

John Stones strikes against West Ham as Manchester City make it 20 in a row | **P 12**

**WORLD** **7** Kidnappers release 42 boys abducted from Nigeria school

# THE DAILY tribune



Rebel Wilson to star in ‘Senior Year’

**10** **CELEBS**

**BUSINESS** **5** BDB posts positive results, ups SME support by 179%

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

# Do not mix social groups

#Commit4Bahrain

## Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait back Saudi on Khashoggi case

TDT | Manama

**B**ahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait voiced strong support to the Saudi position rejecting the negative, false and unacceptable assessment of the US intel report regarding the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia completely rejects the negative, false and unacceptable assessment in the report about the kingdom's leadership, and notes that the report contained inaccurate information and conclusions," the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement.

**Bahrain's foreign ministry said the Kingdom rejects any attempt to “undermine” Saudi Arabia's sovereignty**

Bahrain's foreign ministry said the Kingdom rejects any attempt to “undermine” Saudi Arabia's sovereignty under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince in the efforts to enhance security and regional stability.

The foreign ministry also pointed out that Saudi already took “necessary measures against those responsible for murdering the journalist.”

The UAE's foreign ministry “expressed its confidence and support for the Saudi judiciary rulings, which affirm the kingdom's commitment to implementing the law transparently and impartially, and holding all those involved in this case accountable.”

Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, “it categorically rejects everything that would prejudice the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.”

Last update - 9:00 pm  
27 February 2021

## Individuals vaccinated (First dose)

295296

Roman chariot unearthed ‘almost intact’ near Pompeii



**P7**

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

**TOTAL TESTED**

**3077307**

**ACTIVE CASES**

**6862**

**DEATHS**

**444**

**DISCHARGED**

**114472**

**NEW CASES**

**651**

**CRITICAL**

**70**

210 fils (includes VAT)



# It's time for change

HRH Prince Salman outlines path-breaking reforms to enhance Bahrain's economic prospectus

● Recovery from COVID-19 by the middle of this year

● Kingdom well placed to take early advantage of recovery

● Judicial reforms and changes in government appointments on way

● Open prison system on the anvil

● Calls on judiciary to focus on evidence, not on confessions

● To enhance bilateral ties with world nations

**“**  
**We will pursue an open and free economy that consolidates the rule of law to stimulate economic output while protecting and preserving the fundamental rights and security of our people**

key here in converting those challenges into opportunities.

No matter what, the change is inevitable for Bahrain to come out strong and take advantage of the global recovery, whether its economy, judiciary or government work.

The talks His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa held the other day focused on these and more.

**“**  
**It is important to move beyond reliance on confessions before the court and shift towards requiring the use of conclusive forensic evidence**

The meeting was also the first extensive briefing session of HRH Prince Salman after accepting the responsibility as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom.

The path-breaking discussion established new directions for the Kingdom to advance and flourish.

The wide-ranging talk also delivered a much-needed relief to the general public reeling from

the pangs of the Coronavirus pandemic.

For, HRH Prince Salman had said that the Kingdom is expecting to see the start of its recovery from pandemic by the middle of this year.

(continued on page 2)



**T**he time has come for Bahrain to change. Challenges are there. But the



# New specialised port for cruise ships on the anvil

Plans are also developing to organise trips using amphibious buses

● Corona pandemic has cancelled 55 port of calls of cruise ships

TDT | Manama

**P**lans are on the anvil to develop a specialised port for cruise ships, with the Diyar Al Muharraq, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al-Zayani revealed. The minister also said that the authorities are also working to organise land and sea trips using amphibious buses.

The expectation is that all these and other umpteen projects in the pipeline will help the Kingdom alleviate the effects of the painful blow dealt by the coronavirus outbreak to the tourism sector.

The outbreak had forced operators to cancel 55 cruise ship port of calls in Bahrain during the 2019/2020 season, said the minister.

"This happened at a time when the Kingdom was expecting the travellers footfall to reach 103,000, but COVID-19 derailed all that."

"Nearly 81 thousand tourists



came to Bahrain, mostly Europeans, during the 2018-19 cruise season." That season, which began in October 2018, continued until April 2019.

Replies to a parliamentary question by MP Ali Zayed, Al Zayani said the Kingdom at-

taches great importance to the tourism sector, which witnesses rapid global growth.

Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority is working according to a strategy to make Bahrain an elite family tourist destination based on a boutique

lifestyle making full use of the thriving business environment, vibrant modern lifestyle and the status as a hub for conferences.

The strategy, the minister said, follows a four-pronged approach, which includes promoting Bahrain globally, ensuring ease of access and mobility, developing and increasing various types of accommodations, and diversifying tourism revenues.

The authority is keen on mar-

keting the archaeological and modern sites in Bahrain, increasing cruise ship port calls by providing incentives to shipping companies, developing and improving port facilities with the private sector, operating tours for cruise ship passengers and participating in relevant international exhibitions.

Explaining, the minister said work is currently underway to develop several waterfronts directly and in cooperation with the private sector, which includes beaches, restaurants, cafes, walkways and public facilities.

In the past five years, Bahrain, the minister said, introduced 21 tourism activities like operating tours, diving trips and pearl diving to enhance marine tourism revenues.

The number of activities licensed to practice in the sector reached 16 during the last four years. "These are proving crucial to the growth in the number of cruise ship visitors."

The minister also attributed the recent jump in tourism revenues to islands like Jarada, Hawar that provide opportunities to practise various marine activities.

Shellfish collection trips also turned out as a major tourist magnet, the minister added.

"Amongst them, the most im-



**work is currently underway to develop several waterfronts directly and in cooperation with the private sector, which includes beaches, restaurants, cafes, walkways and public facilities.**

ZAYED BIN RASHID AL-ZAYANI

portant being the addition of the Dive Bahrain, the largest of its kind in the world."

"These activities are consolidating Bahrain's position on the global marine tourism map," added the minister.

## Labour Minister inspects Child Protection Centre



TDT | Manama

**L**abour and Social Development Minister, and Chairman of the National Childhood Committee, Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, yesterday held an inspection visit to the Child Protection Centre in Manama.

The visit was part of efforts to deal with cases of abuse, violence or negligence against children.

The minister verified the services and procedures to protect children, treat them and reintegrate them into society within a secure family environment.

The minister affirmed the ministry's keenness to develop the Child Protection Centre.

The centre receives complaints through the toll-free hotline (998).



## JEE last-minute cancellation: Indian Embassy says in touch with NTA

TDT | Manama

**S**tudents might get another chance to sit for the Joint Entrance Examination or JEE (main) 2021 in Bahrain after the exam to be held on 23rd this month was suspended at the last minute, citing COVID-19 restrictions.

Indian Embassy, in a statement to Daily Tribune, said they are in "touch with the National Testing Agency (NTA) of India regarding the conduct of JEE (main) 2021 in the Kingdom."

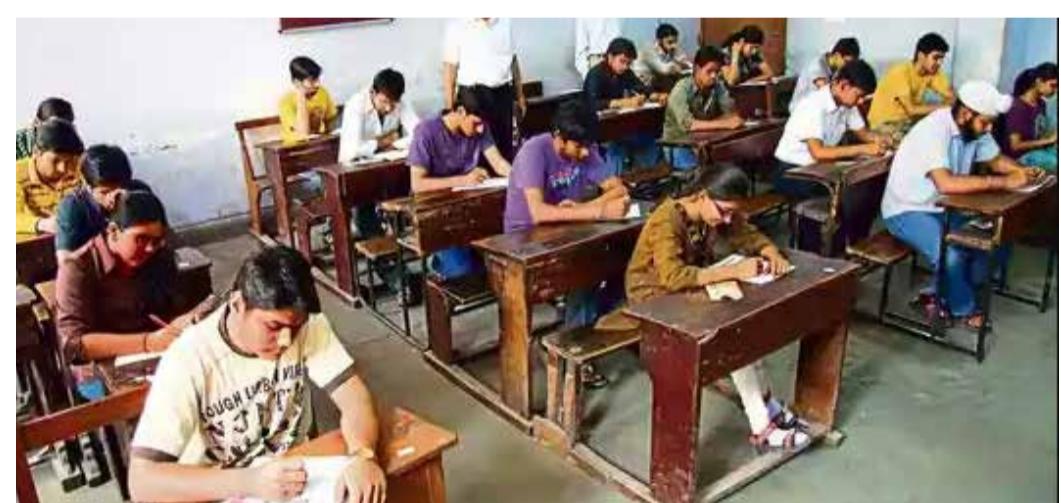
Talks are also ongoing regarding the February Session exams not held in Bahrain due to Covid related restrictions."

The embassy confirmed: "A suitable plan will come for the conduct of B.Arch/ B.Planning papers, in the interest of the candidates."

For B.E./B.Tech, the embassy said, "The candidates could appear in the March session, along with other candidates."

For further updates, the embassy said, "The students should remain in touch with the National Institute of Bahrain, as well as NTA and Embassy websites, and Social media handles."

Many students had told Tribune that the authorities left



Representative picture (Courtesy of Hindustan Times)

them in the dark until the last minute regarding the decision to cancel the exam.

"The exam centre informed an hour before the first batch was supposed to write the exam on 23rd that due to COVID-19 restrictions the exams cannot be held," students and parents told Tribune.

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE Main) comprises two papers. The Paper I is for admission to Undergraduate Engineering Programmes (B.E/B.Tech) at NITS, IIITs, other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs), Institutions/

Universities funded/recognised by participating State Governments, as well as an eligibility test for JEE (Advanced), which is for admission to IITs.

Around 200 students were supposed to appear for this exam on 23rd this month.

Parents say they approached the Indian Embassy but were told, "Since they were involved at the last minute, they were unable to assist."

Parents said they are now left worried about their kids and wondering if Bahrain will continue to be an examination centre.

Most of the students and parents said their recommendation is to conduct the missed exam again.

The "best course of action would be for the missed exams to be held again for these students," parents told Tribune.

They also urged to ensure that Bahrain will continue to be a centre for such examinations in the future. According to the Ministry of Education, India, "The JEE (Main) is being conducted in multiple Sessions (February/March/April/May 2021) for admissions in the next academic session."

## CAPTAINS CORNER

Our beloved Crown Prince and Prime Minister shows the way forward



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

**L**eadership is a trait that can either be absorbed by a person or something that the person is born with. In the case of our beloved Crown Prince and Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, it is clear that he has been gifted with inherent statesmanship and the ability to inspire him in the upliftment of Bahrain.

This was clear way back in 2006, when he boldly reformed the labour market, establishing the LMRA system and creating a level playing field for expats and Bahrainis alike and at the same time offering Bahraini nationals with plenty of training and business development opportunities.

**His Royal Highness has always displayed a decisive leadership that puts the people of Bahrain first because he firmly believes that the human resources of the Kingdom is its true wealth.**



Even today, in the midst of the worst pandemic that the modern world has seen, when countries all over are struggling with their core health and education budgets, Bahrain, following the directives of the CP-PM, is actually adding more strength to these sectors, with an eye to preparing our young people for the future and to keeping the nation healthy. In later years, this will undoubtedly stand us in good stead as the world recovers from the crisis of the pandemic and moves towards a brighter time.

The CP-PM has also announced that the Kingdom would strengthen the private sector in order to expand its role in the prosperity and development of the nation. He has spelt out that he is keen to continue developing financial services, information and communication technology, tourism, logistics, oil and gas and manufacturing as the sunrise sectors of the 21st century.

As for us, the citizens, in the midst of one of the most challenging phases of our nation's progress, we should be assured that we have such a strong and clear-eyed young leader in our CP-PM to take forward the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and give each citizen the reassurance of a well-marked way forward.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

# Sitra walkway, Danaat Al Hoora, school maintenance and more

The tender board receives 99 bids for ten tenders

TDT | Manama

**D**evelopment of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Street intersection, maintenance of Sitra Walkway, and Works of Danaat Al Hoora are some of the projects being awarded by the Tender board this week.

Altogether, the board opened 99 bids for ten tenders placed by eight administrative bodies in the Kingdom.

Representatives of the administering parties and the companies participating in the tenders were present.

The tender board said it would award the projects to the best bids, based on conditions and lowest price.

The first tender opened was for developing the intersection of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Street with Street 1 - Sitra.

The tender launched by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning attracted 18 bids.

The bids range between BHD 120,996.870 and BHD 297,349.430. Santy Excavation & Construction Company made the lowest quote, and Al Ahlia Contracting Company the highest.

The project aims to reduce traffic connection and delays during peak hours by upgrading the current intersection.

The committee also opened two other tenders by the Ministry of Works. The first was for engineering consultancy services for road design works, for which received 15 bids. The second was for the comprehensive mainte-

## Priority for SMEs in tenders, auctions



TDT | Manama

**T**he Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and the Tender and Auctions Board yesterday pledged to ensure increased participation for small and medium-sized enterprises in government tenders and auctions.

"This would increase their competitiveness, profitability and raise their contribution to the gross domestic product of the Kingdom," said Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani,

The Industry Ministry, Al Zayani said, received more than 1,800 applications to obtain a certificate of classification of small and medium enterprises.

The industry ministry approved more than 1,140 applications through a registration system on its website since its launch in April of 2019.

"The certificates qualify these institutions to obtain a 10% preference in government tenders and auctions," said the minister.

Al Zayani said the ministry is also promoting the advantage of classification certificate through workshops.

Shaikh Nayef bin Khalid Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Tender and Auctions Board, said, "The board received 539 bids from 151 small and medium enterprises during 2020. Fifty-nine of the small and medium enterprises won contracts worth 55 million dinars."

nance work for Askar Primary and Middle School for Boys and Ahmed Al-Fateh Primary and Preparatory School. The project received eight bids ranging be-

tween BHD 297,880.000 and BHD 404,000.000. Saraya Contractors was the lowest bidder.

Capital Municipality tender for the maintenance of Sitra Walkway

# Mazaya scheme helped 490 people to buy their dream homes this year: ministry

TDT | Manama

**T**he Mazaya social housing finance scheme helped 490 people purchase their dream homes since the beginning of this year, said Basim Yacob Al Hamer, the minister of housing.

In total, the programme since its inception has helped 7,001 home buyers," added the minister.

A total of 1,691 people got their dream homes through Mazaya during the year 2020.

The programme offers Bahrainis an opportunity to own their



dream home through a real estate financing facility subsidised by the Government of Bahrain.

The average value of hous-

ing units purchased amounts to 109,000 dinars, with the Northern governorate accounted for 45% of the units' purchased.

The percentage of the purchase of housing units in Muharraq Governorate was 87% compared to 13% for ownership apartments,

In the Northern governorate, that percentage was 79% (housing units) and 21% (apartments). In the Southern Governorate, ninety-two per cent of the sales were for housing units and 8% for ownership apartments. People in the capital bought only housing units.

Breaking down further, the minister said that citizens whose monthly income ranged between 600 to 700 dinars accounted for 40% of the purchase. Twenty-six per cent of the beneficiaries earned salaries between 701 to 800 dinars. The remaining 13% drew salaries between 801 and 901 dinars. According to the scheme, a client will only pay 25% of the basic salary, inclusive of fixed allowances, towards the instalment. Ministry of Housing will pay the remaining instalment amount.



**Deputy Chief of Public Security, Major-General Abdullah Mohammed Al Zayed, chaired the Interior Ministry's delegation to the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX), in Abu Dhabi. Assistant Chief of Public Security for Operations and Training Affairs Brigadier Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa was part of the delegation. The Deputy Chief asserted that the participation aims at learning about modern security techniques.**

## Body found on roof-top in Muharraq

TDT | Manama

**T**he Ministry of Interior is investigating a death after a body was found on the roof of a building in Muharraq.

Officials say the body is of a person aged 32 years.

Investigators are working to find the man's identity.

So far, investigators are not suspecting foul play. Competent authorities at the scene and the investigation is progressing, the Interior Ministry tweeted.

# BDB posts positive results, ups SME support by 179%

● Reports a net profit of BHD 563K

● The bank significantly stepped up its financing activity to support SMEs with total disbursements increasing by 179% to BHD 106 million

● The bank also continued offering financing under the "BDB-Riyadat scheme".

● BDB grew its financing portfolio to BHD 162 m

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Development Bank (BDB), the Kingdom's premier SME Bank, announced that it has achieved positive results and strong growth again in 2020, posting a net profit of BHD 563K despite the years' challenging economic and credit environment.

During the year, the bank

**The performance of the Bank during 2020 was the result of significant efforts, the ability of the bank to successfully adapt its strategies during this extraordinary period, and the continued invaluable support of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy (MOFNE), the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and Tamkeen**

SANJEEV PAUL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

significantly stepped up its financing activity to support SMEs with total disbursements increasing by 179% to BHD 106 million (2019 BHD 37.9 m). The Bank was also a focal point for assisting SMEs under the Government's Liquidity Support Scheme.

With the support of Tamkeen, the bank also continued offering financing under the "BDB-Riyadat scheme".

The scheme aims to support women-owned enterprises and help them grow. During the year, an amount of BHD 1,067 m was disbursed under the scheme while total disbursements from the initiation of the scheme till the end of 2020 stood at BHD 5,723 m.

BDB grew its financing portfolio to BHD 162 m while substantially improving the quality of its financing portfolio and maintaining a healthy Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 64%.

The year also saw the bank ramp up its digitalization efforts. In line with BDB's digital transformation, the group launched the digital transformation program Ru'ya where the bank has selected the front-to-back digital offering, TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform enabled with APIs and cognitive tools such as AI and analytics facilitating the launch of one of the region's first digital state-of-the-art SaaS-based core

banking system on the Cloud. Ru'ya will further strengthen BDB's position as Bahrain's premier SME Bank, streamlining the bank's offering of innovative products and services to the SME community through a state of the art omnichannel platform.

Commenting on the Bank's performance, Sanjeev Paul, Chief Executive Officer of BDB Group, said: "The performance of the Bank during 2020 was the result of significant efforts, the ability of the bank to successfully adapt its strategies during this extraordinary period, and the continued invaluable support of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy (MOFNE), the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and Tamkeen."

"During 2020, we focused our efforts to provide the optimum support, both in terms of financing and support services, to the SME sector, considering it to be one of the most vulnerable sectors impacted by the crisis. In addition to providing SME's with funding to support liquidity, businesses were also provided with relief in the form of deferred loan instalments and waivers of rent for businesses utilizing the bank's incubator centres."

India's Reliance partners with Google, Facebook for digital payment network bid: ET



Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani

Reuters | New Delhi

that include inter-bank fund transfers, ATM transactions and digital payments.

India's conglomerate Reliance Industries has partnered with Facebook Inc, Google and fintech player Infibeam to set up a national digital payment network, Economic Times newspaper reported yesterday, citing unnamed sources.

Last year, India's central bank invited companies to forge new umbrella entities (NUEs) to create a payments network that would rival the system operated by the National Payments Council of India (NPCI), as it seeks to reduce concentration risks in the space.

Set up in 2008, NPCI is a not-for-profit company, which as of March 2019 counted dozens of banks as its shareholders, including the State Bank of India, Citibank and HSBC. It processes billions of dollars in payments daily via services

Citing three unnamed sources, India's leading business daily Economic Times said that the group led by Reliance and Infibeam was in the advanced stages of submitting their proposal to the Reserve Bank of India.

A spokesperson for Infibeam declined comment on the report, saying the company was bound by the confidentiality of process, while Reliance, Google and Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Digital payments in India could rise to \$135.2 billion in 2023, according to an Assocham-PwC India study in 2019. Facebook and Google are already partnered with Reliance and own stakes in Jio Platforms - the unit which houses Reliance's music, movie apps and telecoms venture.



## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 31 December 2020

	2020 BD '000	2019 BD '000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Bahrain	2,568	1,976
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	3,722	14,850
Islamic financing and loans to customers	146,630	76,731
Investment securities	56,364	41,447
Investment in associates	374	322
Investment properties	11,071	11,527
Property and equipment	1,926	1,991
Other assets	3,828	2,416
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>226,483</b>	<b>151,260</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Term loans	35,304	42,293
Deposits	118,030	34,018
Other liabilities	4,444	4,723
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>157,778</b>	<b>81,934</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Share capital	65,000	65,000
Statutory reserve	1,186	1,186
Other capital contribution	4,048	4,048
Other reserves	1,146	654
Accumulated losses	(2,656)	(1,544)
Equity attributable to owners of the Bank	68,724	69,344
Non-controlling interest	(19)	(18)
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>68,705</b>	<b>69,326</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>226,483</b>	<b>151,260</b>

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 BD '000	2019 BD '000
<b>Income</b>		
Islamic financing and interest income	8,536	8,234
Islamic financing and interest expense	(1,213)	(1,588)
<b>Net Islamic financing and interest income</b>	<b>7,323</b>	<b>6,646</b>
Fee and commission income	452	357
Investment income	(416)	(288)
Rental income	1,054	1,706
Other income	280	194
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>8,693</b>	<b>8,615</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Staff costs	(4,749)	(4,170)
Other operating expenses	(3,321)	(3,472)
<b>Total operating expenses before allowance for expected credit losses</b>	<b>(8,070)</b>	<b>(7,642)</b>
Allowance for expected credit losses / provision - net	(112)	1
<b>Total expected credit losses / impairment</b>	<b>(112)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>974</b>
Share of profit from associates	52	63
<b>Net profit for the year</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>1,037</b>
<b>Net profit for the year attributable to:</b>		
- Owners of the Bank	563	1,036
- Non-controlling interest	-	1
	<b>563</b>	<b>1,037</b>

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 BD '000	2019 BD '000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net profit for the year	563	1,037
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	1,114	854
Allowance for expected credit losses/ provision - net	669	440
Changes in fair value of investments classified as FVTPL	416	348
Changes in revaluation of loans and deposits classified as FVTPL	(61)	-
Dividend income	-	(77)
Share of profit from associates	(52)	(63)
Loss on foreign currency translation	14	17
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	2,663	2,556
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Placements with banks and other financial institutions having original maturities of more than 90 days	6,825	2,272
Islamic financing and loans to customers	(84,812)	9,908
Other assets	(1,607)	277
Deposits	96,094	(83)
Other liabilities	(143)	(618)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>19,020</b>	<b>14,312</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Additions to property and equipment	(610)	(1,217)
Purchase of investment securities	(60,658)	(54,830)
Proceeds from sale of investment securities	45,402	44,970
Dividend income received	-	77
Liquidation of Investment Securities	55	8
<b>Net cash flow used in investing activities</b>	<b>(15,811)</b>	<b>(10,992)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITY</b>		
Repayment of term loans	(6,989)	(8,314)
<b>Net cash flow used in financing activity</b>	<b>(6,989)</b>	<b>(8,314)</b>
<b>NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(3,780)</b>	<b>(4,994)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	7,759	12,753
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>3,980</b>	<b>7,759</b>

**Additional information:**

Islamic financing and interest received 7,991 8,038

Islamic financing and interest paid 1,247 1,667

\*The addition to property and equipment and other liabilities of BD 44 thousand (31 December 2019: BD 714 thousand) is a non-cash item.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the year ended 31 December 2020

2020  
BD '000

2019  
BD '000

Net income for the year 563 1,037

Other comprehensive income:

Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:

Changes in fair value through other comprehensive income reserve - equity instruments (5) (25)

Items that will be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:

Net unrealized gains in cash flow hedges 411 -

Changes in fair value of investments classified as fair value through other comprehensive income - debt instruments 86 829

Total comprehensive income for the year 1,055 1,841

Total comprehensive income attributable to:

- Owners of the Bank 1,055 1,840

- Non-controlling interest - 1

1,055 1,841

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the year ended 31 December 2020

2020  
BD '000

2019  
BD '000

As at 1 January 2020 65,000 1,186 4,048 654 (1,544) 69,344 (18) 69,326

Total comprehensive income for the year - - - 492 563 1,055 -

Recognition of modification loss net of government grant - - - - (1,675) (1,675) - (1,675)

Minority interest movement - - - - - - (1) (1)

As at 31 December 2020 65,000 1,186 4,048 1,146 (2,656) 68,724 (19) 68,705

### Equity attributable to owners of the Bank

Share Capital BD '000 Statutory Reserve BD '000 Other Capital Contribution BD '000 Other Reserves BD '000 Accumulated Losses BD '000 Total BD '000 Non-controlling Interest BD '000 Total Equity BD '000

65,000 1,186 4,048 654 (1,544) 69,344 (18) 69,326

As at 1 January 2019 - - - - 804 1,036 1,840 1 1,841

# AUB gets top award

TDT | Manama

**A**hl United Bank has emerged as the Kingdom's Best Finance Provider of the Year 2021. The title was awarded after an exclusive survey conducted by Global Finance magazine across 102 countries.

Global Finance honoured the institutions that have brought the highest levels of service, innovation, and expertise to their

clientele.

Joseph D. Giarraputo, publisher and editorial director of Global Finance, said: "The Trade Finance sector was hit particularly hard by the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, and providers were forced to respond and adapt to the unforeseen challenges it presented. The winners of our annual Trade Finance awards are institutions that responded to the unprecedented landscape of 2020 with new technologies and improved capabilities that

helped their clients succeed."

Commenting, Othman Hijazi, Group Head of Corporate Banking at AUB, said, "This recognition from none other than Global Finance is a clear testament to the agility and resilience of our trade finance offering in the face of COVID-19. We are continuously monitoring market conditions and navigating trends and fluctuations to keep our clients well-equipped to conduct trade on the global stage."

"Our integrated network, product offerings, and technical

capabilities are well-optimised to facilitate the management of risk when exporting and importing goods and services. Despite the challenging operating environment in major markets this year, we were able to increase our profitability. Our response to the unprecedented circumstances was to swiftly endorse enhanced methods of processing trade finance transactions and embrace a set of digital solutions and service channels", added Hijazi.



## 'KHCB' honours outstanding employees with 'STARS'

TDT | Manama

**K**haliji Commercial Bank (KHCB) recently honoured 35 of its best-performing employees in 2020 as part of the bank's Staff Appreciation and Recognition Scheme (STARS), for their dedication and distinguished efforts towards the bank's clients and improving their performance throughout the past year.

The honoured departments included Credit Management, Operations, Financial Control,



Employees during the honouring ceremony

Treasury and Investment, Compliance, Legal, Risk Management, Information Technology, Business Banking, Corporate Banking and Debit Capital Markets, and Corporate Communications.

On the occasion, KHCB CEO, Sattam Sulaiman Algosaibi, stated, "The Bank firmly believes that the honouring of outstanding employees constitutes a great incentive for them to strive for creativity, innovation, and adopting the best operational practices."

## KFH names January grand prize winner of \$100,000



Khalid Al-Maafri, Hamed Mashal

TDT | Manama

**K**uwait Finance House (KFH) - Bahrain has announced Noora Ameen as the monthly grand winner of \$100,000, in addition to the 20 winners of a total of \$20,000 and the 50 winners of Libshara special segments with a total of \$25,000.

The winners were announced during January's Libshara Investment Savings Account remote prize draw.

Commenting, Khalid Al-Maafri, Executive Manager and Head of Retail & Private Banking Group at KFH - Bahrain, said: "We are pleased to congratulate the first grand prize winner of our 2021 campaign for January, Noora Ameen, and to all the winners of Libshara prize draw."

Hamed Mashal, Head of Retail Banking at KFH-Bahrain said, "We have improved the Libshara campaign for 2021 to provide the opportunity for a

larger number of clients to win valuable cash prizes, in line with our continuous efforts to provide the best banking products and services to our valued clients."

Expressing her excitement, Noora Ameen said: "I was surprised and shocked by the congratulatory call I received, and I am very pleased to extend my sincere gratitude to the Bank for its tireless efforts in providing the best banking services and products."

Libshara Investment Savings Account offers two prizes worth \$500,000 for the 2021 campaign, in addition to a monthly grand prize of \$100,000. It also provides 20 monthly cash prizes of \$1,000 and 50 monthly cash prizes of \$500 in the categories of "Our Women", "Our Children", "Our Savers", and "Our Cards". Besides, the account offers JAZEEL prize for clients who open both JAZEEL and Libshara investment savings accounts.

## Biden scores legislative win as House passes \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan

Reuters | Washington

\$1,400 direct payments to individuals, a \$400-per-week federal unemployment benefit through Aug. 29, and help for those in difficulty paying rents and home mortgages during the pandemic.

Democrats said the package was needed to fight a pandemic that has killed more than 500,000 Americans and thrown millions out of work.

"The American people need to know that their government is there for them," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a debate on the House floor.

Republicans, who have broadly backed previous COVID-19 spending, said much of the current package was not necessary, highlighting elements such as a subway near Pelosi's San Francisco district.

Only 9% of the total would go directly toward fighting the virus, they said.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT At 31 December 2020						
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 31 December 2020		CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME For the year ended 31 December 2020				
	2020 US\$ '000	2019 US\$ '000		2020 US\$ '000	2019 US\$ '000	
<b>ASSETS</b>			<b>INCOME</b>			
Cash and bank balances	3,521	2,233	Income (Loss) from:			
Due from banks	-	1,000	Investment in sukuk	778	428	
Financing receivables		560	Investment in equities and funds	(357)	89	
Investment in sukuk	16,332	16,560	Due from banks	11	136	
Investment in equities and funds	4,320	4,691	Financing receivables	-	63	
Investment in real estate	19,421	25,866	Mudaraba receivables	-	16	
Equipment	141	135	Less: Return to short term sukuk investors and banks	-	(823)	
Other assets	709	388		432	(91)	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>44,444</b>	<b>51,433</b>	Investment banking fees	335	339	
<b>LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY</b>			Ijarah income	1,188	1,184	
<b>Liabilities</b>			Foreign exchange loss	-	(1)	
Staff payables	1,187	1,254	Other income	426	539	
Other liabilities	931	636		2,381	1,970	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>			
<b>Owners' Equity</b>			<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Share capital	59,039	59,039	Staff costs	973	2,635	
Reserves	8,282	8,282	Depreciation	937	692	
Accumulated losses	(24,995)	(17,778)	General and administrative expenses	905	1,243	
<b>Total owners' equity</b>	<b>42,326</b>	<b>49,543</b>	<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>44,444</b>	<b>51,433</b>	<b>NET LOSS FOR THE YEAR BEFORE IMPAIRMENT PROVISION</b>			
				(434)	(2,600)	
			Net allowances for credit losses	(790)	(52)	
			Impairment (provision) recoveries on investments	(5,993)	48	
			(including investment in real estate)			
			<b>NET LOSS FOR THE YEAR</b>			
				(7,217)	(2,604)	
<b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY</b>						
For the year ended 31 December 2020						
			<b>Reserves</b>			
			<b>Paid-up Share capital</b>			
			<b>Statutory reserve</b>			
			<b>General reserve</b>			
			<b>Investment fair value reserve</b>			
			<b>Total reserves</b>			
			<b>(Accumulated deficit)</b>			
			<b>Total owners' equity</b>			
Balance at 1 January 2020	59,039	3,881	2,226	2,175	8,282	(17,778) 49,543
Net loss for the year	-	-	-	-	-	(7,217) (7,217)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>59,039</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>8,282</b>	<b>(24,995) 42,326</b>
Balance as of 1 January 2019	59,039	3,881	2,226	2,175	8,282	(15,174) 52,147
Net loss for the year	-	-	-	-	-	(2,604) (2,604)
Balance at 31 December 2019	59,039	3,881	2,226	2,175	8,282	(17,778) 49,543
<b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>						
For the year ended 31 December 2020						
			<b>Reserves</b>			
			<b>Paid-up Share capital</b>			
			<b>Statutory reserve</b>			
			<b>General reserve</b>			
			<b>Investment fair value reserve</b>			
			<b>Total reserves</b>			
			<b>(Accumulated deficit)</b>			
			<b>Total owners' equity</b>			
Net cash (used in) from operating activities	299		(15,977)			
Net Cash used in investing activities	(11)		-			
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>288</b>		<b>(15,977)</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	3,233		19,210			
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<b>3,521</b>		<b>3,233</b>			

These were extracted from the Consolidated Financial Statements on which Ernst & Young issued an unqualified opinion dated 25 February 2021 which are available on LMC website.
These Consolidated Financial Statements have been authorized for issuance in accordance with a resolution of the board of Directors dated 24 February 2021 .
Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C. (c) is Licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as Wholesale Islamic Bank.
The Group's total equity as at 31 December 2020 is US\$ 42.326 million (31 December 2019: US\$ 49.543 million) which is less than the minimum capital requirement of US\$ 100 million required under LR Module of Volume 2 of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) rule book (LR- 2.5.BB), and the Shareholders of the Bank, in their Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") held on 27 April 2020, passed a resolution approving the conversion of the Bank's license from an Islamic Wholesale Bank to a Bahrain Shariholding Company subject to CBB approval.
Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C. (c)

Reuters | Washington

President Joe Biden scored his first legislative win as the House of Representatives passed his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package early Saturday, though Democrats face challenges to their hopes of using the bill to raise the minimum wage.

Democrats who control the chamber passed the sweeping measure by a mostly party-line vote of 219 to 212 and sent it on to the Senate, where Democrats planned a legislative manoeuvre to allow them to pass it without the support of Republicans.

The American Rescue Plan would pay for vaccines and medical supplies and send a new round of emergency financial aid to households, small businesses and state and local governments. The bill's big-ticket items include

\$1,400 direct payments to individuals, a \$400-per-week federal unemployment benefit through Aug. 29, and help for those in difficulty paying rents and home mortgages during the pandemic.

Democrats said the package was needed to fight a pandemic that has killed more than 500,000 Americans and thrown millions out of work.

"The American people need to know that their government is there for them," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a debate on the House floor.

Republicans, who have broadly backed previous COVID-19 spending, said much of the current package was not necessary, highlighting elements such as a subway near Pelosi's San Francisco district. Only 9% of the total would go directly toward fighting the virus, they said.

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Email: info@lmcahrain.com

# Myanmar police launch most extensive crackdown

Officers intensify use of force, firing teargas and rubber bullets at people protesting against coup

◆ Woman reportedly shot and wounded during crackdown

Reuters | Yangon



Police arrest anti-coup protesters in Yangon

Police in Myanmar launched their most sweeping crackdown in three weeks of nationwide protests against military rule yesterday, arresting hundreds of people and shooting and wounding at least one person.

State television announced that Myanmar's U.N. envoy had been fired for betraying the country, a day after he urged the United Nations to use "any means necessary" to reverse the Feb. 1 coup that ousted elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army seized power and detained Suu Kyi and much of her party leadership, alleging fraud in a November election her party won in a landslide.

The coup, which stalled My-

anmare's progress toward democracy, has brought hundreds of thousands of protesters onto the streets and drawn condemnation from Western countries, with some imposing limited sanctions.

Police were out in force early yesterday, taking up positions at usual protest sites in the main city of Yangon.

Confrontations developed as people came out despite the police operation, chanting and

singing. They scattered into side streets and buildings as police advanced, firing tear gas, setting off stun grenades and shooting guns into the air. Police set upon some people with clubs, witnesses said.

State-run MRTV television said more than 470 people had been arrested across the country. It said police had given warnings before dispersing people with stun grenades.

"People blocked the roads



More than 770 people have been arrested, charged and sentenced since the putsch with some 680 still behind bars

without reason. Among those arrested, we will scrutinize those who organize the protests and take tough action," it said.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners rights group said it believed the number of arrests was higher, with at least 10 prison buses carrying 40 to 50 people each taken to the Insein Prison in Yangon.

Several journalists were among those detained, their media organisations and colleagues said.

## Spanish report calls for killing of more than 850 cattle on pariah ship

Reuters | Madrid



Livestock ship docked in Cartagena

More than 850 cows that spent months aboard a ship wandering across the Mediterranean are not fit for transport anymore and should be killed, according to a confidential report by Spanish government veterinarians.

The cows were kept in what an animal rights activist called

"hellish" conditions on the Karim Allah, which docked in the southeastern Spanish port of Cartagena on Thursday after struggling to find a buyer for the cattle during the past two months.

The beasts were rejected by several countries over fears they had bovine bluetongue virus. The insect-borne virus causes lameness and haemorrhaging

among cattle. Bluetongue does not affect humans.

The veterinarians' report concluded that the animals had suffered from the lengthy journey. Some of them were unwell and not fit for transport outside of the European Union, nor should they be allowed in the EU. Euthanasia would be the best solution for their health and welfare, it said.

## Trump endorses rival to Republican who voted to impeach

AFP | Washington

Former US president Donald Trump has signaled he will seek revenge on fellow Republicans who voted to impeach him last month, and he followed through, endorsing an ex-aide against an Ohio congressman.

Trump threw his "complete and total" support behind Max Miller, a 2020 deputy campaign manager and White House advisor challenging Representative Anthony Gonzalez, one of 10 Republicans who voted to impeach Trump after the deadly January 6 riot at the US Capitol.

"Max Miller is a wonderful person who did a great job at the White House and will be a fantastic congressman," Trump said in a statement.

"Current Rep. Anthony Gonzalez should not be representing the people of the 16th district because he does not represent their interest or their heart," Trump added.

## Archaeologists uncover ancient ceremonial carriage near Pompeii

Reuters | Rome

Archaeologists have unearthed a unique ancient-Roman ceremonial carriage from a villa just outside Pompeii, the city buried in a volcanic eruption in 79 AD.

The almost perfectly preserved four-wheeled carriage made of iron, bronze and tin was found near the stables of an ancient villa at Civita Giulia-



The ancient-Roman ceremonial carriage discovered in Pompeii

ana, around 700 metres (yards) north of the walls of ancient Pompeii.

Massimo Osanna, the outgoing director of the Pompeii archaeological site, said the carriage was the first of its kind discovered in the area, which had so far yielded functional vehicles used for transport and work, but not for ceremonies.

"This is an extraordinary discovery that advances our understanding of the ancient world," Osanna said, adding that the carriage would have "accompanied festive moments for the community, (such as

parades and processions".

The culture ministry called it "a unique find, without any precedent in Italy".

Pompeii, 23 km (14 miles) southeast of Naples, was home to about 13,000 people when it was buried under ash, pumice pebbles and dust as it endured the force of an eruption equivalent to many atomic bombs.

About two-thirds of the 66-hectare (165-acre) ancient town has been uncovered. The ruins were not discovered until the 16th century and organised excavations began in about 1750.

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Pompeii, 23 km (14 miles) southeast of Naples, was home to about 13,000 people when it was buried under ash, pumice pebbles and dust as it endured the force of an eruption equivalent to many atomic bombs

## News in brief

◆ **Haiti prison breakout leaves 25 dead, 200 on the run**



More than 200 prisoners were on the run in Haiti, a day after they escaped from jail in a violent breakout that left 25 people dead including the prison director, officials said. About 400 inmates fled on Thursday, with photographs showing at least three dead bodies lying outside the prison and some captured prisoners under armed guard in the back of a truck.

◆ **Colombia launches 'elite force' to hunt rebels, drug gangs**



Colombia launched a 7,000-strong elite force to fight rebels financed by drug trafficking and other illegal activities, and which allegedly operate across borders.

Surrounded by helicopters, tanks and hundreds of soldiers at the Tolemaida military base in central Colombia, President Ivan Duque described the launch as "historic". The force, he said, will be tasked with "subduing, beating and subjecting the structures of drug trafficking and the... threats linked to the illegal exploitation of minerals, trafficking of species, of persons and, of course, to any transnational form of terrorism."

◆ **UN, European states call on Israel to halt demolitions**



The United Nations and European members of the Security Council called on Israel to stop demolitions of Bedouin settlements in the Jordan Valley, and for humanitarian access to the community living in Humsa Al-Baqaa.

In a joint statement at the end of a monthly session of the Security Council on the conflict in the Middle East, Estonia, France, Ireland, Norway and Britain said they were "deeply concerned at the recent repeated demolitions and confiscation of items, including of EU and donor funded structures carried out by Israeli authorities at Humsa Al-Baqaa in the Jordan Valley."

◆ **Leading Cuban dissident Jose Daniel Ferrer arrested at his home in Santiago de Cuba, one of his supporters**



Dissident leader Ferrer arrested in Cuba: supporter

◆ **Cuba approves animal welfare law after civil society pressure**



Cuba has approved a long called-for decree on animal welfare in what

some rights activists are hailing as an unusual triumph of civil society in the Communist-run country where animal sacrifice and cock and dog fighting remain commonplace. The move aims to prevent cruelty and raise awareness about the need to protect animals, marking a cultural advance in a nation where strays abound and the coast is strewn with chicken carcasses sacrificed in religious rituals.

## COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1	USA	29,151,933	523,373	114,196,390
2	India	11,096,378	157,085	Deaths
3	Brazil	10,457,794	252,988	2,532,972
4	Russia	4,234,720	85,743	Recovered:
5	UK	4,170,519	122,705	89,761,858
6	France	3,712,020	86,147	New cases
7	Spain	3,188,553	69,142	+246,247
8	Italy	2,907,825	97,507	New deaths
9	Turkey	2,693,164	28,432	+5,420
10	Germany	2,437,760	70,460	
11	Colombia	2,244,792	59,518	
12	Argentina	2,098,728	51,887	
13	Mexico	2,076,882	184,474	
14	Poland	1,696,885	43,656	

Figures as of closing

## Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	181,241		10,590		139,927	30,724
Saudi Arabia	377,061	+338	6,488	+5	368,011	2,562
UAE	388,594	+3,434	1,213	+15	379,708	7,673
Kuwait	189,890	+844	1,078	+6	178,197	10,615
Oman	140,588		1,562		131,684	7,342
Qatar	163,197	+460	257		153,219	9,721

## Armenia crisis grows as president blocks bid to fire army chief



People take part in a protest to oust Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan

Reuters | Yerevan

Armenian President Armen Sarkisian said yesterday he had refused to sign a prime ministerial order to dismiss the army's chief of staff, deepening an entrenched national political crisis.

The move came as several thousand opposition protesters took to the streets of Armenia's capital Yerevan for the third day running to call for the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

They want him to go over his handling of last year's war with Azerbaijan, which many see as a national humiliation.

The fresh protests, which have continued on and off since the fighting ended in November, erupted Thursday when Pashinyan defied a call by the military to resign and accused the army of an attempted coup.

He also ordered the chief of the general staff Onik Gasparyan to be fired -- but yesterday, Armenian President Sarkisian, whose role is largely ceremonial, said in a statement that he would not back the move.

"The president of the republic, within the framework of his constitutional powers, returned the draft decree with objections," the presidency said.

The political crisis "cannot be resolved through frequent personnel changes", the statement added.

The leadership of the small South Caucasus nation appeared to be at an impasse.

Soon after the announcement, Pashinyan wrote on Facebook that he would send the order to the presidency once more, saying its decision



**For months Pashinyan had weathered the crisis with the backing of Armenia's military, but on Thursday it too joined the calls for him to step down**

had not defused the crisis "at all".

Meanwhile, several thousand opposition protesters marched through central Yerevan, calling for the prime minister's resignation. Many more leaned out of windows and balconies along the way to cheer them on.

By 7:30 pm (1530 GMT) the procession arrived at the parliament building, where some protesters have set up camp, an AFP correspondent reported.

Roughly 5,000 demonstrators gathered there for a rally earlier in the day, urging lawmakers to take action.

"Pashinyan must leave for the sake of our state because his position is very weak today. Nobody takes him seriously," Vera Simonyan, a 28-year-old IT specialist, told AFP at the rally.

Former premier Vazgen Mankuyan, who has been named by the opposition to replace Pashinyan, told the crowd that he expected the political crisis to be "resolved within two to three days".

# Kidnappers release 42 boys abducted from Nigeria school

Twenty-seven students, three staff and 12 members of their families had been abducted last week by an armed gang

### ● Search for 300 abducted girls continue

Reuters | Maiduguri

Unmen in Nigeria yesterday released 27 teenage boys who were kidnapped from their school last week in the northern state of Niger, while security forces continued to search for more than 300 schoolgirls abducted in a nearby state.

Schools have become targets for mass kidnappings for ransom in northern Nigeria by armed groups, many of whom carry guns and ride motorcycles.

On Feb. 17, 27 students, three staff and 12 members of their families were abducted by an armed gang who stormed the Government Science secondary school in the Kagara district of Niger state, overwhelming the school's security detail. One boy was killed during the raid.

After their release, boys were seen by a Reuters witness walking with armed security through a dusty village, some struggling to stand and asking for water. A government official said the boys were aged between 15 and 18.



A piece of cloth belonging to one of the students is seen on the ground at the Government Science College in Kagara

"The Abducted Students, Staff and Relatives of Government Science Collage Kagara have regained their freedom and have been received by the Niger State Government," Governor Abubakar Sani Bello said in a tweet.

The release of the schoolboys comes just a day after the raid on a school in Zamfara state where gunmen seized 317 girls.

The recent attacks have raised concern about rising violence by armed gangs and Islamist

insurgents. Jihadist group Boko Haram carries out abductions in Nigeria's turbulent northeast, as does a branch of Islamic State.

The unrest has become a political problem for President Muhammadu Buhari, a retired general and former military ruler who has faced mounting criticism in recent months over high profile attacks by the gangs known locally as "bandits".

Buhari replaced his long-standing military chiefs this month amid worsening violence in Nigeria.

**The Abducted Students, Staff and Relatives of Government Science Collage Kagara have regained their freedom and have been received by the Niger State Government**

GOVERNOR ABUBAKAR SANI BELLO

olence in Nigeria.

In December, gunmen raided a school in northwestern Katsina state and kidnapped nearly 350 boys, who were subsequently rescued by security forces.

Violence and insecurity have compounded the economic challenges faced by citizens in Africa's most populous country and top oil exporter, which is struggling to cope with a fall in revenues due to a slump in crude prices in addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The most high profile school kidnapping was that of more than 270 schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram from the town of Chibok in 2014. Around 100 of them remain missing.

## Tiger Woods in "good spirits" after follow up treatment for leg injuries

AFP | Washington

Tiger Woods is recovering and in "good spirits" after a second day of treatment at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center following his horrific rollover solo car smash that left him with serious leg injuries.

The golf superstar was transferred to Cedars-Sinai on Wednesday night after undergoing emergency surgery



Tiger Woods

your continued privacy."

The 15-time major champion Woods was driving alone Tuesday morning in a south Los Angeles suburb when his SUV hit the centre median, crossed into the opposing lane, struck a tree and then rolled over several times.

Friday's statement did not go into detail about what type of follow up treatment Woods is receiving at Cedars-Sinai which is located about 15 kilometres (nine miles) west of Los Angeles and is renowned for treating Hollywood's rich and famous.

## Britain says farewell to pandemic hero Captain Tom Moore

AFP | London

Britain bid farewell yesterday to Captain Tom Moore with a nationally televised funeral for the 100-year-old war veteran who became a global hero for his extraordinary fundraising efforts during the pandemic.

Soldiers formed a guard of honour at the small ceremony held by Moore's family at a crematorium in Bedford in central England.

Six soldiers from the Yorkshire Regiment, the successor to the one Moore served in during World War II, carried his coffin, draped with the Union Jack and his military cap and sword as 14 soldiers gave a firing salute.

Later a World War II plane was to perform a fly-past.

Moore died on February 2 after being treated for pneumonia and testing positive for Covid-19.

He raised nearly £33 million (\$45 million, 37.4 million euros) for healthcare charities by completing 100 lengths of his garden before his 100th birthday in April last year.



Soldiers from the British Army's Yorkshire Regiment attend the funeral of Captain Tom Moore at Bedford Crematorium

garden before his 100th birthday in April last year.

The image of the stooped but dapper veteran, leaning on his walking frame and rarely seen without shining military service medals pinned to his blazer, and a regimental tie, was a rare good news story in a gloomy year.

Queen Elizabeth II knighted him in the summer of 2020.

His death was marked by a nationwide clap with Prime Minister Boris Johnson taking part and MPs bowing their heads in parliament.



Captain Tom Moore

Moore's performance of "You'll Never Walk Alone," a charity single that he recorded with Michael Ball, was played at the start of the ceremony.

He had asked for his epitaph to be "I told you I was old," inspired by comedian Spike Milligan whose gravestone says "I told you I was ill."

His ashes were later to be interred in a family plot in his

**£33mln**  
(\$45 million, 37.4 million euros) was raised by Captain Tom Moore for healthcare charities by completing 100 lengths of his garden before his 100th birthday in April last year

native Yorkshire in northern England, with his parents and grandparents.

The family set up an online book of condolences that gathered thousands of messages.

"RIP Captain Sir Tom. Truly a life well lived and an inspiration to us all -- shining a light in very dark days," wrote Debbie Mather.

"Your courage and determination to reach your goal and the money you raised for the NHS was unbelievable," wrote Sandra Norbrun.

## Indian rooster kills owner with cockfight blade

AFP | Hyderabad

A rooster fitted with a knife for an illegal cockfight in southern India has killed its owner, sparking a manhunt for the organisers of the event, police said yesterday.

The bird had a knife attached to its leg ready to take on an opponent when it inflicted serious injuries to the man's groin as it tried to escape, officers said.

The victim died from loss of blood before he could reach a hospital in the Karimnagar district of Telangana state earlier this week, local police officer B. Jeevan told AFP.

The man was among 16 people organising the cockfight in the village of Lothunur when the freak accident took place, Jeevan said.

# Classifieds

THE DAILY tribune

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

**ARABIAN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732437 or AWALSERV@BATELCO.COM.BH

**Prime Projects International Construction W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39541982 or georgia@prime-projects.com

**ALGHANAH GROUP W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722333 or info@alghanah.com

**STAR GROUP COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17300013 or ahmed@stargroupbh.com

**ALEZZ CONTRACTING & MECHANICAL SERVICES CO.W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17213003 or ALEZZC01@GMAIL.COM

**Visma construction Est.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36004400 or MSAKHEER@LIVE.COM

**Professional touch for services** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720009 or INFO@pro-touch-s.com

**Danway Electrical & Mechanical Engineering LLC** has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17297600 or danbahrain@danwayeme.com

**AL MADED CARGO HANDLING**W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35487150 or ALMADECARGOWLL@GMAIL.COM

**Techino Vehicle Service** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33386225 or SALHLY899@GMAIL.COM

**CASAFORMA WORKSHOP W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39451865 or ALMARAAYADE@GMAIL.COM

**HASHTAG FASHION** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36366670 or MAYOOM\_84@HOTMAIL.COM

**AL SHARKIA WORLD CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33040577 or SAMEERNOR046@GMAIL.COM

**SAMKAWI RESTAURANT** has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17203186 or JAMEEL\_QAHIRI@HOTMAIL.COM

**GKS METALS W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39141229 or SURESHMANI336@GMAIL.COM

**SALON ALSAYED ALSHAEBI SPC** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36388878 or SALAMA8859@OUTLOOK.COM

**AMANHA TRADING CO WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34650777 or amanhatrading@gmail.com

**LUCKY BIRD LAUNDRY** has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34203949 or SADAFAFZAL81@GMAIL.COM

**Al Tizihbong For Cars spare parts Trading W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34332051 or JOSHIBROWN894@GMAIL.COM

**Muralika Creations WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33190465 or info@mcreations.biz

**Ain Al Dar Gate Garage Bahraini** partnership company has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34103333 or MDSOHAG3773@GMAIL.COM

**Seamen Contracting WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1700297 or hussainch435@gmail.com

**NANO CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227206 or GEEPASBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

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# Celebs

## Kanye West spent over \$12M of his own money on 2020 presidential campaign

Nearly \$1 million was spent on campaign apparel on Election Day

Fox | Los Angeles

**T**hose who believed Kanye West's 2020 presidential run was lofty may be even more surprised by how much he spent funding it.

A final Federal Election Commission report of the costs associated with West's "Kanye 2020" campaign shows the 43-year-old rapper and fashion designer spent \$13.2 million, with over \$12 million coming from his own pocket.

The FEC report breaks down 278 expenses "Kanye 2020" had from July 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020, with some of the largest as follows: \$7.5 million for ballot services to get his name on the ballot in multiple states, \$918,130 on "campaign apparel" on Election Day, and \$210,544 for the two-page ad that ran

in The New York Times, The Hollywood Reporter said.

The report shows that West also spent hundreds of thousands related to "campaign video" costs. Consulting and legal fees also totaled millions.

West made the concession in a tweet after appearing on the ballot in 12 states in the presidential election between then-Democratic

nominee Joe Biden and President Donald Trump.

"WELP," West said in the tweet. "KANYE 2024."

West appeared on the ballot in 12 states and notched more than a thousand votes in all of the contests, according to preliminary tallies by The Associated Press.

West first announced his candidacy on Independence Day of 2020. He ran under the "Birth-day Party" and launched the campaign with **Kanye West**



**\$13.2**  
million was the total cost of "Kanye 2020" campaign

the hashtag #2020Vision and the slogan "Ye for President."

West is currently in the middle of a divorce from his wife of almost 7 years, Kim Kardashian. The "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" star, 40, filed for divorce earlier this month. An insider recently told People magazine West believes it was his 2020 run for president that "cost him his marriage."

## Lady Gaga's dogs return unharmed



Lady Gagas with her dogs (file photo)

IANS | Los Angeles

A woman has turned in Lady Gagas two French bulldogs at a Los Angeles police station, two days after they were stolen in a brazen armed robbery in Hollywood.

Gaga had offered a \$500,000 (around 3.68 crore) reward for the return of the dogs. There was no immediate word on whether the reward would be claimed.

Lady Gaga's dogwalker, Ryan Fischer, was shot once while struggling with the robbers on Wednesday night. He is in stable condition, according to police. The robbers made off with two of the singer's three dogs -- Koji and Gustav, variety.com reported.

The dogs were turned in

at the LAPD Olympic station around 6 p.m. on Friday, and were reunited with Lady Gaga's representatives, said LAPD Officer Mike Lopez.

The robbers remain at large, and the investigation is ongoing, Lopez said.

Earlier on Friday, Gaga praised Fischer as a hero for having "risked your life to fight for our family." She also pleaded for the return of the dogs.

"My heart is sick and I am praying my family will be whole again with an act of kindness," she wrote.

According to the LAPD, Fischer was walking the dogs near Sierra Bonita Avenue and Sunset Boulevard around 9.40 p.m. on Wednesday when he was accosted by two armed men. Surveillance video of the attack, obtained by TMZ, showed Fischer struggling with the men as they sought to wrest away the dogs. Fischer was shot once, and the men fled in a white Nissan Altima.

Gaga is in Italy, where she is preparing to shoot a film with Ridley Scott. The film is based on the book "The House of Gucci: A Sensational Story of Murder, Madness, Glamour, and Greed." She will play Patrizia Reggiani, the ex-wife of Maurizio Gucci, who was convicted for orchestrating his assassination on the steps of his office in Italy in 1995.

### NOTICE

I, Mr. Sajeer Karengal  
Kadar S/o. Mr. Karengal  
Kadar, holder of Indian  
Passport  
No. S9741829 issued at  
Bahrain on 05.11.2018  
permanent residence  
at Karengal House,  
Adhoor, Vellarakkad,  
Thrissur, Kerala. 680584  
and temporary resident  
of flat 22, building  
1483, Road 2357, Block  
523, Saar and Ms. Zurfika  
Riyaza Nazeer, holder  
of SriLankan Passport  
No. N4685838 issued at  
SriLanka on 12.12.2012  
permanent residence  
at No 25, Upper Gibson  
Road, Nuwara Eliya and  
temporary resident of  
Flat 13, building 273, Road  
53, Block 550, Budaiya.  
intend to solemnize our  
civil marriage on March  
at the Embassy of India,  
Building 1090, Al Seef, P.O.  
Box 26106, Kingdom of  
Bahrain under the Foreign  
Marriage Act 1969 of  
India.  
Objection(s), if any,  
may be forwarded to  
the Embassy of India,  
Kingdom of Bahrain  
within a period of 30  
days from the date of  
publication of this notice

## Rebel Wilson to star in 'Senior Year'

ANI | Washington

**A**ctor-comedian Rebel Wilson is set to star in the Paramount Players high school comedy titled 'Senior Year'.

As per The Hollywood Reporter, the upcoming project will be helmed by Alex Hardcastle. Apart from featuring in the film, Wilson will also produce along with Todd Garner and Chris Bender.

Brandon Scott Jones is on board to write the script based on a spec from Andrew Knauer and Arthur Pielli. The forth-

coming movie will focus on a cheerleader who wakes from a 20-year coma and returns to high school to earn the prom queen crown that she missed the first time around.

Jeremy Stein, Jake Wagner, and Jake Weiner will serve as executive producers for 'Senior Year'.

Wilson took a break in 2020 after a wildly busy 2019 that started with her New Line comedy 'Isn't It Romantic'. She followed that up with a starring role opposite Anne Hathaway

in 'The Hustle' and also had supporting roles in 'Jojo Rabbit' and 'Cats'.

Meanwhile, Hardcastle is best known for his work in the TV world having worked on several hit shows that include 'Love, Simon', 'You're the Worst' and 'Grace And Frankie'.

Rebel Wilson



## Is Emma Watson retiring from acting? Actor's manager refutes rumours

ANI |  
Washington

**A**ctor Emma Watson, who rose to fame by playing Hermione Granger in

the popular 'Harry Potter' franchise, has been recently making headlines after it was reported that the star has retired from acting. However, it seems like the rumour mills have got it all wrong.

As per Entertainment Weekly, the actor's manager cleared the air, putting an end to all such reports doing the rounds. Her manager, Jason Weinberg,

denied the rumours, telling the publication in a statement, "Emma's social media accounts are dormant but her career isn't."

The 30-year-old star's Instagram account bio currently reads, "Emma's official Instagram page is currently dormant and is not being updated," while her profile picture is a simple black icon.



Emma Watson

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
The dogs were turned in at the LAPD Olympic station around 6 p.m. on Friday, and were reunited with Lady Gaga's representatives, said LAPD Officer Mike Lopez

### SUDOKU

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

#### Yesterday's solution

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

#### How to play

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

### CROSSWORD

**Across**  
1- Men; 6- Abby's twin; 9- Preceding, poetically; 14- Fish covering; 15- Bus, bigwig; 16- Lustrous black; 17- Abandoned village; 19- Rock; 20- French possessive; 21- Commedia dell'arte; 22- Conger catcher; 23- Phooey!; 25- Equip; 26- Go at full speed; 29- Actress Turner; 31- Place for beehives; 32- Worship as; 36- Sphere; 37- How was \_ know?; 38- Like a noted Norwegian Blue parrot?; 40- Airbrush; 43- 1998 Masters winner Mark; 45- sow, so shall.; 46- For sure?; 47- Try; 50- False god; 51- Melody; 52- Blind as; 54- Pompous person; 57- Extreme; 58- Capable of being delegated; 61- Streamlined; 62- DDE opponent; 63- Nudge; 64- Pithy; 65- Juilliard deg.; 66- Springs;

**Down**  
1- High-ranking NCO; 2- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 3- Neighbor of Cambodia; 4- Golfer Ernie; 5- A collection of articles; 6- Future oak; 7- Salamander; 8- Not one; 9- Collection of weaponry; 10- Destined; 11- Convex molding; 12- Continue a subscription; 13- Cabinet dept.; 18- Loiter; 23- Distributed cards; 24- Lingus; 25- Brian of rock music; 26- Where the truck driver rides; 27- On \_ with; 28- Make angry; 29- Supply; 30- Stir; 33- Utopian; 34- Fervor; 35- British nobleman; 37- Slick; 39- Dawn to dusk; 41- Bread-like item made of Quaker product?; 42- Put into service; 43- Pontificate; 44- culpa; 47- Silk fabric; 48- Late bloomer; 49- Fathers; 50- Light wood; 51- New wine; 52- Madam, I'm \_; 53- Taco choice; 54- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 55- Swill; 56- Puts in stitches; 59- Toothpaste type; 60- Malt beverage;

#### Yesterday's solution

R	A	P	S	E	T	O	N	T	S	E					
E	L	I	H	U	V	A	L	E	W	E	P	T			
N	I	Z	A	M	E	N	E	R	A	L	A	S			
O	V	E	N	U	N	G	O	D	L	Y					
E	S	T	O	P	S	Y	E	L	L	W	O				
E	Y	Y	E	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	I	R	
G	A	M	M	A	E	E	E	E</td							

# BRAVE CF 48 to showcase Arabian talent on a global platform

BRAVE CF announces full fight card for the second of four scheduled fight nights in Kombat Kingdom

**● The event will serve as a global platform for Arab MMA talent to audiences worldwide**

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation, the premier Mixed Martial Arts promotion founded by His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Hamad Al Khalifa and based in the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced the full fight card for its 48th edition, BRAVE CF 48: Arabian Nights.

The event, which will be the second of four scheduled fight nights in Kombat Kingdom, will serve as a global platform for Arab MMA talent to audiences worldwide, from the biggest sports property in the Middle East.

BRAVE CF 48 will be headlined by a Lightweight showdown between French-Algerian powerhouse Yiles Djiroun, making his much-anticipated promotional debut, and Russia's Abdul-Rakhman Makhaziev.

The co-main event of the evening will see the return of Kuwait-Canadian star Tariq Ismail, taking on South Africa's own Nkosi "King" Ndebele, in a Bantamweight contest. Also set for fight night is the debut of Lebanese stand-out Georges Eid, who takes on



Sweden's David Jacobsson, a BRAVE CF veteran looking to bounce back from his latest fight.

<b>BRAVE CF 48 Full Fight Card</b>	
Lightweight - Ylies Djiroun vs Abdul-Rakhman Makhaziev	
Bantamweight - Tariq Ismail vs Nkosi Ndebele	
Catchweight (76 kg) - Georges Eid vs David Jacobsson	
Super Lightweight - Ahmad Labban vs Nemanja Kovac	
Flyweight - Michael Aljarouj vs Magomed Idrisov	
Featherweight - Yousef Ghrairi vs Hassan Talal	
Super Lightweight - Omar El Dafrawy vs Abbas Khan	
Middleweight - Hassan Fakhreddine vs Eslam Mostafa Abdel Menem	
Middleweight - Eslam Abdul Baset vs Mohamad Ghorabi	
Featherweight - Hussein Salem vs Sulaiman Al Modhyan	
Catchweight (59 kg) - Issa Salem vs Maysara Mohamed	
Catchweight (64 kg) - Elias Nedir vs Muhammad Qardaxi	



**BRAVE CF 48 will be headlined by a Lightweight showdown between French-Algerian powerhouse Yiles Djiroun, making his much-anticipated promotional debut, and Russia's Abdul-Rakhman Makhaziev**

square off against "The Sledgehammer" Nemanja Kovac, from Serbia, in the Super Lightweight division, and Mohammad Ghorabi takes on Eslam Abdul Baset at Middleweight.

The younger brother of BRAVE Combat Federation Middleweight World Champion Mohammed Fakhreddine,

Hassan Fakhreddine will return to BRAVE CF, taking on Eslam Mostafa Abdel Menem.

BRAVE CF 48: Arabian Nights will take place on March 18th, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, a week after BRAVE CF 47: Asian Domination in the lead-up to a historic BRAVE CF 50.

## Cebarco Bahrain partners with BRAVE CF Return To Kombat Kingdom

**BRAVE**



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#BRAVECF [www.BRAVECF.com](#)

TDT | Manama

Shaikh Khalid Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has given platform to many athletes and a way to accomplish their dream both locally and globally."

The fastest growing promotions' return to Kombat Kingdom will include the celebration of reaching its 50th event on April 1st. BRAVE CF will be the first global mixed martial arts organization to reach 50 events in recording breaking time while visiting the most number of countries, 21 different nations.

"Cebarco is proud and happy to be a part of making history in the kingdom of Bahrain," says Abdulrahman.

The Kombat Kingdom Returns series will include 4 events starting with BRAVE CF 47: Asian Domination on March 11th, BRAVE CF 48: Arabian Nights on March 18th, BRAVE CF 49: Super Fights on March 28th, and concluding with BRAVE CF 50 on April 1st.

"We are delighted to be a part of an organization which has been part of creating milestones in Bahrain," says Mohammed Abdulrahman, director of Cebarco. "BRAVE CF, under the leadership of HH

## Kamal Magomedov: latest top-tier addition to BRAVE CF's Super Welterweight roster

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation continues its string of new signings with a big addition to its Super Welterweight roster. Kamal Magomedov joins the likes of Ismail Naurdiev, Luis Felipe Dias, Nursultan Ruziboev, and Andreas Stahl as the new names in the division.

Kamal signs with BRAVE CF as one of the best Welterweights out of Russia, but is eager to showcase his best version in what he considers his optimal weight-class - Super Welterweight, or 79,4 kg (175lbs). A Titan FC champion, he believes he will become the next world champion in his new home.

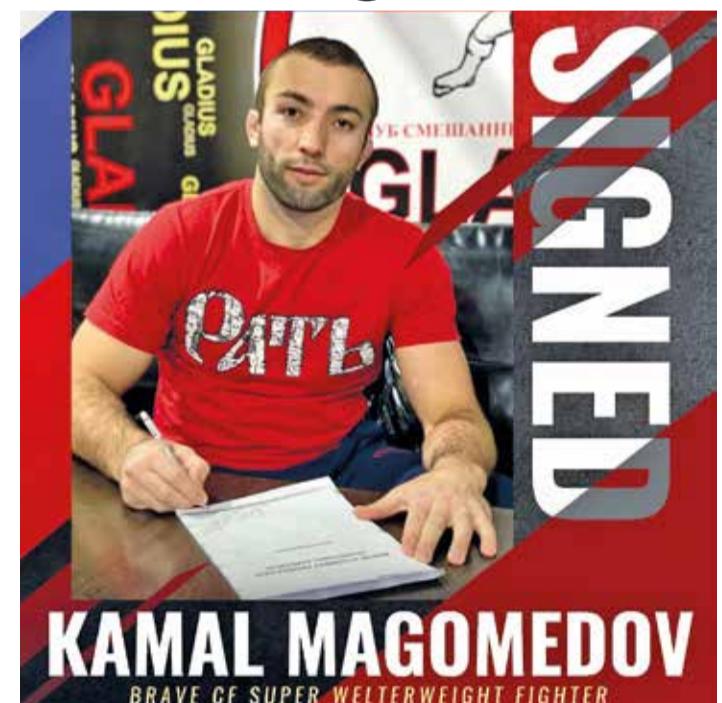
"I am now a BRAVE CF fighter! I will test my skills against the best Super Welterweights in the world. I can't wait to compete at my best weight of 175 lbs - I will be champion! Many thanks to His Highness Shaikh Khalid and to Mohammed Shahid, BRAVE CF president! I will make history"

KAMAL MAGOMEDOV

Shahid, BRAVE CF president! I will make history", said Magomedov, when announcing his signing on social media.

Kamal is undefeated as a professional, with all of his eight victories coming by stoppage - with three KO's and five submission wins. Before turning pro, he had an extensive amateur career, with six win in eight bouts.

Magomedov, Naurdiev, Dias, Ruziboev and Stahl join the likes of world champion and



Arab MMA icon Jarrah Al-Silawi, former titleholder Abdouraguimov, and KO artist Kevin Ruart on the Super Welterweight ranks.

## Key India bowler Bumrah leaves Test squad for 'personal reasons'

AFP | Ahmedabad

India said Saturday that star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has left the squad for the England Test series for "personal reasons".

The surprise move came only two days after India, with Bumrah in the side, thrashed England in the third Test inside two



Jasprit Bumrah

days to take a 2-1 series lead.

The final match starts on Thursday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India said Bumrah had asked "to be released from India's squad ahead of the fourth Test owing to personal reasons".

"Accordingly, the fast bowler has been released and he will

not be available for selection for the fourth Test."

The BCCI said no replacement would be called up.

Bumrah, who has become India's pace spearhead in recent years, bowled only six overs in England's first innings this week and none in the second innings when only spin bowlers were used.

# Pogacar wins UAE Tour after Ewan claims closing sprint

AFP | Dubai

Slovenia's Tour de France champion Tadej Pogacar won cycling's season-opening UAE Tour as Australian Caleb Ewan claimed yesterday's seventh stage sprinting honours in Abu Dhabi.

The 22-year-old Pogacar dominated the race to turn the tables on Briton Adam Yates, who had edged the Slovenian in last year's coronavirus-curtailed edition of the World Tour event.

Pogacar took command of



Pogacar on his way to winning the UAE Tour

the general classification in Monday's time-trial, then won Tuesday's summit finish stage and carefully managed his lead in Thursday's second summit finish.

"This is really big," said Pogacar who gave his UAE state-sponsored team a second success in their home race, four years after it was won by Portugal's Rui Costa.

"It was my first goal of the season and my first home race, so it was really important and I'm super happy...This is one of our best achievements."

In the closing stage, Team

Ineos' Yates fell 40 kilometres from the line, but climbed back on his bike to rejoin the peloton.

Up front, Lotto rider Ewan pounced and passed Sam Bennett in the shadow of the finish to deny the Irishman a third stage win this week.

"We came here to win a stage and there was only one more left to take," said Ewan, who had claimed his first win of the season.

"It was a bit of a relief when I crossed the line. I haven't been this far into the year without a win in my whole career."

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Pogacar who gave his UAE state-sponsored team a second success in their home race, four years after it was won by Portugal's Rui Costa

## Swiatek claims second career title with Adelaide crown

Reuters | London

French Open champion Iga Swiatek breezed past second seed Belinda Bencic 6-2 6-2 in the Adelaide International final yesterday to claim the second title of her career.

The 19-year-old Pole shot out of relative obscurity last year when she became the youngest woman to win the Roland



Iga Swiatek

Garros title since Monica Seles in 1992.

The world number 18 showed again why she is so highly rated with a superb week in Adelaide.

Swiatek did not drop a set throughout the WTA 500 tournament and lost only 22 games in all. She fired 22 winners and made only six unforced errors in the final.

## Tokyo Olympics remains Marcial's main focus

TDT | Manila

Olympic-bound Eumit Felix Marcial could be fighting again as a professional boxer late next month or early April but his main focus remains the Tokyo Games in July.

Currently, the 25-year-old Zamboanga City native is undergoing rigid training at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles, California under the watchful eye of Manny Pacquiao's long-time training Freddie Roach.

Filipino Marvin Somodio, Roach's assistant trainer, is also supervising Marcial's preparation for his coming bout and the Olympics.

"He is taking advantage of all the sparring sessions he gets from different styles — Russians, Americans and Latinos," said Somodio, who added that Marcial is getting all the sparring hours he needs at the Wild Card Gym to keep himself fit and ready.

"He really likes to spar. He hits his punches accurately and is very composed," said Somodio, adding Marcial has improved a lot under Roach's keen eyes. "It wasn't like before when he just throws punches recklessly."

Marcial spars on Mondays,



Marcial with trainer Roach at the Wild Card Gym

Wednesdays and Fridays and does the mitts on Tuesdays alternately with Roach or Somodo.

He added Marcial needs to perfect his counterpunching, control and proper timing because the competition in Tokyo are professional in approach in scoring.

"So he needs to take care of his defense and hit his opponent solidly," he said.

Marcial made a successful debut as a pro by scoring a unanimous decision victory over American Andrew Whitfield last December 16 in Los Angeles.

A few days ago, Marcial had

les. He spends most of his time sparring with 6-foot-4 Diego Pacheco, Gabe Rosado, Russian Artur Akavov and Eric Priest.

In his Instagram post, Marcial — who also trained alongside former American Olympian Pepe Reilly of America, who competed in the men's welterweight event of the 1992 Summer Olympics — shared recent updates on social media regarding his training.

"Couldn't thank these people enough for their help," wrote Marcial with the hashtag #roadtokyo2021.

One of only four Filipino athletes so far have booked a place in the rescheduled Olympics.

# Stones sends Man City 13 points clear

John Stones strikes against West Ham as Manchester City make it 20 in a row

Manchester City are closing in on their third Premier League in four seasons

AFP | London

Manchester City moved 13 points clear at the top of the Premier League as John Stones sealed a 2-1 win against West Ham that made it 20 successive victories in all competitions for the leaders.

Pep Guardiola's side are closing in on their third Premier League in four seasons thanks to priceless contributions from their in-form centre-backs.

Ruben Dias, imperious since signing from Benfica in September, put City ahead with his first goal for the club.

Michail Antonio equalised for West Ham just before half-time, but the revitalised Stones bagged the winner with a fine strike after the break.

City are enjoying the longest ever winning streak by an English top-flight team, with 14 of those 20 victories coming in the league to leave their title rivals trailing in their wake.

They are unbeaten in 27 games across all competitions, one match shy of their longest run without defeat under Guardiola in 2017.

"It was really difficult. After 10-15 minutes today we realise we are not going to paint anything beautiful," Guardiola said.

"Second half we were much better than the first half. When you play a lot of games, in the league and then the Champions League, this is normal."

"We were lucky to get all



John Stones of Manchester City scores his team's second goal past Darren Randolph of West Ham

27

games have been played by Manchester City without facing defeat across all competitions. They one match shy of their longest run without defeat under Guardiola in 2017

three points. The mathematics matter at the end of the season."

Second placed Manchester United and third placed Leicester can close the gap back to 10 points if they beat Chelsea and Arsenal respectively on Sunday.

But it is hard to imagine anyone catching City over the last 12 games of the season.

They survived a stern test from fourth placed West Ham and ominously for the rest of the league, Sergio Aguero returned to the City starting line-up for the first time in four months.

Once he gets his sharpness back, City's record goalscorer will provide a boost to their bid to win an unprecedented quadruple.

## Lewandowski, Gnabry net twice as Bayern Munich go five points clear



Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski (L) and Cologne's Jorge Mere challenge for the ball

AP | Munich

ute, then brilliantly set up Lewandowski in the 34th.

Bundesliga top scorer Robert Lewandowski bagged two goals as Bayern Munich routed Cologne 5-1 to end its two-game winless streak and consolidate its league lead yesterday.

Lewandowski took his season tally to 28 goals as Bayern moved five points clear of Leipzig, which hosts Borussia Mönchengladbach in the late game.

Leon Goretzka, making his first league start since recovering from the coronavirus, lifted a cross for Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting to open the scoring in the 18th min-

Goretzka received the ball from Lewandowski, turned and played the ball through Cologne defender Rafael Czichos' legs, before sending it to the right for Lewandowski to score.

Defensive errors from David Alaba and Jérôme Boateng allowed Ellyes Skhiri pull one back for Cologne after the break, but Lewandowski killed off any notions of a surprise when Thomas Müller set up his second in the 65th.

Müller had only been on the pitch a minute, after making his comeback from his coronavirus infection.