

**Bayern ponder how to stop Messi**  
 Leon Goretzka insists that Bayern Munich have no plan for Barcelona's Lionel Messi | P 08

# THE DAILY tribune



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BUSINESS 5 Saudi outperforms Gulf markets

**Registration opens to volunteers for COVID-19 vaccine trials**

TDT | Manama

Registration is now open to those interested in volunteering for the third phase of clinical trials of the inactive coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine, the Ministry of Health announced yesterday.

A total of 6,000 volunteers over the age of 18 will be accepted for the trials.

Those wishing to take part can register on the national volunteering platform volunteer.gov.bh, the ministry said.

A medical team will review the applications and prospective volunteers will have to undergo a health evaluation before joining the clinical trials.

The trials being carried out in Bahrain are in parallel with those currently taking place in the UAE, while other countries are also expected to join in the near future.

The Health Ministry indicated that this third phase has been approved by the National Health Regulatory Authority, and expressed its hope for the trials' success.

The phase three trials in Bahrain will be conducted over 12 months, and they follow the success of the first two phases held across China.

The potential vaccine, enlisted by the World Health Organisation, has been developed by Sinopharm CNBG, the world's sixth largest producer of vaccines.

## Royal praise for BDF in virus fight

HM the King hails brave servicemen, medical teams for great contributions in battling COVID-19 pandemic



HM the King speaks with senior officials at Al Safriya Palace yesterday

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, praised yesterday the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) for their great contributions to efforts in fighting and containing the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease.

HM the King said this as he received at Al Safriya Palace BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and a number of senior officials.

HM King Hamad said that the BDF—through the National Taskforce to Combat COVID-19 led and supervised by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister—have played their role with efficiency and distinction.

HM the King expressed his sincere appreciation to the BDF for providing well-equipped facilities that make available the latest health supplies and for ensuring the best preventive and treatment services, thanks to their highly qualified distinguished medical personnel.

HM the King valued high-

**Bahrain is always keen to provide the requirements for a decent life for citizens, and all care for residents, as they are partners in building the nation.**

HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

ly the "fruitful and valuable" efforts made by the Supreme Council of Health (SCH) president and national taskforce chairman Lieutenant-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

HM King Hamad requested the SCH chief to convey his greetings and appreciation to all health sector affiliates, as well as to the medical and nursing professionals working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 fight, for their dedication in providing the best health care and treatment to citizens and residents.

In this context, HM King Hamad affirmed Bahrain's constant keenness to provide

the requirements for a decent life for citizens, as well as giving all care to residents, as the Kingdom's people are partners in building the nation.

HM King Hamad also praised the great enthusiasm shown by volunteers in the clinical trials for a COVID-19 inactivated vaccine, which are being conducted in Bahrain in cooperation with those in charge of the project from the sisterly UAE and the initiative partners from China.

HM the King said that the participation of 6,000 citizens and residents in these experiments is a source of pride, and extended thanks to them for their noble humanitarian stance.

HM the King lauded the continuous development and progress witnessed by the BDF in the fields of armament and military installations in its various branches.

HM King Hamad further expressed pride in the BDF's brave servicemen for the lofty patriotic duties they are undertaking, in service of the cherished homeland at various work sites with high efficiency, loyalty, sincerity, distinctive courage, and high morale.

## HRH the Crown Prince chairs executive committee meeting

### Edict issued regulating shared financial services at Finance Ministry

HRH the Crown Prince issued an edict yesterday regulating shared financial services at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

The edict sets the regulatory framework for shared financial services, including secondment procedures, processing payroll and benefits disbursement, as well as disciplinary procedures.

This edict is pursuant to what was stipulated in the decree restructuring the Finance Ministry.



HRH the Crown Prince during the executive committee meeting

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister chaired yesterday the 338th meeting of the Government Executive Committee, held remotely.

The committee discussed the latest developments on measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19).

## COVID-19 takes two lives; active cases rising again

TDT | Manama

The coronavirus (COVID-19) took the lives of two men in Bahrain yesterday, the Ministry of Health announced.

The deceased included a 68-year-old Bahraini and a 53-year-old expatriate, bringing the total number of virus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 165.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry announced early this morning that out of 11,231 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 407 new cases were detected.

These included 155 expatriate workers, 249 contacts of active cases, and three travel-related cases.

There were also 295 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 41,504.

The total number of current active cases continued

its recent rise and is now at 3,135, with 38 in critical condition and 97 receiving treatment.

The total tests conducted in Bahrain increased to 923,342.



### A SHOT IN THE DARK?

## Russia registers coronavirus vaccine

AP | Moscow

Russia became the first country yesterday to officially register a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine and declare it ready for use, despite international skepticism.

President Vladimir Putin said that one of his daughters has already been inoculated, while emphasising that vaccination will be voluntary, The AP reports.

Putin emphasised that the vaccine underwent the necessary tests and has proven efficient, offering a lasting immunity from the coronavirus.



**The Russian vaccine has been named "Sputnik-V"—a clear reference to the dramatic Soviet launch of the world's first space satellite in 1957**

However, scientists at home and abroad have been sounding the alarm that the rush to start using the vaccine before phase three trials—which normally last for months and involve thousands of people—could backfire.

Speaking at a government meeting yesterday, Putin said that the vaccine has undergone proper testing and is safe.

"I would like to repeat that it has passed all the necessary tests," he said. "The most important thing is to ensure full safety of using the vaccine and its efficiency."

The Russian leader added that

one of his two adult daughters has received two shots of the vaccine, saying: "She has taken part in the experiment."

Putin said that his daughter had a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius on the day of the first vaccine injection, and then it dropped to just over 37 degrees the following day. After the second shot, she again had a slight increase in temperature, but then it was all over.

"She's feeling well and has a high number of antibodies," Putin added. He didn't specify which of his two daughters—Maria or Katerina—received the



Putin speaking during a government meeting yesterday

vaccine. Russian authorities have said that medical workers, teachers and other risk groups will be the first to be inoculated. Russia's health ministry noted that the vaccine is expected to provide immunity from the coronavirus for up to two years.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

- TOTAL CASES: 44,804
- ACTIVE CASES: 3,135
- DEATHS: 165
- DISCHARGED: 41,504
- NEW CASES: 407
- CRITICAL: 38

210 fils (includes VAT)



# 'Reduce overcrowding'

HRH the Prime Minister orders to address shared labour accommodations in residential neighbourhoods

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has instructed the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry to coordinate with the Labour and Social Development Ministry and other authorities—each in their capacity—to develop a mechanism to rectify the situation of workers' accommodation and address the spread of illegal housing in residential neighbourhoods as well as in nearby farms, at the soonest.

The Works Ministry was requested to submit a comprehensive report to the Cabinet,



HRH the Prime Minister

including the revision of the current procedures and legislation regulating the process of licensing of labour housing

units, periodic control, and commitment to regulatory, health and safety requirements of shared accommodation.

The aim is to reduce overcrowding at labour accommodations, and enforce procedures that protect the safety of the citizens and expatriates at residential neighbourhoods.

HRH the Prime Minister stressed the importance of making an inventory of shared accommodation buildings that do not meet the requirements, and notify violating business and real estate owners of the need to rectify their conditions and rehabilitate them properly, in order to protect workers' health and safety. This is in accordance with the recommendations, decisions and precautionary measures of the National Taskforce to Combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

HRH the Premier's directives are in line with his unwavering interest in following up on all issues raised by the citizens in the local press, as well as his keenness to ensure them the requirements of comfort and decent living.

**Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry tasked to revise current procedures and legislation regulating the licensing of shared labour housing, its periodic control, and commitment to regulatory, health and safety requirements**



## Dangerous substances watchdog committee formed

TDI | Manama

Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa issued yesterday an edict forming a committee in charge of listing dangerous substances, their storage sites, and inspection mechanisms.

The panel will be chaired by the General Directorate of Civil Defence director-general and comprise representatives from



The Interior Minister

relevant directorates.

The committee will ensure commitment to related precautionary measures from the arrival of the substances to the Kingdom's ports to their stores, away from urban areas.

Under the edict, the committee shall also review transportation and storage conditions and all applied procedures in this regard, to ensure ultimate safety standards for all.

## Youth, sports development 'on right track'

TDI | Manama

The Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) is keen to implement the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in supporting Bahraini youth in various fields.

This was affirmed yesterday by HM the King's Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs representative, National Security Advisor and SCYS chairman His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa in a press interview on the occasion of International Youth Day, which is to be marked today.

HH Shaikh Nasser said that the youth and sports movement in the Kingdom is on the right track in as many prominent and unique initiatives that have been approved at the regional and global level, which will bring Bahraini youth and the sports movement in line with global developments.

HH Shaikh Nasser pointed out that all the initiatives presented in various fields are a translation of the vision of HM King Hamad, who is always keen to provide the best environment for youth and sports, which has resulted in a leap of achievements.

HH Shaikh Nasser mentioned related initiatives and contributions that ensure youth development and emphasised their importance, as future generations are a priority in the country.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of International Youth Day, SCYS first deputy chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa affirmed that Bahraini youth have played a key and influential role in tailoring and shaping the definitions of sustainable development in the Kingdom, and they are working tirelessly to enable Bahrain to meet its sustainable development goals in various fields.

"We in the Kingdom of Bahrain have a lot of faith in our youth and we stand by them, giving them our full confidence to steer the Kingdom towards new successes in the development field as we are keen to reach the sustainable development goals set by the UN; we want Bahrain to become a role model to follow," HH Shaikh Khalid said.

"Bahrain has taken tangible and clear steps to activate the role of youth as we consider them an integral part of the development process in all fields, as well as to allow them to be involved in decision-making in line with the UN's vision and aspirations for the 2030 sustainable development goals.

"Youth are the vein of all nations and with them, we prosper. We in the Kingdom of Bahrain are proud of our youth who we consider as our real wealth, thanks to their capabilities and potentials," he concluded.

## Foreign Minister holds phone call with Greek counterpart

TDI | Manama

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani held a phone call with

his Greek counterpart Nikos Dendias.

The two ministers stressed the strong friendly relations between the two countries and discussed

ways to develop cooperation. They also exchanged viewpoints on the latest regional and international developments of shared interests.

## Health Minister presented with book



The Health Minister with Dr Haji

TDI | Manama

Minister of Health Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh received yesterday Bahraini technology researcher and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Society head Dr Jassim Haji, who presented to her a copy

of his latest publications entitled "Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation, an Inevitable Necessity After Corona".

The Health Minister praised the importance of such work, which keeps pace with the developments of the modern

era and prepares for the stages that will follow the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and wished Dr Haji further success.

Dr Haji expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to the Health Minister for her support and encouragement.

## NCC holds webinar on digital media content

TDI | Manama

The National Communication Centre (NCC) held a webinar yesterday on writing digital media content.

NCC digital content administrator Mohammed Bucheeri moderated the forum, in which members of the government communication network participated.

The forum reviewed a set of principles for formulating digital media content, namely understanding social media networks, and defining the visual

identity and its elements, in addition to best practices in writing media content.

Network members commended the efforts of the NCC to organise forums that contribute to developing government media work and strengthen communication among all official bodies.

They stressed the importance of identifying methods of formulating digital media content in light of the developments in the use and methods of dealing with new media and technology in social media and

e-platforms.

The webinar is one in a series of seminars and workshops launched by the NCC since June, in line with its strategic objectives of unifying government media discourse, and strengthening the communication system in an effective and sustainable manner.

The forums and workshops are also part of the NCC's endeavours to enhance professional development and build the capacities of communication and media work teams at all government institutions.

## Shop closed for altering product's expiry date

TDI | Manama

A shop in Manama was closed for altering the expiration date of a food product, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce

and Tourism has announced. The ministry's Inspection Department shut the establishment down after confirming a complaint received that it had tampered with a product's date

of validity. The ministry is in the process of completing the necessary legal procedures in this regard, in accordance with local laws.

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## Asians arrested for stealing BD10,000, gold

● **Stolen money, items confiscated by Capital Governorate Police**

TDT | Manama

Three Asians have been arrested for stealing BD10,000 and gold from a house in Tubli, the Ministry of Interior has announced.

The ministry said that the Capital Governorate Police director-general had announced the arrest of the trio, following an investigation into the case that led to identifying the suspects.

The stolen money and items have been confiscated.

The case has been referred to the Public Prosecution, the ministry noted.

## Expat, 23, dies near hotel

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Interior announced yesterday the death of a 23-year-old foreign national near a hotel in Manama.

The ministry said that authorities have begun the necessary procedures in the case.

# Drug traffickers' life sentences upheld

Court of Cassation rejects final appeal of two Asians found guilty in airport-bust case

● **Two others given one-year prison terms and fined BD1,000 apiece for their role in assisting in the crime**

TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation yesterday rejected the final appeal of two Asian men who were previously found guilty of drug trafficking and sentenced to life in prison.

Two others involved in the case were jailed for one year

each and fined BD1,000 apiece, for their role in assisting in the crime.

The case unfolded in March 2018 when the first appellant was caught red-handed as he attempted to smuggle 3.5kg of marijuana into the Kingdom through Bahrain International Airport.

The cannabis was stashed in his luggage and he was arrested on the spot.

The man was detected by the Customs Department officer, who was suspicious of oval-shaped wooden frames that were placed inside his luggage. The stashed marijuana

was found after the luggage was thoroughly inspected by the officer.

In the police interrogation, the man told investigators that he brought the frames with him, apparently not knowing what was inside of them, as per a request from a friend here in Bahrain.

Additionally, he explained that it was delivered to him at the airport in his country, a few hours before the plane took off for the Kingdom.

The police officer in charge ordered the man to call his friend to the airport and to agree that he will deliver the frames to

him in the airport's parking lots.

The handover took place under police observation, leading to the immediate arrest of the Bahrain-based accomplice while he was receiving the marijuana from the first appellant.

A third and fourth defendant involved in the case emerged as one of them drove the second appellant to the airport, while the other accompanied them.

The driver was sentenced in absentia, as he had apparently escaped from the airport.

The co-defendants claimed in their statements that to driver had gone to use the restroom and never returned.



**The first appellant was caught at the airport as he attempted to smuggle 3.5kg of marijuana into the Kingdom. After an inspection of his luggage, the cannabis was found, and he was arrested on the spot.**

## Southern Governorate steps up summer safety campaign

TDT | Manama

The Southern Governorate is stepping up its "Your Safety in Summer" campaign under the auspices of Southern Governor His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

It comes in implementation of the recommendations of the security committee, with the aim to enhance awareness amongst citizens and residents of the importance of following all safety guidelines during the summer season.

The Southern Governorate Social



Governorate officials handing out flyers to drivers

Affairs Department director Mohamed Hassan Al Faw said that the campaign is being held in partnership and cooperation

with the Southern Governorate Police Department and a number of Ministry of Interior security departments, and that it comes within the governorate's efforts to maintain the safety of all members of society.

A team of officials conducted an awareness tour, during which it distributed flyers with guidelines related to safety requirements during the summer.

They also distributed cold water and juices to workers in order to alleviate heat stress and to make them aware of the importance of drinking plenty of fluids during the hot summer months.

## Gulf inmate dies in jail

TDT | Manama

A Gulf national, who was an inmate at the Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre, died while receiving treatment at the centre's clinic, the Ministry of Interior announced yesterday.

The ministry said that the deceased, aged 28, was sentenced to jail in a drug case.

Relevant legal procedures are being taken in the case, the ministry added.

## Three years' imprisonment upheld for assault convict

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the punishment of a man who was sentenced to three years' imprisonment earlier this year for punching another man in the face and breaking his teeth.

The appellant was charged by the Public Prosecution with assault after investigations showed that he had punched the victim on the back of his head and on his mouth, breaking his front teeth, as shown in the medical reports, which also mentioned that the assault caused a two per cent permanent disability to the victim.

Court files showed that the case was first reported to East Riffa Police Station on September 18, 2019, by the victim's brother, who informed officers that his brother, the victim, was attacked by a group of people in the East Riffa area.

The brother told the cops that the incident took place near that same police station and that his brother lost con-

scious and was rushed to Bahrain Defence Force Hospital.

He also told police that the victim was unconscious for some time and he was not aware of what happened to him when he woke up at the hospital.

"My brother told me that three individuals, travelling in a white vehicle, stopped and suddenly attacked him on his head using a sharp object before he could realise what was going on," said the victim's brother.

"He said he fell on the floor and they repeatedly punched him and kicked until he fainted," the victim's brother explained in the interrogation.

A police probe led to the identification and arrest of the appellant, who was charged with assault before the First High Criminal Court. He was sentenced last January to three years in jail.

No further details on the other two accomplices were available.

## Man gets six months' jail for sharing inciting tweets

TDT | Manama

A man was sentenced yesterday to six months behind bars for abusing social media.

The verdict was announced after he confessed to posting tweets that were deemed by the court as inciting sedition and included hatred against a sect.

This was confirmed by Dep-

uty Attorney General Ali Al Jassim, who said in a statement issued by the Public Prosecution yesterday that the defendant was convicted by the Minor Criminal Court, which also ordered to confiscate the mobile he used to commit the crime.

TDT reported that the 35-year-old was arrested last month, as confirmed in a tweet

posted by the Interior Ministry in which he stated he was apprehended by the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, which referred him to the Public Prosecution for interrogation.

"Once notified, the Public Prosecution initiated its investigations and interrogated the suspect, who confessed to

posting the tweet," Al Jassim confirmed.

The man was convicted of sharing a post on social media networks consisting of incitement on sedition and hate against a group of people in a way that would harm public peace.

He has remained behind bars since the day he was arrested on July 18 of this year.

## Sanitisation operations conducted in Gudaibiya, Zinj

TDT | Manama

The Capital Governorate has conducted sanitisation campaigns in Gudaibiya and Zinj as part of national efforts to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The operations are being conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Capital Governorate Police Directorate and the General Directorate of Civil Defense.

Streets and shops in the two areas were disinfected by a team of 50 volunteers.

They also made inspection visits to men's and women's barber shops and beauty salons, to ensure that all health require-

ments and procedures are being followed.

The team also distributed flyers in different languages to passers-by and to shop employees.

Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa praised the role of the governorate police, civil defence personnel and volunteers in enhancing community cooperation and creating a growing awareness in the campaign to combat the coronavirus.

He said that similar campaigns have already been conducted in Jidali, Juffair, Um Al Hassam and Block 388 in Adliya.

He praised the awareness of the Capital Governorate's residents



A volunteer distributes a flyer to a resident of the capital

about the dangers of COVID-19 and the importance of playing their part in helping overcome this crisis in Bahrain.

## Lanes on Khalifa Al Kabeer Highway to be closed in stages

TDT | Manama

Work on the Khalifa Al Kabeer Highway footbridge near the Coast Guard base in Muharraq necessitates the closure of the highway in

stages, the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has said.

In stage one, there will be a full closure of the highway in both directions and the traffic movement will be diverted,

starting Friday at 12midnight to 12noon.

In the second stage, two lanes will be closed in both directions and one lane will be provided for traffic in both directions on Friday 12noon

to 11.30pm.

In the third stage, the highway will be fully closed in both directions and the traffic will be diverted, starting from Saturday at 12midnight to 4pm.

## Nine detained for gambling

TDT | Manama

Nine individuals, including three women, have been apprehended for their involvement in gambling activities in a flat in Manama.

This was announced last night by the Ministry of Interior, which said that the arrests were reported by the Criminal Investigation

and Forensic Science director-general.

Received information led to identifying and arresting the suspects, said the director-general, while the gambling tools and money were seized.

Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution, the ministry said.

# Cultural solidarity pledge

## Bahrain-France media cooperation discussed

Bahrain institutions join global declaration of support for recovery efforts of Beirut's damaged heritage

● Arab Regional Center for World Heritage and Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities among 27 public and private international bodies to help with preservation, protection of Lebanese heritage

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has signed an international solidarity statement to recover the damaged cultural heritage in the Lebanese capital Beirut, it was announced yesterday. In line with this, the Kingdom has pledged to assist in efforts of providing "cultural first aid and longer-term recovery interventions". Bahrain, an icon of cultural diversity and richness, was represented by both the Arab Regional Center for World Heritage and the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA). The Kingdom is among 27 public and private international institutions that is ready to help with



A scene of a damaged cultural building in Beirut

the preservation and protection of the Lebanese heritage. "We wish to express our solidarity with the Lebanese people for the tragedy that has struck the city of Beirut," the statement of solidarity with Lebanon read. "We are saddened by these events and we send our condolences for the loss of lives and our shared concern for the scale of material destruction." In regards to Lebanon's unique cultural heritage, the statement continued: "As members and practitioners of the heritage protection community, we have worked for decades alongside the Lebanese people to safeguard and preserve the nation's unique cultural heritage. "We remain by your side to con-

tinue our collective work during these challenging times. "Damaged libraries, museums, and historic buildings will require cultural first aid and longer-term recovery interventions. Their collections will need urgent protection and salvaging. "We pledge to do all that we can to contribute to the complete recovery of the heritage that has been damaged in Beirut by this blast." The bodies from around the world that signed the solidarity statement and pledged help include: Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (Bahrain); ArcHerNet (Germany); Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Bahrain); BlueShield International; British

Council Managed UK Cultural Protection Fund (UK); Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine-Ecole de Chaillot (France); Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi (UAE); EUROPA NOSTRA-The European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage; Fondation Nationale des Musées (Morocco); Global Heritage Fund (US); Honor Frost Foundation (UK); Institut du Monde Arabe (France); Institut Français du Proche Orient (France); Institut National du Patrimoine (France); International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas; International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property; International Council of Museums; Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation; Ministry of Culture of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (France); Musée du Louvre (France); Musée National du Mali (Mali); National Museum of China (China); Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development (Netherlands); Rempart (France); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation; World Monuments Fund (US).



The Information Minister with the French Ambassador

TDT | Manama

Minister of Information Al Romaihi praised distinguished historical relations between Bahrain and France and their development at all levels. The minister was speaking as he received yesterday French Ambassador Jerome Cauchard, with whom he reviewed ways of boosting bilateral cooperation and activating agreements,

mainly in the media field, in light of the fruitful outcome of the recent visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to France. The French Ambassador thanked the Information Minister for his keenness on bolstering relations between the two friendly countries, stressing the keenness of the French government to promote media development in Bahrain and enhance cooperation in various fields.

## Sustainable energy chief inaugurates society facility



Officials during the inauguration

TDT | Manama

Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza inaugurated the Bahrain Corporate Social Responsibility Society (BCSRS) facility in Al Eker, which aims to virtually

train unemployed citizens in the area. Dr Mirza praised the efforts of the (CSR) in supporting Bahraini youth in various areas and providing them with opportunities and training them for any vacancies in their work fields.

## 'Create Your Own Space Game' contest concludes

TDT | Manama

National Space Science Agency (NSSA) has concluded its "Create Your Own Space Game" competition from home, designated for Bahraini students aged between seven and 12.

Launched by NSSA in collaboration with Clever Play Education and Training, the competition aimed to encourage students to participate from home by creating a Mars exploration game using the very popular MIT Scratch programming language.

Forty Bahraini students took part in the contest and presented their creative games, showcasing their distinguished skills. Students Adam Al Nasser, Badr Al Jabiri and Abdulrahman Ibrahim clinched the first three places, respectively, and were present-

ed with awards, certificates and shields, while the remaining participants received electronic certificates. NSSA affirmed that it will continue dedicating its efforts to achieve its goals, and noted that a new competition will be launched soon.

| CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 (REVIEWED)                                                                    |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020</b> (in thousands of U.S. Dollars)                                                                   |                         | <b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2020</b> (in thousands of U.S. Dollars) |                         | <b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2020</b> (in thousands of U.S. Dollars) |                                                        |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | 30 June 2020 (reviewed) | 31 December 2019 (audited)                                                                                           | 30 June 2019 (reviewed) | For the financial year-to-date 30 June 2020 (reviewed)                                                                     | For the financial year-to-date 30 June 2019 (reviewed) | For the year ended 31 December 2019 (audited) |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                                                                                                                           |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Cash and bank balances                                                                                                                                                  | 145,797                 | 81,261                                                                                                               | 120,304                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Investments                                                                                                                                                             | 441,415                 | 545,214                                                                                                              | 499,143                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Accrued income                                                                                                                                                          | 26,352                  | 71,358                                                                                                               | 123,769                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Insurance receivables                                                                                                                                                   | 99,822                  | 117,872                                                                                                              | 137,559                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Insurance deposits                                                                                                                                                      | 21,785                  | 22,505                                                                                                               | 27,127                  |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs                                                                                                                                       | 9,296                   | 17,915                                                                                                               | 26,353                  |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Reinsurers' share of technical provisions                                                                                                                               | 103,449                 | 130,675                                                                                                              | 137,674                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Other assets                                                                                                                                                            | 24,259                  | 30,329                                                                                                               | 31,814                  |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Investment property                                                                                                                                                     | 4,649                   | -                                                                                                                    | -                       |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Property and equipment                                                                                                                                                  | 11,791                  | 18,712                                                                                                               | 18,929                  |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                                                                                                                                     | <b>888,815</b>          | <b>1,035,841</b>                                                                                                     | <b>1,122,672</b>        |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>                                                                                                                                           |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Technical provisions                                                                                                                                                    | 498,637                 | 633,769                                                                                                              | 725,471                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Insurance payables                                                                                                                                                      | 89,955                  | 90,726                                                                                                               | 85,641                  |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Borrowings                                                                                                                                                              | 7,009                   | 7,000                                                                                                                | 7,000                   |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Other liabilities                                                                                                                                                       | 62,266                  | 58,021                                                                                                               | 70,266                  |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                                                                                                                                                | <b>647,858</b>          | <b>789,516</b>                                                                                                       | <b>888,378</b>          |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                                                                                                                                                           |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Attributable to shareholders of parent company                                                                                                                          |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Share capital                                                                                                                                                           | 220,000                 | 220,000                                                                                                              | 220,000                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Treasury stock                                                                                                                                                          | (14,793)                | (14,793)                                                                                                             | (14,793)                |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Reserves                                                                                                                                                                | 49,847                  | 51,705                                                                                                               | 46,905                  |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Accumulated losses                                                                                                                                                      | (31,622)                | (28,539)                                                                                                             | (35,216)                |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Non-controlling interests                                                                                                                                               | 223,532                 | 228,373                                                                                                              | 216,896                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | 17,425                  | 17,952                                                                                                               | 17,398                  |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                                                                                                                                                     | <b>240,957</b>          | <b>246,325</b>                                                                                                       | <b>234,294</b>          |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>                                                                                                                                     | <b>888,815</b>          | <b>1,035,841</b>                                                                                                     | <b>1,122,672</b>        |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| <b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2020</b> (in thousands of U.S. Dollars)                                                 |                         | <b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2020</b> (in thousands of U.S. Dollars)     |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | Share capital           | Treasury stock                                                                                                       | Reserves                | Accumulated losses                                                                                                         | Non-controlling interests                              | Total equity (reviewed)                       |
| <b>Balances at 31 December 2019</b>                                                                                                                                     | 220,000                 | (14,793)                                                                                                             | 51,705                  | (28,539)                                                                                                                   | 17,952                                                 | 246,325                                       |
| Net loss for the period                                                                                                                                                 | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | -                       | (3,080)                                                                                                                    | (542)                                                  | (3,622)                                       |
| Changes on remeasurement of available for sale investments                                                                                                              | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | (2,134)                 | -                                                                                                                          | 10                                                     | (2,124)                                       |
| Transfers for recognition of (gains) losses on disposal of available for sale investments                                                                               | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | (190)                   | -                                                                                                                          | 5                                                      | (145)                                         |
| Transfers for impairment loss recognised on available for sale investments                                                                                              | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | 523                     | -                                                                                                                          | -                                                      | 523                                           |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>                                                                                                                        | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | (1,761)                 | (3,080)                                                                                                                    | (527)                                                  | (5,368)                                       |
| Transfer of net depreciation on revalued property                                                                                                                       | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | (97)                    | 97                                                                                                                         | -                                                      | -                                             |
| <b>Balances at 30 June 2020</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>220,000</b>          | <b>(14,793)</b>                                                                                                      | <b>49,847</b>           | <b>(31,622)</b>                                                                                                            | <b>17,425</b>                                          | <b>240,957</b>                                |
| <b>Balances at 31 December 2018</b>                                                                                                                                     | <b>220,000</b>          | <b>(14,793)</b>                                                                                                      | <b>35,670</b>           | <b>(44,507)</b>                                                                                                            | <b>28,504</b>                                          | <b>224,874</b>                                |
| Net profit for the year                                                                                                                                                 | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | -                       | 9,194                                                                                                                      | 341                                                    | 9,535                                         |
| Changes on remeasurement of available for sale investments                                                                                                              | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | 16,525                  | -                                                                                                                          | 902                                                    | 18,428                                        |
| Transfers for recognition of gains on disposal of available for sale investments                                                                                        | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | (3,269)                 | -                                                                                                                          | (152)                                                  | (3,421)                                       |
| Transfers for impairment loss recognised on available for sale investments                                                                                              | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | 1,221                   | -                                                                                                                          | 93                                                     | 1,314                                         |
| Total comprehensive income for the year                                                                                                                                 | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | 14,477                  | 17,526                                                                                                                     | 948                                                    | 32,951                                        |
| Transfer of net depreciation on revalued property                                                                                                                       | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | (195)                   | 195                                                                                                                        | -                                                      | -                                             |
| Transfer to (from) non-distributable reserves                                                                                                                           | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | 1,753                   | (1,753)                                                                                                                    | -                                                      | -                                             |
| Subsidiary's capital reduction                                                                                                                                          | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | -                       | -                                                                                                                          | (11,500)                                               | (11,500)                                      |
| <b>Balances at 31 December 2019</b>                                                                                                                                     | <b>220,000</b>          | <b>(14,793)</b>                                                                                                      | <b>51,705</b>           | <b>(28,539)</b>                                                                                                            | <b>17,952</b>                                          | <b>246,325</b>                                |
| <b>Balances at 31 December 2018</b>                                                                                                                                     | <b>220,000</b>          | <b>(14,793)</b>                                                                                                      | <b>35,670</b>           | <b>(44,507)</b>                                                                                                            | <b>28,504</b>                                          | <b>224,874</b>                                |
| Net profit for the period                                                                                                                                               | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | -                       | 9,194                                                                                                                      | 341                                                    | 9,535                                         |
| Changes on remeasurement of available for sale investments                                                                                                              | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | 12,522                  | -                                                                                                                          | 100                                                    | 12,622                                        |
| Transfers for recognition of gains on disposal of available for sale investments                                                                                        | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | (1,551)                 | -                                                                                                                          | (118)                                                  | (1,669)                                       |
| Transfers for impairment loss recognised on available for sale investments                                                                                              | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | 561                     | -                                                                                                                          | 71                                                     | 632                                           |
| Total comprehensive income for the period                                                                                                                               | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | 11,332                  | 9,194                                                                                                                      | 394                                                    | 20,920                                        |
| Transfer of net depreciation on revalued property                                                                                                                       | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | (97)                    | 97                                                                                                                         | -                                                      | -                                             |
| Subsidiary's capital reduction                                                                                                                                          | -                       | -                                                                                                                    | -                       | -                                                                                                                          | (11,500)                                               | (11,500)                                      |
| <b>Balances at 30 June 2019</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>220,000</b>          | <b>(14,793)</b>                                                                                                      | <b>46,905</b>           | <b>(35,216)</b>                                                                                                            | <b>17,398</b>                                          | <b>234,294</b>                                |
| These condensed consolidated interim financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 11 August 2020 and signed on its behalf by:                        |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Saeed Mohamed AlBatair                                                                                                                                                  |                         | Ahmed Saad AlMahrri                                                                                                  |                         | Samuel Verghese                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Chairman                                                                                                                                                                |                         | Director                                                                                                             |                         | Acting Chief Executive Officer                                                                                             |                                                        |                                               |
| The above condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been extracted from the condensed consolidated interim financial statements reviewed by KPMG Fakhro. |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| The reviewed condensed consolidated interim financial statements are available on Arig's website www.arig.net                                                           |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |
| Arab Insurance Group (B.S.C.) - a reinsurance firm regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain                                                                             |                         |                                                                                                                      |                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                        |                                               |

## Gold crashes over 4pc, silver dives as equities back in vogue



Gold bars at the Austrian Gold and Silver Separating Plant 'Ogussa' in Vienna, Austria

Reuters | Washington

Gold sank as much as 4.3 per cent yesterday, facing its worst one-day rout in 7 years, as a return of risk appetite following encouraging economic numbers and hopes of new coronavirus relief package boosted the S&P 500 to near record highs.

Other precious metals also took a beating, with silver plunging as much as 8pc - its biggest daily decline since mid-March. It was down 7.2pc to \$27.06 per ounce by 11:29 a.m. EDT (1529 GMT), platinum dropped 3.3pc to \$954.07 and palladium slid 4.2pc to \$2,125.61.

"This feels like a mini crash. We could not overcome the early morning headlines of a Russian potential vaccine, and there was just continued optimism flowing into stocks," said Edward Moya, senior market analyst at broker OANDA.

Gold's correction overdue? Spot gold tumbled 4.1pc to \$1,943.54 per ounce, retreating sharply from Friday's record high of \$2,072.50 and was set for its worst day since June 2013. US gold futures dropped 3.9pc to \$1,960.40.

The better-than-expected economic data helped acceler-

**\$1,943**

Spot gold tumbled 4.1pc to \$1,943.54 per ounce, retreating sharply from Friday's record high of \$2,072.50 and was set for its worst day since June 2013.

ate the sell-off, but the outlook remains bullish for gold, Moya said.

US producer prices rebounded more than expected in July, and the US S&P Global index moved closer to record highs.

TD Securities expects a deeper pullback as macro factors that have driven gold higher in the last few months are tapering slightly, said Daniel Ghali, commodity strategist at the company.

Gold's record-breaking rally, driven by expectations of further stimulus and a weaker US dollar in the face of a surge in virus cases, was also tempered as higher US Treasury yields made non-yielding bullion less attractive.

"Ultimately, we still think gold has room to run higher, but in the very near term here we do think that the pullback will be large," Ghali said.

## Saudi outperforms Gulf markets

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market ended higher yesterday, boosted by gains in the banking sector, while the Egyptian bourse retreated for a second straight session.

The kingdom's benchmark index advanced 1.2 per cent, with Al Rajhi Bank rising 3.2pc and oil giant Saudi Aramco adding 0.6pc.

Aramco is moving ahead with plans to boost crude output capacity by 1 million barrels per day (bpd) to 13 m bpd despite cuts in capital expenditure this year and next year, the state oil

group's CEO Amin Nasser said on Monday.

Elsewhere, retailer Jarir Marketing Company gained 2.9pc after proposing a dividend of 1.70 riyal per share for the second quarter, versus 1.40 riyal a year earlier.

Dubai's main share index edged up 0.2pc, as blue-chip developer Emaar Properties gained 0.8pc.

A fall of 1.8pc in shares of Air Arabia capped gains, however. The budget airliner swung to a second-quarter loss of 239 m dirhams after passenger traffic collapsed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it said on

### Closing Bell

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| SAUDI     | ▲ 1.2pc to 7,626 pts  |
| ABU DHABI | ▲ 0.3pc to 4,368 pts  |
| DUBAI     | ▲ 0.2pc to 2,097 pts  |
| QATAR     | ▲ 1.1pc to 9,524 pts  |
| EGYPT     | ▼ 0.2pc to 10,919 pts |
| BAHRAIN   | ▲ 0.6pc to 1,307 pts  |
| OMAN      | ▼ 0.1pc to 3,573 pts  |
| KUWAIT    | ▲ 1.1pc at 5,608 pts  |

Monday.

In Abu Dhabi, the share index added 0.3pc, helped by a 2.9pc rise in International Holding. The aquaculture firm on Monday reported a second-quarter

net profit of 670.3 m dirhams (\$182.50 m), up from 683,000 dirhams a year earlier.

The Qatari index ended up 1.1pc after a broad-based rally, extending gains from the previous session. Petrochemical maker Industries Qatar jumped 5.3pc, while Qatar Fuel was up 3pc.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index eased 0.2pc, hurt by a 1.1pc drop in top lender Commercial International Bank. Orascom Investment Holding, owned by billionaire Naguib Sawiris, surged 9.8pc to become the top gainer on the index.

## Bahraini businessman wins US\$500,000 from Ahli United Bank's MyHassad 2020

TDT | Manama

Faisal Abdulla Mohammed Swar, a self-made Bahraini clothier businessman, has won US\$500,000 Eid Al Adha prize of the 2020 MyHassad edition.

Receiving the news with surprise and sheer excitement, Swar said, "The prize could not have come at a better timing, as the current downturn has had an impact on my business, and this cash injection will help me not just repay some debt, but also resume some projects that have seen a hiatus, like a full re-branding of my boutique chain."

Swar opened his first boutique in the early 1980s. His boutiques today pepper the map with branches in Sanabis, Manama, Muharraq, Hamad Town, and elsewhere.



Faisal Abdulla Mohammed Swar, a self-made Bahraini clothier businessman, has won US\$500,000 Eid Al Adha prize

AOB's Head of Retail Distribution - Retail Banking, Nader Moosa, stated, "We are delighted to see MyHassad fulfil its objective of making our customers' dreams come true, even in the face of the current downturn."

Every BD 50 held in a MyHassad account for 15 days or longer entitles a Bahraini national or resident customer to enter the draws for a chance to win prizes ranging from the weekly US\$1,000 to the grand prize of US\$2 million.

MyHassad 2020 edition has been enhanced with a staggering US\$2 million as the annual prize, two quarterly US\$1 million prizes, in addition to 21 weekly prizes of US\$1,000. The overall number of winners this year will exceed 1,000.

## Condensed Interim Financial Information for the Quarter and Six Months Ended 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)

### Condensed interim statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020

|                                                                   | 30 June 2020<br>Reviewed | 31 December 2019<br>Audited |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                     |                          |                             |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>                                         |                          |                             |
| Property, plant and equipment                                     | 2,986,814                | 3,093,332                   |
| Investment in an associate Company                                | 1,513,896                | 1,573,155                   |
| Right-of-use assets                                               | 565,344                  | 578,724                     |
| Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income | 2,667,809                | 3,172,944                   |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss             | 664,041                  | 689,871                     |
| Investments at amortised cost                                     | 500,000                  | 500,000                     |
|                                                                   | <b>8,897,904</b>         | <b>9,608,026</b>            |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                             |                          |                             |
| Inventories                                                       | 1,831,876                | 3,002,137                   |
| Trade and other receivables                                       | 2,686,432                | 2,043,887                   |
| Cash and bank balances                                            | 1,579,218                | 501,223                     |
|                                                                   | <b>6,097,526</b>         | <b>5,547,247</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                               | <b>14,995,430</b>        | <b>15,155,273</b>           |
| <b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>                                     |                          |                             |
| <b>Shareholders' equity</b>                                       |                          |                             |
| Share capital                                                     | 3,120,928                | 3,120,928                   |
| Statutory reserve                                                 | 1,560,464                | 1,560,464                   |
| General reserve                                                   | 3,993,000                | 3,993,000                   |
| Development and raw material reserve                              | 1,000,000                | 1,000,000                   |
| Investment fair value reserve                                     | 1,588,540                | 2,139,170                   |
| Retained earnings                                                 | 2,091,840                | 1,507,754                   |
| Treasury shares                                                   | (122,398)                | (122,398)                   |
| <b>Total shareholders' equity</b>                                 | <b>13,232,374</b>        | <b>13,198,918</b>           |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>                                    |                          |                             |
| Non-current Portion of lease liability                            | 547,399                  | 561,757                     |
| Non-current portion of deferred income                            | 200,601                  | 207,504                     |
| Employees' terminal benefits                                      | 34,490                   | 30,496                      |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                                        | <b>782,480</b>           | <b>798,757</b>              |
| Current portion of lease liability                                | 33,621                   | 38,814                      |
| Trade and other payables                                          | 933,139                  | 1,103,978                   |
| Current portion of deferred income                                | 13,806                   | 13,806                      |
|                                                                   | <b>980,566</b>           | <b>1,156,598</b>            |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                                          | <b>1,763,056</b>         | <b>1,956,355</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>                               | <b>14,995,430</b>        | <b>15,155,273</b>           |

### Condensed interim statement of profit or loss for the quarter and six months ended 30 June 2020

|                                                                                               | Quarter ended<br>30 June 2020<br>Reviewed | Quarter ended<br>30 June 2019<br>Reviewed | Six months period<br>ended 30 June 2020<br>Reviewed | Six months period<br>ended 30 June 2019<br>Reviewed |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Sales                                                                                         | 3,609,407                                 | 3,967,691                                 | 7,419,328                                           | 7,894,517                                           |
| Cost of sales                                                                                 | (3,399,437)                               | (3,774,083)                               | (6,979,967)                                         | (7,682,627)                                         |
| <b>Gross Profit for the period</b>                                                            | <b>209,970</b>                            | <b>193,608</b>                            | <b>439,361</b>                                      | <b>211,890</b>                                      |
| <b>Other income</b>                                                                           | <b>366,385</b>                            | <b>2,339</b>                              | <b>391,553</b>                                      | <b>36,354</b>                                       |
| Other operating expenses                                                                      | (192,311)                                 | (166,930)                                 | (374,866)                                           | (352,680)                                           |
| <b>Profit/(loss) from operations</b>                                                          | <b>384,044</b>                            | <b>29,017</b>                             | <b>456,048</b>                                      | <b>(104,436)</b>                                    |
| Investments income                                                                            | 24,185                                    | 23,658                                    | 177,821                                             | 179,965                                             |
| Share of (loss)/profit in an associate Company                                                | (21,409)                                  | 9,831                                     | (13,764)                                            | 6,854                                               |
| Finance cost                                                                                  | (5,184)                                   | (5,351)                                   | (10,189)                                            | (12,138)                                            |
| Unrealised fair value gains/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 18,317                                    | 640                                       | (25,830)                                            | 17,214                                              |
| <b>Net profit for the period</b>                                                              | <b>399,953</b>                            | <b>57,795</b>                             | <b>584,086</b>                                      | <b>87,459</b>                                       |
| <b>Basic earnings per share (file)</b>                                                        | <b>13.07</b>                              | <b>1.89</b>                               | <b>19.09</b>                                        | <b>2.86</b>                                         |

### Condensed interim statement of other comprehensive income for the quarter and six months ended 30 June 2020

|                                                                                                            | Quarter ended<br>30 June 2020<br>Reviewed | Quarter ended<br>30 June 2019<br>Reviewed | Six months period<br>ended 30 June 2020<br>Reviewed | Six months period<br>ended 30 June 2019<br>Reviewed |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Net profit for the period</b>                                                                           | <b>399,953</b>                            | <b>57,795</b>                             | <b>584,086</b>                                      | <b>87,459</b>                                       |
| Other comprehensive income                                                                                 |                                           |                                           |                                                     |                                                     |
| <b>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:</b>                                              |                                           |                                           |                                                     |                                                     |
| Unrealised fair values (losses)/gains on financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income | (130,360)                                 | 159,172                                   | (505,135)                                           | 353,598                                             |
| <b>Items that may be reclassified into profit or loss:</b>                                                 |                                           |                                           |                                                     |                                                     |
| Company's share in associate's net change in investments' fair value                                       | (29,606)                                  | 13,065                                    | (45,495)                                            | (15,225)                                            |
| <b>Other comprehensive/(loss)/income for the period</b>                                                    | <b>(159,966)</b>                          | <b>172,237</b>                            | <b>(550,630)</b>                                    | <b>338,373</b>                                      |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>                                                           | <b>239,987</b>                            | <b>230,032</b>                            | <b>33,456</b>                                       | <b>425,832</b>                                      |

### Condensed interim statement of cash flows for the six months ended 30 June 2020

|                                                                                         | Six months period ended<br>30 June 2020<br>Reviewed | Six months period ended<br>30 June 2019<br>Reviewed |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Operating activities</b>                                                             |                                                     |                                                     |
| Net profit for the Period                                                               | 584,086                                             | 87,459                                              |
| Adjustments for:                                                                        |                                                     |                                                     |
| Depreciation                                                                            | 225,125                                             | 205,088                                             |
| Amortisation of right-of-use asset                                                      | 13,380                                              | 13,380                                              |
| Finance costs                                                                           | 10,189                                              | 12,138                                              |
| Unrealised fair value gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss    | 25,830                                              | (17,214)                                            |
| Share of loss/ (Profit)/of associate company                                            | 13,764                                              | (6,854)                                             |
| Interest and dividend income                                                            | (177,819)                                           | (179,965)                                           |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                                            |                                                     |                                                     |
| Inventories                                                                             | 1,170,261                                           | 666,170                                             |
| Trade and other receivables                                                             | (642,545)                                           | (145,148)                                           |
| Trade and other payables                                                                | (146,380)                                           | 142,014                                             |
| Employees' terminal benefits, net                                                       | 3,994                                               | 3,645                                               |
| Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities                                    | 1,079,885                                           | 780,713                                             |
| <b>Investing activities</b>                                                             |                                                     |                                                     |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment                                               | (118,607)                                           | (786,297)                                           |
| Proceeds from sale of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income | -                                                   | 426,806                                             |
| Interest and dividends received income received                                         | 177,819                                             | 179,965                                             |
| Net cash provided by/ (used in)/ investing activities                                   | 59,212                                              | (179,526)                                           |
| <b>Financing activities</b>                                                             |                                                     |                                                     |
| Principal repayment of lease liabilities                                                | (19,551)                                            | 15,068                                              |
| Net movement in deferred income                                                         | (6,903)                                             | 167,718                                             |
| Dividends paid                                                                          | (24,459)                                            | (137,699)                                           |
| Finance costs paid                                                                      | (10,189)                                            | (12,138)                                            |
| Net cash / (used in) Provided by financing activities                                   | (61,102)                                            | 2,813                                               |
| <b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>                                        | <b>1,077,995</b>                                    | <b>604,000</b>                                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period                                      | 501,223                                             | 50,454                                              |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period                                            | 1,579,218                                           | 654,454                                             |

### Condensed interim statement of changes in shareholders' equity for the six months ended 30 June 2020

|                                                                                                                            | Share capital | Statutory reserve | General reserve | Development and raw material reserve | Investment fair value reserve | Retained earnings | Treasury shares | Total      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| At 31 December 2018 (Audited)                                                                                              | 3,120,928     | 1,560,464         | 3,993,000       | 1,000,000                            | 1,865,423                     | 1,454,210         | (118,093)       | 12,875,932 |
| Total comprehensive income for the period                                                                                  | -             | -                 | -               | -                                    | 338,373                       | 87,459            | -               | 425,832    |
| Movement in investment fair value reserve on disposal of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income | -             | -                 | -               | -                                    | (347,825)                     | 347,825           | -               | -          |
| Dividend for 2018                                                                                                          | -             | -                 | -               | -                                    | -                             | (153,065)         | -               | (153,065)  |
| At 30 June 2019 (Reviewed)                                                                                                 | 3,120,928     | 1,560,464         | 3,993,000       | 1,000,000                            | 1,855,971                     | 1,736,429         | (118,093)       | 13,148,699 |
| At 31 December 2019 (Audited)                                                                                              | 3,120,928     | 1,560,464         | 3,993,000       | 1,000,000                            | 2,139,170                     | 1,507,754         | (122,398)       | 13,198,918 |
| Total comprehensive income for the period                                                                                  | -             | -                 | -               | -                                    | (550,630)                     | 584,086           | -               | 33,456     |
| At 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)                                                                                                 | 3,120,928     | 1,560,464         | 3,993,000       | 1,000,000                            | 1,588,540                     | 2,091,840         | (122,398)       | 13,232,374 |

\* The condensed interim financial statements for the Six months ended 30 June 2020 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 11 August 2020. Full set of Financial Statements can be seen on Company website: www.dawajen.bh

Financial Statements Audited by  
BDO

Abdul Rahman Mohamed Jamsheer  
Chairman

Abdulhussain Khalil Dewani  
Vice Chairman

Abdulhadi Mirza Jaffar  
General Manager

# Scientists ask: Without trial data, how can we trust Russia's COVID vaccine?



A small bottle labeled with a "Vaccine" sticker is held near a medical syringe in front of displayed "Coronavirus COVID-19" words in this illustration

Reuters | London

An announcement by Russia yesterday that it will approve a COVID-19 vaccine after less than two months of human testing prompted alarm among global health experts, who said that with no full trial data, the vaccine is hard to trust.

Intent on being first in the global race to develop a vaccine against the pandemic disease, Russia has yet to conduct large-scale trials of the shot that would produce data to show whether it works - something immunologists and infectious disease experts say could be a "reckless" step.

"Russia is essentially conducting a large population level experiment," said Ayfer Ali, a specialist in drug research at Britain's Warwick Business School.

She said such a super-fast approval could mean that potential adverse effects of a vaccine may not be picked up. These, while likely to be rare, could be serious, she warned.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the vaccine, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute, was safe and that it had been administered to one of his daughters.

"I know that it works quite effectively, forms strong immunity, and I repeat, it has passed all the needed checks," Putin said on state television.

Francois Balloux, an expert at University College London's Genetics Institute, said it was "a reckless and foolish decision".

"Mass vaccination with an improperly tested vaccine is unethical," he said. "Any problem with the Russian vaccination campaign would be disastrous both through its negative effects on health, but also because it would further set back the acceptance of vaccines in the population."

### Scientific papers

Even as Russia declared victory, more than half a dozen drugmakers around the world are in the process of conducting large-scale, advanced human trials of their potential COVID-19 vaccines, each with tens of thousands of volunteer participants.

Several of these frontrunners, including Moderna, Pfizer and AstraZeneca, say they hope to know if their vaccines work and are safe by the end of this year.

All are expected to publish their trial results and safety data and submit them to reg-

ulators in the United States, Europe and elsewhere for scrutiny before any licence could be granted.

The Russian vaccine's approval by the Health Ministry comes before trials that would normally involve thousands of participants, commonly known as a Phase III trial. Such trials are usually considered essential precursors for a vaccine to secure regulatory approval.

### 20 states request one bln COVID-19 vaccine doses, says Russia

Tass | Moscow

Russia has received a request for the production of 1 bln doses of the COVID-19 vaccine produced by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology from 20 states, head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund Kirill Dmitriev said during an online conference.

According to Dmitriev, several Latin American, Middle Eastern and Asian states have expressed an interest in purchasing the Russian vaccine.

### News in brief

#### Coronavirus found on frozen seafood in China

◆ Authorities in China have found the novel coronavirus on the packaging of imported frozen seafood that arrived from the port city of Dalian, which recently battled a surge of cases, a local government said yesterday. The virus was found on the outer packaging of frozen

seafood bought by three companies in Yantai, a port city in eastern Shandong province. The Yantai city government said in a statement the seafood was from an imported shipment that landed at Dalian but did not say where it originated.

◆ Goods imported from Hong Kong must be marked "Made in China" to be sold in the United States as part of Washington's punitive response to a sweeping clampdown on the city, US customs authorities were set to announce. Last month, President Donald Trump retaliated to Beijing's imposition of a tough new security law in Hong Kong by removing special trading privileges for the financial hub, which in 2018 sold goods worth \$6.3 billion to the United States.

#### Hong Kong imports to be labelled 'Made in China': US customs

#### Britain says it is working with France on blocking migrant route

◆ Britain and France will work "at pace" to finalise a new plan for shutting down a migrant route across the Channel, British immigration minister Chris Philip said yesterday. Philip said



President Emmanuel Macron's government agreed the high numbers making the illegal crossing were unacceptable. "It's clear more needs to be done," Philip told reporters in Paris after meeting French officials.

◆ India's ability to rein in a surging coronavirus outbreak hinges on its 10 most populous states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, urging regional leaders to ramp up testing and contact tracing. India has more than 2.2 million confirmed coronavirus infections, the third highest tally after the United States and Brazil. "If we can defeat corona in these 10 states, the country will win,"

#### Modi urges ramped up testing and tracing to beat coronavirus

Modi said in a video conference with state chief ministers. The 10 states accounted for 80 percent of its 639,929 active cases and 82 percent of its 45,257 deaths, Modi said.

◆ Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has lauded Russia's efforts to develop a coronavirus vaccine and is willing to personally participate in trials, as he welcomed a supply offer from Moscow that he expects will be free of charge. "I will tell President (Vladimir) Putin that I have huge trust in your studies in combating COVID and I believe that the vaccine that you have produced is really good for humanity," Duterte said late yesterday.

#### Philippines' Duterte has 'huge trust' in Russia vaccine, volunteers for trial



Experts said the lack of published data on Russia's vaccine - including how it is made and details on safety, immune response and whether can prevent COVID-19 infection - leaves scientists, health authorities and the public in the dark.



# Singapore crushes ivory from around 300 elephants

● The crushing process may take several days and the fragments will then be incinerated.

Reuters | Singapore

Singapore started crushing nine tonnes worth of elephant ivory on Tuesday, in what authorities said was the biggest such event globally in recent years and signalled the island nation's fight against illegal trade in wildlife.

The city-state, a nautical way point in shipments of banned animal products between Africa and Asia, is destroying tusks worth an estimated \$18 million (\$13 million) including a record 8.8 tonne seizure last year which authorities said came from nearly 300 African elephants.

In the event, streamed online, workers in hard hats were seen emptying trolley-loads of tusks into a skip where they were then pulverised by an industrial rock crusher.

The crushing process may take several days and the fragments will then be incinerated.



Elephant ivory is coveted because it can be fashioned into items like combs, pendants and other exotic jewellery

"The destruction of the ivory... will prevent it from re-entering the market and will disrupt the global supply chain of illegally traded ivory," the National Parks Board said of the event, which comes ahead of Wednesday's World Elephant Day.

An estimated 100 African elephants are killed every day by poachers seeking ivory, meat and body parts, leaving only 400,000 remaining, environmentalists estimate. A large chunk of the demand for ivory

comes from Asian countries such as China and Vietnam, where it is turned into jewels and ornaments.

As well as taking a tough stance on transited products, Singapore said last year it would ban the domestic trade in ivory from September 2021.

"Elephant poaching is at crisis levels in Asia and Africa due to the illegal trade," said R. Raghunathan, CEO of World Wide Fund for Nature Singapore.

## Global Covid-19 Cases: 20,383,329

Deaths: 741,704

Recovered: 13,281,794

New cases: +137,750

New deaths: +3,402

Middle East

### Countries worst affected

| Country         | Total cases | New deaths | Total Deaths |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 USA           | 5,268,907   | +621       | 166,813      |
| 2 Brazil        | 3,068,138   | +177       | 102,034      |
| 3 India         | 2,325,026   | +832       | 46,185       |
| 4 Russia        | 897,599     | +130       | 15,131       |
| 5 South Africa  | 563,598     |            | 10,621       |
| 6 Mexico        | 485,836     | +705       | 53,003       |
| 7 Peru          | 483,133     |            | 21,276       |
| 8 Colombia      | 397,623     |            | 13,154       |
| 9 Chile         | 376,616     | +39        | 10,178       |
| 10 Spain        | 373,692     | +5         | 28,581       |
| 11 Iran         | 331,189     | +184       | 18,800       |
| 12 UK           | 311,641     |            | 46,526       |
| 13 Saudi Arabia | 291,468     | +34        | 3,233        |
| 14 Pakistan     | 285,191     | +15        | 6,112        |

| Country      | Total cases | new cases | Total deaths | New Deaths | Total recovered | Active cases | Serious, Critical | Tot cases/1m pop |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Egypt        | 95,666      |           | 5,035        |            | 53,779          | 36,852       | 41                | 933              |
| Saudi Arabia | 291,468     | +1,521    | 3,233        | +34        | 255,118         | 33,117       | 1,821             | 8,358            |
| UAE          | 62,966      | +262      | 358          | +1         | 56,961          | 5,647        |                   | 6,358            |
| Kuwait       | 73,068      | +668      | 486          | +4         | 64,759          | 7,823        | 110               | 17,083           |
| Oman         | 82,050      | +263      | 533          | +12        | 76,720          | 4,797        | 164               | 16,026           |
| Qatar        | 113,646     | +384      | 188          |            | 110,324         | 3,134        | 77                | 40,475           |

Figures as of closing



A damaged road is seen after an earthquake. (Representative picture, courtesy of Columbia Journalism Review)

● **People expected to experience strong shaking would hear a loud dinging and see a full-screen advisement to drop, cover and hold on**

Reuters | Oakland, Calif.

Alphabet Inc's Google's Android phones yesterday started detecting earthquakes around the world to provide data that could eventually give billions of users precious seconds of warning of a tremor nearby, with an alerting feature first rolling out in California.

Japan, Mexico and California already use land-based sensors to generate warnings, aiming to cut injuries and property damage by giving people further away from

Android phones can currently separate earthquakes from vibrations caused by thunder or the device dropping only when the device is charging, stationary and has user permission to share data with Google.



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the epicenter of an earthquake seconds to protect themselves before the shaking starts.

If Google's approaches for detecting and alerting prove effective, warnings would reach more people, including for the first time Indonesia and other developing countries with few traditional sensors.

Seismology experts consulted by Google said turning smartphones into mini-seismographs marked a major advancement, despite the inevitability of erroneous alerts from a work in progress, and the reliance on a private company's algorithms for public safety.

More than 2.5 billion devices, including some tablets, run Google's Android operating system.

"We are on a path to delivering earthquake alerts wherever there are smartphones," said Richard Allen, director of University of California Berkeley's seismological lab and visiting faculty at Google over the last year.

Google's programme emerged from a week-long session 4-1/2 years ago to test whether the accelerometers in phones could detect car crashes, earthquakes and tornadoes, said principal software engineer Marc Stogaitis.

Accelerometers - sensors that measure direction and force of motion - are mainly used to determine whether a user is holding a phone in landscape or portrait mode.

The company studied historical accelerometer readings during earthquakes and found they could give some users up to a minute of notice.

If phones detect an earthquake, they send their city-level location to Google, which can triangulate the epicenter and estimate the magnitude with as few as several hundred reports, Stogaitis said.

The system will not work in regions including China where Google's Play Services software is blocked.

Google expects to issue its first alerts based on accelerometer readings next year. It also plans to feed

# Google turns phones into quake sensors

alerts for free to businesses that want to automatically shut off elevators, gas lines and other systems before the shaking starts.

To test its alerting abilities, Google is drawing in California from traditional government seismograph readings to alert Android users about earthquakes, similar to notifications about kidnappings or flooding.

People expected to experience strong shaking would hear a loud dinging and see a full-screen advisement to drop, cover and hold on, Stogaitis said. Those further away would get a smaller notification designed not to stir them from their sleep, while people too close to be warned will get information about post-quake safety, such as checking gas valves.

Alerts will trigger for earthquakes magnitude 4.5 or greater, and no app download is necessary.

Stogaitis also said Google has not discussed its plans with Apple Inc.

## World Food Programme to send 50,000 T of wheat flour to Lebanon



A worker stands near freshly baked bread at a bakery in Beirut

● **Current flour reserves will cover market needs for six weeks**

● **Lebanon consumes between 35,000 to 40,000 tonnes of wheat a month**

Reuters | Dubai

The World Food Programme (WFP) will send 50,000 tonnes of wheat flour to Lebanon after last week's blast at Beirut's port destroyed its only silo with all the private stocks held there, a United Nations report said yesterday.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) report said the flour would be sent "to stabilise the national supply and ensure there is no food shortage in the country".

A report on Friday said Lebanon's government held no strategic stockpile of grain before the explosion and all privately held stocks at the country's only grain silo were destroyed.

"An initial shipment of 17,500 tonnes is due to arrive in Beirut within the coming 10 days to supply bakeries for one month," the report said.

Lebanon consumes between 35,000 to 40,000

tonnes of wheat a month.

With no large grain silos to store wheat in, sending the shipments as flour is more efficient, Hesham Hassanein, regional grain consultant based in Cairo, said.

"Flour comes in bags and is ready to distribute to be baked to bread versus wheat that needs to be milled," Hassanein said.

Damage at the port from the blast is under assessment and most traffic is being diverted to Tripoli, which has only about a third of Beirut's capacity.

The UN report said the Beirut port was expected to remain inoperable for at least a month.

"A temporary bulk receiving facility is needed for grain imports to ensure adequate national stocks," it said.

The French millers' association said they were also shipping 500 tonnes of wheat flour to Lebanon as a donation from their stocks.

A first consignment of 250 tonnes left the southern French port of Toulon on Sunday aboard a navy vessel, and the rest of the flour is due to be shipped from France on Tuesday, the association said in a statement.

France's wheat growers association, meanwhile, is in talks with grain companies to assemble 25,000 tonnes of wheat to send as aid to Lebanon, its president, Eric Thirouin, said.

## Greece condemns Turkish 'provocation' as maritime dispute deepens

AFP News

Greece yesterday demanded that Turkey withdraw a research ship at the heart of their growing dispute over maritime rights and warned it would defend its sovereignty, calling for an emergency meeting of EU foreign ministers to resolve the crisis.

Tensions were stoked Monday when Ankara dispatched the research ship Oruc Reis accompanied by Turkish naval vessels off the Greek island of Kastellorizo in the eastern Mediterranean.

In a televised statement, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias urged Ankara to "immediately" remove the Oruc Reis from Greek waters.

"We call on Turkey to immediately depart from the Greek continental shelf," Dendias said. "We make it clear that Greece will defend its sovereignty."

The incident is the latest spat over energy exploration in the



Turkey has dispatched a research vessel for exploration off a Greek island, heightening tensions over disputed maritime rights

gas-rich eastern Mediterranean, a frequent source of disputes between Turkey and neighbours including Greece, Cyprus and Israel.

On the instructions of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Dendias said he had asked for an emergency meeting of the European Union foreign af-

fairs council to discuss "Turkey's growing provocation and delinquency".

A spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said

the situation was deeply concerning and needed to be solved through dialogue.

"Apparently the developments on the ground unfortunately show that... more needs to be done in order to defuse the tensions and reverse the very negative and unfortunate trend of escalation," spokesman Peter Stano told reporters.

"That's why (Borrell) stated that he is deploying all efforts necessary to re-establish the dialogue, positive constructive dialogue and to facilitate the re-engagement, and these efforts are ongoing."

Marine tracking on Tuesday located the vessel southeast of the island of Crete. It is escorted by a Turkish navy flotilla and shadowed by Greek warships.

An official Turkish picture shows the Oruc Reis escorted by five warships.

Turkey has announced the vessel would carry out activities between August 10 and 23.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Tuesday his country would step up energy exploration in the eastern Mediterranean and would not "compromise" its rights.

Cavusoglu said Ankara would issue licences for new areas in the "western part of our continental shelf" from the end of August.

"We will conduct all kinds of seismic research, drilling activities. Our determination is absolute," Cavusoglu told reporters.

"We will defend the rights of Turkey... in the eastern Mediterranean and we will not compromise in any way on this," he said.

A similar crisis last month was averted after Turkey pulled the Oruc Reis back to hold talks with Greece and rotating EU chair Germany.

But the mood soured last week after Greece and Egypt signed an agreement to set up an exclusive economic zone in the region.

# Trump says 'great' bond with Xi changed after COVID-19

”

I had a great relationship with President Xi. I like him, but I don't feel the same way now. I certainly feel differently. I had a very, very good relationship, and I haven't spoken to him in a long time

DONALD TRUMP

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday said his relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping has frayed in the wake of the novel coronavirus pandemic and that he has not spoken to his Chinese counterpart in a long time.

"I used to have a very good relationship with him," Trump told Fox Sports Radio in an interview, citing their Phase One trade deal last year. "I had a great relationship with President Xi. I like him, but I don't feel the same way now."

Trump said his feelings changed amid COVID-19.



A view of cardboard cutouts, displaying images of US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, with protective masks near a gift shop in Moscow, Russia

"I certainly feel differently. I had a very, very good relationship, and I haven't spoken to him in a long time."

Trump, who is seeking re-election in the Nov. 3 US election, made challenging China a key part of his 2016 presidential campaign and touted his friendly ties with Xi during

much of his first term in office as he sought to make good on his trade deal promises.

But he said on Tuesday that the fallout from the outbreak was worse than the conflict over trade. "This is a thousand times the trade deal what happened with all of the death and ... the world had to shut-

down. It's a disgrace," he told Fox.

First reports of the virus emerged from China in late 2019 and it has now infected more than 20 million people and killed at least 735,369 worldwide, including at least 5.1 million cases and at least 163,160 deaths in the United States.

## Trump: If Biden wins, you'll 'have to learn to speak Chinese'

● **Demonizing China has been central to Trump's reelection campaign**

Huffpost

President Donald Trump continued his xenophobic warnings about China yesterday claiming that if he loses the election, everyone in the U.S. will have to learn to speak Chinese.

"Look, China will own the United States if this election is lost by Donald Trump," he said in an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt. "If I don't win the election, China will own the United States. You're going to have to learn to speak Chinese, you want to know the truth."

Demonizing China has been central to Trump's reelection campaign ever since the coronavirus pandemic took hold. The president and his allies have attempted to shift attention away from the White House's actions by blaming China for the global pandemic.

In late January, Trump put restrictions on travelers from China. And he has repeatedly referred to the coronavirus as the "China virus" and "kung flu." Yet for weeks, begin-

ning in late January, Trump still praised Chinese officials for their response to the virus.

"China is working very hard," he said on Feb. 7. "They're working really hard, and I think they are doing a very professional job."

"President Xi loves the people of China, he loves his country, and he's doing a very good job with a very, very tough situation," Trump added on Feb. 18.

National security adviser Robert O'Brien recently claimed that China is trying to hack into U.S. election infrastructure in an effort to help Joe Biden win the presidency. The claim conveniently fits into another narrative that Trump has been pushing, which is that Biden is catering to Chinese interests.

One ad from the Trump campaign, for example, alleges: "The coronavirus infected millions. Crushed the world economy. One nation deserves the blame: China. They lied about it. Covered it up. Joe Biden coddles China."

But according to The Wall Street Journal, officials familiar with the matter say that the "U.S. doesn't currently have intelligence showing that Beijing is directly trying to hack election-related systems."

## New cases end New Zealand's 'COVID-free' status



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern during a news conference

Reuters | Wellington

New Zealand announced yesterday it was shutting down its largest city, Auckland, after four new cases of COVID-19 were discovered in the city, the first evidence of domestic transmission after being coronavirus-free for 102 days.

New Zealand's successful fight against COVID-19 was hailed globally and the Pacific island nation of 5 million was seen as one of the safest places, as the pandemic raged globally.

Director General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said the four cases were within one family in South Auckland. One person is in their 50s. They had no history of international travel. Family members have been tested and contact tracing is under way.

News of the cases sent panic across the country with media reporting people rushing to supermarkets to stock up, and businesses preparing to shut

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Auckland would move to level 3 restriction from noon on Wednesday as a "precautionary approach", which would mean people should stay away from work and school, and gatherings or more than 10 people would again be restricted.

The restriction would be applied for three days until Friday, which she said would be enough time to assess the situation, gather information and make sure there was widespread contact tracing.

"This is something we have prepared for," Ardern said in a surprise news conference, adding that the increased caution was as the source of the virus was unknown.

"We have had a 102 days and it was easy to feel New Zealand was out of the woods. No country has gone as far as we did without having a resurgence. And because we were the only ones, we had to plan. And we have planned," she said.

## Egyptians vote for newly created Senate

● **Polling stations opened at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT)**

● **Authorities have reported just over 95,000 coronavirus infections and 5,000 deaths**

Reuters | Cairo

Egyptians began voting yesterday for members of a newly created second chamber of parliament, with restrictive measures in place aimed at curbing a resurgence of novel coronavirus infections.

The Council of Senators will be an advisory body without legislative powers. It will include 200 elected members and 100 appointed by the president.

As in Egypt's main parliamentary chamber, supporters of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi are expected to dominate.

Officials say the Senate will enhance political participation, but the build-up to the elections was low key, which commentators attributed to the coronavirus pandemic, a lack of awareness about the new chamber and apathy.

Last year, a referendum approved constitutional changes that could allow him to stay in office until 2030, widening his powers over the judiciary and establishing the Senate.

One hundred Senate members will be elected as individual candidates and 100 from a closed list system, where people vote for parties.



The Council of Senators will be an advisory body without legislative powers. It will include 200 elected members and 100 appointed by the president.

# 63m

Nearly 63 million people out of a total population of more than 100 million are eligible to vote

The only closed list to be submitted is headed by the strongly pro-government Mostaqbal Watan party, though it included two parties from a coalition that rejected last year's constitutional changes.



Sisi was elected president in 2014 with 97 per cent of the vote, and re-elected four years later with the same percentage.

Nearly 63 million people out of a total population of more than 100 million are eligible to vote, according to state news agency MENA.

Polling stations opened at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) and will close at 9 p.m., over two days of voting. Results are due on Aug. 19.

Measures to guard against the coronavirus include the steri-

lisation of voting stations and obligatory masks.

Officially confirmed cases of the virus in Egypt have rebounded slightly after a sharp fall, with some officials and doctors warning of a second wave of infections.

Authorities have reported just over 95,000 infections and 5,000 deaths.

# Who owned the chemicals that blew up Beirut? No one will say

● Shipping records show the ship loaded ammonium nitrate in Georgia in September 2013

● The Rhosus arrived in Beirut in November but never left

● The empty ship eventually sank where it was moored in 2018

● The cargo, packaged in large white sacks, was worth around \$700,000 at 2013 prices,

Reuters | Moscow/Dubai/London

In the murky story of how a cache of highly explosive ammonium nitrate ended up on the Beirut waterfront, one thing is clear — no one has ever publicly come forward to claim it.

There are many unanswered questions surrounding last week's huge, deadly blast in the Lebanese capital, but ownership should be among the easiest to resolve.

Clear identification of ownership, especially of a cargo as dangerous as that carried by the Moldovan-flagged Rhosus when it sailed into Beirut seven years ago, is fundamental to shipping, the key to insuring it and settling disputes that often arise.

But interviews and trawls for documents across 10 countries in search of the original ownership of this 2,750-tonne consignment instead revealed an intricate tale of missing documentation, secrecy and a web of small, obscure companies that span the globe.

"Goods were being transported from one country to another, and they ended up in a third country with nobody owning the goods. Why did they end up here?" Ghassan Habbani, a former Lebanese



Men walks near site of blast in Beirut's port area

deputy prime minister and opposition figure.

Those linked to the shipment and interviewed by Reuters all denied knowledge of the cargo's original owner or declined to answer the question. Those who said they didn't know included the ship's captain, the Georgian fertilizer maker who produced the cargo and the African firm that ordered it but said it never paid for it.

The official version of the Rhosus' final journey depicts its voyage as a series of unfortunate events.

Shipping records show the ship loaded ammonium nitrate in Georgia in September 2013 and was meant to deliver it to an explosives maker in Mozambique. But before leaving the Mediterranean, the captain and two crew members say they were instructed by the Russian businessman they regarded as the ship's de facto owner, Igor Grechushkin, to make an unscheduled stop in Beirut and take on extra cargo.

The Rhosus arrived in Beirut in November but never left, becoming tangled in a legal dispute over unpaid port fees and ship defects. Creditors accused the ship's legal owner, listed as a Panama-based firm, of abandoning the vessel and the cargo was later unloaded and put in a dockside warehouse, according to official accounts.

The Beirut law firm that acted for creditors, Baroudi &

Associates, did not respond to requests to identify the cargo's original legal owner. Reuters was unable to contact Grechushkin.

The empty ship eventually sank where it was moored in 2018, according to Lebanese customs.

The Rhosus' final movements are under fresh scrutiny after the ammonium nitrate caught fire inside the warehouse and exploded last week, killing at least 158 people, injuring thousands and leaving 250,000 people homeless.

Among the still-unanswered questions: who paid for the ammonium nitrate and did they ever seek to reclaim the cargo when the Rhosus was impounded? And if not, why not?

## Uninsured

Under international maritime conventions and some domestic laws, commercial vessels must have insurance to cover events such as environmental damage, loss of life or injury caused by a sinking, spill or collision. Yet the Rhosus was uninsured, according to two sources familiar with the matter.

The ship's Russian captain, Boris Prokoshev, said by phone from his home in Sochi, Russia, that he had seen an insurance certificate but could not vouch for its authenticity.

Reuters was unable to obtain a copy of the ship's documents.

The Mozambican firm that ordered the ammoni-

um nitrate, Fábrica de Explosivos Moçambique (FEM), was not the cargo owner at the time because it had agreed to only pay on delivery, according to its spokesman, Antonio Cunha Vaz.

The producer was Georgian fertilizer maker Rustavi Azot LLC, which has since been dissolved. Its owner at the time, businessman Roman Pipia, told Reuters he had lost control of the Rustavi ammonium nitrate plant in 2016. UK court documents show that the firm was forced by a creditor to auction off its assets that year.

The factory is now run by another firm, JSC Rustavi Azot, which also said it could not shed light on the cargo owner, according to the plant's current first deputy director, Levan Burdiladze.

FEM said it had ordered the shipment through a trading firm, Savaro Ltd, which has registered companies in London and Ukraine but whose website is now offline.

A visit to Savaro Ltd's listed London address on Monday found a Victorian terraced house, with a locked and barred door, near the fashionable bars of Shoreditch. No one responded to knocks on the door.

## The Russian

As grief and anger over the blast turn to civil unrest in

Beirut, there are signs the Lebanese government's promised investigation has al-

ready turned its sights back to the Rhosus and Grechushkin, the man the crew considered as its owner.

A security source said Grechushkin was questioned at his home in Cyprus last Thursday about the cargo. A Cypriot police spokesman said an individual, whom he did not name, had been questioned at the request of Interpol Beirut.

The Rhosus arrived in Beirut in November 2013 with a leak and in generally poor condition, captain Prokoshev said. It had already been beset with problems.

In July 2013, four months



**A source familiar with the inner workings of Savaro's trading business said it sold fertilizer from ex-Soviet Union states to clients in Africa. Ukraine-based businessman Vladimir Verbonol is listed as director of Savaro in Ukraine, according to Ukrainian corporate data base You Control**

before docking in Beirut, the ship was detained for 13 days by port authorities in Seville, Spain, after multiple deficiencies including malfunctioning doors, corrosion on the deck area and deficient auxiliary engines were found, according to shipping data. It resumed sailing after inspection firm Maritime Lloyd issued a cargo ship safety construction certificate, which would have involved a survey of the ship, the data showed.

Teimuraz Kavtaradze, an inspector at Georgia-based Maritime Lloyd, which does not rank among the most prominent and widely-used inspection firms, said he could not confirm whether or not the firm had provided any inspection documents to port officials in Seville. He said he was working for Maritime Lloyd in 2013 but that other staff and the management had since changed.

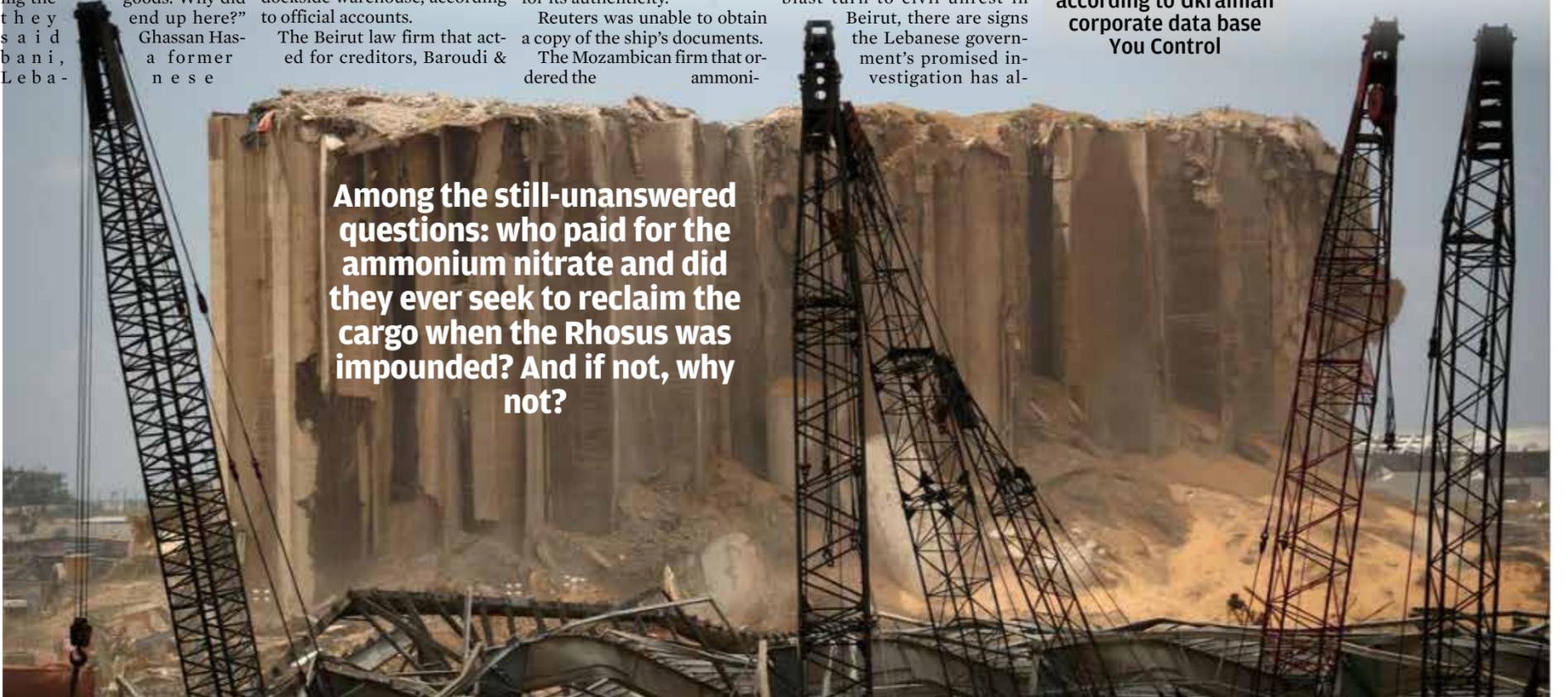
Paris MoU, a body of 27 maritime states under whose authority the detention was carried out, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Moldova, where the Rhosus is registered, lists the owner of the ship as Panama-based Briarwood Corp, a certificate of ownership seen by Reuters shows. Reuters was not immediately able to identify Briarwood Corp as a Panamanian registered company. Panama's maritime authorities did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The ship's charterer, Teto Shipping Ltd, is based in the Marshall Islands and was dissolved in 2014, according to International Registries, which says it provides shipping registry services to the Marshall Islands.

The captain passed an email address that they had been using for Teto Shipping, but requests for comment to the same address went unanswered. The captain said he regarded Grechushkin and Teto as the same entity.

**Among the still-unanswered questions: who paid for the ammonium nitrate and did they ever seek to reclaim the cargo when the Rhosus was impounded? And if not, why not?**



## Egypt allows Gazans to leave strip for first time in months



Passengers ride a car and wait at the gate to be checked by Hamas security officers to cross the border to the Egyptian side of Rafah crossing, in Rafah, Gaza Strip



Passengers sit next to their luggage as they wait to cross the border to the Egyptian side of Rafah crossing, in Rafah, Gaza Strip



Hamas security officers stand guard the gate of the border to the Egyptian side of Rafah crossing, in Rafah, Gaza Strip

### ● Gaza appears to have managed to keep the pandemic in check — in part of because of an Israeli-Egyptian blockade

AP | Rafah, Gaza Strip

Egypt yesterday reopened Gaza's main passenger crossing point for the first

time in months for thousands of Palestinians who have been stranded on both sides of the border due to the coronavirus crisis.

Gaza residents holding Egyptian passports, foreign passports and patients seeking treatment abroad were to leave through the Rafah crossing point during its three-day opening, the Hamas-run interior ministry in Gaza said. Some 500 people were scheduled to exit Tuesday, the first time the crossing has

allowed departures since March. Palestinians stranded in Egypt and abroad will be allowed to return home, the ministry added. Traffic for arrivals had been shut since May.

Gaza appears to have managed to keep the pandemic in check — in part of because of an Israeli-Egyptian blockade that severely restricts movement in and out of the territory. Israel and Egypt imposed the blockade after the Islamic militant group Hamas seized control of Gaza

in 2007.

Gaza has reported 81 cases of the coronavirus, but all of the cases were people who were in mandatory quarantine centers set up by Hamas for anyone returning to the territory. There have been no reported cases of community transmission inside Gaza.

To prepare for thousands of Palestinians expected to return via Rafah, Hamas has opened more isolation facilities across the Gaza Strip.

Life in Gaza has returned to normal with the virus at bay. Last week, schools reopened normally. Mosques, wedding halls, cafes and gyms are also open.

On Tuesday, Israel closed its only commercial crossing point with Gaza in response to explosives-laden balloons being launched by Palestinians into Israel. The balloons started dozens of fires in Israeli farmland near Gaza.

Israel said the Kerem Sha-

lom crossing will be closed until further notice, but the passage of fuel, food and humanitarian goods is not affected.

The balloons have broken a months-long lull that prevailed during the pandemic. Palestinian media reports suggested that Hamas is allowing the resumption of the balloon launches to press Israel into further easing its restrictions on Gaza and allow large scale economic projects.

## Global coronavirus cases have doubled in 45 days to reach 20 million



A team from the Brazilian armed forces sanitise a bus in Curitiba on Monday.

### ● The total number of deaths worldwide now stands at more than 737,000.

Yahoo News UK

The number of coronavirus cases worldwide has reached 20 million, doubling in just 45 days.

The figure was reached in the early hours of Tuesday, according to Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 dashboard.

By 4.45pm on Tuesday, the global number of cases had increased to 20,126,452.

It took six months to get to 10 million cases after COVID-19 was identified in Wuhan, China, in December last year — but only a month-and-a-half for that figure to double.

The total number of deaths worldwide now stands at more than 737,000.

Almost a quarter of the cases — more than five million — have been in the US, where there have been more than 163,000 deaths.

Brazil is the second worst affected country with more than 101,000 deaths, while there have been more than 53,000 in Mexico.

According to Johns Hopkins, there have been more than 46,600 deaths in the UK, though figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on Tuesday showed 51,710 deaths involving COVID-19 were recorded up to the week ending 31 July in England and Wales alone.

Meanwhile, there have been more than three million cases in Brazil, 2.2 million in India and almost 900,000 in Russia.

The US, India and Brazil combined accounted for almost two-thirds of reported COVID-19 infections since the global figure passed 15 million on 22 July.

However, some health experts believe the real figure of cases worldwide is in fact far higher than the Johns Hopkins tally, due to testing limitations and suggestions that as many as 40% of people infected have no symptoms.

Meanwhile, in the 45 days it took reported infections to double to 20 million, the number of reported virus deaths climbed from 499,000 to 736,000, an average of more than 5,200 fatalities each day.

On Tuesday, New Zealand announced it had recorded its first new community transmission cases of coronavirus for more than 100 days.

## Delay routine dental checkups, WHO urges, until COVID risk is known

### ● There is currently no data on the spread of coronavirus from the dentist's chair

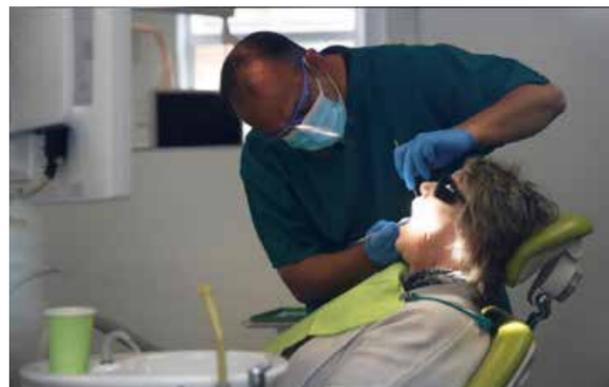
### ● Dental facilities must have adequate ventilation to reduce the risk of the virus spreading

Reuters | Geneva

Dental patients and staff need to be protected from any potential infection by aerosol-generating procedures, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday, as dentists return to work in areas where the COVID-19 pandemic is easing.

There is currently no data on the spread of coronavirus from the dentist's chair, it said, calling for more research into common procedures that produce tiny floating particles that may cause infection if inhaled.

These include three-way air/



A dentist tends to a patient at Silveroaks Dental Surgery as it opens for non aerosol generating assessments in Milton Keynes, following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Milton Keynes, Britain

water spray, ultrasonic cleaning equipment that removes deposits from the tooth surface, and polishing, the WHO said in new guidance.

"WHO guidance recommends in case of community transmission to give priority to urgent or emergency oral cases, to avoid or minimise procedures that may generate aerosol, prioritise a set of clinical interventions that are performed using an instrument and of course to

delay routine non-essential oral health care," Benoit Varenne, a WHO dental officer, told a news briefing.

He added: "The likelihood of COVID-19 being transmitted through aerosol, micro-particles or airborne particles ... today I think is unknown, it's open to question at least. This means that more research is needed."

Dental facilities must have adequate ventilation to reduce the risk of the virus spreading

in closed settings, it said on Tuesday.

"We think that the most pressing issue is related to the availability of essential personal protective equipment, PPE, for all health care personnel undertaking or assisting in the clinical procedures," Varenne said.



The WHO last month released general guidelines on the transmission of the coronavirus which acknowledged some reports of airborne transmission, but stopped short of confirming that the virus spreads through the air.

## Sea life around Mauritius dying as spill spreads

Reuters | Nairobi

Mauritian volunteers fished dead eels from oily waters on Tuesday as they tried to clean up damage to the Indian Ocean island's most pristine beaches after a Japanese bulk carrier leaked an estimated 1,000 tonnes of oil.

The ship, MV Wakashio, owned by Nagashiki Shipping and operated by Mitsui OSK

Lines Ltd, struck a coral reef on Mauritius' southeast coast on July 25, and began leaking oil last week, raising fears of a major ecological crisis.

Activists told Reuters that dead eels were floating in the water and dead starfish washed in the sticky black liquid. Crabs and seabirds are also dying.

"We don't know what may happen further with the boat, it may crack more," said clean up

volunteer Yvan Luckhun.

The MV Wakashio is still holding some 2,000 tonnes of oil and it is expected to eventually break up, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said late on Monday, warning that the country must brace for the worst.

Tourism is a key part of the Mauritius economy and the government, which has declared a state of emergency due to the spill, is working with former

colonial ruler France to try to remove the oil.

The spill has set back two decades worth of restoring the natural wildlife and plants in the lagoon, which started after the government banned sand harvesting in the area back in 2000, said Vikash Tatayah, conservation director at Mauritius Wildlife Foundation, a non-governmental organisation.

A general view shows the bulk carrier ship MV Wakashio, that ran aground on a reef, at Riviere des Creoles



# CELEBS

## Will Smith's teeth seemingly knocked out by Jason Derulo during golf

Fox | Los Angeles

Will Smith appeared to have his teeth knocked out by singer Jason Derulo during a golf lesson gone wrong.

Smith, 51, posted a video on Instagram on Sunday as he appeared to show Derulo, 30, how to do a proper golf swing.

The "Bad Boys" actor warned the "Watcha Say" singer not to swing yet, but Derulo pulled the club back regardless, hitting Smith in the mouth.

In the clip, the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" star clutched his mouth before revealing his front teeth were chipped.

Derulo slowly backed away after the incident.

"It's my turn, my turn. I only need one swing. I only need



Will Smith and Derulo

one swing. Let me get my driver," Smith said before hitting the singer in the leg with a golf club.

The "Men In Black" actor captioned the post, "And we never saw @jasonderulo again."

"I know a good dentist.. text me back," Derulo commented.

Smith later posted a smiling selfie with the "Cats" star in which he appeared to have his chipped teeth in a different spot.



Chris Pratt and Katherine Schwarzenegger

## Katherine, Chris welcome baby girl together

Fox | Los Angeles

Katherine Schwarzenegger and Chris Pratt are new parents.

The 30-year-old author and the 41-year-old Marvel star have welcomed their first child together, a baby girl named Lyla Maria Schwarzenegger Pratt.

Pratt confirmed the news Monday with a photo on social media and two Bible verses.

"We are beyond thrilled to announce the birth of our daughter, Lyla Maria Schwarzenegger Pratt. We couldn't be happier. Both mom and baby are doing great. We are extremely blessed," he said.

While the baby's exact birth-day isn't known, Pratt was reportedly spotted at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica, Calif., on Friday.

The "Avengers" star and Schwarzenegger married in June 2019 after a six-month engagement. They met in 2018 while attending church.

Lyla Maria joins Pratt's 7-year-old son, Jack, whom he shares with ex-wife Anna Faris.

Schwarzenegger's mom, Maria Shriver, previously spoke with ET in May about how excited she is to become a grandmother. "I'm really proud of [Katherine]. Obviously she and Chris are super happy. They're a blessing to each other."

### CLASSIFIEDS

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Education: MSc (Maths), MPhil (Maths), M.Ed.

Experience: Min.15years

Interested candidates can send their resume to: [ugecbahrain@gmail.com](mailto:ugecbahrain@gmail.com)

## Be extra gentle, soft, kind to ourselves and others: Camila Cabello sends love

ANI | Los Angeles

Singer Camila Cabello on Monday (local time) proved that she is there for her fans, as the musician sent love and shared a little update about her music with her legion of followers on social media.

The 23-year-old musician shared on Instagram one casual picture of hers, laying on a couch with her guitar and keyboard on either side.

As she posted the picture on the photo-sharing platform, the 'Havana' singer shared that she has been "writing a lot of new music and it is coming from a really pure place".

The singer, who is practicing self-isolation like many others amid the pandemic, also noted a piece of thought that she has been following; that is to remind herself every day that "life is now; and not in yesterday or tomorrow".

### SUDOKU

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

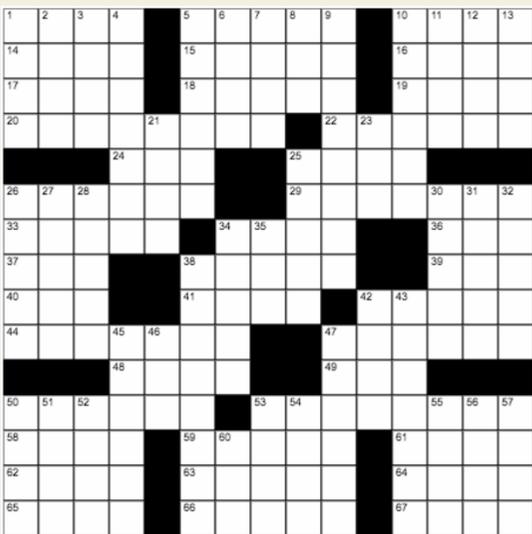
Yesterday's solution

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

#### 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- Deli side; 5- Lessen; 10- Bushy hairdo; 14- Dextrous, lively; 15- Big house; 16- Fleece; 17- Final Four org.; 18- Pontificate; 19- Can't stand; 20- Wine bottle cabinet; 22- Rings bells; 24- -la-la; 25- Romance lang.; 26- Jacob's favorite wife; 29- Illness; 33- Follows orders; 34- Silage storage tower; 36- Skid row woe; 37- The works; 38- Macho guys; 39- DDE's rival; 40- Poivre's partner; 41- Gardner and others; 42- 1,000 kilograms; 44- Thrash; 47- Silk-worm covering; 48- Futile; 49- CPR specialist; 50- Company of actors; 53- Insolate; 58- Volition; 59- Negates; 61- Clench; 62- Pierce portrayer; 63- Honeybee; 64- River to the Seine; 65- Prophet; 66- Lend ; 67- It smells;

#### Down

1- Match up; 2- Chantilly product; 3- Asian sea; 4- Affluent; 5- Ethically neutral; 6- Uncovered; 7- Med school subj.; 8- Small drink, young child; 9- Building; 10- For a short time; 11- Froth; 12- Routine; 13- Corrida cries; 21- Mars, to the Greeks; 23- Contains; 25- Runs without moving; 26- Way to cook; 27- More competent; 28- Big fiddle; 30- Hershey's bell town; 31- Dictation taker; 32- Ruhr city; 34- Early evening; 35- "Believer" (Monkees hit); 38- Large landed estate; 42- Grave; 43- Polygon having eight sides; 45- Type of consonant; 46- Day break?; 47- It spreads aromatic smoke; 50- "the night before Christmas..."; 51- Irritate; 52- Shoppe sign word; 53- Blackthorn fruit; 54- Radius neighbor; 55- Dixie Chicks e.g.; 56- Sibillate; 57- Blunted blade; 60- Pot used to contain the ashes of a dead person;

Yesterday's solution

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

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# Fernandes penalty sends United into Europa semis

Extra-time penalty lifted Manchester United past dogged Copenhagen

● **Man United will meet Sevilla or Wolverhampton on Sunday for a berth in the final**

AFP | Berlin

Bruno Fernandes scored a penalty in extra time as Manchester United scraped past FC Copenhagen 1-0 on Monday in the quarter-finals of the Europa League, reshaped into an eight-team straight knockout tournament in Germany due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Portugal international notched his competition-best seventh goal of the season as United set up a semi-final clash against Sevilla or Wolves, joining Inter Milan in the last four.

"Third time this season we've been to the semis, every competition we've been in. Delighted we've gone through, we deserved to win tonight," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer told BT Sport.

"Their keeper was fantastic, unbelievable. We hit the post a few times, there were a couple of VAR decisions against us. It could have been one of those nights that you end up with penalty shoot outs. They made it hard for us."

All games from the quarter-finals onwards in this season's Europa League are being played behind closed doors as one-off ties across four venues -- Cologne, Duisburg, Dusseldorf and Gelsenkirchen -- in a unique format following a five-month interruption.

Solskjaer recalled Fernandes, Paul Pogba, Marcus Rashford, Mason Greenwood and Anthony Martial but the 2017 compe-



Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder Bruno Fernandes scores a penalty

tion winners struggled early, and 18-year-old Copenhagen forward Mohamed Daramy was twice involved as the Danish underdogs threatened a creaking United backline.

Eric Bailly intervened just as Daramy attempted to stab home a bouncing cross, and the Ivorian defender was then played into trouble by Fred with Jens Stage's subsequent effort blocked.

Rashford finally tested Karl-Johan Johnsson just before the interval with a long-range shot -- the first of a multitude of saves for Copenhagen's outstanding Swedish goalkeeper.

Greenwood looked to have put United ahead as he drilled in via the far post moments later only for the teenager to be ruled offside following a VAR review.

He again went close early in the second half when he slammed against the upright, with Fernandes promptly



**All games from the quarter-finals onwards in this season's Europa League are being played behind closed doors as one-off ties in a unique format**

smacking the opposite post with a dipping 20-yard drive.

The Portugal international, who scored five times in the group stage with Sporting,

#### Europa League quarter-finals

|                   |   |   |                  |
|-------------------|---|---|------------------|
| Manchester United | 1 | 0 | FC Copenhagen    |
| Inter Milan       | 2 | 1 | Bayer Leverkusen |

stung the palms of Johnsson with another hit from distance -- shortly after Aaron Wan-Bissaka made a desperation block to thwart Bryan Oviedo after a mesmerising dribble from Rasmus Falk.

Appearing in their first European quarter-final, and the first Danish club to reach this stage since 1997, Copenhagen continued to frustrate United as they sought a repeat of their 1-0 win when the clubs last met in the Champions League group stage in 2006.

Martial nearly won the game in normal time but again a sprawling Johnsson tipped away his curling attempt that appeared destined for the top corner.

# Lukaku leads Inter past Leverkusen



Inter Milan's Romelu Lukaku (C) tries to score past Leverkusen's Edmond Tapsoba (L) and Exequiel Palacios

Reuters | Dusseldorf

Inter Milan striker Romelu Lukaku scored the winner in a 2-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen as he tormented the Germans to lead his side into the Europa League semi-finals on Monday.

Nicolo Barella put Inter ahead after 15 minutes, driving the ball home after Lukaku's shot was blocked, and six minutes later the Belgian got on the scoresheet when he displayed his strength by holding off defender Edmond Tapsoba before firing home.

Leverkusen winger Kai Havertz, reported to be a transfer target of Premier League club Chelsea, pulled a goal back for the Germans but it was goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky who kept them in the game with a string of fine saves.

The win sets up a semi-final against Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk or FC Basel of Switzerland, who meet on Tuesday.

After scoring what proved to be the winner, Lukaku could have had a second goal when Inter were awarded a penalty for handball, but that harsh decision against Leverkusen was overturned by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

Tapsoba struggled all night to contain the physicality of 27-year-old Lukaku, who set

# 3

Europa League titles have been won by Inter Milan

a record by scoring in nine straight Europa League games, and in the second half the centre-back resorted to hacking the striker down on a number of occasions.

Seeking their first trophy since a 2011 Coppa Italia triumph, Inter sent on Alexis Sanchez in the second half and he had two excellent efforts blocked by last-ditch defending.

Lukaku was again denied a spot kick by VAR after an Inter player was discovered to have handled just before Christian Eriksen was bundled over in the box, and he fired a late shot wide under pressure from Tapsoba as Inter held on for victory.

Lukaku showed plenty of humility after his dominant performance, saying: "To me, the man of the match is Nicolo Barella. The way he plays football is simply incredible - maturity, quality. He is truly a great player."

# Liverpool sign Greece defender Tsimikas from Olympiakos

Reuters | London

Premier League champions Liverpool signed Greece defender Kostas Tsimikas from Olympiakos for a reported fee of £11.7 million (\$15 million).

Tsimikas agreed a five-year contract with Liverpool and is expected to provide back-up for first choice left-back Andy Robertson at Anfield.

Reds boss Jurgen Klopp moved for the 24-year-old after opting not to pay Norwich's asking price for their Northern Ireland left-back Jamal Lewis.

Tsimikas is Liverpool's first close-season signing and he told the club's website: "I'm very happy, I'm very proud to be here. For me, (it is) the biggest club in the world."

"The league here, I like a lot. I watch it on the TV and it was always one dream I had from when I was a kid to come to play in this league."

"(I want) to achieve (our) goals. To win the league again and also to win the Champions



Kostas Tsimikas

League."

Tsimikas, capped three times by Greece, made 86 appearances for Olympiakos in all competitions and has also had loan spells with Danish club Esbjerg and Dutch team Willem II.

He played 27 times in the league last season, winning the first major honour of his career as Olympiakos clinched the Greek title.

"We have watched Kostas for a long time and are really happy that he has joined us. It's the perfect news before we come back together very soon," Klopp said.

# Konta suffers heart scare in Lexington exit

Reuters | London

Britain's Johanna Konta suffered a health scare as she crashed out of the opening round of the WTA Top Seed Open in Lexington on Monday with a straight-sets defeat to the Czech Republic's Marie Bouzkova.

Third seed Konta requested medical attention just a few minutes into her 6-4, 6-4 first round loss to the unseeded Bouzkova.

The 29-year-old Briton looked uncomfortable and kept holding two fingers to her neck to check her pulse before eventually re-summing play.

Konta later explained that she is prone to sudden palpitations that can send her heart rate soaring.

"My heart rate shoots up for no reason, we didn't have a long point, I wasn't gassing in any way in my lungs," Konta said.

"It makes me a bit lightheaded, I just had to see the doctor and the physio."

"I was having all the checks.



Johanna Konta of Great Britain plays a backhand during a match

I am as fit as a fiddle but it can happen. It took a while to settle down until about 4-3 in the first set, but then it did settle down and I was able to concentrate on the tennis."

Konta said it was the fourth time she had been affected by the problem during tournament play or practice.

"We don't know why it happens, it's in stressful situations, in non-stressful situations. It's been sporadic and we haven't been able to capture it. I get very

lightheaded and I can't function for the first few seconds," she said.

"I am worried. It's not ideal. I am going to have another EKG (electrocardiography) test, and hopefully measure it. But probably now it won't happen again for another year or something."

Konta, the world number 15, was the highest profile casualty on Monday in the opening round of the inaugural WTA event in Kentucky.

Other seeded players in ac-



My heart rate shoots up for no reason, we didn't have a long point, I wasn't gassing in any way in my lungs. It makes me a bit lightheaded, I just had to see the doctor and the physio

JOHANNA KONTA

tion made it safely into the second round, with Polish sixth seed Magda Linette beating the United States' Lauren Davis 6-2, 6-2, and Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, seeded eight, downing another American, Caty McNally, 6-2, 6-4.

Second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus was taken to three sets by Madison Brengle before claiming a 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2 win.

This week's event is the first WTA tournament to be held in the United States following a five-month hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Tour de France 2021 to begin in Brittany**



Competitors ride in Paris  
Reuters | Paris

The 2021 Tour de France will start in Brittany after Copenhagen's staging of the 'Grand Depart' was pushed back by a year due to a potential clash with soccer's postponed European Championship, race organisers said.

Brittany will also host the first four full stages of the race.

"Delighted to announce with Christian Prudhomme that we will start in Brest, pass through Finistere, Cotes d'Armor, Morbihan and Ille-et-Vilaine. It will be a great celebration and a boost for the economy," said the region's president Loig Chesnais-Girard.

The start of next year's Tour was brought forward by six days to avoid clashing with the men's road race at the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics.

# Bayern ponder how to stop Messi

Leon Goretzka insists that Bayern Munich have no plan for Barcelona's Lionel Messi

● **Bayern face Barcelona in Champions League quarter-final on Friday**

AFP | Berlin

Bayern Munich midfielder Leon Goretzka said the German giants are working out how to curb the legendary talents of Barcelona star Lionel Messi ahead of Friday's Champions League quarter-final.

"Thousands of people before me have tried to answer this question," Goretzka replied yesterday in Lisbon when asked how to stop Messi.

"It is nice - after playing against (Juventus star Cristiano) Ronaldo a few times - to play the other formative player of the last decade.

"That can only be done collectively," the 25-year-old central midfielder said of Messi, "because he is a gifted footballer".

"I don't know how, but we have to force our game on them."

Messi scored his 31st goal this



Barcelona's forward Lionel Messi runs with the ball as he vies for it with Napoli's forward Lorenzo Insigne (R)

season on Saturday and is looking to lift the Champions League for the fifth time in his career with Barcelona.

Treble-chasing Bayern, however, have won all 13 games since the coronavirus lockdown restart.

They underlined their impressive form on Saturday

when Robert Lewandowski, the Champions League's top scorer, netted twice and created two more in the last 16, second-leg rout of Chelsea to seal a 7-1 thrashing on aggregate.

Bayern are chasing the treble having already won an eighth straight Bundesliga title and lifted the German Cup, but Goretz-

ka says Barcelona present a true test.

"There is no easy way now. We are here in the sun in Portugal and are preparing for a knockout game in the Champions League," he said.

"We're really up for it. Knockout matches are great."

While Barcelona are packed



**Messi scored his 31st goal this season on Saturday and is looking to lift the Champions League for the fifth time in his career with Barcelona**

with stars alongside Messi, Goretzka says Bayern are far more than just Lewandowski's goals.

"At the moment, we're playing as a unit, in addition to the quality of the individual players.

"We have a clear plan in hand and our intensity without the ball can make the difference."

But he admitted being wary of Arturo Vidal, Barca's ex-Bayern midfielder.

"I got to know him for a few weeks and played against him many times. He has a first-class mentality with amazing fitness," added Goretzka.

## Alcantara set to leave but Bayern 'cautiously optimistic' of keeping Alaba

AFP | Berlin

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said yesterday he is "cautiously optimistic" of keeping David Alaba but is braced to lose Liverpool target Thiago Alcantara once the Champions League finishes in Lisbon.

Having routed Chelsea 7-1 on aggregate in the last 16 following Saturday's 4-1 win in Munich in the return leg, Bayern face Barcelona in the quarter-finals on Friday in a clash of European heavyweights.

With a year left on their contracts, both defender Alaba and central midfielder Alcantara are stalling over extensions.

Alcantara, 29, who has been heavily linked to Liverpool, has long since signalled to the club that he wants to leave.

So far, the Spaniard, who has won the Bundesliga title in each of his seven seasons in Munich, has rejected all of Bayern's ef-



Bayern Munich's Thiago Alcantara (R) celebrate a goal as David Alaba looks on

**7**  
Bundesliga titles have been won by Thiago Alcantara in each of his seasons with Bayern Munich

orts to keep him.

"It is known that he wants to do something new. If a club comes to us and offers a fair sum, we will deal with it," Rummenigge said with an air of resignation at a media event in Munich yesterday.

However, he is "cautiously optimistic" about keeping Alaba, because "we are working on a solution".

## Halep grinds out win on return to court in Prague

AFP | Prague

Simona Halep won her opening match of the WTA Prague Open yesterday, defeating Polona Hercog 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (7/3) to relaunch a season disrupted for nearly six months by the coronavirus pandemic.

Top seed Halep needed two and a half hours to overcome Slovenian world number 46 Hercog on clay in the Czech capital, blowing six match points in the decider before prevailing in a tie-break.



Simona Halep

The second-ranked Halep will meet Barbora Krejickova in the round of 16.

The reigning Wimbledon and

former French Open champion was appearing in her first match on tour since securing her 20th career title at the Dubai Championships in February.

She pulled out of the first post-lockdown WTA tournament in Palermo last week over virus concerns, and is yet to make a final decision whether to play at the US Open later this month.

The tournament in Prague is Halep's first trip abroad since February, having spent the lockdown in her native Romania.

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