

Syria gas pipeline explosion a 'terrorist attack'

Agencies | Cairo

An explosion on the Arab Gas Pipeline that caused a power blackout in Syria yesterday was the result of a "terrorist" attack, state media cited the energy minister as saying.

A local TV channel showed footage of a large fire after the explosion, which officials said occurred between the towns of Ad Dumayr and Adra, northwest of the capital Damascus.

"Assessments show that the explosion...was the result of a terrorist attack," state news agency SANA quoted Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Ghanem as saying.

It was reported that power was gradually being restored to the country's provinces.

UAE, Israel agree to enhance health sector cooperation

Reuters | Dubai

The UAE and Israel agreed yesterday to enhance bilateral cooperation in the health sector, UAE state news agency WAM said.

The health ministers of the two countries discussed cooperation on pharmaceuticals, medical research and the coronavirus (COVID-19) in a telephone call. A statement from Israel's Health Ministry added that they agreed on "initial and immediate cooperation" in the health sector.

The Israeli health ministry added that the two countries will each appoint representatives and set up business delegations, and will also work to create a student exchange programme once the COVID-19 pandemic conditions allow.

New Flexi Permit rules

Revised regulations to help create job opportunities for citizens, make them first choice for employment

● Inspections to be intensified to ensure Flexi Permit holders do not work in professional activities that they may not engage in without a permit

● Regulatory standards to be proposed for 20 identified professions plus any other professions deemed relevant

TDT | Manama

New regulations for issuing the Flexible Work Permit were approved yesterday by the Cabinet during its weekly meeting, held remotely and chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Based on the recommendation of the Government Executive Committee, chaired by HRH the Crown Prince, the new regulations aim to optimise the work



HRH the Crown Prince during the remote Cabinet meeting

permit system in a manner that strengthens labour market regulations, create job opportunities for Bahrainis, make citizens the first choice of employment, and preserve the rights of workers.

The new regulations for the flexible work permit policy were approved based on the feedback of the Shura and Representatives Councils and the Bahrain

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), which were shared at meetings held to discuss all available options.

The Cabinet expressed its appreciation to the Legislative Authority and BCCI's continuous cooperation towards supporting Bahrain's development goals.

New procedures include intensifying inspection campaigns

on flexible work permit holders to ensure that they do not work in professional activities that they may not engage in without obtaining a permit, and intensifying inspection campaigns on irregular workers to take the necessary legal action. Workers who do not comply with the regulatory procedures or who hold a business commercial registration are not allowed to apply for the Flexible Work Permit.

Furthermore, a committee consisting of members from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development; the Ministry of Finance and National Economy; the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism; the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning; the Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs; the Labour Market Regulatory Authority; BCCI; and the Education and Training Quality Authority will propose regulatory standards for 20 identified professions and any other professions the committee deems relevant to include.

Recommendations will be shared with the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training within two months.

Measures also include barring Flexible Work Permit holders

from registering industrial motor vehicles used in construction and transport buses.

Also yesterday, the Cabinet congratulated HRH the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa on the success of his medical tests, and wished him continued good health as he supports the advancement of Bahrain's progress across all sectors, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The Cabinet praised the role played by the Supreme Council for Women, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of HM the King, for advancing women's participation in all facets of society on its 19th anniversary.

The Cabinet commended healthcare personnel and first responders for their tireless dedication, which has allowed for Bahrain to maintain relatively high coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery and testing rates, and strengthen efficient contact-tracing efforts.

The Cabinet also commended the high level of COVID-19 awareness and compliance with precautionary measures among citizens and residents across the Kingdom.

Families confront New Zealand mosque shooter at sentencing

AP | Christchurch

Families and survivors had their first chance to confront the white supremacist who slaughtered 51 worshippers in a March 2019 mass shooting at two New Zealand mosques as his four-day sentencing hearing began yesterday.

The gunman, 29-year-old Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant, pleaded guilty in March to 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder, and one count of terrorism—the first terrorism conviction in New Zealand's history. He could become the first person in the country to be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole—the toughest sentence available.

Tarrant was brought into the Christchurch High Court shackled and wearing a gray prison outfit. In the dock, unshackled and surrounded by five officers, he showed little emotion throughout the hearing.

The courtroom was only half full due to coronavirus (COVID-19) distancing require-



Tarrant is seen in court

ments, while many others watched from adjacent courtrooms where the hearing was streamed. Survivors and family members occasionally wept and comforted each other.

Two dozen victims and family members told the court about the pain of losing husbands, wives, sons, and brothers. Some had family members around them for support, others spoke through translators or on pre-recorded videos from abroad.

Some speakers raised their voices in anger when they addressed the gunman. One said

nothing less than the death penalty would be fair.

Janna Ezat, whose son Hussein Al Umari was killed, looked at Tarrant and spoke softly. "I forgive you," she said. "The damage is done; Hussein will never be here. I only have one choice and that is to forgive."

Prosecutors outlined the attacks in a 26-page summary of facts—the first detailed account by authorities about what happened that day—including the revelation that Tarrant had intended to burn down the mosques.

US State Department confirms Pompeo Bahrain visit

Agencies | Manama

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will be coming to Bahrain before his scheduled talks with the UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the US State Department has said.

A statement said that Pompeo would hold talks with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Pompeo is also set to meet with Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok at a later date.

Hong Kong man first documented COVID-19 re-infection case

Reuters | Hong Kong

A Hong Kong man who recovered from the coronavirus (COVID-19) was infected again four-and-a-half months later, in the first documented instance of human re-infection, researchers at the University of Hong Kong said yesterday.

The findings indicate the disease, which has killed more than 800,000 people worldwide, may continue to spread amongst the global population despite herd immunity, they

said.

The 33-year-old male was cleared of COVID-19 and discharged from a hospital in April, but tested positive again after returning from Spain via Britain on August 15.

The patient had appeared to be previously healthy, researchers said in the paper, and was found to have contracted a different coronavirus strain from the one he had previously contracted while remaining asymptomatic for the second infection.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

- TOTAL CASES: 49,719
- ACTIVE CASES: 3,223
- DEATHS: 185
- DISCHARGED: 46,311
- NEW CASES: 389
- CRITICAL: 33

210 fils (includes VAT)



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HM the King holds call with Kuwaiti Deputy Emir



HM the King

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held a telephone call with Kuwait's Deputy Emir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah.

HM the King was assured about the health of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah.

HM King Hamad wished the Emir a speedy recovery and prayed to Allah the Almighty to bless him with abundant health.

HM the King confirmed the solid long-standing relations

between the two countries and their peoples, and expressed pride in the progress witnessed by both Bahrain and Kuwait.

HM the King also praised Sheikh Nawaf's speech to the Kuwaiti people, that preserves the security and stability in Kuwait and pursues the development process towards a future of prosperity.

Kuwait's Deputy Emir expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to HM the King for his keenness to be reassured about the health of the emir, stressing that HM King Hamad's fraternal feelings embody the depth and strength of the brotherly relations between the two countries and their peoples.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received a cable of congratulations from Kuwait's Deputy Emir on the successful medical check-ups he had undergone. He prayed to Allah the Almighty to bless HRH the Premier with good health and wellness.

Debt ceiling raised to BD15 billion

Continued from page 1

The Cabinet also approved yesterday to raise Bahrain's debt ceiling to BD15 billion from BD13 billion, in order to finance the state's general budget expenditures and to cover debt installments due during 2020 and the next two fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

The approval follows a recommendation by the Ministerial Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Fiscal Balance.

The committee's recommendation aims to minimise the effects of falling oil prices, which resulted in lower oil revenues, and non-oil revenues that were lower than expected due to a slowdown in global economic activity resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) precautionary measures.

Despite the challenges, the government is committed to the Fiscal Balance Programme, which has so far achieved notable results in enhancing spending efficiency and reducing recurrent government expenditures.

The Cabinet also approved, based on the recommendation of the Civil Service Council chaired by HRH the Crown Prince, to transfer the subordination of the National Communication Centre (NCC) to the director-general of the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister, in order to enhance the NCC's role in unifying the government's narrative and communication coordination.

The Cabinet was briefed on a presentation by the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure projects chairman on the committee's achievements during the first two quarters of 2020. A total



A screenshot of the remote Cabinet meeting taking place

of 22 meetings were held and 40 follow-up meetings, during which the committee issued 357 decisions pertaining to seven priorities.

These decisions include following up on projects financed by the GCC development programme, housing policies, public-private partnerships, housing services, food security, natural resources stewardship, and infrastructure that supports long-term sustainable development.

The Cabinet approved a draft decree-law amending an article regarding the internal regulations of the Council of Representatives. The constitutional

and legal changes will amend the legislative deficiency regarding the organisation of the public debate mechanism in order to ensure it is more disciplined.

The Cabinet approved a proposal regarding electricity and water support for micro, and small and medium-sized Bahraini enterprises, which has already been achieved through past decisions taken in this regard through government support for non-domestic electricity consumption segments, at up to 5,000 units, which amounted to BD24 million during 2019.

The Cabinet approved the government's response to a proposal

to remove the requirement for medical students to train at a government health institution, and to limit internships to graduates of local universities enrolled in training programmes approved by the Ministry of Health.

The Cabinet approved a proposal to convert Askar field into a youth centre alongside Askar Sports Complex, which has begun providing its services to Bahrain's youth, and the Southern Youth Centre located in Jau.

The Cabinet also approved a proposal to incorporate media and communications technology courses into government school curricula.

Southern Governor makes inspection visit in Riffa



The Southern Governor is accompanied by officials during his inspection visit

TDT | Manama

Southern Governor His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa made an inspection visit yesterday in Riffa, to follow up on the needs of citizens and to meet their aspirations, in cooperation and coordination with various bodies implementing pilot projects in the region.

The Southern Governor af-

firmed keenness to provide the requirements of the people, through the recommendations of the Coordination Council, in order to upgrade the level of services available to them and to push the wheel of comprehensive development in the various areas of the governorate.

The governorate continues to develop many services and facilities in line with urban growth.

Foreign Minister travels to meet Saudi counterpart



The foreign ministers during their meeting

TDT | Manama

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani visited Saudi Arabia yesterday and met with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

They discussed the close historical fraternal relations between the two Kingdoms and the development and growth it is witnessing under the patronage and sublime guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

They discussed areas of bilateral cooperation and ways to enhance them in order to serve the common interests of the two countries and brotherly peoples, and to continue joint coordination on overall political and security developments in the region, in addition to issues of common concern.

Prince Faisal hosted a lunch banquet in honor of the Foreign Minister and his accompanying delegation.

SCW's achievements hailed

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Journalists' Association (BJA) president Ahdeya Ahmed Al Sayed has extended congratulations to Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) president, on the SCW's 19th Anniversary.

She expressed pride in the SCW's landmark achievements which, she said, have become crystal clear to everyone and contributed to raising awareness on the role of women in the sustainable development process.

BJA chief lauded the major role played by HRH Princess Sabeeka in ensuring the success of



Al Sayed

the commendable efforts of the SCW, affirming that many society-directed projects launched by the SCW have achieved their

objectives.

She indicated that the fruitful efforts made by official entities and NGOs, as well as those of the national media, have contributed to consolidating the success of the role of Bahraini women in society and increasing their participation in building the nation, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and thanks to the unwavering support of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and the constant follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

COVID-19 takes life of male citizen; overall confirmed cases near 50,000

● From the 389 new COVID-19 cases detected yesterday, 142 were expatriate workers, 242 were contacts of active cases, and five were travel-related

TDT | Manama

The coronavirus (COVID-19) took the life of a 71-year-old male citizen in Bahrain yes-

terday, the Ministry of Health announced.

His passing brought the total number of virus-related casualties in the Kingdom to 185.

The ministry expressed its condolences to the family of the deceased.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry also announced early this morning that out of 9,365 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 389 new cases were detected. These included 142 expatriate workers, 242 contacts of active cases, and five travel-related cases. Their registration brought the over-

all number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Kingdom to nearly 50,000 at 49,719, dating back to when the first case was reported in February.

There were also 330 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 46,311.

The total number of current active cases is now at 3,223, with 33 in critical condition and 59 receiving treatment.

The total tests conducted in Bahrain increased to 1,048,935.

Back behind bars

Ex-con in the dock again shortly after completing 10 years behind bars



Representative image

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini ex-convict was sentenced to seven years in jail by the Fourth High Criminal Court for selling drugs.

The man, who had recently completed a 10-year imprisonment sentence for his conviction in a similar case, was also fined BD5,000 by the same court.

He was caught last Ramadan in May selling narcotics worth BD100 to a secret police informant near a supermarket in Muharraq Governorate.

This happened after the Interior Ministry's Anti-Narcotics Directorate was notified about the man's illegal activities.

The secret informant was employed by the police to contact the defendant, consolidate his relationship with him, and eventually buy drugs from him.

5,000
is the fine in Bahraini Dinars issued by the Fourth High Criminal Court against the man

While policemen were stealthily monitoring the situation, the defendant sold the narcotics to the informant and he was arrested on the spot.

The defendant confessed in the police interrogation that he handed over the drugs to his friend (the informant), but he denied selling it to him and claimed he was giving it for free.

On May 18 this year, the Public Prosecution interrogated the defendant and accused him of the illegal sale of hashish, as well as possession of other types of narcotics.

Man who sheltered fugitive loses final plea

TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation has upheld the punishment of a Bahraini man who was earlier convicted, along with two others, of hiding a wanted fugitive from the police.

The trio were charged by the Public Prosecution back in October of 2018 of willingly assisting an individual who is wanted for a crime punished by imprisonment and providing him with food and shelter.

The case was first reported when the concerned security authorities were tipped by secret sources about the location of the wanted individual, who was escaping from a seven-year jail term.

Further investigations proved that the defendants

helped the fugitive to stay off the police radar.

Two of them told prosecutors that the three of them coordinated amongst one another to hide the man and shelter him at a house in A'ali.

They also confessed to joining forces to aid the fugitive, provide him with food and assist him in getting from one place to another, away from policemen's sight.

A first degree court sentenced each one of the three men to three years in jail.

The appellant pleaded not guilty before the Supreme Court of Appeals, which upheld the earlier punishment. His final appeal against the verdict was in vain as the Court of Cassation rejected it this week.

Digital transformation of courts' work proposed

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) participated in the fifth session of the Specialists Committee from the Supreme Courts and Cassation in GCC countries.

Court of Cassation under-secretary and Judicial Supervision head Judge Mohammed Hassan Ahmed Al Buainain represented Bahrain in the session.

Al Buainain said that such meetings strengthen brotherly relations and joint-judicial work between GCC countries, stressing that it achieves the aspirations of GCC citizens.

He noted that, in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Bahrain has proposed digital transformation and artificial intelligence in courts to provide the best services to individuals and society.

New milestone in Bahrain's aviation sector



The Boeing 737-700 FlexCombi upon its arrival in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Texel Air, an established private airline and maintenance, repair and operations company based in Bahrain, announced yesterday the arrival of the Boeing 737-700 FlexCombi.

A first-of-its-kind globally, the conversion aircraft has been developed to provide the most versatile third-party cargo charter solution available in the market.

The aircraft arrived at the com-

pany's private hangar at Bahrain International Airport, where it was greeted by Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Eng Kamal bin Ahmed Mohamed, alongside other VIPs and Texel Air management and board.

The aircraft, which will be based in the Kingdom, is unique in its ability to be configured in seven different ways for multiple purposes in a remarkably fast 48-hour time frame.

The FlexCombi can switch

seamlessly to operate humanitarian, government, express integrator and commercial flights from major airports to smaller remote runways, with configuration flexibility achieved without compromise in cargo volumes and customised-mission capability.

In addition to cargo, the aircraft is able to transport up to 24 people as well as offer the option for medical evacuation flights using two speciality medical beds installed on the aircraft.

The Transportation Minister commented: "I am very pleased to welcome Texel Air's new aircraft to Bahrain today. This is an innovation milestone for our aviation industry and is a reflection of Bahrain's conducive investment environment and advanced regulations in the industry."

"The new aircraft presents a brand new offering to the airline industry and we are very proud that Bahrain is the launchpad for this. It is an example of how Bahrain is not only a good place to establish a business, but also

to grow it successfully."

Texel Air's parent company Chisholm Enterprises CEO George Chisholm added: "We are delighted to welcome the arrival of our first-of-a-kind Boeing 737-700 FlexCombi to Bahrain, where we have proudly grown from an organic start-up airline to a leading innovator in niche cargo operations serving the Middle East, North Africa and global markets."

"From our strategic position in Bahrain, a growing regional hub for aviation and logistics, we will operate this versatile aircraft, serving an international roster of clients that have long awaited a solution that provides them with unmatched levels of flexibility."

The FlexCombi was developed in partnership with US-based PEMCO World Air Services, who effectively translated the concept into an approved FAA STC. For its work on the FlexCombi, PEMCO, in September of 2017, was awarded "Innovator of the Year" at the Chicago Freighters World Conference.

Speaker stresses need to give priority to national interests

TDT | Manama

Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal has stressed the importance of one-team work at the Parliament, which represents all segments of the Bahraini people.

She underlined the need to place the interests of the nation and its citizens above everything else, in line with the sound directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The Speaker commended the tremendous efforts exerted by lawmakers throughout the previous parliamentary session, and their work during the parliamentary summer recess through committees, as well as their continuous interaction with citizens regarding their issues and needs.

The Speaker made the statements as she met yesterday First Deputy Speaker Abdunabi Salman, Financial and Economic Committee chairman MP Ahmed Al Salloum, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Nation-



The Speaker, centre, with the other officials during their meeting

al Security Committee chairman Mohammed Al Sisi Al Buainain, and Services Committee member MP Ahmed Al Ansari.

The meeting discussed the preparations for the upcoming parliamentary session, and the issues to be prioritised, including the post-coronavirus (COVID-19) phase.

She emphasised that most of the legislation and laws developed or enacted by the Council of Representatives aim primarily to achieve the

interests of the nation and the citizens, affirming that the continuous legislature-executive cooperation, coordination and complementarity are the essential prerequisites for attaining more legislative achievements that would contribute to enhancing Bahrain's progress. This is in light of the comprehensive development march spearheaded by HM King Hamad, the unwavering support of the government, led by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and the constant support and follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

The Speaker gave directives to resume the work of parliamentary committee in order to continue discussing issues that interest the citizens, and called for adherence to the national fundamentals approved by the Constitution and the National Action Charter.

Three arrested for car robbery



The remainder of the car's body found at the shop

TDT | Manama

Three men have been arrested for stealing a parked car in front of a house in Riffa, the Ministry of Interior announced yesterday.

The ministry said that the Southern Governorate Police director-general reported the case of the men, who are aged between 25 and 32.

One of the three was responsible for stealing the car before

handing it to the other two, one of whom owns a scraps-selling shop.

They took the vehicle to the shop and dismantled it and sold some of the parts.

The director-general said that an investigation into the case led to identifying and arresting the suspects while the remaining body of the car was found at the shop.

Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

COVID-19 doctoral thesis presented



The First Deputy Speaker, second from right, receives the paper from Al Asmakh alongside other officials

TDT | Manama

Representatives Council First Deputy Speaker Abdunabi Salman met in his office yesterday with Bahraini researcher Dr Ibrahim Al Asmakh, in the presence of other officials.

Al Asmakh presented the First Deputy Speaker with a doctoral thesis on the ongoing transformations around the

world caused by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its potential repercussions on global economies, in addition to the introduction of many positive and scientific solutions at various economic, educational, health and social levels.

At the end of the meeting, the First Deputy Speaker thanked Al Asmakh for his in-depth research.

Bahrain gets top financial ranking

Leading global index names Manama as number one city in the world with best financial benefits to offer

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's capital Manama has been named as the number one city in the world with the best financial benefits to offer, according to a reputed ranking that assesses the attractiveness of 150 global locations.

The Global 150 Cities Index, put together by international mobility data authority Associates for International Research, Inc (AIRINC), highlights the cities that have the ideal combination of high salaries, low taxes and costs, and quality of life.

There are three categories in the Index, including Overall Attractiveness, Lifestyle Rank and Financial Rank.

Manama is number one in



A view of part of Manama

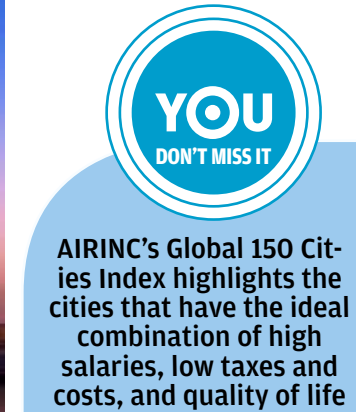
Financial Rank, 116th in Lifestyle Rank, and 68th in Overall Attractiveness.

The financial metrics take

into account salary levels, housing and cost-of-living, and taxes.

These are aggregated to

calculate the net purchasing power of a typical salary in each city, and then converted to a common currency to



allow comparison between locations.

The lifestyle metrics are weighted and grouped by category to result in a score out of 100 that allows objective assessment of the living con-

ditions between cities.

Both metrics are then combined to reflect the importance of each, resulting in an overall score that allows easy city-to-city comparisons and rankings.

Zurich, Switzerland tops both the Overall Attractiveness and Lifestyle rankings, and is third in the Financial Rank behind Manama and Georgetown, Cayman Islands.

AIRINC has been a leading authority on international mobility data since 1954, providing organisations with both data services and insight advice to support their workforce globalisation strategies.

Headquartered in the US, it has more than 900 clients around the globe, including half the Fortune 100.

Electricity Minister participates in youth discussion programme



The electricity minister during the discussion programme

TDI | Manama

Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak participated in an interactive youth discussion for the "Hipo Youth" leadership programme.

The meeting discussed various topics and ways to formu-

late initiatives and programmes that empower youth and develop their talents and capabilities, and prepare them to lead the bright future of the Kingdom.

The minister said that working as Team Bahrain has contributed to development on the national level, stressing that

Bahraini youth are qualified, creative, innovative and capable of contributing to the development of the country with the spirit of patriotism.

He also affirmed that the Electricity and Water Authority is pursuing a strategy to develop its young professionals at various levels.

Green technology workshop held



A screenshot of the workshop taking place

TDI | Manama

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), organised a virtual workshop entitled "Green Information and Communication Technology".

Government and private sector organisations and universi-

ties' employees participated in the workshop.

SCE Information and Communication Technology Department head Manal Al Eid presented a working paper consisting of the green communications concept and its role in achieving sustainable development and reviewing the most important SCE initiatives for the environment and

Bahrain achievements in this regard.

UN Environment's West Asia Office science programmes regional coordinator Dr Abdel Moneim Mohamed Hassan presented a working paper entitled "Legal basis and international mechanisms for environmental protection, in addition to reviewing international environmental agreements".

The event was within the NIHR's plan to strengthen community partnership in the field of green information and communication technology, and raise awareness of the most important international laws and instruments concerned with protecting the environment in the field of green information and communication technology.

Philippine Embassy holds online learning virtual forum



The Philippine Ambassador speaks during the online forum

● Preparations discussed for upcoming academic year, which will be opened under special and new circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic

TDI | Manama

The Philippine Embassy held a virtual forum with the aim to help school administrators,

teachers, parents, students and the community in general to prepare for the upcoming school year, which will be opened under special and new circumstances brought about by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The main presenters were seasoned educators Francis Manaois and Dr Victoria Manaois, both of whom have years of experience in implementing online learning programmes.

They spoke about the importance of preparation for the new system, not only on the part of school administrators and teachers, but also—

and equally as important—on the part of parents and students.

While administrators and teachers need to step up in preparing learning management systems, materials and activities for the pupils, parents also need to ready logistical, physical and emotional support for their children.

They emphasised the need for constant and effective communication between educators and the parents in order to provide seamless support to the learners, and stressed the need for everyone to have a growth mindset as the entire community navigates the new educational landscape.

The speakers provided tips on how to prepare for online classes as well as healthy habits to observe.

Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) director Gydabelle Naval spoke about the school's efforts to help parents support their children under the "new normal".

Philippine Ambassador Alfonso A Ver also took part in the forum.

Bahrain's human rights achievements highlighted

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's human rights achievements were highlighted in a Ministry of Interior lecture delivered by Assistant Foreign Minister Abdulla bin Faisal bin Jabur Al Doseri.

He stressed the role of Bahraini diplomacy in protecting national interests and supporting all efforts aimed at achieving stability and enhancing security.

"Bahrain guarantees all human rights without exception, and promotes justice and equality," he said, stressing the Kingdom's legal obligations that are based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Assistant Foreign Minister added that Bahrain has taken all the appropriate measures to protect these rights and ensure that they are not violated.

He commended the reform approach of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Government's Action Plan (GPA 2019-2022), which fo-



The Assistant Foreign Minister during the lecture

cus on protecting the gains under the fiscal balance programme, strengthening the basic principles of the state and society, and ensuring financial sustainability and economic development.

The Assistant Foreign Minister affirmed Bah-

rain's respect for the rules of international law and international human rights laws, stressing preparations for the universal periodic review and national reports which are submitted in accordance with the highest international standards.

Major Gulf markets rise

● **Industries Qatar surges after buying stake in QAFCO**

● **Aramco eyes growth opportunities with new development org**

Reuters

Most Middle Eastern stock markets ended higher yesterday, with the Dubai index outperforming the region boosted by a leap in its top lender Emirates NBD.

Dubai's main share index advanced 2 per cent, boosted by a 6.1pc jump in Emirates NBD Bank and a 1.5pc increase in sharia-compliant lender Dubai Islamic Bank.

Investors are betting on growth for Emirates NBD after it emerged as a potential bidder for Egyptian assets of Lebanon's Blom Bank.

In Abu Dhabi, the index added 0.6pc, helped by a 0.9pc rise in the country's largest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank and a 2.1pc gain in Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index was up 0.7pc, with oil giant Saudi Aramco rising 2.4pc, while Al Rajhi Bank was up



Traders on the floor of Bahrain Bourse (file)

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.7pc to 7,957 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.6pc to 4,570 pts
DUBAI	▲ 2pc to 2,281 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.8pc to 9,890 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.4pc to 11,434 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.8pc to 1,366 pts
OMAN	▲ 1.7pc to 3,690 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 1.7pc at 5,742 pts

1.1pc.

Aramco said on Sunday it was setting up a new corporate development organisation to oversee the company's assets and secure greater access to growth markets and technologies.

The Qatari index closed up 0.8pc, as Industries Qatar surged 7.4pc, reaching its highest level since January

29, after the petrochemical maker bought Qatar Petroleum's 25pc stake in QAFCO for \$1 bil-

lion. Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index ended up 0.4pc, led by a 3.2pc gain in tobacco monopoly Eastern Company. Amongst others, El Sewedy Electric climbed 3.1pc.

On Sunday, the company reported a profit of 514.2 million Egyptian pounds (\$32.44 million) in the second quarter, down from 930.9 million a year earlier. However, the second quarter profit was higher than the previous quarter.

Gold eases as equities hit record on optimism over virus treatment



Gold bars at the Austrian Gold and Silver Separating Plant 'Oegussa' in Vienna, Austria

● **Silver fell 0.6pc to \$26.53 an ounce**

● **Platinum was up 0.5pc at \$922.75**

● **Palladium eased 1.1pc to \$2,159.06**

\$1,932

Spot gold fell 0.4 per cent to \$1,932.50 an ounce by 10:53 a.m. EDT (1453 GMT)

Reuters

Gold edged lower on Monday as optimism over a US health regulator's authorization of a COVID-19 treatment lifted Wall Street stocks to record highs, although a weaker dollar limited bullion's losses.

Spot gold fell 0.4 per cent to \$1,932.50 an ounce by 10:53 a.m. EDT (1453 GMT), having jumped 1pc to \$1,961.40. U.S. gold futures eased 0.2pc to \$1,942.90.

"Gold is just consolidating right now with stock indexes at record highs. It really needs a bigger catalyst, it needs additional fiscal stimulus, it needs inflation to pick up, in order to get really going," said Phillip Streible, chief market strategist at Blue Line Futures in Chicago.

The S&P 500 and Nasdaq opened at record levels after the U.S. Food & Drug Administration approved the emergency use of blood plasma in COVID-19 patients and on a report the Trump administration may fast-track a vaccine candidate.

Meanwhile, talks between top Democrats and Republicans on coronavirus aid legis-

lation remained stalled.

Limiting bullion's losses, the dollar .DXY fell 0.2pc against rivals, making gold cheaper for holders of other currencies.

"While COVID-19 vaccine developments and improving economic data present near-term headwinds to gold, low and negative interest rates, a weaker U.S. dollar, and expectations for further stimulus keep the balance of risks to the upside," said Standard Chartered analyst Suki Cooper in a note.

Central banks worldwide have rolled out massive stimulus measures to alleviate the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but that has also increased the probability of rising inflation.

Investors are awaiting U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's address to the bank's annual symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, on Thursday for signs of how aggressively it will seek to handle the long-term recovery from the pandemic.

Silver fell 0.6pc to \$26.53 an ounce, platinum was up 0.5pc at \$922.75 and palladium eased 1.1pc to \$2,159.06.

WTO largely backs Canada in lumber complaint against US tariffs

Reuters | Brussels

The World Trade Organisation largely backed a Canadian complaint on Monday against the United States' imposition of duties on Canadian softwood lumber exports to counter what it saw as unfair subsidies.

A three-person panel determined that the U.S. duties breached global trading rules because the United States had not shown that many of the prices paid by Canadian firms for timber on government-owned lands were too low.

Zoom US users hit by partial outage

Reuters

Video conferencing company Zoom Video Communications Inc said on Monday it was trying to address a partial outage that left thousands of users in the United States unable to log in to work meetings or attend classes remotely.

Outage tracking website Downtetector.com showed there were nearly 15,000 incidents of people reporting issues with Zoom.

"We have identified the issue causing users to be unable to authenticate to the Zoom website (zoom.us) and unable to start and join Zoom Meetings and Webinars," the company said on its website.

The company has enjoyed a surge in usage since the virus outbreak began.

Oil up on storm-hit US output and COVID-19 treatment hopes



An oil worker walks towards a drill rig after placing ground-monitoring equipment in the vicinity of the underground horizontal drill in Loving County, Texas

Reuters | New York

Oil prices strengthened on Monday as storms threatening the Gulf of Mexico shut more than half of the region's oil production and on expectations of progress in the development of a COVID-19 treatment.

Brent crude LCOc1 was up 53 cents, or 1.2 per cent, at \$44.88 a barrel by 11:22 a.m. EDT (1522 GMT). U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude CLc1 rose 28 cents, or 0.7pc, to \$42.62.

"Prices are taking their cues from Mother Nature this morning as two storms bear down on the Gulf of Mexico. Half of the region's production has been shut down, though gains will be limited by the threat of a second prolonged COVID wave," said Stephen Brennock of oil broker PVM.

Energy companies shut more than 1 million barrels per day

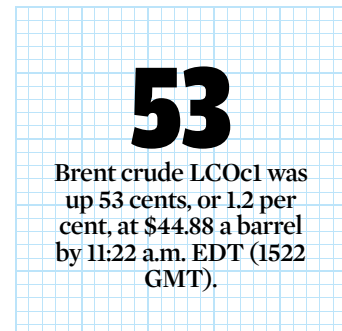
(bpd) of offshore crude oil production in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico because of the twin threat from Hurricane Marco and Tropical Storm Laura. Workers have been evacuated from more than 100 production platforms.

"The much larger pricing impact off of the storm factor is falling on the product markets since refinery activity in the Texas and Louisiana region could be significantly reduced due to flooding," Jim Ritterbusch, of Ritterbusch and Associates, said in a note.

Motiva Enterprises may shut the largest crude oil refinery in the United States for the bad weather later this week, according to sources.

U.S. gasoline futures were up more than 5pc.

Also supporting oil prices was a report by the Financial Times that U.S. President Donald Trump is considering fast-tracking an experimental



COVID-19 vaccine being developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

On Sunday Trump hailed FDA authorisation of a coronavirus treatment that uses blood plasma from recovered patients, a day after he accused the agency of impeding the rollout of vaccines and therapeutics for political reasons.

The World Health Organisation, however, was cautious about endorsing the treatment, citing "low quality" evidence that it works.

Vietnamese tech firm sues TikTok, alleging copyright infringement

Reuters | Hanoi

Vietnamese technology firm VNG is suing TikTok, the popular short-form video app, saying it does not have adequate licences for the songs being used in its videos, sources said on Monday.

VNG is accusing the Chinese-owned company of using audio tracks owned by Zing, a VNG subsidiary, without the company's consent, two sources familiar with the issue said.

A legal document from the people's court of Ho Chi Minh City seen by Reuters seeks damages from TikTok and demands that it ceases use of Zing's music.

"VNG requests TikTok remove all music segments taken from Zing records from both the TikTok application and website, and an indemnification for damages of over 221 billion dong (\$9.5 million)," read the document.

TikTok and VNG did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

VNG Corporation is a Vietnam-based technology firm

TikTok has soared in popularity in Vietnam, where it recorded 10 million users as of August with millions of short-clip uploads to the platform, official data showed.

founded in 2004, known for its online games, music streaming and messaging applications.

TikTok has soared in popularity in Vietnam, where it recorded 10 million users as of August with millions of short-clip uploads to the platform, official data showed.

But some music rights-holders say TikTok does not have adequate licences for the songs being used in its videos.

"Notably, TikTok has introduced a very complicated business model to avoid copyright compliance in Vietnam," the Vietnam Music Association said in a response to questions from Reuters.

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Twin blasts kill 14, injure several in Philippines

● Seven soldiers, a police officer, and six civilians were killed

● A soldier had been trying to apprehend the bomber when she detonated

● 48 civilians were also wounded along with 21 soldiers and six police

AFP News



Soldiers stretcher away a colleague injured in a bomb blast in Jolo on Sulu island in the Philippines



area, Vinluan said.

A soldier had been trying to apprehend the bomber when she detonated her explosives, he added.

A total of 48 civilians were also wounded along with 21 soldiers and six police.

A soldier saw a person leave the motorbike outside the grocery store "where there were a lot of people" including members of the military. It immediately detonated, Lieutenant

Colonel Ronaldo Mateo said.

"Our soldiers are conducting security operations. That was the time that the improvised explosive device detonated," he said.

Abu Sayyaf was "most probably" behind the double bombing, Mateo said.

Blasts follow arrest

Listed by the United States as a terrorist organisation, Abu Sayyaf is a loose network of Is-

Security forces had been on alert for possible reprisal attacks after detaining Abduljihad Susukan, who is accused of kidnapping and beheading several foreigners.

He has been charged with 23 murders, five kidnappings and six attempted murders, police have said.



lamic militants blamed for the Philippines' worst terror attacks as well as kidnappings of foreign tourists and Christian missionaries.

They also have ties to Islamic State militants seeking to set up a caliphate in Southeast Asia.

Monday's attacks come after the arrest earlier this month of an Abu Sayyaf leader on the southern island of Mindanao.

President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman Harry Roque condemned the "dastardly attacks" and issued condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed.

"We call on the residents of Jolo to stay vigilant and report suspicious personalities and unattended items in their areas," Roque said.

The Philippine Coast Guard issued a "red alert" for Sulu and several other areas in the restive south as it assists the military and police in responding to the incident.

News in brief

◆ The United States announced an emergency authorization to use blood plasma from recovered coronavirus patients as a treatment for the disease, which has killed more than 800,000 people around the world. The plasma therapy shows "an incredible rate of success" and "will save countless lives", Trump claimed on Sunday -- but that went much further than his own health officials' cautious welcome of the treatment. Plasma is believed to contain powerful antibodies that can help fight COVID-19 faster, and has already been used on patients in the United States and other countries.



US Okays plasma to treat virus



172 countries engaging with global COVID-19 vaccine plan

◆ Some 172 countries are engaging with the COVAX facility designed to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, the World Health

Organization said on Monday, but more funding is needed and countries need now to make binding commitments. Countries wishing to be part of the global COVAX plan have until Aug. 31 to submit expressions of interest, WHO officials said, with confirmation of intention to join due by Sept. 18, and initial payments due by Oct. 9.

◆ Foreign tourists won't be allowed to visit Bali for the rest of 2020 due to coronavirus concerns, its governor said, scrapping a plan to open up the Indonesian island from next month. The holiday hotspot re-opened beaches, temples and other tourism spots for domestic



Bali bans foreign tourists for rest of 2020 over virus

◆ Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday he had undergone more medical tests but declined to provide details, a week after a first hospital visit that fuelled growing speculation about his health. Abe cut short his first term in office in part because of crippling health problems linked to ulcerative colitis, an ailment he said he had overcome when he



More medical checks for Japan PM

saying he needed rest.

Tropical Storm Laura to become a hurricane

◆ Tropical Storm Laura strengthened in the Caribbean yesterday and was poised to accelerate into a hurricane, while Tropical Storm Marco weakened sooner than expected, sparing the US Gulf Coast from two simultaneous hurricanes that had been forecast.



Trove of 1,000-year-old gold coins unearthed in Israel



Reuters | Central Israel

Israeli youths have unearthed hundreds of gold coins stashed away in a clay vessel for more than a thousand years.

The treasure was discovered on Aug. 18, the Israel Antiquities Authority said on Monday, by teenagers volunteering at an excavation in central Israel where a new neighbourhood is planned to be built.

"The person who buried this treasure 1,100 years ago must have expected to retrieve it and even secured the vessel with a nail so that it would not move. We can only guess what prevented him from returning to collect this treasure," said excavation director Liat Nadav-Ziv.



Israeli archaeologist Shahar Krispin shows gold coins

The area it was found in housed workshops at the time the treasure was hidden and the identity of the owner is still a mystery.

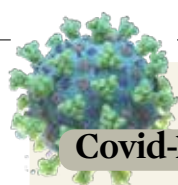
"It was amazing," said Oz Cohen, one of the volunteers who

found the treasure.

"I dug in the ground and when I excavated the soil, saw what looked like very thin leaves. When I looked again I saw these were gold coins. It was really exciting to find such a special and ancient treasure."

Dating back to the ninth century Abbasid Caliphate period, the 425 24-carat pure gold coins would have been a significant amount of money at the time, said Robert Kool, a coin expert at the Antiquities Authority.

"For example, with such a sum, a person could buy a luxurious house in one of the best neighbourhoods in Fustat, the enormous wealthy capital of Egypt in those days," Kool said.



Global

Covid-19 Cases: **23,675,366**

Deaths: **814,026**

Recovered: **16,138,124**

New cases: **+96,843**

New deaths: **+1,836**

Middle East

Countries worst affected

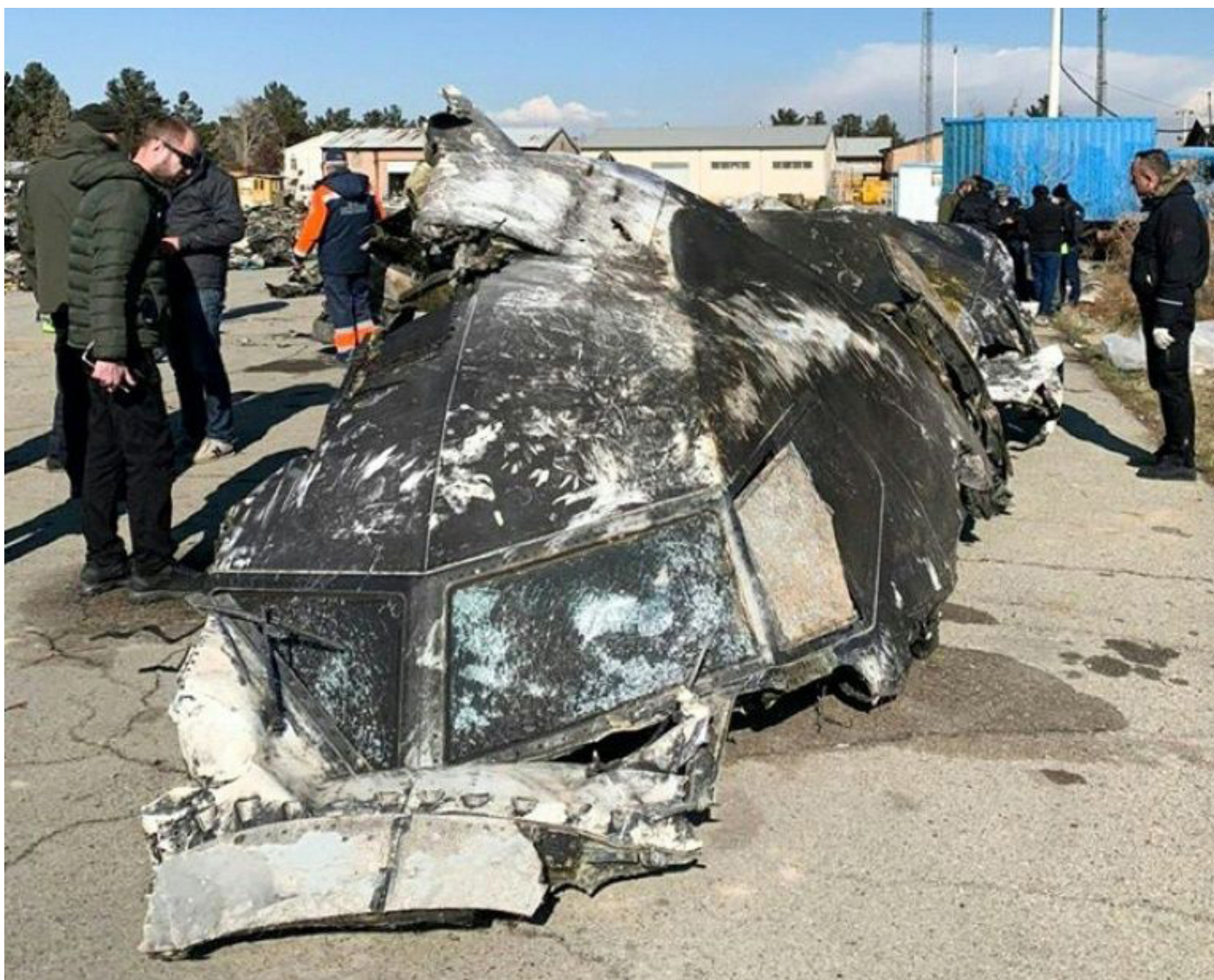
Country	Total cases	new cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
1 USA	5,886,759	+12,613	180,724	+120
2 Brazil	3,605,783		114,772	
3 India	3,149,759	+44,574	58,317	+625
4 Russia	961,493	+4,744	16,448	+65
5 South Africa	609,773		13,059	
6 Peru	594,326		27,663	
7 Mexico	560,164	+3,948	60,480	+226
8 Colombia	541,147		17,316	
9 Spain	407,879		28,838	
10 Chile	399,568	+1,903	10,916	+64
11 Iran	361,150	+2,245	20,776	+133
12 Argentina	342,154		7,079	+94
13 UK	325,642		41,433	+4
14 Saudi Arabia	308,654	+1,175	3,691	+42

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	97,340		5,262		65,927	26,151	41	949
Saudi Arabia	308,654	+1,175	3,691	+42	282,888	22,075	1,635	8,846
UAE	97,340		5,262		65,927	26,151	41	949
Kuwait	80,960	+432	518	+3	72,925	7,517	99	18,918
Oman	84,509	+740	637	+28	78,912	4,960	149	16,491
Qatar	117,266	+258	194	+1	114,099	2,973	67	41,764

Why did Iran fire missiles at the plane?

Canada demands answers after Ukraine jet downing report



Iran admitted that its forces accidentally shot down the Kiev-bound Boeing 737-800 aircraft, killing all 176 people on board, including 55 Canadians

● An association of the victims' families slammed the Iranian report

● They called the report a "ridiculous display of deceit and obscurantism".

AFP News

Canada said it was demanding answers from Iran over the mistaken downing of a Ukrainian passenger jet after Tehran's "limited" initial report failed to explain why it fired missiles at the plane.

Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran's main airport on January 8.

Iran admitted days later that its forces had accidentally shot down the Kiev-bound Boeing 737-800, killing all 176 people on board, including 55 Canadians.

The Canadian government said Sunday it had received a copy of the Iranian report on the cockpit voice recorders.

"This preliminary report only provides limited and selected information regarding this tragic event," Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne and Transport Minister Marc Garneau said in a statement.

"The report only mentions what transpired after the first missile strike but not the second and only confirms information that we already know."

“This preliminary report only provides limited and selected information regarding this tragic event. The report only mentions what transpired after the first missile strike but not the second and only confirms information that we already know.”

FOREIGN MINISTER FRANCOIS-PHILIPPE CHAMPAGNE AND TRANSPORT MINISTER MARC GARNEAU

"We expect the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide an answer on important questions of why the missiles were launched in the first place and why the air space was open," they added.

"These are the questions that Canada, Canadians and most importantly, the families of the innocent victims need answered."



General view of the debris of the Ukraine International Airlines, flight PS752

Iranian officials on Sunday said the cockpit voice recorder showed the pilots were still alive after the first of two missiles hit the plane.

Iran, which has no means of decoding the black boxes, sent them to France for analysis in mid-July, nearly six months after the disaster.

An association of the victims' families slammed the Iranian report as a "ridiculous display of deceit and obscurantism" and called for those responsible for the missile strike to be brought to justice, Saudi-owned *Al-Arabiya* news said.

"This shameful display was devoid of any answers to concerns and questions that suggest the missile strike may have been intentional," the association said in a statement on Monday quoted by *Al-Arabiya*.

At the time of the incident, Tehran's air defenses had been on high alert in case the United States retaliated against Iranian strikes hours earlier on American troops stationed in Iraq.

Those strikes were carried out in response to the killing of a top Iranian general, Qasem Soleimani, in a US drone strike near Baghdad airport.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Iranian officials on Sunday said the cockpit voice recorder showed the pilots were still alive after the first of two missiles hit the plane.

Analysis from the black boxes of a downed Ukrainian passenger plane shows it was hit by two missiles 25 seconds apart and that passengers were still alive for some time after the impact of the first blast, Iran said on Sunday.

Putin critic Navalny under guard after likely poisoning, says Germany



Medical specialists carry Navalny on a stretcher into an ambulance on their way to an airport before evacuation to Germany in Omsk, Russia

Reuters | Berlin

Germany said yesterday it had placed Alexei Navalny under guard in hospital after determining that the long-time critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin had most likely been poisoned while campaigning in Siberia.

Navalny collapsed on a plane on Thursday last week after drinking tea that his allies said they believe was laced with poison. He was flown to Germany for treatment on Saturday.

"The suspicion is that Mr. Navalny was poisoned given that unfortunately recent Russian history has had several such suspected cases," German Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief spokesman, Steffen Seibert, told journalists.

"Because one can say with near certainty that it was a poisoning attack, protection is necessary," Seibert added.

Russia's government made no immediate comment on the German statement. The Kremlin said on Friday it was still unclear what caused Navalny to fall ill and that initial tests did not show he was poisoned.

The incident could further strain Russia's fraught relations with its European and NATO neighbours, who have accused it of mounting attacks on dissidents in Europe in the past - accusations that Russia has dismissed.

Doctors at the Siberian hospital that first treated Navalny said earlier on Monday they had saved his life but that they had not found traces of poison in his system.

"If we had found some kind of poison that was somehow confirmed then it would have been a lot easier for us. It would have been a clear diagnosis, a clear condition and a well-known course of treatment," senior doctor Anatoly Kalinichenko told reporters in the Siberian city of Omsk.

The Russian doctors did not say what they had treated him for. Last week they said they had diagnosed him with metabolic disease possibly brought on by low blood sugar.

The doctors said they had not come under pressure from authorities while treating Navalny.

Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, said on Monday supporters had reported what they described as a suspected poisoning to the Russian police and Investigative Committee as soon as Navalny fell ill.

The police and Investigative Committee were not immediately available for comment.

Navalny has been a thorn in the Kremlin's side for more than a decade, exposing what he says is high-level graft and mobilising crowds of young protesters.

He has been repeatedly detained for organising public meetings and rallies and sued over his investigations into corruption. He was barred from running in a presidential election in 2018.

Black man shot in back by police in Wisconsin city, governor says

Reuters

Protests erupted in Kenosha in the U.S. state of Wisconsin after police shot an apparently unarmed Black man multiple times in the back, according to the state governor, prompting authorities to impose a curfew.

The incident on Sunday was likely to add to continuing outrage and protests in the United States and abroad against police brutality and racism since the death on May 25 of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

The victim in Kenosha, identified by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers as Jacob Blake, was hospitalized in serious condition.

A video circulating on social media and cited by the U.S. media showed a man walking towards a car followed by two officers and one of them shooting him as he opens the car door. Soon afterward, multiple fires were set at the scene by a crowd that gathered to protest against the incident. Social media posts showed crowds marching down streets of Kenosha, a city of around 100,000 people on Lake Michigan about 65 miles (100 km) north of Chicago, and throwing Molotov cocktails and bricks at police officers. The shooting occurred at around 5 p.m. as officers were responding to what they called a "domestic incident". The victim was immediately taken to a hospital by the police, according to a Kenosha police department statement.

A video circulating on social

Social distancing through wristbands in Dubai office

At the reception of Create Media Group, employees can choose between green bracelets, to show fist bumps are fine, yellow ones to indicate they can chat without touching, and red bands to keep a distance from others.

Reuters | Dubai

As nearly 100 employees went back to work in the office of a Dubai media company, managers found a way to avoid awkwardness around social distancing — colour-coded bracelets indicating how staff want to be greeted.

At the reception of Create Media Group, employees can choose between green bracelets, to show fist bumps are fine,



A traffic light-system of wristbands demonstrates how comfortable team members are with interaction in the office. Courtesy Create Media Group (courtesy of the national)

yellow ones to indicate they can chat without touching, and red bands to keep a distance from others.

"Anybody can walk into the reception, they pick one of those bands up and they put that on

and it gives a very clear signal to anyone else who is interacting with them on how close to get," said Tom Otton, managing director at Create Media Group.

Individuals may have differing views on how to deal with

COVID-19.

"In terms of personal choice... there is no easy way for people to understand where someone is coming from," Otton said.

The United Arab Emirates has seen an "alarming" increase in

the number of coronavirus cases over the past three weeks, the health ministry has said. The number of COVID-19 infections in the Gulf state since the start of the pandemic has exceeded 67,000 with 376 deaths.



Anybody can walk into the reception, they pick one of those bands up and they put that on and it gives a very clear signal to anyone else who is interacting with them on how close to get

TOM OTTON, MANAGING DIRECTOR AT CREATE MEDIA GROUP.

The UAE could reintroduce an overnight curfew in areas of the country where there are higher numbers of COVID-19 infections, a government official said on Saturday.

At Create Media Group building, some employees are feeling comfortable about resuming social life and work from offices, but others remain cautious.

"We work in the field of photography and we meet many people, and members of my family at home are very old. I have to take all precautions," said Mohammed Abu Youssef, the company's social media manager, pointing to his yellow band.

As prez, Biden would not trash all Trump's foreign policy legacy

Reuters | Washington / London

When Donald Trump was elected US president in 2016, almost immediately, and with evident relish, he set about trying to demolish Barack Obama's carefully crafted foreign policy legacy.

In the following days, months and years, Trump threw out a trade deal with the Asia-Pacific, a global climate accord, a nuclear agreement with Iran and a process to end decades of hostility with Cuba.

The Republican leader also publicly attacked long-time US allies from Berlin to Tokyo while praising authoritarian rulers from Russia's Vladimir Putin to North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

And after heaping praise on China's Xi Jinping, he launched trade and rhetorical battles with Beijing that have sparked fears of a new Cold War

- or even mil-

itary conflict.

Top former diplomats from around the world say Trump has severely damaged faith in US leadership and a Joe Biden victory in the Nov. 3 presidential election would bring even bigger sighs of relief in many capitals than those when George W. Bush's presidency ended more than a decade ago.

They expect quick action by a Democratic administration to restore signature Obama-era policies, starting with the climate accord.

But despite the widespread ill-feeling Trump has provoked, not all his policy legacy will be hurled out of the window, and neither long-term allies nor strategic rivals expect a soft touch from Biden, vice president under Obama and a former senator with decades of foreign policy experience.

They also do not expect much change from the in-

ward-looking tendency embodied by Trump's "America first" approach.

"We are really in a period of transition of defining a new American policy in power politics, with China, with Russia ... so it's a new world," said Gerard Araud, France's former ambassador to Washington.

"American presidents will be more committed to the national interest of the US The US doesn't want to be the policeman of the world any more; I think Obama and Trump understood that."

Trump's challenge to China

While the Trump administration has provoked some alarm with the tone of its recent attacks on China on issues ranging from the coronavirus to espionage, there is broad agreement little will change in substance under a Biden government when it comes to policy towards Beijing.

Indeed, while Trump has sought to portray both Obama and Biden as "soft" on China, the previous administration pursued a tougher line against Beijing than Trump did initially.

"In the last two years of Obama, they had a new China strategy," said Michael Pillsbury, a former US defense official and China analyst who has worked as an outside adviser to Trump. "Many people think this was a Trump invention; it's not."

He noted that Biden advisers Ely Ratner, Kurt Campbell, Brian McKeon, Tony Blinken, Bob Work and Ash Carter had produced tough analyses on

China and shared decon-

cerns about its military buildup, espionage activities and trade practices.

Peter Ricketts, a national security adviser to former British Prime Minister David Cameron, had some praise for Trump's China approach, but also a warning.

"The Trump administration crystallized a growing concern about China's activities, including its much more assertive foreign policy and its crackdown at home.

"Trump's willingness to come forward and challenge that, to call China out, that's been positive. The risk is that it could now go too far and pitch into an all-out Cold War with China."

Tom Fletcher, a foreign-policy adviser to three past British prime ministers, said he did not expect big changes on China under a Biden administration, but a less abrasive style.

"I don't think the Biden policy will be a million miles away from the Trump China policy. But the language will be different, and there will be more wisdom and strategy behind it," he said.

Some analysts say Trump's unprecedented but still unsuccessful engagement with North Korea could offer a future building block. Biden has called Trump's personal diplomacy a "vanity project" that should only happen with a strategy to move North Korean denuclearization forward.

Hit to American credibility

David O'Sullivan, the former EU ambassador to Washington, said Trump had a "hugely damaging effect" and it would take time to rebuild America's image and leadership role.

But he had articulated some deeply felt concerns among Americans about the extent of US overseas involvements and a feeling that some allies were not pulling their weight.

"There will be no tears shed



Top former diplomats from around the world say Trump has severely damaged faith in US leadership and a Joe Biden victory in the Nov. 3 presidential election would bring even bigger sighs of relief in many capitals than those when George W. Bush's presidency ended more than a decade ago.

While relations can be patched up, experts said scars will remain from Trump's abrasive approach that could affect the willingness of countries to stick their necks out to follow American leads.

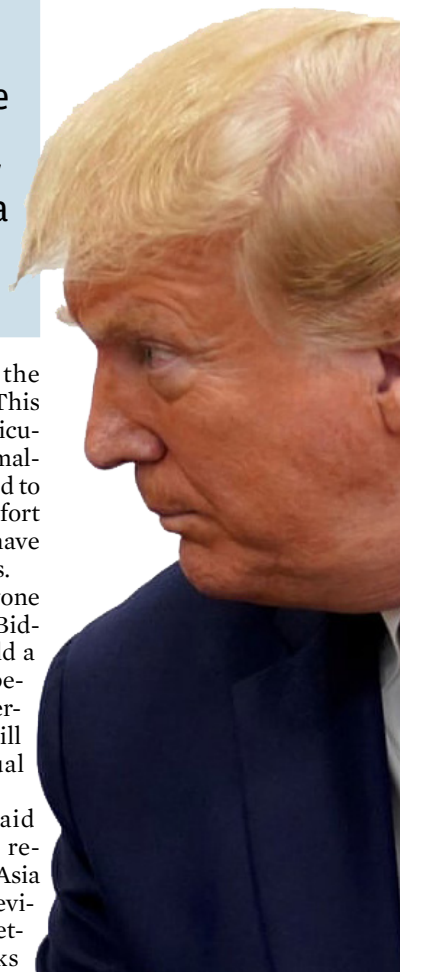
"The fundamental faith in American constancy has been shaken," said Adam Ereli, a State Department spokesman under George W. Bush and an ambassador to Bahrain under Obama.

"In the back of their minds will be, 'Could Trump happen again?'"

in Europe if Trump loses the election," O'Sullivan said. "This administration has been particularly inept, and particularly maladroit and, frankly has tended to alienate allies and give comfort to people who previously have been considered adversaries.

"Equally, I don't think anyone is under the illusion that a Biden administration will herald a kind of golden era of European-US cooperation ... the differences will remain, but we will start from a point of mutual respect."

O'Sullivan and others said Biden would likely seek to revive the Iran agreement and Asia trade deal, but not without revisions to secure the sort of "better deal" Trump often talks about getting.



UAE's Sh. Mohammed tweets images from Hope probe

TDT, agencies

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, the Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, has shared images beamed back to earth by UAE's hope probe, which is now more than 100 million kilometres into its journey.

The pictures shared on twitter handle @HSHkMohd by Sheikh Mohammed shows Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn as three shiny little dots surrounded by pitch black.

"A photo captured by Hope



HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED @HSHKMOHD

The Hope probe is officially 100 million km into its journey to the Red Planet. Mars, as demonstrated in the image captured by the probe's Star Tracker, is ahead of us, leaving Saturn and Jupiter behind. The Hope probe is expected to arrive to Mars on February 2021.



Probe stars-tracking camera," wrote Sheikh Mohammed in a message accompanying the pictures.

"Today the probe has exceed-

ed 100 million km on its journey to the red planet. Mars is ahead of us, and we passed Saturn and Jupiter.

"The expected arrival is in

February 2021, God willing."

The post garnered, as of yesterday, 1.9K retweets and 5.2K likes. UAE's probe is designed to collect data about the Mars'

unique weather system to study the Martian atmosphere.

By the time, the probe reaches Mars, it would have travelled about 500 million kilometres in

about 200 days.

The United States and China both launched Mars missions during the same blast-off window in July.

Husband of jailed UK-Iranian woman fears 2nd Tehran trial

● Zaghari-Ratcliffe is currently on temporary release from prison due to the coronavirus pandemic

AFP News

The husband of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a British-Iranian woman jailed in Tehran, said yesterday he feared she could face a second trial once her sentence ends early next year.

Richard Ratcliffe also attacked the Iranian regime for allegedly using prisoners as "collateral" against other governments.

"I think, behind closed doors, they keep saying there's a second court case, they keep talking about running it," he told ITV. "My fear is that's what happens."

Ratcliffe was also asked about any link between his wife's detention to the UK settling a multi-million-pound debt dating back more than 40 years when the Shah of Iran paid the UK £400 million for 1,500 Chieftain tanks.

When the Shah was ousted in 1979, Britain refused to deliver the tanks to the new Islamic Republic but kept the cash.

The British government has previously admitted it owes Iran up to £300 million (\$395 million, 333 million euros), but both countries have denied any link with the Zaghari-Ratcliffe case.

"Well of course there should be no link," added Richard Ratcliffe. "It's completely out-



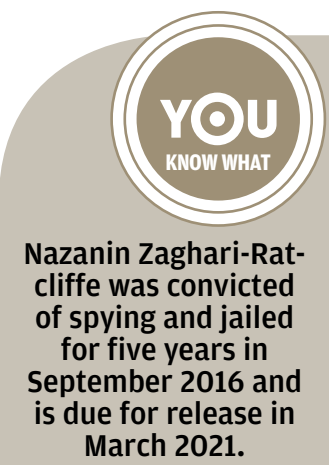
Zaghari-Ratcliffe was arrested at Tehran airport in April 2016 after visiting relatives in Iran

geous to be holding people and using them as collateral."

Separately, a documentary to be aired by the BBC on Monday claims the mother-of-one was on the brink of being freed from jail almost two and a half years ago.

Her husband tells the doc-

umentary the family was given a release date of December 28, 2017 but the deal subsequently fell through,



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was convicted of spying and jailed for five years in September 2016 and is due for release in March 2021.

though no reason was given.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe was arrested at Tehran airport in April 2016 after visiting relatives in Iran with the couple's young daughter.

She worked for the Thomson Reuters Foundation -- the media organisation's philanthropic arm -- at the time.

She has denied the charge of sedition.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe is currently on temporary release from prison due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Richard Ratcliffe (L with his daughter Gabriella) also attacked the Iranian regime for allegedly using prisoners as "collateral" against other governments

Vietnam zoo turns to donations, growing food to survive pandemic



Mahouts wearing protective masks gather beside an elephant at a confinement area at Saigon Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Reuters | Ho Chi Minh City

As visitor numbers slump during the pandemic, Vietnam's oldest zoo has scrambled to survive, such as holding fundraising drives, cutting pay and growing fruit and vegetables to feed the animals.

The more than 150-year-old zoo in Vietnam's commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City saw visitor numbers dwindle by March as the coronavirus outbreak unfolded. Then lockdowns shut it completely in April and May.

Still, the zoo, built in the French colonial era, has to meet running costs of 180 million dong (\$7,740) a day and ensure more than 1,400 animals are fed.

"Since we don't know when the pandemic will finally end, we are trying to diversify our revenue streams," said Pham Van Tan, head of the Saigon Zoo and Botanical Gardens, noting how ticket sales normally make up most of the \$5 million annual revenue.

To help pay the bills, the zoo is now doing things such as growing flowers to sell to the public, designing gardens for

homeowners and selling fertiliser to farmers, said Pham. Staff have also taken 30% salary cuts.

"We still ensure food supplied to the animals, but we try to provide them with seasonal food which is cost-effective," said Pham, noting the zoo was growing nearly half of its food supplies on the city's outskirts.

A recent fund-raising drive also raised more than \$100,000 in just two days, while 25 tonnes of food have been donated for animals at the zoo, which has had to suspend plans to exchange animals for breeding internationally.

Zoo veterinarian Nguyen Baa Ph said some of the animals have been emboldened by having fewer people peering at them.

Visitor numbers have been slowing creeping back up to around 1,400 per day, but well below the 12,000 per day before the pandemic.

"Now it's a good time to visit, since there are not many people," said Nguyen Thin Quay, a production manager, who was at the zoo with his son and wife.

Brazil's Bolsonaro threatens to punch reporter in the mouth

AFP News

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Sunday threatened to punch a reporter repeatedly in the mouth after being asked about his wife's links to an alleged corruption scheme.

"I so want to pound your mouth with punches," the far-right president said when a reporter from O Globo, posed the question.

The reporter was part of a group that met Bolsonaro after his regular Sunday visit to the Metropolitan Cathedral in



Brasilia. The president ignored protests from other journalists after the remarks and left without making further comments.

The O Globo reporter asked about a report in the magazine *Crusoe* linking First Lady Michelle Bolsonaro to Fabricio Queiroz, a retired police officer, friend of the president, and former adviser to her son Flavio Bolsonaro, who is now a senator.

Queiroz and Flavio Bolsonaro are under investigation for a scheme that allegedly swindled pay from government employ-

"I so want to pound your mouth with punches," the far-right president said when a reporter from O Globo, posed the question.

Queiroz deposited funds in Michelle Bolsonaro's bank account between 2011 and 2016.

The first lady has said nothing about the case.

Soon after the president's outburst O Globo issued a statement repudiating his "aggression ... towards a journalist from our newspaper that was carrying out his job in a professional manner."

Such intimidation "shows that Jair Bolsonaro does not acknowledge the duty of a public servant ... to be accountable to the public."

ees when the younger Bolsonaro was a regional lawmaker in Rio de Janeiro, and before Jair Bolsonaro became president in January 2019.

According to the magazine,

At least 90 feared trapped in a building collapse south of Mumbai



Picture courtesy of NDTV

Reuters | Mumbai

At least 90 people including children were trapped in the debris of a five-storey building which collapsed south of Mumbai on Monday, police officials said.

Authorities said 28 people were pulled out by rescue teams amid heavy monsoon rains and local residents had joined the operation at the disaster site in Mahad, in Raigad district, about 200 km south of Mumbai city.

There are said to be 45 flats in the five-storey building.

Three teams of National Disaster Response Force or NDRF have been rushed to the accident spot in Mahad in Raigad district which is a four-hour drive from Mumbai. The

Guardian Minister of Raigad, Aditi Tatkare, is also on her way to the spot.

"Today at about 6.50 PM, A ground+four floor building collapsed in Kajalpura area of Mahad Tehsil in District Raigad, Maharashtra. About 50 people are feared to be trapped. Three teams of NDRF have moved. Teams have moved with all the necessary equipment, Canine Squad etc," said an NDRF official.

Footage of the accident showed the area around the spot covered in a huge dust cloud.

Every year, heavy downpours across India during the June to September monsoon season bring down rain-soaked small and large structures deemed too dangerous to live in.

Mali junta wants 3-year military rule, to free prez

AFP News

The junta that seized power in Mali wants a military-led transitional body to rule for three years and has agreed to release ousted president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, a source in a visiting West African delegation said Sunday.

"The junta has affirmed that it wants a three-year transition to review the foundations of the Malian state. This transition will be directed by a body led by a soldier, who will also be head of state," a source in the ECOWAS delegation in capital Bamako said.

"The government will also be predominantly composed of soldiers" under the junta's proposal, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The source added that the junta has agreed to "free president Keita", who has been detained along with other political leaders since the coup on Tuesday, and he "will be able to return to his home" in Bamako.

"And if he wants to travel abroad for treatment, that is not a problem," the ECOWAS



Mali's new strongman, Colonel Assimi Goita, and his junta have proposed a military-led transitional body to rule for three years

source said.

Prime minister Boubou Cisse, who has been detained with Keita at a military base outside the capital where the coup began, would be moved to a secure residence in the city, the source said.

A junta official confirmed that the decisions on the fate of Keita and Cisse, as well as

that "the three-year transition would have a military president and a government mostly composed of soldiers".

The coup followed months of protests calling for Keita to resign as public discontent with the government grew over the country's brutal Islamist insurgency and collapsing economy.



Tuesday's coup was Mali's second in eight years, and has heightened concern over regional stability as its jihadist insurgency that now threatens neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso.

Belarus arrests two opposition figures



A man kneels in front of police during a demonstration

Reuters | Minsk/Moscow

The authorities in Belarus arrested two of the leading opposition figures still at large on Monday, a day after tens of thousands of people defied the army to march demanding the downfall of president Alexander Lukashenko.

Two weeks after an election which his opponents say he rigged, Lukashenko has shown little sign of bringing a halt to the demonstrations, the biggest threat to his 26-year rule.

The president, who has called the protesters "rats", said last week he had given an order to police to put down any demonstrations in Minsk. But tens of thousands took to the streets on Sunday in one of the biggest demonstrations since the election, and dispersed peacefully.

Gold-hunting diggers destroy Sudan's priceless past

AFP News

When a team of archaeologists deep in the deserts of Sudan arrived at the ancient site of Jabal Maragha last month, they thought they were lost. The site had vanished.

But they hadn't made a mistake. In fact, gold-hunters with giant diggers had destroyed almost all sign of the two millennia-old site.

"They had only one goal in digging here -- to find gold," said shocked archaeologist Habab Idriss Ahmed, who had painstakingly excavated the historic location in 1999.

"They did something crazy; to save time, they used heavy machinery."

In the baking-hot desert of Bayouda, some 270 kilometres (170 miles) north of the capital Khartoum, the team discovered two mechanical diggers and five men at work.

They had dug a vast trench 17 metres (55 feet) deep, and 20 meters long.

The rust-coloured sand was scarred with tyre tracks, some cut deep into the ground, from the trucks that transported the equipment.

The site, dating from the Meroitic period between 350 BC and 350 AD, was either a small settlement or a checkpoint. Since the diggers came, hardly anything remains.

"They had completely exca-



Treasure hunters looking for gold in Sudan have destroyed ancient sites using diggers



Sudanese treasure hunters use mechanical diggers to cut deep trenches at ancient sites looking for gold

ated it, because the ground is composed of layers of sandstone and pyrite," said Hatem al-Nour, Sudan's director of antiquities

and museums.

"And as this rock is metallic their detector would start ringing. So they thought there was

gold."

Escape justice

Next to the huge gash in the ground, the diggers had piled up ancient cylindrical stones on top of each other to prop up a roof for their dining room.

The archaeologists were accompanied by a police escort, who took the treasure-hunters to a police station -- but they were freed within hours.

"They should have been put in jail and their machines confiscated. There are laws," said Mahmoud al-Tayeb, a former expert from Sudan's antiquities department.

Instead, the men left without charge, and their diggers were released too.

"It is the saddest thing," said Tayeb, who is also a professor of archaeology at the University of Warsaw.

Tayeb believes that the real culprit is the workers' employer, someone who can pull strings and circumvent justice.

Sudan's archaeologists warn that this was not a unique case, but part of a systematic looting of ancient sites.

At Sai, a 12-kilometre-long river island in the Nile, hundreds of graves have been ransacked and destroyed by looters. Some of them date back to the times of the pharaohs.

Sudan's ancient civilisations built more pyramids than the Egyptians, but many are still un-

Sudan is Africa's third largest producer of gold, after South Africa and Ghana, with commercial mining bringing in \$1.22 billion to the government last year

explored.

Now, in hundreds of remote places ranging from cemeteries to temples, desperate diggers are hunting for anything to improve their daily lives.

Gold fever

Sudan is Africa's third largest producer of gold, after South Africa and Ghana, with commercial mining bringing in \$1.22 billion to the government last year.

In the past, people also tried their luck by panning for gold at the city of Omdurman, across the river from Khartoum, where the waters of the White and Blue Niles meet.

"We used to see older people with small sieves like the ones women use for sifting flour at home," Tayeb said, recalling times when he was a boy. "They

used them to look for gold."

But the gold they found was in tiny quantities.

Then in the late 1990s, people saw archaeologists using metal detectors for their scientific research.

"When people saw archeologists digging and finding things, they were convinced there was gold."

'Reason for pride'

Even worse, local authorities have encouraged the young and unemployed to hunt for treasures while wealthy businessmen bring in mechanical diggers alongside.

"Out of a thousand more or less well-known sites in Sudan, at least a hundred have been destroyed or damaged," said Nour. "There is one policeman for 30 sites... and he has no communication equipment or adequate means of transport."

For Tayeb, the root problem is not a lack of security, but rather the government's priorities.

"It's not a question of policemen," he said. "It is a serious matter of how do you treat your history, your heritage? This is the main problem. But heritage is not a high priority for the government, so what can one do?"

The destruction of the sites is an extra tragedy for a country long riven by civil war between rival ethnic groups, destroying a common cultural identity of a nation.



celebs

Sofia says she's not a 'victim' after fans claim Ellen made fun of her

ANI | Washington

Hollywood star Sofia Vergara is stepping up to defend comedian Ellen DeGeneres amid intense drama surrounding the talk show host, including accusations that she made fun of the Colombian star's accent during a

2015 episode.

According to Page Six, the newly-resurfaced clip finds the 48-year-old American-Columbian actor and the 62-year-old comedian DeGeneres, discussing a CoverGirl commercial they filmed together. During the discussion, the daytime host pointed out the 'America's Got Talent' judge's English while asking why producers gave her such a complicated copy to read.

Many fans took this as DeGeneres mocking Vergara's accent, leading the television star to defend her fellow funny lady, saying she was "in on the joke."

Vergara tweeted alongside the viral clip in question, "Two comedians having fun with each other to

entertain. I was never a victim guys, I was always in on the joke."

As Page Six reported, the former staffers of 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show' have recently spoken out against the comic DeGeneres, claiming she created a toxic work environment for her team and citing everything from general rudeness to higher-level employees engaging in sexual misconduct.

The allegations prompted WarnerMedia to launch an official investigation with assistance from a third-party firm.

Miley Cyrus mourns the death of her grandmother

Fox | Los Angeles

Miley Cyrus is looking back at the good times with her late grandmother. The star paid tribute to her late grandma in a series of posts on Saturday.

In the first post, Cyrus, 27, shared a handful of photos and videos featuring herself and her grandmother. In one video, Loretta Finley, mother to Cyrus's mom Tish, told a reporter to call her "Mammie," while in another, she danced along

to Madonna's "4 Minutes" with her famous granddaughter.

The photos also included a throwback of Finley holding a young Cyrus, and a shot of her sitting in the "Wrecking Ball" singer's seat on the set of "The Voice."

"Even though you are gone... NOTHING has or ever will change. You will FOREVER be my inspiration and fashion icon," wrote Cyrus in the caption. "Even more than that, the ultimate model of being a true LIGHT in a dark world. You are

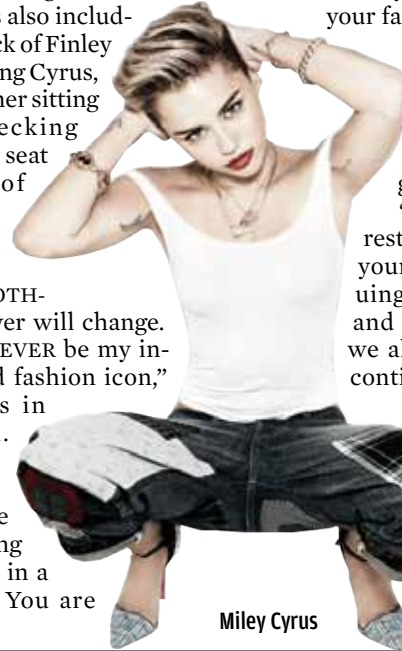
sunshine. Everyday [sic.] I wake and see that fiery ball in the sky I will see your face."

Cyrus said she'll also say a prayer to offer thanks for having "the best grandmother a girl could ever be gifted."

"I will miss you for the rest of my life... I will keep your spirit here by continuing to do good for others and treating them the way we all desire to be treated," continued the singer. "With an infinite amount of the same gentle kindness you displayed daily. We will ache everyday [sic.] you are not with us..."



Sofia Vergara



Miley Cyrus

Robert Pattinson embraces darkness in 'The Batman' trailer

FIANS | Los Angeles

Filmmaker Matt Reeves has unveiled the first trailer of his film, The Batman, which shows actor Robert Pattinson taking on the avatar of the caped crusader for vengeance.

The teaser shows a new dark, gritty, and violent take on the iconic superhero. The footage plays against a haunting version of Nirvana's "Something in the way".



Robert Pattinson

Reeves also shared he hasn't traced the origin of the superhero in his movie.

"It's about the early days of him being Batman and he's very far from being perfect," Reeves said unveiling the trailer at the DC FanDome virtual event.

"One of the things that are interesting is learning how to be Batman. It's a criminological experiment. He's trying to figure out what he can do to change this place. He's seeing he's not having any of the effect he wants to have. That's when the murders start to happen... and it opens up a whole new world of corruption. Without being an origin tale, it ends up touching on his origins.

"It's a detective story, a mystery, it's got, of course, action, and it's incredibly personal for him. He's kind of a growing legend and (criminals) are afraid of him. He's not a symbol of hope yet. One of the things he has to deal with is how he's perceived... What was exciting for me was not doing the origin (story) but

to meet him in the middle and to see him make mistakes and grow and fail and be heroic in a way that felt very human and very flawed," he added.

Jaime King: Being a working mum is the hardest thing in the world

Fox | Los Angeles

Jaime King says being a working mother is "the hardest thing in the world".

The 41-year-old actress doesn't get to spend as much time with her sons - James, six, and Leo, five - as she'd like, because she works full time and is also sharing custody of her brood with her estranged husband Kyle Newman.

And the 'Hart of Dixie' alum has admitted it's tough to "say goodbye" to her children when she has to leave for work, or when they go to visit their father. She wrote on Instagram alongside pictures of herself hugging her sons: "It's the hardest thing in the world to say good-

bye as a working mother. One day, I know my boys will look back and be proud. It's all for you. There is nothing I wouldn't do to protect and give you the best life filled with freedom, joy, expression, safety and happiness. Always." Jaime filed for divorce from Kyle in May this year, after almost 13 years of marriage, and was granted a temporary restraining order against him on the same day.

And following the filing, it was reported that along with her divorce papers, Jaime also filed a domestic violence prevention petition that includes allegations of verbal and emotional abuse against Kyle.



Jaime King

Lea Michele welcomes baby boy!

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Lea Michele has given birth to a baby boy.

The 33-year-old actress and her husband Zandy Reich have become first time parents, after Lea gave birth earlier this week on August 20.

A source confirmed to People magazine: "Everyone's happy and healthy, and they're extremely grateful. He's been an easy baby so far."

As of the time of writing, the 'Glee' alum and her businessman spouse are yet to confirm the news themselves.

Back in May, sources said Lea was having an "incredible time" being pregnant, and was enjoying isolating at home amid the coronavirus pandemic because she could



Lea Michele

SUDOKU

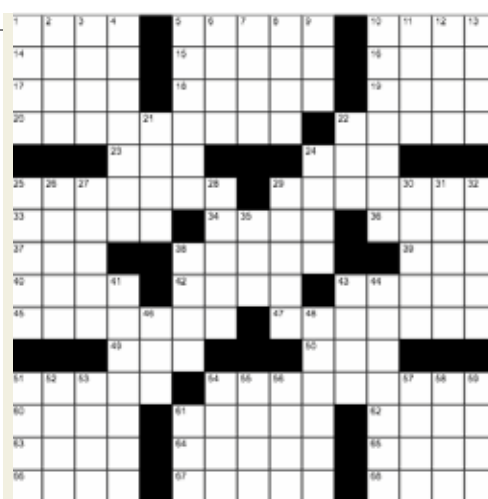
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Yesterday's solution

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

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.



Across

1- Kind of prof.; 5- Goddess of love; 10- Brood; 14- Lewd look; 15- Run away with a lover; 16- Some nest eggs; 17- ... breve; 18- Hue; 19- Faux pas; 20- Redemption; 22- With cunning; 23- Brian of Roxy Music; 24- Datebook abbr.; 25- Lack of success; 29- East African nation; 33- Fowl pole; 34- Tibetan beasts; 36- Gossip; 37- Meal crumb; 38- Eliot's Mamer; 39- Slangy refusal; 40- RR stops; 42- Military group; 43- Because of; 45- Sampling; 47- Goes by; 49- Chang's twin; 50- Like some vbs.; 51- Baby bird; 54- Proclaim; 60- River in central England; 61- Inscribed pillar; 62- Pleased; 63- Hindu lawgiver; 64- Sports venue; 65- Patriot Nathan; 66- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 67- Cupressus; 68- High schooler;

Down

1- Woeful word; 2- Actress Ward; 3- Offer; 4- Makes journeys; 5- Quantity which has magnitude and direction; 6- "The Time Machine" race; 7- ... contender; 8- On top of; 9- Sun, talk; 10- Deceive; 11- Air France destination; 12- Bucket; 13- Catch a view of; 21- Sometimes you feel like ...; 22- Total; 24- Chuck; 25- Frozen dew; 26- Trunk line; 27- Little bits; 28- Checking out; 29- Glide along smoothly; 30- Queues; 31- Angry; 32- Dumas dueler; 35- Boxer Laila; 38- Had the mic, say; 41- Breastbone; 43- Jeanne ... (French saint); 44- Vertical; 46- Cuttlefish excretion; 48- Straight; 51- Ditto; 52- Spot on the tube; 53- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 54- French 101 verb; 55- Require; 56- It parallels a radius; 57- Caesar's wings; 58- Story, often rooted in folklore; 59- Biblical garden; 61- Pouch;

CROSSWORD

Yesterday's solution

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

Flick delights at 'crazy' growth of treble-winners Bayern

Bayern Munich clinched Champions League crown after Kingsley Coman's header sealed victory over PSG

● The squad celebrated by launching Flick into the air after lifting the trophy

AFP | Lisbon

Bayern Munich head coach Hansi Flick hailed the "crazy" development of his treble-winning team in the ten months since he took charge after the German giants won Sunday's Champions League final.

Bayern won the European title for the sixth time in the club's history with a 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain.

The squad celebrated by launching Flick into the air after lifting the trophy which was sealed with a second-half header from winger Kingsley Coman, a product of the PSG academy.

At the other end, Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer was outstanding to deny a string of chances by PSG stars Neymar and Kylian Mbappe.

"I am proud of the team. When I saw the headlines in November, all I read was that nobody is afraid of Bayern anymore," said Flick, who took charge when Niko Kovac was



Bayern's players throw Bayern Munich's German head coach Hans-Dieter Flick in the air

sacked.

"The development since then has been crazy.

"We deserved to win, because of the second half.

"You could already see in training at our winter camp in January that something big was growing.

"The team just has this overwhelming will to win."

This is Flick's first job in Germany's top flight yet in his first

season he has steered Bayern to an eighth Bundesliga title, lifted the German Cup and now the Champions League.

He has emulated legendary Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes who landed the only other treble in the club's history in 2013.

Having been assistant coach to Joachim Loew when Germany won the 2014 World Cup, Flick has now achieved the pinnacle of domestic football and

wished Bayern fans could have been in Lisbon.

"It's a pity that the fans couldn't be here with us today, perhaps they can come back again in the future, but a game like this without supporters is not the football that we know," admitted Flick.

Bayern captain Neuer, one of four survivors from the 2013 team, was delighted after capping a fine display by lifting the



Bayern's goal scorer Kingsley Coman spent a decade at PSG, coming up through the club's youth academy and making four senior appearances

trophy.

"The joy was huge - that was what we deserved and what we wished for. It was really hard work," admitted the Germany goalkeeper.

The 34-year-old as singled out for praise by Bayern team-mate Thomas Mueller, another survivor from the 2013 side.

"That is crazy, there is no secret to the way we played, we had enormous quality and a great spirit, the boys were all ready to suffer for each other," said Mueller.

"The mentality is superb and we have Manuel Neuer in goal, he showed he is number one."

Even PSG's German coach Thomas Tuchel could not resist praising Neuer.

Sprint king Bolt says he's self-quarantining after COVID-19 test



Usain Bolt

AFP | Paris

Sprint legend Usain Bolt said yesterday he is self-quarantining after undergoing a COVID-19 test amid reports he was positive for the deadly coronavirus.

In a video posted on Twitter, the Jamaican said he had experienced no symptoms, but he urged friends he had been in contact with to take precautions.

"This weekend, like everybody else, I checked social media and saw social media say that I'm confirmed of COVID-19," Bolt said.

"I did a test on Saturday to leave (Jamaica) because I have work," he said, although he did not confirm he had received the result. "I am trying to be responsible so I am going to stay in and be safe."

"Also, I am having no symptoms, I will quarantine myself and wait on the confirmation to see what is the protocol and to see how I go about quarantining myself from the Ministry of Health."

BRAVE CF to host three groundbreaking shows in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The fastest-growing MMA organization in the world, BRAVE Combat Federation, will be back to its home in Bahrain for three special events that will showcase the best martial artists on the promotion's roster, including the first round of the Flyweight tournament, plus title fights and several other high-profile bouts.

BRAVE CF 41 will be the first of the three shows in the Kingdom, and it will take place on September 17th. A week later, BRAVE CF 42 also happens in Bahrain, on September 24th. Closing out the series of events will be BRAVE CF 43, which will be hosted on October first.

While no bouts have been announced, BRAVE CF intends to carry out the first round of the biggest tournament of 2020, as eight of the best Flyweights in the world will look to become the first-ever BRAVE CF 125-pound titleholder.

The matchups have also been announced for the tournament as Americans Jose Torres and Sean Santella face off in the first quarter-final, Brazilian striker Marcel Adur meets newcomer Dustin Ortiz from USA, Russia's Velimurad Alkhasov takes on



Flavio de Queiroz, from Brazil, and American Zach Makovsky expect the top athletes on the organization's roster to feature in an incredible three weeks of fights.

In the coming days, BRAVE CF will release the full schedule

of bouts for the three nights, but fans around the world can expect the top athletes on the organization's roster to feature in an incredible three weeks of fights.

IMMAF president praises Shoaib Yousaf, Anton Turkalj ahead of pivotal BRAVE CF 40 bouts

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation's 40th show will once again feature standouts from the amateur circuit who have been making waves as professional fighters. In the main event of BRAVE CF 40, IMMAF world champion Shoaib Yousaf will look to get one step closer to a Featherweight title shot when he takes on Mochamed Machaev in a duel between two of the top prospects in the world.

In the co-main event, IMMAF European champion Anton Turkalj will go for win number two under the BRAVE CF banner



Shoaib Yousaf



Anton Turkalj

I'd like to congratulate Shoaib Yousaf and Anton Turkalj as they progress in their pro careers to headline at BRAVE 40 in the main and co-main event. Audiences can expect to see these top prospects showcase some exciting talent and skills well-honed in the amateur divisions

KERRITH BROWN

ner when he takes on fellow undefeated fighter Ibo Aslan in a Catchweight bout of 98 kg. Both young men have gone through the IMMAF's amateur system and got much-needed experience before turning pros. Their time under IMMAF has been key in their development and success, as Yousaf currently boasts a 7-1 record while Anton is undefeated in five fights, winning all of them by stoppage. IMMAF president Kerrith Brown has congratulated the duo and wished them good luck for their bouts tonight.

"I'd like to congratulate former IMMAF World Champion

Shoaib Yousaf and IMMAF European Champion Anton Turkalj as they progress in their careers to headline at BRAVE 40 in the main and co-main event. Audiences can expect to see these top prospects showcase some exciting talent and skills well-honed in the amateur divisions," said Brown.

BRAVE CF's four Sweden shows have counted with a host of big names in the IMMAF circuit, including two-time junior world champion Muhammad Mokaev, Flyweight world champion Bianca Antman and other standouts as Irman Smaljic and Issa Issakov.