

**Bahrain gold rush!**

Five-star Bahrain claim five more medals, including three gold, on final day of 22nd Arab Athletics Championships, which was held in Tunisia | **P12**

**WORLD 6** Israel's Bennett warns against nuclear talks with Iran's "hangmen regime"

**THE DAILY tribune**



**9 CELEBS** Gwyneth Paltrow reveals her children haven't seen much of her films

**BUSINESS 6** Emirates to fly from India again after ban over virus

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

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**88,000 fined for not wearing face masks**

TDT | Manama

More than 88,000 people were fined for not wearing face masks since the start of the campaign to combat the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) last year until June 16.

According to figures released by the Interior Ministry, legal actions were taken against 10,360 people who failed to follow social distancing measure, while 12,056 awareness campaign were launched in the same period.

The Ministry also revealed that the National Ambulance Centre received 16,927 calls related to COVID-19 which were addressed by a qualified team.

**Arab countries condemn Houthi attacks toward Saudi**

Dubai

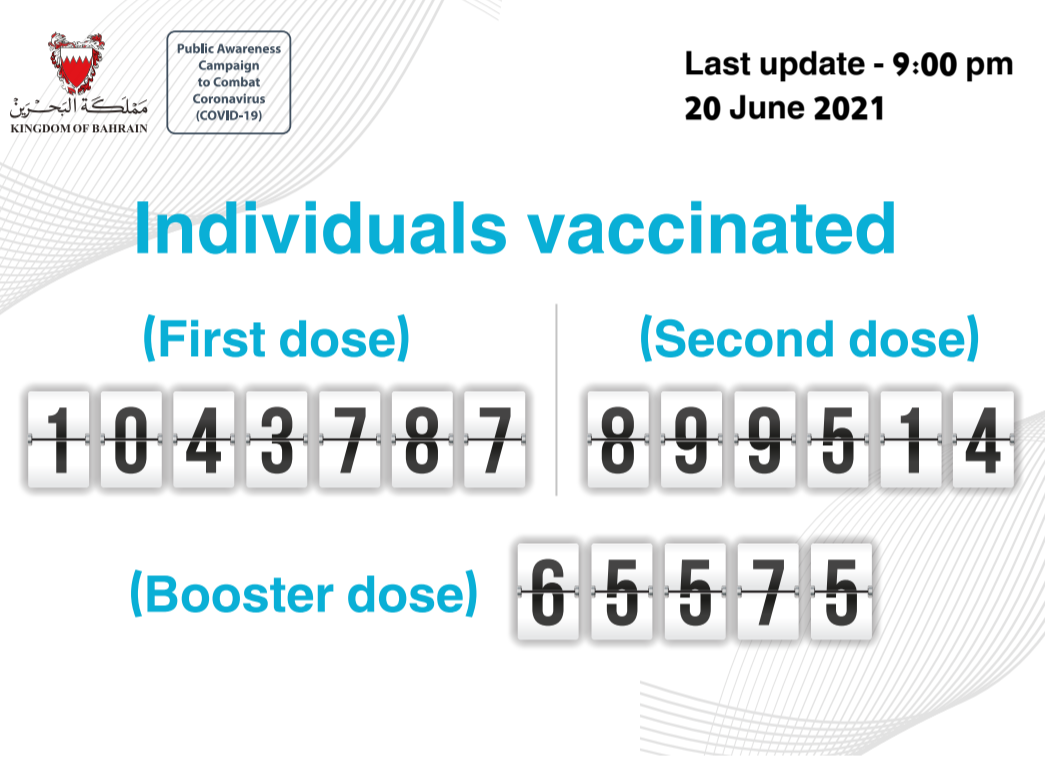
Arab countries and organisations have denounced the Houthi attacks targeting Saudi Arabia's Khamis Mushait and Najran using explosive-laden drones. Bahrain's Foreign Ministry said the militia's continuation of the attacks threatened the security, stability, and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia.

The UAE condemned the Houthis for "systematically targeting civilians," while Jordan said any threat to the security of Saudi Arabia was a threat to the entire region. Kuwait said it supported all the measures taken by Saudi Arabia to maintain its security and stability. Saudi Arabia's air defenses destroyed 17 drones

launched toward the Kingdom's southern region on Saturday. A booby-trapped drone targeted Khamis Mushait early in the morning before seven more targeting the southern region were intercepted in Yemeni airspace during the afternoon.

Khamis Mushait was again targeted by two drones in the evening. Another drone targeted Najran late evening before six more were shot down near midnight.

The Arab Parliament, meanwhile, stressed the need for the international community to take immediate measures against the militia that threatened peace and security in the region.



**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

**NEW CASES**  
465

**ACTIVE CASES**  
7676

**DEATHS**  
1306

**DISCHARGED**  
253910



**Popular Bahraini blind flute player dies** p3

# Vaccination pace accelerating

Two million doses administered, protecting 69.4% of total population with at least one dose

● Kingdom on right track to achieve 'herd immunity' against coronavirus

● Whole eligible population can be vaccinated by year's end or early next year

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday achieved COVID-19 vaccine milestone six months since launching its national campaign last year to inoculate its citizens and residents.

Two million doses have been administered, protecting 69.4% of the total eligible population against the coronavirus with at least one dose of the six vaccines made available for free.

The Health Ministry made the announcement through its official Twitter account, saying: "The Ministry of Health: Today marks 6 months from the launch of the National Vaccination Campaign, with 2 million vaccination doses admin-



**Flashback ...** His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, volunteers in COVID-19 vaccine trial last year

istered, protecting 69.4% of the total population with at least one dose."

At the current pace of vaccination, the whole eligible population in the Kingdom can be vaccinated by the end of this year or early next year.

The Kingdom's mass vacci-

nation efforts aim to inoculate a total of 1.5 million residents, around 712,000 of them are Bahrainis and 679,000 expatriates, and provide them a high degree of protection against the deadly virus.

The Ministry earlier said it had increased its daily vacci-



Over the last three weeks, the average number of new infections reported each day in Bahrain – one of the world's vaccination leaders – has fallen by more than 2,300, 79% of its previous peak, about 653 new infections reported on average each day. There have been 262,892 infections and 1,306 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.

Official Health Ministry figures show that as of last night, 1,043,787 have received at least one shot of one of six free vaccines made available for citizens and residents, namely Sinopharm, Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca's Covishield, Johnson & Johnson, Sputnik V and Sputnik Light.

Subsequently, 899,514 people have now had both doses of a vaccine, and completed the two-week period after the second dose for immunity development.

**(Stay safe, get vaccinated – Page 4)**

210 fils (includes VAT)



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# Derasat virtual forum to discuss food security

Key officials of legislative and executive branches to tackle 'challenges and opportunities' facing Bahrain and Gulf region



Deputy Prime Minister

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The 4th edition of the annual forum of Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) will kick off today under the theme "Strategies of



Shura Chairman Al Saleh

Achieving Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities".

The virtual forum, which will continue until June 23, will spotlight challenges to food security, in light of the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to achieve food security



Speaker Zainal

in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa will participate in the inaugural



Minister Khalaf

session of the forum to shed light on the visions of the legislative and executive branches.

The opening session also includes a panel discussion in which Minister of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf and Minister



Minister Al Zayani

of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani will take part. Derasat Board of Trustees Chairman, Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa will deliver the inaugural speech.

A host of officials and specialists will participate in the forum



Dr Shaikh Abdullah

which will cast light on the concept and reality of food security in Bahrain and the Kingdom's strategies to face this challenge.

Regional and international experiences will also be reviewed alongside mechanisms of achieving food security at the Gulf level.

## Call for continuous commitment to COVID precautionary measures

TDT | Manama

Public Health Director Dr Najat Abu Al Fateh has affirmed the important role played by the citizens and residents in supporting the national efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

She praised their responsible commitment during the past period, which contributed to reducing the number of active cases.

Dr Abu Al Fateh called upon everyone to continue supporting the tremendous efforts exerted by the National Medical Taskforce for Combating Coronavirus and the medical and nursing staff to ensure the success of the fight against the pandemic, urging concerted and collective efforts by everyone to achieve the forecast goals.



**Full compliance with the recommendations of the competent authorities is the best means to reduce infections and protect public health and safety.**

She called for the need to continue commitment to the precautionary measures, in-

cluding social distancing, wearing face masks, using sanitisers and washing hands regularly.

She stressed that family gatherings should be restricted to the members living in the same house, calling for the need to avoid going out, unless necessary.

Dr Abu Al Fateh also affirmed that full compliance with the recommendations of the competent authorities is the best means to reduce infections and protect public health and safety.

She extended thanks and gratitude to individuals who play their role in protecting themselves, their community and their country's gains, emphasising that cooperation among the health authorities, the citizens and residents is the best means to eliminate the pandemic.

## Speaker receives Bangladeshi Ambassador



Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal received Bangladeshi Ambassador to Bahrain Muhammad Nazrul Islam. The Speaker praised the existing friendship between Bahrain and Bangladesh, and the development they are witnessing, discussed ways to enhance relations in the parliamentary field for the benefit of the two countries and peoples. The Ambassador expressed his pride and appreciation for the bilateral relations and the attention provided by Bahrain to the Bangladeshi community, and its humanitarian initiatives in ensuring the health of the Bangladeshi community during the coronavirus pandemic, wishing Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

## Industry Minister holds virtual meeting with Omani counterpart



Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani held a virtual meeting with Omani Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, in the presence of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Undersecretary Imen Ahmed Al Dosari, Assistant Undersecretary for Local and Foreign Trade Shaikh Hamad bin Salman Al Khalifa, and senior officials from both sides. They reviewed deep-rooted fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman. Al Zayani affirmed the government's support to all initiatives and projects aimed at boosting bilateral relations to achieve common goals and aspirations.

## Education Ministry's new organigram will boost performance



Education Minister Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi received Undersecretary for Policies and Strategie Nawal Ibrahim Al Khater, and Bahrain Training Institute (BTI) Director General Diana Faisal Sarhan, on the occasion of the issuance of a Royal Decree appointing them to their posts within the framework of the new organigram of the Ministry. Dr Al Nuaimi stressed that the new structure of the Education Ministry will bring about a quality leap in its performance. He lauded the efforts of the Undersecretary and BTI Director General and their competence and readiness to develop work.

## Shura Chairman congratulates AIPU head

TDT | Manama

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh has congratulated Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union President Saqr

Ghobash on the 47th anniversary of AIPU.

He expressed to him good wishes, praising his dedicated efforts to boost cooperation

between the Arab parliaments and promote pan-Arab work. He wished him every success in achieving the desired goals of the Arab countries.

Via the hotline

39994446 ALHAWAJBH

ALHAWAJB **GRAND SALE**

From 13th June to 25th June

## Bahrain Red Crescent Society volunteers participate in remote global training course



Participants in the online event

TDT | Manama

About 55 Bahrain Red Crescent Society volunteers participated in a remote training course.

The event was organised by the Society in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the regional delegation of the Gulf Cooperation Council, where they were introduced to and trained over three days on the concept of "volunteering and volunteer management".

The first day of the course included workshops focused on introducing the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the code of conduct at the movement level, and the roles and principles of humanitarian action.

The second day covered topics including the International Committee of the Red Cross, migration and an introduction to restoring family links, and

the use of information technology to find missing persons in disasters.

On the third day, Bahrain Red Crescent volunteers were trained on using social media platforms in humanitarian media, in addition to the "safe access" to victims and providing them with assistance.

The Secretary-General of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Mubarak Al Hadi, said that the course comes within the framework of the Society's keenness to continue building the capacities of its volunteers from Bahraini youth in various fields related to relief and humanitarian work, qualifying them, training them, and ensuring their continuous and permanent readiness to help the needy in disasters, crises and various circumstances.

Among the participants in this symposium were Dr Nilofar Jahromi, Muhammad Al Basri and Ali Modon.

## Popular Bahraini blind flute player Ali dies



Ali playing his favourite musical instrument

TDT | Manama

Arenown Bahraini blind man who was playing the flute died of illness yesterday. Ali Abdullah had always

been playing his flute in popular supermarkets. He was relying on this musical instrument to make a living for him and his family.

According to family members, Ali was admitted to the intensive care unit after falling ill.

Interestingly, he learned how to play the flute without attending any music school; largely counting on his talent. Bahraini people mourned his death on social media sharing his images and videos while playing the flute.

Sources close to him revealed to DT that his dream was to join a band.

## Philippine Embassy and OKOR commemorate Dr Jose Rizal's 160th Birth Anniversary



The Philippine Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain and Order of the Knights of Rizal (OKOR)-Bahrain Chapter commemorated the 160th Birth Anniversary of Philippine National Hero Dr Jose P. Rizal on 19 June. The Embassy and OKOR held a wreath-laying ceremony led by Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver and Labour Attache Vicente M. Cabe. The Embassy also joined the NCCA and Sentros Rizal around the world in the launching of RIZAL @160 TULARAWAN, A Digital Art Contest 2021 for Overseas Filipino Youth which is also posted at the Embassy's Official Facebook page, Philippine Embassy in Bahrain.

# Fair, consistent and effective approach

BCCI resolves 70% of complaints received during first quarter of 2021

TDT | Manama

Close to 70% of the total complaints received by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) during the first quarter of this year have been resolved.

This was confirmed yesterday by the BCCI as it honoured remotely the 13 government agencies and authorities that provided assistance in resolving merchant complaints and responding to all their inquiries.

BCCI Chief Executive Officer Shaker Ibrahim Al Shater stressed the importance of opening channels of communication between the Chamber and relevant authorities in the Kingdom as this constitutes co-operation and joint work between the public and private sectors.

Al Shater praised the distinguished efforts exerted by representatives of government agencies and bodies in coordinating with the BCCI members' complaints unit.

He pointed out the importance of their work in facilitating and overcoming difficulties and resolving many outstanding issues in a manner that serves the interests of the private sector and the national economy.

On the performance indicators of the Chamber's members' complaints unit during the first quarter of 2021, Al Shater said: "The Chamber dealt with 64 complaints and inquiries from 93 members during the first quarter of this year. Through effective communication with representatives of the relevant authorities, 70% of the complaints were resolved.

"On new cases, 9% of them remain in the process of resolving them, while 2% of them were outside the Chamber's work jurisdiction, and 18% have not been resolved."

Al Shater added: "21% of the complaints were related to the



The remote discussion in progress

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, 8% were concerned with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), 4% were related to funding agencies, and 67% were related to various related parties."

### Business owners' confidence

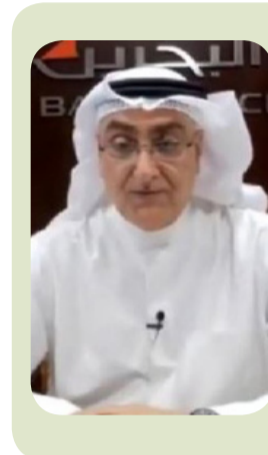
The CEO said: "We in the Bahrain Chamber express our deep pride and appreciation for the confidence of business owners in the quality services provided by the executive body, and their keenness to enhance constructive communication mechanisms with all departments, centres, departments and units of the Chamber. It contributes to addressing various issues and challenges facing the private sector.

"The Chamber is always ready to provide the highest level of services to its valued customers, listen to their problems and challenges, and address various obstacles and difficulties in order to support the national private sector."

The liaison officers honoured for their quality services come from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Ministry of Interior-Customs Affairs, Ministry of Interior-General Traffic Department, Ministry of Health-Public Health Department, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Bahrain



Minister Khalaf



**The Chamber is always ready to provide the highest level of services to its valued customers, listen to their problems and challenges, and address various obstacles and difficulties in order to support the national private sector."**

SHAKER IBRAHIM AL SHATER, BCCI CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, LMRA, Labour Fund Authority (Tamkeen), Electricity and Water Authority, Supreme Council for the Environment, and Bahrain Development Bank.

### Professionalism, impartiality and efficiency

Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf praised the important role played by the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution in developing mechanisms for settling disputes, stressing his confidence in its professionalism, impartiality and efficiency.

Khalaf met remotely with the CEO of the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution, Professor Nassib Ziada, in the presence of the Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Services for Works Affairs, Eng. Kazem Abdullatif,

the Assistant Undersecretary for Resources and Information for Municipal Affairs, Muhammad Adel Bouhasan, and the Director Executive Operations Chamber of Bahrain, Ahmed Hussain.

Ziada praised the Ministry's commitment to involving the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution over the past years to resolve differences, and praised its inclusion of clauses in its recent contracts with contractors and companies.

The Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution was established by Decree-Law No. 30 of 2009, amended by Decree-Law No. 64 of 2014, and it carries out its tasks through a partnership with the American Arbitration Association (AAA) in providing solutions related to the rapid and effective settlement of economic, financial and investment disputes.

## Date of taking Sputnik vaccine's second dose is extended says Health Ministry

TDT | Manama

The Health Ministry has announced the extension of the date of the Sputnik vaccine's second dose and rescheduling it until the arrival of the new batches.

According to the Ministry, it is due to the rescheduling of production and the manufacturer's supply operations.

It stressed that the extension in taking the second dose will not affect the effectiveness of the vaccine, and that increasing the period between the two doses may lead to an increase vaccination efficacy in some cases.

The Ministry said that it communicated with the manufacturer to provide the necessary quantity and to ensure with it the dates of delivery of shipments to Bahrain.

The dates of all those registered to take the second dose of the Sputnik vaccine will be rescheduled through the application of a conscious society according to the dates of the new batches scheduled to arrive in

**The extension of the date to receive a second dose of the Sputnik vaccination**

**Sputnik V**

This being due to the rescheduling of production and supply operations of the manufacturer

**The Ministry confirmed that:**

- This extension of when to take the second dose **will not affect the effectiveness of the vaccination**, and increasing the period between the two doses may lead to an increase in the effectiveness of the vaccination in some cases
- All those registered for the Sputnik V vaccination **will have their dates of vaccination rescheduled through the "BeAware Bahrain" application** according to the dates and arrival of new vaccine arriving in the Kingdom

the Kingdom.

The Ministry noted that the extension of the period between the first and second doses came in accordance with the recommendations concluded by the Vaccination Committee at the Health Ministry in the King-

dom, through its follow-up and evaluation of the mechanism of action of the anti-coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccinations.

The Ministry stressed the importance of taking the second dose in order to achieve full immunity against the virus.

## Man acquitted of raping colleague

**● Court says evidence provided by woman "insufficient" to hold him guilty**

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court acquitted an employee at a private school of sexually assaulting his female colleague. The woman filed a complaint against the defendant, accusing him of trying to rape her after he came to fix computers. According to court files, the defendant was working as an executive at the hospital.

The victim said that the defendant locked up the door while he was with her inside the room in an attempt to rape her.

Meanwhile, the man refuted these claims, saying that he went to the hospital to fix the computers only.

In its verdict, the court said that the evidence provided by the woman was insufficient to hold the man guilty.

# Stay safe, get vaccinated

Don't abandon public health measures just because you have received vaccine

● **Facial mask and social distancing are among important safety precautions that everyone should follow**

TDT | Manama

Despite the steady decline in the number of new COVID-19 cases and casualties in the Kingdom of Bahrain the past three weeks, health experts still urge people to follow all important precautionary measures, even after getting the vaccine.

The best way to prevent the spread of virus is by following all health protocols such as wearing face mask when heading out in public, observing social distancing, limiting family gatherings, avoiding large crowds, washing hands frequently, and, of course, getting vaccinated.

Bahrain has authorised the emergency use of six vaccines, namely Sinopharm, Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca's Covishield, Johnson & Johnson, Sputnik V and Sputnik Light.

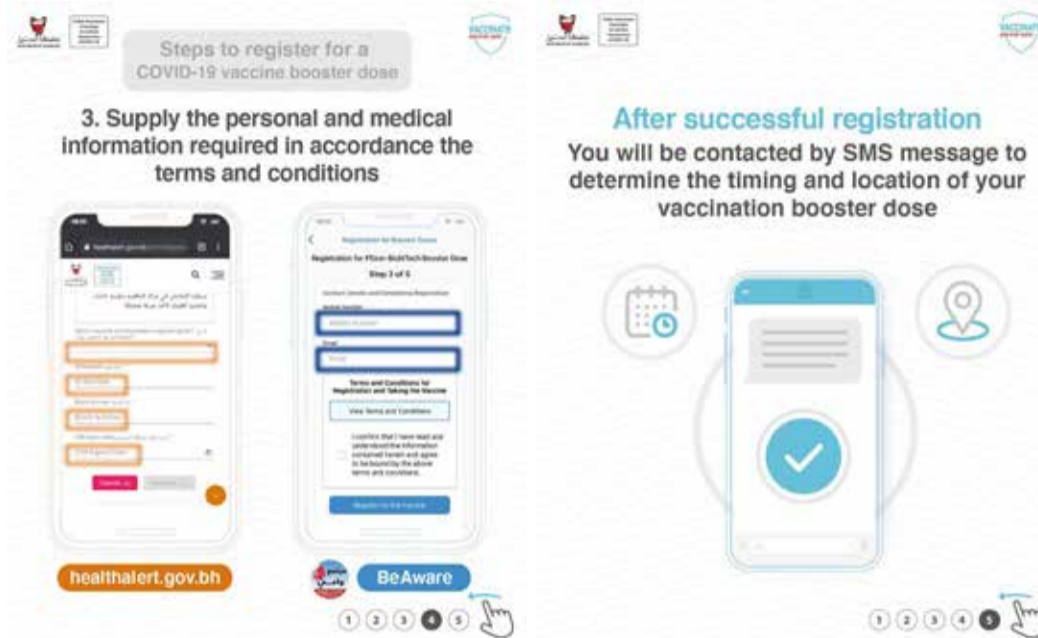
Just six months after receiving two shots of China's Sinopharm vaccine, people in the Kingdom are being offered booster doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The country's medical taskforce team said the third dose marks a new phase in vaccination and aims at protecting the health of the citizens and foreign residents.

The booster is being recommended for people who are over 50, obese or have weakened immune systems.

More than 80% of the Kingdom's eligible population have already received the first dose of a vaccine and on its way to touching the one-million mark for those who have taken both jabs.

Herd immunity, also known as 'population immunity' and 'community immunity', is achieved when a sufficient portion of a population is protected from an infectious disease



**The protective effect of a vaccine may take at least one month, if not slightly longer. Therefore, the Kingdom will really need to continue its mitigation measures.**

through vaccination to make its spread from person to person in the community unlikely.

Health experts estimate that herd immunity would require around 80% to 90% of the population to have COVID-19 immunity.

A community can be protected from an infectious disease such as COVID-19 through herd immunity. This means enough people in the community develop a resistance to the disease which prevents them from falling ill. This resistance means that the spread of the disease is slowed down throughout the

community.

## Protective effect

The protective effect of a vaccine may take at least one month, if not slightly longer, according to health experts. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, the Kingdom will really need to continue its mitigation measures, including wearing masks.

Many people have strong feelings about vaccines and may not even take them, and this is the reason why you should wear a mask. Properly wearing a mask can help keep you safe while navigating the pandemic.

While you should continue to wash your hands, cover your coughs and sneezes, avoid touching your face and follow social distancing rules, wearing a mask is an additional step you should also take to stay safe.

As we've learned throughout this pandemic, the most common way COVID-19 spread is through person-to-person contact. When an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, they produce respiratory droplets that can travel about six feet and can land in the mouths or noses of those nearby.

COVID-19 can also be spread by people who don't know they

have the virus since they aren't experiencing any symptoms. Because of this, health professionals recommend wearing masks or cloth face coverings to help slow the spread of the virus. In these circumstances, a mask can add an extra layer of protection.

## At the lowest risk

While we can't quantify how effective it is to wear a mask, we do know it offers some protection while not wearing one offers none. In short, we are all at the lowest risk when everyone wears a mask.

And remember, social distancing and hand washing are still very important safety precautions too that everyone should follow in addition to facial protection.

Studies show that even a distance of three feet significantly decreases the spread of the coronavirus from one person to another. At six feet, the risk decreases even further, at nine feet even further than that, and so on, particularly in an indoor setting.

Scientific evidence is clear: the prescribed protective measures help prevent people from spreading COVID-19, and from being infected themselves.

## Bahrain seeks to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has been able to achieve advanced stages to eliminate animals' foot-and-mouth disease.

Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Undersecretary for Animal Resources Dr Khaled Ahmed Hassan said that the Kingdom is seeking to be declared free of the disease with the immunisation system 2023 to be the first GCC country to control it.

The Animal Resources Agency participated in the training course entitled "Update of Strategic Plans for Foot-and-Mouth Disease", under the auspices of The Arab Organization for Agricultural



Dr Hassan

Development (AOAD) and with the participation of some African countries.

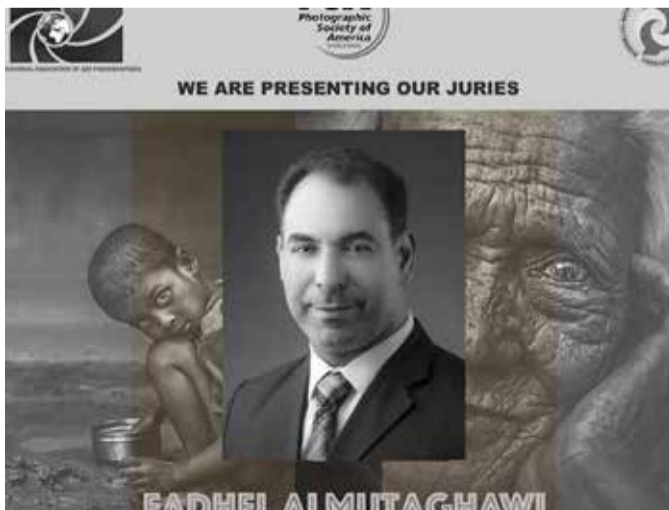
During the course, they identified challenges and needs of countries to progress in the PCP-FMD stages, and a plan was developed for countries to make incremental progress in FMD control.

## Southern Municipality working round the clock to carry out cleaning operations



The Municipality of the Southern Region has intensified its efforts to deal with the fluctuations in the weather and the dust storm that the Kingdom has witnessed during the past days. It has formed teams to remove the sand in the streets, as well as fallen billboard advertisements and tilting trees. Working round the clock, they have so far collected 42 shipments of sand, 14 uprooted trees and 13 billboard advertisements. The emergency team also worked to sweep the main streets using five automatic sweepers, two mini bulldozers, and two Sexwell trucks, in addition to manual sweeping by the cleaning company's workers. The municipality said that it had prepared early to deal with the fluctuations of the weather, and had prepared equipment and machinery to deal with it.

## Photographer Al Mutaghawi leads jury team for International Skopje Competition 2021



Bahraini photographer Fadhel Al Mutaghawi, a member of the Bahrain Photographic Society, was chosen as judge and leader of the jury for the Skopje International Competition 2021, which is accredited by the American Photographic Society (PSA) and other organisations in judging Arab and foreign photography competitions. Al Mutaghawi is a lecturer and arbitrator for many international competitions and was honoured by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in 2020 for his international achievements and a representative of the photographers of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

## NIHR to visit social, educational care centres

● **Virtual meeting held to discuss preparations**

● **Caring for elderly and people with disabilities**

TDT | Manama

The National Institution for Human Rights' (NIHR) Committee on Visiting Detention Places and Facilities held its first virtual meeting, headed by Dr Malallah Al Hammadi, and in presence of members Dina Al Ladhi, and Daniel Cohen.

The meeting reviewed reference terms, work tasks and roles assigned to new members, after the issuance of Royal Decree 22/2021 appointing members of the NIHR Council

of Commissioners.

They discussed previous decisions, recommendations and measures, affirming the committee's keenness to protect human rights, especially in reform and rehabilitation centers, health, social and educational care centers, foreign workers housing or any other place suspected to be a site of human rights violations.

The committee has decided to prepare a criterion for scheduled visits to those places to ensure the availability of the basic principles of human rights standards, and take necessary actions regarding them.

They suggested conducting field visits to some social care centers concerned with elderly and people with disabilities to inspect the implementation during the coronavirus pandemic.

## Empowering the next generation of leaders with digital skills and education is imperative for Bahrain Vision 2030



JASON CAO

2020 served us all a reminder that a robust information and communications technology (ICT) sector is vital for our global economy's continuous growth. Our world changed in ways few could have expected due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and technology has ensured business continuity and provided our economy a fighting chance for survival. From online education, remote work, to e-commerce and digital banking, with the use of technology, we are all able to continue our lives as close to normal as possible.

Bahrain recognized quite early on that ICT is key to our society's progress and economic growth. The government has taken proactive steps to build a world-class ICT infrastructure that boosts connectivity and innovation. Bahrain has identified the critical role of the latest technology in promoting economic growth, job creation and human development, espoused in its Economic Vision 2030.

But cutting-edge technology requires advanced skills to match. There is no time more pertinent than the present to invest in talent development, specifically in the ICT sector, to ensure an ample supply of qualified people available to leverage technology in realizing the ambitious plans of Bahrain's leaders.

Knowledge and skills are the cornerstones of any country's economic prosperity. ICT technologies promote equal access to education and serve as a building block of digital skills education. And talent building is a crucial component of national development. Bahrain enjoys a strong position as a globally competitive ICT hub and having leaders who are promoting socio-economic growth on the back of cutting-edge technologies. These two factors alone make it essential for local talent to be nurtured to continue the development of Bahrain's digital economy. After all, massive investment in building infrastructure and capabilities will only get you so far – talent is what will allow Bahrain to go above and beyond in terms of ICT implementation, R&D, and advancements.

Developing these skills cannot be the sole responsibility of governments – partnerships between the public sector, academia and technology companies are essential to knowledge building. As a leading technology solutions provider to Bahraini enterprises, telcos and small businesses, Huawei is closely aligned with Bahrain's Vision 2030 and the government efforts in developing ICT talent in the country. We established a roadmap for helping develop this talent under the Bahrain Drive on Talent initiative.

Huawei Bahrain partnered with five leading universities in the Kingdom – Bahrain Polytechnic, University of Bahrain, Arab Open University (AOU), AMA University and Ahlia University – to develop a Huawei ICT Academy at their campuses to provide training to their students. Furthermore, through the Seeds for Future Programme, we provide 10 top Bahraini university students each year an opportunity to travel to our headquarters in China, where they are exposed first-hand to our world-leading technologies.

The annual Huawei ICT Competition is the ultimate university battle of wits. More than 200 students from Bahrain participated in the 2019 -2020 edition of the competition, with three Bahraini students ranked in the top 10 at the global showdown. For four consecutive years, Bahrain students have emerged among the top three teams globally.

We remain committed to developing ICT talent in Bahrain. We are currently in discussions with different institutions and ministries for employee training. The sum of these initiatives will help Bahrain maintain its technology edge as the region marches towards a post-oil future.

(The author is CEO of Huawei Bahrain)

*The annual Huawei ICT Competition is the ultimate university battle of wits. More than 200 students from Bahrain participated in the 2019 -2020 edition of the competition, with three Bahraini students ranked in the top 10 at the global showdown. For four consecutive years, Bahrain students have emerged among the top three teams globally.*

# Emirates to fly from India again after ban over virus

● Dubai said on Saturday that only passengers from India "with a valid residence visa and who have received two doses of a UAE-approved vaccine" would be allowed to travel to the emirate

● Some 300 flights a week were operating between the UAE and India before the ban was announced in April

AFP | Dubai

Aviation giant Emirates said yesterday it will resume flights from India from next week, after Dubai lifted a ban imposed when coronavirus cases spiked.



Emirates airline says it will resume flights from India from June 23, after Dubai lifted a ban over the coronavirus

The United Arab Emirates, which includes Dubai, suspended all flights from India -- including for transit passengers -- in April in an effort to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus. "We will resume carrying passengers from South Africa, Nigeria and India... from June 23," Emirates said in a statement.

Dubai said on Saturday that only passengers from India "with a valid residence visa and who have received two doses of a UAE-approved vaccine" would be allowed to travel to the emirate.

They would also need a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours of departure, a rapid test

four hours before departure, and another PCR test on arrival with "institutional quarantine" required until the results are received.

Dubai authorities did not specify the rules for transit passengers and Emirates did not say whether transit passengers were allowed to fly through Dubai en route to third nations.

Some 300 flights a week were operating between the UAE and India before the ban was announced in April, according to local media, making the air corridor one of the busiest in the world.

The UAE is home to some 3.3 million Indians who make up a third of the population -- most of them in Dubai.

Some Indians who had been stranded in their homeland during a coronavirus surge had hired private jets to take them back to the UAE, which had exempted private jets from the ban.

## Major Gulf markets end lower

● OPEC and its allies agreed to extend most oil output cuts into April

Reuters

Most major stock markets in the Gulf ended lower yesterday, with the Saudi index leading the losses, although Qatar bucked the trend to close higher.

The benchmark index in Saudi Arabia, fell 0.6%, with Al Rajhi Bank and petrochemical firm Saudi Basic Industries dropping 1.8% each.

The kingdom's April crude oil exports fell to their lowest level since June 2020, official data showed on Thursday.

OPEC and its allies agreed

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼0.6% to 10,791
ABU DHABI	▲ at 6,649
DUBAI	▼0.4% to 2,851
QATAR	▲0.2% to 10,763
EGYPT	▼1.0% to 9,798
BAHRAIN	▲0.4% to 1,568
OMAN	▼0.5% to 4,057
KUWAIT	▲0.2% to 6,963



to extend most oil output cuts into April but Saudi Arabia said it would extend its voluntary oil output cut of 1 million bpd, and would decide in following months when to gradually phase it out.

The country's gross domestic product also shrank 3% in the first quarter, slightly less than official estimates and compared

with a 1% contraction last year, as a sharp fall in the oil sector pulled back the economy, data showed.

Dubai's main share index lost 0.4%, weighed down by a 0.8% fall in sharia-compliant lender Dubai Islamic Bank and Emirates NBD Bank was down 0.4%.

Dubai's state airport operator said it was hoping for a "flood"

of travelers as the coronavirus pandemic eases. It targets passenger traffic through Dubai International Airport to rising 8% to 28 million this year as demand recovers.

The airport handled 5.75 million passengers in the first quarter, a 67.8% fall compared to the same quarter in 2020 before the pandemic halted traffic.

In Abu Dhabi, the index traded flat as gains in financial shares were offset by declines in telecoms firm Etisalat.

In Qatar, the index closed 0.2% higher, with Qatar Islamic Bank rising 0.7%.

Last week, ratings agency Fitch affirmed Qatar at 'AA-' with a stable outlook.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index declined 0.7%, hit by a 2.7% fall in Abu Qir Fertilizer and Chemical Industries.

## New offer made over Suez blockage

Reuters | Ismailia, Egypt

The owners of a giant container ship that blocked the Suez Canal in March have made a new offer in a compensation dispute with the canal authority, a lawyer for the authority said on Sunday, as a court ruling on the case was postponed for two weeks.

The Ever Given container ship has been anchored in a lake between two stretches of the canal since it was dislodged on March 29. It had been grounded across the canal for six days, blocking hundreds of ships and disrupting global trade.

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) demanded \$916 million in compensation to cover salvage efforts, reputational damage and lost revenue, before publicly lowering the request to \$550 million.

The Ever Given's Japanese owners Shoei Kisen and its in-



Ship Ever Given, one of the world's largest container ships, is seen after it was fully floated in Suez Canal

surers have disputed the claim and the ship's detention under an Egyptian court order.

Negotiations had been continuing until Saturday, SCA lawyer Khaled Abu Bakr told a court hearing in Ismailia over the ship's detention. The ship's owners had put in a new offer, he said, without giving details.

The SCA's chairman previous-

ly said Shoei Kisen had offered to pay \$150 million.

A court ruling was due on Sunday after several delays, but Shoei Kisen's legal team asked to allow more time for negotiations, one of their lawyers said.

Judicial sources said the case was postponed until July 4 to allow for "friendly settlement" between the parties.

This week UK Club, one of the ship's insurers, said it was engaged in "serious and constructive negotiations" with the SCA, and was "hopeful of a positive resolution to these negotiations in the near future".



The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the Isthmus of Suez and dividing Africa and Asia. The canal is part of the Silk Road that connects Europe with Asia

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**THE HUMAN RACE HAS ONE REALLY EFFECTIVE WEAPON, AND THAT IS LAUGHTER**  
MARK TWAIN

## News in brief

◆ **The leader of Lebanon's biggest Christian political party said yesterday he still wanted Prime Minister-designate Saad al-Hariri to form a new government, and blamed political opponents for months of political paralysis.** Lebanon's politicians have argued over the structure of a new government since the last one quit in the aftermath of the devastating August 2020 Beirut port explosion, leaving the country adrift as it sinks deeper into economic crisis. Veteran Sunni Muslim politician Hariri was named premier for a fourth time in October, promising to form a cabinet of specialists to enact reforms needed to unlock foreign aid, but the process has stalled over nominations of ministers.



**Lebanon's Christian leader says he still wants Hariri as PM**

**China vaccine doses pass one billion mark**



The number of Covid-19 jabs administered in China has passed the one billion mark, health officials said Sunday, more than a third of the

doses given worldwide. The announcement by the National Health Commission comes after the number of shots administered globally surpassed 2.5 billion on Friday, according to an AFP count from official sources. It is unclear what percentage of China's population has now been inoculated but its vaccination drive got off to a slow start after a successful fight against the virus left little sense of urgency to get jabbed.

◆ **Taiwan said seven employees of its trade office in Hong Kong left the**

**Taiwan pulls trade office staff over Hong Kong ultimatum**



financial hub on Sunday after authorities there demanded they sign a pledge recognising China's sovereignty over the self-ruled island. The move comes after both Hong Kong and Macau closed their trade offices in Taipei and as Beijing seeks to pile diplomatic and economic pressure on Taiwan. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) said Hong Kong's government had demanded its trade office staff sign a "one China pledge", which supports Beijing's view that the island is part of its territory.

◆ **Forces loyal to Libya's eastern-based commander Khalifa Haftar have closed the border with Algeria, they said on Sunday, after major deployments of his forces to the south underscored his continued role despite efforts to unify the country.** Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) last

**Libya's Haftar closes border with Algeria**



week sent troops into the southern city of Sebha, which was already allied to eastern forces, and then on Saturday to a southern border crossing with Algeria. The nearly

1,000-kilometre (620 miles) border between Algeria and Libya cuts through mostly uninhabited desert and has few crossings.

## UAE to suspend entry from three countries, Dubai updates protocols

Reuters | Cairo

The United Arab Emirates will suspend travellers from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Namibia from entering the country on national and foreign flights, effective today.

The General Civil Aviation Authority said the restrictions would also include transit passengers, with the exception of transit flights travelling to the UAE and bound for those countries. Cargo flights between those countries and the UAE will continue, as usual, the statement added.

It said the restrictions were

being introduced to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The GCAA added that exemptions to its decision include: UAE nationals, their first-degree relatives, diplomatic missions, official delegations, business jets - after getting prior approvals - and golden and silver residency permit holders, in addition to those who work essential jobs. Those who are exempted will still have to take a PCR test at the airport and enter a mandatory 10-day quarantine.

Separately, Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management said on Saturday it would allow trav-

ellers from South Africa, who have received two doses of a UAE-approved vaccine, to enter Dubai starting from June 23, WAM said.

**Travellers from India, who have valid residence visas and have received two doses of a UAE-approved vaccine, will also be allowed in the emirate.**

Meanwhile, travellers from Nigeria must only present a negative PCR test taken 48 hours prior to departure and will also undergo another PCR test on arrival in Dubai.

## Brazil hits 500,000 'critical' situation

BBC

The number of deaths related to Covid-19 has passed 500,000 in Brazil, the second-highest in the world, as experts say the outbreak could worsen amid slow vaccination and the start of winter.

The virus continues to spread as President Jair Bolsonaro refuses to back measures like social distancing.

The health institute Fiocruz says the situation is "critical". Only 15% of adults are fully vaccinated. Congress is investigating the government's handling of the pandemic.

President Bolsonaro has been heavily criticised for not implementing a co-ordinated national

## Biden to host Israeli President Rivlin

Reuters | Washington

US President Joe Biden plans to host Israel's new president, Reuven Rivlin, at the White House on June 28, the White House said on Saturday.

"President Rivlin's visit will highlight the enduring partnership between the United States and Israel and the deep ties between our governments and our people," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement.

Rivlin will visit shortly before he is due to end his seven-year term in July.

Isaac Herzog was elected the country's new president this month in elections that marked the end of the era of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel.

The role of president is largely ceremonial but also meant to promote unity among ethnic and religious groups.

The government changed after last month's fighting be-



Biden arrives on Marine One for a weekend trip to his home in Wilmington at Delaware Air National Guard Base

tween Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza also touched off rare mob violence among the Jewish majority and Arab minority within Israeli cities.

"President Rivlin approaches the end of his term, this visit will honor the dedication he has shown to strengthening the friendship between the two countries over the course of many years," Psaki said.

## Israel's Bennett talks with Iran's

● **Joe Biden wants a US return to the deal**

● **Bennett described Raisi's ascent as enabled by Khamenei rather than by a free and popular vote.**

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israel condemned yesterday the election of hardline judge Ebrahim Raisi as Iranian president, saying his would be a "regime of brutal hangmen" with which world powers should not negotiate a new nuclear deal.

Raisi, who is under US sanctions for human rights abuses, secured victory as expected on Saturday in Iran's presidential election after a contest marked by voter apathy over economic hardships and po-



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett chairs new government in Jerusalem

litical restrictions.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, convening his first televised cabinet session since taking office last week, described Rai-

## COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	34,401,798	617,091	179,075,030
2 India	29,911,240	387,161	
3 Brazil	17,883,750	500,868	Deaths
4 France	5,755,496	110,724	
5 Turkey	5,365,208	49,122	Recovered:
6 Russia	5,316,826	129,361	
7 UK	4,620,968	127,970	163,607,989
8 Argentina	4,258,394	88,742	
9 Italy	4,252,095	127,253	New cases
10 Colombia	3,917,348	99,335	
11 Spain	3,757,442	80,652	+124,931
12 Germany	3,729,753	90,954	
13 Iran	3,095,135	82,965	New deaths
14 Poland	2,878,767	74,828	

Figures as of closing

## Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	276,756		15,829		205,157	55,770
Saudi Arabia	474,191	+1,079	7,677	+14	455,618	10,896
UAE	612,029	+1,850	1,757	+5	591,061	19,211
Kuwait	337,371		1,862		318,419	17,090
Oman	248,043	+1,637	2,710	+27	218,841	26,492
Qatar	220,800	+107	583	+1	218,244	1,973

## Israel says COVID-19 vaccines rejected by Palestinians were safe

Reuters | Jerusalem

The COVID-19 vaccines delivered by Israel and then rejected by the Palestinian Authority over their expiration date were fine, the Israeli health ministry said on Saturday.

Israel and the PA on Friday announced a vaccine swap deal that would have seen Israel send up to 1.4 million doses of the vaccine made jointly by Pfizer and BioNTech to the PA in exchange for receiving a reciprocal number of doses later this year.

But soon after the announcement, the PA cancelled the deal and said it had sent an initial shipment of around 90,000 doses back to Israel. The PA's Health Minister Mai Alkaila said the delivery showed a June expiration date, sooner than the July-August date that had been agreed.

The "vaccine delivery transferred to the Palestinian Authority yesterday was perfectly



A Palestinian labourer who works within Israel or its settlements in the occupied West Bank, is vaccinated at an Israeli facility at Shaar Efraim crossing from Israel to the West Bank

in order," the Israeli health ministry said in a statement. The dates were known and agreed to by both parties, it said. "The vaccines delivered to the Palestinians are identical in every way to the vaccines currently being administered to Israel's citizens."

## Champ Biden, Beloved

Huffpost

Champ, one of President Joe Biden's two dogs in the White House, has died.

**The senior German shepherd "passed away peacefully at home," Biden and first lady Jill Biden said in a statement on Saturday morning.**

"We love our sweet, good boy and will miss him always," the statement said.

The couple eulogized Champ's good nature and love for his family.

"Even as Champ's strength waned in his last months, when we came into a room, he would immediately pull himself up, his tail always wagging, and nuzzle us for an ear scratch or a belly rub," said the statement, which did not give a spe-



During Biden's time as vice president, Champ lived with the family at US Naval Observatory.

US Constitution comes into effect when New Hampshire is the 9th state to ratify it

Lord Mountbatten resigns as Governor General of India (formerly the last Viceroy)



7.7 Manjil-Rudbar Earthquake with hundreds of aftershocks hits Iran; killing about 50,000

English mathematician Andrew Wiles proves last theorem of Fermat

0 deaths amid

Taliban say 'Islamic system' only way to Afghan peace, women's rights

AFP | Kabul



Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar (C) has said the group remains committed to peace talks

The Taliban said yesterday they remain committed to peace talks but insisted a "genuine Islamic system" in Afghanistan was the only way to end the war and ensure rights -- including for women.

Talks between the militants and the Afghan government have been deadlocked for months and violence has surged across the country since May when the US military began its final withdrawal.

Despite the rise in violence, Taliban co-founder and deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said yesterday that the group was committed to the peace talks.

"Our very participation in the negotiations... indicates openly that we believe in resolving issues through (mutual) understanding," Baradar said in a statement.

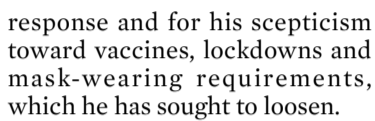
He said the only way to end the conflict in Afghanistan was to establish an Islamic system after the departure of all foreign forces.

"A genuine Islamic system is the best mean for solution of all issues of the Afghans," Baradar said.

His statement acknowledged the fears in Afghanistan and abroad about the kind of system that would emerge -- and its impact on women -- saying that fell

"within the ambit of the intra-Afghan negotiations".

Baradar also assured that the rights of all Afghans including women would be accommodated in that system, according to "the glorious religion of Islam" and Afghan traditions.



response and for his scepticism toward vaccines, lockdowns and mask-wearing requirements, which he has sought to loosen.

The outbreak in Brazil has been fuelled by more transmissible variants of the virus, including the one first identified in the Amazon region and now known as Gamma. An average of 70,000 cases has been confirmed daily in the last week.

Netanyahu warns against nuclear deal's "hangmen regime"



Netanyahu's first weekly cabinet meeting of his

Netanyahu's ascent as enabled by Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei rather than by a free and popular vote.

"Raisi's election is, I would say,

**A regime of brutal hangmen must never be allowed to have weapons of mass-destruction. Israel's position will not change on this**

NAFTALI BENNETT

the last chance for world powers to wake up before returning to the nuclear agreement, and understand who they are doing business with," said Bennett in a statement he read out first in Hebrew and then in English.

"A regime of brutal hangmen must never be allowed to have weapons of mass-destruction," he said. "Israel's position will not change on this."

Raisi has never publicly addressed allegations around his role in what Washington and rights groups have called the extrajudicial executions of thousands of political prisoners in 1988.

Bennett, a nationalist atop of a cross-partisan coalition, has hewed to the opposition of his conservative predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu, to the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, whose caps on projects with bomb-making potential Israel deemed too lax.

The former US administration of Donald Trump agreed with Israel and quit the deal. Current President Joe Biden wants a US return to the deal. Iran denies seeking nuclear weaponry.

Cuba encouraged by early efficacy results of homegrown COVID-19 vaccine



The Communist-run country has opted not to import foreign vaccines but rather to rely on its own

**Cuba, whose biotech sector has exported vaccines for decades, has five vaccine candidates in clinical trials**

**Several countries from Argentina and Jamaica to Mexico and Venezuela have expressed an interest in buying Cuba's vaccines**

Reuters | Havana

Cuba's Soberana 2 vaccine candidate has shown 62% efficacy with just two of its three doses, state-run biopharmaceutical corporation BioCubaFarma said on Saturday, citing preliminary data from late phase trials.

Cuba, whose biotech sector has exported vaccines for decades, has five vaccine candidates in clinical trials, of which two - Soberana 2 and Abdala - are in late phase trials.

"In a few weeks we should have the results for the efficacy with three doses which we expect will be superior," said Vicente Vérez, director of the state-run Finlay Vaccine Institute, which developed Soberana 2.

The news comes as the Caribbean's largest island is facing

its worst outbreak since the start of the pandemic in the wake of the arrival of more contagious variants, setting new records of daily coronavirus cases.

The Communist-run country has opted not to import foreign vaccines but rather to rely on its own. Experts say it is a risky bet but if it pays off, Cuba could burnish its scientific reputation, generate much-needed hard currency through exports and strengthen the vaccination drive worldwide.

"We know our government has not been able to provide this project all the funding it required, and nonetheless this is a result of global standing," President Miguel Diaz-Canel said at the presentation of the results on state-run television.

Several countries from Argentina and Jamaica to Mexico and Venezuela have expressed an interest in buying Cuba's vaccines. Iran started producing Soberana 2 earlier this year as part of late-phase clinical trials.

Cuba's authorities have started administering the experimental vaccines en masse as part of "intervention studies" they hope will slow the spread of the virus.

Daily cases have halved in the capital since the start of this vaccination campaign, according to official data, although that may also be due to stricter lockdown measures.

Presidential Dog, Dies



specific cause of death for the senior dog. "Wherever we were, he wanted to be, and everything was instantly better when he was next to us."

The Bidens purchased Champ as a puppy in 2008, drawing some criticism for going to a breeder rather than adopting from an animal shelter or rescue. (Their next dog, Major - was adopted from a shelter in 2018.)

During Biden's time as vice president, Champ lived with the family at U.S. Naval Observatory.

"He

thinks he's Secret Service," Biden once said of Champ, according to the Presidential Pet Museum, "because he is."

The museum noted that the dog got his name from Biden's granddaughters Finnegan and Maisy, who decided to call him "Champ" because of their grandfather's penchant for saying, "Any time you get knocked down, champ, get back up!"

Although Major's time at the White House has been somewhat checkered with a series of nipping incidents, Champ's life was relatively controversy-free, aside from a bizarre right-wing attack about his appearance and a minor mystery pooping incident.

The news of Champ's death comes just weeks after Barack and Michelle Obama announced the death of former first dog Bo.

US sends 2.5 mn Covid vaccine doses to Taiwan

AFP News

The United States announced Saturday that 2.5 million Covid vaccine doses were on their way to Taiwan in a move likely to draw disapproval from Beijing, which claims the self-ruled island.

China expressed fury earlier this month when US senators visited Taiwan and announced the vaccine donation amid simmering tensions between Washington and Beijing.

"Wheels up! Our donation of 2.5 million vaccine doses is on the way to Taiwan," State Department spokesman Ned Price wrote in a tweet.

The number of shots is about three times as many as announced during the US delegation visit to Taiwan. Taipei has accused Beijing of hampering its efforts to secure enough doses.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Congratulations to His Excellency Ebrahim Raisi on his election as President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I look forward to working with him to further strengthen the warm ties between India and Iran. @narendramodi

02



PM Bennett: "Let every enemy and terrorist who tries to attack us know that the State of Israel will lay its hands on every vile criminal sooner or later and bring him to justice."

@IsraeliPM

03



The refugees I have met throughout my life have shown me what it means to rebuild your life while finding the strength to enrich the lives of others. This #RefugeeDay, I reiterate my admiration for what displaced people teach us about the power of hope and healing. @antonioguterres

04



To honor the true meaning of Juneteenth, we have to continue toward that promise of equality for all. @JoeBiden

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

# Classifieds

THE DAILY **tribune**

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## Astronauts tackle ISS solar panel work in new spacewalk

France 24

Astronauts ventured out on their second spacewalk in less than a week on Sunday to install powerful new solar panels outside the International Space Station.

France's Thomas Pesquet and NASA's Shane Kimbrough picked up where they left off on Wednesday, when spacesuit issues and other problems prevented them from unrolling the first in a series of high-tech solar panels. American Kimbrough wore a different suit to avoid the trouble he encountered last time.

"Remember: You are butterflies with biceps today," astronaut Megan McArthur radioed from inside.

The spacewalkers managed to bolt down the first solar wing last week, but had to delay making the electrical connections



This NASA TV image captured on June 16, 2021 shows ESA astronaut Thomas Pesquet (R) checking cables during the ISS Expedition 65 US Spacewalk #74.

and unfurling the panel to its full 19 metres in length. That topped Sunday's to-do list.

Pesquet was sanguine about the setback in a tweet on Saturday: "Solar panels: 1 - Shane and

Thomas: 0. Rematch tomorrow, Sunday."

These new solar wings are designed to roll out like a red carpet, unlike the station's old ones that unfolded like an accordion. They're designed to give the ageing station a much-needed electrical boost, as demand for experiments and space tourists grows.

NASA originally allotted two spacewalks for the job - one for each solar panel being installed. But managers added a third spacewalk, following the earlier problems. Pesquet and Kimbrough will go back out Friday to complete work on the second panel delivered by SpaceX earlier this month.

This first pair will augment the space station's oldest solar wings, which are degrading after 20 years of continuous operation.

Here we go again for episode of the new solar array installation spacewalks. Today we finish installing the first and roll straight into preparing the second! It is a huge team effort each time and couldn't be happier to return with @astro\_kimbrough <https://t.co/cXBB3MSugD> [pic.twitter.com/OWNrJQeguy](https://t.co/pic.twitter.com/OWNrJQeguy)

THOMAS PESQUET (@THOM\_ASTRO)

SpaceX will deliver two more pairs over the next year.

Although smaller than the originals, the new solar panels can generate considerably more power. The space station needs this reenergising if NASA hopes to keep the space station running the rest of this decade, with private guests paying millions of dollars to come aboard.

A Russian film crew is scheduled to launch to the orbiting outpost this fall from Kazakhstan, followed by a string of rich businessmen. SpaceX is providing the rides from the US's Cape Canaveral.

On Wednesday, the display control panel on Kimbrough's suit conked out and he had to return to the air lock to reset it. Then his cooling system registered a momentary pressure spike. Engineers are still evaluating what went wrong.

## Former UK speaker defects to Labour

AFP | London

The colourful former speaker of Britain's House of Commons John Bercow said he has left the Conservatives to join the opposition Labour Party, saying the country is "sick of lies" under Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

In an interview with the Observer newspaper published on Sunday, the former MP said the Conservative Party under



Johnson was "reactionary, populist, nationalistic and sometimes even xenophobic".

Bercow, who stepped down as speaker in October 2019 after 10 years, said he joined the Labour Party a few weeks ago because he shared its values.

"I am motivated by support for equality, social justice and internationalism. That is the Labour brand," he told the Observer.

## Swedish PM faces defeat in Monday no-confidence vote

Reuters | Stockholm

Stefan Lofven was yesterday hours away from becoming the first Swedish Prime Minister to lose a no-confidence vote, after failing in a last-ditch effort to secure majority support in parliament for proposed rent reforms.

The vote was called last week for Monday by the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, after the Left Party,



which Lofven relies on to pass legislation, withdrew its support over his plan to liberalise Sweden's rigid rent control system.

Lofven's centrist Social Democrats have led a fragile minority government since inconclusive elections in 2018, striking a deal on a broad reform programme with two centre-right parties.

## Cambodian PM in quarantine

AFP News

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Saturday he has cancelled talks next week with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab after the Southeast Asian leader came into contact with someone infected with coronavirus.

Hun Sen wrote in a Facebook post that he had indirect contact with a Covid-19 patient and doctors required he



be tested and undergo quarantine for 14 days until July 3.

"I apologise that I have to cancel all scheduled meetings... I beg for understanding from the UK Foreign Secretary," he said, adding that the pair had been scheduled to meet Wednesday morning.

Raab was expected to visit Phnom Penh early next week, according to Cambodian officials.



# CELEBS

## celebs



# Gwyneth Paltrow reveals her children haven't seen much of her films

ANI | Washington

Seems like Hollywood star Gwyneth Paltrow's children are picky about the movies they watch as the Oscar-winning actor has revealed which of her movies they have watched.

According to Fox News, Paltrow's children, Apple and Moses, who she shares with ex-husband Chris Martin, are not terribly interested in seeing their

Gwyneth Paltrow

mother on-screen.

During Thursday's episode of 'Shop TODAY with Jill Martin', Paltrow revealed that Apple has never seen one of her movies, while Moses has only seen her in the massively popular Marvel franchise films.

She revealed, "My kids have never seen me in a movie. I mean, I think my son has seen me in the 'Iron Man' things, but I do not think my daughter has ever seen me in a movie."

“My kids have never seen me in a movie. I mean, I think my son has seen me in the 'Iron Man' things, but I do not think my daughter has ever seen me in a movie”

GWYNETH PALTROW

Outside of playing Pepper Potts in seven different Marvel films, Paltrow is known for various other films, including 'Contagion', 'Hush' and 'Shakespeare in Love', which earned her an Oscar, a Golden Globe and two Screen Actors Guild Awards.

On the television side, Paltrow has won an Emmy for guest starring in 'Glee' and most recently appeared in the first two seasons of Netflix's 'The Politician'.

The actor explained, "Apple says she likes me here, like how she knows me, and it is weird if I am on screen." The star further also revealed her own favourite movie of hers, "I love 'The Royal Tenenbaums'. I think that's my current favourite."

Apple and Moses may not have many more opportunities to see their mother act, as she said early last year that she's slowly stepping away from acting.

# Carrie Fisher to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2022

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Carrie Fisher and Jason Momoa are among the stars set to be added to the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The Walk of Fame Selection Panel have announced the 2022 honourees for the coveted pink stars, and it has been confirmed that the late 'Star Wars' legend - who passed away in 2016 - as well as 'Aquaman' actor Jason, have made the cut.

Walk of Fame chair Ellen K said in a statement: "The Walk of Fame Selection Panel is pleased to announce 38 new honourees to the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Selection Panel, made up of fellow Walk of Famers, hand-picks a group of honourees each year that represent various genres of the entertainment world."

"The Panel did an amazing job choosing these very talented people. We can't wait to see each honouree's reaction as they realize that they are becoming a part of Hollywood's history with the unveiling of their star on the world's most famous walkway!"

Alongside Carrie and Jason, Francis Ford Coppola, Macaulay Culkin, Michael B. Jordan, Ewan McGregor, Regina King, Salma Hayek, and Willem Dafoe will also be receiving



Carrie Fisher

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
The Selection Panel, made up of fellow Walk of Famers, hand-picks a group of honourees each year that represent various genres of the entertainment world

stars for their contribution to motion pictures.

In the television category, the likes of Ricky Gervais, Tracee

Ellis Ross, Norman Reedus, and Bob Odenkirk are among the recipients, while Black Eyed Peas, DJ Khaled, Nipsey Hussle, and Avril Lavigne have made the cut for musicians.

Other honourees include Tessa Thompson, Ray Liotta, Adam McKay, and Michael Strahan.

For Jason, the honour comes after he previously said his family were "starving" and he was "completely in debt" after his stint on 'Game of Thrones' because he couldn't get any further work.

Jason - who has Lola, 13, and Nakoia-Wolf, 11, with wife Lisa Bonet - said: "I mean, we were starving after 'Game of Thrones'."

"I couldn't get work. It's very challenging when you have babies and you're completely in debt."

# Hugh Grant married for love

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Hugh Grant married for "love".

The 60-year-old actor has hit back at claims he and Swedish spouse Anna Eberstein tied the knot or "passport reasons" after discovering it was the top result in Google searches for his wife and insisted practical matters weren't their main motivation for getting hitched in 2018.

Hugh took to Twitter to share a screenshot of the search page for Anna's full name, which brought up an online article on the Nicki Swift site that stated "Hugh Grant married Anna Eberstein for passport reasons".

He captioned his Twitter post: "No I didn't, @internet. I married her because I love her.(sic)"

One Twitter user joked the 'Undoing' star had only come across the result because he

"forgot who his wife is" and had to search for her.

But Hugh replied: "No. A friend sent it to me."

The Nicki Swift article referenced an interview the 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' star had given to the USA Today newspaper, in which he said he and Anna believe marriage is a "pretty preposterous social construct" but their different surnames had caused issues when they travelled with their three children.

He said: "I didn't like going through immigration into countries where they'd say, 'Everyone with a Grant

passport over here, and all the others through there."

Meanwhile, the 'Bridget Jones' Diary' actor recently admitted being an older dad to five young children - his and Anna's son John, eight, and two daughters aged five and three, and Tabitha, nine, and Felix, eight, who he has with former partner Tinglan Hong - is "completely knackered" but they have changed his life for the better.

He said: "I think I turned into a slightly scary old golf-addicted bachelor, and to tell you the truth I'm glad to see the back of him."

"I mean, it's completely knackered trying to be a young father in an old



Hugh Grant

# Jordana Brewster reveals she had a crush on Paul Walker

ANI | Washington

Actor Jordana Brewster spoke about the crush she had on late star Paul Walker at the 'F9' film premiere, held on Friday.

Speaking to E! News about 'F9' and how she honoured Paul in the latest installment of the action-adventure film, Jordana revealed how close she and Paul were to dating in real life.

The 'Fast and Furious'

actor recalled the time when director Rob Cohen revealed, Paul had a crush on her while filming the first movie and surprisingly enough, Jordana said she "didn't know that."

She further admitted that if she would have known things a little earlier then things might have been different between her and Paul.

Jordana went on to re-

veal that she also had "a crush on him" in 'Fast and Furious' 4 to 7. As for why she didn't spill the beans, Jordana explained to E! News that, "I never got to tell him that but I think on many levels he knew."

Jordana went on to marry Andrew Form in 2007, with whom she shares sons Rowan and Julian. But as always, the 'Fast and Furious' family remains close to her heart, especially since she took a couple of accessories from Mia Toretto's wardrobe.



Jordana Brewster

## SUDOKU

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

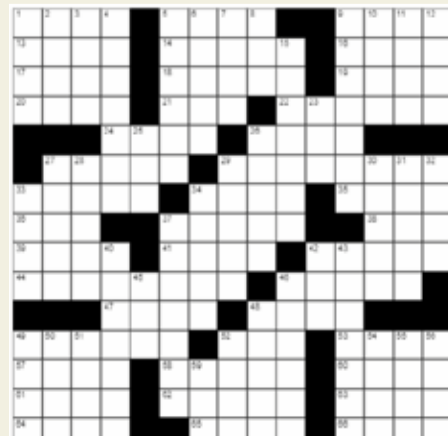
Yesterday's solution

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

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- Get as a result; 5- Apians; 9- Low in pitch; 13- Wheel holder; 14- Give consent; 16- Mormon state of western USA; 17- Eye drop; 18- Sketches; 19- Baltic capital; 20- Light brown; 21- Pick up; 22- Habitual practice; 24- Editorial notation; 26- Parting word; 27- Flight segment; 29- Person of extraordinary powers; 33- Unit of magnetic induction; 34- Remedy; 35- It's used to walk the dog; 36- One million; 37- Salt water; 38- Conducted; 39- Standard; 41- Cereal grain; 42- Approaches; 44- Certain salt; 46- Ogles; 47- Steak order; 48- Bryn College; 49- Joined by treaty; 52- Brit. lexicon; 53- Now me down...; 57- Just right; 58- Backing for an exhibit; 60- Gutter site; 61- Comics canine; 62- Worker's reward; 63- Scrutinize; 64- Repair; 65- Not new; 66- Dick Tracy's love;

Down

1- Appraise, charge per unit; 2- Corp. VIP, briefly; 3- Banned apple spray; 4- Scrutiny; 5- Burrowing, carnivorous mammal; 6- Everglades bird; 7- Quod demonstration; 8- Darr; 9- College scholarship; 10- Arguing; 11- Pudding ingredient; 12- Ersatz; 15- One on the run; 23- Shoshone language member; 25- Acapulco aunt; 26- Rotates; 27- Spanish Mister; 28- Former Russian rulers; 29- Connected series of rooms; 30- Grinder; 31- Australia's Rock; 32- Agrees tacitly; 33- Like's ex; 34- Orange container; 37- Lodger; 40- Deserved; 42- Fresh; 43- Most strange; 45- Not for a Scot; 46- Served soup; 48- 1980s attorney general; 49- Molecular component; 50- Veinlike deposit; 51- Stretched out; 52- Medical suffix; 54- Ornamental fabric; 55- Gardner and others; 56- Cravings; 59- Non-pro sports org;

Yesterday's solution

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

## Qualifier Samsonova downs Bencic in Berlin to win first WTA title



Harry Kane and Kieran Trippier  
AFP | Berlin

Qualifier Liudmila Samsonova capped her breakthrough week yesterday by winning her first WTA title with victory over Belinda Bencic in the final of the Berlin grass court tournament. Samsonova, 22, made a mockery of her world ranking of 106 to recover from losing the first set to earn a 1-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Swiss fifth seed Bencic. It was another display of power tennis from the Russian who stunned former world

number one Victoria Azarenka in Saturday's semi-final. Despite having her service broken twice in losing the first set, Samsonova immediately applied pressure at the start of the second. She racing into a 4-0 lead to serve out the set, which she won by blasting down seven aces without reply. Bencic, ranked 12th in the world, was broken again at the start of the deciding set and Samsonova applied enough pressure at 5-3 up to convert her second match point.

# Italy's reserves beat Wales 1-0 at Euro 2020

Matteo Pessina ensures Italy top group as 10-man Wales finish second

● Matteo Pessina struck the winner and Ethan Ampadu was sent off but Wales did enough to seal their last-16 place

AFP | Rome

Italy's reserves really do play as well as its starters. Or just about.

Roberto Mancini has been saying for weeks that all 26 members of his squad are starters. And after beating Wales 1-0 yesterday despite making eight changes to his starting lineup at the European Championship, it's hard to argue with him.

"It's important that the identity of the team remains the same, as changing three or four players shouldn't make any difference. They all know what to do and the end product doesn't change," Mancini said.

"They all proved today that everyone here is a first-choice player," the coach added. "Winning wasn't even necessary, which made it difficult in terms of mentality, but we fought for the win anyway and that shows so much."

The victory extended Italy's unbeaten streak to 30 matches – matching a team record. Matteo Pessina gave Italy the



Matteo Pessina of Italy controls the ball

lead late in the first half by redirecting a free kick from Marco Verratti on a textbook play.

Wales defender Ethan Ampadu was sent off with a questionable straight red card for stepping on Federico Bernardeschi 10 minutes into the second half.

Italy, which won its opening two matches 3-0, finished Group A with a perfect nine points. Wales came second with four points and qualified for the last 16 at only its second European Championship. The Welsh reached the semifinals at Euro 2016.

"Our focus today was as long

as we qualify we're happy," Wales defender Neco Williams said. "In the changing room it feels like we won the game."

Switzerland ended up third in the group, also with four points, after beating Turkey 3-1 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Chasing only its second European title, Italy will play the second-place team from Group C at Wembley Stadium in London next Saturday. Wales will play the second-place team from Group B in Amsterdam.

The victory also marked Italy's 11th straight win and clean sheet.

The Azzurri first won 30



It's important that the identity of the team remains the same, as changing three or four players shouldn't make any difference. They all know what to do and the end product doesn't change

ROBERTO MANCINI

straight under coaching great Vittorio Pozzo from 1935-39 with a team that won its second consecutive World Cup.

It's been a remarkable turnaround for this Italy squad, which failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

"Pozzo won many important trophies, too, so we're still far behind that level," Mancini said. "Anyone who goes through to the round of 16 can win the Euros, that's for sure."

On a warm and humid evening at the Stadio Olimpico, Italy controlled from the start and Andrea Belotti and Federico Chiesa both came close to scoring before Pessina put the Azzurri ahead.

Verratti earned a foul that set up a free kick on the right flank and then whipped in a low cross that Pessina flicked into the far corner with his back to the goal.

### Today's games

#### Euro 2020

Group C: North Macedonia vs Netherlands (19:00, Amsterdam)

Group C: Ukraine vs Austria (19:00, Bucharest)

Group B: Russia vs Denmark (22:00, Copenhagen)

Group B: Finland vs Belgium (22:00, St Petersburg)

### Tomorrow's games

#### Copa America

Uruguay vs Chile (00:00, Cuiaba)

Argentina vs Paraguay (03:00, Brasilia)

### Results

\*Scores as of closing

#### EURO 2020

Italy	1	0	Wales
Switzerland	3	1	Turkey

## I was expecting more, admits Spain coach Luis Enrique after another draw

● Lewandowski saves Poland as Spain's Morata misses rebound of redemption

AFP | Madrid

Luis Enrique admitted he expected more from Spain at Euro 2020 after a 1-1 draw with Poland on Saturday left his team facing a fight to reach the last 16.

Gerard Moreno missed a penalty and Alvaro Morata squandered the rebound as Spain's scoring woes struck again, with Robert Lewandowski's header earning Poland a valuable point in Seville.

After starting with a stalemate against Sweden, Spain sit third in Group E and may well now have to beat Slovakia in their final game on Wednesday to avoid an embarrassing early exit.

"I was expecting more," said Luis Enrique. "I was expecting six points and zero goals conceded. But this is the situation. 'We're coming into the crunch match now and if we want to progress we need to win. If we win, we'll go through. If not, we'll be out. That's the reality.'"

Morata poked in from close range to put Spain in front but Lewandowski's 60th goal of the season pulled Poland level before Moreno's penalty hit the post.

The rebound came quickly



Poland's Robert Lewandowski scores their equaliser

60

goals have been scored by Robert Lewandowski this season

to Morata but with Wojciech Szczesny committed down to his right, the goal was open for the striker to score his second.

Instead, the whistles that accompanied Morata against Sweden last week were saved for the whole Spanish team at the final whistle.

Poland, meanwhile, formed a huddle on the pitch before going to over to salute their supporters, after the deadly Lewandowski came up trumps again to keep his own team's

hopes of progress alive.

"If it was a boxing match we would have won on points but Poland could have won too," said Luis Enrique. "They had chances, they caused us problems."

Luis Enrique had launched a passionate and prepared defence of Morata on Friday as he said the team would be "Morata and 10 others".

But he also replaced Ferran Torres in the starting line-up with Moreno, the Villarreal striker whose 23 goals was second only to Lionel Messi last season in La Liga.

#### Dangerous Poland

Morata almost gave away an early penalty with an overly-zealous challenge in the box, while Mateusz Klich ripped the top of the net with an effort from distance soon after.

Spain were the better side in possession, with Morata at-

tempting a delicate chip when power might have been better, but Poland were dangerous on the break, Lewandowski tearing away after a poor pass by Rodri only to be marshalled out by Jordi Alba.

Morata's best moment came in the 25th minute and it could hardly have been easier, even if a little shuffle put him in the right position to poke in Moreno's shot from the right.

The offside flag went up and Spain's players appeared to expect the cancellation but instead the goal stood, prompting Alba to fling his arms around Morata, who then dashed over to his coach, a show of thanks for the faith placed in him.

Poland came again though and twice went close before half-time, Karol Swiderski hitting the post with a curling shot that came back for Lewandowski, but he smashed at Unai Simon, who saved.



I was expecting six points and zero goals conceded. But this is the situation. We're coming into the crunch match now and if we want to progress we need to win. If we win, we'll go through. If not, we'll be out. That's the reality

LUIS ENRIQUE

## Humbert stuns Rublev to claim Halle title



France's Ugo Humbert poses with a trophy as he celebrates after winning the final against Russia's Andrey Rublev

AFP | Halle

France's Ugo Humbert pulled off an upset win over fourth seed Andrey Rublev yesterday to claim the biggest title of his career in the final of the Halle grass court tournament.

Humbert, ranked 31 in the world, earned a 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) victory over world number seven Russia's Rublev in one hour, 24 minutes.

Having won two ATP 250 titles in his career, this was the first tournament win at 500 level for the 22-year-old, who has won all three finals he has reached on the tour.

After breaking Rublev to go 5-3 up in the opening set,

in which he powered down five aces, Humbert converted his fourth set point in a hard fought game.

Rublev made precious few mistakes in the second set until losing his serve at 5-4 in the tie-break, when Humbert held his serve to convert his first match point.

Humbert had already thrown down a marker earlier in the week in Halle when he knocked out French Open semi-finalist Alexander Zverev in the second round.

Rublev had been the last remaining seed in the draw from the quarter-finals onwards after top players like Roger Federer and world number two Daniil Medvedev crashed out in the early rounds.

# Verstappen denies Hamilton in French thriller

Max Verstappen triumphs in pulsating duel with Lewis Hamilton at French GP

● Red Bull driver hunts down rival to overtake in penultimate lap

● Sergio Perez completes podium with Bottas fourth

AFP | Paris

Max Verstappen won the French Grand Prix yesterday to extend his lead over Lewis Hamilton in the Formula One drivers' title race.

The Red Bull driver hunted down and overtook the Mercedes world champion with over a lap to go at a gusty Le Castellet to claim his third win out of seven races this season.

"Towards the end I enjoyed it! At the beginning it was super difficult out there with the wind," said Verstappen.

This was a massive statement by the Dutch driver and his resurgent Red Bull team who won their third successive race after Monaco and Baku.

It pushed Verstappen 12 points clear of Hamilton ahead of back-to-back races on Red Bull turf in Austria.

Sergio Perez in the other Red Bull came in third with Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes finishing fourth.

Red Bull team principal



Max Verstappen crosses the line to win the French Grand Prix

Christian Horner had said before the race "if we can beat them here we can beat them anywhere" of Mercedes, who were itching to get back onto a regular track like the circuit Paul Ricard after getting lost on the streets of Monaco and Baku.

But things got off to a bumpy beginning for pole sitter Verstappen, who went off the track in a horror start coming out of turn one, Hamilton accepting the unexpected gift to take the lead.

"I couldn't keep the car under control," complained Verstappen.

Hamilton had led 105 of the 106 laps for his wins here in 2018 and 2019, and he set about

extending his near total stranglehold at the Provençal track.

Approaching a third of the 53-lap race Hamilton had established a near three second gap back to Verstappen, with Bottas and Perez in pursuit.

With drivers starting to complain of tyre wear Charles Leclerc was the first to come into the pits for a change of footwear for his Ferrari.

Verstappen wasn't far behind, with Hamilton coming in for a slick stop on lap 20, coming out as Verstappen flashed past with Perez, still to pit, the new leader.

The Mexican, winner in Baku last time out, was hauled in on lap 25, leaving Verstappen in the lead and Hamilton half a second

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

Verstappen now has a 12-point lead in the championship and his team a 37-point advantage over Mercedes in the constructors'

behind.

"We can't keep this up until the end of the race that's for sure" Verstappen told his pits over the team radio referring to tyres on lap 29.

And on lap 32 in he came in again, resuming in fourth, 25sec behind Hamilton, but with better grip he was only seven seconds behind in third by lap 40.

With nine laps to go Verstappen muscled past Bottas, the gap ahead to Hamilton just five seconds.

Hunting his prey down it made for an epic end and he duly picked off the Silver Arrows on the penultimate lap to trigger wild celebrations in the Red Bull garage.

"The whole race me and Lewis were fighting each other, so it will be like this the rest of the season," Verstappen said.

Barca move will give Depay 'something extra' - Dutch coach De Boer



Netherlands' forward Memphis Depay hugs Netherlands' coach Frank de Boer (L) as he leaves the pitch during a match

AFP | Amsterdam

Netherlands coach Frank de Boer is hopeful Memphis Depay's Euro 2020 form will be positively impacted after the confirmation the striker will play for Barcelona next season.

Depay has long been linked with a move to the Camp Nou and on Saturday Barcelona announced the 27-year-old had signed a two-year deal to join on a free transfer from Lyon.

"Maybe the transfer to Barcelona will give him something extra to help him perform at his best," De Boer told reporters ahead of the Dutch team's final Euro 2020 Group C game against North Macedonia in Amsterdam yesterday.

"We need Memphis at his best to go as far as we want in this tournament but we have confidence in him and he is a confident player."

Depay, who scored 20 goals in Ligue 1 for Lyon in the season just finished, converted a penalty in the Netherlands' 2-0 win over Austria on Thursday in front of watching Barcelona

20

goals were scored by Memphis Depay in Ligue 1 for Lyon in the season just finished

coach Ronald Koeman.

However he has come in for some criticism from some Dutch fans and media for failing to take other chances.

"I think Memphis is his first critic and I'm sure the criticism doesn't affect him," De Boer said of the former Manchester United player, who is a huge star in the Netherlands.

"He knows if he played well or not so let's hope for the Netherlands that he can reach the level that we have in mind."

The Oranje have already secured qualification for the last 16 as winners of Group C after beating both Ukraine and Austria in their first major tournament since the 2014 World Cup.

# Shaqiri shines as Swiss beat Turkey to keep Euro 2020 hopes alive

AFP | Baku

Xherdan Shaqiri scored two superb goals as Switzerland secured third place in Group A at Euro 2020 with a 3-1 win over Turkey, but they now face an anxious wait to see if they will reach the last 16.

The six-time world champion, who returned this season after crashing in the opening race last year, escaped early and stayed clear of in-form Portuguese Miguel Oliveira and championship leader Fabio Quartararo.

Marquez started on the second row of the grid but burst through at the start and was battling for the lead with fellow Spaniard Aleix Espargaro of Aprilia when rain started to fall.

While other riders grew more cautious, Marquez reacted by attacking harder.

"The victory was a low possibility, but when I saw a few drops on laps four and five I thought: 'this is my race'," he said.

"When more drops fall, I pushed more. I take a risk. Then the second race started with Oliveira."

Catalonia GP winner Oliveira emerged from the pack to give chase but was more than a second back.

The laps followed a consistent pattern.

Marquez, who is still recovering from the complicated break



Xherdan Shaqiri (C) of Switzerland celebrates with team-mates after scoring

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

Having finished the group behind Wales on goal difference, Switzerland must now hope to progress as one of the best third-placed finishers

to his right arm, gained time turning left and lost time on right-handers. But he managed to preserve a cushion of more than a second.

"It was a little cat and mouse all race," said Oliveira. "He was faster in some sectors, I was faster in others. We battled at a distance."

Marquez held on for what was clearly an emotional victory.

"It was hard to concentrate because of all the memories and all the sensations of the past year," said Marquez, pausing to avoid breaking down and to maintain the delighted grin on his face.

It was his 11th straight victory at the Sachsenring, which like him was off the MotoGP circuit last season, but it was the first for him and the Honda team since Valencia in November 2019.

# Berrettini emulates Becker in winning Queen's crown

AFP | London

Top seed Matteo Berrettini became the first debutant since Boris Becker in 1985 to win the Queen's tournament, beating Briton Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 yesterday.

The 25-year-old Italian may have dropped his first set of the week but his booming serve held up with 19 aces bombarding Norrie as he secured his fifth ATP title.

Becker went on to win his first Wimbledon title aged just 17 weeks later but Berrettini, 25, was happy solely to focus yesterday's victory.

"This is the nicest trophy for sure with all due respect to the others I have won," said Berrettini, who won 45 successive service games after being broken twice in the first round.

"It has been an unbelievable week if I think about his (Becker) name and my name on the same board it is crazy."

"I dreamed about playing in this tournament as I watched it as a kid."

Berrettini, ranked ninth in the world and one of 10 Italians in the top 100, paid tribute to his opponent.

"He is a great player. We had never played each other before but he showed this year he can play on all surfaces."

"Today I am happy for myself for sure (he grinned)."

"In the rallies Norrie is dangerous so it was important to have my service in order."

"These courts are really nice



Italy's Matteo Berrettini celebrates with the trophy

”  
This is the nicest trophy for sure with all due respect to the others I have won

MATTEO BERRETTINI

and easy to adapt to even if the weather was English for the last days of the week."

Berrettini -- the first Italian to win the title -- said his entourage might force him to enjoy a restrained celebration.

"Probably room service and sparkling water," he said.

Norrie will rise to 34 in the world rankings and took defeat in a sporting spirit.

"All credit to Matteo, he was too good today and better on the big points. You are having a great career keep it up," he said.

"If you had told me before the tournament I would be in

the final I would have been surprised.

"It has been a very special week. I am a little bit disappointed I did not get the title today but we will keep pushing for more."

The Italian looked comfortably in control after taking the first set with just the one break at 2-2 when Norrie double-faulted.

However, the Briton looked a different player once he saved two break points at 4-4 in the second set.

The 25-year-old South Africa-born Norrie tried to draw Berrettini into longer rallies -- when he was able to return the Italian's booming 140mph (225km/h) serves -- as he generally came out best in them.

His resilience paid off as in the tie break he got a mini-break to go 2-0 up and held on to it winning 7-5 when Berrettini sent a forehand long.

## New Zealand's Jamieson takes five before India hit back



New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson appeals successfully as he has India captain Virat Kohli lbw for 44

AFP | London

New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson completed an impressive five-wicket haul before India's bowlers starred on the third day of the inaugural World Test Championship final at Southampton yesterday. An absorbing day of high-quality cricket, cut short by bad light despite the floodlights being on full beam, ended with New Zealand 101-2 in reply to India's first innings 217, a deficit of 116 runs.

New Zealand opener Devon Conway fell for 54 shortly before stumps -- his third score of over fifty in just five Test innings following the 29-year-old left-hander's stunning 200 on debut against England at Lord's this month.

Jamieson is also in the early stages of his Test career yet the towering paceman still had a miserly return of 5-31 in 22 overs, including 12 maidens.

The 26-year-old's fifth five-wicket haul in just eight career Tests included the prize

**YOU**  
KNOW WHAT

**Kohli, 10 years to the day since his Test debut against the West Indies in Kingston, had not added to his score when he fell to the eighth ball he faced yesterday**

scalps of India captain Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant.

Yet India's quicks also bowled well in helpful, overcast conditions that made batting difficult, with Mohammed Shami unlucky not to take a wicket after repeatedly getting lift from a good length.

In a match marred by weather interruptions -- Friday's first day was washed out without a ball bowled -- India resumed on 146-3.

# Bahrain gold rush!

Five-star Bahrain claim five more medals, including three gold, on final day of 22nd Arab Athletics Championships, which was held in Tunisia

● **Tejitu Daba Chalchissa (women's half-marathon), Tigist Gashaw (women's 1,500m), and Zuhair Awad (men's 5,000m) capture gold**

● **Bahrain wrap up championship campaign with final medal tally of 11, including six gold, three silver and two bronze medals**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain enjoyed a sensational five-medal haul, including three gold medals, yesterday on the final day of the 22nd Arab Athletics Championships in Tunisia.

The trio of newest Arab title-winners included Tejitu



Bahrain athletes Zuhair Awad, right, and Al Siddique Mikho celebrate after their one-two finish in the men's 5,000m

Daba Chalchissa in the women's half-marathon, Tigist Gashaw in the women's 1,500 metres, and Zuhair Awad in the men's 5,000m.

The other medals won yesterday were a silver claimed by Al Siddique Mikho in the men's

5,000m where he finished behind countryman Awad; and a bronze medal clinched by Joshua Lemushen Nakeri in the men's half-marathon.

The Bahrain national athletics team's five medals on the last day of action brought their overall tally for the competition to 11. These include six gold medals, three silver and two bronze medals. The results were confirmed by the Bahrain Athletics Association.

In yesterday's women's half-marathon, Tejitu completed the race's 21km distance in a winning time of one hour 16 minutes 43 seconds. She finished nearly half-a-minute ahead of the rest of the pack.

Meanwhile, with her win in the women's 1,500m, Tigist



Bahrain's Tigist Gashaw flies the Bahrain flag after capturing the women's 1,500m gold medal

claimed her second medal of the championships, after she previously won silver in the women's 5,000m.

The men's 5,000m event saw an impressive one-two for Bahrain, with Awad leading Mikho to the finish. Awad captured gold in 13 minutes 30.25 seconds, while Mikho was not far behind in 13:40.37.

For Mikho, his runner-up classification added to the gold medal he had already won in the men's 1,500m.

In the men's half-marathon, Nakeri claimed the bronze medal in a time of 1:09:09.

Bahrain finished among the top national teams in the 20-country field that took part in the championship. The other nations included Lebanon, Algeria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Morocco, Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Qatar, Libya, Djibouti, Somalia, Comoros and hosts Tunisia.

## Ahli suffer second straight loss in GCC basketball

● **Bahrain champions bow to tournament hosts Shabab Al Ahli of Dubai 92-105**

● **Ahli have one game remaining in tournament's first round against Al Nasser of Saudi Arabia tomorrow**

AFP | Manama

Bahrain's Al Ahli suffered their second successive defeat in the FIBA Asia Champions Cup Gulf Basketball Association Qualifier yesterday following a 92-105 decision against tournament hosts Shabab Al Ahli of Dubai.

Ahli battled back from a double-digit deficit in the third to head into the final period down by just six, 72-78. But they couldn't narrow the gap any further as their rivals did well to stave off any potential surge by the Bahrainis.

American professional Mike Harris had 31 points and 13 rebounds to lead Ahli's scorers in the loss. Manny Harris added 17 while Hesham Sarhan scored 16. Ahmed Alderazi contributed 13 points.

For Shabab Al Ahli, the trio of Emirati Qais Omar Alshabebi and US imports Tyler Wilkerson and Brandon Triche combined for 86 of their points. Alshabebi had a game-high 32, while Wilkerson scored 31 and Triche had 13.

The result gave Ahli a 1-2 win-loss record with just one game to play in this opening round of the competition. The national champions had opened their campaign with a win against Al Shamal of Qatar but then lost to Al Kuwait of Kuwait before yesterday's clash.

Ahli have a rest day today prior to their last



Al Ahli's Maitham Jameel tries to drive past the tough defence of Shabab Al Ahli's Brandon Triche

fixture of this stage against Al Nasser of Saudi Arabia tomorrow. They top four move on to the semi-finals, which are scheduled to be held on Friday, followed by the final the following evening.

The event also acts as the 40th GCC Clubs Basketball Championship.

Standings	P	W	L	+/-	Pts
Al Kuwait (KUW)	2	2	0	+21	4
Shabab Al Ahli (UAE)	2	2	0	+18	4
Al Ahli (BRN)	3	1	2	-18	4
Al Nasser (KSA)	2	1	1	+16	3
Al Shamal (QAT)	3	0	3	-37	3

## Bahrain leave for Doha ahead of Arab Cup qualifier

● **National football team to take on Kuwaiti counterparts on Friday in one-off qualifying match for FIFA Arab Cup 2021**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team depart today for Doha, where they will take on Kuwait on Friday in a qualifying match for a place in the FIFA Arab Cup 2021.

The one-off game will be played at the Qatari capital's Khalifa International Stadium and it is scheduled for an 8pm kick-off.

The travelling delegation is being headed by Bahrain Football Association technical affairs department head Abed Al Ansari and includes national team manager and former Bahrain skipper Mohammed Salmeen.

Head coach Helio Sousa called up 26 players for the match. It is the same group as the one that competed earlier this month in joint-qualifying for the FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023.

The squad includes Ali Haram, Ali Madan, Hamad Shamsan, Sayed Hashim Isa,



Bahrain national team players during their local training session

Jassim Al Shaikh, Kumail Alaswad, Mahdi Humaidan, Mohammed Marhoon, Redha Isa, Sayed Baqer, Sayed Shubbar Alawi, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Ismaeel Abdullatif, Sayd Mohammed Jaafar, Waleed Al Hayam, Ahmed Bughamar, Ahmed Mirza, Mohammed Abdulwahab, Abdulla Hazaa, Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Rashed Al Hooti, Jassim Khulaif, Ahmed Nabeel, Abbas Fadhel, Ebrahim Lutfallah and Sayed Dhiya Saeed.

Should Bahrain win against Kuwait and book their seat in the Arab Cup, they will be in Group A of the tournament's preliminary round alongside hosts Qatar, Iraq, and either Oman or Somalia.

The Arab Cup will be held from December 1 to 18 as a prelude to next year's World Cup. The tournament is being delivered by FIFA, and it is seen as a vital opportunity to test operations and facilities ahead of the 2022 global showcase.