

Bahrain's Olympics mission chief arrives in Tokyo

Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa reaches Japanese capital ahead of official start to Games tomorrow | P12

WORLD 6 At least 25 dead in Chinese province's heaviest rains in 1,000 years

THE DAILY tribune



Adele is dating LeBron James agent 9 CELEBRITIES

BUSINESS 5 Carrefour Bahrain, SCE kick-off "Love Our Planet" campaign

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Preventative measures reduce the spread of COVID-19

VACCINATE AND STAY SAFE



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



King Salman

Bahrain hails Saudi on Hajj success

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the successful organisation of the Hajj pilgrimage, which was held amid the coronavirus

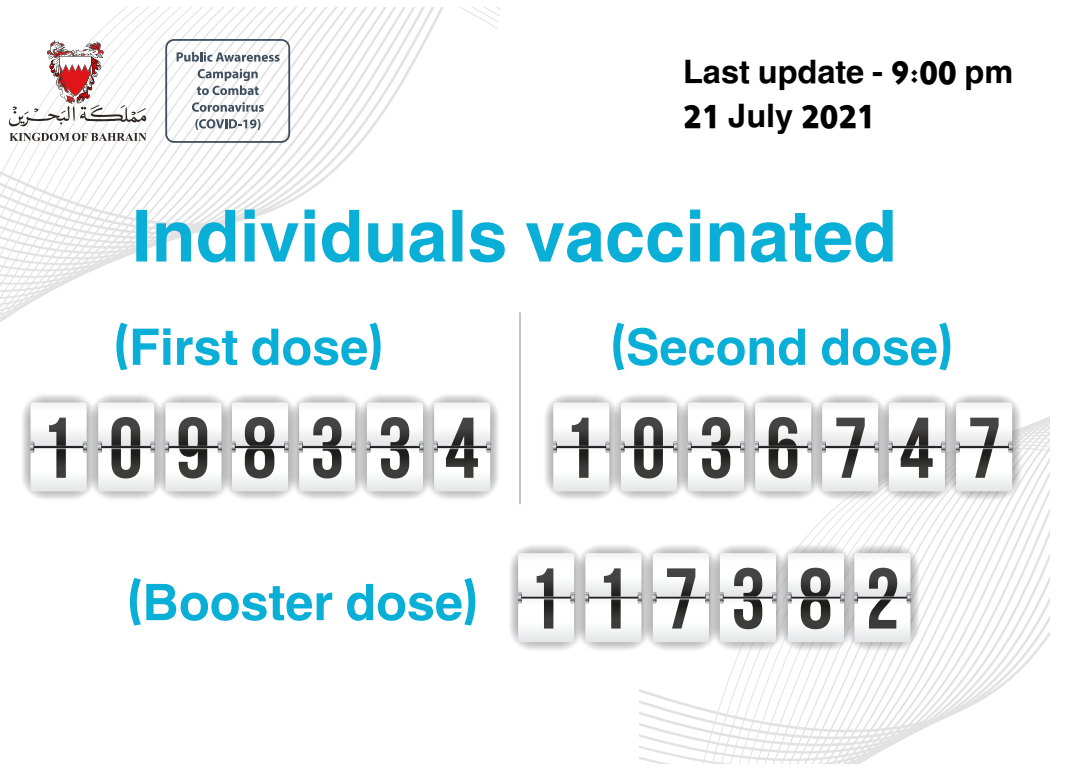
(COVID-19) pandemic.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman commended the tremendous efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Saudi government to hold the Hajj pilgrimage while implementing adequate precautionary measures to ensure the highest levels of safety and health for pilgrims.

They expressed best wishes to the Hajj pilgrims, wishing King Salman abundant

health, happiness and a long life.

HRH Prince Salman sent similar cables to the Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Governor of Makkah region and Head of the Central Hajj Committee, HRH Prince Khalid Al Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.



Strategic projects to boost fish farming p2

BAHRAIN COVID-19

ACTIVE CASES 781

DEATHS 1381

DISCHARGED 265930

NEW CASES 65

CRITICAL 9

210 fils (includes VAT)

US fires warning shot

Washington may impose more sanctions on Turkey over Russian weapons purchases

Washington

The United States threatened more sanctions against Turkey yesterday as a result of Ankara's destabilising behaviour, including purchasing Russian missile defense systems.

"We continue to object to Turkey's purchase and deployment of the Russian S-400 air defense system and have made clear that any new major arms purchases from Russia risk triggering additional CAATSA sanctions," Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland told a Senate hearing.

Speaking at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing on US Policy on Turkey, Nuland doubled down on the suspension of Ankara from the F-35 fighter jet programme. "Sale and co-production of the F-35 will remain suspended," she said.

Senator Jim Risch also blasted Turkey over the Russian weapons.

"F-35s will not be delivered to Turkey so long as S400s are on Turkish soil," Risch said.

Around 900 parts for the F-35s were being produced in Turkey.



A Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile system

"It is down to a minimal amount and will eventually be phased out," he said.

Drone base

Senator Bob Menendez, the committee chairman, said he had information that Turkey was establishing a drone base in occupied Cyprus.

Nuland said she would look into it.

But the senior US diplomat also criticised Turkey for its land grab announcement in the Cypriot town of Varosha.

UK man arrested in Spain, charged in US with Twitter hack

A British man has been charged in the United States in connection with a Twitter hack last summer that compromised the accounts of prominent politicians, celebrities and technology moguls, the Justice Department said yesterday.

Joseph O'Connor, 22, was arrested in the coastal resort town of Estepona, Spain, on an arrest warrant accusing him of involvement in a July 2020 hack of more than 130 accounts, and of hacks that prosecutors said took over user accounts on the TikTok and Snapchat apps.

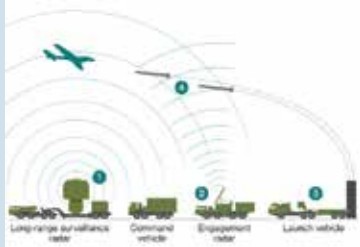
Bahrain expresses sympathy with China

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain has expressed its deepest condolences to China over the heavy rains and floods that swept through Henan province and resulted in the death of a number of residents. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed the sympathy of Bahrain with China in this disaster, extending its condolences to the families of the victims.

How does the S-400 missile system work?

1. Long-range surveillance radar tracks objects and relays information to command vehicle, which assesses potential targets
2. Target is identified and command vehicle orders missile launch
3. Launch data are sent to the best placed launch vehicle and it releases surface-to-air missiles
4. Engagement radar helps guide missiles towards target



Strategic projects to boost fish farming

Bahrain steps up efforts to ensure food security and self-sufficiency

● Works Ministry committed to raising local production of fish

● Part of initiatives to fulfil royal directives to develop industry

● Modern laboratories needed in the fish farming process set up

TDI | Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning is moving forward with fish farming projects.

Minister Eng. Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf affirmed the ministry's strategy and initiatives aimed at raising the local production of fish and ensuring food security and self-sufficiency.

This comes as Khalaf visited the National Aquaculture Centre in Ras Hayyan with the Undersecretary of the Agricultural Sector and Marine Resources, Dr Hussein Jaafar Makki.

The fish farming projects are considered a promising industry that will contribute to raising the production capacity of fish food in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Minister Khalaf said that the Ministry's interest in achieving food security stems from the royal directive of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during the opening of the second session of the fifth legislative term of the Shura and Representatives Councils in October 2019, where His Majesty directed to develop strategic projects for national food production.

He pointed out that the Ministry, represented by the Agency for Agriculture and Marine Resources, put forward a number of initiatives in order to achieve



Minister Khalaf, second from right, with other officials during his visit to the National Aquaculture Centre

the strategy, including creating the infrastructure for this economic activity.

Infrastructure pillars

Minister Khalaf said: "One of the most prominent infrastructure pillars for this activity is the use of modern technologies that will overcome some obstacles and prepare the laboratories needed by the fish farming process, and this is what the Ministry has been able to undertake."

He stressed that his visit to the National Aquaculture Centre was aimed at monitoring the progress of the comprehensive maintenance operations that took place at the National Center for Mariculture, which included the main fish production hatcheries.

The Minister was briefed on

the development to increase production efficiency in the National Center for Mariculture, which aims to produce 20 million fingerlings by 2025.

He said: "The agency's officials were directed to study the deepening and expansion of the marine channels leading to the water pumping station at the National Aquaculture Centre, which is the main tributary of the farming operations, in addition to making use of the sea lakes adjacent to the culture center and an area of four hectares of sea for the cultivation of fish and algae."

The Undersecretary of the Agricultural Sector and Marine Resources Undersecretary, Dr Nabeel Mohammed Abul Fateh, said that Minister Khalaf was briefed during this visit on the

“One of the most prominent infrastructure pillars for this activity is the use of modern technologies that will overcome some obstacles and prepare the laboratories needed by the fish farming process, and this is what the Ministry has been able to undertake

ENG. ESSAM BIN ABDULLAH KHALAF, WORKS, MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS AND URBAN PLANNING MINISTER

experiences of producing nano-algae, which is a qualitative leap for the cultivation of this type of algae.

He explained: "Nano-algae is important in the production of young fish, as it contains high percentages of plant proteins compared to other algae, such as chlorella."

He added: "We are working on completing the second phase of settlement of land for fish farms, which will provide 70,000 square metres and contribute to increasing fish production in the wild areas of the Kingdom."

"During the visit, the Minister was also informed on the success of producing protein powder from locally available sources, in order to be a mainstay for the fish feed industry and reduce dependence on importing raw materials from abroad."



20 million

The National Aquaculture Centre aims to produce this volume of fingerlings by 2025

Works on Arad Commercial Complex in full swing

TDI | Manama

The construction works on the Arad Commercial Complex project have hit 30 per cent completion rate.

It is carried out in cooperation with Ramez Trading and Shopping Company, and is expected to be completed in 2023.

Ahmed Al Maqhaw, a representative of the seventh district in Muharraq, said that the

project, which costs BD6 million on an area of about 12,000 square metres, will provide job opportunities for citizens and residents.

It will house shops, restaurants and cafes, and the first floor will have a hypermarket selling foodstuffs and clothes, in addition to recreational spaces.

A meeting will be held after the Eid Al Adha holidays that will bring together Muharraq

Municipal Council and Ramez representatives, and they will discuss many projects as well as shops that will be placed inside the complex.

Al Maqhaw said that Arad enjoys the lion's share of the infrastructure development work for the interior regions during the period between 2019 and 2022, according to the plan of the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban

Planning, at a cost of about BD2.1 million.

The population of Arad is 28,000, making it one of the most inclusive areas for residents, and it is witnessing a steady urban development the past few years.

It is a vital city located adjacent to Bahrain International Airport, in addition to its proximity to the port of the capital Manama.

Saudi leadership congratulated on Hajj pilgrimage success



Speaker Zainal



Minister Shaikh Khalid

● Providing safety and security for pilgrims

TDI | Manama

Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal sent congratulatory cables to Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, on the success of the Hajj pilgrimage.

The Speaker extended sincere congratulations on the tremendous efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in serving the pilgrims and ensuring good and successful organisation of the Hajj pilgrimage which was held this year amid exceptional circumstances due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

She also praised the efforts of Saudi Arabia in caring for the pilgrims to ensure they

perform their rituals in the best way.

Speaker Zainal sent similar cables to the Saudi Shura Council Chairman Shaikh Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Shaikh and Saudi Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, HRH Prince Sultan bin Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the High Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs, also commended the efforts of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in serving the pilgrims and providing them with all facilities to perform their Hajj rituals easily and comfortably despite the pandemic.

The Minister praised the successful organisation of the Hajj pilgrimage as the outcome of synergised efforts of all institutions and authorities in Saudi Arabia to ensure the safety and security of the pilgrims and care for them at all levels.

National plan for Bahraini employment discussed



Minister Humaidan



MP Bu Hamoud

TDI | Manama

Support to the employment and integration of Bahraini citizens in private sector establishments through legislation was discussed yesterday.

This came as the Minister of Labour and Social Development, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), Jamil bin Muhammad Ali Humaidan, met with MP Mohammed Khalifa Bu Hamoud in his office at the Ministry.

They reviewed legislation and laws aimed at sustaining the development of the labour market in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Humaidan briefed the lawmaker on the details of the national plan for the labour market for the years 2021-2023, which was approved by the Cabinet headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and included several axes that would achieve

sustainable growth and stability.

He stressed that the plan aims to create more qualitative opportunities for citizens to make them the best choice for employment.

The Minister discussed steps to organise technical and vocational training and enhance the contributions of the private sector as the main engine of economic growth.

MP Bu Hamoud assured Humaidan that the legislative authority supports all projects and initiatives aimed at developing national human resources and enhancing employment opportunities in a way that contributes to achieving national goals.

The lawmaker praised the efforts made by all concerned parties in preparing the national plan for the labour market, stressing the Shura Council's support for such initiatives that receive a positive response from citizens and reflect the government's keenness to increase the pace of employment in the labour market.

Inspectors on the move to ensure health protocols are strictly followed



The Health Ministry's Public Health Department team is stepping up inspection visits to restaurants as part of national efforts to ensure that facilities comply with health and safety protocols to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The inspectors are carrying out checks in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority. On Tuesday, six restaurants were ordered to be closed for a week after being found to have violated the precautionary measures listed under the Orange Alert Level. Necessary measures were taken to refer their cases to the legal authorities.

UN grants Bahrain body a special consultative status

● Dr Al Shihabi dedicates honours to HM King and HRH Prince Salman

TDT | Manama

The United Nations Economic and Social Council meeting in New York yesterday approved the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisation Affairs to grant the Bahrain Public Relations Society (BPRS) special consultative status with the Council.

On this occasion, the President of the Society, Dr Fahad Ibrahim Al Shihabi, said that granting this special status is the culmination of 15 years of diligent work carried out by the BPRS in order to develop the profession of public relations, communication and media in the region.

Dr Al Shihabi dedicated this honorable national achievement to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Its grant comes under Article 71 of the Charter of the UN, which states that “the Economic and Social Coun-



cil may make appropriate arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organisations which are concerned with questions and issues within its competence.”

Under this decision, the BPRS became officially authorised, as an advisory member, to actively participate in the work of the Council and the rest of the UN bodies.

This resolution also gives the BPRS several privileges, including more effective consultation with the international organisation, member states and institutions of the UN.

It also gives the BPRS the possibility to appoint representatives to it at the headquarters of the UN in New York and Geneva.

The request to accept the association as a consultative body was approved after it fulfilled all the international requirements and standards for NGOs, and after its request was discussed carefully and professionally.

Bahrain, South Korea discuss cooperation in infrastructure projects



Ambassador Chung

● Works Minister Khalaf meets Ambassador Chung remotely

● Projects include agriculture, fish farming and sanitation

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain and South Korea are keen on enhancing joint cooperation for infrastructure development projects.

This comes as the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Eng. Issam bin Abdullah Khalaf, met remotely with the South Korean Ambassador to Bahrain, Hae-Kwan Chung, in the presence of the Marine Resources Undersecretary, Dr Nabeel Mohammed Abul Fateh, and the Assistant Undersecretary for the Sanitation



Minister Khalaf Sector, Eng. Ibrahim Al Hawaj.

They discussed areas of enhancing cooperation between the two friendly countries and a number of issues related to infrastructure projects undertaken by Bahrain and South Korea.

Minister Khalaf referred to the development and advancement of relations between the two countries, praising the advanced Korean expertise in the field of works, construction and infrastructure.

He also expressed the Ministry’s aspiration to benefit from the Korean expertise in various fields, especially in the field of protected agriculture projects, fish farming, sanitation and household waste management in order to support the investment wheel.

The Korean Ambassador praised the Ministry’s cooperation with the Embassy in terms of efforts towards strengthening cooperation in the field of infrastructure, wishing for continued cooperation, development and prosperity for both countries.

Solar is the best way forward

Bahrain committed to implementing national renewable energy plan

● Harnessing solar energy and high-efficiency technology a priority

● Initiatives save electricity costs and reduce carbon footprint

● Kingdom is encouraging investment in renewable energy

TDT | Manama

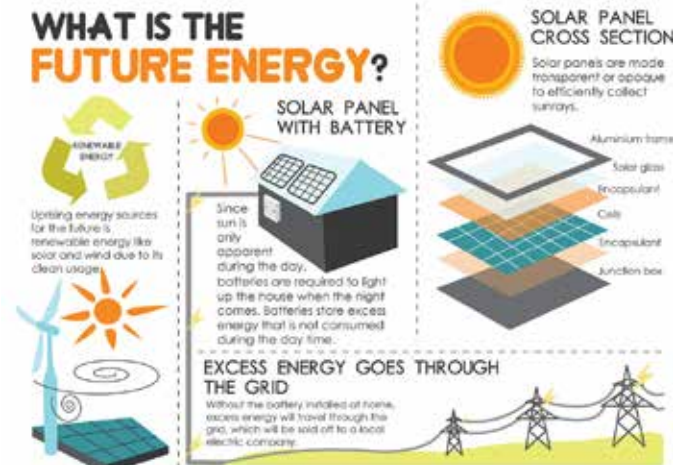
The future looks bright for Bahrain’s solar energy industry with new technologies already in place.

In the coming years, solar will have become the most important source of energy for electricity production in the Kingdom. It will increase energy efficiency and lower costs further.

In fact, the Kingdom has already launched an initiative to install solar energy systems distributed on the roofs of government buildings. It was implemented on 535 buildings using the “Boom” system, without any investment costs for the beneficiaries of the clean energy they produce.

This initiative is one of those included in the national renewable energy plan, which has a production.

able energy plan, which has a production.



The national renewable energy plan revolves around three main policies and seven projects, and that the national goal aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy mix by 5%, equivalent to about 250 megawatts by 2025 and by 10% by 2035.

The total energy expected to be produced through this initiative is estimated at 50 megawatts, thus constituting 20% of the national renewable energy target to be achieved for the year 2025.

This will enable the Kingdom to save BD230 million in energy



The national renewable energy plan revolves around three main policies and seven projects, and that the national goal aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy mix by 5%, equivalent to about 250 megawatts by 2025 and by 10% by 2035.



An artist’s impression of the largest solar energy system project at The Bahrain Mall

At present, the total electricity production in Bahrain is about 3,920 megawatts per day, all of which are produced by natural gas stations.

Through the National Renewable Energy Plan, Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president Dr Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza said: “We aim to have renewable energy stations participating in this production,

Riffa road development project underway

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning is set to start the road development project for blocks 915 and 916 in Riffa in the Southern Governorate.

The Tender Board has opened the financial bids submitted, and work is currently underway to evaluate them to award the project to the lowest bidder.

The Ministry stated that the project works include the civil



Part of the area where the project will be implemented

and asphalt works necessary to rehabilitate the road network and corridors in the area, which are the construction of sidewalks; the construction of a rainwater drainage network to solve the water gathering problem; the construction of ground channels, protection and transfer of services that conflict with the project works; as well as the installation of regulatory and

as this will allow us to redirect the use of the natural gas that is saved to be used in supporting other economic sectors.”

Dr Mirza said that the SEA has met a wide response and demand from various governmental and non-governmental agencies to offer their roofs and proper spaces to install solar energy systems on them and benefit in saving in electricity costs and reduce the carbon footprint.

Economic pillars

Bahrain is committed to developing the renewable energy sector – particularly implementing solar energy projects – as one of its important economic pillars.

Dr Mirza stressed the leadership’s interest in achieving the national goals for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

He said Bahrain is continuing to advance the sustainable energy sector and strengthen its pioneering role in making the country a centre of excellence in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Kingdom is an example to be emulated in achieving comprehensive sustainable development, thus contributing to the realisation of Bahrain’s vision 2030 and the diversification of its economic pillars.

Promoting sustainability concepts through renewable energy and energy efficiency is one of those main pillars.

The SEA head said that several pioneering projects have been started in the field of renewable energy in particular, in addition to the approval by higher authorities of a number of projects that will enter into force during the current and next year, in addition to the government’s adoption of initiatives and proposals presented by the Authority.

Ways to strengthen Bahrain-Bulgaria cooperation discussed



Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, Bahrain Ambassador to Bulgaria and residing in Berlin, met with Dr Angel Angelov, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department, at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs building. During the meeting, the Ambassador stressed the importance of the relations between Bahrain and Bulgaria, reviewing ways to strengthen them and raising them to broader levels to serve the common interests of the two countries. Dr Angelov stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in many fields. A number of political and economic issues and the efforts of the two countries in combating the coronavirus pandemic were discussed, in addition to issues of common interest.

Hamad road project is moving smoothly

It will serve residents and visitors of Al Lawzi area, Damistan, Karzakan, Hamad Town and Al Malikiyah



The road development work is in progress

● **Construction of concrete barriers separating the two directions of traffic is 90 per cent complete**

TDT | Manama

The completion rate of the road construction project leading to Al Lawzi housing project in Hamad City has reached 87 per cent.

Meanwhile, the construction of concrete barriers separating the two directions of traffic is 90 per cent complete.

This was confirmed by the Assistant Undersecretary for Roads at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Eng. Huda Abdullah Fakhro.

The project, which is located in the southeast of Zaid Bin Omaira Expressway and west of Lake Al Lawzi and extends south to the intersection of Road 26, will serve the residents and visitors of Al Lawzi area, Da-



A well-paved road leading to Al Lawzi housing

mistan, Karzakan, Hamad Town and Al Malikiyah, as well as from Roundabout 18 until the beginning of the project on its intersection with Street 26 near Roundabout 7.

Eng. Fakhro said that the current works include linking the rainwater drainage network of Al Lawzi housing project with the new network that is being built on the street within the current project.

It will solve the problem of rainwater collection in Al Law-

zi housing project, and ground channels are being established for other services with the required protection.

Works also include laying layers of burial and installing bricks at intersections, paving several layers of asphalt on the main street, installing sidewalks and lighting poles, extending the treatment water line, and electrical and water works.

Eng. Fakhro added that the project includes the construction of a 4.8-km long road, with

two lanes in each direction from Zaid Bin Omairah Street to Street 3, and the construction of three lanes in each direction from Street 3 to Street 26, with the development of all intersections and the creation of four traffic lights to raise the efficiency of intersections and regulate and achieve traffic safety.

It also includes the establishment of public transport stations, in coordination with the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the setting up of

regulatory and warning traffic signs necessary to achieve the required safety on the street, and the laying of ground channels for future use by technical services to avoid cuts of asphalt.

The project was awarded to the consortium of Amira Contracting Company and Eastern Company for Asphalt and Concrete Production by the Tender and Auction Board at a total cost of BD5,196,582 with funding from the Saudi Fund for Development.



The project is located in the southeast of Zaid Bin Omaira Expressway and west of Lake Al Lawzi and extends south to the intersection of Road 26.

The representative of the 12th district in the Northern Governorate, Zainab Al Darazi, confirmed that the Al Lawzi development project is one of the most important strategic projects in the region, pointing out that it was one of its priorities since its entry into the Municipal Council.

She said: “During the period of work on the project, citizens and residents’ comments were taken on the developments in the workflow, such as traffic diversions, road closures, among others. We do our part to make recommendations regarding traffic safety, and they were taken in and responded to by the Minister of Works for the benefit and service of all.”

Al Darazi extended her thanks and gratitude to the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Eng. Issam bin Abdullah Khalaf, and all employees of the ministry and other ministries for their great services and their constant cooperation to serve the country, citizens and residents and meet their needs.

How far is enough for safe social distancing against COVID?

TDT | Manama

Mass vaccination efforts in the Kingdom of Bahrain against the coronavirus (COVID-19) are running full blast amid a significant decline in the number of new and active cases as well as fatalities.

Health experts, however, have warned that the fight is still far from over. In fact, they recommend people to still wear masks or cloth face covering and practise social distancing, among other important precautionary measures, even after getting the vaccine.

The coronavirus is still very much around us, but that doesn’t mean we can’t help prevent its spread.

Indeed, one of the best ways to reduce the spread of the virus is by continuing to practise social distancing or what others call physical distancing.

What is social distancing and why is it important?

According to studies, the coronavirus spreads easily. Social distancing puts space between individuals.

The most common way COVID-19 spreads is through person-to-person contact. When an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, they produce respiratory droplets that can



Authorities are constantly reminding the public to stay apart

travel about six feet and can land in the mouths or noses of those nearby.

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.

This is basically the reason why social distancing is so important!

To better define what the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is asking us to do, the term physical distancing is now being used to describe

what we need to do to break the chain and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Physical distancing is just as it sounds, it means avoiding close physical contact with others to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes working from home, where possible; conducting meetings virtually; and keeping kids away from group gatherings.

While keeping physical distance is very important, we don’t need to socially isolate or distance ourselves. Rather, we need to stick together now more than ever and emotionally connect with one another – we just need to do that in creative, virtual ways for the time being.

BD260m East Sitra City project is progressing according to timetable

TDT | Manama

Work is underway and on track to complete the East Sitra City project according to timetable. The project is implemented in three stages at a total cost of BD260 million. The cost of the first phase is BD91 million, the second at BD124 million, and the third and final phase at BD45 million.

Since the start of construction and infrastructure works last December, it has made smooth progress in terms of preparing the first phase of the project, which includes the construction of more than 1,000 housing units. The second phase



An artist’s impression of the project

will come immediately after it, which includes the construction of more than 1,800 units, while the third phase includes more than 500 units.

The Ministry of Housing is implementing the project in partnership with a major Chinese contractor, CMEC Company, as part of its efforts to implement the royal order of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to build 40,000 housing units.

Capital Governor meets dignitaries and representatives of Sanabis area



Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa held a meeting with the dignitaries and representatives of NGOs in the Sanabis area, in the presence of Deputy Capital Governor Hassan Abdullah Al Madani and Director-General of the Capital Governorate Police Directorate Brigadier Ibrahim Saif Bakheet Al Najran. He affirmed the governorate’s work to follow up on the implementation of these requests in cooperation with the relevant governing agencies. The people of Sanabis expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Governor for his interest and monitoring the needs of the people by organising field visits, to examine the requests and proposals of residents in those areas, and to execute them in cooperation with the relevant government agencies.

Carrefour Bahrain, SCE kick-off “Love Our Planet” campaign

TDT | Manama

Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim in Bahrain, announced the launch of its “Love Our Planet” campaign to encourage customers to lead a more sustainable lifestyle.

Throughout July, Carrefour Bahrain will lead three initiatives that will encourage customers to reduce their use of single-use plastics. The first initiative is a buy one, get one free offer, where customers will receive a free eco-friendly bag every time they buy one.

The “Go-Green Receipts” initiative will encourage Carrefour MyCLUB members to opt for digital receipts on their Carrefour App instead of paper receipts.

Lastly, a social media competition under the theme #ZeroWasteKids, will challenge children to invent new ways to



Jerome Akel



Dr Mohamed Bin Mubarak Bin Daina

re-use plastic materials for daily use and share their creations online. “This will help create a longer life cycle for plastic materials around the household.” A committee of the Supreme Council for Environment and Carrefour Bahrain will choose the winners.

Dr Mohamed Bin Mubarak

able development goals.” These activities and programmes also include those concerned with the proper management of waste by encouraging citizens through various initiatives and strengthening community partnerships.

He further explained that this campaign aims to raise awareness by increasing education about the danger of plastic waste and introducing them to environmentally friendly alternatives. “This will create a greater urgency of preserving the environment in the Kingdom through the principle of partnership and solidarity.”

He added: “We are aware of the importance of everyone’s role in preserving the environment of the Kingdom, and we are working towards achieving greater sustainability by preserving resources to ensure future generations are part of a healthier world.”



Jerome Akel, Country Manager of Carrefour Bahrain at Majid Al Futtaim Retail, said: “At Carrefour, we believe it is our responsibility to educate our customers about the importance of shopping and living sustainably for the betterment of our planet. With more and more customers adopting more sustaina-

ble practices into their everyday lives, we aim to provide them with environmentally friendly alternatives to everyday items.”

Carrefour Bahrain aims to reduce the use of single-use plastic in its stores by 20 per cent by the end of 2021. Last year, Carrefour Bahrain saw a reduction in the use of plastic bags by 7%.

Porsche must pay 40 m eur for breach of duty on tax filings

Reuters | Frankfurt

German carmaker Porsche must pay a fine of 40 million euros (\$47 million) for breach of duty relating to its tax filings, German prosecutors said yesterday.

The company was paying that sum to the state of Baden Wuerttemberg and not taking any legal action against the fine, the prosecutors added.

“Therefore the proceedings against Porsche have been legally completed,” they said.

The case related to filings between 2009 and 2016.

Harley’s turnaround plan shows signs of progress



Reuters

Harley-Davidson Inc yesterday offered evidence that its turnaround plan was gaining traction as the US motorcycle maker reported a better-than-expected quarterly profit.

The 118-year-old American brand, which has been steadily losing US market share amid declining retail sales for six years, has shifted focus back to big bikes, traditional markets like the United States and Europe, and to older and wealthier customers in a bid to grow profits.

Under Chief Executive Jochen Zeitz’s strategy, the company is eliminating slow-selling models and exiting money-losing dealerships and markets. It is a departure from a decade-long effort to grow market share and draw younger riders with cheaper and newer models.

No direct impact from Ronaldo snub -Coca-Cola CFO

Reuters

Coca-Cola Co has not seen any direct sales impact after Portugal soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo removed two bottles of its soda placed in front of him at a Euro 2020 press conference in June, the beverage giant’s finance chief said yesterday.

Ronaldo, a health fanatic with an aversion to carbonated drinks, snubbed the brand by holding a bottle of water and saying “agua”, Portuguese and Spanish for water. His action sent the internet into a frenzy

and briefly wiped off billions of dollars from the company’s market capitalisation.

“You have to take the long view on these partnerships. You’re always going to have some events that don’t necessarily go your way and we just deal with them and manage them as such,” Coca-Cola Chief Financial Officer John Murphy said in

an interview.

“Our commitment to these major tournaments has not been affected,” Murphy added.

The soda maker raised its full-year sales and profit forecasts yesterday, as demand bounces back from pandemic lows for its beverages following the re-opening of theaters, restaurants and stadiums.



Apple to upgrade budget handset to 5G, drop iPhone Mini from 2022 lineup -Nikkei

Reuters

Apple Inc’s cheapest handset will support 5G technology in its next iteration and its iPhone Mini will not be included in its 2022 lineup, Nikkei reported yesterday, citing sources familiar with the matter.

The company will start selling a 5G version of budget iPhone SE in the first half of 2022, Nikkei reported, adding the device will be powered by its A15 processor and its 5G connectivity will be enabled by Qualcomm Inc’s X60 modem chip. Telecom operators have been



Representative picture

spending billions of dollars to upgrade their networks to the much-touted 5G to enable faster internet and better coverage. However, analysts are skeptical of the uses of the technology to individual consumers and

believe there are years to come before one can reap the actual benefits.

Meanwhile, demand for iPhone Mini, the smaller version of Apple’s flagship device has been muted, compared with its bigger and high-end models like iPhone 12 Pros and the older iPhone 11s as users prefer larger devices to run almost every day-to-day tasks.

US sales of iPhone 12 Mini were just 5% of overall sales of its new phones during the first half of January, according to industry data provider Counterpoint.

Daimler sees chip shortage dragging on into 2022

Reuters | London

A global shortage of semiconductor chips will dent car sales in the second half of 2021 and will extend into 2022, Daimler AG said yesterday, but the maker of Mercedes-Benz vehicles left unchanged its profit margin outlook for this year.

Along with other carmakers, Daimler cut back production this year because of a chip shortage during the coronavirus pandemic, prompting the German company to focus on higher-margin models.

Chief Financial Officer Harald Wilhelm told investors that although the chip shortage

would last into 2022, it would be less severe than this year.

The premium carmaker, which also faces the challenge of high prices for steel, copper and aluminium in the second half of 2021, said its visibility into how chip supply would develop was currently low.

“Improving supply visibility is a top priority for us,” Chief Executive Ola Kallenius told a conference call with analysts

A Mercedes-Benz Vision AVTR concept vehicle



and investors, although he said the chip shortage “is a fixable problem.”

The shortage comes as demand for cars has spiked during the global economy’s recovery from the coronavirus crisis, driving up prices of new and used vehicles as inventories shrink. Some carmakers have adapted to the chip shortage by dropping some features from their models. General Motors Co said in March some pickup trucks would not have a fuel management module, hurting their fuel economy performance.

Other, including Daimler, have produced vehicles that are still waiting for chips so they can be completed.

‘Every time, it’s messy.’ US again approaching debt ceiling

Washington

The US Congress will learn on Wednesday when the federal government will likely run out of money to pay its bills, setting the stage for the latest in a long series of fights over what is known as the debt ceiling.

A failure by Democrats and Republicans to work out differences over whether government spending cuts should accompany an increase in the statutory debt limit, currently set at \$28.5 trillion, could lead to a shutdown of the federal government -- something that has happened three times in the past decade.

“Every time, it’s messy,” said the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, Mike Crapo, when asked about the process of adjusting the debt limit. He noted that in his nearly three decades in Congress he had pushed for spending cuts in those negotiations, adding in a brief interview that he would be seeking cuts again.

BETTER
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Cooperation from Republicans in passing a debt limit increase is essential given the 50-50 party split in the Senate, where most legislation requires 60 votes to advance.

Neither Crapo nor other senior Republicans have brought up the threat of a shutdown in recent public statements, and Democrats insist on a “clean” debt limit increase unfettered by a fight over spending reductions.

But the top Senate Republican, Mitch McConnell, warned on Wednesday that members of his party would be unlikely to support a hike to the debt limit, given the current Democratic drive for a multi-trillion-dollar infrastructure investment bill.

Nasdaq beats profit estimates

Reuters

Exchange operator Nasdaq Inc reported a better-than-expected quarterly profit on Wednesday, boosted by strength in its trading business as frenzied activity in stock markets continued.

The company posted adjusted net income of \$1.90 per share for the second quarter ended June 30, beating estimates of \$1.75, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

Continued volatility in stock markets, fueled in part by a cohort of retail investors using mobile apps like Robinhood, drove up trading volumes in the quarter.

The activity, however, moderated from the first quarter as social activities resumed due to vaccinations against COVID-19 that led to a reopening of the economy.

Nasdaq also welcomed 135 initial public offerings in the quarter, of which 88 were operating companies like AppLovin Corp (APP.O) and Marqeta Inc (MQ.O) and the



rest were special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs).

IPOs have had a banner year so far, led by SPACs. In less than six months, capital raised through U.S. IPOs overtook last year’s record.

Revenue from Nasdaq’s market services unit, its biggest business, jumped 13% to \$312 million.

The investment intelligence segment, its biggest non-trading business which includes indexes, raked in \$263 million in revenue, a jump of 23% from a year earlier, as investors poured into products related to the company’s indexes.

The company bought back \$248 million worth of shares in the quarter, it said.

Excluding transaction-based expenses, revenue surged 21% to \$846 million.

QUOTE
OF THE
DAY

YOU WILL FACE MANY DEFEATS IN
LIFE, BUT NEVER LET YOURSELF BE
DEFEATED
MAYA ANGELOU

News in brief

◆ **India reported its highest death toll in a month on Wednesday - at nearly 4,000 - after its richest state reconciled** its death count with 3,509 previously unreported fatalities, the health ministry said. Maharashtra, home to the financial capital of Mumbai, has reported 130,753 of the country's 418,480 coronavirus deaths, and added 3,509 earlier deaths to its tally, the federal health ministry said on Wednesday. The ministry did not give a reason but authorities have in the past attributed other instances of deaths going unreported to administrative errors, before the mistakes are discovered and the numbers appear in official data.



India reports 3,998 COVID deaths after state corrects its data

◆ **The first test batch of Russian-developed Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19** has been produced in Vietnam, Russia's sovereign wealth fund RDIF and Vietnamese pharmaceutical firm VABIOTECH said yesterday. The first validation samples taken from the produced batch will be shipped to the Gamaleya Center in Russia for quality control checks, the fund and the company said in a joint statement.



Vietnam produces first batch of Russian COVID-19 vaccine

◆ **The Delta variant of the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 is now the main variant circulating in France, Prime Minister Jean Castex said on Wednesday, adding that 96% of cases reported the day before were** among the unvaccinated. "The Delta variant is the majority one, it is more contagious", Castex told TF1 television, speaking of the variant first detected in India. The French prime minister said the country was weathering a "fourth wave" of infections, with 18,000 new cases reported on Tuesday.

Unvaccinated people account for 96% of new Covid-19 cases, says French PM



◆ **US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman will travel to China this weekend,** the State Department announced yesterday, making her the highest-ranking official under President Joe Biden to visit amid deep tensions. "These discussions are part of ongoing US efforts to hold candid exchanges with PRC officials to advance US interests and values and to responsibly manage the relationship," a State Department statement said, referring to the People's Republic of China. "The deputy secretary will discuss areas where we have serious concerns about PRC actions, as well as areas where our interests align," it said. The trip will still not have the trappings of a full-fledged official visit. Sherman will not go to Beijing but instead spend two days starting Sunday in Tianjin, the eastern port city.



State Dept number two to visit China, highest trip under Biden

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1	USA	35,082,232	625,402	
2	India	31,219,374	418,623	192,433,634
3	Brazil	19,419,741	544,302	Deaths
4	Russia	6,030,240	150,705	4,137,233
5	France	5,890,062	111,525	Recovered:
6	Turkey	5,546,166	50,650	175,083,616
7	UK	5,519,602	128,823	New cases
8	Argentina	4,784,219	102,381	+203,958
9	Colombia	4,668,750	117,131	New deaths
10	Italy	4,293,083	127,884	+3,893
11	Spain	4,189,136	81,148	
12	Germany	3,755,635	91,943	
13	Iran	3,603,527	87,837	
14	Indonesia	2,983,830	77,583	

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	283,813		16,457		225,068	42,288
Saudi Arabia	513,284	+1,142	8,115	+12	494,264	10,905
UAE	665,533	+1,506	1,907	+3	643,234	20,392
Kuwait	387,912		2,247		369,737	15,928
Oman	289,042		3,498		263,752	21,792
Qatar	224,638	+128	600	+1	222,478	1,560

Figures as of closing

Saudi to ban unvaccinated people from entering public places from Aug 1



Al Arabia

Saudi Arabia will be banning all unvaccinated citizens and residents from entering public establishments, such as malls and restaurants, starting from August 1, the Kingdom's Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs announced on Tuesday.

Anyone who has not been inoculated against the coronavirus will not be allowed to enter malls, shopping centres, retail stores, and markets, according to the ministry. People will also need to show proof of vaccine to be allowed entry into restaurants, cafes, men's barbershops, beauty salons, wedding and party halls. "In continuation of the ministry's efforts to protect the public's health, it is required to vaccinate workers and visitors [who work in or will enter] a number of municipal establishments," the ministry said on Twitter.

Earlier this week, the interior ministry announced that starting from August 9, all Saudi Arabian citizens will be required to have taken two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine before traveling outside the Kingdom.

The announcement came "in light of the spread of new variants of the virus, the low effectiveness of a single dose of the vaccine against those new variants, and based on studies and scientific research, which show that receiving two doses will protect against complications of the virus variants," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the Ministry of Health as saying.

AFP | Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Thirty years ago, it took Egyptian pilgrim Ibrahim Siam several hours to track down his children when they went missing in crowds of worshippers during the hajj in Saudi Arabia.

Fast forward to the modern day and things are far simpler, meaning Siam, now 64, need not worry about losing track of his family and friends thanks to new technologies.

For this year's Hajj, the second to be staged under the shadow of the Covid pandemic, Saudi authorities have rolled out electronic "Hajj cards" allowing contactless access to religious sites, accommodation and transport.

"During the 1993 Hajj I lost my children and couldn't find them for seven hours," said Siam, brandishing a yellow smart card. "Today I'm not worried about losing my wife and the others who are with me."

At least 25 dead in Chinese province after heaviest rains in 1,000 years

● **City authorities said more than 500 people were pulled to safety from the flooded subway**

Reuters | Beijing

At least 25 people have died in China's flood-stricken central province of Henan, a dozen of them in a subway line in its capital that was drenched by what weather officials called the heaviest rains for 1,000 years.

About 100,000 people have been evacuated in Zhengzhou, the capital, where rail and road transport have been disrupted, while dams and reservoirs have swelled to warning levels while thousands of troops launched a rescue effort in the province.

City authorities said more than 500 people were pulled to safety from the flooded subway, as social media images showed train commuters immersed in chest-deep waters in the dark and one station reduced to a large brown pool.

"The water reached my chest," a survivor wrote on social media. "I was really scared, but the most terrifying thing was not the water, but the diminishing air supply in the carriage."

The rain halted bus services in the city of 12 million people about 650 km (400 miles) southwest of Beijing, said a resident surnamed Guo, who had to spend the night



People wade through floodwaters on a road amid heavy rainfall in Zhengzhou, Henan

at his office.

"That's why many people took the subway, and the tragedy happened," Guo told Reuters.

At least 25 people have died in the torrential rains that have lashed the province since last weekend, with seven missing, officials told a news conference on Wednesday.

Media said the dead included four residents of the city of Gongyi, located on the banks of the Yellow River like Zhengzhou, following the widespread collapse of homes and structures because of the rains.

More rain is forecast across He-

nan for the next three days, and the People's Liberation Army has sent more than 5,700 soldiers and personnel to help with search and rescue.

Many train services have been suspended across Henan, a major logistics hub with a population of about 100 million. Highways have also been closed and flights delayed or cancelled.

By Wednesday, media said food and water supplies had run out for hundreds of passengers stranded on a train that had stopped just beyond the city limits of Zhengzhou two days earlier.

Roads were severely flooded

US, Japan, South Korea send clear message

Reuters | Tokyo

The United States, Japan and South Korea are sending a clear message with their coordination on policy towards North Korea, a senior US official said on Wednesday, despite some recent friction between the two Asian allies. "That close coordination sends

a very critical message to North Korea in that we are together and shoulder-to-shoulder in our approach to this policy," US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman told reporters after meeting the vice foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea.

The three-way talks were held in Tokyo despite frayed relations between

Japan and South Korea, laced with accusations of recriminations by both sides since Japan's 1910 annexation of Korea.

A new chapter of the historic rivalry that blew up in 2019 hit the neighbours and threatened to undermine their cooperation in the face of a common

Smart cards and robots



A smart robot used for the first time at the Grand Mosque

His fellow pilgrim Hazem Rihan, a 43-year-old veterinarian, had a similar experience at a previous hajj.

"Once I got lost in Mina and wasn't able to describe where I had been," he recounted. "All of the camps looked the same. I asked the organisers but they couldn't help me."

The plastic cards are available

in green, red, yellow and blue. The colours correspond to markings on the ground guiding pilgrims through the different stages of the Hajj.

The digital system also allows the authorities to guide the tens of thousands who attend the annual event, which in years past has at times been marred by deadly stampedes and accidents.



A Saudi member of staff scans a pilgrim's smart card

Pandemic-era pilgrimage

Each card contains basic information about each pilgrim including their registration number, exact location of their accommodation, mobile phone number and the ID number of their guide.

This year just 60,000 vacci-

First Crusade: Godfrey of Bouillon is elected the first Defender of the Holy Sepulchre of The Kingdom of Jerusalem

Warsaw Ghetto Jews (300,000) are sent to Treblinka Extermination Camp

Sarawak achieves independence from British colonial rule



Norway is the victim of twin terror attacks, the first a bomb blast targeting government buildings in central Oslo, second a massacre at a youth camp on island of Utøya

Province's



province, China

in a dozen cities of the province. "Flood prevention efforts have become very difficult," President Xi Jinping said in a statement broadcast by state television. Dozens of reservoirs and dams breached danger levels. Local authorities said the rainfall had caused a 20-metre breach in the Yihetan dam in the city of Luoyang west of Zhengzhou, and that the dam "could collapse at any time". In Zhengzhou itself, where about 100,000 people have been evacuated, the Guojiazui reservoir had been breached but there was no dam failure yet.

UNESCO strips England's Liverpool of world heritage status

AFP News

The English city of Liverpool has been removed from UNESCO's list of world heritage sites after the United Nations' cultural agency found new buildings, including a football stadium, undermined the attractiveness of its Victorian docks.

Liverpool was named a World Heritage Site in 2004, joining cultural landmarks such as the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The city is only the third place to be removed from the prestigious list.

After a vote in China by members of its World Heritage Committee, UNESCO said on Twitter that Liverpool should be deleted from the international cultural organisation's list.



The UN heritage body said years of development had caused "irreversible" damage to the historic value of the River Mersey waterfront.

Joanne Anderson, the Liverpool mayor, said the decision was "incomprehensible" and she hopes to appeal.

"I'm hugely disappointed and concerned by this decision to delete Liverpool's World Heritage status, which comes a

decade after UNESCO last visited the city to see it with their own eyes," she said. "We will be working with government to examine whether we can appeal."

The only other sites stripped previously of the title are a wildlife sanctuary in Oman in 2007



The heritage label gives historic sites access to UN conservation funding as well as featuring in tourist guidebooks across the world. The threat of being delisted has hung over Liverpool since 2012 after UNESCO warned that new buildings had changed the city's skyline and was destroying the heritage value of its waterfront.

after poaching and habitat loss and the Dresden Elbe valley in Germany in 2009 when a four-lane motorway bridge was built over the river.

Israel looking into NSO spyware allegations

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israel has set up a senior inter-ministerial team to look into growing allegations that spyware sold by an Israeli cyber firm has been abused on a global scale, an Israeli source said on Wednesday, while adding that an export review was unlikely.

The team is headed by Israel's National Security Council, which answers to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and has broader areas of expertise than the Defence Ministry, which oversees exports of NSO Group's Pegasus software, the source said. "This event is beyond the



Israeli cyber firm NSO Group's exhibition stand is seen at "ISDEF 2019", an international defence and homeland security expo, in Tel Aviv, Israel

Defence Ministry purview," the source said, referring to potential diplomatic blowback after prominent media reports this week of suspected abuses of Pegasus in France, Mexico, India, Morocco and Iraq.

On Wednesday, French Prime Minister Jean Castex said French President Emmanuel Macron had called for a series of investigations to be carried out into the Pegasus spyware case.

Macron's phone was on a list of potential targets for possible surveillance on behalf of Morocco in the Pegasus case, France's Le Monde newspaper said on Tuesday.

Message to N.Korea - US diplomat

largely a result of sides stemming from 1945 colonial dispute between Japan and the United States, which threatened to un- on security threat from

North Korea and its nuclear and missile programmes.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in recently decided not to visit the Tokyo Olympics, which open on Friday, for what would have been his first summit with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. Japan's vice foreign minister, Takeo Mori, said the trilateral

cooperation with the United States was crucial for the denuclearisation of North Korea.

"North Korea's next move is unpredictable," Mori said.

Choi Jung Kun, South Korea's vice foreign minister, described the North Korea nuclear issue as "a long game" that needed patience.



Japan's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Takeo Mori (C), South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman pose for photographs prior to their trilateral meeting in Tokyo

Notes: Saudi Arabia's 'digital Hajj'



Hajj card

nated Saudis and foreigners who reside in the kingdom have been permitted to participate in the pilgrimage.

In the last pre-covid Hajj, in 2019, some 2.5 million people participated.

This year, Hajj hopefuls had to apply online and obtain special permission.

"Things were completely dif-



A pilgrim prays in the bottom of Mount Arafat

ferent before, we got lost on our way for prayers or we arrived late... all of our efforts were in vain," said Ahmed Achour, an Egyptian pharmacist living in Jeddah.

"From the moment I submitted my Hajj request online, everything was smooth. I made the application, it was accept-



A man holds an umbrella over the head of his wife as she prays on Mount Arafat

ed, I paid and then I printed the authorisation."

This year's Hajj has been held against the backdrop of mounting concern about new variants of the coronavirus.

Saudi Arabia has reported more than 510,000 cases including 8,089 deaths.

'Keeping up with the times'

Amro al-Maddah, under-secretary at the Hajj ministry, said at the launch of the hajj cards that he expected "all transactions to be contactless" in the future, with the cards eventually serving as virtual wallets for payments. King Salman too lauded the

"digital Hajj system" during an address on state-run Al-Ekhbariya, saying it was intended "reduce the personnel required to deliver hajj while assuring the safety of pilgrims".

The pilgrimage, usually one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, was seen as a potential Covid super-spreader event and its organisation is a major logistical feat every year.

Deputy Hajj minister Abdulfattah bin Sulaiman Mashat said organisers had sought to "use technology to serve pilgrims".

This year instead of communal water dispensers, an army of robots was deployed to distribute sacred water to the faithful.

"Bottled zamzam water is much better. There are fewer people and there's no need to queue," Pakistani-American Aneela, 37, said.

Egyptian pilgrim Siam said the new technologies meant the hajj was "keeping up with the times".



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Eid Mubarak! Best Wishes on Eid-ul-Adha. May this day further the spirit of collective empathy, harmony and inclusivity in the service of greater good.

@narendramodi

02



20 July 2021 was also the hottest day on records at Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. With a maximum temperature of 40.6C, it beat its record of 40.5C set 3 years ago. In Russia, first 42C+ of 2021 with as much as 42.4C at Malye Derbety.

@GretaThunberg

03



@WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom "the world must unite to fight this pandemic. Only a fraction of what is spent on defence is required to fight Covid-19. Vaccine equity is the key. 70% of the global population must be vaccinated by June 2022" The 138th IOC Session .@Tokyo2020

@DrTedros

04



With the expanded Child Tax Credit, we're proving that democracy can deliver for the American people.

@JoeBiden

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

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THE DAILY **tribune**

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Pfizer/BioNTech to produce Covid-19 vaccine in S.Africa



Cape Town-based Biovac will complete the last step in the manufacturing process of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, known as "fill and finish"

AFP | Frankfurt

Covid-19 vaccine makers BioNTech and Pfizer yesterday said they had found a South African partner to produce their jab locally, the first such deal on the African continent.

The move comes amid growing criticism of vaccine inequality that has seen poor countries fall behind richer ones in the race to protect people from the coronavirus.

Under the agreement, Cape Town-based Biovac will complete the last step in the manufacturing process of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, known as "fill and finish", the companies said in a statement.

The project will take time to get off the ground however, with the first African-finished vaccines not expected before 2022.

Once up and running, Biovac is set to churn out more than 100 million doses annually that will be distributed to the 55 countries in the African Union.

"This is a critical step forward in strengthening sustainable access to a vaccine in the fight against this tragic, worldwide pandemic," said Biovac chief executive officer Morena Makhoana.

The "technical transfer, on-site development and equipment installation activities will begin immediately," the statement added.

The coronavirus vaccine developed by BioNTech and its US partner Pfizer, based on mRNA technology, was the first to be approved in the West late last year.

Studies have shown it is highly effective against Covid-19, including against newer and more contagious virus variants.

For the first time, Saudi women stand guard in Mecca during Hajj

Reuters | Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Inspired by her late father's career, Mona decided to join the military and the first group of Saudi women soldiers to work in Islam's holiest sites, where they are helping secure the Hajj annual pilgrimage.

Since April, dozens of female soldiers have become part of the security services that monitor pilgrims in Mecca and Medina, the birth places of Islam.

Dressed in a military khaki uniform, with a hip-length jacket, loose trousers and a black beret over a veil covering her hair, Mona spends her shifts roaming in the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

"I am following the steps of my late father to complete his journey, standing here at the Grand mosque in Mecca, the holiest place. To serve the wor-



A Saudi police female officer stands guard as pilgrims perform final Tawaf during the annual Haj pilgrimage, in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia

shippers is a very noble and honourable task," said Mona, who declined to give her family name.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has pushed through social and economic reforms as part of plans to mod-

ernise the kingdom and attract foreign investment under a diversification drive.

Under his reform plan, known as Vision 2030, the crown prince lifted a driving ban on women, allowed adult women to travel without permission from guardians and granted them more control over family matters.

Saudi Arabia has restricted the Hajj to its own citizens and residents for the second year in a row, barring millions of other pilgrims from abroad in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Samar, another soldier watching pilgrims near the Kaaba, a cube-shaped structure believed was built by Abraham, said she was encouraged by her family to join the military, after psychology studies.



I am following the steps of my late father to complete his journey, standing here at the Grand mosque in Mecca, the holiest place. To serve the worshippers is a very noble and honourable task

MONA

"This is a huge accomplishment for us and it is the biggest pride to be in the service of religion, the country and the guests of God, the most merciful," she said.

US life expectancy fell sharply due to Covid

AFP

Average US life expectancy fell by 1.5 years in 2020, a sharp decline driven by the Covid-19 pandemic affecting males and communities of color the most, new data showed Wednesday.

Life expectancy at birth for the total US population was 77.3 years, down from 78.8 in 2019, and the lowest it has been since 2003, said a report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The significant fall also bucks a trend of steady increase in the post-World War II period, albeit with small decreases in some years.

Among males, the figure was 74.5 years, a decrease of 1.8 years, and among females it was 80.2 years, a decline of 1.2 years.

"Mortality due to Covid-19 had, by far, the single greatest effect on the decline in life expectancy at birth between 2019 and 2020," the report said.

Deaths from unintentional injuries, homicides (more common among males), diabetes and liver disease also rose.



The declines were partly offset by decreases in mortality due to cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases and suicide.

Influenza, pneumonia and Alzheimer's-related deaths were also down for males, while for females, mortality from heart disease and stroke decreased. Among racial groups, life expectancy decreased by 3.0 years for the Hispanic population from 81.8 to 78.8, and by 2.9 years for the Black population, from 74.7 to 71.8 years.

The decline was least pronounced in the white population, where life expectancy fell

from 78.8 to 77.6 years.

The decrease in life expectancy was greatest for Hispanic males, falling by 3.7 years from 79.0 to 75.3, followed by Black males with a decline of 3.3 years, from 71.3 to 68.0.

Among Black females, the decline was 2.4 years, from 78.1 to 75.7 years.

"Among the causes contributing negatively to the change in life expectancy, Covid-19 contributed 90 percent for the Hispanic population, 67.9 percent for the non-Hispanic white population and 59.3 percent for the non-Hispanic black population," the report said.

More than 45,000 cases of 'black fungus'

AFP

India recorded more than 45,000 cases of the deadly "black fungus" over the last two months, the health ministry said, as a nationwide outbreak sweeps through Covid-19 patients.

The country's junior health minister Bharati Pravin Pawar told parliament on Tuesday that over 4,200 people had died of the fungus -- scientific name mucormycosis.

The infection was previously considered very rare but cases have ballooned during



the pandemic, usually striking patients after recovery from Covid-19.

It is a highly aggressive disease and surgeons have been forced to remove eyes, the nose and jaw from patients to stop it spreading to the brain.

The death rate is over 50%.

Water crisis protests continue in Iran

Reuters | Dubai

news outlets.

Street protests over water shortages in southwest Iran continued for a sixth night on Tuesday amid rising violence, while residents in the capital of Tehran chanted anti-government slogans, according to videos posted on social media on Wednesday and Iranian

Several videos uploaded by social media users showed security forces using teargas to disperse protesters, and the semi-official news agency Fars said "rioters" shot dead one policeman and injured another in the port city of Mahshahr in the Khuzestan province.

celebs

Anthony Mackie, David Harbour set to star in Netflix's 'We Have a Ghost'

ANI | Washington

Hollywood stars Anthony Mackie, David Harbour and Jahi Di'Allo Winston are set to star in Netflix's upcoming family adventure 'We Have a Ghost'.

According to Variety, the movie, written and directed by Christopher Landon, the film also stars Tig Notaro and Jennifer Coolidge.

Mackie and Harbour are both coming off of major Marvel moments, with Mackie officially assuming the mantle of Captain American in his Disney plus series 'The Falcon and the Winter Soldier' and Harbour stealing scenes in 'Black Widow' as Red Guardian. Winston is best known for his breakout roles in 'Charm City Kings' and 'Queen and Slim'.

Notaro was most recently seen in 'Army of the Dead' and 'Star Trek: Discovery', with Coolidge earning rave reviews for her performance in HBO's new limited series 'The White Lotus' and 'Promising

Young Woman'. 'We Have a Ghost' has been adapted from Geoff Managuh's short story 'Ernest', about a young man named Kevin (Winston) whose family finds a ghost named Ernest (Harbour) haunting their new home.

Discovering Ernest turns Kevin's family into overnight social media sensations. But when Kevin and Ernest go rogue to investigate the mystery of Ernest's past, they become a target of the CIA. Rounding out the movie's cast are Erica Ash, Isabella Russo, Nile Fitch, Faith Ford and Steve Coulter.

Anthony Mackie



Fox | Los Angeles

Adele is dating LeBron James' agent

It seems like pop star Adele has found her one and only.

A source tells us that the chanteuse is "100 percent" dating sports super-agent Rich Paul.

The pair were spotted sitting together at Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Saturday, sparking dating rumors.

"They are [definitely] dating," an insider

confirms to Page Six. Meanwhile, there are hints in the press that Paul and Adele, 33, may have been rolling in the deep as far back as May. In an article this summer in the New Yorker about how Paul — who is an agent for LeBron James, among other huge sports stars — is transforming the "business of basketball," Paul mentions that he has been "hanging out" with "a major pop star."

But he added in the article, which was published online on May 31, "I'm not dating, I'm single. Put that in the story."

Things seem to have changed. And at least one person in on the news was ESPN's Brian Windhorst, who referred to the "Someone Like You" singer as Paul's girlfriend when they sat together at Game 5.

"Rich Paul, [LeBron James'] agent, brings his girlfriend to



Adele

Candace Cameron Bure calls out her kids for having her blocked on social media

Fox | Los Angeles

Candace Cameron Bure called out her children for having her blocked from viewing her Instagram Stories.

Bure shared a video of herself explaining that her kids have her blocked, but said she can still see their Stories off of her work Instagram.

"I don't know why my kids block me on their Stories because I still see them on my other work Instagram," Bure said in the video.

"Thanks for blocking Mom."

Bure and her husband Valeri Bure share three children together; Natasha, 22, Lev, 21, and Maksim, 19.

"I'm not a regular mom," Bure captioned the post. "I'm not a cool mom either."

Bure previously revealed she has a faith-based dating requirement for her kids' significant others.

"When it comes down to it, I just want [their significant others] to love Jesus the way I love Jesus," Bure told Us magazine.



Candace Cameron Bure

Katherine Schwarzenegger opens up about premarital counseling with Chris Pratt

Fox | Los Angeles

Katherine Schwarzenegger is opening up about the work she and her husband Chris Pratt put into their marriage before exchanging nuptials.

"Before we got married in the Catholic Church, you have to do premarital counseling before you get married, and I was like, 'Oh, my God, what is that going to be like?'" the actress, 31, said during an appearance on the

their marriage had a real chance of success.

"When we had this experience of going to premarital counseling to get married in the Catholic Church it was such an amazing gift in our relationship ahead of getting married that we've definitely wanted to continue throughout our relationship and has been such a helpful thing to be able to have in our relationship of having that guidance," the author explained.

Dear Media "Meaning Full Living" podcast on Monday.

"It was the most amazing thing and just the most amazing gift," she continued, adding, "I know not everybody does [it], of course, because ... if they don't tell you you have to do it then why would you?"

The daughter of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver tied the knot with the Marvel star, 42, in June 2019 and honeymooned in Hawaii.

The author maintained that the guidance they received before saying their "I dos" was a needed foundation in ensuring

Schwarzenegger added: "Talking about things that maybe we wouldn't necessarily have talked about before getting married, talk about things that couples of 10 or 15 years still don't like to talk about with one another. Being prompted to talk about those things is also a really helpful thing to do early on," she explained.

"That I think helps us."

In terms of setting aside necessary time for each other, Schwarzenegger said she and the "Jurassic World" performer make it a priority to "carve out" opportunities for themselves.

"Making sure that you can carve out that time. And of course, there are days where it doesn't happen, and then we make sure we connect in a different

way," she said. "I also just remember growing up and watching my parents always be each other's biggest support system and biggest cheerleaders, and that was always something that I wanted with who I envisioned somebody that I marry; always wanting to have that same support system and that same dynamic."

Before we got married in the Catholic Church, you have to do premarital counseling before you get married, and I was like, 'Oh, my God, what is that going to be like?'

KATHERINE SCHWARZENEGGER



Shailene Woodley is in no rush to get married

IANs | Los Angeles

"Big Little Lies" actress Shailene Woodley, who confirmed her engagement to National Football League (NFL) star Aaron Rodgers in February, says she is in no rush to get married.

"There's no wedding planning happening. There's no rush. We've got no rush," Woodley told "Entertainment Tonight", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Shailene Woodley

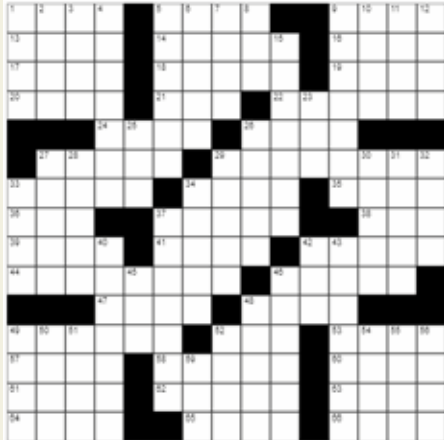
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3	9	2	7	5	8	4	6	1
7	1	5	6	2	4	8	3	9
4	3	8	9	7	1	5	2	6
9	2	6	3	8	5	7	1	4

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- Old German helmet; 5- Teheran's country; 9- Highway; 13- Met highlight; 14- Understand?; 16- Editor Wintour; 17- DEA agent; 18- Oneness; 19- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 20- Search; 21- Court fig; 22- Sell directly to the consumer; 24- Juniors, perhaps; 26- Having a sound mind; 27- Florida citrus center; 29- Portrayed; 33- ... having fun yet?; 34- Zoologist Fossey; 35- Hawaiian goose; 36- Transgression; 37- Answer; 38- "You've got mail" co.; 39- Mal de ...; 41- Gen. Robert ...; 42- "Our Gang" girl; 44- From a French region; 46- Destiny; 47- Cheerful; 48- Hide; 49- Grownups; 52- Still, in poetry; 53- Billy ... had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 57- Filmmaker Riefenstahl; 58- Complete reversal; 60- Han ... was a "Star Wars" character; 61- Miami's county; 62- Strange and mysterious; 63- Slightly open; 64- Get an ... effort; 65- Barbie, e.g.; 66- Not one;

Down

1- Gives a bad review; 2- Dies ...; 3- Grow weary; 4- Fine-toothed blade; 5- Large lizard; 6- Leases; 7- Arguing; 8- It may be picked; 9- Heavy napped woolen fabric; 10- Fit for service; 11- Against; 12- Writer Roald; 15- Unrestrained exercise of power; 23- Football lineman; 25- Corrida shout; 26- Bobby of the Black Panthers; 27- Bay window; 28- Some change; 29- Grow to maturity; 30- Give guns again; 31- ... Gay; 32- Boxer Oscar ... Hoya; 33- Charles Barker; 34- Postpone; 37- Publish again; 40- Prior; 42- Indian dish; 43- Craftsperson; 45- Small child; 46- Shelter for a dog; 48- Danger; 49- Pierce prayer; 50- Headless; 51- Take apart; 52- Escudo replacement; 54- Karate school; 55- Pearl Buck heroine; 56- Knowledge; 59- A Kennedy;

Yesterday's solution

ORSO	SLEDS	UNIT		
LIEU	CADRE	SONY		
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	REEL	MENU		
IDEAL	RESTLESS			
NAIVE	HELPS	SEC		
SIDE	AILEY	ASEA		
ERE	ARTIE	LEARN		
TYRANNIC	TRYST			
	ROOT	YOYO		
AGAIN	HAIRBALL			
LENS	SHELL	ILEA		
ANTE	ARETE	CLAW		
ITIS	CEDAR	SAPS		

US women thumped while Dutch score 10 in Olympic football

US women’s 44-game unbeaten run ended by Sweden in Tokyo opener

● **Netherlands women’s soccer blows out Zambia in historic win to open Olympics**

AFP | London

Gold medal favourites the United States began their bid for a fifth women’s Olympic football title with an embarrassing 3-0 loss to Sweden, while Team GB kicked off their campaign at the Tokyo Games by beating Chile yesterday and the Netherlands put 10 past fellow debutants Zambia.

The US have won four of six Olympic titles since women’s football was introduced to the programme in 1996, but suffered a heavy defeat by the same team that knocked them out on penalties in the quarter-finals in Rio.

Stina Blackstenius scored twice before substitute Lina Hurtig added a third for 2016 silver medallists Sweden at a game played in an empty Tokyo Stadium due to strict Covid-19 restrictions.

The loss ended a 44-match unbeaten run for the Americans dating back to the start of 2019. It was also only the second time they had lost a game in 90 minutes at the Olympics.

“They’re (Sweden) one of the best teams in the world,” said US forward Megan Rapinoe. “There’s really no time to dwell



Rose Lavelle of the United States in action with Caroline Seger of Sweden

or think about if Sweden is living in our heads or not. We’ve got another game in three days.”

The Dutch made history in Miyagi as Arsenal striker Vivianne Miedama scored four times in a remarkable 10-3 thumping of Zambia.

Lieke Martens netted twice, while Shanice van de Sanden, Jill Roord, Lineth Beerensteyn and Victoria Pevlova also got on the scoresheet.

It was the highest-scoring game in women’s Olympic history and the most scored by one team in a match, but Zambia avoided a record margin of defeat as Barbra Banda scored twice late on to secure a hat-trick.

The largest win remains Germany’s 8-0 thrashing of China in 2004.

In Sapporo, Great Britain won

their Group E opener 2-0, with Manchester City striker Ellen White scoring twice and having a goal disallowed by VAR for offside.

Hege Riise’s side are bidding to become the first British team to win an Olympic football medal.

“When you get into a competition, it’s really important you win that first game,” said Team GB captain Steph Houghton.

“There’s still a lot of stuff to improve on but three points on the board, we’re really pleased.”

Brazil star Marta bagged two goals in a 5-0 rout of China in Group F, meaning she has now scored in five straight Olympics.

Debinha scored in between Marta’s brace before a late Andressa penalty and Beatriz strike completed a comprehensive victory in Rifu.

” It’s obvious we put ourselves in a big hole, but we’re the only ones who can get ourselves out of it

US COACH VLATKO ANDONOVSKI

In the other Group E game, hosts Japan rescued a 1-1 draw with Canada as Aston Villa’s Mana Iwabuchi scored an 84th-minute equaliser.

Christine Sinclair had put the Canadians in front, marking her 300th appearance for her country with a record-extending 187th international goal.

Australia sit second in the early Group D table behind Sweden after Sam Kerr found the net in a 2-1 victory over New Zealand.

Several teams take a knee

Players from the US, Sweden, Team GB and Chile all took a knee before kick-off to highlight racial injustice.

“As players in Great Britain we’ve been taking the knee in club and international matches and we felt strongly as a group that we wanted to show support for those affected by discrimination and equality,” said Houghton.

“It was a proud moment because the Chile players took the knee too to show how united we are as sport.”

New Zealand did the same ahead of their game against Aus-

BETTER YOU KNOW

The match was personal for Team USA: The Swedes knocked the four-time World Cup winners out of the tournament on penalties in the quarter-finals in 2016

Sri Lanka coach says spat with captain was ‘good debate’



Mickey Arthur Dasun Shanaka
AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka coach Mickey Arthur yesterday brushed off suggestions that he berated skipper Dasun Shanaka in front of cameras after they lost a one-day series to India.

India passed Sri Lanka’s 275-9 with five balls to spare in Colombo on Tuesday to record a win that gave them a 2-0 lead in the three-game series.

Sri Lanka’s South African coach was seen sharing heated words with Shanaka and gesturing at the captain on the field after the game they lost by three wickets.

He appeared to indicate that Shanaka should go with him off the field but the captain did not budge while Arthur walked away, in a video widely shared on social media.

“It was actually a very good debate, no need to make mischief out of it,” Arthur said on Twitter responding to match commentator Russel Arnold’s comment that the exchange should have been held in the dressing room.

Hamilton ‘did nothing wrong’ in Verstappen move, says Mercedes tech chief



Lewis Hamilton
AFP | London

Lewis Hamilton’s controversial first-lap move on world championship rival Max Verstappen at the British Grand Prix was “absolutely in line with the overtaking guide”, his Mercedes team insisted yesterday.

Verstappen accused seven-time world champion Hamilton of being “dangerous, disrespectful and un-sportsmanlike” following their collision at Silverstone on Sunday.

Red Bull’s Verstappen had to retire from the race while Hamilton went on to win, slashing the Dutchman’s lead in the championship from 33 points to just eight.

“As far as we are concerned, the manoeuvre that took place, the manoeuvre that Lewis did, was absolutely in line with the FIA’s overtaking guide,” said Mercedes technical chief James Allison.

Bahrain Olympic football team set for Kuwait test



A group of Bahrain’s Olympic team players at their camp

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s under-23 Olympic football team take on their counterparts from Kuwait today in an international friendly match to be played at their ongoing overseas training camp in Istanbul.

The game is set to be the second of three warm-up matches at their camp, which continues until Tuesday next week.

The nationals have continued to train daily under the supervision of Olympic team head coach Ismail Karami.

They had earlier won their first friendly against local club Beykoz 5-1 on Monday. Today’s game will be followed by another friendly, also against Kuwait, on Monday next week.

Bahrain’s under-23s are cur-

rently training with 28 players in Istanbul. They are Ahmed Al Sherooqi, Ali Muftah, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Faisal Abdulla, Faisal Hassan Habib, Ammar Mohammed, Omar Abdulbasit, Younis Mousa, Adnan Fawaz, Abdulla Al Haiki, Abdulrahman Sayed, Ali Khalifa, Hussain Al Attar, Hussain Abdulkarim, Abdulla Freah, Ebrahim Shareeda, Mohamed Marhoon, Hamza Abdulla, Ali Al Dosari, Sayed Mohammed Amin, Hassan Issa, Fahad Jassim, Mohammed Ahmed, Ziyad Basil, Hussain Tawfiq, Hamad Fouad, Hamza Al Jabne and Abdulla Nimer.

The Bahrainis are preparing for upcoming competitions, mainly the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, which takes place in October.

Said Maalem says Fakhreddine has personal issues with other Arab fighters: ‘Especially Algerians’

TDT | Manama

Brave CF 52’s main event just got a lot more personal for both Mohamed Said Maalem and Mohammad Fakhreddine. The protagonists of the historical fight night have been trading shots since their proposed bout fell through and Said Maalem has taken up a notch again by accusing Fakhreddine of having personal issues with other arab fighters.

Speaking in the Road to Brave CF 52 series that will drop next week, Said Maalem gave his overall impressions of his adversary turned arch-enemy and shared that he felt Fakhreddine behaves differently when he faces an Arab fighter as opposed to other athletes, such as Russians, and said “The Latest” especially has issues with Algerian fighters, remembering Fakhro’s rivalry with Tahir Hadbi.

“Fakhreddine is very disrespectful, regardless of family, country, or anything, as a person he is not polite and is cocky and obnoxious. This isn’t the first time he does this to an arab fighter, he fights with foreigners and Russians and acts like the respectful well-raised fighter, but when he fights an Arab or Algerian, especially Algerian, he disrespects them and loves to act like he is much



Mohamed Said Maalem

”

To me, he’s a silly individual who went out of his way to curse, I don’t curse. To me, he is silly and has mental issues

MOHAMED SAID MAALEM

better, scarier opponent who scares everyone. When even a fly isn’t scared of him”, said Said Maalem, who went as far as to accuse Fakhreddine of

having mental issues.

“To me, he’s a silly individual who went out of his way to curse, I don’t curse. To me, he is silly and has mental issues.”

Brave CF 52: Bad Blood goes down on August 1st in association with The Golden Cage. In the main event, reigning Middleweight champion Mohammad Fakhreddine takes centre stage as he looks to become a two-division titleholder when he takes on top contender Mohamed Said Maalem for the vacant Brave Combat Federation Light Heavyweight championship of the world.

Brisbane awarded 2032 Olympics

Brisbane to be third Australian city to host Olympic Games

● The Australian city was unanimously proposed as the single candidate for 2032 by the International Olympic Committee's 15-strong executive board in June

AFP | Tokyo

Brisbane was awarded the 2032 Olympics yesterday, triggering wild celebrations and fireworks as it became the third Australian city to host the Summer Games after Melbourne and Sydney.

International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach confirmed the widely expected result after delegates voted 72 to five with three abstentions at the IOC session in Tokyo.

"The International Olympic Committee has the honour to announce that the Games of the 35th Olympiad are awarded to Brisbane, Australia," Bach said.

The announcement was greeted by cheers from the Australian delegates in Tokyo, while in Brisbane fireworks lit up the skies and crowds who had gathered for the vote went wild.

Brisbane's victory looked a certainty after it was unanimously proposed as the single candidate for 2032 by the IOC's 15-strong executive board in June.

"I'm so excited -- I have so much pride for my state, for my people. Never in my lifetime did I think that this was going to happen," said Queensland state premier Anna Palaszczuk.

"We've done it, Queensland! We've done it, Brisbane! This is fantastic, this is amazing -- to-



People gathered at the river-side South Bank yesterday to celebrate Brisbane's winning bid

night is your night, enjoy."

Australia has already hosted the Olympics twice, in Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000, widely considered one of the most successful Games in recent history.

Hundreds of people packed Brisbane's Southbank riverside precinct for the announcement, watching the city's final pitch to the IOC on a big screen.

Rhys Cush, 24, one of those in the masked-up crowd, said he hoped to work at the 2032 Olympics and also attend as a spectator.

"I'm an extremely big fan. I even watched the softball this morning," he told AFP. "I'm super excited about having the Olympics coming here."

Lauren Granger, 42, said she hoped the 2032 Olympics would recreate the buzz of Sydney's successful 2000 Games.

"We flew down to Sydney and we were at the Olympics and it was just such a great experience for our family," she said.

"That was 20 years ago so we'd love to be able to relive that in

2032 with our kids."

'Historic day'

Home to about 2.3 million people and bookended by shimmering coastal sands, Brisbane is seen as more laid-back and less cosmopolitan than Australia's sprawling southern cities.

Venues will be spread across Brisbane and nearby towns in Queensland state, including the Gold Coast which hosted the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

There are hopes the Olympics will boost Brisbane's profile, making it more attractive to tourists who tend to use it as a jumping-off point for attractions like the Great Barrier Reef.

A report in The Australian newspaper said the Games will cost Au\$5bn, with the opening and closing ceremonies taking place at a redeveloped Gabba cricket ground.

"It's a historic day not just for Brisbane and Queensland, but for the entire country," said Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

"Only global cities can secure the Olympic Games, so this is



President of the IOC Thomas Bach announces Brisbane as the 2032 Summer Olympics host city



Australia becomes only the second country in the world, after the United States, to stage summer Olympic Games in three different cities

fitting recognition for Brisbane's standing across our region and the world."

The decision means the IOC has now secured hosts for the next three Summer Olympics, with Paris holding the event in 2024 and Los Angeles organising the 2028 Games.

The awarding of the 2032 Olympics was the first to take place with a new election method adopted in June 2019 in an attempt to counter application fees and a lack of serious bids.

Brazil's Formiga makes record seventh appearance at Olympic Games



Brazil's Formiga in action with England's Lucy Bronze

AFP | Tokyo

Brazil's 43-year-old Formiga wrote her name into the record books as the first women's football player to take part in seven Olympic Games when she took the field against China in yesterday's group opener at the Miyagi Stadium in Rifu.

Formiga, who made her Brazil debut at the 1995 World Cup as a 17-year-old, has played in every Olympic

tournament since women's football made its debut at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

The Sao Paulo midfielder is looking to finish her career with an elusive gold medal having won the silver in 2004 and 2008, while the 2016 Games in Rio ended in heartbreak when the home team lost their semi-final and the bronze medal match.

Brazil are in Group G along with China, Zambia and the Netherlands.

Britain's Hill out of Games due to COVID-19 positive



Britain's Amber Hill celebrates second place in the Women's Skeet Final

AFP | Tokyo

Britain's world number one shooter Amber Hill withdrew from the Tokyo Olympics on Wednesday after she tested positive for COVID-19 before departure, Team GB said in a statement.

Hill, who was due to compete in Olympic Skeet, said she was devastated.

"There are no words to describe how I'm feeling right now," said the 23-year-old, who was a finalist at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

"After five years of training

and preparation, I'm absolutely devastated to say that last night I received a positive COVID-19 test, meaning I've had to withdraw from Team GB's shooting team.

"I will be back from this, but right now I need some time to reflect and take in what has happened."

Team GB said no replacement would be selected.

Hill, a silver medalist at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, was the most experienced athlete on the British shooting team.

Tokyo Games more relevant than ever, says Murray

AFP | Tokyo

Reigning champion and twice tennis gold medallist Andy Murray says an Olympics amid the COVID-19 pandemic is more relevant than ever, and that the Tokyo Games can provide hope for those who have suffered during the last 18 months.

The 2020 Games, postponed from last year, start in earnest with Friday's Opening Ceremony, and participants are set to compete at empty venues to minimise the risk of infections.

"The Games are the biggest competition in the world and as athletes we train hard for moments like this," Murray said in comments emailed to Reuters.

"Tokyo 2020 in 2021 is unique, falling during the pandemic and we have seen incredible resilience from athletes, fans and all those involved in making this happen.

"In so many ways, right now it's more important than ever that people around the world get to reconnect to the raw emotion of sport, watch incredible performances and celebrate the achievement of athletes coming from around the world."

The 34-year-old Murray has been working his way back to full fitness following hip-resur-



Andy Murray of Britain during training facing surgery in 2019.

Defending gold

He is excited at the prospect of defending his Olympics title for a second time having won men's singles gold at London 2012 and again in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

"Leading Team GB at the Opening Ceremony in Rio was one of the highlights of my career, and winning in 2012 on home ground was an incredible moment," he said.

"Overcoming barriers and difficulties is what defines competing at this level, the ups and the downs.

"For those that are still experiencing the worst of the pandemic and others that have lost so much over the last year, this Games can be a beacon of hope."

Tokyo will be Murray's fourth Games, and the Scot is not giving up hope of adding to his medals, which also include a mixed doubles silver from London.

"My goal is to try and win a medal. Ideally a gold one for my country," he said.

"I know first-hand the impact that playing sport for a career has on your body. I know how difficult and frustrating that journey can be. I know the heartbreak of missing a major



The Games are the biggest competition in the world and as athletes we train hard for moments like this

ANDY MURRAY

tournament and the journey of recovery."

Swiss Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal are among a host of big names in tennis who have skipped the Tokyo Games, which is being held under strict health protocols to curb the spread of the virus.

"There are many athletes for whom 2020 should have been a crowning achievement, who will now not even make the rescheduled Games this summer. I truly feel for them," Murray added.

"It's no secret how much the fans support means to me and I have great sympathy for the crowds who won't be able to be there in person."

Olympic and Japanese officials have continued with the Games despite opposition from the citizens in the country to hosting more than 11,000 athletes, staff and media.

Borodin out of Games after testing positive for coronavirus

AFP | Tokyo

Swimmer Ilya Borodin will miss the Tokyo Olympics after testing positive for COVID-19, the Russian Swimming Federation said on Wednesday.

The 18-year-old, the 2020 European champion in the men's 400 metre individual medley, tested positive for the

coronavirus during a training camp in the city of Vladivostok in the far east of Russia before departing for Japan.

"Ilya Borodin, a European champion and one of the leaders on the Olympic team, tested positive for COVID-19, meaning he will not take part in the Tokyo Olympics," the Russian Swimming Federation said in a statement.

Team Bahrain



Bahrain's Olympics mission chief arrives in Tokyo

Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa reaches Japanese capital ahead of official start to Games tomorrow

● HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa received by officials upon arrival for Tokyo Olympics

● Bahrain Olympic Committee secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf visits national handball team's training

TDT | Manama

The head of Bahrain's mission at the Tokyo Olympics arrived yesterday at the Japanese capital ahead of the highly anticipated start to the Games of the XXXII Olympiad.

Bahrain Olympic Committee



BOC secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf, centre, speaks with members of Bahrain's national handball team

vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa was received upon reaching the event's host city by officials.

The Olympics are scheduled to officially get underway to-

morrow with the opening ceremony, which, according to reports, will be a scaled-down, "sobering" show.

"It will be a much more sobering ceremony; nevertheless, with beautiful Japanese aesthet-

ics," said the Tokyo ceremonies executive producer's senior advisor Marco Balich. "Very Japanese but also in sync with the sentiment of today, the reality.

"We have to do our best to complete this unique and hope-

fully the only one of its kind Olympics."

Bahrain will be one of over 200 delegations participating in the ceremonial Parade of Nations, although the activity will be smaller with strict social-distancing protocols.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 2pm, Bahrain time.

Meanwhile, also yesterday, BOC secretary general and deputy head of the Bahrain mission at the Tokyo Olympic Games Mohammed Al Nusuf visited the training of the Kingdom's men's national handball team at the Japanese capital.

Al Nusuf conveyed the greetings of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy president, General Sports Authority charman and BOC president HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Bahrain are taking part in five sports at these Games, including handball, athletics, swimming, shooting and boxing.

All the participating athletes continued their preparations for the start of action, both those who are already in Japan and others who have yet to make the trip.

Tokyo marks Bahrain's 10th participation in the Summer Olympics.

Bahrain have won three Olympic medals in the past, including two gold and one silver. The gold medals were claimed by Maryam Yusuf Jamal at the London Olympics in 2012 for the Women's 1,500m and Ruth Jebet at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016 for the Women's 3,000m Steeplechase. That same year, Eunice Kirwa claimed the Women's Marathon silver medal.



تم الافتتاح

NOW OPEN

Our 15th Outlet in the Kingdom Of Bahrain

Busaiteen (Alsayah Square)

Promotion Period : 22nd to 25th July 2021

ONE DAY OFFERS - 22nd July

عروض ليوم واحد - ٢٢ يوليو

Many More One Day Offers Available at Mega Mart Busaiteen Outlet.



مكواة بخار أوبتيما
OPTIMA STEAM IRON 2200W
#SI2200

٤,٩٩٠
BD 4.990
قبل 10.490
WAS ١,٤٩٠



مناديل للوجه فاين كلاسيك 4+1
منديل مزدوج
FINE CLASSIC FACIAL TISSUE
4+1X200X2 PLY

١,٢٩٥
BD 1.295
قبل 2.155
WAS ٢,١٥٥



أرز بسمتي جودنس فودز ٥ كغم
GOODNESS FOODS PAKISTANI
BASMATI RICE 5 KG

١,٩٩٥
BD 1.995
قبل 3.500
WAS ٣,٥٠٠



حليب نور طويل الأمد ١x٦ لتر
NOOR UHT MILK 6 X1 LTR

١,٧٥٠
BD 1.750
قبل 2.500
WAS ٢,٥٠٠



بيض أبيض سي بي ٣٠ حبة
CP WHITE EGGS 30'S

٠,٨٩٥
BD 0.895
قبل 1.300
WAS ١,٣٠٠



لحم غنم باكستاني للكيلو
PAKISTAN MUTTON PER KG

٢,٧٩٥
BD 2.795
قبل 3.595
WAS ٣,٥٩٥



بصل للكيلو
ONION PER KG

٠,١٠٠
BD 0.100
قبل 0.295
WAS ٠,٢٩٥



موز للكيلو
BANANA PER KG

٠,٢٩٥
BD 0.295
قبل 0.590
WAS ٠,٥٩٠