

**Gaicho almost quit MMA before joining BRAVE CF**

Champ Daniel Gaicho reveals he came close to quitting MMA before meteoric rise to BRAVE CF title | P 12

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**Gulf Air CEO steps down**



Kucko  
TDT | Manama

National carrier Gulf Air announced last night that Kresimir Kucko will step down from his role as CEO by the end of the month.

Commenting on this development, Gulf Air's board of directors chairman Zayed R Al Zayani said: "We extend our sincere thanks to Kresimir Kucko for his dedication, contributions and services during his tenure with us. On behalf of Gulf Air's board of directors, the airline's management team and workforce, I extend my thanks to him for his contributions and wish him success going forward."

Kucko said: "I was truly honoured to have contributed to the success story of Gulf Air over the past three years amidst the many challenges we faced. Working with a talented, majority Bahraini workforce of aviation professionals has been a positive experience that saw us collectively deliver strong results for Gulf Air. The experience of living in the Kingdom has been truly incredible both for myself and my family; we have been warmly welcomed by all and truly embraced Bahrain's rich culture."

Kucko began his journey at Gulf Air in 2017 by setting the organisation's strategy with clear corporate goals and a concise five-year network and fleet expansion plan.

**COVID-19: 678 new cases, 627 recoveries**

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health reported 678 new active coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Bahrain yesterday, with zero deaths. From 11,840 tests conducted, the fresh infections included 111 expatriate workers, 564 contacts of active cases, and three travel-related

cases. The new cases brought the overall infected number in Bahrain to more than 61,000, from the time the first case was reported in February. There were also 627 new recoveries, as the total active cases went to 6,599—136 of which are receiving treatment with 34 in critical condition. Tests conducted rose to 1,276,075.

**HRH the Crown Prince reviews virus measures**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, chaired

yesterday the 346th meeting of the Government Executive Committee.

It was held remotely. The latest developments on measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bahrain were reviewed.



HRH the Crown Prince chairing yesterday's meeting

**CIRCLE OF PEACE!**

**Bahrain and UAE sign historic normalisation agreements with Israel at the White House**

Agencies | Washington

Upon directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani participated in the signing ceremony of the declaration of support for peace between Bahrain and Israel, and the signing of the peace accord between the UAE, the US and Israel yesterday.

The ceremony was held at the White House, in the presence of US President Donald Trump.

UAE Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al

Nahyan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu participated in the signing.

In his speech on the occasion, Dr Al Zayani said that the declaration supporting peace between Bahrain and Israel is "an historic step on the road to genuine and lasting peace, security, and prosperity across the region, and for all who live there, regardless of religion, sect, ethnicity, or ideology."

He added: "Today's declaration was made possible by the vision, courage and commitment of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, who, supported by the people of Bahrain, has

protected, institutionalised, and enhanced Bahrain's centuries-old spirit of co-existence and harmony, and has the wisdom to recognise that genuine

“What was only dreamed of a few years ago is now achievable, and we can see before us a golden opportunity for peace, security and prosperity for our region.”

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI



From left, Dr Al Zayani, Netanyahu, Trump and Sheikh Abdullah hold up copies of the declaration of support for peace signed between Bahrain and Israel

co-operation is the most effective means to achieve peace and to safeguard the legitimate rights.

"Thank you, Your Majesty, for this vision of peace for the region based on trust, respect and understanding between all faiths, races and nations."

Dr Al Zayani congratulated "our brothers in the UAE" on their own momentous peace accord with Israel and commended Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed for his "great leadership and

foresight to make peace possible and secure a brighter future for our region".

The Foreign Minister expressed his particular and deep appreciation to Trump and his administration, and thanked Prime Minister Netanyahu for "these steps from you and your government, recognising that enduring peace and security is only possible through a genuine engagement that protects the rights and interests of countries and peoples in the region".

**Government support hailed**

Leading businessmen talk to *The Daily Tribune* about Bahrain's instrumental support—initiated by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and executed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister—to citizens, residents and businesses to help alleviate the economic repercussions of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.



We thank Bahrain's wise leadership, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, for the support and generous gestures shown to help citizens and residents during this current coronavirus crisis. We all appreciate the direction of HM the King as well as HRH the Crown Prince's initiative directing banks to help citizens and businesses by deferring loan payments. At the moment, many businesses are struggling with no returns, especially hotel, travel and retail companies, which are all connected. Banks are our partners in business, and I am sure they will have some consideration to help, which will play a big role in the economy's revival. Once the situation improves, businesses can regularise their operations and this will help achieve that. Foreign businesses are also keen to come to Bahrain, seeing the long-term future goals of the Kingdom and the initiatives taken by HM King Hamad. I am sure that we will see a recovery to the national economy, and we look forward to that soon."

DADABHAI GROUP CHAIRMAN MOHAMMED DADABHAI



I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our government, in particular HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for his prompt support to the business community, by way of deferment of loan installments to our bankers, waiver of electricity and water charges, and some wage support to some of our employees, all of which helps us survive this COVID-19 pandemic. We are a 100 per cent Bahraini establishment, owners of Hasan Mansouri Properties, Mansouri Mansions Hotel, The Country Club, Maguire's Irish Restaurant, and Spacemaker portable buildings. The government support has been a blessing; we are all Team Bahrain! I hope there will be consideration and future support for the hotel, restaurant and tourism sector, as further support is needed. I would suggest a further waiver of electricity, municipal, and taxes generally, for up to another year, which may help us survive until society and businesses start returning to somewhat normal conditions. Also, interest-free loans—or better, grants—could be provided to those businesses that require it to see more sustainable times; certainly it will help provide sufficient working capital. There is still a lot of work to be done to return our Bahraini society and businesses back to normal. Inshaallah, with the continued discussions and relations with the business community and government, we will reach a comfortable solution for Bahrain. Peace and health to all."

HASAN MANSOURI MANAGING DIRECTOR KARIM MANSOURI



The Kingdom has seen extensive support during this pandemic, with loan repayment extension and interest waiver extension in line with CBB directives, GOSI reimbursement, 100 per cent of salary paid for Bahrainis for a period of April to June and further 50 per cent from July to September, EWA bill payments for April to June, and land rental waived for April to September, which has helped the industry survive during this critical market situation. We extend our great gratitude for this support. Meanwhile, some companies could not benefit from certain facilities provided, such as the loan installment and interest charge support, which was provided only for BD denominations, for which companies could not benefit for long-term loans in USD and other non-BD currency. The liquidity fund support was also not benefitting since it did not cover companies with government shareholding. I believe this is not a fair decision especially for industrial companies like Balexco and other similar companies, who have maintained a high rate of Bahrainisation and have made a good amount of contributions in the Kingdom's export activity. It would be great support if another session of liquidity fund support is considered for industrial companies with very minor government shareholding, as its business depends largely on exports and it will have a direct contribution on the Kingdom's economic growth. The market is still suffering and companies are in need for liquidity fund support and for all denomination loan installment extension with interest waiver for at least another six months."

BALEXCO CHAIRMAN JASSIM MOHAMED SEYADI



The Kingdom of Bahrain has earned glowing international praise and recognition, including from the World Health Organisation, for its handling of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This was due, largely, to the quick and decisive leadership of the government, as well as the full and prompt support of all aspects of society. With focus now gradually shifting to finding a vaccine and to addressing the economic impact of this outbreak, we must continue in this same spirit of decisive leadership and close collaboration. We must aspire to maintain this internationally celebrated approach and continue to set a standard for others to follow. These are challenging times for all of us. However, if we all do our part, we can collectively overcome even the greatest of challenges, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister."

ITHMAAR BANK CEO AHMED ABDUL RAHIM



I am very optimistic that Bahrain can soon revive its businesses. The supporting measures given by the government have helped businessmen to gain more confidence. Bahrain has set a perfect example for other countries. This is the time to stand united and every citizen should cooperate and put maximum effort to support each other. This is a testing time for us. So many high dignitaries, including ministers, have volunteered for the phase three trial for the inactivated COVID-19 vaccine. I am sure we may be able to get a positive response from this test. We need to create more positive thoughts, which can motivate citizens to overcome the crisis. There are countries that failed to give even proper health-care, whereas in Bahrain the government has done much better than any other country—paying the salaries of citizens, waiving off electricity bills, deferring loans, has helped us to manage the economic turbulence. I salute the leaders for their vision and care."

BAHRAIN INDIA SOCIETY VICE-CHAIRMAN ABDULRAHMAN JUMA

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

- TOTAL CASES: 61,643
- ACTIVE CASES: 6,599
- DEATHS: 213
- DISCHARGED: 54,831
- NEW CASES: 678
- CRITICAL: 34

210 fils (includes VAT)



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# RHF secretary-general visits flood-hit areas in Sudan

TDT | Manama

Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) secretary-general Dr Mustafa Al Sayed visited some areas affected by the floods and torrents that swept Sudan.

This came under the directives of His Majesty the King's Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs representative and Supreme Council for Youth and Sport chairman His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Dr Al Sayed met many of the families affected by the floods, and he conveyed to them the greetings and condolences of HM the King.

He affirmed Bahrain's support



Dr Al Sayed greets a child in one of the areas affected by the floods in Sudan

to the Sudanese government and citizens as the two countries share deep-rooted historical ties. The RHF secretary-general said that the foundation is working on carrying out many initiatives and efforts to support Sudanese in their ordeal.

# Strengthening health sector cooperation with India, Switzerland discussed



Al Saleh, centre, with Ambassador Srivastava during their meeting

TDT | Manama

Health Minister Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh received yesterday Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava.

The Health Minister praised the historical relations between Bahrain and India in various fields, wishing the ambassador success in carrying out his diplomatic mission.

She stressed the level of medical expertise and advanced treatment services provided in India, and discussed ways of enhancing cooperation in the health sector.

The ambassador affirmed the

advanced level of coordination, praising the Kingdom's efforts in combatting the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

He expressed his country's thanks for the care given to the Indian community in Bahrain, which reflects the Kingdom's care for Indian workers and its keenness to provide all necessary treatment for those who need it.

Meanwhile, Al Saleh also received Swiss Honourary Consul-General Humbert Vincent Buemi. They discussed joint cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The Health Minister hailed

strong bilateral relations and steadily growing cooperation, spanning all development fields, especially the health sector.

The Swiss Consul-General praised Bahrain's strides and advanced medical and therapeutic services delivered to citizens and residents, particularly as the Kingdom strives to combat COVID-19, which has affected all countries in the world.

He stressed keenness on strengthening cooperation with pharma companies by supporting joint programmes and holding meetings remotely.

# Bahraini businessman passes away

TDT | Manama

Bahraini businessman Shamsudheen M A passed away yesterday at the age of 64.

Shamsudheen came to Bahrain in the 1970s from India and was granted citizenship in 2015.



Shamsudheen

He ran businesses in the central market and was well-respected by his peers.

Shamsudheen is survived by his wife Aysha and their children.

Shamsudheen is the father of KHK Sports CEO Mohammed Shahid.

# DOES FUNNY RUN DEEP IN YOUR VEINS ?

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Second Prize - US\$ 1,000



THE DAILY **tribune**  
NEWS OF BAHRAIN



**DTALKS**  
The Detoxifying Talk Show

Do you think you can crack jokes that would enlighten, educate and entertain our followers and leave them in stitches? If your answer is YES, then we are searching for you. The Daily Tribune invites stand-up comedians for our upcoming online Talk show - DTalks.

## Prestigious entrepreneurship award unveiled

TDT | Manama

An award to encourage young entrepreneurs and motivate them to compete and accordingly unleash their creativity has been announced.

Bahrain International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW) held a virtual press conference to unveil "Bahrain's Entrepreneurs Award", to be presented in November.

The award highlights BPW's belief in the important role of youth in steering the economic wheel of the labour market through their innovative approach in various fields.

BPW has focused on investing in young entrepreneurs by encouraging, training, and prepar-



BPW officials during the press conference

ing them for the labour market, to ensure their capabilities in contributing to the Kingdom's national development, in line

with Bahrain's 2030 vision.

The award will honour outstanding entrepreneurs, will highlight their work and busi-

ness ideas, as well as their contributions to the growth of the private sector.

The \$10,000 award will be

divided into two categories: \$5,000 for entrepreneur in the commercial sector (business owner), and \$5,000 for distinguished entrepreneur in the professions sector (craftsmen).



A \$10,000 prize will go with "Bahrain's Entrepreneurs Award", to be divided between two winners in the commercial sector (business owner) and professions sector (craftsmen) categories

## Guidelines issued for entering Bahrain through causeway



TDT | Manama

Travellers entering Bahrain via King Fahd Causeway have to undergo coronavirus (COVID-19) tests and pay BD60 each.

They are also required to download and register on the BeAware app, in compliance with the man-

datory precautionary measures for combatting the pandemic.

These measures do not apply to incoming travellers who show evidence, via the BeAware app, that they have tested negative after undergoing a PCR test before leaving for Bahrain. PCR results are valid for 72 hours after undergoing the test.

Incoming travellers are urged to comply with mandatory precautionary measures and must adhere to all health protocols enforced by authorities.

They are required to self-isolate until their test result comes out negative. In case the test is positive, they will be contacted by health authorities, must observe quarantine protocols, and abide by the instructions given to them.

Bahrain's authorities have made it mandatory to adhere to social distancing, wearing face masks, and avoiding gatherings.

Those who show suspected COVID-19 symptoms (headache, coughing, loss of sense of smell or taste, and separate pains in the body with high temperatures) are required to isolate immediately, call 444 and follow the instructions given.

## Indian Embassy marks Hindi Day

TDT | Manama

The Indian Embassy organised a number of competitions in which embassy staff members participated.

They were held as part of annual celebrations marking Hindi Day, which is observed every September 14 to commemorate the adoption of Hindi as one of the official languages of India.

Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava took part in the events.



Ambassador Srivastava, sixth from left, with embassy staff members during the celebrations

## CBB warns consumers on fraud

TDT | Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) has called on consumers to be cautious and vigilant when dealing with their personal and banking information.

This warning comes as a result of increased cyber-attacks and fraud globally during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The CBB urged consumers to check SMS alerts in order to keep track of banking transactions. Consumers shall not respond to any calls received through smartphone apps (such as Viber, etc) claiming to be their bank service provider and requesting personal and banking information. Banks

would never use a smartphone app to request sensitive information, the statement said.

The CBB called to not enter sensitive information in any pop-up windows whilst browsing, and to always change the PIN and password assigned by the bank while accessing online banking services for the first time and remember to change it periodically.

Consumers must be alert about any fake websites, e-mails, telephone calls, and text messages which are possibly linked to fraudulent organisations specialised in embezzlement. They should not reveal banking information to any third party and ensure that it is kept confidential.

## Verdicts for terrorist cell issued

Prison sentences vary from three months to life for 39-member group

- Three get life imprisonment, six sentenced to 10 years, while others get seven years' jail or fewer

- Cell members intended to plant explosive devices at banks, schools, post offices and sports clubs during Kingdom's national celebrations



Three defendants remain at large abroad. They are responsible for the recruitment of the gang members and assembling them in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court yesterday issued its final verdict in a case involving a 39-member terrorist cell, who plotted to carry out acts of terror in the Kingdom.

The court sentenced three members to life in prison, six

to 10 years in jail, and six other members to seven years.

Furthermore, three of the defendants were sentenced to five years in prison, while six of them got a one-year sentence.

As for the remaining 15 defendants, 11 of them were sentenced to six months behind bars and four were sentenced to three months.

The 39 defendants were

charged by the Public Prosecution back in 2018 of joining a terrorist group, recruiting members to serve terrorist purposes, and training to use explosives and how to detonate them using mobile phones.

The charges also included the illegal possession of explosives and other relative devices serving terrorist purposes, receiving and transporting funds that are allocated for terrorist activities, arson, and risking people's lives and property.

Investigations showed that three of the defendants, who remain at large abroad, were responsible for the recruitment of the gang members and assembling them here in the Kingdom.

The members received instructions to monitor a number of vital institutions in Bahrain, such as banks, schools, post offices and sports clubs, in order to plant explosive devices in them during national celebrations of the Kingdom.

## Bahrain-Switzerland renewable energy cooperation highlighted



Dr Mirza with Buemi

TDT | Manama

Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president Dr Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza received yesterday Swiss Consul-General Humbert Vincent Buemi.

The SEA chief praised bilateral relations and growing cooperation with Switzerland in various fields. He also lauded

the unlimited support given to SEA by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Dr Mirza gave a visual presentation on renewable energy initiatives and the energy competence included in the national plan for renewable energy and energy competence.

He also briefed the Swiss Consul-General on main de-

velopments in Bahrain in this respect in the public and private sectors.

He discussed Swiss experiences in generating wind energy and floating solar energy projects, and shed light on investment opportunities in both countries, given the large experience of Swiss companies in these areas.

## Two arrested for forced robbery

TDT | Manama

Two men have been arrested for forced robbery.

The Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science director-general said that the pair, aged 21 and 30, stole a bag from a woman while she was walking in Seef.

He said that an investigation into the case led to identifying and arresting the suspects and the bag was confiscated from them within a half-hour of the case being reported.

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

## 'Protecting Kingdom's supreme interests'



**“We are a state that is determined to develop our national capabilities, and our old and modern strategy is based on strong allies to confront potential threats.”**

INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL  
SHAIKH RASHID BIN ABDULLA AL  
KHALIFA

TDT | Manama

Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa asserted that the establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel comes to protect the supreme interests of the Kingdom.

The move doesn't mean neglecting the Palestine cause and the rights of Palestinians, but it is to reinforce the security of Bahrainis and the solidity of their economy, he said, adding "if Palestine is our Arab cause, then Bahrain is our fateful cause".

The Interior Minister affirmed that the Kingdom has been standing with the Palestinian cause since the beginning of the Palestine-Israel conflict, and the decision won't clash with Bahrain's stand towards the Arab Peace Initiative and international decisions.

He said that after 73 years of the Palestinian cause, the threats have moved to Arab countries, in which their security situations have changed in different ways.

Unfortunately, the chances of peace solutions have reduced. He said that fateful challenges have reached the region and cannot be ignored or overlooked.

The Interior Minister commented: "The regional situation makes us deal with ongoing

threats for the past years, in which most of them were deterred. It isn't wise to see the threat and wait for it to reach us if we can in any way avoid it."

He continued that Iran has chosen the behaviour of imposing domination in many forms, and it is an ongoing threat to Bahrain's internal security.

"We are a state that is determined to develop our national capabilities, and our old and modern strategy is based on strong allies to confront potential threats," he said.

The Interior Minister added that there is no doubt that cooperation on such a project would reinforce the depth of strategic partnership with the US, which takes Bahrain as the headquarters of its Fifth Fleet Command.

He highlighted that the current general economic situation that impacts Bahrain and negatively affects the economic and social life gives more responsibility to the state to provide security and decent living to people.

"It isn't part of our strategic views and capability to adopt stands and then take opposite procedures later, because we are in a geographical, security, and economic situation that requires a swift response, as any delay would have major circumstances," he said.

## Preserving human rights in Kingdom discussed



Khoury, centre, with Nardi, left, during their meeting

TDT | Manama

National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) chairperson Maria Khoury received US Embassy chargé d'affaires Margaret Nardi.

The chargé d'affaires was briefed on the efforts made by the NIHR during the pandemic to inform citizens and residents through informative messages, tweets, and the institution's visits and follow-ups to isolation and quarantine

centers, to monitor the procedures taken by authorities in providing medical services to infected patients.

The chairperson highlighted the precautionary measures taken by the Kingdom to preserve human rights according to international standards.

Nardi expressed her appreciation for the efforts made by the NIHR to preserve human rights in the Kingdom, and wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

# Extend housing loans deferral call

National Action Charter Bloc appeals for three-month extension to serve national efforts in combatting COVID-19 repercussions

TDT | Manama

A parliamentary bloc in Bahrain's Council of Representatives yesterday called for exempting citizens from paying the installments of their housing loans to the government for an additional three months.

The seven-member National Action Charter Bloc said in a statement issued yesterday that extending the six-month deferral period, which was implemented by the government in April this year and ends by the beginning of November, would serve the national efforts exerted to combat the repercussions of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The bloc cited Article 78 of

**“The extension of the postponement of housing services installments for an additional three months will have a great impact on citizens and will reduce their financial burdens amidst the spread of coronavirus.”**

NATIONAL ACTION CHARTER BLOC STATEMENT

Resolution 909 of 2015, with regards to the housing system, stating that it grants the Housing Minister the jurisdiction to postpone the payment of installments for a period of up to two years in certain circumstances, such as disasters or any circumstances that require this procedure.

They said the article provides a great and smooth legal possi-

bility for the ministry to proceed with postponing the payment of installments in the current challenging circumstances, which have resulted in difficult economic conditions for many Bahraini families who are benefiting from housing services.

"The extension of the postponement of housing services installments for an additional three months will have a great

impact on citizens and will reduce their financial burdens amidst the spread of coronavirus," the statement mentioned.

It is worth noting that the bloc is headed by MP Mohammed Alsisi Al Buainain, and consists of MPs Isa Al Dossary, Bader Al Dossary, Ammar Al Bannai, Ghazi Al Rahma, Fatema Al Qatari and Yousef Al Thawadi as members.

The MPs appreciated the efforts devoted by Team Bahrain and the relevant authorities, headed by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to combat the spread of the pandemic and to safeguard the society from its impacts.

## Bahrain, Korea investment cooperation discussed

TDT | Manama

Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani received yesterday Korean Ambassador Hae Kwan Chung.

The Industry Minister congratulated Ambassador Chung on the occasion of his appointment to his post in Bahrain.

During the meeting, they re-

viewed bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries in all fields, especially in the industrial, commercial and investment sectors.

The Industry Minister stressed the ministry's keenness to develop joint relations, and highlighted the role that the private sector can play in contributing to achieving common goals.



Al Zayani with Ambassador Chung

## Transportation Minister chairs BAC board meeting

TDT | Manama

Transportation and Telecommunications Minister and Gulf Air Holding Group chairman Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed headed the Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Board of Directors meeting.

BAC CEO Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah and other board members were present.

Following the revision and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, the board reviewed and the audited financial results for 2019, raising recommendations for shareholder approval at the Annual General Assembly.

BAC's executive management updated the board on the company's financial performance and the impact of the corona-



Mohammed chairing the meeting

virus (COVID-19) on airport operations.

Attendees were also updated on the Cargo Village project, its strategic importance to the development of cargo and logistics operations at the airport, and its key role in the development of the Kingdom's logistics sector.

They discussed the achieve-

**YOU DON'T MISS IT**  
**The expansion of Bahrain International Airport is one of the largest infrastructure development projects in the history of Bahrain, at a total cost of \$1.1 billion**

ments made during the first phase of construction of the new Passenger Terminal, which is one of the largest green buildings in the Kingdom.

This stage was completed according to a strict schedule and without disruptions to operations at the existing terminal.

The Transportation Minister thanked the board members for their dedication to developing the civil aviation sector in the Kingdom and increasing the country's non-oil revenue, in line with Bahrain's Vision 2030.

He also praised BAC's executive management and employees on their efforts to prepare for the on-schedule launch of the new terminal, and noted their ability to conduct airport operations smoothly and effectively despite difficult global circumstances.

He added that the second phase of construction represents a major achievement for the Airport Modernisation Programme.

## East Hidd Town construction progress inspected



Officials during their inspection of the housing projects

TDT | Manama

Housing Minister Bassem bin Yacoub Al Hamar

confirmed that the development of East Hidd Town is witnessing remarkable progress due to the ministry's efforts to

quicken the pace of work on construction projects to meet His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's plan to build 40,000 housing units for citizens.

The Housing Minister, the ministry's undersecretary Shaikh Khalid bin Hmood Al Khalifa, and a number of officials and site engineers made an inspection tour and confirmed that 90 per cent of the Bu Shaheen neighborhood project's second phase is complete, which consists of 398 housing units; 100 per cent of construction work is complete for 740 housing units in Qlaiaa neighborhood; and 91 per cent

is complete in Umm Al Sawali neighborhood, which consists of 375 housing units.

The Housing Minister noted that the ministry and all relevant bodies are coordinating to provide the town with the needed facilities and services, as mentioned in its general plan.

The progress stems from the government's keenness to maintain housing projects to provide a decent living for citizens by adopting the best modern design standards for road networks, sewage, and bridge networks, as well as providing green spaces and walkways.

## Kushner says Oracle's TikTok deal being reviewed

Reuters | Washington

White House adviser Jared Kushner on Tuesday said the White House is reviewing Oracle's bid to team up with China's ByteDance to keep operating TikTok in the United States and that he was not aware of whether any company relationships with the president influenced the deal. Kushner, asked on CNBC if the move to Oracle instead of Microsoft was influenced by



President Donald Trump's relationships, said "Not as far as I know," adding: "Ultimately, it was up to the companies to choose who they wanted to consummate a transaction with."

## Oil rises but bleaker demand outlook weighs



Oil pumps are seen in Karnes County, Texas

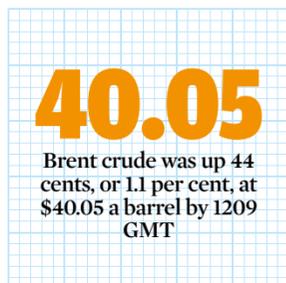
Reuters | London

Oil prices rose yesterday, but forecasts of a slower than expected recovery in global fuel demand due to the coronavirus pandemic weighed.

Brent crude was up 44 cents, or 1.1 per cent, at \$40.05 a barrel by 1209 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were up 52 cents, or 1.4pc, at \$37.78 a barrel. Both contracts fell on Monday.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) on Tuesday trimmed its 2020 outlook by 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 91.7 million bpd, citing caution about the pace of economic recovery.

"We expect the recovery in oil demand to decelerate markedly in the second half of 2020, with most of the easy gains already achieved," the IEA said in its monthly report. The agency said commer-



cial oil stocks in the developed world hit an all-time high of 3.225 billion barrels in July, and cut its forecast for implied stock draws for the second half of the year.

The IEA's demand revision chimes with forecasts from major oil industry producers and traders, with OPEC downgrading its oil demand forecast and BP saying demand might have peaked in 2019.

World oil demand will tumble by 9.46 million bpd this year, OPEC said in a monthly report on Monday.

# Saudi Arabia's STC asks banks to pitch for subsidiary IPO

● STCS last year had over 5 billion riyals (\$1.33 bn) of revenues and profit in the range of 500 million riyals

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi Telecom Co (STC) has asked banks to pitch for roles in a potential public offering of its products and services development arm, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

STC, Saudi Arabia's largest telcoms operator, sent a request for proposals to international and local banks last week for Solutions by STC (STCS), said the sources, who declined to be identified as the matter is not public.

The company did not communicate with banks its planned deal size, they said.

STCS last year had over 5 billion riyals (\$1.33 bn) of revenues and profit in the range of 500 million riyals, which would be a sizable offering, they said.

The company's valuation could be around 9 bn riyals (\$2.4 bn), if it garners 18-20 times its



A man passes the Saudi Telecom STC office in Riyadh

earnings multiples, one of the sources said.

The IPO size could be around \$500 m if the company sells 20 per cent, the source said.

STC did not respond to a request for immediate comment when contacted.

The country has witnessed a flurry of public offerings this year as companies tap into Saudi demand for shares since oil giant Aramco's record IPO last



year. Saudi Arabia is encouraging more companies to list in a bid to deepen its capital markets under reforms aimed at reducing its reliance on oil.

Supermarket retailer BinDawood Holding earlier this week set an indicative price for its initial public offering, seeking to raise as much as 2.19 bn riyals (\$585 m) in a Riyadh listing.

## EU to grant Britain temporary euro clearing access until June 2022

Reuters | London

The European Union is expected to grant clearing houses in Britain access to the bloc's market for 18 months from January, industry sources said yesterday.

Britain left the EU in January and unfettered access under transition arrangements ends on Dec. 31, meaning EU banks would not be allowed to use clearing houses like the London Stock Exchange's LCH and ICE Clear Europe from January.

LCH clears the bulk of euro-denominated interest rate



Puzzle with printed EU and UK flags is seen in this illustration

swaps and the EU has acknowledged that a sudden cut-off in access could undermine financial stability as users sought to shift large derivatives positions at short notice.

Industry sources said they expected the bloc's executive European Commission to agree an 18-month extension, subject to confirmation following a consultation with EU states launched on Monday.

"This is going to be good news," one industry source said after market concerns that a shorter period was on the cards.

Euro clearing has long been a point of tension between Britain and the EU, where policymakers want the activity relocated to the euro zone under the eye of the European Central Bank.

## Oracle-TikTok deal to get Trump approval on Tuesday: CNBC

Reuters

Oracle Corp's deal to be a technology provider to ByteDance's TikTok will be announced on Tuesday afternoon, CNBC reported on Tuesday citing sources.

Oracle did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

# Former Ghosn aide Greg Kelly pleads not guilty as trial opens

AFP News

Greg Kelly, a former aide to ex-Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn, pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to allegations of financial misconduct as his trial began in Tokyo.

Ghosn is at large as an international fugitive, after jumping bail and fleeing Japan for Lebanon last year, leaving Kelly the only person facing trial in the roller-coaster saga.

American Kelly pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges he conspired to under-report tens of millions of dollars in pay that Ghosn was allegedly promised after his retirement.

"I deny the allegations. I was not involved in a criminal conspiracy," Kelly said.

The trial, expected to last around 10 months, centres around the question of whether Kelly and Nissan between 2010



Ghosn remains at large in Lebanon, where he fled after jumping bail in Japan in December 2019

and 2018 illegally concealed payments of around 9.2 billion yen (\$87 million at today's rates) promised to Ghosn on retirement.

Nissan, which is on trial alongside Kelly, says they did, and pleaded guilty yesterday.

In a statement issued separately, it said it takes its indictment "very seriously," adding there was "substantial and convincing evidence" of misconduct by Kelly and Ghosn.

"The facts surrounding the misconduct will be shown dur-



Kelly, who turned 64 yesterday, entered the court dressed in a dark suit and red striped tie -- and wearing a surgical mask.

ing the court proceedings and the law will take its course," it added.

Kelly, who faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted, has consistently denied any wrongdoing,

arguing -- as does Ghosn -- that no final agreement was made on any post-retirement pay and therefore no disclosure was legally required.

Kelly, who turned 64 yesterday, entered the court dressed in a dark suit and red striped tie -- and wearing a surgical mask. He declined to speak to media gathered outside.

Inside the courtroom, he described Ghosn as an "extraordinary executive" who brought Nissan back from the brink of bankruptcy and was considered a "retention risk" because rules introduced in Japan from 2010 limited executive pay.

He said various options for additional pay to Ghosn were considered, and he "took it for granted" that any compensation would be lawful.

"The evidence will show I did not break the law," Kelly added.

### Greg Kelly

- Former Nissan executive
- Worked under fugitive ex-boss Carlos Ghosn
- Accused of financial misconduct



64-year-old US national

Arrested on same day as Ghosn in November 2018

Accused of conspiring to conceal from shareholders tens of millions of dollars in pay Ghosn was promised after his retirement

Released on bail Dec 2018, forbidden to leave Japan

Ghosn skipped bail and escaped to Lebanon in December 2019

Kelly denies charges, faces up to 10 years in jail if convicted

**More than 50 prisoners starve to death in east Congo prison**

● The Bunia prison operates at nearly 500pc of capacity

**Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo**

Fifty-two inmates at a prison in the northeastern Congo city of Bunia have starved to death this year because of insufficient government funding, the United Nations and local authorities said.

The Democratic Republic of Congo's jails are among the world's most overcrowded, according to the UN, with inmates living in squalid conditions on meagre rations. The Bunia prison operates at nearly 500% of capacity, UN figures show. "This situation is really worrying," said Bunia mayor Ferdinand Fimbo, blaming sporadic government support for malnutrition in the prison. President Felix Tshisekedi told his cabinet this month he would personally ensure prisons across the country did not run out of food or medicine.

But the head of the Bunia prison, Camille Zonzi, was quoted in a report by the UN peacekeeping force in Congo as saying that the government had still only promised at a meeting last week to cover three months of the prison's expenses.

Malnutrition is common in jails because food portions are allotted based on nominal capacity, rather than real populations.

**India doubles budget for border roads, bridges**

● Troops of the two countries are locked in their most serious face-offs for years

● India and China

Reuters | New Delhi

India has doubled the budget for vital roads and bridges along the un-demarcated border with China in recent years in response to Beijing's rapid infrastructure development on its side, the Indian defence minister said yesterday.

Troops of the two countries are locked in their most serious face-offs for years along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) or informal border in the western Himalayas, raising fears of a broader conflict.

One of the reasons for the tensions has been India's recent construction of roads and airfields near the border in the Ladakh region bordering Tibet, the Chinese side has said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told parliament that China had been building up its infrastructure in the remote mountains for decades and the government was trying to close the gap.

"Our government too has stepped up the budget for border infrastructure development to about double the previous levels. As a result, more roads and bridges have been completed in the border areas," he said. He provided no figure.

Military officials say the



An Indian Central Reserve Police Force personnel stands guard at a checkpoint along a highway leading to Ladakh, at Gagangeer



**Our government too has stepped up the budget for border infrastructure development to about double the previous levels. As a result, more roads and bridges have been completed in the border areas**

DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH

development of roads and airfields on both sides of the border has also helped troops mobilise quickly in large numbers and in close proximity at some points in the Ladakh area.

Singh said Indian and Chinese troops have had face-offs on the unsettled border in the past, but the scale of deployment of troops and the number of disputed areas was much more than the past.

"As of now, the Chinese side has mobilized a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas," he said, listing Gogra, Kongka La and the north and south banks of the Pangong lake as "friction points."

"In response to China's actions, our armed forces have also made appropriate counter deployments in these areas to ensure that India's security interests are fully protected," he said to thumping of desks in parliament.

**News in brief**

**Bipartisan US lawmakers to unveil \$1.5 trln COVID-19 aid bill**



◆ A group of 50 Democratic and Republican members of Congress are due to unveil a \$1.5 trillion

bipartisan coronavirus relief

legislation yesterday, in an election year effort to break a month-long impasse in COVID-19 talks between the White House and top Democrats. The Problem Solvers Caucus, which includes members of both parties in the House of Representatives, was set to outline the legislative package at an 11 a.m. (1500 GMT) press conference at the US Capitol.

◆ Britain's testing system for COVID-19 was creaking on Tuesday as a bottleneck prevented people including medics

**UK's creaking COVID-19 test system puts health services at risk**

from getting a test in a potential threat to key health services, health sector organisations said.



Attempts to get a COVID-19 test on Tuesday were greeted with a notice on the government's website saying: "This service is currently very busy. More tests should be available later."

◆ Millions of students in Pakistan returned to classes yesterday after a break of six months, as schools and colleges

began to reopen for the first time since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. Educational institutes were closed in March as the



**Pakistani students back in school after more than six months**

coronavirus began to spread in Pakistan, but, with daily infection numbers falling, the government last week announced a staggered resumption of classes. Senior schools were the first to restart, with middle school set to go back next week and primary school the week after.

◆ Germany to take in around 1,500 migrants from Greek islands Germany wants to take in about 1,500 migrants stranded on Greek islands after a fire destroyed an overcrowded camp, government sources said on Tuesday, in a gesture of solidarity with its fellow European Union member state. The decision by



**Germany to take in around 1,500 migrants from Greek islands**

Chancellor Angela Merkel follows a rise in opinion polls by her conservative party, at the expense of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, after what is widely seen as her steady handling of the coronavirus crisis.

◆ Australia recorded zero new coronavirus deaths for the first time in two months yesterday, as a slowdown in new cases allowed

a crippling lockdown in its second-biggest city to be eased. Just 50 fresh virus cases were reported nationwide -- down from peaks above 700 in late July and early August -- while no fatalities were registered for the first time since July 13, according to an AFP tally.



**Navalny says 'able to breathe' unaided after suspected poisoning**

AFP News

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said yesterday he was able to breathe unaided, in his first public comments after his alleged poisoning in Siberia last month.

"Hello, this is Navalny," he said in a post on Instagram, appearing with his wife Yulia and two children in the Berlin hospital where he was flown for treatment after falling ill.

Wearing a hospital gown, he looked gaunt and barely smiled while his wife next to him beamed.

"Yesterday I was able to breathe on my own all day," he said in his first social media post since he was poisoned with what Germany says was a Novichok nerve agent.

"I really liked it. It's an amazing process and underestimated by many. I recommend it," he joked, telling followers, "I miss



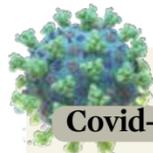
Wearing a hospital gown, he looked gaunt and barely smiled while his wife next to him beamed.



**Yesterday I was able to breathe on my own all day. I really liked it. It's an amazing process and underestimated by many. I recommend it**

ALEXEI NAVALNY

you". The 44-year-old lawyer and outspoken Kremlin critic fell ill on a flight from the Siberian city of Tomsk to Moscow after a trip to support opposition candidates in local elections.



**Global**

Covid-19 Cases:

**29,528,057**

**Deaths**

**934,230**

**Recovered:**

**21,349,379**

**New cases**

**+91,510**

**New deaths**

**+1,784**

**Middle East**

**Countries worst affected**

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths
1 USA	6,754,131	+4,842	199,224	+224
2 India	4,963,097	+36,183	81,168	+360
3 Brazil	4,349,544		132,117	
4 Russia	1,073,849	+5,529	18,785	+150
5 Peru	733,860		30,812	
6 Colombia	721,892		23,123	
7 Mexico	671,716	+3,335	71,049	+228
8 South Africa	650,749		15,499	
9 Spain	593,730		29,848	
10 Argentina	565,446		11,710	+43
11 Chile	437,983	+1,536	12,040	+27
12 Iran	407,353	+2,705	23,453	+140
13 France	387,252		30,950	
14 UK	374,228	+3,105	41,664	+27

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	101,177		5,661		84,969	10,547	41	985
Saudi Arabia	326,930	+672	4,338	+33	305,022	17,570	1,286	9,361
UAE	80,940	+674	401	+2	70,635	9,904		8,164
Kuwait	96,301	+829	568	+5	86,219	9,514	84	22,482
Oman	90,660	+438	797	+7	84,113	5,750	184	17,664
Qatar	122,214	+239	208	+1	119,144	2,862	55	43,527

# Mali must appoint civilian govt immediately, says regional bloc

Reuters | Accra

**M**ali's military coup leaders must hand over power to a civilian transitional government immediately, the chairman of the West African regional bloc said on Tuesday, as a deadline expired for the ruling junta to appoint interim leaders.

The 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) imposed economic sanctions after the Aug. 18 overthrow of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, and said a new president should be appointed by Tuesday.

But the junta pushed through a charter on Saturday that says the interim president can be a soldier or a civilian and has not yet indicated when the new government would be named.

Regional presidents met junta leaders on Tuesday in Ghana in an attempt to quicken the transition. "Today is supposed to be the day that the junta is to put in place a government, which should respond to the criteria we set out in August. That has not been met," said Ghana President Nana Akufo-Addo, the acting ECOWAS chair, before the start of talks.

"That country can no longer afford any delay in putting a responsible government in place," he said. West African leaders



Colonel Malick Diaw, one of the junta leaders of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (CNSP), which overthrew Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, attends a meeting with representatives of political parties and civil society

have not said what the consequences would be for failing to meet the deadline. The existing sanctions include border closures and the suspension of financial flows.

The charter approved at multi-party talks in Mali also calls for an 18-month transition, while ECOWAS had said that fresh elections should be held within a year.

Regional leaders fear the coup could set a dangerous precedent in West Africa and undermine a fight in Mali and neighbouring countries in the Sahel region against Islamist militants with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State.



## News in brief



◆ EU observers are free to visit Xinjiang to "truly understand" the situation in the northwestern region where Beijing is accused of widespread rights abuses against the Uighur population, China said yesterday.

**China says EU observers free to visit Xinjiang**

Rights groups say over a million Uighurs languish in political reeducation camps, while a campaign of forced assimilation has targeted academics, religious leaders and activists from mostly Muslim minority groups. China has rebuffed past calls to grant independent access to Xinjiang, and the spokesman didn't confirm that EU observers would be allowed to travel freely in the region.

◆ US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday that there are fewer than 200 al Qaeda left in Afghanistan today.

Pompeo says fewer than 200 al Qaeda left in Afghanistan



Pompeo was speaking at an Atlantic Council event.

◆ Delegations from Yemen's warring parties will meet tomorrow in Switzerland to discuss a United Nations-backed agreement on prisoner releases, a Houthi spokesman and a UN source said yesterday.

**Yemen warring parties to travel to Switzerland to discuss prisoner releases**

The two delegations, which had been meeting in Jordan, are flying on Wednesday to Switzerland for a week-long talks to finalise a deal on prisoner releases, the UN source said. Mohammed Abdulsalam, chief negotiator of the Houthi movement said his group's committee is set to leave Sanaa on a UN plane.

# China says Covid-19 vaccine could be ready for public by November

● Chinese officials didn't specify which vaccine they are referring to

● Official said Phase 3 clinical trial is progressing

AFP News

**A** China-developed coronavirus vaccine could be ready for the public as early as November, a Chinese official has told state television, as the global race to clear the final round of trials heats up.

Chinese manufacturers have been bullish about development, with companies Sinovac Biotech and Sinopharm even putting their vaccine candidates on display at a trade fair in Beijing this month.

Representatives of the firms said that they hope their vaccines will be approved after phase 3 trials as early as year-end.

And on late Monday, the chief biosafety expert at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control told state broadcaster CCTV that a vaccine would be available to the general public "around November or December."

Wu Guizhen did not specify which vaccine she was referring to, but said "based on the phase 3 clinical results, the current



Chinese manufacturers have been bullish about development, with companies Sinovac Biotech and Sinopharm even putting their vaccine candidates on display at a trade fair in Beijing this month

progress is very smooth."

Wu added that she had taken a vaccine in April and has felt good over the past few months, although she did not specify which candidate she had taken.

There are currently nine vaccine candidates in late-stage human trials, although some have hit recent obstacles -- pharma giant AstraZeneca and Oxford University momentarily paused clinical trials last week after a volunteer developed an unexplained illness.

Some of China's vaccine candidates have already been offered to essential workers under an emergency use programme.



A Sinovac spokesman said this month that "tens of thousands" of people had voluntarily taken its vaccine, including 90 per cent of its employees and their families -- between 2,000 and 3,000 people

A Sinovac spokesman said this month that "tens of thousands" of people had voluntarily taken its vaccine, including 90 per cent of its employees and

their families -- between 2,000 and 3,000 people.

In June, China's military approved a vaccine for use within its ranks developed by its research unit and a biotech firm.

# Donald Trump vows '1,000 times greater' response to any Iran attack



President Donald Trump has vowed to hit back at Iran if the Islamic republic strikes at the United States

AFP News

**U**S President Donald Trump yesterday vowed that any attack by Iran would be met with a response "1,000 times greater in magnitude," after reports that Iran planned to avenge the killing of top general Qasem Soleimani.

A US media report, quoting unnamed officials, said that an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate the US ambassador to South Africa was planned before the presidential election in November.

"According to press reports, Iran may be planning an assassination, or other attack, against the United States in retaliation for the killing of terrorist leader Soleimani," Trump tweeted.

"Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!"

Relations between Washington and Tehran have been tense since the Iranian revolution, and have spiralled since Trump unilaterally pulled out of a landmark international nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018.

In January, a US drone strike killed Soleimani in Baghdad, and Washington is pushing to extend an arms embargo on Iran that starts to progressively expire in October as well as reimposing UN sanctions on the Islamic republic.

The Iranian navy last week said it drove off American aircraft that flew close to an area where military exercises were underway near the Strait of Hormuz.

The military said three US aircraft were detected by Iran's air force radars after they entered the country's air defence identification zone.

# Indonesia to beef-up patrols after China coastguard raises suspicion

● **The vessel entered Indonesia's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the northern Natuna islands**

Reuters | Jakarta

Indonesia will increase maritime security operations near some of its islands in the South China Sea after a Chinese coastguard vessel was spotted nearby, raising suspicions about its intentions, a senior security official said on yesterday. The vessel entered Indonesia's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the northern Natuna islands

on Saturday and left on Monday after radio challenges over jurisdiction, Aan Kurnia, chief of the maritime security agency, Bakamla, said.

Under international law, innocent passage is permitted through another country's EEZ, but Aan said the vessel was lingering too long.

"Because this one floated, then went circling, we became suspicious, we approached it and learned that it was a Chinese coastguard vessel," he said, adding the navy and coastguard would boost operations there.

Wang Wenbin, China's foreign ministry spokesman, said the ship was undertaking

"normal patrol duties in waters under Chinese jurisdiction".

"China's rights and interests in the relevant waters in the South China Sea are clear," Wang told a news conference.

Indonesia renamed the northern reaches of its EEZ in 2017 as the North Natuna Sea, pushing back against China's maritime territorial

ambitions.

While China has made no claim to islands, the presence of its coastguard nearly 2,000 km (1,243 miles) off its mainland has concerned Indonesia, after numerous encounters between Chinese vessels in the EEZs of Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam, which disrupted fishing and energy activities.

A weeks-long standoff occurred 10 months ago when a Chinese coastguard vessel

”  
**Because this one floated, then went circling, we became suspicious, we approached it and learned that it was a Chinese coastguard vessel**

AAN KURNIA, CHIEF OF THE MARITIME SECURITY AGENCY

and accompanying fishing boats entered the northern Natuna Sea, prompting Indonesia to send

fighter jets and mobilise its own fishermen.

China's coastguard often operates alongside fishing boats described by experts as state-backed militia.

The "nine-dash line" on Chinese maps denoting its vast maritime claims includes waters off the Natuna islands. An international arbitration panel in 2016 invalidated that line.

Indonesia's foreign ministry spokesman Teuku Faizasyah reiterated that Jakarta does not recognise the line.



China Coast Guard vessel patrols at the disputed Scarborough Shoal (file)

# AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine trial in US on hold

● **AstraZeneca on Saturday said it had restarted its trial in Britain**

Reuters | Chicago

AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine trial remains on hold in the United States pending a US investigation into a serious side effect in Britain even as other trials of the vaccine resume, sources familiar with the details told Reuters.



Representative picture

AstraZeneca on Saturday said it had restarted its trial in Britain after regulators completed their review of a serious side effect in

one trial participant there.

This was the first indication that the US trial will remain on hold until the US Food and Drug Administration and a safety panel investigate the case.

Enrollment in the company's global trials of the vaccine, which it is developing with researchers at Oxford University, was put on pause on Sept. 6.

Sources told Reuters that enrollment of new patients and other trial procedures for the pivotal US trial were being rescheduled until at least midweek and that it was not clear how long it would take for the FDA to

complete its probe.

Governments around the world are desperate for a vaccine to help end the pandemic, which has caused more than 900,000 deaths and global economic turmoil. The World Health Organization (WHO) had flagged AstraZeneca's as the most promising. A prolonged delay in the US trial could slow access to the vaccine in the United States.

The British adverse event involved a study patient thought to be suffering a rare spinal inflammatory disorder called transverse myelitis.

An AstraZeneca spokes-

woman declined to comment on when the US trial would resume. She said in an email the company "will continue to work with health authorities across the world, including the FDA, and be guided as to when other clinical trials can resume."

The status of the South African and Indian trials remains unknown, but the trial in Brazil has also restarted. The company has not commented on timing of resumption in other parts of the world besides Britain.

FDA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

# Starved of wifi, Indonesians trade plastic trash to study online

Reuters | Jakarta/Bogor, Indonesia (Reuters)

When the coronavirus pandemic forced Indonesian schools to shut, it exposed how millions of households in the Southeast Asian country still had no access to the internet or even a device like a mobile phone to do remote learning.

So students and volunteers have come up with creative ways to get round the problem.

For the last two months, Dimas Anwar Putra, 15, and a friend have been collecting plastic trash in their Jakarta neighbourhood in exchange for wifi access.

With no internet access at home, the two students need to collect one kg (2.2 lb) of mostly plastic waste to trade for access to the internet so they can do online learning for around three hours up to three times a week.

"If we collect trash, it's like a charity for me and apart from that we also get free internet data," Dimas said.

The "wifi station" is the brain-



A student wearing a protective mask carries a bag of plastic bottles to be exchanged for internet wifi access for online studying at a local district office in Jakarta

child of Iing Solihin, who sells trash collected by students to purchase data costing 340,000 rupiah (\$22) a month to al-

low small groups of students to study.

"The problem is when the internet data runs out before

the end of the month ... and they can't study anymore," Iing



Local students pray before they start studying at a local district office in Jakarta

said.

Millions of Indonesian students have been forced to learn remotely since many schools shut in March due to the pandemic, a particular challenge for poorer families and those in remote areas.

In a hilly district near Bogor, about 80 km (50 miles) south of Jakarta, volunteers bring a car equipped with a mobile network transmitter weekly to remote villages so students can use the internet. The "School Volun-

teers" provide laptops and mo-



**Only about one in six of Indonesia's roughly 60 million households had an internet connection in mid-2019, according to the Association of Internet Service Providers Indonesia (APJII).**

bile phones.

"The problem of learning online is I rarely use a phone, I share my phone with my parents," said Dafa Mahesa Sudirman, 14, who along with about 30 other students grabbed his chance to study online in a wooden shed in their village.

# Another fire in Beirut unnerves shattered residents

● There were no immediate reports of casualties and the blaze was quickly extinguished

● Fire trucks quickly doused the flames that charred a corner of the futuristic building

● France is pressing Lebanon to form a new government to tackle endemic corruption

Reuters | Beirut

A fire erupted in a landmark building in Beirut's commercial district on Tuesday, the second blaze this month to send shudders through a capital still in shock after a massive port blast in August ripped through the Mediterranean city.

There were no immediate reports of casualties and the blaze was quickly extinguished, but it left residents exasperated in a nation that has been hammered by a deep economic crisis and which is waiting for its politicians to form a new government.

"It's terrible. It's unbelievable," said Joe Sayegh, 48, who had been on a jog through the city before coming to the scene. "Every day we have a problem."

Fire trucks quickly doused the flames that charred a corner of the futuristic building designed by the practice set up by the late



Firefighters and people gather near the site of a fire that broke out in a building in Central Beirut

The building near the seafront which has been under construction for years and its curved lines have become a prominent feature of the central commercial area rebuilt from the 1975-1990 civil war

A man uses a water hose to put out the fire



Zaha Hadid, the renowned British-Iraqi architect.

The building near the seafront which has been under construction for years and its curved lines have become a prominent feature of the central commercial area rebuilt from the 1975-1990 civil war.

During the reconstruction, skyscrapers designed by international architects have gone up and historical Ottoman-era buildings have been renovated.

But protests during an economic crisis that was caused by a mountain of debt had already driven many businesses out of the city centre and left many buildings scarred, before the Aug. 4 port blast ruined another swathe of the capital.

The government resigned after the port blast, which was blamed on highly explosive ammonium nitrate kept in poor storage conditions for years. This month, a big port fire flared up among the ruined warehouses, adding to the devastation.

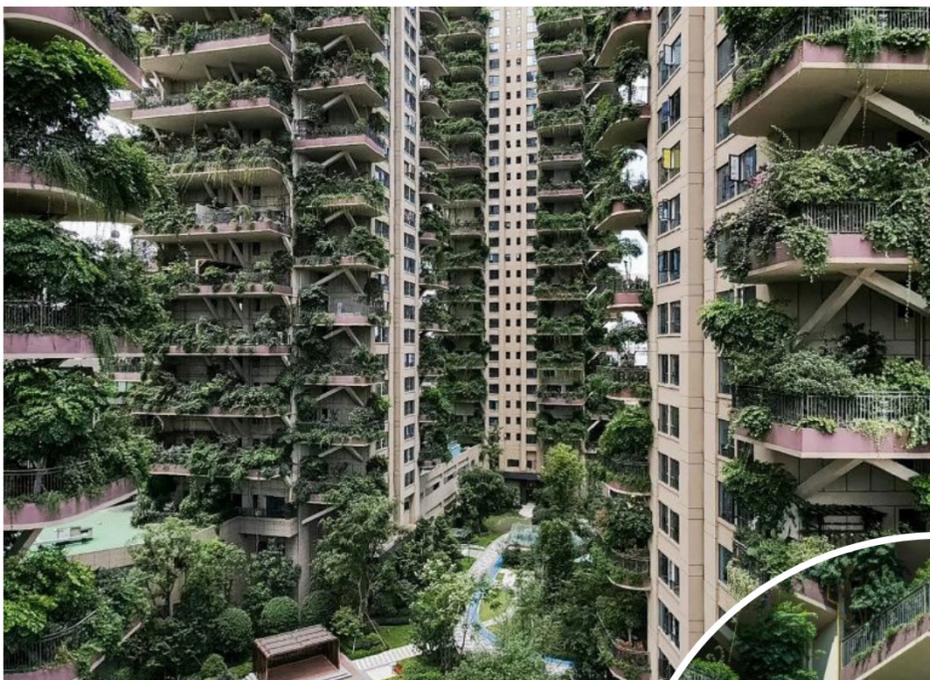
France is pressing Lebanon to form a new government to tackle endemic corruption and implement reforms to unlock aid.

But many Lebanese remain sceptical that Lebanon's political elite can chart a new course.

"With these people, if they are the same people, nothing will change," Sayegh said.

## Welcome to the jungle

### Plants overrun Chinese apartment blocks



With hardly any residents to care for them, the plants at Chengdu's Qiyi City Forest Garden have overrun the towers

AFP News

An experimental green housing project in a Chinese megacity promised prospective residents life in a "vertical forest", with manicured gardens on every balcony.

All 826 apartments were sold out by April this year, according

to the project's estate agent, but instead of a modern eco-paradise, the towers look like the set of a desolate, post-apocalyptic film.

The problem? The mosquitoes love the plants too.

Only a handful of families have moved into Chengdu's Qiyi City Forest Garden because of an infestation, state media have reported. The project in the



The project was meant to provide residents life in a 'vertical forest'

southwestern city was built in 2018, with every private balcony designed to provide space for plants to grow, according to local media reports.

Without any tenants to care for them, the eight towers have been overrun by their own plants -- and invaded by mosquitoes.

Plants have almost entirely swallowed up some neglected

balconies, with branches hanging over railings all over the towers, footage shot this month showed.

Paper was seen taped over some of the windows that were still visible behind the overgrown plants.

Only about 10 families have moved in, according to the state-run Global Times newspaper.



# Is zero-emission truck maker Nikola the new Tesla, or just hot air?

● **Founded in 2015 by Trevor Milton, the company is mainly working on the development of trucks and pick-ups powered by electric batteries or hydrogen fuel cells**

AFP

With its electric and hydrogen-fueled trucks, the firm Nikola aims to revolutionize the future of the transportation sector. But with one investor claiming the group is running on empty, it has been having a rollercoaster ride on the stock exchange for the past week.

Founded in 2015 by Trevor Milton, the company is mainly working on the development of trucks and pick-ups powered by electric batteries or hydrogen fuel cells, as well as building out hydrogen recharging stations.

Although it has not yet built anything, it has forged strategic partnerships with several renowned industrial groups including the German engineering giant Bosch, the Italians CNH Industrial and, most recently, US car-maker General Motors.

The announcement of the

latter partnership on September 8 caused shares to leap 41 percent on the New York Stock Exchange, where the group was floated in June via a merger with a company called VectoIQ, founded by a former senior executive at GM.

Like Tesla, Nikola has benefited on Wall Street from investor infatuation with electric vehicles, considered to be the future of the automobile.

But the investment company Hindenburg Research published a report on September 10 accusing the start-up of "intricate fraud" based on multiple lies by the company's founder Milton, who it said "misled partners into signing agreements by

falsely claiming to have extensive proprietary technology."

That announcement triggered a plummet in share value, with stock diving 36 percent in three days.

Nikola immediately rejected the charges before issuing a more weighty statement of denial on Monday.

The group said it had been in touch with the Securities and Exchange Commission about the report, which it said was aimed at manipulating its share value, which climbed back 11 percent on Wall Street Monday.

## Staged video

Nikola does not however deny one of the more astounding charges leveled against it by the investment company, which was about the staging of a 2017 video showing one of its prototypes in action.

According to Hindenburg, "Nikola had the truck towed to the top of a hill on a remote

stretch of road and simply filmed it rolling down the hill."

Nikola responded that it had "never stated its truck was driving under its own propulsion in the video" but had simply said that it had been "in motion."

Hindenburg shot back Monday that the company's explanation was "completely inadequate."

The start-up's financial director Kim Brady called the report "offensive" to the company's partners.

Before teaming up

with Nikola, he said, Bosch had had its engineers study the project for several months, while GM had taken advice from the major banks and consultancies before buying its 11-percent stake in the company.

"I think it's offensive to our strategic partners that you have a short seller who's doing a hack job and essentially pointing fingers at our strategic partners that they don't know what they're doing," Brady said at an industry conference. "I would suggest it's ridiculous to think they haven't done a deep dive."

For Daniel Ives, an analyst at Wedbush, Nikola's future depends on how the group executes its strategy between now and 2023.

"If Trevor and the team can successfully build out their Arizona factory, morph prototypes into models... lay the groundwork for its charging network,

work, and catalyze delivery trucking orders with an attractive gross margin structure then the opportunity for NKLA is massive and the stock will reflect this dynamic," he said in an advisory note Monday.

"However, clearly there is much wood to chop to get there over the next 12 to 18 months and this remains a 'prove me' stock in the eyes of investors."

Can the group become the new Tesla, the electric car company built up by Elon Musk, which is now worth more on the stock exchange than traditional carmakers even though it sells far fewer vehicles?

Probably not, said Ives. Just as Apple and Amazon dominate their respective sectors "there's one Tesla."

"But if successful in their visions, Nikola has a huge opportunity," he said. "In the Electric Vehicle market, you're talking about hundreds of billions that's going to be spent over the next decade. There's going to be many winners."

Picture courtesy of Trucksplanet



According to Hindenburg, "Nikola had the truck towed to the top of a hill on a remote stretch of road and simply filmed it rolling down the hill."

## Four debut novels make 2020 Booker Prize shortlist

AFP News

Four debut novelists were yesterday shortlisted alongside Zimbabwean author Tsitsi Dangarembga and Ethiopian-American Maaza Mengiste for the Booker Prize for best English-language fiction, to be awarded in November.

American Avni Doshi's first novel "Burnt Sugar" will compete with fellow US debutants Diane Cook ("The New Wilderness") and Brandon Taylor ("Real Life"), and Scotland's Douglas Stuart ("Shuggie Bain"), for one of the world's most celebrated literary awards.

Dangarembga's "This Mournable Body", the final part in a trilogy, and "The Shadow King" by Mengiste make up the six-strong shortlist of four women and two men.

It was whittled down by a pan-



Tsitsi Dangarembga's final volume in her trilogy that started with "Nervous Conditions" chronicles the journey of a young girl from Zimbabwe sinking into poverty

el of five judges from a US-dominated longlist of 13 finalists, which had included veteran Hilary Mantel.

"The shortlist of six came together unexpectedly, voices and

characters resonating with us all even when very different," Margaret Busby, chair of the 2020 judges, said in a statement.

"It's a wondrous and enriching variety of stories, and hugely

exciting as well," she added, noting they ranged in setting from 1980s Glasgow and post-colonial Zimbabwe to 1930s Ethiopia and modern-day India.

Courting controversy

The title of best work of English-language fiction published in the United Kingdom and Ireland has launched careers and caused countless arguments since its creation in 1969.

Past laureates have ranged from contemporary giants such as Ian McEwan and Julian Barnes to Kazuo Ishiguro and Roddy Doyle.

The competition tore up the rule book last year by splitting the fiction award between Canada's Margaret Atwood and Anglo-Nigerian author Bernardine Evaristo.

It has already courted controversy this year by pitting nine

Americans or dual-US citizens against just three Britons, and now for overlooking Mantel's "The Mirror And The Light" -- the last in her Cromwell trilogy.

Judge Lee Child, one of the world's best-selling detective novelists, said the panel thought it was "absolutely wonderful" and "one for the ages", but added: "There were books that were better, that's all I can say personally."

Dangarembga's final volume in her trilogy that started with "Nervous Conditions" chronicles the journey of a young girl from Zimbabwe sinking into poverty.

Meanwhile Mengiste is the first Ethiopian author to make the Booker's shortlist, for her story of the uprising against the Italian invasion in the 1930s.

"Burnt Sugar" by Doshi ex-

plores the complex relationship between an ageing mother and her daughter in contemporary India, while Cook's "The New Wilderness" is a dystopian fiction set in a city made inhospitable by the climate crisis.

She is currently developing a screenplay based on the novel after Warner Bros bought the rights to adapt it into a television series.

Stuart's "Shuggie Bain" is set in a working-class Scottish family struggling with alcoholism and poverty in the 1980s, while Taylor's debut follows an introverted man's experience of racism as he arrives at an American university.

The winner will be announced on November 17 and receive £50,000 (\$64,000, 54,000 euros) in prize money and international attention.

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# celebs

## Drew Barrymore inspired by obituaries

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Drew Barrymore is "inspired" by obituary notices.

The 'Whip It' star always reads death notices in newspapers because they encourage her to live a "better life" and she feels that all "responsible citizens" have a duty to go beyond the front pages and headlines.

Discussing the 'Drew's News' segment which

will feature in her eponymous new talk show, she said: "I'm an obsessive information, news and pop-culture junkie."

"When I aggregate so much information for myself, I find a lot of stories so fascinating beyond that front section of the newspaper or the top headline."

"I think ['Drew's News'] is a mixed bag, which is how I like digesting the information of the world -- human interest, weird, fun facts."

"It feels like a newspaper

where, to be a responsible citizen, you have to understand what's happening in the front section but also in sports, metro, arts and sciences, business and even obituaries -- which make me want to go and live a better life because someone else did and it's very inspiring."

The 45-year-old star's talk show is accompanied by four digital docuseries, 'Drew's Movie Nite', 'The Art of the Interview', 'Drew's Cookbook Club' and 'The Making Of The Drew Barrymore Show' and she felt it would be "informative" for viewers to see how programmes are made in the age of social distancing.

She told the New York Post newspaper: "It's my way of avoiding the polish, like, 'Hi, I'm here!'."

"These are such extraordinary times and circumstances and there's so much that takes to get to this moment."



Drew Barrymore

## Tyra Banks wants the word 'smize' added to the dictionary

Fox | Los Angeles

Tyra Banks wants to make a new addition to the dictionary.

Over the course of her career, the 46-year-old model has popularized the word "smize" -- to smile with your eyes -- and is hoping for the word to join Merriam-Webster's exhaustive catalog.

In an interview with NPR, the new "Dancing with the Stars" host revealed that she's been making an attempt to have "smize" added to the dictionary.

"There's a secret smize. There's a lot of smizes. But you know what? Guess who will not put smize in the dictionary? Merriam-Webster," she said. "We keep calling the Merriam-Webster people."

Banks said she and her team have made attempt after at-

tempt to get Merriam-Webster to add the word, but haven't been met with any success.

"We call them. We email them. We show them the cover of The Wall Street Journal," she stated. "We show everything, all this stuff. And they're just like ... 'We've had our eye on smize for a couple of years.' And 'I'm like, 'You know what? Now you're just hating.'"

Banks explained that smizing is rather eclectic and can express a number

of emotions. "There's different ones. And you have to think of different things to ... activate a different muscle in your face," she said.

The model has also taken the word to a whole new level by creating an ice cream brand called Smize.

While the brand wasn't set to launch until next year, Banks felt that amid the coronavirus pandemic, "people need ice cream."



Tyra Banks

## Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin celebrate 2-year anniversary since NYC courthouse wedding

Fox | Los Angeles

Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin are celebrating a special time in their relationship.

The singer, 26, gave a shoutout to his model wife, 23, on their two-year anniversary.

"2 years today @haileybieber.. xoxo," he wrote on social media.

Bieber and Baldwin secretly got married in September 2018 at a New York City courthouse just two months after getting

engaged in June 2018.

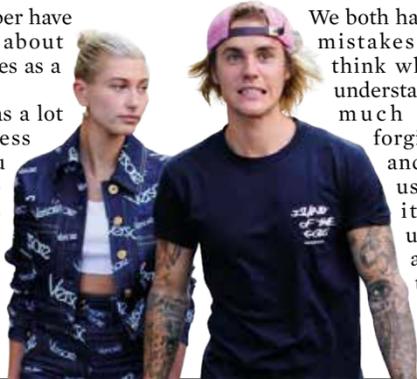
Then the pair got married in a larger, traditional ceremony on Sept. 30, 2019, at the Montage Palmetto Bluff resort in Bluffton, S.C.

Over 100 guests attended, including Kendall and Kylie Jenner, Jaden Smith, Justine Skye, Dan Smyers and Shay Mooney of country duo Dan + Shay (who also performed) and Bieber's manager, Scooter Braun.

Since tying the knot, Baldwin and Bieber have

been open about their struggles as a couple.

"There was a lot of forgiveness that you needed to have towards me," he said in a Facebook Watch series. "And vice versa."



Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin

We both had made mistakes and I think when we understand how much God's forgiven us and given us grace, it gives us the ability to give each other

grace." "Forgiveness is the biggest thing," Baldwin echoed. "You take a person with all of their faults, all of their decisions."

"We've had to work hard on our relationship. I think that pays off in a way where you just become so connected to each other, and so close and just solid with each other. Obviously, you're my best friend. I think that's the biggest payoff, you get

a best friend to do everything with."

Bieber then described the best aspect of being married: "I think the security marriage gives you is that you make a covenant before God to love that person for better or for worse, in sickness and in health."

The musician said the most difficult part of living a married life is dealing with the "blind spots" he hadn't foreseen before saying "I do."

## Kelly Clarkson is staying positive amid divorce: 'I feel pretty good and happy'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kelly Clarkson feels "pretty good and happy" amid her split from Brandon Blackstock.

The 'Since U Been Gone' hitmaker is currently going through a divorce with her estranged spouse - with whom she has six-year-old River Rose and four-year-old Remington Alexander - and has said that whilst enduring a breakup isn't what she "wanted" for her life, she does feel as though she's "in a better place" mentally now that she's single again.

Speaking during an appearance on the 'Today' show on Monday (14.09.20), she said: "There are days that are like, 'Oh my gosh,' like, 'I can't even believe my life right now.' It's so not what I thought or wanted."

"I feel pretty good and happy and, you know, my kids are happy. We're getting to a better place so it's good."

In a clip from her interview



Kelly Clarkson

which was released ahead of the show, Kelly joked her life has "been a little bit of a dumpster" over the last few months, and said she'd been finding it "hard" to cope.

She explained: "I mean, it's no secret. My life has been a little bit of a dumpster ... personally, it's been a little hard the last couple months. I've been talking to friends that have been through divorce."

## Miley Cyrus says upcoming election is the most important in her lifetime

Fox | Los Angeles

Miley Cyrus called the upcoming 2020 presidential election the most important in her lifetime as she encouraged her fans to get active in the voting process.

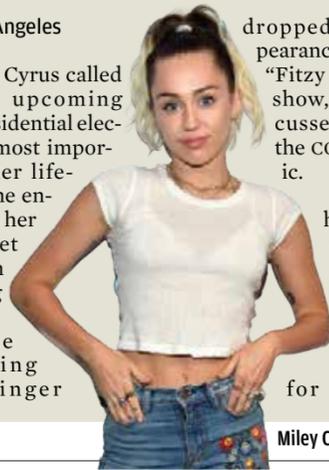
The "Wrecking Ball" singer

dropped in for an appearance on Nova 96.9's "Fitzy & Wippa" radio show, where she discussed her life amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The hosts asked her about the upcoming election and whether or not she plans to use her platform to advocate for any political

causes. "Listen, I'm 27... and I know I've never experienced an election this important before and I'm not sure that I ever will again. I hope not in my lifetime," she explained.

She said that, above all, she's hoping that the troubling times Americans find themselves in will motivate the public, especially young people, to get active and ensure that everyone around them is prepared to vote in November.



Miley Cyrus

### SUDOKU

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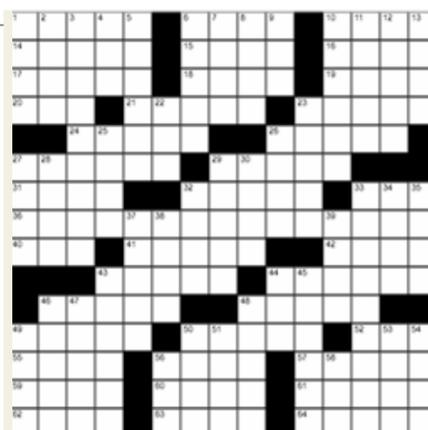
Yesterday's solution

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

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- Cold mold; 6- Muslim leader; 10- Plays are divided up into these; 14- Jazzy Chick; 15- "Peter Pan" pooch; 16- Pull an all-nighter; 17- Nut of an oak; 18- Exec; 19- Bausch & Lomb brand; 20- Deserter; 21- Live; 23- Seashore; 24- Prufrock's creator; 26- Hazardous; 27- Withdraw; 29- Software buyers; 31- Twice tetra-; 32- Caper; 33- Sky light; 36- Make a trade; 40- Where it's at; 41- Rica; 42- Prepare for publication; 43- Roofing stone; 44- Evaluate; 46- Sub system; 48- Copper and zinc alloy; 49- Celestial body; 50- Dripping; 52- Sailor; 55- Draft classification; 56- Latvian, e.g.; 57- Actress Graff; 59- Skating area; 60- 1952 Winter Olympics setting; 61- Sherpa's home; 62- New Orleans is The Big \_; 63- Red-bearded god; 64- Like a March wind?;

Down

1- Rent; 2- Caribbean dance music; 3- Guardian; 4- Occupational suffix; 5- Frank; 6- Atlas feature; 7- Handle roughly; 8- Natural blue dye; 9- Floor covering; 10- Beyond; 11- Harsh squeaky sound; 12- Aromatic herb; 13- Brown-bag stuff; 22- Grievous distress; 23- Approximately; 25- Fall faller; 26- Bridle strap; 27- Thick cord; 28- Light brown; 29- Make one; 30- Portico; 32- Kind of prof.; 33- Dodges; 34- Israeli weapons; 35- Devices for fishing; 37- Dazzling display; 38- Go sky-high; 39- Minus; 43- Furtive; 44- Vessel built by Noah; 45- Proverb; 46- Actress Braga; 47- Portents; 48- Ulan \_; 49- An apple or a planet, will have this at the centre; 50- Whip; 51- Cockney greeting; 52- Med school subj.; 54- Be dependent; 56- "Droid"; 58- Romanian monetary unit;

Yesterday's solution

S	E	A	B	E	E	M	P	H	E	T	N	A
E	N	R	O	L	L	E	R	A	V	I	E	W
A	V	E	N	G	E	M	I	L	A	L	G	A
J	A	C	O	B	S	L	A	D	D	E	R	
A	R	B	O	R	R	E	M	P	E	E	V	E
P	E	R	A	V	E	R	A	I	R	M	P	S
A	V	E	R	A	G	E	L	E	A	S	H	E
R	U	E	D	E	N	A	L	L	A	A	A	
T	E	D	A	N	T	P	O	L	A	R	I	S
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S	T	O	W	E	J	O	E	A	N	N	U	L
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## Messi tops wealth league ahead of Ronaldo

Reuters | London

Lionel Messi was denied a potentially money-spinning move away from Barcelona this month after a contract-dispute but the Argentine maestro remains the world's richest soccer player.

According to a list compiled by Forbes, Messi's total earnings this year are \$126 million -- \$92 million from his salary and \$34 million in endorsements.

Not surprisingly Cristiano Ronaldo comes in second although earnings of \$117 million will soften the blow for the Juventus forward, as will his status as the most followed soccer player in the world on social media.

Neymar comes in third on the Forbes list (\$96 million) with his Paris St Germain team mate, 21-year-old Kylian Mbappe, up in fourth spot (\$42 million).

The Premier League remains the world's

**\$126**

million is Messi's total earnings this year -- \$92 million from his salary and \$34 million in endorsements

richest domestic soccer league but only two of its outfield players feature in the top 10 of the wealth table -- Liverpool's title-winning striker Mohamed Salah in fifth spot (\$37 million) and Manchester United's midfielder Paul Pogba (\$34 million) in sixth. Pogba's team mate, keeper David de Gea (\$27 million) is 10th.

Barcelona's Antoine Griezmann was seventh and Real Madrid's Gareth Bale eighth. Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, the only Bundesliga player, in ninth.

Messi reluctantly agreed to stay at Barcelona for another season this month, despite saying in the wake of an 8-2 Champions League defeat by Bayern Munich that he wanted out.



Lionel Messi

# Kamna posts solo win in the Alps, Roglic keeps yellow

Germany's Lennard Kamna won stage 16 as Roglic maintains Tour de France lead

● 24-year-old Kamna won his first Grand Tour stage

AP | Paris

German rider Lennard Kamna won the first Alpine stage of the Tour de France yesterday after pulling clear of a group of breakaway riders, and Primoz Roglic kept the race leader yellow jersey.

There was no significant change in the overall standings ahead of Wednesday's mammoth summit finish in the high mountains as second-place Tadej Pogacar remained 40 seconds behind Roglic.

The Slovenian pair enjoyed a quiet day in the pack of main contenders and crossed the finish line 16 minutes, 48 seconds behind the stage winner, who is not a threat in the overall standings.

Pogacar tested Roglic's legs on the final ascent but could not gain time on his rival.

Pogacar, a 21-year-old Tour rookie, will have another chance to unsettle Roglic during Wednesday's Stage 17 -- arguably the toughest -- featuring



Germany's Lennard Kamna rides during the 14th stage

the Col de La Madeleine and the Col de La Loze, the highest point this year at 2,304 meters. The last six kilometres (4 miles) of the climb are particularly difficult, with very steep sections and sharp turns.

The 24-year-old Kamna, who rides for the Bora-hansgrohe team, made his decisive move on the penultimate ascent to drop former race leader Julian Alaphilippe, Richard Carapaz and Sebastien Reichenbach, three rivals with a strong pedigree.

Kamna was part of a group of 15 riders who broke away from the peloton early in the 164-kilometre (102-mile) trek.

Among them, Frenchman Quentin Pacher also tried a solo escape but his effort was short lived as he was easily caught and then dropped by Alaphilippe, Carapaz, Reichenbach and Kamna. Carapaz, the Giro d'Italia champion, made Alaphilippe and Reichenbach crack with a couple of biting attacks but could not respond when Kamna countered before the summit.

The German was faster than his remaining rival on the flat sections as he sped toward Villard-de-Lans to post the biggest win of his career.

After losing more than seven minutes in the Jura mountains Sunday, defending champi-



Kamna was part of a group of 15 riders who broke away from the peloton early in the 164-kilometre trek

on Egan Bernal went through another day of hardship at the back of the race, getting dropped by the main contenders in the 11.1-kilometer steep climb where Kamna built his success.

The remaining 156 Tour de France riders were authorized to start the stage after the UCI and race organizers announced that all 785 COVID-19 tests on Sunday and Monday of riders and staff members of the 22 teams returned negative.

No rider has tested positive since the race started on Aug. 29 in Nice. The latest screening around the race's second rest day was the fourth since the beginning of the Tour, and the last one before the peloton reaches the Champs Elysees on Sunday.

## Nani Roma will drive for BRX in the 2021 Dakar Rally



Nani Roma

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Raid Xtreme (BRX) has unveiled Nani Roma as its first driver joining the team to take on the 2021 Dakar Rally. Spaniard, Roma, has previously won the Dakar Rally both on a bike and in a car, and joins BRX with a wealth of experience that will prove invaluable as the team prepares for one of the biggest challenges in motorsport.

Roma joins BRX from German manufacturer team Borgward and has previously competed in the Dakar with Mini. His extensive experience in the iconic race has ensured the two-time Dakar champion understands the challenges that entering the Dakar Rally poses any team and its drivers. With the combined expertise of Roma and BRX, and the shared ambition for success, BRX continues to signal itself as a contender for the Dakar Rally title in 2021

## Depay packing his bags for Barcelona: report



Lyon's Dutch forward Memphis Depay inaction during a match (file photo)

AFP | Barcelona

Dutch striker Memphis Depay is on his way to Barcelona from Lyon in a transfer worth 25 million euros (\$29.6 million), Dutch daily De Telegraaf reported yesterday. If the deal goes through, the 26-year-old international will join compatriots Frenkie de Jong and coach Ronald Koeman, who started Depay regularly when he was in charge of the national team.

"Barcelona hope to confirm officially the transfer and introduce Depay to Camp Nou later in the week," said De Telegraaf.

The transfer amount would be 25 million euros according to the daily, plus five million

euros at the end of this season, and two million euros in bonuses.

Koeman has been on the hunt for a striker after telling Uruguayan Luis Suarez he wasn't in his plans for the coming season.

Depay played an important role in Lyon's progress to the Champions League semi-final and scored a hat-trick in their opening Ligue 1 win of the season over Dijon.

However, he had announced that he did not wish to extend his contract in France and has never hidden his desire to play "for a bigger club" than Lyon.

He began his career with PSV Eindhoven before moving to Manchester United and, in 2017, Lyon.

## Chelsea's Werner expects to be fit in time for Liverpool clash

AFP | London

Timo Werner insisted he will be fit to face Liverpool on Sunday after Chelsea's new striker finished their 3-1 win at Brighton with an ice pack on his thigh.

Werner marked his Premier League debut by winning a penalty that Jorginho converted to put Chelsea ahead, but the Germany star took a whack on his leg as he was tripped by Brighton keeper Mat Ryan in the incident.

The 24-year-old close-season signing from Leipzig was able to play the entire 90 minutes despite the knock and was one of Chelsea's standout performers.

When he was interviewed after the final whistle with the icing on his injury, Werner said he expected to be fine for the visit of Premier League champions Liverpool.

"The knee of the goalkeeper hit me directly in the muscle and it went very hard," Werner told Sky Sports.

"The rest of the game it hurt a lot. I couldn't do some movements because the muscle went very hard, but at the end I'm happy that we won.

"I don't care about this. In one week it will be good. We did

a good game today, we did well, and I'm happy I won the penalty because it was important for our game."

Werner's pace and astute movement made him a handful for Brighton's defence even with the injury.

One of the most



Timo Werner

"I don't care about this. In one week it will be good. We did a good game today, we did well, and I'm happy I won the penalty because it was important for our game

TIMO WERNER

prolific strikers in the Bundesliga in recent years, Werner admitted it was a fascinating challenge to adapt to the different demands of the Premier League.

"The game is totally different. There is more space but you come out in the second half and the game was totally different. Brighton gave us a lot of problems," he said.

"I played against three massive defenders, you don't have that in Germany. Happy to be here and I think it was a good first game for me and the team.

"The second game will become harder because it is Liverpool. I tried and did my best and got an assist for the team.

"We had a lot of players not in the rhythm now but I think we will get better and better when we play more games together."

# THREE WEEKS THREE EVENTS

## THE BIGGEST FLYWEIGHT TOURNAMENT TITLE FIGHTS | THE BEST MARTIAL ARTISTS

### Ahmed Amir eyes rematch with Cleiton "Predator" after BRAVE CF 41



Ahmed Amir in action during a bout

TDT | Manama

Ahmed "The Butcher" Amir has a huge challenge in his upcoming BRAVE CF 41 fight. He will face Cian Cowley on the main card of BRAVE CF's return to Bahrain for the Kombat Kingdom series, on September 17th. But he has his eyes on a rematch with current Lightweight world champion Cleiton "Predator", who beat him in a controversial bout back at BRAVE CF 11.

Cleiton was making his debut in the fastest-growing organization in the world, and was able to beat Amir, but hadn't made weight before the bout, which has caused Ahmed to feel as if a rematch is his right. He will look to gain momentum against Cowley towards that fight.

"I'm a Lightweight fighter, and even though this bout against Cowley will be at Super Lightweight, my division is Lightweight. And the fight I want is that rematch with

Cleiton. I know I can beat him if we both make weight and I'm working every day to get that rematch", said Amir, who has refused to look past Cian, a dangerous striker and training partner of Conor McGregor.

"It will be a good fight, he has a lot of striking experience, but I can strike too. I'm not just a grappler or a wrestler. If he wants to strike, let's strike. If he wants to grapple, we'll grapple. I'm confident in my training and the work we do at KHK MMA, with the guidance of His Highness Shaikh Khaled, and under the tutelage of coach Eldar Eldarov".

Now representing Bahrain and KHK MMA, Amir's game has evolved tremendously. Usually known for his wrestling game, "The Butcher" has become a well-rounded fighter, with hard punches and leg kicks and his striking technique has come leaps and bounds and he was able to get the better of his last opponent even in the stand-up.

# Gaucha almost quit MMA before joining BRAVE CF

Champ Daniel Gaucha reveals he came close to quitting MMA before meteoric rise to BRAVE CF title

● Gaucha now reigns as the first-ever world champion in the Middleweight division

TDT | Manama

Daniel Gaucha came very close to quitting the sport before joining BRAVE Combat Federation and having a meteoric rise to the top of the Middleweight division, where he now reigns as the first-ever world champion. Out of action for two years, he was already looking for alternative jobs when the call came to join BRAVE CF. And the rest, as they say, is history.

One of CM System's finest jewels, Daniel has dealt with injuries and said the family and friends support was instrumental for his rapid rise. After signing for BRAVE CF, he fought and defeated Bruno Assis at BRAVE CF 25, in Brazil. His victory was so devastating that he was awarded a title shot against Chad Hanekom. Gaucha can't contain the tears when he remembers the moment he learned he would fight for the BRAVE CF world championship.

"I was very happy, because for the longest time I thought



Daniel Gaucha in action during a bout

about quitting... (breaks down in tears). I feel very emotional about it, it's hard to hold back because, not only me, but a lot of people go through hard times. And sometimes people give up on their dreams. But I've always had help and support from my family, from my friends. From my coaches as well, always elevating me, saying that it would work out", said the champ, who remembers he felt left behind at times due to the success of teammates and his inactivity.

"I was inactive, not fighting...

Sometimes I felt I was behind, not behind, but left behind. I've never...in these two years I wasn't doing anything, and not to mention what I went through to get where I was. And I remember that when I won the belt, I felt as if it was a lesson to me. I was very close to calling it quits, work as security guard, or anything else. Before receiving this opportunity that changed my life within six months".

Now established as the world champion of BRAVE CF, Daniel has the biggest challenge of his

”

"I was inactive, not fighting... Sometimes I felt I was left behind. In these two years I wasn't doing anything, and not to mention what I went through to get where I was. And I remember that when I won the belt, I felt as if it was a lesson to me

DANIEL GAUCHO

career as he takes on top contender and Arab MMA legend Mohammad Fakhreddine in the main event of BRAVE CF 41, which takes place on September 17th, in Bahrain. The champ is confident of getting his hand raised again and counts on the rage from his time before BRAVE CF to earn one more victory.

"When I go in there, my rage, my anger of all the lost time, of all the difficult times, it comes back. I take that energy and put it in my hands and I go for the knockout. I'm a very chill person outside of the cage, but once someone else wants to take my things from me, I become someone else".

# Mohammad Fakhreddine's road to legendary status with the Arab world and BRAVE CF

● Fakhreddine takes on Gaucha in the main event of BRAVE CF 41

TDT | Manama

Mohammad Fakhreddine started his professional MMA career back in 2012 and is recognized as a pioneer of the sport in the Middle East. "The Latest" gathered fans in the region thanks to his aggressive style and consistent results, which led him to become a two-division champion in regional events. He now has the chance to capture the greatest glory of his professional career, as he's only hours away from



Mohammad Fakhreddine celebrates after a bout



Mohammad Fakhreddine now has the chance to capture the greatest glory of his professional career, as he's only hours away from fighting for the BRAVE CF world title.

fighting for the BRAVE CF world title.

"The Latest" takes on Brazilian powerhouse Daniel Gaucha in the main event of BRAVE CF 41, which takes place on September 17th, in Bahrain, on the first of the three shows that will take place on the

Kombat Kingdom series. Now settled as a legend of the Arab MMA world, Fakhreddine's road to his current status was a difficult one, but he has remained on the path and has no regrets.

"I've fought anywhere, anytime, and I'll fight anywhere, anytime. This is what I love to do, and despite what my opponent says, I have much more time in my career. I'm ready to become the BRAVE CF world

champion and make history for Lebanon".

After starting off his amateur career in the USA, Mohammad returned to Lebanon and initiated the path towards his legendary status.

The game changer in Fakhreddine's career came in 2016, when he signed a long-term deal with BRAVE Combat Federation. Since he joined the truly global MMA promotion, Fakhreddine benefited from the global platform, and expanded his popularity internationally. Now, Fakhreddine is known around the world and became a reference for Middle Eastern Mixed Martial Arts. He now hopes to add BRAVE CF Middleweight world champion to his long list of achievements.