



Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Comply with all COVID-19 measures

VACCINATE AND STAY SAFE

Bahrain affirms solidarity with India
 TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday expressed condolences to the government and people of India over the victims of the torrential rains that swept the state of Maharashtra. Over 136 people have died due to heavy rains, flooding and landslides in the Indian state of Maharashtra, which also displaced more than 84,000 people. In a statement, Bahrain's Foreign Ministry affirmed full solidarity and support of Bahrain to India in its efforts to overcome the crisis with minimal losses and damages. The ministry wished the injured a speedy recovery.

Lebanon water supply could collapse in a month: UN

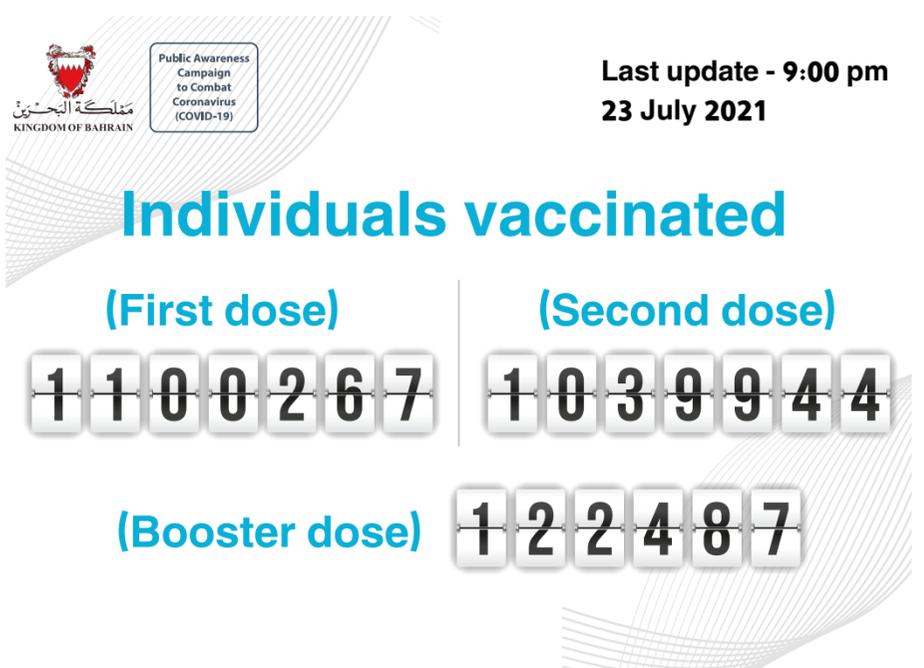


Representative picture

AFP

The shortages and currency crunch in Lebanon could lead to a collapse of the mains water supply in Lebanon within a month, the UN's Children Fund warned yesterday. "More than four million people, including one million refugees, are at immediate risk

of losing access to safe water in Lebanon," UNICEF said. The UN agency said that maintenance costs incurred in US dollars, funding shortages and the parallel collapse of the power grid were rapidly destroying the water sector. "UNICEF estimates that most water pumping will gradually cease across the country in the next four to six weeks," it said.



Each of us makes **1.08 kg of waste** per day!

P2

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

5335735

ACTIVE CASES

834

DEATHS

1381

DISCHARGED

266123

NEW CASES

113

CRITICAL

9

Faster, Higher, Stronger- Together



Athletes parade in empty stadium as Tokyo Games open in pandemic shadow

- The cauldron was lit by tennis star Naomi OSAKA
- IOC Refugee Olympic Team take part for the second time
- Organisers also paid tribute to medical workers as athletes from across the world paraded into an almost empty stadium
- The specific motto for the Tokyo games remains unchanged, "United by Emotion."
- Most nations were represented by a man and a woman after the organisers changed their rules to allow two flagbearers.



The Tokyo Olympics are on P12



Flag-bearer Hussain Al sayyad on left and swimmer noor Yusuf Taha on right

games, which began yesterday like none before. One tradition held firm as the athletes from across the world paraded into an eerie, almost empty national stadium to represent their nations for the first time, but masks on their faces hid their smiles.

It was also for the first time the Olympics motto was changed, since the inception of the modern Olympics back in 1894.

Most countries walked in with both male and female flagbearers

in an Olympic first. However, not everybody took pandemic measures - teams from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and the Pakistan flagbearers paraded maskless in awkward contrast to protocol.

The opening ceremony, normally a star-studded display teeming with celebrities, lacked the usual glitz with fewer than 1,000 people in attendance, strict social distancing rules and signs calling on spectators to "be quiet around the venue."

(Continued on page 2)

Each of us makes **1.08** kg of waste per day!

TDT | Manama

Each individual in the Kingdom is producing 1.08 kilograms of waste per day, comfortably beating the world average of 0.74 kilograms per day, according to 2020 statistics.

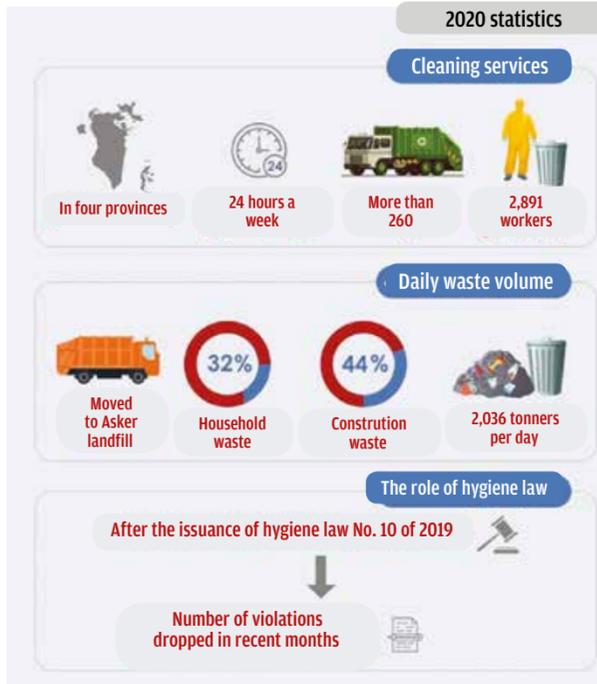
The concerning rise in waste production had also pushed domestic waste to occupy 44% of the total waste removed daily.

On average, municipality workers are removing 2036 tonnes of wastes per day, which includes domestic, commercial, agricultural, construction and household wastes, the latest data said.

The new data also says that construction waste accounts for 32% of the daily waste removed to the Askar landfill. For this, more than 2,891 cleaners, drivers, inspectors and officials are working 24 hours a day in all of the four governorates.

"They serve more than a million and a half people in the Kingdom through an integrated work mechanism that connects various cleaning companies."

Assisting them in the process are a fleet of automatic sweepers, small and large garbage col-



lecting trucks, waste transport trucks, towing vehicles, cranes, and other equipment.

Workers are also constantly monitored by hygiene departments in municipalities

and hold them accountable for faults. The hygiene department uses programmes to monitor performance, complaints and suggestions. All the vehicles are also tracked in real-time using

GPS systems to measure work volume and working hours.

A team of inspectors, both from municipalities and cleaning companies, work to implement daily plans in residential and commercial neighbourhoods, the coasts and open and agricultural areas.

The cleaning services also cover the parks, walkways and green areas, which is constantly expanding.

Cleaning companies are responsible for removing waste from these sites, sewage from where there is no sewage network, and siphoning out rainwater from streets.

The municipalities also have a team of emergency responders to act in times of crisis, especially during sandstorms.

Cleaning departments are also responsible for removing encroachments on public roads with government departments. The report also points out that the number of violations related to Public Cleanliness Law No: 10 of 2019 has reduced in recent months. Citizens and residents, the report added, cooperated with the inspectors in removing violations, especially cars for sale and scrap cars.

Coming together of the world

(continued from Page 1)

Regardless, it marked a coming together of the world, with an audience of hundreds of millions around the globe and at various stages of the pandemic tuning in to watch the start of the greatest show in sport.

US first lady Jill Biden clapped the Americans as did France President Emmanuel Macron for the French team.

Tokyo also updated the Olympic oath, recited by the athletes at the end of the parade. Athletes swore their commitment to inclusion, equality, and non-discrimination for the first time at the Olympics.

The opening also featured fireworks in indigo and white, the colours of the Tokyo 2020 emblem, and gave a nod to Japanese tradition represented by giant wooden Olympic rings linked to the 1964 Games.

A vastly smaller number of athletes, about 20 per nation, marched in the teams' parade, with many flying in just before their competitions and due to leave shortly after to avoid infections.

Athletes marched to the music of some of Japan's best-selling video games such as Drag-on Quest and Final Fantasy, as country names on placards were shown in speech bubbles often used in manga cartoons.



Up above us in the night sky, 1824 drones are being used to form the Tokyo 2020 emblem



Pita Taufatofua is shirtless again, bearing the flag of Tonga alongside Malia Paseka.



For the second time in its history, the Olympic Games welcomed the IOC Refugee Olympic Team! Leading the delegation into the stadium are the flagbearers, swimmer Yusra Mardini and marathon runner Tachlowini Gabriyesos.

Only 15 global leaders are in attendance. Emperor Naruhito, who formally opened the Games as his grandfather Hirohito did in 1964, clapped as the athletes marched.

The ceremony was marked by high-profile absences, including former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who wooed the Games to Tokyo.



تم الافتتاح

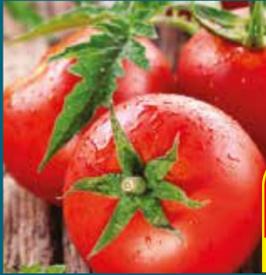
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Busaiteen (Alsayah Square)

ONE DAY OFFERS - 24th July | عروض ليوم واحد - ٢٤ يوليو

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 <p>12,990 BD 18,890 قبل WAS 18,890</p> <p>خلاط مع مطحنة مينومكس ٥٥٠ واط MEENUMIX MIXER GRINDER QUTE - 550W#M0550W</p>	 <p>1,495 BD 3,900 قبل WAS 3,900</p> <p>منظف متعدد الاستخدامات ديتول ٩٠٠ مل DETTOL MPC ASST. 2X900 ML</p>	 <p>2,625 BD 5,250 قبل WAS 5,250</p> <p>منظف بارسيل باور جل متنوع ٥٠% خصم ٣ لتر + ١ لتر PERSIL POWER GEL ASSORTED 3 LTR+1 LTR / EACH</p>	 <p>1,495 BD 1,950 قبل WAS 1,950</p> <p>ارز بوني جودنس فودز ٤.٥٤ كغم GOODNESS FOODS PONNI RICE 4.54 KG</p>
 <p>4,795 BD 8,395 قبل WAS 8,395</p> <p>زيت زيتون قفل ناتكو ٥ لتر NATCO POMACE OLIVE OIL 5 LTR</p>	 <p>0.150 BD 0.395 قبل WAS 0.395</p> <p>طماطم للكيلو TOMATO PER KG</p>	 <p>0.150 BD 0.290 قبل WAS 0.290</p> <p>جوز الهند للحبة COCONUT / EACH</p>	 <p>0.495 BD 1.290 قبل WAS 1.290</p> <p>عنب أبيض للكيلو GRAPES WHITE PER KG</p>

SMC expansion continues, to add four operation theatres

● SMC to add four operation theatres to it with all medical equipment and accessories

● Tender launched welcomes bids until 1 September

TDT | Manama

Salmaniya Medical Complex, Bahrain premier healthcare facility, is continuing to build on its capabilities, this time with new operation theatres, amid efforts to stamp down the pandemic.

According to a tender document, SMC will add four operation theatres to it with all medical equipment and accessories by converting ward 205 of the complex.

Plans also include converting anaesthesia offices to a recovery room and preparing the rooms



in ward 205 to anaesthesia offices.

The tender is for finding a suitable contractor to complete the works.

Those interested should make their bids before September 2021 by enclosing BD4,000 as bond and BD100 as tender fees.

The initial bond should be in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee, Insurance Policy or Cash (or as specified in the Tender Documents).

The current tender also follows a series of tenders issued this year for multiple expansion works for the Accident and

Emergency and maternity departments.

Micro, small and medium enterprises are eligible to obtain 10% preference in the financial evaluation stage when submitting the "SMEs Classification Certificate" during bidding for this tender.

Study on for new RO plant

TDT | Manama

Plans are on the anvil to build a new Reverse Osmosis plant in the Kingdom, said a tender by the Electricity and Water Authority.

The tender, which closes on the 27th of this month, calls for collecting and analysing 42 seawater samples from near Addur SWRO desalination plant.

The samples, EWA requires, should be collected from 14 locations at different depths.

The move aims at studying and design a new RO plant.

A successful contractor should complete the works in 16 days from the date of the purchase order.

The tender clearly states that



Representative picture

it will not accept offers with more than 16 days of delivery time.

The tender requires a BD500 bond and BD15 fees.

Bani Jamra Club development



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs is inviting bids for investing in the land of Bani Jamra Club.

The investment is for complex 504 Diraz in the Northern Governorate.

The ministry is intending to carry on the works by joining hands with the private sector.

The move aims at generating revenues for the club and its restoration after the contract period, the tender description says.

If interested, log in your bids before the 25th of next month, with a BD2,500 bond and BD100 fees.

Gulf Air wants Falcon gold bed linen items



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air has launched a local and international public tender for buying Falcon Gold Bed Linen items.

Items required are pillowcases, lumbar pillows, plush comforters, and seat mattresses, among other items.

The tender requires all items to be in plain white colour with a small falcon logo stitched on the bottom left corner.

Besides, all items should include a Gulf Air branded tag stitched onto the right side.

The airline requires the seat mattress, lumbar pillow and plush comforter compactly packaged in a plain coloured branded sack for placing neatly on the passenger seat or storage compartment.

Make your bids before 05 September 2021 with a BD2,500 bond and BD100 tender fees.

Four-year contract for maintaining Bapco landscapes

TDT | Manama

Bapco is looking for a contractor to take care of its landscaped areas and satisfy its manual labour requirements.

The four-year contract calls for maintaining the company's landscaped, planted, garden and open areas, including its artificial football ground, street, car parks etc.

The service areas are within the township of Awali, Dar Al Naft Museum at Jebel, marketing Terminal, Sitra Tank and other locations within the refinery.

A successful contractor should also provide manpower services for the works, as well as additional landscaping works.

Interested contractors should make their bids before 15 August 2021 with a BD5,000 bond and BD100 tender fees.

BTEA leasing beach plot

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority is leasing a plot in Bahrain bay beach in Manama.

A tender launched by BTEA calls on qualified companies to make their bids.

Companies, BTEA says, should have experience in developing beach management and operation.

The tender requires a fee of BD100 and a BD2,500 bond. If interested, makes bids before the 22nd of next month.

Internet for Al Dana Amphitheatre

● The tender published seeks internet services through MPLS INet dedicated circuits and AWS Direct Connect from AWS Bahrain Region to Al Dana Amphitheater

TDT | Manama

Al Dana Amphitheatre is offering a three-year contract for providing internet connectivity, according to the Tender Board.

The tender published seeks internet services through MPLS INet dedicated circuits and AWS Direct Connect from AWS Bahrain Region to Al Dana Amphitheater.

The tender, according to the tender board description, is issued by Bahrain International Circuit.



It adds that the agreement should "cover onsite support for major events in the venue if needed."

The tender description also says, "the appointment will be through Internal tender."

"The solution must be based on 3 years' service contract with monthly payments to provide and support all the requirements and the related hardware for the connectivity between the ISP and local network," the tender board document says.

If interested, make bids before 01 August 2021. The tender was published on 18 July 2021.

UoB to enhance Business incubator

TDT | Manama

The University of Bahrain is looking forward to enhancing the competitiveness of its business incubation centre to attract and embrace entrepreneurs.

The project aims to equip and furnish a part of UoB building S44 with several facilities for the Business incubator centre.

A tender issued by UoB says that the works should be such that the centre should "attract and embrace" entrepreneurs at the university, "who can contribute to an economy based on ideas and innovations."

UoB plans to add at building S44 offices and incubators for entrepreneurs, lobby setting



Representative picture

area, centre lobby, cafeteria, a garden inside the centre, two computer labs, meeting room, two toilets, staff rooms, corridors and kitchen.

If interested, make bids before the 15th of next month with a BD1,000 bond and BD50 tender fees.

Tender for blankets, mattresses

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Interior is searching for a contractor who could supply sheets, blankets and mattresses for four years.

A tender issued by the ministry says it needs a supply of "blanket, bedsheets with pillow cover, pillow with rexine cover, mattresses sponge with pillow cover, fleece blanket brown colour, and bunk bed black" for four years at a fixed price.

The tender document says



Representative picture

the requirement is according to the actual need of the ministry.

Make bids before the 11th of next month.

A BD2,500 bond and BD100 fees are required.

Two bids for renting advt lamppost in Southern municipality

TDT | Manama

Two companies had logged in their interest in leasing advertising sites in the Southern Area municipality.

Group Plus for Advertising quoted BHD 40,514,400, and Bahrain Media quoted BHD 40,885,000 for leasing the advertising sites.

The tender description says the contract is for 305 advertising lighting poles in the municipality for three years.

According to the tender board, the bids are subject to technical and financial evaluation, with price being the



Representative picture

principal criterion after fulfilling technical and other requirements.

"This means that the lowest price bidder is not necessarily awarded the tender," the board confirms.



Salman bin Issa bin Hindi Al-Mannai, the Muharraq Governor, in his office with Abdullah Al-Khan, a researcher and photographer who presented Al Mannai with his book on Bahrain's sweets industry, "Halwa Bahrain".

“Media reflects the nature of countries and those in charge”

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Radio and Television yesterday joined Egypt in its celebration of National days, which the Information Ministry said: “reflects the real role media should play towards brotherly countries.”

Congratulating Egypt and its people on the 69th anniversary of the glorious July 23 revolution, Ali bin Mohammed Al-Rumaihi said, “the media reflects the nature of the countries and those in charge.”

The minister pointed out that Bahrain always had clear stances for supporting brotherly and neighbouring countries.

The policy distances itself from “the culture of interference in other states’ domestic affairs, media chaos or anything



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We in Bahrain, and I say it personally, as a person responsible for the media sector, learn a lot from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on the important role the media plays in building and supporting the brother, neighbour and friend, and highlighting everything that supports relations and rapprochement among peoples

ALI BIN MOHAMMED AL-RUMAIHI

aimed at destabilising countries.”

“We in Bahrain and I say it personally, as a person responsible for the media sector, learn a lot from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on the

important role the media plays in building and supporting the brother, neighbour and friend, and highlighting everything that supports relations and rapprochement among peoples,” the minister said. Bahrain and

Egypt, he said, boast rich civilisations, a long history, and have always sought love and people for all. Bahrain Radio and Television aired special direct shows, breaks and patriotic songs to celebrate the occasion.

Bicycle, eBike lanes on way

● The move follows increasing demand for separate paths and lanes for bicycles and electric bikes

● Plans creating a transportation network that includes all regions of the Kingdom

TDT | Manama

Plans are on the anvil to instal protected bike lanes along the streets of the Kingdom, creating an environment potentially safe for bicycle and e-bike riders.

The move surfaced as Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs and Sami Abdulla Ahmed Buhaza, the Undersecretary for Land Transportation and Post, held a meeting on developing and managing bicycle tracks in the Kingdom.

The project, officials said, re-



Sami Abdulla Ahmed Buhaza



Sheikh Mohammed

fects the increasing demand for paths and lanes for bicycles and electric bikes in Bahrain.

“We are developing a joint mechanism to developing and managing such paths on land owned by the Ministry of work, which will be entrusted to the Ministry of Transportation to ensure its optimal usage,” said Buhaza. He added, “The land transport sector has licenced some companies operating a bicycle and electric bike rental service to provide advanced and new services and creating an integrated transportation network that includes all regions of the Kingdom.”

The meeting agreed to form a technical committee to activate means of cooperation and coordination to implement the project, study proposals and procedures and involve other government agencies.

A cycle track is a physically marked and separated lane dedicated for cycling. It is on or directly adjacent to the roadways but typically excludes all motorized traffic with some form of barrier.

Labour Ministry digitised 52 services in FY20

TDT | Manama

Labour ministry has moved 52 of its services online, notwithstanding the COVID-19 outbreak, with the help of various government agencies, said Jameel Humaidan, the Labour Minister.

Humaidan said the number corresponds to services moved online until the end of the year 2020.

“We launched 122 services through various channels, including the call centres and the email,” said the Labour and Social Development Minister.

“We have achieved a qualitative leap in the digital transformation of services, allowing communication with beneficiaries easily and appropriately,” added the minister.

Humaidan attributed the progress achieved to the decisions of the coordinating committee headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

“The services delivered to non-government organisations include employment, insurance against unemployment, licensing daycare clubs, people with physical disabilities and social assistance”, said Humaidan.

“Digitisation allowed beneficiaries access the govern-



We have achieved a qualitative leap in the digital transformation of services, allowing communication with beneficiaries easily and appropriately

JAMEEL HUMAIDAN

ment services 24/7 through the eGovernment portal and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development website,” said the minister.

Humaidan said that the work is underway to convert more services online.

He stressed the importance of investing in technologies to provide services in a more accessible manner and overcome the difficulties for citizens to benefit from the services.

Saudi Fund for Development invested BD245 million in road sector: Official

TDT | Manama

Saudi Arabia has invested around 245 million Bahrain dinars in the road sector of Bahrain, said a top Works Ministry official.

Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Khayat revealed this during a meeting with officials of the Saudi Fund for Economic Development.

The Undersecretary for Works Affairs said the meeting was for reviewing the progress of the projects backed by the Saudi Fund.

Bandar bin Abdullah Al-Obaid, the Director-General of the Municipalities of the Middle East and North Africa, chaired the meeting from the Saudi side. The meeting reviewed the



The meeting with Saudi Fund officials

various development phases of the project to develop Bahrain International Airport.

Other projects on discussion included Al Fateh Street development, Busaiten Bridge and North Manama Street East

Hidd Housing project, the intersection of Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Street with Sheikh Isa bin Salman Street (Saar Intersection), South Bahrain Ring Road, road construction project leading to Al-Lawzi housing,

Tubli sewage treatment plant, Muharraq Private Health Care Center project, infrastructure project of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City, and Sports City project in Sakhr, amongst others.

BKSF-BMBF Help & Drink 2021

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Kerala Social Forum (BKSF) and Bahrain Malayalee Business Forum (BMBF) distributed hundreds of water bottles, fruits, buns, and sandwiches to construction workers yesterday.

The “Help and Drink” programme, now in its seventh year, started yesterday at the construction site of BFH, maintaining COVID-19 precautionary measures.

Social worker Basheer Ambalayi inaugurated the programme. Several BKSF-BMBF volunteers took part.



US Treasury Secretary Yellen warns Congress on debt limit

Reuters | Washington

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urged lawmakers yesterday to increase or suspend the nation's debt limit as soon as possible and warned that if Congress does not act by Aug. 2, the Treasury Department will need to take "extraordinary measures" to prevent a US default.

As a partisan fight over raising the debt ceiling erupted in Congress, Yellen told House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a letter that the outstanding debt of the United States will be at the statutory limit on Aug 1.

"Today, Treasury is announcing that it will suspend the sale of State and Local Government Series (SLGS) securities at 12:00 p.m. on July 30, 2021," Yellen said in the letter, also sent to other congressional leaders from both parties.

The suspension will continue until the debt ceiling is suspended or raised, Yellen said.



Janet Yellen

"If Congress has not acted to suspend or increase the debt limit by Monday, August 2, 2021, Treasury will need to start taking certain additional extraordinary measures in order to prevent the United States from defaulting on its obligations," Yellen added.

A failure 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 federal government shutdown - as has happened three times in the past decade - or even a debt default.

India's Reliance revenue rises 58% as oil and gas business recovers

Reuters | Bengaluru

Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd reported a 58% jump in quarterly revenue yesterday, led by a strong show at its dominant oil and gas business.

India's most valuable company, which operates the world's biggest refining complex at Jamnagar in western India, benefited from a sharp increase in product prices on the back of higher crude prices. Brent prices surged 18.2% in the June quarter due to tight supplies.

"Stronger oil fundamentals, vaccination programs and better demand outlook have resulted in a steady rise in crude prices throughout the first quarter," the company, led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, said in a statement.

Revenue surged to 144 trillion rupees, fuelled by an over 70% jump in the oil-to-chemicals business.

Consolidated profit, however, fell to 122.73 billion rupees (\$1.65 bn) in the quarter ended June 30, from 132.33 bn rupees a year earlier, mainly hit by a rise in tax expenses.

Jio, the company's telecom operations, added 14.3 million customers as of June end, fewer than the 15.4 m in the previous quarter.



The logo of Reliance Industries is pictured in a stall at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show at Gandhinagar, India

The company has used up nearly all airwaves it won, and additional airwaves have been used to create capacity for the next 200 m customers on the network, an executive said on a post-earnings conference call.

Reliance has been diversifying from its core oil and gas business as it focuses on retail and telecoms.

The retail network, which consists of more than 12,000 stores and supermarkets, reported a near 50% drop in footfall in the first quarter from the previous three months as the second wave of COVID-19 ravaged the country.

"COVID-related restrictions on store operations during the quarter impacted our retail business operations and profitability," Chairman Ambani said in a statement.

"This is a temporary phenomenon," he added.

S&P 500, Nasdaq hit record highs

Reuters

The S&P 500 and Nasdaq indexes hit record highs yesterday and were on track to end the week with gains, helped by megacap growth stocks and strong earnings from social media companies, while a weak forecast from Intel hit chipmakers.

Twitter Inc gained 4.2% after it reported quarterly revenue growth, while Snapchat-owner Snap Inc surged 22.5% on beating estimates for user growth and revenue.

Strong results from the social media firms set a positive precedent for Facebook Inc, which jumped 6.7%.

Other growth firms including Amazon.com, Apple Inc, Microsoft Corp and Google-owner Alphabet Inc rose ahead of their quarterly results next week.

Technology and communication services, whichhouse some of those big tech heavyweights, added 0.9% and 2.5% respectively, and were among the top gaining S&P sectors.

US weighs crackdown on China's import of Iran oil

● US will not resume talks until Raisi takes over

● China received a daily average of 557,000 barrels of Iranian crude between November and March

Reuters | Dubai

The United States is considering cracking down on Iranian oil sales to China as it braces for the possibility that Tehran may not return to nuclear talks or may adopt a harder line whenever it does, a US official said.

Washington told Beijing earlier this year its main aim was to revive compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and, assuming a timely return, there was no need to punish Chinese firms violating US sanctions by buying Iranian crude, he said.

That stance is evolving given uncertainty about when Iran may resume indirect talks in Vienna and whether incoming Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi is willing to pick up where the talks ended on June 20 or demands a fresh start.

The US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iran - which has said it will not resume talks until Raisi takes over - has been "very murky" about its intentions.

"If we are back in the JCPOA, then there's no reason to sanction companies that are importing Iranian oil," the US official said, referring to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action under which Iran curbed its nuclear program in return for relief from economic sanctions.

"If we are in a world in which the prospect of an imminent return to the JCPOA seems to be vanishing, then that posture will



European External Action Service (EEAS) Deputy Secretary General Enrique Mora and Iranian Deputy at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi wait for the start of a meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission in Vienna, Austria

have to adjust," he added.

The Wall Street Journal first reported Washington was considering tightening enforcement of its Iran sanctions, notably against China, which received a daily average of 557,000 barrels of Iranian crude between November and March according to Refinitiv Oil Research.

Chinese refiners are the biggest importers of Iranian oil. Reuters reported on Thursday that the Chinese logistics firm China Concord Petroleum Co has emerged as a central player in the supply of sanctioned oil from Iran and Venezuela.

That US officials are hinting at a possible crackdown may be a veiled threat that Washington

"If we are back in the JCPOA, then there's no reason to sanction companies that are importing Iranian oil," the US official said, referring to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action under which Iran curbed its nuclear program in return for relief from economic sanctions.

has ways to exact a price from Tehran, said Brookings Institution analyst Robert Einhorn.

"It's probably to send a signal to Raisi that if the Iranians are not serious about coming back to the JCPOA, the US has options and there will be costs," Einhorn said.

How Beijing, whose relations with Washington are strained over issues from human rights to the South China Sea, might react will depend on whether it blames Iran or the United States for the impasse in the talks, he said.

WAITING FOR NEW PRESIDENT

One Iranian official said it was up to Iran's supreme leader when talks resume, suggesting this could happen when Raisi takes over on Aug. 5 or a few weeks later. He also said it was unclear if Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Abbas Araqchi, would remain.

"We should wait for the new president to take office and decide whether he wants to change the nuclear team or not. It seems that Dr. Araqchi will not be changed, at least during the handover period," said this official on condition of anonymity.

A second Iranian official said Raisi and his nuclear team insist on starting from scratch and refuse to pick up the talks where they ended in June.

"They want their own terms and conditions and they have more demands like keeping the 60% enrichment or chain of advanced centrifuges and not dismantling them as demanded by Washington," he said.

The uncertainty is forcing the United States to examine new approaches, even though US and European officials have said there are no good options to reviving the JCPOA.

"If... we were to conclude that the talks are dragging on for too long and we don't have a sense of whether they are going to reach a positive outcome, then of course we would have to take a fresh look at our sanctions enforcement, including on Chinese entities that were purchasing Iranian oil," the US official said, declining to predict the timing of any decision.

"It's not... black and white," he said. "We'll make it based on the time it's taking for Iran to come back and the posture they will take if and when they do come back."

US business activity cools further in July

● PMI fell to a reading of 59.8 from 64.6 in June

Reuters | Washington

US business activity grew at a moderate pace for a second straight month in July amid supply constraints, suggesting a cooling in economic activity after what was expected to have been a robust second quarter.

Data firm IHS Markit said yesterday its flash US Composite PMI Output Index, which tracks the manufacturing and services sectors, fell to a four-month low of 59.7 from 63.7 in June. A reading above 50 indicates growth in the private sector.

Businesses are battling shortages of raw materials and labour, which are fanning inflation, in the aftermath of the economy's reopening after severe disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey's findings



People shop at a street fair near Times Square in New York City

fit in with economists' views that growth will slow after accelerating in the second quarter, thanks to massive fiscal stimulus.

Even with the boost from government money fading, the economy remains supported by strong demand, with households having accumulated at least \$2.5 trillion in excess savings during the pandemic. The labor market recovery is also

gaining traction and wages are rising as companies compete for workers.

But the Delta variant of the coronavirus, which is behind a resurgence in new COVID-19 infections in parts of the country with low vaccination rates, could result in consumers being more cautious.

"While the second quarter may therefore represent a peaking in the pace of economic

growth according to the PMI, the third quarter is still looking encouragingly strong," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit. "Short-term capacity issues remain a concern, constraining output in many manufacturing and service sector companies while simultaneously pushing prices higher as demand exceeds supply."

The government is due to publish its snapshot of second-quarter gross domestic product next Thursday. Growth estimates are converging around a 9.0% annualized rate. The economy grew at a 6.4% pace in the first quarter.

The IHS Markit survey's flash services sector PMI fell to a reading of 59.8 from 64.6 in June, slowing further from May's record high. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast a reading of 64.8 this month for the services sector, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity.

News in brief

El Salvador orders arrest of ex-President Sanchez Ceren in graft probe



El Salvador has ordered the arrest of former President Salvador Sanchez Ceren and nine top officials from a past administration as part of a money laundering and corruption probe, the Attorney General's office said. The office said Sanchez Ceren was out of the country, but six former high-ranking members of President Mauricio Funes's government from 2009 to 2014 have been detained.

Ecuador declared a state of emergency in its penitentiary system after riots at two prisons left 22 dead and 57 wounded.

President Guillermo Lasso issued the order "to mobilize all necessary human and economic resources to re-establish order" in Ecuador's prisons. Lasso said the military would be in charge of controlling the prison perimeter and entry, while police officers would control the inside. Until now civilians trained as prison guards were in charge of indoor security.

Ecuador declares emergency after 22 killed in prison riots



Russia's Trans-Siberian railway blocked after flooding damages bridge



Siberian railway in its Far East, suspending traffic in the area, officials said, and President Vladimir Putin said full track repair would take five days. The world's longest railway is a strategic transportation artery for the Russian economy, taking not just passengers but commodities such as oil, timber and coal between Europe and Asia.

Nigeria has received six of 12 turboprop light attack aircraft from the United States to help fight mounting insecurity, its air force said.

Africa's most populous nation faces several security crises, including a 12-year-old jihadist insurgency in the northeast, herder-farmer clashes in the centre, kidnapping for ransom in the northwest and separatist agitation in the south.

Nigeria receives six warplanes from US to fight insurgency



Pope Francis will skip a Mass on Sunday that he had been scheduled to say before his recent surgery, but the Vatican said there was no cause for alarm and that it was part of normal convalescence. The Vatican said the pope will go ahead with his Sunday noon prayer but that a Mass for the Catholic Church day to pay homage to the elderly and grandparents will be said instead by Archbishop Rino Fisichella.

Crypto crackdown: Malaysian police steamroll bitcoin machines

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian police hit on a novel way to dispose of more than 1,000 bitcoin-mining machines seized in raids -- they crushed the devices using a steamroller.

Authorities on Borneo island discovered the machines, worth an estimated 5.3 million ringgit (\$1.25 million), in crackdowns between February and April.

Eight people were arrested for allegedly stealing the equivalent of \$2 million worth of electricity to power the energy-hungry computers, according to police.

"The crypto-miners stole electricity," said Hakemal Hawari, a senior police official in the city of Miri, where the devices were seized.

"Their actions are dangerous for life and property, as they can cause power outages."

The 1,069 mining machines were laid out in a car park of a police station in Miri last week and crushed with a steamroller.

Six of those arrested were convicted of stealing electricity, jailed for six months and fined.

Crypto-mining -- the process by which computers mint new virtual currency and validate transactions -- requires vast amounts of energy and processing power.



Malaysian police in Borneo destroy seized bitcoin-mining machines

1,069

mining machines were laid out in a car park of a police station in Miri last week and crushed with a steamroller

"The crypto-miners stole electricity. Their actions are dangerous for life and property, as they can cause power outages"

HAKEMAL HAWARI, A SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL

The process typically involves large numbers of sophisticated computers that form a specially designed "rig" that runs the complex calculations required to maintain a cryptocurrency network.

Bitcoin mining is common

in the Southeast Asian nation, and there are regular reports of police arresting crypto-miners and seizing their rigs. While energy-hungry, the process can be lucrative with each bitcoin currently worth more than \$32,000.

Great Barrier Reef avoids UNESCO 'in danger' listing

AFP | London

Australia yesterday avoided having the Great Barrier Reef listed as an endangered world heritage site by UNESCO, despite concerns about climate change-fuelled damage to the ecosystem's corals.

At a World Heritage Committee meeting chaired by China, delegates voted not to downgrade the reef to "in danger", after a concerted lobbying effort by Canberra.

"May I sincerely thank the esteemed delegates for recognising Australia's commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef," Australia's Environment Minister Sussan Ley said in a statement to the body.

The United Nations' cultural agency had recommended in June that the reef's World Heritage status be downgraded because of its dramatic coral decline, largely due to the impacts of climate change and poor water quality.

Tim Badman, director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's world heritage programme, argued that the reef "unambiguously" met the criteria for an endangered listing.

"Despite the major efforts that have been made by the state party, both the current status of the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef and the prospects for future recovery have significantly deteriorated," he said.

Ley had flown to Paris earlier this month to personally lobby member states on the committee, while Australia also took key ambassadors on a reef snorkelling trip.



An aerial view of the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of the Whitsunday Islands, along the central coast of Queensland

"Despite the major efforts that have been made by the state party, both the current status of the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef and the prospects for future recovery have significantly deteriorated"

TIM BADMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE'S WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAMME

The decision had already been postponed from 2015, when Australia successfully waged a similar diplomatic campaign and committed billions of dollars to reef protection.

But the 2,300-kilometre-long (1,400-mile-long) ecosystem has since suffered three mass coral bleaching events, which

are caused by rising ocean temperatures due to global warming.

Though government scientists say corals have shown signs of recovery in the past 12 months, they admit the reef's long-term outlook remains "very poor".

Two thirds of the reef is believed to have been damaged in some way.

As well as coral bleaching, the reef is also susceptible to damage from cyclones and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish, which eat the coral.

UNESCO had accused Australia of failing to meet key water quality and land management targets, while also taking aim at the country for its lacklustre climate efforts.

Canberra is facing growing international criticism for refusing to commit to net zero emissions by 2050.

The conservative government has said it hopes to meet the target "as soon as possible" without harming the country's fossil fuel-reliant economy.

Dozens of landslides

Dams and rivers are "deployed to help evacuate"

Landslides and floods kill at least 44 in Maharashtra state after heavy rains

AFP | Mumbai

Forty-four people have been killed in landslides caused by monsoon rains in western India, authorities said yesterday.

As many as 38 others were missing after three separate landslides on Thursday evening in Maharashtra state's Raigad district, south of India's financial capital Mumbai.

"Forty-two people have died due to landslides in Raigad district and 38 people are still missing," state government spokesperson Anirudha Ashtaputre said.

"There have been six more landslides in Satara district, where two people have died", he added.

Elsewhere in the state, up to 15 people were also missing.

The Navy and Air Force joined rescue efforts after the downpour caused floods that left thousands stranded, but their operations were hampered by landslides blocking roads, including the main highway between Mumbai and Goa.

Water levels rose to 3.5 metres (12 feet) in areas of Chiplun, a city 250 kilometres (160 miles) from Mumbai, following 24 hours of

Villagers flooded

Death toll stands at 56

AFP | Beijing

Villagers were evacuated over makeshift bridges yesterday as floods submerged swathes of central China following a historic deluge that claimed at least 56 lives -- while an approaching typhoon threatened to dump more rain on the stricken area.

Millions have been affected by the floods in Henan province, which have trapped people for days without fresh food or water and blocked roads as they breached embankments, caking large areas in thick ankle-deep mud.

The death toll is expected to rise, with provincial officials telling reporters yesterday that casualties were still being counted.

Adding to the misery, Typhoon In-Fa is forecast to bring further torrential downpours to parts of Henan in the coming days, state media said.

In the worst-hit city of Zhengzhou, firefighters yesterday continued to pump muddy water

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	8,526,027	226,319	41,192,932
2 India	7,670,537	116,068	
3 Brazil	5,274,817	154,888	Deaths
4 Russia	1,447,335	24,952	
5 Spain	1,029,668	34,210	1,131,568
6 Argentina	1,018,999	27,100	
7 Colombia	974,139	29,272	Recovered:
8 France	930,745	33,885	
9 Peru	874,118	33,875	30,709,840
10 Mexico	860,714	86,893	
11 UK	762,542	43,967	New cases
12 South Africa	706,304	18,656	
13 Iran	545,286	31,346	+168,201
14 Chile	495,637	13,719	
			New deaths
			+2,720

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	105,705		6,142		98,413	1,150
Saudi Arabia	343,373	+405	5,235	+18	329,715	8,423
UAE	119,132	+1,538	472	+2	111,814	6,846
Kuwait	118,531	+813	721	+7	109,916	7,894
Oman	111,484	+451	1,137	+15	97,367	12,980
Qatar	130,210	+266	225	+1	127,093	2,892

1534

Jacques Cartier lands in Canada, claims it for France

1567

Mary Queen of Scots is forced to abdicate; her 1-year-old son becomes King James VI of Scots



1911

American explorer Hiram Bingham discovers Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas

1943

Operation Gomorrah: RAF begins bombing Hamburg (till 3rd August), creating a firestorm and killing 42,600 people

s killed in flooding, slides in India

“overflowing” in western India with the nation’s military evacuate the survivors



National Disaster Response Force personnel rescue people stranded in floodwaters in Kolhapur

uninterrupted rain that caused the Vashishti river to overflow, submerging roads and homes.

Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said emergency workers were struggling to reach cut-off neighbourhoods in Chiplun.

“Roads and bridges have been damaged in the floods and the situation is worrying,” Thackeray told reporters.

The Indian Navy deployed seven rescue teams equipped with rubber boats, life jackets and lifebuoys to the affected areas, along with specialist divers and a helicopter to airlift marooned residents.

The Army said 15 teams would be stationed overnight in the worst-hit districts to rescue stranded people and provide first

aid.

A landslide in the town of Khed injured 10 people, according to a press release from the state government.

Another “10 to 15 people are likely to be trapped under the rubble,” the statement said.

India’s meteorological department has issued red alerts for several regions in the state, indicating that heavy rainfall will continue for the next few days.

Frequent danger

Flooding and landslides are common during India’s treacherous monsoon season between June and September, which also often sees poorly constructed buildings and walls buckling after days of non-stop rain.

Four people died before dawn

YOU KNOW WHAT

The monsoon is crucial for rain-fed crops planted during the season but the rains often cause extensive damage and kill scores of people each year

yesterday when a building collapsed in a slum in Mumbai, authorities said.

The incident came less than a week after at least 34 people lost their lives when several homes were crushed by a collapsed wall and a landslide in Mumbai.

Rainwater also inundated a water purification complex last weekend, disrupting supply “in most of the parts of Mumbai”, a megacity of 20 million people, civic authorities said.

Last month, 12 people were killed when a building collapsed in a Mumbai slum.

And last September, 39 people died when a three-storey apartment block fell down in Bhiwandi near the financial capital.

In 2014, more than 150 people lost their lives in Maharashtra when heavy rains caused a hill to cave in, burying scores of villagers under mud and debris.

China’s Xi visits Tibet for first time as president



Chinese President Xi Jinping is greeted on his visit to the Tibet autonomous region

AFP | Beijing

President Xi Jinping is on a rare trip to China’s politically sensitive region of Tibet, state media reported yesterday, the first such visit by the country’s top leader in more than three decades.

Tibet has alternated over the centuries between independence and control by China, which says it “peacefully liberated” the rugged plateau in 1951 and brought infrastructure and education to the previously underdeveloped region.

In footage released yesterday by state broadcaster CCTV, Xi was seen greeting a crowd wearing ethnic costumes and waving Chinese flags as he left his plane, in a red carpet welcome as dancers performed around him.

Although he arrived on Wednesday at the Nyingchi Mainling Airport in the south-east of Tibet, there was no mention of his visit in official media until two days later.

After a “warm welcome by cadres and masses of all ethnic groups”, Xi went to the Nyang River Bridge to learn about ecological and environmental protection of the Yarlung Tsangpo river and the Nyang

YOU KNOW WHAT

Xi has visited Tibet twice, once in 1998 as Fujian province’s party chief and another time in 2011 as vice-president. The last Chinese president to visit was Jiang Zemin in 1990

River, CCTV said.

Xi has visited Tibet twice, once in 1998 as Fujian province’s party chief and another time in 2011 as vice-president.

The last Chinese president to visit was Jiang Zemin in 1990.

This time, Xi also visited the Nyingchi City Planning Museum and other areas to look into urban development planning, rural revitalisation and the construction of urban parks.

On Thursday, he headed to the Nyingchi Railway Station to learn about planning for the Sichuan-Tibet Railway before taking a train to Lhasa.

See fresh floods in central China as typhoon approaches



People ride on a front loader as they make their way through a flooded road following heavy rainfall in Zhengzhou

from tunnels, including from a subway where at least a dozen people drowned inside a train earlier in the week as a year’s worth of rainfall fell in just three days.

Overnight, heavy rain saw floods surge northwards to the city of Xinxiang and surrounding areas, where vast tracts of farmland were inundated and the town cut off as the Wei River burst its banks.

“We were at my grandmother’s and then the water suddenly

rose... the building was surrounded by water,” said Sun Haocun in the town of Weihui, who was rescued in a dinghy by a team of volunteers.

Thousands evacuated

Reporters saw residents wading through water that reached waist height, staggering with dogs, bicycles and bags of possessions.

Teams of rescuers in life jackets helped residents to safety, with several elderly people in wheelchairs lifted above the surging

BETTER YOU KNOW

Extreme rainstorms are continuing their path of destruction, dumping 260mm on the city of Xinxiang in just two hours

water through streets of shuttered shops.

“The resistance of the water is strong, especially when the water level is high and reaches up to the neck,” said one exhausted volunteer Wang Kai, pushing an inflatable canoe.

Aerial footage showed rescuers using temporary bridges to move hundreds of residents to safety, with tree tops poking above the water the only sign of land for miles.

More than 495,000 people have been evacuated, said the Henan government, with the flooding causing billions of dollars in loss-



Piles of cars swept away by floods lie at the entrance to a tunnel in Zhengzhou

es.

Liang Long, an employee at a hotel in a city neighbouring Xinxiang, said hundreds had arrived seeking refuge since Thursday afternoon and through the night.

“Their villages have been flattened with nothing left,” he said.

The hotel, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the worst-hit areas, was still receiving “continuous” calls for help, Liang added.

“There are many people and our hotel’s food is running low,” he said.

Videos shared on social media have provided a window into the destructive power of the floods, which tossed cars into piles and sucked pedestrians towards storm drains.

Harrowing footage from rush-hour passengers trapped inside the subway, where waters rose from ankle to neck height, pinnacled across China’s Twitter-like Weibo as people questioned why the underground network had been allowed to operate during an unprecedented storm.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The whole world is sick and tired of the tragedy caused by #COVID19. We have #AGoal4All: to end the pandemic. Let’s unite to remove barriers to vaccine production, achieve #VaccineEquity and ensure that 70% of the world is vaccinated by mid-2022. By acting together, we have hope!

@DrTedros

02



Dear @TeamUSA, your entire nation is cheering you on and we are grateful for what you’ve given us: the chance to come together in common awe and appreciation for your accomplishments and the shared joy of rooting for our country on the edge of our seats.

@FLOTUS

03



Wishing @TeamGB the very best of luck as you get set for the start of the #Tokyo2020 Olympic Games. I also want to thank our hosts in Japan for the incredible work that’s gone into getting the Games ready. Come on Team GB!

@BorisJohnson

04



The time for #ClimateAction is now. 100 days before #COP26, I call once again on all countries to urgently present more ambitious national action plans. We must spare no effort to keep the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5C within reach.

@antonioguterres

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

Classifieds

THE DAILY **tribune**

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

DYNAMIC ZONE CLEANING CONSTRUCTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17640698 or arabspalacecleaning@gmail.com
PIZZA HUT has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17272998 or SSALEH@AMERICANA.BH

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77090999 or SECURE.ME@LIVE.COM
Kingdom Security Protection Services W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or RASHEED@SECURICORE.BH
H R CLEARANCE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS

has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17223700 or HUSSAINRABEEA89@GMAIL.COM
ALI HANAN ISA FARM has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39574891 or ALWAHALIVESTOCK@GMAIL.COM
OLYMPIA SPORTS PRO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725275 or admin@alireza-group.com
ALASHBALL FLOORING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33600065 or info.cozydecor@gmail.com
AL-MUNTASIR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17324494 or MUNTASIRCON@YAHOO.COM

BATSCO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783886 or info@batsco.net
MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or MAGICSHINE775@YAHOO.COM
NASEEM ALBAHAR FOR SHISHA AND TOBACCO has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 39955454 or NANTUJOY127@GMAIL.COM
Khalil ebrahim ahmed thai restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34045666 or KHALILFTEMP@GMAIL.COM
URBANQUARTERSCO.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HOUSEKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532201 or info@urbanqt.com

About 100 CIA officers, family members afflicted by 'Havana Syndrome' - CIA chief



CIA Director William Burns speaks during a House Intelligence Committee hearing

Reuters | Washington

About 100 CIA officers and family members are among some 200 U.S. officials and kin sickened by "Havana syndrome," CIA Director William Burns said on Thursday, referring to the mysterious set of ailments that include migraines and dizziness.

Burns, tapped by US President Joe Biden as the first career diplomat to serve as CIA chief, said in a National Public Radio interview that he has bolstered his agency's efforts to determine the cause of the syndrome and what is responsible.

He confirmed that among other steps, he tapped a senior officer who once led the hunt for Osama bin Laden to head a task force investigating the syndrome, and said he tripled the size of the medical team involved in the probe.

The agency also has shortened from eight weeks to two weeks the time that CIA-affiliated people must wait for admission to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, he said.

"It's a profound obligation I think of any leader to take care of your people and that is what I am determined to do," Burns told NPR in his first interview since becoming CIA director in March.

YOU KNOW WHAT
Havana Syndrome, with symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, migraines and memory lapses, is so named because it first was reported by US officials based in the US embassy in Cuba in 2016

Havana Syndrome, with symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, migraines and memory lapses, is so named because it first was reported by US officials based in the US embassy in Cuba in 2016.

Burns noted that a US National Academy of Sciences panel in December found that a plausible theory is that "directed energy" beams caused the syndrome.

There is a "very strong possibility" that the syndrome is intentionally caused, and that Russia could be responsible, he said, adding that he is withholding definitive conclusions pending further investigation.

Moscow denies involvement.

Britain hits five individuals with anti-graft sanctions

AFP | London

Britain on Thursday placed sanctions on five individuals around the world including the son of Equatorial Guinea's president, as part of its global anti-corruption regime.

The UK said it had frozen the assets of and put travel bans on the five, who are accused of syphoning off public funds in Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe, Venezuela and Iraq.

"The action we have taken today targets individuals who have lined their own pockets at the expense of their citizens," Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said in a statement.

"Corruption drains the wealth of poorer nations, keeps their people trapped in poverty and poisons the well of democracy," he said.

The Foreign Office said it was sanctioning Vice President of Equatorial Guinea Teodorin Obiang, the son of the current president, for his involvement in the misappropriation of state funds into his own personal bank accounts.

As well as making corrupt contracting arrangements and soliciting bribes, it said Obiang had splurged \$500 million (425 million euros) on a private mansion in Paris, luxury cars and a collection of Michael Jack-



A man takes photos of luxury cars seized from Equatorial Guinea's vice president Teodorin Obiang Nguema

son memorabilia including a \$275,000 crystal-covered glove that the singer wore on his 1987-89 "Bad" tour.

Sanctions were placed on Colombian contractors Alex Nain Saab Moran and Alvaro Enrique Pulido Vargas for exploiting Venezuela's public food and housing programmes and delivering goods at inflated prices.

Saab, who is reported to be close to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and who has a Venezuelan diplomatic passport, is accused by the United States of pulling the strings of this embezzlement network.

Indicted in July 2019 in Miami for money laundering, he was arrested during a stop-over of his plane in Cape Verde in mid-June 2020.

The United States is demanding his extradition while Venezuela is calling for his release.

The Venezuelan foreign ministry reacted issued a statement late Thursday saying that London's sanctions were "criminal" and "reflect the immorality of the British government which sets itself up as the world's supposed anti-corruption judge."

Zimbabwe's Kudakwashe Regimond Tagwirei was sanc-

“
The action we have taken today targets individuals who have lined their own pockets at the expense of their citizens. Corruption drains the wealth of poorer nations, keeps their people trapped in poverty and poisons the well of democracy

FOREIGN SECRETARY DOMINIC RAAB

tioned under the anti-corruption regime for redeeming national treasury bills at 10 times their official value.

Iraq's Nawfal Hammadi Al-Sultan was targeted for misappropriating public funds intended for reconstruction efforts and supporting civilians while serving as governor of the country's northern Nineveh province.

The measures are the second grouping of sanctions under Britain's anti-corruption regime.

They follow sanctions in April, which targeted 22 individuals involved in serious corruption cases in Russia, South Africa, South Sudan and Latin America.

Alaska Coast Guard rescues man who fended off grizzly bear for days

Reuters | Washington

A man who fended off attacks from a wild grizzly bear for a week straight in the Alaskan wilderness is recovering from his injuries after he was found stranded at an encampment, the US Coast Guard said.

An aircrew first spotted an "SOS" sign on top of a shack during a routine helicopter flight over the west Alaskan coast last Friday, according to a Coast Guard statement. It wasn't until the aircraft flew back to inspect the message that it noticed a man waving two hands in the air.

The gesture "is considered an international distress signal,"

the statement said.

"The aircrew landed and made contact with the individual, who requested medical care after being attacked by a bear a few days earlier," the Coast Guard said.

The bear attack victim suffered from a leg injury and bruising on his torso. He told authorities he was stalked by the bear, which he said returned to his camp site every night for a week.

The Coast Guard transported the victim to the nearby town of Nome, where he was treated for his injuries.

The man had been reported missing by his friends after he did not come back to Nome.



A grizzly bear runs through free-roaming habitat at The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado (file photo)

White House blames Facebook and YouTube for spreading vaccine misinformation

AFP | Washington

The White House has YouTube, not just Facebook, on its list of social media platforms officials say are responsible for an alarming spread of misinformation about COVID vaccines and are not doing enough to stop it, sources familiar with the administration's thinking said.

The criticism comes just a week after President Joe Biden called Facebook and other social media



Facebook logo is reflected in a drop on a syringe needle

companies "killers" for failing to slow the spread of misinformation about vaccines. He has since softened his tone.

A senior administration official said one of the key problems is "inconsistent enforcement." YouTube - a unit of Alphabet Inc's Google - and Facebook get to decide what qualifies as misinformation on their platforms. But the results have left the White House unhappy.

"Facebook and YouTube... are the judge, the

jury and the executioner when it comes to what is going on in their platforms," an administration official said, describing their approach to COVID misinformation. "They get to grade their own homework."

Some of the main pieces of vaccine misinformation the Biden administration is fighting include that the COVID-19 vaccines are ineffective, false claims that they carry microchips and that they hurt women's fertility, the official said.

CELEBS

celebs



Anna Faris

Ariel Winter calls Britney Spears' conservatorship 'absurd'

Fox | Los Angeles

Ariel Winter is speaking out in support of Britney Spears.

Spears, 39, is in the midst of a conservatorship battle with her father Jamie overseeing her estate while fans and the pop star herself call out for the legal guardianship to end.

Winter, 23, knows a thing or two about tough parent-child relationships, as she was emancipated in 2015.

"I support Britney. I think Britney is incredible," the "Modern Family" alum gushed when asked by Entertainment Tonight about Spears' situation. "Her story's incredibly moving. I listened to her testimony."

The singer offered up a bombshell testimony in court on June 23 in which she alleged that her father has been mistreating her

in various ways, including by blocking her from removing contraception from her body and more.

"I think [Spears] is so smart, so capable. She should absolutely be free to live her life, be in control of her life, in control of herself," Winter continued. "I think it's absurd that this is the situation that she has to be in."

The young actress said she believes the "justice system" to be "corrupt."

Winter has been open in her claims about being mistreated by her own mother over the years, which Winter has previously alleged in court docs was marred by physical and emotional abuse.



Ariel Winter

Anna Faris reveals she secretly married Michael Barrett at local courthouse

ANI | Washington

Anna Faris and Michael Barrett have tied the knot! The 44-year-old actor recently revealed that she secretly married the 51-year-old cinematographer.

As per People magazine, during the latest episode of her podcast 'Anna Faris is Unqualified', the 'Mom' star accidentally let it slip that she and Barrett got hitched recently.

"I'm looking around.. my fiance's right -- he's now my husband. Yes, we eloped. It was awesome, yeah, it was great," she said during a conversation with a caller.

While Faris didn't share many details about the nuptials, she added, "It was at a local courthouse up in Washington State, it was great."

Faris has obtained the couple's marriage certificate, which was signed on June 14.

She went on to say that the couple had also kept their own relatives in the dark before exchanging vows. "We saw my family, and it kind of slipped out the same way," Anna recalled. "My aunt asked me, 'You are going to be a stepmom. How are you feeling about that?' and I said, 'Well, actually, I am a stepmom as of like four days ago, but it was great.' Everything about it just felt right."

Faris began dating the cinematographer in 2017 after working on her film 'Overboard'. The two were first spotted together that September, a month after Faris and ex-husband Chris Pratt announced their split after eight years of marriage.

Faris and Pratt share an eight-year-old son Jack. Faris was also previously married to actor Ben Indra from 2004 to 2008.

Faris told People magazine in May that she and Barrett "had an immediate kind of intimacy."

"We're both probably introverts in a very similar way," she shared. "And he has two children and that has been awesome. I've really learned a lot about myself through his kids. It's been really rewarding."

The pair's engagement was confirmed last January by Faris' former 'Mom' costar Allison Janney, who told Us magazine that the duo had "been engaged for a long time."

Faris began dating Michael Barrett in 2017 after working on her film 'Overboard'

Courtney Cox's Emmy nomination was 'not exactly' what she was looking for

Fox | Los Angeles

Courtney Cox admitted her recent Emmy nomination for "Friends: The Reunion" was not the type of Emmy she was looking for.

"Honestly, I am so happy that the reunion has been recognized because I think it's terrific," Cox said during an interview

with Entertainment Weekly published on Wednesday.

"[Director] Ben Winston did a great job and all of his crew," the 57-year-old actress added. "That's not exactly the Emmy I was looking for. I'm being honest with you."

Cox went on to say she was "happy to be a part" of the "Friends" reunion, but that the Emmy she received is not the kind she was saying she wanted when she recently spoke to Howard Stern.

"I'm so happy to be a part of it," Cox told Entertainment Weekly. "I'm so thrilled that I got to do it onstage back

at that same studio, the same Stage 24, with those incredible people that I love so much. And I'm so thrilled, but that Emmy [nomination] really belongs to Ben Winston."

"So yes, I'm so happy. But when I was on Howard Stern, I wasn't talking about that."

The "Cougar Town" actress claimed on "The Howard Stern" show in June that it "hurt" her "feelings" to be the only cast member who hadn't earned an Emmy nomination for "Friends."

"When every single cast member was nominated but me, it definitely hurt my feelings," she told Stern. "I was happy for everybody, and then when it was finally like, 'Oh, I'm the only one?' It hurt."

Courtney Cox



Emily Blunt: Really appreciate that Dwayne Johnson comes from struggle

ANS | Los Angeles

Emily Blunt has opened up working with Dwayne Johnson in the upcoming film "Jungle Cruise". The actress talked about how she takes career advice from him and shared that she really appreciates that the Hollywood star comes from struggle.

Blunt in a recent interview with The Hollywood Reporter, said: "When you get to know him as being much gentler, much more shy than people realize, you really realize that 'The Rock' is the performance of a lifetime. It is so the antithesis of who he is. And so I'm going to push him to play, to take big swings with characters."

She added: "Because it's really transformative if you know him as I do."

The 38-year-old actress also says she has relied on him for counsel as she

navigates the next stage of her career. "I really appreciate that DJ comes from struggle," Blunt added.

"He comes from some hard times, and he wears it very lightly and in a very wise philosophical sense. And so I do go to him for advice because he has lived in the trenches. He has not just winged it, and it has not been this meteoric rise to where he is now. It's been a lot of razor blades and tears," she said.

Inspired by the famous Disneyland theme park ride, "Jungle Cruise" is an adventure-filled, rollicking thrill-ride down the Amazon with wisecracking skipper Frank Wolff and intrepid researcher Dr. Lily Houghton.

Jaume Collet-Serra directs the film, which also stars Edgar Ramirez and Jack Whitehall, with Jesse Plemons and Paul Giamatti.

Emily Blunt

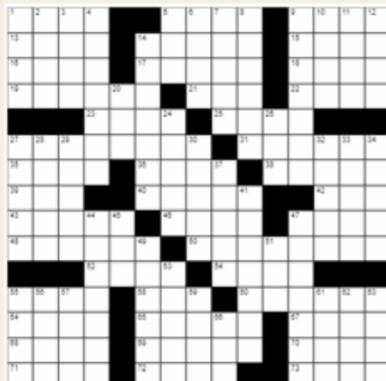
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How to play
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD



Across
1- Vocalize melodically; 5- Girder type; 9- A party to; 13- Ersatz butter; 14- Maker of Pong; 15- St. Petersburg's river; 16- Saab model; 17- Hired parker; 18- Attention; 19- Fiber for making mats; 21- Hosp. area; 22- Gillette brand; 23- Stew pod; 25- Contented sighs; 27- Coffee stimulant; 31- Suds; 35- Mouth part; 36- 1/100 of a monetary unit; 38- Suspicious; 39- Rainbow shape; 40- Kind of kitchen; 42- Slender bar; 43- Hiding place; 46- Bausch & Lomb brand; 47- Message symbols; 48- Falls-jumping fish; 50- Easy chair; 52- Impersonator; 54- Melodramatic cry; 55- Long poem, such as those attributed to Homer; 58- Motor City gp.; 60- Fancy home; 64- Blink; 65- Lasso; 67- Actor Estrada; 68- Reason d'; 69- Willow; 70- Actress Russo; 71- Arouse; 72- Devices for fishing; 73- Turner and others;

Down
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Yesterday's solution

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Tokyo Olympics doubly special for handball quartet

● Skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain, left back Ali Mirza and pivot Mohammed Mirza were also part of Bahrain team that made first-ever appearance in World Handball Championship in 2011

TDT | Manama

The Tokyo Games marks the first-ever Olympics in which Bahrain is competing in the men's handball tournament, and for four of the Kingdom's national team players, the occasion is doubly special.

Centre back and Bahrain captain Hussain Al Sayyad, goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain, left back Ali Mirza and pivot Mohammed Mirza were all also part of Bahrain's debut appearance at the World Men's Handball Championship in 2011.

The two events are 10 years apart, and the quartet are making history being a part of both squads.

"It is an incredible feeling, the most important moment of my career," says Al Sayyad, who has played 482 international matches for Bahrain, according to International Handball Fed-



Bahrain handball quartet



Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed Abdulhussain, Ali Mirza and Mohammed Mirza were also part of Bahrain's debut appearance at the World Men's Handball Championship in 2011

“It is an incredible feeling, the most important moment of my career. The Olympics is harder than the world cup and the Asian championship, and harder than all the championships we have participated in before. You are talking about the 12 best national teams in the world.”

HUSSAIN AL SAYYAD

eration statistics.

"I think most of the players share the same feeling. Qualifying for the Olympics, which is the most important event in the world for us as athletes.

"The Olympics is harder than the world cup and the Asian championship, and harder than all the championships we have participated in before. You are talking about the 12 best national teams in the world.

"Our ambition is to show our national team in the best image, as we always do, and hopefully achieve something that hasn't been achieved before."

Martins vs Grabinski rescheduled for BRAVE CF 53, in Kazakhstan



AFP | London

Lucas "Mineiro" Martins and Marcel Grabinski were supposed to meet inside the BRAVE CF arena in Belarus, back in June, but a health issue with the German star caused the cancellation of the bout only a few minutes before the athletes' workout.

After all the turbulence, Martins and Grabinski are set to finally settle their differences. BRAVE CF officials have confirmed that Martins vs Grabinski will be a 3-round, featured Lightweight bout in

the upcoming BRAVE CF 53, on August 21st, in Kazakhstan.

In the aftermath of the drama in Belarus, "Mineiro" and Grabinski engaged in a war of words through social media, demanding a do-over in the nearest date available, which has now been confirmed.

BRAVE CF 53 will take place on August 21st, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and marks the second visit of the truly global MMA promotion to the Central Asian country. The main event of the evening, promoted in association with Octagon League, is yet to be confirmed.

Al Mubarak claims opening round in Esport GT series



Action from the race

TDT | Manama

Two-time defending champion Ebrahim Al Mubarak kicked off his quest for a title three-peat on a positive note by taking the opening round of season three in the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship.

Driving a WRX Gr.4 car, Al Mubarak won from pole position in a total race time of 21 minutes 59.094 seconds.

The meeting was held along a virtual version of Spain's Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya. The race took place over 12 laps.

Al Mubarak took first place in qualifying with a best lap of 1:49.070. He beat his closest challenger by 00.476 seconds.

In the race, Al Mubarak made

no mistake and went on to take the chequered flag with a comfortable 7.513s gap ahead of the rest of the pack.

Hussain Hasan finished as the runner-up while Hassan Khalil came third overall.

Hamad Al Fardan came fourth and Abdulla Sami Qamber fifth, while competing the top eight were Yahya Kuzbar, Ahmed Amin and Yusuf Al Askeri. Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed rounded off the final classification in ninth place.

To add to his victory, Al Mubarak clocked the ace's fastest lap of 1:49.145.

The series' third season is set to feature five rounds in all.

The competition is being run on the Gran Turismo Sport video game on the Sony PlayStation 4

or 5 platforms, which is officially licenced by the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

The field is set to return to action for round two on July 30, while round three will be on August 6, round four on August 13, and the fifth and final round a couple of weeks later on August 27.

Prize money is presented to the top three of each meeting, with the winner getting BD50, the runner-up BD30 and third place taking home BD20.

Drivers will earn points per round, which will go towards their championship classification. At the end of the season, the winner will get BD500 in prize money, while second place will take home BD300 and third place BD200.

Fakhreddine goes off on rival title challenger: "S**t person and fighter"

TDT | Manama

Mohammad "The Lat-est" Fakhreddine is on the verge of making history for mixed martial arts as the first-ever double world champion from the Arab world, as well as the first two-weight titleholder in BRAVE Combat Federation history.

The reigning Middleweight champion will go up to Light Heavyweight to take on Mohammed Said Maalem in a vacant title bout which will headline BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood on August 1st, in Milan, Italy.

And the name of the event couldn't be more in line with the rivalry between both men, which has been building up since their previously scheduled fight didn't go through at BRAVE CF 50. At the time, Fakhreddine was forced to pull out of the fight during the event itself, prompting Said Maalem to ask for the title to be handed to him, which kicked off a serious rivalry between both men.

Algerian powerhouse Said Maalem went as far as hinting that Fakhreddine treated fellow Arab fighters differently, and Fakhreddine didn't hold back when describing his opinion of his next challenge.

"You know, I don't really know him as a person, but after what he said in the cage last time and the posters he put



Mohammad Fakhreddine

“You know, I don't really know him as a person, but after what he said in the cage last time and the posters he put on his social media, he really showed what kind of s*** person he is. I'm only going to say what I saw, and I saw a disrespectful, cheap person”

MOHAMMAD FAKHREDDINE

on his social media, he really showed what kind of s*** person he is. I'm only going to say what I saw, and I saw a disrespectful, cheap person. As a fighter, I have no respect for him, he hasn't done anything, he hasn't accomplished anything that's worth talking about. He's a s*** fighter", said Fakhreddine.

Fakhreddine vs Said Maalem will headline BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood, which marks the first time the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world hosts an event in Italy. The groundbreaking show will be hosted in association with The Golden Cage, and will have fighters from across the world in action.

Fernando, Rajapaksa propel Sri Lanka to consolation win over India



Sri Lanka's Avishka Fernando plays a shot
AFP | Colombo

Avishka Fernando (76) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (65) smashed respective fifties to ensure Sri Lanka did not lose the third and final ODI against India despite a late wobble yesterday.

With this win, Sri Lanka opened their account in the series. India won the ODI series 2-1 after failing to secure a win in the dead rubber yesterday. The hosts defeated India by three wickets on the back of some stunning performances.

Chasing 225, Sri Lanka got off to a steady start scoring 35 runs in the first five overs. Krishnappa Gowtham claimed his maiden international wicket when he dismissed Minod Bhanuka in the sixth over.

However, Sri Lanka ensured a solid start as they raced to 55/1 in 10 overs. Avishka Fernando and Bhanuka Rajapaksa held the ground as they stitched a 109-run stand for the second wicket.

Fernando smashed his fifth half-century to put Sri Lanka in control of the chase in Colombo. Meanwhile, Rajapaksa also registered his maiden ODI

“If we had done well in the second match, we would have won the series. After the England tour I worked on my batting and that helped in scoring runs here. We have a very young side and going forward, I believe this young side will do well”

AVISHKA FERNANDO

half-century to aid the hosts' chase.

India bounced back with Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Dhananjaya de Silva's wicket but that didn't dent Sri Lanka's hopes. However, the visitors again wobbled when they lost Charith Asalanka and skipper Dasun Shanaka in successive overs.

In the last ten overs, Sri Lanka needed just 10 runs but Rahul Chahar struck to give visitors another blow. However, Akila Dananjaya and Ramesh Mendis ensured the hosts get over the line in the 39th over.

Bahrain wait extended for FIBA Asia Cup

Continent's leading basketball competition postponed to July 2022 after originally being set to be held next month in Indonesia

● **Competition rescheduled to give window for FIBA Basketball World Cup Asia Qualifiers**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team will have to wait an additional year to compete in the continent's biggest basketball tournament following the postponement of the FIBA Asia Cup 2021.

This year's competition was originally scheduled to be held from August 16 to 28 in Indonesia, but FIBA Asia announced yesterday that it has been put off to July 2022.

“The FIBA Asia Cup 2021 will be played as planned in Jakarta, Indonesia, but is rescheduled to July 2022, right after the window of the FIBA Basketball World Cup Asia Qualifiers,” FIBA Asia said in a statement.

In light of this, the Bahrain Basketball Association's national teams committee said that it will be meeting to revise the national team's programme in the coming months, as the next time they will be taking to the hard-



Bahrain national basketball team player Hesham Sarhan in action during the qualifiers earlier this year (File photo)

wood will be in November for the FIBA World Cup qualifiers. Bahrain secured their berth in the FIBA Asia Cup after winning four of their six qualifying games, which wrapped up earlier this year.

A training squad of 26 players had begun practising for

the tournament several weeks ago. They included Maytham Jameel, Ahmed Hassan Al Derazi, Hesham Sarhan, Mohammed Qurban, Subah Hussain, Mustafa Hussain, Ahmed Salman Ramadhan, Mohammed Hussain, Hasan Nowrooz, Muzamil Ameer, Ahmad Najaf, Mo-



Bahrain secured their berth in the FIBA Asia Cup after winning four of their six qualifying games, which wrapped up earlier this year

ammed Ameer, Yousef Al Murbati, Mohammed Buallay, Bader Abdulla Jassim, Mohammed Kuwayed, Mohammed Juma'a, Ali Rabea, Hussain Jan, Hussain Salman, Abdulrahman Ghali, Al Watheq Ali, C.J. Giles, Ali Jaber, Hassan Abbas and Nasser Al-mosawi.

Next year's FIBA Asia Cup will mark the 30th edition of the continent's leading basketball championship. It will feature 16 national teams.

Bahrain have appeared in the Cup, originally known as the Asian Basketball Championship, eight times in the past, including in 1977, 1979, 1987, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2011 and 2013.

The Bahrainis' best finish was 10th in the 1999 competition hosted by Saudi Arabia.

Manchester United sign Sancho on five-year deal from Dortmund

AFP | London

Manchester United have signed England winger Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund on a five-year contract, the Premier League club announced yesterday.

No fee was disclosed but British media reports said Sancho had moved from Germany in a deal worth £73 million (100 million dollars) -- which would make him the second-most expensive English player of all time behind new United teammate Harry Maguire.

Sancho is set to stay at United until June 2026, with the option of a further year.

“I'll always be grateful to Dortmund for giving me the opportunity to play first team football, although I always knew that I would return to England one day,” Sancho told manutd.com.

“The chance to join Manchester United is a dream come true and I just cannot wait to perform in the Premier League,” the 21-year-old added.

“This is a young and exciting squad and I know, together, we can develop into something special to bring the success that the fans deserve.”

His move to Old Trafford follows a year-long pursuit by United, who were reportedly put by Dortmund's initial £100m valuation of Sancho, a

“The chance to join Manchester United is a dream come true and I just cannot wait to perform in the Premier League. This is a young and exciting squad and I know, together, we can develop into something special to bring the success that the fans deserve”

JADON SANCHO

former Manchester City youth team player.

The deal was announced just weeks after Sancho, together with new United team-mate Marcus Rashford and Bukayo Saka, received racist abuse following the trio's penalty shoot-out misses in England's Euro 2020 final loss to Italy at Wembley.

United finished second, 12 points be-

hind local rivals Manchester City, in last season's Premier League but Red Devils manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer expects his side to benefit from Sancho's “untapped talent”, even though the forward scored 50 goals and recorded 57 assists in 137 appearances for Bundesliga club Dortmund.

“Jadon epitomises the type of player I want to bring to the club, he is a forward player in the best traditions of Manchester United,” said Solskjaer.

“He will form an integral part of my squad for years to come and we look forward to seeing him blossom,” the United manager added.

“His goals and assists records speak for themselves and he will also bring tremendous pace, flair and creativity to the team.”

“Old Trafford will give him the platform he needs to release his untapped talent and perform at the highest level.”

“For a player of his age, Jadon has already achieved a great deal and showed the courage to go and prove himself abroad.”



Jadon Sancho

Bahrain Olympic team bow to Kuwaiti counterparts



Bahrain's Olympic football team prior to their Kuwait friendly

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's under-23 Olympic football team bowed to their counterparts from Kuwait 2-4 in an international friendly match played in Turkey.

The Bahrainis' goal scorers included Ahmed Al Sherooqi and Abdulrahman Al Sayed, but they could not match their Gulf rivals.

The friendly was part of the Bahrainis' ongoing training camp at the Istanbul capital, where they are preparing mainly for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, which takes place in October.

It was the first of two warm-up games against the Kuwaitis.



The friendly was part of the Bahrainis' ongoing training camp at the Istanbul capital, where they are preparing mainly for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, which takes place in October

The two teams meet once again on Monday.

Bahrain's under-23s are currently training with 28 players in Istanbul. Aside from Al Sherooqi and Al Sayed, the others are Ali Muftah, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Faisal Abdulla, Faisal Hassan Habib, Ammar Mohammed, Omar Abdulbasit, Younis Mousa, Adnan Fawaz, Abdulla Al Haiki, Ali Khalifa, Hussain Al Attar, Hussain Abdulkarim, Abdulla Freah, Ebrahim Shareeda, Mohammed 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.

Team Bahrain



The Tokyo Olympics are on!

Bahrain delegation participates in Parade of Nations at Opening Ceremony to officially kick off the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Japan



Tokyo Olympics doubly special for handball quartet

Bahrain delegation take part in ceremonial Parade of Nations wearing traditional Bahraini clothes

Men's national handball team to make historic Olympic debut today against European giants Sweden
Boxer Danis Latypov laces up his gloves against Azerbaijan opponent in Men's Super Heavyweight Round of 32

Boxer Danis Latypov laces up his gloves against Azerbaijan opponent in Men's Super Heavyweight Round of 32

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's historic participation in the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo got underway yesterday.

Members of the Kingdom's Olympic delegation took part in a scaled-down yet culturally brilliant Opening Ceremony, held with a limited number of spectators at the Japan National Stadium.

Men's national handball team skipper Hussain Al Sayyad led the Bahraini delegation as the flag-bearer in the Parade of Nations, joined by a number of Bahrain's other Olympians.

BAHRAIN'S SCHEDULE TODAY

8.15am: Handball, Bahrain vs Sweden

2.27pm: Boxing, Danis Latypov vs Mohammad Abdullayev (AZE)

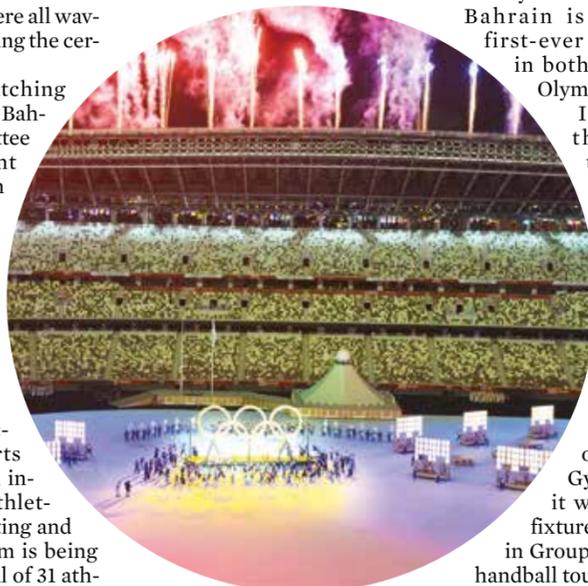


BOC vice-president and Bahrain mission head HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa (L), BOC secretary general and deputy head Mohammed Al Nusuf (R), and other high-ranking officials watch the opening ceremony

Fifteen-year-old swimmer Noor Yusuf Taha walked alongside Al Sayyad in a traditional Bahraini dress, while the men wore thobes. They were all waving Bahrain flags during the ceremony.

In attendance watching from the stands were Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president and Bahrain mission head His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, BOC secretary general and deputy head Mohammed Al Nusuf, and other high-ranking officials.

Bahrain are participating in five sports at the Tokyo Games, including handball, athletics, swimming, shooting and boxing. The Kingdom is being represented by a total of 31 athletes in what is Bahrain's 10th participation in the Summer Olympics.



HH Shaikh Isa meets Saudi's Olympic delegation head

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president and the Kingdom's delegation head at the Tokyo Olympic Games His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa met yesterday with Saudi Arabia's minister of sports, Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee (SAOC) president and Saudi delegation head Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal.

Also on hand were BOC secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf and SAOC secretary general

Action

The Kingdom's handball squad and boxer Danis Latypov are both in action today to get their respective medal bids underway.

Bahrain is marking its first-ever participation in both sports at any Olympics.

In handball, the Bahrainis take on world championship silver-medalists Sweden in a match scheduled for an 8.15am start, Bahrain time. It will be played at Tokyo's Yoyogi National Gymnasium, and it will be the first fixture for both teams in Group B of the men's handball tournament's first



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, left, presents a token of appreciation to Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal

Prince Fahad bin Jalawi.

HH Shaikh Isa and Prince Abdulaziz held discussions

and at the end of their meeting exchanged tokens of appreciation.

phase.

Also today in Group B, Portugal take on Egypt while reigning world and Olympic champions Denmark face off with hosts Japan.

All six teams in Group A are also in action, with Norway facing Brazil, France taking on Argentina and Germany battling Spain.

In boxing, Latypov will be taking to the ring in the Men's Super Heavyweight (+91kg) di-

vision. His fight, scheduled for 2.27pm, Bahrain time, will be held at Kokugikan Arena, and it is the lone bout in the Round of 32 of their weight class.

Latypov and his opponent are among a total field of 17 boxers that are set to go for gold in their category.

The winner moves on to face top seed Bakhodir Jalolov of Uzbekistan in the Round of 16, which is scheduled to be held on Thursday next week.



Bahrain handball team player Mohammed Mirza poses for a photograph with tennis superstar Novak Djokovic at the Olympics' Opening Ceremony yesterday