



COVID-19 claims another life; 690 new recoveries

TDT | Manama

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

The deceased was a 52-year-old Bahraini man.

His passing brought the overall number of coronavirus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 97.

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

Meanwhile, it was announced early this morning that out of 9,801 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 510 new cases were detected. From these, 284 were expatriate workers, 223 were contacts of active cases, and three were travel-related.

Their detection brought the overall number of confirmed cases in Bahrain to over 29,000 ever since the first case was reported.

There were also 690 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 24,649.

HM the King appoints HH Shaikh Nasser; sets up security agency

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Order 24 of 2020 yesterday, appointing National Security Advisor Major General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa as the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) secretary-general.

HM the King also issued Royal Order 26 of 2020, establishing the Strategic Security Agency (SSA), affiliated with

the SDC.

The royal order stipulates that the SDC shall set the SSA powers and structure.

HM the King issued Royal Order 27 of 2020 appointing Shaikh Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa as SSA chairman.

He also issued Royal Order 28 of 2020, appointing Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa as SDC deputy secretary-general, in addition to his current position.



HM the King



HH Shaikh Nasser

Another grim milestone

GCC fast approaching 500,000 mark in coronavirus cases

● **Bahrain's recovery rate is over 83 per cent with over 29,000 cases recorded**

● **National authorities are allowing a gradual easing of curfews at urban centres and opening air spaces.**

● **UAE's aviation ministry to resume transit flights via Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah airports.**

Positive news, amidst all the alarming numbers however, is the high rate of recoveries in the GCC, thanks to intense screening, quarantine measures and testing for COVID-19 cases.

What makes GCC's fight effective is a series of measures including contact tracing and curfews.

The recovery rate in Bahrain is over 83 per cent with a total of over 29,000 cases recorded so far.

Of the six GCC nations, United Arab Emirates (UAE) has conducted more than 3.5 million tests till date, especially in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. The recovery rate there is 78 per cent, when compared to the total cases.

Over the last few months, GCC nations controlled the

Country	Total cases	Recovery rates
Bahrain	29,367	83%
Saudi	209,509	69%
Kuwait	49,941	81%
UAE	51,540	78%
Oman	46,178	60%
Qatar	99,799	92%

spread of the virus to a large extent by imposing restrictions at public places.

Now the authorities are allowing a gradual easing of curfews at urban centres and even opening air spaces.

The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority of the UAE has launched a health and safety advisory outlining all precaution-



Residents and citizens of GCC nations following health and safety measures in public spaces

ary measures to be followed in hotels and service industries.

The manual addresses social distancing measures, cleaning and sanitisation of guest rooms, health checks of hotel staff and guests, hygiene protocols, in addition to regulations on operations of restaurants, cafes, swimming pools, beaches, health clubs and other utilities at these establishments.

Meanwhile, Emirates and Etihad, both leading airline companies in the UAE, have already announced that they will operate flights to 49 destinations across Asia, Europe and Australia this

month.

UAE's aviation ministry has decided to resume transit flights via Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah airports.

Saudi Arabia on the other hand, after reviewing the epidemiological situation and the high occupancy levels of the intensive care units, has decided to further tighten health precautions in the city of Jeddah for a period of 15 days starting today.

However, domestic travel through air and land will be allowed, and entry into and out of Jeddah will not be restricted outside the curfew hours.

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The number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the six nation Gulf Cooperation Council is fast approaching 500,000 cases, reminding us, once again of the need to remain vigilant as policy makers continue to lift restrictions imposed to curtail the spread.

A disturbing factor is the prevalent illnesses such as hypertension and diabetes among the population in the Gulf region.



SUPPORT EXTENDED AMIDST PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

Saudi approves visa and residence permit extensions for expatriates

Riyadh

In a new measure, Saudi Arabia has extended the validity of residence permits for expatriates who have gotten stuck outside the kingdom due to the global travel restrictions caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

According to an official source at the Saudi Ministry of Interior, new measures were announced yesterday to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on individuals, the private sector and economic activities in the

kingdom. The following measures were approved as part of a Royal decree passed yesterday, within the continuous efforts exerted by the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz.

The validity of the final exit visa for expatriates has been extended free of charge.

For expatriates who are outside Saudi on exit and return visas which expire during the period of suspension of entry and exit from the kingdom, the validity of their expired resi-

dence permits (Iqama) can be extended for a period of three months free of charge.

Unused exit and return visas for expatriates can be extended for a period of three months free of charge.

Those who had arrived on a visit visa and are currently inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can continue to stay even if their visas expire during the period when Saudi has imposed exit and entry restrictions into the country. This extension will be done for a period of 3 months free charge.

Three sailors rescued after boat sinks at sea

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Three sailors were rescued after their boat sank while they were in the open sea last week, the Ministry of Interior reported last night.

According to the Ministry, the sailors were able to cling to lifesaving equipment and managed to get enough of a signal to make a call with a cell phone to the main operations room.

The Coast Guard and other rescue teams were able to respond immediately, eventually rescuing the sailors after four hours in the water.

According to the Interior

Ministry, the operations room received the call at 6.52pm on Thursday night by a citizen stating that the boat he and two of his companions were in had sunk in the region off the Hidd coast, amidst strong water currents.

Coast Guard Command and Police Aviation Command were informed at once and quickly launched a search. The Ministry said that despite the sailor's poor cell phone signal, the operations room was able to maintain communication and coordinate their location until they were rescued.

YOU DON'T MISS IT

Three arrested in security guards assault

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BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES 29,367

ACTIVE CASES 4,621

DEATHS 97

DISCHARGED 24,649

NEW CASES 510

CRITICAL 45

210 fils (includes VAT)



Bahraini-Saudi relations praised

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs undersecretary Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa met virtually yesterday Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs General Diplomatic Affairs undersecretary Fahd bin Asaad Abunnasr.

Dr. Shaikha Rana congratulated Abunnasr on his new appointment, wishing him continued success.

She hailed strong brotherly relations between the two Kingdoms, commending the Saudi stances under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdelaziz Al Saud, in supporting Bahrain. For his part, the Saudi undersecretary hailed growing bilateral relations at all levels, in light of the support given by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

They also discussed a number of issues of common concern.

Bahrain's democratic strides highlighted in book

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Bahrain's parliamentary delegation has participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) 130th Anniversary Book, highlighting the IPU's achievements.

This follows directives from Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal.

The book contains the input of the parliaments of member states on their contributions to ensuring the success of IPU over the past 130 years.

The parliamentary delegation highlighted the strides made by Bahrain in the field of institutional democratic work, established by the National Action Charter and through civilisational practices, under the comprehensive development march spearheaded by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The delegation stressed the unwavering efforts exerted by the IPU to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, indicating the keenness of the Shura and Representatives councils to win IPU membership and participate in its regional and international conferences, meetings and programmes.

The parliamentary delegation congratulated the IPU on its 130th anniversary, lauding its milestone achievements, support for legislative councils and parliaments all over the world, consolidation of democratic practices, defending human rights, and supporting the achievements of sustainable development goals, among others.

It is to be noted that Bahrain's parliamentary delegation has held numerous leadership positions in the IPU, which proves the distinguished status enjoyed by Bahrain in the parliamentary field.

HH Shaikh Khalid congratulates HH Shaikh Nasser on appointment

TDT | Manama

Royal Guard Special Force Commander His Highness Lt-Colonel Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa has congratulated His Highness Major General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa on his appointment by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa as Supreme Defence Council secretary-general. "We escalate our sincerest congratulations to HH Major General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa on his new role," HH Shaikh Khalid said.

HH Shaikh Khalid underlined that the Royal confidence shown in HH Major General Shaikh Nasser reflects his high capabilities in various fields, including the military area.

"HH Major General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has set an example to follow in leadership for all the ambitious



HH Shaikh Nasser

Bahraini youth," HH Shaikh Khalid continued. "I take his opportunity to wish him the best of luck."



HH Major General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has set an example to follow in leadership for all the ambitious Bahraini youth

ROYAL GUARD SPECIAL FORCE COMMANDER HH LT-COLONEL SHAIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

Human rights commitment reaffirmed

● Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights tasked with coordination, follow-up and supervision to of Kingdom's efforts in the field of protecting human rights internationally

● National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons commended for helping achieve Tier One status in US State Department's TIP Report for third year in a row

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Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani has reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to all international standards for the protection of hu-

man rights with transparency.

He also stressed the Ministry's keenness to complete and implement initiatives and programmes that contribute to the continuation of achievements in this field.

The Foreign Minister said these as he presided over the meeting of the Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights through virtual communication, with the participation of the Foreign Affairs assistant and Committee deputy chairman Abdulla bin Faisal bin Jabur Al Doseri.

The Foreign Minister praised edict 8/2020 issued by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, adding representatives of the Prime Minister's Court and the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs to the Coordination Committee for Human Rights, including the Court's undersecretary Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa and the Cabinet Affairs Ministry undersecretary His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, wishing them success



The Foreign Minister during the committee meeting

in their tasks.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs noted that the vision and approach of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the support of HRH the Premier and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, have greatly contributed and continue to strengthening the Kingdom's achievements in the field of human rights at the regional

and international levels.

He stated that the committee is tasked with the coordination, follow-up and supervision to promote the efforts of the Kingdom in the field of protecting human rights internationally, praising the efforts made by Bahrain in this field in compliance with international covenants and laws, and the agreements that the Kingdom has joined.

In this regard, he noted the Kingdom's achievement of Tier

One status in the annual report of the US Department of State for Trafficking in Persons for the third year in a row. He commended the efforts of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, headed by Labour Market Regulatory Authority CEO Ausamah bin Abdulla Al Absi, which resulted in this achievement.

The Committee discussed a number of topics on the agenda, and took a number of decisions.

Foreign Minister, EU Mission head hold discussions

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Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received a video call from European Union (EU) Mission head to Bahrain and the GCC Michele d'Urso.

They discussed growing cooperation between the Kingdom and the EU and ways of bolstering relations between both sides to achieve common interests. They also reviewed



A screenshot of the video call between the Foreign Minister and the EU Mission head.



other issues of mutual concern. Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister received a letter of thanks from UK Foreign Affairs Secretary of State Dominic Raab, in which he expressed thanks and appreciation for the support given to British nationals in Bahrain during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The UK Foreign Affairs Secretary of State affirmed that the

Kingdom's assistance in facilitating repatriation flights for British nationals reflects close historic relations between the two countries. He also stressed the UK's keenness to enhance joint cooperation and coordination with Bahrain to achieve common interests.

He wished the Kingdom's government and people further progress and prosperity.

Ideal drivers to be honoured in summer traffic safety campaign

TDT | Manama

"Thank You" initiative aimed at honouring ideal drivers is set to expand in the summer with a traffic safety campaign.

This was announced yesterday by Traffic Culture Director Salah Mohammed Shahab, who noted that the initiative presses on with the cooperation of the



Shahab

private sector.

The director revealed that the "Thank You" initiative's summer traffic safety campaign will include various activities such as tyres inspection at public roads.

This will be done in cooperation with the local agent of international tyre manufacturer Pirelli. The inspections aim to enhance awareness of the importance of

tyre safety.

The Traffic Culture director added that, in cooperation with Bahrain National Insurance (BNI), ideal drivers would be honoured with one-year on-the-road assistance.

He urged drivers to carry out regular maintenance of their vehicles and avoid leaving inflammable items at the car.

DEPUTY PREMIER RECEIVES HRH THE PM'S COURT UNDERSECRETARY, PERSONAL SECRETARY



The Deputy Premier, HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, held a meeting yesterday with HRH the Premier's Court undersecretary, Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa, and the Prime Minister's personal secretary, Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa. The Deputy Premier (right) congratulated the two on their new, key posts, wishing them every success in carrying out their duties.

HRH THE PM'S ADVISOR RECEIVES HRH THE PM'S COURT GUARD COMMANDER



HRH the Premier's advisor Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al Khalifa received yesterday, HRH PM's Court guard commander, Brigadier General Mohammed Salman Al Qassimi, and facilities protection department head, Colonel Khalid Mohammed Al Sada. Al Qassimi and Al Sada congratulated Shaikh Khalifa on his new post, commanding the security department. They wished him success in his new missions, praising his outstanding experience in security. Shaikh Khalifa said that assuming the responsibility is an honour for him and he expressed his gratitude and pride for HRH the Prime Minister's trust.

Three arrested in security guards assault

● Video footage showing Asian men who were part of a group physically assaulting two Bahraini security guards goes viral on social media

● One of the guards dispersed part of the crowd after he waved a knife at them. Seconds after he put the knife away, several men suddenly approached him and beat him using wooden boxes. More men began hitting both guards and chased them down the alley



A screenshots of the video

TDT | Manama

Police said late on Saturday that they have arrested three Asian men who were part of a group that physically assaulted two Bahraini security guards on the same day.

This is related to footage widely circulated on social media platforms showing the group of Bangladeshis beating the men in uniform and chasing them down alleys.

The Interior Ministry confirmed a few hours after the video emerged that three of the men involved were arrested and

a manhunt has been launched to nab the rest.

The Ministry tweeted: "Concerning a circulated video on social media of a physical assault between a group of persons and two private security guards, the Capital Police and CID arrested three individuals and search continues for the arrest of the remaining suspects."

The video sparked public outrage among citizens and netizens, as it showed the group of around 20 Bangladeshi men beating and chasing the Bahraini guards in a "barbaric and vicious manner".

Both guards were seen in the

beginning of the video while, in what seems to be an argument with the group, at an entrance of a building. The argument quickly turned physical, with both guards being shoved around and yelled at.

One of the guards dispersed part of the crowd after he waved a knife at them and threatened them. Seconds after he put the knife back in his pocket, several men suddenly approached him and beat him using wooden boxes. More men began hitting both guards and were seen chasing them down the alley, which is reportedly in central Manama. However, this information could



Ishaqi

not be verified.

Enraged Response!

Several MPs and social activists quickly responded to the incident, demanding rapid and tough action against the offenders. MP Ali Ishaqi described the incident as "shameful and humiliating", while attributing it to the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) as "the primary responsible party".

"We are awaiting the reaction of LMRA to this footage, to take strict measures with the culprits and put an end to these recurring shambles," he said in a press statement yesterday. "Prejudicing the dignity of one citizen means prejudicing the dignity of all citizens."

Meanwhile, MP Ibrahim Al Nefaei commented on the matter in a tweet saying: "The repetition of the disgraceful violations of Asian labourers, such as



Buenq

insulting the national currency and physical assault on Bahraini citizens, reflect moral turmoil and chaos, and an undervaluation of the country and its laws. The necessary controls must be endorsed to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and hold perpetrators accountable."

Also on Twitter, MP Khaled Saleh Buenq said: "Citizens are not insulted during the prosperous era of HM the King, and the government, under the leadership of HRH the Prime Minister and HRH the Crown Prince, does not accept that the citizens are assaulted."

"We confirm, as MPs, our total rejection of what a number of expatriates have done to attack the people of the country, and the relevant authorities need to take all measures regarding this."

As for social activist Ali Al Sakran, he posted a one-min-



Al Nefaei



Al Sakran

ute video online to comment on the matter. Al Sakran said: "This is a result of the leniency towards this community in Bahrain. This is not the first incident in Bahrain and tens of Bahrainis were killed by the same nationality in the past, either by a grinder, a hammer or a machete."

No comments were available from the LMRA or the Embassy of Bangladesh.

WhatsApp messages help Estonian woman win case against Bahraini business partner

TDT | Manama

Records of WhatsApp messages helped convict a Bahraini man who refused to compensate his female European business partner for the money she gave him to invest in commercial exporting.

This comes as the Estonian woman provided the judges of the Fourth Minor Civil Court with records of WhatsApp messages and e-mails, proving her claims after the defendant denied it.

The Plaintiff's Attorney Mervet Janahi explained that the court ordered the defendant to pay the amount in installments, as well

as a 0.5 per cent annual legal interest.

The man had earlier appealed against the verdict, but the Court of Appeals upheld the previously announced sentence.

According to Janahi, her client had agreed with the defendant, under an oral agreement, to invest a certain amount of money in the field of exporting by issuing a CR (Commercial Registration), in addition to a work permit for her, as she entered Bahrain under a tourist visa.

The lawyer said the defendant breached the agreement, lost the money and caused financial losses to her client, who transferred



The accused had earlier appealed against the verdict, but the Court of Appeals upheld the previously announced sentence

the money to him directly in his bank account.

Janahi also clarified that the court reviewed the correspond-

ence between her client and the defendant, as well as a copy of the CR mentioned in it.

Additionally, a female witness, a mutual friend, testified in the court that they, the plaintiff and defendant, were business partners.

After deliberating the case for the second time and reviewing the presented evidence, the Court of Appeals concluded that the defendant and the plaintiff were business partners in a joint venture, and added that the defendant's bank account statement proved that he had received the amount, as claimed by the complainant.

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF PARTICIPATES IN GCC MEETING



Operations assistant chief of staff, Major-General Ghanim Ibrahim Al-Fadhala, participated in a virtual meeting of the Operations and Training Committee of the assistant chiefs of staff of the armed forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. They discussed enhancing joint GCC action and strengthened military cooperation among member states.

First summer full moon



The mystical moon in all its glory, framing the dome of the Rashid Al Zayani Mosque. Photo captured by Mohamed Reda El-Asfour

TDT | Manama

The first full moon this summer, coincided with the auspicious full moon from the sacred month of Dhul Qi'dah, from the Islamic calendar.

The celestial coinci-

dence this year, lit up the night sky in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the early hours of the morning yesterday. This lovely phenomenon was captured in pictures from the Rashid Al Zayani Mosque located in the Qalali region.



The moon as it lights up the early morning sky, captured by Mohamed Reda El-Asfour

Supreme Council for Environment, Edamah to strengthen cooperation



Dr. Bin Daina with Alarrayed at the signing of the MoU

TDT | Manama

Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) CEO Dr. Mohamed Mubarak Bin Daina and Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company (Edamah) CEO Amin Alarrayed signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation and maximise the economic and environmental benefits of their projects.

Under the MoU, the SCE will provide Edamah with technical and educational environmental support through workshops, lectures, and symposiums, as well as results of latest environmental studies.

Edamah will provide proposals and studies on the development of, and investment in, some SCE properties and facilities. The two parties will create a joint mechanism for

the management, development, and investment of these properties.

Dr. Bin Daina said the SCE is eager to strengthen cooperation with the real estate sector in the Kingdom, hailing Edamah's role in realising Bahrain's 2030 vision through its diversified development portfolio, particularly projects, programmes and commercial activities that seek to develop public facilities in the Kingdom.

Alarrayed praised the SCE's role in protecting the environment in Bahrain and appreciated its efforts to constructively connect the various sectors in the Kingdom.

Edamah is ready to provide the necessary support to realise the joint objectives that serve Bahrain and its people, he said.

Fun in the sun but with strict safety guidelines

Public showers, saunas, and changing rooms at private beaches to remain closed until further notice

● Groups of more than five members can't visit

● A minimum distance of two meters between each visitor

TDT | Manama

This summer, citizens and residents can now visit private beaches after a long hiatus but with very strict safety measures in place. Only groups with a maximum of five members can visit private beaches. Keeping in line with social distancing measures, while at the beach, they must also lounge on seats or the sand with a minimum distance of two meters between each other.

Bahrain's Minister of Health, Faeqa bint Saeed Al-Saleh, said this in an official statement yesterday to contain and prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). All private beaches across the Kingdom are expected to follow the rules to ensure the health and safety of visitors.

The decision also listed out some specific rules for the administrations of each private beach. The facility management must use clear visual signs for one-way entry and exit paths.

Baths, saunas, changing rooms and other common areas



Representational image courtesy of AlAyam



The facility management must ensure that common toilets are thoroughly cleaned and sanitised after each use.

(except for toilets) must remain closed until further notice. The facility management must ensure that toilets are thoroughly cleaned and sanitised after each use. Staff members are expected to clean and disinfect their electronic devices upon

leaving work.

Plenty of trash cans must be available on site for the visitors to dispose their trash carefully and correctly. The staff must ensure that the garbage is cleared out often and in safe conditions.

Social distancing must always be maintained, and signs must be put up at regular intervals to remind beach-goers of the same.

The health minister's decision called on all private facilities to clean and disinfect their premises according to health guidelines and disinfect used daily rental equipment and tools after each use. The guidelines also pointed out that towels should be washed with warm water, at 80 degrees or higher but before it reaches a boiling point.

Students put on their scientist hats

TDT | Manama

School students from the New Millennium School-DPS (NMS-DPS), Bahrain celebrated a very exciting, online science week from 21st to 25th June.

Children adorned the hats of budding scientists and researchers as they flaunted their skills at performing simple scientific experiments, with easily available resources at home.

With the aim to get students excited about global scientific perspectives, the school organised activities including, model-making, clay modelling, collage making, observation charts and drawing references based on the experiments conducted.

The spirit of scientific inquiry and the quest for discovery were celebrated by the students. It was a fun week of online classes with activity-based learning and connecting science to daily life experiences.

The week ended with the takeaway that science and technology are beautiful gifts to humanity and hence students should not distort it.

NMS-DPS chairman, Dr Ravi Pillai, managing director, Geetha Pillai and the principal, Arun Kumar Sharma praised



NMS-DPS students exhibiting their home-made science experiments

the teachers, students and parents for their active participation and magnificent efforts.

UAE restructures government

Seeks more agility as it deals with coronavirus impact

● The restructuring was announced by UAE Vice President

Reuters | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates announced a broad government restructuring yesterday for more “agile and swift” decision-making following the coronavirus pandemic, merging government entities and appointing new economy



Prime Minister and Vice-President of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum attends the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

and industry ministers. The head of Abu Dhabi's national oil company ADNOC, Sultan al-Jaber, was named as in-

dustry and advanced technology minister and Abdullah al-Marri was appointed economy minister. The restructuring was announced by UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum on his official Twitter account.

The energy and infrastructure ministries were merged under a single portfolio to be headed by current energy minister Suhail Al Mazrouei.

An ADNOC spokesperson said al-Jaber would retain his post as ADNOC chief executive. “The aim ... is a government that can more quickly make decisions and deal with changes and more adeptly seize opportunities in dealing with this new

stage in our history; a swift and agile government,” Sheikh Mohammed said.

He gave it a year to achieve priority targets for the country, which is the region's business, trade and tourism hub.

Changes include abolishing half of government service centres and converting them to digital platforms within two years and merging around half of federal agencies.

The Federal Water and Electricity Authority, Emirates Post, Emirates General Transport Corp, and Emirates Real Estate Corp were placed under the Emirates Investment Authority.

The economy ministry got two ministers of state — Ahmed Belhoul for business and small and

medium enterprises, and Thani al-Zeyoudi for foreign trade. Omar al-Olama was named minister of state for digital economy and artificial intelligence.

“The future working environment in medicine, education and trade will change dramatically and we aim to be at the forefront of these changes,” Sheikh Mohammed said.

In June, the central bank forecast that the oil-exporting country's economy would likely contract by 3.6 per cent this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The non-oil private sector grew in June for the first time this year, emerging from months of contraction as coronavirus restrictions were lifted.



The Federal Water and Electricity Authority, Emirates Post, Emirates General Transport Corp, and Emirates Real Estate Corp were placed under the Emirates Investment Authority.

The energy and infrastructure ministries were merged under a single portfolio

To abolish half of government service centres and convert them to digital platforms and merge around half of federal agencies.

Non-oil private sector jumps back to growth in June - PMI

Reuters | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) non-oil private sector grew in June for the first time this year, emerging from months of contraction as coronavirus restrictions were lifted, a survey showed yesterday. The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit UAE Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which covers manufacturing and services, rose to 50.4 in June from 46.7 in May, edging above the 50.0 mark that separates expansion from contraction.

“At 50.4 in June, the UAE PMI signalled the first stage of recovery in the non-oil private sector. More firms are now seeing an increase in activity as opposed to a decline, while new orders grew at the fastest rate in ten months,” said David Owen, economist at survey compiler IHS Markit.

Output levels grew at their strongest pace since October last year and new



People shop at The Dubai Mall, in Dubai, UAE

orders grew at their fastest since August as demand improved after the easing of lockdown measures.

In late June, the UAE announced the lifting of a nightly curfew in place since mid-March. The daily number of infections has fallen from a peak of some 900 in late May to average between 300 and 400 in recent weeks.

As of July 1, the UAE had reported

49,069 cases of the new coronavirus and 316 deaths.

Despite the jump in the headline index, companies are still cutting costs after months of lower activity, which led to a drop in the employment sub-index to 46.4 from 48.7 in May.

“Evidence from panellists suggested that balance sheets remain in a tricky situation, as firms made another solid cut to workforces in order to reduce costs. Thus it may be a long path to recovery for the labour market,” Owen said.

UK PM Johnson to phase out Huawei's 5G role within months - The Telegraph

Reuters

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to begin phasing out the use of Chinese tech giant Huawei's technology in Britain's 5G network as soon as this year, The Daily Telegraph reported on Saturday.

Officials are drawing up proposals to stop installing new Huawei Technologies equipment in the 5G network in as little as six months, and to speed up the removal of technology that is already in place, the newspaper reported.

The move comes after the nation's spy agency GCHQ raised new security fears over Chinese technology.

A report prepared by GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre concludes that new US



Employees wait for a shuttle bus at a 5G testing park at Huawei's headquarters in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China

sanctions on Huawei will force the company to use untrusted technology that could make the risk impossible to control, the newspaper said.

The sanctions have had a “severe” impact on the firm that significantly changes GCHQ's calculations, the report said.

The report is expected to be presented to Johnson this week.

Luckin Coffee chairman ousted by shareholders: Bloomberg, citing report

● Three other board directors including Sean Shao were also removed

Reuters

Luckin Coffee Inc Chairman Charles Zhengyao Lu has been ousted by shareholders from the embattled coffee chain, just days after a proposal to remove him failed to get board approval, Bloomberg News reported on Sunday, citing Chinese web portal 163.com.

Three other board directors including Sean Shao were also removed at an extraordinary shareholders meeting in Beijing on Sunday, the report said.



Charles Zhengyao Lu, non-executive chairman of Luckin Coffee

Ying Zeng and Jie Yang will be added as independent board directors, the report added.

Luckin Coffee declined to comment.

Luckin stated just days ago

that a proposal to remove Lu as chairman of the embattled coffee chain's board did not get the number of necessary votes from directors to pass.

The China-based coffee chain had earlier in the week wound up an internal probe into fake annual sales of about \$300 million, following which several of Luckin's directors proposed the ousting of Lu.

Lu, who is the controlling shareholder of Luckin, is also the founder of auto-rental firm CAR Inc and Chinese ride-hailing firm Ucar Inc.

During the investigation, Luckin sacked its chief executive and chief operating officers, who had previously held top positions at Lu's other firms.

Saudi private sector support

Dubai

Saudi government initiatives to support the financing of the private sector to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus outbreak have exceeded 51 billion riyals (\$13.60 billion), the central bank said on Sunday.

French economy probably bouncing back faster than expected - central bank



Governor of the Bank of France Francois Villeroy de Galhau

Reuters | Paris

The French economy is pulling out of the slump induced by the coronavirus outbreak at least as fast as expected a month ago, and maybe even a little faster, Bank of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau said yesterday.

“It's going at least as well as we expected in early June ... and probably even a little better,” Villeroy said on LCI television.

Trump repeats vow to defeat 'radical left' in July Fourth speech

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump on Saturday vowed to defeat the “radical left,” in an Independence Day speech at the White House that condemned recent protests against monuments to historical figures as attempts to destroy the United States. Trump claimed without evidence that 99% of coronavirus cases in the United States were “totally harmless.” Trump also said China must be “held accountable” for failing to contain the disease.

Britain nears 500 million pound deal for Sanofi/GSK COVID-19 vaccine: Sunday Times

● Talks were ongoing with different parties about access

Reuters | London

Britain is close to agreeing a 500 million pound (\$624 million) supply deal with Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline for 60 million doses of their potential COVID-19 vaccine, the Sunday Times reported.

The newspaper said that Britain was considering taking an



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

option to buy the vaccine should it work in human trials, which are due to begin in September.

Sanofi was not immediately available to comment on the report, while a spokesman for GSK declined to comment.

A spokeswoman for Britain's business ministry, which is handling Britain's supply of potential COVID-19 vaccines, said talks were ongoing with different parties about access but did not confirm if the Sanofi/GSK project was among them.

“The Government's Vaccines Task Force is actively engaging with a wide range of companies both in the UK and abroad to negotiate access to vaccines,” she said.

“Appropriate announcements of these arrangements will be made as and when agreements with any of these companies are

finalised and signed.”

Sanofi is working on two possible COVID-19 vaccines, one of which uses an adjuvant made by GSK to potentially boost its efficacy.

Its timeline for clinical trials is behind the likes of Moderna Inc, the University of Oxford in collaboration with AstraZeneca Plc, and an alliance of BionTech and Pfizer Inc, whose projects all grabbed headlines by moving to human trials as early as March.

Sanofi and GSK have both said they are prioritising quality over speed in developing a vaccine.

Kanye West announces 2020 US presidential run

- Tesla CEO Elon Musk wrote: "You have my full support!"
- "Kanye" shot to become the top trending term on twitter

AFP | Washington

Kanye West, the entertainment mogul who urges listeners in one song to "reach for the stars, so if you fall, you land on a cloud," claimed Saturday he is challenging Donald Trump for the US presidency in 2020.

"We must now realise the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future. I am running for president of the United States! #2020VISION," the born-again billionaire rapper tweeted as Americans marked Independence Day.

West offered no further details on his supposed campaign, four months before the November election, and it is unclear if he has officially registered to run for office.

Hundreds of thousands of Twitter users reacted to the star's announcement and "Kanye" shot to become the top trending term on the platform, although many questioned whether the volatile rapper would go through with his plan and others claimed it was a publicity stunt.

His wife, reality star Kim



Donald Trump and Kanye West stand together in the lobby at Trump Tower, in New York City, after Trump's election victory -- but West apparently now wants to deny him a second term by running himself



West is one of the most acclaimed musicians of his generation. Outside of his music career, West has also had success in the fashion industry

In September 2015, West announced that he intended to run for President of the United States in 2020

He later implied on Twitter that he intends to run for President in 2024 due to Donald Trump's win in the 2016 elections

In April 2012, West began dating reality star and longtime friend Kim Kardashian. West and Kardashian became engaged in October 2013 and married on May 24, 2014, at Fort di Belvedere in Florence, Italy.



Kardashian, replied with a US flag emoji, while Tesla CEO Elon Musk wrote: "You have my full support!"

The 43-year-old has mentioned running for president several times and he said last year he would run for president in 2024.

West long ago broke ranks with most of the left-leaning entertainment industry to loudly voice his support for Trump.

In 2018, they met in the Oval Office -- a surreal tete-a-tete that included a hug from the rapper as well as an on-camera rant featuring an expletive not

often repeated for the White House press corps.

That year, West also delivered a lengthy soliloquy to a president who many deem racist, telling him he loved him -- to the dismay of many Democrats and fellow artists.

But in 2019, during an interview with Zane Lowe of Apple Music's Beats 1 show, he said his support for Trump had been a way to razz Democrats -- and announced his own presidential ambitions.

"There will be a time when I will be the president of the US, and I will remember... any founder that didn't have the capacity to understand culturally what we were doing."

It was unclear to whom the artist was referring.

The announcement came days after West, who has taken a very public turn towards Christianity in recent years, released a new song, "Wash Us In the Blood," along with an accompanying video including imagery from recent anti-racism protests.

News in brief

◆ Egypt will hold inaugural elections for a new second parliamentary chamber on Aug. 11-12, election commissioner Lasheen Ibrahim. Amendments made to Egypt's constitution last year provided for the creation of the Council of Senators, a 300-member secondary chamber that will be two-thirds elected by the public and the remainder appointed by the president.

Egypt sets date for senate elections in August



David Starkey (R) seen here in 2007 with Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, has resigned from his position at Cambridge University

UK historian quits over slavery claim

A British royal historian who said slavery was not genocide has quit his honorary

position at Cambridge University and been dropped by his publisher HarperCollins. The comments from Professor

David Starkey came during a period of soul searching in Britain over its colonial past. "Slavery was not genocide. Otherwise, there wouldn't be so many damn blacks in Africa or in Britain, would there? An awful lot of them survived," Starkey said.

Body of COVID-19 victim left on the street for a week in Bolivia



A coffin containing the body of a 62-year-old COVID-19 victim in Cochabamba, Bolivia, who died in his home a week ago is left on the street by his relatives, some of whom also have coronavirus symptoms and have not been able to bury him as crematoriums are overwhelmed with waiting lists.

London landmarks go blue for the 72nd anniversary of the NHS



10 Downing Street and the London Eye are among several landmarks around the UK that are bathed in blue light to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the National Health Service. This year's celebration is particularly poignant given the challenging conditions NHS staff have had to work under over the past four months amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Dozens dead, missing in Japan as heavy rain causes floods, mudslides

- Authorities at emergency shelters made evacuees wash their hands, wear masks and maintain social distance

AFP | Tokyo

About 34 people are either confirmed or feared dead -- including 14 at a nursing home -- after torrential rain in Japan triggered massive floods and mudslides, authorities said yesterday.

Rescuers were searching for 14 others still missing after floods hit the Kumamoto region on the southwestern island of Kyushu, destroying houses, sweeping away vehicles and causing bridges to collapse.

The regional government confirmed 18 people had died, while another 16 were declared in a state of "cardio-respiratory arrest" -- a term often used in Japan before a doctor officially certifies death.

Fourteen of those feared dead were at a nursing home inundated when local rivers broke their banks. Emergency services rescued 50 people from the facility.

"Tables and sofas were floating around and you could not move," an official, who helped lead res-



The floods washed away bridges

cue efforts at the home where his wheelchair-bound elderly mother was among the victims, told private TV network JNN.

Japan almost always suffers from flooding during its rainy season but rescue and evacuation efforts this year have been further complicated by the coronavirus outbreak.

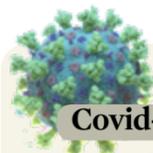
Authorities at emergency shelters made evacuees wash their hands, wear masks and maintain social distance to avoid the virus adding to the problems.

"We will do our utmost to prevent the spread of the infection and make the lives of those who

had to flee their home as comfortable as possible," Disaster Management Minister Ryota Takeda told reporters after visiting a gymnasium in Hitoyoshi city where 600 residents are sheltering.

At a cabinet-level meeting in Tokyo on the disaster, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged financial support, while warning residents in Kumamoto to brace for more rain.

"As we speak, more than 40,000 personnel from police, fire, coast guard and Self-Defence troops are conducting search and rescue operations which will continue through the night," Abe said.



Global

Covid-19 Cases: **11,465,807**

Deaths

535,027

Recovered:

6,487,877

New cases

+93,605

New deaths

+2,166

Middle East

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
USA	2,954,999	+75	132,393
Brazil	1,578,376		64,365
India	695,396	+413	19,692
Russia	681,251	+134	10,161
Peru	299,080		10,412
Spain	297,625		28,385
Chile	295,532	+116	6,308
UK	285,416	+22	44,220
Mexico	252,165	+523	30,366
Italy	241,611	+7	34,861
Iran	240,438	+163	11,571
Pakistan	228,474	+93	4,712
Turkey	204,610		5,206
Germany	197,460	+4	9,085

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	74,035		3,280		20,103	50,652	41	723
Saudi Arabia	209,509	+3,580	1,916	+58	145,236	62,357	2,283	6,017
UAE	51,540	+683	323	+2	40,297	10,920	1	5,211
Kuwait	49,941	+638	368	+3	40,463	9,110	157	11,693
Oman	46,178	+1,072	213	+10	27,917	18,048	116	9,043
Qatar	99,799	+616	128	+5	92,284	7,387	175	35,543

Rockets target US interests despite arrests: Iraq military



The US embassy compound in Baghdad, seen here in January, has been repeatedly targeted by militants

● **One rocket fired at the Green Zone landed near a home, wounding a child**

AFP | Baghdad

Two rocket attacks targeted American diplomatic and military installations overnight, Iraq's security forces said Sunday, a little over a week since unprecedented arrests prevented a similar incident.

Since October, US diplomats and troops across Iraq have been targeted by around three dozen missile attacks which Washington has blamed on pro-Iranian armed factions.

In the first move of its kind, elite Iraqi troops in late June arrested more than a dozen Tehran-backed fighters who were allegedly planning a new attack on Baghdad's Green Zone, home to the US and other foreign embassies.

Iraqi government officials said the raid would serve as a "message" to deter future at-



Counter rocket, artillery, and mortar, abbreviated C-RAM or counter-RAM, is a set of systems used to detect and/or destroy incoming rockets, artillery, and mortar rounds in the air before they hit their ground targets, or simply provide early warning.



tacks, but early on Sunday, militants made another attempt.

One rocket fired at the Green Zone landed near a home, wounding a child, according to the Iraqi military.

"At the same time, our forces were able to thwart another attack and seize a Katyusha rocket and launcher that were targeting the Taji base north of Baghdad," where US-led coalition troops are based, it added.

The attempts came just hours after the US embassy tested a new rocket defence system known as a C-RAM, according to a senior Iraqi security source.

The C-RAM, set up earlier this year at the embassy, scans for incoming projectiles and explodes them in the air by targeting them with several thousand bullets per minute.

A series of muted blasts could be heard across Baghdad on Saturday as the system was apparently tested, leaving passersby confused and Iraq's parliament outraged.

Deputy speaker Hassan al-Kaabi slammed the trial as "provocative" and "unaccept-

able" as it could put residential areas in danger.

There was no immediate comment from the embassy on whether the system was used against the rocket overnight.

US 'applauds' arrests

The US blames the attacks on Kataeb Hezbollah, a Tehran-backed faction within Iraq's state-sponsored network of armed units known as the Hashed al-Shaabi.

Washington has demanded Iraqi authorities be tougher on the group. Local forces had long hesitated, fearing that direct action against such a powerful actor would risk broader confrontations.

But last month, state security forces carried out the first raid of its kind against a Kataeb Hezbollah base on the edges of Baghdad, seizing rockets and arresting 14 fighters allegedly planning an attack on the Green Zone. The move was hailed by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who said rogue groups are "the single biggest obstacle to additional assistance or economic investment" for Iraq.

In Canada, art lovers head to drive-in for safe Van Gogh show



Toronto | Canada

While some museums have had to cancel or postpone long-planned exhibits because of the coronavirus, organisers of a Van Gogh show in Toronto had a novel idea: offering art lovers a drive-in option.

"Of course, because of COVID, we had to think creatively," said Corey Ross, a co-producer of the exhibit, which was initially slated to start in May and was delayed by the pandemic.

As Canada's largest city gradually comes out of lockdown, the exhibit began this week with two viewing areas in a huge Toronto warehouse: one area with social distancing circles on the ground for those who prefer taking in their art on foot, and another for people in cars that drive right into the building.

Viewing art from inside a car provides a safe experience for people who are physically fragile, fearful of the virus or vulnerable. And it is a unique experience, said Ross.

"You've never had an experience like this in your car," said Ross. "The feeling is almost as if the car is floating through the art."

The show was set up in collaboration with the creators of "Van Gogh, Starry Night," a hugely popular exhibit presented last year at l'Atelier des Lumieres in Paris.

Cruising in a Plymouth

The Toronto show features a similar, digital concept: works by the Dutch painter are projected in high definition on walls and floors.

The warehouse has space for up to about 10 cars at a time, parking in designated spots.

Car engines stay off during the projection of the artworks, which is accompanied by music. The paintings are positioned so people can see them through their windshields.

Some people take photos with their kids in their lap as they spend 35 minutes in the bold, intense world of Van Gogh.

Jessica Counti, 17, came with her family for the first drive-in edition on Friday to celebrate her sister's birthday.

"It's just a really immersive experience that you can't really get in a regular art gallery. So I really appreciate that, even though we can't walk around art pieces," she said.

Another visitor, Patrick Corcoran, took in the show from the steering wheel of his vintage 1950 Plymouth.

"The whole thing of sitting in your car and being out and enjoying the art -- it was comfortable, it was safe. With all the stuff that's going on in the world with the COVID, it was an experience. It was great."

Ross said the idea is turning out to be a hit but will just be temporary.

"If you're a car enthusiast, it's a very special moment," he said.

"But I think overall as soon as there's an opportunity for the public to go back to experiencing art in the way that we love to, in groups, beside other people, where you can talk and see strangers and see how they react and be part of a community, I think we will go back to that," Ross said.

The art hall for cars is booked almost solid through its end on August 9.

The show will remain open to pedestrians through September.



People sit in their cars to experience a drive-in immersive Vincent Van Gogh art exhibit in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on July 3, 2020; amid the coronavirus pandemic, many events are rethinking their programming and innovating for safety's sake

Australian scientists discover ancient underwater sites

Reuters | Sydney

Australia's first underwater archaeological sites off its west coast dating to more than 7,000 years ago will help with the understanding of the cultural and technology development of its first peoples, scientists said yesterday.

Archaeologists in Western Australia discovered hundreds of stone tools made by aboriginal people when the seabed was dry, at two ancient sites now submerged in the Dampier Archipelago.

While the region is well known for its rich ancient history and its rock-art carvings, the two sites are the first confirmed underwater locations holding evidence of human civilization on Australia's continental shelf.

"The future work that we will be doing is ... to look at the skill, the technology, how they made these tools, to see if they represent a different cultural approach to tool making that we



Archaeologists in Western Australia discovered hundreds of stone tools made by aboriginal people

haven't yet identified in Australia," marine geoscientist Mick O'Leary, a co-director of the project, told Reuters.

Divers from Flinders University plunge into the water on the Pilbara Coast to retrieve the aboriginal objects from what was once dry land, at a depth of between 2.4 metres and 11 metres (8-36 feet).

They have found cutting and

grinding tools and hammer stones that date back thousands of years, said archaeologist Jonathan Benjamin, leader of the project.

"You can start to recreate what the people were doing and how they were making their life way in their economy," Benjamin said.

Data from the find is being analysed for precise dating, how-

ever radiocarbon dating and analysis of sea-level changes show the site is at least 7,000 years old.

Benjamin said the vast majority of artefacts remain on the seabed. The ones taken have been scanned for further research and then handed to the indigenous land owners, the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation.

Italian glacier turns pink due to global warming-linked algae



In a first for Italy, pink snow is observed on parts of the Presena glacier, in the north of the country. The phenomenon is caused by algae that develops when snow melts, simultaneously colouring the ice a darker colour. In a vicious circle, the algae in turn increases the rate at which the snow melts by accelerating the absorption of radiation. Biagio Di Mauro, a researcher from the National Research Council is investigating the phenomenon.

Drunk people can't socially distance, British police



A car tries to drive along a street filled with people drinking in the Soho area of London

● **Pubs and restaurants were allowed to start seating clients and barbers could get their clippers out for the first time since March.**

● **Johnson said Friday that it would not have made much of a difference either way**

AFP | London

Britain's police said Sunday that revellers who packed London's Soho district the night pubs finally reopened made it "crystal clear" that drunk people cannot socially distance.

England's hospitality sector sprung back to life after a three-month coronavirus hiatus on what the media dubbed as either "Super Saturday" or "Independence Day".

Pubs and restaurants were allowed to start seating clients and barbers could get their clippers out for the first time since March.

But Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced queries about why he decided to schedule the grand reopening for a Saturday instead of a potentially less chaotic Monday.

Johnson said Friday that it would not have made much of a difference either way.

But the head of Britain's police federation said he ended up dealing with "naked men, happy drunks, angry drunks, fights and more angry drunks" while on shift.

"What was crystal clear is that drunk people can't/won't socially distance," John Apter told London radio.

He said his own police department in the southern city of Southampton "managed to cope".

"I know other areas have had issues with officers being assaulted," Apter said.

A scan of police reports from Saturday night showed a similar level of mischief-making across England.

Officers in the southwestern Devon and Cornwall region had logged up nearly 1,000 reports

of "drink-related disorder and anti-social behaviour" by late Saturday.

There were also reports of illegal raves in London and the northeast that resulted in mass arrests as well as disorder in the north Midlands.

Pubs in Wales and Scotland will partially reopen by mid-July while those in Ireland have had table service since Friday.

Government on defensive

Britain's lockdown lasted longer and ended later than in most European countries because of a soaring death toll that is now the world's third highest.

The official fatality figure is around 44,000 and one in which COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate is higher than 50,000.

Either measure makes Britain's toll Europe's worst.

A safe reopening that averts the need for second lockdowns over large areas is seen as vital to Johnson's long-term success.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock defended the government's decision-making and played down any immediate

safety concerns.

"From what I've seen, although there's some pictures to the contrary, very, very largely people have acted responsibly," Hancock told Sky News.

"So overall I'm pleased with what happened yesterday. It was really good to see people out and about and largely, very largely social distancing."

Johnson's government re-shuttered stores in the central city of Leicester last week because of a local infections spike.

The outbreak has been traced to local food and garment producers that reportedly failed to observe social distancing measures and violated other rules.

The National Crime Agency launched an investigation after The Sunday Times reported one of the factories operated a sweatshop that paid illegally low wages.

The agency said officers had "attended a number of business premises in Leicester area to assess concerns of modern slavery and human trafficking".

No charges have been brought to date.



Revellers danced in the street the night pubs finally reopened



The government played down any immediate safety concerns



Climate change 'fuelling deadly India lightning strikes'

Around 215 people - farmers, rural labourers and cattle graziers - have now died from strikes in the country's poorest state Patna | India

Lightning strikes killed 147 people in the north Indian state of Bihar over the last 10 days, officials said yesterday, warning of more extreme weather conditions to come, driven by climate change.

Around 215 people -- farmers, rural labourers and cattle graziers -- have now died from strikes in the country's poorest state since late March, authorities said.

"I was informed by weather experts, scientists and officials that rising temperatures due to climate change is the main cause behind the increasing lightning strikes," Bihar's Disaster Management Minister Lakshmeshwar Rai said.

Twenty-five people died on Saturday, he said.

The Indian Meteorological Department has warned of more lightning in the next 48 hours.

Lightning strikes during the annual monsoon that runs from June to September are fairly common in India.

But officials said this year's toll in Bihar has already surpassed the total number of deaths recorded annually for the state over the past few years, even though the monsoon season has just started.

Last year, 170 people were

killed in lightning strikes during the monsoon period.

Bihar agrometeorologist Abdus Sattar said the lightning and thunder was caused by large-scale instability in the atmosphere, fuelled by temperature rises and excessive moisture.

State authorities rolled out a mobile phone app they said helps predict possible lightning strikes. But many poor farmers do not own smartphones.

In neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, just over 200 people have been struck and killed by lightning since April, according to officials.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

More than 2,300 people were killed by lightning in India in 2018 according to the National Crime Records Bureau, the most recent figures available.

The monsoon is crucial to replenishing water supplies in South Asia, but also causes widespread death and destruction across the region each year.

India to reopen Taj Mahal

Reuters | New Delhi

Visitors to the Taj Mahal will have to wear masks at all times, keep their distance and not touch its glistening marble surfaces when India's 17th-century monument to love reopens today after a three-month COVID-19 shutdown.

Only 5,000 tourists will be allowed in a day, split into two groups, a far cry from peak levels of 80,000 a day who would

The health ministry yesterday reported a record single-day spike of 24,850 new cases and more than 600 deaths, pushing the overall case tally to 673,165, closing in on Russia, the third-most affected country globally.

swarm the mausoleum built in the northern city of Agra by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan

for his wife, in a 22-year effort.

"All centrally protected monuments & sites shall be bound by the protocols like sanitization, social distancing & other health protocols," the federal tourism ministry said in a tweet.

Authorities are reopening the Taj and other monuments, such as New Delhi's historic Red Fort, just as India's coronavirus infections are rising at the fastest pace in three months.

CELEBS

celebs

Janelle Monae slams misogyny in the music industry

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actress-musician Janelle Monae has called out the prevalent misogyny in the music industry, saying she wants to “hear women rapping”.

The singer took to Twitter to rant against misogyny.

“I really only ever wanna hear women rapping. The amount of misogyny from most of men in rap and music is infuriating. We need to abolish that shit too,” Monae wrote.

“Women (black women in particular) have been betrayed by the majority of men for far too long. The systems that enable Patriarchy and abusers of power are burning. Either bring gasoline or burn with them. Y’all can’t wait to call women every bitch, hoe, discuss violent acts against women, etc for clout in rap, rock, and through out music history. Misogyny has NEVER been okay yet it has become normalized. Women didn’t create misogyny, y’all did. SO YOU DO THE WORK TO ABOLISH IT,” she added.

The artist continued: “Misogyny in entertainment, boardrooms, the WH, households, corporate spaces, army, church, let’s us all know ya’ll do not care about women on a human to human level and you never have. If you did it would have been ABOLISHED centuries ago. You had time. The way many RELIGIONS are used to oppress women and perpetuate misogynistic ideals to REMAIN IN POWER must be discussed WAY MORE and ABOLISHED.

“Yes white people need to do the work to dismantle systemic racism, white supremacy, etc. And yes men (& those who benefit from the systems) need 2 do the work 2 dismantle patriarchy, sexism & misogyny. You must call in those w/ toxic behaviors even if it’s YOU. EVERY DAY. You can love someone and STILL hold them accountable. Love is not exempt of accountability. They can go hand and hand,” she added.

The actress feels the world is in the moment of “reckoning”.

“Some folks won’t retweet anything about sexism and misogyny and abuse against women for fear they may be called out. Reformation is possible tho. If you do the work now you don’t have to live in fear. Free yourself. But most importantly FREE WOMEN. A lot of my musical heroes and peers’ Work are problematic in many ways. And I just might be a problematic hero to someone,” she wrote.

Monae broke into the music scene with her debut album “The ArchAndroid” in 2010. She rose to fame with her image of a person of colour adding afro-futuristic touch to her musical world of R&B and Pop. With multiple nominations for Grammy awards, she made her way to the acting world. She worked in films like “Moonlight” and “Hidden Figures”, as well as in the second season of the web series, “Homecoming”.

The 34-year-old star wrote: “The only gas lighting I accept is the gas we lighting to burn down the misogyny.”



Janelle Monae

Jennifer Grey, Clarke Gregg split after 19 years of marriage

ANI | Washington

Hollywood stars Jennifer Grey and Clarke Gregg have decided to end their marriage.

According to Fox News, the couple announced the news on Friday in a joint statement on their social media accounts.

Their statement read, “After 19 years together, we sepa-

rated in January, knowing we’d always be a family who loves, values and cares for each other.”

“We recently made the difficult decision to divorce, but we remain close and are deeply grateful for the life we’ve shared and the wonderful daughter we’ve raised. P.S. totally crying as we post this,” it continued.

The 60-year-old star Grey, and the 58-year-old star Gregg married in July 2001 on a beach in Martha’s Vineyard. Their daugh-

ter, Stella, was born in December 2001.

Last month, Grey wished Gregg a happy Father’s Day in an emotional post. “Happy Father’s Day @ clarkgregg. I love you and am beyond grateful you showed up just in the nick o’ time

to make my dream come true,” she wrote.

“For continuing to show up as a devoted, loving dad and partner to raise this amazing human with, couldn’t have done it without you,” Gray added.

Gregg is best known for his MCU role as Agent Phil Coulson, and Grey previously won season 11 of ‘Dancing with the Stars.’



Janelle Monae

Shia LaBeouf gets entire chest tattooed for ‘The Tax Collector’

ANI | Washington

American actor Shia LaBeouf has tattooed his entire chest for his new movie, ‘The Tax Collector.’ According to Page Six, the 34-year-old star has been steadily covering his torso with increasingly elaborate tattoos for some time now, and it has been revealed that he did so for a role.

The ‘Transformers’ star has played the lead in David Ayer’s forthcoming flick ‘The Tax Collector,’ and Ayer claimed that LaBeouf’s most recent tattoo was acquired during the movie’s production.

Speaking to Slashfilm, Ayer was quick to hype the actor’s commitment to his roles.

“He’s the most committed to body and soul. He had a tooth pulled on [Ayer’s 2014 WWII drama] ‘Fury,’ and then on ‘Tax Collector,’ he got his whole chest tattooed,” the director said.

The actor’s tattoo with the text ‘creeper’ and an image of Madonna embracing clown portrait was unveiled much before Ayer spoke about it.



Shia LaBeouf

Kelly Rowland says she ‘almost lost everything,’ went ‘rich broke’

ANI | Washington

Careless overspending spurred by a fondness for a lavish lifestyle caused American singer-songwriter, Kelly Rowland, to turn nearly broke despite being in one of the most successful groups of all time.

According to Page Six, the 39-year-old songstress said she “almost lost everything” because she was spending so much trying to “keep up” with a lavish wardrobe, car and home.

The ‘Destiny’s Child star’ said in a YouTube interview with her pastor, Erwin McManus: “I was ‘rich broke,’ and I will never forget having this moment... I called my best friend and I said, ‘I just don’t know what to do.’”

Her friend advised her to donate to the church, despite her financial woes. Though her business manager told her she couldn’t afford the donation, she gave the gift anyway - and said she believes it turned her situation around.



Kelly Rowland

Top Egyptian actor Ragaa al-Geddawy dies from COVID-19

AFP | Cairo

Famed Egyptian actor Ragaa al-Geddawy died on Sunday after contracting the COVID-19 disease, the actors union said. She was 81.

“Ragaa al-Geddawy passed away this morning due to COVID-19,” union head Ashraf Zaki told AFP.

“No public funeral was arranged for health reasons.”

Geddawy tested positive for the illness caused by the novel corona-

virus in late May and was treated in isolation at a hospital in Ismailia province, some 130 kilometres (80 miles) east of Cairo, local media reported.

She had recently finished filming for her latest TV series “Laabet El Nesyan” (Oblivion Game), which aired during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

A veteran actor, Geddawy boasted a lengthy and varied career during which she gained fame across the Arab world.



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SUDOKU

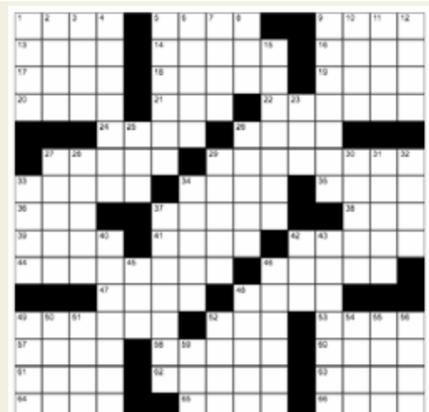
1	5		3			6
	6	4	7			
		8	5			2
		2	3			6
2		7	4			5
	4		5	6		
	8		2	7		
		9	5	4		
5		3		9	1	

Yesterday's solution

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

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- Portnoy's creator; 5- Cries of discovery; 9- Belafonte below; 13- Limerick language; 14- Boat often made of birchbark, canvas, or fiberglass; 16- Doozy; 17- Scrutinize; 18- Parades; 19- Coup d'...; 20- Waterproof canvas; 21- Salonga of "Miss Saigon"; 22- Gambling house; 24- Psyche's love; 26- Tiered shelves; 27- Not abridged; 29- Unsymmetrical; 33- Plumber's tool; 34- Household; 35- Baseball team; 36- Lord, is...; 37- Mr. Magoo, for one; 38- Crowd; 39- Seedy joint; 41- Alto alternative; 42- Establish; 44- First principles; 46- Covered with water; 47- Attention-getting sound; 48- That's... haven't heard; 49- Take; 52- Purse; 53- Like the White Rabbit; 57- Be a mother to; 58- Delight; 60- Small songbird; 61- Therefore; 62- Less common; 63- Prefix with -drome; 64- Psychic; 65- Metal containers; 66- Edible roots;

Down

1- Breather; 2- Killer whale; 3- Boris Godunov, for one; 4- Domineer a husband; 5- Leopardlike cat; 6- Where the Styx flows; 7- Fit for service; 8- Mama's boy; 9- Soft leather; 10- Opposed; 11- Bring forth young; 12-... take arms against...; 15- One on the run; 23- Cooling units, for short; 25- Feel bad about; 26- Easy wins; 27- Pending; 28- Ingenious; 29- Weaving machines; 30- Small change; 31- Methuselah's father; 32- It's owed; 33- Team; 34- Hilton competitor; 37- Cathedral; 40- High ruler; 42- Lamb's mom; 43- Railroad; 45- Mentalist's claim; 46- Enrages; 48- Like Cheerios; 49- Mars, to the Greeks; 50- Part of a bird's beak; 51- Prison; 52- Vamp Theda; 54- Kind of code; 55- Division of a school year; 56- Grandson of Adam; 59- Varnish ingredient;

Yesterday's solution

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

'Sci-fi' England-Windies opener a new frontier for Test cricket

AFP | London

It will be Test cricket but not as we've known it when England face the West Indies in the opening match of a "bio-secure" series at Southampton starting on Wednesday.

With the coronavirus pandemic having brought the world game to a halt in March, there were fears this three-Test campaign might also fall victim to COVID-19.

But, with the West Indies agreeing to go ahead despite Britain's virus death toll of over 44,000 being the highest in Europe, the series is set to mark cricket's return from lockdown instead.

However, a number of anti-virus measures mean next week's match will look like few others in 143 years of Test-match history.

For a start, both sides will be staying at on-site hotels at Southampton's Ageas Bowl and Old Trafford in Manchester -- the venue for the second and third Tests -- in a series origi-

nally scheduled for elsewhere in England in June.

England have already settled in at the Ageas Bowl, where they played a three-day intra-squad match this week as the West Indies continued their preparations at Old Trafford.

'Back at school'

Mark Wood, the England fast bowler, said the environment, "feels a bit like a sci-fi movie", with players subjected to repeated health checks.

"There is hand sanitiser at every turn, and on the floor there are arrows, lines and footprints to show the way to go," Wood told the BBC.

He added meal times were "like being back at school", with players at individual desks "looking at the back of the person in front".

But perhaps the most visible change will be the lack of any spectators.

For while sparse crowds are not unknown in Test cricket -- particularly when Pakistan play 'home' games in the United Arab



England cricket players during a training session (file photo)

Emirates -- this series will be a completely behind closed doors affair.

That does help officials to honour lucrative broadcast contracts and so eliminate a 'nightmare scenario' of no cricket at all this season that, according to its own estimates, could cost the England and Wales Cricket Board £252 million (\$309 million).

Meanwhile, Cricket West Indies president Ricky Skerritt insisted a \$3 million loan from the ECB was a "helping hand" at a time of economic crisis rather than a condition of touring England.

Quite how the lack of atmosphere, as well as being cooped up on the ground at night, will affect the players is uncertain, with West Indies captain Jason Holder admitting he would miss England's loudest fans.

"I enjoy playing in front of the Barmy Army, to not hear them sing, to not hear them chant will take some getting used to," he said.

England batsman Ollie Pope, however, was adamant the teams would have no trouble in main-

Even if there's not a single person in the crowd it's still what we all dreamt of doing. When that Test match starts up, crowd or no crowd, you are going to be really up for it

OLLIE POPE

taining the standards associated with cricket's pinnacle format.

"Even if there's not a single person in the crowd it's still what we all dreamt of doing," he said.

"When that Test match starts up, crowd or no crowd, you are going to be really up for it."

Players will be barred from using saliva to shine the ball,

although overhead conditions could still mean there's swing for the faster bowlers.

The series will also take place against the backdrop of recent worldwide Black Lives Matter protests, with both teams set to have a BLM logo on their shirts.

But amid all the changes, which includes provision for virus substitutes if required, there will be a return to cricket's past.

Travel restrictions mean there are set to be two on-field home umpires in a Test for the first time since 2002 when the International Cricket Council made neutral match officials mandatory in the five-day game.

Yet concerns about the alterations are outweighed by a sense of relief that the series is still going ahead.

England captain Joe Root -- before it was confirmed he would miss the first Test to attend the birth of his second child -- summed up the mood by saying: "I think the whole cricketing world will be grateful to see some cricket again."



England fast bowler Mark Wood during a match (file photo)

Mane gets Liverpool back on track against wasteful Aston Villa

AFP | London

Sadio Mane and Curtis Jones struck in the final 20 minutes to ensure Liverpool marked their first match at Anfield since being crowned Premier League champions with a 2-0 win over struggling Aston Villa.

After a 4-0 humbling at the hands of Manchester City in midweek, Jurgen Klopp's men again failed to hit the heights that made them runaway leaders before a three-month hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic.

But Mane's sweet strike off the underside of the bar and Jones's deflected effort kept up a run of 24 consecutive league wins at Anfield for the Reds and left Villa still languishing in the bottom three.

Klopp has insisted he will not dish out appearances "like



Sadio Mane of Liverpool crosses the ball under pressure from Ezri Konsa of Aston Villa

Christmas presents" in the final month of the campaign as Liverpool eye a record points tally in

English top-flight history. The German made just three alterations from an embarrass-

ing night at the Etihad on Thursday as Roberto Firmino, Jordan Henderson and Georginio

Wijnaldum dropped out, but all three were needed in the second half after a disappointing first hour.

In front of an empty Anfield, Liverpool struggled to summon their best with the big prize already won and just re-writing the record books to play for.

Villa, by contrast, are still desperate for points in their battle to beat the drop and Dean Smith's men were left to rue not taking their chances on the counter-attack early in the second half as their winless streak stretched to 10 games.

Pepe Reina was recalled in the Villa goal on his return to Anfield where he spent nine years as a Liverpool player.

However, the Spaniard barely had a save of note to make before half-time as Liverpool struggled to break Villa down.

Indeed, it was Alisson Becker who was the busier goalkeeper as the Brazilian was forced to parry shots from Douglas Luiz, Jack Grealish and Anwar El Ghazi.

Klopp was forced into introducing Henderson, Wijnaldum and Firmino to try and summon a response from his side in the final half hour.

The triple substitution quickly made a difference when Naby Keita picked out Mane to sweep home his 20th goal of the season.

Reina was finally forced into a fine save as he dived to his left to deny Firmino his first goal at Anfield this season.

Another substitute made the game safe a minute from time as 19-year-old Jones saw his effort deflect past the helpless Reina before Alisson produced another stunning save at the other end to deny Grealish a consolation.

Bottas wins Austrian opener

Valtteri Bottas wins F1 Austrian Grand Prix after Hamilton suffers penalty

● Charles Leclerc is second and Lando Norris is third

● Lewis Hamilton suffers a dramatic late-racing demotion

AFP | Spielberg

Valtteri Bottas stayed calm in a stormy race yesterday to claim a measured victory for Mercedes as Formula One returned with a bang in a belated, dramatic and incident-strewn 2020 season-opening Austrian Grand Prix.

Seven months after the final race of 2019, the Finn, who had started from the 12th pole position of his career, led from start to finish to come home ahead on the road of team-mate six-time champion Lewis Hamilton.

The Briton, however, had been given a five-second penalty during the race and was demoted to fourth behind Charles Leclerc, who brought his Ferrari home second and Briton Lando Norris who claimed his maiden podium for McLaren.

Hamilton, hit with a late pre-race grid penalty that dropped him from second to fifth, had clashed with Red Bull's Alex Albon in the final laps, forcing him into a spin off track.

"There was definitely quite a bit of pressure on me there," said Bottas, speaking through a face mask afterwards.

"One Safety Car was ok, but I was like 'another one? And come on?' Lewis was quick, but I was able to control it."



Valtteri Bottas celebrates winning the Austrian Formula One Grand Prix

Leclerc admitted the result was a surprise after Ferrari's dismal form in practice and qualifying.

"I did not expect this - it's a huge surprise, but a good one. We did everything perfectly to finish second."

Norris said: "I'm speechless - there were a few points where I thought I had fudged it. I am so proud of the team for coming back from where we were a couple of years ago."

In a race of three Safety Car interventions, run behind closed doors at the Red Bull Ring, Ferrari-bound Carlos Sainz finished fifth in the second McLaren ahead of Sergio Perez of Racing Point.

Pierre Gasly was sixth for Alpha Tauri and Esteban Ocon eighth on his return to racing

with Renault ahead of Antonio Giovinazzi of Alfa Romeo and Sebastian Vettel, the four-time champion in his final season at Ferrari, finishing 10th.

Before the race even started, there was drama when six of the 20 drivers opted against taking a knee to protest against racism.

Hamilton wore a Black Lives Matter t-shirt, while other drivers, who all lined up with him at the front of the grid, sported black tops saying "End Racism".

Six drivers opt not to take knee

Leclerc and Red Bull's Max Verstappen had confirmed a split among F1 drivers when they said they would not take a knee on the grid, but that they remained committed to fighting racism.

Carlos Sainz of McLaren,

Daniil Kvyat of Alpha Tauri, Antonio Giovinazzi and Alfa Romeo team-mate Kimi Raikkonen also chose to stay on their feet.

On a very warm day in the Styrian Alps and following a late Red Bull protest that pushed Hamilton to fifth from second on the grid, Bottas was coolness personified.

At lights out, he pulled clear to open a gap ahead of the battling duo of Verstappen and Norris behind him.

Hamilton, fired by his penalty for ignoring yellow flags in Q3 on Saturday, was soon in a rhythm and by lap ten was up to third, 10 seconds behind Bottas and seven off Verstappen.

Within a lap, he was second when Verstappen slowed, his engine spluttering, gifting the champion a pass to pursue the



Lewis Hamilton led a majority of the 20 drivers in taking a knee in a gesture of anti-racism solidarity on the grid

leader as the 'black arrows' took control.

A full 217 days after the last race, many teams struggled for reliability and it was clearly a battle of attrition led, almost inevitably, after their practice domination, by Mercedes until lap 25 when Kevin Magnussen went off at Turn Three in his Haas following brake problems.

This brought out a Safety Car. On resumption, the luckless Vettel tangled with his future replacement at Ferrari, Sainz, at Turn Three.

The four-time champion spun after hitting the McLaren and fell to 15th while Sainz retained seventh.

At the front, Bottas led, but Hamilton closed up.

On lap 52, Mercedes' meander was rudely interrupted when Haas' Romain Grosjean went off and George Russell stopped in his Williams and a second Safety Car was deployed.

With 17 laps to go, Mercedes stayed out as their rivals pitted, Albon taking softs for a late charge, but another crash when Raikkonen's Alfa Romeo lost its front right wheel at the final corner, brought a third Safety Car.

Ramos strike helps Real go seven points clear



Sergio Ramos of Real Madrid scores a penalty

AFP | Madrid

Sergio Ramos scored his 22nd consecutive penalty as Real Madrid held on for another 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao to inch closer to winning La Liga.

Ramos' fifth goal in seven games since the restart gives Madrid a seven-point lead over Barcelona.

Anything but a victory for Barca would probably leave them too much to do with four games remaining, especially as Madrid own the superior record head-to-head.

This was Madrid's toughest fixture left and they might have been content even with a point against a robust, well-organised Bilbao side.

But after edging out Getafe on Thursday, through a Ramos spot-kick, Madrid repeated the trick at San Mames, their captain's nerve from the spot combining with a gutsy display to grind out a pivotal win.

Ramos was perhaps fortunate not to concede a penalty himself when, off the ball, he seemed to slip and tread on the foot of Raul Garcia, but Madrid escaped.

Flyweight star Marcel Adur signs extension deal with BRAVE CF

TDT | Manama

One of the best strikers in the lighter weight classes in MMA, Marcel Adur has reaffirmed his commitment to BRAVE Combat Federation by signing an extension deal with the fastest-growing MMA organization on the globe. The Brazilian star is a veteran of BRAVE CF, first fighting with the promotion back at BRAVE CF 3, in March of 2017.

Since then, he's amassed a relevant 4-1 record with BRAVE CF, including three straight TKO wins in his first three fights - beating Ivan Lopez, Rodrigo Melonio, and Fernando Laurenço. The victories landed him a title shot against undefeated Velimurad Alkhasov - the winner would become the first-ever BRAVE CF Flyweight champion.

However, Alkhasov didn't make weight prior to the bout and ended up beating Marcel by decision, which meant the title stayed vacant. As he looked for a new chance to hold BRAVE CF gold, Adur beat Marlon Derik at BRAVE CF 25. He would be then matched-up against Jose



Marcel Adur celebrates after a win

"I can't wait to go back to action, go back to fighting. My goal remains that belt. It will be on my waist very, very soon!"

MARCEL ADUR

Torres at BRAVE CF 29, but Torres pulled out due to emotional stress following his father's

passing.

Even though Adur hasn't competed since his victory over Derik, the Brazilian striker is raring to go and expects to be back in action for BRAVE CF sooner rather than later, with the Flyweight belt as his biggest goal.

"Hey, guys I'm very excited to be signing a new deal for BRAVE CF. I can't wait to go back to action, go back to fighting. My goal remains that belt. It will be on my waist very, very soon!", said Adur.

Bahrain owned horse back in groove at Sandown

TDT | Manama

Bahrain owned A'Ali bounced back to his brilliant best to make a return to winning ways and open his account for the campaign in the Coral Charge at Sandown.

The horse is owned by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Horses Care Affairs Authority, Shaikh Duaij bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Having failed to see out six furlongs on his seasonal return at Newcastle, last year's Norfolk Stakes hero appeared to appreciate the drop back to the minimum trip for this Group Three affair.

Despite being slowly away from stall one, the Simon and Ed Crisford-trained colt showed a good turn of foot once put in clear daylight by Frankie Dettori, before getting the better of favourite Liberty Beach by a length.

Ed Crisford said of the 12-1 winner: "It was nice to see the horse come back. Six furlongs at Newcastle on the all-weather didn't work out. He came out of the race really well. He was training well and back at five he did it really well."

"He is a triple Group Two winner, but he went to Amer-



A'Ali ridden by jockey Frankie Dettori in action during the race

ica (for the Breeders' Cup) and had one bad run and he became forgotten quickly.

"He is a good horse and he deserves to be where he is. He is not the biggest, but he has got an engine."

On the occasion, Shaikh Duaij bin Salman expressed thanks and appreciation to HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport,

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for his unlimited support for the equestrian sport in the kingdom.

Shaikh Duaij asserted that the victory confirms the outstanding status enjoyed by Bahrain's equestrian sport in its external participations.

Shaikh Duaij praised the distinguished performance of his horse, during such an international race, paying tribute to jockey, Frankie Dettori, and trainer, Simon Crisford.