



**BE Determined**

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

مملكة البحرين  
 KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

**Two more COVID-19 deaths, 654 new recoveries**

TDT | Manama

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

The deceased included an 86-year-old Bahraini man and a 59-year-old expatriate man. Their passing brought the total number of virus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 111.

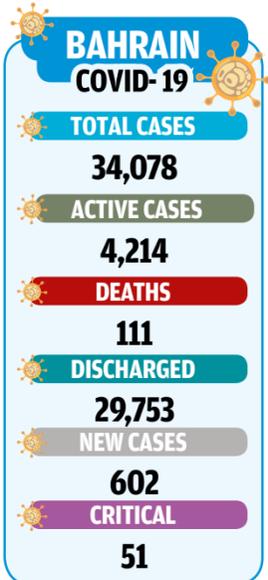
The Health Ministry expressed its condolences to the victims' families.

Meanwhile, the ministry announced early this morning that out of 9,867 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 602 new cases were detected. These included 351 expatriate workers, 234 contacts of active cases, and 17 travel-related cases.

There were also 654 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 29,753.

The total number of current active cases went to 4,214, with 51 in critical condition and 97 receiving treatment. The remaining 4,163 cases are stable.

The total tests conducted increased to 685,318.



210 fils (includes VAT)



**HRH the Crown Prince chairs executive committee meeting**

**Renewable energy projects, electricity and water sector development, and COVID-19 fight were among issues discussed**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister chaired yesterday the 333rd meeting of the Government Executive Committee, held remotely.

During the meeting, among HRH the Crown Prince



the issues discussed were ongoing renewable energy projects, electricity and water sector development and Bahrain's status in the UN E-Government Survey 2020.

Measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic were also reviewed.

**Students' health, safety paramount**

Education Ministry formulates initial plan for start of new academic year, taking into account COVID-19 situation

TDT | Manama

A return to regular classes in Bahrain's public and private schools will be permitted only if the health and safety of students and staff can be guaranteed, according to a top Ministry of Education official.

The ministry's General and Technical Education assistant undersecretary Latifa Isa Al Bonoodha said yesterday that an initial plan has been outlined for the start of the new academic year in September, taking into account all conditions related to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

She added that the ministry is ready to continue with distance learning, should the need arise, or even have a combination of both traditional and remote education.

"Students will gradually attend classes based on the current health condition and as per the di-



Al Bonoodha, left, during yesterday's virtual conference

rectives of the National Taskforce for Combatting COVID-19," said Al Bonoodha, who was speaking in a virtual conference organised by the National Communication Centre.

Al Bonoodha revealed that, in the event that a return to traditional education would be permitted, classes would host only a limited number of students.

Moreover, she said that morn-

ing assemblies, as well as recesses and physical education classes, could be cancelled as further measures to help protect the health and well-being of all involved.

The full details of the mechanisms of a return to regular classes will be determined by the relevant authorities based on the health situation, she added.

"Schools will be equipped with

**Students will gradually attend classes based on the current health condition and as per the directives of the National Taskforce for Combatting COVID-19**

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GENERAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY LATIFA ISA AL BONOODHA

sanitisers and other health equipment, while students will need to commit to social distancing throughout school days to protect their health as well as that of the staff," she noted.

Al Bonoodha indicated that public schools' technological facilities would be upgraded in case students would need to continue with distance learning in the new

academic year.

Students in both public and private institutions in Bahrain at all levels had recently successfully completed the previous school year via distance education, following the COVID-19 outbreak, she noted.

Explaining further, Al Bonoodha stated that combining traditional learning with remote education means that students could physically attend classes just twice or thrice a week.

She said that the Education Ministry has done plenty to accommodate students through virtual classes, including the creation of thousands of online lessons as well as 14 YouTube channels.

The Education Ministry had recently announced that the new academic year for public schools will begin from September 6 for administrative staff and September 16 for students.

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS REMAIN**

**Ukraine: too soon to blame human error for downed passenger plane**

Reuters | Kiev

Ukraine's foreign minister said yesterday it was too soon to blame human error for the shooting down of a Ukrainian passenger airliner near Tehran in January, challenging the findings of Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation (CAO).

The CAO said in an interim report that the plane was accidentally downed, killing 176 people on board, because of a misalignment of a radar system and lack of communication between the air defence operator

and his commanders.

But Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told an online briefing that many questions remained unanswered.

"I want to clearly emphasise: it is early to say that the plane was shot down as a result of human error, as the Iranian side claims," he said.

"We have many questions, and we need a large number of authoritative, unbiased, objective answers about what happened."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards shot down the Ukraine International Airlines flight with a



Wreckage, including part of the engine, from the downed plane

ground-to-air missile on January 8, shortly after the plane

took off from Tehran. Iran later called it a "disastrous mistake"

by forces who were on high alert during a confrontation with the US.

Tehran said last month it would send the black box flight recorders from the downed airliner to France for analysis and that experts from the US, Canada, France, Britain and Ukraine would take part in the decoding.

Kuleba said an Iranian delegation was due to arrive in Kiev later this month to discuss compensation. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in February Kiev was not satisfied with the size of compensation Iran had offered.

# Message of solidarity



The Foreign Minister and Ambassador Cauchard in their video messages

## French Ambassador, Foreign Affairs Minister deliver words of inspiration marking France's National Day

TDT | Manama

French Ambassador Jérôme Cauchard highlighted yesterday the long-standing solid and friendly relations between Bahrain and France, and hailed the recent phone conversation between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and French President Emmanuel Macron as “another opportunity to strengthen links and develop joint action.”

Ambassador Cauchard was speaking in a video message to the Kingdom's French community and Bahraini friends on the occasion of France's National Day, also known as “Bastille Day”.

He said that the telephone conversation on July 9 between His Majesty the King and President Macron is a shining illustration of the high quality of relations between the two nations. Ambassador Cauchard, who celebrates his first Bastille Day in Bahrain after taking office in October of last year, also highlighted the common determination to bolster cooperation in business, education, culture, sport, and other fields.

The French diplomat stressed the significance of solidarity during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and paid tribute to all those affected by the pandemic, and especially to those who have been committed, courageously, in the fight against

the virus, especially in providing care for the sick.

Annual festivities marking the occasion could not be held physically this year due to COVID-19; nevertheless, this special day for all French citizens was still being celebrated, Ambassador Cauchard said.

“The celebration of the French National Day, every year, gathers all of us around the French Republic, the three colors of its flag, national anthem, values, history, army, European commitment, and attention to multilateralism,” he expressed.

“This year, the celebration is different—we all understand why—due to the current sanitary crisis which has affected the world, in Bahrain just like anywhere else, and imposed to not act as usual.

“This year, our thoughts are with the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic, in France just like in

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**We greatly appreciate the active and constructive role played by the French government and the positive contribution it has made to the preservation of regional and international security and stability, and we are always striving to strengthen bilateral cooperation, serving the common interests of both countries and friendly peoples**

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER DR ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI

Bahrain, to their families and loved ones. Our thoughts are also with those, in France and in Bahrain, who fight every day the disease next to the patients to help them recover, and who accompany and remind them that human nature knows how to be generous and solidary.

“I also think of all of us who had to adapt our way of life, both personal and professional, to the constraints linked to the fight against the virus. And now again, on this vacation period, we have to deal with the various regulations limiting international travel.

“But all that does not prevent, I know, our hearts from beating a little stronger today, like every July 14. I said when I arrived last October that we should be proud to wear the colours of France.

“I say it even more strongly today; I say it even louder today.”

The virtual celebration was especially honored by a friendly message sent by Bahrain's Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullahatif bin Rashid Al Zayani.

“We in the Kingdom of Bahrain are proud of the quality of cooperation and partnership with this friendly country, which embodies ancient civilisation, sophisticated culture and modern development,” the Foreign Minister said.

“We greatly appreciate the active and constructive role played by the French government and the positive contribution it has made to the preservation of regional and international security and stability, and we are always striving to strengthen bilateral cooperation with the French Republic, serving the common interests of both countries and friendly peoples.”

On the occasion of the national day celebration by the French Embassy in Bahrain, the Foreign Minister paid tribute to the efforts of Ambassador Cauchard and the members of the Embassy to strengthen and develop cooperation and communication.

“I commend the French community and the tangible efforts it has made to strengthen the longest relationship between the two friendly countries, and I wish the French people further progress and prosperity,” the Foreign Minister said.

## Foreign Ministry cooperation with BTEA stressed



Dr Shaikha Rana during the video conference

TDT | Manama

Cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) is crucial in promoting international tourism, especially in light of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

This is according to Foreign Ministry undersecretary Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, who said this yesterday during a video conference with BTEA CEO Nader Al Moayyed.

Dr Shaikha Rana said that endorsing Bahrain as a tourist destination abroad can be supported through the Kingdom's embassies in various countries of the world, particularly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic which has drastically affected the sector.

Dr Shaikha Rana also expressed the readiness of the Foreign Ministry, through its missions, to attract and encourage the hosting of regional and international conferences, as well as trade fairs, in the Kingdom.

This would increase the contribution of the tourism sector to the development of the national economy, she said.

Dr Shaikha Rana expressed her appreciation for the efforts made by the BTEA in developing the tourism sector in Bahrain, and praised the important initiatives undertaken within the framework of the Kingdom's Economic Vision 2030.

She reviewed important tourism components that Bahrain possesses, and its strategic position as a country attractive to Gulf and international travellers.

She stressed the importance of the Foreign Ministry's support for various programmes aimed at achieving BTEA's goals to enhance the position of the Kingdom as a leading tourism destination among the countries of the region.

On his part, the BTEA chief expressed his appreciation for the great support enjoyed by the BTEA from the Foreign Ministry, and stressed the importance of continued cooperation and coordination between the two parties to promote the tourism sector in the Kingdom.

## Ambassador to Netherlands issues statement on ICJ decision

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Non-Resident Ambassador to the Netherlands Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohamed Al Khalifa said yesterday that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has delivered two judgments upholding the jurisdiction of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) over complaints filed by Qatar.

The first complaint was filed against Bahrain, Egypt, and the UAE, and the second against Bahrain, Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, concerning the sovereign legitimate measures adopted by the quartet within the framework of terminating diplomatic relations with Qatar in June 2017.

The ambassador expressed Bahrain's full respect for the decisions of the ICJ and the principles of international law, in relation to preserving the security, safety and flow of air



Shaikh Fawaz

traffic.

He clarified that the two judgments relate to whether the ICAO has competence to hear the complaints brought by Qatar, under the Chicago Convention in 1944 and the Convention on International Air Services Transit, and thus the two judgments have no bearing on the substance of the dispute or the merits of the baseless Qatari claims which target the interests and security of the four abovementioned nations.

## Gemmology courses to be offered in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT) has signed an agreement with Gem-A (The Gemmological Association of Great Britain), becoming the first Gem-A Accredited Teaching Centre in the Middle East.

For the first time, DANAT will offer Gem-A accredited Gemmology Foundation and Diploma courses, aimed at individuals pursuing a career in the jewellery industry.

Gem-A is the world's long-



Jamsheer

est-running international provider of gem and jewellery education, with over 110 years of expertise in the field.

Gem-A CEO Alan Hart commented: “In many ways the foundations of Gem-A were laid thanks to the gemmological riches of the Gulf region.

“As natural pearls and cultured pearls began to compete in the marketplace, one of Gem-A's founding fathers, Basil Anderson, created the world's first gem testing laboratory to reassure customers and the trade.

“He understood that rigorous scientific knowledge was vital to the health of our trade and for maintaining consumer confidence in natural pearls from the Gulf, as well as gemstones from the wider world.

“Considering this heritage, we are thrilled that Gem-A has forged a new partnership with DANAT—an institution that reflects the pursuit for gemmological excellence that has long existed in Bahrain and the wider Gulf region.

“As a leader in pearl testing, authentication and verification, DANAT is ideally placed to serve as a Gem-A Accredited Teaching Centre (ATC) and embodies our values of gemmological excellence and scientific rigour.

“We look forward to learning from them in return and discovering more about the efforts to restore and preserve the natural pearling industry that is so ingrained in the history of the region.” DANAT CEO Noora Jamsheer said: “It is a matter of pride for DANAT to become the Middle East's first Gem-A ATC, and it highlights our commitment to providing high quality educational opportunities in the field to the region.

“As a historic hub for pearl trading, Bahrain has a long and important association with gems and jewellery, and we are pleased to bring this tradition into the 21st century by offering this cutting-edge training.

“We are also proud to support the Government of Bahrain's economic diversification.”

## BAHRAIN'S AMBASSADOR IN BERLIN PARTICIPATES IN KEY MEETING



Bahrain's Ambassador to Germany Abdullah Abdulatif Abdullah participated in a virtual meeting with Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs minister of state Miguel Berger. The meeting, at the level of heads of diplomatic missions in Berlin, discussed the priorities of Germany's policy in the political, social and economic fields during its current presidency of the European Union and the UN Security Council, mainly after the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its significant global economic impact. The minister also touched on the role of Germany towards regional and international political and security issues. Left, Ambassador Abdullah during the meeting.

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

**Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT) has become the Middle East's first Accredited Teaching Centre of Gem-A (The Gemmological Association of Great Britain), which is the world's longest-running international provider of gem and jewellery education, with over 110 years of expertise**

# Education Ministry's summer programme inaugurated

TDT | Manama

Education Minister Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi inaugurated yesterday the ministry's summer programme, which will be implemented for the first time remotely by using digital technology, and which will benefit many students from public and private schools at various levels of education.

Registration for the programme, which will be held from July 21 to August 19, is now open until Saturday on the e-government website.

In a visual presentation, the Education Ministry's Educational Services and Student Activities assistant undersecretary Dr Shaikha Al Jeeb said that this year's programme is being held with the theme "Summer of Creativity and Innovation".

The various activities that it



The Education Ministry's summer programme this year is being held with digital technology, with the theme "Summer of Creativity and Innovation". Its various activities are in the fields of science, art, culture, sports, psychology, social and academic counseling, and personal development

includes are in the scientific, artistic, cultural, and sports fields, in addition to psychology, social and academic counseling, and personal development. These are all to be supervised by a group of specialists in the Education Ministry.

The Education Minister praised the efforts made to prepare the summer programme, which he said the ministry is

very keen to deliver annually.

He expressed his confidence in the use of digital technology, taking into account the current health conditions being faced globally due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Minister said it reflects the practices employed in distance learning during the second semester of the past academic year, and stressed that it comes

within the framework of the Ministry's great interest in encouraging students to invest in their holidays in a positive, beneficial, and entertaining manner. At the same time, the programme will help develop their talents and creativity.

The summer programme is set to be supervised by specialists from the Ministry's various departments including student services, public libraries, physical education, scouting and guides, and centre for gifted students.

The kinds of activities that will be held include creative writing, academic specialisations, the art of leadership, various skills in sports, culture and health competitions, storytelling, puppet plays, teaching sign language, science and environment programmes, scientific research, photography, chess, and many others.

# Three men arrested for robbery

TDT | Manama

Three men have been arrested for stealing money and items from shops in the Capital Governorate, the Ministry of Interior has announced.

The ministry said that the Capital Governorate Police director-general reported the apprehension of the trio, who were all between the ages of 25 and 29.

He said that the directorate received a complaint from a cold store after three individuals who were wearing female abayas robbed it.

They broke into the shop by damaging the door with a metal tool and then stole money and goods, the director-general said.

An investigation into the theft led to identifying and arresting the suspects within 12 hours of the case being reported.

The probe also revealed their involvement in robberies of other shops which took place on the same day of a reported case of a stolen car.

Legal proceedings have been taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

# Four shrimping ban violators arrested

TDT | Manama

Four men have been detained in separate cases of shrimping ban violations, the Ministry of Interior has announced.

The ministry said that the

Coast Guard Commander reported the arrests of the men, who had varying quantities of shrimp.

Legal proceedings were taken and the case has been referred to the Public Prosecution.

# Commitment reiterated to enforcing virus-related measures

TDT | Manama

Southern Governorate Police will continue to enforce coronavirus-related laws and precautionary measures, such as social distancing and wearing masks.

This was stressed by director-general Brigadier Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa in a meeting with the Interior Ministry's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Combatting Taskforce head Dr Khalid Abdulwahid Omar.

The director-general hailed the directives of Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa for the formation of the taskforce in cooperation with Team Bahrain.

He noted that the meeting was an opportunity to learn about procedures and steps being undertaken to fight the spread of the virus and enhance the efforts of the directorate in



The director-general at the meeting

cooperation with the Southern Governorate.

The taskforce's head praised the directorate's efforts which have contrib-

uted to the success of the team's missions.

The meeting was also attended by taskforce member Lt-Col. Tariq Bin Daina.

# Two women drown in Juffair building pool

TDT | Manama

Two European women died yesterday after drowning in a swimming pool in a residential building in Juffair, the Ministry of Interior reported.

The ministry said on social media that the deceased individuals were aged 32 and 43.

Relevant procedures were being taken.

No other details were made available.



Authorities at the scene



An image of the residential building where the incident took place

# Health Ministry launches COVID-19 chat service

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health has announced that members of the public may now communicate directly with it through WhatsApp, on all issues related to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The free, round-the-clock service is available in both English and Arabic, and it delivers up-to-date information on the latest developments and decisions on the response to the pandemic by Team Bahrain, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

One of the ways to avail of the service is by adding the number 32002001 to the user's WhatsApp contact list and then sending a message "Hi" to receive an immediate reply.

**BE Determined**

**The Ministry of Health's WhatsApp auto-reply service (Chatbot)**

The service delivers up-to-date information to the population on the spread of COVID-19 and Team Bahrain's response to the global pandemic - led by HRH the Crown Prince

The chat services are free to use and available around the clock through:

- Adding contact number **+973 32002001** To the user's contact list on "Whatsapp" and sending the word "Hi" for an immediate reply
- Scanning the QR code

# Virtual lecture held on dealing with mass media

TDT | Manama

The Information Affairs Ministry held a virtual lecture on dealing with mass media for non-media workers.

Delivered by ministry advisor Dr Lulwa Bu Dulama, the lecture attracted participants from the public and private sectors, in addition to school and university students.

Dr Bu Dulama emphasised the importance of modern digital technologies in overcoming all barriers, achieving the continuity of life and production, and enhancing communication for the exchange of information and experiences.

The lecture dealt with the concept of mass media, and their role in building the mental image of institutions for those who deal with them.

Dr Bu Dulama highlighted the principles and methods of dealing with the media, in addition to ways



Dr Bu Dulama during the virtual lecture

of achieving a positive image about institutions through the best selection of messages and the level of their guidance.

She stressed the importance of interconnectedness between body language skills and the language of discourse in causing the desired effect.

She also highlighted the skills required for persons who appear on the media, and provided many guidelines for the success of media interviews.

## Alba employee's training and development goes virtual

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), announced successfully adopting virtual platforms for training employees and contractors since April 2020 amid coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

"COVID-19 has dramatically changed the global training & education sector, giving a distinctive rise to virtual platforms. As we find our balance in the new norm, Alba has re-shaped its training and development programmes so that our people continue to learn and grow, which in turn will help Alba stay ahead of the curve," said Alba's Chief Executive Officer Ali Al Baqali.

"In the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, the Company's Human Resources & Training Department quickly transitioned from in-person learning to virtual and online training sessions for Alba employees as well as contractors."

Alba said it has been con-



Alba's Chief Executive Officer Ali Al Baqali

ducting numerous short courses and multiple-days training by in-house instructors and technical experts as well as well-known external training providers.

The company said will continue to expand its virtual and online training portfolio to fulfil the objectives of its Master Training Plan, which was announced in October 2019.

## Flipkart raises \$1.2 billion in Walmart-led funding

Reuters | Bengaluru

Flipkart said yesterday it raised \$1.2 billion in an investment led by its majority owner Walmart Inc, valuing the Indian e-commerce firm at \$24.9 billion.

The investment round included other existing Flipkart shareholders, and the funding will be made in two tranches over the remainder of the fiscal year 2021, Flipkart said.

The Bengaluru-headquartered firm would use the funds for the "continued development of its e-commerce marketplace as India emerges from the Covid-19 crisis," it said.

Walmart in 2018 paid \$16 billion for a more than 70% stake in Flipkart, one of India's best known startups, to better compete with Amazon.com Inc in an important growth market.

Flipkart did not disclose de-



tails on the size of Walmart's stake in the company following the latest deal. It did not immediately respond to a request seeking further details.

Several Indian companies including e-commerce startups have lost weeks of revenues this year as the COVID-19 crisis resulted in lockdowns that restricted business activities.

Coronavirus cases have surged rapidly in recent weeks, making India the third worst hit nation, behind Brazil and the United States.

## OPEC sees record rise in global oil demand in 2021

Reuters | London

Global oil demand will soar by a record 7 million barrels per day in 2021 as the global economy recovers from the coronavirus pandemic but will remain below 2019 levels, OPEC said in its monthly report.

It was the first report in which OPEC assessed oil markets next year. It said the forecast assumed no further

downside risks materialised in 2021 such as U.S.-China trade tensions, high debt levels or a second wave of coronavirus infections.

"This assumes that COVID-19 is contained, especially in major economies, allowing for recovery in private household consumption and investment, supported by the massive stimulus measures undertaken to combat the pandemic," OPEC said.

## Saudi Arabia permanently cancels licence of beIN Sports

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Competition (GAC) said yesterday it has permanently canceled the licence of Qatari broadcaster beIN Sports, which has been barred from broadcasting in the kingdom since mid-2017

under a dispute with Qatar. GAC said in a statement carried on its website and by state television that it was also fining beIN Sports 10 million riyals (\$2.67 million) for practices "that restrict competition."

There was no immediate comment from beIN or Qatar.

From the end of this year, telecoms providers must not buy any 5G equipment from Huawei

CONNOR CAMPBELL  
ANALYST, SPREADEX

## Britain to purge Huawei from 5G service

Regrettably our future in the UK has become politicised, this is about US trade policy and not security. This disappointing decision is bad news for anyone in the UK with a mobile phone

ED BREWSTER  
HUAWEI UK SPOKESMAN

● Huawei called the decision "disappointing"

● The British review was triggered by new US sanctions in May that blocked Huawei's access to US chips and semi-conductors

AFP | London

Britain yesterday approved the phased removal of Chinese telecoms giant Huawei from its 5G network despite warnings of retaliation from Beijing. The policy reversal hands a major victory to US President Donald Trump's administration in its geopolitical and trade battle with China.

But it threatens to further damage Britain's relations with the Asian power and carry a big cost for UK mobile providers that have relied on Huawei equipment for nearly 20 years.

Digital minister Oliver Dowden's announcement followed a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Boris Johnson of his cabinet and National Security Council. "From the end of this year, telecoms providers must not buy any 5G equipment from Huawei," Dowden told parliament. He said the new guidelines also required all of Huawei's existing 5G gear to be stripped out "by 2027".

Huawei called the decision "disappointing" and motivated by politics.

"Regrettably our future in the UK has become politicised, this is about US trade policy and not security," Huawei UK spokesman Ed Brewster said.

"This disappointing decision is bad news for anyone in the UK with a mobile phone."

### US sanctions

Johnson infuriated Trump and upset some members of his own Conservative party by allowing the Chinese leader in global 5G technology to help roll out Britain's speedy new data network in January.

But the Trump administration told the UK government that its decision imperilled intelligence sharing and could even result in the relocation of some US fighter jets from England.



Johnson infuriated Trump and upset some members of his own Conservative party by allowing the Chinese leader in global 5G technology to help roll out Britain's speedy new data network in January.

### 'Outages'

Johnson had come under growing political pressure to not only dump Huawei but also adopt a tough line with China for its treatment of Hong Kong and repression of ethnic Uighurs in the western Xinjiang region.

But he also pledged to voters last year to bring broadband access to all Britons by 2025.

British telecoms companies have warned that stripping out all existing Huawei equipment could cost them billions and take years to implement.

BT chief executive Philip Jansen even raised the possibility of Britain suffering service "outages".

Dowden conceded that Tuesday's announcement means more Britons will have to wait longer to get full access to the speedy new network.

"This means a cumulative delay to 5G roll-out of two to three years and costs of up to £2 billion (\$2.5 billion, 2.2 billion euros)," he said.

"This will have real consequences for the connections on which all our constituents rely."

### Diversification

Johnson has challenged the Trump administration to come up with a reliable and cost-effective alternative to the Chinese firm.

Britain is pushing for the creation of a 5G club of nations that can pool their resources and provide individual components for an alternative solution that could be applied across the world.

Dowden said South Korea's Samsung and NEC of Japan were frontrunners, and talks were already at a "technical level".

"Put simply, countries around the world -- not just in the United Kingdom -- have become dangerously reliant on too few vendors," Dowden said Tuesday.

Tuesday's announcement does not cover the older 3G and 4G networks because their equipment is not impacted by the US sanctions.



Washington believes the private Chinese company could either spy for Beijing or shut down rival countries' 5G networks in times of war.

The British review was triggered by new US sanctions in May that blocked Huawei's access to US chips and semi-conductors at the heart of 5G networks. The restriction raised the possibility of Huawei having to switch from trusted US suppliers to alternatives whose safety could not be guaranteed by UK security agencies.

## Nokia says ready to replace Huawei in UK 'at scale and speed'

Reuters

Finnish telecom gear maker Nokia is ready to replace Huawei equipment in Britain, the head of Nokia Britain said yesterday following the UK's decision to stop using the Chinese manufacturer.

"We have the capacity and expertise to replace all of the Huawei equipment in the UK's networks at scale and speed, and are ready to step up to support the implementation of the UK government decision with minimal impact on the people using our customers' networks," Cormac Whelan said.

## Nokia rolls out software upgrade to 5G



Reuters

Finnish telecom equipment maker Nokia launched yesterday software which enables mobile operators to upgrade their 4G radio stations to new 5G technology without visiting the site or replacing equipment.

"This solution will save the telecommunications industry potentially tens of billions of euros in site engineering and re-visit costs," Nokia said in a statement.

Nokia said the software upgrade was immediately available for about one million radios, and the reach would grow to 3.1 million by the end of the year and to over 5 million in 2021.

## India wholesale prices contract for third month in June by 1.81pc year-on-year

Reuters | New Delhi

India's wholesale price gauge contracted for a third month in June, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed yesterday, with prices falling 1.81 per cent from a year earlier.

The annual wholesale price index fell in June, mainly because of a fall in fuel prices, from a year earlier, compared to 2.40pc fall predicted by analysts in a Reuters poll.

The annual retail inflation, the main gauge for the central bank to monitor prices, however, rose to 6.09pc in June, data released on Monday showed.

# Yusuffali gets top Abu Dhabi award

LuLu group Chairman awarded Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards 2020

● **Top Govt. recognition for ADNOC, Abu Dhabi Ports, Dolphin Energy and ADNEC**

● **The winners are selected based on outstanding initiatives and examples of a strong commitment to sustainability**

TD | Abu Dhabi

**Y**usuffali MA, chairman and managing director of LuLu Group International, has been honoured with this year's award for 'Sustainability Leader' during Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards 2020.

Launched in 2015 and organised by Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG), the awards are the region's only independent annual awards for sustainability achievements.

ADSG awards are designed to showcase sustainability best practices and raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable management practices for organisations.

The winners this year are Abu Dhabi Ports - Best Energy Management Initiative Award, Abu Dhabi Nation Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) - Best Sustainability Initiative Award, Yusuff Ali MA, Chairman, Lulu Group - Sustainability Leader of the Year Award, Shayma Al Mazrouei, of ADNOC Gas Processing - Sustainability Manager of the Year Award, Borouge-SCI - Best Sustainability Communication Programme Award and Dolphin Energy - Best Sustainability Report Award.



ADSG awards are designed to showcase sustainability best practices and raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable management practices for organisations. Above, Yusuffali MA.

## The winners this year are

Abu Dhabi Ports - Best Energy Management Initiative Award,

Abu Dhabi Nation Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) - Best Sustainability Initiative Award,

Yusuff Ali MA, Chairman, Lulu Group - Sustainability Leader of the Year Award, Shayma Al Mazrouei, of ADNOC Gas Processing - Sustainability Manager of the Year Award,

Borouge-SCI - Best Sustainability Communication Programme Award and Dolphin Energy - Best Sustainability Report Award.



Yusuffali opened his first LuLu hypermarket in the 1990s at the height of the Gulf War

Middle East retail king MA Yusuffali presides over \$8.4 billion (revenue) LuLu Group, with 188 stores in the Gulf region and elsewhere.

His son-in-law Shamsheer Vayalil, also a billionaire, runs his separate healthcare business.

In December 2019 he opened, the Great Scotland Yard, the former headquarters of the U.K. Metropolitan Police, now a luxury hotel managed by the Hyatt.



In 2013, he acquired a 4.99 pc stake in the 93-year-old Catholic Syrian Bank in Thrissur, Kerala, India and a 4.47 pc stake in Kochi-based Federal Bank to become the biggest individual shareholder in the two Kerala-based lenders

ustainability Initiative Award, Yusuffali MA, Chairman, LuLu Group - Sustainability Leader of the Year Award, Shayma Al Mazrouei, of ADNOC Gas Processing - Sustainability Manager of the Year Award, Borouge-SCI - Best Sustainability Communication Programme Award and Dolphin Energy - Best Sustainability Report Award.

The winners are selected based on outstanding initiatives and examples of a strong commitment to sustainability, by embracing innovative approaches and showing a clear understanding of the strategic importance of sustainability in their organization.

Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, the Secretary-General of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) congratulated the winners of the Awards and all organisations that made submissions to this year's Awards.

In her message on the occasion, Dr Al Dhaheri said: "As we start the recovery period post-COVID-19 during these unprecedented times, we are presented with an opportunity to ensure that we do this in a structured manner with an environmental improvement agenda to help rebuild an economy that is better prepared to deal with future risks such as those related to climate change."

## Humanoid clerk helps to cut red tape in Russia

Reuters | Moscow

**A** human-like robot designed to look and act like a female clerk has started providing services to the public at a government office in Siberia.

The humanoid, with long blond hair and brown eyes, is serving customers in Perm, a city 1,100 km (680 miles) east of Moscow.

So far it only helps with issuing certificates to testify that people have a clean criminal record and no record of drug use, documents required in Russia to complete various legal transactions.

The robot has been designed to look like an average Russian woman, the company behind the project Promobot said. Its facial features were generated by artificial intelligence based on analysing the appearance of several thousand females.

The robot, which wears the registry office uniform of white shirt and brown waistcoat, can recreate more than 600 human facial expressions by moving its eyes, eyebrows and lips and other mechanical muscles covered with artificial skin, Promobot said.

The robot can ask and answer generic questions and is connected to a scanner and a printer. It also has access to a document database and fully replaces a registry office employee, the head of the registry office, Leonid Gromov said.



A female human-like robot assists a visitor at a multi-functional document processing centre in the city of Perm, Russia



The robot has been designed to look like an average Russian woman, the company behind the project Promobot said.



### State Bank of India, Wholesale Bank Branch, Kingdom of Bahrain Position : Assistant Manager Compliance & DMLRO

State Bank of India, the largest commercial bank in India, with its presence across the globe and a leading financial institution in Bahrain is looking for recruitment of a Assistant Manager Compliance & Deputy Money Laundering Reporting Officer (DMLRO) for its Wholesale Bank Branch in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

#### Eligibility:

- Age : Minimum 25 year and Maximum 40 year
- Nationality : Applicant must be Citizen / Resident of Bahrain
- Qualification :

- a) Hold a degree from a university at bachelor level or higher or a relevant professional qualification in compliance.
- b) Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist Examination (ACAMS)
- c) May have any relevant certification(s) specific to this role. Such certifications may include but are not limited to:
  - i. International Diploma in Compliance offered by the International Compliance Association, and/or
  - ii. International Advanced Certificate in Compliance and Financial Crime offered by the International Compliance Association.
- d) Excellent communication skills (both spoken & written) in English.
- e) Proficiency & Skills in Computers is essential

**Experience:** Candidate must have a minimum of 2 year experience in the Banking Industry of which at least 1 year experience in an Anti-Money Laundering or Anti-Money laundering related role.

#### No. of vacancy : 1

Interested candidates may forward their application along with copies of the requisite qualifications (In the standard format available at our website <https://sbibahrain.com>)

#### With details of present employer, current salary drawn and expected salary etc. to

The Vice President (FHS), State Bank of India, Wholesale Bank Branch  
PO Box No 5466, 9th Floor, GB Corp Tower, Manama- Sea Front, Kingdom of Bahrain.

**All applications have to be sent only in hard copy form. E-mail would not be accepted**

**Last date of receiving application at State Bank of India: 30.07.2020.** Application received after last date will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview. Shortlisting of Candidates will be done only from the applications received in response to this advertisement. Any application / CV sent earlier will not be considered.

# UAE to launch Mars probe Friday after weather delay

● “Hope” -- or Al-Amal in Arabic -- is expected to reach Mars’s orbit by February 2021

● This will mark the 50th anniversary of the unification of the UAE

AFP | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates said it plans to launch its “Hope” Mars probe on Friday local time from Japan’s Tanegashima Space Center after a two-day delay due to poor weather there.

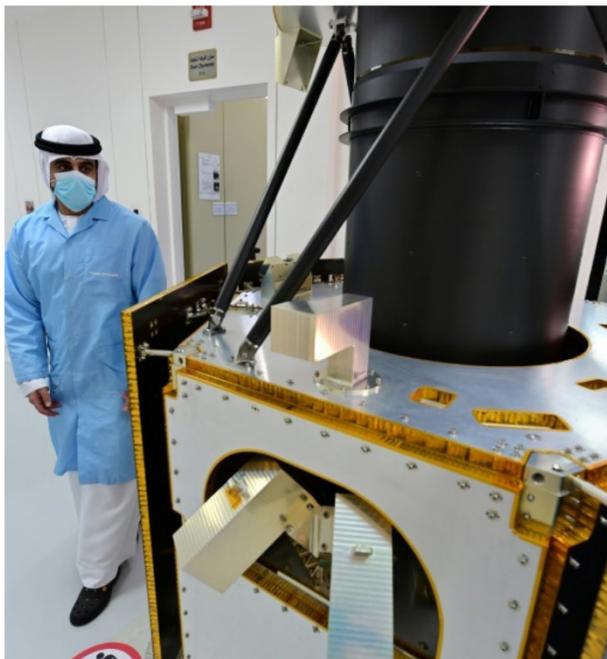
A rocket is due to blast off at 5:43 am local time (2043 GMT Thursday) carrying the unmanned spacecraft that is bound to orbit the Red Planet in the Arab world’s first interplanetary mission.

The launch was postponed from 2051 GMT yesterday because of inclement weather at the remote Japanese launch site, but remains well within the launch window which runs until August 13.

The Emirati project is one of three racing to Mars, including Tianwen-1 from China and Mars 2020 from the United States, taking advantage of the period when the Earth and Mars are nearest: some 55 million kilometres (34 million miles) apart.

“Hope” -- or Al-Amal in Arabic -- is expected to reach Mars’s orbit by February 2021, marking the 50th anniversary of the unification of the UAE, an alliance of seven emirates.

Once there, it will loop the



An engineer observes a model of a previous UAE space project, the satellite KhalifaSat

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

**Several dozen probes -- most of them American -- have set off for the Red Planet since the 1960s. Many never made it that far, or failed to land.**

The control room of the Mars Mission at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre in Dubai.

planet for a whole Martian year, or 687 days.

The probe is expected to detach from the launch rocket about an hour after blast-off, which is when the UAE Mars mission’s deputy project manager Sarah al-Amiri said the real excitement will begin.

“In my heart of hearts, I’m looking forward to the initial 24 hours after separation, and that’s where we see the results of our work,” said Amiri, who is also Minister of State for Advanced Sciences.

“It is when we first get the signal, when we know that every part of the spacecraft is functioning, when the solar panels are deployed, when we hit our trajectory and are headed towards Mars,” she said earlier this month.

Keiji Suzuki from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which is carrying the Hope probe into space, had already warned on Monday that thunderstorms forecast could delay the launch.

### Big ambitions

While the objective of the Mars mission is to provide a comprehensive image of the weather dynamics in the Red Planet’s atmosphere, the probe is a foundation for a much bigger goal -- building a human settlement on Mars within the next 100 years.

The UAE also wants the project to serve as a source of inspiration for Arab youth.

Dubai has hired architects to imagine what a Martian city might look like and build it in its desert as “Science City”, at a cost of around 500 million dirhams (135 million dollars).

### News in brief



**Philippines to use police in house-to-house searches for COVID-19 cases**

◆ **Philippine authorities and police will carry out house-to-house searches for COVID-19 patients to prevent wider transmission, a minister said on Tuesday, amid soaring death and infection numbers and some areas returning to a stricter lockdown.** Interior Minister Eduardo Azo urged the public to report cases in their neighbourhoods, warning that anyone infected who refused to cooperate faced imprisonment. The tough approach comes during a week where the Philippines recorded Southeast Asia biggest daily jump in coronavirus deaths.

**US says it executes Daniel Lee**

◆ **The US federal government yesterday carried out its first execution in 17 years,** putting to death convicted murderer Daniel Lee after the Supreme Court cleared the way overnight, a US Bureau of Prisons spokeswoman said. Lee was pronounced dead at 8:07 a.m. EDT (1207 GMT), the spokeswoman, Kristie Breshears, said by phone.

**China has described a primary by Hong Kong’s pro-democracy parties as a “serious provocation”**

, warning that some campaigning may have breached a new security law recently imposed on the city.



**President Donald Trump said he has a “very good” working relationship with America’s top infectious disease specialist, despite repeatedly undercutting the respected scientist amid the coronavirus pandemic.**

For several days Trump has hurled criticism at Anthony Fauci, a senior member of his coronavirus taskforce, who has warned -- sometimes in blunt language -- that US officials and citizens have not done enough to fight the pandemic. “I have a very good relationship with Dr Fauci,” Trump told reporters, adding: “I find him to be a very nice person. I don’t always agree with him.”



due to torrential rains, the island’s disaster mitigation agency said.

◆ **At least 15 people were killed and dozens missing after flash floods left hundreds of houses buried in mud on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, authorities said yesterday.** A search and rescue operation was underway to find missing people feared swept away by floods and mud after three rivers in North Luwu regency overflowed



people who had been made to quarantine there because of their recent travel to regions hard hit by COVID-19.

◆ **Chinese authorities have pressed criminal charges against 23 people for illegal building alterations that led to the collapse of a quarantine hotel in which 29 people died and 42 were injured in March, state media reported yesterday.** The 66-room Xinjia Hotel in southern China’s Quanzhou city collapsed on March 7, burying dozens of



face of new outbreaks of the disease.

◆ **India’s IT hub Bangalore went into a new week-long lockdown Tuesday as the number of coronavirus cases surged, while economic data from Singapore to Britain revealed the shocking extent of the damage wrought by the global pandemic.** India joins a raft of countries and cities across the globe to reimpose restrictions in the

## Thailand halts flights after Egyptian breaks quarantine with virus

Bangkok

Thailand suspended all inbound flights Tuesday after an Egyptian soldier skipped self-quarantine and went to a shopping mall before testing positive for COVID-19.

The kingdom has not recorded a domestic case of the virus for 50 days, winning praise for its strict lockdown which has so far controlled infections.

The country had been gingerly reopening its airspace, hoping to use the low virus rates to tease back visitors to an economy flatlined by the collapse of tourism.

But all inbound flights will be stopped after the group of Egyptian soldiers entered via the military-controlled U-Tapao airport, in Rayong province, without any virus screening.

They were meant to self-quarantine at a hotel before flying out the next day but instead went to a nearby shopping mall. One soldier in the group later tested positive for the disease.

Authorities are now scrambling to trace around 1,700 people at the mall and the surrounding area.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha said he took “all respon-



The incidents drew widespread anger from Thais on social media, with the hashtag “damn the government, damn its supporters” trending on Twitter.

sibility” for the oversight and issued a rare apology for undermining the public’s “confidence and safety”.

“It happened because people did not respect the rules,” he said during a televised address.

“All inbound flights are halted -- there are no more approvals until we can solve the problem.”

Thailand, which receives daily repatriation flights, had imposed a 14-day state quarantine on a few approved groups of foreigners allowed in -- like spouses of Thai nationals, work permit holders and foreign students. But aircraft crew and diplomats were exceptions allowed to self-quarantine.

The Egyptian man arrived on a military flight with 30 other officers on July 10 after a 24-

hour round trip to Chengdu, China. They departed for Egypt the following morning.

After this incident, a health ministry official said that eight Egyptian military flights approved to travel through the kingdom later this month had been cancelled.

The Egyptian embassy issued a statement Tuesday night expressing “its most sincere regrets and sympathies to all those who may have been adversely affected by this unfortunate incident”.

Authorities are also trying to trace the movements of the daughter of Sudan’s charge d’affaires who entered the country on July 10 and stayed in a busy Bangkok condo instead of an embassy residence.

COVID-19 Cases:

**13,341,938**

Deaths

**577,963**

Recovered:

**7,788,610**

New cases

**+112,197**

New deaths

**+2,988**

Global

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
1 USA	3,508,103	+453	138,700
2 Brazil	1,895,555	+240	73,161
3 India	936,628	+588	24,315
4 Russia	739,947	+175	11,614
5 Peru	330,123		12,054
6 Chile	319,493	+45	7,069
7 Mexico	304,435	+485	35,491
8 Spain	303,699	+3	28,409
9 UK	291,373	+138	44,968
10 South Africa	287,796		4,172
11 Iran	262,173	+179	13,211
12 Pakistan	253,604	+54	5,320
13 Italy	243,344	+17	34,984
14 Saudi Arabia	237,803	+40	2,283

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	83,001		3,935		24,975	54,091	41	811
Saudi Arabia	237,803	+2,692	2,283	+40	177,560	57,960	2,235	6,827
UAE	55,198		334		45,513	9,351	1	5,579
Kuwait	56,174	+666	396	+3	46,161	9,617	156	13,148
Oman	59,568	+1,389	273	+14	37,987	21,308	149	11,657
Qatar	104,533	+517	150	+1	101,160	3,223	137	37,229

Figures as of closing

# Libya tensions rise

Libya parliament back Egyptian intervention if necessary

● UAE yesterday issued an implicit warning to GNA

AFP | Benghazi, Libya

A war of words was heating up yesterday in oil-rich and conflict-torn Libya, where two rival administrations are battling for control and tensions have risen between outside forces Egypt and Turkey.

The Libyan parliament aligned with strongman Khalifa Haftar issued a statement late Monday giving in-principle support to a threatened Egyptian military intervention against what it termed a "Turkish occupation".

Libya has been torn by violence since the 2011 ouster of long-time dictator Muammer Gaddafi in a NATO-backed uprising, and the conflict has since drawn in multiple foreign powers.

The Turkish-backed and UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) based in Tripoli in the west has been fighting Haftar's forces, which are supported by Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Russia and others.

The GNA, with stepped-up Turkish support, in June repelled a 14-month siege of the capital by Haftar and launched a counter-offensive that is now stalled outside the coastal city of Sirte, Gaddafi's hometown.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, alarmed by Haftar's setback, warned last month that Cairo could send troops into Libya. He threatened to send in his army if GNA forces capture Sirte, which is located more than 800 kilometres (500 miles) from the Egyptian border and now held by Haftar's troops backed by a local Salafist militia.

The parliament said Monday on its website that it would back an Egyptian intervention if necessary "to protect the national security of Libya and Egypt if they see an imminent danger to both our countries".

Libya and Egypt should work



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (L) and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi



UAE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ANWAR GARGASH

*The drums of the war raging around Sirte in Libya threaten serious developments and dangerous humanitarian and political consequences. We in the UAE call for an immediate ceasefire and for wisdom to prevail*



Convoy of the "Tripoli Brigade", a militia loyal to the UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA), parade through Martyrs' Square at the centre of the GNA-held Libyan capital Tripoli

together, the assembly said, "to guarantee the occupier's defeat and preserve our shared national security" in the face of "the dangers posed by the Turkish occupation".

## 'Drums of war'

Sisi's warning was perceived as a "declaration of war" by the GNA but received the full support of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Jordan, all members of the pro-Haftar axis.

GNA spokesman Mohamad Gnounou pledged Tuesday that their forces would advance

toward the "cities taken hostage" and "eradicate all outlaw groups", an allusion to the pro-Haftar forces.

Egypt's military said Saturday it had carried out exercises involving navy, airforce and special forces near the Libyan border in response to the "severe and rapid changes" in the region.

The UAE yesterday issued an implicit warning to GNA forces advancing on Sirte.

"The drums of the war raging around Sirte in Libya threaten serious developments and dan-

gerous humanitarian and political consequences," tweeted its minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash.

"We in the UAE call for an immediate ceasefire and for wisdom to prevail," he added, calling for inter-Libyan dialogue "within clear international frameworks".

Sisi in June called Sirte a "red line" for Egypt, while Ankara has urged Haftar to withdraw from the strategic city and negotiate a ceasefire.

Libya expert Jalel Harchaoui of the Clingendael Institute in The Hague said Tuesday that, despite the rhetoric, he did not see the imminent risk of major military escalation.

"The military reality around Sirte has not changed significantly in the past two weeks," he said.

Sirte remained well-defended by Russian and Syrian mercenaries with UAE logistical support as well by dangerous minefields to the west of the city.

"Cairo's political desire for a visible and official Egyptian intervention remains very tenuous," he added.

At a time of regional economic and pandemic woes, he said, "Egypt has other problems at the moment".

## Saudi sees decrease in new COVID-19 infections



General view of Riyadh city, after the Saudi government eased a curfew

Reuters

Saudi Arabian officials said yesterday the kingdom has seen a decrease in the number of new coronavirus cases over the past seven days.

The kingdom recorded 2,692 new infections yesterday, the fourth day in a row the numbers have stayed below 3,000. Saudi Arabia has recorded a total of 237,803 cases with 2,283 deaths.

The number of new daily infections had reached their highest point of 4,919 on June 16, but those numbers have been steadily declining since early July, falling below 3,000 for the first time on July 10.

"We've noticed a decrease in the number of cases, and in particular the number of critical cases," Health Ministry spokesman Mohammed Abdelali told a news conference.

"We've noticed a stabilisation of the numbers of cases we're monitoring and a decline in the curve."

## US says room for sanctions in response to China in South China Sea

Reuters | Washington

The top US diplomat for East Asia said yesterday that the United States could respond with sanctions against Chinese officials and enterprises involved in coercion in the South China Sea.

"Nothing is off the table ... there is room for that," David Stilwell, the assistant secretary for East Asia, told a Washington think tank when asked if sanctions were a possible US response to Chinese actions.

Stilwell spoke a day after the United States rejected China's claims to offshore resources in



David Stilwell, U.S. Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

most of the South China Sea as "completely unlawful," a stance Beijing said raised tensions in the region.

## Stubborn fire aboard US warship in San Diego injures 21 people

Reuters | San Diego

Flames raged for hours on Sunday aboard a US warship docked at Naval Base San Diego, sending

21 people to the hospital with minor injuries and prompting a relocation of two other Navy vessels moored nearby, military and local fire officials said.

The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department reported an explosion in conjunction with the blaze, which broke

out at about 8:30 a.m. local time (1530 GMT) aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard, an amphibious assault vessel in port for routine maintenance.

The blast was believed to have been triggered by the rapid initial release of heat from a confined space under pressure, as opposed to an explosion of fuel or ordnance, Rear Admiral Philip Sobeck told a news conference on Sunday evening.

While the pre-

source of the blaze was unknown, the fire originated in a lower cargo hold of the ship and spread into the decks above it, consuming materials that typically burn in an office or apartment fire, Sobeck said.

### No immediate evidence of foul play

Navy spokesman Mike Raney said there was no immediate evidence of foul play.

Ammunition normally carried aboard warships at sea had already been unloaded as a standard safety precaution before the vessel was placed into maintenance, Navy officials said.

Roughly 1 million gallons of fuel remained isolated "well below where any heat source is," and fire crews worked all day to "make sure that's not affected," the admiral said.

Palls of thick, acrid smoke visible for miles around the base engulfed much of the 844-foot (257 meter) warship for several hours, as about half a dozen firefighting boats in the harbor trained streams of water onto the burning vessel.

Seventeen sailors and four civilians were taken to local hospitals for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, and all those who were aboard the warship - about 160 personnel - were accounted for, the Navy said in a statement.

Sobeck said the hospitalized sailors were all listed in stable condition. Navy officials said the injuries consisted mainly of smoke inhalation, heat exhaustion and minor burns. The vessel normally carries a crew of roughly 1,000.

Port of San Diego Harbour Police Department boats combat a fire on board the US Navy amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard at Naval Base San Diego, California

## France to make masks compulsory in enclosed public places



French President Emmanuel Macron

Reuters | Paris

France will in the next few weeks make it compulsory for people to wear masks in shops and other enclosed public spaces to stop a resurgence of the COVID-19 outbreak, President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday.

The virus, which killed more than 30,000 people in France, has been on the decline, but Macron said it was spreading again in some places as France opens up beaches, bars and restaurants after a two-month lockdown.

"We have some signs that it's coming back a bit," Macron said in an interview with French broadcasters. "Faced with that, we must anticipate and prepare."

"I want us, in the next few weeks, to make masks compulsory in enclosed public places. I ask fellow citizens to wear

masks as much as possible when they are outside, and especially so when they are in an enclosed space," Macron said.

Up to now, France has required people to wear face coverings on public transport and in public spaces where social distancing is not possible, but has not mandated the wearing of masks in shops.

Macron, speaking on the Bastille Day national holiday, also said he wanted COVID-19 testing available for everyone, without having to be referred by a doctor.

The biggest challenge France faced in the next few months was an expected wave of joblessness as firms hit by the epidemic lay off workers, he said.

He also said he was working with his government to ease the impact, especially on young people emerging into the workforce this summer after they finished their studies.

### Channel blocked with disposable foam food containers in Lagos



People walk past a drainage channel blocked with disposable foam food take away containers in Lagos

### Police patrolling a street in Medellin



Women wearing personal protective equipment look at mounted police patrolling a street in Medellin amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Mother of Korean Air chief gets suspended sentence for assault

● The family has come under scrutiny in recent years after being embroiled in multiple criminal probes

● Charges include cursing, kicking, slapping, and throwing a pair of scissors

AFP | Seoul

A South Korean court yesterday found the mother of Korean Air's chief executive guilty of repeatedly assaulting her employees, but gave her a suspended sentence.

Lee Myung-hee is the matriarch of the Cho family, which controls the Hanjin transport and logistics conglomerate where her son Cho Won-tae succeeded her husband as chairman following his death last year.

The family has come under scrutiny in recent years after being embroiled in multiple criminal probes over assault, embezzlement and smuggling luxury goods, as well as a power struggle at the Hanjin group,



Lee Myung-hee, matriarch of the Cho family, was given a suspended sentence for abusing staff

which includes Korean Air.

Lee, 70, faced multiple allegations of assault against her staff -- from drivers and housekeepers to construction workers -- including cursing, kicking, slapping, and throwing a pair of scissors.

Seoul Central District Court convicted her on Tuesday but gave her a two-year jail sentence suspended for three years, and 80 hours of community service, on the grounds of her age and the fact that the victims did not want her to be punished.

"In contrast to Lee's position as the wife of the chairman of a conglomerate, the victims, as drivers or housekeepers, had no choice but to endure Lee's unfair actions," the court said, according to Yonhap news agency.

It added Lee had "admitted her responsibility" and reached an agreement with the victims, factors which were taken into consideration.

The most notable incidents involving the family have centered on Lee's two daughters -- who previously held manage-

ment positions at Korean Air -- who became viral sensations for temper tantrums dubbed the "nut rage" and "water rage" scandals.

Her younger sister Cho Hyun-min was accused two years ago of throwing a drink into an advertising agency manager's face during a business meeting.



Cho Hyun-ah, the elder daughter, made global headlines



in 2014 for kicking a cabin crew chief off a Korean Air plane after she was served macadamia nuts in a bag rather than a bowl.

## China rushes to contain floods after record rainfall

● Flooding along the river -- the world's third longest -- has been an annual summer scourge since ancient times

Shanghai

Soldiers erected sandbag flood barriers in a city near China's largest freshwater lake after the heaviest rainfall in nearly six decades drenched the swollen Yangtze River basin.

The vast Yangtze drainage area has been lashed by torrential rains since last month, leaving 141 people dead or missing and forcing the evacuation of millions more across several provinces.

Flooding along the river -- the world's third longest -- has been an annual summer scourge since ancient times, but this

year's inundation has been especially severe.

The downpours have intensified since last week, causing dozens of Yangtze-basin waterways to post record-high water levels, while more than 400 had exceeded warning levels, Vice Minister of Emergency Management Zheng Guoguang said on Monday.

"Since June, average precipitation in the Yangtze river basin has been the highest since 1961," he told a news briefing in Beijing.

Authorities had been monitoring a flood crest as it neared Wuhan, the metropolis of 11 million that the Yangtze winds through and which had already suffered the vast number of China's deaths and cases in the coronavirus pandemic, which first emerged in the city.

They said river levels were decreasing after the crest passed Wuhan on Monday with no re-

ports of major new flooding there.

**Record rainfall**

Concern was now shifting downstream to Poyang Lake, which drains into the Yangtze in hard-hit Jiangxi province and is the largest freshwater lake fully within China's borders.

State-run Xinhua news agency said water levels at a key hydrological station on the lake broke a record set in 1998, when more than 4,000 people were killed in China's worst flooding in recent decades.

State media reported that more than 100,000 people -- including rescue personnel, soldiers, and ordinary citizens -- had been thrown into flood-control efforts in Jiangxi.

Around half of those were deployed at Poyang Lake, where many dikes and levees had collapsed, state television reported. In the city of Jiujiang, near

where the lake drains into the Yangtze, soldiers wearing orange life vests fortified the river bank with a wall of sandbags piled as high as a man.

The Yangtze's length is exceeded only by the Nile and the Amazon, and its drainage basin is home to around 400 million people.

Summer rains and seasonal glacial melt in the river's Tibetan plateau headwaters cause routine annual flooding.

But environmentalists say the threat has worsened over the decades due in part to rampant construction of dams and levees that have cut connections between the river and adjacent lakes and floodplains that for centuries had helped absorb the summer surge.

Conservationists also warn that the rapid melting of Himalayan glaciers due to climate change may lead to more dangerous summer flooding.



Chinese soldiers erect a sandbag barrier along the shore of Poyang lake after heavy seasonal rains in Jiujiang, in China's central Jiangxi province

# US calls China the new East India Company

AFP | Washington

A senior US official yesterday likened China's state enterprises to Britain's colonising East India Company as Washington takes a tougher stance against Beijing in the dispute-rife South China Sea.

A day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo branded most of Beijing's claims in the sea illegal, his top aide for East Asia denounced a proliferation of rigs, survey ships and fishing boats sent by Chinese state-run companies.

Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell said that oil major CNOOC and other firms were serving as "battering rams" to intimidate other nations.

"In all our societies, citizens deserve to know the differences between commercial enterprises and instruments of foreign state power," Stilwell said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"These state enterprises are



US Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs David Stilwell, seen here in Seoul has likened Chinese state enterprises to the British East India Company

The British East India Company seized control of most of the Indian subcontinent in the guise of trading in tea, cotton, spices and other goods before Britain formally took charge in the mid-19th century.

modern-day equivalents of the East India Company," he said.

The British East India Company seized control of most of the Indian subcontinent in the guise of trading in tea, cotton, spices and other goods before Britain formally took charge in the mid-19th century.

The reference is especially loaded due to the East India Company's role in smuggling opium into China, culminating in Britain's 1843 colonization of Hong Kong -- the start of what Beijing calls a century of humiliation.

China has recently triggered international outrage by clamping down on freedoms promised to Hong Kong before Britain handed back the financial hub in 1997.

In the latest rift between the United States and China, Pompeo on Monday sided with the Philippines, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian nations in rejecting China's vast claims in the South China Sea.

The United States had previously said that China's claims were unlawful but had taken no explicit position on individual disputes in the resource-rich and strategic sea.

Stilwell renewed US concerns on China's long-running talks with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on a South China Sea code of conduct, whose target date of next year has been pushed back due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Beijing may have backed off its arbitrary 2021 deadline for concluding the talks, but its hegemonic goals remain," Stilwell said.

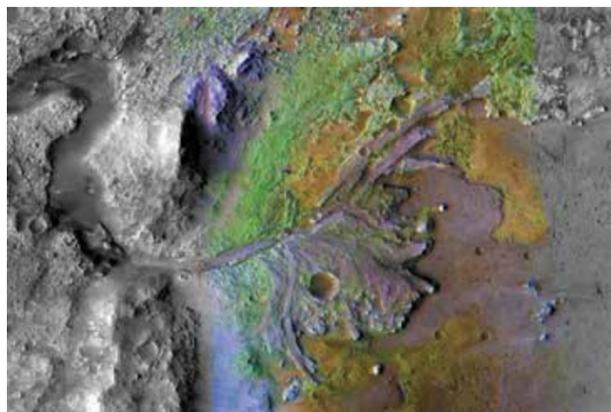
While the United States has no claims in the sea, he warned that US interests were "clearly at stake" in the code of conduct.

"A code of conduct that in any way legitimates Beijing's reclamation, militarization or unlawful maritime claims would be severely damaging, and unacceptable for many nations," he said.

# NASA's Perseverance rover will scour Mars for life



The Perseverance rover seen at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California in December 2019



On February 18 2021, Perseverance should land in the Jezero Crater, home to an ancient river that fanned out into a lake between three and four billion years ago, depositing mud, sand and sediment

Washington

NASA's most advanced Mars rover, Perseverance, launches from Earth on July 30, on a mission to seek out signs of ancient microbial life on what was once a river delta three-and-a-half billion years ago.

The interplanetary voyage will last six months.

Should the SUV-sized vehicle touch down unscathed, it will start collecting and storing rock and soil samples, to be retrieved by a future mission and brought back to Earth in 2031.

Perseverance follows in the tire tracks of four rovers before it, all American, which first launched in the late 1990s.

Together with satellite and

surface probes, they have transformed our understanding of Mars, showing that the Red Planet wasn't always a cold and barren place.

Instead, it had the ingredients for life as we know it: water, organic compounds and a favorable climate.

Scientists will examine the samples obtained by Perseverance to look for fossilized bacteria and other microbes to try to confirm if aliens did once live on our neighboring planet.

NASA has been teleworking for months because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the launch calendar for this \$2.7 billion mission hasn't been affected.

"This mission was one of two missions that we protected to make sure that we were going

to be able to launch in July," said NASA chief Jim Bridestine.

Earth and Mars are on the same side of the Sun every 26 months, a window that can't be missed.

The United States is the only country on the planet to have successfully landed robots on Mars: four landers, which aren't mobile, and the rovers Pathfinder, Spirit, Opportunity and Curiosity.

Of the rovers, only Curiosity is still active, with the others left on the surface after their machinery failed or contact was lost.

It's only in the past two decades that it's been confirmed Mars once had oceans, rivers and lakes.

Curiosity confirmed the presence of complex organic molecules -- but its instruments aren't capable of concluding that they were created by biological processes.

The first two landers, Viking 1 and 2, both looked for signs of life as far back as 1976, but

haphazardly.

"At the time the experiment for life detection was considered to be a complete failure," said G. Scott Hubbard, who launched the current Mars exploration program in the 2000s.

NASA then decided to proceed in stages.

By studying the soil, analyzing the molecular composition of rocks, and carrying out satellite observations, geologists and astrobiologists gradually understood where water had flowed, and what areas could have been conducive to life.

"Understanding where Mars would have been habitable in the past, and what kind of fingerprints of life you're looking for, was a necessary precursor to then going, at significant expense, to this very well selected spot that would produce these samples," said Hubbard.

## Fossil remains

On February 18 2021, Perseverance should land in the Jezero Crater, home to an ancient

river that fanned out into a lake between three and four billion years ago, depositing mud, sand and sediment.

"Jezero is host to one of the best preserved deltas on the surface of Mars," said Katie Stack Morgan, a member of the science team.

On our planet, scientists have found the fossilized remains of bacteria billions of years old in similar ancient deltas.

The six-wheeled rover is three meters long, weighs a ton, has 19 cameras, two microphones and a two-meter-long robotic arm.

Its most important instruments are two lasers and an X-ray which, when projected on rocks, can analyze their chemical composition and identify possible organic compounds.

Also on board is the experimental mini-helicopter Ingenuity, which weighs 1.8 kilograms. NASA hopes it will be the first chopper to take flight on another planet.

Perseverance probably won't be able to determine whether a

rock has ancient microbes.

To know for sure, the samples will have to be brought back to Earth where they can be cut into ultra-thin slices.

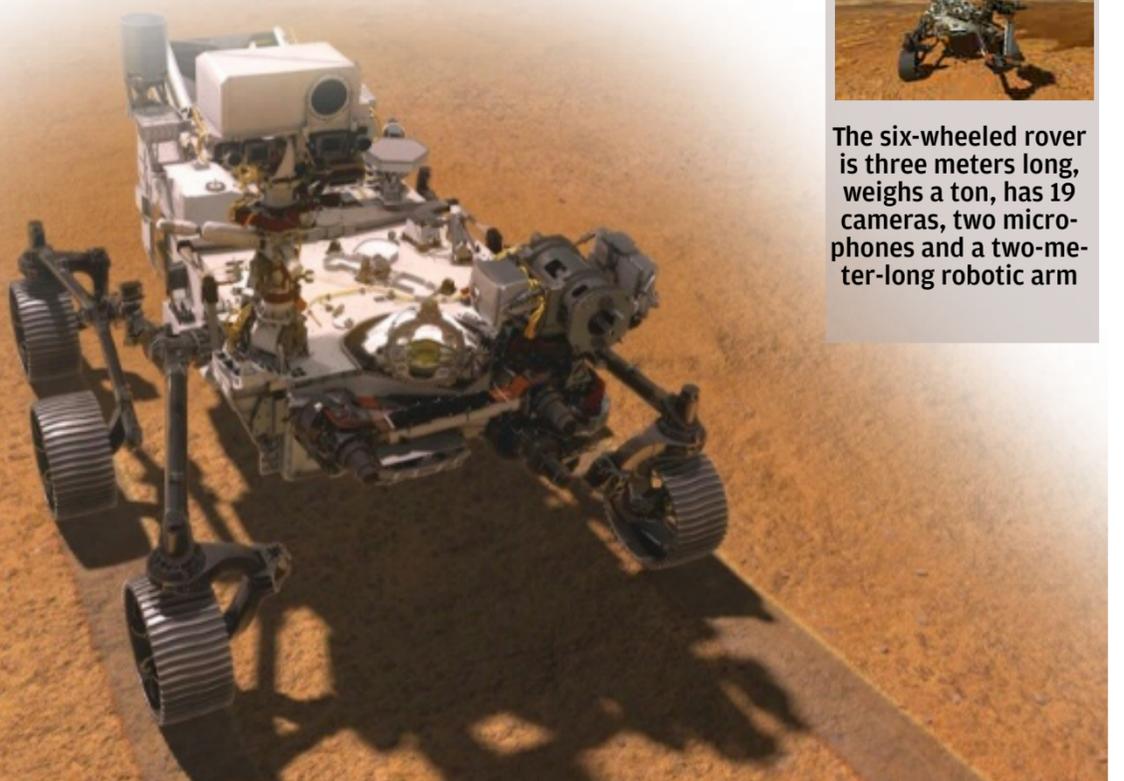
"Getting true scientific consensus... that life once existed on Mars, I think that would still require a sample return," Ken Williford, deputy head of the science project told AFP.

One thing we shouldn't expect are the fossilized shells that people find on Earth, he added.

If life once did exist on Mars, it probably didn't have time to evolve into more complex organisms before the planet dried up completely.



The six-wheeled rover is three meters long, weighs a ton, has 19 cameras, two microphones and a two-meter-long robotic arm



# Queen was not warned of Australia PM's sacking

● Suspicion the palace played a direct role in Whitlam's ouster has long been cited by Australian Republicans

AFP | Sydney

Queen Elizabeth II was not informed in advance about the 1975 dismissal of Australia's prime minister by her representative in country, letters kept secret for decades and released yesterday revealed.

The British monarch's representative in Australia, governor-general John Kerr, sparked a constitutional crisis when he fired Gough Whitlam, the democratically elected leader of the centre-left Labor party.

In May the High Court ruled more than 200 letters between the queen's private secretary and Kerr -- including many addressing the controversial affair -- should be made public.

Although the correspondence shows the queen was not told immediately prior to Whitlam's sacking, it confirms Kerr had exchanged extensive letters with the palace for months about his powers to oust the prime minister.

Suspicion the palace played a direct role in Whitlam's ouster has long been cited by Aus-



The British monarch's representative in Australia, governor-general John Kerr, sparked a constitutional crisis when he fired Gough Whitlam



Gough Whitlam, pictured here in 2004, was fired in 1975 after leading Australia for three years



The queen, who is Australia's head of state, is supposed to stay above politics and make no decisions about government appointments.

tralian Republicans arguing the country should break with the monarchy.

Historians are now combing through 1,200 pages of the so-called Palace Letters to see if the UK government tried to influence events in its former colony and what role the queen, her son and heir Prince Charles, and top royal advisers may have played.

'Skill and wisdom'

One extract shows Kerr in-

formed the queen he had fired Whitlam shortly after taking the action on November 11, 1975.

"I should say I decided to take the step I took without informing the Palace in advance because, under the Constitution, the responsibility is mine, and I was of the opinion it was better for Her Majesty not to know in advance, though it is of course my duty to tell her immediately," he wrote.

The decision capped a pro-

tracted political stalemate after the opposition-controlled Senate refused to pass the government's budget, severely weakening Whitlam's position.

The letters confirm the palace knew Kerr had been considering the options available to him under his constitutional "reserve powers", which included dismissing Australia's leader -- an action no other governor-general has taken before or since.

"I'm also keeping my mind open as to the constitutional issues," Kerr wrote to Martin Charteris, the queen's private secretary, on September 12, 1975.

"If the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition get into a battle in which the Senate has

defeated the budget, the Prime Minister refuses to recommend a dissolution, my role will need some careful thought," he wrote.

Charteris later praised Kerr for his approach, writing a week before the dismissal he was "playing the vice-regal hand with skill and wisdom".

"The fact you have powers is recognised. But it's also clear you will only use them in the last resort, and then only for constitutional -- and not for political -- reasons," he said.

'Highly contested'

The palace said the release of the letters "confirms that neither Her Majesty nor the Royal Household had any part to play

in Kerr's decision to dismiss Whitlam".

"Throughout her reign, Her Majesty has consistently demonstrated... support for Australia, the primacy of the Australian constitution and the independence of the Australian people, which the release of these letters reflects."

But Professor Jenny Hocking, a biographer of Whitlam who took the case to court, said the political nature of the correspondence was "startling" given the requirement for the head of a constitutional monarchy to remain neutral.

Hocking said the discussion of reserve powers in particular was "scandalous" because its existence in Australia is "highly contested" by legal and political scholars.

After sacking Whitlam, Kerr appointed opposition Liberal leader Malcolm Fraser as interim prime minister, sparking chaos in Canberra and protests on the steps of parliament.

Fraser went on to win a landslide election victory later that year.

Australia became independent in 1901 but retained the British monarch as head of state.

A referendum on becoming a republic failed in 1999, but republicans hope recent royal scandals could help revive efforts to cut ties with the monarchy.

# Ghislaine Maxwell denies sex crimes in Epstein case

● The alleged crimes occurred between 1994 and 1997

AFP | New York

British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell pleaded not guilty in a New York court yesterday to sex trafficking minors for her former partner, the late financier Jeffrey Epstein.

The 58-year-old denied



Ghislaine Maxwell is shown here with the late disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein

six charges related to alleged crimes committed by Epstein, a well-connected sex offender who killed himself in prison while awaiting trial last summer.

Maxwell appeared in a Manhattan federal court via video link from Brooklyn's high-security Metropolitan Detention Center, where she is being held following her arrest this month.

Prosecutors accuse Maxwell, daughter of the late newspaper baron Robert Maxwell, of helping Epstein "recruit, groom and ultimately abuse" multiple un-

derage girls. The alleged crimes occurred between 1994 and 1997, and relate to three women -- one of whom was just 14 years old when she was sexually abused, according to the indictment.

Maxwell allegedly befriended the girls with shopping and cinema trips, and later coaxed them into giving Epstein nude massages during which he would engage in sex acts.

Prosecutors say Maxwell sometimes participated in the alleged abuse -- which occurred at her London home and at Ep-

stein properties in Manhattan, Palm Beach and New Mexico.

They allege she "persuaded, induced, enticed and coerced" minor victims to travel across US state lines and abroad for the purpose of the illegal sex acts.

Maxwell has been charged with four counts relating to the trafficking, including transporting a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity.

She also faces two counts of perjury for allegedly lying about the claims during a 2016 civil lawsuit.

# Third of Bangladesh underwater as monsoon drenches region

Biswambharpur | Bangladesh

Almost four million people have been hit by monsoon floods in South Asia, officials said yesterday, with a third of Bangladesh already underwater from some of the heaviest rains in a decade.

The monsoon -- which usually falls from June to September -- is crucial to the economy of the Indian sub-continent, but also causes widespread death and destruction across the region each year.

"This is going to be the worst flood in a decade," Bangladesh's Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre chief Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan told AFP.

The heavy rains have swollen two main Himalayan river systems -- the Brahmaputra and the Ganges -- that flow through India and Bangladesh.

Bhuiyan said about a third of flood-prone Bangladesh -- a delta-nation crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers -- was underwater, and at least 1.5 million people were affected, with



Almost a third of Bangladesh was underwater, officials said

village homes and roads flooded.

In north-central Bangladesh, the Brahmaputra river was al-

most 40 centimetres (16 inches) higher than normal and threatening to burst its banks, district

administrator Farook Ahmed told AFP.

Most villagers were trying to

stay near their flood-damaged homes, but some 15,000 had fled severely affected areas, officials said. With a 10-day forecast pointing to rising waters, Bhuiyan said if more rivers burst their banks some 40 percent of the nation could be flooded "in a worst-case scenario".

In the northern town of Biswambharpur, villagers said most of the houses were partly underwater after the Surma, a major river in northeast Bangladesh, burst its banks.

Farmer Abdur Rashid, 35, said he sent his wife and three children to a multi-storied village school that has been turned into a government shelter.

"My whole house has gone underwater. I have sent the rest of the family to the school, but I stayed behind to guard my properties," Rashid told AFP.

Twin challenges

In Assam, northeast India, more than 2.1 million people have been affected since mid-

May.

At least 50 people have died so far -- 12 in the past week as floodwaters surged -- with tens of thousands of mostly rural residents evacuated to relief camps, officials said.

Emergency services personnel wore head-to-toe bright-orange suits to protect themselves from the floods and coronavirus -- which has infected almost 17,000 people in Assam -- as they used boats to reach stranded villagers.

"We have two challenges here, one is COVID-19 and another is (the) flood," the head of a local rescue team, Abhijeet Kumar Verma, said.

In Nepal, at least 50 people have died in landslides and floods triggered by the monsoon rains, with homes swept away and roads and bridges damaged.

"We are distributing food and relief goods from helicopters to about 300 displaced families after the roads were blocked by floods and landslides," district official Gyan Nath Dahal said.

# CELEBS

## celebs

### Angelina Jolie advocates to ensure 'education for refugee children'

Fox | Los Angeles

Angelina Jolie is advocating to ensure education in select countries continues amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The activist warned during a Unesco and UNHCR livestream on Monday that children without access to proper remote learning tools "may never" return to school unless something is urgently done.

Jolie, 45, is a Special Envoy for the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

"If you were a refugee child before the pandemic, you are already twice as likely to be out of school than other children," she said during the live stream, according to Gov.uk.

Jolie continued: "For millions of children and youth, schools are a lifeline of opportunity as well as a shield. Classrooms offer protection — or at least a reprieve — from violence, exploitation and other difficult circumstances."

"Without urgent practical assistance, some of the children left without schooling worldwide due to the coronavirus may never set foot in a classroom again," she stressed. "We must find ways to try to ensure access to continuity of education for young people across the world."

The purpose of the livestream was in the hopes that other countries will match the aid the United Kingdom has budgeted for 10 of the world's poorest refugee populated countries, according to UNESCO.

"Ensuring education for refugee children is something we can make happen, if we all come together," Jolie concluded.

Baroness Liz Sugg, the U.K. Special Envoy for Girls' Education, announced that the country is pledging £5.3 million (about \$6 million) in aid to support teachers and refugee children in lesser resourced areas for the next seven months.

"Education must be prioritized in the global recovery from coronavirus. This epidemic is not just a health crisis, it is an education crisis, especially for refugee children. Without school and an education they will be unable to rebuild their lives and achieve their full potential," Sugg said.

Angelina Jolie



### John Travolta lost first love Diana Hyland to breast cancer 43 years before Kelly Preston

Fox | Los Angeles

Kelly Preston's death from breast cancer Sunday was a tragic end to her 29-year marriage to John Travolta, which bore three children: Ella Bleu, Benjamin and the late Jett, who died in 2009 of a seizure.

Preston's passing at 57 is, sadly, not the first time 66-year-old Travolta has lost a significant other to breast cancer.

cancer.

In 1977, actress Diana Hyland, who the actor had been seriously dating for a year, died of the very same cause. At 41, she was 18 years older than 23-year-old Travolta, and somewhat scandalously played his mother in the TV movie "The Boy in the Plastic Bubble."

As soon as the cameras rolled, Travolta was smitten. "I thought I was in love before — but I wasn't," Travolta told People magazine in 1977.

"From the moment I met her, I was attracted. We were like two maniacs talking all the time on the set of 'Bubble'. After a month it became romantic."

Hyland never had the career her young superstar boyfriend would go on to enjoy. Already the star of TV's "Welcome Back, Kotter," Travolta would make "Saturday Night Fever" in 1977 and the iconic movie-musical "Grease" in 1978 — a stretch of extreme success he'd never again repeat.



Diana Hyland and John Travolta

### Kanye West pays tribute to mom with new song 'DONDA'

ANI | Washington

American rapper Kanye West honoured his late mother Donda West on what would have been her 71st birthday.

According to E!News, the 43-year-old rapper took to Twitter on Sunday (local time), to share a new song and video simply titled "DONDA."

In the clip, fans can hear Donda reciting lyrics from rapper KRS-

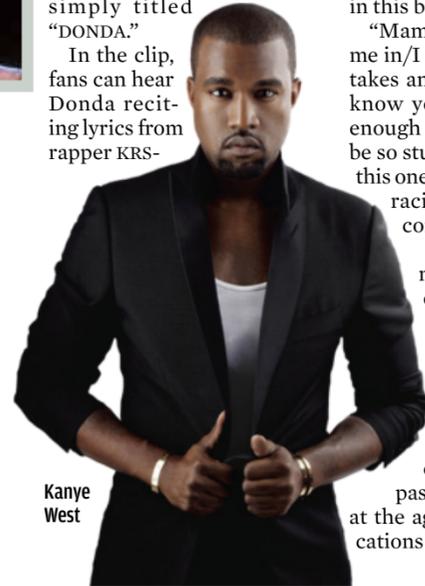
One's "Sound of Da Police" over a gospel choir in the background for over a minute before her song comes in to finish the song.

Kim Kardashian's husband sang, "The devil is using you, confusing you/Our job is to understand who is who. Righteous indignation in this nation/We gon start a revolution in this basement."

"Mama I need you to tuck me in/I done made some mistakes and they rubbed it in/I know you and grandma had enough of them/Why I gotta be so stubborn then. I'm doin' this one for ya'll so we can end racism once and for all," continues Kanye.

"In loving memory of my incredible mother on her birthday," he captioned the video on Twitter. "My mom reciting KRS1 lyrics This song is called DONDA."

Donda, a former college professor, passed away back in 2007 at the age of 58 after complications from plastic surgery.



Kanye West

### Body of missing 'Glee' actress Naya Rivera found in California lake

Reuters | Los Angeles

A body recovered from a lake in California is that of missing "Glee" actress Naya Rivera, officials said on Monday.

"We are confident the body we found is that of Naya Rivera," Ventura County Sheriff Bill Ayub told a news conference on the shore of Lake Piru near Los Angeles.

Rivera, 33, was presumed drowned after going missing on Wednesday. She had rented a boat on Lake Piru with her

four-year-old son, Josey, who was found unharmed.

Her body was recovered early on Monday near the surface of the water in an area where the boat had gone missing that was 35 to 60 feet deep (11-18 m) and with heavy brush and trees underwater, Ayub said.

He said Rivera's family had been informed and the body had been taken to the medical examiner's office for an autopsy and formal identification by dental records.

"There is no indication this



Naya Rivera

was foul play and no indication this was a suicide," Ayub said.

Rivera's son, discovered alone and sleeping, told authorities he and his mother had both gone swimming in the lake, a recreational reservoir about 50 miles (80.47 km) north of downtown Los Angeles.

Ayub said it was not clear what happened but that Rivera's son had told investigators his mother pushed him back into the boat but did not get back in herself.

Rivera was not wearing a life vest.

"Rest sweet, Naya. What a force you were. Love and peace to your family," tweeted Jane Lynch, who played tough cheer-leading coach Sue Sylvester on the show.

"Glee," a television musical drama about a high school choir, was one of the biggest pop culture hits 10 years ago but has seen its share of tragedy.

Actor Cory Monteith, who played football player Finn, died of a drug overdose in 2013, and Mark Salling, who played Puck, killed himself in 2018 after pleading guilty to possessing child pornography.

**YOU**  
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Naya Rivera's body was found floating in the northeast area of the lake where the water is between 35 and 60 feet deep, after a six-day search

**Requirements of Oracle Developer**

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- Strong experience in oracle database 12c with SQL and PL/SQL.
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- Experience with design and development of web services(REST, SOAP) will be added advantage

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**SUDOKU**

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**Yesterday's solution**

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

**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- Warble; 6- Preserve with salt; 10- Bugs, clunkers, and rides, e.g.; 14- ... man with seven wives; 15- Stink; 16- Sheltered, nautically; 17- Nervous person, maybe; 18- Wings; 19- Travel on; 20- Brian of Roxy Music; 21- Venomous snake; 23- Follows orders; 24- Approaches; 26- Form of oxygen; 27- Extent; 29- Four-door; 31- Citrus coolers; 32- Equip; 33- Acquire; 36- One recording the past; 40- Permit; 41- Spasm; 42- ...poly; 43- At quite an incline; 44- Potemkin setting; 46- Sleep disorder; 48- Bumbling; 49- Lend ...; 50- Intoxicate; 52- President pro ...; 55- Speech issue; 56- Actress Ward; 57- Eat away; 59- Blues singer James; 60- Hindu hero; 61- Effluent system; 62- Support for a broken limb; 63- Camaro model; 64- 1,000 kilograms;

**Down**

1- Holy motly; 2- Yemen neighbor; 3- Relieve bottleneck; 4- Hot time in Paris; 5- Immature insects; 6- Dice game; 7- River to the Ubangi; 8- Back; 9- Scratch (out); 10- Nonmetallic element; 11- Extra-terrestrial being; 12- Color anew; 13- Gets the picture; 22- Strong feeling of anger; 23- Conductor Seiji; 25- Formerly, formerly; 26- Smell or fragrance; 27- Writer Roald; 28- Actress McClurg; 29- Pry; 30- Periphery; 32- Land of shamrocks; 33- Abandoned village; 34- Electric fish; 35- ... Little Tenderness; 37- Sleek swimmer; 38- Ostrichlike bird; 39- Type of school or cook; 43- Be short with; 44- Lennon's love; 45- Can't stand; 46- Writer Loos; 47- Nuisances; 48- Stern with a bow; 49- Novelist Waugh; 50- Tolerate; 51- Ticklish doll; 53- Paradise; 54- Slight; 56- Indian honorific; 58- Stutz contemporary;

**Yesterday's solution**

S	T	A	R		S	L	A	M	A	L	A	R		
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U	P	A	T		I	M	A	C		E	N	D	E	D
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SPORTS  
sports

# Man Utd did not deserve the points against Saints: Solskjaer

Manchester United stunned by Obafemi as Southampton mixed up top-four race

● **Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men were unable to take advantage of weekend defeats for Chelsea and Leicester to remain in fifth**

Reuters | London

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said his side did not deserve the three points after a stoppage-time equaliser from Michael Obafemi gave Southampton a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford on Monday.

United had been 2-1 up after goals from Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial in response to Stuart Armstrong's early opener for the visitors.

Instead of moving into third place, United stay fifth and face a real fight to qualify for the Champions League with a top-four finish.

"You think you have three points in the bag but we probably didn't deserve three points today," said the Norwegian coach.

"Southampton are a good team, they run, and run and chase. We never got into our rhythm today. We played some fantastic football at times. The two goals we scored were very, very good.

"It was the worst time to con-



Anthony Martial of Manchester United shoots as he is challenged by Jack Stephens of Southampton

cede a goal but it happens in football. We have won so many games in that way. It is all part of the learning for this team," he added.

United played the same starting team for the fifth straight league game, the first time they have done so since 1993, but Solskjaer did not feel his side had suffered from fatigue.

"I don't think tiredness was the case. It was just one of those days we did not take our chances and they took theirs.

"David de Gea had one really good save but apart from that we had the bigger chances but you are not going to be given



**United had become the first side in Premier League history to win four consecutive games by a three-goal margin, but there was no cruise for the Red Devils this time even after they responded to Stuart Armstrong's early opener**

three points and Southampton are a very good side," he said.

Saints boss Ralph Hasenhuetl was delighted with the way his vastly improved 12th placed team approached the match.

"We developed our game with the ball extremely (well) in the last few weeks. We are becoming more brave. We are taking more risks. If you take more risks things can happen," he said.

"We wanted to be brave, we have nothing to lose and we can play free. You can feel the guys really enjoy (it) at the moment."

# Sergio Ramos laments Madrid's lack of focus



Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos reacts after sustaining an injury

Reuters | Madrid

Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos criticised his side for falling into the trap of complacency in Monday's 2-1 win at Granada in La Liga as they were left desperate for the final whistle after strolling into a two-goal lead in the opening 16 minutes.

Zinedine Zidane's side relaxed after goals from Ferland Mendy and Karim Benzema had got them off to a dream start and they nearly paid for it as Granada peppered their area in the second half after Darwin Machis pulled a goal back.

"Without realising it, we made the mistake of letting our guard down after getting a scoreline which we would have been very happy with," Ramos said.

"But it wasn't good enough and today you can't beat anyone unless you are fully focused for 90 minutes. We won the first half and lost the second and although we got the victory we did things we should never do, like conced-

ing a cheap goal."

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois had to make a brilliant save late on to preserve Real's lead while Ramos blocked a shot on the goal-line, but his side recorded a ninth consecutive win to move within range of securing the title.

Real will land their first La Liga crown since 2017 with victory at home to Villarreal on Thursday before they visit Leganes on the final day of the season next Sunday.

"Winning the league would mean a lot to us, it would be the reward for the consistency we have shown and for how hard we have worked throughout the year," added Ramos, whose side were two points behind Barcelona when the season was halted in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The lockdown served us well and proved to be a turning point as we worked on preparing to return to action and set ourselves the objective of winning the title.

"Now we are in the title fight and I hope that on Thursday we can celebrate it properly."

# Le Tissier expects top-half finish for Southampton next season



Southampton's Michael Obafemi celebrates equalising against Manchester United

Reuters | London

Southampton's performance since the Premier League restart are a credit to manager Ralph Hasenhuetl and the team has the potential to finish in the top half of the table next season, club great Matt Le Tissier has said.

Southampton have lost just once since the league resumed following the COVID-19 shutdown, winning three matches and drawing twice, including a 2-2 draw at Manchester United on Monday.

"It's professional pride, but it's also what the manager in-

stills in them, wants from them and demands from them," Le Tissier, who scored 209 goals for Southampton during his 16 years at the club, said.

Hasenhuetl also guided Southampton to a 1-0 win over second-placed Manchester City earlier this month and Le Tissier said their form against the top sides showed what they could accomplish.

"When you look at what we've been capable of in the past few weeks -- we've just played City at home, Manchester United away, Everton away," he said.

# England to back Buttler, but Denly in the firing line

Reuters | London

England are set keep faith with Jos Buttler despite defeat to West Indies in the first Test of a three-match series, but time may be up for Joe Denly.

Captain Joe Root is set to return for the second Test starting on Thursday at Old Trafford after missing the four-wicket defeat in Southampton to attend the birth of his second child.

The England selectors have big decisions to make after again losing the game with the bat rather than the ball despite the controversial omission of Stuart Broad.

An under-par 204 in the first innings and the loss of five wickets for 30 runs on the fourth evening set the platform for the tourists to take first blood.

Denly and Buttler were involved in both passages and find themselves increasingly under pressure for their places -- the former being squeezed by Root's return and Zak Crawley's fine 76 on Saturday, the latter from Surrey gloveman Ben Foakes.

England head coach Chris Silverwood, though, has only offered strong reassurance to one of the duo.

Buttler has a Test average of just 23.22 since the start of 2019



England players Joe Denly (l) and Jos Buttler share a joke during England nets (file photo)

and now only one hundred in 75 innings.

"I'm not gonna go down that road yet of putting Jos under pressure, because I don't think it's going to help him," said Silverwood. "First and foremost we want to give Jos the best opportunity to succeed.

"But I'm sure he is asking the same questions. He looked brilliant coming into this game, in practice and everything and he looked very good in the first innings. He just needs to go and make those big scores now doesn't he? He knows that as

well.

"From our point of view it's just making sure that he feels confident in the environment he's in."

There looks certain to be change higher up the order, though, with Denly's knocks of 18 and 29 doing little to show that he can haul his performances up to the required standard for a long-term Test number three.

At just 22, Crawley is 12 years Denly's junior and by producing England's top score of the match in tense circumstances in

**"**  
I'm not gonna go down that road yet of putting Jos under pressure, because I don't think it's going to help him. First and foremost we want to give Jos the best opportunity to succeed

CHRIS SILVERWOOD

the second innings he appeared to make an irresistible grab for the shirt.

"We're all desperate to see Joe do really well. We can see he's trying hard, he's training hard and he's a great bloke, hence why we all went to see him do well," said Silverwood.

"But obviously he's under pressure a little bit, yes. Zak is improving constantly. I think he certainly showed maturity and the innings he played was very good.

"We have some young players in that side that seem to have good heads on their shoulders, and he's one of them. That's what we are looking for."

## Arsenal's Arteta hits out at 'crazy minutes' players are clocking up



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta gives instructions during a training session (file photo)

AFP | London

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta has bemoaned the fixture scheduling since the Premier League restart, saying yesterday his players have amassed "crazy minutes" on the pitch in recent weeks.

The Gunners host newly crowned Premier League champions Liverpool on Wednesday, three days after falling to defeat to Tottenham in the north London derby.

In the five games that followed their opening game of Project Restart -- a 3-0 defeat at Manchester City -- Arsenal's opponents had longer to prepare, with Arteta keen to stress that point.

"We have only had an advantage in one -- which was against Spurs," he told his pre-match press conference.

"But look at the boys, they keep going, they go full-gas, it doesn't matter and we will do it again."

An FA Cup semi-final against City is next up for Arsenal after the Liverpool clash, with Arteta keen to be able to field his strongest side in both games, despite the demands placed on his players.

"Obviously they've been hit



**Defeat against Spurs increased the chances of Arsenal failing to qualify for Europe for the first time since the 1994/95 season**

and a lot of them have played some crazy minutes up until now and again we're going to have games every two-and-a-half days.

"We will try to put the strongest team out as possible here and as well on Saturday, and to do that we need to know how everyone recovers from the game."

Defeat against Spurs increased the chances of Arsenal failing to qualify for Europe for the first time since the 1994/95 season.

The Gunners are ninth in the table and need to make up a four-point gap on Sheffield United in seventh or win the FA Cup to qualify for the Europa League.

# City deserve an apology, says defiant Guardiola

● Manchester City's two-season ban from European competitions was lifted on Monday but rival managers Jose Mourinho and Jurgen Klopp criticised the ruling

Reuters | London

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said his team deserved an apology, after their two-year UEFA ban from European football was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) -- a verdict he called "a good day for football".

Guardiola said the club's reputation had been damaged by the furore around allegations that they broke Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules and fired back at comments from rival managers Jose Mourinho and Jurgen Klopp.

Mourinho had described the CAS decision to fine City 10 million euros (9.09 million pounds) for non-cooperation with the investigation as "disgraceful".

"Maybe. The thing about the money, maybe. But Jose and all the managers should know that we were damaged. We should be apologised (to). Because, like I said many times, if we did something wrong, we will accept absolutely the decisions by UEFA and CAS because we did something wrong," Guardiola told a news conference yesterday.

"We have the right to defend ourselves when we believe what we have done is correct, is right. Three independent judges said this," the Spaniard added.

Liverpool manager Klopp had



Pep Guardiola, Manager of Manchester City celebrates with the Premier League Trophy after winning the title in 2019

described the CAS verdict on Monday as "not a good day for football" but Guardiola disagreed.

"Yesterday was a good day for football because we play with the same rules of FFP as all the clubs in Europe. All of them. (If) we break this FFP, we will be banned," he said.

"We were damaged. The people say that we cheated and lying many, many times. The presumption of innocence was not there and after, when it happened and it was right, of course we are incredibly happy because we can defend what we have done on the pitch."

Guardiola also took aim at Spanish league president Javier Tebas, a long standing critic of City, who had questioned whether CAS was the right court for deciding such matters.

**"I am incredibly happy for the decision. It shows all the people said about the club wasn't true. People cannot understand how difficult it was for everyone as a club being under suspicion. Now we have proven it at the court, we go again on the pitch"**

PEP GUARDIOLA

"He is another one, this guy Senor Tebas must be so jealous for the Premier League, the English football," he said. "He is incredible legal expert from what I see, so next time

we will ask in which court, which judges we have to go. He has to be a little bit worried or concerned about La Liga, (he should) focus on there.

"We will be in the Champions League next season, Senor Tebas, because what we did it properly," he said.

Guardiola also took aim at a group of nine Premier League clubs who reportedly wrote a letter to CAS to argue against City receiving a stay on their ban.

"Guys accept it, we want to be here and we try. On the pitch we try as much as possible, sometimes win, sometimes lose. They have to understand it," he said.

"When you are not agreeing just knock on the door, for our chairman, our CEOs and talk, don't go from behind and whispering."

## Sneijder latest top Dutch footballer considering return

Reuters | Amsterdam

Wesley Sneijder is considering following in the footsteps of his former Netherlands team mate Arjen Robben and returning to football next season.

The 36-year-old Sneijder will start training later this month at amateur team DOS Holland Stichtse Boys in Utrecht, which could be the prelude to joining home town club FC Utrecht.

Sneijder, who won a record 134 caps for his country and played at Ajax Amsterdam, Real Madrid and Inter Milan, is to make a bid to return to fitness after a year out of the game.

Robben, who is also 36, last month announced he was returning a year after retirement to play with boyhood club Groningen, where he has signed a one-season deal.

## BRAVE CF partners with TV giants WIN Sports for Latin America expansion coverage

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation, the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world, has struck a broadcasting deal with WIN Sports, one of the biggest sports networks in Colombia. The goal of the partnership is to expand the Bahraini fight league into Latin America, where BRAVE CF is already seen as one of the giants of the sporting world.

The organization, founded by His Highness Shaikh Khaled bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has constantly invested in Latin America, with four shows in Brazil and two in Colombia. After BRAVE CF 26 beat UFC Abu Dhabi with Khabib Nurmagomedov last year in the Colombian household's ratings, WIN Sports and BRAVE CF made a long-term deal official.

Per the deal, WIN Sports will broadcast BRAVE CF fights every Saturday in their best time,



proving that the Bahraini organization has truly become the only global MMA promotion.

Among the Colombian stars expected to feature are Eduardo Mora and Dumar Roa. The latter shocked the MMA world last November by knocking out former BRAVE CF Lightweight world champion Abdul-Kareem Al-Selwady at BRAVE CF 29, which took place in Bahrain.

"I can't wait for my people in Colombia to witness BRAVE CF events. They will fall in love with the sport. I want to represent my country at the highest level and that's what BRAVE CF provided me: a chance to shine for the world", explained Roa. Roa's victory has been seen as the beginning of a revolution for MMA in Colombia, with BRAVE CF and its partner Latin Fighter Championship at the head of transforming the sporting scene in yet another region.

## Darren Gough suggests England rotate Jofra Archer and Mark Wood

Reuters | London

England should not be overly reliant on express pace in the next two tests against West Indies and must consider alternating Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, former quick Darren Gough has said.

England opted for the express speed of Archer and Wood and the experience of James Anderson in Southampton but lost by four wickets in the series opener.

"I've said from the start -- rotate Archer and Wood," Gough, who played 58 tests between 1994-2003, told Sky Sport Cricket.

"We got a bit carried away, seeing Wood bowl really quickly in South Africa. We've seen Archer do it, but it's very hard to do it every single game."

Gough said England should also bring back Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes for the second test, which begins on Thursday at Manchester's Old



Mark Wood (r) and Jofra Archer look on during England nets (file photo)

Trafford.

"I would rest Wood and Anderson at Old Trafford and bring in Broad and Woakes," Gough said.

"That would be my plan then, with back-to-back test matches, you bring Anderson and Wood back (for the third test)."

Former captain Michael Vaughan said it would be unfair to criticise Archer, who claimed three second-innings wickets in Southampton, for not bowling consistently in excess of 90 miles per hour.