

**Bahrain battle hard in loss to Japan**

Nationals sign off from handball world championship in 21st place on the final classification | P 16

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**HM King thanked by Saudi Monarch**



King Salman  
 TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in reply to his congratulations on the success of the 41st Summit of the GCC Supreme Council.

King Salman expressed deepest thanks and appreciation to HM the King for his good feelings and sincere supplications, wishing him abundant health and happiness, as well as further progress and prosperity to the people of Bahrain.

**HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman appointed**



TDT | Manama

Based on His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives, the High Committee of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club has congratulated His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa on his appointment as its honorary president.

HM King Hamad issued Royal Decree 6/2021 appointing HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman as Chairman of the High Committee of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club.

**HM King congratulates Indian president on Republic Day**

● **HRH Prince Salman sends similar cable to Indian Prime Minister Modi**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a

cable of congratulations to President Ram Nath Kovind of India, on his country's Republic Day.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also sent a cable of congratulations to the Indian leader.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar



HM the King



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

cable to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister also sent a cable of congratulations to Australian Governor-General David Hurley on his country's National Day. HM the King wished Hurley abundant health and happiness.

**Iraq hangs three 'terrorists'**

● **Hangings came after rights groups warned Iraq may authorise a spree of such executions following the bombings on Thursday**

Nasiriyah

Three Iraqis convicted of "terrorism" were hanged yesterday, a security source said, days after a deadly double suicide attack in a crowded Baghdad marketplace killed over 30 people.

The reported hangings came after rights groups warned Iraq may authorise a spree of such executions in a show of strength following the bombings on Thursday, which were claimed by the Daesh group.

"Three people convicted under Article 4 of the anti-terror law were executed on Monday at the Nasiriyah central prison," the security source told AFP, on condition of anonymity.

On Sunday, an official from Iraq's presidency told AFP more than 340 execution orders "for terrorism or criminal acts" were ready to be carried out.

"We are continuing to sign off on more," that official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another official from Iraq's presidency said yesterday that all the orders were signed after 2014, most of them under ex-president Fuad Massum and at a time when IS occupied a



Islamic State claims responsibility for an attack in a crowded Baghdad market on Thursday

third of the country.

Thursday's attack, which killed at least 32 people, was a jolting reminder of the persistent threat posed by IS, despite the government declaring victory over the jihadists in late 2017.

A 2005 law carries the death penalty for anyone convicted of "terrorism," which can include membership of an extremist group even if they are not convicted of any specific acts.

Rights groups have warned that executions were being used for political reasons.

"Leaders resort to announcements of mass executions simply to signal to the public that

they're taking... (these issues) seriously," said Belkis Wille, senior crisis and conflict researcher at Human Rights Watch.

"The death penalty is used as a political tool more than anything else," she told AFP on Sunday.

Since Baghdad officially declared victory over IS, Iraqi courts have sentenced hundreds to death for crimes perpetrated during the jihadists' 2014 seizure of swathes of the country and their brutal three-year hold over cities including Mosul.

Only a small proportion of the sentences have been carried out, as they must be approved by the

president.

Barham Saleh, who has held the post since 2018, is known to be personally against capital punishment, and has resisted signing execution orders in the past.

Some Iraqis took to social media to demand tougher action from Saleh after Thursday's attack, accusing him of "not carrying out the sentences" and risking a prison break.

A protest is planned to take place today in Nasiriyah, demanding that jihadists be executed in revenge for last week's double suicide attack in the capital.

Three people convicted under Article 4 of the anti-terror law were executed on Monday at the Nasiriyah central prison

SECURITY SOURCE

Despite Saleh's moderating influence, Iraq in 2019 carried out the fourth highest number of executions among nations worldwide, after China, Iran and Saudi Arabia, according to Amnesty International.

Judicial sources told AFP at least 30 executions took place in 2020.

They include 21 men convicted of "terrorism" and executed at Nasiriyah prison in November.

The move sparked condemnations from the United Nations, which described the news as "deeply troubling" and called on Iraq to halt any further planned executions.

Rights groups accuse Iraq's justice system of corruption, carrying out rushed trials on circumstantial evidence and failing to allow the accused a proper defense.

UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet said late last year that given such gaps in Iraq's legal system, implementing capital punishment "may amount to an arbitrary deprivation of life by the State."

Virus killer

**Venezuelan president presents medicine as 'miracle cure' for COVID-19**

Caracas

Whilst the rest of the world is working on optimising a legitimate vaccine against COVID-19, Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro, has presented Carvativir droplets, which he claims are a miracle cure for the virus.

Having given a speech on television for the entire country to see, Maduro showed a small bottle of the droplets and claimed sustained use of a short period of time could neutralise the virus. "Having received the official

health permit of the country, I can present the medicine that 100 percent neutralises the coronavirus, Carvativir," Maduro explained. "It's best known as the miraculous droplets of Jose Gregorio Hernandez."

Ten drops under the tongue, every four hours, and the miracle is done, it's a powerful antiviral medication, it's so powerful that it neutralises the coronavirus."

What's unclear is what the purpose of this medication is, will it simply work on people who have been infected? Will it

work when a patient is suffering severe COVID related complications? Does it actually do anything to limit the spread and ultimately end the virus.

Generally, drops are a short-term measure to help an individual, but it remains to be seen how this progresses in Venezuela, although Maduro maintains that there are no side-effects.

"It doesn't have any secondary or negative effects," he said.

Venezuela will export thousands of doses of the droplets to countries they share a trade relationship with.



Maduro shows a small droplets bottle



Ten drops under the tongue, every four hours, and the miracle is done, it's a powerful antiviral medication, it's so powerful that it neutralises the coronavirus.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

ACTIVE CASES

3100

DEATHS

369

DISCHARGED

96761

NEW CASES

413

CRITICAL

18

210 fils (includes VAT)



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# 'Justice central foundation for advanced nations'



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister receives Al Buainian

## ● HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister receives Court of Cassation president

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday stressed that justice is a central foundation for advanced nations which seek to espouse progress and prosperity.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister made the statement as he received Abdulla bin Hassan Al Buainian, President of the Court of Cassation and Deputy President of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Riffa Palace.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness emphasised the critical role played by Bahrain's judiciary in ensuring the Kingdom's stability and development, while underlining HM the King's continued support to the Kingdom's judicial process.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister noted that the



## Judiciary plays a key role in ensuring the Kingdom's stability and development

judiciary is vital to strengthening the rule of law and upholding fundamental rights and the principles of justice.

He also praised the efficiency and effectiveness of Bahrain's judiciary and the determination shown among all its affiliates to contribute to the Kingdom's development.

HRH Prince Salman highlighted the importance of continuing to strengthen the performance of the judiciary system and enabling good governance by investing in the Kingdom's judicial personnel.

Al Buainian expressed his appreciation to His Royal Highness for his efforts to bolster the independence of the judiciary as well as the role and function of the Supreme Judicial Council.

## 'Health Ministry Undersecretary discusses bilateral ties with Indian Ambassador'

TDT | Manama

Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Walid bin Khalifa Al Mena met remotely yesterday with Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava.

At the outset of the meeting, which was held in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health and Head of the Vaccination

friendly countries.

They discussed ways of boosting bilateral cooperation in the health field to serve the interests of both countries.

Ambassador Srivastava expressed thanks and respect to Dr Al Mena, stressing his country's keenness on bolstering bilateral cooperation in the health field.

Dr Al Mena wished the Indian Ambassador every success in his diplomatic duties to further consolidate distinguished relations and coordination in all fields.

## Foreign Ministry Undersecretary receives Lebanese Ambassador



The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for International Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, met at the Ministry's general court yesterday Lebanese Ambassador Milad Nammour. The meeting reviewed bilateral cooperation and a number of issues of common interest. Dr Shaikh Abdulla stressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's keenness to enhance cooperation between the two countries, wishing the Ambassador success in his diplomatic duties. Ambassador Nammour expressed thanks and appreciation for the great support and cooperation he has received from officials in the Bahraini government, which helped him carry out his duties in order to develop relations between the two countries.

LuLu International Exchange  
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للصرافة



## iGA launches updated interactive conferencing system version

TDT | Manama

The Information and e-Government Authority (iGA) launched an updated version of its interactive conferencing system, e-Meeting, which has been revamped to include several performance-enhancing features.

The updated version was launched in response to feedback from users of the system, an important government initiative that empowers the boards and executive committees of governmental and non-governmental entities to hold meetings remotely via smart devices.

The move is in line with government directives to replace physical meetings with seamless and secure virtual conferencing.

iGA Chief Executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed said that the new version of e-Meeting, which had its first version released in 2013, is part of a series of digital service developments and updates implemented by the iGA to support government activities and ensure business continuity for public and private sectors users of government systems.

## Education 'catalyst' for development

HM the King congratulated by Cabinet on prestigious Legion of Merit award

### ● HH the Deputy Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting, held remotely

TDT | Manama,

Bahrain is fully committed to supporting the education sector as a catalyst for the Kingdom's comprehensive development under His Majesty the King's leadership.

This was emphasised by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, who chaired yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting, held remotely, marking the occasion of International Day of Education on Sunday.

The Cabinet conveyed its sincere congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on his award of Legion of Merit, Degree of Chief Commander, by former US President Donald Trump in recognition of His Majesty's contribution to global security and stability and in appreciation of his unwavering support for Bahraini-American cooperation.

The Cabinet denounced the attempts of terrorist Houthi militia to target civilian areas in Riyadh, affirming that Bahrain stands by Saudi Arabia in full support of all the measures it



HH the Deputy Prime Minister during the Cabinet meeting

takes to preserve security, stability and safety of its citizens.

It also condemned the double suicide bombing in the Iraqi capital Baghdad and expressed its sincere condolences to the president of Iraq, the Iraqi Government and its citizens and to the victims of the terrorist bombing, wishing the injured a full and speedy recovery.

The Cabinet discussed a number of memorandums during the meeting and outlined the following outcomes:

Firstly: The Approval of the following memorandums:

1. A memorandum from the Civil Service Council on restructuring the Ministry of Health by removing the positions of three Assistant Undersecretaries and two Directorates and creating an Assistant Undersecretary position and merging two Directorates.

The restructuring is part of the implementation of the Public Hospitals and Primary Health Centres Autonomy project in order to develop health services. The memorandum also included restructuring Bahrain Polytechnic by changing the position name of a Deputy CEO, merging two Directorates, and altering one Directorate's subordination.

2. A memorandum from the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding the company types which sports clubs may adopt, rules which govern their work and mechanisms of control over them, and the conditions to license shares in them.

3. A memorandum from the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding the naming of the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs

The Cabinet conveyed its sincere congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on his award of Legion of Merit, Degree of Chief Commander, by the US President in recognition of His Majesty's contribution to global security and stability and in appreciation of his unwavering support for Bahraini-American strategic cooperation.

as the responsible minister to answer for the Water Resource Council in front of the legislative branch's two chambers.

4. A memorandum from the Ministerial Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Fiscal Balance regarding the accession of a number of government agencies to the Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau, and the recommendation of the committee, after considering the views of the Council of Representatives, to limit government agencies' accession to the centre to 10 entities instead of 18 at the current stage, and to subject this to a trial phase.

## Future Judges Project's new edition introduced



Al Buainain

TDT | Manama

Cassation Court President, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council Chancellor Abdullah bin Hassan Al Buainain pointed out that the success achieved by the Future Judges Project in its first and second editions is leading to a new edition of the Future Judges Project For the legal judiciary.

He said that the judicial authority strategy is clear evidence of the success of the future judges project in attracting, selecting and appointing to the judiciary according to many standards and procedures that contribute to the judicial development process that the Kingdom is witnessing under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.



# Happy

## REPUBLIC DAY INDIA

Celebrating Peace, Prosperity & the Spirit of India

On this occasion, we honor and salute the visionary leaders of India & Bahrain for the unity in diversity, the rich cultural heritage and the enduring legacy. Every nations culture resides in the hearts & the souls of people.

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# Lulu's Indian Food Festival

TDT | Manama

Lulu Hypermarket will host a colourful and tasty foods of India festival over the weekend, from tomorrow until 29 January, as part of its Indian Republic Day celebrations.

Fourteen popular Indian restaurants are taking part in the festival which will run every evening of the weekend from 6 to 10pm in the open parking space area of the Dana Mall facing the main road.

The carefully curated selec-

tion of regional foods will give visitors a taste of the amazing variety of India's culinary heritage.

From spicy South Indian fare featuring famous meat preparations to the ever-popular dosa which are pancakes with different fillings, trendy momos popularised by the Tibetan community in India, robust Punjabi food specialities to favourites from Kerala, street food from Mumbai and delectable desserts from Bengal the festival promises to take diners on a whirlwind

tour of India's kitchens with over a dozen outlets in one space.

"We have chosen to create a lovely dining space outdoors where diners can safely enjoy the hot food and tangy tastes and at the same time follow the safety protocols of COVID and maintain hygiene," said a spokesperson for Lulu, "Indian food is among the most popular in the world and this will be Lulu's tasty tribute to Bahrain's buzzy Indian restaurant scene." The food festival coincides

with some great offers in-store where the hypermarket has showcased a wide range of Indian food items from pickles and grains to ready-to-eat foods and also colourful ethnic Indian fashion items.

"Traditionally, Indian Republic Day is very popular with our shoppers and we are sure that they will enjoy the unique food festival and also the great deals that we have in store for them," said Lulu Group Director Juzer Rupawala.

## COVID-19 patient to stand trial

TDT | Manama

The Public Prosecution has referred a suspect with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to the court for refusing to disclose information about his contacts, Chief of Ministries and Public Entities Prosecution said.

The Public Prosecution has ordered the defendant's urgent trial after finding him guilty of violating the provisions of the law by refusing to provide the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus with the names of his contacts after contracting COVID-19.

He also failed to cooperate with the judicial officers from the Public Health specialists, breaching the provisions of the law by refusing to comply with the procedures for preventing, isolating and treating communicable diseases issued by the Health Ministry to limit the spread of the pandemic.

The Public Prosecution called on everyone to respect the provisions of the law and the decisions issued by the Ministry of Health, as well as to follow all preventive and precautionary measures to limit the spread of pandemic.

# Caring for children, persons with disabilities and elderly

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs organises workshop on human rights of 'most caring groups'

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the eighth workshop entitled "The Rights of the Most Caring Groups in the National Plan for Human Rights" through visual electronic communication technology.

It was held under the auspices of Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, Labour and Social Development



Assistant Minister Al Dosari

Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan with the participation of Youth and Sports Minister Aymen Tawfiq AlMoayyed, Foreign Affairs Assistant Minister Abdullah bin Jabri Al Dosari and a number of assistant secretaries and directors.

A total of 128 representatives



Minister Al Zayani

of various ministries, experts, academics, media and the press took part in the workshop.

Dr Al Zayani praised the care and attention paid to the first categories of care, namely children, the disabled and the elderly, as an important group in society.



The online discussion in progress

He pointed out that the Kingdom under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa

Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince

and Prime Minister, strives to provide educational, health and cultural services to this important group.

He explained that the government has focused its attention on providing the necessary sustainable environment to protect the rights of children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, through a variety of legislations, programmes, policies and ambitious development projects.

Dr Al Zayani stressed that the Kingdom is proud to adopt a set of modern and sophisticated laws that ensure the provision of care for the basic rights of children, people with disabilities and the elderly, which earned it a prestigious international standing and reputation.

HAPPY  
REPUBLIC DAY  
26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY



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Salutations on  
26 January  
Yogeshwar Day



Neither the military might nor the economic and technological development makes nation great. It is made great by its citizens with Self Respect and Integrity ingrained in their lives.

India's republic day (Bharatiya Prajasaatkaak Din) is celebrated on January 26 when India was declared a republic. When we look into history carefully, we can clearly identify God's grace as to how India got her independence. Pandurang Shastri Athavale (Pujya Dadaji) explains that India's independence and the resultant republic day are a result of divine intervention. Thus, having this devotional outlook and understanding, Swadhyay Parivar celebrates January 26 as Yogeshwar Day.

We offer our limitless greetings and salutations to the benefactor of Divine Life Vision to millions and Conferrer of Human Dignity Param Poojaniya Pandurangshastri Athavaleji on the occasion of Yogeshwar Day

News in brief

◆ **Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte is close to resigning, but then hopes to form a new government that can count on a broader majority, national dailies reported yesterday.** "My aim is to find an agreement that gives a clear political perspective to govern until the end of the legislation," Conte said, according to La Repubblica newspaper. The report added that Conte could hand in his resignation to the head of state as early as Tuesday and then put together a fresh coalition that would draw on centrist and so-called "responsible" members of parliament.



Italy's prime minister looking to resign, then form new govt

◆ **Mexican President Lopez Obrador said Sunday that he has COVID-19. He said in a tweet that his symptoms were light so far, that he's already getting treatment and that, 'as always, I am optimistic.'** The President says he's enjoyed good health though he suffered a serious heart attack in 2013. Lopez Obrador has resisted the lockdowns seen elsewhere and has resisted wearing a mask. His diagnosis comes as Mexico approaches a grim milestone, 150,000 deaths from COVID-19. That's the world's fourth highest death toll, according to a Reuters tally.



Mexico's President tests positive for COVID-19

◆ **President Joe Biden on Monday signed an executive order that overturned a controversial ban by his predecessor on transgender individuals serving in the US military, a move that fulfills a campaign promise and will be cheered by LGBTQ advocates.** Flanked by Vice President Kamala Harris, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley, Biden signed the executive order in the Oval Office.

Biden overturns Trump ban on transgender people serving in US military

◆ **Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that an opulent Black Sea palace jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny has accused him of owning did not belong to him or his family.** Navalny's team released a video last week in which he levelled his allegations about the palace, which has since been viewed more than 86 million times on YouTube.



Putin says palace Navalny alleges he owns is not his or his family's

◆ **Rioters looted stores, set fires and clashed with police in several Dutch cities on Sunday, resulting in more than 240 arrests, police and Dutch media reported.** The unrest came on the second day of new, tougher coronavirus restrictions, including a night curfew, which had prompted demonstrations. Police used water cannon, dogs and mounted officers to disperse a protest in central Amsterdam on Sunday afternoon, witnesses said. Nearly 200 people, some of them throwing stones and fireworks, were detained in the city, police said.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

| Country      | Total cases | Total deaths |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 USA        | 25,729,984  | 429,736      |
| 2 India      | 10,676,963  | 153,608      |
| 3 Brazil     | 8,850,135   | 217,133      |
| 4 Russia     | 3,738,690   | 69,918       |
| 5 UK         | 3,669,658   | 98,531       |
| 6 France     | 3,057,857   | 73,494       |
| 7 Spain      | 2,603,472   | 55,441       |
| 8 Italy      | 2,475,372   | 85,881       |
| 9 Turkey     | 2,435,247   | 25,210       |
| 10 Germany   | 2,152,002   | 53,070       |
| 11 Colombia  | 2,015,485   | 51,374       |
| 12 Argentina | 1,867,223   | 46,827       |
| 13 Mexico    | 1,763,219   | 149,614      |
| 14 Poland    | 1,478,119   | 35,401       |

Global tally

99,975,275

Deaths

2,143,849

Recovered:

72,004,787

New cases

+218,608

New deaths

+5,329

Figures as of closing

Middle East

| Country      | Total cases | new cases | Total deaths | New Deaths | Total recovered | Active cases |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Egypt        | 161,817     |           | 8,959        |            | 126,497         | 26,361       |
| Saudi Arabia | 366,584     | +213      | 6,355        | +3         | 358,137         | 2,092        |
| UAE          | 281,546     | +3,591    | 798          | +6         | 255,304         | 25,444       |
| Kuwait       | 161,777     | +492      | 954          | +2         | 154,766         | 6,057        |
| Oman         | 133,253     | +209      | 1,522        | +1         | 126,334         | 5,397        |
| Qatar        | 149,296     | +277      | 248          |            | 144,981         | 4,067        |

# Indonesia captures Iran, Panama tankers



Iranian-flagged MT Horse, left, and Panamanian-flagged MT Freya tankers are seen anchored together in Pontianak

● 61 crew members from both vessels have been detained

● Both the supertankers are capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil

● Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) MT Horse, owned by the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), was almost fully loaded with oil while VLCC MT Freya, managed by Shanghai Future Ship Management Co, was empty



manian-flagged MT Freya vessels over suspected illegal oil transfer in the country's waters yesterday.

Coast guard spokesman Wisnu Pramandita said the tankers, seized in waters off Kalimantan province, will be escorted to Batam island in Riau Island Province for further investigation.

"The tankers, first detected at 5:30 a.m. local time (2130 GMT on Jan. 23) concealed their identity by not showing their national flags, turning off automatic identification systems and did not respond to a radio call," Wisnu said in a statement on Sunday.

Wisnu said yesterday that the

ships were "caught red-handed" transferring oil from MT Horse to MT Freya when they were discovered by the authorities and there was an oil spill around the receiving tanker. He added that 61 crew members from both vessels have been detained.

The International Maritime Organisation requires vessels to use transponders for safety and transparency. Crews can turn off the devices if there is a danger of piracy or similar hazards. But transponders are often shut down to conceal a ship's location during illicit activities.

Both the supertankers, each capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil, were last spotted

earlier this month off Singapore, shipping data on Refinitiv Eikon showed.

Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) MT Horse, owned by the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), was almost fully loaded with oil while VLCC MT Freya, managed by Shanghai Future Ship Management Co, was empty, the data showed.

NITC was not immediately available for comment.

Iran, which has not commented on the seizure, has been accused of concealing the destination of its oil sales by disabling tracking systems on its tankers, making it difficult to assess how much crude Tehran exports as it seeks to counter US sanctions.

Iran sent the MT Horse vessel to Venezuela last year to deliver 2.1 million barrels of Iranian condensate.

Meanwhile, Iran has asked Indonesia to provide details about the seizure of an Iranian-flagged vessel, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday, a day after Jakarta said it had seized Iran and Panama-flagged tankers in its waters.

Khatibzadeh said that the seizure was over a "technical issue and it happens in shipping field".

"Our Ports Organisation and the ship owner company are looking to find the cause of the issue and resolve it," Khatibzadeh told a televised weekly news conference.

Reuters | Jakarta

Indonesia said its coast guard seized the Iranian-flagged MT Horse and the Pana-



The sanctions bring difficulties to Iran's \$483 billion, oil-dominated economy.[44] Data published by the Iranian Central Bank show a declining trend in the share of Iranian exports from oil-products (2006/2007: 84.9%, 2007/2008: 86.5%, 2008/2009: 85.5%, 2009/2010: 79.8%, 2010/2011 (first three quarters): 78.9%).

Iran has a total of 102 oil fields and 43 gas fields and there are 205 oil reservoirs and 92 natural gas reservoirs. According to Iran Energy Balance Sheet (2009, in Persian), 78 of these fields are currently active, with 62 onshore and 16 offshore, leaving 67 fields inactive at present.

## Pirates kidnap 15 sailors in attack on Turkish container ship

Reuters | Istanbul

Pirates off Nigeria's coast kidnapped 15 sailors from a Turkish container ship in the Gulf of Guinea on Saturday in a brazen and violent attack that was farther from shore than usual.

One sailor was killed in the raid, an Azerbaijani citizen, while those kidnapped are from Turkey, according to the respective governments and a crew list seen by Reuters.

Accounts from crew, family members and security sources described a sophisticated and well-orchestrated attack on Saturday in which armed pirates boarded the ship and breached



Turkish ambassador to Libreville, Nilufer Erdem Kaygisiz (C), meets Turkish sailors on board the attacked container ship MV Mozart in Port-Gentil, Gabon

its protective citadel, possibly with explosives.

Three sailors remain on the Mozart, which by Sunday evening was receiving assis-

tance in Gabonese waters off central Africa.

"The ship is in our waters and our sailors are assisting a few nautical miles from Port Gentil," said Gabon's presidency spokesman Jessye Ella Ekogha.

The Liberian-flagged vessel was headed to Cape Town from Lagos when it was attacked 160 kilometres (100 miles) off Sao Tome island on Saturday.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan spoke twice by phone with the ship's fourth captain, Furkan Yaren, who remained aboard after the attack, his office said.

State-run Anadolu agency cited Yaren as saying he had

been "cruising blindly" toward Gabon with damage to the ship's controls and only the radar working. The pirates beat crew members, and left him with an injured leg while another still aboard the ship had shrapnel wounds, he said.

Turkish media cited Istanbul-based ship owner Boden company as saying the owners and operators of the vessel were abducted at gunpoint. Boden was not immediately available.

Ambrey, a security company, said four armed men boarded the Mozart and entered the citadel - where crew are advised to hide in any attack - from a deck atop the cabin.

Battle at Talikota India: Decan sultanate destroy Vijayanagar's army and the last Hindu kingdom of Southern India

American naval expedition under Charles Wilkes is first to identify Antarctica as a new continent

1st Israeli election won by David Ben-Gurion's Mapai party



Military coup in Uganda under Major General Idi Amin

## UK to launch climate adaptation effort



A ship is seen from the shore of the Bay of Bengal before cyclone Mahasen approaches in Chittagong

Reuters | London

Britain will team up with Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, Saint Lucia and the Netherlands to help communities around the world that are threatened by climate change to adapt and build resilience, according to Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Early warning systems for storms and investments in flood drainage and in drought-resistant crops could form part of the measures promoted by the new Adaptation Action Coalition, Johnson's Downing Street office says.

"It is undeniable that climate change is already upon us and is already devastating lives and economies. We must adapt to our changing climate, and we must do so now," Johnson will say at a Climate Adaptation Summit hosted by the Netherlands.

Britain holds the rotating presidency of the G7 group of industrialised countries this year and Johnson said he would make the need for a resilient economy a priority within that framework.

In addition, Britain will host COP26, a global United Nations Summit on climate change, in the Scottish city of Glasgow in November. The summit was delayed by a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Johnson's office said the new coalition on adaptation would tap scientists, businesses and civil society groups to share knowledge and best practice on local, regional and global solutions to dealing with climate change.

## US warships conduct exercises in S. China Sea



The USS Theodore Roosevelt moored in Guam in May 2020

AFP News

A US aircraft carrier group sailed into the South China Sea on a so-called "freedom of navigation" exercise, the first routine operation in the region under new President Joe Biden.

Led by the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the carrier strike group entered the area Saturday, the US Indo-Pacific Command said, the same day Taiwan reported multiple Chinese jets and bombers had flown into its air defense zone.

"It's great to be in the South China Sea again, conducting routine operations, promoting freedom of the seas, and

reassuring allies and partners," said Rear Admiral Doug Verissimo, commander of Carrier Strike Group Nine.

China's foreign ministry spokesman called the routine US exercises a "show of force and not conducive to the peace and stability of the region".

The South China Sea is a strategic waterway and also believed to have valuable oil and gas deposits.

The US operation comes days after Washington said its commitment to Taiwan is "rock-solid", the first comments from the Biden administration on the democratic island.

# India will exceed Paris Agreement targets: PM Modi



Mint

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday asserted that the country is looking to exceed its Paris Agreement targets, stating that climate adaptation is a key element of India's developmental efforts.

"We have promised ourselves that we will not just arrest environmental degradation but reverse it. We will not just create new capacities but make them an agent for global good," said PM Modi addressing the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021.

Modi said that India is targeting 450 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030. "We are promoting LED lights and saving 38 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually."

Listing out the actions planned by the country to meet the goals of sustainable development, the PM said that India is planning to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

"We are providing clean cooking fuel to 80

million rural households. We are connecting 64 million households to piped water supply," said PM Modi.

He stated that India's efforts are not restricted to the country. "The International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure show the power of global climate partnership. I call upon the Global Commission on Adaptation to work with CDRI to enhance infrastructure resilience globally," said the PM.

Solar bank plan in India

The steering committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) is set to meet shortly to clear the decks for the World Solar Bank (WSB), which is expected to be headquartered in India.

The country may become its lead member by taking a 30% stake in it through a \$600 million equity commitment.

This would be the first multilateral development bank (MDB) headquartered in India and comes even as Beijing has taken the lead in creating the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank (NDB).

## All set for second impeachment trial



Reuters | Washington

The US House of Representatives is set to formally charge ex-President Donald Trump with inciting insurrection in a fiery speech to his followers before this month's deadly attack on the Capitol, signalling the start of his second impeachment trial.

Nine House Democrats who will serve as prosecutors will proceed through the building where hundreds of Trump supporters fought with police, leaving five dead, at about 7 p.m. on Monday (0000 GMT), carrying the article of impeachment to the Senate where Trump will face trial.

A similar ceremony was carried out for Trump's first impeachment trial last January, when the House clerk and ser-

geant at arms led a small procession of lawmakers through a hushed Capitol.

It will mark two historic firsts - Trump is the only US president to have been impeached by the House twice and will be the first to face trial after leaving office. Conviction in the Senate

could result in a vote to ban him from holding future office.

Leaders of the Senate, which is divided 50-50 with Democrats holding a majority because of the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Kamala Harris, have agreed not to start the trial until Feb. 9.

### Trump lawyer faces \$1.3 bn lawsuit

A US voting machine company filed a \$1.3 billion lawsuit against former President Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani, accusing him of defamation in what it called his "big lie" campaign about widespread fraud in the presidential election, court documents yesterday showed.

The Denver-based company, Dominion Voting Systems Inc, filed an earlier lawsuit against

Trump campaign lawyer Sidney Powell, whom the company also accused of spreading false conspiracy theories about the election that Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

A senior Dominion employee, Eric Coomer, also filed a defamation lawsuit against the Trump campaign, saying he had been driven into hiding because of death threats from Trump supporters.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Since Monday 2.3 million of you have come forward to be vaccinated when asked to by the NHS. This puts the running total at a fantastic 6.3 million doses given right across the United Kingdom.

@BorisJohnson

02



We are proud of all those who have been conferred the Padma Awards. India cherishes their contribution to the nation and humanity at large. These exceptional individuals from different walks of life have brought qualitative changes in the lives of others. <https://padmaawards.gov.in/PDFS/2021AwardeesList.pdf>

@narendramodi

03



Preserving health will remain the priority before everything ... and our society will cross this year with greater strength and more beautiful energy towards the future, God willing ..

@Hhshkohn

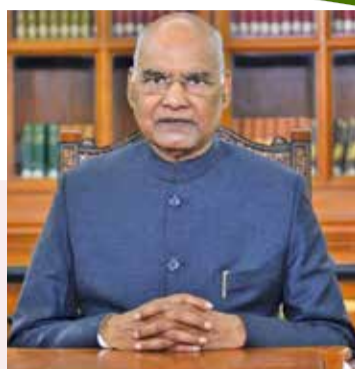
04



If economic assistance to all Israeli citizens is an election economy, are vaccines also an election economy? With all due respect, we will continue to care for all Israeli citizens - against the health corona and against the economic corona!

@netanyahu

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



Indian President Ram Nath Kovind

Dear fellow citizens,

Namaskar!

Greetings to all of you on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day of the world's largest and most vibrant democracy. In this land of ours, enriched by diversity, with many festivals, our national festivals are celebrated by everyone with great patriotic fervour. We celebrate the national festival of the Republic Day with enthusiasm and express our respect for the national flag, and our faith in the Constitution.

This day has come to mean a lot to all Indians living within the country and abroad. Seventy-one years ago, on this very day, we the people of India adopted, enacted and gave to ourselves a

## Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity: Values that guided our freedom struggle

unique Constitution.

For all of us, then, this is the day to also pause and ponder over the core values that the Constitution propounds. These values – Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity – outlined in the Preamble of our Constitution are sacred to all of us. Its abiding adherence is meant not only for those who are mandated to govern but for the people at large.

It is not without reason that the wise men and women who framed the Constitution chose to place these four terms at the very beginning of the Constitution to build the foundation on which the edifice of our democracy rests.

In fact, these were the values that guided our freedom struggle. A galaxy of great leaders and thinkers like Bal Gangadhar 'Tilak', Lala Lajpat Rai, Mahatma Gandhi and Subhas

Chandra Bose inspired our freedom struggle. They had diverse dreams of a magnificent future of the motherland, but common to their aspirations were these values: Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

I would like that we go further back into history and inquire why precisely these values guided our nation-builders. And the answer is obvious: This land and its inhabitants have cherished these ideals from the time immemorial. Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity are perennial principles of our philosophy of life.

They come to us from the dawn of this civilisation through an unbroken chain. It is, of course, the task of every generation to seek out the meaning of these values for its times. As the freedom fighters did in their day, so should we in our time. These

key principles should light our path to development.

As we are set to celebrate the anniversary of our Republic, I am thinking of our brothers and sisters abroad. Our diaspora is our pride.

Indians abroad have succeeded in different walks of life, some rising to high levels of political leadership, some contributing to science, arts, academics, civil society and business, each bringing laurels to their new homelands and also to India.

Republic Day greetings to you from the land of your ancestors!

My greetings to the members of the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police who usually celebrate festivals staying away from their families. My special greetings to all those jawans.

I once again congratulate you all, for the Republic Day.

## Modi hails Padma Awards winners

TDT | Manama

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the personalities who were conferred the prestigious Padma Awards by Indian President Ram Nath Kovind this year.



Indian P M Narendra Modi

"We are proud of all those who have been conferred the Padma Awards. India cherishes their contribution to the nation and humanity at large. These exceptional individuals from different walks of life have brought qualitative changes in the lives of others," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his Twitter account.

Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are given to individuals for their exceptional and distinguished service in various disciplines and fields of activities.

Padma Awards are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

The awards are given in various disciplines, fields of activities, viz. art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order; and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.



## CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF INDIA

HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY



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On the occasion of 72nd Republic Day of India, the Management, Staff, Students and Parents of New Millennium School - DPS, congratulate and extend warmest greetings to the Indian Community in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



**New Millennium School- DPS**  
Kingdom of Bahrain

Building 399, Road: 3009, Block: 330, Bughazal, Manama

Tel: 17 272700, Fax: 17 275151, Email: nmsedu@nms.edu.bh, Website: www.nms.edu.bh

## ‘Committed to serve the interest of humanity’

On the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day of India, I convey warm greetings and felicitations to all members of Indian community and friends of India in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

During the last year, the global community has faced the major health challenge of our times, the COVID-19 pandemic. Both India and Bahrain have successfully dealt with the pandemic.

In line with Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision and Government of India's flagship program of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)', India has, a few days back, undertaken the world's largest vaccination drive by rolling out two "made-in-India" vaccines, COVISHIELD and COVAXIN.

In the first phase, 30 million health and frontline workers are being vaccinated. This number will increase to a staggering 300 million in the second phase of our vaccination.

As a trusted and dependable partner, despite the huge domestic demand, India is committed to supply the quality and affordable vaccines to friendly countries in this time of crisis.

During the launch of India's vaccination drive on 16th January 2021, Prime Minister Modi said: "We are committed that India's vaccines, our production capacity, serve the interest of the whole humanity."

India, because of its strengths



Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava

in the biopharmaceutical and vaccines domains, is one of the major centres in the transnational efforts to counter the pandemic.

Our two countries have had excellent collaboration in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic – be it the support of the Government of Bahrain for the Indian community, our 'Vande Bharat Mission', the 'Air Bubble' arrangement between the two countries for facilitating travel of people of both sides, or supply of medicines and paramedics to the Kingdom by India.

This is in line with the deep-rooted civilisational and close ties between India and Bahrain, which have been further expanded and diversified in recent years. The regular high

level political interaction and exchanges continued even during pandemic period.

His Majesty the King and Honorable Prime Minister of India held a telephonic conversation in April 2020. Honorable External Affairs Minister of India Dr S Jaishankar visited the Kingdom on 24-25 November 2020 to personally convey Government of India's con-

lences on the sad demise of the HRH former Prime Minister of Bahrain, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and to discuss and review various aspects of our bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors and regional and multilateral matters of mutual interest.

We are looking forward to welcoming HE the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, for the next meeting of India-Bahrain High Joint Commission in New Delhi.

The vibrant and dynamic Indian community in Bahrain constitute a key link in our bilateral relations. With their professionalism and high standards of work ethics, they have made a name for themselves in Bahrain, and made significant contribution

to the economic development of the Kingdom. This year's Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award given by the Government of India to Mr Baburajan for his distinguished community service in Bahrain is testimony to this.

I take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to the Leadership and the Government of Bahrain for ensuring the well-being, safety and security of the Indian community in Bahrain, and their exceptional care and support to the community in the difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic.

I am confident that the deep bonds of friendship and close cooperation between our two countries would grow from strength to strength for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples.



**"I am confident that the deep bonds of friendship and close cooperation between our two countries would grow from strength to strength for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples."**

—INDIAN AMBASSADOR PIYUSH SRIVASTAVA

## New Millennium School shows great patriotic fervour



Children display the spirit of nationalism

### ● Students take part in virtual activities

The New Millennium School-DPS Bahrain virtually celebrated the 72nd Republic Day of India with great patriotic fervour yesterday.

The activities conducted during the Online Classes witnessed the spirit of nationalism as the students presented patriotic songs and speeches dedicated to the motherland

India, drew and coloured the Tiranga swaying it with pride and joy.

Students were made to take a pledge to instill the need of preserving the culture and rich heritage of the motherland. The synchronised display by students despite being in different homes was noteworthy.

Dr Ravi Pillai, Chairman, Geetha Pillai, Managing Director, and Arun Kumar Sharma, Principal, extended their good wishes to one and all on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day.



**HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY**



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**Happy Republic Day**  
...26th January...



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# Bahrain Indian School adopts new teaching, learning styles

● Pandemic could not dampen school's spirit

● Uses technology for learning of children

TDT | Manama

**B**havans-Bahrain Indian School has literally redefined education since its inception.

The school, with the hard work, competence and dedication to achieve its aims, provide ample facility for students not only to pursue academic excellence but also explore their co-scholastic potential.

The rapidly developing coronavirus crisis put the world on pause in 2020, but this pause was momentary for Bahrain Indian School fraternity. The school took giant strides and adapted the new teaching learning styles within no time.

Not only the school spearheaded to online learning, however, it equally helped the parents in answering numerous queries and worries of their child's education.

BIS was the first school which made provisions for the delivery of books at the doorstep of each child.



Love for flag and country

Orientation sessions and Online Parent Teacher Meetings conducted from time to time equally helped the parents to come to terms with using technology for the ongoing learning of their children.

The IT department along with the Management was instrumental in not only training teachers but also the parents for the smooth running of classes for their wards. There was a complete shift in the teaching learning process within no time.

The schools' spirit wasn't dampening by the pandemic and continued with online exams, virtual assemblies, festivities, Summer Camp and even competitions by successful usage of virtual mediums.

For those students who opted to come to campus, BIS successfully resumed its on campus classes also in October 2020 while following all the health and safety procedures as laid down by MOE and MOH to combat COVID-19.

BIS van guarded Inter GCC and

Inter School competitions viz. Bhavans International School Quiz (BISQ) and Bhavanodaya through virtual platform.

The school is looking forward to another much-awaited event such as the Annual Award Ceremony (through virtual medium) and commencement of Senior Secondary wing to add another feather in its cap. Under the able leadership of Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob, the school is bound to reach many milestones in the future.

## Lulu International Exchange: A trusted payments partner to the Indian diaspora

● Constantly innovating offerings to serve Indian consumers better

TDT | Manama

**T**he age of digital payments has prioritised consumer needs over everything else. Convenience, security, trust and affordability are prime factors driving the growth of this sector.

The Indian expat community comprises nearly 50% of the total expat population in the Bahrain and is well known for having integrated effortlessly with the country's socio-economic fabric.

Not just does the community contribute to the local economy and culture, but also consistently ranks among the top remitting nation from the GCC region to India. This has helped cement the community's position as an equal contributor to India's growth story.

Keeping in mind the importance of a seamless and hassle-free experience to facilitate cross-border payments, we at LuLu International Exchange are constantly innovating our offerings to serve our Indian consumers better.

By placing consumer experience at the heart of our



Adeeab Ahamed, founder of Lulu International Exchange

services, we have aligned our operational capabilities with Bahrain's payments infrastructure, to ensure people in this part of the world take advantage of modern payment solutions to send money home faster, at lower transaction costs.

We also remain focused on our vision of financial inclusion, through LuLu Money. Such innovations showcase our commitment to make formal financial channels easily accessible to millions of alternatively banked Indians in Bahrain who are in search of low-cost solutions to transfer money home.

On the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day of India, we at LuLu International Exchange convey our warmest wishes to Indians across the world and reiterate our commitment to the cross-border payment needs of the Indian diaspora.

**SBI**

**YOUR DREAMS TAKE YOU MILES AWAY, BUT SBI IS WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.**

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**HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY!**

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# India's COVID-19 vaccination drive in full swing

The country has become one of the major centres in the transnational efforts to counter the pandemic

TDT | Manama

India is one of the world's largest vaccine producers. Sixty per cent of global vaccine production comes from India.

Indian producers supply 1.5 billion doses annually to more than 150 countries. The country is the largest supplier of the DPT, BCG and Measles vaccines globally. WHO sources 70% of its essential immunisation vaccines from India.

India is a leader in vaccine R&D with a well-developed ecosystem linking the public and private sectors as well as academia and industry in networks that spur innovation.

An indigenously developed low-cost Rotavirus vaccine

which protects against childhood diarrhoea, and another against the dreaded Japanese encephalitis, are now included under the Indian Universal Immunisation Programme.

### Coronavirus and vaccines

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted India's position as a reliable stakeholder in global healthcare supply chains with major strengths manufacturing, R&D and innovation.

About 30 groups across academia and industry are actively involved in development, collaboration, co-development and trials for COVID-19 vaccines in India. Six vaccine candidates, inclusive of three indigenously developed ones are in clinical stages of development and



Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer

three vaccine candidates are in advanced pre-clinical stage of development.

Many others are in pre-early stages of development. Two vaccines received Emergency Use Authorization on 2nd January 2021 and one of them (AstraZeneca-Oxford-Serum

Institute) is being currently dispensed in the largest COVID vaccination programme in the world.

Six candidates are in clinical trials which include three indigenously developed vaccine candidates. These are: Phase III trial of Inactivated

whole virion vaccine by Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL) and ICMR.

Phase II clinical trial of DNA vaccine candidate (ZyCoV-D) by Zydus Cadila Phase I clinical trial of recombinant protein subunit vaccine candidate by Biological E.

Phase II/III clinical trials of ChAdOx1-S, in-licensed from University of Oxford/AstraZeneca, by Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd. (SIIPL)

Adaptive phase II/III clinical trial for the Russian Sputnik V vaccine by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd.

Repurposed Vaccine : Phase III Clinical trial of rBCG vaccine by Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd. (SIIPL)

Two vaccine candidates, a

mRNA vaccine (Genova Biopharmaceuticals) and another using an inactivated rabies vector platform (BBIL) are in advanced stages of pre-clinical development. Many are in early stages of development.

Government institutions and regulatory authorities have worked closely during the pandemic with the private sector to support candidate vaccine development and create enabling regulatory framework.

The immunoassay laboratory of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (Department of Biotechnology) is one of the six labs in the world designated by Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, for centralised assessment of COVID-19 vaccines.

## A feeling of patriotism and pride for New Horizon School students

TDT | Manama

The New Horizon School celebrated India's 72nd Republic Day yesterday to inculcate a feeling of patriotism and pride in the students despite staying miles away from their motherland.

Republic Day is celebrated with colours of unity to depict the opulence and the richness

of Indian culture. Students were given activities on preparing the national symbols of India.

Students of Grades 3 to 6 performed a 'Mashup Dance' to patriotic songs and filled the air with an aroma of patriotism and nationalism. The highlight of the event was a parade on "Incredible India" by the students of Kindergarten and

Grade 1. They represented 28 states, sang and danced to the regional language of each state to display the theme "Unity in Diversity".

A Grade 6 student, Hannah, in her speech gave an insight on the significance of Republic Day and highlighted the martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for the sake of India's honour

and glory.

The key address was delivered by acting Principal, Leena Verma, who encouraged and urged the teachers and students to instil the feeling of oneness – a prime criteria of Indian culture and heritage. The vote of thanks was given by Suresh who congratulated the team for their excellent display.



Happy  
Republic Day  
26th January



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# TOWARDS A HIGHER growth trajectory

Renowned economist and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council chairman Bibek Debroy explains how India is on the right path to become a USD 5-trillion economy



## WHAT THE ECONOMIC SURVEY

SAYS ABOUT THE fuTuRE

The Finance Ministry's flagship annual document projects growth

### projections

According to the Economic Survey 2019-20 prepared under Krishnamurthy Subramanian (Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India), India's GDP growth is expected to grow in the range of 6.0 to 6.5 per cent in 2020-21. The survey has projected India's growth at 6 per cent to 6.5 per cent in the next financial year starting April 1. The growth in 2020-21 compares to a projected 5 per cent expansion in 2019-20



#### GROWTH TO COME

Economic growth is expected to pick up and a strong rebound could be seen in FY21 on a low base.

Easing of monetary policy by the Reserve Bank of India and several measures announced by the government in the last year present green shoots for growth.



#### FUELLING THE HIKE

India's exports increased by 13.4 per cent for manufactured products and 10.9 per cent for total merchandise.

India gained 0.7 per cent increase in trade surplus per year for manufactured products and 2.3 per cent per year for total merchandise.



#### GREEN RESOLVE

India is also pushing towards sustainable economic growth.

Forest and tree cover increased and has reached 80.73 million hectares covering 25.56 per cent of the geographical area of the country.

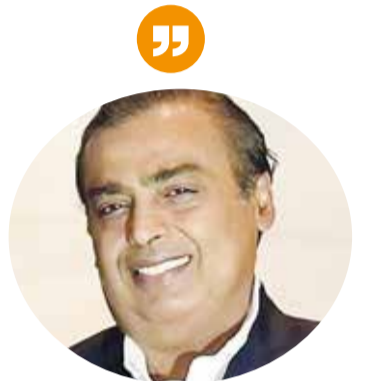


#### SpAcE FOR NEW

India ranks third in terms of number of new firms created.

According to the survey, from about 70,000 new firms created in 2014, the number has grown by about 80 per cent to about 1,24,000 new firms in 2018.

[www.indiabudget.gov.in](http://www.indiabudget.gov.in)



I think while we have seen temporary pains, with the leadership that the finance minister provided, we're just going to get out of it. External turbulence (has) hit us, but I am very optimistic.

MUKESH AMBANI  
CHAIRMAN AND M.G. DIRECTOR,  
RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

Over the past few years, India has often been tagged as one of the fastest growing world economies, a scenario that looks even brighter when pitted against the global economic slowdown. The Indian government has announced an aspirational target of making India a USD 5 trillion economy by



In World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings, India has leapfrogged to 63 position

In the resolving insolvency rankings, India has moved from 108th to 52ND position

In the Global Innovation rankings, from 74th to 52ND position

India improved international ranking by 10 points on Logistics Performance

India moved from 52ND to 34th position in World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness rankings



Rural economy constitutes 46% of national income and it is imperative that widespread growth and development are inclusive of rural and small scale economy

2024-25. While some have been calling this unachievable, most ignore the massive size of the Indian economy while making predictions. Even if it grows at a slower pace, India's contribution to the world economy will be larger due to its volumes.

A GDP growth rate of eight per cent is required to meet the USD 5 trillion target and the government's initiatives of efficient public expenditure, efficient land, labour and capital markets and stimulating productivity and entrepreneurship are meant to trigger this. Needless to say that there is enough slack in Indian states to deliver an eight per cent growth. A higher GDP is not just a number. It translates into higher incomes, more employment, better living conditions, lower poverty and improved socio-economic indicators. While a slowdown has been witnessed in the last quarter, India's monetary and fiscal stimulus has already begun to kick in and will show soon.

One of the successes of macroeconomic management since 2014 has been control of inflation. Inflation is a regressive tax. It hurts the poor relatively more than it hurts the relatively rich.



Going forward, the real growth should be higher at 6-6.5 per cent in the next financial year. We have focussed a lot on rural consumption.

KRISHNAMURTHY V SUBRAMANIAN CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Six per cent real growth and four per cent inflation yield 10 per cent nominal growth, while six per cent real growth and nine per cent inflation yield 15 per cent nominal growth. While 15 per cent nominal growth may

make one feel better than a 10 per cent nominal growth, but the latter, with lower inflation, is preferable. However, the aim is to move India to a higher growth trajectory. Since 2014, and the policies of the second Narendra Modi government are a logical continuation of the first, the building blocks are being put in place to ensure precisely that. But first, the external environment is unkind, global uncertainty affects India's export and growth prospects too. Not too many countries are likely to grow at six per cent. Second, there is plenty of internal slack in the system and endogenous sources of growth.

Historically, India's governance has been excessively centralised. Since 2014, there has been institutional change, making governance more decentralised. An example of this is the way GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council functions.

Decentralised governance is more than mere fiscal devolution, though this too has occurred through recommendations of 14th Finance Commission.

Third, inclusion has to be interpreted in the sense of public

provisioning of physical and social infrastructure. Dashboards, available in the public domain, illustrate improvements in availability of roads (and other forms of transport), electricity, gas connections, toilets, sanitation, housing, schools (and higher education), skills, medical treatment, insurance, pensions, bank accounts and credit. The veracity of what dashboards show has been confirmed through third party validation. This improvement is especially evident in rural India. That's the reason the UNDP's recent Human Development Report highlights sharp drop in multi-dimensional poverty. Inclusion is also about subsidising the deprived.

This is now done through decentralised identification (a census, not a survey), using what is known as SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census). This survey is used to identify beneficiaries, both for Union and state-level schemes, eliminating leakage and multiplicity. Subsidies are now channelled into bank accounts and linked to Aadhaar (Aadhaar is an identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India to every resident of the country).

Productivity gains from such inclusion initiatives and empowerment cannot be immediately quantified in economic terms. But they are palpable (and confirmed anecdotally, such as in the switch from firewood to LPG, or provision of toilets, or Mudra loans) and will enable India to reap the demographic dividend contribution to growth.

Fourth, that inclusion and economic empowerment agenda is against the background of improving both the citizen's ease of living and the entrepreneur's ease of doing business. An entrepreneur is not necessarily a corporate entrepreneur. Nor is ease of doing business only about World Bank's ease of doing business indicators, where too, India's rank has improved. The ease of doing business initiative under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) or the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, has improved the business and investment climate in all states. Modernisation of land records and cleaner titles is also work in progress. Investment figures (including FDI) show improvements.

Fifth, the institutional clean-

ing up is bound to have adverse consequences for growth in the short run. Examples of such institutional cleansing are the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, scrutiny of illegal financial transactions, clamping down on shell companies, an insolvency and bankruptcy code and improved tax compliance. These will lead to immediate growth costs, traded off against efficiency gains in the future.

Broadly, India is in the process of making land (and natural resources), labour and capital markets more competitive and efficient, with not just entry, but exit as well.

Union government finances have been managed well, with no deviations from the goal of fiscal consolidation. Tax reform is a work in progress and the corporate tax rate has already been reduced. For both direct and indirect taxes, the agenda is simplification and elimination of exemptions, leading to lower compliance costs. Thus, the broad message is that a five per cent GDP in 2019-20 shouldn't lead to gloom and doom; there is a higher growth trajectory in the offing.

## Bahrain Chamber hails the role of Customs Affairs in economic development

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber hailed the vital role of the Customs Affairs of the Ministry of Interior in serving Bahrain's private sector and streamlining its business endeavour.

The International Customs Day is celebrated this year under the slogan "Customs bolstering recovery, renewal and resilience for a sustainable supply chain".

The Chamber expressed pride in the strenuous efforts of Customs Affairs spearheaded by Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Bahrain Cham-

ber highlighted the Customs Affairs' successful transformation and adoption of latest technologies, which resulted in the seamless flow of goods despite the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Chamber hailed the pioneering standing of Bahrain's Customs Affairs and its role in economic development, and underlined the importance of reinforcing cooperation between the Chamber and the Customs Affairs in sharing information and statistics, and developing the legislative and legal framework for economic, commercial, and customs matters.

## Four seasons names Sayess regional VP, General Manager

TDT | Manama

Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts has appointed Rami Z. Sayess as Regional Vice President and General Manager at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Sayess will take over the reins from Richard Raab, who is relocating to Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace St. Petersburg as General Manager. He moves to St. Petersburg after a tremendous three years driving the successful launch of the hotel's private beach, waterpark and additional leisure facilities.

Sayess will be based in Bahrain and oversee several Four Seasons hotels and resorts in Europe, Middle East and Africa region (EMEA).

Sayess leaves Beirut after five years, which he describes as "very unusual to say the least, having witnessed record results since the Hotel opening, thanks to Lebanon's stability during the years 2016-2019, and the outstanding performance by my amazing team, all of which was followed by an



Rami Z. Sayess

incredibly challenging 2020. My time in Beirut has been rewarding both personally and professionally having worked with an extraordinary group of professionals and an extremely supportive owner."

Sayess also shares his excitement on the new position. "Bahrain is renowned for its amazing hospitality, friendly people and Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is an icon by itself. Located on its own private island, the Hotel has become a popular choice for local vacationers and international travellers alike."

## Google workers to form global union alliance



Reuters

Google employees from across the globe are forming a union alliance, weeks after more than 200 workers at the search engine giant and other units of parent company Alphabet Inc formed a labor union for US and Canadian offices.

Alpha Global was formed in coordination with UNI Global Union, a union federation that represents about 20 million workers globally, and includes unions from countries such as the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, and the UK, UNI Global Union said.

"The problems at Alphabet - and created by Alphabet - are not limited to any one country, and must be addressed on a global level," UNI's General Secretary Christy Hoffman said.

Alphabet was not immediately available to comment.

# China's Xi calls for greater role for G20

● Xi spoke at a virtual meeting of the World Economic Forum

Reuters

China's President Xi Jinping yesterday called on the world to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination and bolster the role of the G20 in global economic governance as he pointed to a "rather shaky" recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking at a virtual meeting of the World Economic Forum - a gathering usually held in a Swiss ski resort - Xi said the global economic outlook remained uncertain and public health emergencies "may very well recur" in future.

Xi, making his first appearance at the forum since his vigorous defence of free trade and globalisation in an address in Davos in 2017, struck a similar tone this time around, advocating multilateralism as the way out of current challenges in a roughly 25-minute speech.

"We should build an open world economy ... discard dis-



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland

criminatory and exclusionary standards, rules and systems, and take down barriers to trade, investment and technological exchanges," he said.

The G20 - an international forum grouping 19 of the biggest developed and emerging economies, plus the European Union - should be strengthened as the "main forum for global

economic governance" and the world should "engage in closer macro-economic policy coordination", Xi added.

The international community should be governed in accordance with rules and consensus reached by all countries, instead of by one or several issuing orders, he said, without naming the countries.

## Yellen set for Senate confirmation vote as first woman Treasury secretary

Reuters | Washington

The US Senate is set to vote on Janet Yellen's nomination as the first woman Treasury secretary, putting her quickly to work with Congress on President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief proposal.

Yellen on Friday sailed through with a unanimous approval vote in the Senate Finance Committee, indicating that she has enough votes to easily win confirmation. Republicans pledged to work with her despite expressing concerns about Biden's massive spending



Janet Yellen

and tax hike plans.

Senate Democrats, who now

control the evenly split chamber's schedule, have planned the vote for 5:30 p.m. EST (2230 GMT). The Senate is due to receive articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump 90 minutes later at 7 p.m. EST.

Biden has proposed a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief plan and has pledged to invest \$2 trillion in infrastructure, green energy projects, education and research to boost American competitiveness. He has said he also plans to raise the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21% and increase taxes on those making

over \$400,000 a year.

Finance Committee Republicans expressed concerns over the price tag and increased debt in a return to fiscal conservatism after running up deficits during Trump's term with the 2017 tax cuts and nearly \$5 trillion in coronavirus spending.

A confirmation for former Federal Reserve Chair Yellen less than a week after Biden took office is quick by recent standards. Her Republican predecessor, Steven Mnuchin, was not confirmed until three weeks after Trump's 2017 inauguration on a party-line vote.

## The All New 'MG 6' Redefines Sport Sedan Experience

TDT | Manama

An iconic combination of sporty looks and performance, with the utmost comfort a contemporary sedan could offer, the all-new MG 6 stands out from its competitors with peerless features and specifications that gained it vast popularity among different generations of drivers through the region.

The MG 6 is available only at Zayani Motors, the exclusive distributor of MG in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with competitive instalment rates and MG's unmatched six-year or 200,000 km manufacturer warranty, whichever comes first, across the Middle East.

Equipped with a powerful 1.5-litre turbo engine, which delivers maximum power of 169hp and maximum torque of 250Nm, you could accelerate the MG 6 to 100KM/H in only seven seconds, while its 7-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DTC), with paddle shift



option, guarantees a smooth and effortless performance, topped with an efficient fuel consumption of 5.8L/100KM.

This fastback's attractive cabin harmonically reflects its sleek and sporty exterior, with a smartly configured dashboard and central console, complemented by stylish leather-wrapped two-colour seats and full entertainment features, including an 8" standard touchscreen multimedia with Apple

Carplay and lots of controls on the quasi-flat-bottom multifunctional steering wheel.

The MG 6 comes with the most interior space in its segment, with a spacious boot that can be extended from 424L to 1170L, along with 22 storage features within easy reach. It is also equipped with the most modern and innovative specifications, such as push start button, keyless entry, auto hold function, tyre pressure monitor-

ing system, rear parking camera and a dual-zone cool climate control system, including rear air-conditioning vent.

Additionally, with its 5-star safety rating, this model has the latest safety technologies, including dual frontal, side-chest and side-head curtain airbags, as well as Antilock brakes (ABS), Electronic Brake Distribution (EBD) and Electronic Stability Control (ESC) as standard for optimum security of the driver and passengers.

The MG 6 and other models from MG are available on www.mg-bahrain.com, where you can enjoy the privilege of customising and purchasing your future MG with a simple click, and through seamless and secure electronic payment methods.

For more information and test drives, please call Zayani Motors showroom in Ma'ameer on 17 703703 or follow MG.Bahrain on Facebook, mg\_bah on Instagram or MG\_Bahrain on Twitter. Terms and conditions apply.

## SpaceX launches record spacecraft in cosmic rideshare programme

Reuters

A veteran rocket from billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX aerospace company launched 143 spacecraft into space on Sunday, a new record for the most spaceships deployed on a single mission, according to the company.

The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off at 10 a.m. EST from the Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. It flew south along the eastern coast of Florida on its way to space, the company said.

The reusable rocket ferried 133 commercial and government spacecraft and 10 Starlink satellites to space - part of the company's SmallSat Rideshare Program, which provides access to space for small satellite operators seeking a reliable, affordable ride to orbit, according to the company.

SpaceX delayed the launch one day because of unfavourable weather. On Jan. 22 Musk, also chief executive of Tesla Inc., wrote on Twitter: "Launching many small satellites for a wide range of customers tomorrow. Excited about offering low-cost access to orbit for small companies!"





## Chelsea sack Lampard with Tuchel set to take charge



Frank Lampard attends a training session (file photo)

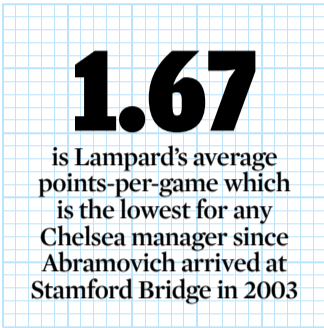
AFP | London

Chelsea sacked manager Frank Lampard yesterday after 18 months in charge, with former Paris Saint-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel hotly tipped to replace him at Stamford Bridge.

Lampard signed a three-year deal in July 2019, leading Chelsea to the FA Cup final and a fourth-placed Premier League finish in his first season in charge.

Chelsea cruised into the last 16 of the Champions League and briefly topped the Premier League table in December after an impressive start to the season but they have now slumped to ninth after five defeats in eight matches -- 11 points behind leaders Manchester United.

Sunday's 3-1 FA Cup fourth-round win against Championship side Luton was not



enough to save the former England midfielder.

The club said it had been a "very difficult decision" to part ways with the 42-year-old, who is their all-time record goalscorer.

"We are grateful to Frank for what he has achieved in his time as head coach of the club," Chelsea said in a statement.

"However, recent results and performances have not met the club's expectations, leaving the club mid-table without any clear path to sustained improvement."

# Bagautinov eyes world title glory in Flyweight tournament

Ali Bagautinov is the latest addition to BRAVE CF Flyweight tournament's lineup

● Bagautinov has set his eyes on facing off against Dustin Ortiz, another big name confirmed for the tournament

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation's prestigious Flyweight World Title Tournament is shining the brightest of lights on one of the most underappreciated weight-classes in mixed martial arts. The historical tournament has been boosted by the addition of a world-class fighter, a familiar face to MMA fans from all over the world.



Ali Bagautinov

After a successful BRAVE Combat Federation debut in his home country of Russia, at BRAVE CF 46, Ali Bagautinov was confirmed by BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid as the new addition to the tournament's lineup.

A two-time combat sambo world champion, and with an extensive and victorious career in MMA, Ali Bagautinov is eager for the chance of finally holding a world title in the sport he

loves. A winning campaign in the biggest Flyweight tournament in MMA will definitely put his name in the history books.

He will now join names such as Jose "Shorty" Torres, Zach Makovsky, Dustin Ortiz, and his fellow countryman Velimurad Alkhasov in the Flyweight World Title Tournament, which will place him potentially only three wins away from the ultimate glory. Right after his win over a tough Oleg Lichkovakha, Bagautinov set his eyes on facing off against Dustin Ortiz, another big name confirmed for the tournament. Both are accomplished wrestlers with heavy hands and amazing grappling, which would make for a very even and exciting fight in the first round.

## Sibley and Buttler steer England to Sri Lanka Test sweep

AFP | Colombo

Dom Sibley and Jos Buttler anchored a run chase after a jittery start as England beat Sri Lanka by six wickets in the second Test to sweep the series 2-0.

Sibley and Buttler put on an unbeaten 75-run stand as England, who were struggling at 89-4, got to their target of 164 in an extended final session on the fourth day in Galle.

The result gave England a second successive Test whitewash in Sri Lanka after winning all three matches in the island nation in 2018.

"Really proud of how calm we were," skipper Joe Root said after being named man of the man

and series for knocks of 228 and 186 in the first and second Test respectively.

"Credit to the bowlers for putting Sri Lanka under pressure. We are on an upward curve as a team and looking to get better."



Happy Indian  
**REPUBLIC DAY**  
January 26



## Bangladesh post 297-6 against West Indies in third ODI



Bangladesh's captain Tamim Iqbal plays a shot

AFP | Chittagong

Four players hit fifties as Bangladesh made 297-6 to set a stiff target in the third one-day international against West Indies in Chittagong yesterday.

Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim struck 64 runs each, while Shakib Al Hasan made 51 and Mahmudullah Ryad an unbeaten 64 off 43 balls.

Sent into bat and looking for a clean sweep of the three-match series against a weak-

ened opponent, the hosts suffered an early blow when Liton Das fell leg before to Alzarri Joseph in the first over.

Kyle Mayers dismissed Najmul Hossain in identical manner after the left-hander made 20 runs.

Tamim and Shakib put on 93 for the third wicket before Joseph ended their partnership, getting Tamim caught by Akeal Hosein at midwicket.

Shakib was bowled by Raymon Reifer shortly after his fifty ending a 48-run stand with Mushfiqur.

# Bahrain battle hard in loss to Japan

Nationals sign off from handball world championship in 21st place on the final classification

● Bahrain sit at the bottom of the group and are 21st on the final classification

TDI | Manama

Bahrain lost to Japan 25-29 last night as they signed off from the 27th IHF World Men's Handball Championship, being held in Egypt.

The first half ended with Bahrain trailing their Asian counterparts 12-19, with Japan's Jin Watanabe scoring six goals and at the other end of the court, keeper Yuta Iwashita saved nine goals to help set the tone.

Japan kept up the heat on the Bahraini side throughout the final 30 minutes and were able to narrow the deficit heading towards the final buzzer.

The player of the match was chosen as Japan's Tatsuki Yoshino, who scored nine goals.



Bahrain goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain tries to save the shot of Japan centre back Yuto Agarie during their match yesterday

Skipper Hussain Al Sayyad and Mohamed Ahmed scored five goals apiece to lead Bahrain, while Komail Mahfoodh finished with four. Five others chipped in with two goals each, including Ali Mirza, Ahmed

Fadhul, Ali Salman, Hassan Al-fardan and Mohamed Habib.

With this result, Japan finished fifth in Group II of the main phase, ensuring a 19th place finish, while Bahrain sit at the bottom of the group and are



Bahrain's previous best was 20th at the 2019 world championship, which featured only 24 teams, while this year's competition had 32

21st on the final classification.

Their previous best was 20th at the 2019 world championship, which featured only 24 teams, while this year's competition had 32.

It was Bahrain's fourth appearance at the premier tournament of the International Handball Federation (IHF).

# Happy Republic Day India

Our unbound respect and admiration go out to the visionary leaders of India and this great nation. Your shared thoughts of progress and innovation has brought lasting peace, prosperity & happiness enjoyed by all today.

**Unity in Diversity.**



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