





Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)



**Safeguard your health by taking the booster dose**



**VACCINATE AND STAY SAFE**

**Executive Committee**



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chaired the 393rd meeting of the Government Executive committee held remotely. The meeting discussed the latest developments and measures to control the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the Kingdom




 Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
 Last update - 9:00 pm  
 5 August 2021

**Individuals vaccinated**

(First dose)

1 1 1 4 9 0 8

(Second dose)

1 0 6 2 2 3 7

(Booster dose)

1 7 4 4 3 6

Aged 40 and above and those with comorbidities

1 4 0 5 2 3 (55.1%)

Total of this Category 254,870

**Operate with 30% capacity: Taskforce tells Cinemas**

**P3**



**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

TOTAL TESTED

5526251

ACTIVE CASES

1052

DEATHS

1384

DISCHARGED

267301

NEW CASES

120

CRITICAL

4

210 fils (includes VAT)



**Focus on ties**

Bahrain, US mull developing strategic partnerships



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister during a meeting with Daniel Benaim, the US State Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Arabian Peninsula Affairs, at Riffa Palace

**H**is Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday stressed the importance of developing strategic partnerships during a meeting with a top US official.

HRH Prince Salman told Daniel Benaim, the US State Department's Deputy Assistant

Secretary for Arabian Peninsula Affairs, that Bahrain is looking forward to enhancing its ties with the US to serve common interests.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister further hailed the strong ties and emphasised the importance of developing partnerships that benefit both countries.

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Fi-

nance and National Economy, was present during the meeting held at Riffa Palace.

His Royal Highness welcomed Benaim's visit to Bahrain and praised the efforts of the United States of America in enhancing regional security and stability.

Their discussions also focused on all regional and international issues of common interest.

**Red list: Bahrain adds three, UK removes Bahrain, India**

- Passengers arriving in Bahrain from, or in transit, through red list countries must present a negative PCR certificate with a QR code, taken within 48 hours of departure

- Take PCR tests upon arrival and on the 10th day of quarantine

- Quarantine at a designated centre licenced by NHRA

- Passengers with an address in Bahrain may complete quarantine at that residence

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday expanded its travel red list countries to include Georgia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Malawi.

The decision, Bahrain's Civil Aviation Affairs said, is effective from the 12th of this month.

Meanwhile, in another development, the United Kingdom announced moving Bah-

rain, India, Qatar and UAE from its red list to amber list in its latest review.

Meaning, those who visit these countries from the UK will no longer have to book a quarantine hotel package when they return to England.

Instead, they can follow amber list rules: those who have been fully vaccinated or are under the age of 18 need not quarantine and must present a negative lateral flow test before departure and take a PCR test within two days of arrival in the UK.

The changes in UK will come into effect at 4 am on this Sunday.

Accordingly, passengers arriving in Bahrain from red list countries, including passengers who have transited through any of those countries at any point in the preceding 14 days, are prohibited from entry unless they are citizens or residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

On Bahrain's red list are 25 countries: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Iran, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Iraq, Tunisia, Georgia, Mongolia, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Myanmar, Panama, South Africa, Malawi, Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Ukraine.



General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Interior Minister, holding a meeting with Daniel Benaim, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Arabian Peninsula Affairs in the Near East Bureau at the US Department of State. Chief of Public Security Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan and Chargé d'Affaires of the US embassy, Margaret Nardi, were present. The Interior Minister lauded the strength of bilateral ties and strategic partnerships and discussed topics of common interest.



Defence Affairs Minister Lieutenant-General Abdullah bin Hassan Al-Nuaimi received Anwar Habibullah, the Chinese Ambassador to Bahrain. The minister praised the existing friendship between the two friendly countries.



Shaikh Salman bin Ahmed bin Salman Al Khalifa, the President of the Crown Prince's Court, held a meeting with Piyush Srivastava, the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain. Shaikh Salman welcomed the ambassador, hailing the long-standing ties between the two friendly countries at all levels, strengthened by the steady progress of their cooperation and coordination.

Ali bin Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, the Information Affairs Minister, and Dr Tasnim Atatrah, the World Health Organisation Representative and Head of Office in Bahrain, holding a meeting in the presence of Dr Mariam Al-Hajeri, the Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health, and Ameera Nooh, the senior international health relations specialist. The minister congratulated Dr Atatrah on her appointment to her post and wished her every success in carrying out her new duties in the kingdom.



Ali Ahmed Al Derazi, the President of the National Institution for Human Rights, during a meeting with Daniel Benyam, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. Al Derazi briefed the delegation on NIHR's work, objectives and competencies, explaining its role in dealing with human rights issues in Bahrain.



Arab Parliament Speaker Adel Al Asoumi holding a meeting with Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The minister affirmed his country's keenness to tighten its relations with the Arab countries, as reflected in the recent visits to several Arab countries. He praised the policies of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and his tireless efforts, making Bahrain one of the leading countries in preserving human rights.



Shaikh Salman bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Head of the Survey and Land Registration Bureau and the Board Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, holding a meeting with Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain. They discussed ways to enhance the growing bilateral cooperation in all fields.

**STATE OF THE ART  
(DBB - EXA)**

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Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, presenting a commemorative gift to Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Hasan, the outgoing ambassador of Sudan to Bahrain. The reception at the ministry was in the presence of Abdullah bin Rashid Al-Mudailawi, the ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Bahrain, and Ahmed Mohammed Al-Tarifi, the ministry's Chief of Arab Affairs.



Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, presenting a commemorative gift to Alfonso A. Ver, the Ambassador of the Philippines to Bahrain, on the occasion of the end of his term. Ambassador Fatima Abdulla Al-Dhaen, the ministry's Chief of Afro-Asian Affairs, and Abdullah bin Rashid Al-Mudailawi, the Ambassador of Oman, and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Bahrain, were present.



Jameel Humaidan, the Labour and Social Development Minister and Labour Market Regulatory Authority Chairman, receives the outgoing Nepalese Ambassador to Bahrain, Padam Sundas. The minister praised the ambassador's efforts in strengthening bilateral ties in all fields, especially the labour field.



Padam Sundas, the Ambassador of Nepal to Bahrain, receiving a gift from Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The reception was on the occasion of the end of the term of Sunda as Ambassador to Bahrain. The ambassador thanked the minister and all officials in Bahrain for the support and cooperation he received.



Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, during a meeting with Daniel Benaim, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Arabian Peninsula Affairs in the Near East Bureau at the US Department of State. The minister stressed Bahrain's keenness to promote bilateral cooperation and joint coordination to serve the common interests, noting the prominent American role in ensuring the security and stability of the region.

# Anti-covid nasal spray reaches Bahrain

NHRA gives the nod for a clinical trial to test Enovid nasal spray against COVID-19 in Bahrain

● Enovid is on sale in Israel for \$42

● The spray, SaNOtize says, solution has proved effective against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and its variants Alpha, Beta, Gamma, in lab tests conducted at Utah State University's Antiviral Research Institute.

● The spray releases a small dose of nitric oxide and is designed to kill viruses in the upper airways.

TD | Manama



Picture for representation

Enovid, the Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray showed to have reduced SARS-CoV-2 viral load in a Phase II trial, has received the approval of Bahrain's National Health Regulatory Authority to hold a Clinical study for it to use as a treatment against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Bahrain.

Daily Tribune had reported quoting 'nocamels' that the nasal spray developed by SaNOtize Research and Development Corporation is rolling out the product in Israel and Bahrain.

In Israeli pharmacies, Enovid is going on sale for US\$42, which Dr Gilly Regev, the Israeli-Canadian scientist who co-founded SaNOtize, has said the company is looking to bring down. It is for people 12 years of age and older.

NHRA statement says the authorisation follows a review of the documents and data on Enovid by the Ministry of Health supporting a clinical trial.

The trials will be among volunteers who are already diagnosed with COVID-19, whose

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Earlier this year, Enovid was granted an emergency use authorization as a medical device by Israel's Ministry of Health and began a local production line. It has been approved for people 12 years of age and older.

symptoms are mild.

The approval for the spray will be as a preventive treatment or as a treatment for mild symptoms.

Based on approval, the prod-

uct will be available for purchase from the market without a prescription.

The sprayer developed by the Canada-based company has been certified by NHRA as patented technology.

The nasal spray kills the virus in the upper airways, preventing it from incubating and spreading to the lungs. According to results announced by SaNOtize, early treatment helps reduce the effects of the virus. The study found that patients treated with the spray showed a reduction of around 95% in viral replication in the first 24 hours and more than 99% within 72 hours. There are no recorded side effects.

Enovid was granted an emergency use authorisation as a medical device by Israel's Ministry of Health earlier this year. News Zealand had also given interim approval for the sale of NONS.

Enovid provides a physical and chemical barrier to protect from viruses by releasing a small dose of nitric oxide (NO), a natural nano molecule with proven anti-microbial properties, including against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Reuters had said NONS had begun its manufacturing in Israel

**95%**

A study found that patients treated with the spray showed a reduction of around 95% in viral replication in the first 24 hours and more than 99% within 72 hours.

under the brand name Enovid in March this year.

## Yellow level

Bahrain is currently aiming to inoculate at least 80% of individuals aged 40 and above who have had two doses of Sinopharm vaccine with booster shots.

Till then, the yellow light will be the lowest level the Kingdom will be able to reach on its COVID-19 alert system modelled on the four colour traffic light system.

The Yellow alert level is in play since 1 August 2021.

Once 80% of those eligible had received their booster doses, the Green level will be back.

The interval between the second dose of Sinopharm and a booster shot is one month for eligible individuals aged 40 and above.

## Operate with 30% capacity: Taskforce tells Cinemas

**Yellow level**

When the rolling average percentage of positive cases out of tests carried out is between 2 - 5% for 7 days.

Only the red, orange, and yellow alert levels will be adopted during this phase until at least 80% of individuals aged 40 and above have received a booster shot.

**The following activities are for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals**

- Retail shops
- Entering standalone government centers
- Providing the option to attend education and training institutions
- Holding of private events at home, with no more than 30 attendees

**Limited to:**

- Vaccinated green shield holders
- Those recovered from COVID-19
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a vaccinated or a recovered person

**Shopping malls**

- Restaurants and cafes indoor services
- Indoor gyms, sport halls and swimming pools
- Cinemas with up to 30% of the facility's capacity
- Barber shops, salons and spas
- Playgrounds and entertainment centers
- Events and conferences
- Audience attendance at sporting events

**The essential sectors that will remain open are:**

Hypermarkets, supermarkets, grocery stores, and stores that sell meat products and fresh vegetables, bakeries, fuel and gas stations, private health clinics, with the exception of some health services for which a circular is to be issued by the National Health Regulatory Authority, banks and currency exchange services, administration offices of institutions and companies, whose activities are not directly customer facing, import and export distributors, automobile repair and spare parts shops, businesses operating in the processing, construction and maintenance sectors, factories, telecom operators, pharmacies.

● Earlier, yellow level allowed 50% capacity for Cinemas

● No changes in any other Yellow level restrictions

● The decision effective Thursday

TD | Manama

Cinemas in the Kingdom should operate only at 30% of their capacity, said the National Medical Taskforce in a statement.

The new decision, effective Thursday, modifies the activities allowed while in the Yellow level of the COVID-19 alert system modelled on the traffic light system.

As per an earlier decision, the yellow level allows Cinemas to operate with up to 50% of the facility's capacity.

Officials said the thresholds set for each alert level are subject to change depending on

developments.

Entry to cinemas is only for vaccinated green shield holders, those recovered from COVID-19.

Besides, a vaccinated or a recovered person should accompany children under the age of 12.

The new decision, the Taskforce said, is in line with the latest data, with approval from the Government Executive Committee.

The Taskforce also reiterated the importance of adhering to preventive measures to protect public health.

Meanwhile, Civil Service Authority said it is revising the percentage of work-from-home policy across all government entities in the yellow level to 30% from the previous 50%. In the red light, it will be 70% and Orange 50%.

Entry to service centres and government offices is limited to vaccinated and recovered individuals in the red and orange levels. A vaccinated or recovered person should accompany those under the age of 12 years.

## Witnesses to testify in BD1.5m money laundering case

TD | Manama

The High Criminal Court summoned prosecution witnesses to testify in a case, which accuses a 37-year-old Bahraini man and an Arab national of laundering BD1.5 million.

Court files say the Bahraini man embezzled the money from 23 others by hoodwinking them into thinking that he owns companies specialised in providing commercial and technological consultations.

Investigators found the suspects were using an account in the name of a company owned by the Arab man in his home country for laundering the amounts collected from the victims.

To avoid suspicion and to transfer the amount, the pair also signed a recruitment agree-

**“The defendant came to me and requested me to lend him BD13000, although I didn't know him. He managed to convince me that my father was his friend and he was trustworthy. After three days, I gave him BD3000.”**

ONE OF THE VICTIMS

ment. Victims, court files say, are all occupying high-ranking positions.

During interrogation, one of

the victims told the court: “The defendant came to me and requested me to borrow BD13000, although I didn't know him. He managed to convince me that my father was his friend and he was trustworthy. After three days, I gave him BD3000.”

“After a few days, he came back to me and gave me the BD3000 back, but he offered me to invest the money with great returns. This time I gave him BD84,000. It was a trap,” he added.

The suspects, investigators found, followed the same trick with all other victims.

Police found that the man was offering investing services without having a valid license to operate in that capacity in the Kingdom.

The suspects were running the fraudulent scheme from their homes.

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# Court releases critically ill inmate for treatment

TDT | Manama

An inmate suffering from a terminal illness, and serving a life term in a terrorism case, was released temporarily by a Bahraini court on humanitarian grounds.

A Bahraini Court released the inmate, accepting a request filed by the Public Prosecution.

The Prosecution had told the Court that continuing the inmate, who requires constant medical attention, in prison would endanger his life.

The Head of the Execution Prosecution said they approached the Court after reviewing the health situation of the inmate serving his term at the Correction and Rehabilitation facility.



The Prosecution took up the case following a request by the inmate's father.

The request said the inmate, suffering from a terminal illness, is undergoing treatment at the Salmaniya Medical Complex and needs to be released from prison.

A forensic doctor in a report

to the Public Prosecution had also confirmed the inmate's health condition. The doctor termed the inmate's condition as rare.

The doctor also confirmed that the patient needs constant medical follow up and continuing to carry out the punishment will deprive him of his right to get proper treatment.

# Recovering dues: Court orders to pay half a million dollars

TDT | Manama

The High Commercial Court ordered an investment guarantor bank to pay US\$ 504,497.7 or its equivalent in Bahraini Dinars to a Gulf citizen in a payments default case.

Court files say the case stems from a deal made by a Gulf Citizen to sell goods worth US\$621,300 to the defendant for US\$ 621,300 for which they also signed a bank guarantee.

However, the defendant failed to pay the dues on the agreed dates, which amounted to BD205,482, said lawyers Mohamed Buntiea and lawyer Hassan Majali.

## Court case

Following this, the issue went to court.

The first defendant agreed to the court that he had a contract with the plaintiff to purchase goods for 545,000 dollars.

He told the court that he first paid the agreed amount of profits and then paid \$4,0502.30 of the claimed amount, bringing the total dues to around \$500,000.

The lawyers told the court that the contract doesn't call for rescheduling the debts for which the evidence is straightforward.

They also pointed out that the parties also made no amendments to the original contract.

# \$50,000 for children with diabetes



Dr Al Sayyed receiving the donation

TDT | Manama

A US\$50,000 donation by Aisha Jewels Company will power the insulin pumps project of the Royal Humanitarian

Foundation.

Dr Mustafa Al Sayyed, the RHF Secretary-General, received the donation from Aisha Abdulmalik, the company's owner.

The RHF thanked the company for supporting children with type 1 diabetes.

Dr Al Sayyed said the cost-ly pumps would help alleviate their pain and lead a happy life.

# Car crash in Yemen: Bahraini man, wife injured, driver dies on spot

## Driver died on the spot

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini man in his fifties and his wife were injured seriously in a tragic car accident in Yemen.

The driver of the car reportedly died on the spot.

The accident, an AlAyam report said, occurred in Yemen's Al-Arquob area near Shaqra on a highway. The injured was rushed to a hospital in Aden.

The report says the accident



occurred when the couple was travelling in a car with Bahraini number plates.

Yemeni security authorities are pursuing legal measures. The victims are not identified.

Bahrain Cinema Company B.S.C.														
Condensed consolidated interim financial information for six months period ended 30 June 2021														
<b>Condensed consolidated interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the six months period ended 30 June 2021</b>					<b>Condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021</b>					<b>Condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flows for the six months period ended 30 June 2021</b>				
(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)					(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)					(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)				
	Quarter ended 30 June 2021 (Reviewed)	Quarter ended 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)	Six months ended 30 June 2021 (Reviewed)	Six months ended 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)		30 June 2021 (Reviewed)	31 December 2020 (Audited)		Six months period ended 30 June 2021 (Reviewed)	Six months period ended 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)		Six months period ended 30 June 2021 (Reviewed)	Six months period ended 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)	
Operating income	345,123	256,660	608,464	1,723,147	ASSETS			Operating activities	324,794	(12,184,006)				
Operating costs	(615,319)	(568,155)	(1,077,574)	(2,035,791)	Non-current assets			Net profit/(loss) for the period						
Operating gross loss for the period	(270,196)	(311,495)	(469,110)	(312,644)	Property, plant and equipment	4,101,605	4,425,662	Adjustments for:						
Income/(loss) from investments	870,997	1,241,851	748,674	(657,570)	Capital work-in-progress	1,808,586	1,610,429	Depreciation	334,049	462,545				
Other income	215,278	337,505	496,651	494,934	Investment properties	21,910,000	21,910,000	Amortisation of cost to right-of-use assets	269,062	545,659				
General and administrative expenses	(102,942)	(167,328)	(312,813)	(677,262)	Right-of-use assets	2,602,691	2,871,953	Loss on disposal of investment property	-	99,670				
Impairment loss on investment in associate	-	-	-	(10,905,664)	Investment in an associate	9,551,112	8,662,694	Impairment in investment in associate	-	10,905,664				
Finance costs	(67,141)	(54,880)	(138,608)	(125,800)	Non-current portion of receivable on disposal of business operations	6,304,703	6,304,703	Net share of loss/(profit) from investment in an associate	141,512	(179,527)				
Net profit/(loss) and other comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	645,996	1,045,653	324,794	(12,184,006)	Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9,492,765	9,537,976	Dividend income	(280,923)	(364,644)				
Basic earning/(loss) per share	8fils	13fils	4fils	(154)fils	Current assets			Unrealised losses/(gains) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(260,207)	1,225,577				
					Inventories	138,100	126,582	Realised (gains)/loss on sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(26,742)	4,516				
					Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	10,527,927	10,589,855	Profit from fixed deposits	(41,030)	-				
					Trade and other receivables	4,589,179	4,030,108	Rent concessions	(182,730)	(180,309)				
					Cash and bank balances	3,967,604	3,702,229	Interest income from trading of bonds and sukuk	(281,284)	(123,506)				
					Total assets	19,222,810	18,448,774	Interest income on long term receivables	(212,784)	(283,710)				
					EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			Finance costs	138,608	125,800				
					Capital and reserves			Changes in operating assets and liabilities:						
					Share capital	8,262,345	8,262,345	Inventories	(11,518)	5,906				
					Share premium	911,442	911,442	Trade and other receivables	(559,071)	(350,730)				
					Revaluation reserve	4,557,442	4,557,442	Employees terminal benefits	(13,941)	(76,122)				
					Statutory reserve	4,131,173	4,131,173	Trade and other payables	351,283	1,057,808				
					Charity reserve	310,695	310,695	Net cash provided by operating activities	(310,922)	690,591				
					Retained earnings	41,238,477	40,913,683	Investing activities						
					Treasury shares	(370,575)	(370,575)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(9,992)	(18,943)				
					Non-current liabilities			Addition in capital work-in-progress	(198,157)	-				
					Non-current portion of Murabaha facility	486,105	767,460	Additions to investment properties	-	(79,921)				
					Non-current portion of lease liabilities	2,089,329	2,380,402	Proceeds from sale of investment property	-	5,000				
					Employees' terminal and other benefits	1,906,852	2,010,793	Interest income on long term receivable	212,784	283,710				
					Current liabilities			Profit from fixed deposit received	41,030	-				
					Current portion of Murabaha facility	5,523,508	5,502,087	Proceeds from sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	194,087	-				
					Current portion of lease liabilities	1,379,401	1,287,206	Interest income from bonds and sukuk	281,284	123,506				
					Trade and other payables	1,254,054	964,583	Dividend received from associate	280,923	281,467				
					Bank overdrafts	3,221,354	2,993,995	Dividend income received	280,923	364,644				
					Total equity and liabilities	74,994,672	74,602,321	Net cash provided by investing activities	801,959	959,463				
								Financing activities						
								Purchase of treasury shares	-	(18,835)				
								Net movement in Murabaha facility	(256,934)	(236,795)				
								Lease liabilities paid	(43,400)	(298,793)				
								Dividends paid	(61,312)	(1,912,742)				
								Finance costs paid	(91,355)	(59,309)				
								Net cash used in financing activities	(453,001)	(2,526,474)				
								Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	38,036	(876,420)				
								Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period	708,244	(545,709)				
								Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period	746,280	(1,422,129)				
								Comprising: Cash and bank balances	3,967,604	385,483				
								Bank overdrafts	(3,221,324)	(1,807,612)				
									746,280	(1,422,129)				

Dr Esam Abdulla Yusuf Fakhro  
Chairman

Ali Yusuf Ali Ubaydi  
Vice-Chairman

Ahmad A. Rashed Albastaki  
MD & CEO

Auditors  
BDO

# Gulf Air releases 70th-anniversary documentary

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air has released a special documentary about the airline's history and 70 years of aviation in the region.

The one-episode, 20-minute documentary takes the viewers on a journey from the establishment of Gulf Air in 1950 throughout the seven following decades until its 70th anniversary in 2020.

The documentary features prominent figures from Bahrain who were part of the airline's history or were linked to its evolution at different stages and eras.

Interviews were conducted with:

- Zayed R. Alzayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism / Chairman of Gulf Air's Board of Directors
- Capt. Waleed Abdulhameed AlAlawi, Gulf Air's Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Shaikha Hind bint Salman Al Khalifa, Wife of Sh. Rashid bin Hassan Al Khalifa, First Bahraini Pilot for Gulf Air
- Capt. Abdulrahman Al-Gaoud, Ambassador of



Screen grabs from the video available on the link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORslgmJpBnc>)

the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Republic of India and Gulf Air's First Bahraini Captain

- Mohammed Yateem, Businessman & Son of Hussain Yateem, Gulf Aviation Co-Founder
- Yousuf Salahuddin, Businessman & Bahrain's First Licensed Pilot

Dorine Oberndorfer, Former Gulf Air Stewardess & Passenger Service Officer

Various topics were discussed and memories were shared by the participants focusing on Gulf Air's reflection on Bahrain's identity, the idea of forming an airline based in Bahrain, the Gulf Aviation days, the involvement

of the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC), GCC states joining the airline, Bahrain's and Gulf Air's leading the way for many 'firsts' and how Gulf Air highlights the Kingdom on the global map as a carrier of culture and growth.

Gulf Air's Acting Chief Executive Officer Capt. Waleed Abdulhameed AlAlawi, said:

"Gulf Air has come a long way since its establishment as Gulf Aviation in 1950. Today it is the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain and it connects the island with many parts of the world. Gulf Air is a key asset to Bahrain's economic wheel as it contributes to its GDP in various forms such as inbound tourism traffic, transit traffic, imports

and exports cargo as well as promoting Bahrain on a global scale through major sponsorship and events".

The documentary is available to watch on Gulf Air's YouTube channel and social media platforms and will also be available for viewing on-board Gulf Air flights and on Bahrain's National Television.

## Bapco CEO meets Japanese Envoy



Dr Dawood Nassif, the Chairman and Chief Executive of Bapco, held a meeting with Miyamoto Masayuki, the Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom, in Al-Dair, Awali. They reviewed several issues of mutual interest and means of boosting cooperation. Dr Nassif stressed Bapco's commitment to fostering economic growth initiatives as per the directives of the wise leadership and the guidance of the Oil Minister. The Japanese Ambassador hailed Bapco's efforts to upgrade the oil industry, wishing Bapco further progress and prosperity. Matsubara Kenji, the First Secretary - Economic, Cultural & PR Section of the Japanese Embassy to the Kingdom, was present.

## Biden to aim for 50% EVs by 2030

Reuters | Washington

US President Joe Biden will sign an executive order aimed at making half of all new vehicles sold in 2030 zero-emissions vehicles and will propose new vehicle-emission rules to cut pollution through 2026, the White House said.

Biden's goal, which is not legally binding, won the support of major US and foreign automakers that warned it would require billions of dollars in government funding.

"We have got to act," US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a CNBC interview. "This goal of getting half of our new vehicles to be electric within the decade is going to be urgently needed for us to



meet the imperative of climate in our time."

General Motor, Ford Motor and Chrysler-parent Stellantis NV, in a joint statement, said they aspired "to achieve sales of 40-50% of annual US volumes of electric vehicles... by 2030." Reuters reported the planned automaker announcement on

Tuesday.

Biden's 50% goal and the automakers' 40-50% aspiration includes battery electric, fuel cell and plug-in hybrid vehicles that also have a gasoline-engine.

Biden has repeatedly resisted calls from many Democrats to set a binding requirement for EV adoption or to follow California and some countries in setting 2035 as a date to phase out the sale of new gasoline-powered light duty vehicles in the face of opposition by the United Auto Workers (UAW) union.

UAW President Ray Curry noted the EV goal but said it was focused "on preserving the wages and benefits that have been the heart and soul of the American middle class."

## Region's first Smart Facilities Management conference on way in Dubai

Over 200 industry leaders are expected to converge at the two-day summit in Dubai

Summit to discuss recent trends, challenges and developments in the Facilities Management Industry to develop sustainable FM strategies for the future

TDT | Dubai

Aldrich International, a global consulting platform spearheading the development of knowledge-based economies in the MENASEA, will convene The Smart Facilities Management Conference & Showcase (SFM) 2021, the GCC region's first Smart FM Gathering focusing on Smart Technologies impacting the growth & future of FM indus-



try in Middle East, from August 18-19 in Dubai, UAE.

Addressing the theme of "Gearing Up for the Future, Developing Sustainable Facility Management Strategies", the summit's vision is to facilitate an enabling environment to address the emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in the Facilities Management sector of the Middle East Market.

Speaking ahead of the summit, Said El Haouasli, Vice President - Facilities Management, DAMAC Properties said, "The rise in integrated technologies fueled with the UAE hosting the EXPO 2020 will aid in the growth of facilities management (FM) over the next few years. FM role in Dubai Vision 2040 will be crucial and pivotal. The increased infrastructure required to real-

ize the plan will require FM providers will further enhance their existing service offering, built on the foundation of sustainability that puts people and the environment at the forefront."

Expressing his views on GCC's facilities management environment, Khaldun Aburok, Director, Farnek Services LLC said, "It is no longer confined to merely cleaning and general

maintenance. Smart and green FM performed by a well-trained workforce will be essential to drive Dubai's visionary plan and enhance people's quality of life over decades."

Speaking on the importance of asset lifecycle management & the role of facilities management, Intiaz Ahmad, Director - Commercial Operations FM, Dubai Holding Asset Management (DHAM) said, "Facility Management is one of the key business enablers. By applying "Smart FM Solutions" we add value for building occupants and facility owners."

Focusing on operations & FM as a key function to influence customer experience and enhance business resilience in post-pandemic, Prabhu Ramachandran, Founder & CEO, Facilio said, "I look forward to discussing with other expert panelists on how FMs are playing a strategic role in client success today."

The two-day conference will

see key panel discussions on developing professional potential for the SMART workplace, building energy manager accreditation scheme and its role in Dubai's energy efficiency ambitions, increasing efficiency through digitalization in FM, future leaders of the Middle East FM sector among others.

Key Industry Veterans from leading facilities management services, smart & security solutions will headline The Smart Facilities Management Conference 2021 as it aims to spearhead discussions gravitating around the high-stake area of Smart Facilities Management.

The two-day show is expected to draw participation from over 200 prominent facility management services, waste management, green FM/energy, fire prevention, protection and security industry from across the GCC onto one platform by spearheading actionable debate, impactful change and high-level outcomes.

## News in brief

### Russia, Belarus to press ahead with military drills criticised by Ukraine

Russia and Belarus will hold

large-scale crossborder military drills next month, Belarus' defence ministry said, which Ukraine has described as a threat to its own security and that of NATO. The "West-2021" drills will involve thousands of servicemen, including those from Moscow-led defence bloc member Kazakhstan, as well as tanks, artillery and aircraft, the ministry said in a statement.

Nicaraguan authorities have detained a former

### Nicaraguan police detain former beauty queen aiming to contest elections

beauty queen bidding to contest the November presidential elections, her party said, as the government of President Daniel Ortega shows no sign of ending a crackdown against the opposition.

For months Ortega's government has been detaining political adversaries, including presidential hopefuls, ahead of an election. Berenice Quezada, who was Miss Nicaragua in 2017, was detained at her home late on Tuesday night and placed under house arrest, her Citizens Alliance for Liberty (ACXL) party said



### South Sudan's Machar says 'peace spoilers' backed his removal as party leader

South Sudan's first Vice

President Riek Machar has accused rival military leaders who announced he had been deposed as party and armed forces leader of trying to block the country's peace process.

The military wing of his SPLM/A-IO movement said on Wednesday it had removed Machar, who helped push his partner, President Salva Kiir, to a peace deal in 2018 and the subsequent formation of a unity government, for undermining reforms.

President Joe Biden picked Mark Brzezinski,

### Biden picks diplomat with Polish ties to manage key NATO relationship

a Democratic-aligned foreign policy official with ties to Poland, as his ambassador to the European country regarded as a key Western bulwark against Russia. Biden has been eager to strengthen partnerships in Europe to counter both Russia's and China's assertive posture given cool relations between Washington and those countries. Poland and the United States are both members of the NATO military alliance.



### Lions kill three children near Tanzania wildlife reserve

Three young children were killed by lions near Tanzania's world-renowned

Ngorongoro wildlife reserve as they went to look for lost cattle, police said. The youngsters aged between nine and 11 had arrived home from school on Monday and gone into a forest near the Ngorongoro Conservation Area to search for the missing animals, Arusha police chief Justine Masejo said. "That is when the lions attacked and killed three children while injuring one," he added.

## COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	36,210,818	631,468
2 India	31,855,725	426,782
3 Brazil	20,026,533	559,715
4 Russia	6,379,904	162,509
5 France	6,233,876	112,098
6 UK	5,982,581	130,086
7 Turkey	5,846,784	51,875
8 Argentina	4,975,616	106,747
9 Colombia	4,815,063	121,695
10 Spain	4,566,571	81,931
11 Italy	4,377,188	128,163
12 Iran	4,057,758	92,628
13 Germany	3,788,907	92,255
14 Indonesia	3,568,331	102,375

**Global tally**  
201,459,884  
**Deaths**  
4,276,662  
**Recovered:**  
181,313,834  
**New cases**  
+523,145  
**New deaths**  
+7,618

## Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	105,705		6,142		98,413	1,150
Saudi Arabia	530,981	+986	8,297	+13	512,373	+1,055
UAE	688,489	+1,508	1,967	+2	665,593	+1,463
Kuwait	401,697	+718	2,356	+5	389,798	+918
Oman	298,020	+296	3,906	+17	282,763	+1,039
Qatar	227,055	+181	601		224,384	+99

## Belarus Olympic athlete 'happy to be in safety' in Poland

Reuters | Warsaw

Belarusian Olympic sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya said she was "happy to be in safety" in Warsaw on yesterday, a day after arriving in Poland where she took refuge after saying she feared for her life if forced to return home.

The 24-year-old athlete has been at the centre of a diplomatic drama in the middle of the Games since seeking the protection of Tokyo 2020 staff on Sunday, saying her team was trying to bundle her onto a plane after she publicly criticised her coaches.

"I am also happy to be here, happy to be in safety," she told reporters in the Polish capital where she arrived from Tokyo via Vienna.

Tsimanouskaya said she was "surprised that the situation became such a political scandal because it started out as a sporting issue", and revealed that "she was "not thinking about political asylum" in EU member Poland, which has granted her a humanitarian visa.

"I just want to pursue my sporting career," she said, adding that her husband, Arseny Zdanevich, was "already on the road to Poland - he will be here today".

The Polish government said Zdanevich had also been given a humanitarian visa after he fled to Ukraine on Wednesday.

"I hope we can stay here and I can pursue my career and he can find work," Tsimanouskaya said, adding that she was "willing to return to Belarus once I'm sure that I will be safe there."

Saying she hoped to compete at two more Olympic Games, Tsimanouskaya vowed to do "everything to get back in shape and continue my career."



Belarusian sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya attends an interview in Warsaw

**"I'm a sportsperson and I didn't understand anything in political life. I try not to do anything other than a sport in my life and I try my best to not be distracted by politics"**

KRYSTINA TSIMANOUSKAYA

### 'Messages of support'

Before leaving Tokyo, the sprinter spent two nights sheltering in the Polish embassy after calling for international help.

Belarus has been wracked by political upheaval and a crackdown on dissent after disputed elections that returned strongman Alexander Lukashenko to power last year. Tsimanouskaya was one of more than 2,000 Belarusian sports figures who signed an open letter calling for new elections and for political prisoners to be freed.

But her trouble in Tokyo came after she posted on her Instagram, criticising her coaches for entering her into a race without informing her first.

"My parents told me that they're saying bad things about me on television... I got a lot of bad messages but I got even more messages of support," Tsimanouskaya told reporters.

"I'm very worried about my parents, particularly since my dad has a heart condition and it has got worse in recent days," she said.

The International Olympic Committee has said it will investigate Belarus's Olympic team, as activists call for the country's Olympic committee to be suspended and its athletes to compete as neutrals.

Lukashenko and his son Viktor have been banned from Olympic events over the targeting of athletes for their political views.

Shortly before the Tokyo Games, Lukashenko warned sports officials and athletes that he expected results in Japan.

"Think about it before going," he said. "If you come back with nothing, it's better for you not to come back at all."

The alleged attempt to return Tsimanouskaya to Belarus has prompted condemnation, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken accusing Minsk of "another act of transnational repression".

## Wildfire town as

Indian Valley settlement

The blaze is so big that it has been generating its own weather system

AFP | Washington

The largest wildfire in California has razed a small town in the state's parched northeast, warping street lights and destroying historic buildings hours after residents were ordered to flee.

Greenville, an Indian Valley settlement of a few hundred people dating back to the mid-1800s Gold Rush era, was engulfed by flames as winds whipped the inferno towards the community, turning the sky orange.

"I'd say the majority of downtown Greenville is completely destroyed," tweeted wildfire photographer Stuart Palley, sharing images of the devastation.

"My heart is broken for this beautiful little town."

The Dixie Fire has been raging in the forests of northern California since mid-July, part of a climate crisis that has brought sweltering heat and an alarming drought.

Authorities had earlier issued evacuation alerts to residents, as high winds fanned the fire which, at 500 square miles (1,300 sq km), has grown to more than seven times the size of the US capital, Washington.

The blaze is so big that it has been generating its own weather system.

"We did everything we could," California Fire spokesman Mitch

## Indonesia says 'Jurassic Park' project on track despite UNESCO warnings

Reuters | Jakarta

Construction on an Indonesian tourism project dubbed "Jurassic Park" on social media will continue, the Southeast Asian country's environment ministry said yesterday, despite UNESCO warnings the plans could have a negative environmental impact.

Work on a series of tourism projects in Indonesia's Komodo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, began last year, sparking concerns about threats to the local economy and the fragile habitat of the park's namesake, the Komodo dragon.

Last month, officials from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) told a World Heritage Committee conference that the project required a new environmental impact assessment over illegal fishing concerns and the potential risk to the Komodo dragon's natural habitat.

"This project will proceed... it's been proven to have no impact," Wiratno, a senior official at Indonesia's environment ministry, told Reuters.

UNESCO officials told last month's meeting that they had requested an updated assessment



A general view of Indonesia's Komodo National Park

from the Indonesian government but received no response. Wiratno said a new assessment was being drafted and could be sent in September.

It was not clear exactly what the project, centred on the island of Rinca, entails. Last year, the government said it was building a "premium tourism spot" on the island.

In a separate statement, Wiratno said the project mainly included renovation work on existing structures and did not pose any danger to the rare Komodo dragon.

Rima Melani Bilaut of the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI), an environmental group, said the project could impact the local community, as well as disturb the dragons.

"We urge the government to develop tourism that's based on the people. There are people living there," she said.

Last year, social media users likened the project to one on a dinosaur island featured in the "Jurassic Park" films after photos of a dragon standing in front of a

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

**Komodo National Park is inhabited by a population of around 5,700 giant lizards, whose appearance and aggressive behaviour have led to them being called 'Komodo dragons'. They exist nowhere else in the world and are of great interest to scientists studying the theory of evolution**

big vehicle were widely shared online.

1661

The Treaty of The Hague is signed whereby the Dutch Republic sells New Holland (Brazil) for 63 tonnes of gold to Portugal

1945

Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the US B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay"

1965

US President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act prohibiting voting discrimination against minorities



1991

Tim Berners-Lee releases files describing his idea for the World Wide Web. www debuts as a publicly available service on the Internet

# levels historic California residents flee blaze

ent dating back to mid-1800s Gold Rush era engulfed by flames



Inmate firefighters prep a home by moving combustible items as the Dixie Fire burns in Chester, California

**The Dixie Fire has been raging in the forests of northern California since mid-July, part of a climate crisis that has brought sweltering heat and an alarming drought**

Matlow told reporters. "Sometimes it's just not enough."

Images taken by an AFP photographer showed the fire's heat had bent street lights to the ground, with only a few structures still standing.

A gas station, a hotel and a bar were destroyed, as well as many buildings that were more than a century old.

The fire entered the town at roughly 4:00 pm Wednesday (2300 GMT) according to Jake Cagle, incident management team operations section chief.

He said firefighters were struggling with those not obeying evacuation orders, leading to them having to divert time and resources to rescue people in the path of the flames.

"It's just intense fire behavior, and it's not what we're used to," he said.

"Firefighters are fighting for

the town of Greenville," US Forest Service spokeswoman Pandora Valle told the San Francisco Chronicle late Wednesday, but was unable to give further details.

The Plumas County Sheriff's Department issued an evacuation order late Tuesday for the 2,000 or so residents of Chester to flee the area.

"If you remained you should evacuate to the EAST, IMMEDIATELY!" the sheriff's department posted on their official Facebook page Wednesday.

"If you cannot evacuate and you are threatened by fire and can safely get there, take refuge at the Chester High School baseball field!"

In a second warning on social media, the department added: "If you are still in the Greenville area, you are in imminent danger and you MUST leave now!!"

"If you remain, emergency re-

sponders may not be able to assist you."

By late July, the number of acres burned in California was up more than 250 percent from 2020 — itself the worst year of wildfires in the state's modern history.

The Dixie Fire has evoked painful memories of the Paradise Fire, the deadliest blaze in California's recent history.

Faulty power lines sparked the inferno, which swept through the northern town of Paradise in 2018, killing 86 people. Pacific Gas and Electric, California's largest energy utility firm, was deemed responsible.

PG&E equipment is again being blamed for the Dixie Fire, after a tree fell on a power conductor the day the blaze began.

The utility announced in late July it will bury 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometers) of power lines in a massive bid to prevent its equipment from igniting more deadly wildfires.

# Israeli aircraft strike Lebanon launch sites



A view shows the damage in the aftermath of Israeli air strikes as seen from Marjayoun, near the border with Israel, Lebanon

● Israel's air strikes were the first targeting Lebanese villages since 2006

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israeli jets struck what its military said were rocket launch sites in Lebanon early yesterday in response to two rockets fired towards Israel from Lebanese territory, in an escalation of cross-border hostilities amid heightened friction with Iran.

The rockets launched from Lebanon on Wednesday struck open areas in northern Israel, causing brush fires along the hilly frontier.

Israel responded with several rounds of artillery fire on Wednesday before launching air strikes early yesterday, the military said.

"(Military) fighter jets struck the launch sites and infrastructure used for terror in Lebanon from which the rockets were launched," the mili-

This was an attack meant to send a message ... Clearly we could do much more, and we hope we won't arrive at that

ISRAEL'S DEFENCE MINISTER BENNY GANTZ

tary said in a statement, adding that it also struck an area that had seen rocket launches in the past.

While Hezbollah's al-Manar TV has reported on the Israeli action, the group itself was yet to issue any statement.

Shortly after the strikes, al-Manar TV said that Israeli warplanes had carried out two raids on the outskirts of the Lebanese town of Mahmudiya, about 12 km (7.5 miles) from the Israeli border. There were no reports of casualties.

Lebanese President Michel Aoun said Israel's air strikes were the first targeting Lebanese villages since 2006 and showed an escalation in its "aggressive intent".



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



The infrastructure deal makes the largest federal investment in public transit ever. The largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak. The single largest dedicated bridge investment since the Interstate Highway System was built. It's historic.

@POTUS

02



British farmers go above and beyond around the clock to keep the nation fed. This #Farm24 I want to thank them and recognise the extraordinary contribution they make every day to this country. They will always have my support.

@BorisJohnson

03



The right to vote is fundamental, and we must do everything we can to protect it. We must pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

@VP

04



The Cuban government "cut the internet to stop the Cuban people from accessing social media, a tool they were bravely using to open the eyes of the world. Who does that? Only a country that fears its people shuts down the internet."

@KenRoth

# Geological analysis explains durability of Stonehenge megaliths

Reuters | London

The first comprehensive scientific analysis of Stonehenge's imposing megaliths has revealed some of the traits that made them an exemplary building material for the famed monument in southern England including their stout resistance to weathering.

Researchers on Wednesday described a battery of examinations that provided a glimpse inside one of Stonehenge's 52 sandstone megaliths, known as sarsens, gaining insight into its geology and chemistry.

They studied a core sample extracted from one of the sarsens, called Stone 58, during 1950s conservation work. It was kept in the United States for decades before being returned to Britain for research in 2018.

The sarsens are made of stone called silcrete that formed gradually within a few yards (meters) of the ground surface as a result of groundwater washing through buried sediment.

The examination clarified Stone 58's internal structure. It showed that the silcrete is comprised of mainly sand-sized



General view of the Stonehenge stone circle during the sunset

quartz grains cemented tightly together by an interlocking mosaic of quartz crystals. Quartz is extremely durable and does not easily crumble or erode even when exposed to eons of wind and weather.

"This explains the stone's resistance to weathering and why it made an ideal material for monument-building," said University of Brighton geomorphologist David Nash, who led the study published in the journal PLOS ONE.

In a remarkable engineering achievement by late Neolithic people, the sarsens were erected at the site in Wiltshire, England around 2500 BC. Stone 58,

one of the giant upright sarsens at Stonehenge's center, stands about 7 meters (23 feet) tall, with another 2 meters (7 feet) underground, and an estimated above-ground weight of 24 tons.

The core sample is a rod of stone, about an inch (2.5 cm) in diameter and roughly a yard (meter) long. Its cream colour is brighter than the pale-gray exterior of the megaliths, which have been exposed to the elements for millennia.

It was given as a souvenir to a man named Robert Phillips who worked for a company involved in the conservation work and was on-site during drilling. Phillips took it with him with

Getting access to the core drilled from Stone 58 was very much the Holy Grail for our research. All the previous work on sarsens at Stonehenge involved samples either excavated from the site or knocked off from random stones

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON GEOMORPHOLOGIST DAVID NASH

permission when he emigrated to the United States in 1977. Phillips decided to return it to Britain for research in 2018. He died in 2020.

"Getting access to the core drilled from Stone 58 was very much the Holy Grail for our research," Nash said. "All the previous work on sarsens at Stonehenge involved samples either excavated from the site or knocked off from random stones."

The researchers used CT-scanning, X-rays, microscopic analyses and various geochemical

techniques to study fragments and wafer-thin slices of the core sample - such testing being off limits for megaliths at the site.

"This small sample is now probably the most analyzed piece of stone other than moon rock," Nash said.

It remains unclear precisely when the rock formed, though the researchers found that some embedded sand grains dated to as long ago as the Mesoproterozoic Era, 1 billion to 1.6 billion years ago.

Nash led research published last year involving the same core sample that showed that 50 of the 52 sarsens share a common origin about 15 miles (25 km) from Stonehenge at a site called West Woods. Stonehenge's builders may have either dragged or moved the huge stones on rollers.

"I think Stonehenge has fascinated archaeologists and other scientists for centuries now, partly because we don't know what it was used for exactly, and there are a number of theories as to why the site was built," Nash said. "It's a site that is still rich with possibilities for doing more research."

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

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## Greece battles to control fire close to ancient Olympic site



Flames burn a mountain over Pelopio village, near ancient Olympia

Reuters | Athens

Greek firefighters battled yesterday to bring under control two major fires raging near Olympia and on the island of Evia as the country swelters in a record-breaking heatwave.

More than 170 firefighters, around 50 trucks, six helicopters and water-bombing aircraft were deployed near the ancient archeological site, the birthplace of the Olympic games, on the Peloponnese peninsula.

After destroying around 20 houses, "the fire's front is now heading towards Lalas," a wooded mountainous area to the north west of Olympia, local official Nektarios Farmakis told the ANA news agency.

Olympia, usually thronging with tourists at this time of year, as well as six nearby villages, were evacuated the day before.

A similar number of firefighters were also battling to contain a blaze on Evia, some 200 kilometres (120 miles) east of Athens.

At least 150 houses were destroyed on the island as the fire surrounded a monastery and a dozen villages.

Two more villages were evacuated early yesterday, ANA reported.



Flames burn on a mountain during a wildfire on the island of Evia

**We are still fighting a titanic battle on many fronts. The next days will be more difficult**

DEPUTY CIVIL PROTECTION MINISTER  
NIKOS HARDALIAS

The mayor of the town of Mantoudi, Giannis Tsapourniotis, said the fire was moving on four fronts, with one particularly difficult to control near the Saint David Monastery, which was evacuated on Wednesday.

Yesterday, strong winds made it difficult for firefighting aircraft to reach the blazes, with poor visibility due to the thick smoke, ANA said.

The fire brigade said yesterday that it had had to deal with 92 forest fires over the past 24 hours, on top of the 118 from the previous day.

"We're waging a battle of the titans," deputy minister for civil protection Nikos Hardalias told journalists. "The hardest is still to come."

Neighbouring Turkey is also suffering its worst fires in at least a decade, claiming the lives of eight people and forcing hundreds to evacuate in southern areas popular with tourists.

## India flexes muscles with new aircraft carrier, task force

AFP | Kochi

India is flexing its maritime muscles to counter growing Chinese influence, conducting sea trials on its first indigenous aircraft carrier and dispatching a task force for joint exercises with the United States and other allies.

The INS Vikrant, which began trials off the southern state of Kerala on Wednesday, will be India's second aircraft carrier in operation.

The Indian Navy said the country can now "join a select group of nations with the capability to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier, which will be a real testimony to the 'Make in India' thrust of the Indian Government."

The new 262-metre (860-foot) carrier joins the INS Vikramaditya, the Soviet-made Admiral Gorshkov that India bought in 2004.

The navy said 44 other ships and submarines were being built indigenously. It is also pressing the government for a third carrier, with Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh saying the force could not remain "tethered".



INS Vikrant during trial

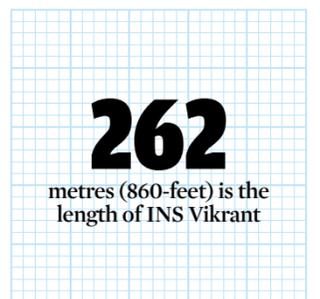
China, vying for influence in the Indian Ocean where New Delhi has traditionally held sway, is currently building its third aircraft carrier.

The Indian Navy said separately on Monday that it was sending a task force of four ships to South East Asia, the South China Sea and Western Pacific for two months of exercises including with Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Australia and the United States. The deployment "seeks to un-

derscore the operational reach, peaceful presence and solidarity with friendly countries towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain and to strengthen existing bonds between India and countries of the Indo Pacific," it said.

India, Japan, Australia and the US together form the "Quad" alliance seen as a bulwark against China.

Last year, 20 Indian troops died in a clash on their disputed Himalayan border with China.



This year, India has also conducted naval exercises with France and most recently with a British task force in the Bay of Bengal last month led by the new HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier.

This week, broadcaster Al Jazeera reported that India may be building a naval facility in the Mauritius archipelago, citing satellite imagery, financial data and on-the-ground evidence.

Mauritius on Wednesday said that although work was underway on an air strip and a jetty on the island of Agalega, they would not be used for military purposes.

The Indian foreign ministry declined to comment.

## At least 10 dead as van carrying migrants crashes in Texas

AP | Encino, Texas

An overloaded van carrying 29 migrants crashed Wednesday on a remote South Texas highway, killing at least 10 people, including the driver, and injuring 20 others, authorities said.

The crash happened shortly after 4 p.m. Wednesday on U.S. 281 in Encino, Texas, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of McAllen. Sgt. Nathan Brandley of the Texas Department of Public Safety says the van, designed to hold 15 passengers, was speeding as the driver tried to veer off the highway onto Business Route 281. He lost control of the top-heavy van, which slammed into a metal utility pole and a stop sign.

The van was not being pursued, said Brooks County Sheriff Urbino.

Martinez said he believed all of the passengers were migrants. Brandley said the death toll was initially announced as 11 but was later revised. He also said the 20 who survived the



Texas Department of Public Safety officers stand near the vehicle

initial crash all have serious to critical injuries.

The identities of the 30 in the van were being withheld until relatives can be notified, Brandley said. No information about the van, including where it was registered or who owned it, was immediately released.

Encino is a community of about 140 residents about 2 miles (3.22 kilometers) south of the Falfurrias Border Patrol checkpoint.

A surge in migrants crossing the border illegally has brought about an uptick in the number of crashes involving vehicles jammed with migrants who pay large amounts to be smuggled into the country. The Dallas Morning News has reported that the recruitment of young drivers for the smuggling runs, combined with excessive speed and reckless driving by those youths, have led to horrific crashes.

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

**A surge in migrants crossing the border illegally has brought about an uptick in the number of crashes involving vehicles jammed with migrants who pay large amounts to be smuggled into the country**

Victor M. Manjarrez Jr., director of the Center for Law & Human Behavior at the University of Texas at El Paso, told the newspaper that criminal organizations recruit drivers from Austin, Dallas and Houston. Others come from the El Paso area, while others come from parts of Latin America rife with police corruption.

# celebs

## Jennifer Aniston says she has cut ties with people who refused to get vaccinated

ANI | Washington

American actor Jennifer Aniston, who became a household name after starring in the hit sitcom 'Friends', revealed that she has stopped associating with some people from her "weekly routine" over differing opinions on COVID-19 vaccination. The 52-year-old star recently admitted that she had to cut ties with a few people over their vaccination status, reported People magazine. "There's still a large group of people who are anti-vaxxers or just don't listen to the facts. It's a real shame," she said in InStyle's September cover interview. "I've just lost a few people in my weekly routine who have refused or did not disclose [whether or not they had been vaccinated], and it was unfortunate," Aniston continued. The 'Murder Mystery' actor said it's everyone's moral and professional obligation to disclose their vaccination status. Aniston also noted that a lot of opinions on vaccines are based on "fear and propaganda." "I feel it's your moral and professional obligation to inform since we're not all podded up and being tested every single day. It's tricky because everyone is entitled to their own opinion -- but a lot of opinions don't feel based in anything except fear or propaganda," she said.

Aniston has been an advocate for social distancing and other COVID-19 safety protocols since the pandemic began in March last year.

She previously pleaded with her 37.7 million followers to wear a mask last June. "This simple and effective recommendation is being politicized at the expense of peoples' lives. And it really shouldn't be a debate," she wrote on Instagram at the time.

Aniston continued to urge the use of face masks a month later, revealing that her friend Kevin was hospitalized with COVID-19.

"Just think about those who've already suffered through this horrible virus. Do it for your family. And most of all yourself. Covid affects all ages," she captioned a photo of Kevin hooked up to machines.

Aniston recently told People magazine about the importance she's found in meditating "every day" as the pandemic continues to rage on.



Jennifer Aniston

Justin Bieber

## Justin Bieber apologizes after endorsing Morgan Wallen's music

Fox | Los Angeles

Justin Bieber posted a mea culpa to his Instagram Stories Wednesday for his recent endorsement of country star Morgan Wallen's music, six months after a video was leaked of Wallen drunkenly using the

N-word with friends.

In a now-deleted post, the Biebs, 27, had shared a screenshot of Wallen's "Sand In My Boots" from "Dangerous: The Double Album," writing "Love this album," alongside it.

Not long after, Bieber deleted the post and penned an apology on his Instagram Stories.

"I had no idea that the guy's music i posted was recently found saying racist comments," the "Peaches" singer wrote. "As you know i dont support or tolerate any sort of racism or discrimination. I had no idea, I sincerely apologize to anyone i offended."

Bieber nodded to his own past with the slur by adding,

"When I was a kid, I was incredibly ignorant and said some very hurtful racist jokes that clearly were not funny. I hurt a lot of people especially the Black people in my life but was fortunate enough to have had them educate me on the horrifying origin of the n-word. This brings those painful memories back up, I will always take ownership for my ignorance and my past because I know I am not that person."

The "Hold On" singer revealed in March that he doesn't own a cell-phone, opting instead to use an iPad, so it's at least somewhat plausible that he missed



I had no idea that the guy's music i posted was recently found saying racist comments," the "Peaches" singer wrote. "As you know i dont support or tolerate any sort of racism or discrimination. I had no idea, I sincerely apologize to anyone i offended"

JUSTIN BIEBER

the controversy surrounding the country star. Wallen was on "Good Morning America" in July talking about the incident, but admittedly the Biebs is not the target audience for that show.

Wallen faced enormous backlash on social media in February after TMZ published a video of him telling a friend to "take care of this p—y-ass n—a" when they returned home from a night out in Nashville.

He immediately issued an apology, saying he was "embarrassed and sorry," but months later, he revealed it wasn't the first time he's used the word.

Wallen's record label, Big Loud, suspended him in February but has since reinstated him. Either way, the controversy hasn't dented his album sales: Wallen's "Dangerous" album has been No. 1 on the Billboard country album chart for 26 weeks.

## Kerry Washington to star in 'Rockaway' for Netflix

ANI | Washington

Emmy-winning star Kerry Washington is gear-

**Kerry Washington will play a Manhattan journalist who unexpectedly discovers the power of surfing and finds herself running from the comfortable life she's always known towards a life of romance and self-discovery in eclectic Rockaway Beach**

Kerry Washington

ing up for a new adventure, set to star in and produce 'Rockaway' for Netflix.

As per Variety, the feature film adaptation of Diane Cardwell's memoir, 'Rockaway: Surfing Headlong Into a New Life', will be written by NAACP Image Award winner Nichelle Tramble Spellman.

The 44-year-old actor will play a Manhattan journalist who unexpectedly discovers the power of surfing and finds herself running from the comfortable life she's always known towards a life of romance and self-discovery in eclectic Rockaway Beach.

Published in July 2020, 'Rockaway: Surfing Headlong Into a New Life' tells the story of

Cardwell's own reinvention as she discovered the world of surfing.

'Rockaway' is being bankrolled by 3dot Productions' Liza Chasin, who has a multi-year first-look deal with Netflix; Washington and Pilar Savone for Simpson Street; and Todd Shuster for Aevitas Entertainment. Cardwell and Margaret Chernin will serve as executive producers.

The forthcoming project is Washington's latest with Netflix, after starring opposite Charlize Theron, Laurence Fishburne and Michelle Yeoh in the upcoming movie 'The School for Good and Evil', directed by Paul Feig. The new film, led by Sophia Anne Caruso and Sofia Wylie, adapts Soman Chainani's popular fantasy fairytale novels.

## Kit Harington reveals he suffered mental health issues while filming 'Game of Thrones'

ANI | Washington

Kit Harington, who played the famous Jon Snow on the much-loved fantasy drama 'Game of Thrones' has become the latest celebrity from the entertainment industry to come out and address his mental issues while filming for the HBO series.

The actor said he is "really happy" he took a year off after the HBO series concluded.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, in an interview on SiriusXM's The Jess Cagle Show, Kit opened up about the toll 'Game of Thrones' took on his mental health, revealing he had to take a year off after the HBO epic concluded.

Kit Harington

### SUDOKU

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

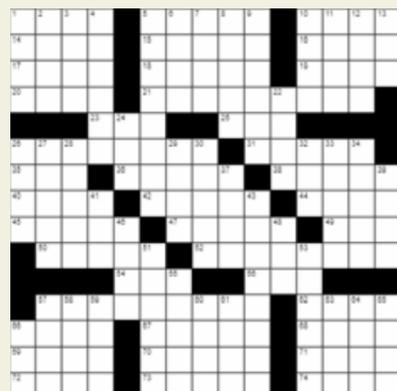
Yesterday's solution

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

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- Pop; 5- Skedaddles; 10- Novelist Waugh; 14- Foreign dignitary; 15- Woody vine; 16- Stead; 17- Atomizer output; 18- First name in photography; 19- Hide; 20- Hankering; 21- Marriage; 23- Israeli submachine gun; 25- Half and half; 26- Money; 31- Clipped conjunction; 35- Country bordered by Canada and Mexico; 36- Everglades bird; 38- Singes; 40- Lacoste of tennis; 42- Desert havens; 44- Farm structure; 45- Muse with a lyre; 47- Confronts; 49- Unit of weight; 50- Maze word; 52- Wonderful; 54- Feather scarf; 56- Hwy.; 57- Animal having a pouch; 62- Some DVD players; 66- Emilia's husband; 67- Old finnish money; 68- Bottle part; 69- Dry and waterless; 70- \_ the side of caution; 71- Concerning; 72- Sgts., e.g.; 73- Checking out; 74- To \_ (perfectly);

Down

1- Big rig; 2- Fail to include; 3- Round object, often used to store computer data; 4- Legendary king of Britain; 5- Wading bird; 6- Director Wertmuller; 7- 3:00; 8- Diciembre follower; 9- Saltworks; 10- Rival rival; 11- Legal claim; 12- Slippery; 13- Sever; 22- "Alice" diner; 24- Mark of Zorro; 26- Preserve with salt; 27- Software buyers; 28- Charged; 29- Pull an all-nighter; 30- Go-aheads; 32- French possessive; 33- Part of Hispaniola; 34- Synthetic fabric; 37- Overflow; 39- Album unit; 41- 7th letter of the Greek alphabet; 43- Black bird; 46- Globes; 48- Concorde, e.g.; 51- Man's wig; 53- Rupture; 55- Mimicry; 57- Painter Chagall; 58- Currency exchange fee; 59- Fishing gear; 60- Cross inscription; 61- Bartlett's abbr.; 63- Small change; 64- Farm measure; 65- \_-Ball; 66- Fleming who created Bond;

Yesterday's solution

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

## HH Shaikh Khalid calls for increasing support and talent discovery programmes

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee instructed to increase support and talent discovery programmes as he visited the premises of Bahrain Football Association (BFA) and Bahrain Athletics Association (BAA).

These visits were His Highness' first inspection tours to the national sports associations and federations since His Highness was appointed as President of the General Sports Authority.

Present in the visits were HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Vice President of the General Sports Authority, President of Bahrain Combat Sports Council and Dr Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, CEO of General Sports Authority.

The aims of the visits are to



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa kicks a ball during his visit

review the plans and the programmes of the national associations and federations as well as their efforts to promote sports in the Kingdom in line with the policies of the Authority.

HH Shaikh Khalid met during His Highness' visits with Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, President of BFA and Mohammed Abdul Latif bin Jalal, President

of BAA as well as members from both organisations.

His Highness praised the great efforts made by the two organisations towards holding local events and competitions and creating the ideal atmosphere for preparing the national teams to participate in various tournaments in an honourable manner, which pushes the teams



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with officials during a meeting

to compete to achieve more accomplishments that can be added to the sports record in the Kingdom.

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa said: "Through our visits to the national federations and clubs, we seek to be close to members and affiliates of all sports bodies, to promote the open-door policy,

and to emphasise the approach through which the sports system will proceed during the coming period, which is based on work in the spirit of one team to develop sports."

His Highness listened to a briefing from the President of BFA and the President of the BAA about the plans of the two federations and the future of the two



Through our visits to the national federations and clubs, we seek to be close to members and affiliates of all sports bodies, to promote the open-door policy, and to emphasise the approach through which the sports system will proceed during the coming period, which is based on work in the spirit of one team to develop sports

HH SHAIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

games in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in light of the achievements made by the national teams in both sports, in order to ensure the continuation of the march of success and achievements at all local, continental and international levels.

# Messi to leave Barcelona as contract talks collapse

● **Lionel Messi to leave Barcelona due to 'financial obstacles' - club statement**

AFP | Barcelona

Lionel Messi's time at Barcelona appears to be over. Messi was free to negotiate a transfer with other clubs after his deal ran out at the end of June, but Barcelona had always maintained he wanted to stay with the club.

Messi was free to negotiate a transfer with other clubs after his deal ran out at the end of June, but Barcelona had always maintained he wanted to stay with the club.

The 34-year-old, who has spent his whole career at Barcelona, had been expected to sign a new five-year deal with the Catalan club, which would have included a salary reduction of 50%.

Barcelona needed to financially restructure in order to get the deal over the line, which proved impossible in the end.

The news of Messi's exit comes a day after La Liga agreed in principle to sell 10% of a new-



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates winning La Liga with the trophy

ly formed company housing most of its business to private equity firm CVC Capital Partners for 2.7 billion euros (\$3.2 billion).

"Despite FC Barcelona and Lionel Messi having reached an agreement and the clear intention of both parties to sign a new contract today, this cannot happen because of financial and structural obstacles (Spanish La

Liga regulations)," Barca said in a statement.

"As a result of this situation, Messi shall not be staying on at FC Barcelona. Both parties deeply regret that the wishes of the player and the club will ultimately not be fulfilled.

"FC Barcelona wholeheartedly expresses its gratitude to the player for his contribution to the aggrandisement of the club

**YOU**  
KNOW WHAT

**Messi, who joined Barca's youth set up aged 13, is the club's all-time top scorer and appearance maker with 672 goals in 778 games in all competitions**

and wishes him all the very best for the future in his personal and professional life."

Messi had tried to leave Barcelona in August 2020, making a formal request for an exit after a break down in his relationship with then president Josep Maria Bartomeu but successor Joan Laporta, who presided over the Argentine's rise to greatness, convinced him to stay.

Messi, who joined Barca's youth set up aged 13, is the club's all-time top scorer and appearance maker with 672 goals in 778 games in all competitions.

He remains without a club ahead of the 2021-22 season.

## Al Mubarak wins Esport GT series second round



A screenshot of the action from the second round

TDT | Manama

Ebrahim Al Mubarak was once again the man on the top step of the podium after the second round of season three in the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship.

Driving a Corvette C7 Gr.3 car, Al Mubarak won in a total race time of 23 minutes 02.227 seconds.

The race took place over 14 laps along a virtual version of Japan's Fuji International Speedway, and Al Mubarak claimed his triumph from pole position.

Hussain Hasan finished as the runner-up while Hassan Khalil came third.

Al Mubarak also registered the race's fastest lap of 1:36.742.

With the result, Al Mubarak maintained his perfect start to the new campaign, in which he is gunning for a third straight title.

The series' third season fea-

tures five rounds in all. It is being run on the Gran Turismo Sport video game on the Sony PlayStation 4 or 5 platforms, which is officially licenced by the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

The field is set to return to action for round three today along a virtual version of the Autodromo Nazionale Monza.

Round four is scheduled for August 13, while the fifth and final round will take place a couple of weeks later on August 27.

Prize money is presented to the top three of each meeting, with the winner getting BD50, the runner-up BD30 and third place taking home BD20.

Drivers earn points per event, which will go towards their championship classification. At the end of the season, the winner will get BD500 in prize money, while second place will take home BD300 and third place BD200.



Valentino Rossi of Italy and Petronas Yamaha SRT before a race (file photo)

## After 26 years and nine world titles, Valentino Rossi calls it quits

AFP | Milan

Motorcycling legend and nine-time world champion Valentino Rossi confirmed yesterday he will retire at the end of the season after 26 years lighting up the sport.

The 42-year-old Italian signed a one-season deal with Yamaha-SRT for this campaign and it had been mooted he might ride for his own team next term.

However, he told a press conference ahead of this weekend's Styrian Grand Prix that he will call it a day, 12 years on from his

last MotoGP title.

"I have decided to stop at the end of the season," said Rossi. "It's been a very long trip but really great fun."

"It's a very sad moment because it's difficult to say and know that next year I will not race with a motorcycle, I've done that for I think more or less 30 years."

Rossi will finish his career with seven premier class world titles -- just one behind the all-time record of eight held by compatriot Giacomo Agostini.

He has competed in 423 grands

7

premier class world titles were won by Valentino Rossi-- just one behind the all-time record of eight held by compatriot Giacomo Agostini

prix races -- 363 in the top class.

Recent years have seen the man nicknamed "The Doctor" combine competing with ownership of the his own VR46 team,

helping to bring on young riders in Moto2 and Moto3 and next season he will be free to concentrate on that mentor role.

Warm praise for his stellar career came from rivals, including French star Fabio Quartararo, his successor at the Yamaha factory team who leads this year's title race.

"I have no words... Big congratulations for your amazing career! I'll remember all my life the first race I ever watch you in Jerez 2005 and you motivated me to be where I am today," tweeted Quartararo.

# Rapinoe and Lloyd fire US to bronze medal

Megan Rapinoe and Carli Lloyd doubles grab bronze for USA in thriller against Australia

● Rapinoe scores direct from a corner to set USA on their way

AFP | Tokyo

The United States women's team won the Olympics bronze medal with Megan Rapinoe and Carli Lloyd scoring two goals each in a 4-3 win over Australia in Kashima yesterday.

The Americans, World Cup winners in 2019, had gone into the Tokyo Games as heavy favourites for gold but after some underwhelming displays were beaten by Canada in the semi-finals.

For spells against the Australians, seeking their first medal in the sport, the old swagger of the US team was back with two of their veterans, in what could well be their final appearance in a major tournament, offering a reminder of their quality.

Rapinoe fired the US ahead in the eighth minute direct from a corner which Aussie keeper Teagan Micah flapped at.

Sam Kerr levelled for Australia in the 17th minute, her 48th goal for the Matildas making her their all-time top scorer.

Rapinoe restored the Americans'

advantage with a fine volley after a woeful attempted clearance from Alanna Kennedy looped across the box to the grateful forward.

The 39-year-old Lloyd produced a clinical finish to make it 3-1 just before the break, collecting a pass from Lindsey Horan and burying it, first time, into the far corner.

Another defensive error from Kennedy, this time a weak head back towards her keeper, gifted Lloyd her second which she slipped between Micah's legs to make it 4-1 in the 51st minute.

Three minutes later though, a Caitlin Foord header from a Kyah Simon cross brought Australia back into the match and Kerr then hit the post with a fine, glancing header.

But the Americans held firm until Aussie substitute Emily Gielnik added a third with a long-range effort in the 90th minute.

US coach Vlatko Andonovski, in charge of the side at a major tournament for the first time, said it had been a difficult competition for his team, who suffered a 3-0 defeat to Sweden in their opening group game.

"There were tough moments, it started really tough, that first loss made a mark for the rest of the tournament...but to finish the tournament with the game that we did, I am proud of the players," he said.

Carli Lloyd celebrates scoring their fourth goal with Megan Rapinoe



United States' Megan Rapinoe, left, scores her side's second goal

Australia's fourth place was their best ever finish in an Olympics tournament, but forward Steph Catley regretted missing out on a medal.

"Coming so close to a medal is heartbreaking, especially really taking it to the top teams in

the world and out-playing them at times and ... it just feels like we were right there and it's just been snapped from us. It's definitely tough to take," she said.

Sweden and Canada meet in the gold medal game today.

## Gardiner takes 400m gold on night of firsts

Steven Gardiner of the Bahamas won the 400 metres yesterday, becoming the first athlete to win Olympic gold in an individual men's event in his country's history, after a carefully balanced race shut out the Americans over a distance they once dominated.

Anthony Zambrano of Colombia took silver, becoming the first male athlete from the South American nation to win an Olympic medal in athletics.

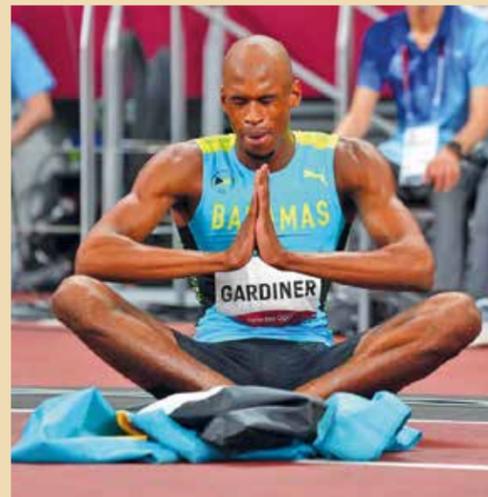
Kirani James of Grenada grabbed bronze, his third medal in the event and his country's first of the Games, after winning gold in 2012 and silver in 2016. He is the first athlete to win three Olympic medals in the men's 400m.

Gardiner, who sat on the track holding the palms of his hands together after winning in a season's best time of 43.85 seconds, stumbled out of the blocks and trailed midway through the race.

"I recovered, I kept it moving and with 200m to go, I started to push a little bit," he said. "And (with) 100m to go, I gave it all I've got."

"I came across the line and saw my name on the big screen and I was in first place," he told reporters. "I'm cherishing this moment. Olympic champion."

The 39-year-old Lloyd produced a clinical finish to make it 3-1 just before the break, collecting a pass from Lindsey Horan and burying it, first time, into the far corner.



Steven Gardiner of the Bahamas celebrates after winning gold

OLYMPIC MEDAL TABLE				
				TOTAL
China	33	24	16	73
USA	28	34	26	88
Japan	21	9	14	44
Australia	17	5	18	40
ROC	16	22	20	58
Great Britain	16	18	17	51
Germany	9	9	16	34
Italy	7	10	18	35
Netherlands	7	8	9	24
New Zealand	7	6	6	19
France	6	10	9	25
South Korea	6	4	9	19
Hungary	5	7	3	15
India	0	2	3	5

## Aussie teen Palmer wins skateboarding gold

Flying Australian teen Keegan Palmer said he was "beyond stoked" after unleashing a top-secret trick to claim the inaugural men's park skateboarding Olympic gold medal.

Palmer, 18, threw down the gauntlet with 94.04 points in his first run of the final, before incredibly bettering his score to 95.83 in his third and last run.

That stunning mark came thanks to a kickflip 540 he had been saving for the occasion, after putting "blood, sweat and tears" into practising it.

"My last run, no one had seen it until this day," said the San Diego-based Palmer,



Australia's Keegan Palmer in action

who returned to Australia earlier this year to train for the Games.

"That was the game plan since the start of this year -- just have a solid plan and make sure no one knows what's happening. I came out

swinging."

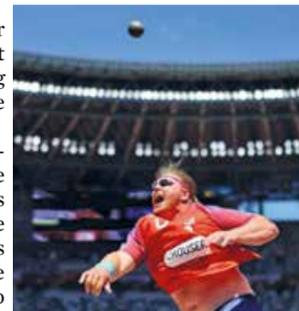
The spectacular trick comfortably gave Palmer the gold ahead of Brazilian silver medalist Pedro Barros (86.14) and America's Cory Juneau, who claimed bronze with 84.13.

## Crouser sets shot record

American Ryan Crouser took the men's shot put gold medal yesterday, breaking his own Olympic record in the final.

Crouser was at his imperious best as he retained his title in one of the morning session's three gold-medal events at the Olympic stadium, breaking his own record three times in the final -- only the third person to ever achieve the feat.

"I had solidified the win by the end so I got a little more aggressive and chased that bigger throw and finally connected with it," he said after



Ryan Crouser of the United States in action

finishing with a mark of 23.30 metres, a whisker away from his June world record of 23.37.

## Parchment beats hurdles world champion

Jamaican Hansle Parchment delivered one of the biggest shocks of the Tokyo Olympics athletics competition by beating world champion Grant Holloway in the men's 110 metres hurdles final yesterday.

Holloway had not lost a hurdles race since August last year and was the overwhelming favourite after breaking the world indoor record over 60m hurdles this year and missing the 110m record by one-hundredth of a second at the US Olympic trials.

The 23-year-old burst out of the blocks and looked set for gold until losing momentum



Jamaica's Hansle Parchment (L) crosses the finish line to win ahead of USA's Devon Allen

over the final two hurdles.

Parchment, 31, surged past him to win in a season-best time of 13.04 and add the gold medal to his London Olympic bronze.

## India hockey team end four-decade medal drought

India won the bronze medal after a thrilling 5-4 victory over Germany at the Tokyo Games yesterday, giving the country its first Olympic hockey medal in more than forty years.

Germany took an early lead in the goal-rich match through a second-minute goal by Timur Oruz, and posed a threat to eight-time Olympic hockey champions India in the first quarter.

After Simranjeet Singh equal-

ised with a backhand shot for India, Germany kept their cool, scoring two goals to take a 3-1 lead in the second quarter.

But India pulled level late in that quarter thanks to goals by Hardik Singh and Harmanpreet Singh, making it 3-3 at the half-time break.

India then took a 5-3 lead after Rupinder Pal Singh notched in a penalty stroke and Simranjeet Singh scored his second of the match not long into the second half.



Players of India pose for a group photo after winning the match for bronze

# Team Bahrain



Bahrain's national handball team upon their arrival at the airport

## Bahrain handball team return home from Tokyo

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national handball team returned to the Kingdom yesterday from their historic participation in the Tokyo Olympic Games.

The squad was received at Bahrain International Airport by officials from the Bahrain Handball Association (BHA).

BHA secretary general Khalid Najim was on hand on behalf of the BHA board.

Najim relayed to the team the greetings of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority president and Bahrain Olympic Committee president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The nationals drew the atten-



Team captain Hussain Al Sayyad is welcomed upon their return

tion of the world at the Olympics, having defied the odds and qualified for the quarter-finals of the men's handball tournament as underdogs on their debut appearance.

# Bahrain medal hunt picks up

Kingdom's elite distance-running specialists Birhanu Balew and Dawit Fikadu set to go for gold today in Men's 5,000m Final

● Bahraini pair to compete in Men's 5,000m final at Tokyo Olympics

● Final to feature 16 athletes, scheduled for 9pm start, Bahrain time

● Bahrain team competing in marathon races gearing up in Sapporo

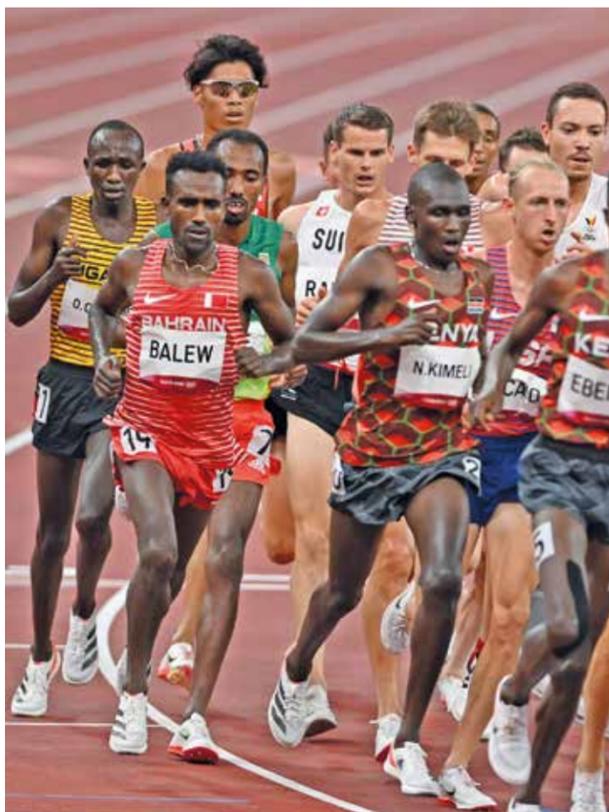
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Birhanu Balew and Dawit Fikadu go for gold today in the Men's 5,000 metres Final at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

The race is scheduled for a 3pm start, Bahrain time, and it will feature 16 athletes in total.

Balew booked his ticket in the medal round as an automatic qualifier after finishing fifth in the first of two opening-round heats. Fikadu, on the other hand, advanced following a referee's decision after finishing out of the qualification positions in the second heat, having fallen during the race.

Others also set to compete in the final are Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli of Kenya; Mohammed Ahmed and Justyn Knight of Canada; Grant Fisher, Paul Chelimo and William Kincaid of the US; Mohamed Katir of Spain; the Ugandan trio of Oscar Cheli-



Bahrain's Birhanu Balew runs in his Men's 5,000m Heat

mo, Jacob Kiplimo and Joshua Cheptegei; Milkesa Mengesha of Ethiopia; Andrew Butchart of Great Britain; Jimmy Gressier of France and Luis Grijalva of Guatemala.

Balew and Fikadu are Bahrain's only two Olympians in action today at the Japanese

capital.

Tomorrow, there will be a trio of Bahrainis as the pair of Eunice Chebichii Chumba and Tejitu Daba compete in the Women's Marathon and then Kalkidan Gezahegne goes for gold in the Women's 10,000m Final.

On Sunday, the final day of



Bahrain's marathon runners with athletics team officials in Sapporo



Bahrain's Dawit Fikadu competes during the Men's 5,000m Heats

the Olympics, the Bahraini trio of Elhassan Elabbasi, Alemu Bekele and Shumi Dechasa will run the Men's Marathon.

Both marathons will be held at the city of Sapporo, and Bahrain's participants and officials are already there making their



Eight Bahraini athletes are set to go for gold over the final three days of the Tokyo Olympics from today to Sunday

final preparations for the events. Leading the team at Sapporo is Bahrain Athletics Association vice-president Khaled Al Dosary.

Bahrain has yet to add to its three Olympic medals won in the past but are hoping to do so as the Tokyo Games heads to its final three days.

The past accolades include two gold and one silver, all in athletics. The gold medals were captured by Maryam Yusuf Jamal at the London Olympics in 2012 for the Women's 1,500m and Ruth Jebet at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016 for the Women's 3,000m Steeplechase. That same year, Eunice Kirwa claimed the Women's Marathon silver medal.