

Ricciardo, Norris upbeat for 'home race'

McLaren's all-new driver pairing hopes to build on the team's momentum this weekend with Bahrain Grand Prix 2021 at BIC | P 12

WORLD 6 Second mass shooting in a week

Jamie Foxx to star in Mike Tyson biopic series

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BUSINESS

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Takaful announces 5% cash dividend

HRH Prince Salman meets with outgoing Japanese Ambassador



HRH Prince Salman during his online meeting with the Japanese Ambassador

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday remotely met outgoing Japan Ambassador Hideki Ito.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted

the strength of bilateral ties between Bahrain and Japan and the importance of advancing cooperation across various sectors.

He commended the Ambassador's efforts in boosting bilateral relations, and wished him every success in his future endeavours.



Regional and international issues of common interest were also discussed.

Ito thanked HRH Prince Salman for his support during his time in the Kingdom.



Last update - 9:00 pm
23 March 2021

Individuals vaccinated

(First dose)

4 3 9 4 3 3

(Second dose)

2 4 0 6 4 8

Seize opportunity for peace

Saudi initiative will give Yemen a 'realistic chance' to end more than six years of conflict: UN chief



Bahrain rates 'affordable and competitive'

P4

● **Yemeni government, local officials and displaced people welcome the Saudi proposal**

New York

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday praised the new Saudi peace initiative designed to end the war in Yemen and restart the political process in the country.

Likewise, the Yemeni government, local officials and displaced people welcomed the Saudi peace offering, and called on the Houthis to accept it and end more than six years of conflict.

Yemen's Foreign Ministry said the Saudi plan is "compatible with" the government's repeated calls for peace and an end to the suffering of the Yemeni people. It blamed the Iran-backed Houthis for the failure of previous peace plans.

The latest Saudi peace initiative was announced in Riyadh on Monday by Prince Faisal bin Farhan, the Kingdom's foreign minister.

It calls for a UN-supervised na-



It's time to end the conflict and suffering of the Yemeni people

tionwide ceasefire, the reopening of Sanaa airport to civilian air traffic, and the resumption of negotiations to reach a political resolution to the conflict.

In a statement issued through his deputy spokesman, Farhan Haq, Guterres thanked the Kingdom for its support of UN peace efforts.

"The secretary-general welcomes all steps aimed at bring-

ing the parties closer to a resolution in line with the efforts by his special envoy, Martin Griffiths, to secure a nationwide ceasefire, the re-opening of Sanaa airport, the regular flow of fuel and other commodities into Yemen through Hodeidah port, and move to an inclusive political process to reach a comprehensive negotiated settlement to end the conflict," Haq said.

"As the conflict in Yemen enters its seventh year, Yemenis continue to face a dire humanitarian situation, including the prospect of a large-scale famine, while a significant funding gap remains.

"Underlining that the needs of the Yemeni people must be put above any other considerations, the secretary-general calls for fuel ships to be urgently allowed into the port of Hodeidah and

for the removal of obstacles to domestic distribution."

The UN chief urged all sides to take this opportunity to pursue peace and work with Griffiths on ways to proceed "in good faith and without preconditions."

He reiterated that "all actors and stakeholders must do their utmost to facilitate an immediate agreement that brings Yemen back to a path toward peace."



"All actors and stakeholders must do their utmost to facilitate an immediate agreement that brings Yemen back to a path toward peace."

- UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES

'Terrorist' held in London

London

London police arrested a man on suspicion of explosive substance and terrorism offences, the Metropolitan Police said yesterday.

A 53-year old man was detained on Monday on suspicion of possessing an explosive substance.

Iraq requests new round of talks with US over troop withdrawal

AP | Baghdad

Iraq has sent a formal request to President Joe Biden's administration for a date to resume strategic talks on bilateral relations and the withdrawal of remaining US combat forces, Iraqi officials said yesterday.

The talks, which began in June under the Trump administration, would be the first un-

der Biden, who assumed office in January. The discussions are meant to shape the future of the US-Iraq relationship.

Relations between the two countries have been fraught with tension, particularly following the US airstrike in January 2020 that killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis just outside the

Baghdad airport.

Outraged, Iraqi lawmakers, spurred by Shiite political factions, passed a non-binding resolution to oust US-led coalition forces from the country following the attack.

Relations have improved since Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi took over the helm of Iraq's government in May. But some parties, notably parlia-

ment's Iran-backed Fatah bloc, continue to call for the withdrawal of US forces.

So far, two sessions of strategic talks have been held — in June and August. Among the issues on the agenda laid out ahead of the talks were the presence of US troops in the country, militia groups acting outside of state authority and Iraq's dire economic crisis.

The US blames Iran-backed Shiite Iraqi militias for numerous attacks targeting US personnel and interests in Iraq.

According to three government officials, Iraq recently sent an official memo to the US requesting a date for a new round of discussions on bilateral relations and specifically, the withdrawal of remaining combat forces.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED
3446516

ACTIVE CASES
7202

DEATHS
503

DISCHARGED
129845

NEW CASES
809

210 fils (includes VAT)



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Focus on sustainable energy development

Two-day International Sustainable Energy Event 2021 forum kicks off remotely

● Event held under the patronage of Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) President Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza

TDT | Manama

The 2nd annual International Sustainable Energy Event (ISEE 2021) and associated exhibition kicked off remotely yesterday under the patronage of Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) President Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza. The forum, organised by Bahrain Society of Engineers and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bahrain, was held virtually this year in tune with the national efforts to curtail the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and maintain continuity of the development march.

The two-day event aims to support the national efforts to



Dr Mirza meets the participants online

further develop the sustainable energy sector in the kingdom which has become a key player in promoting its standing on the world development map in terms of achieving the UN sustainable development goals, handling climate change and boosting the concept of sustainability at all development levels, including the energy one.

Dr Mirza commended the unlimited support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the energy sector, pointing out the kingdom's strides in implementing the national plans for renewable

energy and energy competence. Held under the slogan "Sustainability for a Brighter Future", the virtual forum kick-started with a speech by Dr Mirza in which he shed light on the main global developments to ensure sustainability of energy resources.

He pointed out Bahrain's keenness on diversifying its energy resources through a combination between fossil energy and the renewable one. He also stressed the kingdom's endeavour to cut down the cost of electricity and water for citizens by availing of renewable energy and boosting energy competence.

Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) Chief Executive

Shaikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa participated as a keynote speaker.

Addressing the audience, he highlighted EWA's strategies and their compatibility with the national efforts to achieve sustainability of energy resources and their coping with the international context.

Bahrain Society of Engineers President Dr Dhia Tawfiqi stressed in his speech compatibility of ISEE 2021 with the issue adopted by UNESCO marking the World Engineering Day 2021 which is observed on March 4. He pointed out that the theme chosen for 2021 focuses on engineering in backing the UN sustainable development goals.

Mirza meets CNECC representative to discuss renewable energy projects



Dr Mirza, centre, with Xing, right, and Abdulla TDT | Manama

Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) President Dr Abdulhussain Bin Ali Mirza held a meeting with China National Electric Engineering Co., Ltd. (CNECC) Chief Representative Senior Engineer Xing Bo in his office at the Bahrain Financial Harbour.

Xing was accompanied by Abdul Jalil Abdulla, Director and CEO of The Daily Tribune.

The meeting was called in by CNECC to illustrate their expression of interest in participation in SEA renewable energy projects with the aim to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Kingdom.

CNECC is a solar development company with a proven track record of engineer, build, own, operate and maintenance of solar power solutions for



CNECC is a solar development company with a proven track record of engineer, build, own, operate and maintenance of solar power solutions for all renewable energy types of projects.

all renewable energy types of projects.

Dr Mirza thanked everyone for their participation and encouraged a successful relationship in the execution of renewable projects.

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BDF Chief-of-Staff receives Jordanian military attache



BDF Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi received Jordanian Military Attache Brigadier General Pilot Mohammad Ali Al Samadi. The meeting discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, especially in the military and defense sectors. The chief-of-staff expressed his appreciation for the attaché's role in strengthening military cooperation, praising the existing strong relations that bind the two countries.

Bahrain condemns deadly terrorist attack in Niger

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on three villages in the Tillaberi region of Niger, which resulted in the death of dozens of innocent civilians.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the government and people of Niger, denouncing this heinous crime that contradicts all moral, religious and human principles and values.

The Ministry affirmed solidarity of Bahrain with Niger in its war on terrorism, reiterating its steadfast position that rejects all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism. It also called for concerted efforts to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and eradicate it entirely.

BACA President receives Azerbaijan Ambassador



Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) President Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa received Riyadh-based Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Bahrain, Shahin bin Shaker Abdullayev. She briefed the Ambassador about 2021 BACA plans and programmes, being implemented under the theme "Pearl Path: A Testament to the Economy of an Island", featured on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites. She highlighted ongoing preparations to attend and promote cultural and intangible heritage at Expo 2020 Dubai, adding that BACA events are held in compliance with mandatory precautionary measures for combating the pandemic. The Ambassador commended BACA achievements, stressing his country's keen interest to support joint cultural activities to build bridges between the two countries.

Bilateral investment cooperation discussed



Al Zayani



Torres

● Industry Minister holds phone call with Portuguese Secretary of State for Trade

TDT | Manama

Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani yesterday held a phone call with the Portuguese Secretary of State for Trade, Services and Consumer Protection, Joao Torres.

The two sides discussed the frameworks of bilateral invest-

ment cooperation, and the new opportunities to broaden the scope of the existing partnership in order to serve the two friendly countries' strategic policies and visions.

They also discussed the new phase of the negotiations on the free trade agreement between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), under the chairmanship of Bahrain (the president of the current session), and the European Union (EU), chaired by Portugal, in addition to topics of mutual concern and ways to increase the volume of bilateral investments.

A 'constant support' for entrepreneurship hailed

HRH Prince Salman's directives to regulate online selling lauded by Industry Minister and BCCI chief

● Bahrainis who are into this kind of business are provided with all kinds of facilities

TDT | Manama

The directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to regulate online selling and support Bahrainis engaged in this business were met with a collective nod of approval from key officials in the government.

Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani expressed sincere thanks to HRH Prince Salman for his constant support for all sectors, particularly entrepreneurship, through keenness to provide all kinds of facilities to entrepreneurs.

This came as Al Zayani yester-



Industry Ministry and BCCI officials during the meeting

day held a meeting with Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Chairman Sameer Abulla Nass, in the presence of senior officials from the Ministry and BCCI.

The Minister cited HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister's directives to offer online sellers two regulation options: 'Khatwa', offered free of charge to families registered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, or virtual com-

mercial registration via 'Sijili', which is a commercial registration that allows individuals to practise certain business activities without having to register an office address.

'Sijili' also grants the beneficiaries access to financial packages, including Tamkeen's Business Continuity Programme, and competitive financial schemes.

Al Zayani said this proves HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister's close follow-up on

everything related to the citizens and residents, adding that the directives are guidelines for the government officials' daily work.

The Minister stressed the Industry Ministry's keenness to implement HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister's directives, and to coordinate with BCCI, the Labour and Social Development Ministry and other relevant entities to protect all parties, particularly consumers, in addition to devising future plans to deal with any potential circumstances that the country may go through.

The BCCI head underlined the importance of HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister's directives to the government to cooperate with BCCI on everything aimed at stimulating economic growth and supporting the commercial and industrial sectors so that the progress march witnessed by the kingdom at all levels continues.

Interior Ministry Undersecretary participates in preparatory meeting



Interior Ministry Undersecretary Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa led Bahrain's delegation in the virtual preparatory meeting for the 38th session of the Arab Interior Ministers Council. The meeting covered security issues which will be discussed at the meeting of Arab Interior Ministers to reinforce Arab security operations.

Gulf Air conducts emergency drill

● Equipping the company staff to handle any emergency situation in a timely, safe and responsible manner

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, Bahrain's national carrier, has successfully conducted a company-wide emergency drill at the airline's headquarters using virtual resources to connect all stakeholders on and off site at the same time.

This came as part of its ongoing commitment to ensure that the company's staff are equipped to handle any emergency situation in a timely, safe and responsible manner.



The online discussion in progress

The drill's objective was to conduct the standard processes and procedures virtually in compliance with the current situation.

The planned emergency drill, performed at the airline's headquarters in coordination with the Emergency Response department, served as a refresher to Gulf Air employees for emergency preparedness

and equip them in the event that an actual emergency situation is in place.

The drill aimed to assess the adequacy of plans and procedures in the event of an emergency and its successful and seamless completion provided Gulf Air staff with a valuable opportunity to learn and enhance their emergency preparedness level.

Inmate tests positive for coronavirus

● Health measures immediately implemented to contain the spread of virus

● The Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre building and clinic were disinfected

TDT | Manama

The General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation yesterday said that the periodic COVID-19 tests on inmates and employees revealed one positive case at the Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre in Jau.

The required health measures were taken immediately, including providing healthcare to the infected case at the field hospital allocated for such purpose.

Those in contact were listed and tested, and the results of two of them was positive. All those on the list and are free from the virus were quarantined, and the building and the clinic were disinfected.

The General Directorate highlighted its keenness on protecting the health and safety of all inmates by following precautionary measures to limit the spread of the virus as per the rules of the information and rehabilitation organisations law and security and safety conditions.

Red Crescent Society distributes Ramadan aid

● Project will continue for the next 10 days

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) began distributing aid for the coming Holy Month of Ramadan to more than 4,000 families distributed over 73 cities and villages in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The distribution process continues for the next 10 days, each day of which is allocated to a number of close areas according to a specific schedule.

BRCS Secretary-General Mubarak Al Athey said that the society has taken all precautionary measures to ensure the smooth and easy distribution of aid to the beneficiaries



BRCS members and volunteers take part in the aid programme



The BRCS called on companies, institutions and philanthropists, as well as citizens and residents, to help make the aid programme successful just like last year by giving donations.

amidst strict implementation of the precautionary measures against the coronavirus (COVID-19). Small teams work on different periods of the day.

He expressed his thanks to the volunteers and BRCS members, especially in the services com-

mittee for their tireless work to meet the needs of the people.

The BRCS called on companies, institutions and philanthropists, as well as citizens and residents, to help make the aid programme successful just like last year by giving donations.

Affordable and competitive rates

Fixed mobile broadband prices in Bahrain are lowest in the region, according to TRA report

● The decrease on prices of fixed broadband in Bahrain is attributable to a number of TRA's strategic projects

● The regulatory framework it adopted and its competition-building initiatives continue to achieve more benefits for users

TDT | Manama

Fixed mobile broadband prices in Bahrain are the lowest among GCC and Arab countries.

With regard to mobile services, telecom operators in Bahrain offer competitive prices at the GCC and Arab level, specifically in high-usage packages.

These were among the findings of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain which has published its 2020 Arab Telecommunications Retail Price Benchmarking Report.

According to the report, prices of fixed broadband in Bahrain



The number of Internet users in Bahrain is increasing

“TRA continues to support and foster competition in the telecommunications sector, as it keeps abreast of all economic developments and the latest global technologies in order to achieve more benefits for users.”

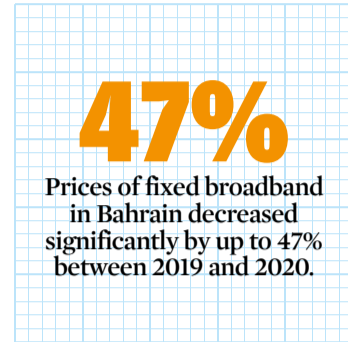
- SHAIKH NASSER BIN MOHAMED AL KHALIFA, TRA'S ACTING GENERAL DIRECTOR

for users.

In accordance to the latest market data, the broadband penetration rate by the end of 2020 reached 137%, whereas Internet data usage in 2020 compared to 2019 increased by 93%.

Due to ease of accessibility at affordable prices of internet services for citizens and residents of Bahrain, 99% of users in the Kingdom are Internet users. According to the International Telecommunication Union's data for the year 2019, Bahrain ranks first globally in the percentage of Internet users.

Commenting on this, TRA's Acting General Director Shaikh Nasser bin Mohamed Al Khalifa said: “TRA continues to support



and foster competition in the telecommunications sector, as it keeps abreast of all economic developments and the latest global technologies in order to achieve more benefits for users.

“Following the completion of

Batelco separation process and establishment of the National Broadband Network, TRA focused on the implementation of the Fifth National Telecommunications Plan (NTP5), which sheds light on several aspects, including access to fixed broadband using fiber-optics and 5G services for consumers in the Kingdom, in addition to improving the average data download speeds in order to meet accelerated consumer preferences.

“Through these initiatives, TRA seeks to achieve the strategic purpose of ensuring the Kingdom is regionally and internationally at the forefront, allowing Bahrain to be a regional platform for trade, and ICT.”

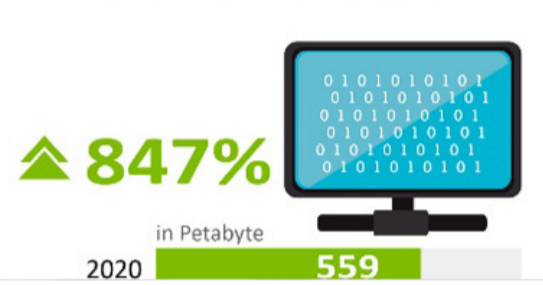
Fixed Broadband Prices in Bahrain are lowest Regionally



Fixed Broadband Average Prices in 2020



Fixed Broadband Data Usage



Board opens 58 bids for 11 tenders

● Subject to technical and financial evaluation

TDT | Manama

The Tender Board, the independent regulatory body charged with supervising government bidding and bidding practices, has opened envelopes of 58 bids for 11 tenders from nine administrators.

The opening committee's agenda included the opening of a tender for the Ministry of Health regarding the renewal of the nursing department in the Budaiya Health Center. Eleven bids were received for this tender.

The committee opened a tender for the Ministry of Education regarding the provision of double-drawing printing machines for schools and departments of the ministry. Four bids were received for this tender.

The committee opened a tender for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding building facilities and services for a complex



The bid-opening process in progress

in the Juffair area. Seven bids were received for this tender.

The committee opened three bids for a tender for the Central Stores Department of the Electricity and Water Authority regarding the purchase of ventilation fans.

A tender was also opened for the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority regarding the establishment, manufacture and construction of two exhibition stands for the Dubai Travel and Tourism Fair for the year 2021, and eight bids were received for this tender.

In the aviation sector, the committee opened a tender for

Hala Bahrain Hospitality Company regarding the appointment of an agency for marketing, advertising and creative services for the company, and six bids were received for this tender.

In the oil and gas sector, the committee opened two tenders for the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco), the first for appointing a specialist consultant for technical fire and gas services, and nine bids were received for this tender, and the second was a long-term agreement for a period of three years to get rid of catalytic cracking, and four bids were received for

It is held within the framework of the Tender Board's commitment to provide fair treatment to all suppliers and contractors in order to achieve the principle of equal opportunity.

this tender.

The committee opened two tenders for Tatweer Petroleum, the first for the first phase of engineering, procurement and construction of the gas distribution network, and one bid was received for it. The second tender was for the design and supply of gas refilling units for gas ventilation, and two bids were received for this tender.

GCC unified stance on human rights discussed



The meeting in progress

● Shura Second Deputy Chairman chairs GCC-EU parliamentary committee meeting

TDT | Manama

Shura Council Second Deputy Chairman Jamila Ali Salman chaired the fourth meeting of the GCC-EU parliamentary committee.

Participating were MP Ahmed Al Amer, Secretary General of the Representatives Council, secretary of the parliamentary division's Executive Committee Chancellor Rashid Mohammed Bunejma

and representatives of the GCC parliaments and National Assemblies.

The committee discussed a paper submitted by the Representatives Council on a unified stance of the GCC legislative councils in facing the European Parliament's position regarding human rights. An agreement was reached on adding the human rights issue to become one of the topics to be discussed with members of the European Parliament.

The councils of the member states will provide the Secretariat General with their visions concerning a paper submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain and the chapters proposed for the issue to be generalised on the councils of the member states.

Huawei and Ahlia University sign strategic partnership

TDT | Manama

Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Ahlia University in the Kingdom of Bahrain to establish Huawei ICT Academy and develop a research group focused on Internet of Things



Huawei and Ahlia University representatives

(IoT) under the university's pilot project “Sustainability and Life Quality in Smart Bahrain Cities”.

The agreements aim to

bring smart solutions to the University's research centers and strengthen the skills and capabilities of students in the ICT sector by providing quality

courses and support services for the university experts and students via the Huawei Authorized Information and Network Academy program (HAINA).



Reminder of Annual General Meeting

Please take notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Bahrain Family Leisure Company B.S.C. will be held today - Wednesday the 24th March 2021 at 12:00 Noon through virtual means of communication utilizing the “ZOOM APP” and organized by Bahrain Bourse.

Thank you

Abdul Latif Khalid Al Aujan
Chairman of the Board

Fed's Kaplan says he is among policymakers expecting rate hike in 2022

Reuters

Dallas Federal Reserve President Robert Kaplan said yesterday that he is among the policymakers expecting the central bank could start raising rates as soon as next year.

As more people are vaccinated against the coronavirus and the economy continues to improve with the help of generous fiscal stimulus, including a \$1.9 trillion aid package signed into law this month, Kaplan said he would be an early advocate for scaling back monetary support.

Takaful announces 5% cash dividend

TDT | Manama

Ordinary General Assembly of Takaful International, a Bahrain-based Islamic insurance company, yesterday approved a distribution of cash dividends of 5%, an equivalent of BD 425K, or five fils per share.

The virtual meeting, held at Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company headquarters in the Seef area, approved financial results for the year ended 31 December 2020, announced earlier this year.

Net profit was BD 1,544m compared to BD 1.031m last year, an increase of 50%, and net profit attributable to the shareholders of the parent was BD 1.144m compared to BD 690K last year. Corresponding earnings per



Newly appointed board members are Jamal Al Hazeem, Abdulrahman Abdulla, Khaled Al Hasan, Ebrahim Al Rayis, Ahmed Bucheeri, Abdulla Rabea, Osama Kishk, Rashid Abdulrahim, Dr Osama Taqi Al Bahrana, and Saleh Al Zouman.

share was 13.46 fils compared to 8.12 fils recorded a year ago.

Names new board

The meeting named board members for the next three years. New members are Jamal Al Hazeem, Abdulrahman Abdulla, Khaled Al Hasan, Ebra-

him Al Rayis, Ahmed Bucheeri, Abdulla Rabea, Osama Kishk, Rashid Abdulrahim, Dr Osama Taqi Al Bahrana, and Saleh Al Zouman.

Al-Hazeem, the chairman, reviewed the Board of Director's report for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2020, adding that

the company expanded reliance on technology to manage risks and address them more effectively and provided multiple options for its customers through the website, mobile application and the call centre.

The chairman added: "The company achieved growth on an

overall basis; the Gross contributions reached BD 22.9 million with a growth rate of more than 5%. During the year, the company has further strengthened its solvency and capital adequacy and achieved an overall profit of BD 1.544 million."

BisB holds ordinary and extra-ordinary general meetings

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank's Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary General Meetings held via video conference yesterday approved a recommendation to issue additional Tier 1 Capital by way of convertible Sukuk up to BD 40 Million.

The meeting also authorised the board of directors to make all requisite decisions, including its terms and conditions and approved pre-emptive rights of shareholders to subscribe to the convertible Sukuk waived.

The meeting chaired by Dr Esam Abdulla Fakhro oversaw the approval of the board's recommendation to authorise a net loss of BD 12,562,700 for the financial year ending on 31st December 2020, allocate



This year, the meetings were held virtually, in line with Kingdom's Government directives to curb the spread of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

BD 122,089 to the bank's Zakat fund and BD 250,000 for charitable donations, and transfer BD 12,934,789 into accumulated losses. The meeting further approved paying BD 141,000 as

remuneration to the board of directors, discussed the 2020 corporate governance report, and addressed a request to absolve the board from the liability of their actions during 2020.

Besides, the meeting reported on the structure of the Sharia Supervisory board, noting a reduction from five to four members, and re-appointed KPMG as external auditors for 2021.

Dubai ruler announces government shake-up

Reuters | Dubai

Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum



prime minister of the UAE, also announced a five-year plan to raise the value of foreign trade exchange by

yesterday announced plans to restructure his government to make it more efficient.

Sheikh Mohammed said on Twitter that all Dubai officials and directors of government institutions will sign binding three-year contracts with set outcomes and pay.

Earlier this month the Dubai government said it plans to boost tourism and hotel capacity by 134% over the next two decades, as part of a wider plan to make the emirate more competitive.

Sheikh Mohammed, who is also the vice president and

nearly 43% and said the government would work to increase air and shipping routes by 50%.

He said Abdulaziz al-Ghurair, who is the chief executive of Dubai lender Mashreqbank and the chairman of the UAE Banks Federation, will be head of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber will be restructured into three separate chambers: the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, Dubai Chamber of International Trade, and Dubai Chamber for Digital Economy, Dubai's ruler said.

AMAIUB approves new board, strategy

AMAIUB names Hisham Alrayes as Chairman and Ahmed Kamaluddin as Vice Chairman

TDT | Manama

AMA International University Bahrain (AMAIUB) announced appointing a new Board of Directors and approved a new strategic plan to enhance its offering, development and growth.

New board members are Hisham Alrayes, Chairman, Ahmed Kamaluddin, Vice Chairman, and Members: Dr Ghufan Ahmed Jassim, Sameer Ishaq Safi, and Salah Sharif.

Board members said their immediate focus is on improving governance and upscaling the leadership



Board members said their immediate focus is on improving governance and upscaling the leadership team

team and faculty to enhance professional excellence across the institution.

The board also aims at launching new academic programmes with a focus on technology subject to ministry approvals.

Other decisions include addressing Education & Train-

ing Quality Authority (BQA) and the Higher Education Council (HEC) and develop recommendations and improving ratings to boost the university's position and reputation as a leading regional university.

Board members also said they would be optimising the university's

image, infrastructure and campus through planned upgrades and renovations.

Plans are also on the anvil to adopt a new brand and identity supported by effective marketing.

Hisham Alrayes, the chairman of AMAIUB, said, "The strategy we've put in place will focus on a range of developments across the University touching every aspect of the way we are governed to how we operate and the high-quality education that we aim to offer students."

Dr Hassan Al-Mulla, President of the university, added, "We are highly committed to making significant improvements to our programmes, faculty, governance and campus, which is the second largest in the Kingdom today and which we plan to make the most well-equipped very soon."

Notice

gfh

GFH Financial Group would like to advise the shareholders that the **Ordinary and Extraordinary General meetings** scheduled for Tuesday, 23rd March 2021, was unable to meet the required quorum. Accordingly, the second meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 30th March 2021 at 11.00 am** through visual means of communication.

News in brief

◆ **Israelis began voting on Tuesday in a fourth election in two years, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hoping a world-beating COVID-19 vaccine rollout will win him another term.** With coronavirus precautions at polling booths across the country - and ballots at the airport for quarantined Israelis coming home to vote - opinion polls show the race yet again too close to call. Israel's longest-serving head of government, Netanyahu has managed to hold on to power through two years of inconclusive elections despite facing corruption allegations. He is now on trial on bribery and abuse of power charges, which he denies.



Israel votes

◆ **Allies of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny said on Tuesday they wanted to stage the biggest anti-Kremlin street protest in modern Russian history this spring to demand the opposition politician's release.** Navalny, 44, is serving a two and half year jail term on charges he called fabricated after returning to Russia from Germany in January where he was recovering from what doctors said was a nerve agent poisoning. His supporters staged three protests

Allies of jailed Kremlin critic Navalny unveil plan for big spring protest



this year during the pandemic at the height of winter.

◆ **Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed confirmed for the first time on Tuesday that troops from neighbouring Eritrea entered the northern Tigray region during the five-month old conflict.** Abiy said that Eritrean troops had entered along the border because they were concerned they would be attacked by Tigrayan forces, adding that the Eritreans had promised to leave when Ethiopia's military was able to control the border.

Eritrean troops entered Tigray during recent conflict



◆ **Reviving memories of its battle for independence from Ottoman Turkish rule 200 years ago, Greece is preparing to defy the coronavirus with bicentennial celebrations on Thursday that it hopes will mark a turning point after a very difficult decade.** Greece emerged from the biggest bailout in economic history in 2018 after years of painful austerity that drove it deep into poverty. One in two young Greeks was unemployed and more than half a million people left the country to find work abroad.

Greece marks 200 years of independence

India opens up vaccine drive to all over-45s

◆ **India announced yesterday it will open its vaccination drive to all over-45s from April 1.** "Following scientific and (Covid19) task force advice, the cabinet today decided to open vaccinations for everyone over 45 years from April 1," Prakash Javadekar, information and broadcast minister, told reporters. Javadekar also announced that state governments had been directed to provide the second dose four to eight weeks after the first, compared to an earlier regime of four to six weeks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was vaccinated on March 1, has issued several appeals in recent days asking "all those who are eligible to take the vaccine."

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	30,584,133	
2 Brazil	12,051,619	
3 India	11,726,364	
4 Russia	4,474,610	
5 UK	4,307,304	
6 France	4,298,395	
7 Italy	3,400,877	
8 Spain	3,228,803	
9 Turkey	3,035,338	
10 Germany	2,681,435	
11 Colombia	2,342,278	
12 Argentina	2,252,172	
13 Mexico	2,197,160	
14 Poland	2,089,869	

Global tally
124,514,522

Deaths
2,738,891

Recovered:
100,448,051

New cases
+211,548

New deaths
+3,716

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	196,061		11,637		150,424	
Saudi Arabia	385,834	+410	6,618	+5	375,165	4,05
UAE	444,398	+2,172	1,451	+6	427,188	15,759
Kuwait	221,743	+1,288	1,246	+13	206,180	14,317
Oman	152,364	+836	1,633	+4	139,846	10,885
Qatar	174,762	+534	275	+1	161,111	13,376

Second mass shoo



Law enforcement vehicles line up at the perimeter of a shooting site at a King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, Colorado, US

Ten killed in Colorado grocery store shooting

- The suspect was believed to have acted alone
- Authorities gave no possible motive for the bloodshed
- Video footage broadcast by television stations showed a shirtless, bearded man in boxer shorts being led away from the store limping and in handcuffs

Reuters | Boulder, Colo.

A man seen bloodied and limping as he was led away by police in handcuffs has been arrested on suspicion of killing 10 people, including a police officer, at a Colorado grocery store, marking America's second fatal mass shooting in a week. The gunman, who was not pub-



Law enforcement officers in tactical gear



Law enforcement officers investigate the

licly identified, opened fire at a King Soopers outlet in Boulder, about 28 miles (45 km) northwest of Denver, in the late afternoon on Monday, sending panicky shoppers and employees scurrying for cover as hundreds of police officers converged on the area. Media reports said the suspect, who police said was believed to have acted alone, was armed with a rifle. Authorities gave few details and

offered no possible motive for the bloodshed, which came six days after a gunman went on a killing spree in the Atlanta area, shooting eight people to death at three days spas before he was arrested. Like those shootings, Monday's violence in Colorado unfolded in a place of business at the hands of a single armed assailant. "We were at the checkout, and shots just started going off," said Sarah Moonshadow, 42, a shopper

who was in the store with her adult son, Nicholas, when the gunfire began. "And I said, 'Nicholas get down.' And Nicholas ducked. And we just started listening and there, just repetitive shots ... and I just said, 'Nicholas, run.'" Moonshadow said she tried to attend to a victim she saw lying on the pavement just outside the store, but her son pulled her away, telling her, "We have to go." The

EU, US impose sanctions on Myanmar

- The European Union and the United States imposed sanctions on Monday
- The 11 people it targeted included General Min Aung Hlaing, the commander-in-chief of the Myanmar military
- The EU already has an arms embargo on Myanmar

Reuters

Myanmar's military accused anti-junta protesters of arson and violence as Western countries imposed more sanctions on individuals and groups



Demonstrators are seen behind barricades during a protest against the military coup in Mandalay, Myanmar

linked to last month's coup and the ensuing bloody crackdown on dissent. Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said 164 protesters had been killed in the violence and expressed sadness at the deaths. "They are

also our citizens," he told a news conference in the capital Naypyitaw on Tuesday, adding that the military would use the least force possible to quell violence. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) activist

group says at least 261 people have been killed in the brutal crackdown by security forces that has left the Southeast Asian nation in turmoil. Three people including a teenage boy were killed in unrest on Monday in Myanmar's second city, Mandalay, witnesses and news reports said. Zaw Min Tun blamed protesters for violence and arson and said nine members of the security forces had been killed. "Can we call these peaceful protesters?" he said, while showing a video of factories on fire. "Which country or organisation would regard this violence as peaceful?" He said strikes and hospitals not fully operating had caused deaths, including from COVID-19, calling them "undutiful and unethical". The spokesman also accused media of "fake news" and fanning unrest and said reporters could be

Canada gives its black citizens the right to vote

German scientist Robert Koch discovers and describes the tubercle bacillus which causes tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*), and establishes germ theory

Indian PM Narendra Modi orders a 21 day lockdown for world's second most populous country of 1.3 billion people to deal with COVID-19



China's Hubei province, the original center of the COVID-19 outbreak eases restrictions on travel after a nearly two-month lockdown

ting in a week



ing, injured suspect in custody



Site of a shooting

job, according to his father. Police said the accused gunman was taken to a hospital for treatment of injuries he sustained in the violence but did not explain how he was hurt. There was no word on when he might face an initial court appearance.

Video footage broadcast by television stations showed a shirtless, bearded man in boxer shorts being led away from the store limping and in handcuffs, before he was placed on a stretcher and loaded into an ambulance. One of his legs appeared covered in blood.

Mass shootings in Colorado

The killings added to a long line of mass shootings in Colorado accounting for some of the most shocking episodes of gun violence in modern US history.

In 2012, a young man dressed in tactical gear burst into a movie theater in the Denver suburb of Aurora during a midnight screening and sprayed the audience with gunfire, killing 12 and wounding 70. In 1999, a pair of students went on a shooting rampage at Colum-

bine High School near Littleton, Colorado, murdering 12 classmates and a teacher before taking their own lives. Video captured by an onlooker, apparently while the shooting was still in progress, was posted to social media and aired on TV stations. It showed two bodies lying in the grocery store parking lot, before the person with the camera walks inside and films a third body, as three shots are heard in the background.

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, Local 7, which represents 32 employees at the King Soopers outlet, credited some of the grocery workers with helping customers escape through a rear exit.

It also thanked customers and emergency responders who "acted swiftly to prevent even greater loss of life." The shooting occurred about 2 miles from the flagship campus of the University of Colorado, in the Table Mesa area of the city that is home to a residential neighborhood and the hilltop laboratory of the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

junta



The junta has tried to justify the coup by saying a Nov. 8 election won by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) was fraudulent - an accusation the electoral commission rejected.

prosecuted if they were in contact with the CRPH, as the remnants of Suu Kyi's government is known locally. The military has declared the CRPH an illegal organisation and said membership is punishable by death.

Roman arena discovered in Turkey is 'just like Rome's Colosseum'

Daily Mail

Archaeologists have uncovered a Roman arena in Turkey that was 'just like Rome's Colosseum' and would have hosted gladiator fights for some 20,000 spectators.

The find, a national first, was revealed as part of excavations of Mastaura, an ancient city in Aydin Province. The arena was partly buried and hidden by vegetation.

Its remains are well preserved and - as with the Colosseum - was built round, rather than in the half-moon shape typical of many ancient amphitheatres.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Gandhi Peace Prize 2020 has been conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, one of the greatest leaders of our subcontinent. Year 2020 marked the birth centenary of Bangabandhu. He remains an icon of indomitable courage and tireless struggle for his millions of admirers.

@narendramodi

02



#VaccineEquity is not an act of charity; it's the best and fastest way to control the pandemic globally, and to reboot the global economy. #COVID19

@DrTedros

03



"Some countries are racing to vaccinate their entire populations, while other countries have nothing." @DrTedros says vaccine inequality is "becoming more grotesque every day".

@GretaThunberg

04



A white man walked into a grocery store in Boulder, killed 10 people, and was apprehended by the police and walked out of the building completely unharmed. Right down the road, police killed Elijah McClain while he apologized for not doing anything wrong. Two different Americas.

@meenaharris

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

Bahrain Needs Robust e-Waste Disposal



KOTA SRIRAJ

Electronic waste comprises unwanted electronic products that are not working or nearing the end of their "useful life." These items can be computers, computer accessories, old televisions, stereos, copier machines and other everyday electronic products. According to the "Global e-Waste Monitor 2020" report, the year 2019 saw a generation of 54 million metric tonnes of e-waste. Sadly enough only 17.4 per cent of this waste was properly documented as collected and recycled. There are no official statistics available for the rest of 82.6 per cent of the waste in terms of how it was handled and disposed of.

The consumption of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) is strongly linked to widespread global economic development. EEE has become indispensable in modern societies and is enhancing the living standards of humans. Riding on this demand for electronic equipment, the total weight (excluding photovoltaic panels) of global EEE consumption is increasing annually by 2.5 million metric tons (Mt). The increased requirement for electronic equipment is resulting in rising e-waste generation as well. As e-waste is piling up many nations have realised the need for safe disposal of this hazardous waste. As a result, nearly 71 per cent of the global population is covered under some form of e-waste policy. But that still means that the rest of the population is not.

Bahrain too has been facing e-waste challenges for a long time. In response to the increasing requirement for the safe disposal of e-waste, the Southern Municipal Council approved a proposal in December 2020 to set up a factory to recycle the electronic and electrical appliances and end-of-life gadgets. This environment-friendly step will not only reduce toxic e-waste from Bahrain but will also provide an opportunity to usher in investors.

But given the millions of electronic waste devices piled up at the landfill site of Hafeera, more state of the art e-waste processing factories need to come up fast across Bahrain which can dispose of e-waste in an eco-friendly manner, as computers and mobile phones cannot be crushed due to mercury and other toxic heavy metal components in them and neither can they be buried as plastic is not bio-degradable. The Hafeera landfill site currently witnesses 30 per cent e-waste daily, and the fact that Bahrain imported BD 8.8 million worth of computers in the first quarter of 2020 means that a good quantity of electronics would have been decommissioned from homes and offices across Bahrain to make way for the new computers purchased. As the consumption increases in this manner, it is critical for Bahrain to match the recycling of e-waste with its generation. The outbreak of COVID19 has also accelerated the e-waste generation as more businesses and daily activities have started to be dependent on gadgets, this is bound to lead to a spike in e-waste as well. This is already evident in the 1.6 million tonnes of e-waste that has found its way to Hafeera landfill in 2020.

Bahrain can become a regional leader in e-waste management and disposal by adopting the best practices available across the world, this will not only help Bahrain match e-waste generation with the pace of recycling of the same but will also enable the nation to set global benchmarks in safely disposing of e-waste in an eco-friendly manner.

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To make the e-waste collection and recycling industry more organised, the government can also set up a chain of collection centres across the country which in turn are connected to e-waste recycling plants. These collection centres can offer membership to citizens who deposit e-waste at these centres and in exchange, offer them "e-waste disposal points" the citizens can redeem these points by availing discount on their electric bills or get discounts on the purchase of new eco-friendly energy-generating products such as solar panels. This will also boost the demand and popularity of renewable energy products. Initiatives such as these will spur public interest and participation and in turn, make e-waste collection and recycling a resounding success in Bahrain.

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CELEBS

celebs

Jamie Foxx to star in Mike Tyson biopic series

● A previous unauthorized biopic series from Hulu was criticized by the legendary boxer

Fox | Los Angeles

Jamie Foxx is set to star in a biographical television series centered on the life of Mike Tyson, Fox News has confirmed.

The limited series, titled "Tyson," is said to be executive produced by the boxing legend himself as well as Foxx, Antoine Fuqua and Martin Scorsese.

The project has been many years in the making. It was initially announced as a feature film in 2014 and was set to see the Oscar-winner play Tyson with Terence Winter writing the script.

Now, screenwriting duties will be han-



Mike Tyson

dled by Colin Preston, who has already written the pilot and is in the process of writing the full script.

"I have been looking to tell my story for quite some time," Tyson, 54, said in a statement. "With the recent launch of [Tyson's sports league] Legends Only League and the excitement from fans following my return to the ring, now feels like the perfect moment."

He continued: "I look forward to collaborating with Martin, Antoine, Jamie, and the entire creative team to bring audiences a series that not



Jamie Foxx



The project has been many years in the making. It was initially announced as a feature film in 2014 and was set to see the Oscar-winner play Tyson with Terence Winter writing the script

only captures my professional and personal journey but also inspires and entertains."

"Tyson" is the second biopic series being created about the brash and enigmatic fighter. In February, Hulu announced that it had ordered a straight-to-series titled, "Iron Mike," from "I, Tonya" screenwriter-director Craig Gillespie and executive producers Margot Robbie and Karin Gist.

Dua Lipa to headline Elton John's Oscar pre-party special

ANI | Washington

With the Oscars just one month away, veteran singer-songwriter Elton John is getting ready to party with a little help from his friends.

As per Variety, Grammy-winning singer Dua Lipa is on board to perform during the 29th annual Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards pre-party special.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will take place as a virtual preshow. The famed Os-

car party will be produced by Fulwell 73 at Rosewood London.

Actor Neil Patrick Harris has been tapped to host the virtual event alongside Elton and his husband, David Furnish. The annual event will kick off with their first-ever virtual pre-party on April 25 this year, just an hour



Dua Lipa

before the Oscars 2021.

Speaking about the virtual event, Elton said, "This year, we are bringing our Oscar Party into people's homes for the first time virtually for an unforgettable evening with David (Furnish), myself, our dear friend Neil Patrick Harris and the incredible Dua Lipa plus many fabulous surprise names."

Why Lucy Lawless feels Lucretia in 'Spartacus' is her scariest role yet

IANIS | Los Angeles

Actress Lucy Lawless who plays the role of Lucretia in the popular TV Show "Spartacus: Blood And Sand", has revealed that the period drama is probably the "scariest" project she has ever been a



Lucy Lawless

part of.

Comparing her characters in her popular TV shows "Xena: Warrior Princess" and "Spartacus", the 52-year-old actress says her character in "Spartacus" is braver than Xena.

"(It) was pretty damn scary. Xena was scary on that

physical level because it was just relentless and I hated the action. I just hate fighting. But again, I didn't have an option to hate it so I didn't indulge that. But Spartacus was very difficult for -- you know -- that whole nudity thing is quite counter to one's nature and to our culture," she said in an interview to collider.com

Millie Bobby Brown relates to role in 'Godzilla Vs. Kong'

IANIS | Los Angeles

Millie Bobby Brown, who plays the Madison in the upcoming creature feature "Godzilla Vs. Kong", is excited about reprising the role of the young activist from the earlier films, "Godzilla" and "Godzilla: King Of The Monsters", respectively.

"I've always felt Madison is a really relatable teenager who just goes through things that are obviously quite extraordinary. I mean, seeing a monster like Godzilla right in front of your face is probably not going to happen to most of us, but like all kids, she has something to say and she wants to be heard, to have a voice," she said.

Being in charge of the safety of Godzilla in the film, Brown

said her on screen avatar, Madison, feels immensely protective of the largely misjudged creature.

"For me, that's what she's always brought to the table as part of her family-- a point of view. It might be different from her parents', but she's always been around their work as scientists, so it's had an effect on her, and now she's really good at educating herself about what's going on, especially where Godzilla's concerned," she added.

Millie Bobby Brown



Rebel Wilson gets into cycling accident near Buckingham Palace

● 'Pitch Perfect' actress began a 'year of health' journey in 2020

Fox | Los Angeles

Rebel Wilson got into a cycling fender bender and is not happy about it.

The "Pitch Perfect" actress, 41, expressed her anger over the accident on Monday in a series of Instagram Stories, revealing that she got into a cycling accident with a bystander's dog.

"F--k people who don't have their dogs on the lead [sic] and let them run onto the road!!" Wilson captioned her first Instagram Story.

The Story sees Wilson rocking a pair of black leggings while icing her left ankle and shin following the accident.



Wilson's cycling endeavors are a part of the actress's progress towards better physical health -- a process in which she began in 2020

Wilson then followed up with a Story of her happily cycling near Buckingham Palace, noting: "But 20 minutes before the accident I was cycling great!!"

Per the Daily Mail, the actress is in London filming a secret project.

Wilson's cycling endeavors are a part of the actress's progress towards better physical

health -- a process in which she began in 2020.

The Australian actress, who admitted that she never took her health seriously in the past, appeared on "The Drew Barrymore Show" in November and revealed just how she completely changed her outlook on health and life.

"For the last few years I've been themeing my years. So I had the 'Year of Fun,' last year I had the 'Year of Love,' and this year it's going to be the 'Year of Health' because I turned 40 this year in March," Wilson told host Drew Barrymore. "I never really focused on my health, which was probably obvious. I was going all around the world jet-setting every-

where and eating a ton of sugar. That was kind of my vice. I have a very sweet tooth, I love desserts."

"So I was working on the mental side of things -- why was I not doing that? Why was I not valuing myself and having better self-worth?" she said elsewhere in the interview.

"And then on the nutritional side, my diet was mainly all carbs. It was delicious, but for my body type, I needed to eat a lot more protein."

In a January appearance on "The Morning Crew with Hughesy, Ed and Erin," Wilson detailed how people started treating her differently following her 40-lb weight loss.



Rebel Wilson

SUDOKU

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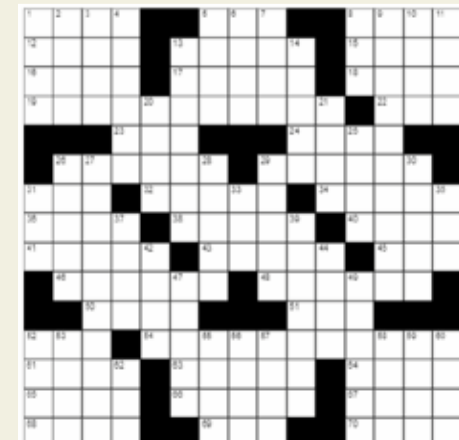
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Kind of prof.; 5- ...pitch softball; 8- Blind as ...; 12- Baseball team; 13- Put away; 15- Highland hills; 16- Apple product; 17- Reef material; 18- An apple or a planet will have this at the center; 19- Handling things delicately; 22- Basketball Hall of Famer Unseld; 23- Wall St. debut; 24- ...Crunch; 26- Payroll frequency; 29- Maximally; 31- Prom duds; 32- Person of exceptional holiness; 34- Swung around; 36- Egyptian cobras; 38- Stagers; 40- Shrek, e.g.; 41- Chirp; 43- Fertile soils; 45- Joan of ...; French heroine; 46- Unlade; 48- African sands; 50- Paint unskillfully; 51- Stage signal; 52- ... Believer (Monkees hit); 54- Touchy; 61- Young bears; 63- Use a soapbox; 64- The life of Riley; 65- Earthen pot; 66- Stair part; 67- Get in a hand; 68- ...do-well; 69- Sucker; 70- Cheek;

Down

1- Indigo source; 2- ... Valley, Calif.; 3- Hang-up; 4- Computer expert; 5- Greek portico; 6- Bereft; 7- Toward the mouth; 8- 1970 Jackson 5 hit; 9- Molasses; 10- Bern's river; 11- Driving aids; 13- Student; 14- Chosen; 20- Toll rds.; 21- Beaver creations; 25- Game played on horseback; 26- Chinese martial arts; 27- Superfluous; 28- Give up; 29- Collection of maps; Titan of Greek mythology; 30- ... firma; 31- Tic ... Dough; 33- Classical beginning; 35- Last mo.; 37- Actress Ward; 39- Dollar; 42- Sulk; 44- Feng ...; 47- Loathe; 49- Trojan War hero; 52- Clickable image; 53- Sterile hybrid; 55- The eyes have it; 56- Mission control gp.; 57- Pace; 58- "Peter Pan" dog; 59- Ballpark figs; 60- Poor grades; 62- Mediterranean isl.;

Yesterday's solution

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

KHK MMA's Abbas Khan on BRAVE CF 48 fight: "I almost knocked him out"



Abbas Khan in action during a bout (file photo)

TDT | Manama

KHK MMA's Abbas Khan had an intense fight at BRAVE CF 48: Arabian Night on March 18th against Egypt's Omar El Dafrawy and came out a victor after showcasing the Bahrain-Dagestan grappling techniques of domination and control positions near the cage and on the floor.

The renowned boxer came back to the BRAVE CF cage with a new approach to mixed martial arts, but his roots as Pakistan's Boxing Champion did not go in vain. In an interview backstage, Khan opened up about almost finishing his opponent.

"I almost knocked him out," says Khan. "My skills are really good. I was planning to win by striking, but I didn't strike much, mostly wrestling."

A surprise to his fans across Bahrain and Pakistan, Khan

"I almost knocked him out. My skills are really good. I was planning to win by striking, but I didn't strike much, mostly wrestling"

ABBAS KHAN

dominated the fight on the ground against the Number two Middleweight in Egypt with exceptional grappling and ground control.

Khan is proud of his first victory at BRAVE CF and wants everyone to know that what is coming next in his career will be bigger, better, and different.

"I won and I did really good," says Khan. "You will see me, next time I will be different. Whenever I come back, I am different. My next show will be different."

Eldarov fires back at Santiago: "KHK are the new generation"

Luan Santiago claimed that he is the new generation and Eldar Eldarov's game won't work on him

● Luan Santiago is set to take on Benoit Saint-Denis at BRAVE CF 49

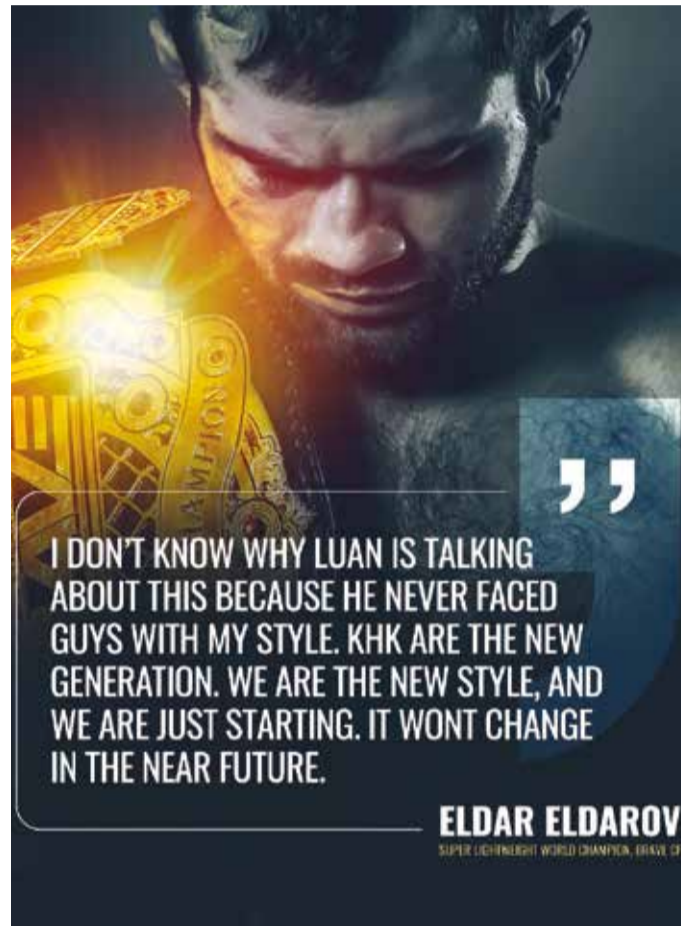
TDT | Manama

BRAVE CF Super Lightweight Champion Eldar Eldarov has been put under the spotlight with the latest announcement that the winner of BRAVE CF 49: Super Fights main event will be facing him for the title next.

Luan "Miau" Santiago and Benoit Saint-Denis are scheduled to fight on March 25th for the number one contender spot in the BRAVE CF Super Lightweight division, which has been dominated by Eldarov since its establishment.

Santiago fired at Eldarov earlier today claiming that he is the new generation, and that he is coming after Eldarov. The news did not sit well with the reigning BRAVE CF Super Lightweight Champion who took offense to Santiago

"I don't know why Luan is talking about this because he never faced guys with my style," says Eldarov. "KHK are the new



"I DON'T KNOW WHY LUAN IS TALKING ABOUT THIS BECAUSE HE NEVER FACED GUYS WITH MY STYLE. KHK ARE THE NEW GENERATION. WE ARE THE NEW STYLE, AND WE ARE JUST STARTING. IT WON'T CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

ELDAR EL DAROV
SUPER LIGHTWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPION, BRAVE CF

generation. We are the new style, and we are just starting. It won't change in the near fu-

ture." KHK MMA is known for their unique style of Bahrain-Dag-



Luan Santiago has been eyeing the BRAVE CF Super Lightweight Champion title since it was first conquered by the current champion Eldar Eldarov

estan grappling and wrestling, and are considered one of the best teams in the world when it comes to mixed martial arts and other grappling martial arts, such as sambo and pure wrestling.

Santiago has stepped into fire challenging Eldarov, and the question remains as to whether "Miau" will get the opportunity to face the champ. For now, the wait continues until March 25th at BRAVE CF 49: Super Fights in Arad Fort at the Kingdom of Bahrain when the fate of either Santiago or Saint-Denis is decided.

From refugee to amateur MMA world champion, can Abdul Hussein do it again at BRAVE CF?

TDT | Manama

Abdul Hussein is the first refugee to win the IMMAF amateur world championship. Born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, Hussein moved to Finland with his family when he was young and, in Scandinavia, fell in love with the sport of Mixed Martial Arts.

Like many people getting into a new culture, it wasn't easy for Hussein to fit in but finding out his true passion for the sport was a way to fully integrate in his new community and represent the two flags that he proudly carries.

ABBA, as he's also known as, became an amateur world champion representing the Finnish Federation back in 2016. Afterwards, he quickly turned pro and joined



Abdul Hussein celebrates after winning a bout

BRAVE Combat Federation, where he found enormous success since then.

A grappling specialist with a 57 per cent

submission-ratio in his career, Hussein built a professional record of 7 wins and only one loss. He is currently on a three-win streak at BRAVE CF, including two consecutive guillotine choke submissions over John Cris Corton and Martin De Beer.

Now, "ABBA" wants to do even more, aiming for the BRAVE Combat Federation world title but first he will take on the biggest challenge of his professional career, a fellow IMMAF alumnus and world champion Muhammad Mokaev.

BRAVE CF has been the go-to destination of IMMAF standouts and matching Abdul Hussein against, arguably, the most sought-after young star in the MMA world right now, Mokaev, is the ticket ABBA needs in order to fast-track to a title fight in the Flyweight division.

Roa ready to become BRAVE CF's very first Colombian World Champion

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation, the number one Mixed Martial Arts promotion in Asia founded by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, is known as the truly global MMA promotion, for its international footprints, contemplating and embracing athletes from numerous nationalities.

Having fighters representing all continents, BRAVE CF has had titleholders representing every single continent, except Australia/Oceania, with dozens of different countries having the honor of saying that they've formed BRAVE Combat Federation world champions.

Despite having hosted BRAVE CF events twice, Co-

lombia can't say it has its own world champion. Actually, more than that, a Colombian fighter has never fought for a world title, regardless of the MMA promotion.

But there's a man determined to change that and his name is Dumar Roa. "Corazón de León", which translates as "Lionheart", will soon have the chance to become the first Colombian to have a title shot in MMA.

In order to do so, Roa will have to beat a fellow South American at BRAVE CF 49. Roa will face Brazil's Gabriel Fly, a submission specialist with a professional record of 14 wins and 5 losses. Roa, on the other hand, boasts a 15-8 record and comes off a two-consecutive BRAVE CF wins.

Yousif Ghrairi opens up about Hasan Talal dominating him the first 2 rounds at BRAVE CF 48: "I never tap out"

TDT | Manama

Yousif "The Widow Maker" Ghrairi and Hasan "Fearless" Talal had been eyeing each other since they were meant to fight over a year ago in a different promotion, which was cancelled due to visa issues. The tension built up over the years led to an incredible bout on the largest Arab MMA fight card in the world at BRAVE CF 48: Arabian Night on March 18th.

Ghrairi and Talal had a close fight with Talal dominating the first two rounds with his grappling skills and moving it with his striking. It wasn't until the third round that Ghrairi changed the narrative and was able to finish Talal via a knee TKO at 2 minutes and 53 seconds.

"When he was dominating I knew that he was winning the fight but at the same time



Yousif Ghrairi and Hasan Talal in action during a bout

I knew how drained he is and how much he is losing power so I knew in the third round I have to push the pace and finish the fight," says Ghrairi during a backstage interview at BRAVE CF 48. "Even my coach was telling me, this is your fight now, so go

and finish it."

Talal was able to get the upper-hand on Ghrairi several times before falling to his demise and getting knocked out. Nevertheless, Ghrairi stayed resilient and was hopeful that the odds would change in his favor. The Widow Maker attributes his ability to never tapping out in his life.

"No, **** no. I never tap out," says Ghrairi when asked about whether he considered tapping out. "Not in the gym, that's why I have so much energy and injuries and not in the cage. And, I hope I don't tap out in the future."

The Lebanese and Iraqi fighters put on an incredible show at Arad Fort on Thursday March 18th and captured the eyes of millions of viewers worldwide. Fans around the world can re-watch their outstanding fight on BRAVE CF TV.

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Ricciardo, Norris upbeat for 'home race'

McLaren's all-new driver pairing hopes to build on the team's momentum from finishing third last season when the 2021 F1 World Championship flags off this weekend with the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix at Bahrain International Circuit

● **Daniel Ricciardo will be looking to better his brace of fourth-place finishes in past Bahrain Grands Prix**

● **Lando Norris aiming to continue impressive run of six consecutive top-10 finishes at BIC, stretching back to F2 feature race win in 2018**

TDT | Manama

McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo and Lando Norris will be looking to get the new Formula 1 season off on the right foot in their "home race" this weekend in the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2021 at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

The mega motorsport event takes Sakhir by storm Friday to Sunday, and the new teammates are looking forward to getting back on the track behind the wheel of their MCL35M contenders.

McLaren have high expectations this F1 season, especially after having won a tight battle for third place in the 2020 constructors' championship, and their all-new driver pairing is determined to deliver.

Ricciardo will be making his Grand Prix debut in McLaren



Norris, left, and Ricciardo...focused

colours in Bahrain. The 31-year-old Australian commented: "I'm really excited for the start of the season. It's the beginning of a new chapter, my first race in papaya and I can't wait to get started. It's also a special race with Bahrain being the team's home-from-home."

Ricciardo added: "It's an exciting circuit with a few big braking zones and plenty of opportunities for overtaking. Racing at dusk is always cool and brings an added challenge to the weekend."

Both he and Norris had their first taste of McLaren's new car at BIC earlier this month in F1 pre-season testing, when they posted 327 laps between them over three days of running. Norris is now hungry for more and is excited to get the action going with the first practice session this Friday at 2.30pm.



It's an exciting circuit with a few big braking zones and plenty of opportunities for overtaking. Racing at dusk is always cool and brings an added challenge to the weekend

DANIEL RICCIARDO

"It's time to go racing again and I'm really excited to be jumping back into the MCL35M and getting out on track," said the Briton, 21. "We were only out in Bahrain a couple of weeks ago for pre-season testing and looking further back it was only a few months ago since we raced there, so I'm looking forward to doing it again."

Excelling in Sakhir

The McLaren pair have excelled at BIC in past races. Ricciardo has racked up a few top-10 finishes in Sakhir, five in total—six including last year's Sakhir Grand Prix—with a brace of fourth places representing his best result in Bahrain to date.

For Norris, his fourth place in the Bahrain Grand Prix last year followed by 10th at the Sakhir Grand Prix has earned him a run of six consecutive top-10 finishes at BIC, stretching all the way back to his F2 feature race win in 2018.



Ricciardo in action in Bahrain during F1 pre-season testing at BIC (file photo)

"I've had some good performances there during my career and it's a track I've become very familiar with," said Norris. "Even though we only had a few days to test, during those days and in the lead-up to this weekend we've been able to learn a decent amount about the car and do some correlation work in the simulator, which has been helpful."

"Of course, there's still more we can understand to extract every final bit of performance, which we'll need."

"I feel confident and ready to enter my third year in Formula 1. My aim is to keep building on my previous experience and help the team progress as much

as possible."

Ricciardo has enjoyed his smooth transition to what is now his fifth team in F1. "In my first few months at McLaren the team has made me feel right at home in such a short space of time," he said. "I feel confident and comfortable going into the new season, which is important as I want to get the most out of the car right from race one."

"As a team we made the most of pre-season testing with some smooth running. It was great to get to grips with the MCL35M in just the few days that we had to put it through its paces. I think, naturally, it takes a bit of time to adjust to a new car, but I'm feeling prepared to hit the track



Both Daniel Ricciardo and Lando Norris were in the points in the F1 double-header held at BIC last season. Ricciardo was seventh and Norris fourth at the Bahrain GP. One week later at the Sakhir GP, Ricciardo was classified fifth and Norris 10th

come Friday."

Both drivers are expecting a challenging campaign ahead but remain upbeat nonetheless. "This season looks like it's going to be a competitive one, but I'm looking to hit the ground running, leave nothing on the table, give it my all for the team and hopefully give the fans something to smile about," said Ricciardo.

Norris added: "I know how hard everyone in the team has been working, both day and night, to get us prepared to go racing again and I can't thank them enough. We've got a long and challenging season ahead but hopefully we can get off on the right foot."

F2, Porsche Sprint Challenge ME set to pack BIC grid at F1 Gulf Air Bahrain GP 2021 weekend

● **F2 will be holding the opening round of its 2021 season**

TDT | Manama

Packed grids of no less than 24 cars each are set to line up at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in the two supporting championships that will be taking to the track as part of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix this coming weekend.

The sporting and social extravaganza kicks off the 2021 FIA Formula 1 World Championship, and F1 isn't the only series that will be thrilling fans.

The FIA Formula 2 Championship featuring motorsport's future stars, plus the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East with many of the region's best drivers, will both add to the F1 excitement.

F2 will be holding the first round of its 2021 season in Bahrain, while the Porsche Sprint Challenge ME will be staging its 2020/2021 season's third and final round.

Tickets to the year's F1 week-



F2 cars in action at BIC during a race (file photo)

end are now available for all vaccinated or COVID-19 recovered individuals. They are being sold at a single discounted price of BD100 across stands for the three-day event.

Comprehensive measures will be in place at the circuit at all times to ensure spectators can enjoy the excitement of F1 in a safe environment.

Tickets can be purchased online at BIC's official website, bahraingp.com, or at BIC's newly opened stand at City Centre Bahrain, located on the ground floor near gate number three in the West Court. The stand is operational every day between 10am and 10pm.

F2 will be holding the opening

round of its 2021 campaign this weekend and the 24 competing F2 drivers will be looking to put on a show for the top flight's teams, which they one day hope to join. As F1's leading feeder series, many of the young talents are already test or reserve drivers with some F1 teams, and they are eager to make the step up and join some of F2's other previously graduated aspirants.

Tough battles ahead

The F2 grid includes the tandem of Robert Shwartzman and Oscar Piastrri for defending champions Prema Racing. The experienced duo of Guanyu Zhou and Felipe Drugovich will be hoping to make a strong chal-

lenge for the drivers' and teams' crowns for Uni-Virtuosi, as will Carlin's Jehan Daruvala and Dan Ticktum.

Christian Lundgaard of ART Grand Prix made his presence felt during F2 pre-season at BIC earlier this month and is back for the opening round alongside teammate Theo Pourchaire. Also doing well during the tests were the Hitech Grand Prix pairing of Liam Lawson and Juri Vips.

There will certainly be a fierce challenge with MP Motorsport's Richard Verschoor and Lirim Zendeli in the fray, along with David Beckmann and Guilherme Samaia for Charouz Racing System, Roy Nissany and Marcus Armstrong for Dams, and Gianluca Petecof and Ralph Boschung for Campos Racing.

The F2 field is rounded off by HWA Racelab's Matteo Nannini and Alessio Deledda, and Trident's Bent Viscaal and Marino Sato.

F2 will be staging three races at BIC, with two 23-lap Sprints on the Saturday of the Grand Prix followed by a 32-lap Feature on the Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Porsche Sprint Challenge ME will be holding its 2020/2021 season's third and final round.



F2 will be staging three races at BIC, with two 23-lap Sprints on the Saturday of the Grand Prix followed by a 32-lap Feature on the Sunday

The first two meetings also took place at BIC, both supporting Bahrain's F1 double-header in 2020. Two more races are to be held, each over 11 laps, with the first on the Saturday of this year's event followed by the second on the Sunday. The second sprint will be a memorial race, dedicated to motorsport legend, the late Walter Lechner, who was a great friend to BIC and the Bahraini motorsport community, having established the one-make Porsche championship in 2009.

Set to compete in the Challenge's Porsche Cup cars are a

trio of homegrown talents. They are BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, who will be racing in the series' GT4 class; while in the GT3 class will be Shaikh Jaber bin Ali Al Khalifa and Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa. They are all representing Team Bahrain and will be flying the Kingdom's flag proudly in the event.

Other GT3 drivers entered are current overall championship leader JB Simmenauer from France; Bandar Alesayi and Fahad Alghosaibi from Saudi Arabia; Jesse van Kuijk, Daan van Kuijk, Lucas Groeneveld and Steven van Rhee from the Netherlands; Maximilian Wernld and Richard Wagner from Germany; Robert Sulma from the Czech Republic; Saul Hack from South Africa; and Ayhan Guven from Turkey.

A strong field of 10 others will be joining Shaikh Salman in the GT4 class, including Jan Dobber and Ronald Bezuur from the Netherlands; Micko Branislav from Slovakia; Bandar Alireza and Fawaz Alghosaibi from Saudi; Leo Willert and Freddy Fast from Austria; Svetlana Gorbunova from Russia; Markus Sattler from Germany; and Franz Dziwlok from Poland.