

Mercedes to give 'best shot' in Bahrain

German manufacturers vow to go all out despite already securing double world titles with three races to go in 2020 F1 World Championship | P12

Guard against laxity in Covid-19 fight: Modi tells chief ministers

THE DAILY tribune

Jennifer Lopez called out by Beyonce fans after AMAs performance

Ithmaar Bank activates round-the-clock cyber risk protection



We appreciate your heroic efforts

#فريق_البحرين
#TeamBahrain

149 new recoveries from coronavirus

TD | Manama

Bahrain yesterday registered 149 new recoveries from the coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total number of survivors to 84,166.

One died, a 55-year-old Bahraini man, raising the death toll in the Kingdom to 340, the Ministry of Health tweeted early this morning.

Out of 9,936 tests conducted yesterday, 130 new cases were detected amongst 42 expatriate workers and 85 contacts of active cases, with three being travel-related.

Bahrain condemns Afghan bombings

TD | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemned the two terrorist bombings in the Afghanistan province of Bamiyan, which led to the death and injury of dozens of innocent people.

The Foreign Ministry expressed its deep condolences to the families of the victims, the government and friendly people of Afghanistan, wishing a speedy recovery to all those injured as a result of terrorism.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES

86,016

ACTIVE CASES

1,510

DEATHS

340

DISCHARGED

84,166

NEW CASES

130

CRITICAL

10

210 fils (includes VAT)



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HM King praises Arab Parliament's key role

Al Asoomi efforts in defending Arab cause praised

TD | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has lauded the crucial role played by the Arab Parliament in defending the Arab nation's issues at various international parliamentary gatherings.

He also hailed its efforts in enhancing joint Arab action and extending bridges of coopera-



HM the King with Speaker Al Asoomi

tion between Arab peoples and other countries.

This came as HM the King received at Al Sakhir Palace yesterday the Council of Represent-

atives members and Arab Parliament Speaker Adel Al Asoomi.

HM King Hamad congratulated Al Asoomi on the trust bestowed upon him by the Arab

Parliament's members, which reflects Bahrainis' expertise and competence in holding Arab and international posts.

He commended Al Asoomi's

efforts in serving Bahraini and Arab parliamentary work and wished him every success in carrying out his duties.

HM the King expressed pride and appreciation of the Arab Parliament, citing its constant honourable supportive stances towards Bahrain.

Al Asoomi expressed deepest thanks and gratitude to HM the King for his praise and appreciation. He also praised the kingdom's stances in support of joint Arab action, affirming his keenness to consolidate the Arab Parliament's role in defending the causes of the Arab nations.

F1 stars begin to arrive for Bahrain Grand Prix!

TD | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) welcomed yesterday the first Formula 1 drivers to arrive in the Kingdom ahead of this weekend's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020.

Among those who were scheduled to have reached Bahrain are the McLaren pair of Lando Norris and Carlos Sainz, Williams drivers George Russell and Nicholas Latifi,



Norris, left, upon his arrival in Bahrain

and Alfa Romeo's Antonio Giovinazzi. A number of drivers from the supporting Formula 2 Championship have also already arrived, along with race officials.

They are being received at Bahrain International Airport by BIC's Meet and Greet Team, and are being assisted with their arrival formalities at the specially constructed BIC Reception Tent.

More F1 and F2 drivers are scheduled to make it to Bahrain in the coming days as the countdown continues to the region's biggest global sporting showcase, which takes Sakhir by storm between Friday and Sunday.

The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020 marks the 15th of 17 rounds in this year's F1 World Championship. It is the front-end of Bahrain's F1 dou-

ble-header.

The Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix takes place the very next weekend from December 4 to 6 at BIC with a completely different track layout, offering the sport's competitors an all-new challenge and fans an additional spectacle.

Both races are being held at night under the brilliance of BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights.

Boosting relations

Bahrain keen to enhance cooperation with India

TD | Manama

Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani has stressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's keenness to enhance bilateral cooperation with India in various fields.

This came as the Minister met yesterday with India's External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, on the sidelines of his two-day official visit to Bahrain which will end today.

During the meeting, Dr Al Zayani commended the close

relations between Bahrain and India, which are based on foundations of mutual respect and joint coordination.

He praised the role of the Indian community in the Kingdom and their significant contributions to the development and progress it is witnessing in all sectors. He wished India and its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

For his part, Minister Jaishankar expressed the sincere condolences of the Indian government on the demise of His



Foreign Minister meets Indian External Affairs Minister

Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, commending his great contributions to strengthening bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries and peoples. He lauded the solid bilateral relations between the two countries and the constant development and progress it has reached at all levels, pointing out the Kingdom's positions, its regional and international standing, and its efforts to consolidate regional security, stability and prosperity.



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HM King and HRH the Prime Minister thanked by Sultan of Oman



HM the King

HRH the Prime Minister

HM King Hamad receives cable of thanks from Brazil President

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received a cable of thanks from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Sultan of Oman, in reply to HM the King's congratulations on his country's National Day.



Oman Sultan

Also yesterday, HM the King received a cable of thanks from Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro in reply to HM the King's congratulations on his country's Independence Day.

Minister Al Zayani, Prince Faisal hold phone call



Minister Al Zayani

Prince Faisal

TDT | Manama

A phone call was held yesterday between Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdul-

lah Al Saud, during which the solid relations between the two brotherly countries were reviewed. They also discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries and regional and international issues of common concern.

HM King receives Korean, Indian Ambassadors' credentials

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received the credentials of two new ambassadors during a ceremony held at Al Sakhir Palace. HM King Hamad received the credentials of Korean Ambassador HE Hae Kwan Chung and Indian Ambassador HE Piyush Srivastava.

HM King Hamad exchanged welcome statements with the new ambassadors, and hailed the strong bilateral relations and steadily-growing ties binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and their friendly countries. HM the King wished them



HM the King with Indian Ambassador HE Piyush Srivastava

every success in performing their diplomatic duties to consolidate the good relations of cooperation and friendship with

Bahrain. The two ambassadors conveyed to HM the King greetings and appreciation from their

countries' leaders, wishing him abundant health and happiness and Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity.

HRH Prime Minister boosts Bahrain-UK ties



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets the UK Ambassador remotely

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the long-standing and historic ties

shared by Bahrain and the UK. This came as HRH the Prime Minister held a remote meeting yesterday with the UK Ambassador HE Roderick Drummond, Ambassador of the UK. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister noted the importance of reinforcing bilateral partnerships across various sectors to benefit the people of both Kingdoms. Regional and international topics of common interest were also discussed during the meeting.

HM King presented with a Bahraini Shaheen falcon

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received at Sakhir Palace yesterday Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa who presented him with a Bahraini Shaheen falcon which was offered to HM by BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa. HM the King thanked the BDF Commander-in-Chief, expressing appreciation of the bird.

Speaker lauds HRH Premier commitment

TDT | Manama

Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal praised His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister, for his keenness to strengthen cooperation with the legislative branch of government. This came as the Council of Representatives yesterday held its 8th weekly meeting, as part of the third session of the fifth legislative term.

Deputy Premier receives Health Minister, medical staff



Deputy Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa yesterday received Health Minister Faeqa bint Said Al Saleh, along with a number of senior officials and doctors. The Deputy Premier was presented with a book including condolences from all the Ministry's medical, nursing and administrative staff over the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Saudi Arabia to make coronavirus vaccine free for all

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Health for Preventive Affairs Dr Abdullah Al Asiri said that the coronavirus vaccine will be available free of charge to all in the Kingdom, Saudi Gazette reported. "Saudi Arabia is obtaining vaccines for public health purposes and therefore it has not included them on the list of products that are chargeable," he said. Al Asiri hoped that the coronavirus vaccines would be made available to 70 percent of the

Kingdom's population by the end of 2021. "Most of the coronavirus vaccines are administered twice, except one. Children under 16 years of age will be excluded from receiving the vaccine at this stage," he added. Earlier, Al Asiri noted that Saudi Arabia will be one of the first countries in the G20 and around the world to obtain good quantities of safe and effective vaccines to combat coronavirus. Asiri pointed out that obtaining effective vaccines required



Saudi Arabia looks to obtain good quantities of safe and effective vaccines

a long preparation plan and supply chain, and time for the vaccine to arrive in large enough quantities to the countries requiring it. The Kingdom plans to announce a clear schedule of vaccine arrival in the coming weeks. "Therefore, what will be released this year is not expected to be in the large quantities that would affect the pandemic's trajectory, which isn't expected before mid-2021," he added. Meanwhile, Assistant Minister of Health and the Ministry

Spokesman Dr Mohamed Al Abdel Ali said on Monday that Saudi Arabia will receive delivery of those vaccines that must fulfill a number of specific conditions. The vaccine must be effective, safe, and approved by the concerned authorities, he said. Al Abdel Ali confirmed that critical cases of coronavirus decreased by 6.3 percent during the last week. He stressed the need to strictly adhere to the precautionary measures and preventive protocols issued by the competent authorities.

Bahrain voted as ‘best global destination for Indian weddings’

● Top award given by Travel + Leisure India

TDT | Manama

Travel + Leisure India has named Bahrain as the best global destination for Indian weddings, as part of the “Best Global Destinations for Indians Awards 2020”. Travel + Liesure India is the Indian edition of the popular American luxury travel and lifestyle magazine.

The selection of winner is based on the public and website visitors voting for their favourite destinations.

In recent years, Bahrain has become the preferred destination for hosting Indian wed-



Indian wedding in Bahrain

dings. From January 2019 to the first quarter of 2020 before the coronavirus pandemic came along, the Kingdom hosted more than 20 Indian weddings.

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority has made great efforts to make Bahrain the best international destination for Indian weddings.

Foreign Minister receives Chinese Ambassador



Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received in his office at the Ministry’s General court yesterday Chinese Ambassador Anwaer who delivered a written letter from Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on strong relations between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, the Minister Al Zayani commended the advanced level of friendship between the Kingdom and China, pointing out the importance of continuous cooperation in all fields for the benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples. For his part, Ambassador Anwaer praised bilateral relations and their perpetual growth, wishing Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.

Time to harvest Greenhouse project vegetables!



The Rotary Club of Salmaniya invited two inspirational girls Rawan and Noor to harvest vegetables grown in the Greenhouse project on 21 November. The Greenhouse project is a joint initiative between the Rotary Club of Salmaniya and Khalid Janahi Charity Society. The income generated from the project will be donated to the Friendship Society for the Blind, Al Rahma Center, and the Association for Parents and Friends of the Disabled. The project started when the seeds were planted on 28 September in Khalid Janahi’s farm in Al Jasra. It will end with a final harvest on 20 December.

Culture of partnership

Bahrain building and strengthening bilateral ties with South Korea

● Kingdom’s openness promotes cultural exchanges: Korean Ambassador

● This year marks 44th anniversary of diplomatic relations’ establishment

TDT | Manama

Bahrain, a strong advocate of cultural diversity, has truly recognised the benefits of promoting culture as a means to build and strengthen international relations, South Korean Ambassador Hae Kwan Chung said.

“Bahrain is well known for hospitality, diversity, kindness, and openness, and this eases the introduction of any foreign culture to the society, either through dramas and theatres or by any form of art,” the Ambassador said.

Korea’s culture for instance has been accepted and appreciated by people in Bahrain, he added.

“We see a lot of responses when the embassy organises a cultural event,” the Ambassador said.

Relations between Bahrain and Korea have been steadily growing and this year marks the 44th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

“Our bilateral relations have focused on mutual understanding and exchanges in various fields and in many aspects,” the Ambassador said.

The cultural aspect has been particularly prominent and remarkably close to the Bahraini hearts, Hae added.

For Koreans, Bahrain is the gateway to Middle East countries.

“Since the 1970s Bahrain was the center for Koreans, and based on direct flights between the two countries many Koreans visited Bahrain as the first Middle Eastern country; that’s why we have around 5,000 Koreans



South Korean Ambassador Hae Kwan Chung

“Bahrain is well known for hospitality, diversity, kindness, and openness, and this eases the introduction of any foreign culture to the society, either through dramas and theatres or by any form of art”

SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAE KWAN CHUNG

who have chosen to settle in Bahrain,” he said.

Hae stressed his country’s potential for cultural exchange, and its readiness to further boost these ties.

“For several years we have had a lot of cultural projects in Bah-

rain, such as taekwondo competitions, the Korean film festival for the eighth year and which is set to have its grand opening on November 25 (today), dancing performances from a Korean band in the national theatre, Korean traditional customs fashion show in coordination with Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), and exhibitions of Korean scenes taken by Bahraini photographers,” the Ambassador said.

Parasite, the black comedy thriller film that won four Oscars last year, will open the annual Korean film festival.

Tomorrow, the festival will screen the comedy-drama “Family Hood”, and on November 29, the 2019 disaster action comedy “EXIT” will wrap the film festival for this year, shortened due to the COVID-19 restrictions.



Korean culture is also popular in the Kingdom and the K-pop Fans Club in Bahrain has around 300 members.



Korean culture is also popular in the Kingdom and the K-pop Fans Club in Bahrain has around 300 members, the Ambassador said.

The Korean presence in Bahrain is also manifested in the language with more than 600 Bahrainis are learning Korean.

“The Korean Embassy in collaboration with the Korean language teaching institute (Sejong), started Korean language courses in major universities – the University of Bahrain (UoB), Polytechnic and Al Ahlia University,” he said.



A Korean traditional stage show

Hope on the horizon

If everything goes well, at best, COVID-19 vaccines could be developed by next month or early next year

● Should be distributed across the world to ensure that every person will be protected

● WHO looks to deliver two billion doses by the end of next year

TDT | Manama

Since February, the world has been suffering and facing an unseen enemy called the coronavirus (COVID-19) that is silent, ruthless and deadly.

And amid the pandemic, the world's top scientists, research labs and pharmaceutical companies are working as fast as they can towards one common goal: to save lives by rapidly developing a safe and effective vaccine.

Interestingly, vaccines go through a three-stage clinical trial process before they are sent to regulatory agencies for approval — which can be a lengthy process itself.

Even after a vaccine is approved, it faces potential roadblocks when it comes to scaling up production and distribution, which also includes deciding which populations should get it first — and at what cost. Many vaccines also stay in what's called phase four, a perpetual stage of regular study.

In fact, more than 150 vaccines are currently in development stage across the world — and hopes are high to bring one to market the soonest possible time to ease the global health crisis that has infected more than 54 million people worldwide and killed 1.3 million.

But now there is hope. If everything goes well, at best,



A shot of hope and a return to normal

vaccines could be developed by year's end or in the first months of 2021. After developing a vaccine, it should be distributed across the world to ensure that every person — regardless of age, gender, geographic location or wealth status — will be protected.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is also coordinating global efforts to develop a vaccine, with an eye towards delivering two billion doses by the end of next year.

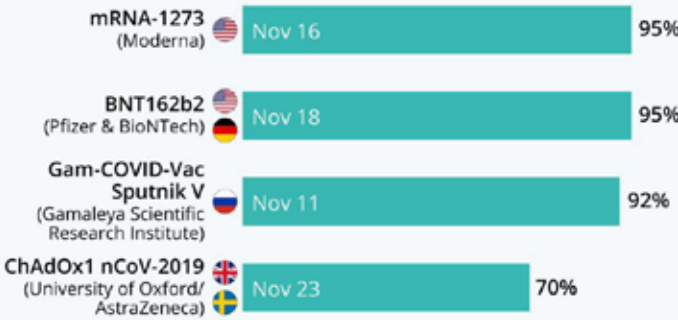
But there are concerns that the race to get one will be won by the richest countries, at the expense of the most vulnerable. The question is, who will get it first, how much will it cost and, in a global crisis, how do we make sure nobody gets left behind?

To date, there are dozens of vaccine candidates in various stages of development.

In particular, potential vaccines developed by China, the

How Effective Are The Covid-19 Vaccine Candidates?

Estimated effectiveness at Covid-19 prevention based on interim data from late-stage clinical trials*



* As of Nov 23, 2020. Phase III trials for BNT162b2 are complete. Other trials are ongoing and findings have not been peer-reviewed. Sources: Respective companies, Russian health ministry



Forbes statista

UK, US, Russia, Australia, Germany and India have all announced to be more than 90% effective against coronavirus, with several others not far behind.

A vaccine produced by Pfizer and BioNTech has convincing evidence that it works and proved to be more than 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 in clinical trials.

And then just a week later another pharmaceutical company,

Moderna, announced the results of its own clinical trials.

Moderna's vaccine showed a remarkable 95% efficacy in preventing COVID-19.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine showed between 70–90% protection.

Earlier, the Russian Ministry of Health announced that its Gam-COVID-Vac jab, better known as Sputnik V, is 92% effective.

China says it has developed

successful vaccines such as Sinovac, Sinopharm and CanSino Biologics. Some of these leading candidates hope to get their vaccine approved by the end of the year although the WHO has said it does not expect to see widespread vaccinations until the middle of 2021.

With the latest positive news from vaccine trials, the light at the end of this long, dark tunnel is growing brighter. There is now real hope that safe, effective and affordable vaccines will help end the pandemic.

As the world waits for a vaccine to beat the COVID-19, we must use what we know for certain will work today — face masks, physical distancing and quarantine — to reduce lives lost unnecessarily.



Potential vaccines developed by China, the UK, US, Russia, Australia, Germany and India have all announced to be more than 90% effective against coronavirus, with several others not far behind.



150

The number of vaccines that are currently in development stage across the world.

Bahrain condemns Houthi attack on Jeddah petroleum station

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has strongly condemned the terrorist attack with a projectile launched by the Iranian-backed terrorist Houthi militia towards the petroleum products distribution station in north Jeddah that sparked a fire in a fuel tank.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that this cowardly terrorist act targeting oil installations threatens the stability of energy supplies to the world and poses a grave danger to the global economy.

In a statement, the ministry affirmed Bahrain's solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its full support for all the measures it takes to safeguard its security and stability.

The ministry also stressed the need for the international community to take serious and strict steps to confront such terrorist acts of sabotage committed by the Houthi group that target civilian facilities and threaten the safety and security of innocent civilians.

Bahraini-Israeli environmental cooperation discussed

TDT | Manama

Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) Chief Executive Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah met virtually yesterday with Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection Director General David Yahalomi and discussed bilateral cooperation in this field.

Dr bin Dainah stressed keenness of SCE on boosting the efforts of all countries supporting the international endeavour to face environmental challenges, mitigate the impact of climate change and preserve wildlife.

The meeting is held in preparation for signing a memorandum of understanding between the SCE and Israeli Ministry.

French Embassy set to host competition for video game fans

TDT | Manama

The French Embassy in Bahrain will showcase French independent video games at a special event to be held virtually on November 28 from 10am to 8pm.

Professionals and non-professionals will be able to try out for free the latest games offered by young French startups, interact on Twitch with specialised schools, game creators and independent French studios during conferences, the embassy said in a statement.

The web platform will be enabled by French start-up and video-game specialist NTWU.

"This total immersion in the exciting and innovative world



of French video games, open to the general public, is the first of its kind in the Gulf," the embassy said.

"As part of the 'Digital November' event celebrating the French Touch in digital matters, this event is not to be missed by all video game enthusiasts and lovers. Several digital events are also proposed until the end of November at the Alliance Française whose program is available on their Instagram account @afbahrain."

BDF unit participates in Arab Sword manoeuvres

● Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan and Sudan also taking part

TDT | Manama

A Bahrain Defense Force unit is participating in the final stages of the Arab Sword 2020 military exercise in Egypt that is also involving Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Jordan and Sudan.

During this stage of the manoeuvres, field applications, specialised military manoeuvring, and methods of dealing with hostile targets and emergencies were carried out.

The advanced stage of the exercise reflects the efficiency and ability of the participating forces in carrying out the tasks



Military exercise in progress

assigned to them with high accuracy and professionalism.

The Arab Sword exercise is part of the Arab military cooperation to bolster combat capabilities and readiness, enhance coordination and exchange expertise and military skills.

The manoeuvres are among the most important in the Arab world and confirm the depth of the ties between the participating states. They aim to unify joint Arab military action to provide security and stability in the Middle East.



The Arab Sword exercise is part of the Arab military cooperation to bolster combat capabilities and readiness, enhance coordination and exchange expertise and military skills.

India bans 43 more apps



Representative picture

● **Ban includes Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's e-commerce app Aliexpress**

● **India has previously banned more than 170 apps**

● **Alibaba is the biggest investor in Indian fin-tech firm Paytm and also backs online grocer BigBasket**

Reuters | New Delhi

India banned 43 mobile applications yesterday including Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's e-commerce app Aliexpress in a new wave of web sanctions.

The 43 mostly Chinese origin apps, which also include a few dating apps, threaten the “sovereignty and integrity of India”, the technology ministry said in a statement.

India has previously banned more than 170 apps saying they collect and share users data which could pose a threat to the state.

The moves, which India's technology minister has referred to as a “digital strike”,

were initiated after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a skirmish with Chinese troops at a disputed Himalayan border site in June.

Aliexpress is not a major player in India's fledgling e-commerce market, which is led by Walmart Inc's Flipkart and Amazon.com Inc's local unit. It is, however, popular with some motorcycle enthusiasts and small shopkeepers, who use it to source cheap goods.

The move is another setback for Chinese giant Alibaba, which is the biggest investor in Indian fin-tech firm Paytm and also backs online grocer BigBasket.

Its subsidiary UC Web laid off staff in India earlier this year after New Delhi first banned 59 Chinese-origin mobile apps that included UC Web's browser and two other products.

The Chinese tech giant was also forced to put on hold its plans to invest in Indian companies following the border tensions between the two nuclear-armed countries, Reuters previously reported.

India's slew of app bans have also jolted the ambitions of Chinese tech titans such as Bytedance and Tencent in the South Asian country, which is trying to reduce Beijing's influence in its burgeoning internet economy.

Britain warns tech firms over risks of China expansion

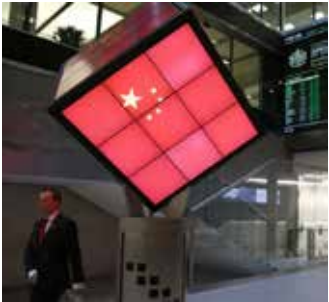
Reuters | London

The British government launched a website yesterday warning digital and technology firms of the ethical, legal and commercial risks of expanding into China and accepting Chinese investment.

Britain published this month a bill giving ministers far-reaching power to intervene in corporate deals which could threaten national security, the culmination of years of growing concern about Chinese and other foreign investment in key industries.

Launched with the slogan “China. See the Potential. Know the Challenge” the government website is designed as a guide for digital and tech firms, encouraging good practice and raising awareness of potential issues.

“The UK is determined to support our businesses to engage with China in a way that reflects the UK's values and takes account of national security concerns,” digital and culture minister Caroline Di-



An illuminated cube bearing the Chinese flag

nenage said in a statement.

Alongside case studies, guides on how to conduct due diligence and links to specialist consultancies, the site contains some stark warnings.

“There is a risk that your company's technology could be used to violate human rights,” said a section on ethical risks, highlighting concerns about facial recognition software censorship, and mass surveillance among other concerns. Another section warns: “Taking legal steps to protect your IP (Intellectual Property) in China is important, but you should also consider your cybersecurity.”

Ithmaar Bank activates round-the-clock cyber risk protection

- **Urges customers to stay vigilant**
- **Commissioned CTM360, an award-winning Bahraini cybersecurity firm**

TDT | Manama

Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, announced commissioning CTM360, a best-in-class Digital Risk Protection solution, to help better protect customers as well as the general public from online fraud.

The Bank, which praised ongoing efforts by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and other relevant authorities to protect the public from online fraud, urged both citizens and residents in the Kingdom to contribute by staying vigilant and immediately reporting suspicious activity.

“Ithmaar Bank is committed

”

The global Covid-19 pandemic has forced the world to reconsider many aspects of our daily lives. It has, for example, significantly accelerated the adoption of online technology and other digital solutions across various sectors, including banking and financial services. As a result, online presence has become, arguably, as important as physical, real-world presence

ITHMAAR BANK CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AHMED ABDUL RAHIM

to becoming the Islamic retail bank of choice,” said Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim.

“To do so, we put our customers at the very centre of everything we do, and we invest heavily in continuously improving their Islamic banking experience. This, obviously, involves continuously enhancing our products and services, but, increasingly, it also involves working to help protect both our customers and the public in

general,” he said.

“Most recently, we commissioned CTM360, an award-winning Bahraini cybersecurity firm, to provide round-the-clock Cyber Threat Management to detect and respond to threats that may be targeting the Ithmaar Brand, its customers, or prospects,” he said.

Based in Bahrain, CTM360 specialises in Digital Risk Protection with an offensive defence approach. This mentality aims to neutralise and eliminate

Alba tops Environmental, Social and Governance rating

”

We believe that ESG should be the Forward Focus especially as COVID-19 has accelerated the shift towards civic society with a major emphasis on social cohesion, community support and volunteering for the public good. Being one of the blue-chip assets in Bahrain, we remain committed to translate the Kingdom's Economic Vision 2030 and lead the change in ESG

ALBA'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ALI AL BAQALI

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), the world's largest smelter ex-China, has topped the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) ratings list by ESG Invest, for the second year in a row, in Bahrain -- as announced by the Company yesterday.

ESG Invest provides comprehensive ESG ratings research reports that quantify the ESG performance of companies in the Arab world.

Commenting, Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Ali Al Baqali said: “Ranking number ONE by ESG Invest in Bahrain endorses Alba's sound corporate transparency and stakeholder

Airlines set to lose \$157 billion amid worsening slump: IATA

Reuters | Paris

Airlines are on course to lose a total \$157 billion this year and next, their main global body warned yesterday.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which in June had forecast \$100 bn in losses for the two-year period, said it now projects a \$118.5 bn deficit this year alone, and a further \$38.7 bn for 2021.

Passenger numbers are expected to drop to 1.8 billion this year from 4.5 bn in 2019, IATA estimates, and will recover only partially to 2.8 bn next year. Passenger revenue for 2020 is expected to have plunged 69pc to \$191 bn. Air cargo will likely see global revenue rise 15pc to \$117.7 bn this year despite an 11.6pc decline in volume to 54.2 million tonnes.

Bitcoin close to all-time high after topping \$19,000

Reuters | London

Bitcoin homed in on its all-time high yesterday after hitting \$19,000 for the first time in nearly three years.

The world's most popular cryptocurrency was last up 3 per cent at \$18,918, near its all-time record of \$19,666. Bitcoin has gained almost 40pc in November alone and is up around 160 per cent this year.

Fuelling its blistering rally had been demand for riskier assets amid unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus designed to counter the economic damage of the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger for assets perceived as resistant to inflation and expectations that cryptocurrencies will win mainstream



acceptance.

Bitcoin's 12-year history has been peppered with vertigi-

nous gains and equally sharp drops. Its markets remain highly opaque compared with traditional assets such as stocks or bonds.

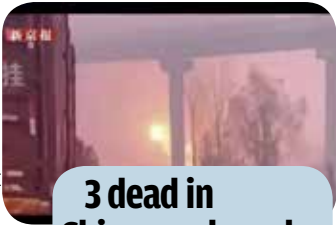
Its rally this year has prompted some investors to claim the cryptocurrency could more than quintuple in price to as high as \$100,000 in a year, drawing eye rolls from sceptics who say it is a purely speculative asset.

“The latest run in bitcoin... has been fuelled by the lack of supply-side liquidity, especially on exchanges,” said Jacob Skaaning of crypto hedge fund ARK36, adding that the volume of bitcoin on trading platforms was down amid high demand.

Cryptocurrency markets have matured since bitcoin's retail-fuelled rally in 2017, attracting bigger investors.

News in brief

◆ **At least three people were killed and six were injured in a major road collision involving over 40 vehicles and a chemical tanker in central China yesterday.** About 10 vehicles caught fire in the crash, which occurred at about 7am on Baomao highway in the city of Tongchuan, in Shaanxi province. Emergency efforts were continuing with many people trapped, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Two people had so far been rescued. The response involved at least 16 fire engines and more than 100 firefighters. The flames were extinguished before they spread to the 34-tonne tanker, which was carrying highly flammable methanol, according to CCTV.



3 dead in China road crash involving 40 vehicles and chemical tanker

◆ **Dozens of nations began pledging billions of dollars in aid for Afghanistan at a conference in Geneva yesterday,** hoping

International donors meet to pledge billions in aid to Afghanistan



that peace negotiations recently begun between the government and the Taliban will end nearly two decades of war. During the lead up to the

quadrennial international donors conference, diplomats reckoned Afghanistan could receive 15-20% less funding than the roughly \$15.2 billion pledged at the last conference in Brussels in 2016 due to uncertainties over the peace process and difficulties getting commitments during the coronavirus pandemic.

◆ **Paolo Gabriele, the butler of former Pope Benedict who passed on the pontiff's personal**

documents to the media and was convicted in "Vatileaks" case dies

Papal butler convicted in "Vatileaks" case dies



in the so-called "Vatileaks" case, has died. He was 54. Official Vatican media said on Tuesday he died in a Rome hospital after a long illness. Gabriele worked for several years as Benedict's private butler before leaking letters and other documents from the pope's desk in 2012 to an Italian journalist who wrote a book about corruption in the Vatican.

◆ **Russia said Tuesday its Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine was 95 percent effective and easier to**



Russia says Sputnik V virus vaccine 95pc effective

would be cheaper store than some as the global race develop a jab. The announcement was the latest in a flurry of breakthroughs as several vaccine makers worldwide published preliminary data showing efficacy rates of 90 percent and higher. Countries are hoping to begin inoculating their populations by year's end or in early 2021 to stop a pandemic that has claimed the lives of nearly 1.4 million people.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1	USA	12,786,174	263,899	59,733,982
2	India	9,193,982	134,383	
3	Brazil	6,088,004	169,541	Deaths
4	France	2,144,660	49,232	
5	Russia	2,138,828	37,031	1,405,813
6	Spain	1,606,905	43,131	Recovered:
7	UK	1,527,495	55,230	41,325,024
8	Italy	1,431,795	50,453	New cases
9	Argentina	1,374,631	37,122	
10	Colombia	1,254,979	35,479	+191,353
11	Mexico	1,049,358	101,926	New deaths
12	Germany	951,324	14,695	
13	Peru	950,557	35,641	+4,162
14	Poland	909,066	14,314	

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	113,381		6,560		101,981	4,840
Saudi Arabia	355,741	+252	5,811	+15	344,311	5,619
UAE	161,365	+1,310	559	+5	150,261	10,545
Kuwait	140,795	+402	870	+2	133,407	6,518
Oman	122,579	+223	1,391	+5	113,856	7,332
Qatar	137,642	+227	236		134,698	2,708

Figures as of closing

Guard against laxity in Covid-19 fight: Modi tells chief ministers

News18

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a virtual meeting yesterday, warned the chief ministers of eight states and union territories against letting their guards down in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. He called for reducing the positivity and fatality rates by focusing on curbing the virus transmission. Even as he underlined that India's COVID-19 situation is more stable than other countries in terms of recovery and fatality rates, the prime minister called for more RT-PCR tests.

Modi asked them to work towards bringing the positive

rate to less than 5 per cent and the fatality rate to under 1 per cent and called for more RT-PCR tests. "We need to speed up our efforts to reduce transmission of the virus. Testing, confirmation, contact tracing and data must be given top priority," he said.

The meeting was also attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, while the chief ministers who participated in the virtual interaction include Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal, Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot, West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Maharashtra's Uddhav Thackeray, Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Baghel, Telangana's K Chandrashekhar Rao and Gujarat's Vijay Rupani. A massive network of testing to treatment is running well in the entire country and it is being regularly widened, the prime minister said.

Modi has held several rounds of virtual meetings with states over the coronavirus situation so far.

While the national daily COVID-19 case count has remained below 50,000 for some time, several urban centres have witnessed a surge, resulting in enforcement of several measures, including curfews in some cities.

Trump clears way for Biden

● **Trump, in a post on Twitter, offered support for the move**

● **Biden forges ahead with building team**

Reuters | Wilmington, Delaware

US President-elect Joe Biden yesterday began a new phase in his transition to the White House after the Trump administration gave the Democrat access to critical resources that will enable him to take the reins of power in January.

The General Services Administration's announcement on Monday that it would formally recognize Biden's transition came after weeks of the president-elect falsely claiming that the Nov. 3 election had been marred by widespread voter fraud.

Trump, in a post on Twitter, offered support for the move.

Critics have said the president's refusal to accept the results undermined US democracy and undercut the next administration's ability to fight the novel coronavirus.

While Trump stopped short of conceding, it was the closest he has come to acknowledging that it is time to hand over power to Biden, who will take office on Jan. 20.

The GSA announcement will allow the president-elect to access millions of dollars in funds and focus on putting together a



US President-elect Joe Biden holds videoconference meeting with US Conference of Mayors at his transition headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware

leadership team.

It also paves the way for Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris to receive regular national security briefings that Trump also gets.

Biden and Harris are expected to formally introduce their appointments to criti-

cal national security and foreign policy positions in Wilmington, Delaware.

Biden on Monday tapped trusted aide Antony Blinken to head the State Department and John Kerry, a former U.S. senator, secretary of state and 2004 Democratic presidential nominee, to serve as his special climate envoy.

Biden, who plans to undo many of Trump's "America First" policies, also named Jake Sullivan as his national security adviser and Linda Thomas-Greenfield as US ambassador to the United Nations - both with high-level government experience.

He is likely to tap former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen to become the next Treasury secretary, according to two Biden allies, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel decision that was not yet public.



306

Biden won 306 state-by-state electoral votes to Trump's 232.

'Very Weak President': Chinese Adviser says Biden could 'Start Wars'

News18

A Chinese government advisor has said the country must drop its illusion that the Sino-American relations will automatically improve under the President-elect Joe Biden and that Beijing should prepare for a tough stance from Washington.

Zheng Yongnian, who is the Dean of the Advanced Institute of Global and Contemporary China Studies, a Shenzhen-based think tank, has said that Beijing should utilise every opportunity to mend ties with the US, South China Morning Post reported, according to ANI.

Claiming that American society is 'torn apart', the government advisor said that "Biden couldn't do anything about it."

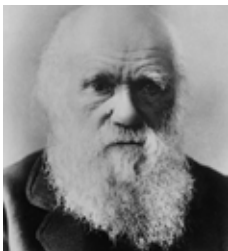
"He is certainly a very weak President, if he can't sort out domestic issues, then he will do something on the diplomatic front, do something against China. If we say Trump is not interested in promoting democracy and freedom, Biden is. Trump is not interested in war... but a Democratic President could start wars," he said.

Theodosius I makes his
adventus, or first formal
entry, into Constantino-
ple

1st observation of transit of Ve-
nus by Jeremiah Horrocks and
William Crabtree - helped es-
tablish size of the Solar System

Dutch explorer Abel
Tasman discovers
Van Diemen's Land
(Tasmania)

English naturalist Charles Darwin pub-
lishes “On the Origin of Species” radically
changing the view of evolution and laying
the foundation for evolutionary biology



UN troops begin an
assault intending to
end Korean War by
Christmas

Russia chases off US warship in row over waters in Sea of Japan



Representative picture (Courtesy of business standard)

- The Admiral Vinogradov verbally warned USS John S. McCain
- Threatened to ram it in order to force it to leave the area
- Russia said its Pacific Fleet warship had been tracking the American destroyer
- The US Navy said its warship had been in international waters

Reuters | Moscow

Russia said yesterday one of its warships caught and chased off a US destroyer operating illegally in its territorial waters in the Sea of Japan, but the US Navy denied wrongdoing by its vessel and accused Moscow of making excessive maritime claims. The Admiral Vinogradov, a Russian destroyer, verbally warned

USS John S. McCain, a US Navy guided-missile destroyer, and threatened to ram it in order to force it to leave the area, prompting it to return to neutral waters, Moscow said. Russia said its Pacific Fleet warship had been tracking the American destroyer in the Peter the Great Gulf, and that the US vessel had violated Russia’s territorial waters at 0317 GMT by going two kilometres beyond the sea border. But the US Navy said its warship had been in international waters throughout as it carried out a “freedom of navigation” operation to assert its rights and challenge what it said were Russia’s excessive maritime claims. “...the United States will never bow in intimidation or be coerced into accepting illegitimate maritime claims, such as those made by the Russian Federation,” said Lieutenant Joe Keiley, 7th Fleet spokesperson. “The Russian Federation’s statement about this mission is false,” he said. “USS John S. McCain was not ‘expelled’ from any nation’s territory.” The US destroyer made no further attempts to enter Russian waters after leaving the area, Mos-

YOU

KNOW WHAT

The last remaining major arms control pact between the former Cold War foes is due to expire in February despite months of talks to find a replacement. Also, President Vladimir Putin has yet to congratulate US Democratic President-elect Joe Biden with his Nov. 3 election victory over President Donald Trump.

cow said. The Admiral Vinogradov was continuing to observe its movements and another vessel, a corvette, was dispatched to the area, it added. Such incidents at sea are rare, but they underscore the poor diplomatic and military relations between Russia and the United States whose ties are languishing at a post-Cold War low.

Clean-up on Saudi oil facility after Houthi strike



The tank damaged in the attack. Black marks and some damage around its top rim were visible.

Reuters

One of the 13 tanks at Aramco’s North Jeddah Bulk Plant is currently out of action, the official told journalists on a tour. He described the site as a “critical

facility” which distributes more than 120,000 barrels of products per day domestically to Jeddah, Mecca and the al-Baha region. A fire caused in the incident was extinguished in around 40 minutes with no casualties, the

official said. The projectile struck the storage tank from the top, causing “major damage” to the tanks’ roof, with a hole around 2 meters square, the official said. Black marks and some damage around its top rim were visible.



Social media video grab of Billie Rea rescuing a draughtboard shark

“I’ve got a shark” Aus girl proves a valuable fish friend in shark rescue

Reuters | Sydney

While the words shark and Australia typically conjure up images of attacks on swimmers and surfers, 11-year-old Billie Rea didn’t think twice in rescuing a shark trapped by the low tide in a rock pool and carrying it to deeper water. “I’ve got a shark. Come on darling,” the girl was heard answering her mother in a video shared on social media yesterday, as she plucked a draughtboard shark from a tidal pool on the edge of Kingston Beach, Tasmania, about 10 km (6 miles) south of the Australian island state’s capital of Hobart. “It’s alright, it’s alright,” Rea cooed as she trod over mossy rocks with the brown-spotted shark in both hands before releasing it in open water.

Rea was never in danger as the draughtboard shark is a slow-moving, bottom feeder that mostly eats small shellfish. “As soon as it came into view, I knew what it was and I knew that it couldn’t hurt her,” her mother Abby Gilbert, who filmed the rescue six days earlier, told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. “You saw in the video just how calm she is, and I feel like that animal felt so safe with her,” she added. Abby was more concerned with the wet rocks that Billie clambered across to get to the open water than the live shark in her daughter’s hands. “Just be careful because it’s super slippery,” Abby could be heard cautioning in the video just before Billie reaches the water’s edge and places the shark into the sea.

Ethiopia says ‘large number’ of Tigrayan fighters surrender

Reuters | Addis Ababa

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s government said yesterday that many Tigrayan militia and special forces were surrendering in line with an ultimatum before a threatened offensive against the regional capital Mekelle. “Using the government’s 72-hour period, a large number of Tigray militia and special forces are surrendering. Many have surrendered through the



Afar region, and the remaining forces are surrendering peacefully,” a government taskforce said. There was no immediate response from the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), which earlier said it had destroyed an important army division. Reuters has been unable to verify statements from either side since phone and internet connections to Tigray are down and access to the area is restricted.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Fight, and I believe we will prevail! Nevertheless, in the best interest of our Country, I am recommending that Emily and her team do what needs to be done with regard to initial protocols, and have told my team to do the same.
@realDonaldTrump

02



Pleased the Trump administration has taken the final & necessary step to formally withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty. I've been proud to lead the fight in the Senate to help deliver this blow to Putin's espionage operations & to counter efforts that weaken our national security.
@SenTedCruz

03



Vice President-elect @KamalaHarris and I spent the afternoon meeting with a bipartisan group of mayors. It was just the start of what I know will be a strong partnership in the months and years ahead. Together, we're going to beat COVID-19 and build back better.
@JoeBiden

04



We chose the most qualified, experienced, and crisis-tested national security professionals to restore our standing in the world, project leadership, and protect our country.
@KamalaHarris

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

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Please forward your C.V to **Private.School45@gmail.com**

Jennifer Lopez called out by Beyoncé fans after AMAs performance

Fox | Los Angeles

Jennifer Lopez gave a steamy performance during the 2020 American Music Awards on Sunday night. However, it apparently didn't sit well with Beyoncé fans, as many are coming at the

YOU KNOW WHAT

Lopez danced around a chair as blue, black and red pyrotechnics beamed the stage – which didn't exactly sit well with members of the “Beyhive” who called her out for allegedly cramping Beyonce's style

pop music icon, claiming Lopez copied some of her looks from the star.

Over the weekend, the 51-year-old actress and reality dance show judge took the stage with frequent collaborator Maluma, where the pair performed their hit songs “Pa' Ti” and “Lonely” – records which appear on the soundtrack for their upcoming movie “Marry Me.”

For the performance, Lopez donned

a revealing catsuit and styled her short dirty blonde hair in a wet look.

The luscious charade also saw Lopez dancing around a chair as blue, black and red pyrotechnics beamed the stage – which didn't exactly sit well with members of the “Beyhive” who called her out for allegedly cramping the style. Beyoncé displayed during her performance at the 2014 Grammy Awards where she performed “Drunk in Love.” Meanwhile, a source closely connected to Lopez took exception to the loose Twitter claims calling Lopez a copycat.

Miley says she ‘fell off’ amid pandemic, reveals she’s two weeks sober

ANI | Washington

American singer-songwriter Miley Cyrus recently appeared on Apple's New Music Daily Radio with Zane Lowe for an interview, which was published on Monday, the same day as her birthday.

According to Fox News, during the conversation, the 28-year-old songstress was asked by host Zane Lowe about her one-year sobriety when she admitted, “Well, I, like a lot of people, being completely honest, during the pandemic fell off and felt really a lot of ... and I would never sit here and go, ‘I've been sober.’”

“I didn't, and I fell off and I realized that I now am back on sobriety, two weeks sober, and you know I feel like I really accepted that time,” Cyrus stated.

SUDOKU

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

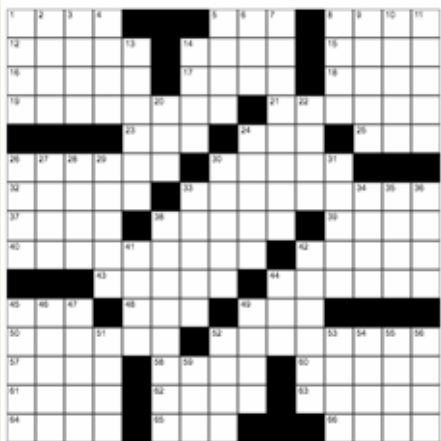
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Blackbird; 5- Young bear; 8- I smell _; 12- Arm joint; 14- Bean town?; 15- Female horse; 16- Din; 17- Somewhat; 18- Kind of rock; 19- Unstable; 21- Disguised; 23- Opener; 24- Ad follower; 25- Crafty; 26- Flower parts; 30- Awkward boors; 32- San Marino surround; 33- Relevant; 37- London gallery; 38- Refuse; 39- To _ (perfectly); 40- Obliquely; 42- Go along (with); 43- Establish; 44- Money-grubbers; 45- Salamander; 48- Shoebox letters; 49- Fashion designer's monogram; 50- Silicon dioxide; 52- Profession; 57- Take apart; 58- Corp. VIP, briefly; 60- Where Hercules slew the lion; 61- Med school subj.; 62- Stink; 63- Private Pyle; 64- Dissolve, as cells; 65- Georgia, once; Abbr.; 66- Stool pigeon- var.;

Down

1- List from which to choose; 2- North Carolina university; 3- Diamond stats; 4- Missing; 5- Large town; 6- Actress Thurman; 7- Criticize; 8- Latin lesson word; 9- Prepares for billiards; 10- Shakespearean sprite; 11- Woman's one-piece undergarment; 13- Payroll frequency; 14- Godiva, for one; 20- DOE opponent; 22- Broadway opening; 24- Stallion, e.g.; 26- Mines; 27- Bibliography abbr.; 28- See ya!; 29- Coeur d' _; ID; 30- Smallest; 31- Catches; 33- Cost; 34- Raison d' _; 35- _do-well; 36- Driving aids; 38- Small pincers; 41- Waste allowance; 42- Sick; 44- Ed.'s pile; 45- Peer; 46- Amusing; 47- Verbal flourishes; 49- Expression of disgust; 51- Routine; 52- Ale, e.g.; 53- Dodge model; 54- Actress Thompson; 55- Prophet; 56- Cutty _; 59- Crosses (out);

Yesterday's solution

ER	RED	LUNAR	AAA	
NOISY	ANILE	MGM		
DEMON	IDEAL	ARE		
	AERO	ASHEN		
DETESTS	BOTTLE			
ERRATA	PAREE			
FAIRY	WORLDWIDE			
ESE	CAKEY	NON		
RESTARTED	MATZO			
	STEED	PETREL		
SKATER	BELLONA			
HENRI	WANT			
BEN	MESAS	IBeam		
ADV	ELENI	NORMA		
RYE	SIREN	GNASH		

Guseinov and Mokaev to represent Bahrain and KHK MMA in IMMAF Awards



Murad Guseinov celebrates after a bout

TDT | Manama

The International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) announced this Thursday the nominees for Junior Athlete of the Year, and Team Bahrain and KHK MMA are well represented. Number one Junior Welterweight Murad Guseinov is among the nominees, representing Bahrain, while Muhammad Mokaev, the number one pound-for-pound junior amateur fighter in the world, is representing KHK MMA.

Both Guseinov and Mokaev fight out of KHK MMA, the team created by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to give out opportunities to worthy young fighters who have come through the amateur system to represent their countries in the amateur circuit as well as going on to become professional stars.

Mokaev has made the jump to the professional ranks this

year, amassing worldwide attention and impressing with a string of fine bouts, remaining undefeated. He represents KHK MMA and Great Britain and Dagestan as a professional.

Welterweight Guseinov, meanwhile, became the junior world champion last year in the Kingdom of Bahrain and currently sits at the top of the rankings in his weight-class. Murad has also been recognized in the pound-for-pound rankings, as the number 3 junior fighter in the world. In addition to that, he also won the gold medal in the IMMAF European Championship, making him one of the biggest young amateurs in the world.

In the coming days, IMMAF will continue to announce the nominees for other awards as more Team Bahrain athletes are expected to join Murad and Muhammad.

The awards will take place online this year and winners are to be announced on December 11th.

Turkalj, Stoute call out Fakhreddine over title

Anton Turkalj and Todd Stoute have stepped up and put their names in the hat for BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight title

● Other fighters stepped in after Mohammad Fakhreddine call-out Mohamed Said Maalem for the vacant title

TDT | Manama

After Middleweight world champion Mohammad Fakhreddine spoke out about the possibility of facing Mohamed Said Maalem for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight title, other fighters have stepped up and put their names in the hat for an eventual title fight.

YOU
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Anton Turkalj said he would face both Mohammad Fakhreddine and Mohamed Said Maalem in the same night and would bet his fight purse that he would come out victorious



Anton Turkalj in action during a bout

Swedish phenom Anton Turkalj, who has won twice in two BRAVE CF bouts, commented on social media about going for the title, rejecting the idea of Fakhreddine and Said Maalem fighting for the belt. Turkalj said he would even face both men in the same night and would bet his fight purse that he would come out victorious.

Later, Anton used his own profile to put up a montage of

him holding the BRAVE CF title as if he was Captain America - using the belt as his shield.

Todd Stoute, on the other hand, had already expressed his desire for a rematch against Said Maalem. "Black Hulk" lost to Mohamed but has bounced back with a win against Cristian Constantinov.

Currently ranked as the number one Heavyweight and number two Light Heavyweight in

Canada, Stoute believes he deserves a title shot after impressing in all of his three BRAVE CF contests, with one loss and two wins.

After Fakhreddine's call-out of Said Maalem, Todd went on to say the title shot was his, and claimed he would be interested in fighting the Middleweight champ for the vacant Light Heavyweight world title as well.

Bahrain roster shaping up for qualifiers

● Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines set for exciting Group A battles as teams jostle for berths in FIBA Asia Cup 2021

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team will today finalise their line-up for the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 qualifiers being hosted by the Kingdom this week.

A national team official confirmed with TDT last night that the squad list will be formally submitted before today's deadline, with just two days to go before the start of action on Friday.

The Bahrainis, coached by former NBA champion Sam Vincent, have been practising behind closed doors the past few weeks. Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) president Waleed Al Alawi paid a visit to yesterday's training session and wished the national team success in their upcoming contests.

Bahrain is hosting qualifying games with seven nations participating. The Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia are in



BBA president Waleed Al Alawi, fifth from right, with Coach Sam Vincent, fifth from left, and other BBA and national team officials at the squad's training session yesterday

Group A of qualification, while Iraq, India, Lebanon and the host Bahrainis are in Group D.

All games will take place at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town between Friday and Monday.

Bahrain take to the hardwood twice in this qualifying window, first against Iraq on opening night and then facing India on Sunday. Both fixtures are scheduled for 7pm tip-offs.

All the visiting delegations were scheduled to have arrived in Bahrain by today, with Indonesia being the last team to reach the Kingdom. The teams began

practising locally yesterday.

Group A set for thrilling battles

Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines will be looking to make the most of their condensed playing schedule in Bahrain. Group A was also set to feature Korea, but they have withdrawn from this qualifying window. Because of this, Indonesia will only be taking to the court once, while the Philippines, who were also originally set to face the Koreans, will play twice instead of three times over four days.

Thailand are coached by

American Chris Daleo. They have travelled to Bahrain with a 10-player line-up. The roster includes Wattana Suttisin, Nakorn Jaisanuk, Anasawee Klaewnarong, Chatpol Chungyampin, Anucha Langsui, Sukhdave Ghogar, Montien Wongsawangtham, Chanatip Jakrawan and Nattakarn Muangboon.

The Indonesians have a 12-man squad, with naturalised player Lester Prosper among the team's newest additions who is expected to make a significant contribution. The other players are Abraham Damar

YOU
KNOW WHAT

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Grahita, Andakara Prastawa, Hardianus Lakudu, Vincent Rivaldi Kosasih, Govinda Julian Saputra, Brandon Van Dorn Jawato, Kevin Yonas Argadiba Sitorus, Widyanta Putra Teja, Arki Dikania Wisnu, Agassi Yeshe Goantara, and Juan Laurent Kokodiputra.

The Indonesians are being guided by former Muharraq

Club coach Rajko Toroman of Serbia.

As previously reported on TDT, the Philippines have a 16-player team, led by popular standouts Dave Ildefonso, Kobe Paras and Justine Baltazar. The other players are Isaac Go, Juan Gomez De Liano, Matt Nieto, Dwight Ramos, Kenmark Carino, Calvin Oftana, Angelo Kouame, Rey Suerte, Mike Nieto, Javi Gomez De Liano, Jaydee Tuncgab, Will Navarro and Allyn Bulanadi. The Filipinos are coached by Jong Uchico.

Thailand have a tough schedule in upcoming qualifiers, playing two games in as many days to kick things off.

They first play the Philippines on Friday at 4pm, and then take on Indonesia the next day at the same time. On Monday, the Filipinos and Thais face off again in the day's lone fixture, also with a 4pm tip-off.

The top two teams in each of the six groups at the end of this stage of the qualifiers will book their tickets directly to FIBA Asia Cup 2021. The third-placed teams in each group will then proceed to play in a separate tournament to determine four other teams that will complete the 16-team field of FIBA Asia Cup 2021.



Toto Wolff and Lewis Hamilton celebrate on the podium at the Turkish Grand Prix earlier this month

● **2020's final three races include the Kingdom's F1 double-header—starting with the Bahrain Grand Prix—and the championship-finale in Abu Dhabi**

TDT | Manama

There will be no relaxing for Formula 1 champions Mercedes this weekend at the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, as team principal Toto Wolff says that they will continue to keep their foot on the gas, despite having already secured both of the season's world titles. 2020's final three races include the Kingdom's F1 double-header—starting with the Bahrain Grand Prix—and the championship-finale in Abu Dhabi. The German manufacturers now have little to fight for after already sealing the constructors' crown two races ago in Imola, and Lewis Hamilton capturing the drivers' world title at the

previous Grand Prix in Istanbul. But Wolff says that they will still be giving it their "best shot" at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) as they look to finish the 2020 campaign on a high note. "Both titles may have already been decided, but we're still going to give it our best shot," Wolff said. "We witnessed something truly remarkable at the last race in Turkey with Lewis winning his seventh drivers' championship,

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Mercedes have won four of the last six races at BIC, including thrice for Hamilton in 2014, 2015 and 2019 and the other for Nico Rosberg in 2016. Bottas was the runner-up in last year's race

and the way in which he did it was spectacular. "In general, it was a difficult weekend for us as a team and a big challenge for everyone, but Lewis did an outstanding job to come from sixth on the grid to take the victory and he has cemented his position among the all-time best sportspeople in the world. "We had some mixed fortunes as it was a tough weekend for Valtteri [Bottas], but we know how resilient and strong he is. I know he will bounce back stronger in these final three races." Wolff said that Mercedes are looking forward to racing at BIC and will be hoping to continue their strong performances at the desert track. The Austrian noted that the Bahrain Grand Prix poses a unique challenge for F1 teams, with sessions taking place both during the day and at night, which makes for varying conditions. "We've enjoyed some strong performances in Bahrain in the past and it's always a track that produces interesting racing," Wolff said. "We look ahead to Bahrain and returning to a familiar circuit. It always presents an interesting challenge, because of the variation in track conditions and tem-

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TOTO WOLFF
MERCEDES TEAM PRINCIPAL

peratures between the sessions. "FP1 and FP3 are held in the warmer daytime temperatures, but FP2, qualifying and the race take place in the cooler evening climate. This makes it challenging to set up the car and gather the right information when it counts." Mercedes have won four of the last six races at BIC, including thrice for Hamilton in 2014, 2015 and 2019 and the other for Nico Rosberg in 2016. Bottas was the runner-up in last year's race. The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020 marks the 15th of 17 rounds in this year's F1 World Championship. It will be the front-end of the first-ever F1 double-header in the Kingdom. The Rolex Sakhr Grand Prix takes place the very next week-



Lewis Hamilton on his way to victory at the 2019 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix

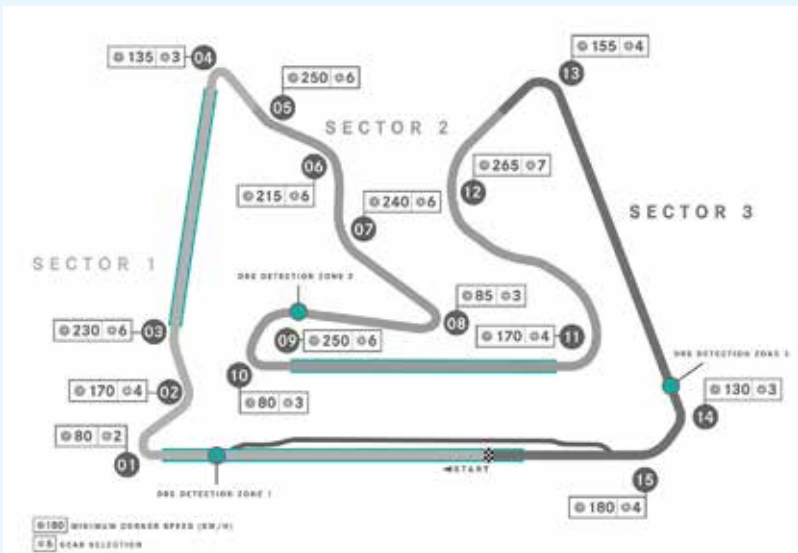
Mercedes at the Bahrain Grand Prix						
	Starts	Wins	Podiums	Poles	Fastest Laps	DNF
Mercedes	9	4	12	5	4	0
Hamilton	12	3	8	2	1	0
Bottas	7	0	3	1	1	0

end from December 4 to 6 at BIC with a completely different track layout, offering the sport's competitors an all-new challenge and fans an additional spectacle. Both races are being held at night under the brilliance of BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights. The Kingdom's F1 double-header will be taking place with all precautionary guide-

lines in place issued by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs and the Ministry of Health. Although both events are closed to the general public, frontline health workers and first responders, along with members of their immediate families, have been invited to join. For more information, visit bahraingp.com.

Mercedes F1 team with F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix fact file

- » Bahrain International Circuit's complex is located in the middle of the desert on a former camel farm and features 1,120 palm trees.
- » Despite the track's rural location, surrounded by sandy desert, the sand does not present the cars with any major issues and the circuit surface can clean up very quickly.
- » - 495 lighting posts are used to illuminate the track for FP2, Qualifying and the 57-lap race.
- » - Bahrain International Circuit has one of the roughest surfaces of the season, which can lead to higher tyre degradation as a result.
- » Turn 10 is one of the trickiest corners because it has a long, combined corner-entry that gets tighter towards the apex, which is blind over a crest. Drivers begin to apply the brakes while also negotiating the wide corner arc of Turn 9 and the track drops away at the apex. All of these factors cause the front-left tyre to go light and increase the risk of a lock-up. The balance is on a knife-edge through this sequence, as drivers battle cornering and braking, which is why there are often mistakes at this point on the track.
- » Because FP1 and FP3 are run in daylight, they hold little value when it comes to car balance and set-up work for Qualifying and the race, which take place at night. However, FP1 and FP3 can still prove useful for work on other items such as testing new parts or understanding the tyres.
- » FP2 is a crucial session for the teams, in order to properly prepare for the race weekend's main events.



- » When it comes to set-up, the focus is very much on tuning the car for low and medium-speed corners, because the high-speed sections of track are easily taken flat-out. Mechanical grip is an important area in Bahrain, to propel the cars out of the slow turns.
- » Bahrain International Circuit has the joint-second highest gear change figure per lap of the 2020 season, with drivers shifting gear 58 times. This is behind Sochi and tied with Abu Dhabi.
- The Bahrain Grand Prix is always punishing on the brakes, with seven braking events and three of those being classified as 'heavy' by engineers, meaning the driver is braking for 0.4 seconds or longer, with 4G or more. The Sakhr Grand Prix, which will be around the Bahrain International Circuit's Outer Track, is expected to be even tougher on the brakes.

Porsche Sprint Challenge ME kicks off new season at Bahrain GP

TDT | Manama

The Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East, the region's leading one-make championship that is based at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), will be holding the first round of its 2020/2021 season this weekend in support of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix. The Porsche Sprint Challenge joins Formula 2 as part of the action in Sakhr. Launched in 2009, series competition returns for a landmark 11th campaign. It was created to give the region's home-grown



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driving talent an opportunity to realise their potential while enhancing personal circuit experience. It has now established itself as the region's most popular circuit championship for drivers and fans alike, featuring real racing and genuine rivalries on the track. Participants battle it out in the powerful and dynamic Porsche 911 GT3 Cup cars. A highly competitive grid of 17 drivers hailing from all over the world is set to take part this weekend at BIC. Among them is the Team Bahrain pair of Shaikh Jaber bin Ali Al Khalifa and Shaikh Ali bin

Mohammed Al Khalifa. Both Bahrainis will be competing in the championship's GT3 class, with Shaikh Jaber driving in the Am category and Shaikh Ali racing in the Pro-Am. Other GT3 drivers include Jesse Van Kuijk from the Netherlands, Julian Hanses and Richard Wagner from Germany, JB Simmenauer of France and Jaxon Evans from New Zealand in the Pro category; Daan Van Kuijk and Lucas Groeneveld from the Netherlands in the Pro-Am category, and Eddy Waldhier and Robert Sulma from Germany in the Am field.

The championship's GT4 class features six races on the grid, including Fawaz Algosaihi, Bandar Alireza and Bandar Alesayi from Saudi Arabia, Leo Willert and Freddy Fast from Austria, and Franz Dziwok from Poland. This weekend's action in the Porsche Sprint Challenge will include two Practice sessions on Friday at 11.25am and 7.55pm, respectively. Qualifying will then be held on Saturday at 11am, setting the starting positions for the round's first 12-lap race later that afternoon at 3.50pm. Race two will then be held on Sunday at 2.20pm.