





## BE Determined

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**US court orders Iran to pay \$879 million to Saudi Arabia**  
 Al Arabiya

A United States federal court has ordered Iran to pay \$879 million to the survivors of the 1996 terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, where US forces lived, according to a law firm press release.

The court found that Iranian defendants had directed and "provided material support" for the attack in which members of the Iran-backed Hezbollah al-Hejaz organisation detonated a 5,000-pound truck bomb at the complex located in the Dhahran region

**Gilead says remdesivir reduced risk of death**  
 Reuters

Gilead Sciences Inc said yesterday additional data from a late-stage study showed its antiviral remdesivir reduced the risk of death and significantly improved the conditions of severely ill COVID-19 patients.

# Houthis exposed!

Video shows Iran-backed Houthi militia planting booby-trapped boats

TDT | Manama

New evidence has emerged exposing Iran-backed Houthi militia's hand in attacking vessels off the coast of Yemen with unmanned boats laden with explosives.

A video surfaced shows Houthi militia carrying out experiments using a remote booby-trapped boat similar to the one the coalition destroyed recently at the Bab al-Mandab Strait in the Red Sea.

In the early hours of Thursday morning, Saudi-led military coalition destroyed two remotely controlled boats belonging to Houthi forces 6 km (3.7 miles) south of the Yemeni port of Salif.

Coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki, on the day, warned the Houthi attempts as a threat to Sea Lines of Communication, international trade and regional and international security.

"The Joint Forces Command of the Coalition will continue to implement all necessary measures and procedures to handle legitimate military targets such as these, following the customary International Humanitarian Law," al-Malki said in a statement carried by SPA.

The Saudi-led military coalition has long accused Houthi militia of attempts to threaten the safety of maritime lanes as well as regional security and stability.

Bahrain's foreign ministry, in a statement, said, there is "a



Picture courtesy of Al Ayam

There is "a clear insistence from the Houthis to threaten the safety of maritime lanes, and seriously target the security and stability of the region"

BAHRAIN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY

## Houthis 'weaponised' fuel supplies

Sanaa

A fuel shortage is blighting life in the swathes of Yemen controlled by Houthi militia, cutting electricity supplies, halting water pumps and stranding people in need of medical care.

"What's happening is an injustice," said Sanaa resident Hames Al-Tawil as he waited in a snaking line of vehicles that

reached the gates of the presidential palace four kilometres (2.5 miles) away. Cars and vans parked three abreast stretched through the summer heat as far as the eye

could see. The government and the Saudi-led military coalition accused the rebels of causing fuel shortages to boost their case for the lifting of crippling restrictions imposed by the coalition's naval and air blockade.

One liter of petrol now sells for 1,200 riyals (two dollars) on the black market -- triple the price before the current shortages.



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intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by Houthi militia towards civilian targets in Saudi Najran.

Earlier in March, Saudi Forces destroyed two ballistic missiles launched by the Houthi militia toward civilian targets in the cities of Riyadh and Jazan.

**HM King condolences with Sharjah Ruler**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday sent a cable of condolences to the UAE Supreme Council member and Sharjah Ruler, His Highness Dr Shaikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi, following the sad demise of the Deputy Sharjah Ruler, HH Shaikh Ahmed bin Sultan Al-Qasimi.

HM King Hamad prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of late HH Shaikh Ahmed bin Sultan Al-Qasimi in eternal peace and to bless his relatives with patience and fortitude.

King Hamad also sent a similar cable of condolences to UAE President, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

**China rejects new US invite to join nuclear talks**

Beijing

China yesterday rejected a new US invitation to join arms control talks with Russia, complaining that Washington had continued to "pester" Beijing over the issue.

President Donald Trump's administration has demanded that China take part in talks on a successor to the New START treaty, which caps the nuclear warheads of the United States and Russia.

Rewriting history

## Hagia Sophia to be reopened for worship, UNESCO warns

Istanbul

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced yesterday that the Hagia Sophia, one of the architectural wonders of the world, would be reopened for worship.

His declaration came after a top Turkish court revoked the sixth-century Byzantine monument's status as a museum, clearing the way for it to be turned back into a mosque.

The Council of State, Turkey's highest administrative



The sixth-century edifice has been a museum since 1935

Hagia Sophia was first constructed as a cathedral in the Christian Byzantine Empire but was converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453



court, unanimously cancelled a 1934 cabinet decision and said Hagia Sophia was registered as a mosque in its property deeds.

Meanwhile, UN's cultural agency UNESCO warned Turkey against converting Hagia Sophia museum into a mosque, urging dialogue before any decision.

A UNESCO spokeswoman noted that the Hagia Sophia was inscribed within the "Historic Areas of Istanbul" as a museum, a position that had repeatedly been communicated to Turkey through letters.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

**TOTAL CASES**  
32,039

**ACTIVE CASES**  
4,722

**DEATHS**  
104

**DISCHARGED**  
27,213

**NEW CASES**  
511

**CRITICAL**  
53

210 fils (includes VAT)



# 'Promote Arab cooperation'

Arab educational, scientific and cultural fields need more joint efforts: Bahrain tells ALECSO general congress held virtually

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday called for more efforts to promote Arab cooperation in the educational, scientific and cultural fields during the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation's (ALECSO) general congress.

Representing Bahrain at the virtual congress was Ahlem Al-Amer, the Assistant Undersecretary for Curricula and Educational Advisory, as delegated by Education Minister Dr Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi.

Al-Amer told the meeting that the pandemic has swept across the entire world, including the Arab countries, posing extraordinary challenges.

To cope up with the situation, she said, countries have "enhanced the use of information and communication technology in education, higher education and scientific research, and even in remote work."

There is a need for "more support to achieve common goals, to promote Arab cooperation,"



The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) held its general congress as part of the 25th session.

She told the congress highlighting education, science and culture as the pillars of development in the race towards social and economic progress.

She expressed Bahrain's pride in ensuring the continuation of online learning at various educational levels, despite the closure of schools and universities

due to the disruptive pandemic. Bahrain's further expressed pride in the pan-Arab organisation, which celebrates its 50th anniversary.

# HRH the Prime Minister completes medical check-ups

TDT | Manama



Congratulations poured in from all walks of life in Bahrain yesterday to His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa for completing his regular medical check-ups.

In their cables, the well-wishers extended their deepest congratulations to HRH the Prime Minister on the occasion, praying to Allah the Almighty to bless him with abundant health, well-being, happiness and long life to carry on the progress march for the best interests of the citizens and the nation, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH Premier received congratulatory cables from Shu-

ra Council Chairman, Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, President of the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA), Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza, Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Essam bin Abdulla Khalaf, and Assistant Undersecretary for Consular Affairs, Resources and Information at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Khalil Yacoub Al-Khayat.

# Bahrain reports a COVID-19 death

TDT | Manama

A 58-year-old Bahraini man is the Kingdom's latest casualty of the battle against the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The Ministry of Health announced the death late night yesterday on its Twitter handle.

The statement, without disclosing any further details of the victim, offered its condolences to the family of the deceased.

With this, the total number of deaths in the Kingdom has risen to 104 and total cases to 32,039

There are currently 4,722 active cases in Kingdom, of which 4,669 cases are stable, while 53 patients are critically ill.

Eighty-four people, who contracted the infection are currently undergoing treatment at various virus facilities around the Kingdom.

Out of 8,801 COVID-19 tests carried out yesterday, 511 new cases have been detected among 251 expatriate workers, 255 new cases are contacts of active cases, and five are travel related.

The ministry also reported 693 new recoveries from COVID19 yesterday, increasing the total recoveries here to 27,213.

Total tests, since recording its first case on 21 February 2020, conducted by the Kingdom now stand at 649,020.



Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health at the Ministry of Health and member of the Executive Board of the Gulf Health Council Dr Mariam Al Hajri during Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Health Council meeting. The meeting discussed its strategic plan, developments of the Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (GCDC) project, unified purchase, the central medical registration, the Gulf registration of veterinary preparations, the control of communicable diseases, among several others. The members agreed to hold their virtual meeting monthly in light of the pandemic through video link instead of the regular two meetings annually.

# Drivers get free tyres for a "Summer without accidents"



In pictures, traffic authorities during the campaign

TDT | Manama

The General Administration of Traffic launched a field awareness campaign "Summer without Accidents" as part of its "Thank You" initiative, in cooperation with Italian multinational tyre company Pirelli.

During the campaign which covers all governorates, officials educated the public on the importance of tyre safety, especially during the summer while also rewarding law-abiding drivers by replacing their vehicle's

tyres free of cost. The General Administration of Traffic confirmed the continuation of the awareness campaign throughout the summer. The campaign will focus on educating drivers on the importance of periodic inspection of vehicle consumables, battery, and fluid level and not leaving compressed packages, batteries, sterilisers, lighters and electronic devices in the vehicle to avoid fire accidents.

The campaign also distributes free on-road assistance vouchers having one-year validity to drivers.



YOU  
KNOW WHAT

**What temperature is safe for summer tires?**  
 The safe summer tires temperature range is above 45-degrees Fahrenheit. Below 45-degrees, performance is dramatically decreased and at temperatures below freezing, things become dangerous.

**How does the age of a tire affect safety?**  
 As rubber ages, it loses elasticity, hardens and can become brittle. The reinforcing cords inside a tire can also deteriorate and lose strength. This increases the risk of a sudden tire failure the older the tire gets. After ten years, the risk of failure goes up sharply.





# Sailors saved a shark!

TDT | Manama

Listed as a vulnerable species, whale sharks are termed 'docile fish', which sometimes even allows swimmers to hitch a ride.

In Bahrain, two sailors say they experienced the same.

The shark, presumed dead, was spotted by two sailors in the North Sea waters of Bahrain, said an *Al Bilad* report citing social media accounts.

The sailors, however, got the surprise of their life, when the fish suddenly sprang to life as they approached to take a look.

The men said they even spent some time with the fish, locally known as 'Deeba', before informing the authorities.

The sailors hope the concerned authorities would do the needful to rescue the fish.

Preferring warm waters, whale sharks populate all tropical seas,

Picture courtesy of Albilad



The whale shark, like the world's second largest fish, the basking shark, is a filter feeder. In order to eat, the beast juts out its formidably sized jaws and passively filters everything in its path. The mechanism is theorized to be a technique called "cross-flow filtration," similar to some bony fish and baleen whales.

Its back and sides are gray to brown with white spots among pale vertical and horizontal stripes, and its belly is white. Its two dorsal fins are set rearward on its body, which ends in a large dual-lobbed caudal fin (or tail).

says *National Geographic*.

They are currently listed as a vulnerable species; however, they continue to be hunted in parts of Asia, such as the Philippines.

As the largest fish in the sea, reaching lengths of 40 feet or more, whale sharks have an enormous menu from which to choose.

Fortunately for most sea-dwellers—and us!—their favourite meal is plankton.

They may live up to 70 years, according to NatGeo.

## Drive-in cinema soon in Bahrain



Picture courtesy of AlAyam

TDT | Manama

Mukta Cinemas will open doors to Bahrain's first drive-in Cinema on July 20.

Akshay Bajaj Chief Executive Officer of Mukta Cinema told Al Ayam in a statement.

The project, he said, is being implemented in cooperation with Pico Exhibitions at Bahrain Bay.

The facility with a single screen, Bajaj told Al Ayam, is capable of accommodating up to 100 cars.

The movie will broadcast sound using an FM frequency to which the viewers will have to tune in using their car radio.

A lot of drive-ins use FM radio to deliver the movie sound these days.

Experts, however, warn it would simply drain your car's battery. So, it is better to bring a battery-powered portable radio or a boombox instead, in case you are not running your engine to use your car AC.

The Coordination Committee, headed by His Highness the Crown Prince, had earlier announced that drive-in cinemas would be allowed to operate following health requirements and the rules of social distancing, with the continued closure of cinemas.

The idea of drive-in cinemas first came to compensate for the closure of cinemas in line with the precautionary measures adopted in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UAE is a front runner in this regard, with people there now enjoying drive-in at Dubai's Mall of the Emirates.

## A paralysed man's dream to fly home just got realised

The Indian Club, Gulf Air and Al-Hilal hospital join hands to help expatriate Ajay Jonepally amid COVID-19 pandemic

TDT | Manama

Never-ending bouts with mishaps.

Ajay Jonepally's past four months in Bahrain can be summarised thus.

The last one caught him by surprise and plunged him into deep anguish.

The ailment that started with blood pressure and then a brain haemorrhage finally left him paralysed and bedridden.

He was preparing to get back to his home in India for further treatment, as advised by BDF hospital doctors, but then the Corona struck, paralysing the world along with his home dreams.

All this put him in a tight spot regarding medical bills, nursing and other expenses. If not for the generous support of his sponsor, who had come forward to shoulder the expenses, it would have been a total disaster.

Adversities were parading one after another in the life of Jonepally, who has been with Al Ameri Electrical Contracting Company for the past four years.

Amidst all this pain, he now at least have one reason to smile.

He will be soon back with his loved ones back home in Hyderabad to continue his life's battle.

Given wings to his home dreams are some good minds at the Indian Club.

Joining hand with the club in this initiate is Gulf Air and



Ajay Jonepally is all set to fly back to Hyderabad, thanks to the help of Indian Club officials

Al-Hilal hospital.

Despite procuring all necessary medical clearance, what derailed his flying plan in the first attempt was the absence of a nurse to assist him in the travel.

That too is cleared now with Jijo John an NHRA nurse, who had come forward voluntarily to accompany him to Hyderabad.

Jijo John will return in the same flight after handing over Ajay to the medical team at Hyderabad airport.

Indian club has reserved nine seats to keep Ajay's on his stretcher and another for his accompanying nurse.

This also is not the first time that Indian Club has taken up initiatives like this to help fellow citizens in the Kingdom.

Amid the pandemic outbreak, the club distributed food kits and medical aids to the needy and organised several repatriation flights.

The Club officials said had arranged five flights, including two Jumbo jets, to different Indian destinations including Calicut, Cochin, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Second phase bookings are going on for flights to Delhi, Hyderabad, Mangalore, Kochi and Trivandrum.

The Indian club President Stalin Joseph and General Secretary Job MJ thanked all who coordinated and supported this noble cause.

## 140 expats set to fly back under Vande Bharat mission

TDT | Manama

More than 140 Indians shall return today under the "Vande Bharat" repatriation mission announced by Government of India. The Air India flight is scheduled to depart at 1:05 pm for the capital city of Bhubaneswar in the eastern Indian state of Odisha.

Under the Vande Bharat Mission Phase- 4, 14 flights have been scheduled from Bahrain to various destination in India. Today's flight is the second flight to Odisha, the first flight left for Bhubaneswar on 20th June carrying approximately 145 passengers.

The Indian Embassy at Bahrain facilitated the issuance of tickets to the stranded expatriates. To ensure that passengers returns without any health risks, necessary safety protocols have been implemented by Air India and Bahrain International Airport.

A second flight to Bhubaneswar has helped all those who, for some reason, could not undertake the journey earlier, said Bidush Nanda, Vice President of Bahrain Odia Samaj (BOS). Members and volunteers of BOS shall continue with the humanitarian efforts undertaken by the BOS and extend necessary help to the Odia diaspora, he added.

"We are grateful to Government of Bahrain, Government of India and the Indian Embassy at Bahrain for extending



As many as 5,80,000 Indians have been evacuated from different countries under the Vande Bharat Mission. Under phase 4, 637 international flights have already been scheduled & these flights would service 29 airports in India

necessary help and ensuring the safe return of the Odia diaspora," said Jaideep Jena, Joint Secretary, Bahrain Odia Samaj.

## UK economy to slump over 10pc, debts to surge - Moody's

Reuters | London

Britain will suffer the sharpest peak-to-trough economic slump of any major economy this year, rating agency Moody's warned on Friday, and ramp up national debt as a share of GDP by nearly a quarter.

Moody's said the UK government's latest 30 billion pound (\$37.9 billion) stimulus package, announced this week, would aid a gradual economic recovery but add further pressure to the UK's fiscal position.

"The UK's public debt ratio will likely rise by 24 percentage points of GDP or more relative to 2019 levels," a group of Moody's top analysts wrote in a note.

"We forecast a contraction



A view of an empty street, following a local lockdown imposed amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Leicester, Britain

of 10.1 per cent in the UK's GDP for this year, but expect a gradual subsequent recovery on the back of the easing in lockdown measures, with growth rebounding to 7.1pc next year".

Moody's rates Britain Aa2 with a negative outlook following a series of cuts since the country voted to leave the European Union in mid 2016.

## US bans Pakistan International Airlines flights

Reuters | Sydney

The US Department of Transportation said it has revoked permission for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to conduct charter flights to the United States, citing Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) concerns over Pakistani pilot certifications.

The information is contained in a revocation of special authorisation dated July 1 provided by the department yesterday.

Pakistan last month ground-



A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane prepares to land at Islamabad airport in Islamabad

ed almost a third of its pilots after discovering they may have falsified their qualifications.

## S&P warns Dubai economy to shrink 11pc

Reuters | London

S&P Global warned that Dubai's economy was set to shrink 11 per cent this year, as it cut the credit ratings of two of the emirate's biggest property firms to 'junk' status.

Dubai, the Middle East's trade and tourism hub, has been hit hard by coronavirus-containment measures and is set for an economic contraction almost four times worse than during the global financial crisis in 2009, S&P said.

"We now expect Dubai's real GDP will shrink by about 11pc in 2020, compounding the economic slowdown that began in 2015," S&P analysts wrote in a note dated July 9, adding that the emirate's fiscal deficit was expected to balloon to about 4pc of GDP this year.

A growth rebound of about 5pc is expected next year, but

real GDP growth will then slow to 2pc through to 2023, which would be half of what it has averaged for the last 10 years.

S&P downgraded Emaar Properties, the United Arab Emirates' largest property firm and the builder of the world's tallest building, Dubai's Burj Khalifa, to a BB+ 'junk' rating from an investment grade BBB-score.

It said it expected a 30pc-40pc slump in Emaar's earnings in 2020, a 15pc-20pc dive in overall revenues, while the anticipated recovery next year would be only partial.

DIFC Investments, a unit of the company running Dubai's International Financial Center free zone, was cut to BB+ from BBB- as well.

"We expect Dubai's balance sheet to deteriorate, reducing its ability to provide extraordinary financial support to its related entities," S&P's analysts said.

## India suspends release of industrial output data

Reuters | New Delhi

India said yesterday it was suspending the release of headline industrial output numbers for May, part of a more-than two-month lockdown imposed to combat the coronavirus pandemic, due to inadequate data collection.

Most industrial businesses were not operating from March onwards, a statement

released by the Ministry of Statistics said. The government earlier suspended the release of industrial production numbers for April as well as retail inflation data for April and May.

Industrial output contracted 34.71 in May according to Reuters calculations based on available data. Analysts' in a poll had forecast a 37.8 per cent drop.

# US producer prices unexpectedly fall

● Wholesale energy prices shot up 7.7pc in June

● Gasoline prices rose 26.3pc after accelerating 43.9pc in May

Reuters | Washington

US producer prices unexpectedly fell in June as rising costs for energy goods were offset by weakness in services, pointing to subdued inflation that should allow the Federal Reserve to keep pumping money into the economy to arrest a downward spiral.

Still, deflation remains unlikely as the economy battles depressed demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report from the Labour Department yesterday also showed underlying producer inflation ticked up last month.

The producer price index for final demand dropped 0.2 per cent last month after rebounding 0.4pc in May. In the 12 months through June, the PPI declined 0.8pc, matching May's decrease.

Excluding the volatile food, energy and trade services components, producer prices rose 0.3pc in June. That was the biggest gain in the so-called core PPI since January and followed a 0.1pc rise in May. In the 12 months through June, the core PPI edged down 0.1pc. The core PPI dropped 0.4pc on a year-on-year basis in May, which was the largest annual decrease since the introduction of the series in August 2013.



A worker prepares boxes of free food for distribution at the Chelsea Collaborative, which distributes 6 to 7 thousand boxes of food a week in a city hard hit by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Chelsea, Massachusetts, U.S

## 0.2pc

The producer price index for final demand dropped 0.2 per cent last month

The Fed tracks the core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index for its 2pc inflation target. The core PCE price index increased 1.0pc on a year-on-year basis in May, the smallest advance since December 2010. June's core PCE price index data will be released at the end of this month.

### Supply disruptions

With a record 33 million people on unemployment benefits, inflation is likely to remain soft. Though businesses have reopened after shuttering in mid-March to slow the spread

of COVID-19, new cases of the respiratory illness have surged in large parts of the country, causing uncertainty and curtailing domestic demand. Overseas demand has also tanked.

In June, wholesale food prices decreased 5.2pc after surging 6.0pc in May. Wholesale energy prices shot up 7.7pc in June after rebounding 4.5pc in the prior month. Gasoline prices rose 26.3pc after accelerating 43.9pc in May. Goods prices gained 0.2pc last month after jumping 1.6pc in May.

Excluding food and energy, goods prices inched up 0.1pc last month after being unchanged in May.

The cost of services dropped 0.3pc in June after falling 0.2pc in the prior month. Services were weighed down by a 1.8pc plunge in margins for final demand trade services, which measure changes in margins received by wholesalers and retailers.

## Tesla rival Rivian adds \$2.5 billion investment led by T. Rowe Price



The Rivian R1T all-electric truck  
Reuters

Electric vehicle startup Rivian, which is backed by Amazon and Ford Motor and aims to put an electric pickup and SUV in production in 2021, boosted its war chest further with a \$2.5-billion investment round led by T. Rowe Price, Rivian said yesterday.

The deal comes on the heels of electric car maker Tesla's meteoric rise in valuation and the recent public offering of Nikola Corp NKLA.O. Both Tesla and Nikola are planning electric pickups to rival Rivian.

The new round takes total investment in Rivian to at least \$6 billion, including a \$1.3 billion round in December led by T. Rowe Price and including Amazon, Ford and BlackRock, according to investor website Pitchbook.

## Oil steadies on resurgence of virus cases

Reuters | London

Oil prices steadied yesterday but were still set for weekly declines as inventories rose and record-breaking new coronavirus cases in the United States stoked concern about the pace of economic recovery and fuel demand.

Brent crude was up by 1 cent, or 0.02 per cent, at \$42.36 a barrel by 1338 GMT, and US oil was up 4 cents, or 0.1pc, to \$39.66 a barrel.

Brent was set for a weekly decline of almost 1pc and US crude for a fall of almost 2pc.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) bumped up its 2020 oil demand forecast on Friday, but warned that the spread of COVID-19 posed a risk to the outlook.

"While the oil market has undoubtedly made progress ... the large, and in some countries, accelerating number of COVID-19 cases is a disturbing reminder that the pandemic is not under control," the IEA said.

Prices also dropped after Libya National Oil Corporation announced it had lifted its force majeure on all oil exports after a half-year blockade by

## \$42.4

was the price of Brent crude by 1338 GMT



eastern forces.

Meanwhile, oil inventories remain bloated due to the evaporation of demand for gasoline, diesel and other fuels during the initial outbreak.

"If we take a bigger picture view of the market, what stands out to us is that we have not yet seen much of a decline on the global inventory front," JBC said.

US crude oil inventories rose by nearly 6 million barrels last week after analysts had forecast a decline of just over half that figure.

## American Airlines threatens to cancel some Boeing 737 MAX orders - WSJ



American Airlines passenger planes crowd a runway where they are parked

Reuters

American Airlines Group Inc has threatened to cancel some of its orders for Boeing Co's grounded 737 MAX jets unless the plane-maker helps secure funding for them, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

American Airlines has struggled to secure financing for 17 jets it had expected to deliver this year due to the coronavirus crisis, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter.

Boeing has been working to help line up financing for American's 737 MAX jets, and under one possible scenario, the planemaker's financing arm could purchase the aircraft and lease them to American, eventually selling the planes and the payment stream to leasing companies, according to the report.

American currently has a total of 76 737 MAXs on order. The company declined to comment on the report.

## Six candidates in race to be new Thai central bank chief

Reuters | Bangkok

Six candidates have applied to be the next Thai central bank governor to succeed Veerathai Santiprhub, whose five-year term end in September, as the country combats the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new chief will face the tough task of reviving Southeast Asia's second-largest economy which the Bank of Thailand (BOT) predicts will shrink by a record 8.1 per cent this year.

## China bank lending hits record \$1.72 trillion in first half

Reuters | Beijing

New bank lending in China rose 22.3 per cent in June as authorities continued to boost credit and ease policy to get the world's second-largest economy humming again after a sharp coronavirus-induced contraction. Chinese banks extended 1.81 trillion yuan (204 billion pounds) in new yuan loans in June, up from 1.48 trillion yuan in May and slightly exceeding analysts' expectations, according to data released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) yesterday.

# SOCCETY



Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak discusses ministry competence in level of services with HRH Shaikh Isa bin Ali during an online meeting



Sunni Waqf Directorate signs agreement with counterparts in Bahrain



The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for International Affairs, Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa during an online meeting with Adel Mohamed Darwish, on the occasion of his appointment as Director of the Regional Office of the International Telecommunication Union of the United Nations, in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa congratulated the Director on his assumption of this high position, which adds to the record of achievements of Bahraini cadres, wishing him success in the performance of his duties



Check-in underway at Bahrain International Airport for Air India Express Flight IX 1274 from Bahrain to Mumbai as part of Vande Bharat Mission by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



The new board of Rotary Club of Salmaniya for the year 2020/ 2021 during its first virtual meeting on Wednesday via Zoom. The guest speaker was Ali AlBaqali, CEO of Alba, who spoke about the "Alba Expansion Project Potline 6". President Amira Ismail welcomed more than eighty attendees of Rotarians and guests to the meeting. President recognized Alba as one of the most important supporters of humanitarian work and social corporate responsibility. Rotarian Hanadi Al Ansari, Sargent at Arms of the club introduced the guest and monitored the questions

**Indian gangster accused of killing eight policemen shot dead**



Forensic team work near a toppled vehicle which was carrying Vikas Dubey in Kanpur  
**Reuters** | Lucknow, India

Indian police shot dead yesterday a man who had been accused of ordering the killing of eight policemen when he tried to flee from officers who had taken him into custody after he surrendered, officials said.

Vikas Dubey, who was on the run for over a week after he allegedly ordered the eight policemen killed, was shot dead in northern state of Uttar Pradesh (UP) after an accident as he was being taken to detention.

"We were bringing Dubey to the prison when a car he was in overturned ... we had to shoot him because he stole a policeman's gun and tried to flee," said a senior police official in the state capital of Lucknow.

Dubey had been accused in 60 criminal cases, of various offences including attempted murder, and talk of his links with police and politicians has been dominating headlines ever since the shootout last week in which the eight police were killed and seven wounded.

Two of Dubey's aides were killed in last week's violence and a police officer posted near Dubey's village was arrested over allegations that he helped him flee.

**Kim's sister rules out another US summit**

Kim Yo Jong says Washington must change its stance toward Pyongyang

AFP | Seoul

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said there was "no need" for another summit with the United States unless Washington offered a "decisive change" in approach.

Kim and US President Donald Trump first met in Singapore two years ago but talks over Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal have been stalled since their Hanoi summit collapsed in early 2019 over what the North would be willing to give up in exchange for sanctions relief.

Trump said this week he would "certainly" meet with Kim again "if I thought it was going to be helpful", after speculation that he might pursue another summit if it could help his re-election chances in November.

But in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, Kim Yo Jong -- who has emerged as one of her brother's closest advisers -- said: "There is no need for us to sit across with the US right now."

If a summit was held, she said, "it is too obvious that it will only be used as boring



Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, speaks with North Korean officials during a bilateral meeting (file photo)

boasting coming from someone's pride".

Denuclearisation, she added, was "not possible at this point", and could only happen alongside parallel "irreversible simultaneous major steps" by the other side -- which she emphasised did not refer to sanctions lifting.

She did not go into specifics, but Washington stations 28,500 troops in the South to defend it against its neighbour, and has a range of military assets in Japan and the wider Pacific region.

Pyongyang insists that it needs its nuclear arsenal to

deter against a possible US invasion.

Kim Yo Jong's statement was only her personal view, she said, but the lengthy declaration appeared intended to send multiple messages.

She said she had watched the July 4 Independence Day celebrations in the US on television and had been given permission by her brother to "personally obtain, for sure, the DVD of the celebrations... in the future".

Her brother had "entrusted me with conveying his wishes to President Trump that he would certainly achieve great successes in his work", she added.

Kim Jong Un declared in December an end to moratoriums on nuclear and ballistic missile tests, and Pyongyang has repeatedly said it has no intention to continue talks unless Washington drops what it describes as "hostile" policies towards the North.



Kim Yo Jong's remarks indicate that North Korea may be waiting to see whether Donald Trump remains in the White House after November's presidential election

**News in brief**

◆ **Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who has tested positive for COVID-19, said on Facebook that he was "very well" and again advocated the use of the controversial drug hydroxychloroquine.** Bolsonaro, 65, appeared in his weekly Facebook Live post at his official residence. He appeared to be in good shape and was not accompanied, as is often the case, by ministers or senior officials, and the usual sign language interpreter was not present.



◆ **Bolivia's President Jeanine Anez said on Thursday she has tested positive for the novel coronavirus.** Anez said in a tweet she was "well" and continuing to work while in isolation. "Together, we will come out of this," she said. The Bolivian government confirmed that at least seven ministers, including its health minister, had tested positive and were either undergoing treatment or recuperating at home.



**Bolivia's President Anez has tested positive for coronavirus**

◆ **France to restore Notre-Dame Cathedral as it was before inferno**

◆ **Paris' centuries-old Notre-Dame Cathedral will be rebuilt as it was before being engulfed in a fire last year, the public body in charge of its restoration said.** The April 15, 2019 blaze gutted the Gothic landmark and major tourist attraction, destroying the spire and roof in a disaster that stunned the nation.



◆ **US aircraft carriers conduct drills in South China Sea**

◆ **Four cities along China's Yangtze river have declared top-level flood warnings over the past two days after torrential rain triggered landslides and inundated roads and farmland, with parts of the river threatening to burst its banks.** The "red alerts" in Xianning and Jingzhou in Hubei province and Nanchang and Shangrao in neighbouring Jiangxi highlight the country's vulnerability to extreme weather from climate change and the risks of overdevelopment on flood plains, experts say.

◆ **Ethiopian authorities said they had arrested two suspects over the killing of a popular political singer, whose death last week sparked protests in which 166 people were killed.** The shooting of Haacaaluu Hundeessaa, a musician widely revered among his Oromo ethnic group, ignited protests in Addis Ababa and the surrounding Oromiya region. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed described his killing as "an evil act".

**Ethiopia arrests suspects in the killing of popular singer**

◆ **Trudeau family paid by charity at heart of ethics probe**

◆ **The charity at the heart of an ethics investigation targeting Prime Minister Justin**



**Trudeau paid members of his family for speaking engagements, Canadian media reported.** WE Charity paid Margaret Trudeau, the prime minister's mother, Can\$250,000 (US\$184,000) for speeches at 28 events between 2016 and 2020, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

**New York paints Black Lives Matter sign outside Trump Tower**

AFP | New York

New York City painted a huge Black Lives Matter sign on the pavement outside Trump Tower on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, replicating similar murals supporting the movement elsewhere in the United States.

President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly assailed the Black Lives Matter movement, did not immediately comment on the sign, done in giant block lettering in school-bus yellow, which filled the pavement outside his flagship hotel.

But when the plan was floated last month he accused the city's Democratic leaders of "denigrating" the famous street with a "symbol of hate."

Around a dozen volunteers from different organizations painted the slogan, with civil rights leader Al Sharpton and Mayor Bill de Blasio picking up long-handled paint rollers to add some touches of their own.

"A painting is a nice symbol, but it doesn't address systemic racism in any way. So as cool as it is, it's important to focus on that," said Francie Brewster, a 17-year-old who had come to watch.

Similar murals have been painted in other American cities in sup-



A newly painted Black Lives Matter mural adorns Fifth Avenue outside of Trump Tower

port of the BLM movement, which has been at the forefront of public consciousness following weeks of anti-racism protests.

The demonstrations were sparked by the killing by police of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, in Minneapolis in May.

Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser renamed an area on her city's 16th Street, a block from the White House, as Black Lives Matter Plaza, unveiling a giant yellow mural on that street. The area has become the epicenter of anti-racist demonstrations.

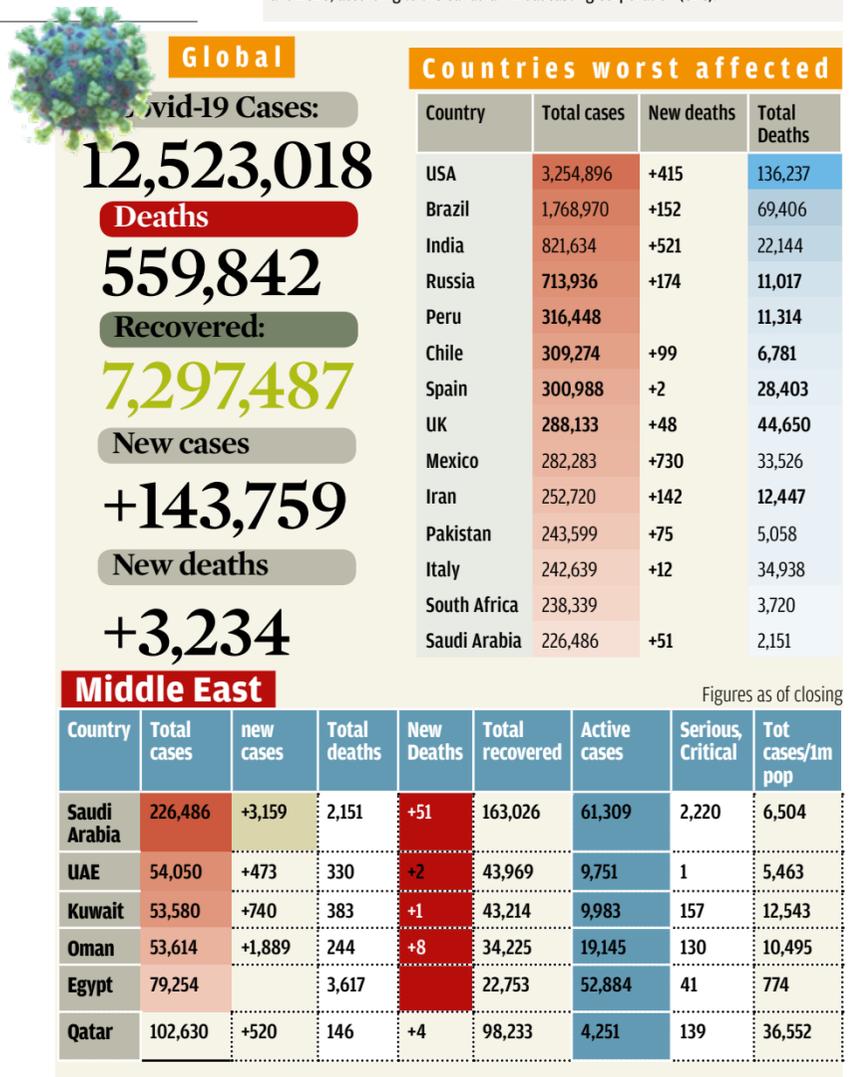
Trump Tower, a luxury sky-

scraper near Central Park, is where Trump lived before leaving for the White House in January 2017.

He stays there when he visits his hometown, although such visits have grown relatively rare. Residents in overwhelmingly Democratic New York remain largely hostile to his presidency.

Trump has frequently clashed with De Blasio, a Democrat, as well as with New York's Democratic governor, Andrew Cuomo.

The president changed his official residence to Florida last year, but his business empire remains headquartered in the Big Apple.



# CELEBS celebs



Demi Lovato

## Demi Lovato: TV industry normalised my eating disorder

IAN S | Los Angeles

**S**inger-actress Demi Lovato says the television industry normalised her eating disorder, sharing that her previous team used to monitor her weight before any photo shoot.

In an interview with Bustle, Lovato opened up about growing up as a Disney star, including how her old management team normalised her eating disorder, reports variety.com.

"I kind of looked around and had a moment where I was like, 'Wow. This is so terrifyingly normalised,'" Lovato said, detailing that she used to be given "watermelon with fat-free whipped cream" in place of a birthday cake each year.

"I used to have people watching me the night before a photo shoot to make sure that I didn't binge or eat and be swollen the next day," she added.

After her first stint in rehab in 2010, Lovato decided not to return to Disney Channel as she was scared that she would be silenced from sharing her challenges.

"I came out of the experience with the choice of talking about my struggles or my journey with the possibility of helping people, or keeping my mouth shut and going back to Disney Channel. And I was like that doesn't feel authentic to me. So I chose to tell my story," Lovato said.

Lovato's eating disorder persisted, along with her opioid addiction that eventually led to a near-fatal overdose in 2018, resulting in a return to rehab.

"I want a career that has nothing to do with my body. I want it to be about my music and my lyrics and my message. And I want a long-lasting career that I don't have to change myself for," Lovato said, adding: "Music brought me so much joy when I was younger, and I lost that joy throughout the hustle and bustle of the music industry. I got miserable. And I don't ever want it to be like that again," said Lovato, adding that she loves her new management team.

## Schumer opens up on her complicated pregnancy

IAN S | Los Angeles

**C**omedian-actress Amy Schumer has recalled the hard time she had during pregnancy.

In an interview with etonline.com, Amy, who welcomed son Gene last year, opened up about the joys and woes that came with her pregnancy.

"One of the hardest moments, I think, of my whole pregnancy, was when the doctor asked us to turn the camera off -- and that's every mother and parent's worst nightmare, is finding out that something's wrong. The whole time they thought something was wrong with his kidneys. But there's that scene in the hospital after they do an ultrasound they go, 'His kidneys are fine,' and we were like, 'What?!' Like, that didn't even seem like a possibility... But he's totally healthy and we're so grateful," she shared.

**"I wanted people to hopefully feel better and educate other women about what might happen if they get pregnant"**

AMY SCHUMER

Also, the publication reported that Amy suffered from hyperemesis gravidarum, a severe pregnancy side effect. And apparently, it made her feel like she had food poisoning for nine months.

She has now spoken about her pregnancy journey in the three-part docu-series, "Expecting Amy".

Explaining why she made a docu-series, Amy said: "I feel like people relate to me and I wanna be as open as possible

so that I can help women feel better about themselves.

"Because we all go through (so much). (We) get our periods, we all (go through) all this stuff that we're not supposed to talk about. And with a pregnancy, we're supposed to make it look easy and I just really reject that, so I wanted people to hopefully feel better and educate other women about what might happen if they get pregnant."



Amy Schumer

## Blanchett looks forward to more refugee stories

IAN S | Los Angeles

**A**ctress Cate Blanchett has opened up about the casting criticism around her series "Stateless", and admitted that this was not the "only way to tell this story".

There are several critics who have questioned the choice to make a show about refugees by casting white people for three of the four main characters. The mini-series is

about a flight attendant who mysteriously ends up at an immigration detention center in a desert in Australia with a passport identifying her as German.

While acknowledging the criticism, Blanchett encouraged people to watch "Stateless" all the way through.

"We're in no way saying this is the only way to tell this story," Blanchett said.

"I look forward to many more refugee stories being told on television, film or documentary. It is very much about trying to capture a wide audience, because often the reality is that you start talking about refugees and asylum

seekers and the global displacement crisis ... and (people) turn off because it's too huge. So we wanted to create a sense of, 'It could be me, it could be you,' and so often, that is the white experience. But then you get inside the series, and there's a multi-various array of characters," she added.

The 51-year-old, who has worked and travelled overseas as a goodwill ambassador to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since 2016, shared that she hopes she has captured the "profound resilience" of refugees in "Stateless".



Cate Blanchett

## De Niro's lawyer says coronavirus has caused the actor financial strain

ANI | Washington

**T**he coronavirus dealt a massive financial blow to veteran Hollywood actor Robert De Niro's finances his lawyer revealed in court, as his estranged wife Grace Hightower asked for an emergency order to raise her monthly American Express card credit limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

According to Page Six, Hightower's lawyer told the judge that De Niro had cut her credit card limit from USD 100,000, and also claimed that she and her two children have been banned from the actor's New York compound.

Attorneys for De Niro said the actor has come under financial strain as the coronavirus pandemic has limited or halted business for the restaurant chain Nobu and Greenwich Hotel, of which, he has stakes in both, resulting in the cut to the credit card limit.

The 'The Irishman' star's

lawyer Caroline Krauss claimed that Nobu lost USD 3 million in April and USD 1.87 in May.

He also recently had to pay investors USD 500,000 on a capital call. To make the payment, Krauss said that De Niro had to borrow money from business partners "because he doesn't have the cash."

Additionally, Krauss cited the actor's prenuptial agreement with his estranged wife, which states that the actor owes his wife USD 1 million each year as long as he's making at least USD 15 million a year, and the spousal support will be adjusted proportionally should De Niro make less than USD 15 million.

"His accounts and business manager ... says that the best case for Mr De Niro, if everything starts to turn around this year, ... he is going to be lucky if he makes 7.5 million USD this year," said Krauss.



Javicia Leslie

## Javicia Leslie is first Black actress to play Batwoman

IAN S | Los Angeles

**A**ctress Javicia Leslie has been cast as the new Batwoman in the superhero series, becoming the first Black actress to portray the superhero in a live-action television or film production.

Leslie's casting comes after the makers announced they will introduce a new title character following Ruby Rose's departure from the show after the end of season one. Leslie will make her debut in the cape and cowl when "Batwoman" returns for its second season in 2021. Leslie, who starred in "God Friended Me", "The Family Business" and "Always A Bridesmaid", will portray a new character on the show named Ryan Wilder.



Robert De Niro

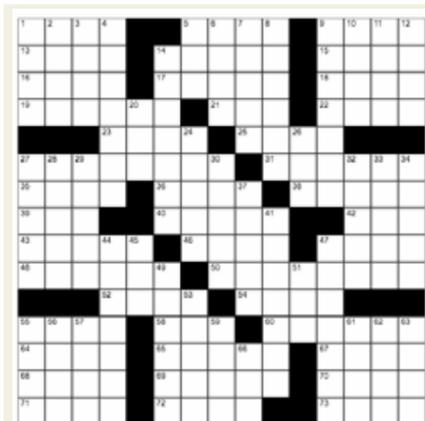
### SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

**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.



### Across

1- Gillette brand; 5- Diamond cover; 9- Biblical land; 13- Simpleton; 14- Home movie medium; 15- Campbell of "Scream"; 16- From a distance; 17- Bumbling; 18- Encounter; 19- Intermittent; 21- Filming locale; 22- Florence's river; 23- Dunce; 25- Staying power; 27- Eyeglasses with tinted lenses; 31- Uttered gratingly; 35- Leg joint; 36- Openings; 38- Arrive at; 39- Highest mountain in Crete; 40- "All My Children" vixen; 42- ...mo; 43- Continental cash; 46- Spanish muralist; 47- Come again?; 48- Oppose; 50- Clerisy; 52- Fall feller; 54- Soccer legend; 55- Chilly powder?; 58- Corn holder; 60- Of occult character; 64- Church center; 65- Chaplin persona; 67- New Ager John; 68- Iridescent gemstone; 69- Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"; 70- In ... land; 71- Sphere; 72- Poultry enclosure; 73- ... out a living (barely got by);

### Down

1- Simple rhyme scheme; 2- Beancurd; 3- Laugh loudly; 4- Diminish; 5- Like some ears; 6- Citrus quenchers; 7- Drive away; 8- Hogwarts attendee; 9- All together; 10- Antlered animal; 11- Baking chamber; 12- Take ... your leader; 14- Small community; 20- "You've got mail" co.; 24- Former Russian rulers; 26- Long-jawed fish; 27- One on slopes; 28- Unwarranted; 29- Approaches; 30- Long-winded speech; 32- Turkish bigwig; 33- Dazzling display; 34- Loincloth worn by Hindu men; 37- Temporary paper currency; 41- Try; 44- Drilling result; 45- Compass dir.; 47- Use a full nelson, say; 49- Plan; 51- TV Tarzan Ron; 53- Kill; 55- Stuffed shirt; 56- The ... Valley is a Californian wineland; 57- Roundish shape; 59- Scott of "Charles in Charge"; 61- Durable wood; 62- Any of the Antilles; 63- Niger neighbor; 66- Swab;

### CROSSWORD

Yesterday's solution

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

## CL draw throws up possible Barcelona-Bayern clash



General view of the Champions League Quarter Final draw

AFP | London

Barcelona and Bayern Munich will meet in a blockbuster Champions League quarter-final should both sides make it through, after yesterday's draw for the latter stages of the competition which will be played out in Lisbon in August following a long suspension because of the coronavirus.

Barca and Bayern, who have each won five European Cups, are hoping to be among the eight teams who will head to the Portuguese capital for a 'Final Eight' mini tournament behind closed doors, with the final on August 23 at Benfica's Estadio da Luz.

Bayern, who won their eighth straight German Bundesliga title last month, already have one foot in the quarter-finals having won 3-0 away to Chelsea in the first leg of their last-16 tie in March, while Barcelona have more work to do after a 1-1 draw with Napoli in the first leg in Italy.

However, Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge had a warning for his team, who also won the German Cup last

week.

"After we won the double, there is already too much euphoria around. Now the focus is on Chelsea, then we'll see. But of course in the quarter-finals there are only very strong opponents anyway," he said.

Meanwhile, if Manchester City can finish the job in their last-16 tie against record 13-time European champions Real Madrid, Pep Guardiola's team will go on to a quarter-final against either Juventus or Lyon.

City won 2-1 in Madrid in the first leg in March and are well placed to advance to the mini tournament in Lisbon in what could be their last chance to win the coveted trophy for a while -- they are due to be banned

from the Champions League for the next two seasons for breaches of Financial Fair Play rules, pending the outcome of an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"We have to play against Madrid. If we think about the next step, the king of this competition -- Real Madrid -- will put us out," Guardiola said.



**We have to play against Madrid. If we think about the next step, the king of this competition -- Real Madrid -- will put us out**

PEP GUARDIOLA

# Verstappen tops second practice, Ricciardo crashes

Verstappen heads Bottas and Perez at the Red Bull Ring

● Ricciardo suffered a heavy crash in second practice

● Perez quickest in first practice

AFP | Spielberg

Max Verstappen topped the times for Red Bull ahead of Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas in yesterday's crash-hit second free practice ahead of this weekend's Styrian Grand Prix.

The Dutchman clocked a best lap time in one minute and 3.660 seconds to outpace the Finn, who won last Sunday's season-opening Austrian Grand Prix on the same Red Bull Ring circuit, by 0.043 seconds.

Having won twice, in 2018 and 2019, on his team's home track, Verstappen looked to have recovered his best form after an electrical failure forced him to retire last weekend.

Behind them, the 'pink Mercedes' cars of the Racing Point team were third and fourth with Sergio Perez and Lance Stroll respectively, the pair proving pre-season suggestions that they have a package to make them competitive this season.

Ferrari-bound Carlos Sainz was fifth for McLaren ahead of an out-of-sorts six-time world champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes.

Alexander Albon was seventh in the second Red Bull ahead of Lando Norris, who picked up a three-place grid penalty



Renault's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo gets off his car after a crash

for ignoring yellow flags in the morning, in the second McLaren, Charles Leclerc of Ferrari and Esteban Ocon of Renault.

Ocon's team-mate Daniel Ricciardo crashed heavily during the session when he lost control at Turn Nine and hit the barriers heavily. He limped away, but the rear of his car was wrecked.

After a warm morning, the temperatures had soared to 30 and 53 degrees for the air and the track respectively when second practice began in bright sunshine.

Perez, who set the pace in the morning, continued on top of the time-sheets with his Racing Point team-mate Lance Stroll in close pursuit before Ricciardo crashed his Renault.

The Australian limped away while the session was red-



**Lewis Hamilton struggled to a lowly sixth place after struggling during his qualifying simulation runs**

flagged and, on resumption, with warnings of heavy rainstorms forecast for Saturday, the usual suspects regained the initiative.

Bottas and then Verstappen took over as the fastest man

in the knowledge that if the weather washes out qualifying on Saturday the second practice positions yesterday may be used to form the grid.

Despite several laps, Hamilton was unable to match his rivals and with half an hour remaining, he was down in fifth.

Clearly unhappy, he pitted for adjustments to be made at the front of his car as he searched for an improved set-up.

"Lewis isn't happy with the car," said a Mercedes spokesperson. "As can be seen from the gap to the front on a single lap. We completed a set-down in the garage to check what we can in terms of alignment.

"We'll make best use of the rest of the session on track and then investigate more thoroughly this evening."

## Brazilian Mayor thankful for Shaikh Khalid and BRAVE CF's interest in the region

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation continues to take the flag of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the highest places, as well as assisting and improving lives through sport. The sentiment of gratitude was clear in Fabrício Oliveira's voice.

Oliveira is the Mayor of Balneário Camboriú, known as the Brazilian Dubai, and a city that was supposed to be the home of BRAVE CF's fifth Brazilian event before the Coronavirus pandemic forced the postponement of that show.

Oliveira wished to thank HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's interest in the region, as well as his willingness to invest and provide temporary and permanent jobs in Southern Brazil through BRAVE CF. He reiterated his wishes for the return of BRAVE CF to Brazil and the debut of the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world in his city of Balneário



Fabrício Oliveira

Camboriú.

The Mayor's wishes were made known during an online meeting with BRAVE Combat Federation president Mohammed Shahid. The duo also discussed ways for their previous partnership to resume as soon as the spread of coronavirus worldwide is contained. Talks have resumed for the previous-

ly scheduled event to go ahead.

Oliveira, who himself was infected with Coronavirus before making a full recovery, appreciated Shahid's well-wishes back in May when the Mayor was first diagnosed with Covid-19.

For his part, Mohammed Shahid thanked Fabrício Oliveira for his support as BRAVE Combat Federation looked set to make Balneário Camboriú the third city in Brazil to host a BRAVE CF event, after Curitiba and Belo Horizonte.

The Brazilian dignitary also thanked HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his tireless work in the development of combat sports in the world as well as his continued interest in the Brazilian MMA scene - Brazil has been hailed as the second home of BRAVE CF, and has hosted four events, the second country on the list of shows, only behind the Kingdom of Bahrain, which has been the home for five fight nights in total.

## Stokes strikes as Windies close on England total

AFP | Belgrade

England stand-in captain Ben Stokes took the key wicket of Kraigg Brathwaite to leave the first Test against the West Indies at Southampton finely balanced yesterday.

West Indies were 159-3 at lunch on the third day, just 45 runs adrift of England's first innings 204 all out.

Shamarh Brooks (27 not out) and Roston Chase, unbeaten on 13, were at the crease after Brathwaite fall lbw to Stokes for a well-made 65.

West Indies resumed on 57-1, with John Campbell the lone batsman dismissed by England in testing, overcast conditions on Thursday.

But for the first time in the match, yesterday's play began beneath sunny blue skies -- ideal batting weather.

Brathwaite was 20 not out and Shai Hope three not out, with the pair having scored three hundreds between them in a sensational Test victory at Headingley during the West



England captain Ben Stokes (R) celebrates after having West Indies' opener Kraigg Brathwaite lbw

Indies' 2017 tour of England.

Barbados-born fast bowler Jofra Archer would have had Hope lbw for 16 had a West Indies review not revealed a marginal no-ball.

But Hope was still on 16 when Dom Bess, the lone specialist spinner in England's attack, lured him into a bold drive and Stokes, leading the side in the absence of regular captain Joe Root, held a sharp chance at slip off a fast-travelling edge.

West Indies were now 102-2 after a stand of 59 in a match

that marked international cricket's return from lockdown.

It was an encouraging moment for Stokes, who had brought on off-spinner Bess early in yesterday's play despite the presence of four seamers.

All-rounder Stokes could have been forgiven for second-guessing himself after deciding to bat first on winning the toss and being involved in the decision to drop veteran paceman Stuart Broad, especially with Brathwaite completing a composed fifty.