-year-old added.

Even before the pandemic hit the nation, Shankar said he liked to adorn himself with gold jewellery weighing up to a kilogramme. He wears a bracelet, necklace and rings on each finger of his right hand when he

goes out.

He explained that he got the idea for the gold face mask after seeing a news report about a man wearing one made from silver.

India has made face masks mandatory in public places in a bid to control the spread of the virus in the country, which has around 650,000 confirmed cases and more than 18,600 fatalities.



The US has reportedly identified locations in Iran from which drones and cruise missiles were launched against major Saudi oil facilities (BBC)



Several oil tankers and US drone have been attacked since May either in, or near, the Strait of Hormuz (CNBC)



Iranian Attack Boats Harass U.S. Navy, Coast Guard Vessels (US Naval Institute)

# Countering Iran, need of the hour

International community urged to take resolute steps to confront Iran

TDT | Manama

**B**olstering Arab, Islamic and international efforts to counter the terrorism of the Iranian regime is the need of the hours, state news agency BNA in an article published yesterday said.

The article, which outlines the Iranian aggressions over the past four decades, calls on the international community the Security Council to take resolute steps to deter and confront Iran, to help it change its "criminal approach".

The article states that "Bahrain aspires to normal relations with Iran based on the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs" and calls for to resolve issues by "peaceful means and constructive dialogue".

It also recommends making Arabian Gulf region and the Middle East free of all weapons of "mass destruction, including nuclear weapons".

The article affirms Bahrain's support for the US strategy to counter the destabilising activities of the Iranian regime and

the extension of the United Nations arms embargo on Iran.

## Extend arms embargo

The arms embargo is "an important tool to counter Iran's proliferation of arms to proxies, promotes greater regional stability and holds Iran accountable for its actions," the report affirms. Failing to extend the embargo will result in Bahrain and neighbouring partners suffering the consequences of "destabilising arms race."

The article points out that Iran's interferences in Bahraini affairs had increased since 2011, following two previous failed attempts in the 1980s and 1990s.

Destabilising activities, more than 29,000 times in nearly 10 years, have resulted in taking the lives of 35 civilians and security officers. This is in addi-



**Iran's global campaign of terror has included as many as 360 targeted assassinations in other countries, and mass bombing attacks that killed and maimed hundreds**

US COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM

tion to the 3,500 who suffered permanent disabilities. Financial losses suffered by public, private establishments, power stations, telecommunications towers, educational and banking institutions, roads and highways come next.

## Iraq, Syria, Lebanon

The article also accuses Iran of spreading its destabilising doctrines via 40 satellite channels, besides funding many websites and suspicious accounts on social media.

Iran, the state-run agency, also points out that has expanded its influence in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon and is supplying terrorist there with weapons, ballistic missile and drones to attack neighbouring countries.

## Threat to Saudi

The threats posed by Iran on oil installations as well as civilian and holy sites in Saudi Arabia is undermining regional safety and energy security, as the threat is also on shipping routes and global trade, the report warns citing the attacks on two Saudi Aramco factories and Abha International Airport last year.

Giving further instances of Iran's terrorism, the report citing the US Country Reports on Terrorism says, "Iran's global campaign of terror has included as many as 360 targeted assassi-

nations in other countries, and mass bombing attacks that killed and maimed hundreds."

It also accuses the mullah regime of squandering the wealth of its people on its aggressive and sectarian conspiracies under the pretext of supporting the "oppressed peoples" and spending well over \$100 billion on its nuclear programme.

This is another crime that can be added to its "crimes against humanity", the report said pointing out that 40 per cent of Iranians are still under the poverty line with its currency losing more than 75pc of its value since 2018 quoting Iranian official and parliament reports.

Bahrain, the reports adds, has been able to fend off these threats thanks to the wisdom and leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

**Bahrain will "keep moving forward on the path of democracy and development" and consolidate "active partnership with the Arab and international communities in combating extremism and terrorism for a safer and better world."**

The article stresses that Bahrain will "keep moving forward on the path of democracy and development" and consolidate "active partnership with the Arab and international communities in combating extremism and terrorism for a safer and better world."



The Iranian rial fell to a new low against the US dollar on the unofficial market yesterday, as the economy comes under pressure from the coronavirus pandemic and US sanctions



In May 2018, President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from a multilateral deal aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear programme and reimposed sanctions that have since battered the economy.

The rial lost about 70pc of its value in the months after May 2018 as Iranians snapped up dollars, fearing Washington's withdrawal from the nuclear deal and sanctions

The official exchange rate is 42,000 rials per dollar and is used mostly for imports of state-subsidised food and medicine.

## COVID-19 claims another life

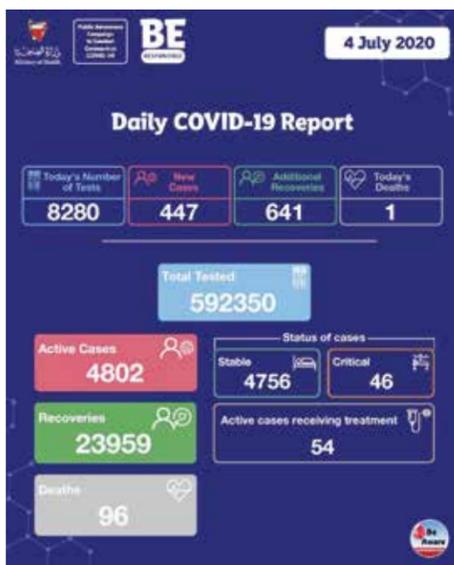
TDT | Manama

**T**he Ministry of Health announced yesterday that the coronavirus (COVID-19) has claimed one more life in Bahrain.

The deceased was a 64-year-old Bahraini woman. Her passing brought the overall number of coronavirus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 96.

The Health Ministry expressed its condolences to the victim's family.

Meanwhile, it was announced early this morning that out of 8,280 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 447 new cases were detected. From these, 250 were expatriate workers, 193 were contacts of active cas-



es, and four were travel-related.

Their detection brought the overall number of confirmed cases in Bahrain to over 28,500 ever since the first case was reported.

There were also 641 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, the Health Ministry said. After confirming that the patients were free of COVID-19, they were released from their respective isolation and treatment centres, bringing the total number of discharged in Bahrain to 23,959.

The total number of currently active cases reached 4,802, of which 54 are receiving treatment, with 46 in critical condition. The remaining 4,756 cases are stable.

The total tested increased to 592,350.

## NHRA to investigate medical errors

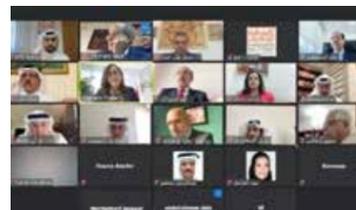
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**N**ational Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) will now receive and investigate complaints about medical errors and serious accidents by institutions, said Chief Executive Officer Dr Mariam Al Jalahma.

This, the CEO said, will improve their performances and allow NHRA to take disciplinary measures against the guilty.

Dr Mariam Al Jalahma was speaking during an online lecture for the Shura Council the health sector legislation and the role of the NHRA in monitoring and regulating the healthcare system in Bahrain.

During the lecture organised by the Bahrain Institute for Public Development (BIPD), she explained that NHRA is an independent regulatory body es-



The virtual conference

tablished in 2010 under Law 38 of 2009 with a mission to regulate healthcare sector in Bahrain.

Besides, ensuring best practices per international standards, NHRA is also responsible for implementing

and developing health regulations for both governmental and private sectors.

NHRA is also responsible for registration and pricing of medicine, licensing pharmaceutical factories, granting approvals for conducting clinical trials, investigating professional misconduct claims, and conducting disciplinary hearings for health professionals in the Kingdom.

Al Jalahma said the laws regarding the practice of medicine and dentistry as well as the pharmacy are to be amended, saying they had been referred to the Supreme Council of Health.

# 5 HOT Days

1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

**WIN CASH PRIZES**

**1<sup>st</sup> 1500\$**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 1000\$**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 500\$**

4<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> prizes:  
Samsung TV's . Perfume sets . Watches . Luggage . Omnia gift cards .

Join the **E** raffle with every **BD 20** purchase from all participating shops. Just provide your name and contact no. while paying.

**Exclusive for CrediMax cardholders**  
Pay with any of **CrediMax Card** and get **5% extra discount.**

**DRAW DATE: TUESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020, AL HAWAJ, SALMANIYA, 12 AFTERNOON**

## Electricity Minister opens BD43 million, 66KV plant



Minister with other officials and council members during the inauguration

TDT | Manama

Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs Wael bin Nasser Al-Mubarak yesterday launched 66 kV Sadad Power Station completed for BD4.3 million.

The project forms part of 220KV and 66KV electrical transmission network development currently ongoing in the Kingdom.

Present at the inauguration were Sheikh Nawwaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, CEO of the Electricity and Water Authority and other top officials and council members.

The project will serve the electricity needs of the northern governorate and enhance

the reliability and security of the electrical network system in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

World-leading companies manufactured, supplied, installed, and inspected devices and equipment for the station.

Circuit breakers and switches were from French company Grid Solution SAS, electrical transformers and reactors were from Korean company HHI and cables from Saudi Cable Company.

Bahraini Gabo Construction Company completed civil works and Bahraini company Nass did the extension of the electrical cables. Irish Consulting Company (ESBI) carried out the engineering supervision of the project.

# A Dream Flight it is

## But for most of them it's their last flight too



180 expatriates, including four infants, on board the Air India repatriation flight organised free of cost by Pravasi Yathra Mission

### Passengers included four infants

### Pravasi Yathra Mission shouldered expenses

### Mission was christened "Dream Flight"

TDT | Manama

“Most of the passengers ... may not come back to Bahrain as they don't have jobs and valid visas.”

“They were struggling to lead their daily lives.”  
A Pravasi Yathra Mission

(PYM) organiser told Tribune as some 180 passengers fastened their seat belts on an Air India repatriation flight from Bahrain.

All of the passengers, including four infants, were flown home completely free of cost.

Shouldering their expenses were “Pravasi Yathra Mission (PYM)” (Expatriates Travel Mission) with the help of the generous Indian community members in Bahrain.

It was a first-of-its-kind humanitarian gesture since the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Seeing that several Indian expatriates lost their jobs, income and accommodation due to the pandemic, they chartered a private flight to repatriate them back to their home country for free. The 180 passengers flew from Bahrain to the coastal city

of Calicut in Kerala.

Many individuals and organisations extended their support to make their mission, called “Dream Flight”, a success, PYM officials told Tribune.

“The mission was accepted by the Indian community in Bahrain with wholehearted support,” they added.

When asked about organising more such flights, they said that they may arrange another flight shortly to support the needy, based on the demand.

The success of the first mission is ‘encouraging’ and makes us want to continue with the mission, they told Tribune.

The economic instability caused by the deadly coronavirus pandemic “has mainly affected small-scale businesses and shops.”

“There has been a drastic in-

crease of Indians, mostly Keralites losing their jobs,” PYM said expressing concerns.

“Many of them are heavily depressed and are showing suicidal tendencies. They are eager to join their loved ones back home.”

### Happy to stay

PYM, however, explained that not all expatriates, who had lost their jobs want to go back.

Indian expatriates, who have “valid visas are choosing to stay back in Bahrain with hopes of getting other jobs.”

“The expatriate community is happy to stay in Bahrain as the Government and the Royal family are always giving affectionate care to Indian expatriates,” said the PYM organisers, many of whom are Indian expatriates themselves who have lived and worked in Bahrain for decades.



Passengers checking in



The flight getting prepared at Bahrain International Airport

## Muharraq continues monitoring of labour accommodations

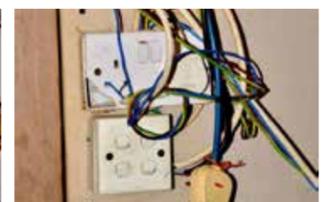
TDT | Manama

Muharraq governorate will continue to monitor migrant workers housing facilities to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements, said Muharraq Governor, Salman bin Isa Bin Hindi Al Mannai.

A permanent committee established for the purpose at the governorate will continue to perform this task, Al Mannai said.

The move, he said, is in the best interest of the families of the workers and to ensure them adequate housing, amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The committee, following the



Pictures published by Al Ayam shows the state of Labour accommodations. Muharraq Governor said the authorities there are working to rectify the situation

directives of Lieutenant-General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al

Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, took note of the situation and

distributed food and urgent materials in cooperation with the

Royal Foundation for Humanitarian Action within the (Feena

Khair) initiative at various labour accommodations.

## CAPTAINS CORNER

## Dreaming with your eyes open



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

An important consumer debate is currently ongoing in the Shura Council where a bill is being discussed to limit the mark-up of cost on products purchased on instalment. With over 40% interest built into instalment plans, your purchase of furniture or mobile phone may well be flouting the CBB guidelines.

Now, members of the financial and economic affairs committee of the Shura Council are putting together a bill that will protect the consumer from the inflated prices charged by traders and in the process, making repayment easier for the consumer so that non-payment doesn't become an issue, leading to legal fees and court cases.

Let's face it – instalment purchase plans are just a fancy name for giving consumer loans. Unlike business loans and even car loans, where the car and office equipment is hypothecated to the lender to secure the loan, consumer loans are junk loans – after all, what is the resale value of your BD 2,000 living room furniture or your used mobile phone once a new model hits the market?

In my father's generation, loans were taken only for

business and personal emergencies. Bahrain's famed pearling industry was powered by the loans which the No'khada (Dhow Captain) or ship agents took to fit out and provision their pearling dhows at the start of the season. If there was a health crisis or perhaps a wedding in the family, the first resort was to "crowdfund" the occasion with loans from family and friends. If all else failed, only then would people reach out to moneylenders. Borrowing money for luxuries was frowned upon as careless and unprincipled.

In our present times, values have changed and you can now get a bank loan for everything from air tickets for a holiday to auto loans to credit cards that let you spend money that you don't actually have. It is a pity that entrepreneurs wanting to start a business have to jump through many more hoops to secure financing than a youngster on her/his first job who takes out a car loan.

Overloaded with debts, many people find their best-laid instalment plans crashing in these COVID times. Traders, already fighting a low tide in business, will find it difficult to make ends meet when instalments are not paid. I would urge consumers too to practice restraint and think sensibly about the lifestyle they can afford. It is alright to dream – but do so with your eyes wide open so that reality is not an unpleasant shocker.

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

**It is a pity that entrepreneurs wanting to start a business have to jump through many more hoops to secure financing than a youngster on her/his first job who takes out a car loan.**



# It's all about giving them a **second chance**

TDT | Manama

Alternative sentencing brings a qualitative shift in reducing recidivism and helps offenders become a contributing member of society, observed a top judicial official.

Bahrain, according to Judge Ibrahim Salman Al Jafn, President of the second High Criminal Court of Appeal, is the first amongst its neighbours to bring into force such a law that provides families and civil society a role in reforming offenders, where traditional penalties are avoidable.

The law no 18 of 2017, Al Jafn said, brings a qualitative shift in Bahrain's traditional sentencing system as it also allows the public prosecution or a judge to replace pre-trial detention with commuted punishments.

Alternative penalties include community service, house arrest, the prohibition of access to a particular place or places, commitment to non-exposure or contact with certain persons or entities, electronic surveillance, attending rehabilitation and training programmes and repairing the damage caused by the crime.

Judges began implementing the law, ratified by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, soon after its enforcement, with its provisions expanding to include more areas overtime, Al Ayam quoted, A Jafn as saying in a report published yesterday.

Al-Jafn said the Supreme Council of Judges, represented by Counselor Abdullah bin Hassan Al-Buainain, President of the Court of Cassation and Vice-President of the Supreme Council of Judges, soon after the issuance of the law organised courses for judges to accommodate this new law in situations that deemed suitable.

On the factors which make alternative sentencing desirable, Al Jafn said the law is having a huge positive impact on the



Judge Ibrahim Salman Al Jafn (Courtesy of AlAyam)

**If traditional sentencing and incarceration are not working the way they were intended to, and thus need to be changed, the question is how? What is known as alternative sentencing, or alternative sanctions presents the criminal justice system with a way to get the desired outcome at a fraction of the cost**

convicts and their families.

"Keeping wrongdoers with his family members, ensures that they continue to fulfil their family duties, avoids personal and social damages of family members and raise their children to become good citizens.

While traditional system strangles the freedom of a convicted person resulting in him losing his financial ability to support family members, the alternative method not only prevents all of this but also avoids inflicting lasting psychological harm to the convicts, thereby helping him contribute to the social developments.

The process also speeds up delivering justice to victims in cases where they seek damages for the loss they suffered from theft, fraud, embezzlement and

other crimes.

"Alternative sentencing while not depriving the wrongdoers of his civil liberties also ensures that the victim is compensated properly for his losses by obliging the offender to pay as determined by the court."

Judge Ibrahim Al-Jafn explained that the method provides the court with a third option, especially when the crime involved doesn't warrant confinement.

"In such cases, alternative measures can be an appropriate option, which will give judge to explore more options in estimating an appropriate punishment for the crime committed.

"For example, in violations related to coronavirus (COVID-19) preventive measures, the alternative system is employed

frequently to ensure that the spread of the disease is minimised, where violators are subjected to house arrest and electronic monitoring."

Alternative sentencing, Al-Jafn said, allows a judge to replace pre-trial detention with communal punishments, while the investigation continues and public prosecution refers it to a competent court for trial.

Judge Ibrahim Al-Jafn indicated that a concerned judge might implement one of the seven alternative methods defined by law in cases where it deemed fit after hearing the statements of the Public Prosecution.

Alternative punishments are also effective in cases where the person involved are unable to pay the fine.

The accused and his representative may also directly request the judge to enact one of the alternative penalties in situations where the rule is applicable. The judge also by his own accord can replace the decree that is depriving of liberty with an alternative penalty.

In the case of an accused or his agent requesting alternative penalties after the issuance of the ruling, this shall be the prerogative of the judge and the extent to which the legal conditions are met after hearing Public Prosecution.

With that being said, it is easy to see the advantages that have been associated with alternative sentencing for it to be used more frequently.

Though there are not enough statistics all around the world to make a strong, casual argument that alternative sentencing definitely reduces recidivism, there has been enough to suggest they are more humane, less costly, and though they do not decrease recidivism, they do not increase it either.

Experts have also pointed out that alternative sentencing would substantially reduce corrections costs.



### Alternative penalties

Community service, house arrest, prohibition of access to a particular place or places, commitment to non-exposure or contact with certain persons or entities, electronic surveillance, attending rehabilitation and training programs and repairing the damage caused by the crime.

**The law allows a judge to change the sentences that do not exceed one to five years in prison in case the personal or health conditions of the suspect are not suitable.**



According to Alternative Penalties and Procedures Law, enacted in 2017, inmates who have served at least half of their sentences, have maintained good conduct, are not a public security risk, and have paid their financial liabilities could be allowed to serve their remaining terms in house arrest and by performing community service.



The law also authorises the detainee or the prison administration to petition the judge to replace the punishment or the remainder of the sentence with an alternative penalty, and the law requires that the sentenced person must have served half of the sentence or sentences imposed on him. The sentenced should have fulfilled the financial obligations imposed on him by the Criminal court, unless it is impossible for him to do so.

The law provides for the punishment of a person sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine not exceeding 200 dinars in case he didn't execute any of the alternative punishments, and the same penalty is imposed on anyone who helps someone to avoid carrying out an alternative punishment.



# Commerzbank fined \$730,800 over deals with Cypriot bank

● **Sanctio over investment operations conducted by the now-defunct Laiki - also known as Cyprus Popular Bank**

● **Laiki was once Cyprus's second-largest bank**

Reuters

Cyprus's securities regulator yesterday imposed a 650,000 euro (\$730,800) fine on Germany's Commerzbank for its role in transactions carried out by a local bank that collapsed during the country's 2013 financial crisis.

The country's CySEC commission said Commerzbank had been sanctioned over investment operations conducted by the now-defunct Laiki - also known as Cyprus Popular Bank - in 2011, following Laiki's merger



A company logo is pictured at the headquarters of Germany's Commerzbank AG

with Greece's Marfin-Egnatia Bank.

Commerzbank declined to comment on the case, which followed an eight-year probe by Cypriot authorities.

The investigation, which was launched following calls by left-wing AKEL lawmaker Irene Charalambides, looked into whether the Cypriot deals may have broken laws prohibiting a company from buying its own stock.

CySEC said Laiki invested in

two structured products issued by Commerzbank in 2008. Marfin-Egnatia, which was at that time a Laiki subsidiary, was an index sponsor responsible for the composition of the portfolio.

As a result of the 2011 merger between Laiki and Marfin-Egnatia, Laiki became the index sponsor, creating a conflict of interest, CySEC said.

It said Laiki and Commerzbank acted in "concert" to manipulate the market in relation to Laiki shares on several occa-

sions in April and May 2011.

CySEC said it had not fined Laiki because it is in administration and did not want to put an additional burden on former depositors, bond holders and shareholders.

Laiki, once Cyprus's second-largest bank, was taken into administration and wound down under terms of a 10 billion euro (\$13.56 billion) international financial assistance package to Cyprus in March 2013.

Some 4.3 billion euros in uninsured deposits exceeding the EU threshold of 100,000 were wiped out, and thousands of people lost their life savings.

Charalambides said she felt vindicated by the result of the investigation.

"The resolution authority should consider the possibility of civil lawsuits against Commerzbank to ensure that the funds channelled to these structured bonds, with the objective of manipulating shares, be returned, and given to depositors whose funds were subjected to a haircut," she said in a statement.

# Hitachi ABB power grids goes live

● **Hitachi has an 80.1 per cent stake in this new joint venture**

● **To focus on mobility, smart cities, industry, energy storage and data centre**

● **The new entity is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland**

● **Toshikazu Nishino, of Hitachi is the Chairman**

TDT | Manama

Hitachi Ltd. and ABB Ltd announced the formation of Hitachi ABB Power Grids Ltd following the agreement signed on 17 December 2018.

The new entity is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, and the current management team will ensure business continuity.

Hitachi has an 80.1 per cent stake in this new joint venture entity (which has a business volume of approximately 10 billion USD) and ABB holds the balance.

Toshikazu Nishino, Executive Vice President of Hitachi, is the Chairman of the new entity and Claudio Facchin the CEO.

"Hitachi's leading digital technologies merged with

world-class power grid solutions will help us to play an active role in the global transformation and decarbonization of energy systems for a sustainable energy future. Intelligent solutions for a more dynamic grid will also contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 7 of 'affordable, reliable and clean energy'," said Toshikazu Nishino.

The alliance with Hitachi will facilitate expansion opportunities for the new entity in areas such as mobility, smart cities, industry, energy storage and data centres, besides providing the financial muscle to support ambitious projects and enabling access to Japan, the third-largest economy in the world.

"Synergies and access to new and growing markets provided by Hitachi will help take Power Grids to the next stage of its development, further strengthening its leading position," said Timo Ihamuotila, CFO of ABB and Director of the Board of Hitachi ABB Power Grids.

"Combining our respective technology strengths will bring us new market opportunities and enable us to deliver greater customer value," said Claudio Facchin, CEO, Hitachi ABB Power Grids. "We remain committed to powering good for a sustainable energy future, with pioneering and digital technologies, as the partner of choice for enabling a stronger, smarter and greener grid."



**The Laiki bank was split into a good and bad bank and the good part was folded into the Bank of Cyprus. It took with it 9 billion euros of European Central Bank liquidity to the Bank of Cyprus.**



**Some 4.3 billion euros in uninsured deposits exceeding the EU threshold of 100,000 were wiped out, and thousands of people lost their life savings.**

# Family bank's financial strength assessed

TDT | Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister and Board of Directors Chairman of the Family Bank, Jameel Humaidan, yesterday reviewed the legal and financial situation of the bank during a board meeting.

The meeting, second for the bank this year, follows its recent decision to postpone the payment of loan instalments for the citizens by six months to mitigate the impacts of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. Deputy Chairman, Dr Musta-



Minister during the virtual board meeting

fa Al-Sayed, CEO Dr Khalid Abdullah Ateeq and several board members took part in the meeting held virtually.

The bank's decision, taken in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives and the circular of the Central Bank of Bahrain, covered all productive families registered with the Labour and Social Development Ministry, as well as those who had received loans and facilities from the Family Bank.

The minister commended the distinguished efforts exerted by the Family Bank's officials and employees, lauding their competence in dealing with the current exceptional circumstances.

# Russia says China would be needed in expanded G7 summit: TASS

Reuters | Moscow

Russia is not in talks with Washington about its potential role at an expanded Group of Seven summit later this year, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Saturday, insisting that China should also be included in the event.

His comments to TASS news agency countered those of John Sullivan, US ambassador to Russia, who told RBC TV on Friday



Russian deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov

that Washington was "engaged with the Russian Foreign Ministry and with the other G7 governments about whether there is an appropriate role for Russia at the G7"

US President Donald Trump has raised the prospect of Russia's return to the group, which includes the world's most advanced economies, after it was expelled in the wake of its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

Trump said last month it was "common sense" to invite President Vladimir Putin to rejoin the group.

Russia had been part the group, then known as the G8, since 1997.

# End of the runway for 747 jumbo as Boeing placed final part orders

● **The last order for a passenger version came in 2017**

● **Boeing declined to confirm that it was pulling the plug**

● **The end of the 747 would follow Airbus SE's phasing out of its A380 jumbo jet**

Reuters | Seattle

Boeing Co and suppliers set the final number of parts it would need for the 747 jumbo jet programme at least a year ago, signalling the end for a plane that democratised global air travel in the 1970s but fell behind modern twin-engine



A boy rides a bicycle next to retired Boeing 747 airplane on display at Shanghai Expo area, as Typhoon Hato passes Southern China, in Shanghai, China

aircraft, industry sources said yesterday.

Boeing's "Queen of the Skies", the world's most easily recognised jetliner with its humped fuselage and four engines, marked its 50-year flying

anniversary in February 2019, clinging to life thanks to a cargo market boom fuelled by online shopping.

But the end for the programme has been hanging in the air for years amid falling orders and

pricing pressure. The coronavirus pandemic has also crushed passenger travel and demand for new jets.

The last order for a passenger version came in 2017, when the US government asked Boeing to

repurpose two 747-8 jetliners for use as Air Force One by the US president.

Boeing declined to confirm that it was pulling the plug on the 747 programme, first reported by Bloomberg News on Thursday.

"At a build rate of 0.5 airplanes per month, the 747-8 programme has more than two years of production ahead of it in order to fulfil our current customer commitments," a Boeing spokesman said.

"We will continue to make the right decisions to keep the production line healthy and meet customer needs," he added.

The end of the 747 would follow Airbus SE's phasing out of its A380 jumbo jet. In June, the last convoy of outsize parts for the world's largest airliner crawled towards an assembly plant in southwest France.

The death of the 747 programme could also mean charges and layoffs for halting production at the mammoth wide-body plant outside Seattle. It could also have financial implications on newer programs such as the 787 Dreamliner and the latest model of 777, which would have to bear a larger share of the plant's huge overhead if the 747 line went dark.

One supplier source said he was not sure when Boeing made a formal decision to end the program but said the final number of ship sets - as complete sets of parts are known - was agreed to with the supply base at least a year ago.

Boeing has also removed language from financial filings that said it would continue to "evaluate the viability" of the 747 program, which one industry source said was a tell-tale sign of its plans.

# 14 feared dead at flooded nursing home in Japan

More than 200,000 residents urged to evacuate as record rainfall triggers massive floods and landslides

AFP | Tokyo

**F**ourteen people were feared dead at a nursing home in western Japan Saturday as record rainfall triggered massive floods and landslides, forcing authorities to issue evacuation advisories for more than 200,000 residents.

The victims were found “in cardio-respiratory arrest” at the facility for elderly people that was flooded after a nearby river broke its banks, governor Ikuo Kabashima from the western region of Kumamoto told reporters.

Authorities in Japan often use that term before a doctor officially certifies death.

“The Self-Defence Forces have launched rescue operations,” Kabashima said, adding that three others at the home were suffering from hypothermia.

Some 60 to 70 people were in the home as water rushed in to the second floor Saturday morning, public broadcaster NHK said.

Local officials separately said another person was also found in cardio-respiratory arrest in landslides in Kumamoto. They



The Kuma River rises with heavy rain in Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture, western Japan

had previously said two were feared dead.

Elsewhere in Kumamoto, one person was seriously injured and nine others were missing while about 100 people were stranded as roads were cut off by floods and landslides, NHK reported.

The nation’s weather agency downgraded rain warnings by one notch from the highest emergency level in Kumamoto and nearby Kagoshima, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

urged local people to be “on maximum alert”.

Abe ordered 10,000 troops on stand-by for immediate deployment to join rescue and recovery operations, pledging the central government would “do its best to take emergency measures, prioritising people’s lives”.

### ‘It’s so scary’

Television footage showed vehicles swamped at car parks near a flooding river, while several bridges were washed away. “I can’t evacuate as a road turned into a river. It’s so scary,” a female resident told NHK.

Haruka Yamada, a 32-year-old local resident, told Kyodo News: “I saw large trees and parts of houses being washed away and heard them crashing into something. The air is filled with the smell of leaking gas and sewage.”

Aerial footage showed a resident being lifted with a rope from a roof to a military helicopter as an entire town was awash with muddy water.

A massive landslide destroyed several houses with rescuers searching for missing people through half-buried windows.

“We have issued evacuation orders after record heavy rain,” said Toshiaki Mizukami, another official for Kumamoto prefecture.

“We strongly urge people to take action to protect their lives as it’s still raining quite heavily,” he told AFP.

Kyodo said more than 203,000 residents in Kumamoto and Kagoshima were advised to evacuate their homes.

Some train services have been suspended in the region, while more than 8,000 households lost power.

## News in brief

**Canada’s ethics watchdog said he has launched an investigation into Justin Trudeau**, after a controversial contract to manage a major government program was awarded to a charity with links to the prime minister’s family. Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion tweeted that he had “informed” Trudeau of the decision. His investigation is confidential and will be the subject of a report once it is completed.



**North Korea does not feel the need to have talks with the United States, which would be nothing more than “a political tool” for Washington**, a senior North Korean diplomat said, ahead of a U.S. envoy’s visit to South Korea. Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said negotiations would not work out between Washington and Pyongyang

**North Korea says no need to sit down with US for talks**

and there will be no change in North Korea’s policy.

**Mexican soldiers kill 12 in cartel clash near border**

**Mexican soldiers killed 12 alleged drug cartel members wearing military gear in the**

**violent border city of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas state security officials said**, in another instance of mass murders that have driven Mexico’s homicides. Officials said armed gunmen clad in military-style uniforms attacked soldiers from the 16th Regiment in a neighborhood near the airport around dawn. The military seized eight AR-15 type weapons, one AK47, and two .50 caliber Barrett sniper rifles at the scene, officials said in a statement.

**Two US aircraft carriers have carried out drills in the South China Sea**, a US Navy spokesman said, after the Pentagon expressed concerns over Chinese military exercises around a disputed archipelago. The USS Nimitz

**US aircraft carriers conduct drills in South China Sea**



and USS Ronald Reagan conducted dual carrier operations in the waterway to “support a free and open Indo-Pacific,” the spokesman said.

**Donald Trump Jr’s girlfriend coronavirus positive**

**The girlfriend of President Donald Trump’s eldest son has tested positive for coronavirus**. Kimberly Guilfoyle, a former Fox News television personality who is dating Donald Trump Jr, had

traveled to South Dakota to see the US president’s Fourth of July speech and celebration fireworks at Mount Rushmore.

**Voters in the Dominican Republic are set to defy rising coronavirus infections today to choose a new president in an election that could end 16 years of unbroken rule by the center-left Dominican Liberation Party**. Opposition candidate Luis Abinader is favorite, having taken a commanding lead in opinion polls despite being forced to abandon his campaign after he tested positive for COVID-19.



**The nation’s weather agency downgraded rain warnings by one notch from the highest emergency level in Kumamoto and nearby Kagoshima, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged local people to be “on maximum alert”**

## Court convicts Amnesty Turkey ex-leaders on terror charges

AFP | Istanbul

**A**mnesty International Turkey said two of its former leaders were convicted on “terrorist” charges by an Istanbul court in a case reflecting mounting official pressure on civil society.

The trial of 11 human rights activists became a symbol of the crackdown on critics after the 2016 failed attempt to overthrow President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Idil Eser, former Amnesty Turkey director, was among three people sentenced to 25 months for “helping a terrorist organisation”.

Ex-Amnesty International Turkey chair Taner Kilic was sentenced to six years and three months for “membership of a terrorist organisation”, Amnesty Turkey said on Twitter.

They are free pending appeal.

The court acquitted seven other activists including Peter Stuedtner, a German citizen, and Ali Gharavi, who is Swedish.

## Sudan says talks on Nile dam resumed with Egypt, Ethiopia



Water flows through Ethiopia’s Grand Renaissance Dam as it undergoes construction work on the river Nile

AFP | Khartoum

**S**udan announced the resumption of talks with Egypt and Ethiopia to resolve the long-running dispute over Addis Ababa’s construction of a mega-dam on the Nile River.

The three countries have been at odds after multiple rounds of talks over the years failed to produce a deal on the operation and filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

Ethiopia says the project is essential for its development, while Egypt and Sudan worry about access to vital water supplies from the Nile.

“The negotiations over the renaissance dam between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan were resumed this after-

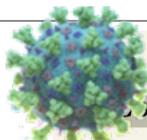
noon via video conference,” Sudan’s water ministry said in a statement.

Talks last month broke down after the three countries failed to reach any compromise.

The ministry said Friday’s talks were held with the mediation of South Africa, the current chair of the African Union.

Downstream Egypt and Sudan are under pressure to reach a deal before Ethiopia goes ahead with plans to fill the dam.

Last week, Cairo and Khartoum said Addis Ababa will delay filling its dam until a comprehensive deal is reached. Ethiopia however said it was on schedule to begin the filling within weeks but vowed to try resolving its dispute.



## Global

COVID-19 Cases:

**11,291,757**

**Deaths**

**530,956**

**Recovered:**

**6,405,139**

**New cases**

**+109,181**

**New deaths**

**+2,584**

## Middle East

## Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
USA	2,918,050	+145	132,209
Brazil	1,550,176	+155	63,409
Russia	674,515	+168	10,027
India	672,695	+610	19,279
Spain	297,625		28,385
Peru	295,599		10,226
Chile	288,089		6,051
UK	284,900	+67	44,198
Mexico	245,251	+654	29,843
Italy	241,419	+21	34,854
Iran	237,878	+148	11,408
Pakistan	225,283	+68	4,619
Saudi Arabia	205,929	+56	1,858
Turkey	204,610	+20	5,206

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	205,929	+4,128	1,858	+56	143,256	60,815	2,295	5,915
UAE	50,857	+716	321	+3	39,857	10,679	1	5,142
Kuwait	49,303	+631	365	+5	39,943	8,995	158	11,544
Oman	45,106	+1,177	203	+10	26,968	17,935	116	8,833
Egypt	72,711		3,201		19,690	49,820	41	711
Qatar	99,183	+530	123	+2	90,387	8,673	176	35,324

# Going viral: Why Canadian sparrows have changed their tune

*Study finds British Columbia birds' dropped-end note of call has spread across country*

AFP | Toronto

Members of a Canadian sparrow species famous for their jaunty signature song are changing their tune, a curious example of a "viral phenomenon" in the animal kingdom, a study showed Thursday.

Bird enthusiasts first recorded the white-throated sparrow's original song, with its distinctive triplet hook, in the 1950s.

Canadians even invented lyrics to accompany the ditty: "Oh my sweet, Ca-na-da, Ca-na-da, Ca-na-da."

But starting from the late 20th century, biologists began noticing that members of the species in western Canada were innovating.

Instead of a triplet, the new song ended in a doublet and a new syncopation pattern. The new ending sounded like "Ca-na, Ca-na, Ca-na."

Over the course of the next two decades, this new cadence became a big hit, moving east-

ward and conquering Alberta, then Ontario. It began entering Quebec last year.

It's now the dominant version across more than 2,000 miles (3,000 kilometres) of territory, in an extremely rare example of the total replacement of historic bird dialect by another.

Scientist Ken Otter at the University of Northern British Columbia, and his colleague Scott Ramsay from Wilfrid Laurier University, described the dizzying pace of this transformation in the journal *Current Biology*.

"What we're seeing is like somebody moving from Quebec to Paris, and all the people around them saying, 'Wow, that's a cool accent' and start adopting a Quebec accent," Otter told AFP. Their work was based on 1,785 recordings between 2000 and 2019, the majority made by them but with contributions from citizen-scientists, who posted the files on specialist sites like xeno-canto.org.

In the western province of Alberta, about half of the record-



The white-throated sparrow of North America

ed songs ended with the triplet in 2004; ten years later, all the males had adopted the doublet.

In 2015, half of western Canada had converted to the doublet version, and by last year, the new song had been well established on the western tip of eastern Quebec province.

At this rate, the historic triplet version may soon exist only in tape recordings.

## Bird influencers

The males of the species sing to mark their territory, and their songs all share a common structure. Usually, if a variation appears, it remains regional and doesn't make headway in neighbouring territories.

The study represents the first time scientists have been able to

show this kind spread at huge geographic scale, said Otter.

So how did it happen?

Probably in the same way that children return from summer camp humming new tunes: songbirds from different parts of Canada winter in the same parts of the United States, then return to their own homes in spring.

The researchers verified this theory by tagging a few of the birds.

So it was that in the plains of Texas and Kansas, the new song's first adopters from western Canada -- avian influencers, if you will -- popularized the trend among their eastern brethren.

Previous work has shown that young birds can pick up a foreign song after listening to a

”  
What we're seeing is like somebody moving from Quebec to Paris, and all the people around them saying, 'Wow, that's a cool accent' and start adopting a Quebec accent

KEN OTTER

recording.

But to truly understand why the males were willing to aban-

don the old song that had once served them well, the scientists have to rely on theories.

Otter believes it may be because females were more attracted to the new song, so young males rushed to adopt it.

"There seems to be some advantage to adding novel elements to your song that make the song, not necessarily more attractive, but increases people's attention to it," said Otter.

Going back to the human example, it would be akin to "if all the French women in Paris thought that a Quebec accent sounded much more interesting than a Parisian accent, and so everybody starts adopting a Quebec accent."

The hypothesis remains unverified.

## Prehistoric ochre mining operation found in submerged Mexican caves

Reuters | Washington

Researchers diving into dark submerged caves on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula have found evidence of an ambitious mining operation starting 12,000 years ago and lasting two millennia for red ochre, an earth mineral pigment prized by prehistoric peoples.

More than 100 dives totaling more than 600 hours in Quintana Roo state turned up numerous mining artifacts, the scientists said on Friday. These included ochre extraction pits, digging tools like hammerstones and small piledrivers made of stalagmites, markers that helped the miners navigate the extensive cave network and hearths used to provide light. The caves were not underwater at the time of the mining. The mining was undertaken



Diver examines an ochre extraction pit in the mine

en as human populations first spread through the region. The caves subsequently were abandoned for millennia before becoming submerged roughly 8,000 years ago amid rising sea levels after the last Ice Age.

Researchers previously had found human skeletons in the

caves but had not identified why people were there.

"Across the world, archaeological evidence has shown that humans have been using ochre for hundreds of thousands of years. Even Neanderthals used ochre," said University of Missouri archaeological scientist

Brandi MacDonald, lead author of the research published in the journal *Science Advances*.

Ochre is believed to have offered uses including painting objects and bodies, mortuary practices and perhaps hide tanning.

The dive team explored about 4.3 miles (7 km) of subterranean passages in three separate cave systems, with mining spanning more than a half-mile (900 meters).

"It is pretty electrifying to be the first people to enter into an area that has not seen humans for thousands of years and to see what they left behind," said study co-author Sam Meacham, founder of El Centro Investigador del Sistema Acuífero de Quintana Roo A.C. (CINDAQ) and co-discoverer of the mines.

## Monkeys with coronavirus developed short-term immunity

AFP | Washington

Test monkeys infected with the novel coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic were protected from reinfection for up to 28 days later, a Chinese study out Thursday in the journal *Science* said.

While the monkeys displayed initial immunity, it's unclear how long such immunity will last in humans - it will be necessary to wait months, or even years, to know if the millions of people infected at the start of the pandemic are protected from re-infection.

Scientists from Peking Union Medical College performed an experiment on rhesus macaques, often used because of their similarities to humans, to find out if they have a short-term immunity to the virus.

Six rhesus macaques were infected in their trachea with

a dose of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. They developed mild to moderate symptoms, and took about two weeks to recover.

Twenty-eight days after the first infection, four of the six monkeys received another dose of virus, but this time, despite a brief rise in temperature, they showed no sign of reinfection, the study authors wrote.

By taking frequent samples the researchers discovered that the peak viral load was reached three days after the monkeys were infected.

The monkeys showed a stronger immune response after the first infection, producing more so-called neutralizing antibodies which may have protected them against short-term reinfection, the scientists wrote.

More experiments are needed to see how long this immune defense remains, the authors said.

# CELEBS

## celebs

### Brie Larson launches YouTube channel, opens up about social anxiety

ANI | Washington

American actor Brie Larson has launched a YouTube channel, and dropped her first video on Thursday (local time).

According to E! News, the Oscar winner actor shared in the video, "So, I made a decision..." as she is joined by fellow YouTube stars and content creators, as well as her mom and grandma, who give her advice on starting her channel.

The 30-year-old actor says in the video's opening message, "Hi, I'm Brie Larson...oh God," and then she hilariously starts over, "Hi, I'm Brie Larson, I'm an actor, you might know me from 'Captain Marvel', or maybe know you me from nothing. Maybe you just randomly, from the algorithm clicked on this. But regardless, hello! I'm starting a YouTube channel."

Explaining why she decided to

**“YouTube has been a place that I have learned so much. Whether it's been like, how to use my printer, or it's been watching like, how to be a considerate activist”**

BRIE LARSON

start her channel, Larson shared, "YouTube has been a place that I have learned so much. Whether it's been like, how to use my printer, or it's been watching like, how to be a considerate activist. This is like the place to talk about things that are important and that matter."

The 'Avengers: Endgame' actor continued to say, "It doesn't mean that there isn't also silly content, that there are ways for me to ex-

press myself personally. But, there will also be deep conversations, anti-racist rhetoric, inclusive content."

"So, with all that said, the following video is just me getting warmed up and feeling this out and getting to talk with a lot of really brilliant creators," Larson told viewers.

In the video, Larson also talks about social anxiety and being introverted.

Larson can be heard saying in the video, "For me, my baseline has been, I'm an introvert with asthma. Like, that's been my story for myself...I'm introverted, I'm scared, I have social anxiety."



Brie Larson

### Jodie Comer quits social media

IAN S | Los Angeles

"Killing Eve" star Jodie Comer has revealed that she has quit social media because she feels guilty about "seeking out negative comments" about herself.

The actress deactivated her Twitter account earlier this year. Now, in an interview with OK! magazine, she revealed that she has temporarily left Instagram, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Until I get some self-control and manage not to go and seek out negative things on social media, I think it's best for me to take a little step back," said Comer.

"Also now, in this time, I am trying to be a little bit conscious of

what I use it for. It feels a bit wrong to me to be doing any sort of self-promotion at the moment, so I'm trying to be a little bit wary of that, while also being communicative and speaking to people," she added.

The actress had previously revealed her difficulties with fame.

She said: "The job I do doesn't end when the camera stops rolling, there's this whole other world."

Confessing that she had once read the YouTube comments on a talkshow interview of her, she said: "I know all the people who comment on YouTube are aliens anyway, but I was speaking as myself and they were saying I'm losing my accent."



Jodie Comer



Lady Gaga

### Lady Gaga says 'be yourself, but wear a mask!'

ANI | Los Angeles

Lady Gaga, who initiated a 'mask game' challenge, was seen flaunting her 'Chromatica' themed mask on Friday.

The 'Rain on Me' singer wore the glittery black and pink face mask, that had spikes and dangling silver chain attached to it. The singer released a new album this year - 'Chromatica' and the mask takes up the album's theme.

Gaga shared a selfie with her 'Chromatica' themed mask on Instagram and wrote: "Be yourself, but wear a mask! I believe in being kind to yourself, the community, and the planet."

The singer also nominated few of her "awesome" friends, including former US President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Ariana Grande, and Tony Bennett, to show off their mask game.

American singer Tony Bennett was quick to take up the challenge and posted a selfie wearing a large white mask on Instagram.

"We #kindlymask for all our loved ones, both at home and all around the world. We encourage you to share why you wear a mask. @katiecouric @alecbaldwininsta @rachaelray," he captioned the post.

Ever since the COVID-19 outbreak, the 'Cure' singer has been making the best use of her social media platforms in pitching to practice self-quarantine and raising awareness about the importance of following safety measures.

### Jana Duggar says she longs 'to be married' but isn't 'that worried' about it

Fox | Los Angeles

Jana Duggar has a dream for herself but isn't rushing into anything.

The "19 Kids and Counting" star recently sat down with her mother, Michelle, to speak with Us Weekly about her dating life.

Duggar, 30, said that she hopes to marry one day, as many of her siblings have done before her.

"I'm not that worried," she said. "Yes, I long to be married and one day I think that will come, but I think ... I'm just also just trying to stay busy with whatever comes along my path."

The former reality star, who also appeared in the "19 Kids" spinoff "Counting On," said that right now, she's "making the most" of her time as a single woman, though she sometimes feels "a little more pressure" to get married.

"I think if I sit there and I'm like, 'Oh no, I'm not married' and just [get] all worried about it," Duggar admitted, adding: "It makes things way worse."

Luckily, Duggar has a marriage very

close to her that she can look up to in her parents' union.

"They're quick to forgive and to make, really try to make things right," Duggar explained to the outlet. "The genuine love that they still have for one another ... this young love and they still have that, you know, today. I think that's rare to see couples that are their age and been married that long."

Michelle, 53, and Jim Bob, 54, married in 1984.

Per Us Weekly, Duggar had previously addressed her dating life in a 2019 episode of "Counting On," admitting that relationships with "a number of guys" haven't "worked out."

"[My siblings] have been in relationships, courtships, whatever you want to label it as. Of course, it doesn't always end in marriage and that's OK," said Duggar. "You have to sometimes talk to someone, get to know someone and realize, you know what, it doesn't have to end in marriage."

Jana Duggar



### Leona Lewis brings fans to tears with her version of Robbie Williams' Angels

IAN S | London

Singer Leona Lewis' rendition of Robbie Williams "Angels" left her fans emotional.

The former "X Factor" winner has released the cover in aid of the NHS during their battle against the coronavirus pandemic, reports metro.co.uk.

During a show, the 35-year-old singer sang to a new version of the song.

"It's a big song to touch, but I think in this scenario I needed this lyric to convey the message and tribute," she said.

"It's something I have grown up with and I've always wanted to do it. So, I thought this could be an amazing way to get the message across."

After the "Bleeding love" hitmaker performed the track, fans were quick to take to Twitter where they revealed they were crying at the "beautiful" rendition.

#### SUDOKU

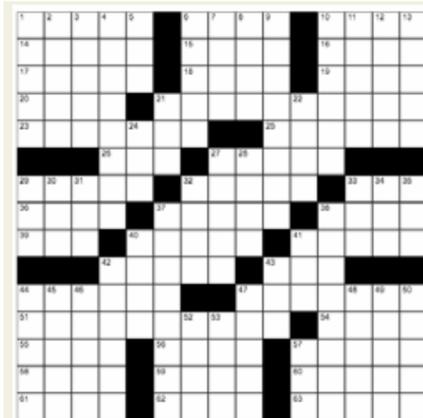
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				4				1
9	7			2	4			
8								3
	2	7				9	8	
6			5					
	2	5						
7			4	1	3	6		

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- Comfortably informal; 6- Newts; 10- Former name of Thailand; 14- Chum; 15- Additional; 16- Woody's son; 17- Word after Anglo; 18- Stuff; 19- Labor; 20- Not us; 21- Moderation; 23- Otalgia; 25- Faculties; 26- Miss-named?; 27- Put a new price on; 29- Rate; 32- Seraglio; 33- Publicity; 36- Writer Bombeck; 37- Sub system; 38- It's blown among the reeds; 39- Delt neighbor; 40- Flat circular plates; 41- Like soft-boiled eggs; 42- Breadth; 43- Consume; 44- On solid ground; 47- Inspiring amazement; 51- Peace of mind; 54- One of a matching pair; 55- Actor Estrada; 56- Diamond cover; 57- Division of a long poem; 58- Qualified; 59- Sewing case; 60- Staggering; 61- Go-getter; 62- Window piece; 63- \_ firma;

Down

1- Speed; 2- City on the Missouri; 3- Social; 4- Narcissism amok; 5- Hither's partner; 6- Host; 7- Configuration; 8- Pitfall; 9- Academic session; 10- Monetary unit of Thailand; 11- Golf clubs; 12- Wonderland girl; 13- Burrowing animals; 21- Common article; 22- 500 sheets; 24- Corp. bigwig; 27- Cattle spot; 28- Historical periods; 29- Weightlifter's unit; 30- It may come after you; 31- HBO alternative; 32- Party-thriller; 33- Son of, in Arabic names; 34- Smoking alternative; 35- Door opener; 37- Duck; 38- Win a "no blinking" contest; 40- Gossip; 41- Actress Charlotte; 42- Employee; 43- Lamb's mom; 44- In the future; 45- \_Croatian; 46- \_Selassie; 47- Easy \_; 48- Dog tag datum; 49- Bishop's headdress; 50- \_Gay; 52- I could \_ horse; 53- Make \_ for it; 57- Cmdr Data's was named Spot;

Yesterday's solution

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

# Bottas claim pole for season opener

Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas upstages teammate Lewis Hamilton to take pole in Austria

AFP | Spielberg

Valtteri Bottas survived a high-speed spin as he upstaged Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton with a sizzling display yesterday to claim pole position for Sunday's delayed season-opening Austrian Grand Prix.

The Finnish driver outpaced the six-time champion with a best lap in qualifying in one minute and 2.939 seconds and then survived an 'off' into the gravel and a spin on his final lap to remain 0.012 seconds clear of the Briton.

It was Bottas' third pole at the Austrian Grand Prix and the 12th of his career, a feat that followed Hamilton's clean sweep of the three practice sessions on Friday and Saturday morning.

"It feels really good - I've missed this feeling," said Bottas.

"The qualifying shakes! It's something special when you push the car to the limit and I've been waiting for a long time - we seem to be in our own league."

Hamilton said: "A great job by Valtteri and it's a great start to the season. I think we show year on year that we are the best team - because we are open-minded, keep with the times and nobody is too stubborn to admit they are wrong."

Max Verstappen was third for Red Bull, half a second adrift of the two newly-painted 'black arrows' cars whose dominating



Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas reacts after the qualifying round

performance delivered a 65th front row lock out for the team, equalling Ferrari's record.

"I'm happy to be P3," said Verstappen. "But we have a different tyre -- so it's going to be interesting."

Lando Norris was an impressive fourth for McLaren ahead of Alex Albon in the second Red Bull and Sergio Perez who was sixth in Racing Point's 'pink Mercedes'.

Charles Leclerc was a disappointed seventh for Ferrari ahead of his future team-mate Carlos Sainz in the second McLaren, Lance Stroll in the second Racing Point and Daniel

Ricciardo of Renault.

On a warm, sunlit afternoon in the Styrian Alps, Verstappen shone in Q1 before Mercedes found their rhythm. Five drivers were eliminated led by Kevin Magnussen of Haas, in 16th along with George Russell for the improved Williams team, and Antonio Giovinazzi and his Alfa Romeo team-mate Kimi Raikkonen.

Canadian Nicholas Latifi, who crashed heavily in the second Williams in yesterday morning's third and final practice session, was 20th - a tough baptism for the rookie on a day of encouragement for the 'up for sale' Wil-

liams team.

Bottas and Hamilton were first out on track for Q2 ahead of Stroll, the 'black arrows' running on softs while behind them, when he emerged, Verstappen took to medium compound tyres.

The champion quickly set the pace in 1:03.325, two-tenths clear of Bottas while Verstappen, seeking a hat-trick of Austrian triumphs was adrift by seven-tenths.

Albon, in the second Red Bull pushed four-time champion Sebastian Vettel out of the top ten in his Ferrari.

The German's team-mate

**”**  
A great job by Valtteri and it's a great start to the season. I think we show year on year that we are the best team - because we are open-minded, keep with the times and nobody is too stubborn to admit they are wrong

LEWIS HAMILTON

Charles Leclerc scrambled through in 10th. "That's crazy," he reacted. "It's a surprise. I thought we had more in hand than that," said Vettel. "But we should make up some ground tomorrow in the race..."

Out with Vettel, in his final Ferrari season, went the Alpha Tauri paid Pierre Gasly and Daniil Kvyat ahead of two Frenchmen Renault's Esteban Ocon and Romain Grosjean of Haas.

Verstappen was eighth, but slowed on his final lap on softs to ensure he starts Sunday's race on medium tyres, a tactical decision to enhance the team's race strategy.

When the top-ten shootout began, Bottas topped Hamilton on the first runs by one-tenth in 1:02.939 with Verstappen third by six-tenths - suggesting it was an in-team scrap for pole for the two Mercedes men.

**Buffon breaks record in Juve win**  
AFP | Milan



Gianluigi Buffon

Gianluigi Buffon set a new Serie A appearances record on Saturday as Juventus beat Torino 4-1 in the Turin derby to move seven points clear at the top of the table.

The 42-year-old goalkeeper Buffon passed the previous record of 647 appearances he jointly held with AC Milan great Paolo Maldini as he started the game at the Allianz Stadium.

Cristiano Ronaldo was among the scorers, becoming the first Juve player to score 25 Serie A goals in a season in 59 years, as Maurizio Sarri's men moved further clear of second-placed Lazio, who host in-form AC Milan later on Saturday.

Buffon, who spent last season at French club Paris Saint-Germain before rejoining Juve this term, signed a one-year contract extension earlier this week.

It was the eighth Serie A appearance this campaign for Buffon, with Polish international Wojciech Szczesny usually the defending champions' number one.

## Rampant Man Utd rout Bournemouth

AFP | Manchester

Manchester United continued their charge into the Premier League top four with another devastating attacking display as they thrashed Bournemouth 5-2 yesterday with Mason Greenwood, Anthony Martial, Marcus Rashford and Bruno Fernandes doing the damage.

Another bad day for Bournemouth pushed the Cherries closer to a return to the Championship as they remain rooted in the bottom three despite taking a shock lead at Old Trafford through Junior Stanislas.

Teenage sensation Greenwood, Rashford from the penalty spot and Martial hit back before half-time.

Former United forward Josh King's penalty briefly gave the visitors hope early in the second half, but another thumping finish from Greenwood and a trademark Fernandes free-kick gave United five goals at Old Trafford in a Premier League



Mason Greenwood of Manchester United scores his team's fourth goal

game for the first time since 2011.

Victory takes Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men a point above Chelsea into fourth as they extended an unbeaten run stretching back to January to 16 games.

United had kept 11 clean sheets in their previous 15 matches without defeat, but defensive lapses were the only blight on another satisfying af-

ternoon for Solskjaer.

Harry Maguire and David de Gea were at fault for the only points the Red Devils have dropped since the Premier League's restart in a 1-1 draw at Tottenham.

Both were culpable as Stanislas nutmegged the world's most expensive defender and then fired in at De Gea's near post completely against the run of

play on 16 minutes.

Those errors were not as costly this time as the blossoming front three of Greenwood, Martial and Rashford quickly turned the game around.

Greenwood's star is rising fast and the 18-year-old blasted home from Fernandes's pass to get United back on track.

The hosts were then gifted a second by Adam Smith's handball inside the area and Fernandes stepped aside to let Rashford net for the first time since January.



**Manchester United extended an unbeaten run stretching to 16 games**

## Setien plays down Messi and Griezmann uncertainty



Barcelona's French forward Antoine Griezmann (R) and Barcelona's Argentine forward Lionel Messi arrive to warm up before a match

AFP | Madrid

Barcelona coach Quique Setien moved to ease concerns yesterday about the futures of Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann.

Messi's contract is due to expire next year and, according to Spanish radio station Cadena Ser, the Argentinian has stopped talks due to frustrations with the direction the club is going in.

Asked about suggestions Messi plans to leave Barcelona, Setien said: "I won't speculate about this because I haven't heard from him so I'm not aware of him saying anything."

"I see him well, everything else is speculation that I won't get involved in. We speak about what we have to speak about and nothing else."

Griezmann's position is also

in doubt after a disappointing first season since joining from Atletico Madrid.

Barcelona play away at in-form Villarreal on Sunday, with Real Madrid sitting four points clear at the top of the table.

"He's fine, I exchanged a few words with him. He's a great professional. He understands the situation because he's seen it before," Setien said about Griezmann.

"It will not affect him because he is a very positive person. We can count on him 100 per cent."

Griezmann has started three of Barca's last four matches on the bench, including the crunch games against Sevilla and Atletico, both of which Barcelona drew.

Setien described Griezmann as "unquestionable" last month.

## Khabib Nurmagomedov's father dies aged 57 after coronavirus fight

TDT | Manama

Khabib Nurmagomedov's father Abdulmanap, who was battling Covid-19 for several months, passed away after his condition worsened over the last few days.

BRAVE CF has extended its



Abdulmanap

condolence on the demise in a statement on social media.

Khabib's father, 57, doubled as his coach and was also a world-renowned mixed martial arts coach.

However, in the last week of May 2020, he was in a condition of medically induced coma due

to complications from pneumonia which led to heart surgery in his homeland of Russia's Republic of Dagestan,

Khabib cleared the air and said that heart surgery was the result of complications due to COVID-19, as Abdulmanap remained serious thereafter.