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20  
SUNDAY  
JUNE, 2021  
210 FILS  
ISSUE NO. 8872

**SPORTS**  
**Verstappen pips Hamilton for French Grand Prix pole**  
Max Verstappen beats title rival Lewis Hamilton to pole in thrilling French GP qualifying | P12

**WORLD 7** Khamenei protege wins Iran election amid low turnout

# THE DAILY **tribune**

Demi Lovato reflects on frozen yogurt shop drama

**9 CELEBS**



**BUSINESS**

**6**

AUB inks deals with Sharaf DG & Talabat

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Getting vaccinated, booster shots and vaccines for 12-17 year olds protects everyone

Register now

healthalert.gov.bh

BAHRAIN COVID-19

NEW CASES

439

ACTIVE CASES

8282

DEATHS

1297

DISCHARGED

252848

210 fils (includes VAT)

6 084010 110021 >

# Summer work ban comes into force in July

P2

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Last update - 9:00 pm  
19 June 2021

## Individuals vaccinated

(First dose)

1

0

4

1

5

8

4

(Second dose)

8

9

0

9

2

2

# ROLEX

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# Summer work ban on way

- Two-month ban starts next month
- Violators will face zero-tolerance actions
- Fines range from BD500 to BD1,000 and three months in jail

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will begin enforcing this year's summer outdoor work ban starting next month, alongside restrictions in place for battling the COVID-19 outbreak.

Announcing the decision, the Minister of Labour and Social Development, Jameel Humaidan, warned against work ban violations, which would attract "zero-tolerance" actions.

Preparations, the minister said, are all set for the two-month ban, which prohibits

“The Kingdom would follow a zero-tolerance approach towards work ban violations. The ban aims at protecting workers from excessive heat exposure that could lead to life-threatening conditions

JAMEEL HUMAIDAN, THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



which calls for extreme caution in line with our human rights principles," the ministry said.

The ministry said it is holding awareness-raising campaigns for ensuring full adherence of employers and workers to the measures.

"Virtual workshops are held to educate the health and safety supervisors of private sector institutions on the need to protect workers from summer-related diseases and occupational accidents."

"The outdoor afternoon work ban is the best means to ensuring a secure and safe work environment for workers, for which the Kingdom is a leader," said Jameel Humaidan.

Bahrain, the minister said, is keen to ensure the safety of workers at production sites during these months.

Humaidan called on private institutions to raise workers' awareness of summer diseases and the risks the summer heat can cause to their health.

Establishments, the minister said, should find ways to reduce heat and humidity at the work sites.

The labour minister also praised companies in the private sector for compliance with the ban over the past years, which the minister said proves their commitment to workers' safety and health.

outdoor work from midday until 4 pm.

Bahrain is currently following 'tough' new restrictions enforced to stamp out a recent spike in infections following Ramadan and Eid celebrations.

Humaidan said the ban aims at protecting workers from excessive heat exposure that could lead to life-threatening conditions.

tions.

Violators will attract a jail term not exceeding three months or a fine between BD500 to BD1,000 or both.

Outdoor work, which involves hot and humid conditions, such as construction, mining, and oil and gas operations, to name a few, are especially likely to cause heat-related illnesses, particularly when involving heavy work tasks, requiring equipment and protective clothing.

The minister said the ban is for safeguarding workers from extreme conditions and reduce occupational incidents.

"Temperature and humidity will spike during these months,



Temperatures can reach a scorching 140 °F / 60° C in the middle east during the summer months—heat so intense that exposure can be fatal.

# Take booster dose, if above 50 and had Sinopharm vaccine shot

TDT | Manama

Take the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster shot if you are above 50 years of age and passed three months after



individual with the time and location of the booster dose.

The new decision is to ensure the effectiveness of the vaccine in alleviating the

symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

Vaccination, the ministry said, reduces the chances of transmitting the virus to those who are not vaccinated and help build herd immunity.

The United Arab Emirates had also announced a similar decision to provide a booster shot to those initially immunised with the Sinopharm vaccine.

The Chinese vaccine is 78.1% effective against symptomatic COVID-19, according to a study published last month in the JAMA medical journal.

Registration for a booster dose is possible either through the BeAware application or healthalert.gov.bh.

After successful registration, an SMS message will reach the



New Millennium School Bahrain held a virtual Investiture Ceremony on 16 June 2021, during which young leaders were formally bestowed with the responsibility of leading their school. Principal Arun Kumar Sharma congratulated the newly appointed Student Council Members (2021-22), following which the council members took their pledge. Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geeta Pillai congratulated the newly elected council.

# Transform from users to creators of Technology

A special Summer Camp on Coding & AI Learning from the 4th of July to the 22nd of August

“Since coding is one of the hot topics for the academic years to come, we have chosen Coding Session as the primary programme in the Summer Camp as this will enable students to divert their screen time to creativity and learning

ABDUL JALEEL ABDULLA, THE CEO OF LAURELS

- Camp begins on the 4th of July and ends on the 22nd of August
- Entry for students from grade 1 to grade 12
- Laurels will invite potential investors to listen to the start-up ideas of the students and pitch for investment

TDT | Manama

After two successful summer camps in the previous years, Laurels is back with a Special Online Summer Camp abiding by all coronavirus (COVID-19) protocols.

Dubbed "Creative Genius Season 3" - a summer camp with an integrated theme of Coding & AI learning - this year's event is for students from grade 1 to grade 12

The Laurels Centre for Global

Education, in association with Cyber Square, is conducting the instructor-led camp.

The camp begins on the 4th of July and ends on the 22nd of August.

Camp time is limited to an hour per day to reduce the screen time of the students.

Students will receive assignments and programming tasks to use their logic and problem-solving skills. They will learn to create websites, games, animation videos, special Python programmes and AI projects during the camp. Besides, special sessions on communication and presentation skills will help them to come out and market their creations to an audience.

Pitch your idea

Laurels will invite potential investors to listen to the start-up ideas of the students and pitch for investment. Successful students will receive UK certification from ORAY limited UK.

"Coding is the language in which human communicates with machines. It is essential for

new generation kids to learn the basics of coding. We consider this camp as a launchpad for budding programmers and coders," said Abdul Jaleel Abdulla, the CEO of Laurels.

The CEO added: "Many students who have completed our coding courses have shown great results in their academic and entrepreneurship skills. We also have coding courses for adults and beginners who have no previous experience in IT."

"We are in search of smart kids and happy to facilitate a platform for them to grow.

"Since coding is one of the hot topics for the academic years to come, we have chosen Coding Session as the primary programme in the Summer Camp as this will enable students to divert their screen time to creativity and learning," Abdulla said.

Interested students and parents may call/Whatsapp 36458340 to register and get more details.

The deadline for registration is 28th June.

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# The way this man says **'Thank you, Bahrain'** is unique



In pictures, Bahrain resident TT Thomas with his unique home in the South India state of Kerala dedicated to his love for Bahrain

TDT | Manama

## Thank you, Bahrain.

These words spring out of the hearts and minds of every man and woman here as they look back at their own life in Bahrain a few years down the road.

However, some people won't just end it there and go that extra mile to pour their hearts out, just like this man from the South Indian state of Kerala.

TT Thomas, a steel fabricator here in the Kingdom for the last 30 years, is paying his gratitude to the Kingdom, back there in his home away from Bahrain in a unique way.

In Kerala, he is building his dream home in extraordinary shapes and dressed up in the colours of Bahrain.

We call it unique, as it is not an ordinary home.

And it doesn't even look like a home that we see around here or there.

### Is it a train? Is it a ship? Is it a plane?

The house resembles a train, a ship and an aeroplane, or all three in unison.

When asked what inspired him to such a creation, Thomas

described it to a local daily as his dedication to the three means of transport he had used in his life.

However, not everything was good in this dream journey as it seems now.

"Till now, I was at the receiving end for grooming this strange-looking idea," Thomas says.

Now, when the house has had its shape, those who threw stones at me earlier are watching with awe.

The house had spiked up so much interest in its unique theme that it is now a local attraction for the people in Malappally, Pathanamthitta district of Kerala.

Local and national media were quick to feature the unique home, with Thomas also gaining some popularity.

Several people also asked Thomas about the Bahrain flag on his creation.

To them all, he told about his love for Bahrain- his home away from home.

Thomas said that his home back home drew inspirations from his works here in the Kingdom.

But that is no big deal for Thomas, who here in Bahrain, by profession, is a steel structure fabricator.

### Bahrain gave me all that I have

Helping him build that home of steel, without wood or bricks, and less cement, are also his friends and colleagues here from Bahrain.

Sophi, hailing from Bangladesh, had flown in from Bahrain to India to help Thomas create the steel structure of his house.

The rest of the works are also getting finished with the help of friends and family.

When the question of the unique design and Bahraini flag cropped up again, Thomas emotionally told a local newspaper, "Bahrain made me what I am today. Bahrain gave me all that I have today."

"I can't forget that, ever." Quite interestingly, the aeroplane extension of the house wears the Bahrain flag paint scheme on it.

### Solar power

The 2,200 square feet steel house of Thomas is also eco-friendly - lessons learned from Bahrain, which is well on its way to achieving renewable energy targets of 5% of total power generation by 2025 and 10% by 2035.

Powering up the wonder-house, in its entirety, is solar energy.



**Bahrain made me what I am today. Bahrain gave me all that I have today. I can't forget that, ever. This home is dedicated to three means of transport, I have used in my life**

TT THOMAS



The house has three bedrooms, four washrooms, one hall and a kitchen. Entry to the house is through the train.

Thomas plans to complete the construction within six months.

Betty, the wife of Thomas, a nurse here in Bahrain, and his elder son Jimmy, came back to Kingdom after laying the foundation stone. Younger son is pursuing his studies in Kerala.

The catch, however, is that they are still in the dark about the things taking shape in their



native. All they had seen are a few pictures of the work, clicked in its earlier stages.

They will experience the magic only when Thomas finishes the home, where one could hop into a plane, a train or a ship, just as one feels like doing it.

Thomas plans to spend his retirement days here.

**For making it happen, Thomas says, "Thank you, Bahrain."**



### What is inside?

Three bedrooms, four washrooms, a hall and, a kitchen is what we find inside

There is a balcony, which, of course, is the cockpit portion of the house

Entry to the building is through the train portion, which leads to a hall

All doors are sliding, allowing the conversion of the house into a single portion

Usage of energy-conserving materials deletes the need for airconditioning

The project is also the retirement home for Thomas

## Housing ministry moves 'Family members Declaration' online

TDT | Manama

The Ministry Housing has added yet another facility to view and accept the declarations of family members of housing beneficiaries online to complete the application process.

This service is in addition to the more than six housing services available through the e-government portal bahrain.bh.

The service, Dr Khaled Al-Haidan, the Assistant Undersecretary for Housing

**Apply for Housing Request**  
Apply for a new request to obtain a housing unit, land, or apartment ownership.

**Apply for Mazaya Program Request**  
Apply for Mazaya service.

**Apply for Financing Request**  
Apply for a construction, purchase, or reconstruction financing request.

**Family Members Declaration**  
View the family members declaration and accept it to complete the applications process.

**Update Contact Details**  
View and update the contact details and the International Bank Account Number (IBAN).

**Request Status Enquiry**  
Enquire about the housing requests status.

The Ministry of Housing Services available @ bahrain.bh

ing Policies and Services, said saves the time and effort of the reviewers.

The beneficiaries of this service are housing applicants and family mem-

bers, which include husband, wife and parents.

Al Haidan said the ministry has also launched another service giving citizens "the right to dispose of housing services" without physical presence.

The services, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, allows the ministry to ensure social distancing and reduce crowding at its customer service centre by 75%.

"With these launches, the ministry

has also completed shifting all its top services online," said Al Haidan.

He added: "The next phase will see the ministry integrating artificial intelligence in its services online."

The other services on bahrain.bh allow applying for a new housing unit, land or apartment, making financing requests for construction, purchase or reconstruction, applying for the Mazaya programme and knowing the status of the housing request.

## CAPTAINS CORNER

## Mental health needs to be talked about



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

In early June, the high-octane world of international tennis tournaments was shaken by the decision of reigning No. 2 woman's tennis player, Naomi Osaka to withdraw from the French Open after the first round. The superstar cited depression and social anxiety as mental health reasons for her action, saying the mandatory post-match media conferences were making her nervous.

Some years back, Indian Bollywood star Deepika Padukone openly talked about her battle with life-threatening depression and even set up a trust fund for supporting victims. Once the initial cynicism of the whole thing being a publicity stunt had died down, she was taken seriously and more young people started discarding the stigma attached to mental health issues and seeking professional help.

In both cases, fans may have been taken aback that their idols so young and successful might nonetheless battle with mental health issues. But nothing is a guarantee against the trauma and loneliness of a mental breakdown – not wealth, nor fame, glamour, good looks or even physical good health.

Mental health problems can affect anyone – in Bahrain, we do see many cases of mental breakdown and sadly, even cases of suicide.

The number of private clinics offering psychiatric support, have luckily increased and for expatriates who have language issues, there are trained volunteer helplines and groups to reach out. What we need is to break down the mental barriers towards seeking this available help so that the sufferers can be once again nurtured back to full potential.

There are indeed many days in the global health calendar dedicated to different mental health conditions: autism awareness in April (and another in June), Mental Health Awareness in October and national campaigns for eating disorders, depression, bipolar, ADHD and many other conditions. They help to focus attention on what can be done to diagnose and support sufferers and enable them to get treatment. We should also look at proper legislation to help people with mental issues to lead productive lives and find jobs that will tap their talent without stigmatising them. That is something Bahrain lawmakers must work on.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

# COVID-19, new restrictions dent freehold investments

Nasser Al Ahli, the Head of the Real Estate and Construction Committee at the Bahrain Businessmen Association, says freehold investment had dropped 40% in the H1, 2021

TDT | Manama

Freehold investment in the Kingdom had dropped by a whopping 40%, claimed a top realty expert, who also blamed the COVID-19 situation, new government restrictions, and months' long approval processes for the plunge.

The difficulty in getting the approval of the Ministry of Justice is adding up the woes," said Nasser Al Ahli, the Head of the Real Estate and Construction Committee at the Bahrain Businessmen Association, said

These factors have eased investments in the realty sector, which is now at BD385 million in the first half of 2021. It was BD400m in 2019 and BD500m in 2018.

The concerning scenario, he told Daily Tribune, is mainly due to factors affecting the industrial and commercial

land segments.

The case, however, is not the same with residential plots, where the demand is rife. Powering up this sector is "steady demand from citizens," said Al Ahli.

"We want foreigners to invest here in Bahrain and not force them to go to other countries to buy residential units.

”

**We want foreigners to invest here in Bahrain and not force them to go to other countries to buy residential units. However, the current situation and merely encouraging laws are not inspiring foreigners living in Bahrain to purchase freehold units**

NASSER AL AHLI



"However, the current situation and legal bottlenecks are not inspiring foreigners living in Bahrain to purchase freehold units," he pointed out.

"I know some people who went on to buy plots in our neighbouring countries for them finding the months' long wait here for approvals as challenging," he said.

"Investors are looking for returns from their

investments, and they will put their money in sectors they have confidence.

The uncertainty caused by Coronavirus is draining the confidence of investors in industrial and commercial lands. Investors had trained their eyes at housing units and apartment projects, moved by the steady demand in the sector, which is also pronouncing the fate of realty business.

Many investors, he said, had abandoned the idea of develop-

plots whose size exceeds 200 square meters citing the purchasing power of the Bahraini nationals.

When asked about the governorates attracting the majority of real estate investments, he said: "The Northern Governorate is on top of the list for the number of projects there at the moment."

"Muharraq Governorate and the Southern Governorate are at the second and third spot, respectively, while the Capital Governorate is bottom of the list."



## Adhere strictly to COVID-19 measures: Police tell citizens, residents

TDT | Manama

Police directorates and Security departments in the Kingdom are continuing their efforts to ensure strict adherence of citizens and residents to COVID-19 measures to help battle the outbreak effectively.

In a statement, the directorates urged people to continue wearing face masks, restrict gathering to members of the same family, follow COVID-19 protocols at mosques and funerals, ensure social distancing in public places to protect society.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the directorates said they booked 88,440 people for not wearing face masks, pressed 10,360 charges against people not maintaining social distancing measures and carried out 12,056 awareness campaigns.

During the same period, the National Ambulance centre responded to 16,927 calls related to COVID-19 cases through qualified teams



of health and medical workers. The centre transported 103,009 patients since the start of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Civil Defence officials carried out 330,510 disinfection and sterilisation operations and supervised several with the participation

of volunteers.

They also supervised 2,355 disinfection and sterilisation operations with the participation of volunteers.

The officials are also continuing to hold training courses on the correct methods of disinfection operations.

The courses organised by the Civil defence had 2,238 people from the private and government agencies. The number of volunteers since March of last year had reached 6,134.

Civil Defence officers also carried out 107 disinfection

and sterilisation operations with cleaning companies.

Police directorates are also currently deploying field patrols in the markets and commercial complexes throughout the Kingdom to ensure COVID-19 protocols.

## BCICAI conducts virtual yoga fest for children

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India held a Yoga Fest for Children as part of their month-long celebration commemorating the 7th International Day of Yoga.

Nearly 450 children from various schools in Bahrain took part in

the event. Vikram Singh, Director, Ministry of AYUSH, India, Ravi Kumar Jain, Second Secretary of Embassy of India in Bahrain, and Ajay Kumar Chettuvetty, Chairperson of BCICAI, were present.

Activities included a "Yoga for Concentration" session by CA Riya Bhansali, a certified yoga trainer and a Quiz on Yoga by Gayathri

Viswanath.

The winners of the Yoga Quiz are First-Sai Srivatsa Alapati (Asian School), Second-Sony Glancy D'Silva (Asian School), Third-Samhitha Jagadish (New Millennium School), Fourth-Amrutavarshinee Murugan (Bahrain Indian School) and Fifth-Lasya Sajja (Asian School)



## Bahrain gas founder, chairman passes away

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Gas founder and chairman Mohammed bin Ali Alhasan passed away, a company statement said.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our founder and pray to [the] Lord for his soul. May his soul rest in peace and our heartfelt condolences," the statement added.

Established in April 1962 by Ali Alhasan, Bahrain Gas quickly grew from a gas distribution business into a kitchen equipment expert.

Alhasan was also instrumental in growing the company into a supplier of expert prod-



ucts and services in fuel distribution and management.

## Long time resident dies at 61

TDT | Manama

A long time Bahrain resident passed away last night at the Salmaniya Medical Complex following a heart attack.

Amber Lokhandwala, an Indian national, came to Bahrain in 1998 and remained here since then.

At first, the 61-year-old worked a few years at the Al Noor International School as an academic coordinator and then started practising holistic healing and Reiki. She was also well known for her social services and counselling capabilities.

Lokhandwala was an active member of the Rotary Club



here and lived in the Seef area.

She leaves behind her husband Shaukat Lokhandwala, a businessman, and their only daughter Farhaat.

The family hails from Pune in Maharashtra.

## COVID-19 violations: 101 restaurants charged, one shut



TDT | Manama

Legal actions were taken against 101 restaurants and cafes and closed a restaurant for a week for flouting COVID-19 restrictions yesterday.

Health Ministry inspectors took actions after inspecting 253 restaurants and cafes.

Judicial officers served warnings for minor offences to owners of outlets, who also corrected them immediately.

The Public Health Directorate at the Health Ministry called on citizens and residents to continue their commitment to COVID-19 measures and report violation they may spot.

# Dust, sand blind kingdom

Workers remove nearly hundred and fifty truckloads of sand and dust accumulated on roads

TDT | Manama

Cleaning workers yesterday had a torrid time all over the Kingdom as they toiled hard to remove tons of dust and sand accumulated on the highways in the aftermath of a severe sandstorm that blinded the Kingdom for days.

Nearly a hundred and fifty truckloads of dust and sand accumulated on the highways of Northern, Southern and Capital governorates were removed yesterday by municipal workers and emergency teams.

Lamia Al Fadala, the Director-General of the Northern Region Municipality, said workers removed 35 truckloads of dust and sand and 20 loads of agricultural waste from there.

The strong winds also fell 45 advertisement hoarding blocking traffic movements at several places.

Over 150 workers, robotic brooms, bobcats, and other cleaning-equipments were in action throughout the day to bring back life into normality.

Al Fadala said the emergency teams worked relentlessly to remove sand accumulated on roads to make it safer for road users.

"Emergency lines were also set to receive complaints and alerts from citizens and residents and also published those numbers on social media for quick response," said the Director-General.

The scenes were almost the same in the Southern governorate, where emergency teams and other workers were busy clearing the dust and sand accumulated on roads and other places. Separate teams worked



In pictures, scenes from the southern and northern governorates



to clear the sand on streets and remove fallen advertisement hoardings.

Meanwhile, another team removed fallen trees and resolved other issues, even after official working hours.

Workers removed 42 loads of sand, replanted 14 trees, removed seven trees and 13 advertisements damaged by the wind.

Several automatic sweepers, mini bulldozers and trucks were also in action.

As we write this, cleaning works are continuing to make the roads motorable and safer.

Capital municipality officials said they continue to remove truckloads of sand and dust accumulated from highways, streets, alleyways, and residential areas.

Emergency teams are in action in several areas of the Capital, with them working hard to make the roads safer for motorists.

"The dust storm which swept the Kingdom almost for a week deposited tonnes of sand and other materials in the Capital," said the municipal officials.

"As of now, we removed nearly

35 truckloads of sand, 20 loads of agricultural waste, 12 shipments of fallen advertisement boards and other wastes."

"Works are continuing at various locations," the officials said while also warning citizens and residents to remain alert.

The municipality also called on citizens and residents to remain vigilant and cooperate with municipal workers during the cleaning operations.

Citizens and residents, officials said, could contact them on the hotline number 80001855.

## 1,300 get COVID-19 jabs at Sitra mall

TDT | Manama

Around 1,300 undocumented Indian nationals got their COVID-19 vaccination from Sitra mall.



The Embassy of India, in association with the Bahrain Government, arranged the vaccinations.

Authorities said they

are expecting more people to join the drive, for which a recipient had to show only a passport number. CPR is not mandatory.

Those vaccinated at the Sitra Mall also had their status up-

dated on the BeAware Bahrain application.

The shield is now showing a red colour, which will turn green after administering the second shot.

## Out of court settlement for minor accidents

TDT | Manama

Insurance companies are now allowed to process minor traffic accident cases in a single step, said the Director-General of Traffic, Brigadier Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa.

"Such a settlement is possible only if the parties involved reach an agreement and are ready to repair the vehicles without forcing the General Directorate of Traffic to intervene," said the Director-General.

The move is in line with an order by Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to assign amicably



Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa.

settled cases to insurance companies from July 21.

He said that the General Directorate would supervise the process to protect the rights of all parties.

The decision, Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa said, excludes disputed traffic accidents and accidents resulting from severe traffic violations.

## Drugs in face masks: Four gets 10 years in jail

TDT | Manama

Making use of the pandemic to smuggle drugs into Kingdom landed four men in jail for ten years.

The High Criminal Court jailed them for attempting to smuggle drugs hidden inside face-masks.

The men, all Asian nationals, hid several kilograms of marijuana inside a consignment of face-masks to deceive customs officials before sending it to Bahrain via air cargo.

However, customs officials who grew suspicious of the peculiar stitching of the face masks foiled the smuggling attempt.

Further investigation



led the officials to find the drugs hidden inside.

However, the officers kept their silence and called the suspects to receive their consignment.

Unsuspecting of the trap set, the suspect walked straight into the custody of officers.

The Public Prose-

cution found that the first two defendants are tasked with importing the drugs, while the other two were responsible for distributing them in the Kingdom.

All of them were charged with smuggling and peddling outlawed drugs.

## Invita's BPO solutions inspire achievement

TDI | Manama

Invita Company, an ISO and PCI-DSS certified – leading provider of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Digital Transformation, is one of the region's top (BPO) service providers. Invita has been one of the first and largest private-sector Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services provider and Omni-Channel Contact Center services provider in Bahrain.

The brand Invita represents a well-trained workforce equipped with the best that technology can offer, guided by years of experience and expertise to deliver the best results for the clients. Invita's focus has been to innovate to adapt and cater, to the ever-growing and evolving needs of Invita's clients.

Invita works with clients having varying needs and sizes, across the domains of banking, insurance, regulatory, utilities, healthcare and logistics. Invita designs the services which are best fit for our clients' particular needs, be it managing the inbound voice or video calls, emails, live-chats, direct messages, website assistance requests, managing campaigns and surveys or providing qualified resources to manage other business processes. Invita team works, with clients to ensure seamless communication between them and their



Charles Antony, the Head of BPO at Invita

end customers.

Invita also works with clients to help them develop and manage their in-house contact centre operations with Invita's cloud contact centre solution, a cost-effective option for having a directly managed full-operations contact centre. Invita also provides technical and operational guidance to make these projects a success.

The Head of BPO at Invita Charles Antony had this to add: "Our aim at Invita is to provide organizations with the best solutions, designed to optimize efficiency, productivity, growth and profitability. We strive to excel on all frontiers by adapting methods on par with industry best practices. Our long term relationships with our clients is a true testimony to the value we add to our clients." If you are interested in adopting the latest technologies and expanding your business potentials, Invita is your guide.

## GFH exits US industrial portfolio

TDI | Dubai

GFH Capital Limited, a fully-owned subsidiary of GFH Financial Group, announced signing agreements yesterday to exit from its US Industrial Portfolio I and II acquired by GCL in 2016.

The Portfolio consists of 26 assets with an area covering over 2.7 million square feet. These assets across the Midwest region of the US are split equally between single and multi-tenant facilities serving as distribution, warehousing and other industrial real estate sites.

The exit is to deliver approximately 40% return to investors over the holding period.

Commenting on the transaction, Nael Mustafa, Co-Chief Investment Officer at GFH, said, "We believe this is the right time in the cycle to exit from the 2016 industrial vintage in keeping with GFH's investment philosophies of capitalizing on appropriate market conditions for entry and exit from its investments.



Nael Mustafa, Co-Chief Investment Officer at GFH

He added: "We are building a strategic, diversified portfolio of assets in this segment of the global property market. This is demonstrated by our recent investments in central distribution facilities in the United States leased out to leading high calibre tenants including Michelin and FedEx."

GFH is also in discussion to acquire further assets in the space similarly leased to strong creditworthy tenants, "which will allow our investors to build a strategically diversified portfolio within the growing industrial subsector not only in the US but in Europe and Asia as well in the near term."

## AUB inks deals with Sharaf DG & Talabat

TDI | Manama

Ahli United Bank announced signing two new strategic agreements with Talabat and Sharaf DG to bring a host of exclusive benefits to its customers.

"The new strategic alliances aim at bringing unique benefits to AUB's Pearl Rewards that impact our customer's daily lives," said Suvrat Saigal, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer – Retail Banking at AUB.

"We are preparing to announce the new customer offerings in collaboration with Talabat and Sharaf DG and will soon share the details," he added.

Hesham Al Saati, Managing Director at Talabat, said, "Tala-



Officials during the signing

bat is always in search of partnerships that will bring more incentives to customers and support the platform in providing the best customer service possible. A partnership with

AUB opens the door to countless opportunities in how we reward our clients."

Faisal Khan, General Manager of Sharaf DG, added, "We are delighted to be bringing an

exceptionally compelling offer and range of services to AUB's customers. We plan to roll out soon a slew of exclusive benefits designed to add value and be more accessible to them."

## BAB puts the focus on Bahrain-Turkish trade ties

Adnan Ahmed Yousif, the Chairman of Bahrain Association of Banks, highlighted the importance of encouraging investments

TDI | Manama

Top Bahraini and Turkish banking officials came together for a webinar by the Bahrain Association of Banks to discuss the possibilities of promoting investments in the banking and finance sectors, emerging economic opportunities and ways to provide sustainable financing.

During the webinar, Adnan Ahmed Yousif, the Chairman of Bahrain Association of Banks, highlighted the importance of encouraging investments, especially after foreign direct investment flows from Turkey to Bahrain reached USD 297 million in 2018, making Turkey the third source of foreign direct investment for the Kingdom.



Bahrain, he said, is the home to nine prominent Turkish banks. There are currently five major Turkish manufacturing companies operating in Bahrain, and the trade turnover reached USD 500 million in 2019.

Umit Leblebici, a member of the Turkish Council of Foreign Economic Relations, expressed their keenness to encourage mutual investments.

"The Council of Foreign Economic Relations, which has 146 major business institutions and more than 2,000 Turkish entrepreneurs as members, recently established a banking and financial working group to assist the Turkish private sector

in obtaining financing through local, regional and international banks. The Council is keen to discuss the cooperation and common opportunities with Bahraini Banks through BAB," Leblebici said.

Hakki Karatas, the Chief Economist of the Turkish Council of Foreign Economic Relations, said the economic and financial ties would benefit both countries.

Turkey, he said, is the fifth-largest economy in Europe.

The Turkish economy, he said, just like most others, had also suffered a decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Secretary-General of

the Turkish Banks Association, Ekrem Keskin, indicated that the financial markets in Turkey started to recover from the effects of the pandemic, pointing out that this represents an opportunity for closer cooperation.

"The two sectors are similar in many respects, including the freedom to conduct business, corporate ownership and the movement of funds to and from the state, besides no fees are on capital flows for local or international investors," Keskin added.

Zehra Sayar, Head of International Loans at the Türk Eximbank, discussed the cooperation in "Export Credit", noting that Eximbank, established in 1987, is the official provider of export credits in Turkey and operates through 22 branch and ten liaison offices across the country, and subject to the Banking Law.

This webinar comes in light of the efforts of the Bahrain Association of Banks and the Banks Association of Turkey to activate the MOU signed between them in 2017.

## BFC Big Bonanza winner



Bahrain Financing Company (BFC), the Kingdom's oldest and most reputed money transfer and foreign exchange company, announced the winner of the Grand Prize of the "BFC Big Bonanza" campaign. The lucky winner of an MG 5 Car, Sanaullah Mohammad Habibur Rahman, was presented the prize at the Zayani Showroom in Sitra in the presence of BFC's Chief Executive Officer Deepak Nair and Zayani's General Manager Mohammed Zaki. The "BFC Big Bonanza" campaign, in which the customers had a chance to win an MG 5 Car as a Grand Prize and 200 Gold Coins, started on the 10th April 2021 and went on until the 10th June 2021. It gave BFC customers a chance to win for making a remittance or foreign exchange transaction within this period. This campaign, BFC said, reflects our constant endeavours to provide all our loyal customers with a unique experience that not only matches but exceeds their expectations.

## RWU, West Virginia University organise Restructuring the Future of Fashion

TDI | Manama

The Royal University for Women in collaboration with West Virginia University in the United States, have worked on a collaborative project for fashion design titled "Restructuring the Future of Fashion" under the patronage of the first lady of West Virginia University Laurie Erickson.

The aim of this project was to highlight the transformation of fashion design in the digital age by hosting a digital fashion showcase. Designs in the fashion show were the outcome of student projects at RWU and WVU –



Laurie Erickson



Alumna Yara Alkhan  
RWU



Virtual Fashion shows



Fashion, Dress, & Merchandising Departments. RWU students showcased their skills in designing the contemporary version of traditional costumes and styling it along with traditional accessories. The students also expressed

their pride in participating in such a successful event which witnessed more than 1000 viewers.

Erickson stated that she had the privilege to visit the RWU campus in Bahrain several times where she wit-

nessed the students' vibrant creations and envisioned this project between WVU and RWU to provide the students with the opportunity to share their creations and to have fun while seeing different fashion perspectives. She added that "COVID-19 has shaped our collaboration, showing more clearly how technology can transform our lives and forge connections and I would like to thank the Royal University for Women for helping to bring this show alive".

Yara Al-Khan, RWU alumna and a current College Liaison Officer working at RWU highlighted her journey in

studying Fashion Design through this collaborative project. She said that "I chose to study at RWU as it was the best university option for me, especially that the certificate is accredited and recognised regionally and internationally".

She added: "To me, fashion is not only how to dress, but it represents me as a person. It's where your creativity and personality can be shown through one garment and being passionate for the major I chose really prepared me in the university as well as my own career to establish my own online clothing business".

News in brief

**Four killed, four badly injured in plane crash in Siberia**



◆ Four people were killed and four badly injured when a small plane crashed in Russia's Kemerovo region in southwestern Siberia, the local emergency medical service said. TASS news agency earlier said at least seven people were killed when the twin-engine L-410 crashed near the Tanay aerodrome, which provides parachuting services. It also cited the local prosecutors' office as saying the crew had sent a distress signal about engine failure.

**A 34-year old American woman who had been missing in Russia since Tuesday has been found dead and a Russian man has been arrested on suspicion of murder, the state Investigative Committee said.**

**Missing American woman found dead in Russia, suspect arrested**



Russia's RIA news agency said the woman, which it named as Catherine Serou, had been studying law at a university in the Nizhny Novgorod region 420 km (260 miles) east of Moscow since arriving from California three years ago.

**Australian police arrest man over alleged Islamic State membership**



◆ A Sydney man who posted extremist rhetoric and possessed recipes for explosives has been arrested for allegedly being a member of the Islamic State group, Australian police said. "The man has been charged with membership of a terrorist organisation, namely Islamic State," after a seven-month investigation, the Australian Federal Police and the New South Wales police said in a joint statement.

**Authorities in the Mexican border state of Baja California say they will include migrants in the new COVID-19 vaccination plan for border cities, which is aimed at accelerating the reopening of the shared land border with the United States.**

**Mexico to vaccinate migrants in Baja California under new border initiative**



The state, which lies just across from California, began vaccinating adults over the age of 18 this week as part of a new mass vaccination push across northern Mexico, which relies on over a million Johnson & Johnson doses donated by the United States.

**WHO declares an end to second Ebola outbreak in Guinea**



◆ The World Health Organization officially announced the end of Guinea's second Ebola outbreak which was declared in February and claimed 12 lives. At 16 confirmed cases and seven probable infections according to WHO figures, the limited size of the latest flare-up has been credited to experience from the 2013-16 epidemic, which killed more than 11,300 people mostly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Just 12 people died this time around.

# Khamenei protege wins Iran election amid low turnout

Conservative judiciary head Ebrahim Raisi will take office in early August, replacing moderate President Hassan Rouhani

● Over 50pc of eligible voters stayed home

AFP | Baghdad

Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline judge who is under US sanctions for human rights abuses, secured victory as expected yesterday in Iran's presidential election after a contest marked by voter apathy over economic hardships and political restrictions.

With all 28.9 million ballots counted, Raisi was elected with a tally of 17.9 million, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said on state TV.

Turnout in Friday's four-man race was a record low of around 48.8 per cent and there were 3.7 million invalid ballots thought to be mostly blank or protest votes.

Appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to the high-profile job of judiciary chief in 2019, Raisi was placed under US sanctions a few months later over human rights violations.

Those included the role that human rights group say Raisi played in the executions of thousands of political prisoners in the 1988 and in the violent suppression of unrest in 2009.

Iran has never acknowledged the mass executions, and Raisi himself has never publicly addressed allegations about his role.

Seen by analysts and insid-



Iran's outgoing President Hassan Rouhani and Iran's President-elect Ebrahim Raisi speak to the media

ers as representing the security establishment at its most fearsome, Raisi, 60, had been widely tipped to win the contest, thanks to Khamenei's endorsement.

Iran's regional allies, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and militant Islamist group Hamas welcomed Raisi's election. Amnesty International's Secretary General Agnès Callamard said his victory was "a grim reminder that impunity reigns supreme in Iran".

"We continue to call for Ebrahim Raisi to be investigated for his involvement in past and ongoing crimes under international law, including by states that exercise universal jurisdiction," she said in a statement.

Outgoing pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani, barred by the constitution from seeking a

third term, visited Raisi at his office to congratulate him, and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said he would lead Iran well.

"We will stand by and cooperate fully with the president-elect for the next 45 days, when the new government takes charge (in early August)," state media quoted Rouhani as saying.

**Nuclear talks**

Raisi's election comes at a critical time.

Iran and six major powers are in talks to revive their 2015 nuclear deal. Donald Trump, US president at the time, abandoned the deal in 2018 and re-imposed crippling sanctions that have squeezed Iran's oil income.

However, with Iran's ruling clerics aware their political for-

**Ultimate power in Iran, since its 1979 revolution toppled the US-backed monarchy, rests with the supreme leader, but the president wields major influence in areas from industrial policy to foreign affairs**

turns rely on tackling worsening economic hardships, Raisi's win will not disrupt Iran's effort to revive the pact and break free of tough US oil and financial sanctions.

Nonetheless, some analysts predicted his hardline stances could deter foreign investors.

"Raisi's hardline political and economic beliefs will limit the scope for significant foreign investment if a deal is reached and further isolate Tehran from the West," said senior analyst Henry Rome at Eurasia Group.

Khamenei, not the president, has the last say on all issue of state such as Iran's foreign and nuclear policies.

"We will make every effort in the new government to solve the problem of people's livelihoods," state media quoted Raisi as saying.

## US cutting forces, missile batteries in Middle East

AFP | Washington

The Pentagon said it was cutting the number of troops and air defence units deployed to the Middle East, confirming a Wall Street Journal report that eight Patriot batteries were being moved out from the region.

The move comes as President Joe Biden's administration seeks to ease tensions with Iran after they heated up in 2019 and saw a strong escalation in the US military presence across the region.

The Wall Street Journal said the Patriot anti-missile batteries were being removed from Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and that a separate anti-missile system, called THAAD, was being transferred from Saudi Arabia as well.

Each battery requires hundreds of troops and civilians to operate and support them.

Pentagon spokesperson Commander Jessica McNulty said that some of the units were being redeployed to other countries and some were returning to the United States for maintenance. She would not say where the redeployed units were being moved to.

"This decision was made in close coordination with host nations and with a clear eye on preserving our ability to meet



A Patriot missile battery near Prince Sultan Air Base at al-Kharj, Saudi Arabia

”

**This decision was made in close coordination with host nations and with a clear eye on preserving our ability to meet our security commitments. We maintain a robust force posture in the region appropriate to the threat and are comfortable that these changes do not negatively impact our national security interests**

PENTAGON SPOKESPERSON COMMANDER JESSICA MCNULTY

our security commitments," she said in an email.

"We maintain a robust force posture in the region appropriate to the threat and are comfortable that these changes do not negatively impact our national security interests," McNulty said.

"We also retain the flexibility to rapidly flow forces back into the Middle East as conditions warrant."

The US military is rapidly adjusting its global footprint as it pulls out of Afghanistan entirely and sees a greater threat from China in the Asia-Pacific region. The Pentagon also slashed its troop presence in Iraq last year to 2,500, supporting Iraqi forces in their fight against the Islamic State group.

## Myanmar protesters wear flowers to mark Suu Kyi's birthday



Men with flowers in their hair in support of Aung San Suu Kyi

AFP | Yangon

Anti-coup protesters in Myanmar donned flowers in their hair yesterday to mark the birthday of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who remains under house arrest and is due to face court again next week.

Suu Kyi's elected government was overthrown in a February 1 coup that sparked mass protests and renewed clashes between the military and ethnic rebel armies in border regions.

Flowers tucked into a bun have long been a signature look of Suu Kyi, who turned 76 yesterday.

**COVID-19: Countries worst affected**

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	34,393,652	616,929	178,765,626
2 India	29,853,870	385,815	
3 Brazil	17,802,176	496,172	3,869,994
4 France	5,755,496	110,702	
5 Turkey	5,359,728	49,071	163,302,663
6 Russia	5,281,309	128,445	
7 UK	4,610,893	127,956	New cases
8 Italy	4,250,902	127,225	
9 Argentina	4,222,400	87,789	+177,181
10 Colombia	3,859,824	98,156	
11 Spain	3,757,442	80,652	New deaths
12 Germany	3,728,121	90,877	
13 Iran	3,080,526	82,854	+3,199
14 Poland	2,878,634	74,823	

Figures as of closing

**Middle East**

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	275,601		15,760		203,802	1,150
Saudi Arabia	473,112	+1,153	7,663	+13	454,404	+1,145
UAE	610,179	+2,109	1,752	+5	589,235	+2,075
Kuwait	37,371	+1,497	1,862	+11	318,419	+1,388
Oman	242,723		2,626		213,880	12,980
Qatar	220,509	+184	582	+1	217,901	+143

# Classifieds

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## NOTICE

**I, MS. SACHI PRAKASH BHATIA**, holder of Indian Passport No. N5200246 issued at Bahrain on 27/06/2016, permanent residence at House 1259, Road 7325, Block 373, Tubli, Bahrain, D/o. Mr. Prakash Indukumar Bhatia and Mr. Ansh Dhir, holder of British Passport No.520453511 issued at United Kingdom on 13/11/2013, permanent residence at 152 HEYWOOD ROAD, PRESTWICH, M251LD, MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM, temporary resident of Building 1742, Road 3035, Block 430, Sanyan Residence, Bahrain intend to solemnize our civil marriage during September 2021 at Embassy of India, Building 1090, Al Seef, P.O. Box 26106, Kingdom of Bahrain under the Foreign Marriage 1969 of India. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to the Embassy of India, Kingdom of Bahrain within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

## US bishops to draft statement on holy communion with Biden in sights

AFP | Washington

US Roman Catholic bishops issued a challenge Friday to President Joe Biden over his support for abortion rights, agreeing to draft a statement on the meaning of holy communion which could potentially be used to deny the sacred rite to the American leader.

Biden, 78, a devout Catholic who attends mass at least once a week, supports the landmark 1973 US Supreme Court decision affirming a woman's right to an abortion.

Catholic bishops, defying appeals from the Vatican, voted at their spring general assembly to draft a formal statement on the "meaning of the eucharist in the life of the Church."

It was approved by a vote of 168 to 55 with six abstentions and the statement will be discussed at their next meeting in November.



US President Joe Biden speaks with people outside St. Joseph on the Brandywine Catholic Church, in Wilmington, Delaware

Biden on Friday seemed to dismiss the possibility that he could be denied communion.

"That's a private matter and I don't think that's going to happen," he told reporters during a White House event on the coronavirus pandemic.

The eucharist, also known as holy communion, is among the most sacred rituals in the Catholic Church and there have been calls from some conservative church leaders to deny the sacrament to politicians who support abortion rights.

“Almost daily I speak with people, Catholics...who are confused by the fact that we have a president who professes devout Catholicism and yet advances the most radical pro-abortion agenda in our history”

BISHOP DONALD HYING OF MADISON, WISCONSIN

At a press conference on Thursday, Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, said the committee drafting the statement "will be looking at that whole issue of eucharistic consistency."

"That is not the task of our committee, to look at individu-

als," Rhoades said. Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, said the planned statement "is about what we believe about the eucharist, how to live a eucharistic life, and to go forth in service."

"We do not cut off any person from the church," Burbidge said.

It is up to each local bishop to decide who receives communion in their diocese.

In 2019, a priest at a Catholic church in South Carolina refused holy communion to Biden because of his stance on abortion.

The Catholic News Service reported in May that the Vatican had warned US bishops to proceed cautiously with policies designed "to address the situation of Catholics in public office who support legislation allowing abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils."

## Portland police's entire crowd control unit resigns after indictment of officer

AFP | Portland

All members of the crowd control team of Portland police have resigned from their positions in the unit after an officer was indicted on an assault charge stemming from alleged illegal use of force during a protest last year.

"On June 16, 2021, Portland Police Bureau employees serving as members of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) left their voluntary positions and no longer comprise a team", Portland Police said in a statement on Thursday, adding that the

employees will continue in their regular assignments.

The unit had about 50 employees, who served as its members, in addition to their daily assignments with the police, according to the statement on Thursday.

Earlier this week, a grand jury indicted a Portland police officer on an assault charge for what prosecutors allege was an "excessive and unlawful use of force" during a protest last summer.

Portland Police Bureau Officer Corey Budworth was indicted on Tuesday with one count of fourth-degree assault, a mis-



Police line up outside the Portland Police Bureau's North Precinct on the 101st consecutive night of protests against police violence and racial inequality



The indictment of Corey Budworth marked the first time a Portland police officer faced prosecution stemming from striking or firing at someone during a protest

demeanor, stemming from the August 2020 incident, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office said.

The indictment marked the first time a Portland police officer faced prosecution stemming from striking or firing at someone during a protest, according to the Oregonian newspaper. The Portland Police Association described the decision as being "politically driven" and said the officer "has been caught in the crossfire of agenda-driven city leaders and a politicized criminal justice system."



## Kohli keeps New Zealand at bay in World Test final



New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson celebrates his dismissal of India's Rohit Sharma

AFP | London

India captain Virat Kohli held firm in the face of accurate pace bowling as New Zealand fought back in the inaugural World Test Championship final at Southampton yesterday.

After Friday's first day was washed out without a ball bowled, India had reached 120-3 when bad light led the umpires to take the players off for an early tea on the second day -- a decision greeted by jeers from the crowd given the floodlights were on full beam.

Kohli was 35 not out and Ajinkya Rahane 13 not out, with towering New Zealand paceman Kyle Jamieson having miserly figures of 1-14 in 12 overs.

Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill took India to 62-0 after New Zealand captain Kane Williamson won the toss in overcast conditions that assisted his pace attack.

But India lost three wickets either side of lunch to be 88-3. Their position might have been worse had star batsman Kohli been given out caught behind down the legside off left-arm quick Trent Boult on 17.

But amid some on-field confusion, an umpire review led to replays that indicated Kohli



**India played their first Test since March whereas only last week New Zealand completed a 1-0 series win over England with an eight-wicket victory at Edgbaston**

had not hit the ball.

Rohit and Gill made a fine start amid New Zealand's swing and seam, even if a still-wet outfield meant they did not always get full value for their shots.

Sharma confidently clipped the first ball of the match, from Tim Southee, off his pads for three while Gill showed his class by driving Jamieson down the ground for four.

Gill, however, had a nasty moment on 23 when hit flush on the helmet by a Jamieson delivery that leapt off a good length.

Rohit brought up the 50 partnership with a stylish cover-driven four off all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme.

# Early header secures 1-0 win for Argentina against Uruguay

Rodriguez gives Argentina Copa edge in tense derby win over Uruguay

● Ben Brereton caps full Chile debut with winner against Bolivia

AFP | Brasilia

Guido Rodriguez scored the only goal of the game as Argentina edged past fierce local rivals Uruguay in a disappointing Copa America clash.

The victory sent Argentina joint top of Group A with Chile on four points while Uruguay remain pointless.

These two sides played the first ever international match outside the United Kingdom and have played each other more times than any other local rivals.

They've won the Copa 29 times between them but familiarity can breed caution and for much of the encounter they cancelled each other out.

Six time Balon d'Or winner Lionel Messi had the first real chance, cutting in from the right onto his favoured left foot to force a full stretch save from goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, who was relieved to see Lautaro Martinez unable to turn in the rebound.

Moments later, Cristian Romero rose highest in the area to meet a Rodrigo De Paul cross but Muslera made a comfortable save.

The pressure was relentless in the early stages and Argentina took a deserved lead on 13 minutes as Messi got to the byline and stood up a cross to the back post where Rodriguez rose above his marker to head



Argentina's Guido Rodriguez celebrates scoring their first goal

home off the far post.

Uruguay gradually stemmed the tide and started to get a foothold in the game, only to see Argentina counter at pace before Muslera parried a fierce Nahuel Molina drive at his near post.

Despite enjoying the lion's share of possession, Uruguay were unable to test Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. A slew of early substitutions in the second half disrupted the flow of the game and chances were at a premium.

Despite boasting Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani up front, Uruguay struggled to create any chances of note.

When Matias Vina put in a devil of a ball across the six yard box, neither Suarez nor Cavani could get a touch to turn the ball in.

Soon afterwards, Suarez went for the spectacular with a leaping bicycle kick but sent the ball high over the bar.

Up the other end, Messi fired a

free-kick from 20 yards straight into the wall as the game petered out into a scrappy affair.

### English touch

Earlier, English-born Ben Brereton was the unlikely hero as Chile beat Bolivia 1-0.

The 22-year-old Blackburn forward was born in Stoke-on-Trent to an English father and Chilean mother, and only made his national team debut on Monday when he came off the bench in Chile's 1-1 draw with Argentina.

But Brereton, who has played his entire career in the English Championship, was in the right place at the right time to finish off a rapier counter-attack and hand Chile victory.

Chile dominated the first period and could easily have gone in at half-time with a larger lead.

Bolivia's goalkeeper Carlos Lampe mounted almost solo resistance at times, saving from Jean Meneses, Erick Pulgar and Brereton.



**The result extended Argentina's unbeaten run to 15 games since they lost in the semi-final of the last Copa America in 2019**

The goal came after Bolivia were caught out by a lightning counter-attack on 10 minutes, with Eduardo Vargas squaring to Brereton, who calmly took one touch to beat a sliding defender and then slotted home with his second.

Soon after, Meneses lashed a shot just past the post and veteran captain Arturo Vidal put a header straight at Lampe.

Bolivia were under the cosh for much of the first half but still came close themselves through Roberto Fernandez, Erwin Saavedra and Ramiro Vaca.

Lampe, though, had to make seven saves before halftime to keep his team in the tie.

Bolivia made a good start to the second half and Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo was forced into a sprawling save to deny Saavedra.

The Bolivians created the better second half chances and were unlucky when a shot from substitute Danny Bejarano took a huge deflection before sailing just past the post. But it wasn't enough to earn their first point of the tournament.

## Lacklustre England held as Scotland make their point

AFP | London

England missed a chance to book their place in the last 16 at Euro 2020 as Scotland kept their own hopes alive with a well deserved 0-0 draw on Friday.

Gareth Southgate's side would have been guaranteed to advance from Group D with a win over their old rivals at Wembley.

But lethargic England managed just one shot on target and Scotland's combative display could easily have earned all three points.

Despite a flop that saw them booed off at full-time, England have four points and will be certain of qualifying if they avoid defeat by the Czech Republic in their last group game on Tuesday.

"It was a frustrating night. We know we can play better. We've got to give Scotland credit. They defended valiantly and played well," Southgate said.

"We didn't do enough to win the game. We have a young team and some of them won't have experienced a night under this intensity and pressure."

Scotland, in their first major tournament since the 1998



Scott McTominay and Stuart Armstrong of Scotland scramble to get rid of the ball with Declan Rice of England in pursuit

World Cup, looked far more composed than in their opening 2-0 loss to the Czech Republic.

They remain in with a chance of going through if they win their final match against Croatia.

Ponderous England's lack of cutting edge was a major issue for Southgate, who responded to Harry Kane's second successive lacklustre effort by hauling off his captain after 75 minutes.

There had been questions raised about Kane after he failed to make an impact in England's

1-0 win against Croatia on Sunday.

Kane admitted he was not undroppable this week and Southgate has a difficult decision to make over the Tottenham striker, who finished as the Premier League's top scorer this term but has suddenly lost his touch.

With an average age of 25 years and 31 days, England's starting line-up was their youngest ever in a major tournament match and as one of the few senior players, Kane hardly led by example.

**“It was a frustrating night. We know we can play better. We've got to give Scotland credit. They defended valiantly and played well”**

GARETH SOUTHGATE

"The whole team can look at ourselves, that starts with me. We've got to be better," Southgate said of Kane.

Meeting in a major tournament for the first time since England's win at Euro 96, this was a redemptive performance for Scotland, whose fans serenaded their team at full-time.

"We played well. We were unfairly criticised after the game on Monday. I have a good group of players and they showed that tonight," Scotland boss Steve Clarke said.

"I'm delighted for the players. You wouldn't have known which team was the favourite, which is a credit to us."

It was the 115th clash between England and Scotland, an ancient rivalry that dates back to 1872 on the pitch and centuries earlier off it.

## Schick says goal celebration a tribute to MMA fighter

AFP | Glasgow

Czech striker Patrik Schick said yesterday his celebration after he scored a penalty in the 1-1 draw against Croatia at Euro 2020 was a tribute to his favourite MMA fighter.

The Bayer Leverkusen forward put the Czechs ahead on 37 minutes when Dejan Lovren caught him in the face with an elbow and the referee pointed to the spot after consulting VAR.

Ivan Perisic then scored early into the second half of Friday's game to secure Croatia their first point of the tournament.

With tampons up his bloodied nose and blood smears on his face, Schick ran to a TV



Patrik Schick celebrates after scoring

camera in the corner of the pitch, showing his flexed biceps.

"I wanted to look like Nate Diaz, who is usually covered with blood after each fight. I was just imitating him," Schick told reporters.

Diaz is an American mixed martial arts fighter signed with the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

### Today's games

#### Euro 2020

Group A: Italy vs Wales (19:00, Rome)

Group A: Switzerland vs Turkey (19:00, Baku)

#### EURO 2020

	1	2	3	4
Hungary	1	1	1	France
Portugal	2	1	4	Germany
Spain	1	1	1	Poland

\*Scores as of closing

### Results

## Mokaev challenges fellow undefeated Flyweight Maksim for BRAVE CF fight



Muhammad Mokaev  
TDT | Manama

Muhammad Mokaev is arguably the most talented young star in the Mixed Martial Arts world nowadays and the MMA phenom is eager to develop his potential as soon as possible. After a disappointing outcome in his last bout, which ended in a No Contest due to an accidental low blow, Mokaev already has his next target in mind.

Through his social media profiles, "The Punisher" asked for a clash of undefeated against Kazakhstan's Azat Maksim who impressed in his first and only outing for BRAVE Combat Federation.

"This is the fight for the #1 Flyweight in the division. BRAVE CF, let's make this undefeated vs undefeated fight, please", "The Punisher" wrote.

Holding a professional record of 5 wins, no losses, and one No Contest, Muhammad Mokaev is also undefeated in his amateur career. In his IMMAF days, Mokaev won two world championships and built an amateur record of 23

**”**  
**This is the fight for the #1 Flyweight in the division. BRAVE CF, let's make this undefeated vs undefeated fight, please**

MUHAMMAD MOKAEV

wins and no losses.

Mokaev is also regarded as the number one pound-for-pound junior amateur fighter in the world, having never experienced defeat in MMA.

The 26-year-old Azat Maksim won it all in his home country of Kazakhstan before making his transition to the big leagues. "Kazakh", as he's also known as, made his BRAVE CF debut at BRAVE CF 48, in March, with a third-round knockout over Michael Aljarouj, showcasing his own credentials to the wider audience after coming up in an increasingly competitive Kazakh mixed martial arts scene.

# Germany bounce back with statement win over Portugal

Gosens inspires resurgent Germany to thrilling 4-2 victory over Portugal

● **The win moves Germany into second place in the group on three points**

AFP | Munich

Three-times European champions Germany shrugged off their opening game loss and announced their arrival as serious contenders at Euro 2020 with an emphatic 4-2 win over highly-rated Portugal in their Group F match yesterday.

Cristiano Ronaldo had given the defending champions a 15th minute lead but Germany went in at the break 2-1 up thanks to own goals from Ruben Dias and Raphael Guerreiro.

The Germans turned on the style in the second half with goals from Kai Havertz and the impressive Robin Gosens making it 4-1 before Diogo Jota pulled a goal back for Portugal.

The win moves Germany, who face Hungary in their final game, into second place in the group on three points, a point behind leaders France and level on points with the Portuguese.

Germany, smarting from their opening defeat to the French, started with purpose and confidence and thought they had grabbed the lead in the fifth minute through Gosens but VAR



Germany's Robin Gosens heads home their fourth goal

ruled that Serge Gnabry had been in an offside position.

Against the run of play, Portugal grabbed the early lead, hitting the Germans on the break with Bernardo Silva picking out Jota on the left of the box and his low cross was tapped in from close range by Ronaldo.

It was the Portugal skipper's third goal in two games and his first ever against Germany but Joachim Loew's side kept their cool and continued to play positive football before eventually getting their reward.

The Germans drew level in the 35th minute when Joshua Kimmich's cross from the right was volleyed at the back post by Gosens and flew into the net off the outstretched foot of Portu-

gal defender Dias as he looked to stop Havertz converting.

It was another own goal that gave Germany the lead -- Kimmich drove in a low ball from the right and Guerreiro's attempted clearance flew past his goalkeeper Rui Patrício.

Portugal replaced Bernardo Silva with Renato Sanches at the break but Germany took a firm grip on the game with a third goal six minutes after the restart -- a well-worked passing move ending with Havertz turning in a low ball from the left delivered by the influential Gosens.

Germany were buzzing now and it was no surprise when they made it 4-1 on the hour with Gosens finishing off another well constructed attack,



**Cristiano Ronaldo scored his third goal in two games and his first ever against Germany**

heading home a Kimmich cross at the far post.

Portugal struck back quickly though when a deep free-kick from Guerreiro looked to be heading out but Ronaldo acrobatically hooked the ball inside to Jota who slotted home.

Sanches fired a warning of a potential comeback when he thundered a long distance drive against the woodwork but Germany's victory was never really in doubt.



Kai Havertz (R) of Germany reacts after Portugal's Ruben Dias scored an own goal

## Griezmann rescues draw for France against Hungary

AFP | Budapest

Antoine Griezmann salvaged a 1-1 draw for France against Hungary in Budapest as the world champions missed the chance to clinch a place in the Euro 2020 last 16 yesterday.

Hungary threatened to blow Group F wide open when Attila Fiola gave the hosts a shock lead in first-half stoppage time after catching out the France defence.

But Griezmann, the Golden Boot winner at Euro 2016, equalised on 66 minutes as an unconvincing France avoided a first competitive defeat since June 2019.

Didier Deschamps' side top the section with four points, one above Germany who beat reigning champions Portugal in Munich. Hungary earned their first point and the Germans are bottom after losing to France in their opener.

France stay in Budapest for their final game against Portugal, while Hungary travel to Munich to take on Germany, still hoping to qualify for the knockout phase for a second straight tournament.

Contending with stifling temperatures in excess of 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) and a crowd approaching 60,000 at the Puskas Arena, the only Euro 2020 venue without capacity restrictions due to Covid-19, France controlled much of the first half.

Having lived up to their bill-



France's forward Antoine Griezmann (C) and Hungary's forward Roland Sallai (L) vie during the match

ing as tournament favourites in a 1-0 win over Germany, France dominated Hungary early on, creating numerous chances against a side that held out for 84 minutes before losing 3-0 to Portugal.

Peter Gulacsi clawed away Karim Benzema's low drive, reacting sharply to keep out Griezmann's follow-up, despite the Barcelona star being flagged for offside.

Lucas Digne, brought into the side for Lucas Hernandez as the only change made by France coach Deschamps, then picked out an unmarked Kylian Mbappe whose glancing header flashed narrowly wide.

Hungary lost captain Adam Szalai to injury midway through

the first half, and the hosts were living dangerously as Benzema sliced badly from a superb flick by Mbappe before the Paris Saint-Germain forward dragged wide himself.

France captain Hugo Lloris had warned of over confidence against a team expected to finish bottom of the group, and Les Bleus were punished for a brief lapse just before half-time.

Fiola collected Adam Nagy's crossfield ball and played a one-two with Roland Sallai, outpacing Benjamin Pavard and holding off Raphael Varane to side-foot beyond Lloris at his near post.

Deschamps had waited until the 89th minute before making a substitute in the opener



**France captain Hugo Lloris had warned of over confidence against a team expected to finish bottom of the group, and Les Bleus were punished for a brief lapse just before half-time**

against Germany, but the introduction of Ousmane Dembele for Adrien Rabiot on the hour nearly brought an immediate equaliser as the Barcelona forward rattled the post.

France pulled level when a long kick upfield by Lloris sailed over the head of Nagy, with Mbappe latching onto it ahead of Hungary's Paris-born Loic Nego.

His ball across goal was deflected into Griezmann's path by Willi Orban, allowing the forward to slam in his seventh European Championship goal.

Gulacsi produced a fine save to turn away a fierce shot from Mbappe as France pressed for a victory that would have sent them through to the knockout phase. Instead, they must wait until Wednesday's clash with Portugal.

## Rublev through to Halle final, will face Umbert



Andrey Rublev hits a return

Reuters | Halle

Fourth seed Andrey Rublev churned out another win as he overcame qualifier Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-1-3-6-6-3 to reach the final on the Halle grasscourts yesterday.

Rublev will face fellow youngster Ugo Umbert after the 22-year-old Frenchman beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4-3-6-7-6(5).

The fourth-seeded Russian dropped his first set this week on the grass but responded to ease through a deciding set.

Rublev claimed his 33rd match win of the year - second only to Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas (39) on the ATP standings.

He also took his match record in ATP 500 events to 29-2 since the Tour resumed last

year after the coronavirus shutdown - a period in which he has won four titles at that level.

"It's my first final on grass and in Halle," world number seven Rublev said. "I think I can play on every surface and I will try my best again tomorrow."

Auger-Aliassime beat Umbert in Stuttgart last week but this time the tables were turned as the Frenchman prevailed.

It perhaps should have been easier as he led by a set and a break and had points for a 4-1 lead before his Canadian opponent began to find his range.

Umbert also failed to convert a match point at 5-4 in the third set but got the job done in the tiebreak.

## Bahrain to wrap up medal hunt in Arab athletics



Bahrain official Faten Abdulnabi, right, receives the women's 800m bronze medal during the podium ceremony yesterday on behalf of Manal Al Bahrawi

● **Six Bahraini athletes are set to go for gold in four races, including men's and women's half-marathons, men's 5,000m and women's 1,500m**

TD | Manama

Bahrain's medal hunt in the 22nd Arab Athletics Championships concludes today in Tunisia with three final chances to add to their overall tally.

Set to go for gold are Al Siddique Mikho and Zuhair Awad in the men's 5,000m; Tigist Gashaw and Manal Al Bahrawi in the women's 1,500m; and Tejitu Daba Chalchissa and Josha Limoshin in the women's and men's half-marathons, respectively.

Mikho will be looking to add to his men's 1,500m gold medal which he captured on Thursday, while Tigist will be hoping to double her winnings after already taking the silver in the women's 5,000m.

Manal, meanwhile, has already won a medal—a bronze

in the women's 800m race. Manal completed the event in third place, but was later promoted to second. Yesterday, however, she was given her original classification, according to the Bahrain Athletics Association.

Heading into today's last day of competition, Bahrain already have a six-medal haul. Abdelrahman Mahmoud in the men's shot put and Dawit Fikadu in the men's 10,000m join Mikho as the gold-medallists. Tigist and Abdunasser Almy, also in the men's 10,000m, are the silver-medallists, while Manal won Bahrain's lone bronze so far.

A total of 20 countries are taking part in the championship, including Bahrain, Lebanon, Algeria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Morocco, Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Qatar, Libya, Djibouti, Somalia, Comoros and hosts Tunisia.

Bahrain were the overall champions in the previous Arab championship held in Egypt in 2019. They clinched a total of 24 medals then, including 15 gold, five silver and four bronze.

# Verstappen pips Hamilton for French Grand Prix pole

Max Verstappen beats title rival Lewis Hamilton to pole in thrilling French GP qualifying

● **Max Verstappen leads reigning world champion Lewis Hamilton by four points in the drivers' standings**

AFP | Paris

Max Verstappen claimed pole yesterday for the French Grand Prix with Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes alongside the Red Bull driver on the front row to lay the foundations for another gripping instalment in this season's delicately-poised title battle.

Valtteri Bottas in the other Mercedes starts on the second row with Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez.

Verstappen leads Hamilton by just four points in the Formula One world championship ahead of the seventh race of the season at the Circuit Paul Ricard on Sunday.

Hamilton won from pole the last two races staged at Le Castellet in 2018 and 2019, but Verstappen had approached qualifying as the man to beat after dominating the final two practice sessions.

Verstappen, claiming his first pole since the season-opener in Bahrain, is anxious to translate pole into a win after a shredded tyre robbed him of almost cer-



Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen gives a thumbs up in the parc ferme

tain victory in Baku last time out.

"So far it's been a really positive weekend, on a track that is normally difficult for us. To get pole position was really nice.

"Great day for us but we have to finish it off tomorrow and get 25 points -- which we lost in Baku. Great promise from our side."

After struggling to keep tabs with his Red Bull rival in practice Hamilton was relieved to narrow the gap between them to 0.258s.

"We'll keep pushing, keep fighting and giving it everything. Their long-run pace is a tenth or two quicker than us, but the car's in a much different place now," said the seven-time world

champion.

"We're going to fight for a chance into turn one and there could be some interesting strategy tomorrow, and I think there could be some rain tomorrow, so a chance to see a rain master," he added.

Carlos Sainz for Ferrari posted the fifth quickest time in qualifying to seal a third row spot with Pierre Gasly's Alpha Tauri joining him.

Then came Sainz's teammate Charles Leclerc and McLaren's Lando Norris with Fernando Alonso (Alpine) and Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren) completing the top 10.

**'It's awesome'**

With qualifying watched by a

Great day for us but we have to finish it off tomorrow and get 25 points - which we lost in Baku. Great promise from our side

MAX VERSTAPPEN

15,000-strong crowd allowed in after the easing of coronavirus restrictions, Q1 was only four minutes old when it was red-flagged after Japanese rookie Yuki Tsunoda lost control of his Alpha Tauri coming out of turn one, his car pirouetting gracefully into the safety barrier.

This was the fourth time out of seven Tsunoda has failed to progress to Q2.

With 22 seconds left of Q1 Mick Schumacher's Haas crashed into a barrier, cruel luck for the German after making it into Q2 for the very first time in his fledgling F1 career but unable to take part with his car requiring repairs.

Verstappen topped Q1 with Hamilton, Perez and Bottas closest.

The Mercedes duo rose to the top of the times in Q2, with Bottas edging Hamilton who was much punchier than he had been in practice. Perez and Verstappen were next, setting up an intriguing Q3 skirmish for the Provençal pole.

## Ahli lose to Kuwait Club in GCC basketball

● **Ahli give up 17-6 run to opponents in final three-and-a-half minutes of overtime to suffer 108-117 loss**

● **Maitham Jameel makes three-point play with 17.8 seconds left in regulation to force extra session tied at 96-all**

TD | Manama

Bahrain's Al Ahli were dealt a tough 108-117 loss in overtime to Kuwait Club yesterday, in their second game of the FIBA Asia Cup of Nations Basketball Association Qualifier, being held in Dubai.

The national champions gave up a 17-6 run to their rivals in the final three-and-a-half minutes of the contest, and that proved to be the difference.

Earlier, Ahli were able to force the extra session after Maitham Jameel tied the game at 96-all with a three-point play on a driving lay-up and just 17.8 seconds to go, during which he was fouled. He made the ensuing free-throw to set the stage for the additional five minutes. But after American profes-



Al Ahli's Mike Harris looks to post up against Kuwait's Ali Alhadhoud during their game yesterday

sional Manny Harris buried a three-pointer to put Ahli ahead 102-100, it was all downhill from there and Kuwait took advantage.

Harris finished as Ahli's leading scorer in the loss, pouring in 46 points including six triples. Fellow-American Mike Harris added 28 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks but fouled out in overtime.

Mohammed Qurban chipped in with 12 off the bench, while Hesham Sarhan scored 11 and Jameel had 10.

The result was Ahli's first loss of the competition, after their

opening night win against Al Shamal of Qatar on Friday.

The event, which also acts as the 40th GCC Clubs Basketball Championship, continues today with Ahli back in action on the hardwood.

The Bahrainis face off with tournament hosts Shabab Al Ahli of the UAE in their third successive game in three days. It will be Ahli's penultimate game of the first round. They then take on Al Nasser of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. The semi-finals are scheduled to be held on Friday, followed by the final the next night.

## Al Najma to play for Asian clubs handball bronze

● **Bahraini champions bow out of title contention after losing 22-30 to Al Duhail of Qatar in semi-finals**

● **Najma are now set for re-match with Al Arabi, also of Qatar, in the game for third place, scheduled for tomorrow**

TD | Manama

Al Najma bowed out of title contention in the 23rd Asian Men's Club Handball League Championship last night after losing 22-30 to Al Duhail SC of Qatar in their semi-final match.

Duhail took control of the contest early and never wavered against the Bahraini champions.

Najma trailed 11-15 at half-time, and stayed within striking distance for much of the final 30-minute period. They trailed by just four goals, 21-25, with under eight minutes remaining but then the Qataris ended the game scoring five of the last six goals for a strong finish.

Mohammed Habib was the top scorer for Najma in the



Al Najma's Hassan Alfardan battles hard against his Duhail marker during their semi-final match last night

loss. He had six goals. Mohamed Mohamed and Kumail Mahoodh each chipped in with four, while Ali Eid and Bilal Askani contributed three goals apiece. Khaled Mohammed and Mohamed Ahmed were the two other players to make it onto the score sheet with a goal each.

For Duhail, Alaya Khaled had seven goals while Angel Hernandez had six and Rafael Capote five.

The result left Najma with a chance to compete for the tournament's bronze medals. They

will be taking on Al Arabi SC, also of Qatar, in the match for third place. Duhail, on the other hand, face off with Al Kuwait SC of Kuwait for the gold medals, after Kuwait edged past Arabi 23-22 in yesterday's other final four affair.

Both gold and bronze medal contests are scheduled for tomorrow.

The meeting between Najma and Arabi is a re-match of their first round encounter, which the Bahrainis narrowly lost 25-27.