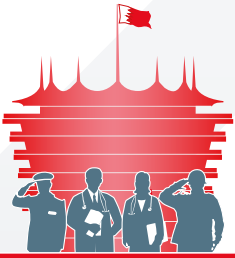


**BRAVE CF's Said  
Maalem fires back  
at Fakhreddine**

Mohammed Said Maalem accepted Mohammed Fakhreddine's challenge, but claimed the champ's "disrespect" towards him deserved to be "punished" | P 11



#ThankYou\_OurHeroes

# Honour and Dignity

#فريق\_البحرين  
#TeamBahrain



**Jaishankar  
interacts with  
Indians in UAE**

PTI | Dubai

P7

India's external affairs minister S Jaishankar yesterday interacted virtually with the members of the Indian Community in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and assured them of the government's responsiveness on issues about post-COVID normalcy.

**Cyclone Nivar slams  
into southern India**



Reuters | Chennai, India

P6

A severe cyclone slammed into India's southern coast early yesterday, killing at least five people and uprooting trees and power lines.

**BAHRAIN  
COVID-19**

**TOTAL CASES**

86,347

**ACTIVE CASES**

1,496

**DEATHS**

341

**DISCHARGED**

84,510

**NEW CASES**

162

**CRITICAL**

12

210 fils (includes VAT)



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Seven-time F1 world champion Lewis Hamilton arrives at BIC yesterday with his pet dog Roscoe

## F1 Bahrain GP weekend flags off at BIC

● Bahrain's F1 double-header is taking place with all precautionary guidelines in place

TDT | Manama

The Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020 gets underway today at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir, kicking off the first-ever F1 double-header to be hosted by the Kingdom.

The Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix marks the 15th of 17 rounds in the 2020 FIA F1 World Championship. It is the first time in the history of the event that it is being held so late in the season.

Cooler temperatures await F1's teams and star drivers over the weekend, making for a different setting for the country's biggest annual sporting spectacle.

Today's action at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" will be headlined by two 90-minute F1 Practice sessions.

Cooler temperatures await F1's teams and star drivers over the weekend, making for a different setting for the country's biggest annual sporting spectacle.

The first will be held in daylight conditions starting at 2 pm, while the second will take place under the brilliance of BIC's floodlights from 6 pm.

BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa commented: "F1 racing is back at Bahrain International Circuit and we are thrilled to be kicking off our much-anticipated F1 double-header with the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix."

"We extend the warmest welcome to our international guests who will be competing over the next couple of weeks, and we hope everyone has a safe and comfortable stay."

"We at BIC especially look forward to welcoming our highly appreciated front-liners, first-responders and their family members, for the race on Sunday, and giving them the memorable occasion they deserve."

(full story on page 12)

# 'Unacceptable' and 'Unjustified'

## Lawmakers blast Qatar's interception of Bahrain vessels

● The incident occurred at 1 pm local time in an area allowed for the vessels to conduct an intense pursuit

TDT | Manama

Bahraini lawmakers yesterday strongly condemned the Qatari action intercepting two vessels belonging to the Bahraini coast guards.

The vessels, returning to Bahrain after taking part in a maritime exercise "Al



Two Bahraini Coast Guard boats were stopped by three Qatar Coast Guards (Courtesy of Bahrain Coast Guard Command | Gulf News)

Manaa", north of Fasht Al Dibal, were stopped by three Qatari coast guards and Border Security patrols.

The incident occurred at 1 p.m. local time on Wednesday in an area where the vessels were allowed to carry out an intense pursuit, said the Interior Ministry statement earlier.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee of the Shura Council termed the Qatari behaviour as "unjustified" which contradicts the security agreement of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

(Continues on page 2)

### Naval power

## Big boost for Bahrain's naval fire power



"RBNS Al-Zubara", the latest addition to Bahrain Naval forces has arrived in Bahrain yesterday after a three-month-long wait. The sale to Bahrain has been managed by BAE Systems Maritime, the original builder of the River-class patrol boat.

P3



# Joint Arab drill concludes on a high note

● Forces from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Sudan participated in the two-week joint drill

TDT | Cairo

Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) unit participated in the final stage of the joint military exercise, “Saif Al-Arab” (The Sword of Arabs), and showcased its accuracy and high competence in carrying out the various tasks.

Bahraini forces showcased their accuracy in hitting targets and high manoeuvrability, alongside sisterly Arab forces participating in the exercise which included including para



Bahraini forces showcased their accuracy in hitting targets and high manoeuvrability, alongside sisterly Arab forces



The drill aimed primarily to increase the combat abilities and unify concepts among the participating Arab troops, as well as to verify their level and performance. It also aimed to provide an opportunity for the troops to exchange expertise, raise the level of their combat preparedness and enhance their administrative and logistical coordination.

Forces from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Sudan participated in the two-week joint drill, held at the Mohamed Naguib Military Base and other parts of northern Egypt.

# Qatari acts ‘threat to stability’



Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Ajman



Abudlrahman Mohamed Jamsheer



Faisal Rasheed Ali Aljabor Alnoaimi



Yusuf Bin Ahmed Al Ghatam



Nancy Dinah Elly Khedouri



Hamad Bin Mubarak Bin Hamad Al-Noaimi



Ali Abdulla Ali Husain Alaradi



Hamad Al-Kooheji

(Continues from page 1)

Shura committee said the move also contradicts with the conventions and treaties related to the international law of the sea.

The committee affirmed its support for all measures taken

by the Ministry of Interior and right to take up the issue to General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council States.

The Shura committee also expressed hope that Qatar will “not repeat such incidents that violate international treaties and conventions.”

### Threat to stability

In a statement, the Shura Council denounced the Qatari actions as a threat to security and peace in the Gulf.

The Council confirmed that the incident occurred in the territorial waters of Bahrain per the provisions of Law No. (8) for the

year 1993 regarding the territorial sea of Bahrain and the adjacent region. Shura council said this law is in force and have not been repealed or amended according to any other legislation.

Representative Hamad Al-Kooheji rejected Qatari actions as “unacceptable” and in-

consistent with agreements and treaties related to international borders and seas, and Gulf security agreements.

Al-Kooheji affirmed his support for all measures the Ministry of Interior takes to ensure the recurrence of such incidents.

The Ministry said that it

would report the incident to the Gulf Cooperation Council Secretariat. Meanwhile, QNA in a statement carried by *Gulf Times* claimed that the Bahraini boats were inside Qatari water and was in a place opposite to the exercise site that was previously announced.

## India’s Constitution Day



Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava and Embassy officials read out the preamble of Indian constitution on the occasion on Constitution Day, also known as India’s National Law Day. The day is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950. A webinar was held to celebrate #ConstitutionDay2020 in association with Indian Schools in Bahrain.

## HRH CP, PM issues edict

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, issued Edict No. (21) of the year 2020 regarding the establishment and formation of the National Committee for Geospatial Information Governance and its operations.

The amendment replaces the text of Article 1 of Edict No. 15 of the year 2017 on the establishment and formation of the Na-

tional Committee for Geospatial Information Governance and its operations.

The new text calls for the formation of a committee which will follow the Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects, under the chairmanship of the CEO of the Information and eGovernment Authority, and would include members from the Information and eGovernment Authority, The Survey and Land Registration Bureau, The

Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, The Electricity and Water Authority, The Urban Planning and Development Authority and The National Space Sciences Authority.

The amendment also changes the phrase “Ministerial Committee for Reconstruction and Infrastructure” with the phrase “Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects” wherever it appears.

## Awareness campaign



Traffic police officials during an awareness campaign for drivers in preparation for the upcoming rainy season. Police officials provided instruction to the drivers in cooperation with the southern governorate. The officials also honoured drivers for strictly following the laws. The Department provided them with free tires and other gifts

## Money scam: Three held

TDT | Manama

The Director-General of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security announced yesterday the arrest of three individuals for money scam attempt.

They took details of credit cards of people living outside Bahrain to use them offline at sale points of shops in Bahrain.

The case is now with the Public Prosecution.



# Justice has been served

Human traffickers get five years in jail, BD3,000 fine

● The victim was trapped with offers of a well paid job as well as travel expenses

TDT | Manama

Justice has finally been served to a hapless young woman who came to Bahrain with colourful dreams but found her trapped in the clutches of ravening flesh traders.

On the wrong side of the case also are women, two Asian nationals.

The Fourth High Criminal Court, who found them guilty, awarded them five years in jail and slapped them with a BD3,000 fine. The court also ordered the defendants to pay for the repatriation expenses of the victim, who is now at the Expats Protection Centre, aka the Anti-human Trafficking Shelter, in Northern Sehla.

The harrowing string of incidents kicked off with the victim approached by the two women here with job offers, attractive enough to make her accept the offer.

Besides, the defendants, to gain her trust, also wire transferred her money for her travel expenses.

The unsuspecting victim, trusting the women, flew to



Investigation resulted in handing over the case to Public Prosecution and the Fourth High Criminal Court.

**Public Prosecution, Trafficking in Persons Chief Prosecutor Nasser Al Sheeb said the court also ordered the defendants to pay repatriation expenses of the victim**

the Kingdom shortly using the money.

Upon her arrival in Bahrain, she was welcomed and received by the first defendant, only to

find herself trapped and locked.

The defendants then threatened the victim to return their money or compensate them by accepting customers.

The defendants took the woman to several hotels room and furnished apartments, where customers awaited to use her sexually.

The victim had to follow the orders of her captors, who kept on collecting money from customers.

The harrowing story caught

Court files showed that the first defendant persuaded the victim by promising her with a job in Bahrain and transferred money to her so she would be able to buy tickets and travel to the Kingdom

public attention only when the victim got an opportunity to escape and reach a nearby police station.

Upon learning about the ordeal, police officers sprang into action and brought the culprits into custody in no time.

The ensuing investigation resulted in handing over the case to Public Prosecution and the Fourth High Criminal Court.

The trial resulted in the court slapping then with a fine of BD3,000 and awarding jail terms of five years. Authorities will also deport them permanently when their jail terms end.

## Police bust gold smugglers gang

TDT | Manama

Bahraini police officers foiled attempts to smuggle several kilograms of illegally bought gold bars out of Bahrain.

The accused had with them several kilograms of gold hidden inside their baggage when arrested.

Chief prosecutor Mohammed Jamal Sultan said eight-person are in custody.

The Public Prosecution completed an investigation into the case.

The accused will now face trial as per Bahrain's criminal law.

The gang, Chief prosecutor said, violated bullion law defining the amount of gold a person can purchase from Bahrain using cash, as well as failed to disclose the jewellery they were carrying to customs.

The accused also face laws concerning Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

Case files say the suspects tried to leave the country through the airport, with each of them hiding two gold bars in their luggage.

Investigators also found that the two jewellery stores sold the bullion by accepting cash exceeding the permissible limit.

Public Prosecution said the defendants confessed to their crimes are in preventive detention.

Mohamed Gamal Sultan warned that the Public Prosecution would take legal measures against any practices that violate the provisions of the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Law and



Representative picture (Courtesy of 911 metallurgist)

the executive decisions.

He called on the institutions and individuals here to abide

by the law, to activate community partnership in combating crime.

**For the convenience of arriving travellers, Bahrain customs implements a Red and Green Channel system at all border entry points.**

### Using the Green Channel

You may proceed to the Green Channel if you are not carrying any dutiable, restricted or prohibited items. However, the customs officer positioned at the channel may still conduct selective checks. If you are in doubt, then always seek clearance at the Red Channel.

### Using the Red Channel

You should proceed to the Red Channel if you are carrying any of the following:

### Prohibited items

Restricted, Controlled items  
Counterfeit/Pirated items  
Dutiable items or gifts which exceed the duty-free concession  
Cash which needs to be declared  
At the Red Channel you must verbally declare to the Customs officer any of the above items that you are carrying and produce the import permit/ approval for the restricted or prohibited item.



## BD476,000 scam: Govt director gets 10 years in jail

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced a fugitive public servant to 10 years in jail for masterminding a scam that emptied BD 4, 76,812 of his office account.

Hassan Al-Muhaize, the Chief Prosecutor at the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution, said the court also ordered the accused to return the money taken and fined with him the same amount. This also brought the total fines to more than BD800,00.

The Public Prosecution opened an investigation into the case based on a report filed by the National Audit Office during the year 2018-2019.

Investigators found that the accused siphoned away funds by conducting fraud in electronic records and also deleted the data to mask the crime. He also managed to escape the country.

The Public Prosecution then issued an order to disclose the transactions of the defendant's bank account and an international warrant to arrest him.

Bahrain's Public Prosecution also ordered to seize the funds taken away by the accused.

## RBNS Al-Zubara boosts Navy's firepower

Al-Zubara arrives in Bahrain from UK



TDT | Manama

Nearly a three-month wait for "RBNS Al-Zubara", Bahrain's newest addition to its naval fleet, ended yesterday with the River-Class offshore patrol vessel docking at the Salman Naval Base.

RBNS Al-Zubara, which was handed over to Bahraini Navy at a ceremony in the HMNB Portsmouth Naval Base in the UK on August 7, 2020, began its journey to the Kingdom last month with several stopovers in brotherly and friendly ports.

Royal Bahrain Naval Force (RBNF)'s Salman Naval Base welcomed her yesterday with an official ceremony.

"Al-Zubara is the fruitful outcome of the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, and the follow-up of the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshal, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa," RBNF Commander, Rear Admiral, Mohammed Youssef Al Asam, said.

The new vessel, Al Asam said, will increase RBNF's ability to protect the national gains, coasts, as well as territorial and economic waters.

Patrol warship "RBNS Al-Zubara", is one of the most modern offshore patrol vessel (OPV) built by British BAE Systems. She has features and capabilities that use modern technology in the management, operation and control of its systems, giving her the strength and durability to operate in the worst weather conditions and during long journeys.

Formerly, HMS Clyde, RBNS Al-Zubara has a length of 81.5 m (267 ft 5 in) hull, a top speed of 21 kn (39 km/h), a 30 mm cannon, two miniguns, and mountings for five general-purpose machine guns.

Her hull permits a 20-meter strengthened flight deck able to accommodate a Merlin-sized helicopter, according to navy recognition.

She, reportedly, is powered by two Ruston 12RK 270 engines developing 4,125 kW (5,532 hp) at 1,000 rpm, the report said.



Royal Bahrain Naval Force (RBNF)'s Salman Naval Base welcomed her with an official ceremony.



# Zero Corona claims refuted

- Infections are still reporting and has not stabilised
- Works are continuing to limit the spread
- Bahrain's current recovery rate is 97.84pc, with a 0.39pc death rate

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Ministry of Health yesterday refuted claims of "zero" coronavirus quarantine patients in the Kingdom circulating on social media sites.

Ministry said the claims and pictures circulating are inaccurate and didn't come from any official sources or channels affiliated with the ministry concerned with updating COVID-19 information.

The ministry confirmed that it is continuing examinations, quarantines, isolations and treatment of patients at all facilities designed for the matter. The ministry also explained that the number is still moving and it is yet to stabilise.

Works are continuing in association with all relevant authorities in implementing plans developed to limit the spread of the virus per well-established methodology and related developments, the ministry statement said.

## Adhere to COVID-19 protocols

The statement also called on all to continue adhering to coronavirus precautionary measures and instructions issued by the concerned authorities in line with the recommendations of the national medical team.



Picture courtesy of AlAyam



Commander of the Royal Medical Services Major General Prof. Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa during a visit yesterday to Sitra quarantine centre and its field Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to extend thanks to the healthcare providers there

The ministry also warned to remain careful and not to publish information other than that from official sources.

The National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) during a press conference Thursday said that the Kingdom had ordered more than one million vaccines since last August from several companies.

Bahrain, the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Health and member of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Mane-

am, said, will be one of the first countries to receive the vaccines as soon as they are approved by the National Health Regulatory Authority and international health organisations.

## Two million PCR tests

He also announced conducting more than two million PCR tests in Bahrain so far, meaning more than 50 per cent of the Kingdom's population has been tested at least once.

"This strengthens the Kingdom's ranking in the rate of testing per 1000 people on a global level," he said.

Bahrain's current recovery rate is 97.84pc, with a 0.39pc death rate. Isolation centre capacity stands at 6pc, with 416 out of 6,346 beds occupied, and 1,094 asymptomatic cases under optional home self-isolation after meeting the requirements to do so. Dr Waleed emphasised the importance of continuing to follow all health and precautionary measures issued by the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and relative authorities, to eradicate the virus.

## Call 444

The Infectious Disease Consultant & Microbiologist at the BDF Hospital and member of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Lt. Col. Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, said that regardless of the Rapid Antigen test results, any individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should immediately contact the hotline no. 444.

The list of pharmacies providing the Rapid Antigen Testing kit is regularly updated on the Ministry of Health's website: [healthalert.gov.bh](http://healthalert.gov.bh).

The Consultant of Infectious and Internal Diseases at Salmaniya Medical Complex and member of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Dr Jameela Salman, expressed confidence in Bahrain's capabilities of hosting the Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix and the Formula One Rolex Sakhr Grand Prix during the exceptional circumstances presented by COVID-19.

Dr Al Salman underlined the importance of continuing to responsibly follow all health and precautionary measures, including following social distancing measures and wearing a face mask when out in public at all times.

## BDF Inspection visit



The Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa during an inspection visit to a BDF unit. He stressed that all BDF weaponry and units are undergoing development and modernisation programmes based on well-studied military strategies.

## BDF Chief



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa with the Commander of Royal Bahraini Naval Force (RBNF), Rear Admiral Mohammed Yousef Al Asam. Shaikh Khalifa lauded the efforts exerted by all participants in Al Manaa maritime manoeuvres and hailed the competence, aptitudes and high morale of the Bahrain Naval Force.



President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, received at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia, Bahraini Charge D'Affaires, Advisor Badr Abbas Al-Halibi. He conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister, and their wishes of good health and happiness to him. The Bahraini Charge D'Affaires affirmed Bahrain's keenness to boost friendly relations with Brazil

## Alternative for Pantzol

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health yesterday clarified that Bahrain has ample supplies of an effective and reliable alternative to Pantzol for treating Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

The ministry was responding to social media claims that the drug "Pantzol" is not available in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Health said

it is following up the issue and has placed orders for its some time ago and will arrive during December.

"Doctors are advised to dispense the alternative medicine until the arrival of this medicine in the next few days," the ministry said.

Communication has also been made with the supplier of Pantzol regarding the delay.

## Stop provoking public: Al-Nafiei to pension fund

TDT | Manama

A parliamentarian yesterday called on the Public Authority for Social Insurance (pension fund) to stop making provocation statement to citizens.

Citing a recent statement on stopping annual pension increment, Ibrahim Khaled Al-Nafiei, the head of the Parliamentary Investigation Committee on Pension Funds, said it is not the right thing to do.



The authority, he said, should invest its assets based on feasibility studies.

The public is fully aware of the authority's situation, which threatens the pension fund and rights of retirees.

The current situation he said is due to the mismanagement, which was confirmed by a parliamentary investigation committee and the office of the financial supervision.

## Interior Minister



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa paid a visit yesterday to the Coast Guard Command. He was received by Chief of Public Security Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan and the Coast Guard Commander Major-General Alaa Siyadi. The minister was briefed about the "Sea Barrier" joint maritime exercise which was organised by the Bahrain Defence Force in association with the Interior Minister on November 24 and 25 to reinforce maritime security in regional and economic waters.

## Foreign Minister



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, arrived yesterday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he was received on arrival by the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al Saud. During the meeting, the two ministers affirmed the depth of the solid fraternal relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, based on solid foundations of joint cooperation and coordination.

## Apartment fire in Hooraa

TDT | Manama

A fire broke out in an apartment in the Al Hooraa area of the Capital Governorate yesterday.

No injuries reported. Civil Defence forces who reached the scene doused the fire immediately.

Initial investigation indicates a gas leak from a stove as the cause of the fire.



The extent of the damage is not disclosed.

Competent authorities are the scene.

An investigation is ongoing.



# Black friday sale is on!

TDT | Manama

Once again that day has arrived here when shops around the Kingdom compete offering products with eye-watering discounts, especially on electronic products.

Known all over the world as 'Black Friday, the day marks the beginning of Christmas shopping season.

Though initially observed only in the US, the day now sees massive sales for retail outlets around the world.

Now, on this day, retail outlets around the world open early and offer highly promoted products at discounted rates.

In Bahrain too, the case is not different, where the expectation for retailers and customers had touched sky high.

The term 'Black Friday' did not become widely popular until more recent years when retailers started adopting the term and date to push up their sales with attractive offers.



Picture courtesy of AlAyam

Store owners and workers in retail companies here say they expect sales to breach the 1000 per cent mark with a 70pc drop

in prices.

When asked about expectations, the sales manager at Home Electronics told *AlAyam* that

the percentage of sales could exceed 1000pc. "The discounts on beauty products, toys, bags and electronic accessories could

**The discounts on beauty products, toys, bags and electronic accessories could reach up to 50pc. For mechanical toy, it will be 30pc, 25pc for home appliances, and 15pc for Computers and smartphones**

SALES MANAGER AT HOME ELECTRONICS

reach up to 50pc. For mechanical toy, it will be 30pc, 25pc for home appliances, and 15pc for Computers and smartphones."

According to the sales manager, electronics and cosmetic items will have the lion share of sales.

Director of the BH Phone 1 Corporation for Electronics, Hussein Kazem, also expressed optimism for sales to shoot up.

According to him, the sales could shoot up by a whopping 3000 pc, as customers will flock to buy to make the most of the opportunity and grab limited quantity stuff that may run out of stock.

"Stores may also have to sell products at wholesale prices to attract customers," he said.

## Oil rally stalls on signs of more supply, demand doubts

Reuters | London

Oil slipped from seven-month highs yesterday as signs of growing supplies helped to halt a rally driven by optimism that COVID-19 vaccines will revive fuel demand.

Brent futures had risen to nearly \$50 a barrel this week after three major pharmaceutical companies announced progress on vaccines that could start to be rolled out before the end of the year.

But Brent was down 74 cents, or 1.5 per cent, at \$47.87 a barrel by 1650 GMT on Thursday, having dropped as much as \$1. The contract gained about 1.6pc in the previous session.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 66 cents, or 1.4pc, to \$45.05 after gaining 1.8pc on Wednesday.

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden has urged people to forgo big family gatherings, wear protective masks and maintain social distancing for the Thanksgiving holiday.

But Americans are defying pleas from officials to stay at home.

The United States has recorded 2.3 million new infections in the past two weeks.



The term was first used in New York about 145 years ago, according to official records. But at that time, Black Friday had nothing to do with Christmas shopping.

The use of the term was connected to a stock market scam and an eventual crash that was triggered by two investors named Jay Gould and Jim Fisk.

As the market crashed on a Friday, the day came to be known as 'Black Friday'. According to reports, the crash took a severe toll on the economy of the US for many years.

## State Bank of India expects RBI to hold interest rate

Reuters | Mumbai

State Bank of India expects the country's central bank to hold interest rates as inflation remains elevated, the chairman of India's largest lender Dinesh Kumar Khara said.

"The stance will continue to remain accommodative but they may not be in a position to cut interest rate in immediate future," Khara told a summit organised by the Hindustan Times.

Khara's comment comes only days before the monetary policy committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the country's central bank, is due to meet between Dec. 2 and Dec. 4.

India's retail inflation remained above 7 per cent in October for a second straight month, with vegetable prices



A man checks his mobile phones in front of State Bank of India (SBI) branch in Kolkata, India

at elevated levels. At current levels, inflation is well above the RBI's medium term target of 4pc.

Inflation remained high due to supply chain constraints which can be eased once India begins to unlock further, after when the RBI may be in a position to cut rates, Khara said.

Since March, the RBI has cut its repo rate by 115 basis points to cushion the shock from the coronavirus crisis.

## Celebrating the silver jubilee of Bahrain's Internet

● The celebration will be virtually available on <https://bis.org.bh/25years>

TDT | Manama

Under the Patronage of Kamal Ahmed, the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, a virtual event titled "Bahrain Internet: 25 Years of Digital Leadership" will be held on Sunday at 11:00 am.

The event is to commemorate 25 years since the internet was first introduced in Bahrain.

Commenting, the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications stated "The Kingdom of Bahrain has always been a forerunner in adopting new digital technologies and innovations. As the developer of the telecommunications sector, we



Kamal Ahmed

strive to continue enhancing telecommunications services and infrastructure and leveraging the power of ICT for sustainable growth in line with the Fifth National Telecommunications Plan. We are honoured to celebrate Bahrain's Internet Silver Jubilee and commemorate how far we have come in making the internet accessible and in facilitating the transfer and exchange of information".

Bahrain Internet Society



Abdulla Al Hamed

Chairman Abdulla Al Hamed said, "The historic event will be hosted by Bahrain Internet Society (BIS) and will feature leading national and international experts in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) who will discuss the great impact of the Internet on the Kingdom, its current status, development and future, as well as speeches and testimonies from people whose lives have been transformed by

the Internet."

"The celebration will be virtually available on <https://bis.org.bh/25years> and will be broadcast on Sunday, November 29, at 11:00 am where all are invited to celebrate with us Bahrain's Internet Day," Al Hamed added.

Under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Kingdom of Bahrain set a strategic decision to transform the government services by establishing the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology to implement directives specifically related to e-government and development of the information and communications technology.

Twenty-five years later, major advancements in ICT has transformed Bahrain into a "digitally advanced country," a leader in the use of technology and a "top information and communications hub" in the region today.

## Coinbase hit by connection, latency issues as bitcoin plummets

● Coinbase users on Twitter reported problems trading

Reuters | London

Cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase said yesterday its retail and professional-focused platforms were hit by tech problems, with users reporting difficulty trading as bitcoin plunged towards its biggest one-day drop since September.



California-based Coinbase said on its website at 14:14 GMT it was investigating connectivity problems, adding at 14:42 GMT that it had identified the problem and implemented a solution.

In a separate post at 15:21 GMT on its Coinbase Pro site it said "increased latencies impacting order entry and settlement" for its Coinbase Pro service, adding it was investigating the problem.

A spokesman for Coinbase declined to comment.

Coinbase users on Twitter reported problems trading.

One Coinbase Pro user told

**13pc**  
Bitcoin, the world's biggest cryptocurrency, slumped as much as 13 per cent yesterday to its lowest since Nov. 16.

Reuters by message: "The outage prevented me from submitting a buy limit order which would've been executed as the limit price

was met. At this time the order finally went through but I missed the price for now."

Bitcoin, the world's biggest cryptocurrency, slumped as much as 13 per cent yesterday to its lowest since Nov. 16., slamming the brakes on its red-hot rally and sparking a sell-off of smaller coins.

It was last down 9pc at \$16,904 and on course for its biggest one-day drop since Sept 3.

The move represents a sharp correction from its three-year high of its near-record \$19,521 hit on Wednesday.



News in brief

**New Zealand's Ardern set to declare climate emergency**

◆ New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's government is to declare a climate emergency in a symbolic step to increase pressure for action to combat global warming. The government will put forward a motion to declare the emergency next Wednesday, the government said as parliament reconvened after a general election won by Ardern's party. "We've always considered climate change to be a huge threat to our region, and it is something we must take immediate action on," Ardern said.

**Australia to dismiss at least 10 soldiers over Afghan killings**

◆ Australia has issued termination notices to at least 10 special forces soldiers after the release of a report that found credible evidence of unlawful killings in Afghanistan, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) said. An independent report published last week in redacted form said there was evidence that 39 unarmed Afghan prisoners and civilians were killed by 19 Australian soldiers.

**South Korea sex abuse group leader jailed for 40 years**

◆ The mastermind of a notorious online sex abuse ring was jailed for 40 years in South Korea. Cho Ju-bin, a 25-year-old college graduate, ran a group that blackmailed women and girls, including minors, into filming and sending sexual content. This was then posted in pay-to-view chatrooms on messaging app Telegram. Cho was in charge of the group from last May to February this year, blackmailing 74 people, 16 of whom were underage.

**Cambodia begins mass trial of 120 opposition figures**

◆ A mass trial of more than 120 Cambodian opposition figures kicked off in Phnom Penh, amid UN concerns the proceedings were politically motivated and violated due process. The case is linked to attempts by exiled opposition figurehead Sam Rainsy to return to Cambodia last year from France, where he has lived since 2015 to avoid jail for convictions that he says are bogus.

**Zimbabwe mine shaft collapse leaves dozens trapped**

◆ At least 40 informal miners in Zimbabwe have been trapped underground after a shaft in a disused gold mine collapsed, the country's miners' federation. The incident occurred late Wednesday in the town of Bindura, around 70 kilometres (43 miles) north of the capital Harare, said Wellington Takavarasha, head of the Zimbabwe Miners Federation. Takavarasha said the miners were working inside the disused Ran Gold Mine when a shaft caved in. Six miners have since been pulled from the rubble and taken to hospital.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1	USA	13,197,307	268,949	61,126,556
2	India	9,308,751	135,734	
3	Brazil	6,170,827	170,832	Deaths
4	Russia	2,187,990	38,062	
5	France	2,183,660	50,957	1,433,866
6	Spain	1,622,632	44,037	
7	UK	1,574,562	57,031	Recovered:
8	Italy	1,509,875	52,850	
9	Argentina	1,390,388	37,714	New cases
10	Colombia	1,270,991	35,860	
11	Mexico	1,070,487	103,597	+385,213
12	Germany	987,124	15,425	
13	Peru	954,459	35,727	New deaths
14	Poland	941,112	15,568	

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	114,107		6,585		102,201	5,321
Saudi Arabia	356,389	+322	5,840	+15	345,215	5,334
UAE	163,967	+1,305	564	+1	151,870	11,533
Kuwait	141,547	+330	872	+1	134,750	5,925
Oman	122,579		1,391		113,856	7,332
Qatar	138,066	+215	237		135,198	2,631

Figures as of closing

Jaishankar assures Indians in UAE of Government's responsiveness on post-Covid normalcy

The visit to UAE is seen as important as it comes in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked havoc across the world

● The minister interacted virtually with the members of the Indian community

PTI | Abu Dhabi

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday interacted virtually with the members of the Indian community in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and assured them of the government's responsiveness on issues pertaining to post-COVID normalcy.

Jaishankar is currently visiting the UAE. He arrived here on Wednesday night on the second leg of his six-day three-nation tour to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Seychelles, which began on Tuesday.

The visit is seen as important as it comes in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked havoc across the world.

'Welcomed the interaction with members of the Indian community in Abu Dhabi,' Jaishankar said in a tweet.

'Appreciated their stepping forward to work with the Embassy @IndembAbuDhabi to meet the



S Jaishankar during his meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

COVID challenge. Assured them of Government's responsiveness on issues pertaining to post-COVID normalcy,' he wrote.

Indian Ambassador to the UAE Pavan Kapoor expressed his gratitude to Jaishankar for interacting with the Indian community.

'Thank EAM @DrSJaishankar for listening carefully to the concerns and achievements of the Indian community in Abu Dhabi,' he said in a tweet.

The coronavirus has infected over 163,000 people and claimed 563 lives in the UAE.

More than 3 million Indians live and work in the UAE, the MEA had said in a statement before the

commencement of the minister's visit.

According to the website of the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Indian expatriate community of approximately 30.4 lakh is reportedly the largest ethnic community in the UAE, constituting roughly about 30 per cent of the country's population.

Among the Indian states, Kerala is the most represented, followed by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. However, Indians from the northern states, all put together, also form a significant portion of the UAE Indian population, it noted.

During his meeting with Abu

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During his meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Jaishankar discussed advancing India's strategic cooperation in the post-COVID era and exchanged views on important regional and international matters

Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Jaishankar discussed advancing India's strategic cooperation in the post-COVID era and exchanged views on important regional and international matters.

The Indian government has organised several flights under the Vande Bharat mission, allowing thousands of Indian expatriates to leave the UAE amidst the pandemic.

China's largest wholesale market suspends sales, storage of frozen goods as COVID precaution

Reuters | Beijing

China's biggest wholesale food market has suspended the sale and storage of chilled and frozen meat and seafood as the government ramps up inspections of cold-chain goods after several new cases of coronavirus infections.



Xinfadi market in Beijing

The Xinfadi market in Beijing, which was at the centre of an outbreak of COVID-19 cases in the Chinese capital in June, has disposed of products and disinfected over a hundred cold storage units and shut down their power, Beijing News has reported.

Although Beijing has had no recent locally transmitted infections

involving the market or cold-chain food products, the move comes after several handlers of imported frozen food in the cities of Qingdao and Tianjin contracted the virus in recent months.

Tianjin is some 132 kilometres south of Beijing while Qingdao is 550 kilometres south of the capital.

Sudan's former PM Sadiq al-Mahdi dies from coronavirus in UAE

Reuters | Khartoum

Leading Sudanese politician and former prime minister Sadiq al-Mahdi died from a coronavirus infection three weeks after being hospitalised in the United Arab Emirates, according to family sources and a party statement early yesterday.

Mahdi, 84, was Sudan's last democratically elected prime minister and was overthrown in 1989 in the military coup that brought former president Omar al-Bashir to power.

The moderate Umma Party was one of the largest opposition parties under Bashir, and Mahdi remained an influential figure even after Bashir was toppled in April 2019.

Pandemic or not, people must stay active: WHO

AFP | London

The coronavirus pandemic is no excuse for not getting enough exercise, the World Health Organization said Wednesday, warning that even before the crisis many were getting too little physical activity.

In an update of its physical activity guidelines, the UN health agency stressed that exercise was vital to physical and mental health, while sedentary behaviour can have serious repercussions.

"WHO urges everyone to continue to stay active through the Covid-19 pandemic," the agency's head of health promotion Ruediger Krech told reporters.

"If we do not remain active, we run the risk of creating another pandemic of ill-health as a result of sedentary behaviour."

There are still no clear statistics on what impact the pandemic has had on physical activity, but lockdowns, movement restrictions, gym closures and other measures have clearly forced many people to stay home and have disrupted regular activities and exercise routines.

This is worrying considering



A man skips rope as he exercises at Barceloneta beach

**150**  
150 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week is vital for well-being and mental health in the COVID-19 era

that even before the crisis, data shows the vast majority of young people and many adults were not active enough, with dire repercussions for global health.

The WHO estimates that pushing more people to get off the sofa or office chair to move about more could avert up to five million deaths each year.

"Being physically active is critical for health and well-being -- it can help to add years to life, and life to years," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

"Every move counts." Regular physical activity is key to preventing and helping to manage heart disease, type-2 diabetes, and cancer.





TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Just saw the vote  
tabulations. There  
is NO WAY Biden got  
80,000,000 votes!!! This  
was a 100% RIGGED  
ELECTION.

@realDonaldTrump

02



On this Thanksgiving  
Day, we're thankful  
for our Family, Friends  
& the Doctors, Nurses,  
First Responders & Men  
& Women of our Armed  
Forces that we've met  
along the way. God Bless  
our Healthcare Workers  
& our Military, especially  
those deployed overseas  
Defending Our Freedom!

@Mike\_Pence

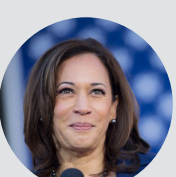
03



Thanksgiving has al-  
ways been a special  
time for the Biden family.  
And while I know this  
isn't the way many of us  
hoped to spend the holi-  
day, the small act of stay-  
ing home is a gift to our  
fellow Americans.

@JoeBiden

04



Like families across  
America, our  
Thanksgiving looks dif-  
ferent this year. But I am  
incredibly grateful for  
the ability to stay vir-  
tually connected to our  
loved ones so we can get  
this virus under control.  
From @DouglasEmhoff  
and I, have a safe and  
happy Thanksgiving.

@KamalaHarris

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

# Three killed as cyclone Nivar slams into southern India

Nivar made landfall near Puducherry in the early hours of yesterday, dumping heavy rains in the union territory and neighbouring Tamil Nadu

● Nivar weakened into a  
cyclonic storm and further into a  
deep depression by the afternoon

PTI | Chennai

Normal life was upended in parts of southern India as severe cyclonic storm Nivar slammed the coasts early yesterday morning, killing at least three people and uprooting hundreds of trees, before weakening into a deep depression, even as a fresh spell of snowfall was recorded in Himachal Pradesh in the north.

Meanwhile, the national capital recorded a minimum temperature of 10.4 degrees Celsius, one notch below the normal. Cold wave condition is expected in the city for the next two days due to a likely fall in minimum temperatures over northwest India.

Nivar made landfall near Puducherry in the early hours of yesterday, dumping heavy rains in the union territory and neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Officials said at least three people were killed in Tamil Nadu, over 1,000 trees uprooted and some low-lying areas marooned due to water-logging following heavy rains in the wake of the cyclone Nivar which barged in from the Bay of Bengal with gusty wind having an estimated speed of 120-130 kmph going up to 145 kmph.

Subsequently, Nivar weakened into a cyclonic storm and further into a deep depression by the afternoon.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to the chief ministers of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and assured them all possible help from the Centre.

The cyclone led to snapping of overhead electricity cables in a few places and Chennai residents also complained of internet outages.

Low lying neighbourhoods in Chennai, including those in suburban Irumbuliyur, Mudichur and Urapakkam, witnessed flooding and water entered the houses of many residents.

Rescue personnel ferried cooked food to the people using inflatable boats. The residents of some of the affected areas shifted to the homes of their relatives, while others continued to stay put battling the odds.



People run from the Marina beach after sudden heavy rains before Cyclone Nivar's landfall, in Chennai

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

People in Velachery, a low-lying suburb of Chennai, said the storm's impact was mitigated by steps taken by the government ahead of the storm, compared to the hundreds of deaths during floods in 2015

Airport operations, Metrorail and bus transport, which were suspended due to the cyclone, resumed during the day.

Puducherry witnessed heavy rains and inundation in some parts, but there were no reports of loss of life due to the cyclone.

A prohibitory order was in force in the union territory since November 24 to prevent the movement of people and minimize damage. The curb on gathering was lifted yesterday.

Meanwhile, the IMD said Tamil Nadu is likely to receive another spell of very heavy rainfall as a fresh low pressure area is expected to form in the Bay of Bengal from

November 29 onwards.

Up north in Himachal Pradesh, tourist attractions of Kufri and Manali received fresh snowfall and some other parts of the state witnessed rainfall in the past 24 hours, the MeT department said yesterday evening.

Kufri in Shimla district and Manali in Kullu district received 10 cm snowfall each. Kalpa recorded 17 cm snowfall and Keylong 3 cm.

In Uttar Pradesh, light rains occurred at isolated places over western districts, while the weather remained dry over eastern parts with shallow to moderate fog at isolated places.

There was no large change in maximum temperatures in Uttar Pradesh. The highest maximum temperature was recorded in Jhansi at 29.1 degrees Celsius, while Churk was the coldest place in the state at 6.1 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Haryana and Punjab hovered few notches above normal even though several parts of the two neighbouring states received overnight rains. Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, recorded a low of 13.5 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal.

Karnal in Haryana recorded a minimum of 13.5 degrees Celsius, up three notches while Ambala registered a low of 11.8 degrees Celsius, up two degrees against normal limits.

## Ethiopia to begin 'final phase' of offensive in Tigray region, says PM



Abiy Ahmed

Reuters | Addis Ababa

The Ethiopian military will begin the “final phase” of an offensive in the rebellious northern Tigray region, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said yesterday, hours after an ultimatum for Tigray forces to surrender expired.

The government gave the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) 72 hours on Sunday to lay down their arms or face an assault on Mekelle, the regional capital city of 500,000 people.

Reuters was not immediately able to reach the TPLF forces for comment. Claims by all sides have been impossible to verify because phone and internet connections to the region are down and access to the area is tightly controlled.

“The 72-hour period granted to the criminal TPLF clique to surrender peacefully is now over and our law enforcement campaign has reached its final stage,” Abiy tweeted, adding that civilians would be spared and that thousands of fighters had already surrendered.

“The last peaceful gate which remained open for the TPLF clique to walk through has now been firmly closed,” Abiy said.

Abiy called on the people of Mekelle to “disarm, stay at home and stay away from military targets”.

## Mysterious shiny monolith found in otherworldly Utah desert

AP | Salt Lake City

Deep in the Mars-like landscape of Utah's red-rock desert lies a mystery: A gleaming metal monolith in one of the most remote parts of the state.

The smooth, tall structure was found during a helicopter survey of bighorn sheep in southeastern Utah, officials said Monday.

A crew from the Utah Department of Public Safety and Division of Wildlife Resources spotted the gleaming object from the air Nov. 18 and landed to check it out during a break from their work.

They found the three-sided stainless-steel object is about as tall as two men put together. But they discovered no clues about who might have driven it into the ground among the undulat-



A Utah state worker inspecting a metal monolith that was found installed in the ground in a remote area of red rock in Utah

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

The monolith evokes the one that appears in the Stanley Kubrick movie “2001: A Space Odyssey.” In the film, an alien structure is a recurring symbol that appears to play a key role in man's evolution from the apes

ing red rocks or why.

“This thing is not from another world,” said Lt. Nick Street of the Utah Highway Patrol, part of

the Department of Public Safety.

Still, it's clear that it took some planning and work to construct the 10- to 12-foot (3- to 4-meter) monolith and embed it in the rock.

The exact location is so remote that officials are not revealing it publicly, worried that people might get lost or stranded trying to find it and need to be rescued.

The monolith evokes the one that appears in the Stanley Kubrick movie “2001: A Space Odyssey.” Because it's on federal public land, it's illegal to place art objects without authorization.

Bureau of Land Management officials are investigating how long it's been there, who might have created it and whether to remove it.



THE DAILY **tribune**

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# Classifieds

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THE DAILY **tribune**

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## Bahrain's preparations hailed as FIBA Asia qualifiers tip off



Bahrain's national team players and coaching staff

● **FIBA Asia executive director Hagop Khajirian inspects Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has been given two thumbs up for its preparations to host the games of two qualifying groups for the FIBA Asia Cup 2021.

FIBA Asia executive director Hagop Khajirian inspected yesterday the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town, which will host the four days of play beginning from today.

Khajirian took note of the Bahrain Basketball Association's keenness to provide all that is necessary to successfully host the qualifiers, and said that the work done is consistent with the highest international standards for FIBA competitions.

The Kingdom is hosting action in both Group A, comprising the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand; and Group D, which includes Iraq, India, Lebanon and hosts Bahrain.

Three games are scheduled for today's first day.

India and Lebanon get things going with the first contest scheduled for a 1pm tip-off. The Filipinos and Thais then



**Bahrain have already taken to the hardwood twice earlier this year, including a 68-67 home win over India which was followed by a 73-116 loss to Lebanon in Beirut**

lock horns at 4pm, followed by the Bahrainis facing off with Iraq in a crucial encounter.

Bahrain have already taken to the hardwood twice earlier this year, including a 68-67 home win over India which was followed by a 73-116 loss to Lebanon in Beirut.

The nationals are hoping to finish as one of the top two teams from qualifying's Group D in order to book their tickets to the FIBA Asia Cup. If they finish third, they will have to play in another stage of qualification for a chance to claim one of four other spots up for grabs for the 2021 FIBA Asia Cup. If they finish last, the Bahrainis will be out of the running for a tournament berth.

## Haas boss applauds team's 'survival' in difficult season

AFP | Manama

Haas team chief Guenther Steiner believes the American Formula One outfit's greatest achievement this season was the first and most important of all -- survival.

Speaking at a virtual news conference yesterday ahead of this weekend's Bahrain Grand

Prix, Steiner admitted that earlier this year, following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, team owner Gene Haas had considered pulling out of F1.

Asked to sum up Haas's season, Steiner said: "We survived. That's what we have done right."

## Action packed nine-race card today at REHC

TDT | Manama

A packed programme of nine races, seven of which are for a Bapco Cup, is on the race card today at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Sakhir.

Just a week removed from a hugely successful second edition of the Bahrain International Trophy, the top-class action at REHC continues, with over BD25,000 in prize money to be won by the participants.

The ninth and final race of the day, for a Bapco Cup, and the third race for the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) Cup, are the richest events, each offering BD5,000 to the winners.

Race nine will be over seven furlongs, with nine horses taking part.

Tipped with a chance are Macaque,



Action from a previous race day

owned by Victorious, trained by Hesham Al Haddad and to be ridden by Abdulla Faisal; Austin Powers, racing for Ramadhan Stable, Jaber Ramadhan and Ben Sanderson; and Beauchamp Bagenal, competing for KHK Racing, Hesham Al Haddad and David Egan.

The race's other horses are Nibras Bounty, Raselasad, Solar Flair, Strong Challenge, Light Angel and Inclination.

Race three for the BOC Cup will also be over seven furlongs, and just five horses will be battling it out.

Tipped with a chance are Tuwaisan 1762, owned by Victorious, trained by Yousif Taher and to be ridden by Abdulla Faisal; Al Saqlawy 1757, competing for Safra, Alan Smith and Abdulrahim Jasim; and Al Jellaby 1683, representing Al Riffa, Yousif Alboainain and Hasan Al Saffar.

The day's eighth race (seven furlongs) offers BD3,000 in prize money, as do race seven (straight of six furlongs) and race six (straight of five furlongs). The day's other four events feature BD2,000 in prize money.

# BRAVE CF's Said Maalem fires back at Fakhreddine

Mohammed Said Maalem accepted Mohammed Fakhreddine's challenge, but claimed the champ's "disrespect" towards him deserved to be "punished"

● **Anton Turkalj, Todd Stoute and Mohammed Fakhreddine have all called for a title shot for the Light Heavyweight belt**

TDT | Manama

Tensions are revving up in the BRAVE Combat Federation Light Heavyweight division. The idea of a BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight title has come to the spotlight ever since Middleweight champ Mohammed Fakhreddine brought it up following the conclusion of BRAVE CF 45. The Lebanese star called out Mohammed Saeed Maalem for the proposed title fight. Now, the Algerian has made it clear that he is more than happy to engage in this duel.

Said Maalem used his own social media profiles to indicate that he would accept Fakhreddine's challenge, but claimed the champ's "disrespect" towards him deserved to be "punished".



Mohammed Said Maalem

"Your disrespect deserves to be punished, that is why I accept your challenge, and you will have the honour of facing me", said Mohammed.

Three fearless juggernauts Anton Turkalj, Todd Stoute and Mohammed Fakhreddine have all called for a title shot for the Light Heavyweight belt. The calls for the title fight came after an impressive victory by the

division's mainstay Maleem at BRAVE CF 45 which prompted Fakhreddine to challenge the Algerian. Now, Maleem has responded to the Middleweight champ saying he is up for a title fight.

This comes after Swedish phenom Anton Turkalj, who has won twice in two BRAVE CF bouts, commented on social media about going for the title,

**“Your disrespect deserves to be punished, that is why I accept your challenge, and you will have the honour of facing me**

MOHAMMED SAID MAALEM

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. 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.

## BRAVE CF is the only global promotion to host events in Pakistan

TDT | Manama

The Pakistan MMA scene has witnessed a transformation in recent years as the country's youth have become increasingly passionate about combat sports. The rise in popularity, however, has not yet attracted a substantive level of interest from global promotions with the exception of BRAVE Combat Federation who is the first and only global MMA promotion to host MMA events in Pakistan.

BRAVE CF's long-term plan consisted not only in providing a global platform for athletes to showcase their skills and seek personal and professional development but also carrying the flag of the sport around the world, including to nations that have never before seen an event of such magnitude, a report in Pakistani newspaper The Day Spring stated.

"That was exactly what BRAVE



A Pakistani athlete reacts after a bout

Combat Federation accomplished in Pakistan. BRAVE CF went further and became the very first international MMA promotion to host an event in Pakistan. In October 2018, BRAVE Combat Federation made its mark in the city of Lahore with BRAVE CF 17. The historic

fight night was not only the first global MMA event in the history of the country but one of the biggest international sports events ever held in Pakistan," the report stated.

With thousands of fans watching it live at the arena and millions catching up through

their TVs around the world, BRAVE CF 17 brought an unprecedented level of exposure not only for the Pakistani MMA and sports scene but for the country of Pakistan as a whole.

The fight card was a mix of international talent, such as Abdoul Abdouraguimov, Brazil's Rodrigo Cavalheiro, and New Zealand's John Brewin, and national superstars, such as Kareem Uloomi, Haider Farman, and Mehmosh Raza.

But BRAVE Combat Federation's commitment to Mixed Martial Arts' development in Pakistan kept going. After promoting BRAVE CF 17, BRAVE CF continued to be the global MMA promotion with most Pakistanis within its roster. In addition, the country was selected to receive the very first BRAVE Gym, a new endeavor that combined top-notch structure with an exclusive and detailed training program forged by BRAVE CF.



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# Let the show begin!

Bahrain International Circuit hosts the first of three exciting days of racing today in the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020

● **F1's star drivers set for weekend's first and second Free Practice sessions, kicking off the on-track action today**

● **Formula 2 and Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East set for support races thrills**

● **BIC modifies Main Grandstand seating to allow for optimal social distancing for front-liners, first responders, and their immediate family members on Sunday**

TDT | Manama

Formula 1 racing is back in Bahrain for a unique double-header, and the stage is set for the first of back-to-back events at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) with what promises to be yet another spectacular

Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

The top flight's star drivers were busy yesterday wrapping up their preparations for today's start to racing.

A number of them were joined by their engineers for their customary pre-weekend Track Walk, to get a closer examination of the 5.412-kilometre circuit in order to gain additional data for their car set-ups.

They will have to get accustomed to an all-new layout at BIC next weekend, when the F1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix takes place from December 4 to 6 to cap the Kingdom's double-header.

The Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix will be an additional spectacle for both competitors and fans, as it will be taking place along BIC's 3.543km Outer Track, where lap times are forecast to be under a minute. The layout will be used for a competitive event for the very first time, and the race will feature 87 laps, which is the highest lap count of the season.

Mercedes head into the Bahrain races having already secured this year's Constructors' championship, but will still be looking for a repeat of their suc-



Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel arrives at BIC

cess at BIC in 2019 when Lewis Hamilton led teammate Valtteri Bottas to a stunning one-two finish.

Hamilton has also already clinched the Drivers' world title, but will be looking to maintain his spectacular form in a season where he proven to be virtually unbeatable, having won 10 of the 14 races held so far including the previous four Grands Prix.

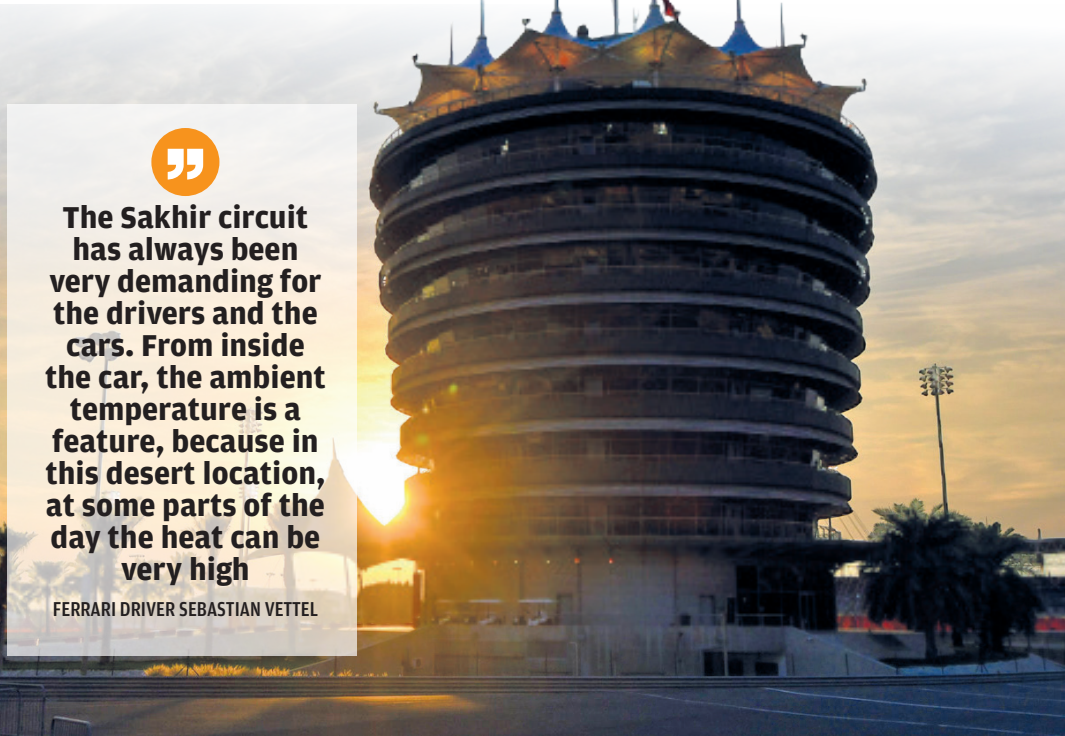
Red Bull Racing (Max Verstappen and Alexander Albon) will hope to mount a serious challenge, as will Ferrari (Charles Leclerc and Sebastian Vettel), who have had plenty of past success in the Bahrain Grand Prix.

Ferrari have the most victories at BIC with six, with the last win coming in 2018 for Vettel, while last year, Leclerc was the pole-sitter and was leading for much of the race, before some late car trouble meant he had to settle for third.

"The Sakhir circuit has always been very demanding for the drivers and the cars," said Vettel. "From inside the car, the ambient temperature is a feature, because in this desert location, at some parts of the day the heat can be very high.

"The characteristics of the track put a premium on traction and also provide a stern test for the brakes, which come under a lot of stress over the course of a lap. It's what we drivers call a stop-go track because you are continually having to brake heavily and then accelerate hard.

Bahrain's F1 double-header is taking place with all precautionary guidelines in place. Although both events will be closed to the general public, frontline health workers and first responders, along with members of their immediate families, have been invited to join. BIC has modified the seating along its Main Grandstand for those attending in a way that allows for optimal social distancing. The circuit has also them provided kits that include a face mask, hand sanitisers and instructions reminding the spectators of all precautionary guidelines that have been put in place to help ensure the health and safety of all.



BIC's iconic Sakhir Tower stands tall as the sun sets in the background

We never raced in Bahrain this late in the year, but it won't change very much in terms of the temperatures.

"We've seen that the car has improved over the past few races and I'm keen to see how competitive we can be at this track."

## A strong push

Racing Point (Sergio Perez and Lance Stroll), McLaren (Lando Norris and Carlos Sainz) and Renault (Daniel Ricciardo and Esteban Ocon) will also be making a strong push as they battle for maximum points to get the best placing amongst the midfield; while looking to make a surprise will be AlphaTauri (Pierre Gasly and Daniil Kvyat), Alfa Romeo (Kimi Raikkonen and Antonio Giovinazzi), Haas (Romain Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen) and Williams (George Russell and Nicholas Latifi).

"We'll have a bit of everything in the next two weeks: we race on a circuit we all know so well, Bahrain, and then on a completely new layout we never used before," said Raikkonen of the Kingdom's double-header.

"Racing on a new track is something we have done quite a few times this season so by now I would expect all teams to have a tried and tested approach to this challenge and therefore I don't think we'll have big surprises. Still, it will be interesting to see how racing goes on a fairly unusual layout.

"In the end, we will adapt very quickly to whatever the situation is and try to get the most out of the race weekend."

Raikkonen has had eight podiums in the Bahrain Grand Prix since 2004, including five runner-up finishes, but has never won.

He will today be turning over the driving duties to Alfa Romeo reserve driver Robert Kubica, who will return to the cockpit for the first Free Practice this weekend.

The Pole, who already completed three F1 sessions in Styria, Hungary and Britain this season, will resume his Friday duties at Bahrain International Circuit and continue to work with the team in the engineering briefings and other technical meetings.

Raikkonen will be back behind the wheel for the remainder of the Bahrain Grand Prix weekend.

Kubica commented: "I am very pleased to be back in the driving seat for the first time since August. There is still a lot to fight for and I am confident my work will make a positive contribution to the team's ef-

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen has stepped on the Bahrain Grand Prix podium eight times since 2004, including five runner-up finishes, but has never won

forts." Following today's action, a third 60-minute F1 Practice will be held Saturday (November 28) at 2pm, to be followed by Qualifying at 5pm that evening. It will determine the grid positions for Sunday's (November 29) 57-lap night race, set for a 5.10pm start under lights.

## Support series action set

Supporting F1 this weekend will be the FIA Formula 2 Championship and the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East.

F2 will be holding its Practice at 12.35pm and Qualifying at 4.15pm today, while the Porsche Sprint Challenge will have two Practices at 11.25am and 7.55pm.

F2 is staging the penultimate round of its 2020 season at the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, while the Porsche Sprint Challenge is taking to the track for the first round of its 2020/2021 campaign.



Racing Point mechanics wheel one of their cars down the F1 Pit Lane after coming from scrutineering

Today's timetable		
Time	Series	Session
11.25am	Porsche Sprint Challenge ME	First Practice
12.35pm	Formula 2	Practice
2pm	Formula 1	First Practice
4pm	Formula 1	Press Conference
4.15pm	Formula 2	Qualifying
4.45pm	-Sunset-	
5pm	Formula 2	Press Conference
6pm	Formula 1	Second Practice
7.55pm	Porsche Sprint Challenge ME	Second Practice

## Pirelli set tyre allocations for Bahrain's F1 races

TDT | Manama

Pirelli have announced their tyre allocation for the two Formula 1 races at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), beginning with this weekend's Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

The top flight's tyre suppliers have nominated the C2, C3 and the C4 tyres, which are the P Zero White hard, P Zero Yellow medium, and P Zero Red soft, respectively.

Pirelli said that this year's tyres are a step softer than the ones used at the 2019 Bahrain Grand Prix. They will have to cope with some of the most

abrasive asphalt of the season at BIC, and, in the case of the F1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix next week, the highest average lap speeds of the year.

Tyres in the middle of Pirelli's range have therefore been selected to cope with this varied range of demands.

Today, F1 teams will have two sets of 2021 C3 tyres to sample for each car, on top of the usual allocation for the weekend of two sets of the hard, three sets of the medium, and eight of the soft tyres.

Pirelli have also brought their wet tyres, as is the case for all F1 race week-

ends, for the possibility of any rain.

Meanwhile, Pirelli have nominated their P Zero White hard tyres for Formula 2, alongside the P Zero Yellow medium for the Bahrain Grand Prix and the P Zero Red soft tyres for next week's Sakhir Grand Prix.

This gives teams and drivers another variable to adapt to between events, in addition to the change of layout.

The F2 field tested at BIC back in March, when they ran the new 18-inch tyres introduced for 2020 for the first time. After Sakhir Grand Prix, BIC will host another F2 test session.

