



Indian embassy flag hoisting

TDT | Manama

The Indian embassy is organising a flag hoisting ceremony at its premises tomorrow at 7.30 am on the occasion of 74th Independence Day of India.

Ambassador-designate Piyush Srivastava will read a message of Indian President on this occasion, which will be telecast live on its social media accounts. There will be no physical participation this year due to coronavirus outbreak.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IndianInBahrain>

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/IndianInBahrain>

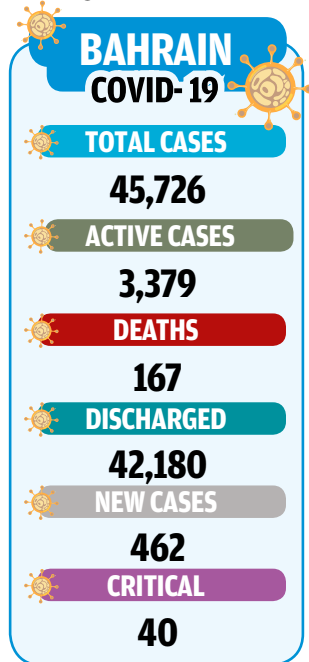
Youtube - <http://www.youtube.com/c/EmbassyofIndiaBahrain>

American Music Band "Vocal Trash" at Summer Festival

TDT | Manama

As part of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities' (BACA) annual Bahrain Summer Festival, the US Embassy presents the Vocal Trash music band, which will participate virtually in the festival.

The five-member band will conduct two virtual workshops on August 17 and 18, from 6-9 pm followed by a performance on August 19 is also from 6-9 pm. The workshops and the performance are all pre-recorded. Music fans and the public are welcome to view the workshops and attend the performance on the following YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqvaBntRljuh1CWhd-PAQmJg>



Historic peace deal 'Nightmare' for Iran

Israel, UAE agree to normalise relations, with help from Donald Trump

● Israel suspends West Bank annexation

● Similar deals with others in the region on way, says Trump

● Deal pledges greater access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque

TDT | agencies

Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached a historic peace deal yesterday that will lead to full normalisation of ties and suspension of Israeli annexation of West Bank.

The accord, brokered by US President Donald Trump, to be known as 'Abraham Accords', according to Trump's special envoy Brian Hook is also a "nightmare" for Iran.

The UAE said it would remain a strong supporter of the Palestinian people and that the normalisation agreement maintained the viability of a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Netanyahu said the agreement represented a "historic day" for his country.

"This historic diplomatic breakthrough will advance peace in the Middle East region and is a testament to the bold diplomacy and vision of the three leaders and the courage of the United Arab Emirates and Israel to chart a new path that will unlock the great potential in the region," a joint



”

This deal is a significant step towards building a more peaceful, secure and prosperous Middle East. Now that the ice has been broken, I expect more Arab and Muslim countries will follow the United Arab Emirates' lead and normalise relations with Israel

DONALD TRUMP
THE US PRESIDENT

Bahrain congratulates UAE

TDT | Manama

Bahrain congratulated the deal announced by the United Arab Emirates halting the annexation of the Palestinian territories with the United States and Israel as a step towards "peace in the Middle East."

In a statement, the Kingdom commended the diplomatic ef-

orts of the UAE and stressed that the "historic step would contribute to the consolidation of stability and peace in the region."

The Kingdom hailed the efforts of the United States of America and said it's looking forward to reaching "a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

The two countries are expected soon to exchange ambassadors



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We salute the UAE for its rights-preserving stance, and its serious step towards peace and laying the foundations for common prosperity for the peoples of the region

SHAIKH KHALID BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA
ADVISOR TO HM KING FOR DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS



”

The tripartite contact between the UAE, the United States and Israel made a qualitative breakthrough to preserve peace in the region, and obligated Israel to freeze the annexation of Palestinian lands

DR ANWAR GARGASH
THE UAE FOREIGN MINISTER

49 years

After 49 years, Israel and the United Arab Emirates will fully normalise their diplomatic relations

and embassies.

In the White House Oval Office, Trump said similar deals are being discussed with other countries in the region. A signing ceremony including delegations from Israel and the United Arab Emirates will be held at the White House in the coming weeks, Trump added.

"Everybody said this would be impossible," Trump said. "After 49 years, Israel and the United

Arab Emirates will fully normalise their diplomatic relations. They exchange embassies and ambassadors and begin cooperation across the border."

The agreement envisions giving Muslims greater access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem by allowing them to fly from Abu Dhabi to Tel Aviv, White House officials said.

"We are already discussing this with other nations, very powerful, very good nations that want to see peace in the Middle East so you will probably see others of these," Trump added. "Things are happening that I can't talk about, but they're extremely positive."

Iranian aggressions continue in Hormuz!

Iranian soldiers board Liberian-flagged civilian ship by force

● Iranian forces used two ships and a helicopter

● The Wila was eventually released after several hours

TDT, agencies

Iranian guards force-entered and captured a Liberian flagged civilian vessel for several hours in an military styled operation involving two ships and a helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz. The dramatic moments were captured



Wila vessel has been floating off of eastern UAE for about a month, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Inset, a screengrab of twitter video

by US military's Central Command which posted a grainy black-and-white video on Twitter showing a helicopter near a large ship. A tweet by the US Central Command said, "Today in international waters, Iranian forces, including two ships and an Iranian 'Sea King' helicopter, overtook and boarded a ship called the 'Wila'."

The incident occurred in international waters of the Gulf of Oman, just 32 kilometres (20 miles) off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

"Iranian special forces fast roped from the Sea King on to the ship," the official said yesterday.

"A coalition ship monitored the event but did not receive a distress call from

M/T Wila."

According to Refinitiv tracking data, Wila is a Liberian-flagged oil tanker and was currently anchored near the United Arab Emirates' port of Khor Fakkan. With a capacity of about 50,000 barrels, the Wila is relatively small compared to the tankers that ship Middle East crude, which are usually up to 2 million barrels.

A US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the incident took place near the Strait of Hormuz and the ship was eventually released by Iranian forces.

The official said the United States military was not involved in anything other than monitoring the situation.

Bahrain Teachers College to hold virtual entrance test
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education is holding a virtual entrance examination for Bahrain Teachers College’ Bachelor’s programme applicants for the academic year 2020/2021 on Sunday and Monday.

Applicants are required to prepare a computer with a digital camera, or a computer and a mobile phone with a camera, connected to the internet, as well as a speaker and a microphone.

Applicants should also register their account on the “Microsoft Teams” application using the link sent to their e-mails.

For inquiries, applicants can call the Human Resources Department on the hotline number 17278222.

Court reinstates nationality of three involved in forming a terrorist cell
TDT | Manama

Three men, who are serving prison sentences after being convicted of arson and terrorism-related charges, got their Bahraini nationality reinstated following an appeal.

The Cassation Court, Bahrain’s Highest Court, reversed an earlier decision to strip them of their nationality but kept their prison terms unchanged.

The men are convicted of forming a terrorist cell and carrying out acts of vandalism and attacks in Sitra.

The men are convicted of forming a terrorist cell and carrying out acts of vandalism and attacks in Sitra.

The trio was among 14 men involved in the case, all of whom received seven years in jail.

The defendants appealed the initial sentences, but the Cassation Court confirmed the rulings except for reinstating their citizenship.

The Bahraini men were part of a mob who hurled Molotov cocktails and metal rods at officers and Sitra Police Station in 2017.

All of the defendants were convicted of arson, rioting, possessing Molotov cocktails and explosives.

The defendants were found guilty based on their confessions and evidence collected from the scene.



The Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, during an inspection visit to a BDF unit. The commander-in-chief reviewed the unit's latest equipment and was briefed about its development stages and training plans, in addition to all military aspects and workflow.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullahatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, receiving Piyush Srivastava, who handed him a copy of his credentials as Ambassador-designate of India to Bahrain. The Minister praised the historical ties between the two countries, stressing Bahrain's interest in advancing these relations and wishing the Ambassador success in his duties. Ambassador Srivastava expressed India's pride in the strong bilateral ties and expressed his utmost interest in boosting these relations further. He also thanked Bahrain for the care and attention accorded by the government to the Indian community, especially during the outbreak of Covid-19.



Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command, US 5th Fleet Vice Admiral James Malloy during a visit to the Royal Bahrain Naval Force. Commander of Royal Bahrain Naval Force Mohammed Yusef Al Asam received the American Commander.

One more COVID-19 death

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s ministry of health yesterday announced the death of a 57-year-old Bahrain citizen, the latest casualty to the Kingdom’s COVID-19 battle.

Yesterday’s fatality also brings the number of COVID-19 related deaths in the Kingdom to 167.

Announcing the death on its Twitter handle, the Health ministry expressed condolences to the family of the deceased. There are currently 77 COVID-19 patients in the Kingdom who are receiving treatment, out of which 40 patients are in a critical condition.

As of yesterday, a total of 3,379 active coronavirus patients are there in the Kingdom, of which 3,339 cases are in a stable condition, health-wise.

The Ministry also announced carrying out 11,036 COVID-19 tests yesterday, raising the total number of tests conducted in the Kingdom, since the detection of the first case in February, to 944,798

The newly detected cases yesterday includes 154 expatriate patients, 305 new contacts of active COVID-19 cases and three travel-related cases.

The ministry also reported 344 recoveries yesterday taking the total number of people cured of their coronavirus infection here to 42,180

BD1 million embezzlement: Court adjourns trial

TDT | Manama

A trial of two sisters’ charged with embezzling more than BD1 million has been adjourned to summon prosecution witnesses.

The First High Criminal Court adjourned the case to August 18.

The women are accused of illegally collecting funds from 38 investors in Bahrain and GCC countries, after promising to invest it in forex markets, between 2015 and 2017.

Police arrested the duo after receiving multiple complaints about their activities.

Investigators found that the women were not licensed to collect funds in the Kingdom

The women are accused of illegally collecting funds from 38 investors in Bahrain and GCC countries, after promising to invest it in forex markets, between 2015 and 2017.



Representative picture (Courtesy of AlAyam)

Attacking cop with sword: Court postpones verdict

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court here yesterday put off its verdict to August 25 in the case of a twenty-year-old man accused of assaulting a police officer with a sword, while resisting arrest.

Court files say the accused attempted to attack a deputy Corporal with a sharp sword while they were attempting to arrest him from his apartment in the

eastern Aker.

The officers were acting on a tip-off received that a suspect wanted by the Criminal Investigation Department and convicted in several cases is holed up in an apartment there.

Police officers, who cordoned off the area, managed to catch the suspect, who put up stiff resistance and assaulted officers using a sharp sword.

The suspect tried to stab the Dep-

uty Corporal to take his life but was restrained by officers using force.

The Deputy Corporal sustained several injuries forcing him into bed rest for more than 20 days.

The public prosecution charged the accused with resisting arrest, attacking a law enforcement officer while performing his duties and injuring him and possessing a weapon without a licence.

Jaffaria Waqf reschedules Ashura meeting



Jaffaria Waqf (Endowment) Directorate (picture courtesy of AlAyam)

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s Jaffaria Waqf (Endowment) Directorate yesterday announced rescheduling the annual meeting of the heads of Hussainia by two more days to Sunday.

The meeting, in preparations for Ashura season, was originally scheduled to take place yesterday with the participation of official bodies, procession coordinators, those associated with the organisation of Muharram season, virtually amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

However, in a statement on social media, the directorate announced postponing it to 16 August 2020, 10 am, without specifying reasons, AlAyam report said.

The annual meeting was scheduled for Thursday following a decision last week, which also followed the authority refuting allegations that it held the meeting without sufficient participation.

Man forges wife’s signature to buy a car, court adjourns retrial

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court adjourned the retrial of a Bahraini man convicted of forging his wife’s signature to buy a car to Tuesday.

The man was earlier sentenced by the same court in absentia to five years in jail. However, he submitted an objection to the court based on which a retrial was allowed.

The court adjourned the retrial to summon prosecution witnesses for the hearing.

According to court files, the man forged his wife’s signature in the official documents of the General Directorate of Traffic in Interior Ministry to complete the procedures of purchasing a car from a third party.

The woman, who was unaware of her husband’s action, got a shock of her life after discovering, through the Directorate’s smartphone app, that a vehicle registered in her name has amassed BD500 in fines for violating traffic rules.

The wife reportedly asked her husband to rectify the matter, according to her statements, but the man disregarded her requests, encouraging her to file a complaint against him.

During interrogation, the man confessed to purchasing a car for BD2,500 by forging his wife’s signature on the ownership transferring documents, as he wasn’t able to use his name because of accumulated unpaid fines.

Single payment of BD17 million

This Saturday, Bahrain government will transfer BD17 million in subsidies to citizens' accounts

- **Beneficiaries of five financial assistance programmes will be paid in one single payment**
- **Social security scheme, which has a total of 16, 801 beneficiaries**
- **Disability allowance amounts to BD1,227,700**

TDТ | Manama

Subsidies amounting to 17 million Bahraini dinars will be credited to the accounts of eligible citizens tomorrow, thanks to a Cabinet decision to unify the date of disbursement. The move follows the directives of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the

Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to directly disburse subsidies to eligible citizens.

As per the directive, beneficiaries of five financial assistance programmes will be paid in one single payment on 15th of every month, starting from 15 February 2020, under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

Jameel Humaidan, the minister of Labour and Social Development, said the unification of subsidy disbursement date allows families to receive a sizeable amount in one go, which would help them fulfil their needs on time.

The disbursement also follows the development of a unified and centralised database, which includes information provided by all government subsidy programmes.

BD9.5m

will be used for providing financial support assistance to 124,772 families

The subsidies for August includes that for social security assistance to families in need, financial support for persons with limited income, disability allowance, and housing allowance (rent support).

Breaking this down further, the minister said BD 9,479,180 of the total subsidy amount is for providing Financial support assistance service, which is a direct government financial support for persons with limited in-

come. Authorities will distribute BD 9,479,180 to 124,772 families through this programme.

Social security scheme, which has a total of 16, 801 beneficiaries, will distribute a total of BD 1,607,430 in subsidies.

Disability allowance amounting to BD1,227,700 will benefit

12,274 beneficiaries.

Housing allowance, paid by the Ministry of Housing, will benefit 46,178 citizens, who will receive a total of 4,667,430 Bahraini dinars this Saturday.

The decision to support citizens directly, Labour minis-

ter said, also forms part of the Kingdom's effort to protect the citizens amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Details of the disbursement are available on e-Government Portal (bahrain.bh) and from National Call Centre on 80008001.

The unification of subsidy disbursement date allows families to receive a sizeable amount in one go, which would help them fulfil their needs on time

JAMEEL HUMAIDAN
THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Termination without notice

Court awards employee BD9,292 compensation

TDТ | Manama

The Labour Court has ordered a private company to pay BD9,292 to an Arab man as compensation for dismissing him arbitrarily.

The court observed that the plaintiff was terminated from service in violation of Bahraini laws and hence deserves a severance package as well as compensation.

Court files say, the plaintiff served the company for six years from April 21, 2014, until April 20, 2020.

“My client joined the company in 2014 to serve as an IT officer after signing an indefinite

My client joined the company in 2014 to serve as an IT officer after signing an indefinite contract worth BD740/month, but on March 5, 2020, he was stunned by a termination letter relieving him from his duties

SAKEENA SALEH, THE PLAINTIFF LAWYER'S TOLD

contract worth BD740/month, but on March 5, 2020, he was stunned by a termination letter relieving him from his duties,” the plaintiff lawyer’s Sakeena Saleh told the court.

The termination without giving “no reason” also came with a 30-day notice.

My client also was “asked to return all the company’s equipment that was in his possession”.

“The labour law in the Kingdom of Bahrain prohibits any company from terminating the contracts of employees without a valid reason,” she added.

Man facing trial over attack with helmet, robbery

TDТ | Manama

A Bahraini man is on trial on charges of attacking an expatriate labourer and stealing from him.

The man is facing allegations that he attacked and stole money from a poor labourer who was on his way home.

The defendant denied attacking the labourer, an Asian by nationality, but police retrieved some of the stolen cash from him. According to court files,

the defendant, on the day of the incident, approached the victim and demanded money, claiming to be in dire poverty.

However, when the victim responded by saying, “I am also poor”, the defended became enraged and resorted to attack him.

“He started hitting me with the helmet he was wearing, as I tried to resist him from taking my money,” the victim told prosecutors.

Police opened an investiga-

tion after the victim registered a complaint.

The attacker was caught from a place near to his house with some of the stolen money in his possession.

During interrogation, the defendant, however, held on to his statement that he didn’t attack the other man.

Police, meanwhile, found that the defendant was involved in similar cases earlier too.

The defendant pleaded not guilty.

Citi Islamic Investment Bank E.C.				
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION				
as at 30 June 2020		USD'000		
	30-Jun-20	31-Dec-19		
ASSETS	(Reviewed)	(audited)		
Bank balances	20,661	501		
Murabaha receivables- net	13,004	13,622		
Other assets	619	560		
Total Assets	34,284	14,683		
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
	30-Jun-20	31-Dec-19		
LIABILITIES				
Payables and other accrued expenses	20,293	287		
Total Liabilities	20,293	287		
EQUITY				
Share capital	10,000	10,000		
Statutory reserve	3,465	3,465		
Retained earnings	526	931		
Total equity	13,991	14,396		
Total Liabilities and Equity	34,284	14,683		
CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT				
for the six month period ended 30 June 2020				
	Six months ended	Six months ended		
	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-19		
	(reviewed)	(reviewed)		
INCOME				
Income from advisory services	1,192	1,038		
Income from restricted investment accounts	64	65		
Income from murabaha contracts	101	181		
Total Income	1,357	1,284		
EXPENSES				
Staff cost	186	197		
Other expenses	645	585		
Total expenses	831	782		
Profit for the period	526	502		
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY				
for the six month period ended 30 June 2020				
	USD'000			
2020 (reviewed)	Share Capital	Statutory Reserves	Retained earnings	Total
As at 1 January 2020	10,000	3,465	931	14,396
Profit for the period	-	-	526	526
Dividend paid	-	-	(931)	(931)
As at 30 June 2020	10,000	3,465	526	13,991
2019 (reviewed)	Share Capital	Statutory Reserves	Retained earnings	Total
As at 1 January 2019	10,000	3,361	1,092	14,453
Profit for the period	-	-	502	502
Dividend paid	-	-	(1,092)	(1,092)
As at 30 June 2019	10,000	3,361	502	13,863
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS				
for the six month period ended 30 June 2020				
	30-Jun-20		30-Jun-19	
	(reviewed)		(reviewed)	
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Receipt on maturity of restricted investment account	20,000		-	
Receipt of advisory income	1,137		429	
Receipts of income from murabaha contracts	101		181	
Receipts of income from restricted investment accounts	64		65	
Payment to employees and suppliers	(431)		(317)	
Management fees paid	(398)		(377)	
Net cash generated from / (used) in operating activities	20,473		(19)	
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Dividends paid	(931)		(1,092)	
Cash flows used in financing activities	(931)		(1,092)	
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	19,542		(1,111)	
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	14,123		14,162	
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	33,665		13,051	
Cash and cash equivalents comprise:				
Cash and bank balances	20,661		422	
Murabaha receivables	13,004		12,629	
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	33,665		13,051	
The financials statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 13 August 2020				
Mohammed Jaffer Nini Deputy Chairman		Usman Ahmed Chief executive officer		
The published figures have been extracted from financial statements reviewed by KPMG, who expressed an unqualified review opinion on 13 August 2020				
Licensed by CBB as an Islamic Wholesale Bank				
Citi Islamic Investment Bank E.C.				
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FINANCIAL RESULTS

30 June 2020 (Reviewed)

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME			INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
As at 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)			For the six months ended 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)			For the six months ended 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)		
	Reviewed 30 June 2020 BD 000	Audited 31 December 2019 BD 000		Six months ended 30 June 2020 BD 000	2019 BD 000		Six months ended 30 June 2020 BD 000	2019 BD 000
ASSETS						OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash and balances with banks and Central Bank of Bahrain	81,079	99,535	Income from financing contracts	31,464	31,008	Net income for the period	3,888	10,632
Due from banks	45,462	115,216	Income from investments	1,401	1,090	Adjustments for:		
Financing contracts	954,219	913,907	Income from sukuk	7,217	6,808	Provisions - net	5,105	(416)
Investments	3,022	6,156	Share of loss from associates	(281)	(170)	Depreciation	635	658
Investment in sukuk	341,581	270,277	OPERATING INCOME	39,801	38,736	Share of loss from associates	281	170
Investment in associate	7,234	8,461				Net gain on sale of investments	(359)	-
Receivables and other assets	237,454	247,328	Return on equity of investment account holders before Group's share as mudarib	(22,230)	(15,806)	Foreign exchange gain	(295)	(394)
Premises and equipment	4,119	9,553	Group's share as mudarib	10,948	4,714	Net unrealised gain on investments	-	(144)
TOTAL ASSETS	1,674,170	1,670,433				Operating income before changes in operating assets and liabilities	9,255	10,506
LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS AND OWNERS' EQUITY								
			Return on equity of investment account holders	(11,282)	(11,092)	Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
LIABILITIES			Profit on due to banks and non-banks	(7,703)	(5,895)	Mandatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	5,939	350
Customers' current accounts	152,062	128,258	NET OPERATING INCOME	20,816	21,749	Due from banks	4,848	97
Due to banks	107,244	101,783				Financing contracts	(83,021)	(32,068)
Due to non-banks	292,458	222,965	Staff costs	6,169	6,432	Receivables and other assets	4,954	(2,070)
Other liabilities	16,026	15,399	Depreciation	635	658	Financial support from government	1,460	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	567,790	468,405	Provisions - net	5,105	(416)	Customers' current accounts	23,804	15,698
EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS			Other expenses	5,019	4,443	Due to banks	5,461	(53,973)
Banks	142,942	159,699	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	16,928	11,117	Due to non-banks	69,493	(13,959)
Non-banks and individuals	808,294	848,670	NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	3,888	10,632	Other liabilities	337	5,399
TOTAL EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS	951,236	1,008,369				Net cash flows from (used in) operating activities	42,530	(70,020)
OWNERS' EQUITY			Attributable to:			INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent			Shareholders of the Parent	3,891	10,633	Disposal of investments - net	3,452	-
Share capital	132,519	132,519	Non-controlling shareholders	(3)	(1)	Purchase of investment in sukuk - net	(71,404)	(25,060)
Statutory reserve	24,115	24,115				Disposal (purchase) of premises and equipment - net	(21)	45
Fair value through equity reserve	283	324				Proceeds from disposal of held for sale subsidiary	4,760	-
Proposed dividend	-	22,517				Net cash flows used in investing activities	(63,213)	(25,015)
Retained earnings	(9,519)	3,587				FINANCING ACTIVITY		
	147,398	183,062				Net movement in equity of investment account holders	(57,133)	119,356
Non-controlling shareholders	7,746	10,597				Net cash flows (used in) from financing activity	(57,133)	119,356
TOTAL EQUITY	155,144	193,659				NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(77,816)	24,321
TOTAL LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS AND OWNERS' EQUITY	1,674,170	1,670,433				Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	176,260	88,701
OFF-BALANCE SHEET						CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 30 JUNE	98,444	113,022
EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS	136,710	135,145						
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS	166,741	108,796						

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY								
For the six months ended 30 June 2020 (Reviewed)								
	Equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent							
	Share capital BD 000	Statutory reserve BD 000	Fair value through equity reserve BD 000	Retained earnings BD 000	Proposed dividend BD 000	Total BD 000	Non - controlling shareholders BD 000	Total owners' equity BD 000
Balance at 1 January 2020	132,519	24,115	324	3,587	22,517	183,062	10,597	193,659
Net income for the period	-	-	-	3,891	-	3,891	(3)	3,888
Other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	(41)	-	-	(41)	-	(41)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	(41)	3,891	-	3,850	(3)	3,847
Dividend payout	-	-	-	-	(22,517)	(22,517)	-	(22,517)
Recognition of modification loss	-	-	-	(16,997)	-	(16,997)	-	(16,997)
Net movement in share of non-controlling shareholders	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,848)	(2,848)
Balance at 30 June 2020	132,519	24,115	283	(9,519)	-	147,398	7,746	155,144
Balance at 1 January 2019	132,519	21,613	170	3,587	16,608	174,497	7,766	182,263
Net income for the period	-	-	-	10,633	-	10,633	(1)	10,632
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	112	-	-	112	-	112
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	112	10,633	-	10,745	(1)	10,744
Dividend payout	-	-	-	-	(16,608)	(16,608)	-	(16,608)
Net movement in share of non-controlling shareholders	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3)	(3)
Balance at 30 June 2019	132,519	21,613	282	14,220	-	168,634	7,762	176,396

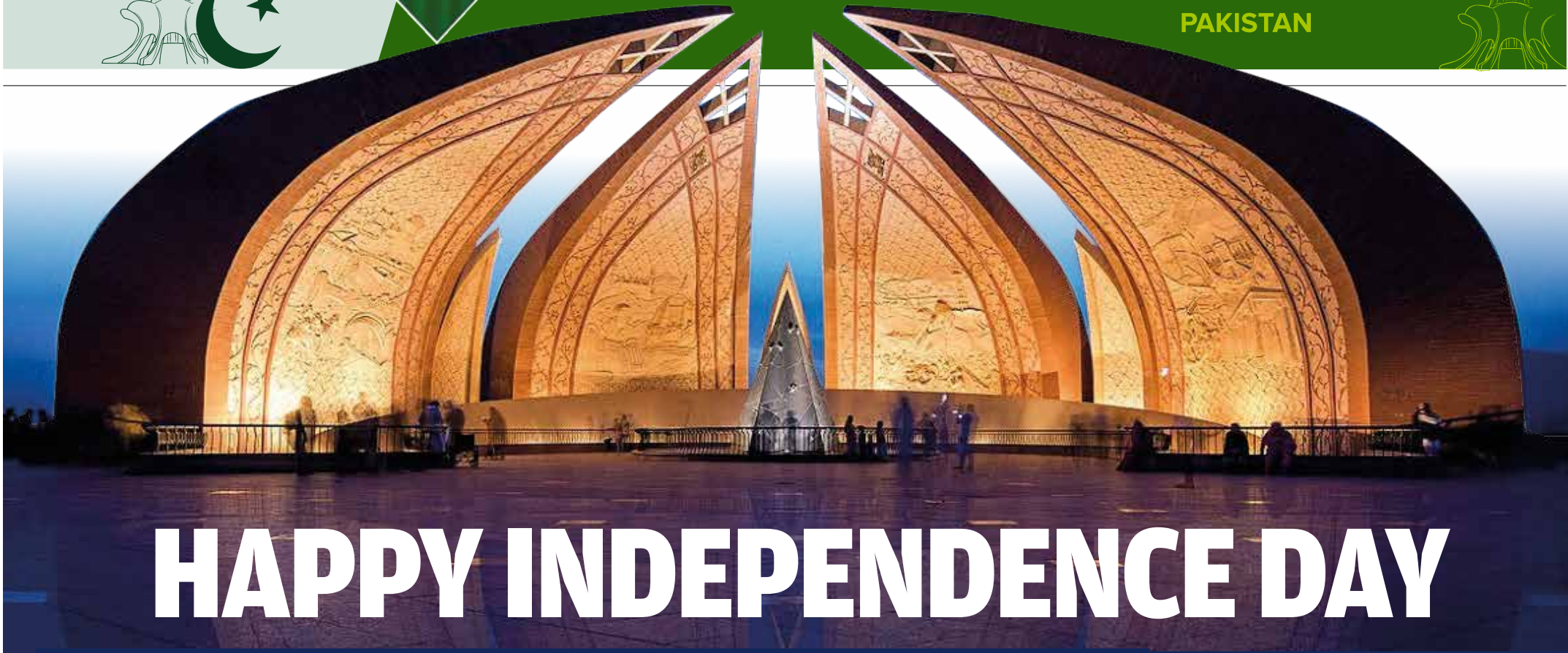
These statements have been extracted from the interim condensed consolidated financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2020, reviewed by EY. These interim condensed consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 27th July 2020. Kuwait Finance House (Bahrain) B.S.C.(c) is licensed by CBB as an Islamic retail bank.

Hamad Abdulmohsen AlMarzouq
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Abdulhakeem Yaqoub Alkhayyat
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

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SIMPLY SMARTER



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Pakistan's Independence Day will be celebrated today with traditional excitement and national spirit. It commemorates the day when Pakistan achieved independence and was declared a sovereign state following the end of the British Raj in 1947.

Flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs take place in governmental and non-governmental institutions throughout the country. The main Independence Day ceremony takes place in Islamabad, where the national flag is hoisted at the Presidential and Parliament buildings. It is followed by the national anthem and live televised speeches by leaders. Usual celebratory events and festivities for the day include flag-raising ceremonies, parades, cultural events, and the playing of patriotic songs. A number of

award ceremonies are often held on this day, and Pakistanis hoist the national flag atop their homes or display it prominently on their vehicles and attire.

The official festivities commence with the raising of the national flag on the Parliament House and the Presidency followed by a 31-gun salute in the capital and a 21-gun salute in provincial capitals. The President and Prime Minister of Pakistan address the nation in live telecasts. Government officials, political leaders and celebrities deliver messages or speeches during rallies, ceremonies and events, highlighting Pakistani achievements, goals set for the future, and praise the sacrifices and efforts of national heroes. Government buildings including the Parliament

House, Supreme Court, President House and Prime Minister's Secretariat are decorated and illuminated with lights and bright colours. A change of guard takes place at national monuments by the Armed Forces.

International governments, leaders and public figures also convey their greetings on the occasion. National flags are displayed on major roads and avenues such as Shahr-e-Faisal, Shahra-e-Quaideen, and Mazar-e-Quaid Road, leading up to Jinnah's mausoleum in Karachi. Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore, where the Pakistan Resolution was passed in 1940, is fully illuminated on the eve of the independence day to signify its importance in the creation of Pakistan. Schools and colleges conduct flag hoisting

ceremonies and cultural events. Major government buildings are often adorned with strings of lights.

A week before the day of celebration, children enjoy the time of preparation they spend in schools. They spend more than half-a-day in school practicing for march-past, speech, dance, sports, cultural activities and more. On this day all the great personalities, leaders and those who played a major role in bringing independence to Pakistan are remembered. The Pakistani diaspora around the world organises cultural events to celebrate independence day; public parades are held in cities with large Pakistani populations. People are excited to celebrate their independence day with full enthusiasm as the corona situation has finally got under control.

Tribute to 'Father of the Nation'



Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi

Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has paid tribute to 'Father of the Nation' Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his untiring efforts for an independent homeland "Pakistan" for the Muslims of sub-continent. In his message on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day Dr Arif Alvi extended his heartiest felicitations to the fellow countrymen. 'This day reminds us of the immense sacrifices rendered by our forefathers, under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The day is an occasion to reaffirm our resolve to live up to the ideals of our founding fathers and pay homage to the heroic struggle of all workers of Pakistan Movement', he said.

Here are the excerpts from the message:

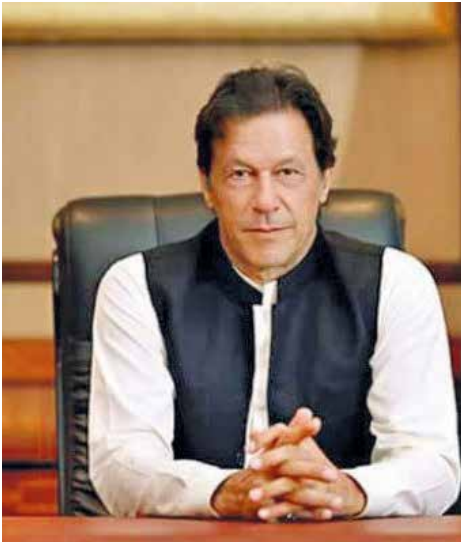
'Unlike the past, this Independence Day is being celebrated in extraordinarily difficult times as the entire world has been affected by Coronavirus which had adverse impact on all sectors of life, i.e. including economy, health, and education. The pandemic has brought enormous challenges but we have seen that our resilient nation has overcome them with a brilliant strategy of smart lock down. It is must that we continue with the precautions. We have seen such challenges in the past, like the earthquake in October 2005 and heavy floods in 2010. On this auspicious occasion, let me appreciate the spirit of our countrymen who exhibited extreme unity and generously helped the victims of natural calamities.

On this historic day, I must pay tribute to our doctors, nurses, health care workers that saved the lives of people by putting their own lives at risk during the pandemic. Additionally, I also deeply admire the role of media, Ulema, NDMA, NCOC, provincial governments, and law enforcement agencies in creating awareness and help enforcing the SOPs with regard to Covid-19. The success of the Ehsaas Program underlines the fact that people unite when all segments are taken care of. Our economy is improving in every regard, and I am sure that we have reached a tipping point in this regard.

While felicitating the nation, I call upon every Pakistani to stand firm and work for progress and prosperity of the country. We need to stand united to meet the social, economic and security challenges being confronted by the nation.

Pakistan Paindabad.

Let's reaffirm our pledge



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated the entire nation on 74th Independence Day. 'This auspicious occasion is a moment to reaffirm our pledge to continue pursuing the vision of Father of the Nation. The day is an occasion to pay tribute to all those sons of the soil who laid their lives while defending and protecting territorial as well as ideological frontiers of the motherland', he said.

This day is an occasion to pause and ponder and to reflect as to how far we have been able to achieve those ideals that led to creation of an independent state. During past seven decades of our journey, we have confronted with various challenges. We have battled against odds both at external as well as internal fronts. From the hostility of a neighbouring country, with its known he-

gemonic intentions, to the scourge of terrorism and from coping with natural calamities to fighting pandemics, our nation has always shown resilience and perseverance. We reiterate, today, our pledge to remain steadfast and embrace every challenge holding the torch of "Unity, Faith and Discipline".

In our efforts to reach our destination, we are diligently working to give this country a system of governance which conforms to the ideals and objectives of independence. We are endeavouring to build a system where rule of law prevails. We have chosen "Riyasat-i-Madina" as our role model.

May Almighty Allah bless and crown our efforts with success to rebuild the country in consonance with the vision of its founding fathers', Imran Khan said.

Ameen. Pakistan Paindabad.



INDEPENDENCE DAY
14 AUGUST
PAKISTAN



Bolstering friendship and cooperation



Afzaal Mahmood, Ambassador of Pakistan to Bahrain

I am pleased to convey heartfelt greetings to Pakistanis in Bahrain on the Independence Day of our beloved country, Pakistan. On this day in 1947, Pakistan emerged on the World Map as a sovereign state after untiring efforts of our nation under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Pakistan is blessed with tall mountains, lush green valleys, fresh water natural springs and rivers, plateaus, fertile plain farm lands, deserts and warm waters of the Arabian Sea. The country has natural resources like gold, copper, semi-precious stones and hydrocarbons. Five seasons of Pakistan make it suitable to grow every type of fruit, vegetable and food grain. Pakistan is blessed with talented human resource which has proven its worth world over. Pakistan has produced outstanding scholars like Allama Mohammad Iqbal and Nobel Laureates such as Dr. Abdul Salam and Malala Yousafzai.

While our nation has been successful in developing infrastructure and putting in place basic industry, it still faces challenges of meeting growing energy needs and diversification of economy, including exports. We are exploring new markets for our non-traditional exports such as traditional furniture, processed food, semi-precious stones, dates, olives, olive oil and honey.

We take pride in the excellent work being done by the Overseas Pakistanis. They not only con-

tribute to the well-being of the people of their countries of choice but also send much needed remittances back home. They are working as a bridge between Pakistan and its friends. Pakistanis in Bahrain are recognized as law abiding, hardworking and friendly people. They are our goodwill ambassadors and source of pride.

Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy thousands of years old history of friendship and cooperation for mutual benefit. The two help each other in different areas of mutual interest, collaborate at the regional level to ensure peace and security and closely consult each other at the international forums to align their policies. The friendship between our two nations is exemplary and without any irritants. The Prime Minister of Pakistan paid a state visit to Bahrain on 16 December 2019 as a Guest of Honour on the National Day of Bahrain. He came on the special invitation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. During the visit, three MoUs on Cooperation in different fields were inked. I, as the Ambassador of Pakistan and friend of Bahrain try my best to intensify economic and commercial ties for a better common future.

Gulf Air has resumed its flights to almost all major cities of Pakistan to boost our fraternal relations and extensive interaction between our two nations. To bring our people further close, the Government of Pakistan has listed Bahrain among the countries having visa-on-arrival and online visa facilities. Tourism sector of Pakistan is steadily opening after the easing of COVID-19 situation and I welcome Bahraini friends to explore our country at their convenience.

I wish the people of Bahrain and Pakistan continued peace, progress and prosperity on this special day. May Pakistan and Bahrain friendship live long!

Pakistan Zindabad

Afzaal Mahmood,
Ambassador of Pakistan to Bahrain

Moulding Future Leaders



Attiq ur Rehman, Principal & Secretary, Board of Management, Pakistan School, Bahrain



Sami ur Rehman, Chairman, Board of Management, Pakistan School, Bahrain

On this glorious day of Independence, Pakistan School wishes all fellow compatriots in Bahrain a happy Independence Day. Let's refresh and remember the great sacrifices of the martyrs who laid down their lives for a free Pakistan.

We are happy to present a synopsis of Pakistan School, Bahrain on this joyous occasion. The history of Pakistan School goes back to the 60s when the leading visionary members of the community realized the need for a schooling system for their children, leading to the establishment of a small primary school in 1968 in a rented building in Fariq Fadil area of Manama.

After a few years the school was upgraded to secondary level education following affiliation with the Federal Board, Islamabad, Pakistan. In 1984, the new campus of the Pakistan School was constructed in Isa town, which was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

Two new blocks, Jinnah Block and Sir Sayyed Block were constructed in the Isa town campus, between 1994-95.

Today Pakistan school has two wings, Manama (Primary) and the main campus Isa Town.

Besides Pakistanis, the school is delivering education to more than 2400 students from 20 different nationalities.

Pakistan School has laid down a well-defined and practical network of extra and co-curricular activities for the personality and the character building of students. These activities are conducted on inter class, inter house and inter school levels.

Pakistani students have been performing tremendously in the Bahrain level sports, academic and cultural activities.

Under the loyal, competent and dedicated leadership of the sitting Board of Management, Pakistan school has achieved many distinctive landmarks over the last five years in academic and administrative areas.

Pakistan School's Federal Board results have shown consistent and impressive improvements over the last four years and this year Board exam results of SSC and HSSC declared in the last week of July 2020, are no exception. The outstanding result for the session 2019-20 is as follows:

Secondary School Certificate:

Overall result of Science students is 99%, and Arts is 90%.

Higher Secondary School Certificate:

Overall result of Pre-Medical students is 97%, Pre-Engineering is 78%, Commerce is 100% and Humanities is 68%.

The school financial status is now reliable and stable. The school system is fully automated to enhance performance in the spheres of academics, administration and student data compilation.

Solid academic planning and performance have led to an increase in admissions resulting in the establishment of additional facilities and construction of new class rooms.

Pakistan School has earned a name of its own for participation in the national, cultural and social festivals to strengthen the bond of its deep love and affiliation with Bahrain.

Students who excel in the Board exams are awarded scholarships, while the school spends thousands of Bahraini Dinars for fee concession to support the most deserving and financially backward students.

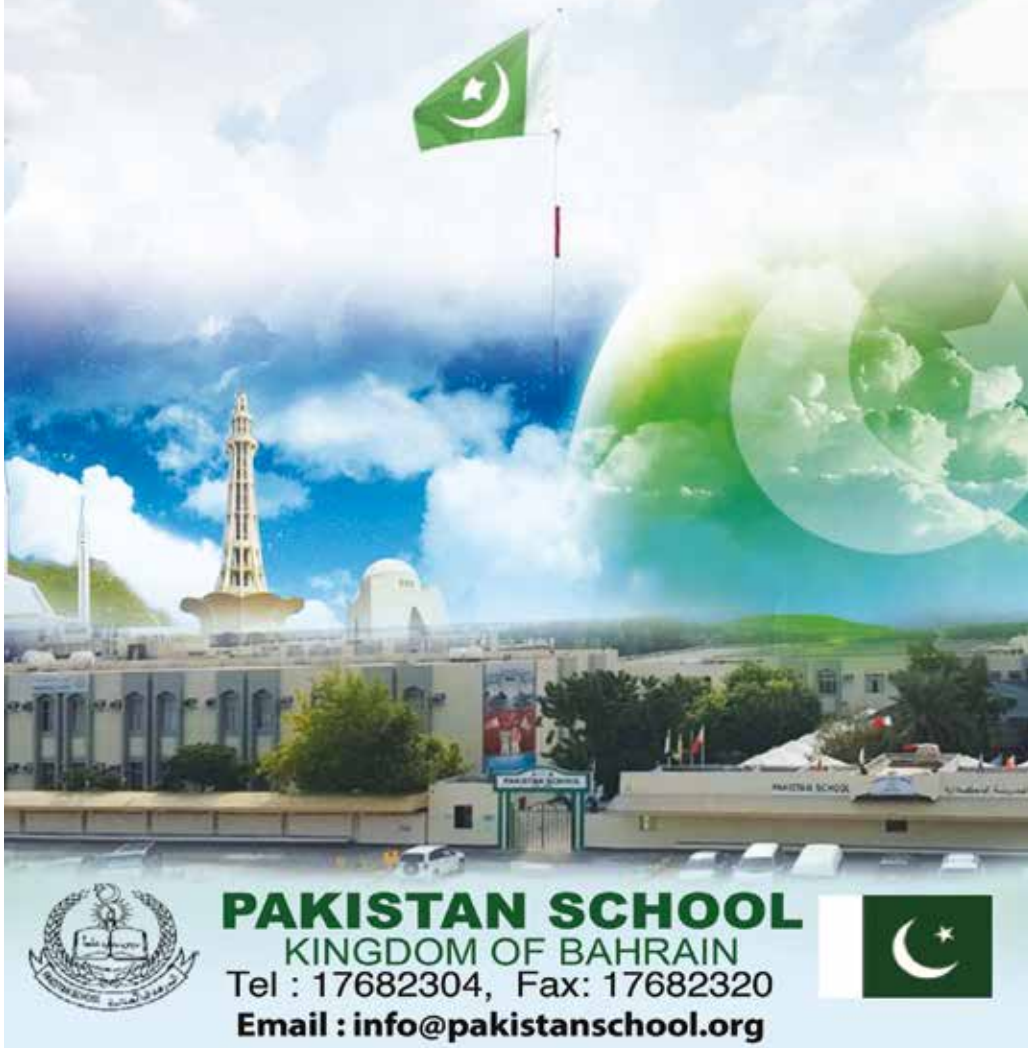
The sole aim of Pakistan school is to create a new generation inculcating in them qualities needed to be visionaries to lead their country in the future.

74th Pakistan Independence Day celebrations are not being planned in a grand scale this year due to the currently prevailing situation regarding COVID-19. It is for the safety of all against COVID-19.

We earnestly pray for the safety of all the Bahraini citizens and residents and wish a very happy and prosperous future to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Congratulations & Best Wishes

to the Government & People of Pakistan &
the Pakistani Community in Bahrain on the auspicious occasion of
Pakistan Independence Day
from the Board of Management, Staff and Students of
Pakistan School, Bahrain



PAKISTAN SCHOOL
Kingdom of Bahrain

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
Pakistan School



From left: Sadaf Arif, Ahmed Asif, Qaiser Mahmood, Sami ur Rahman (Chairman BOM), Shah Jahan (Vice-Chairman), Muhammad Naseem, Abdul Qayyum

Asgharali and Peshwar Zalmi launches the ‘Zalmi perfume’

AsgharAli Perfumes has joined hands with Peshawar Zalmi to offer the Zalmi Perfume to all its fan and consumers around the world, naming Asgharali the official perfume partner.

Peshawar Zalmi who is known for being a cricket team with the biggest sporting entity and with the largest fan-base in the Pakistan region. However, they are also known to be a revolutionary movement empowering the youth through various sport and athletic avenues. This collaboration has proven that lifestyle, beauty, and self-care is equally important for a big sport entity.

The Asgharali Zalmi Perfume can make wearing fragrance a fleeting experience during any time of the season. Asgharali and Peshawar Zalmi introduces the Zalmi Perfume – the fragrance for the youth. It’s available both for men and women.

AsgharAli has won the hearts of consumers worldwide and laid its footprint in the perfumery market and related business interests with over 100 retail and franchise outlets and stores in the Middle East and South Asia and over 40 distributors worldwide in regions from Eastern Europe to South America.



Custodian of Two Holy Mosques Congratulates Pakistani President on Independence Day

TDT | Riyadh

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has sent a cable of congratulation to President Dr. Arif Alawi of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of the anniversary of his country’s Independence Day.

In his own name and on behalf of the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the King wished the President constant good health and happiness and the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan steady progress and prosperity.

The main feature of the celebrations will be a national flag hoisting ceremony at President House Islamabad. President Dr. Arif Alvi will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Similar flag hoisting ceremonies will also be held at provincial, divisional and district headquarters level throughout the country.

Public and private buildings as well as streets, bazaars and markets have been profusely illuminated.

National flags, buntings, portraits of founding fathers, posters and banners are also seen everywhere as part of the celebration of Independence Day. Radio Pakistan has also prepared comprehensive programmes to celebrate the day.





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 Home Delivery



Independence Day Celebrations at Pakistan Club

The Pakistan Community in Bahrain is a large and vibrant community and is well connected with the local people sharing similar beliefs, culture, traditions and social norms. Pakistani community members have been living in the Kingdom of Bahrain since past many decades. The country is a homeland to over 120,000 active Pakistani community members. 'Pakistan Club' in Bahrain was founded in February 1948 soon after Pakistan got independence in August 1947 and is a focal point for the community serving as a hub for recreation, sports, cultural and community gatherings.

The Pakistan Club and the Pakistani community are celebrating the Pakistan Independence Day with great fervour and enthusiasm. Unlike the previous years, the community will be celebrating the great national event at home due to Covid-19 while keeping safe and observing social distancing as per the advise of the national health authorities. The flag hoisting ceremony at Pakistan Club which was scheduled to be held on 14th August every year will not be held.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Bahrain enjoy cordial ties with similar views on bilateral, regional and international issues and have entered into a new era of progress and development. The historic landmark visit



Eng. Rehan Ahmed, Chairman, Pakistan Club Bahrain

of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Pakistan which was reciprocated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in December 2019 and has paved the way for further strengthening the already existing cordial ties between the two brotherly countries.

The Pakistani community is greatly indebted to the support and guidance from the Government and leadership led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister & Deputy Supreme Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defense Force HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for their continuous support to the Pakistan community. We are proud of our fraternal ties with the people of Kingdom of Bahrain and these ties will continue to strengthen and grow with the passage of time.

Pakistan Club has organized many events this year before the

closure of the clubs and restrictions on social activities. The program held this year include New Year's celebrations, family get together, musical programs, Mega medical camp and health check-up etc. The most coveted program was the continuation of Ramadan Cricket Tournament, which was planned to be held in the month of Ramadan and could not be organized like past years in which around fifty three teams participated in 2019.

To help Pakistani community in difficult times, the Club organized delivery of free food packages, iftar boxes and free face mask distribution. We are fortunate to have with us HE Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan who visited Bahrain in February 2020 on the invitation by the Kingdom authorities. HE Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani along with his team of Senators visited Pakistan Club and met the community and appreciated the efforts being made by the Pakistan Club Board members and Management.

On behalf of the Pakistan Club and its Executive Board members, I urge the Pakistani community to continue to play a pivotal role in the development of the Kingdom of Bahrain. I pray to Allah Almighty for the well-being and prosperity of the leadership and people of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Towards a prosperous future



A cyclist waits to cross a road next to a Happy Independence Day billboard with the pictures of founder leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah and national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Islamabad, Pakistan. Image Credit: AP



Mr. Bhatti

As the Pakistani nation is celebrating their Independence Day, Bahrain-based Pakistani community is eager to express their unity and support with their compatriots to mark the occasion. Pakistanis are a part of both the public and private sector in Bahrain, and are actively contributing to Bahrain's national economy through their hard work, diligence and devotion. This time will be different as Bahrain and every other country in the world is combating the crises of the COVID-19. Pakistani Club and the community in general always mark this occasion and celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan by hosting cultural, sports and other events which is not possible now as per the guidelines of the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Mohammad Ali Jinnah did all three

BHATTI

The name of Mr. Mohammad Afzal Bhatti is talk of the town in the local community of Pakistanis due to his distinguished services rendered for the service of the community spanning over a period of three decades. He is the Vice Chairman of Pakistan Club Bahrain and recently got appointed as the President of Pakistan Overseas Community (POC) for Bahrain. The objective of the organization is to raise the profile of Pakistanis and safeguard their legitimate rights effectively. Their aim is to dignify the lives of overseas Pakistanis residing in Pakistan and worldwide.

Speaking on the Independence Day of Pakistan Mr. Bhatti says that Pakistan gained Independence after remarkable efforts made by the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah who was a man of great caliber and had the belief that Muslims could only live happily when they would own a country led by their own people; a country

that would be according to the ideology of Islam.

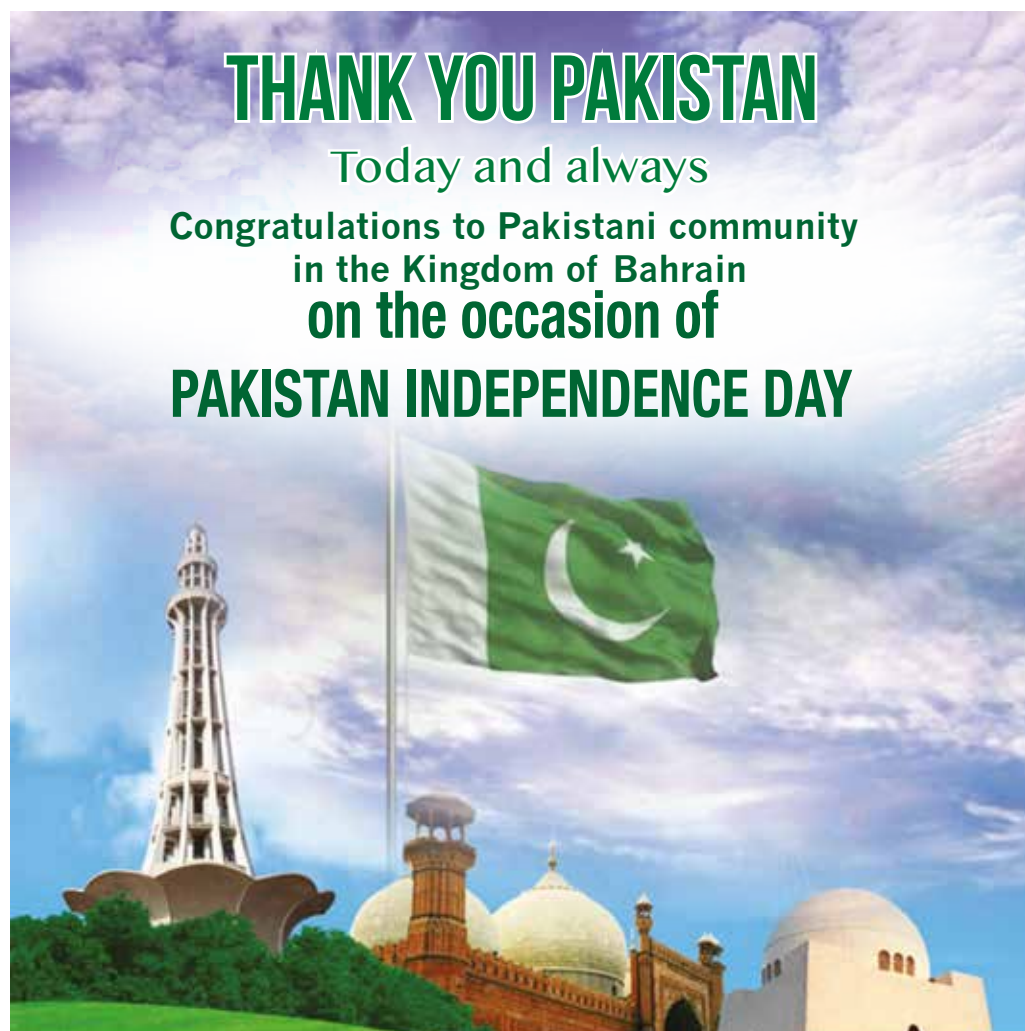
He paid a glowing tribute to Quaid-e-Azam for his selfless long struggle for freedom. "Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Mohammad Ali Jinnah did all three," said Mr. Bhatti while quoting the renowned American writer and biographer Stanley Wolpert, the author of a book titled Jinnah of Pakistan.

"Although the people of Pakistan celebrate the Independence Day with patriotism and great passion, they should remember what Jinnah's dream was and they should always questions themselves whether they have made this country according to his dreams or they have forgotten the reason for the formation of Pakistan", he remarked.

Stressing about the current situation Mr Bhatti advised all members of the community in Bahrain to stay at home and celebrate on social media platforms and express their love for the country and at all costs maintain social distancing. He said every Pakistani in Bahrain fully understands their responsibility in the current situation and believes the community will always be in the forefront to help combat the virus in the Kingdom of Bahrain by volunteering and following the precautions set by the authorities. On the independence day message Mr. Bhatti said "I would like to wish all the citizens of Pakistan on this occasion and believe there will be better times to come when the whole world succeeds in combating this virus and completely eradicating it bringing the life to normal."



Citizens are getting ready to celebrate Independence Day with zeal and zest. The most enthusiastic are children who are busy collecting stickers, badges and also beautifying their bicycles with unique stickers inscribed with messages of Independence Day. Above, a woman shops national flags, badges and masks and other stuff at a market ahead of Pakistan Independence Day celebration, in Islamabad. Image Credit: AP



The Pakistan Club

(Since 1948)

Engr. Rehan Ahmed (Chairman)

P. O. Box 118 Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, Tel: 00973 32007700

Email: pakistanclubbahrain@gmail.com | Web: pakistanclub.org

SICO reports BD159k H1 profit



Our track record and clients' trust in our proven capabilities allowed us to deliver positive returns amidst these challenging conditions and further cemented SICO's position as a leading regional investment house

SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



While our proprietary investment book was negatively impacted by lower valuations owing to steep selloffs across all financial markets, SICO was able to minimise losses thanks to a defensive strategy adopted at the start of the year

NAJLA AL-SHIRAWI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



● **Net fee, brokerage and other income jumps 18pc**

● **H1 net profit was BD 159 thousand**

● **Contributes BD 300 thousand to "Fina Khair" national campaign**

TDT | Manama

SICO, a conventional wholesale bank, yesterday said its first-half 2020 results were hurt by adverse market condition due to the coronavirus outbreak but was boosted by a strong aggregate

net fee, brokerage and other income.

"While a combination of a global slowdown resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, market turmoil and fluctuating oil prices had affected SICO's investment income during the period, all core business lines delivered a commendable performance," Chairman of the Board Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said. The bank also said it's currently exploring an opportunity to acquire a majority stake in Muscat Capital, a KSA-based wholly owned subsidiary of Bank Muscat subject to regulatory approvals.

H1 Results

SICO's consolidated net profit was BD 159 thousand, a decrease of 94pc from the BD 2.9

million recorded in the same period a year ago.

Earnings per share (EPS) were 0.43 Bahraini fils compared to 7.76 Bahraini fils in the same period of 2019.

SICO recorded a total comprehensive loss of BD 666 thousand, compared to a total comprehensive income of BD 3.0 m a year ago.

Net investment income recorded a loss of BD 342 thousand, compared to an income of BD 3.5 m in the corresponding period last year.

The bank's performance was supported by a strong aggregate net fee, brokerage and other income, which came 18pc higher than the previous year.

Brokerage and other income reached BD 2.1 m, growing by 71pc, as net fee income dropped

14pc to BD 1.7 m from the same period of 2019.

SICO's total balance sheet footings recorded BD 168.7 m as at 30 June 2020, increasing by 1pc from the BD 166.8 m at the end of the same period in 2019 owing to higher cash and bank balances and securities bought under the repurchase agreement.

Total assets under management (AUMs) amounted to BD 659.3 m (USD 1.7 billion), decreasing 18pc from the BD 808.7 m (USD 2.1 bn) recorded at year-end 2019.

Assets under custody with the Bank's wholly-owned subsidiary, SICO Funds Services Company (SFS), stood at BD 2.6 bn (USD 6.8 bn) at 30 June 2020, decreasing by 8pc from BD 2.8 bn (USD 7.4 bn) posted at the end of 2019.

AUB reports H1 net profit of US\$ 293.4 M



The first half of 2020 was an unprecedented experience of two halves. An excellent start in January and February was followed by the Covid-19 pandemic and oil prices meltdown, extreme market volatility and a transformed operating and business reality imposed by lockdown conditions

MESHAL AL OTHMAN, AUB CHAIRMAN



TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank (AUB) reported a net profit attributable to its equity shareholders of US\$ 293.4 million for the six months ended 30 June 2020, a decrease of 22.3 per cent as compared to US\$ 377.5 m achieved in H1/2019. Basic Earnings per Share fell to US 2.9 cents as compared to US 3.7 cents in H1/2019.

The first half of 2020 was defined by the onset of the Covid-19 outbreak and by the collapse in oil prices. Health imposed lockdowns of extended durations exacerbated the economic fallout as retail and corporate activities were deeply impacted.

As a result, Net Interest Income (NII) was lower by 17.0pc to US\$ 406.7 m in H1/2020 as compared to US\$ 490.2 m in H1/2019. The drop in NII and Fees & Commission income resulted in a drop in Operating Income to US\$ 575.6 m during the

first six months of 2020 as compared to US\$ 630.1 m in H1/2019. The cost to income ratio stood at 27.4pc (H1/2019: 26.5pc) reflecting AUB's structured cost discipline.

To adjust for the heightened levels of macro-economic and sectoral risks, total provision charges (net) for H1/2020 increased by 140.0pc from US\$ 34.3 m to US\$ 82.4 m. As a result, Net Operating Income decreased by 17.2pc from US\$ 595.8 m in H1/2019 to US\$ 493.2 m in H1/2020. Comprehensive income attributable to the owners of the bank for H1/2020 reduced by 60.5pc to US\$ 157.3 m as compared to US\$ 398.0 m for H1/2019 due to unrealised financial adjustments related to market fluctuations.

AUB reported a non-performing loans ratio of 2.1pc (31 December 2019: 1.9pc) with specific provision coverage of 81.8pc (31 December 2019: 85.9pc).

LuLu puts the cool into summer shopping

Manama

LuLu has announced a basket of summer deals that is sure to add some cool to your days. From daily specials on fresh and juicy fruits like Pakistani Chausa mango and Philippines pineapple, Spanish plums and South African pears to fresh-squeezed juices in-house, popular fizzies and ice-cream, these deals make it easy to fill your freezer and prepare for the summer days.

Keeping in mind that children will want to treat themselves to munchies, there are some tempting goody bag fillers like popular chocolate brands, freezer-ready food ready to fry up for a meal, healthy deals for a range of cheeses, olives and also nuts and basmati rice.

LuLu has also bundled promotions for hygiene essentials such as shampoo, hand sanitizers, toothpaste and hair oil as well as Maybelline and L'Oreal cosmetics. Special offers are also on detergents, fabric conditioners and facial tissue.

Rounding off the season are special offers on kitchen accessories such as rice cooker, food processors, home storage boxes, bedding, pillows, blankets and quilts. Digital goods such as iPads and smartphones, smartwatches and great deals on TVs add value to your shopping at LuLu.

Bahrain's POS transactions jump in July: CBB

TDT | Manama

The number of transactions conducted through the Point of sales terminals in the Kingdom during July recorded a 10.3 per cent increase from the same month a year ago, according to the Central Bank of Bahrain.

The CBB statement, however, reported a 12.5pc decline in the total value of the POS transactions during July from July 2019.

People in Bahrain conducted 7,150,035 transactions valuing BD196.4 million during last month.

In terms of the number of transactions, it was an increase of 10.3pc to 6,484,277 from a year ago and a 15.5pc increase from the sequential June.

However, in terms of the total value of the transaction, it was a decline of 12.5pc from BD224.6 m in July 2019, but an increase of 12.1pc from BD175.3 m in June 2020.

Restaurants top in volume

Sector-wise, restaurants ranked high in the number of transactions recording a monthly increase of 33.4pc from June. Closely following were supermarkets with 12.4pc increase, Department stores with 25.5pc rise, Health sector with 96.4pc jump and Clothing and Footwear sector with an increase of 50.8pc.

Government sector tops transaction value

When it comes to the value of transactions, the Government sector topped the ranking with a monthly increase of 11.6pc to



reach BD41.9 m. Department stores followed with BD22.6 m, a monthly increase of 22pc. On the third spot are Supermarkets with a monthly increase of 9.2pc to BD14.5 m. On the fourth and fifth spots are Health sector and Clothing and Footwear with monthly increases of 55.9pc (BD12.9 m) and 50.2pc (BD11.7 m), respectively.

Fawri+, Fawri and Fawateer

Electronic fund transfers using Fawri+, Fawri and Fawateer also witnessed a jump in terms of the number of the transaction conducted during July. However, in terms of value Fawri+ and Fawateer reported a monthly increase, while Fawri recorded a decline both monthly and yearly.

The number of transactions done using Fawri+ rose 36.9pc monthly and 783.1pc yearly, as the value of transactions jumped to BD224.6 m, an increase of 19.8pc monthly, and 380.3pc yearly. Transactions through Fawri rose 16.5pc monthly and 18.5pc yearly, while its value dropped 10.4pc monthly and 12.0pc yearly to BD1,092.9 m.

The number of Fawateer transactions reported an increase of 27.6pc monthly and 123.1pc increase yearly, as its value rose 26.2pc monthly and declined 18.4pc yearly to BD42.3 m.

RTGS increases 1.66pc

The volume of transactions through Real Time Gross Settlement system recorded a monthly increase of 1.66pc and yearly rise of 7.28pc, as its value dropped 15.32pc monthly and 34.24 pc yearly.

LuLu food festival

Manama

LuLu Hypermarkets are all set for a gastronomic journey that will showcase cuisines of a dozen countries by visiting chefs and LuLu's own master chefs over six weekends.

The Food Festival will take place from 6 pm to 11 pm every weekend.

The Festival begins with an Indian Food Festival from August 13 to 15 to coincide with Indian Independence Day. Besides amazing Indian curries, kebabs and biryani, guests can look forward to live-cooking stations and the cookery demo by Chef Pramod of the Spices Restaurant of the Crown Plaza Hotel on all three days.

The following weekend (August 20-22) will be Thai weekend when the aroma of delicate Thai food will fill the hypermarket. Traditional Bahraini dishes will be the centre of the table from August 27 to 29.

September starts with Italian flair as Italian pasta, pizza and cheeses will delight customers from September 3 to 5. On September 10 to 12, LuLu will serve up the best food from three countries of South Asia – Bangladesh, Nepal and fiery Sri Lankan curries. The festival will end on the weekend of September 17-19 with the Oriental flavours of China, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan.

Biden, Harris focus campaign on virus crisis

Democratic tandem delivers one-two punch on the performance of President Trump amid pandemic and economic downturn

● **Kamala Harris sought to tap into the nationwide upheaval over police violence and racial disparities as she and Joe Biden launched their joint White House campaign**

AFP | Washington

Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris will put the coronavirus pandemic front and center in their campaign, targeting Donald Trump’s response to the health and economic crises ahead of November’s election.

Fresh off Wednesday’s campaign rollout that featured the pair together for the first time showcasing their vision for the nation, they will meet with public health experts in Delaware.

Biden and Harris are to deliver remarks afterwards, accord-



Kamala Harris listens to Joe Biden speak during their first press conference together in Wilmington, Delaware

ing to the campaign -- a signal to voters that curbing the spread of the virus is a top priority and major election issue.

They will likely unleash a second straight day of vigorous criticism of Trump, whom Democrats widely accuse of mishandling the US response to a pandemic that has claimed more than 166,000 lives, the world’s highest death toll.

Harris warned Wednesday

that Trump’s “mismanagement” of the pandemic has plunged the nation into the deepest health crisis in a century and the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

“There’s a reason (the coronavirus) has hit America worse than any other advanced nation. It’s because of Trump’s failure to take it seriously from the start,” she said.

Harris lamented “his refusal

”

There’s a reason (the coronavirus) has hit America worse than any other advanced nation. It’s because of Trump’s failure to take it seriously from the start

KAMALA HARRIS

to get testing up and running. His flip-flopping on social distancing and wearing masks. His delusional belief that he knows better than the experts.”

Trump meanwhile said the economy was experiencing a “v-shaped recovery,” despite millions of American families suffering and analysts warning that the country remains in an unemployment crisis.

“As we continue to confront the China virus, we’re rebuilding America’s economy like nobody thought possible, actually,” Trump said Wednesday at the White House.

“We’re doing incredibly well.”

Chinese cities find virus in Brazilian chicken wings, Ecuadorian shrimp packaging

Reuters | Beijing

Two cities in China have found traces of the new coronavirus in imported frozen food and on food packaging, local authorities said yesterday, raising fears that contaminated food shipments might cause

new outbreaks.

A sample taken from the surface of frozen chicken wings imported into the southern city of Shenzhen from Brazil, as well as samples of outer packaging of frozen Ecuadorian shrimp sold in the northwestern Xian city, have tested positive for the

virus, local authorities said yesterday.

The discoveries came a day after traces of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 were found on the packaging of frozen shrimp from Ecuador in a city in eastern Anhui province. China has been stepping up screenings at ports

amid the concerns over food imports.

Shenzhen’s health authorities traced and tested everyone who might have come into contact with potentially contaminated food products, and all results were negative, the city’s notice said.

China to expand railway network

Reuters | Beijing

China plans to expand its railway network, the second largest in the world, by one-third in the next decade and a half, as part of a long-term plan to rev up urbanisation and stimulate local economies.

China aims to have about 200,000 kilometres (124,274 miles) of railway tracks by the end of 2035, including about 70,000 km of high-speed railway, according to a plan issued by state-owned China State Railway Group.

The targets compare with a total length of 141,400 km of existing rail lines as of end-July, among which 36,000 km are high-speed routes, the most in the world, company data showed.

200,000
kilometres of railway tracks is what China is aiming to build by the end of 2035

Lebanon assembly ratifies state of emergency after deadly blast



A Lebanese protester uses a tennis racket to throw projectiles during clashes with security forces in downtown Beirut

AFP | Beirut

Lebanon’s parliament approved a two-week state of emergency in Beirut declared after last week’s gigantic and deadly explosion that gives the army greater powers to suppress resurgent protests.

The colossal blast that killed 171 people and wounded 6,500 has reignited street protests demanding the ouster of the entire political elite, dominated by former warlords from the 1975-1990 civil war.

Dozens of demonstrators shouted as lawmakers arrived at parliament to ratify the emergency measure, but protesters were outnumbered by security forces and failed to block the MPs’ cars.

Lebanese are furious at a politi-

YOU KNOW WHAT

The state of emergency allows the army to close down assembly points and prohibit gatherings deemed threats to national security

cal leadership that allowed a large shipment of hazardous ammonium nitrate fertiliser to languish for years in a port warehouse despite repeated safety warnings.

News in brief

Huge fire north of Los Angeles prompts evacuations

◆ Iranian forces boarded a tanker in international waters in the Gulf of Oman, using a helicopter and two ships to take over the vessel for several hours. They also posted grainy black-and-white footage of the helicopter hovering low over the vessel and special forces personnel fast-roping onto the deck. A US defence official said the Iranians released the vessel, a Liberian-flagged oil and chemicals tanker, after holding it for four to five hours.

The FBI will join investigators probing the cause of the huge port blast that destroyed swathes of Beirut, the top career diplomat at the US State Department said. “The FBI will soon join Lebanese and international investigators, at the invitation of the Lebanese, in order to help answer questions that I know everyone has about the circumstances that led up to this explosion,” David Hale told reporters during a tour of a heavily damaged neighbourhood near the port.

FBI to join Beirut blast probe: US envoy

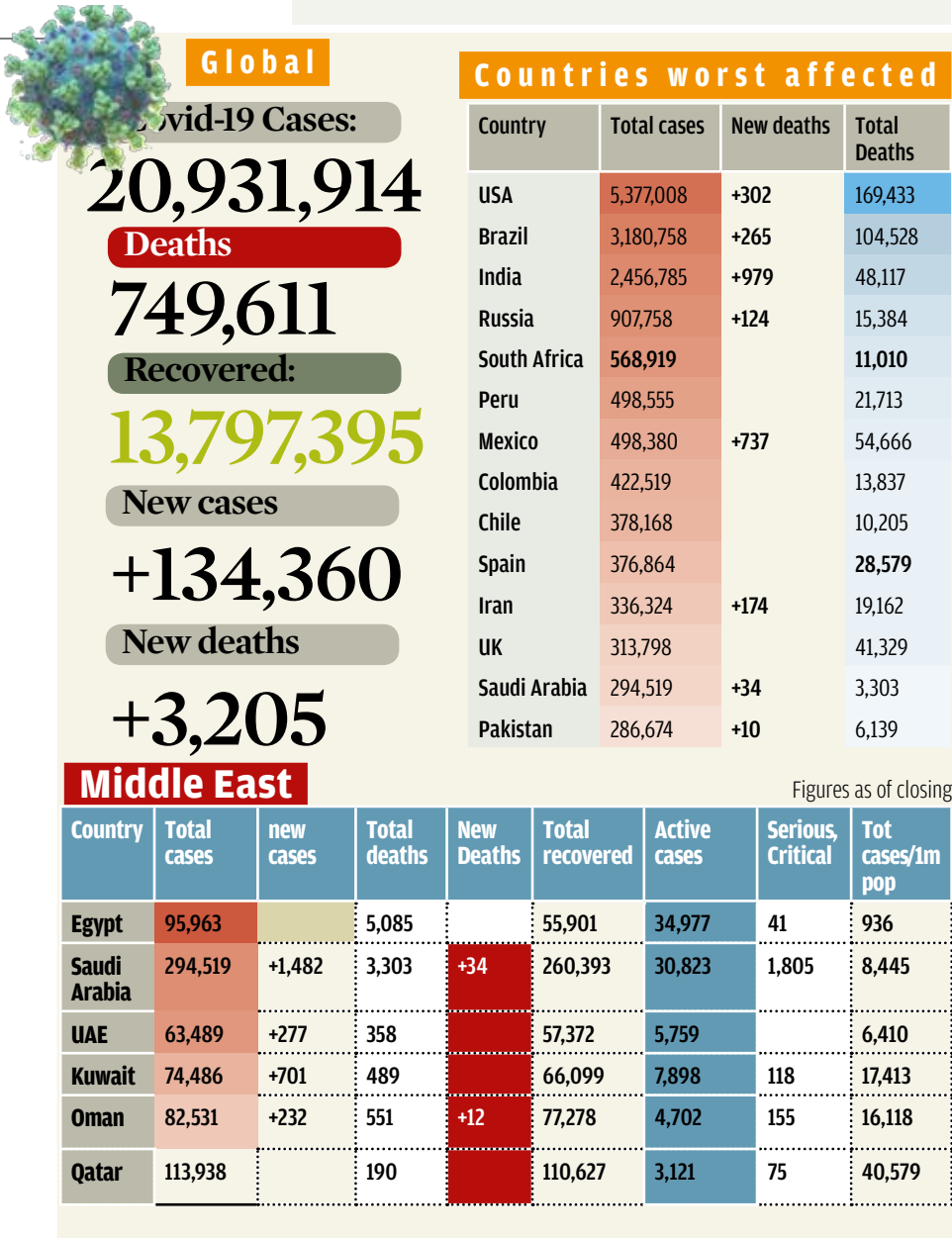
Belarusian Nobel Prize-winning writer Svetlana Alexievich condemned police violence against protesters in her country and urged strongman Alexander Lukashenko to go peacefully in an interview. The 72-year-old author won the 2015 Nobel Literature Prize for her work chronicling the horrors of war and life under the repressive Soviet regime including the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that Washington hoped to work with the EU to resolve the crisis in Belarus where veteran leader Alexander Lukashenko’s controversial re-election has sparked unprecedented protests. Thousands have been arrested following mass peaceful protests that have been brutally quashed by police following Sunday’s vote, which opponents say was rigged.

A Florida sheriff ordered his officers to not wear face masks -- and banned the safety gear from his office -- even as the southern US state has hit record daily coronavirus death tolls. Sheriff Billy Woods, of central Florida’s Marion County, emailed deputies to tell them of the new mask prohibition, according to local paper the Ocala Star Banner, citing the message. The sheriff allowed for certain exceptions, including for officers who work in prisons, schools, hospitals or with people suspected of being infected with the virus.

Florida sheriff bans face masks among officers

Supporters of jailed Algerian journalist Khaled Drareni launched an appeal on Wednesday for international pressure to secure the release of someone who has become a symbol of press freedom in the North African nation. Drareni, 40, editor of the Casbah Tribune news site and correspondent for French-language channel TV5 Monde, was sentenced on Monday to three years in jail for “inciting an unarmed gathering” and “endangering national unity” after covering demonstrations by the Hirak protest movement.



Bolsonaro calls surging Amazon fires a ‘lie’



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro takes a ride his motorcycle

Reuters | Brasilia

Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro angrily denied the existence of fires in the Amazon rainforest, calling it a “lie,” despite data produced by his own government showing that thousands of fires are surging across the region.

Bolsonaro last year similarly denied a spike in fires that provoked a global outcry, with the right-wing populist trading barbs with French President Emmanuel Macron and other world leaders.

The president’s comments on Tuesday come even as Reuters witnesses in the remote Amazon town of Apui observed smoke blanketing the horizon in all directions during the day and large fires setting the sky aglow at night.

Fires in Brazil’s Amazon for the month of August hit a nine-year high in 2019 and this month so far looks even worse. More than 10,000 fires have been recorded in the first 10 days of August, up 17 per cent from the same period a year ago, according to data from the country’s national space research agency Inpe.

But in a speech to other South American leaders on Tuesday, Bolsonaro challenged foreign representatives to fly

“They won’t find any spot of fire, nor a quarter of a hectare deforested. This story that the Amazon is going up in flames is a lie and we must combat it with true numbers

JAIR BOLSONARO

over the Amazon saying that traveling by air from the far flung cities of Boa Vista to Manaus, you would not see a single flame.

“They won’t find any spot of fire, nor a quarter of a hectare deforested,” the former army captain told a meeting of members of the Leticia Pact, an agreement between Amazon countries to protect the rainforest.

“This story that the Amazon is going up in flames is a lie and we must combat it with true numbers,” he said.

Bolsonaro interfered in Inpe after it released unfavourable data on Amazon deforestation last year, firing the agency’s head Ricardo Galvao who defended his agency’s numbers that showed rising destruction.

New Trump book to reveal letters with Kim Jong Un

Bob Woodward obtains letters between Trump and Kim Jong-un for new book

● Publisher announces details of successor to bestseller Fear

● North Korean leader describes bond out of a ‘fantasy film’

AFP | Washington

Kim Jong Un said his relationship with Donald Trump was like a “fantasy film”, according to the publishers of a new book on the US president set to unveil 25 private letters exchanged between the two leaders.

The relationship between the pair has been a key driver of recent diplomacy between Washington and Pyongyang, veering from mutual insults and threats of war to a declaration of love from Trump.

Investigative journalist Bob Woodward obtained messages between the two leaders “that have not been public before” for his upcoming book, according to Simon & Schuster.

In the letters, “Kim describes the bond between the two leaders as out of a ‘fantasy film’, as the two leaders engage in an extraordinary diplomatic minuet”, the publisher revealed on the book’s Amazon page.

The book, titled “Rage” and a follow-up to 2018’s “Fear”, is due out on September 15.

Trump and Kim have met three times, beginning with



Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump pose for photos during Hanoi Summit (file photo)

their landmark summit in Singapore in June 2018, but little progress has been made on efforts to denuclearise the North.

A few months after Singapore, Trump told a rally of his supporters that the two men had fallen in love.

“No, really, he wrote me beautiful letters, and they’re great letters. We fell in love,” he said.

Negotiations have been deadlocked since the collapse of a second summit in Hanoi in February last year.

But even with diplomacy at a standstill, Trump has frequently boasted of receiving “very beautiful” and “excellent” letters from Kim.

25 private letters exchanged between Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump will be unveiled in the book

Woodward, a Washington Post reporter, made his name with his coverage of the Watergate scandal and the role it played in the Richard Nixon’s resignation from the presidency in 1974.

Trump has sought to discredit

several of the claims made in “Fear”, which offered an inside glimpse into his chaotic White House and sold 1.1 million copies in its first week.

Trump -- who was not interviewed by Woodward for “Fear” -- has called that book a “joke” and “a scam”.

But in January this year, Trump said he had sat down with Woodward for the upcoming work.

“I was interviewed by a very, very good writer, reporter,” Trump said on Fox News.

“I can say Bob Woodward. He said he’s been doing something and this time I said, ‘Maybe I’ll sit down.’”

North Korea nuclear reactor site threatened by recent flooding, US think-tank says

● US think-tank 38 North says recent images show vulnerability of country’s main nuclear facility to weather disruption

Reuters | Seoul

Satellite imagery suggests recent flooding in North Korea may have damaged pump houses connected to the country’s main nuclear facility, a US-based think-tank said yesterday.

Analysts at 38 North, a website that monitors North Korea, said commercial satellite imagery from August 6-11 showed how vulnerable the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center’s nuclear reactor cooling systems are to extreme weather events.

The Korean peninsula has been hammered by one of the longest rainy spells in recent history, with floods and landslides causing damage and deaths in both North and South Korea.

Located on the bank of the Kuryong River about 100 km (60 miles) north of North Korea’s



A general view of North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear complex (file photo)

capital, Pyongyang, Yongbyon is home to nuclear reactors, fuel re-processing plants and uranium enrichment facilities that are thought to be used in the country’s nuclear weapons programme.

The five-megawatt reactor - believed to be used to produce weapons-grade plutonium - does not appear to have been operating for some time, and an Experimental Light Water Reactor (ELWR) has not yet come online, but such flooding in the future would likely force a shutdown, the 38 North report said.

“Damage to the pumps and piping within the pump houses presents the biggest vulnerability to the reactors,” the report said. “If the reactors were operating, for instance, the inability to cool them would require them to be shut down.”

While there was further flooding downstream, it did not appear to reach the Yongbyon facility’s Uranium Enrichment Plant and by August 11 the waters appear to have somewhat receded, 38 North said.

North Korea’s state media has not mentioned any dam-

age to Yongbyon, but reported this week that senior leaders had been touring flood-stricken areas, delivering aid and providing guidance on how to prevent the high waters from damaging crops.

South Korea’s Ministry of Defence declined to comment on the 38 North report, but said it is always monitoring developments related to North Korea’s nuclear and missile programmes and maintaining close cooperation with the US government.



Yongbyon is home to several N Korean nuclear reactors, fuel reprocessing plants and uranium enrichment facilities thought to be used in the country’s nuclear weapons programme

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it’s Canadian PM Justin Trudeau



Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attends a news conference in Ottawa (file photo)

AFP | Toronto

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is set to have his life story turned into a comic book, as TidalWave Productions adds the “media sensation” to its “Political Power” graphic novel series.

The glossy publication that has profiled politicians from around the globe for over 11 years details both Trudeau’s personal and professional milestones, as well as his hardships.

From growing up in the spotlight while his father, Pierre Trudeau, was 15th Prime Minister of Canada, to the death of his brother in an avalanche

accident, the series also highlights his role as a teacher, before he became Canada’s 23rd prime minister.

The 24-page comic book, set to be released on Sept. 16, takes a look at the global media frenzy surrounding Trudeau’s “camera-ready looks” and “easygoing nature” that erupted after he delivered the eulogy for his father.

A special hardcover of the comic book, which the company describes as a “non-partisan profile of the political figure,” will also be available.

Trudeau, born in Ottawa on Dec. 25, 1971, was sworn in as Canada’s prime minister in 2015.

Saeed goal helps Shabab upset East Riffa



Action from Shabab's win over East Riffa last night

TDT | Manama

Al Shabab stunned heavily favoured East Riffa 1-0 last night to kick off the 13th week of action in the 2019/2020 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League. Ali Hassan Saeed scored the game's lone goal to separate the two sides in the contest, which was played at Khalifa Sports City stadium in Isa Town. After a goalless first half, Saeed found the net in the 59th minute with a low shot from an acute angle on the left of the box—an effort that should have been saved by East Riffa's Bahrain international goalkeeper Hamad Al Dossary. Star striker Mohammed Al Rumaihi had a chance to equalise for East Riffa just two minutes later, but his one-on-one attempt on a quick counterattack was saved brilliantly by the Shabab keeper. The result marked only the third win for Shabab in 13 matches this season. They

improved to 10 points on the league table and moved up to seventh place, while East Riffa were dealt their fourth loss as they stayed in fourth place with 21 points. In yesterday's other clash, Manama and Al Hala played to a goalless draw. Manama improved to 16 points on the standings in sixth while Hala rose to six points in last place. League action continues tonight with another three matches on the cards. One of the games is between Muharraq and Al Ahli—a match-up that is widely known to local football fans as Bahrain's version of the "El Clasico". The game will be played at Khalifa Sports City. Also today, defending champions Riffa face Busaiteen at Al Ahli Club stadium in Zinj, while current league leaders Hidd go head-to-head with Al Najma at the Muharraq Club stadium in Arad. All three games are scheduled for 7pm kick-offs.

Stephen Loman completes 1000 days on top of the world at BRAVE CF

TDT | Manama

The longest-reigning world champion at BRAVE Combat Federation is celebrating a milestone today. Stephen "The Sniper" Loman's reign as the Bantamweight titleholder started exactly 1000 days ago, on November 17th, 2017. It was at BRAVE CF 9 that Stephen announced himself to the world of MMA. Coming in as an underdog against Gurdarshan Mangat, Loman shocked everyone by knocking out his opponent in the first round. The win sent shockwaves through the world of mixed martial arts, and Loman instantly became a fan-favourite back in his home country of the Philippines. Before he could defend his throne in front of his fans, however, Stephen would go around the world defeating some of the best Bantamweight fighters in the world. Starting with rival Frans Mlambo. A teammate of Conor



Stephen Loman celebrates after a bout

McGregor's, "The Black Mamba" was vying for revenge since he was defeated by Loman in both men's first appearances at BRAVE CF. When the cage door closed for the main event of BRAVE CF 13, however, it was more of the same. Showcasing his complete and well-rounded mixed martial arts game, Loman dug

deep and dominated Mlambo throughout in front of McGregor and defended his title for the first time. At BRAVE CF 18, in Bahrain, he faced off against the most dangerous striker in the division, Felipe Efrain. The logical step would be to constantly go for takedowns, but "The Sniper" wanted to prove a point. And he

did, with yet another stellar performance, standing up and only using his wrestling occasionally, he defended his belt once again. It was then time for his homecoming. At BRAVE CF 22, he took on a former Featherweight world champion in Elias Boud-egzdame and showed why he was the present and the future of Filipino MMA. In the most dominant performance of his career, he TKO'd Elias in the fourth round to retain his title. His last fight came in November of last year, as he once again dominated his opposition, this time handing Louie Sanoudakis the first loss of his BRAVE CF career in India at BRAVE CF 30. The Covid-19 pandemic has been in the way of his plans for 2020, but Loman has all the tools to continue making history and will look to get back to action at least one time this year. For now, we applaud the legend that is Stephen Loman, the biggest world champion in BRAVE CF history.

Action from the match



Action from the match

● Dar Kulaib secure the title after dominant three-set victory over Al Najma

TDT | Manama

Dar Kulaib were last night crowned champions of this year's Crown Prince Cup in volleyball. Dar Kulaib secured the title after a dominant 3-0 (25-19, 25-21, 25-16) victory over Al Najma in a quick hour-and-a-half clash, played at the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa. BVA president Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and Bahrain Olympic Committee secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf were on hand to watch the contest, which took place with no fans in the stands, as per the requirements issued by government authorities in the Kingdom's fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. All health protocols were also followed for the safety of those



Dar Kulaib players and team staff celebrate with the Crown Prince Cup. Picture courtesy Al Ayam

involved. Following the game, the prestigious Crown Prince Cup was lifted by Dar Kulaib's players and team staff in an awarding ceremony, attended by Shaikh Ali, Al Nusuf, and a few other BVA officials.



Last night's Crown Prince Cup final was a family affair, as brothers Yousef and Fouad Abdulwahid were on opposing sides as coaches of Dar Kulaib and Al Najma, respectively; while their other sibling Mahmood was a Dar Kulaib player

Najma also claimed their silver medals. Dar Kulaib did well to get the match off on a positive note with a fine showing in the first set. They were then able to hold

off a Najma challenge and close the second set strong to take a commanding two-set advantage. The victors then rode their momentum into the third, giving their opponents little chance to seriously threaten to extend the proceedings to a fourth set. Last night's final was also a family affair, as brothers Yousef and Fouad Abdulwahid were on opposing sides as coaches of Dar Kulaib and Najma, respectively. To add to that, their brother Mahmood also suited up for Dar Kulaib as a player. Earlier in the competition, Dar Kulaib had upset league champions Muharraq in the semi-finals to book their tickets to the title match, while Najma overcame Al Ahli in the same stage. Both games went the maximum five sets before a winner was determined.

Bahrain Esport GT pre-qualifying event set

TDT | Manama

Forty-eight drivers will today be vying for 15 places in the second season of the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship, being organised and run by the Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF). The competition's one-off pre-qualifying event is scheduled to be held along a virtual version of popular Austrian track the Red Bull Ring. The series' hopefuls will be divided into four groups, with the first getting the action underway at 4.25pm. The last group will then begin their session at 6.25pm.

15

qualified drivers will compete over five rounds in the second season of the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship, starting next weekend

The new season is being held under the patronage of BMF president Shaikh Abdullah bin Isa Al Khalifa, and is supported by Bahrain International Circuit, DHL and VP Racing Fuels. It follows the success of the inaugural championship, which wrapped up last month. The pioneering electronic sports series features the Gran Turismo Sport video game for the Playstation 4 platform. Following today's event, the 15 qualified drivers will compete over five rounds, starting next weekend. Cash prizes and trophies or medals will be awarded to the top three finishers of each race, while the overall championship winner will win an additional BD500, while second place will get BD300 and third BD200. The series is being held within the framework established by the International Automobile Federation on Esports, which is growing in popularity due to the current times.