



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

Kuwaitis voted in legislative polls yesterday.

More than 300 candidates, 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 vessel was attacked off the coast of war-torn Yemen, a UK-based maritime organisation said yesterday days after an explosion rocked an oil tanker docked at a Saudi port.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), citing reports from ships in the vicinity, said it was aware of an attack late Friday against a merchant vessel, without giving further details.

It later released a statement the incident was over.

"Incident is now complete. 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

### NEW CASES

167

### CRITICAL

12

210 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >

## Tsunoda triumphs in F2 Feature Race

Drivers' championship battle extends to final event of 2020 while Prema Racing secure teams' title | P11

# Signs of thaw emerge in Qatar-Gulf dispute

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

● Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud was speaking at 16th IISS Manama Dialogue

● Terms of the agreement will be announced soon

● US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday, said the United States was "very hopeful" to resolve the dispute

TDT | Manama

Signs of thaw in the bitter Qatar-Gulf crisis emerged at the IISS Manama Dialogue 2020 yesterday with a top Saudi Minister announcing that the Kingdom is looking forward to reaching an agreement with Qatar soon.

"There has been a progress in the last few weeks," said Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs.

He was speaking during a plenary session on the second day of the premier security summit that has ministers, chiefs of defence and intelligence and the expert and opinion-forming communities from all around the globe.

To a question, Al Saud said



## Two-state solution is the way

P2



the Kingdom is hopeful of concluding the dispute with Qatar very soon."

The deal thus reached "will be satisfactory to all parties involved," he said.

The minister also assured that the Kingdom will continue to work closely with its allies and the resolution reached thus will be "one that involving all parties in the dispute."

The minister also said that Kingdom is hopeful of announcing the details of the deal soon.

The announcement came

soon after Kuwait announced progress towards ending the Qatari row that Washington says hampers a united Gulf front against Iran.

Reportedly, US President Don-

"We have seen significant progress in the last few weeks, which means we are now hopeful we can reach a final conclusion very soon that will be satisfactory to all parties"

PRINCE FAISAL BIN FARHAN AL SAUD

ald Trump's senior adviser Jared Kushner had held talks in Doha on Wednesday following a visit to Saudi Arabia.

Reuters quoting an unnamed source said that Washington is working towards "taking what's an agreement in principle and getting it signed."

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah on Friday welcomed the developments, state-run news agency KUNA said.

The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking remote-

ly at a Bahrain summit on Friday, said the United States was "very hopeful" to resolve the dispute.

In a Twitter post, Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, welcomed the Kuwaiti statement as "an imperative step" towards resolving the rift.

On the Palestinian and Israel conflict, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said the focus should now be on getting them back to the negotiation tables.

When asked about Saudi joining the Abraham Accords, the minister said that the Kingdom is completely open to full normalisation of relations with Israel, but for that to remain sustainable Palestinians should get their state.

The summit ends today with a concluding plenary session on "New Security Partnerships in the Middle East."

Before that, the summit will hold its fourth and fifth plenary sessions on "Diplomacy, Proliferation and Regional Security" and "Defence Diplomacy and Modernisation in the Middle East", respectively.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt imposed a diplomatic, trade and travel embargo on Qatar since mid-2017.

Doha had been set with 13 demands, ranging from closing Al Jazeera television and shuttering a Turkish base to cutting links to the Muslim Brotherhood and downgrading ties with Iran, which shares a significant gas field with Qatar.

Merc on a roll

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

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) will be hosting tonight Bahrain's heroes in the stands and motorsport's superstars on the track for the Formula 1 Rolex Sakhr Grand Prix 2020, which will see Valtteri Bottas start from pole.

While the biggest icons in all of motor racing

battle it out over 87 laps around BIC's 3.543-kilometre Outer Track, "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" will be welcoming a second group of the Kingdom's frontline health workers, first responders and their immediate

ate family to enjoy the action.

This is in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

Crown Prince and Prime Minister. The initiative is in appreciation of the health workers' tireless efforts and sacrifices in Bahrain's national response to COVID-19, and it is being held under the theme "#ThankYou\_OurHeroes".

They will be able to enjoy the race from an exclusive vantage point from BIC's Main Grandstand, and watch as Bottas heads the field on the start grid.

Bottas captured pole with a blistering lap of 53.377 seconds in last night's Q3 in qualifying, 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 successive weekend.

Tonight's F1 Rolex Sakhr Grand Prix is scheduled for an 8.10pm start.

