SPORTS
Tsunoda triumphs in F2 december, 2020 Feature Race 210 FILS
ISSUE NO. 8678

Drivers'
championship championship battle extends to
final event of 2020 while Prema Racing secure teams' title | P11
world 6 Trump orders withdrawal of US troops from Somalia

## THE DAILY t <br> 

Carrie Underwood says she found 'sense of peace' in quarantine 10 celebs business 5 Britain and EU agree to more talks in final push for Brexit

## Kuwaitis go to polls

 Reuters | Kuwait$\mathbf{K}^{\text {uwaitis voted in legis }}$ Mative polls yesterday. dates including 29 women, are vying for 50 seats in the Gulf's oldest assembly with legislative powers
Campaigning took place mostly on social media and local TV channels due to COVID-19 restrictions.
The current government is due to resign after the elections.
Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah took the reins as emir in September following the death of his brother.

## Vessel attacked off Yemen's coast



AFP | Dubai
$A_{\text {the cost was attacked off }}^{\text {ves }}$ Yemen, a Uk-based maritime organisation said yesterday days after an explosion rocked an oil tanker sion rocked an oil tank
The United Kingdo Maritime Trade Operations Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), citing reports from ships in the vicinity, said it was aware of an attack late Friday against a merchant vessel, with giving further details. It later released a state-
ment the incident was over ment the incident was over. Incident is now com plete. Vessel and crew are safe. The report comes 10 days after a Greek-operated vessel docked at Saudi Arabia's port of Shuqaiq was rocked by an explosion in an attack that a Riyadh-led military coalition blamed on Yemeni rebels.

| BAHRAIN |
| :---: |
| COVID-19 |
| TOTAL CASES |
| 87,732 |
| ACTIVE CASES |
| 1,549 |
| DEATHS |
| 341 |
| DISCHARGED |
| 85,710 |
| NEWCASES |
| 167 |
| CRIIICAL |
| 12 |

210 fils (includes VAT)

# Signs of thaw emerge in Qatar-Gulf dispute 

## Saudi says hopes to reach a deal with Qatar soon at Manama Dialogue



## Bottas outduels Russell as Mercedes lock out front-row



# Bahrain set to take another dive 

## Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority announces plan to sink another jet

- Illegal shrimp trawlers allegedly destroyed the current sunken jet
- The submerged aircraft was the first attraction in the 100,000 sqm theme park

TDT | Manama

Months before, when a was submerged to encourage ooue trawl-bothen a was submerged to encourage berserk over Bahrain's divers, enthusiasts and research-俍 sunken Boeing 747 , the news left many a people around the world heartbroken.
many a people around the world Bahrain Tourism and Exhibi-
heartbroken.
tions Authority. wreckege, the 70 a pile of Brenas Boeing 747 located 20 to 22 meter below the sea level was the result of years-long effort.
The old plane, built-in 1981,
ig, only to become a nightmare. "But not any more," says The those shattered hearts by taking yet another big plunge. The authority is looking for ward to replacing the damaged jet based around 30 kilometre north of Amwaj with another.
bTEA has initiated a search amaged jet
Interested parties, BTEA said, should be parties, BTEA said, cess and equip a 747 aircraft be used within the marine part to
"These actions include removing all components of the aircraft so that the structure remains intact," the statement
$\qquad$ In the meantime, the author ity said it is also moving ahead
er models in the park to make he experience more delightu Upcoming next in the marine
prosper," BTEA statement said The new structures will also rk will be a traditional pearl ing experience and make it more erchant's house designed and enjoyabience and make it more built with the support of Diyar Al Muharraq.
Teams are currently working n it," BTEA said adding works are also progressing to install artificial co
sculptures.
"This would encourage the growth of coral reefs and de velop a sustainable habitat for

# Two-state solution is the way 

Foreign minister affirms Bahrain's commitment to the two-state solution


Bahrain ready to help both Palestine and Israel to resolve the conflict

- Minister reaffirms Bahrain's policy regarding goods and products from Israel

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is always with the two-state solution when
it comes to resolving the Israel-Palestinian conflict, said Bahrain's Minister for Foreign Affairs.
"We are with the two-state solution which is in line with the Arab peace initiative," said Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani as he also called on both parties to get to the negotiation table.
Bahrain, the minister said, stand ready to help both Pales-
tine and Israel in resolving the tine and Israel in resolving the
difference. differences.
The minister said: "At the negotiating table, we are fully prepared to provide any assistance, support, and advocacy for our

Palestinian brothers, within the decisions that are in line with United Nations and Arab League resolutions."
The minister was speaking during the second plenary session on day two of the isss Manama Dialogue 2020.
On the goods and products manufactured in the West-Bank and Golan Heights, the minister and Golan Heights, he minister
said the Kingdom has already said the Kingdom has already made its stance clear regarding products from Israel and elsewhere.
I received a call from the Affairs after signing the Foreign Affairs after signing the agree-
ments with Israel, and I assured him that our position in assured him that our position in Bahrain on the Palestinian-Israeli issue
is very clear" the minister said Bahrain's Ministry of Industry Bahrain's Ministry of Industry issued earlier clarified that the issued earlier clarified that the firm position of the covernme the of Bahrain and the United Na ions, the Ie the United Na States and League of the Arab Islamic C the Organisation of ing Israeoperation, regardWest Bank settlements in the Heights.
The minister also said it is es-

## Review, re-negotiate Iran nuclear deal

TDT | Manama
$\mathbf{B}^{\text {ahrain's Minister for Foreign Affairs called on to review }}$ $\mathbf{B}_{\text {the Iranian nuclear agreement and re-negotiate it in light }}^{\text {ahrain's Minister for Foreign Affairs called on to review }}$ of the new developments.
Talking at a plenary session of the IISS Manama Dialogue the minister also recommended consulting people and countries in the region on the issue.
This would, Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani said, ensure that the agreement thus reached has covered the concerns of all parties involved.
"Iran has become a concern of the international community," Al Zayani said highlighting the ballistic missile programme, interferences in internal affairs, supporting militias with weapons and other support and nuclear programme.
sential not to lose the momen
tum we have achieved over time
srael minister to participate
Moving on, Al Zayani also described the recently signed Abraham Accord as having potentially game-changing implications which will be discussed in detail today with Gabi Ashkenazi, Israeli Minister of Foreign
Affairs in the closing plenary
session.
Taking part in the session longside Al Zayani was Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al Busaidi, the foreign minister of Oman and Harjit Sajjan, the Minister of National Defence f Canar of National Defence Director Dr John Chapman, Director-General and Chief Institute for She International (IISS), was the Strategic Studies (IISS), was the moderator.

## Do not view Middle East as a source of all conflicts

TDT | Manama

—he Minister for Foreign Affairs has urged the vorld not to view the Middle East as a region from which all problems stems. Do not view the Middle East as a "source of all conflicts and instability that must be contained," Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani told the summit pointing to the importance of pointing to the importance of dialogue and mutual respect
The challenges to security in
The challenges to security in the region directly affect the has grown stronger in recent includes electronic, economic, He further revealed having entire world, the minister said times. The minister said that technologic and active diplo- a strategic dialogue between thighlighting the existence of there are parties who are work- macy. "some of which stem from ma- curity and in that sense the in- said, also calls for the need to the discussion focuses on "all licious government threats or ternational security. $\quad$ ensure that our infrastructures economic fields and coopera-



Bahrain Defence Force Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, taking part in the inaugural session of the 16th edition of the Manama Dialogue Forum at the Ritz-CarIton Hotel. The three-day forum, themed "Competing for Influence in the Middle East", casts light mainly on the security and foreign policy as well as challenges facing the Middle East.


Minister of Defence, Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, during the inaugural session of the 16th edition of the Manama Dialogue summit at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.


The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Sayvid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi, arrived in Bahrain to participate in the 16th Manama Dialogue.


Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al Saud, arrives in Bahrain. He was received upon arrival, alongside his accompanying delegation, by Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid AI Zayani, Assistant Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Faisal bin Jaber Al Dosari, Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain HRH Prince Foreign Ministry.


Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, meets his Omani counterpart, Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi, on the sidelines of the 16th IISS Manama Dialogue

## Avoiding the virus myths



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The covid-19 virus has spawned thousands of myths and fake claims - alongside the frontliners, the brave hearts and warriors who are fighting to right this topsy-turvy
world, there are many who are world, there are many who are looking to make a fast buck from
the disease that has robbed the the disease that has robbed the world of a whole year of progress. I have lost count of the number of sanitisers and disinfectants which claim to prevent the virus attack - a claim that is partly true but only if supported with other safety measures such as wearing face masks, observing social distancing and avoiding crowds and
gatherings.

The across many advertisements for textiles and dress mateslowdown Bahrain has anti-bacteri- been largely al properties due to the woven into absolute the weave
to prevent
scientific covid-19.
Yes, we are temperament Yes, we are
all thinking of all the of the head of a power ful country authorities who aske braking the his people march of the ly swallow disease. y swallow the germs.
 comes news that Bahrain's Minis-

and the University of Bahrain have conducted rigorous research into claims that UV light destroys the COVID-19 virus. The study has found definitive evidence that the claim is a tall tale. Does the Uv light destroy germs? Yes. But to extend this to destruction of the covid virus and ask people to buy these lights is a fake claim that is making money for the manufacturers and has no scientific backing.
The slowdown of the virus' relentless attack in Bahrain has been largely due to the absolute scientific temperament of all the authorities charged with braking the march of the disease. As the vaccine makes its way to our shores, we will no doubt hear about why we should or should not take the shot, who is first priority in the queue and many more unfounded details that will confuse us. Let us listen to our government in this matter. Our leaders and government have done a sterling job of containing the virus and we must continue to repose our trust in them.
(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-chief of The Daily Tribune and he Presiden of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

## Thank you volunteers, says HRH CP

2020 Theme:
Together We Can Through Volunteering

International Volunteer Day (IVD) mandated by the UN General Assembly, is held each year on 5 December.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday joined the rest of the world in celebrating International Volunteer Day which falls on December 5 every year.
In a message on his Insta gram account, HRH Princ Salman bin Hamad Al Khali fa, the Crown Prince, Depu ty Supreme Commander and Prime Minister thanked the contribution of volunteers.
HRH Crown Prince Wrote "For every citizen and resident who volunteered for the sake of Bahrain and the sake of humanity, your donation is appreciated and is a place of pride for everyone."
"On the International Volunteer Day, we thank you for your contribution that repre sents the highest meaning


A Combo showing frontline workers in the Kingdom (Courtesy of BahraincPNews)
(5)

For every citizen and resident who volunteered for the sake of Bahrain and the sake of humanity, your donation is appreciated and is a place of pride for everyone. HRH CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MNISTER
of the authentic and unifying spirit of our Bahraini society," said HRH Prince Salman.
The post also had a combo of pictures showing volunteers during their line of duty as a tribute.
This year's IVD campaign thanks volunteers worldwide and also sheds light on the difficulties and needs of volunteers during the pandemic and organizations to celebrate sector. work among their commu- retary-General, appealed to thanks," he said.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid AI Zayani, holding a discussion with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Levant Affairs and Special Envoy for Syria at the US Department
of State, Joel Rayburn. They reviewed of State, Joel Rayburn. They reviewed ways of boosting cooperation and discussed security and political issues of common concern. he meeting was attended by Foreign Mntistral Affairs Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahm Al Khalifa and Director of Americas and Pacific Affairs Directorate Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah bin Ali Al Khalifa. From the American side the meeting From the American side, the meeting Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United the Export-Import Bank of the united States, Kimberly Reed, the Charg $\emptyset$ Kingdom of Bahrain, Margaret Nardi, and the accompanying delegation.

## Oman backs multilateral strategy

TDT | Manama

Oman's Foreign Minister, Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi affirmed his country's commitment to settling
conflicts peacefully and supporting peace and stability.
Addressing the 11th Manama Dialogue forum, he stressed the importance
of multilateral participa-


Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi
tion to achieve success in an interrelated world. "The Sultanate of
Oman is Oman is looking forward to revitalising economic, commercial and tourism fields", he said, adding that community security represents an essential compo nent to reaching comprehensive security, a secure social fabric and economic environment.

## ICRC efforts in crisis-hit countries underlined

 TDT | Manama
## T

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Peter Maurer stressed the importance of focusing on the humanitarian side and working on countering ter- Peter Maurer rorism in all its forms.


He pointed out that that humanitarian aid is important, but insufficient unless it is accompanied by eradicating the ideology of terrorism.

He said that human development indicators in the Middle East and Africa show the need to empower women and youth and eliminate the challenges of insecurity in some areas.
Addressing the third session of the Manama Dialogue forum, he underlined the CRC-led role in providing humanitar-CRC-led role in providing humanitar-
an aid in areas of armed conflict and working to alleviate the psychological and social impacts.


# Britain and EU agree to more talks in final push for Brexit 

## The talks were paused on Friday in the latest stumble

- Sources from both sides said that French demands over fishing rights in British waters remained a key issue

An EU official said the pause in talks was about theatrics rather than substance

Reuters | London/Brussels

British Prime Minister Bo is Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen instructed their negotiators to resume
trade talks on Sunday in a last ditch attempt to bridge significant differences.
Acknowledging the distance in their positions, the leaders' decision to resume talks that had stalled over three of the thorniest issues suggests both sides still believe they can secure a deal governing almost $\$ 1$ trillion of trade a year.
But it was not clear whether either had changed their positions to allow a breakthrough that has proved elusive since entered a transition period with


If the two sides fail to reach a deal, the fiveyear Brexit divorce will end messily just as Britain and Europe grapple with the vast economic cost of the COVID-19 outbreak.
ensuring fair competition guarantees and ways to solve future disputes.
Sources from both sides said that French demands over fishing rights in British waters remained a key issue, and some in Johnson's Conservative Party suggested that EU officials had to convince French President Emmanuel Macron to back a
deal.

## deal.

An EU official said the pause in talks was about theatrics rather than substance. "Each side needs a bit of drama to be able to sell this."
Johnson, a figurehead for Britain's campaign to leave the Brexit supporters that he has seBrexit supporters that he has sewhat he called during last year's election campaign the country's sovereignty.

Von der Leyen does not want to offer too much to London for fear of encouraging other member states to leave and must also deliver a deal that does not alienate any of the 27 .
Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin welcomed the decision to resume talks, saying on Twitter: "Every effort should be made to reach a deal."
British and Eu negotiators paused trade talks on Friday to call in their leaders to try to narrow the gaps and get an agreement after a week of negotiations failed to bridge significant divergences between the two sides.

## Black people hold just 4pc of Tesla's US leadership role

## Reuters

$\mathbf{B}_{\text {just } 4 \text { per centes make up }}^{\text {lapk }}$ American leadership roles and $10 \%$ of its total workforce in the $10 \%$ ofits total workfore in the country, the electric carmaker has disclosed in its first U.S. diversity report.
Women comprise 17pc of the company's US leadership roles directors and vice presidents and 21pc of the overall workforce, according to the report The figures for Asian, Black and Hispanic people combined are

33 pc and 60 pc .
The carmaker noted, though, hat leadership roles were very small cohort", or less than , Elon Musk's Tesla, whose meeoric rise has seen it become the most valuable auto company in the world and worth about $\$ 550$ billion, acknowled "ack of representation.
do not represent the dumbers ent pools of Black the deep talAmerican talent that exist in the U.S at every level - from
 high-school graduates to pro-
ty, Equity and Inclusion Impact Report here 2020 published on Friday.
"While women are historically underrepresented in the tech and automotive industries, we recognize we have work to do in this area," it added.
Tesla, based in Palo Alto, California, said it planned to increase representation of all under-represented groups next year and would be recruiting at historically Black colleges and universities.

## In a first, BNET adds 'Fibre Checker' option on website

- The 'Fibre Checker' allow citizens and residents to view fibreoptic availability across all areas of Bahrain


## TDT | Manama

B $\qquad$ ahrain's National Broadand Network (BNET), responsible for providvices across the Kingdom of Bahrain, has a 'Fibre Checker' feature on their website www.bnet.com that allows a transparent view of fibre-optic connection availability across Bahrain.
This advancement is a step forward in the company's strategy to provide broadband Internet services across Bahrain.
The 'Fibre Checker’ service, available to individuals and business owners, will allow citizens and residents of the Kingdom to view fibre-optic availability across all areas of Bahrain via accessing BNET's website and entering their full address. Users will then receive a message informing them of fibre-optic availability at the entered address and request that they visit their preferred telecom operator to subscribe for the service at the service prove unavailable, users are urged to contact their preferred operator in order to raise a request.
Speaking on this occasion, BNET CEO Mohamed Bubashait said: "Launching the 'Fibre Checker' feature reaffirms our strategy to offer integrated services to users benefiting from the fibre-optic network. With


## Establishing a

 nationwide fibreoptic network is our priority and falls in line with BNET's vision to enable licensed operatorsin Bahrain to deliver the latest high-speed fibreoptic services to $100 \%$ of all businesses and 95\% of all households across the Kingdom bnet ceo mohamed bubashait
this new checker, everyone can have instant and transparent access to information about he reach of our fibre-optic network. This allows users to make installation decisions instantly," said Bubashait. Through the 'Fibre Checker' feature, applicants for fibre services will now be able to ensure service availability at their chosen addresses, allowthat best suits their needs from any licensed operator in the Kingdom.

## Sony to shut a Malaysia factory, consolidate facilities

Reuters | Kuala Lumpur
The company told Reuters in an email to Reuters that Sony Corp will close a facto- it always takes into account ry in Malaysia next year to market conditions, business consolidate its operations in growth potential and other its other plant in the state for factors, as part of a continuous efficiency, the Japanese electronics giant said yesterday.
review of its investments and business operations.

## AMH joins hands with Soza Health UKfor health assessments

The American Mission Hospital (AMH) an-
nounced partnering up nounced partnering up Bahrain, to conduct health assessments in Bahrain.
Under the theme 'Wellness in the workplace' - Protecting your employees' it has launched the soza Health 'pilot' assessment programme in which, companies can book appointments to conduct Soza Health assessments for their staff.
Trained AMH staff will visit the companies and conduct scheduling of AMH and Dhu3, the local partner in Bahrain.

## Less than an hour

It takes less than an hour for each staff member's Soza

At AMH, we now focus more on wellness initiatives At AMH, we now focus more on weliness initiatives
because illness treatments can be avoided with because illness treatments can be avoided with
healthy lifestyles. With organizations like Soza Health, which base their testing systems and algorithms on excellent medical research, we can show a health report card to customers so that they can take appropriate corrective steps in nutrition and fitness. And these remedial lifestyles could even result in greater immunization against illnesses DR GERGE CHERYYAN, the CORPORATE CEO OF AMH
sessment, which provides im- health, is then provided to each mediate information on where each member stands on the health and wellness spectrum. A customized and confidential eport, with suggestions for illnellness initiatives because actionable steps toward better ed with hatments can be avoid-

organizations like Soza Health, and fitness. And these remedial which base their testing systems lifestyles could even result in and algorithms on excellent greater immunization against medical research, we can show a illnesses", said Dr George Cherihealth report card to customers yan, the Corporate CEO of AMH. so that they can take appropri- "With 90 data readings tak-
loaded into Soza's secure cloud system, each customer would know how his or her body is performing from the health rating they receive", said Tim King, the CEO of SOZA Health UK, during his visit to Bahrain in the last week of October.
"This pilot programme will be run until the end of December 2020, through AMH and Dhu3", said Paul Groom, the director of Dhu3, a Bahrain based company delivering digital and tech solutions to the GCC market.
Key inputs into the Soza have materialized from extensive research at Loughborough University, which is ranked number one on QS World Uniersity Rankings, for sports-re lated subjects, for the third consecutive year.

## News in brief <br>  $$
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|} \hline \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{Suspect in deadly 1982 Paris attack extradited from Norway} & \\ \hline \multicolumn{3}{|r|}{in Paris arrived in France after being extradited from Norway, airport officials said. Walid Abdulrahman Abu Zayed, 62, landed at around 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport from Oslo, where he had been living since 1991.} \\ \hline \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{\begin{tabular}{l} - President Donald Trump ventured out of Washington of Washington for his first political appearance since his election defeat to Joe Biden, campaigning in Georgia where two run-off races will decide the fate of the US Senate. The president took the stage at 7:00 pm (0000 Sunday GMT) in the southern city of Valdosta, exactly one month before special January 5 elections. It is just under a month since he was declared the loser in the presidential race. \\ Trump to appear in Georgia in gamble over control of US Senate \end{tabular}
$$

 <br>\hline \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{\multirow[t]{2}{*}{Coal mine accident in - Eighteen people have China's Chongqing kills 18 died after being trapped in a mine in China's southwestern city of Chongqing, the official Xinhua news agency said, the region's second such accident in just over two months. The dead were among 24 people trapped underground by excessive levels of carbon monoxide gas at the Diaoshuidong coal mine, the agency said, adding that one survivor had been rescued while search efforts continue.}} <br>
\hline \& \& <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

Covid-1:9 Countries worst affected

|  | Country | Total cases | Total | Global tally |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | USA | 14,892,414 | 287,123 |  |
| 2 | India | 9,636,741 | 140,072 | 66,654,183 |
| 3 | Brazil | 6,536,245 | 175,990 | Deaths |
| 4 | Russia | 2,43,731 | 42,684 |  |
| 5 | France | 2,281,475 | 54,981 | 1,531,480 |
| 6 | Italy | 1,709,991 | 59,514 | Recovered: |
| 7 | uk | 1,705,971 | 61,014 |  |
| 8 | Spain | 1,69,145 | 46,252 | ,122,983 |
| 9 | Argentina | 1,454,631 | 39,512 | New cases |
| 10 | Colombia | 1,352,607 | 37,467 |  |
| 11 | Germany | 1,159,194 | 18,815 | +440,850 |
| 12 | Mexico | 1,156,770 | 108,863 | New deaths |
| 13 | Poland | 1,054,773 | 19,861 |  |
| 14 | Iran | 1,028,986 | 50,016 | +7,834 |

## Middle East

| Country | Totala <br> cases | new <br> cases | Total <br> deaths | Neww <br> Deaths | Total <br> recovered | Active <br> cases |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Egypt | 117,583 |  | 6,732 |  | 103,191 | 7,660 |
| Saudi <br> Arabia | 358,526 | +190 | 5,954 | +14 | 348,562 | 4,010 |
| UAE | 175,276 | $+1,214$ | 589 | +3 | 158,498 | 16,189 |
| Kuwait | 143,917 |  | 886 |  | 139,148 | 3,883 |
| Oman | 124,329 |  | 1,435 |  | 115,866 | 7,028 |
| Qatar | 139,783 | +140 | 239 |  | 137,060 | 2,484 |

## Trump orders withdrawal of US troops from Somalia

The pullback is part of a larger effort to reduce US troop levels abroad before Donald Trump leaves office in January

## - The United

 States has about 700 troops in SomaliaReuters | Washington

President Donald Trump has ordered nearly all American
troops to withdraw troops to withdraw from global pullback by the Republican president before he leaves office next month that will also see him drawdown forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.
The United States has about 700 troops in Somalia focused on helping local forces defeat the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab insurgency. The mission has received little attention in the United
States, but has been considered States, but has been considere, global efforts to combat al Qaeda. In a statement, the Pentagon sought to play down the implications of a withdrawal that experts have said could undermine secu-


US Army Brig. Gen. Damian T. Donahoe, center, talks with service members during a battlefield circulation in Somalia (file photo)
rity in Somalia.
"While a change in force pos- year. As of last month, US troops ture, this action is not a change were still in the southern port city in US policy", the Pentagon said. The US will retain the capabil- the capital Mogadishu. ity to conduct targeted counter- A US defence official, speaking and collect early warnings and nearly all Us forces would leave indicators regarding threats to the homeland." The United States already remain in Mogadishu. Bossaso and Galkayo earlier this was unsigned, said an unspeci-

The Pentagon said on November 17 that the number of US forces in Afghanistan would drop from 4,500 to 2,500 , while troop levels in Iraq would go from 3,000 to 2,500
ould be moved to neighbourin countries, allowing them to carry out cross-border operations. Others would be reassigned outside East Africa.
A congressional aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the withdrawal comes at a diffi cult time for Somalia, ahead of both parliamentary and presiden tial elections, and will present an early dilemma for President-elect Joe Biden.

## 14 Indians to return home after 10-month detainment in Yemen



The 14 member group after being freed from their captors TDT | Manama
tions. Very happy that they are finally released after tremendous
Ater a ten-month long ordeal
in Yemen, 14 Indian nationals
effs
He said the group is now on Ain Yemen, 14 Indian nationals after being freed by their Houthi captors.
The sailors were part of a crew of 20 including five Bangladeshi nationals and an Egyptian. The detained group also in- sa cludes two men from the south Indian state of Kerala, T.K Praveen from Vadakra, and Mustafa from Trivandrum.
Their release came after the intervention of the Indian Embassy in Saana and Indian Foreign Affairs minister.
Sudheer Tirunilath, a Social worker in Bahrain, said, "We knocked several doors for the including that of the United Na -
their way back and had reached Dubai Airport.
"UAE embassy officials will receive them at Dubai Airport and will make arrangements for their further travel to India," Tirunilath said.
He said the group would fly Bombay today and will take a connection flight to Kannur. They are to land in Kannur by 11:30 am today.
Praveen, the Chief Officer of the Ship, thanked Sudeer Thirunilath or his tremendous help.
"Our experience during the first few months were terrible, with reft with only a pair of cloths. ey and mobile pay all our mon-


TK Praveen and Mustafa
(2)

We knocked at several doors for the release of the detained Indians including that of the United Nations. Very happy that they are finally released after tremendous efforts sudheer tirunilath

## "Mostly the food given was n

 fit for consumption.""We only got back our mobile phone after spending five months in captivity."

The crew said they also wit nessed the horrors of the war on Yemen during those days where airstrikes are seen through windows.

## "We saw a building being re

 duced to rubble in an explosion, Praveen added.The crew members were disowned by their Oman-based employer following their arrest after their fleet of three commercial ships carrying 4 -whee vehicles set out from Oman on 3 February and were supposed to reach Saudi Arabia in just over two weeks. However, on 12 Feb ruary the ships were caught up in rough weather in the Gulf of Aden, causing one of the ships to sink.
The crew then, reportedly, anchored the remaining ships in war-torn Yemen only to end up in the captivity of Yemeni coas guard.

After four days of interrogation, they were then moved to a hotel in Sanaa and were locked up.

# Russia begins COVID-19 vaccinations in Moscow 

Russia is starting its Covid-19 vaccination programme, with clinics in the capital Moscow inoculating those most at risk from the virus

Russias own vaccine Sputnik $\mathbf{V}$, which was registered in August, is being used

## Reuters | Moscow

Moscow began distributing the Sputnik V Covid-19 shot via 70 clinics yesterday to the most exposed groups, marking Russi's first large-
scale vaccination against the disease, the scale vaccination against the dise
city's coronavirus task force said. city's coronavirus task force said.
The Russian-made vaccine will first be made available to doctors and other medical workers, teachers and social workers because they run the highest risk of exposure to the disease.
"You are working at an educational institution and have top-priority for the COVID-19 vaccine, free of charge," read a phone text message received by one Muscovite, an elementary school teacher, early yesterday.
President Vladimir Putin has ordered a nationwide voluntary vaccination programme to begin next week. He said Russia will have produced 2 million vaccine doses within the next few days.
The head of the Russian Direct Invest ment Fund (rDIF), Kirill Dmitriev, said in an interview with the BBC on Friday that Russia expects to give the vaccine to about 2 million people this month.
"Over the first five hours, 5,000 people signed up for the jab - teachers, doctors social workers, those who are today risking their health and lives the most," Mayor Sergei Sobyanin wrote on his personal website on Friday.
Russia has already vaccinated more than 100,000 high-risk people, Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said earlier this week during a separate presentation to the Unit d Nations about Sputnik V
Among the first people signing up to the Moscow roll-out, Nadezhda Ragulina, an administrator at a Moscow clinic, said she wanted the vaccine as she had witnessed many COVID-19 patients.
"This is my decision... Some people close to me also have had an experience (of cov "This is my decision... Some people close Russian Direct Investment Fund and an ID-19). That's why I want to protect myself, tute, with final trials for the both yet to be agai

## (2)

Over the first five hours, 5,000 people signed up for the jab - teachers, doctors, social workers, those who

## are today risking their

health and lives the most moscow mavor sergel sobyann
my relatives, to obtain the immunity," sh told Rossiya-24 state TV channel. Moscow, a city of around 13 million peo ple, has been the epicentre of Russia's coronavirus outbreak. It reported 7,993 new cases yesterday, up from 6,868 the day before and well above the daily tallies of round 700 seen in early September
The age for those receiving shots is capped at 60 . People with certain underly ing health conditions, pregnant women and those who have had a respiratory illnes for the past two weeks are barred from accination.
Russia has developed two Covid-19 vac cines, Sputnik V which is backed by the


Russian medical worker, right, administers a shot of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine in Moscow

## completed.

Scientists have raised concerns about the speed at which Russia has worked, giving he regulatory go-ahead for its vaccines and launching mass vaccinations before full trials to test its safety and efficacy had been completed.
The Sputnik V vaccine is administered in two injections, with the second dose is expected to be given 21 days after the first.
Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova said on Friday that the vaccinated should avoid public places and reduce their intake f medicine and alcohol, which could suppress the immune system, within the first 42 days after the first jab.
Moscow closed down all public places including parks and cafes, with exception or delivery, in late March, with police patrolling the streets looking for whose violating the rules. Restrictions were eased from mid-June, however.
Russia as a whole reported 28,782 new infections yesterday, its highest daily tally, pushing the national total to $2,431,731$, the fourth-highest in the world.
In October, certain restrictions such as emote learning for some secondary school ildren and a $30 \%$ limit on the number orkers allowed in offices were introduced again.

Thousands pay tribute to Thai royals amid calls for reform


Supporters of Thai monarchy during a candle lighting ceremony

Reuters | Bangkok

Thousands of people gathered in Bangkok yesterday to show thei devotion to the Thai mon archy on the birthday of King Maha Vajiralongkorn's late father, after months of street protests led by youth movement demanding reform to royal powers. King Vajiralongkorn led a candle lighting ceremony in front of the Grand Palace in Bangkok to pay tribute to his father King Bhumibo Adulyadej, who died in 2016 after reigning for seven dec ades - during which he was seen by many as a symbol of national unity.
The king was joined by thousands of loyalists, wearing the royal colour yellow and waving nationa flags.
In recent months, the monarchy in Thailand has become a target for a youthled protest movement that accuses the current king and the government led by a former army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha of expanding royal powers to a level not seen since the absolute monarchy ended in 1932 .
The protesters brok long-standing taboos by openly criticising King Va jiralongkorn for taking di rect control of two military units and the wealth of the units and Pre wealth of the Crown Proper Bureau dollars.

Violence erupts during Paris protest against Marcron's security law

Reuters | Paris
Cores of hooded anarchists launched projectiles at riot police, smashed up shop fronts, torched cars and burned barricades during a demonstration in the French capital yesterday against police violence and a draft security law.
The police fired back volleys of tear gas and made repeated charges at groups of troublemakers for close to three hours. One group of anarchists ransacked the branch office of a bank, throwing piles of paperwork onto a fire outside.
It marked the second consecutive of weekend of unrest in Paris, provoked by recent epsodes of police brutality and President Emmanuel Macron's security plans, which the demonstrators say would restrict


Police officers stand guard near a burning barricade during a protest civil liberties. Marseille, Lyon, Lille and other law", when the clashes erupted French cities.

Thousands of people had anarchists.
Paris police said that some 500
casseurs" - which translates as
Paris, waving banners that read hoodlums or rioters - had infil"France, land of police rights"

## dded

France has been hit by a wave of street protests after the government introduced a security bill in parliament that set out to increase its surveillance tools and restrict rights on circulating images of police officers in the media and online.
The bill was part of Macron's drive to get tougher on law and order ahead of elections in 2022. His government also said the police needed to be better protected from online hate.
But the draft legislation provoked a public backlash.
The beating of a Black man, music producer Michel Zecler, by several police officers in late November intensified anger That incident came to light after closed circuit television and ter closed circuit television and mobile phone footage circulated online.

## France has been hit

 by a wave of street protests after the government introduced a security bill in parliament that set out to increase its surveillance tools and restrict rights on circulating images of police officers in the media and onlineDisclaimer: (Views expressed need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

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## celebs

## Carrie Underwood says she found 'sense of peace' in quarantine <br> oing to make a Christmas album, lucky. I do have two incredible <br> said,"I kind of took the opposit

American singer-songwrite Carrie Underwood recently Zane Lowe for his 'At Home With' series and opened up about how the nationwide coronavirus quar-
antine has changed her life antine has changed her life.
According to Fox News, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic forced the music industry to shut down, and it gave the 37 -year-old country songstress an opportunity to stop and take stock of what's mportant in her life.
"I mean, when you do look at this year, the way it started, [I said], This is what I'm going to do, I'm

I'm going to do these [things,] X, boys and my husband, and we live Y , and Z , and then everything gets on a farm, and I kind of got to may-
changed," the 'American Idol' alum
said, according to Us Weekly
"Eaccording to Us Weekly. ty good job of saying, 'OK, how do we circumvent our situation and what we do?' And I feel like it brought me a bigger sense of peace in knowing that I was not continuing to move forward," Additionally, the 'Blown Awa singer said she is grateful for the opportunity to slow down after years of working hard on her nontop career. Underwood said, "I'm very
boys and my husband, and we live
on a farm, and I kind of got to maybe get back to some of my roots by not being on stage for a minute. I got to be outside so much and I got to work in the garden and just be a mom and be a wife and be at home. It's the most I've been still over 15 years."
Having such a family isn't without its challenges, however. In 2019, she embarked on a tour shortly after giving birth.
She recalled, "Getting married and starting a family, you see some women in the music industry talk about how they chose not to have about how they chose not to have
route and I'm just like, I can have it all. I had my son Jake, and three months [later], we had our firs show on the 'Cry Pretty' tou I was like, ‘I can do this' we made it through. However, Underwood proved herself to be a proud working mom.
"It was all worth it. I also love that my kids are going to remember, hope-
fully, some of these times fully, some of these times
and be like, 'Wow, my mom was [a] mom but she was als [more].' Which is such a cool cool thought to have," said the songstress.


## 'It's unhealthy': Daniel Radcliffe on not joining social media

would like to look up con
$\mathrm{E}_{\text {why }}^{\text {xplaing the reasons on }}$ Eocial he might never join perstar Daniel Radcliffe admits that he is not mentally strong enough to be available online.
According to People Mag azine, Radcliffe opened up about on why he might never join Twitter or Instagram on First We Feasts Hot One with host Sean Evans while promoting his film 'Escape
From Pretoria' while eating From Pretoria'
spicy hot wings. spicy hot wings.
The 'Harry Potter' star reThe 'Harry Potter' star re-
vealed that he once considvealed that he once consid-
ered signing up for a Twitter account. "I would love to say there's some sort of intellec tual, well-thought-out reason for this because I consid,
getting a Twitter and me, getting a Twitter and
100 per cent know that if I did, you all would be waking up to stories like, 'Dan Radcliffe gets
into a fight with a into a fight with a random person
Twitter," he said. Twitter'", he said.
Continuing the thoughts he had while signing up for Twitter he said "When I was younger, not anymore thank
ments about myself on the
"That is an insane and bad hing to do and to me, lik Twitter and everything jus sort of feels like an extension of that. Unless I'm going to go of that. Unless Im going to go
on to just read all nice things on to just read all nice things
about myself, which also feels about myself, which also feels
like another kind of unhealthy thing to do," he added.
The 'Horns' star said that The 'Horns' star said that he is honestly unsure about his mental ability to hold the strain of social media life and
thinks that he is alright with thinks that he is alright with
that. As. As per the reports from People, the actor, in February 2019, revealed that he turned to an alcohol addict to deal with his massive Harry Potter me as a young man
Then as you get very drunk ou become aware, 'Oh, people are watching more now because now I'm getting
very drunk, so I should very drunk, so I should
probably drink more to probably drink more to
ignore that more," he ignore
joked.
"It can affect your psyche. Part of the thing is the expectation that you should just be delighted all the time. You have a great job, you're wealthy, you don't have the right to not be excited about the thing all the time," Radcliffe added. Daniel Radcliffe


Blake Shelton ANI | Washington

A merican singers Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton are ready to head down the aisle next year, as per reports.
According to Fox News, the 51-year-old 'No Doubt 'singer and the 44 -year-old country star announced they got engaged back in October after five years

Gwen Stefani, Blake Shelton want to get married next year


#### Abstract

fani's three sons - 14-year-old Kingston, 12 -year-old Zuma and 6 -year-old Apollo are spending most of their time during the pandemic at Shelton's Oklahoma ranch and it holds a very special place in their hearts. So much so, Shelton and Stefani want to marry there. "Blake built a chapel on the grounds of his Oklahoma ranch, He did it himself with help, He did it himself with hel source told Us Weekly. source tola Us Weekly. It's really a tribute to their love. They are going to get married in the chapel, most like ly early next year," the insider added. Before he proposed, Shelton reportedly asked permission from her three sons. A source told her boys that he wanted to propose and ask their per-


mission." "Her family very much ap- Fox News, the couple began proves of him. He's an ap- dating in 2015 after appearing amazing partner and a Gwen is ecstatic.
The proposal was a surprise," the
ing competition se-
ries several times source claimed.
For her birthFor her birth ber, Shelton gushed over
his love. He his love. He
wrote in an wrote in an
Instagram instagram post, "It's a
special day for a special lady in my song for you every
single day if I could..."

Bieber slams fan who asked Gomez fans to bully Baldwin

ANI | Washington
Canadian singer Justin BieCber recently stood up for his wife Hailey Baldwin when a fan of his ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez asked people to bully Baldwin. According to Page Six, the 26 -year-old singer took aim at a Selena Gomez fan who encouraged others to bully Bieber's wife, Baldwin, during an Instagram Live chat.
"[We] need to bombard that the high road when isee peo
with Jelena and how Selena is go after her," the fan said (via Billboard).
Bieber posted on his Instagram Story on Thursday night, "This sad excuse of a human ust encouraged people on the video to literally go after my wife telling people to say that my previous relationship was better so on and so forth." "It is extremely hard to choose permodel
ple like this try and rally to person ilove the most in
this world It is not person ilove the most
this world. It is not
right," added Bieber. right," added Bieber. As reported by

## at a Manhattan courthouse at a Manhattan courthouse in 2018 and celebrated the

 following year with a big wedding in South Carolina. He and Gomez dated on-and-off for years before breaking things off for good in early 2018. In another Instagram Story on Thursday, Bieber said he wouldn't let the fan's actions "steal my joy."I'm very lucky. I do have two incredible boys and nasband, and we maybe get back to some of my roots by not being on stage for a minute
much on their career. wood recalled about the tour and
sudoku

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# Tsunoda triumphs in F 2 Feature Race 

Drivers' championship battle extends to final event of 2020 while Prema Racing secure teams' title


Tsunoda in action during the F 2 Feature Race

Pole-sitter Tsunoda loses lead at start but battles back brilliantly to take third win of 2020

## Zhou, Mazepin take other podium places at the end of thrilling 48-lap race

- Drivers'
championship leader Schumacher impresses with seventh-place finish after starting 18th


## TDT | Manama

Yuki Tsunoda battled back from a disappoint-
ing start to take pressive victory yesterday in the Formula 2 Feature Race, held as
part of this weekend's F1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix.
Meanwhile, the drivers' title fight has been extended to the final event of the 2020 season as current leader Mick Schumacher maintained his lead on the standings at 14 points from chief rival Callum Ilott. Prema Racing, on the other hand, which features Schumacher and Robert Shwartzman as their drivers, clinched the teams' championship.
Tsunoda started the 48-lap Feature in pole position but immediately lost two places at the start. He headed into the first turn of lap one behind Nikita Mazepin of Hitech Grand Prix
and Shwartzman. But the Carlin ace was able to make a late charge for the vicmoke a late charge for the vic-
tory and regained first place on tory and regained first place on
lap 44 amidst a hotly contested battle amongst the leaders. He held on until the end and took
(5)

II am really, really happy with my result. The start was really bad, but I trusted my driving and my tyre management. Both went well and I got P1 back

## yuki tsunoda

or his third win in 2020.
"I am really, really happy with my result," said the Japanese driver. "We've had really good the race, and I done my job. "The start was really bad, but trusted my driving and my tyre management. Both went well management. Both went well happy and looking forward to morrow, ${ }^{\text {, }}$ Guanyu Zh ni-Viyu Zhou (+5.613s) of


Tsunoda, centre, on the podium with Zhou, and Mazepin
place despite a five-second grid in 18th. He also set the race's tle today after improving to 382 penalty for speeding in the pit fastest lap of 1:04.087, earning points, going beyond the reach lane, while Mazepin ( +6.280 s ) him an extra two points on the of Uni-Virtuosi with 342.5 . had to settle for third. He fin- championship standings. Jehan Daruvala of Carlin will ished ahead of Felipe Drugovich, The drivers' title battle now start from pole position in the Shwartzman and Ilott. goes down to the wire and will Sprint Race, following the reSchumacher had a brilliant be decided Sunday in the week- verse grid rule of F2. The currace to take seventh on the final end's Sprint Race, which will be tain-closer will be held over 34 classification after starting all the final event of the season. laps and it is scheduled for a the way from the back of the Prema won their teams' ti- 3.20pm start.

The FIA Formula 2 Championship was rebranded from the GP2 Series in 2017. Two of its three champions since then are now stars in Formula 1, including Charles Leclerc (2017 champ) and George Russell (2018). Nyck de Vries (2019 winner) last competed in Formula E and the FIA World Endurance Championship

## Guven wins first Porsche sprint from pole



Action from the race
TDT | Manama
Ahancan Guven continued Ahis near-perfect run this weekend in the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East with a win last night in the meeting's first race, held around BIC's 3.543-kilometre Outer Track.
After topping the timesheets in two of the three sessions held so far, which included qualifying where he secured a double pole, Guven made his mark yet again and put in a fine drive to take the chequered flag in a dominant 17 laps.


Bahrainis Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed AI Khalifa (Pro-Am) and Shaikh Jaber bin Ali Al Khalifa (Am) were classified eighth and ninth, respectively, overall in the race


## The winners on the podium

Guven secured his pole-to- hammed Al Khalifa (Pro-Am) flag triumph in a total race and Shaikh Jaber bin Ali Al time of 21 minutes 22.754 Khalifa (Am) were classified seconds.
Daan Van Kuijk finished as overall in the race.
the runner-up 6.595 s behind, The second Porsche sprint while Jean-Baptiste Sim- will take place today, scheduled menauer completed the podi- for a 4.30 pm start. Guven will um placers in third, 6.759 s from once again be on pole. Guven.
Guven was also the winner clinched the leading grid place in the championship's GT3 for race one after setting the class Pro category, while Van fastest lap time in Qualifying Kuijk was first in the Pro-Am of $1: 14.209$. He then also had category. Eddy Waldhier was the best second-fastest lap from the top man amongst the Am all runners of 1:14.220s, which runners. earned him pole for the second
Bahrainis Shaikh Ali bin Mo- sprint.

## Man Utd into top four as Premier League welcomes back fans

## AFP | London

M[anchester United roared back to beat West Ham 3-1 on Saturday and climb into the top four of the Premier League as fans returned to the English top-flight for the first time in nine months.
Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men fell behind at the London Stadium but a three-goal blitz from Paul Pogba, Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford turned the tables at the London Stadium.
United, who have won nine successive league games on the road, are now fourth in the table, one point ahead of Manchester City, who earlier cruised past Fulham 2-0.
United, who started with Bruno Fernandes and Rashford on the bench, were second best in the first half and fell behind to a Tomas Soucek goal seven minutes before halfgoal se
time.
But, with 2,000 fans inside the ground, Solskjaer threw on Rashford and Fernandes for the start of the second half and United were a changed side. Pogba equalised in the 65th from distance and minutes lat


Manchester United's Mason Greenwood celebrates a goal er United were ahead, Greenwood turning and firing home in the area. Rashford struck a post as United looked to exend their lead, and it was the England striker who made it -112 minutes from time. Pep Guardiola's Manchester to the have had a patchy start to the season but are now just hree points behind leaders Tottenham after a dominant display at the Etihad.
City, who had won just four of their opening nine matches, are showing ominous signs they are returning to their best form after building on their 5-0 mauling of Burnley last week


# Bottas grabs Sakhir GP pole! 

Mercedes lock out front row for tonight's all-new Formula 1 spectacle after intense qualifying along BIC Outer Track

## - Bottas outpaces Russell by just 0.026s, while Verstappen just 0.026 s behind

- Racing Point, AlphaTauri join Mercedes as only teams with both cars in top 10


## F1 Rolex Sakhir

 Grand Prix scheduled for 8.10 pm start
## TDT | Manama

VTaltteri Bottas was the las man standing in one of the most intriguing and unpredictable Formula 1 qualifying sessions of the season last night in the Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).
Bottas captured pole with a blistering lap of 53.377 sec onds in Q3, beating out teammate George Russell-driving in place of Lewis Hamilton this weekend-by just 0.026 seconds to lock out the front row for Mercedes for the second suc cessive weekend.
Bottas commented after qualifying: "It's great to be on pole, I'm happy with that, but this wasn't my best qualifying. My second run in Q3 was decent of time missing in Turn 7 and 8 I was the first car out on track on the final run, so I didn't have a tow and ultimately couldn't improve. It was fairly close in improve. It was fairly close in
the end, so I'm pleased it was the end, so I'm pleased
enough for pole position. $\begin{array}{ll}\text { enough for pole position. } & \text { both } \\ \text { "It's great to see George in P2 } \\ \text { times }\end{array}$ "It's great to see George in P2 $\begin{array}{ll}\text { "It's great to see George in P2 } & \text { times. } \\ \text { and that we managed to lock } & \text { Q2 saw some disappointing }\end{array}$ out the front row for the team. exits for some after starting off a him up there, he kept improving performances. Renault's Este

Sakhir Grand Prix starting order, qualifying results

| $\mathbf{1}$ | Valtteri Bottas | Mercedes | Q3: 53.377 s |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | George Russell | Mercedes | Q3: 53.403 s |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Max Verstappen | Red Bull Racing | Q3: 53.433 s |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Charles Leclerc | Ferrari | Q3: 53.613 s |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Sergio Perez | Racing Point | Q3: 53.790 s |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | Daniil Kvyat | AlphaTauri | Q3: 53.906 s |
| $\mathbf{7}$ | Daniel Ricciardo | Renault | Q3: 53.957 s |
| $\mathbf{8}$ | Carlos Sainz | McLaren | Q3: 54.010 s |
| $\mathbf{9}$ | Pierre Gasly | AlphaTauri | Q3: 54.154 s |
| $\mathbf{1 0}$ | Lance Stroll | Racing Point | Q3: 54.200 s |
| $\mathbf{1 1}$ | Esteban Ocon | Renault | Q2: 53.995 s |
| $\mathbf{1 2}$ | Alexander Albon | Red Bull Racing | Q2: 54.026 s |
| $\mathbf{1 3}$ | Sebastian Vettel | Ferrari | Q2: 54.175 s |
| $\mathbf{1 4}$ | Antonio Giovinazzi | Alfa Romeo | Q2: 54.377 s |
| $\mathbf{1 5}$ | Lando Norris | McLaren | Q2: 54.693 s |
| $\mathbf{1 6}$ | Kevin Magnussen | Haas | Q1: 54.705 s |
| $\mathbf{1 7}$ | Nicholas Latifi | Williams | Q1: 54.796 s |
| $\mathbf{1 8}$ | Jack Aitken | Williams | Q1:54.892s |
| $\mathbf{1 9}$ | Kimi Raikkonen | Alfa Romeo | Q1: 54.963 s |
| $\mathbf{2 0}$ | Pietro Fittipaldi | Haas | Q1: 55.426 s |



Bottas charges to pole during qualifying last night
throughout the weekend and particularly through qualifying. "The track is quite bumpy and it's actually fairly easy to follow other cars thanks to the tow, but we re in the best possible position for tomorrow and are Quidforward to a fun race." Qualifying behind them were Max Verstappen (+0.056s) of Red Bull Racing and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (+0.236s), while Point and Daniil Kvyat ( +0.529 s of AlphaTauri secured the grid positions on row three.
Completing the front 10 will be Renault's Daniel Ric ciardo (+0.580s), McLaren's Carlos Sainz ( +0.633 s ), Pierre AlphaTauri, and Lance Stroll +0.823 s ) in the other Racing Point car.
Verstappen had earlier led the field after Q2 while Bottas was top man at the end of Q1,


With last night's qualifying results, Valtteri Bottas claimed his fifth pole position of the 2020 season. He will be going for his third win of the year, and first in Bahrain

## (5)

The track is quite bumpy and it's actually fairly easy to follow ther cars thanks to the tow, but we're in the best possible position for tomorrow and are looking forward to a fun race

## valtteri bottas

Kimi Raikkonen in the other Alfa Romeo, and Pietro Fittipaldi in the second Haas car. They
complete the start grid from 16th complete the start grid from 16th to 20th.
Aitken is driving in place of Russell this weekend while Fittipaldi is subbing for Romain Grosjean as he continues to recover from his crash at last weekend's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.
Earlier yesterday evening, Verstappen stormed to the top of the timesheet in the third F1 practice, clocking a fastest lap of 54.064 secs - the best time of the meeting at that time. Verstappen completed 23 laps in the $60-\mathrm{min}$ ute session and finished 0.206 s quicker than Bottas. Gasly was third fastest 0.363 s off Verstappen's pace, while Ocon placed fourth 0.389 s behind.
The rest of the top 10 included Norris, Albon, Russell, Perez, Stroll and Sainz, while rom 11th to 20th were Giovinazzi, Kvyat, Leclerc, Ricciardo, Vettel, Raikkonen, Magnussen, Latifi, Fittipaldi and Aitken.

Earlier yesterday evening, Verstappen stormed to the top practice, clocking a fastest lap of practice, clocking a fastest lap of
54.064 secs-the best time of the meeting at the time.
Verstappen completed 23 laps


McLaren's Carlos Sainz gets into the cockpit of his car for qualifying


Russell gives a thumbs up after last night's qualifying

| Today's schedule |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Time | Series | Session |
| 3.20pm | Formula 2 | Second Race (34 laps or 45mins) |
| 4.20pm | Formula 2 | Press Conference |
| 4.30pm | Porsche Challenge ME | Second Race (17 laps or 25mins) |
| 6.20pm | Formula 1 | Drivers' Presentation |
| 7.53 pm | Formula 1 | End Racism Recognition |
| 7.54 pm | Formula 1 | National Anthem |
| $\mathbf{8 . 1 0 \mathrm { pm }}$ | Formula 1 | Rolex Sakhir GP (87 laps or 120mins) |

in the 60 -minute session and to 20th were Giovinazzi, Kvy finished 0.206 s quicker than at, Leclerc, Ricciardo, Vettel, Bottas. Gasly was third fastest Raikkonen, Magnussen, Latifi, $0.363 s$ off Verstappen's pace, Fittipaldi and Aitken. while Ocon placed fourth 0.389s Today's F1 Rolex Sakhir Grand behind. Prix is the second race of BahThe rest of the top 10 included rain's first-ever F1 double-headNorris, Albon, Russell, Perez, er. It is the penultimate round of Stroll and Sainz, while rom 11th the 2020 F1 season.

## Drivers' Comments

"I've got nobody in front of me tomorrow, which I've not experienced for a long time. It's going to be a really tricky race on such a short track layout, but we're in a good position. l'll give it my all and see what I can do."

George Russell, Mercedes
"I'm a little bit frustrated with the result because I definitely felt the car could have finished inside the top five. Despite the frustrations, I do think we can make some moves tomorrow and get some decent points from both cars."

Daniel Ricciardo, Renault
"It's not the result we were expecting after looking not too bad in FP3. We were just struggling in a few places and ended up being too slow to make the cut. It's going to be a challenge tomorrow, it's not easy to overtake around there, so let's see what we can do when the race starts."

Kimi Raikkonen, Alfa Romeo
"I'm happy with qualifying today; I think it was a strong result. I don't think P4 was possible because it was a good lap from Charles [Leclerc] and it would have been difficult to match that. It's not been an easy challenge finding the perfect set-up for the car at such a different and challenging track, but I think we found a rhythm in qualifying and that was a big positive.

Sergio Perez, Racing Point


Verstappen in action during qualifying at BIC

