



BE Determined

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

مملكة البحرين
 KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

COVID-19 takes life of Bahraini, 92

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health announced yesterday that the coronavirus (COVID-19) has claimed the life of a 92-year-old Bahraini man, bringing the overall number of virus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 98.

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

Meanwhile, it was announced early this morning that out of 9,945 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 454 new cases were detected, including 273 expatriate workers, 179 contacts of active cases, and two travel-related cases.

There were also 529 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, the Health Ministry said. Their release from isolation and treatment brought the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 25,178.

The total number of current active cases went to 4,545, with 54 in critical condition and 39 receiving treatment. The remaining 4,491 cases are stable.

The total tested increased to 612,096.

Virus' economic impact

Oil sector's first quarter real growth contributes to mitigating COVID-19 repercussions

Bahrain-US letter of agreement approved for training programmes and collaboration in the field of combatting terrorism

Re-opening plan for public and private schools should consider students' interests, safety, and right to continue education

TDT | Manama

The real growth of Bahrain's oil sector had contributed to mitigating the repercussions of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis during the first quarter of this year, according to the Kingdom's quarterly economic report.

The report was reviewed yesterday during the regular weekly Cabinet session, chaired by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al



HRH the Premier chairs the regular weekly Cabinet session



HRH the Crown Prince attends the session

Khalifa and attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

The report, presented by the Minister of Finance and National Economy, reflected the local economy's performance and the main economic indicators of vital sectors, in the midst of the spread of the coronavirus since the beginning of this year.

It stated that the oil sector grew by 1.8 per cent at constant prices, while the non-oil sector, where

the repercussions of the pandemic were more evident, recorded a decline in annual growth of 1.7 per cent at constant prices.

Bahrain's economy recorded a year-on-year real gross domestic product (GDP) decline rate of 1.7 per cent in Q1, the report added.

The performance of the non-oil sectors varied during Q1 of this year, with the manufacturing sector achieving positive real growth of 4.8 per cent, followed by the social and personal services sector which went up by 1.3 per cent, then the construction sector which posted a growth of 0.3 per cent.

Regarding the financial projects sector, which is the largest non-oil sector contributing to Bahrain's GDP, figures showed that it had contributed by only 16.7 per cent, marking a decrease of 1.6 per cent. The hotel and restaurants sector recorded the largest decline of 36 per cent at constant prices, and the transportation and telecommunications sector also declined by 6.3 per cent.

The tourism and aviation sector was also affected by the restrictions imposed on travel, and the government services sector also recorded a decline by 2.9 per cent.

The same was true about the real estate activities sector, as well as the business services and trade sectors, with both posting a decline by 0.4 per cent and 0.1 per cent, respectively.

Bahrain-US agreements, initiatives approved

The Cabinet approved a letter of agreement between the Kingdom and the US, within the framework of training programmes between the two friendly countries

in the field of combatting terrorism and the cooperation between competent authorities in this regard. The session also approved the joint statement between Bahrain's Interior Ministry and both the US Department of Homeland Security and the US Customs and Border Protection, to develop the International Expedited Traveller Initiative. The Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs recommended the approval of the initiative.

The session further approved a memorandum of cooperation between the Interior Ministry and the US Customs and Border Protection, which aimed to enhance cooperation between the two sides in the exchange of information and data on travellers.

School re-opening plan should take students' health, interests into account

HRH the Prime Minister gave directives to ensure that the plan to re-open public and private educational institutions should be based on the expected situation of COVID-19 spread, while taking into account students' interests, safety and the right to continue their education.

The Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, was requested to take the necessary procedures to achieve that goal.

Directives to study situation of overseas Bahraini workers

HRH the Premier gave directives to the Ministry of Works

and Social Development to coordinate with the relevant authorities and study the situation of laid-off Bahrainis who had been working overseas and have returned home, and those who cannot return to their work abroad because of the current circumstances.

Some LMRA fees to be reduced

Based on a recommendation by the Government Executive Committee, led by HRH the Crown Prince, the Cabinet approved a decision to reduce some fees imposed by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority on all kinds of work permits for one year, and all monthly fees related to them by 50 per cent for three months, starting from this month.

Meanwhile, business owners who are involved in commercial activities that have been most affected by the impacts of COVID-19, as will be determined by an edict by the Deputy Premier and Ministerial Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Fiscal Balance chairman, will be exempted from those fees for the same three-month period.

The measures aim to maintain sustainable growth, in general, and achieve the stability of the labour market for Bahrain's small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular.

Future Generations Reserve Fund's report, financial statements approved

The Cabinet approved the Future Generations Reserve Fund's annual report and audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, ahead of its referral to the Representatives Council. The report, presented by the Finance Minister, showed the fund's returns have increased by 17.3 per cent over the past year, its assets have amounted to \$918million, and investment revenues have reached \$79million, marking an annual growth of about 10 per cent.

See page 2 for related story.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES
29,821

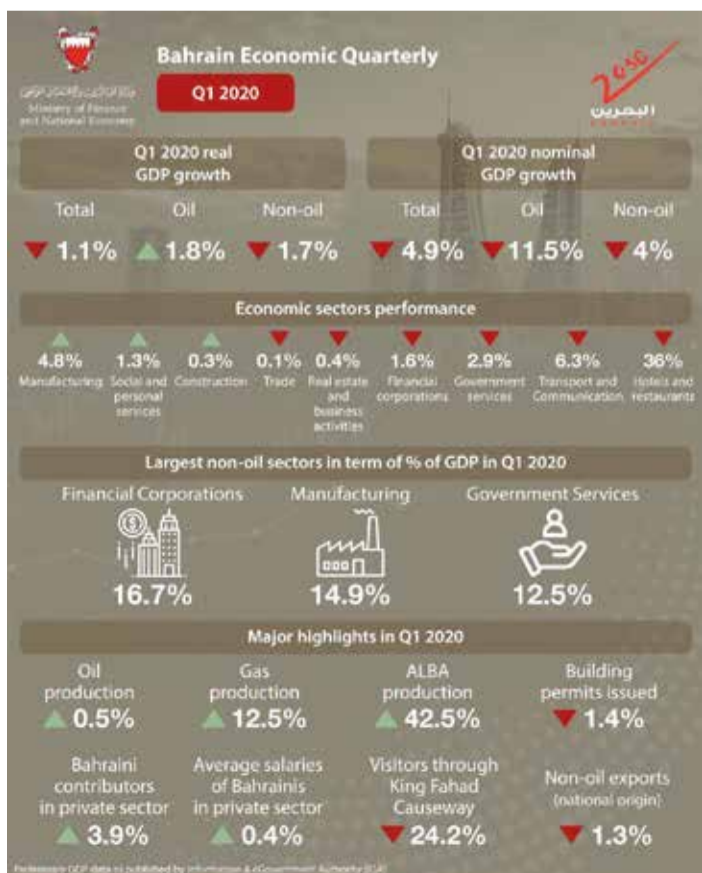
ACTIVE CASES
4,545

DEATHS
98

DISCHARGED
25,178

NEW CASES
454

CRITICAL
54



210 fils (includes VAT)



HM the King, President Putin review deep-rooted Bahraini-Russian relations

President Putin wished Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity, under HM the King's leadership.

TDT | Manama

The solid deep-rooted relations between Bahrain and Russia were reviewed yesterday, along with ways to bolster joint cooperation to achieve mutual interests.

The two friendly countries discussed this yesterday when His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held a phone call with



HM the King



Russian President Putin

the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

With the backing of their strong Bahraini-Russian relations, they agreed to activate joint committees to serve shared interests and achieve the two friendly countries' aspirations.

HM King Hamad hailed President Putin's key role to enhance bilateral relations and consoli-

date regional and global peace and security.

The Russian President thanked and appreciated HM the King for his dedicated efforts and support to enhance relations and cooperation with his country.

He wished Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity, under HM the King's leadership.

Expat street vendors could face legal action

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Legal action could be taken against expatriate street vendors who violate the law, after the Cabinet approved yesterday a proposal submitted by the Council of Representatives to address the issue of such individuals in public places, markets, roads and houses of worship.

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry was requested to take the necessary procedures, in coordination with the competent authorities.

The Cabinet's regular weekly session yesterday was chaired by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

During the session, the Cabinet also approved the government's reply on a proposal on the citizens' consumption of electricity in their primary residences.

The Cabinet further endorsed a proposal submitted by the Representatives Council on developing a communication mechanism for deaf-mute people which would allow them to participate in talk shows presented by Bahrain TV. This would allow them to highlight their role in society, and shed light on their issues and needs.

Modified organisational structure of Premier's Court endorsed; BACA to be restructured.

Also yesterday, the Cabinet, based on HRH the Premier's directives, and a recommendation by the Civil Service Council, led by HRH the Crown Prince, endorsed the modified organisational structure of HRH the Prime Minister's Court.

The session also approved the restructuring of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities by transferring the affiliation of the Handicrafts Directorate from the Tourism and Exhibitions Authority to it.

It also approved the restructuring of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) by canceling the Communication Directorate and changing the affiliation of some directorates.

Youth Ministry-affiliated clubs' model regulation to be amended.

The Cabinet approved an edict on amending the provisions of the Model Regulations of the statute of clubs, subject to the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and

Sports Affairs. The amendment enables the Ministry to recommend those who apply for the membership of clubs' administrations, set a system for membership renewal in accordance with terms and conditions, allow the invitation and attend the general assembly meeting by any approved electronic means, establish an electronic archive, and obligate the existence of contracts for all who receive payments from clubs.

Final anti-dumping duties to be imposed on cement imports from Iran for 5 years

The Cabinet agreed to impose a final anti-dumping fee of 67.5 per cent of the value (CIF) against the imports of GCC countries from all kinds of aqueous cement products including solid cement called "clinker", whether it is coloured of origin or exported from Iran and included under the customs clause (2523) of the customs tariff for GCC states for a period of five years, starting from June 20, 2020.

The Cabinet instructed the Customs Affairs to implement the decision, which is based on the resolution of the GCC Ministerial Committee for Industrial Cooperation.

Meanwhile, HRH the Prime Minister lauded the values embedded in the keynote speech delivered by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, while chairing the meeting of the Supreme Defence Council.

HRH the Premier also congratulated Major-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa on his appointment, as per an order issued by His Majesty the King Hamad, as Supreme Defence Council secretary-general.

The Cabinet welcomed the Kingdom's success in maintaining Tier One status in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report for the third straight year, noting that Bahrain's top ranking in the MENA region and the achievement reflect the government's success in combatting such dangerous crimes that conflict the global conscience.

While reviewing a memorandum presented by the Foreign Affairs Minister on the Kingdom's efforts to improve the work environment and combat trafficking in persons, the session commended the efforts exerted by the competent authorities in this regard, including the Interior Ministry; the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry; the Labour and Social Development Ministry; the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the Labour Market Regulatory Authority; and the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Foreign Minister: Bahraini-Chinese trade generates \$2 billion

TDT | Manama

The trade exchange between Bahrain and China had reached about two billion dollars in 2019, said the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani yesterday. He also reiterated Bahrain's support to the "Belt and Road" initiative, a global development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 involving infrastructure development and investments in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.

Dr Al-Zayani was speaking at the ninth session of the ministerial meeting of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum (ACCF), which was held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

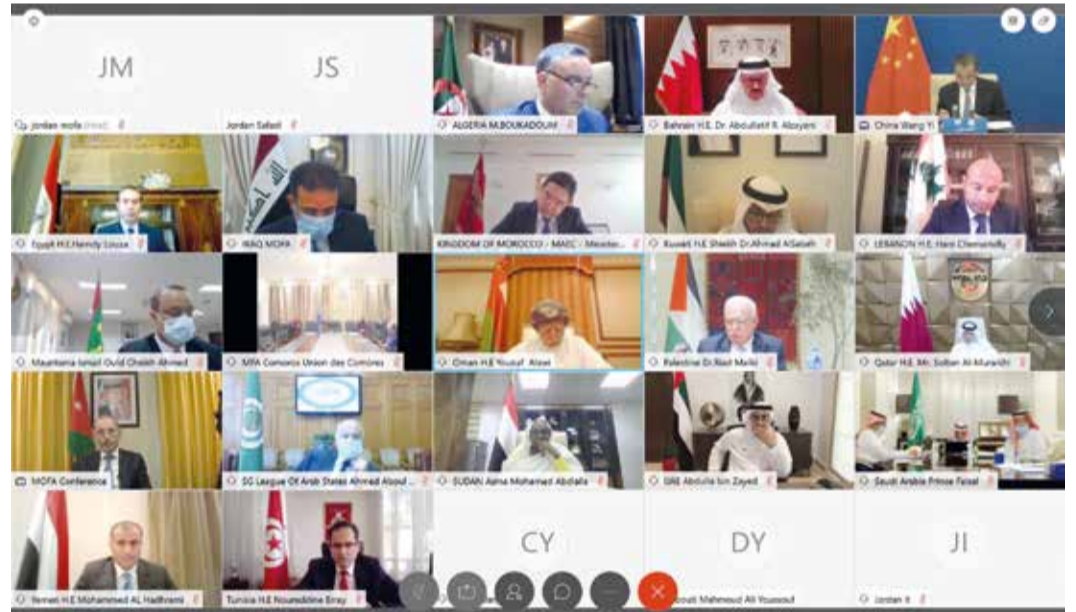
The virtual meeting was chaired by Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ayman Safadi. Also present were the Chinese Councilor of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, other Arab foreign ministers, a Bahraini delegation of officials and the Arab League secretary general, Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

Dr Al-Zayani pointed out in his speech that since ACCF was established in 2004, Arab-Chinese relations have seen remarkable development. He highlighted Bahrain's constant support to the forum by hosting a number of its activities - their third session in 2008, the ACCF in the media in 2010, and the second session of the Chinese Arts Festival in 2012.

The foreign minister listed out a few of the achievements from recent Bahraini-Chinese relations, as the two countries celebrated the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations last year. The Chinese Confucius Institute was opened at the Uni-



Dr Al-Zayani



A screenshot of the meeting in progress

versity of Bahrain in 2014, the Chinese Dragon City was set up in Muharraq in 2015, and Bahrain signed a memorandum of understanding to join the Chinese "Belt and Road" initiative in 2018.

He affirmed Bahrain's keen-

ness to bolster bilateral relations in all vital fields, beneficial to both the countries.

Arab-Chinese cooperation through remote meetings between health officials to overcome the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and their joint

statement to combat COVID-19 was lauded by Dr Al-Zayani.

He also welcomed holding an Arab-Chinese summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia, the executive programme for cooperation between both sides and the Amman Declaration.

YOU

KNOW WHAT

- Chinese Confucius Institute opened at the University of Bahrain in 2014
- Chinese Dragon City set up in Muharraq in 2015
- Bahrain signed an MoU to join the Chinese "Belt and Road" initiative in 2018

Five arrested for assault, as shown in viral video

TDT | Manama

Five individuals have been arrested for their involvement in an incident in which two security guards were physically assaulted by a group of people.

This was announced by Capital Governorate Prosecution head Adnan Fakhro, according to our sister paper Al Ayam.

It follows the emergence of a video widely circulated on social media showing a group of people, reported to be Asian nationals, assaulting a pair of security guards.

After an intensive investigation launched by the Public Prosecution, the five suspects were identified and were arrested.

They were interrogated and confronted with the video of the incident, as well as with the results of the investigations. They were ordered to remain in detention after being charged with assault.

Others involved in the incident are also being investigated.



Screenshots of the video. Pictures courtesy Al Ayam

Gulf Air appoints Bahraini senior manager cabin crew



Abdulrahim

TDT Manama

National carrier Gulf Air announced yesterday the appointment of Abdulrahim Meer Abdulrahim as senior manager cabin crew, to manage one of the airline's key operational units and be responsible for the largest team of Gulf Air's workforce in a role that is directly reporting to the Chief Operations Officer.

Abdulrahim has a long and rich experience in the aviation industry. He joined the national carrier in 1978 as cabin crew and progressed to safety and survival school instructor in his 20 years in Gulf Air.

He then spent another 20 years in the UAE enriching his aviation knowledge in roles of cabin safety, training, inflight product and international airline hub set up.

With more than 40 years in the aviation industry, Abdulrahim returned to Gulf Air on its 70th anniversary to turn his experience into practice and contribute to the overall efforts to elevate the passenger experience when flying on the national carrier.

Gulf Air is committed to invest in its Bahraini workforce and their career development,

Gulf Air is committed to invest in its Bahraini workforce and their career development, and it continues to provide opportunities for Bahraini nationals to take over higher management positions in the company.

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With 84 per cent of employees that are based at the headquarters in Muharraq being Bahraini, 97 per cent of its first officers, 100 per cent of its second officers, and 97 per cent of its male cabin crew, Gulf Air is a leader in the Bahrainisation programme in the Kingdom as it provides the opportunity for local and experienced talents to work in the various areas of the airline's business.

Bahrain, Italy exchange expertise in COVID-19 fight

Visiting delegation to work closely with Kingdom's health officials to enhance best practices in dealing with the coronavirus

● Bahrain remains committed to continuing its efforts to limit virus' spread and strengthen all precautionary and preventive measures to ensure public health and safety

● Italian delegation praises Bahrain's efforts, preventive measures and early preparations taken in line with international standards and recommendations of the World Health Organisation

TDT | Manama



Dr Shaikh Mohammed holding discussions with the visiting Italian delegation and other officials

Bahrain is exchanging experiences and expertise with a visiting Italian medical delegation on ways to mitigate and deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease.

This is being done with the aim of enhancing best practices in the Kingdom's COVID-19 fight, said Supreme Council of Health president and National Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus head Lt General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

Dr Shaikh Mohammed received yesterday members of the Italian team, who presented their experiences in fighting the virus and the Italian health sector's strategies to face all the challenges that have come with

its outbreak.

The visiting delegation will be working closely with Bahrain to review protocols used at treatment centres such as at the Bahrain Defence Force Hospital, Sitra field hospital, and the Centre for Genetic Hematology during their one-month visit.

The Bahraini team, headed by Dr Shaikh Mohammed, presented the latest developments in the Kingdom regarding COVID-19 and the precautionary and preventive measures being implemented in this regard.

They also presented the latest statistics and top achievements made so far by the national medical team, supervision of

quarantine, isolation and treatment centres, and follow-up on existing cases.

They further highlighted the achievements of the national medical team and the supporting sectors in supervising the quarantine, isolation and treatment centers, the follow-up on existing cases, the updating of policies, and cooperation among all parties.

Dr Shaikh Mohammed stressed that Bahrain remains committed to continuing its efforts to limit the spread of the coronavirus and strengthening all precautionary and preventive measures taken to ensure everybody's health and safety.

He lauded the full support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and thanked His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, for their follow up on the efforts exerted by Team Bahrain.

The Italian delegation praised Bahrain's COVID-19 fight, and the preventive measures and early preparations taken in line with international standards and recommendations of the World Health Organisation.

TALENT HUNT ORGANISED BY BHAVANS-BAHRAIN

INDIAN SCHOOL



BHAVANS-Bahrain Indian School organised a talent hunt for students of grades one to 10. The goal was to ensure the all-round development of students amidst the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The talent hunt categories included music, dance, art, declamation, mono acts, mimicry, and calligraphy, to name a few. Students participated with great enthusiasm and shared their hidden talents. School directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma, along with principal Saji Jacob, expressed their appreciation to the teachers for encouraging the students and providing them with a platform, through virtual communication, to display their creativity. Above and left, screenshots of some students displaying their talents.

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Man who placed fake bomb in A'ali loses appeal

● **First High Criminal Court originally ordered to jail the appellant for one year, considering he was 16 years old at the time of the incident**

● **The appellant's role was to monitor the area, from the top of one of the nearby buildings, while he guided the second defendant through a telephone call so he can place the object without being noticed by the police.**

TDT | Manama

The Court of Appeals yesterday rejected the plea of a Bahraini man who was earlier punished with one year in jail for his involvement along with another Bahraini in placing a fake bomb on a busy road in the Northern Governorate.

The defendants were previously sentenced by the First High Criminal Court, which ordered to jail the appellant for one year, considering his young age (16 at the time) in accord-



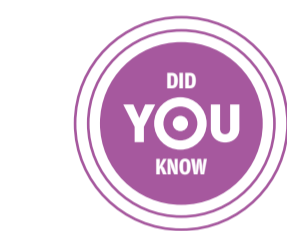
Representational image via Reuters in accordance with Article 72 of the Kingdom's Penal Code.

The second defendant, a 30-year-old at the time the crime was committed, was sentenced to three years of imprisonment.

The case occurred in A'ali in 2016, when the defendants placed a fake bomb on Shaikh Zayed Highway; one of the busiest roads in the area.

The appellant's role was to monitor the area, from the top of one of the nearby buildings, while he guided the second defendant through a telephone call so he can place the object without being noticed by the police.

Once reported, a police patrol reached the spot and cordoned off the area, while the special-



Under Article 72 of Bahrain's Penal Code, if an offence is committed under extenuating circumstances and the judge feels the need for clemency, the penalty shall be reduced

ised teams inspected the object, which was a refrigerating gas cylinder tied to a battery

and wires. Upon inspection, the teams discovered that the object was a fake bomb placed on the road to disturb public order and spread fear.

Forensic investigations and laboratory examination showed traces of fingerprints, which matched those of one of the defendants, who had a criminal record and whose fingerprints were registered in the Interior Ministry's database.

He was immediately arrested and led police to his accomplice. Both defendants confessed in the interrogation to their crime. They were charged with committing an act of terror by placing an object imitating explosives in a public place.

It is worth mentioning that Article 72 of Bahrain's Penal Code states: "If an offence is committed under extenuating circumstances and the judge feels the need for clemency, the penalty shall be reduced."

"If the prescribed penalty is a death sentence, it may be reduced to life or term imprisonment. Further, if the penalty is life imprisonment, it may be reduced to term imprisonment or a jail sentence for a period of less than six months. Where the penalty is a term imprisonment, the judge shall not inflict the maximum penalty but may reduce it to imprisonment for no less than three months."

Court replaces jail sentence with community service for two Bahrainis

TDT | Manama

Two Bahraini men, who were jailed in 2018 for burning tyres on one of the main roads in Sitra during national day celebrations, will continue the remaining period of their punishment in community service.

This came as the First Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal ruled yesterday to reduce the previously issued sentence of three years of imprisonment against both defendants to one year of community service.

The two men were among a group of six defendants who were each sentenced in 2018 to the three-year jail terms.

According to the results of investigations of the Public Prosecution back then, the six defendants were charged with possession of Molotov cocktails, participating in an illegal gathering and disturbing public security.

It was shown in the details

of the case that the men gathered on Avenue One in Sitra on December 16, 2018, simultaneously with the Kingdom's annual national day celebrations, and placed five tyres on the road before setting them on fire.

Additionally, when the Public Security forces reached the scene, the defendants, along with other unknown accomplices, hurled Molotov cocktails at the forces before fleeing.

Police investigations led to the identification and arrest of a couple of the culprits, who confessed to their crimes in the interrogation and led the police to the other four defendants involved.

Police succeeded in arresting two more defendants, while two others remained at large.

The court sentenced four of the defendants in praesentia, while the other two received the same punishment in absentia.

NIHR participates in "future of education in the Arab region" seminar



A screenshot from the meeting in progress

TDT | Manama

National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) Board of Commissioners member, Wedad Al-Mousawi, participated in an online seminar on "The Future of Education in the Arab Region" yesterday.

The seminar was organized by the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions and the Arab Institute for Human Rights, in line with the UNESCO Global initiative to re-imagine the future of education by 2050.

Al-Mousawi highlighted Bahrain's commitment towards measures and decisions

to ensure the strong continuation of the educational process in light of the current global circumstances caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

During the seminar, the most important challenges facing education in the region were discussed, as well as proposals for development.

The meeting also focused on rethinking the concept and measures of development and plans to formulate new education visions. In a post pandemic world, they noted the need to redefine education frameworks, and to adopt a humanitarian curriculum for students.

Proper steps stressed for those going out to sea

TDT | Manama

Taking the proper steps before going out to sea has been stressed, after three individuals were rescued recently when their boat capsized in open water.

As reported in yesterday's TDT, the trio were out on Thursday night last week and after their boat was damaged, were forced to cling on to lifesaving equipment before being saved four hours later.

The quick response of the main operation room, Coast Guard patrols, and Police Aviation helped rescue the individuals.

The on-duty officer at the Coast Guard's headquarters, Captain Mohammed Sater, said that the trio were amateur sailors, who used a boat intended only for coastal areas and not deep waters. Further, their boat's identification system was turned off and their first-aid equipment was incom-

A strong wave capsized the boat and we were forced into the water clinging on to lifesaving equipment

THE BOAT'S OWNER, 29-YEAR-OLD ABDULLA AL NAZAR



An image from the thermal camera used in the rescue mission

in the water.

The boat's owner, 29-year-old Abdulla Al Nazar, said that they went out to fish from Galali and were heading north on Thursday at 4pm. They decided to come back at 6pm, but a strong wave capsized the boat and they were forced into the water clinging on to lifesaving equipment.

Al Nazar added that he was

able to reach for his phone which was in a bag and called 999.

The waves were strong so they were washed away from their location to the west of Hidd, he added.

Al Nazar thanked the Interior Ministry for their efforts and quick response. He also advised sea goers and sailors to put on life jackets whenever they are at sea.

Rental fees reduced, exempted

TDT | Manama

Minister of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning Eng Essam Abdulla Khalaf issued an edict yesterday to reduce and exempt fees for 234 Bahraini families living in rental properties for June 2020. The decision is based on the directives of HRH the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

It was passed to reduce the burdens of living conditions on citizens, and within the framework of the Cabinet's decision to equate the fees of renting

citizens with home owners.

Meanwhile, the Works Minister and Bahrain Paralympic Committee head Shaikh Mohammed bin Daij Al Khalifa have signed a Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of HM the King's vision to optimise services for citizens, achieve SDGs, and provide benefits to special needs citizens with ways to integrate into society, mainly in the sporting field.

The infrastructure at public sport facilities will be developed, for the those with special needs.

Court slashes jail term of NPRA employee convicted of forgery

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal reduced the jail term previously issued against an employee in the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) from three years to one.

The man was convicted by a first degree court, which found him guilty of forging information in the NPRA electronic system, after he allowed a person to travel abroad and return to the Kingdom without entering his personal details in the system. Court files showed that the

crime occurred in 2018, in which the appellant, in consensus with the second defendant, did not enter the latter's information in the NPRA system, allowing him to travel to Saudi Arabia through King Fahad Causeway and re-enter Bahrain through the same way.

The second defendant confessed that his co-defendant, the appellant, did not enter his information in the system because his identity card was expired at the time.

The Public Prosecution charged the appellant in Jan-

Jail term reduced from three years to one for man found guilty of forging information in the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs' electronic system

Ministry.

The prosecution mentioned in its arguments that he, the appellant, refrained from performing the duties imposed on him by his job to enter the data of the second defendant, and it showed in the NPRA system that the latter did not leave the country.

The appellant was initially sentenced to three years of imprisonment. He appealed against the verdict and the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal recently accepted his appeal and ordered to reduce the punishment to one year in jail.

Dubai outperforms, Egypt extends gains

● UAE non-oil private sector jumps back to growth in June - PMI

● Pharmacy firm Nahdi in early talks for IPO -sources

● Dubai's main share index gained 1.2 per cent

Reuters

The Dubai stock market closed higher yesterday ahead of Dubai Financial Market (DFM), the emirate's main stock exchange, reopening its trading floor from yesterday after a three-month shutdown, while Egypt extended gains.

The DFM trading floor and customer affairs counters were temporarily closed in mid-March to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Dubai's main share index gained 1.2 per cent, buoyed by a 2.2pc rise in blue-chip developer Emaar Properties and a 1.3pc gain in sharia-compliant lender



Traders on the floor of Bahrain stock exchange (file)

Dubai Islamic Bank.

The Abu Dhabi index added 0.3pc, helped by a 6.8pc jump in energy firm Dana Gas.

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) non-oil private sector grew in June for the first time this year, emerging from months of contraction as coronavirus



Bahrain Bourse is a self-regulated multi-asset marketplace whose history extends back to 1987.

"Bahrain Stock Exchange (BSE)", the predecessor of "Bahrain Bourse (BHB)

In 2010, Bahrain Bourse was established as a shareholding company to replace Bahrain Stock Exchange.

Since its establishment, BHB has joined several regional and international organizations such as the Union of Arab Stock Exchanges, World Federation of Exchanges "WFE", Africa & Middle East Depositories Association "AMEDA", and Association of National Numbering Agencies "ANNA"



Closing Bell

SAUDI	■ at 7,391 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.3pc to 4,318 pts
DUBAI	▲ 1.2pc to 2,087 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.1pc to 9,196 pts
EGYPT	▲ 1.2pc to 11,088 pts
BAHRAIN	■ at 1,277 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.1pc to 3,511 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1pc to 5,627 pts

restrictions were lifted, a survey showed on Sunday.

The seasonally-adjusted IHS Markit UAE Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which covers manufacturing and services, rose to 50.4 in June from 46.7 in May, edging above the 50.0 mark that separates expansion from contraction.

Egypt's blue-chip index advanced 1.2pc, with most of its constituents in positive territory, including Juhayna Food, which surged 9.1pc.

The benchmark index in Saudi Arabia, which has reported the highest number of coronavirus infections among the six Gulf states, ended flat. Dr Sulaiman Al-Habib Medical Services retreated 3.3pc, whereas oil giant Saudi Aramco was up 0.5pc.

Separately, the kingdom's Nahdi Medical Co, the largest pharmacy retail chain in Saudi Arabia, is weighing an initial public offering and has begun early talks with potential advisors, Reuters reported, citing two sources familiar with the talks.

Qatar's index edged up 0.1pc, driven by a 3.1pc gain in Doha Bank.

India reviewing around 50 investment proposals from Chinese firms: sources

Reuters | New Delhi

The Indian government is reviewing around 50 investment proposals involving Chinese companies under a new screening policy, three sources familiar with the matter said.

Under new rules announced by India in April, all investments by entities based in neighbouring countries need to be approved by the Indian government, whether for new or additional funding. China is the biggest of these investors and the rules drew criticism from Chinese investors and Beijing, which called the policy discriminatory.

The new investment rules were aimed at curbing opportunistic takeovers during the coronavirus outbreak. However, industry executives say a deterioration in bilateral re-



People wearing protective masks cross a bridge at the Central Business District on a "blue sky day" in Beijing, as the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues, in China

lations since a clash along the countries' contested border last month, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, could further delay approvals.

"Various clearances are required. We are being a bit more cautious as one would imagine," said a senior Indian government official in New Delhi, when

asked about the impact on investment applications since the border clash.

India's industries department under the commerce ministry, which drafted the new policy, did not respond to a request for comment.

The sources declined to name the companies whose investments are pending approvals, due to confidentiality concerns.

The official, and two other sources, said about 40-50 applications involving funding from a Chinese investor have been filed since the rule change and are currently under review.

One of the sources said that multiple Indian government agencies, including the Indian consulates in China, have been communicating with investors and their representatives to seek clarifications on the proposals.



San Francisco

Uber has agreed to buy food delivery app Postmates in a multibillion dollar deal, according to Bloomberg.

The San Francisco-based rideshare giant has been badly affected by the coronavirus pandemic -- cutting a quarter of its global workforce in May -- and has been looking to boost its growing food delivery service Uber Eats.

Bloomberg reported an expected \$2.65 billion deal with start-up Postmates will be announced on Monday morning in the US, citing people familiar

with the matter.

The deal would bolster Uber and help Postmates, a nine-year-old firm that has struggled against larger food delivery rivals, the New York Times has previously reported.

A \$6 billion Uber offer this year to acquire Grubhub -- another US food delivery app -- fell through. Grubhub was later bought by European competitor Just Eat Takeaway.

Uber said in its quarterly update earlier this year that it lost nearly \$3 billion and its rides business was down some 80 percent in April.

Britain to give \$2 billion to virus-hit culture sector

AFP | London

Britain will spend nearly \$2 billion to help theatres, art galleries and other cultural institutions survive the coronavirus crisis, the government has said.

The British arts and culture sector has been hit hard by the pandemic, with live performances still off the cards for now and venues facing an uncertain future under ongoing social distancing measures.

A fund of 1.57 billion pounds (\$1.96 billion, 1.73 billion euros) will help museums and historic palaces as well as companies involved in live music and independent cinema.

"The money, which represents the biggest ever one-off investment in UK culture, will provide



Britain's arts and culture sector has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic

a lifeline to vital cultural and heritage organisations across the country hit hard by the pandemic," said a government statement

released Sunday. The announcement followed

an impassioned call last week from some 1,500 acts including Ed Sheeran and The Rolling Stones for authorities to save the country's live music industry from collapse.

Britain has Europe's highest pandemic death toll, with more than 44,000 reported COVID-19 fatalities and a quarter of a million confirmed cases.

The nation's arts and culture sector employs 700,000 people, according to the government statement.

In May, Shakespeare's Globe, the replica open-air theatre in London, warned that it could close without emergency funds to get it through the lockdown.

"This news is truly welcome at a time when so many theatres,

orchestras, entertainment venues and other arts organisations face such a bleak future," said Andrew Lloyd Webber.

"It is absolutely critical that Britain's cultural sector is restored to health as soon as possible."

Simon Rattle, director of the London Symphony Orchestra, also hailed the new fund.

"We hope it will be distributed as fast as possible... as so many institutions and individual artists have been staring into the abyss," he said.

England lifted a number of virus restrictions on the weekend, allowing cinemas, galleries, museums and libraries to welcome the public again after three months -- though fears remain of a COVID-19 resurgence.

Chinese troops seen withdrawing from flashpoint

AFP | New Delhi

Chinese troops have started removing tents and other structures from a contested Himalayan valley where they fought a deadly battle with Indian soldiers last month, Indian army sources said Monday.

Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in brutal hand-to-hand fighting on June 15 in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh, sending tensions soaring between the nuclear-armed neighbours. China has acknowledged it suffered casualties but not given figures.

The two sides have since held military and diplomatic talks and said they want a negotiated settlement.

China's People's Liberation Army soldiers were "seen removing tents and structures" and there was a "rearward movement" of military vehicles in the Galwan Valley, the Indian army source told AFP.

"Disengagement with the PLA has started as per agreed terms in the Corps Command-



Indian army sources said Chinese soldiers were seen dismantling tents and other structures in the contested Galwan Valley in Ladakh, the scene of deadly hand-to-hand fighting last month

ers' meeting," the source added. The source said the Indian army was "verifying" how far back Chinese forces had withdrawn.

There was no comment on

whether there was a similar withdrawal by Indian troops.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing on Monday that both sides had made "positive progress... to disengage frontline troops and ease the border situation".

The Galwan Valley incident was the first time in 45 years that soldiers had died in combat on the Asian giants' long-disputed border.

Anti-China sentiment has been growing in India since the high-altitude clash, with the government banning Chinese mobile apps including TikTok.



India and China fought a war over the frontier in 1962.



Hundreds of drones light up Seoul sky with virus messages

AFP | Seoul

Hundreds of drones lit up the night sky in Seoul for a spectacular showcase of motivational and awareness messages as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic.

Three hundred unmanned aerial vehicles were programmed to form images above the Han river -- which runs through the South Korean capital -- for the eye-catching flash mob.

The show began with messages reminding people of key precautionary measures, including wearing masks, washing hands and keeping a two-metre distance from others.

The drones created images of a mask surrounded by coronavi-



300 unmanned aerial vehicles were programmed to form images above the Han river, but not advertised in advance in consideration of social distancing rules

rus particles, quickly shuffling to form two hands and water droplets against the dark night sky.

The 10-minute show shifted to messages of gratitude for medical personnel in the frontlines of the pandemic as well as all South Koreans for their collective efforts.

"THANKS TO YOU," the drones wrote in the sky next to a heart shape, then formed a silhouette of the Korean peninsula with the message: "Cheer up, Republic of Korea."

The government-organised event on Saturday night was not advertised in advance in consideration of social distancing rules, the transport ministry said.

Rain hampers rescue efforts after Japan floods

Kumamoto | Japan

Torrential rain hampered the efforts of tens of thousands of rescue workers in south-western Japan yesterday as they hunted for survivors from deadly floods and landslides, with more downpours forecast.

Around 50 people were feared dead after heavy rain lashed areas of western Japan from early Saturday, causing rivers to burst their banks and flood low-lying regions.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe warned the weather front was heading across the country, predicting "heavy rain over a wide



The torrential rain destroyed roads and bridges, cutting off isolated rural communities

area" and urging people to "take action to protect their lives."

In the worst-affected region of Kumamoto, bad weather was preventing some rescue efforts, local officials said, with at least 13 people still unaccounted for.

"Because of the heavy rain, we were forced to cancel some emergency flights of helicopters over the disaster zone," the local disaster management official Tsubasa Miyamoto said.

The floods washed away roads and bridges, cutting off many isolated communities cut off.

A local firefighter in the western region of Kagoshima told AFP they used boats to rescue 11 people, but conditions were

making it hard to reach others stranded.

"Calls came from people telling us that they wanted to flee their home but they could not do it on their own," he said.

"Some roads are submerged and you cannot drive through them."

In one of the hardest-hit areas, residents wrote out the words "rice, water, SOS" on the ground, while others waved towels and called for rescue and relief goods. At a nursing home for the elderly, 14 people were feared dead when water from a nearby river inundated the ground floor, leaving those in wheelchairs unable to reach higher ground.



News in brief

◆ **The Louvre, the world's most visited museum, reopens after its coronavirus closure Monday, but with nearly a third of its galleries still shut.** The vast former palace of France's kings has lost more than 40 million euros (\$45 million) in ticket sales during the near-four-month lockdown, and director Jean-Luc Martinez admitted it could have a few more lean years ahead as the world adapts to the virus.



◆ **China detains professor who criticised Xi over coronavirus**

◆ **Chinese authorities yesterday detained a law professor who published essays criticising President Xi Jinping over the coronavirus pandemic and accusing him of ruling "tyrannically",** according to friends of the man. Xu Zhangrun, a rare outspoken critic of the government in China's heavily censored academia, was taken from his home in suburban Beijing by more than 20 people, one of his friends said on condition of anonymity. Xu published an essay in February blaming the culture of deception and censorship fostered by Xi for the spread of the coronavirus in China.

◆ **Critics of a new anti-terrorism law in the Philippines called on the country's**

Duterte's anti-terrorism law challenged



highest court Monday to suspend the legislation, arguing it threatens human rights and freedom of speech. The law approved by President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday gives the security forces sweeping powers to go after terrorists, but critics fear it could be used to stifle dissent and target government opponents.



◆ **The world must stand in solidarity with Hong Kongers after Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law on the semi-autonomous city, activist Joshua Wong said yesterday, vowing to continue**

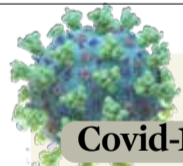
campaigning for democracy. Wong, one of the city's most prominent young activists, was speaking outside a court where he and fellow campaigners were being prosecuted for involvement in civil unrest which rocked Hong Kong last year.

◆ **Bolivian Health Minister Eidy Roca has tested positive for COVID-19, becoming the third member of the cabinet to be infected in four days, interim President Jeanine Anez said on Sunday.** Anez expressed her support for Roca on Twitter as the country's rapidly worsening outbreak rose to 38,071 cases and 1,378 deaths.

◆ **Australia will effectively seal off the state of Victoria from the rest of the country, authorities said Monday, announcing unprecedented measures to tackle a worrying surge in coronavirus cases.** For the



first time since the epidemic began, the border between Australia's two most populous states -- Victoria and New South Wales -- will be closed overnight Tuesday, officials from both states said.



Global

Covid-19 Cases:

11,641,115

Deaths

538,286

Recovered:

6,586,354

New cases

+90,573

New deaths

+1,841

Middle East

Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
1	USA	3,003,898	+110	132,679
2	Brazil	1,604,585		64,900
3	India	719,401	+473	20,173
4	Russia	687,862		
5	Peru	302,718		10,589
6	Chile	298,557	+76	6,384
7	Spain	297,625		28,385
8	UK	285,768	+16	44,236
9	Mexico	256,848	+273	30,639
10	Iran	243,051	+160	11,731
11	Italy	241,819	+8	34,869
12	Pakistan	231,818	+50	4,762
13	Saudi Arabia	213,716	+52	1,968
14	Turkey	205,758		9,086

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	75,253		3,343		20,726	51,184	41	735
Saudi Arabia	213,716	+4,207	1,968	+52	149,634	62,114	2,254	6,138
UAE	51,540		323		40,297	10,920	1	5,210
Kuwait	50,644	+703	373	+5	41,001	9,270	152	11,857
Oman	47,735	+1,557	218	+5	29,146	18,371	129	9,347
Qatar	100,345	+546	133	+5	93,898	6,314	164	35,738

Iran says damage at nuclear site 'significant'

Tehran

An accident at a nuclear complex in Iran caused significant damage and could slow the production of centrifuges used to enrich uranium, the country's atomic energy spokesman said.

The incident happened on Thursday at a warehouse under construction at the Natanz complex in central Iran, but caused no casualties or radioactive pollution, according to the Islamic republic's nuclear body.

Security officials called it an accident and said they had determined the cause, without providing any further explanation.

"There were no victims... but the damage is significant on a financial level," Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said in an interview published Sunday by state news agency IRNA.

"In the medium term, this accident could slow down the development and production" of ad-



A photo released by the nuclear organisation showed a building with a damaged roof, walls apparently blackened by fire and doors hanging off their hinges

Iran's nuclear sites



vanced centrifuges, he said. Natanz is one of Iran's

main uranium enrichment plants.

"God willing, and with constant effort... we will compensate for this slowdown so that the rebuilt site will have even more capacity than before," Kamalvandi added.

The organisation had earlier released a photo purportedly from the site, showing a one-storey building with a damaged roof, walls apparently blackened by fire and doors hanging off their hinges as if blown out from the inside.

State TV later showed the building from a different angle with minor damage to its walls.

Tehran announced in May last year it would progressively suspend certain commitments under a 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, which the United States unilaterally abandoned in 2018.

Iran restarted enriching uranium at Natanz last September, despite having agreed under the accord to put such activities there on hold. Tehran has always denied its nuclear programme has any military dimension.

Egypt approves law for military to run in polls



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (C), a former army chief, surrounded by top generals, could potentially stay in power until 2030 under amendments passed by parliament

● Sisi won his first term as president in 2014

● He was re-elected in March 2018

● The amended law prohibits officers from divulging information or joining political parties without permission

AFP | Cairo

Egypt's parliament yesterday approved amendments allowing active or former military personnel to run for the presidency and parliament pending the army's approval.

The legislative changes come a year after Egyptians overwhelmingly voted in favour of constitutional amendments that potentially allow President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, a former army chief, to stay on until 2030.

Since it became a modern republic, all but two of Egypt's presidents have hailed from a military background.

The army is highly visible in Egypt's public life, with former top brass currently serving as ministers and heading governorates as well.

The nationalist institution boasts a sizeable business

portfolio ranging from massive construction projects to most recently producing protective masks.

Sisi, the former general-turned-president, led the army's overthrow of elected president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 following mass protests against the Islamist leader's rule.

He won his first term as president in 2014 and was re-elected in March 2018 with more than 97 per cent of the vote, after standing virtually unopposed.

The amended law also prohibits officers from divulging information during their service publicly or joining political parties without the Supreme Council of Armed Forces' permission.

SCAF is a military council comprised of the country's most senior generals. It ruled Egypt following the toppling of long-time autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

A former chief of staff of the armed forces, Sami Anan, was jailed in January 2018 after contesting the presidential elections against Sisi without the military's explicit approval.

He was released nearly two years later.

A military court jailed another former soldier in December 2017 for six years for announcing his decision to enter the presidential race as a potential candidate in a video he posted on YouTube.

Saudi opens Hajj registration for foreign residents

● Foreign residents are allowed to register on <https://localhaj.haj.gov.sa>.

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday opened Hajj registration for foreign residents in the kingdom, saying they will make up 70 per cent of the pilgrims after it scaled-back the annual ritual due to coronavirus.

Saudi Arabia has said it will allow only around 1,000 pilgrims already present in the kingdom to participate in this year's Hajj, scheduled for the end of July, a far cry from the 2.5 million who attended the five-day pilgrimage last year.

Foreign residents, aged between 20 and 65 who have no previous health ailments such as diabetes and heart conditions, are allowed to register on <https://localhaj.haj.gov.sa>, the



worshippers praying at the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca

Hajj ministry said.

The registration process will be open until Friday, it added.

Saudi citizens will make up the remaining 30 pc of the pilgrims, with the ritual restricted to medical professionals and security personnel who have recovered from the virus, the ministry said.

"They will be selected through the database of those

who have recovered from the virus," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The pilgrims will be tested for coronavirus before arriving in the holy city of Mecca and are required to quarantine at home after the ritual, according to health officials.

Last month, Saudi Arabia announced it would hold a "very

limited" Hajj, a decision fraught with political and economic peril as it battles a coronavirus surge.

The decision to exclude pilgrims arriving from outside Saudi Arabia is a first in the kingdom's modern history and has sparked disappointment among Muslims worldwide, although many accepted it was necessary due to the health risks involved.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Saudi Arabia has so far reported more than 213,000 coronavirus infections -- the highest in the Gulf -- and nearly 2,000 deaths.

Myanmar army sacks officers over landslide tragedy

Yangon

Two high-ranking officers were fired for having "failed their responsibilities" after a landslide in Myanmar killed at least 174 jade miners, the country's military said on Monday in a rare public sanctioning.

Heavy monsoon rains on Thursday sent mud cascading down a hillside over workers scouring the land for the green gemstone in Hpakant in northern Kachin state.

The victims were largely poor migrants who had travelled across the country to prospect in the treacherous open-cast mines, hoping to find valuable stones left behind by the big companies.

It was the worst tragedy in living memory to hit the shadowy, multi-billion dollar industry dominated by firms linked to the military.

A Facebook post Monday by the military announced Kachin Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Nay Lin Tun



The landslide victims were largely poor migrants who had travelled across the country to prospect in dangerous open-cast mines

and another unnamed commander had been removed from their posts.

"They were responsible for reporting any trespassing in this restricted area," spokesman Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun told AFP.

"They failed their responsibilities."

The military would hold an investigation and appropriate action against the two men would be taken, he added.

Unidentified miners have been buried in mass graves, while many more remain missing.

They join scores of informal prospectors killed each year in

174

jade miners were killed went heavy monsoon rain sent mud cascading down a hillside over workers

US states can punish 'faithless electors'

● **The Electoral College, a peculiarly American institution, is comprised of 538 electors**

Washington

The Supreme Court ruled yesterday that US states have the right to remove and punish members of the Electoral College for not backing the presidential candidate whom they pledged to support.

The unanimous ruling, which comes ahead of November's election between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden, allows states to use measures to bind Electoral College members to their com-



Donald Trump won a clear majority of the Electoral College to defeat Hillary Clinton and secure the US presidency in 2016

mitments, essentially preventing them from going against the will of a state's voting majority. The Electoral College, a pe-

culiarly American institution, is comprised of 538 electors who translate the popular vote by casting their ballots in favor of the candidate who gets the most votes in each state.

Advocates of faithless electors argued that since the Constitution makes no mention of the issue, states should not be allowed to fine or remove electors who do not remain true to their commitments.

But all nine Supreme Court justices concluded that states can assure that their electors "have no ground for reversing the vote of millions of its citizens."

"That direction accords with the Constitution -- as well as with the trust of a nation that here, We the People rule," they wrote, invoking the opening

words of the US Constitution.

In 2016, seven of the 535 electors cast votes at odds with the popular-vote winners, including five who declined to cast votes for Hillary Clinton even though she won the vote in the states of those electors. Two declined to vote for Trump.

Faithless electors have never upended an election result, but Justice Brett Kavanaugh said in May arguments that the court had "to look forward ... and worry about chaos."

Fifteen states already have laws that allow sanction of faithless electors, including his or her immediate removal and replacement with an alternate whose vote the state reports instead.

A few states impose monetary fines on electors who flout their pledge.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Historically, so-called faithless electors have been rare. During the presidential elections organized from 1796 to 2016, only 180 electors have voted contrary to their pledge, according to a document admitted to the court.

Russian journalist avoids jail but given huge fine in 'terror' case

Pskov | Russia

A Russian journalist avoided a prison sentence yesterday but was given a \$7,000 fine for "justifying terrorism" in a controversial case that sparked an outcry at home and abroad.

Svetlana Prokopyeva, who is based in the northwestern city of Pskov, was charged with publicly justifying terrorism over a column she wrote about a bombing attack that targeted the FSB security service in the north of the country in 2018.

The 40-year-old walked out of a Pskov courtroom a free woman after the judge found her guilty and ordered her to pay a fine of 500,000 rubles (\$6,950).

Prokopyeva works for the Russian service of the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) as a freelance contributor.

Prosecutors had asked the judge to jail Prokopyeva for six years and ban her from working in journalism for four years on the charges that carry a maximum sentence of seven years.

As the judge read out the verdict, supporters in the courtroom -- many of whom had arrived from Moscow -- shouted "shame" and "she is not guilty."

Standing on the steps of the court building holding a large bouquet of flowers, Prokopye-



Svetlana Prokopyeva, who is based in the northwestern city of Pskov, was charged with publicly justifying terrorism

va thanked her allies for their support and vowed to appeal the decision.

"The biggest success is that I was not forbidden from working in my profession," she told the crowd, sporting a T-shirt that said "We will not shut up".

Yulia Galyamina, a Moscow deputy in the opposition Yabloko party who described the verdict as "unfair", tweeted that 10 percent of Prokopyeva's fine was already collected outside the courtroom.

The journalist's case has its origins in a November 2018

bombing carried out by a 17-year-old anarchist who blew himself up in a Federal Security Service (FSB) building in Arkhangelsk in northern Russia. In her commentary, published by the Pskov affiliate of the Echo of Moscow radio station, Prokopyeva linked the teenager's suicide bombing to the political climate under President Vladimir Putin.

The journalist said she was freed thanks to public pressure.

In a statement published by the Memorial rights group, dozens of human rights defenders denounced the case as "openly political" with the goal of "intimidating Russian journalists".

"A journalist is entitled to freely spread information not only on events but also on ideas," they said.

International press advocacy group Reporters Without Borders said it was "relieved" by the ruling and welcomed "the mobilisation in support of the

journalist". Human Rights Watch said the ruling "creates another dangerous precedent, with a journalist found guilty of a terrorism offence for normal journalistic work".

"The authorities should immediately and unconditionally vacate her politically motivated conviction," the watchdog said.



An activist demands 'Freedom for Svetlana'

Regeneron COVID-19 treatment enters final stage trials

Washington

The pharmaceutical firm Regeneron yesterday announced it was entering the late stages of its human clinical trials investigating a drug to both treat and prevent COVID-19.

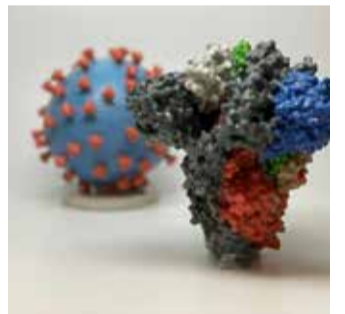
The drug, called REGN-COV2, is a combination of two antibodies that block the coronavirus' "spike protein" which it uses to invade human cells.

The company is moving to the final Phase 3 stage of a trial to determine if its drug can prevent infection among people recently exposed to the virus -- for example through a person in their household.

This trial, run jointly with the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), is expected to enroll 2,000 patients in the US.

"We are pleased to collaborate with NIAID to study REGN-COV2 in our quest to further prevent the spread of the virus with an antiviral antibody cocktail that could be available much sooner than a vaccine," said Regeneron President George Yancopoulos.

At the same time, Regeneron announced it was moving to the final stages of a trial to determine the drug cocktail's



ability to treat both hospitalized and non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

This will involve around 1,850 hospitalized and 1,050 non-hospitalized patients in the US, Brazil, Mexico and Chile, with preliminary data expected later this summer.

Regeneron scientists evaluated thousands of antibodies harvested from genetically modified mice and from humans, identifying the two they found to be most potent against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, while not competing against each other.

The company uses a multi-antibody strategy to decrease the chances that the virus will mutate in order to evade the blocking action of a single antibody, an approach it detailed in a recent study in Science.

Trump's niece to release memoir on July 14

● **In her 240-page book, Mary Trump dubs America's leader "the world's most dangerous man."**

New York

Donald Trump's niece will release her unflattering book on the US president on July 14, her publisher announced Monday, after a judge lifted a temporary ban on publication.

Simon & Schuster has brought forward the release of the memoir by two weeks, according to an update on its website.

In her 240-page book, Mary Trump dubs America's leader "the world's most dangerous man."

It is set to be the latest bombshell book to dish dirt on Trump after former aide John Bolton's

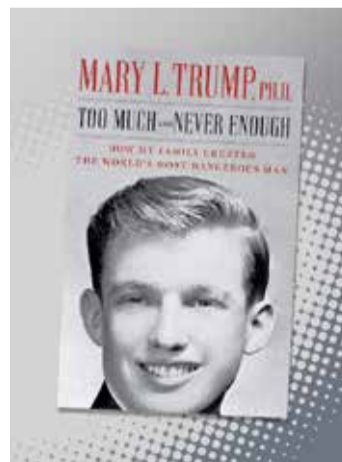


Donald Trump

book, which describes Trump as corrupt and incompetent, hit shelves last month.

Last Wednesday, an appeals court judge in New York ruled that Simon & Schuster is allowed to release Mary Trump's book "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man."

The president's brother Robert Trump had asked for the restraining order, arguing that Mary was violating a non-disclosure agreement signed in 2001 after the settlement over the estate of Fred Trump -- the father of Donald and Robert and of Mary's father Fred Trump Jr. Judge Alan Scheinkman post-



Simon & Schuster is allowed to release Mary Trump's book

poned addressing whether the author had violated the agreement preventing her from revealing family secrets by writing the book. A hearing on that matter could take place this Friday.

Nevertheless Simon & Schuster "is not a party to the agreement," so the block of their pub-



Mary Trump

lication of the book "is vacated," the judge ruled. In the book, Mary, a clinical psychologist, recounts what she witnessed of the "toxic family" in the home of her grandparents, according to her publisher.

"She describes a nightmare of traumas, destructive relationships, and a tragic combination

of neglect and abuse," Simon & Schuster says in a blurb about the book.

The Daily Beast has reported it will reveal that Mary Trump was the crucial source for explosive New York Times reporting on Trump's finances, which suggested the billionaire paid little in tax for decades.

In late June, a judge refused to block the release of Bolton's book, titled "The Room Where It Happened," saying it was too late for the restraining order sought by the Trump administration.

Trump has characterized the portrait of 17 months up close with the leader, until Bolton was fired in September, as "fiction."

"She describes a nightmare of traumas, destructive relationships, and a tragic combination of neglect and abuse," Simon & Schuster says in a blurb about the book.

'National Garden of American Heroes'

The president floated the idea during his speech in front of the massive Mount Rushmore

AFP | Washington

A new national park populated with statues of "American heroes"?

The surprise idea, proposed by President Donald Trump over the July 4 holiday weekend, hardly seems likely to calm the partisan passions deeply dividing the American people.

And it raises questions about what exactly such a park might look like, and whom it will celebrate upon its aspirational opening date of July 4, 2026.

Coming just four months before November's presidential election, the proposal reinforces the image of a president who has given up any pretense of uniting the country, instead choosing to play one voting bloc against another.

Announced without any evident consultation, the proposal comes as demonstrators nationwide have been demanding the removal of -- and sometimes forcibly pulling down -- certain historic statues, particularly those of generals of the Civil War South seen as glorifying a racist past.

Side-stepping the larger argument and reducing the protest movement to a series of violent acts, the Republican president has positioned himself as a defender of the country's "integrity" in the face of "the Marxists, the anarchists, the agitators and the looters."

To Julian Zelizer, a professor of political history at Princeton University, Trump's notion of a National Garden of American Heroes is a purely political ploy.

"He is trying to use a specific version of American history to

promote his attack on the 'radical left' and to appeal to conservatives who might be frustrated with the failed pandemic policies of the administration," he said.

The president floated the idea during his speech Friday in front of the massive Mount Rushmore sculpture of four of his most celebrated predecessors -- George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

Trump opposes modernist designs, and a White House statement said the park -- its venue yet to be decided -- would include only "realistic" and not "abstract" likenesses while paying tribute to historic figures "who made substantive contributions to America's public life."

Trump's Rushmore speech was a combative response to anti-racism protesters who have defaced or destroyed statues in several cities, not just of Civil War generals

but also of celebrated Americans who, in some cases, owned slaves.

Trump said the "vast outdoor park" he envisions "will feature the statues of the greatest Americans to ever live."

But just who will they be? And who will decide?

A tentative list cited in a presidential decree features a grab-bag of figures, including George Washington; the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr; frontiersman Davy Crockett; popular evangelist Billy Graham; former president Ronald Reagan; and the late Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia, a pillar of the conservative right.

Not included were any modern figures from the American left.

'Odd' choices

"Some of the choices for those to be honored are direct outreach to the right -- Justice Scalia, for example -- as are the absences, such as Franklin Roosevelt," said Zelizer.

To James Grossman, who heads the American Historical Association, "the choices vary from odd to probably inappropriate

to provocative," he told The Washington Post.

In addition to celebrating figures from public and private American life, ranging from political leaders to inventors and sports stars, the White House said the park could include non-Americans who made significant contributions to "the discovery, the development or the independence" of the country.

It mentioned Christopher Columbus and the Marquis de La Fayette, the young Frenchman who fought on the American side in the Revolutionary War.

Also mentioned was the Spanish friar Junipero Serra, who founded several Catholic missions in 18th-century California. Pope Francis canonized him in 2015, though some Native Americans say he was part of a violent and destructive colonizing process.

Several statues of Columbus -- who forged a reputation for brutality in his voyages to the New World -- have been vandalized or pulled down

in recent weeks across the US, most recently in Baltimore, Maryland. And the city of San Francisco removed a Columbus statue from before its City Hall.

Trump mentioned the explorer explicitly in remarks July 4 from the White House.

"We will defend, protect and preserve the American way of life, which began in 1492 when Columbus discovered America," Trump said.

American politicians have so far had little to say about the president's proposal.

A notable exception was Eugene Scalia, the labor secretary in the Trump administration.

Saying he was deeply touched by the idea of a statue of his father being included in the new park, he praised the concept.

"We need heroes," he said on Fox News. "We need to admire our forebears and recognize what is great and good in our past."

"And that is what the president is emphasizing right now."



Mount Rushmore National Memorial was created by sculptor Gutzon Borglum who oversaw the project's execution from 1927 to 1941 with the help of his son Lincoln Borglum.

The sculpture features the 60-foot (18 m) heads of Presidents George Washington (1732-1799), Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), and Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), as recommended by Borglum.

The four presidents were chosen to represent the nation's birth, growth, development, and preservation, respectively.

Bagan | Myanmar

A squad of armed police patrol Myanmar's sacred site of Bagan under the cover of night, taking on plunderers snatching relics from temples forsaken by tourists due to coronavirus restrictions.

Each evening as dusk falls, about 100 officers fan out across the plain of Bagan measuring 50 square kilometres (19 square miles), sweeping torches over the crumbling monuments to scour for intruders.

"Our security forces are patrolling day and night," Police Lieutenant Colonel Sein Win said.

"We have it under control for the moment, but it's a challenge."

The central Myanmar city is strewn with more than 3,500 ancient monuments -- stupas, temples, murals and sculptures -- and was finally added to the prestigious UNESCO world heritage list last year.

But the pandemic has stymied plans to capitalise on Bagan's new-found status.

The dearth of visitors means temples and hotels lie empty, crushing the livelihoods of locals and opening doors to opportunistic burglars.

In a spate of break-ins across the holy site in early June, robbers looted 12 different temples, swiping a range of relics, including copper stupas, ancient coins and jade jewellery.

The 35th Battalion regional police squad have been de-

ployed to bolster local tourism police and firefighters, the teams ranging across the site by jeep, motorbike and foot.

"It's not easy to patrol as the area is so big," one police officer says through his face mask, worn by all on duty to protect against COVID-19.

They also need to be on their guard against the area's numerous venomous snakes, he adds, asking not to be named.

Temple curse?

For now, the extra security seems to have thwarted any break-ins at the most prestigious temples.

Some of the relics date back to the 11th-13th century, an era when Bagan was the capital of a regional empire.

This is the first time in decades the site has been so seriously targeted, says Myint Than, deputy director of Bagan's archaeological department, as he shows at one stupa how the looters scaled the walls to enter from the roof.

"When there were tourists here, there were no burglaries," he explains, adding he believes this is the work of outsiders.

Even if locals' livelihoods have been devastated by the tourist downturn, he says he does not believe they would "betray their heritage".

Times are hard in an area dependent on tourism.

Bagan welcomed nearly half a million visitors in 2019, while this year the figure was 130,000 up until the country's New Year festival in April and much of the area has been closed to tourists since.

Hotels and restaurants lie shuttered while the hawkers and tuk-tuk drivers not lucky enough to clinch rare construction or farming

work wait in vain for customers among the deserted lanes connecting the temples.

Souvenir seller Wyne Yee, 46, says the money she makes in April alone usually keeps food on her family's table for the following six months.

"But this year we have no

money left," she says wistfully.

She says she is saddened by the desecration of the temples but -- like others in the area -- is convinced a curse will see the crooks receive their comeuppance. "The Bagan temples will not tolerate it," she says. "The robbers will be dealt with."

Looters target Myanmar temple treasures in tourist slump

Bagan welcomed nearly half a million visitors in 2019, while this year the figure was 130,000 up until the country's New Year festival in April



India tallies third-highest corona cases but death rate low



A healthcare worker checks the temperature of residents of a slum area using an electronic thermometer during a check-up campaign for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Mumbai, India



A worker rests as he builds a High Dependency Unit (HDU) at a COVID-19 care centre in New Delhi



A health worker wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) carries the body of a person who died due to COVID-19 on a handcart at a crematorium in New Delhi

Reuters | New Delhi/Mumbai

India yesterday overtook Russia to record the world's third-highest number of coronavirus infections at nearly 700,000, even as its hardest-hit state said it will allow hotels to reopen this week.

Health ministry data from the world's second-most populous country showed more than 23,000 new cases on Monday, down slightly from Sunday's record increase of almost 25,000. There have been almost 20,000 deaths in India since the first case was detected there in January.

India now trails only the United States and Brazil in the number of COVID-19 cases and it has recorded eight times as many cases as China, where the virus was first identified in late 2019.

But its death rate per 10,000 people is still a low 0.15, compared with 3.97 in the United States and 6.65 in the United Kingdom, according to a Reuters tally. Mainland China stands at 0.03.

Officials said they had reversed a decision to reopen the Taj Mahal, India's most famous tourist attraction, in

the city of Agra, on Monday, following a rise in new cases in the area.

Some other monuments in and around the capital New Delhi opened on Monday, albeit with very few visitors. India is pushing ahead with relaxations to its more than two-month lockdown amid grim economic forecasts.

New Delhi, along with Maharashtra, home to India's financial capital Mumbai, and the southern state of Tamil Nadu account for about 60% of the total coronavirus cases in the country.

Maharashtra - the worst-hit state with nearly 210,000 cases - said it would let hotels outside containment zones reopen at 33% capacity on Wednesday and issued guidelines for staff and guests.

India is also seeing an up-take in cases in states such as Kerala, Karnataka and Assam, which until recently had been relatively unscathed.

"This is showing up as an urban health challenge," said Dr Rajib Dasgupta, a professor of community health at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, noting it is exposing weaknesses in the public health system.

Pakistan's health minister tests positive for Coronavirus

● Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi tested positive a few days back

● Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed and the speaker, Asad Qaiser also contracted the virus

● 48 doctors resigned in the eastern city of Lahore

Reuters | Islamabad/Lahore



Pakistan's Health Minister, Zafar Mirza (R), interacts with the mother of a Pakistani student, who is stuck in the locked down Hubei province at the center of China's coronavirus outbreak, as people demand evacuation of their children during a meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan

Mirza said on Twitter.

Pakistan's health minister yesterday said he had tested positive for COVID-19, the latest senior figure to contract the novel coronavirus in a country where rising cases are putting pressure on the health system.

"I have tested positive for COVID-19. Under (medical) advice I have isolated myself at home & taking all precautions. I have mild symptoms. Please keep me in your kind prayers," State Minister of Health Zafar

Pakistan has so far confirmed more than 229,831 cases with 4,762 deaths, according to government figures. The country has continued to confirm around 4,000 new cases per day, despite daily testing numbers falling.

A number of high level officials have tested positive in Pakistan, including Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi who announced he had the virus on Friday, just days after meeting with US Special Envoy for

Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad.

The Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed and the speaker of the lower house of parliament, Asad Qaiser have also contracted the virus.

On Monday, 48 doctors resigned in the eastern city of Lahore, one of the hardest hit areas by the virus. Salman Haseeb, president of the Young Doctors Association for Punjab, said the resignations were due to low morale in the stretched health system due to poor working conditions.

”
I have tested positive for COVID-19. Under (medical) advice I have isolated myself at home & taking all precautions. I have mild symptoms. Please keep me in your kind prayers

ZAFAR MIRZA
STATE MINISTER OF HEALTH

"See the lack of seriousness of the government during the deadly pandemic that it is accepting resignations instead of addressing the doctors' problems at this critical time when more doctors are much needed in Pakistan," he said.

The spokesman for the Punjab Health Department, Syed Hammad Raza, said that the resignations were not related to COVID-19 and were due to personal reasons, and that doctors had enough protective equipment and received extra bonuses for working during the pandemic.

Mexican police arrest 3 over rehab attack that killed 27

● The attack was part of an ongoing battle between rival cartels

AFP | Mexico City

Mexican police have arrested three men over a bloody gun attack on a drug rehabilitation center that left 27 people dead, the local prosecutor's office said Sunday.

Gunmen burst into the centre in the city of Irapuato in the central Guanajuato state on Wednesday, forcing victims "onto the ground and shot them", authorities said.

The suspects were captured in a swoop by special forces, the prosecutor's office said on Twitter, calling the incident a "heinous crime."

Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has condemned the attack -- the deadliest of its kind this year in the country. The original death toll was 24, but three of those who were injured have since died.

The president called on the Guanajuato government, which is in opposition hands, to investigate whether the violence could be partly due to "conspiracy" between local authorities and criminal gangs.

According to local media, the attack was part of an ongoing battle between rival cartels.

The presence of large-scale energy infrastructure in Guanajuato has attracted gangs such as the Santa Rosa de Lima cartel, which deals in stolen fuel and is battling the powerful Jalisco New Generation cartel for control of the lucrative trade.

On June 21, authorities said they had captured 26 suspected



The attack was condemned by Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

members of the Santa Rosa de Lima cartel, which responded by setting up blockades of burning vehicles in three cities.

Several days earlier six members of one family, including a minor, had been murdered in the city of Celaya, one of those where the gang set up roadblocks.

Wednesday's attack was the second-most lethal assault since Lopez Obrador came to power in December 2018, after 28 people were killed at a bar in the eastern state of Veracruz last August.

Since December 2006 when the then-government launched a military operation against drug trafficking gangs, more than 290,000 people have been murdered, according to official figures.



The main cartels in Mexico?

La Familia Cartel
Tijuana Cartel.
Beltran-Leyva Cartel.
Sinaloa Cartel.
Juarez Cartel.
La Familia Michoacana.
Gulf Cartel.
Los Zetas.

Sinaloa Cartel

The United States Intelligence Community considers the Sinaloa Cartel "the most powerful drug trafficking organization in the world" and in 2011, the Los Angeles Times called it "Mexico's most powerful organized crime group."



CELEBS celebs



Hilary Duff

Hilary Duff slams holiday partying amid pandemic

ANI | Washington

American actor Hilary Duff recently slammed irresponsible holiday partygoers amid the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Fox News, the 32-year-old star shared a post on Instagram wherein she spoke about the irresponsible holiday partygoers and even seemingly poked fun at rapper Kanye West in the process.

In the post, Duff shared a handful of photos of herself, her husband Matthew Koma and their year-old daughter Banks.

On the caption, the 'Lizzie McGuire' star said her family celebrated the July

4 (Independence Day 2020 in the United States) with two walks, a family nap and a drive.

She wrote, "Drove by a raging house party on Mulholland. A**holes. No masks (of course). Girls in bathing suits and Louboutins waiting to get in like a line at a club. After Mathew and I told Banks she's too cool to ever need to do that we were steaming..."

Duff explained that "California is in bad shape" and that "we all want to go out freely" without worry.

The 'Cadet Kelly' star continued, "It really seems like Americans just don't care about each other. Somehow this pandemic has turned into a political stance between parties... that's a head-scratcher for me."

"Other countries have come together in a beautiful way to contain or be COVID free. It's embarrassing that we are worse than ever because people need to party and Karens won't wear masks!"

The 'What Goes Up' star made reference to "Karen," a term that has come to prominence to label a demanding, middle-aged white woman who displays a sense of overbearing entitlement in various societal confrontations.

The actor's statements come after several states have seen steep spikes in reported COVID-19 cases as efforts to reopen the United States progress.

Charlize Theron finds homeschooling her kids 'incredibly stressful'

IANIS | Los Angeles



Actress Charlize Theron says her biggest challenge has been homeschooling her children.

The Oscar winner has joked about homeschooling her two daughters amid the coronavirus pandemic, reports usmagazine.com.

"I'd say the biggest challenge for me is just homeschooling," Theron said.

"It was an incredibly stressful time for me, and I will make any action movie over and over and over again before I homeschool again," she added.

She also spoke about the current Hollywood shutdown.

"It's one of those jobs where it takes a village. You need a lot of people in order to do it, and I don't know how we're going to do that anytime soon in a safe manner," said the actress.

Charlize Theron

Dwayne Johnson becomes Instagram's highest-paid celebrity

ANI | Washington

American-Canadian actor Dwayne Johnson is Instagram's highest-paid celebrity.

According to social media marketing firm Hopper HQ, the 48-year-old star can charge advertisers roughly 1,015,000 USD for a sponsored post, reported Fox News.

As of publication, Johnson had 189 million followers followed by Kylie Jenner with 183 million.

Hopper HQ published a list of highest-earning stars in 2017 after speaking with celebrities and social media influencers to determine how much they were being paid, as well as speaking with advertisers to estimate how much could be charged for a post.

Exact amounts often aren't known due to relative secrecy among marketers and influencers.

As per the report, beauty mogul Jenner now sits at number two at an estimated 986,000 USD per post.

Also on this year's list were pro soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo - who charged about 889,000 USD per post, and Jenner's sister Kim Kardashian, who could charge 858,000 USD. American singer Ariana Grande rounds out the top five, charging about 853,000 USD.



Dwayne Johnson

Italian film composer Ennio Morricone dies aged 91

Reuters | Rome

Ennio Morricone, the Oscar-winning Italian composer whose haunting scores to Spaghetti Westerns like "A Fistful of Dollars" and "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" helped define a cinematic era, died on Monday. He was 91.

Morricone broke his femur 10 days ago and died at dawn in a clinic in Rome, his lawyer Giorgio Assumma told Reuters.

Outside the clinic, Assumma hand-



Ennio Morricone

ed reporters a death notice written by the composer himself, beginning "I, Ennio Morricone, am dead."

In a moving one-page text, Morricone thanked his close friends and family for their companionship, naming his children and grandchildren and saying "I hope they understand how much I loved them."

He dedicated "the most painful goodbye" to his wife Maria Travia, whom he married in 1956, saying "to her I renew the extraordinary love that bound us together and that I am sorry to abandon."

Gigi Hadid claps back at claim she's 'disguising' her baby bump

ANI | Washington

American supermodel Gigi Hadid recently called out a publication for posting an article that suggested she's been "disguising" her growing baby bump with her fashion choices.

According to E!News, earlier this week, British Vogue published a story about Hadid's pregnancy. The outlet explained that during an Instagram Live, the 25-year-old model answered a fan's question about

not having "a tummy."

Hadid answered, "This angle and the really baggy jumpsuit make for an optical illusion. From the side, it's a different story!"

However, Hadid cleared the air and clapped back at the publication for its misleading headline.

"Disguise...." she began her caption on Twitter, which was directly in response to British Vogue's post on the social media platform. "I said in a baggy jumpsuit the front and side views are visually different stories - not that that was intentional or I was trying to hide anything. Will be proud and happy to share 'insight' when I feel like it, thanks." "For now I am proudly experi-

encing and sharing this time with my family and loved ones," she added.

While rumours are doing the rounds that Hadid would be having a girl and expecting her first child with boyfriend Zayn Malik, she has kept details of her little one to herself.

She did confirm the news of the baby in April during a virtual appearance on late-night TV show host Jimmy Fallon's 'The Tonight Show'.



Gigi Hadid

Keanu Reeves, girlfriend Alexandra Grant enjoy dinner in Berlin with his 'Matrix 4' costars

ANI | Washington

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves rang in the Fourth of July (Independence Day in the United States) with his girlfriend Alexandra Grant by his side.

According to People magazine, the couple was spotted out to dinner on Saturday in Berlin (local time) and was joined by several of Reeves' 'The Matrix 4' costars, including Carrie-Anne Moss.

The 55-year-old actor looked dapper for the outing in a black suit and pants while Grant opted for a dark black jacket and colour-coordinated pants.

SUDOKU

								4	
	5			8					
3			9	6	1			5	
1	9			7					6
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4				3					2 1
	3		7	8	5				4
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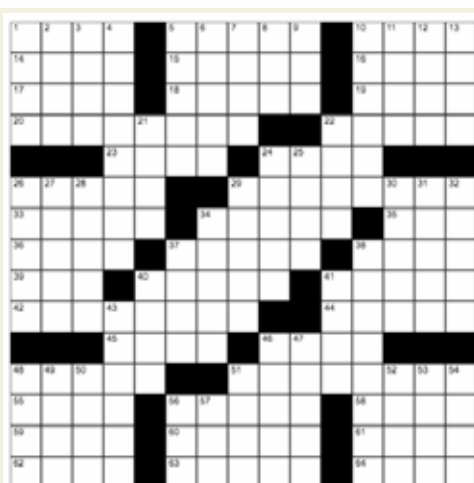
Yesterday's solution

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

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- "She Lovely?"; 5- Icon; 10- Legal wrong; 14- Scottish body; 15- Get to the point?; 16- Tass (Russian news agency); 17- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 18- Ring; 19- Brief letter, paper money; 20- Diamond; 22- Short literary composition; 23- Simon; 24- Nothing more than; 26- Like a fleabag; 29- An amorous glance; 33- Chocolate source; 34- Onto; 35- Caliginous; 36- Unattractive; 37- Sheeplike; 38- Moore of "G.I. Jane"; 39- Monk's title; 40- Viewpoint; 41- Sublease; 42- Captivating; 44- Head lock; 45- Plant anchor; 46- That's... haven't heard; 48- Songwriters' org; 51- Force per unit area; 55- Regretted; 56- You... mouthfull; 58- Tiger's choice; 59- Female child; 60- alia; 61- Look at lustfully; 62- Oklahoma Native; 63- Brings up; 64- ...do-well;

Down

1- Troubles; 2- Liquid food; 3- Final Four org; 4- Fifth day of the week; 5- San Marino surrounder; 6- Female horses; 7- Impersonator; 8- X-9-Mound stat; 10- Showy pretense; 11- Western Native Americans; 12- Pro follower; 13- Low card; 21- Deck; 22- Della's creator; 24- Had in mind; 25- Green land; 26- Scrape with one's foot; 27- Tidal bore; 28- Dazzling display; 29- Unpaid; 30- Designer Simpson; 31- Small change; 32- Gives off; 34- ...garde; 37- Mixed bag; 38- Ridicule; 40- Hit the mall; 41- Hwys; 43- Tiny bed; 46- Cry from the bench; 47- Approaches; 48- Jason's craft; 49- Clubs, e.g.; 50- King mackerel; 51- Pocket bread; 52- The munchies, e.g.; 53- Acting part; 54- Cabinet dept.; 56- Title of a knight; 57- Hydrocarbon suffix;

Yesterday's solution

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

Free-flowing Barca display strengthens Setien's position



Barcelona's players are seen during a training session (file photo)

Reuters | Barcelona

After a harrowing week in which his reputation was dragged through the mud, Barcelona coach Quique Setien came out fighting by overseeing a spectacular 4-1 win away to Villarreal which showed the 61-year-old's coaching abilities are still intact.

The superb display might not be enough to prevent Real Madrid from winning the title as they hold a four-point lead over Barca with four games left, but it was enough to get a vote of confidence from the club's president Josep Maria Bartomeu.

"Today we saw a dynamic Barca who created a lot of chances and they looked like real title

contenders," he told Spanish network Movistar.

"We're going to fight until the end in this league campaign and in the Champions League."

Setien was not the club's first choice to succeed Ernesto Valverde in January and his position has been questioned as the team's title bid unravelled with draws against Sevilla, Celta Vigo

and Atletico Madrid.

His lack of experience in dealing with a dressing room such as Barca's, full of world class players but high maintenance egos, also came under the microscope after he brought Antoine Griezmann on in added time against Atletico.

But his ability to get a team playing truly attractive and ex-



Barcelona coach Quique looks on during a training session

"I felt truly satisfied with the performance and I'm sure the players did too because they played a great game and enjoyed themselves. I would like to play like this in every game but it's not an exact science. Every game is different but today we did everything right"

QUIQUE SETIEN

citing football was finally evidenced against Villarreal, and led Bartomeu to dismiss reports there had been a rift between the coach and players.

"I know there have been rumours going around but they

are completely false," Bartomeu added.

"Quique has the full support of the players and the directors and is doing a great job."

Barca's free-flowing display was sparked by a tactical shift by Setien, who placed Griezmann alongside Luis Suarez in a front two with Lionel Messi as the playmaker, in contrast to previous matches where Griezmann was deployed out on the left wing.

Messi set up goals for Suarez and Griezmann, teeing up the latter's audacious chip with an irresistible backheel.

"I felt truly satisfied with the performance and I'm sure the players did too because they played a great game and enjoyed themselves," Setien explained.

"I would like to play like this in every game but it's not an exact science. Every game is different but today we did everything right."

Federer 'missing' Wimbledon but aiming to be back next year

Reuters | London

Roger Federer yesterday said he is "missing" Wimbledon after the grass-court Grand Slam was cancelled, but hopes to play the tournament in 2021.

The 38-year-old, who has undergone two knee surgeries this year, had already announced he will not play again until next year.

This week was scheduled to be the second week of Wimbledon, where Federer has won a record eight men's singles titles, but the tournament was cancelled for the first time since World War II due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Personally, it has been very pleasant to stay in the same place for a long time, I hadn't experienced that for more than 25 years," Federer said at the launch of the "Roger Center Court" running shoes created by Swiss brand On.

"But of course I miss Wimbledon, of course I would like to be there currently playing on Centre Court for a place in the second week.

"Clearly, one of my big goals, and that's why I do recovery work every day and work so hard, and why I'm preparing for a 20-week physical preparation block this year, is because I hope to play at Wimbledon



Roger Federer waves to fans after a match (file photo)

next year."

Federer said the coronavirus lockdown gave him the chance to recuperate following surgery, but said he will have to be "patient" as he waits to return to the court.

"Combined with my operations, it was an important moment for me, (to know) if I wanted to continue," he said.

"It's very easy to say but it's a long way to come back, you have to be patient, it also was a time for reflection.

"We were in the mountains, isolated, we didn't see anyone, I didn't see my parents for almost three months, we were very serious and strict."

The ATP and WTA Tours are set to resume in August despite a raft of professional players having contracted COVID-19.

Federer could have lost his record of most men's Grand Slam singles titles by the time he returns, with his old rival Rafael Nadal just one behind on the all-time list.

The US Open will be the first Grand Slam following the restart, getting underway behind closed doors in New York on August 31, before the French Open starts, with fans allowed to attend Roland Garros, on September 24.

The Swiss star will also be hoping to claim Olympic singles gold for the first time next year at the postponed Tokyo Olympics in Japan, with the final to be played a week before his 40th birthday.

Former Bayern doctor says he quit because Guardiola 'knew better'

AFP | Munich

German Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt has said he quit as Bayern Munich team doctor in 2015 amid a spat with Pep Guardiola because the Spaniard "knew better".

"I couldn't put up with the fact that a young coach (Guardiola) -- who was very successful and who is probably one of the very, very big names -- interfered in medical matters and knew everything better than I did," Mueller-Wohlfahrt told broadcaster BR24.

The 77-year-old German has a reputation as one of the world's top sports doctors, whose list of superstar clients included retired sprinter Usain Bolt.

Bolt dedicated his 2016 Olympic gold medal after the men's 100m final to him for helping him overcome a calf injury.

Mueller-Wohlfahrt started working with Bayern in 1977, but resigned abruptly five years ago.

At the time, he said it was because then-Bayern coach Guardiola blamed the club's medical department for a Champions League defeat at Porto.

Mueller-Wohlfahrt only re-



Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt (R) and Pep Guardiola during a match (file photo)

turned to Bayern in 2017, after Guardiola had left to join present side Manchester City, and stepped down again as club doctor last month.

However, he refers to his time at Bayern under Guardiola as a "black spot".

Mueller-Wohlfahrt says the pair have since buried the hatchet.

"We have met since and talked things over. It's over now," he added.

Guardiola won the Bundesliga title in each of his three seasons at Bayern from 2013-16 and has since lifted the Premier League trophy twice with Man City.

As well as Bayern, Mueller-Wohlfahrt also worked with the Germany national team from 1995 until after the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Vettel is bound to be distracted by Ferrari axe, says Brawn



Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel reacts prior to a race (file photo)

Reuters | London

Sebastian Vettel endured a nightmare start to the season in Austria on Sunday and Formula One's motorsport managing director Ross Brawn suggested being dropped by Ferrari for 2021 had affected his concentration.

Vettel, a four-times world champion with Red Bull, qualified only 11th at the Red Bull Ring and then tangled with McLaren's Carlos Sainz in the race, finishing 10th for the final point on offer.

Spaniard Sainz is also the man replacing the German at Maranello next year alongside

Charles Leclerc, who finished a surprise second on Sunday despite Ferrari's performance problems.

"It was a difficult start to Sebastian's final season with the team," said Brawn, a former Ferrari technical director and ex-Mercedes team boss.

"Everything must be swirling round in his head, after he found out Ferrari did not want to renew his services for next season.

"Sometimes, the things that put off a driver are quite subtle. Sebastian has appeared surprised and shocked by what has happened and it must be a distraction, understandably so."

Guardiola at a loss to explain Man City defeats

AFP | London

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola says he is struggling to understand why his team score so many goals and limit the opposition to so few chances but have still lost nine Premier League matches this season.

City, who relinquished the league title to Liverpool, lost 1-0 at Southampton on Sunday despite dominating possession (73%) and peppering the Saints goal with more than 20 shots.

Striker Che Adams sealed

victory for 13th-placed Southampton and condemned City, who beat Liverpool 4-0 in their last game, to a third successive league defeat away from home.

Champions Liverpool have lost twice in the league all season.

"We're leading in goals. We create a lot of chances," said Guardiola, who lost a third straight away league game for the first time in his managerial career.

"We're a team who concede less -- no team conceded as few chances as us but we lost a lot of games."

Santella returns to BRAVE CF, signs multi-fight deal

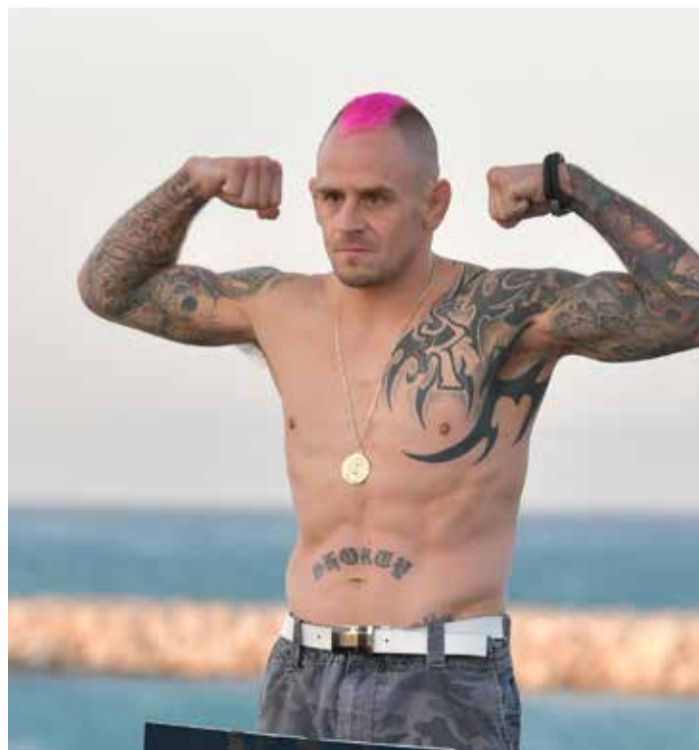
TDT | Manama

Another top Flyweight contender has reached an agreement with BRAVE Combat Federation to resume his presence and has signed a new multi-fight deal with the truly global promotion. The latest name in the 57kg division to join the list is American star Sean "Shorty Rock" Santella.

With a professional record of 23 wins, 7 losses, and one draw, "Shorty Rock" is one of the most accomplished Flyweights in the United States, being ranked #1 in several state and regional rankings within the country.

Previously, Sean Santella had one fight under BRAVE CF's banner, against Russia's Velimurad Alkhasov at BRAVE CF 14, in Tangier, Morocco, back in 2018. He ended up being defeated by Alkhasov via unanimous decision in a tough battle between two top Flyweights.

Since then, Santella bounced back with three consecutive wins in his home country of the United States, all of them within the year of 2019. He then got



Sean Santella

himself a spot in the international platforms, by rejoining BRAVE CF, now in a multi-fight deal.

At BRAVE CF's Flyweight division, Sean Santella will be welcomed once again by the likes of Jose "Shorty" Torres, Marcel

Adur, Zach Makovsky, among others, in one of the deepest 125 lbs rosters in the entire MMA world.

Hamilton didn't push for others to take knee

Lewis Hamilton was joined by all but six Formula One drivers in taking a knee

AFP | Spielberg

Lewis Hamilton explained he did not push for his fellow drivers to take a knee prior to Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix and said he was "grateful" to the 13 who joined him.

The six-time world champion, who finished off the podium in fourth after suffering two penalties on a tumultuous day, said he had avoided requesting the move as he clarified his role in drivers' talks before the race.

"I never requested, or demanded, that anybody take the knee. I never even brought it up," he said.

"Seb (Vettel) and Romain (Grosjean) both raised it and asked the drivers whether or not they would do it and there were several who said they wouldn't.

"I let everyone say what they wanted and then I just opened up to them and I said 'Look, guys, just so you know -- I will be doing it, but you do what you feel is right'."

Hamilton thanked his fellow competitors for their gesture pre-race.

"And I'm really, really grateful to those who did kneel along with me. I think it's still a really powerful message, but ultimately whether or not you kneel, or do not kneel, that's not going to change the world.

"And it's a much, much bigger issue across the world. I think everyone has a right to their own personal choice and, for me, personally, it was what I felt was right to do, but I didn't



The 2 Seas car in action during the race

make the decision until last night (Saturday)."

Hamilton, the sport's only black driver, said the impetus for the group gesture came from the sport's "End Racism" stance.

The message was emblazoned on all the drivers' t-shirts, while Hamilton's Black Lives Matter shirt had it on his back.

Six drivers -- Charles Leclerc, Max Verstappen, Daniil Kvyat, Kimi Raikkonen, Antonio Giovinazzi and Carlos Sainz -- did not kneel, a move that undermined F1's 'We Race As One' stance at the first major international sporting event in Europe since the coronavirus lockdown.

Leclerc, Verstappen and Giovinazzi tweeted their reasons, but their reluctance to kneel was seen by many critics as reducing the group action to an

"I let everyone say what they wanted and then I just opened up to them and I said 'Look, guys, just so you know -- I will be doing it, but you do what you feel is right'"

LEWIS HAMILTON

empty gesture.

"I honestly don't know everyone's different reasons or opinions," said Hamilton.

"I'm aware of some opinions from some of the drivers, but that's more of a private thing and I wouldn't like to share it.

"Ultimately, I think nobody should be forced into a scenario where they have to kneel."

He also revealed he had been forced to remain quiet in the past when he had intended to take a knee to support NFL star Colin Kaepernick's protest made during the American national anthem.

"I had a helmet and everything made in red with his number on the top," said Hamilton.

"But, back then, I was kind of silenced. I was told to kind of back down, don't support it, which actually I will say that I regret."

He added he was unsure of what to expect at future races, but said he would not take a knee during a national anthem.

"I think it's really, really great that F1 and particularly Mercedes have taken note of the issue that we're facing across the world and decided to do something about it."

India worried T20 World Cup delays could impact IPL start date

AFP | Mumbai

India's cricket leaders are becoming impatient with the world body's delays in deciding whether the Twenty20 World Cup will go ahead this year amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The World Cup holdup is stopping the Board of Control for Cricket in India from setting a date for its biggest earner, the Indian Premier League.

The International Cricket Council has said it will make a decision in July on the future of the 20 over event which was due to start in Australia in October. But no date for a meeting has been announced.

"Why they (the ICC) are delaying we have no idea," BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal told AFP, adding the BCCI was "already planning (the IPL) and we are looking for a window."

"We will see how the situation pans out," he said. "We will explore options whether we can have it here or overseas."



IPL Trophy is seen at the stadium prior to the final 2019 (file photo)

The United Arab Emirates and Sri Lankan cricket boards have already shown interest in hosting the T20 tournament that attracts global superstars such as England's Joe Root, West Indies batsman Chris Gayle and South Africa's Faf du Plessis. The IPL has twice been held outside India in years that it clashed with national elections. South Africa hosted the 2009 event and part of it was held in United Arab Emirates in 2014.

Dhumal added that the BCCI will look to open domestic tournaments, such as the Ranji trophy, in September to kick-start the game post-pandemic.