



**COVID-19 takes three more lives; active cases rise slightly**

TDI | Manama

The coronavirus (COVID-19) took the life of three men in Bahrain yesterday, the Ministry of Health announced.

The deceased included two Bahrainis, aged 64 and 50, and a 57-year-old expatriate.

Their passing brought the total number of virus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 154.

The Health Ministry expressed its condolences to the victims' families.

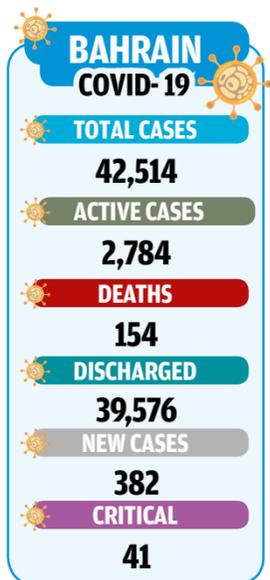
Meanwhile, the ministry announced early this morning that out of 9,285 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 382 new cases were detected. These included 149 expatriate workers, 224 contacts of active cases, and nine travel-related cases.

The new active cases brought the overall number of confirmed registered cases in Bahrain to 42,514, dating back to when the first case was reported in February of this year.

There were also 241 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 39,576.

Despite those recoveries, the total number of current active cases rose slightly to 2,784, with 41 in critical condition and 125 receiving treatment. The remaining 2,743 cases are stable.

The total tests conducted in Bahrain increased to 867,534.



210 fils (includes VAT)



# Royal aid for Lebanon

HM the King directs to dispatch urgent humanitarian relief aid to help alleviate suffering in blast-hit Beirut

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa directed yesterday to dispatch urgent humanitarian relief aid to Lebanon to help alleviate their suffering in the aftermath of the massive blasts which rocked the capital Beirut.

HM the King assigned the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) to undertake the operation, under the supervision of HM the King's Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs representative His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Nasser paid tribute to HM the King, who is the RHF honorary chairman, hailing his continuous humanitarian initiatives in support of disaster-hit people.

He hailed the royal drive which, he said, reflects the unwavering stance of Bahrain's leadership, government and people towards brotherly and friendly



HM the King

countries and peoples in times of adversity.

HH Shaikh Nasser lauded HM the King's keenness to extend a helping hand to all people, describing the royal drive as stemming from the fraternal and humane ties binding all nations worldwide and the brotherly relations linking the Kingdom and Lebanon.

He said that the foundation is honoured to implement HM the King's directives to extend support to Lebanon on all levels, reiterating Bahrain's solidarity with the Lebanese people, who are facing painful humanitarian conditions in the aftermath of the massive explosions that rocked Beirut.

HH Shaikh Nasser announced that the foundation is preparing a consignment to be dispatched urgently, reiterating heartfelt condolences to Lebanon's leadership, government and people as well as the bereaved victims' families.

RHF secretary-general Dr Mustafa Al Sayed announced that, based on HM the King's initiative and HH Shaikh Nasser's directives, a medical consignment would be dispatched to Lebanon, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and other relevant authorities.

Dr Al Sayed said that other initiatives and efforts would be undertaken to support the people of Lebanon in the aftermath of the painful incident, lauding



Based on HM the King's initiative and HH Shaikh Nasser's directives, a medical consignment will be dispatched, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and other authorities, while further initiatives and efforts will also be undertaken to support the Lebanese people.

ROYAL HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION SECRETARY-GENERAL DR MUSTAFA AL SAYED

strong fraternal and historic relations binding Bahrain and Lebanon.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain has always been among the first states that extends aid and support to brotherly and friendly countries, under all humanitarian circumstances facing them," Dr Al Sayed said.

## Beirut 'a disaster-stricken city'

Lebanese prime minister declares three days of mourning from today

Damage estimated to be worth up to \$15 billion

Government to investigate, hold the responsible and negligent accountable

Death toll reaches 135 and rising, over 5,000 injured, 250,000 homeless

Reuters | Beirut

Lebanese rescue teams pulled out bodies and hunted for missing in the wreckage of buildings yesterday as investigations blamed negligence for a massive warehouse explosion that sent a devastating blast wave across Beirut, killing at least 135.

More than 5,000 people were injured in Tuesday's explosion at Beirut port, Health Minister Hamad Hassan said, and up to 250,000 were left without homes fit to live in after shockwaves smashed building facades, sucked furniture out into streets, and shattered windows kilometres inland.

Hassan said tens of people remained missing, while prime minister Hassan Diab declared three days of mourning from today.

The cabinet announced a two-week state of emergency



A man carries an injured woman after the blast in Beirut.

The explosion was the most powerful ever to rip through the Lebanese capital, a city already reeling from an economic meltdown and a surge in coronavirus (COVID-19) infections.

The death toll was expected to rise from the blast, which officials blamed on a huge stockpile of highly explosive material.

President Michel Aoun said 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, used in fertilisers and bombs, had been kept for six years at the port without safety measures, after it was seized.

In an address to the nation during an emergency cabinet session, Aoun said: "No words can describe the horror that has hit Beirut last night, turning it into a disaster-stricken city."

He added that the government was "determined to investigate and expose what happened as soon as possible, to hold the responsible and the negligent accountable".

Beirut Governor Marwan Aboud told local media that the blast had caused damage worth up to \$15 billion, and possibly more.

## UN-backed tribunal postpones Hariri case verdict

A UN-backed tribunal has postponed the delivery of judgments in the trial of four members of the militant group Hezbollah, charged with involvement in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri.

The move was a mark of respect to victims of the devastating explosion that rocked Beirut, AP reported.

The verdicts were to have been read out in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon's courtroom in the Netherlands tomorrow, but will now be delivered on August 18.

Offers of international support poured in. Gulf Arab states sent planes with medical equipment and other supplies; while the US, Britain, France and other Western nations also offered help.

For related story, see page 6

## Bahrain steps up fight against Iran's terrorism financing

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Bahrain's fight against Iran's terrorism financing is not simply a battle of ideals waged in the shadows, but also an ongoing campaign for transparency and global stability, the Kingdom's Ambassador to the US Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa has stressed.

In a commentary he wrote for US News and World Report, Shaikh Abdullah highlighted how Bahrain is fighting terror through transparent banking laws.

"The US government rightly labels Iran as the world's leading state-sponsor of terrorism," he wrote. "Its clerical regime exercises direct or indirect control over most of the country's largest financial and commercial institutions to allegedly train, finance and equip a global network of proxy forces in the Middle East, South Asia, Africa and Latin America."

Iran has had historical claims over Bahraini sovereignty and the Kingdom continues to be a target of Iran's efforts to expand its sphere of influence and hegemony since the revolution, he added. "More ominously, the Iranian regime has consistently used all the tools of its national power to destabilise our nation, which, though territorially small,

serves as a critical linchpin in the security architecture of the Middle East," he said.

In partnership with US agencies, Bahrain recently took down a key node of Iran's global money laundering network.

Future Bank was established in 2004 by two Iranian state-owned banks—Bank Melli and Bank Saderat—and a local Bahraini bank, Ahli United Bank.

However, by 2008, the US Treasury Department designated Future Bank as being controlled by an entity linked to Iran's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) placed Future Bank under administration following its own investigation into its activities and required time in order to examine the bank's accounts.

Following a comprehensive audit, the CBB found that Future Bank had engaged in systematic and wholesale violations of Bahrain's banking laws and regulations. There was widespread large-value international financial activity found to be in violation of anti-money laundering and anti-sanctions proliferations laws of numerous countries, including those of Bahrain. The modalities of Iran's fraud offer useful insights into how the world's number one sponsor of international terror operates.

Continued on page 3



HM the King

## HM the King sends congratulatory cables

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to Jamaican governor general Patrick Allen

on his country's Independence Day.

HM the King sent a similar congratulatory cable to Bolivia president Jeanine Añez on her country's Independence Day.

## HH the Deputy Premier receives NAO auditor general



The Deputy Prime Minister, right, with the auditor general

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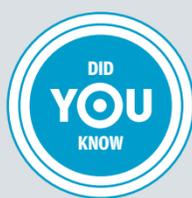
Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa received National Audit Office (NAO) auditor general Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Mohammed commended the efforts of NAO and its personnel in monitoring financial and administrative procedures in ministries and government agencies.

Shaikh Ahmed expressed his

appreciation to HH Shaikh Mohammed and stressed the keenness of NAO in assuming its duties and responsibilities, to verify the

proper management of public funds and the integrity and appropriateness of administrative procedures.



The National Audit Office is a public legal body that is financially and administratively independent, allowing it to carry out its assigned audit tasks with neutrality, transparency and independence

# Proposal to honour volunteers unveiled

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A proposal to regulate voluntary work and honour volunteers in recognition of their dedication in serving the nation was unveiled yesterday.

Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal and MPs Mohammed Al Abbassi, Ibrahim Al Nafea, Abdulla Al Dossary and Ahmed Al Ansari have initiated the move, which aims to shoulder the operational costs on behalf of volunteers and meet their needs.

The proposal praised the role of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation in organising voluntary work in Bahrain and abroad, hailing its success in assuming its duties.

It stressed the crucial importance of voluntary work in serving society, especially under the current circumstances resulting from the repercussions of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

It underlined the need to further cultivate the culture of voluntary work to co-opt all social segments, and stressed the necessity of engaging all



The proposal aims to shoulder the operational costs on behalf of volunteers and meet their needs, while steering teams will be set up to organise and harness voluntary work in cooperation with official health, economic, security, and other relevant authorities



Zainal

official establishments and civil society institutions to deal with potential emergencies.

Under the proposal, steering teams would be set up to organise and harness voluntary work, through channels of communication with the official health, economic, security, and other relevant authorities, depending on the challenge facing the nation.

## BDF chief receives finance minister



The commander-in-chief, right, with the finance minister

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Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) commander-in-chief Field Marshal

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

The meeting discussed issues related to areas of cooperation between the BDF and the ministry.

## Needs of Al Dair, Samaheej villages discussed

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MP Dr Hesham Al Asheeri, representative of the sixth district in Muharraq Governorate, received Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Eng Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf, to discuss service needs, infrastructure development, and public facilities in the villages of Al Dair and Samaheej.

During the meeting, the lawmaker and Muharraq Municipal Council member Fadel Al Oud reviewed the needs related to some sites in the two villages, where residents were looking to achieve a number of projects.



The Works Minister, centre, with the Dr Al Asheeri and Al Oud during their meeting

A detailed report was presented to the Works Minister that contained the most important facilities that the villages lack, in addition to the services that require

development, including paving certain streets, extending sewage lines, constructing car parks in residential neighborhoods, and establishing public parks for residents.

## NPRA Muharraq office to open Sunday for RP sticker service

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The Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) announced yesterday the reopening of its office at the Muharraq Security Complex on Sunday to

provide residency sticker service only.

The office will be open from 8am until 2pm.

Per the precautionary measures against coronavirus (COVID-19) and to ensure social distancing,

only clients with appointments booked through the Skiplino mobile application will be allowed to enter.

The NPRA urged all clients to wear masks when visiting the premises for the processing of applications.

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## Philippine Embassy closes after two staff test positive for COVID-19

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The Philippine Embassy announced yesterday that it will be closed until further notice after two staff members had tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19).

In an urgent advisory posted on social media signed by Philippine Ambassador Alfonso A Ver, the embassy stated that two "frontline personnel" had tested positive, while adding that another had come into close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19.

Because of this, the embassy will be closed today until further notice while the facility undergoes disinfection operations.

The statement further said that the embassy's personnel "will undergo 14-day self-quarantine, in compliance

with the health precautionary measures of the Kingdom of Bahrain against the spread of COVID-19".

The embassy said that those who have confirmed appointments for passport renewal and other consular services will be informed by telephone and/or e-mail of their new schedules.

For any urgent matters, the embassy advised Philippine nationals to call or send a WhatsApp message to the Embassy hotline on 39953235.

Meanwhile, the POLO-Bahrain and OWWA-Bahrain offices will also be closed today.

For any urgent concerns related to these offices, call POLO-Bahrain on 17740951/38072476 or e-mail polobahrain@yahoo.com; or call OWWA-Bahrain on 34673268/38270741 or e-mail bahrain@owwa.gov.bh.

## Worker injured as parked cars catch fire

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A worker was injured after two parked vehicles near a workshop in Salmabad caught fire, the Ministry of Interior reported.

The worker was welding when the incident took place, the ministry said.

The injured individual received medical treatment at the scene upon arrival of an ambulance. He was later brought to a hospital.

Negligence during welding was the reason for his injuries, the ministry said.

Civil Defence forces extinguished the fire in the vehicles.

## Bahrain takes part in IPU webinar on COVID-19, climate change

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Bahrain's efforts to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) were highlighted during a webinar held under the theme "Webinar for Parliamentarians: COVID-19 and Climate Change".

A parliamentary delegation hailed the high level of cooperation between the Kingdom's executive and legislative branches to curb the pandemic, lauding the royal directives to deliver social and economic packages in support of citizens and residents.

Council of Representatives speaker and Parliamentary Executive Committee chairperson Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal directed the delegation to take part in the virtual session, which was held by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The participants who took part in the webinar discussed the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including climate change and the environment.

Bahrain's Permanent Representatives to the IPU first deputy speaker Abdunabi Salman, Shura Council first and second deputy chairmen Jamal Fakhroo and Jameela Salman, and other MPs and Shura Council members also took part in the webinar.

The delegation urged international concerted efforts to overcome the challenges resulting from the pandemic outbreak, and put in place global plans to mitigate the fallout on vital sectors related to the world economy.

It stressed the importance of ensuring the flow of basic commodities and exchanging information and results of medical research, in addition to supporting countries in need of help to combat COVID-19.

The delegation reiterated Bahrain's keenness on strengthening cooperation with relevant international organisations, stressing the importance for all countries to continue implementing their SDGs.

## Four arrested for robbery, assault

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Four individuals have been arrested for forced robbery and physically assaulting an Asian, the Ministry of Interior has reported.

The Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science director-general announced the detention of the quartet, who were between the ages of 22 and 28,

for stealing BD610 from their victim and physically assaulting him.

The director general said that an investigation into the assault led to identifying and arresting the suspects within 24 hours of the case being reported.

Legal proceedings were taken and the case has been referred to the Public Prosecution.

# Fight pushes on against Iran's terrorism financing

Bahrain's Ambassador to the US highlights Kingdom's war against terror through transparent banking laws

Continued from Pg1

Bahrain's investigation discovered that Future Bank had hidden payments from established methods of regulatory scrutiny through a measure called "wire stripping". Wire stripping refers to the falsification or removal of material identifying information from SWIFT messages in order to conceal the involvement of specific Iranian parties and banks in the underlying payment. Concealing this information often causes banks in other countries to violate their own regulatory obligations.

In some cases, Future Bank induced other foreign banks to engage in the illicit practice. In total, Future Bank "wire stripped" at least 5,051 payments with a total value of more than \$5 billion.

Furthermore, from 2008 to 2012, Future Bank concealed certain money transfers through the illicit use of an Alternative Messaging System (AMS). Without exception, the Iranian financial institutions identified in Future Bank's AMS records had been sanctioned by the EU, the UN or the US. In total, more than 1,000 messages were transmitted through AMS in order to hide payments totalling an additional \$5 billion.

Between 2004 and 2015, Future Bank also actively worked with its customers to defeat sanctions. In one example, the bank conspired with the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines to "de-flag" and



**Bahrain is under no illusion that it continues to be a target for Iran and other operators seeking to exploit its openness for nefarious purposes; for this reason, we have taken notice and we will not sit by the wayside, but rather double down on measures that prevent abuse while at the same time facilitating investment.**

BAHRAIN AMBASSADOR TO THE US SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN RASHID AL KHALIFA

"re-flag" certain sanctioned vessels, activities specifically prohibited by the UN Security Council.

Future Bank also dealt with numerous entities and transactions affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—another sanctioned entity. The transactions financed by Future Bank included export-controlled and dual-use military items as well as channeling money through various opaque financial arrangements in the form of loans, negotiable instruments and foreign currency securities.

On June 19, 2020, Bahrain's High Criminal Court sentenced three officials of Future Bank to five years in prison and imposed fines of \$9 million for money laundering, funding terrorism and violating banking regulations. On July 16, it



**Bahrain is regarded as one of the oldest and most reputable financial capitals in the Middle East, being home to roughly 400 financial institutions including more than 114 licenced banks. Total banking assets reached \$201 billion in 2019, and financial services account for 16.5 per cent of gross domestic product**

imposed additional fines of \$37 million on Future Bank and three other banks.

Bahrain is justifiably regarded as one of the oldest and most reputable financial capitals in the Middle East. It is home to roughly 400 financial institutions, including more than 114 licenced banks. Total banking assets reached \$201 billion in 2019, and financial services account for 16.5 per cent of gross domestic product.

"Bahrain is under no illusion that it continues to be a target for Iran and other operators seeking to exploit its openness for nefarious purposes; for this reason, we have taken notice and we will not sit by the wayside, but rather double down on measures that prevent abuse while at the same time facilitating investment," wrote Shaikh Abdulla.

## Capital Governorate conducts sanitisation operation in Block 338

TDT | Manama

The Capital Governorate conducted a sanitisation operation along Block 338 in Adliya as part of national efforts to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease.

The operation was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Capital Governorate Police Directorate, and the General Directorate of Civil Defence.

It was conducted in the presence of the Capital Governorate's Social Programmes and Community Affairs Department director Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa.

Thirty-five volunteers from



Volunteers carrying out the sanitisation operation at Block 338

the Shabab Al Naim team carried out the operations. They had previously done the same in several other areas of the capital, including in Jid Ali, Juffair and Um Al Hassam.

Shaikh Isa praised the role of the community partnership that exists between residents, government agencies and civil society institutions in the sanitisation of the capital, with

the aim of creating a growing awareness in combatting COVID-19.

He praised the role played by all parties in overcoming this crisis and their efforts to attain the title of a healthy city.

The participation of volunteers in the sanitisation process comes after they enrolled in a training programme held by the governorate in cooperation with the Health Ministry. They were advised on how to properly carry out inspection and sanitisation campaigns and to assess the status in various facilities on their adherence to the health requirements and procedures issued by the authorities in the fight against the coronavirus.

## Derasat to launch field study on economic expertise, practices

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The Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) said it was launching an extensive field study to benefit from exceptional economic expertise and best practices, derived from experiences of member states of the Organisation of Economic

Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The study will involve interviewing Bahraini citizens currently working or having previously worked in OECD countries, and utilise their opinions to enrich developmental decisions in the Kingdom, Derasat said.

Candidates willing to participate in the study have been

urged to register on survey-monkey.com/r/derasat\_study, to enable the Derasat team to reach out to them and schedule an appointment for a phone or online video interview.

The interviews, not exceeding 60 minutes, will start in August, and personal and intellectual data are subject to safety and security guaran-

tees, it added.

Derasat said it aspired to benefit from the candidates' experiences as a qualitative addition to the research.

Candidates should be Bahraini citizens with professional expertise in economics and should have worked for at least one year in an OECD member state.

# Bahrain's banks must help finance economic recovery: Abdul Rahim

TDT | Manama

Banks in Bahrain must play a major role in helping the national economy recover from the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and, to do so effectively, will need the ongoing support of all stakeholders, particularly the Government said a senior Bahrain banker.

Ahmed Abdul Rahim, who is the Chief Executive Officer of Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, as well as the Deputy Chairman of the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB), said this shared focus on economic recovery will help shape the Kingdom's new, post-COVID-19 reality and pave the way for continued economic growth and prosperity.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain has earned glowing international praise and recognition, including from the World Health Organization, for its handling of the global COVID-19 outbreak," said Abdul Rahim. "This was due, largely, to the quick and decisive leadership of the Government, as well as the full and prompt support of all aspects of the society," he said.

"The recent decision to focus government support on the most affected industries in the private sector is another step in the right direction and, with the focus now gradually shifting to addressing the economic impact of this outbreak, we must continue in this same spirit of decisive leadership and close collaboration," said Abdul Rahim. "We must aspire to maintain this internationally-celebrated approach and continue to set a standard for others to follow, he said.

"The decision to provide government-funded wage support exclusively to the twelve most affected private sector industries, for example, will direct aim where it is needed most," said Abdul Rahim. "Although all industries were affected by the global outbreak, some industries were very badly hit. If these industries, some of which have been completely shut for months, do not survive the extended slowdown, then the overall economy cannot ever fully recover. It is important, also, to remember that trying to provide support to all affected industries will risk spreading available resources too thin, effectively robbing everyone of any real support," he said.

**Although all industries were affected by the global outbreak, some industries were very badly hit. If these industries, some of which have been completely shut for months, do not survive the extended slowdown, then the overall economy cannot ever fully recover. It is important, also, to remember that trying to provide support to all affected industries will risk spreading available resources too thin, effectively robbing everyone of any real support**

AHMED ABDUL RAHIM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ITHMAAR BANK, A BAHRAIN-BASED ISLAMIC RETAIL BANK, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BAHRAIN ASSOCIATION OF BANKS



"The same logic is true for individuals," said Abdul Rahim. "We are all affected, but some of us a lot more than others. To fully recover, we will need to focus our efforts on trying to help those who are most impacted," he said.

## Support communities

"For our part, banks must recognize the important role we must play in helping ease the economy back to its earlier growth trajectory and, perhaps more importantly, to helping both individuals and businesses absorb and, ultimately, recover from the economic impact of COVID-19," said Abdul Rahim. "We must recognize the importance of actively supporting the communities in which we operate, and we must always remember that we are all in this together," he said.

"To play their role effectively, banks are, in turn, supported by the decisions taken by the government and the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), the Kingdom's banking and financial services regulatory, to protect the stability of the national economy," said

Abdul Rahim. "This included decisions to cut interest rates and to reduce reserve requirements. Together, these decisions provided banks with the flexibility necessary to support national efforts to absorb the economic impact of the pandemic," he said.

"Bahrain is widely recognized as one of the region's key banking and financial services hubs," said Abdul Rahim. "This was further reinforced by the Kingdom's handling of the economic aspects of the global COVID-19 outbreak, with the Government quickly announcing far-reaching initiatives and the banking and financial services industry complying immediately," he said.

"One such initiative was the six-month deferment of financing instalments," said Abdul Rahim. "This went a long way in helping both individual and corporate customers absorb the economic impact of the outbreak and, subsequently, avoid a dangerous economic downward spiral that would have had a catastrophic effect on the national economy," he said. "This same initiative however effectively eliminated liquidity from the

banking and financial services industry, potentially stopping banks from being able to service their own financial obligations or, at the very least, dramatically reducing their ability to provide new financing for their clients," said Abdul Rahim. "This would have had an equally catastrophic effect on the national economy if the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), the Kingdom's banking and financial services regulator, had not stepped in to provide the necessary liquidity. It is an example of the type of support and close cooperation necessary to help steer the economy back on track," he said.

"The banking and financial services industry is a key pillar of the national economy, accounting for 16.5 percent of the Kingdom's GDP," said Abdul Rahim. "In addition to creating more than 14,000 jobs, most of them for Bahrainis, the industry also plays a key role in supporting economic development by providing financing both to individuals and to businesses. The importance of this role cannot be overstated, and we must live up to our responsibilities," he said.

"For banks, the most immediate focus will be on preparing for the end of the instalment deferment period," said Abdul Rahim. "It is important to ensure that we do everything possible to ensure that both individuals and businesses can ease back into addressing their financial obligations. To do so, some banks in Bahrain are developing several programmes to help ease the transition, including restructur-

ing funds, reducing instalments and other initiatives that will help to improve the financial position," he said.

"At Ithmaar Bank, we closely monitor the financial conditions of our individual and corporate customers and, when necessary, we contact them to better understand how the current circumstances are affecting them and how they are addressing the challenging conditions," said Abdul Rahim. "We also study their future plans to ensure that we are ready to provide any necessary support both in meeting their requirements and in helping them meet their financial obligations, as well as to help further improve our products and services," he said.

"We also closely monitor general economic changes, as well as changes in the banking and finance industry, as these indirectly affect the financial strength of customers. Monitoring these changes also provides important insights that help us restructure and continuously improve our financing products," said Abdul Rahim. "As a result, we are prepared to respond quickly and efficiently to changing market requirements and we are well positioned to ensure we provide the products and services our customers require," he said.

## Risks, opportunities

"We must also recognize that many things have changed, some irreversibly," said Abdul Rahim. "This creates both dangerous risks and great opportunities and, as financial institutions, we have a responsibility to help the economy safely navigate through these challenging, uncharted waters. We also have a responsibility to help shape and define the new, post Covid-19 normal. This will include, for example, further increases in our already significant investments on digital infrastructures as well as enhancing our online offerings, improving our digital storefronts and reconsidering our entire retail model to ensure we cater to new lifestyle choices and customer demands. At Ithmaar Bank, for example, we continuously invested in developing our digital infrastructure and, years ago, began implementing far reaching, bank-wide initiatives. We have long tried to ensure that as many services as possible were available online and encouraged customers to bank online. As a result, as soon as the

pandemic started, we were able to actively encourage customers to help contain the spread by banking online, and stressed that almost all transactions can be completed without ever visiting a branch. This protect both customers and employees, as well as helping contain the virus," he said.

"With oil prices falling to unprecedented levels and the global Covid-19 pandemic slowing the world economy to a trickle, we must also work to find new opportunities," said Abdul Rahim. "Rating agencies are forecasting significant economic contraction across the world, with S&P Global Ratings, for example, predicting that Bahrain's economy will shrink a full five per cent in 2020 alone," he said.

## Focus on Fintech

"To counter this slowdown, we must look at alternative models and reconsider how we do things," said Abdul Rahim. "Financial technology (Fintech), for example, has been a recent buzzword, with everyone talking about how it will transform the banking industry and lead to dramatic changes in the way transactions are conducted. It is time to accelerate this transformation with a clear focus on implementing the technology necessary to ensure business continuity," he said.

"These are grave responsibilities that we must take very seriously, and I am confident that, with the support of our stakeholders, we will emerge strong than ever," said Abdul Rahim. "Banks are an integral part of the national economy and, to effectively play our role in its recovery we will need to work closer than ever before with the Government, particularly the CBB, the Ministry of Financial and National Economy, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Tamkeen (the Labour Fund) and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce," he said.

## Long-term view

"Together, we must take a medium to long-term view of the economy and recognize that knee-jerk reactions and quick fix solutions will likely only hurt us all in the end," said Abdul Rahim. "Instead, we must work together to help the most vulnerable among us, both individuals and businesses, recover from the economic impact of this global pandemic," he said.

**16.5pc**

of the Kingdom's GDP is generated by the Banking and Financial services industry

**14k**

jobs are created by the banking and services industry, most of them are for Bahrainis

## GIG Bahrain covers COVID-19 during travel

● **Must take a COVID-19 test prior to travel**

TDT | Manama

GIG Bahrain announced it has enhanced its travel policy to cover COVID-19 during your travel. The policy covers all travel policies, weekly,

monthly and annually.

The company said, "If an insured is diagnosed (God forbid) with COVID-19 during his/her travel, GIG Bahrain will cover all treatment and hospitalization costs for up to \$ 35,000. Moreover, if home quarantine is required, \$100 per day will be paid for a maximum of 14 days."

The insured must present a (negative) COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to the travel to get

## Moderna prices COVID-19 vaccine at \$32-\$37 per dose for smaller volume deals

Reuters

Moderna Inc said yesterday smaller volume agreements for its experimental coronavirus vaccine have been priced in the range of \$32 to \$37 per dose, higher than the price set by the US deal for Pfizer Inc's vaccine candidate.

"We will be responsible on price well below (its) value during the pandemic," Chief Exec-

utive Officer Stéphane Bancel said on a conference call, adding that larger volume agreements for its vaccine will be priced lower.

Last month, the US government struck a deal for an experimental vaccine being developed by Pfizer and partner BioNTech SE that secures enough vaccine to inoculate 50 million Americans for about \$40 a person. Moderna's two-dose vaccine



A sign marks the headquarters of Moderna Therapeutics

regimen would cost between \$64 and \$74 per person.

Moderna, which has no drugs on the market, has received nearly \$1 billion from the US government under a plan to speed up vaccine development. It has not struck a supply agreement with the United States. The company said on Wednesday it was in talks with several countries for supply agreements for its vaccine.



# Beirut blast wiped out Lebanon's grain silos

Lebanon has less than a month's grain reserves after blast



The explosion was the most powerful to rip through Beirut, a city torn apart by civil war three decades ago.

● **Lebanon is trying to transfer 25,000 tonnes of flour to port in Tripoli**

France 24/Yahoo

Lebanon's main grain silo at Beirut port was destroyed in a blast, leaving the nation with less than a month's reserves of the grain but still with enough flour to avoid a crisis, the economy minister said yesterday.

Raoul Nehme told Reuters a day after Tuesday's devastating explosion that Lebanon needed reserves for at least three months to ensure food security and was looking at other storage areas.

The explosion was the most powerful to rip through Beirut, a city torn apart by civil war three decades ago. The economy was already in meltdown before the blast, slowing grain imports as the nation struggled to find hard currency for purchases.

"There is no bread or flour crisis," the minister said. "We have enough inventory and boats on their way to cover the needs of Lebanon on the long term."

He said grain reserves in Lebanon's remaining silos stood at "a bit less than a month" but

said the destroyed silos had only held 15,000 tonnes of the grain at the time, much less than capacity which one official put at 120,000 tonnes.

Beirut's port district was a mangled wreck, disabling the main entry point for imports to feed a nation of more than 6 million people.

Ahmed Tamer, the director of Tripoli port, Lebanon's second biggest facility, said his port did not have grain storage but cargoes could be taken to warehouses 2 km (about one mile) away.

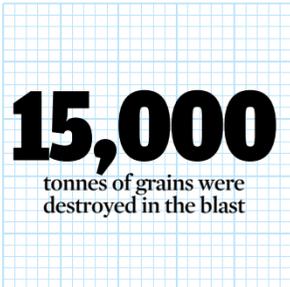
"I want to reassure all Lebanese that we can receive the vessels," he said.

Alongside Tripoli, Selaata and Jiyeh were also equipped to handle grain, the economy minister said.

But former Deputy Prime Minister Ghassan Hasbani said other ports did not have the same capabilities.

Hani Bohsali, head of the importers' syndicate said: "We fear there will be a huge supply chain problem, unless there is an international consensus to save us."

Reserves of flour were sufficient to cover market needs for a month and a half and there were four ships carrying 28,000 tonnes of wheat heading to Lebanon, Ahmed Hattit, the head of the wheat importers union, told Al-Akhbar newspaper.



**There is no bread or flour crisis. We have enough inventory and boats on their way to cover the needs of Lebanon on the long term**

RAOUL NEHME  
ECONOMY MINISTER

Lebanon is trying to transfer immediately four vessels carrying 25,000 tonnes of flour to the port in Tripoli, one official told LBCI news channel.

## Ayodhya temple construction begins



Modi  
Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday launched the construction of a temple in Ayodhya following a Supreme Court ruling last year allowing a separate "prominent" five-acre piece of land to build a mosque.

The apex court granted permission for a temple to be built on the site in Ayodhya saying their ruling was conditional on the "maintenance of peace and order and tranquility".

"The whole country is thrilled, the wait of centuries is ending," Modi said in a speech, after taking off a white mask that he wore as a novel coronavirus precaution during the ceremony held yesterday.

Many Muslims in Ayodhya welcomed the construction of the temple in the hope that it would end years of acrimony with Hindus and help bring economic growth.

Security was tight in Ayodhya, 687 km (427 miles) southeast of the capital, New Delhi, as the sound of prayers filled its streets as devotees and monks thronged its ancient temples in celebration.

Event organisers gathered soil from more than 2,000 holy places and water from more than 100 rivers for use in prayers at the launch of building work.

A Ram devotee from Tamil Nadu state donated two bricks, one of gold the other of silver.

## News in brief

◆ **Belgian meat plant quarantines 225 staff** One of Belgium's biggest meat processing plants has sent 225 staff home to quarantine Wednesday after a cluster of coronavirus cases was discovered, the firm and the local mayor said. Abattoirs and meat-packing plants have become infection hotspots in other countries as the world deals with the epidemic and the big Westvlees facility in Staden, in northwest Belgium is now under close watch.

◆ **Tropical storm Isaias left at least five people dead as it pounded the US eastern seaboard with driving winds** and heavy rain, leaving millions without power, before moving across Canada yesterday. Isaias was downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone late Tuesday as it streaked across the border into south-eastern Canada after wreaking havoc across several US states.

◆ **At least five dead in US as downgraded Isaias reaches Canada**

◆ **US President Donald Trump yesterday flatly rejected the need for direct action to address racism in the United States**, dismissing his predecessor's call for sweeping steps to boost civil and voting rights ahead of the Nov. 3 election. The Republican president, in an interview on Fox News, criticized President Barack Obama's speech last week, in which the Democrat urged Americans to protect democracy and outlined a list of needed reforms such as making election day a national holiday, expanding early voting and increasing polling sites. "There is an attack on our democratic freedoms and we should treat it as such," Obama said in a eulogy for the late U.S. Representative John Lewis, a Black civil rights icon.

◆ **Doctors say Turkish COVID-19 outbreak worse than reported** Doctors in Turkey's coronavirus hotspots say hospitals are filling up with more cases than are reflected in the official nationwide count, which resurged above 1,000 this week. Intensive care units (ICUs) and emergency rooms in hospitals set aside for COVID-19 patients are at capacity in the capital Ankara and the southeastern city of Gaziantep, medics associations from those regions said this week.

◆ **The alleged 1MDB mastermind and other suspects in the capital** are believed to be hiding out in China, Malaysia's police chief said on Wednesday (Aug 5), urging authorities there to help hunt down the fugitives. Billions of dollars were stolen from sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad and bankrolled a global spending spree, with looted cash used to buy everything from pricey art to real estate.

◆ **Almost 3,000 people were evacuated** Tuesday night, some by boat, from homes and camping sites near Marseille in southern France as forest fires tore through 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) of vegetation. About 1,800 firefighters battled blazes fanned by strong winds overnight.



## Chemical linked to Beirut blast caused past explosions in Texas, Toulouse

France 24/Yahoo news

Ammonium nitrate, which Lebanese authorities have said caused the devastating Beirut blast, is an odorless crystalline substance commonly used as a fertilizer that has been the cause of numerous industrial explosions over the decades.

These include notably at a Texas fertilizer plant in 2013 that killed 15 and was ruled deliberate, and another at a chemical plant in Toulouse, France in 2001 that killed 31 people but was accidental.

When combined with fuel oils, ammonium nitrate creates a potent explosive widely used in the construction industry, but also by insurgent groups such as the Taliban for improvised explosives.

However, under normal stor-



When combined with fuel oils, ammonium nitrate creates a potent explosive widely used in the construction industry

age conditions and without very high heat, it is difficult to ignite ammonium nitrate, Jimmie Oxley, a chemistry professor at the University of Rhode Island, said.

"If you look at the video (of the Beirut explosion), you saw the black smoke, you saw the red smoke -- that was an incom-

plete reaction," she said.

"I am assuming that there was a small explosion that instigated the reaction of the ammonium nitrate -- whether that small explosion was an accident or something on purpose I haven't heard yet."

That's because ammonium nitrate is an oxidizer -- it intensifies combustion and allows other substances to ignite more readily, but is not itself very combustible.

For these reasons, there are generally very strict rules about where it can be stored: for example, it must be kept away from fuels and sources of heat.

In fact, many countries in the European Union require calcium carbonate to be added to ammonium nitrate to create calcium ammonium nitrate, which is safer.

## Global Covid-19 Cases: 18,840,614



Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
1 USA	4,939,355	+623	160,913
2 Brazil	2,817,473	+230	96,326
3 India	1,960,865	+919	40,739
4 Russia	866,627	+139	14,490
5 South Africa	521,318		8,884
6 Mexico	449,961	+857	48,869
7 Peru	439,890		20,007
8 Chile	364,723	+47	9,792
9 Spain	352,847	+1	28,499
10 Colombia	334,979		11,315
11 Iran	317,483	+185	17,802
12 UK	307,184	+65	46,364
13 Saudi Arabia	282,824	+36	3,020
14 Pakistan	281,136	+15	6,014

## Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	94,752		4,912		45,569	44,271	41	924
Saudi Arabia	282,824	+1,389	3,020	+36	245,314	34,490	1,991	8,112
UAE	61,606	+254	353	+2	55,385	5,868		6,222
Kuwait	69,425	+651	468	+3	60,906	8,051	128	16,235
Oman	79,159		421		61,421	17,317	187	15,468
Qatar	111,805	+267	178	+1	108,539	3,088	75	39,819

Figures as of closing

# 'Like an animal'

NASA astronauts describe noisy, jolting descent

AFP | Houston

SpaceX's crewed capsule isn't called Dragon for nothing.

The two NASA astronauts brought back to Earth on Sunday said they felt they were inside the belly of a beast as it careened into the atmosphere at 17,500 mph.

"It came alive," said mission commander Bob Behnken at a virtual press conference held Tuesday in Houston, Texas.

The thrusters were firing to keep the capsule, called "Endeavour," pointed precisely at its target site off the coast of Pensacola, for the first water landing by a US spaceship since 1975.

"The atmosphere starts to make noise, you can hear that rumble outside the vehicle and as the vehicle tries to control,



Bob Behnken (c) and crewmate Doug Hurley are best friends in real life and both are married to fellow astronauts

you feel a little bit of that shimmy in your body," continued the 50-year-old.

"It doesn't sound like a machine, it sounds like an animal coming through the atmosphere with all that all the puffs that are happening from the thrusters and the atmos-

pheric noise," he added.

Not only was ride down deafening, but each time the vessel carried out descent sequences like jettisoning its "trunk" that contained the

power system and firing parachutes, it was also bone-jarring.

"Very much like getting hit in the back of the chair with a baseball bat, you know, just a crack," said Behnken, describing the sensation.

Behnken and crewmate Doug Hurley, 53, are best friends in real life and both are married to fellow astronauts.

They were addressing journalists, as tradition dictates, two days after their return from a six-month stay on the International Space Station.

The success of the demonstration mission for SpaceX Crew Dragon, the first crewed US spaceship to achieve orbit since the Space Shuttle era, means it will likely soon be certified for regular service.

The next mission is already planned for September.

"The mission went just like the simulators, from start to finish, all the way there was really no surprises," said Hurley.

Both men are veterans of the Space Shuttle program, which ended in 2011, and they had been training for five years with SpaceX.

Splash down at 15 miles per hour in the Gulf of Mexico felt "pretty firm," said Hurley, but that was expected.



One person who will particularly benefit from Behnken's knowledge: astronaut Megan McArthur, who is slated to make the same voyage in the spring of 2021 on the same spacecraft, and is Behnken's wife.



## SpaceX: Musk's 'Mars ship' prototype aces 150m test flight



Shortly after the test flight, which lasted just under a minute, SpaceX founder Elon Musk tweeted: "Mars is looking real."

BBC

A prototype of SpaceX's next-generation Starship vehicle has successfully flown to an altitude of 150m (500ft).

The uncrewed test vehicle rose up on a plume of exhaust before deploying its landing legs and touching down softly.

The flight was carried out at SpaceX's test site near the village of Boca Chica in south Texas on Tuesday evening.

It's the first flight test in almost a year for the Raptor engine, which will be used to power Starship.

The stainless steel test vehicle, called SN5, has been compared variously to a grain silo and water tank.

But it could pave the way for a spacecraft capable of carrying humans to the Moon and Mars.

Shortly after the test flight, which lasted just under a minute, SpaceX founder Elon Musk tweeted: "Mars is looking real."

SN5 took off from Boca Chica at 00:57 BST (18:57 local time) for the brief flight. It uses a single Raptor engine, which is powered by liquid methane and liquid oxygen.

The final Starship vehicle will feature six Raptors, standing 50m (165ft) tall. It could carry 100 people on a single flight.

But in order to overcome Earth's gravity, it will need to be launched by a massive rocket called Super Heavy, which will be equipped with 31 Raptor engines.

Another test vehicle called Starhopper undertook a few brief flights in 2019, also flying to a height of 150m (500ft).

The Starship vehicle is one of three shortlisted candidates to land humans on the Moon in the 2020s for Nasa. A Japanese billionaire, Yusaku Maezawa, who made his fortune in online fashion retail, has booked a trip around the Moon on Starship.

Elon Musk has long harboured plans to settle people on Mars as part of his vision to make humans a "multi-planetary species".

## Third of Afghans estimated to have contracted virus: health ministry



More than 18 million people worldwide have been infected with the virus since it first emerged in China late last year.

AFP News

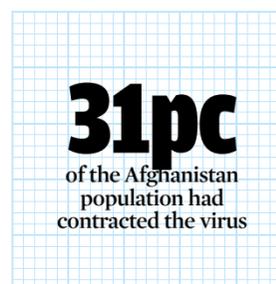
Nearly a third of Afghanistan's population -- or 10 million people -- has been infected with the coronavirus, according to health ministry estimates published Wednesday.

The figure comes from a survey based on antibody tests on around 9,500 people across the country, with technical support from the World Health Organization, health minister Ahmad Jawad Osmani said at a press briefing.

The survey estimated that 31.5 percent of the population had contracted the virus, with the highest infection rate in Kabul where more than half of the city's five million population were thought to have been infected.

But the country of around 32 million people has only limited testing capacity and has officially declared just 36,000 cases and more than 1,200 deaths.

"A second wave of the infection is happening everywhere in the world and we cannot be an exception. We will use the findings of this survey to better prepare ourselves for a possible second wave," Osmani said.



## Nobel laureate John Hume laid to rest in N.Ireland

AFP News

John Hume, whose tireless efforts to bridge sectarian divides in Northern Ireland won him the Nobel Peace Prize, was buried in Londonderry Wednesday as tributes poured in from global icons ranging from Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama to Bill Clinton and Irish rocker Bono.

High-profile figures across the world paid homage following Hume's death on Monday aged 83, lamenting the passing of a political giant.

Hume was a key architect of the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement, which largely ended three decades of violence in Northern Ireland that killed 3,500 people.

"Mindful of the Christian faith that inspired John Hume's untiring efforts to promote dialogue, reconciliation and peace.... His Holiness commends his noble soul to



The wicker casket containing Hume's remains was brought into St Eugene's Cathedral in Londonderry on Tuesday evening

the loving mercy of Almighty God," Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin said in a statement on behalf of Pope Francis.

The Dalai Lama said Hume's "steady persistence set an example for all of us" and that he had

"lived a truly meaningful life".

Northern Ireland's first minister and deputy first minister, Arlene Foster and Michelle O'Neill, attended the ceremony, along with Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin and Britain's Northern Ireland minister,

Brandon Lewis.

Despite his family asking the public to stay away from the funeral over fears of coronavirus transmission, a few dozen people gathered outside the cathedral.

Hundreds also lined nearby streets applauding as Hume's cortege made its way to a private burial following the funeral.

The family had asked mourners to light a "candle for peace" at their homes -- a suggestion taken up by many people across Ireland, as well as in government buildings in London, Belfast and Dublin.

Hume first became politically active in the movement for Catholic equality in Londonderry -- a city on the front line of the conflict between nationalists who favour being part of Ireland and Protestant unionists who want Northern Ireland to remain in the United Kingdom.

# Massive **fire** hits Ajman market

● Reportedly the fire started at around 6.30pm

● A hospital was evacuated

● The souq was not open at the time of the fire

● No injuries reported

● Blaze brought under control at about 9pm

Agencies | Dubai

A large fire broke out yesterday evening at a market in the emirate of Ajman in the United Arab Emirates, according to local media reports and a source present at the scene.

The witness told the fire, which was earlier reported by *The National* and *Gulf News* newspapers, was being tackled by emergency services.

"Ajman firefighters have cordoned off the site and used water and foam in extinguishing the blaze which has broken out in many shops therein," sources told *Khaleej Times*.

"Four civil defence centres are involved in fighting the big inferno," the sources said.

Local officials could not immediately be reached for comment or confirmation, and no statements were carried by state media.

Footages posted to social media show thick plumes of smoke billowing into the sky above the surrounding area.

The souq was not open at the time of the fire.

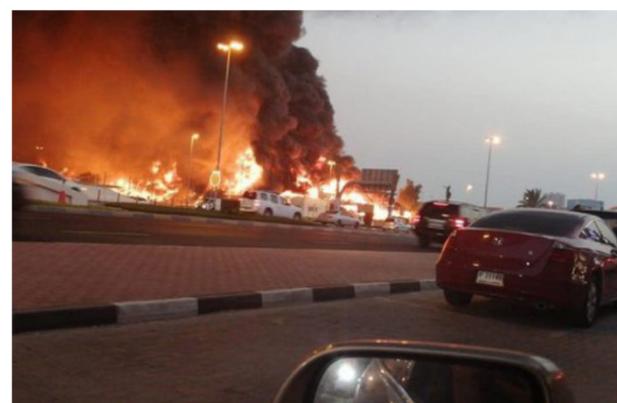
Reports say it has been shut down for "several months" as part of coronavirus safety measures.

The Iranian souq is located near Ajman Speciality Hospital and opposite a separate fruit and vegetable market.

"Workers at the neighbouring market described how flames quickly engulfed the area. The medical facility was evacuated as a precautionary measure due to



Pictures of the fire shared by @urnnsove\_ and @Sochangane



The Iranian souq is "home to dozens of traders" and "a popular attraction in Ajman, drawing visitors from across the Emirates, according to the National

the proximity of the raging fire," *the National* wrote.

"[C]ivil defence teams have diverted traffic" towards the

industrial area "until the blaze can be brought under control," Dubai's *Khaleej Times* reported.

*Al Arabiya* tweeted that four specialised teams of firefighters have been deployed to extinguish the fire quoting Civil defence officials who spoke to a local newspaper *Al-Roeya*.

Reportedly the fire started at around 6,30pm yesterday.

The flames, locals said, could be seen from afar.

The cause of the fire is unknown as of now.

*The National*, quoting a Fresh Meat store vendor opposite to the souq, said the police was alerted of the fire by him.

Ajman Civil Defence team told *National* that the blaze had been brought under control at about 9 pm.

They were assisted by crews from Dubai, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain.

An investigation is ongoing into the cause of the fire, officials said.

## Virus kills leading Brazil indigenous chief Aritana

● Aritana was known for fighting to protect the world's biggest rainforest

AFP News

One of Brazil's leading indigenous chiefs, Aritana Yawalapiti, died yesterday of respiratory complications caused by COVID-19, his family said.

Aritana, 71, a chief of the Yawalapiti people in the Amazon, was known for fighting to protect the world's biggest rainforest and the rights of the indigenous peoples who live there.

"He was a great advocate in the struggle to preserve and perpetuate his people's culture for future generations and a tireless activist against the effects of deforestation," his family said in a



Indigenous chief Aritana, pictured in 2003 with Queen Sofia of Spain, was known for fighting to protect the Amazon rainforest

**22,000** indigenous people have been infected and 633 have died in Brazil, according to the Brazilian Indigenous Peoples' Association

statement.

Known for sporting his traditional feather headdress, jewelry and body paint even at meetings with international dignitaries, Aritana was diagnosed with the new coronavirus about two weeks ago, after having trouble breathing.

He was taken from his village in the Xingu indigenous reserve to a hospital in the town of Canarana, in the west-central state of Mato Grosso.

When his condition deteriorated,

he was transferred to an intensive care unit in the city of Goiania, capital of the neighboring state of Goias.

Medics had to transfer him by road across the remote region for a nine-hour trip during which he was hooked up to oxygen tanks. He was then put on a ventilator in the ICU.

It is not clear whether his body will be transported back to his village, his nephew, Iano Yawalapiti, said.

That has been a sensitive issue for indigenous communities hit by COVID-19. In some cases, authorities struggling to contain the spread of the virus have prevented indigenous families from taking their deceased loved ones' bodies home for traditional burial rites.

COVID-19 has hit especially hard among the region's indigenous groups, who have a history of vulnerability to outside diseases.

# CELEBS

## celebs

### Katy Perry supports Ellen DeGeneres amid toxic workplace claims

ANI | Washington

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry has spoken out in favour of American comedian Ellen DeGeneres, following reports about an alleged toxic work environment on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show'.

This post comes after Ellen's popular show has become the subject of an internal investigation



Katy Perry

by parent company WarnerMedia following numerous accounts of workplace problems on the comedy show series.

However, sharing her experience on the show, the 'Roar' singer tweeted she only had "positive takeaways" during her time shared with Ellen and also on her show.

"I know I can't speak for anyone else's experience besides my own but I want to acknowledge that I have only ever had posi-

tive takeaways from my time with Ellen & on the@theellenshow," the soon-to-be mother tweeted.

The 35-year-old crooner also highlighted DeGeneres' continuous efforts of fighting for "equality" throughout the years through her platforms.

Perry added, "I think we all have witnessed the light & continual fight for equality that she has brought to the world through her platform for decades. Sending you love & a hug, friend."

As cited by Variety, the reports of alleged "racism and intimidation" on the show was initially run by BuzzFeed around mid-July.

### Reynolds sorry for wedding location

Fox | Los Angeles

Ryan Reynolds apologized for his 2012 wedding with Blake Lively at Boone Hall, a former slave plantation, in South Carolina.

"It's something we'll always be deeply and unreservedly sorry for," Reynolds, 43, told Fast Company in a recent interview. "It's impossible to reconcile."

The "Deadpool" actor then explained his and Lively's decision to have an antebellum wedding.

"What we saw at the time was a wedding venue on Pinterest. What we saw after was a place built upon devastating tragedy," Reynolds admitted.

The "Green Lantern" star also revealed that the couple "got married again" at home years after their wedding. "Shame

works in weird ways," he said. "A giant mistake like that can either cause you to shut down or it can reframe things and move you into action. It doesn't mean you won't f--k up again. But re-patterning and challenging lifelong social conditioning is a job that doesn't end," Reynolds concluded.

In the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement regaining momentum, Reynolds and Lively, 32, donated

\$1 million to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. The father of three also launched The Group Effort Initiative, a program to bring more "Black, Indigenous, people of color or people from marginalized and excluded communities" into the film industry.

In May, the couple released a statement on social media and pledged to stay informed about racial injustices. "We're ashamed that in the past, we've allowed ourselves to be uninformed about how deeply rooted systemic racism is," they wrote.



Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively

### Sean Penn confirms he married Leila George on a 'COVID wedding'

ANI | Washington

American actor Sean Penn has confirmed that he is once again a married man.

According to Page Six, the 59-year-old actor said Monday (local time) on 'Late Night with Seth Meyers' that he and

girlfriend 28-year-old Leila George tied the knot on Thursday.

Meyers asked Penn, "There are reports that you recently got married, is this true?", to which the Oscar winner raised his hand, showing off his wedding band.

### Bradley Cooper to star in Paul Thomas Anderson's new period drama

IAN | Los Angeles

Actor Bradley Cooper is in talks to star in an upcoming period drama. The film, set in the seventies, is written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson.

Anderson's yet-untitled next is a coming-of-age drama set in San Fernando Valley of the 1970s, reports hollywoodreporter.com. Plot details are under wraps right now, but the film involves multiple storylines revolving around a child actor attending high school in the Valley. Cooper's role is unclear as of now.

The project was supposed to start production in the summer of 2020 prior to the Cov-

id-19 shutdown. According to sources, the film is now expected to start later this year, depending on how and when shooting is allowed to begin in Los Angeles.

The film will be Anderson's first release since his acclaimed 2017 feature, "Phantom Thread". The filmmaker is also known for works such as "There Will Be Blood", "Boogie Nights", and "Inherent Vice".

Meanwhile, Cooper is all set to direct once again after winning accolades for "A Star Is Born". He will direct and star in an untitled Leonard Bernstein biopic for OTT release. Cooper will play the legendary composer Bernstein in the film.



Bradley Cooper

### Katie Holmes hailed as 'inspiring' mother by co-star

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Katie Holmes is an "inspiring parent" - according to actor Jerry O'Connell.

Jerry stars alongside Katie in the new movie 'The Secret: Dare to Dream', and has said he loved seeing the 41-year-old actress interacting with her 14-year-old daughter Suri - whom she has with ex-husband Tom Cruise - whenever the teenager visited her on set.

He said: "Katie Holm-

Katie Holmes



es is really maybe the loveliest [person]. Just a few takeaways I got from working with Katie Holmes - obviously [she's] a great actress, obviously beautiful. But a great mom, a really great mom. Actually, like,

an inspiring parent. "Watching the time Katie took with her daughter when we were at work, you know, it was really inspiring. It made me realise, like, I don't stay in contact enough with my children [when at] work, you know? ... Katie is a great person, a great mom. I really enjoyed working with her. We had a fun time."

Jerry, 41, has 11-year-old twins Dolly and Charlie with his wife Tamara Romjin, and has admitted he thought his family wouldn't "make it" through quarantine amid the coronavirus pandemic.

He told Us Weekly magazine: "I have to say - I'm going to get in trouble for this - when quarantine [began] ... I was like, 'I'm not sure how, not only is our family going to make it, but can my marriage handle this?'" he said. "And dare I say, it's been kind of fun. We might just make it."

Meanwhile, Katie recently said she feels "blessed" to be Suri's mother, as she took to social media to wish her daughter a happy birthday.

She wrote: "Happy Birthday Sweetheart!!!!!! I am so blessed to be your mom. May this year be incredible! (sic)"

### Cardi B, Megan Thee Stallion team up for new single 'WAP'

ANI | Washington

Musicians Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion has announced their new joint single 'WAP' which is set to drop on Friday.

The cover art of the single features the two powerhouses as near-identical twins with their hair intertwined

with hoop earrings with 'WAP' written in the middle.

They are seen pulling off the identical hairdos and equal amounts of extended tongue action.

"Single dropping this Friday! WAP feat. @theestallion #Wap," Cardi B wrote on Instagram on Tuesday, while Stallion wrote, "WAP @ iamcardib and The Hot Girl Coach this Friday!!!"



Cardi B

### CLASSIFIEDS

We are looking for **Stainless steel welder and Kitchen equipment technician** for our company. Anybody who is interested Please contact on Mob: 34445804

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, ROHIDAS S/O, SHANKAR** holding Indian Passport No. **P8359178** dated 01/03/2017 issued at **Bangalore**, having permanent residence at (full address India) **Hipparga Ghat Post Mudabi TQ Basavakalyan, Bidar, PIN 585437, KARNATAKA, INDIA (full address in Bahrain) Bldg - 2011, Road 5234, Block 952, Askar, Bahrain**, will henceforth be known as (given name) **ROHIDAS CHAVAN** Objection(s), If any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. 26106, Seef, kingdom of Bahrain.

### SUDOKU

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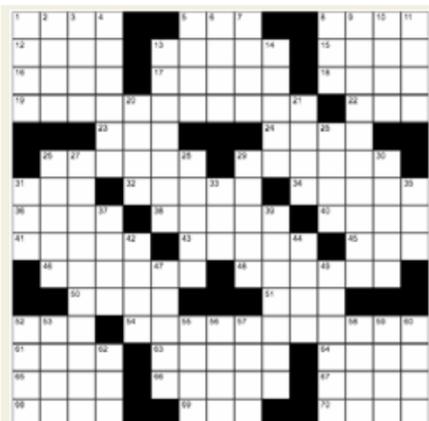
Yesterday's solution

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

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- "Dancing Queen" quartet; 5- Personal quirk; 8- Starting; 12- Roseanne, once; 13- Cupressus; 15- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 16- \_\_\_ soup yet; 17- \_\_\_ Mio; 18- Breezes through; 19- Inconsiderate; 22- Incredibly powerful mythical bird; 23- "Michael Collins" actor; 24- Trace; 26- Simple life form; 29- Punctual; 31- Actress Charlotte; 32- Tumults; 34- Move stealthily; 36- Formerly, formerly; 38- Quality; 40- Poker payment; 41- Boatswain; 43- Layers; 45- Can metal; 46- Interstellar cloud; 48- Allotted amount; 50- Appoint; 51- Moving vehicle; 52- Choke; 54- "Great" Australian landmark; 61- Util. bill; 63- Prestigious prize; 64- Olive genus; 65- Asta's mistress; 66- Agitates; 67- \_\_\_ She Sweet; 68- Actress Harper; 69- Vane dir.; 70- 24 hour periods;

Down

1- Slightly; 2- Wild party; 3- Zest; 4- Conductor Toscanini; 5- Exam used to measure aptitude or intelligence; 6- Image of a deity; 7- Racer Yarborough; 8- Simile center; 9- Capital of California; 10- Hydrox rival; 11- Money-related; Abbr.; 13- Live together; 14- Pine sap; 20- Will of "The Waltons"; 21- Barflies; 25- Ike's ex; 26- Biblical brother; 27- Harbingers; 28- Main artery; 29- Willow; 30- Kind of kitchen; 31- Yank's foe; 33- \_\_\_ chi ch'uan; 35- He's a doll; 37- Big brass; 39- Makes journeys; 42- Unfeeling; 44- The closest one to us is the sun; 47- Inclines; 49- Bit of progress; 52- Fellow; 53- Burn balm; 55- Doesn't keep; 56- Diamond stats; 57- Able was \_\_\_; 58- Charles Lamb's pen name; 59- Start of a counting rhyme; 60- Solid oils; 62- \_\_\_ in Charlie;

Yesterday's solution

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

# Nadal to skip US Open

Nadal still preparing to play Roland Garros despite US Open withdrawal

● **Defending champion Nadal won't play at Flushing Meadows due to COVID-19 concerns**

Reuters | New York

World number two Rafael Nadal confirmed that he will not defend his US Open crown this year but said he still intends to play at the French Open next month.

Nadal also insisted the US Open will not carry an asterisk without its defending men's champion, even if he admitted it will take place under "special circumstances", with several top players expected to sit out.

The 34-year-old Spaniard's withdrawal was confirmed shortly after the Madrid Open was cancelled on Tuesday, with a rise in coronavirus cases in Europe raising doubts around other events, including the French Open, which is due to start in Paris on September 27.

Nadal, who would be going for a record-extending 13th title at Roland Garros, was asked if he thinks the tournament will go ahead.

"I trust it will yes, it is in my mind and I am preparing for it," said the 34-year-old in a briefing with international media on Wednesday.

"But we have to wait for events, to see how everything evolves because it is true that in recent weeks the situation seems to have worsened a little. But my hope and my intention



Rafael Nadal in action during a match (file photo)

would be to be there if conditions allow."

Nadal also explained his decision to pull out of the US Open. "My heart says today is not the moment to take long travels without knowing exactly what can and cannot happen.

"My decision is to stay at home in Mallorca where the situation is good, it looks under control here, and to wait for future opportunities."

## 'Special circumstances'

Women's world number one Ashleigh Barty has also chosen not to compete in New York, where a depleted entry list in both the men's and women's draws looks inevitable.

Serena Williams, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray are all

My decision is to stay at home in Mallorca where the situation is good, it looks under control here, and to wait for future opportunities.

RAFAEL NADAL

still due to play.

"The tournament is still big, it's a Grand Slam," Nadal said. "I am not arrogant enough to say the tournament is not big because I am not playing. There will be important players.

"Of course it's a tournament under special circumstances but still a Grand Slam and the

winner will feel like the winner of a Grand Slam. It's true it will be under special circumstances with a lot of important players not travelling there."

Nadal added: "My words can have repercussions so it is difficult to say if it is the right decision or not, for some players it will be right for others not.

"I respect a lot the amount of work and positive intentions of the ATP and USTA (United States Tennis Association) to try to come back to the tour. I have taken my decision so you know my thoughts but I respect there are other players in different situations and they need to play because they have financial problems and need to earn money after a few months without income."

# England skipper lauds 'dangerous' Stirling after Ireland upset



Ireland's Paul Stirling plays a shot

AFP | Southampton

England skipper Eoin Morgan said Paul Stirling is as dangerous an opener as there is in cricket after the Irishman smashed 142 off 128 balls to help his team to a remarkable upset of the world champions in the third one-dayer on Tuesday.

Ireland-born Morgan scored a century of his own as England set the visitors an imposing victory target of 329 at the Rose Bowl but he sat out the second innings because of a minor groin injury.

He watched on from the boundary as Stirling, who was dropped on 95 and 139, and Ireland captain Andy Balbirnie (113) put on 214 for the second wicket to help the Irish overhaul the target for a second victory over England in 12 attempts.

"Paul Stirling had a day out and he's the ability to do that," Morgan told reporters.

"But we play against world class players all the time and you know when you do, you

142

runs were scored by Ireland's Paul Stirling off 128 balls to help his team to a remarkable upset of England

need to take those opportunities because they will hurt you.

"Ireland played really well and thoroughly deserved to win."

Morgan briefly overlapped with Stirling in the Ireland set-up before switching allegiance but knows him better from their time as team mates at English county Middlesex.

"He's as dangerous an opening batsman as there is around the world," he said of the 29-year-old.

"I know guys do not like bowling at him, he hits good balls for four or six and, on his day, he can take a game away from you."

# Manchester City sign winger Ferran Torres from Valencia

AFP | London

Manchester City have announced the signing of Valencia winger Ferran Torres on a five-year deal as Pep Guardiola looks to bolster his attacking options.

The 20-year-old Spaniard, City's first signing of the summer transfer window, has penned a five-year contract for a reported initial fee of £20.9 million (\$27 million).

"I am so happy to be joining City," Torres told the Premier League club's website. "Every player wants to be involved in attacking teams and Manchester City are one of the most attacking in world football.

"Pep encourages a really open, aggressive style, which I love, and he is a manager with a proven track record of improving players. To have him overseeing my develop-

ment is a dream."

Guardiola is keen to strengthen his squad following the loss of their Premier League title to Liverpool -- they have also agreed a £41 million fee for Bournemouth defender Nathan Ake.

"We have followed Ferran's progress closely and have been very impressed," said City director of football Txiki Begiristain.

"He is young and still developing, but his technical qualities are exactly what we are looking for in a winger. He is quick, direct, can create space with one movement and is capable of producing match-winning moments."

Torres can play on either wing and operate through the middle, with pace and an ability to beat players his main attributes.

He made 44 appearances for Valencia last season, scoring six goals.



Ferran Torres

# Fulham's Bryan hails manager Parker for playoff free kick success

Reuters | London

Fulham's two-goal playoff hero Joe Bryan gave manager Scott Parker the credit for the opening goal that put his side on track for a 2-1 extra-time playoff final win over Brentford and sealed their swift return to the Premier League on Tuesday.

As Bryan's team mates celebrated around him, the fullback revealed the content of a sideline conversation he had with his boss just before opening the scoring in the 105th minute with a free kick from deep that flew past Brentford keeper David Raya.

"(Parker said) whip it in the near post, because the keeper comes ridiculously far off his line. That's something we practised this week," Bryan told Sky Sports.

Parker confirmed his instructions to Bryan, who added a second goal in the 117th minute to kill the game off.



Joe Bryan of Fulham celebrates after scoring his sides first goal

"We looked at Raya's positioning from free kicks, he's very, very aggressive, he's very aggressive in his starting position," Parker explained.

"I told him (Bryan), 'You need to keep an eye on his positioning, and I want you to commit to it, I want you to commit to the shot', and it's worked," he added.

The 26-year-old defender's second goal came after a lung-bursting sprint to play a one-two with substitute Aleksandar Mitrovic before slotting the ball home and this time he credited his fitness regime during the novel coronavirus lockdown.

"I'm quite fit, you know! In lockdown all we could do was

(Parker said) whip it in the near post, because the keeper comes ridiculously far off his line. That's something we practised this week

JOE BRYAN

run. That's all I've been doing, running, and it's paid off today," he said beaming.

Former Fulham captain Parker, 39, was delighted with his side's performance and gave credit to his players and backroom staff for bouncing back to the Premier League following their relegation last season.

"I'm the one that fronts it up, I'm the one that everyone sees but behind the scenes is a support network that keeps you going ... I'm very proud of my team," he said.

# ICC to use front foot no-ball tech for England-Pakistan tests

Reuters | London

Front foot no-ball technology will be used for the first time on a trial basis in test cricket during the three-match series between England and Pakistan starting later on Wednesday, the International Cricket Council has said.

The responsibility to call no-balls when a bowler oversteps the mark currently lies with on-field umpires, but under the new system the TV umpire will monitor the landing foot after each ball and communicate to the umpires whether it was a legal delivery.

"Front foot no ball technology to be used in ICC World Test Championship series featuring England and Pakistan, with the support of both teams," the world governing body tweeted.

"Performance of the technology in these tests will be reviewed before any decisions

taken on its future use in test cricket."

The ICC has already conducted successful trials of the technology across men's 50-over international matches while it was also used at the women's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia earlier this year.

## Mokaev vs McVeigh bout gets Fight of the Night honours at BRAVE CF 37



TDT | Manama

The explosive match-up between the two debutants stole the show at BRAVE CF 37, last Saturday, in Sweden. Muhammad Mokaev's dominant performance was coupled with Glenn McVeigh's valiant effort, after signing on to fight the number one pound-for-pound amateur fighter in the world on two days' notice, to produce an amazing contest that left fans from around the world impressed with the potential of both fighters.

The duo was compensated with a Fight of the Night bonus from BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid, as the best bout of a stacked BRAVE CF 37, which had several moments of brilliance, from the head kick KO of Bianca Antman to the perfect rear-naked choke locked in by Louis Glismann in the main event against Henri Lintula.

However, the added drama between both young men brought up by McVeigh's aggressive call-out on social media, and their clash on the lobby of the host hotel in Stockholm and during the staredowns after the weigh-ins, made that bout have the highest-stake in the card.

Mokaev was dominant throughout showing flashes of his brilliant cage control, as well as perfect takedown timing, while McVeigh had a few moments to let the world know that when he has a full camp under his belt, he will be a problem for all Bantamweights.

This week, Mohammed Shahid has confirmed that Mokaev's next fight will take place on BRAVE CF's debut in Poland, set for September 5th, while the BRAVE CF president has also indicated his willingness to sign McVeigh permanently.

# Bahrain to host AFC Cup Group A matches

● Manama Club set to compete at home, while fellow-Bahraini side Riffa will be playing in Jordan in Group C of the continental competition this October/November

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will be hosting the remaining Group A matches of this year's AFC Cup later this year, it was confirmed yesterday.

This follows an official letter received by the Bahrain Football Association (BFA) from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), informing the BFA of the decision.

The games are scheduled to be played from October 26 to November 4, the AFC stated.

Bahraini club Manama are competing in Group A of the competition, along with Al Jaish of Syria, Al Ahed FC of Lebanon and Hilal Alquds Club of Palestine.

The clubs have already played two matches apiece, with Manama and Jaish currently deadlocked on the division table with four points each. Ahed are third with three points and Hilal Alquds fourth with



AFC Cup trophy is seen in front of a screen displaying the results of the group stage draw (file photo)

zero.

According to the current schedule of remaining games, Manama next take on Hilal Alquds on October 26 before facing each other once again on October 29.

Manama then play against Jaish on November 1, and then take to the pitch for their final group encounter against Ahed on November 4.

Manama are one of two Bahraini clubs competing in this

year's AFC Cup. Riffa are the other, and they are playing in Group C alongside Qadsia SC of Kuwait, Dhofar Club of Oman and Al Jazeera of Jordan.

According to the AFC, these matches are set to take place in Amman, also from October 26 to November 4.

Riffa are currently tied on their division standings with Qadsia and Dhofar on three points apiece. Jazeera have zero. Riffa have four games to play.

## 36

sides from all over Asia taking part in this year's AFC group stage, including two from Bahrain

On October 26, they face Dhofar before playing the return game against the Omanis on October 29. The Bahrainis then battle Qadsia on November 1 and then go head to head with Jazeera in their concluding game on November 4.

The AFC Cup is an annual continental club competition organised by the AFC. The competing teams are those who were unable to qualify for the AFC Champions League. There are a total of 36 sides from all over Asia taking part in this year's group stage.

Both Manama and Riffa need to finish amongst their group's top two teams to have any chance of advancing past this stage.

This year's AFC Cup kicked off in February but has been delayed due to the global coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

## BRAVE CF introduces most stacked fight card from the "European Invasion" this Saturday

TDT | Manama

Former champion looking for revenge, a one-time title challenger in search of validation; two explosive Super Lightweight bouts that highlight the need for a 74kg weight class; and the next two big things at Bantamweight. This is the main card of BRAVE CF 38, headlined by Abdoul Abdouraguimov and Carl Booth and taking place this Saturday, in Stockholm, Sweden.

Abdoul is coming off back-to-back battles with the current Welterweight titleholder Jarrah Al-Selawe, who handed him his first pro loss in their last encounter. "The Conqueror", one of the most underrated submission artists in Europe, is looking to get a third crack at "The Jordanian Lion" with a win over Booth.

The Englishman has been on a tear as of late, after being so close to BRAVE CF gold. At BRAVE CF 8, he was supposed to face Mohammad Fakhredine for the first-ever Welterweight title, but his opponent fell ill during his weight cut, and Carlston Harris stepped in, stifling Booth's striking with his wrestling.

Carl then fought Al-Selawe for the second time - after beating the current champ by KO before BRAVE CF. This time,



### BRAVE CF 38 Full Fight Card

- Welterweight: Abdoul Abdouraguimov vs Carl Booth
- Super Lightweight: Benoit St. Denis vs Mario Saeed
- Bantamweight: Bernardo Sopai vs Tariq Ismail
- Super Lightweight: Issa Isakov vs Djamil Chan
- Flyweight: Malin Hermansson vs Elin Oberg
- Catchweight: Dilmurod Movlonov vs David Jacobsson
- Catchweight: Joakim Jankovic vs Robert Nystrom
- Bantamweight: Jonny Touma vs Moher Azizi
- Catchweight: PK Zadeh vs Wasiu Idowu

however, Jarrah was the better man, beating Booth by decision. The two losses forced the Nottingham native to take a step

back and work on his defensive wrestling which has been showcased in his latest wins, over tough Dino Bagattin and Hayder Hassan.

In the Super Lightweight division, two pivotal bouts take center stage at BRAVE CF 38, which showcases why this weight-class is so important for the sport. Too big for Lightweight, too small for Welterweight, both Mario Saeed and Benoit St. Denis hope to thrive at 165lbs, with a view to challenging champ Eldar Eldarov.

The same can be said about Dutch striker Djamil Chan and grappler Issa Isakov. Even though both men are coming off losses, they hope to use BRAVE CF 38 to kickstart their career, as they found themselves in the same predicament as their co-main event counterparts.

In the Bantamweight division, a young, hungry fighter will have the chance to mix it up with an established contender. Bernardo Sopai is only 21, but has been dominating the local scene in Greece and Albania, and will have his shot at the international stage. He will take on Tariq Ismail, who's truly one of the most underrated Bantamweights in the world, and has shown in his first two BRAVE CF appearances that he's dangerous at 135lbs and 145lbs.

## HH Shaikh Nasser calls for taking safety measures before resuming sports

TDT | Manama

Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has stressed that the resumption of sports activities, in general, and the Nasser bin Hamad Football Premier League, in particular, indicates that life in Bahrain is back to normal gradually.

HH Shaikh Nasser stressed the importance of implementing the decisions of the Government Executive Committee, chaired by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to allow the resumption of sports

activities without spectators.

He also stressed the need to adhere to the recommendations made by the National Medical Taskforce for Combating Coronavirus and the guidelines issued by the Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry to protect the health and safety of the sports movement affiliates.

HH Shaikh Nasser pointed out that the resumption of football competitions in the kingdom indicates that Bahrain is on the right track towards returning to normalcy, calling on the sports community to be more aware and disciplined through full commitment to the precautionary measures put forward by the competent authorities to curb the spread of COVID-19.

## Bale left out by Zidane for Man City test

AFP | Madrid

Gareth Bale has been left out of Real Madrid's squad for their Champions League last 16 second leg against Manchester City on Friday.

Zinedine Zidane named 24 players on Wednesday for the trip to Manchester, where Madrid are aiming to overturn a 2-1 first-leg defeat to reach the quarter-finals.

Sergio Ramos will travel

with the squad, Madrid confirmed, despite being suspended for the fixture.

Bale, 31, was not on the list, adding another low-point to a turbulent season for the Welshman, who has hardly featured for Madrid this year.

Despite Madrid storming to the La Liga title, Bale made only two appearances during the 11 games after La Liga resumed, one of them from the start.