



COVID-19 takes five more lives; 736 new recoveries

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health announced yesterday that the coronavirus (COVID-19) has claimed five more lives in Bahrain.

The deceased included a 44-year-old Bahraini man, along with four expatriate men aged 37, 44, 48 and 58.

Their passing brought the overall number of coronavirus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 83, including 10 in just two days.

The Health Ministry expressed its condolences to the victims' families.

Meanwhile, it was announced early this morning that out of 7,274 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 438 new cases were detected.

From these, 279 were expatriate workers, 150 were contacts of active cases, and nine were travel-related.

There were also 736 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, the Health Ministry said. After confirming that the patients were free of COVID-19, they were released from their respective isolation and treatment centres, bringing the total number of discharged in Bahrain to 20,517.

The total number of current active cases went to 5,105, of which 74 are receiving treatment, with 41 in critical condition. The remaining 5,064 cases are stable.

The total tested increased to 536,516.

Infections top 10 million

Countries overwhelmed by COVID-19 deaths and rising number of people infected getting admitted every day in hospitals

Worldwide death toll exceeds 500,000

US alone has surpassed 2.5 million cases

India recorded more than 15,600 deaths

AFP | Paris

Global infections from the novel coronavirus have surpassed 10 million as the rate of new cases surges.

One million new cases were recorded in only six days, just as countries start to unwind lockdowns that have devastated their economies and thrown millions out of work.

The worldwide death toll from the disease that first emerged in China about six months ago has exceeded 500,000 as fears grow of a full-blown second wave.

The United States, the worst hit country, has surpassed 2.5 million cases as efforts to reopen the world's economic powerhouse were set back by a jump in new infections in states such as Florida.

Infections are also up in some other parts of the world that have reopened, with Europe now registering over 2.6 million.



The United States has recorded over 2.5 million virus cases

'Severe and complicated'

China yesterday imposed a strict lockdown on nearly half a million people in a province surrounding Beijing to contain a fresh coronavirus cluster.

Beijing city official Xu Hejian told reporters that the situation was "severe and complicated," warning that the city needed to continue tracing the spread of the virus.

In the Middle East, the governor of Bethlehem announced that the Palestinian city would

temporarily close due to rising infections.

Iran, which has struggled to curb its outbreak even as it gradually lifted restrictions from April, has launched a mask-wearing campaign.

The tension between reopening battered economies -- efforts pushed in the US by President Donald Trump -- and public health is a source of debate in nearly every country.

On Saturday alone the US recorded more than 43,000 new

cases, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. US deaths now exceed 125,000, approximately one-quarter the world total of almost 499,000.

Across the Atlantic, the EU on Saturday pushed back a decision on a list of "safe countries" from which travellers can visit Europe -- a list which could exclude the US.

Meanwhile stars including Coldplay, Miley Cyrus and Jennifer Hudson lent support to a European Commission-led drive Saturday that raised 6.15 billion euros (\$6.9 billion) to support vaccine research and help make it available to poorer countries.

In India, densely populated cities have been particularly hard hit. The country set a daily record Saturday with 18,500 new cases

and 385 deaths. Total infections are at 509,000, with more than 15,600 deaths.

The disease also continues to rampage through Latin America, with Peru topping 9,000 deaths Saturday.

Brazil -- the second hardest-hit country after the US -- recorded 990 deaths on Saturday, the highest toll in the world that day, while Mexico recorded the second highest at 719.

'Explosion' in Florida

In the US state of Florida, Republican Governor Ron DeSantis has conceded there has been an "explosion" in new cases.

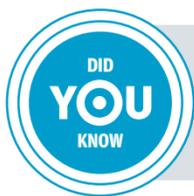
On Saturday the "Sunshine State" notched 9,585 cases in 24 hours, a new daily record.

The average age of people infected has dropped sharply -- to 33 from 65 two months ago. Young people frustrated by months of confinement have poured back to the state's beaches, boardwalks and bars, often without masks and seemingly unconcerned about social distancing.

Miami announced beaches will close over the July 4 holiday weekend and bars are also shutting their doors.

Global events have had to be curtailed because of the virus.

The virus has also thrown world sports into turmoil. Pakistan's cricket board announced it would leave 10 players off its tour of England after they tested positive.



US deaths now exceed 125,000, approximately one-quarter the world total of over 500,000.

ADVANCING THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

Arab Ministers praise Bahrain's COVID-19 fight

TDT | Manama

Arab Ministers of Social Affairs have appraised Bahrain's efforts to tackle the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the health, economic and social sectors.

They highlighted that these initiatives eased the impact of the pandemic on the community in general, and on disabled people, the elderly and needy families. They also praised the efficiency of the social security network and its ability to tackle disasters and crises.

The ministers extended their praise during a virtual emergency session held yesterday by the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs Council to assess the social and humanitarian impact of the global pandemic.

At the end of the meeting, the Arab Ministers for Social Affairs issued a statement to boost social protection systems and broaden the scope of beneficiaries to cover new categories affected by the current crisis. They stressed on the need to coordinate Arab efforts and they also discussed best practices between the Arab member states to curb its spread.

Bahrain's first pharmaceutical factory to produce syrups, soft capsules, injectable drugs

TDT | Manama

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) announced the approval for the first-ever pharmaceutical and health products factory in Bahrain, over a virtual press conference held yesterday.

NHRA CEO Dr Mariam Adhbi Al-Jalahma, Gulf Biotech CEO and Bahrain Pharma board member Dr Riyadh Mohammed Al Ashban, NHRA pharmaceutical product regulation office head Roaya Al Abbasy, and representatives of local newspapers were present at the press conference.

Dr Al Ashban affirmed that the Bahrain Pharma factory will produce forms of syrups and soft capsules, while Gulf Biotech will produce injectable drugs that cover all necessary medicines for emergency situations.

For the first time in the Middle East, the drugs produced will be injectable using advanced technology from Bosch, a German company, which guarantees complete technical work



without human intervention, said Al Ashban.

He also revealed that the production process in the factory will start in two months and the first batch of pharmaceutical products will be available in the markets in September this year. The factory, spread across 10,000 square meters, is to be set up in the industrial area of Al Hidd.

The factory will have a soft capsule production line, a syrup medicine production line, and a storage area for raw materials. It will also include a water treatment unit, air treatment unit and quality control and testing laboratory.

The Gulf Biotech chief and Bahrain

"We will prioritise employing Bahrainis"

GULF BIOTECH CEO, BAHRAIN PHARMA BOARD MEMBER DR RIYADH MOHAMMED AL ASHBAN

Pharma board member stressed that the factory will prioritise employing from the national labour force. "Today we have 20 employees and we expect to raise it to 80 employees later," he said. "We will develop an intensive training programme for Bahrainis to increase their capabilities in this field."

Dr Al Jalahma said that, under constant guidance from His Majesty the King and the government, the factory will advance the pharmaceutical sector in Bahrain.

NHRA has received more than 400 investment enquiries from inside and outside Bahrain, she added.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES 25,705

ACTIVE CASES 5,105

DEATHS 83

DISCHARGED 20,517

NEW CASES 438

CRITICAL 41

HM the King issues Royal Order, decrees

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Order 25 of 2020 yesterday, appointing Shaikh Daij bin Salman bin Ahmed Al Khalifa as Supreme Council for Youth and Sports vice-chairman.

The Royal Order shall come into effect from the date of its issuance and be published in the Official Gazette.

Meanwhile, His Majesty King Hamad issued yesterday decree 42 of 2020, appointing Sami Abdulla Ahmed Buhaza'a as Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications Land Transportation and Post undersecretary.

Under the same decree, current Air Transportation and Aviation Safety and Security assistant undersecretary Hussein Ahmed Rashid Shuaib takes over as Air Navigation and Me-



HM the King

teorological Services assistant undersecretary.

Ibtissam Mohammed Khalifa Al Shamlan has also been appointed as Air Transportation and Aviation Safety and Security assistant undersecretary at the same ministry.

The Transportation Minister shall implement this decree,

which shall come into effect from the date of its issuance and be published in the Official Gazette. His Majesty King Hamad also issued decree 43 of 2020, transferring Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Technical Services assistant undersecretary Ibrahim Hassan Ali Al Hawaj

to serve as Sanitary Drainage assistant undersecretary.

Current Capital Municipality director-general Shawqiya Ibrahim Mohammed Humaidan has been transferred to the ministry to serve as Joint-Municipal Services assistant undersecretary.

Current Resources and Information assistant undersecretary Mohammed Saad Mohammed Al Sahli has been transferred to serve as Capital Municipality director-general.

Under the same decree, Kadhim Ali Abdullatif Ali and Mohammed Adel Mohammed Abu Hassan have been appointed respectively as Technical Services assistant undersecretary and Resources and Information assistant undersecretary.

The Works Minister shall implement this decree, which shall come into effect from the date of its issuance and be published in the Official Gazette.

HRH the Crown Prince issues edicts



HRH the Crown Prince

TDT Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier issued edict 12 of 2020 yesterday.

It stipulated the following appointments at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning: Maha Khalifa Ahmed Hamada as road planning and designing director; Fathi Abdulla Fare'a Ismail as sanitary drainage planning and projects director; Khawla Khalid Mohammed Hayat as cost engineering director; Youssef Osama Ibrahim Buhejji as projects Director; Mahmoud Abdulhamid Al Shaibani as planning and municipal councils affairs director; Youssef Ahmed Youssef as

animal control director; Khalid Abdulla Al Shirawi as maritime control director; and Fajr Sabah Al Salloum as animal health director.

The Works Minister shall implement this edict, which shall come into effect from the date of its issuance and be published in the Official Gazette.

HRH the Crown Prince also issued yesterday edict 13 of 2020, appointing Maysoon Mohammed Ali Sebkar as Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications communication and marketing director.

The Transportation Minister shall implement this edict, which shall come into effect from the date of its issuance and be published in the Official Gazette.

Virtual 'town hall' for Northern Municipality

TDT | Manama

The Northern Municipality has allocated two hours every Wednesday for virtual communication with officials.

"Citizens and residents will use the online opportunity from 10am to noon to discuss topics of interest, share their observations and views on services, present suggestions to



Al Fadhala

enhance work, file complaints, and highlight their needs and expectations," said the Municipality's director general Lamya Al Fadhala.

The virtual "town hall" idea was generated by the need to ensure smooth communication in the challenging times caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) that limits personal contact.

Heads of all sections will

be alongside the director general to answer all queries by the people, who will need to sign up through a WhatsApp number for a booking, Al Fadhala added.

Bahrain has witnessed a massive surge in the use of online meetings, sessions, lessons and services thanks to an outstanding infrastructure and advanced levels of knowledge in the use of virtual platforms.

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<p>MIND & BODY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Exercises and Warm Ups Personality development Memory Improvement Skills Art & Craft Baking & Salad making 	<p>INFOTAINMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Excursions Gaming Quizzing Vedic Maths & Abacus 	<p>COMMUNICATION SKILLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story Telling Group Discussion Public Speaking Skills Activities & Role Plays Writing & Reading Skills

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Red Crescent Society to mark 50 years of humanitarian work

● Bahrain provided relief assistance to disaster areas in 33+ countries and regions

● BRCS content will be distributed to a global humanitarian network of 80 million people, 195 Red Crescent societies

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has announced its plans to organise a media campaign for the achievements of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of relief and international humanitarian work over the past 50 years.

This comes on the occasion of the Society's celebration of the 50th anniversary of its establishment as one of the oldest voluntary and humanitarian work societies in Bahrain and the region.

BRCS director-general and acting secretary-general Mubarak Al Hadi said that this campaign will include the preparation and issuance of many related publications and brochures, the production of documentary films, and the publication of media reports, in both Arabic and English.

He added that this campaign's content will be distributed to partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which includes—as a global humanitarian network—about 80 million people around the world, in addition to 195 Red Crescent societies and bodies in various countries.

"The campaign's content will focus on the contributions of BRCS as a representative of Bahrain in providing relief and humanitarian aid inside and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, in addition to a special focus on international aid, as Bahrain has provided over the past years relief assistance to disaster areas in more than 33 countries and regions around the world, which were affected by natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or epidemics, or wars and conflicts, beside Bahrain's assistance to the displaced persons and refugees in the region and the world," Al Hadi said.

Al Hadi stressed that the Society works to fulfill most of the relief calls launched by the International Federation of Red Cross, Red Crescent Societies, the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies Organisation general secretariat. BRCS aimed to provide material and in-kind assistance for Arab and Islamic countries stricken and affected by natural disasters and wars,

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“Over the years, Bahrain offered relief to victims of floods, earthquakes, epidemics, wars and conflicts, besides Bahrain's assistance to displaced persons and refugees”

MUBARAK AL HADI
BRCS DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL

and such work had a prominent impact on the international level. "It was planned that the 50th anniversary celebrations of BRCS will include many things that raise Bahrain's status on the international map of relief and humanitarian work, but the Society decided to celebrate this occasion in a manner that takes into account the precautionary measures to tackle the coronavirus (COVID-19)," Al Hadi explained.

"After the country overcomes the pandemic, the Society looks forward to holding a ceremony to suit this memorable occasion, and it will include honouring the personalities that enriched the Society with its support, as well as honouring the Society's senior members in appreciation of their valuable services."

Royal praise for Bahrain's outstanding students

HH Shaikh Nasser describes Kingdom's high-achievers as 'assets of the future' in virtual meeting



The outstanding Bahraini male and female students have projected a great message to all countries of the world that the Kingdom is on the right path of progress and prosperity, thanks to their dedication

HH SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA



TDT | Manama

Bahrain's outstanding students are the "assets of the future under the national march spearheaded by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa".

This was declared yesterday by His Majesty the King's Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs representative, National Security Advisor and Supreme Council for Youth and Sport chairman His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa during a virtual meeting with high-achieving pupils from the Kingdom's public and private schools.

HH Shaikh Nasser welcomed the exceptional youngsters, and valued highly their efforts and

perseverance for the sake of continuing their academic achievements and excellence during the exceptional circumstances the Kingdom has gone through as a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

"The outstanding Bahraini male and female students have projected a great message to all countries of the world that the Kingdom is on the right path of progress and prosperity, thanks to the dedication of its students, who are the assets of the future under the national march spearheaded by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa," HH Shaikh Nasser said.

"Such a message of excellence confirms that Bahrain boasts young minds that are eager to acquire knowledge and attain

more landmark achievements for their homeland."

HH Shaikh Nasser added: "We are fully aware that the students in Bahrain have gone through exceptional circumstances during this academic year, but they were able to overcome these challenges and turn them into new starting points towards enhancing their educational achievements and acquiring knowledge in order to reach their goals of excellence, and crown those efforts by filling their hearts and those of their parents with joy and happiness."

Addressing the high-achieving students, HH Shaikh Nasser said: "The Kingdom and its leadership depend very much on you for its march towards more development and progress across various fields, particularly the economy, in a way that would place it among the most advanced countries in the world."

"We also consider you the future builders and leaders of Bahrain and its real wealth. So, continue your academic path, as countries are built with their educated and ambitious youth with creative ideas."

The students expressed thanks and appreciation to HH Shaikh Nasser for his encouragement and statement aimed at motivating them to continue acquiring knowledge, stressing their unwavering determination to continue their education so as to be able to contribute to developing the nation in various fields.

High success rate for school students

● **Success rates achieved include 97.9 per cent for secondary school pupils in their final year; 96.5 per cent for technical and vocational education students; and 97.8 per cent for intermediate school students**



Dr. Al Nuaimi

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's intermediate and secondary school students in all sections have achieved a high success rate for the academic year, according to Education Minister Dr. Majid Ali Al Nuaimi.

The Minister yesterday endorsed the academic results of the students.

The success rate in the final year of secondary school pupils was 97.9 per cent, with 783 students, including 551 girls, and 232 boys, achieving a score of at least 95 per cent.

The success rate in technical and vocational education was 96.5 per cent, with 15 students achieving a score of 95 per cent or more.

The success rate among intermediate school students was 97.8 per cent.

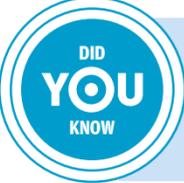
Dr. Al Nuaimi expressed his deep gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for supporting education, which has had the most positive

effects on achieving success.

The Education Minister also extended his appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, for their generous support and continuous care for education.

Dr. Al Nuaimi congratulated the students, their parents and teachers on the success achieved despite the challenges arising from the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

He praised the efforts exerted by all members of administrative and educational entities, and all employees of the Education Ministry.



551 girls, and 232 boys in their final year achieved a score of more than 95 per cent

HM THE KING'S DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR PRESENTED WITH BOOK



His Majesty the King's Diplomatic Affairs Advisor Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Al Watan daily editor-in-chief Yousif Al Binkhalil, who presented him with a copy of his book "90 Days Before the Occupation of Zubara: The Role of Shaikh Rashid bin Mohammed Al Jabr Al Nuaimi". Shaikh Khalid hailed the patriotic and media stances of Al Binkhalil to promote awareness about Bahraini matters in all areas, wishing him success. Al Binkhalil thanked Shaikh Khalid for his steady support. Left, Shaikh Khalid, right, is presented with his book by Al Binkhalil.

Foreign Minister receives Minister of Electricity

TDT | Manama

Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak yesterday.

Al Zayani reviewed ways of boosting cooperation to achieve



the aspirations of Bahraini citizens.

Al Mubarak expressed appreciation for meeting the Foreign Minister, lauding cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote the kingdom's comprehensive development march.

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Airport financial success goal

BAC partners with ACI World for new virtual training course on non-aeronautical revenues

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) has partnered with Airports Council International (ACI) World to implement a virtual training course that will enable team members in the graduate training programme “Tahleeq” to safely continue the third module of their professional development during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

The eight-day virtual course, entitled “Airport Non-Aeronautical Revenues”, includes a lecture by globally renowned instructor Andre Bergeron, team exercises, presentations, and polling exercises. It is the first programme to be delivered through ACI’s newly developed virtual classroom, outside of its Airport Management Professional Accreditation Programme (AMPAP).

The course explores non-aeronautical revenues as a key contributor to the financial success of airports, an area that has become more important in the wake of COVID-19. It will assist participants in working with airport partners to identify and capitalise on the opportunities available to airport managers to enhance non-aeronautical revenues through innovation, competitiveness, and new technologies.

ACI World is the global representative of the world’s airports and promotes professional excellence in airport management and operations. It is the world’s leading provider of airport management and operations educa-



Officials discussing the training programme

tion, offering executive leadership, professional accreditation, subject-matter competency, and personalised training courses.

BAC human resources vice-president Hind Mahmood said: “We are pleased to become the first airport operator to roll out this milestone training and development initiative. Thanks to close collaboration between the BAC and ACI training teams, the course was launched in record time and tailored to meet our requirements. Our ‘Tahleeq’ team members will benefit from the expertise and insight of one of the world’s leading aviation organisations.”

Mahmood added: “The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that organisations that adapt to new ways of working stay at the forefront of their industries, and those that don’t may not survive the crisis. We have reached a crucial stage of the Airport Modernisation Programme (AMP), and ensuring

our staff are ready for the transfer to the new terminal is vital. Through this course, our team members can continue to safely and efficiently develop the advanced skills required for the AMP. The health and well-being of our team members is a priority and we are complying with the directives of the National Taskforce for Combatting COVID-19 and the regulations issued by Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs.”

ACI World director general Luis Felipe de Oliveira said: “As the aviation industry restarts and begins to plan its long-term recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, ACI is focused on providing more accessible training and development programmes tailored to the needs of our members.

“Our industry is always at its strongest when we work together and our partnership with BAC on this course is an example of the kind of innovative, collabo-

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The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that organisations that adapt to new ways of working stay at the forefront of their industries. We have reached a crucial stage of the Airport Modernisation Programme, and ensuring our staff are ready for the transfer to the new terminal is vital.

BAC HR VICE-PRESIDENT HIND MAHMOOD

orative approach that will help us to sustain the recovery process. Now more than ever, the airport industry needs motivated and experienced people and ACI looks forward to a fruitful partnership with BAC to deliver staff development in a cost-effective, accessible, and qualitative way.”

ACI represents the world’s airports and their collective interests. It promotes professional excellence in airport management and operations and works closely with prominent aviation organisations such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Air Transport Association to develop standards, policies, and recommended practices.

Mall.bh attracts over 5,600 users a day



TDT Manama

Online shopping platform mall.bh has attracted more than 180 stores to date, and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism continues to invite interested businesses to register for free.

Mall.bh has generated an average of 5,607 visitors per day, with more than 200,000 users since its launch, according to statistics released by the Ministry.

The Ministry also noted that it has added four new features to the site, including opportunities to register eMarketplace service providers, eCommerce solution providers, logistics service providers, and ePayment providers.

The user-friendly online shopping platform was launched in response to market disruptions caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. It has motivated local enterprises to reconsider how they transact business online.

Additionally, mall.bh helps local businesses unlock the immense opportunities digital transformation provides, including closely monitoring consumer behavior to adjust their market strategy accordingly.

All eCommerce businesses are invited to make the most of the site, provided that they offer an online payment method and delivery service.

For further information, call 17-359008 or e-mail info@mall.bh.

Late serviceman’s sons received in honour and consolation



Dr Al-Sayed with the honoured serviceman’s young sons

TDT Manama

Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Warrant Officer Juma’a Mubarak Salim lost his life in the line of duty during one of his BDF Taskforce operations within the Saudi-led Arab Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen.

Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) secretary-general, Dr Mustafa Al-Sayed Al-Ameen, received the late officer’s sons yesterday at his office, following directives from HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Dr Al-Sayed conveyed his deepest condolences from HH Shaikh Nasser to the sons of the fallen serviceman. He wished them success and prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace and to bless his family and relatives with patience and fortitude.

He stressed that the late soldier’s dedication and sacrifices for the kingdom’s sovereignty and security will never be forgotten, and will remain a source of great national pride.

He affirmed that the chil-

drens’ needs and requirements will be looked after by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, who is the father of the nation.

Dr Al-Sayed advised the fallen martyr’s sons to take interest in their education and future, as well as to follow in the footsteps of their late father who, he said, sacrificed his life for the sake of the cherished homeland.

The martyr’s family in turn, extended sincere thanks and appreciation to HM the King, and the Bahraini citizens for their support and consolation.

MOI: 6,128 violations of the face mask rule

TDT | Manama

Ministry of Interior (MOI) Brigadier General Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Muhammad Al Khalifa, indicated that 6,128 violations have been registered against citizens and residents for not wearing face masks.

Of these, the Police Directorate at the Northern Governorate recorded the most violations (2,000), followed by the capital governorate (1,265), the Muharraq Governorate (1,201), Southern Governorate (979), General Security’s operations department (611) and the General Administration of Ports Security (72).

Since the precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) were first implemented, violators have been caught at public places and commercial stores, announced the MOI on their official Twitter page yesterday.

The Brigadier General called on all citizens and residents to follow social distancing in public places, markets, shops



A policeman catching a violator



MYTH: “I feel fine. I don’t need a mask.”
COVID-19 transmissions can happen even two days before people feel sick. So wear a face mask!

and parks with a commitment to not gather in groups of more than five people. He also highlighted the need to adhere to wearing masks. He appealed for their cooperation, reiterating

the message conveyed through their awareness campaigns on the importance of commitment and support for the Kingdom’s efforts in tackling the spread of the pandemic.

Energy storage solutions and technologies discussed

TDT | Manama

Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza held a virtual meeting yesterday with Energy Harbors Corporation (EHC) representatives.

The SEA chief discussed mat-

ters of mutual interest in the increasingly important arena of energy storage tied to renewable energy investments.

The EHC representatives presented further information on their patented technologies, gave updates on several technological breakthroughs rep-

resented by the technologies within their respective areas of expertise, and discussed potential pilot project opportunities within the Kingdom.

SEA team members who also attended the meeting discussed other technical considerations, barriers to be overcome and po-

tential synergies with the existing work of the authority.

Dr. Mirza highlighted the aspects of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan and National Energy Efficiency Action Plan which may benefit from the technology’s impacts.

He thanked EHC for their ef-

forts towards developing novel and innovative solutions in sustainable energy and recommended engagement with other stakeholders within Bahrain, who would be interested in such solutions.

The SEA chief invited the teams to continue their discus-

sions into key opportunities the EHC solutions present within the context of Bahrain’s sustainable energy strategies, where large-scale energy storage is recognised as a vital component to ensuring the sustainability of future national, regional and global energy systems.

Durrat Marina to Re-Start substation works for Marina retail strip



Durrat Marina is one of the Kingdom's leading marina-based real estate development projects, lying just north of Durrat Al Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Durrat Marina, one of the Kingdom's leading marina-based real estate development projects, announced restarting substation works for its Marine retain strip.

The key elements in the initial phase of Durrat Marina's development, including seafront villas, residential apartments, a yacht club, and a marina were all launched, rapidly sold, and delivered.

Work continues on expanding this success with the necessary infrastructure and support services to boost the project's secondary and tertiary stages of development.

Chairman of Durrat Marina's Board of Directors, Yasser Al Jar said, "Our next aim is to

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We expect that these works will be completed before the end of the year

YASSER AL JAR
CHAIRMAN OF DURRAT MARINA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

continue with the necessary infrastructure works, including an electrical primary station, to ensure we have a bevy of services near the final development of our seafront retail promenade. This primary station will ensure permanent power supply to upcoming and

future projects and will give a major boost to Phase 2 developments on the main island."

From his end, CEO of Durrat Marina, Waleed Saffy provided further insight on progress, "Currently, plans for the re-starting the substation works within our Retail zone are underway by a reputable contractor."

"We expect that these works will be completed before the end of the year."

Saffy added: "In addition it will support the existing Durrat Marina Yacht Club and the upcoming retail area which are considered the "downtown" of Durrat Marina; a lively and vibrant destination, where families can enjoy restaurants, cafes, trendy boutiques, convenience and speciality shops, and a wide range of leisure activities."

Honest LuLu employee returns lost BD 1,100



Seen here is Director Rupawala presenting the reward from Yusuffali to Abu Bakar. Also present was Security Officer Narayan

TDT | Manama

An honest car park attendant at LuLu Hypermarket in Dana Mall was commended by Lulu Group International Chairman & MD, Yusuffali MA and rewarded for returning a misplaced bag full of cash and credit cards to a distraught customer.

Bangladeshi national Abu Bakar has been an employee at LuLu for over two years. Last week, when he was collecting trolleys from the car park to return to the trolley station, he found a bag with a lot of money

“
The bag was full of money and credit cards so I immediately handed it over to customer service

ABU BAKAR

lying in a trolley. "The bag was full of money and credit cards so I immediately handed it over to customer service," he said.

Shortly afterwards, the customer Mustafa Abedin came back to the hypermarket, having noticed that the bag was missing when he reached home. He was directed to customer service where he found his bag and could retrieve it after furnishing the required proof.

"Honesty and transparency are a part of every interaction at the LuLu Group and we are proud that Abu Bakar has demonstrated such trustworthiness," said Director Juzer Rupawala, "As a mark of appreciation, our Chairman Yusuffali MA directed us to present him with a reward of BD 200."

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Branch Bahrain
Licensed as Conventional Retail Bank by Central Bank of Bahrain

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		Bahraini Dinars 000's		
As at 31 March 2020		31-Mar-20	31-Mar-19	
		Audited	Audited	
ASSETS				
Cash and balances with banks and the CBB		7,871	17,086	
Due from other branches		17,326	1,863	
Investments at amortised cost		15,214	15,406	
Loans and advances		55,899	59,146	
Interest receivable and other assets		1,036	740	
Right-of-use assets		485	-	
Furniture and equipment		251	219	
TOTAL ASSETS		98,082	94,460	
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES				
Head Office funds				
Head Office account		10,655	10,655	
Unremitted profits		1,200	1,162	
Total Head Office funds		11,855	11,817	
Liabilities				
Due to other branches		146	295	
Customer deposits		84,558	81,199	
Interest payable and other liabilities		1,054	1,149	
Lease obligations		469	-	
Total liabilities		86,227	82,643	
TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		98,082	94,460	
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
For the year ended 31 March 2020				
		31-Mar-20	31-Mar-19	
		Audited	Audited	
Interest and similar income		4,272	4,774	
Interest and similar expense		(1,178)	(1,326)	
NET INTEREST INCOME		3,094	3,448	
Fees and commission income		770	822	
Other operating income		462	302	
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		4,326	4,572	
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Staff expenses		(740)	(837)	
Depreciation and amortisation		(268)	(94)	
Other operating expenses		(801)	(1,156)	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		(1,809)	(2,087)	
Profit before credit loss expense on financial assets		2,517	2,485	
Credit loss expenses on financial assets		(2,479)	(3,915)	
Net profit (loss) and total comprehensive income for the year		38	(1,430)	
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS				
For the year ended 31 March 2020				
	Head Office	Unremitted	Investments	Total
	account	profits	fair value	Audited
	Audited	Audited	reserve	
			Audited	
Balance at 1 April 2019	10,655	1,162	-	11,817
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	38	-	38
Balance at 31 March 2020	10,655	1,200	-	11,855
Balance at 1 April 2018	10,655	4,116	(619)	14,152
Impact of adopting IFRS 9	-	(1,524)	619	(905)
Balance at 1 April 2018 (restated)	10,655	2,592	-	13,247
Net loss and total comprehensive income for the year	-	(1,430)	-	(1,430)
Balance at 31 March 2019	10,655	1,162	-	11,817

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		Bahraini Dinars 000's	
For the year ended 31 March 2020		31-Mar-20	31-Mar-19
		Audited	Audited
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net profit (loss) for the year		38	(1,430)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation and amortisation		268	94
Credit loss expenses on financial assets		2,479	3,915
Amortisation of premium on investments at amortised cost		192	196
Interest expenses on leased obligations		13	-
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities		2,990	2,775
Changes in operating assets and liabilities			
Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain		1,161	752
Loans and advances		758	1,823
Due from other branches		(3,016)	23,577
Interest receivable and other assets		(296)	472
Due to other branches		(149)	(17)
Deposits from banks and other financial institutions		-	(30)
Customer deposits		3,359	(24,527)
Interest payable and other liabilities		(86)	(609)
Net cash flows from operating activities		4,721	4,216
INVESTING ACTIVITY			
Purchase of furniture and equipment		(110)	(7)
Net cash flows used in investing activity		(110)	(7)
FINANCING ACTIVITY			
Payment of lease obligations		(218)	-
Net cash flows used in financing activity		(218)	-
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		4,393	4,209
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		16,159	11,950
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR		20,552	16,159
Cash and cash equivalents at year end comprise:			
Cash and balances with banks		7,871	17,086
Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain		(1,629)	(2,790)
Cash and balances with banks and the CBB		6,242	14,296
Add: Due from other branches with an original maturity of less than ninety days		14,310	1,863
		20,552	16,159

The statement of financial position, statement of comprehensive income, statement of cash flows and statement of changes in Head Office Funds have been extracted from the financial statements of State Bank of India - Retail Branch, Bahrain for the year ended 31 March 2020 which were audited by EY who expressed an unqualified opinion on 25.06.2020

Chief Executive Officer

“Nobody briefed or told me”

Trump denies he was briefed on Russia-Taliban bounty intelligence



Nobody briefed or told me, @VP Pence, or Chief of Staff @MarkMeadows about the so-called attacks on our troops in Afghanistan by Russians, as reported through an ‘anonymous source’ by the Fake News @nytimes

DONALD TRUMP

AFP | Washington



US President Donald Trump lashed out at a New York Times report saying he was briefed on the news, calling it “another phony Times hit job”

US President Donald Trump denied yesterday being briefed on intelligence that reportedly showed Russia had offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing US soldiers in Afghanistan.

The report by the *New York Times* sparked renewed questions about Trump’s reluctance to confront Russia over behaviour that, if accurate, would represent a serious national security challenge.

In a pair of early-morning tweets, Trump angrily slammed the report as “probably just another phony Times hit job, just like their failed Russia Hoax.”

“Nobody briefed or told me, @VP Pence, or Chief of Staff @MarkMeadows about the so-called attacks on our troops in Afghanistan by Russians, as reported through an ‘anonymous source’ by the Fake News @nytimes,” he wrote.

“Everybody is denying it & there have not been many attacks on us...”

“Nobody’s been tougher on Russia than the Trump Administration.”

The *Times*, citing anonymous officials, said Trump was briefed on the US intelligence findings in March, but has not decided how to respond.

According to the report, US intelligence had concluded that a Russian military intelligence unit offered rewards to Taliban-linked militants to kill troops of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan.

The rewards were purportedly incentives to target US forces as Trump tries to withdraw troops from the conflict-torn country -- one of the militants’ key demands -- and end America’s longest war.

While Trump cast aspersions on the *Times* report, neither he nor other top administration officials denied the underlying intelligence conclusion about the Russian activities.

John Ratcliffe, the new director of national intelligence, issued a statement late Saturday denying Trump or Pence had been briefed “on any intelligence alleged by the *New York Times* in its reporting.”

He also vouched for an earlier White House statement that denied Trump had been briefed on the matter but left open the possibility that the intelligence existed.

“This does not speak to the merit of the alleged intelligence but to the inaccuracy of The *New York Times* story erroneously suggesting that President Trump was briefed on this mat-



The Taliban said home-made explosives accounted for most of the casualties among US forces



According to the report, US intelligence had concluded that a Russian military intelligence unit offered rewards to Taliban-linked militants to kill troops of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan

ter,” White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said.

‘Another day at the office’

John Bolton, Trump’s former national security advisor and now peddling a highly critical tell-all book, said if it’s true Russia was paying to have US troops killed, “that is a very, very serious matter.”

Speaking on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” Bolton said, “To me it looks like just another day at the office in the Trump White House.”

“I’ve never recalled a circumstance where the president himself goes out of his way to say he wasn’t briefed on something.”

Top Democratic lawmaker

Nancy Pelosi accused Trump of seeking to “ignore any allegation against Russia.”

“This is totally outrageous. You would think that the minute the president heard of it he would want to know more instead of denying that he knew anything,” she said on ABC’s “This Week.”

Taliban, Russian denials

The Taliban have denied the report, reiterating that they were committed to an accord signed with Washington in February that paves the way for withdrawing all foreign forces from Afghanistan by next year.

The militants also said home-made explosives account for most fatalities among US forces.

“The 19-year jihad of the Islamic Emirate is not indebted to the beneficence of any intelligence organ or foreign country,” the Taliban said in a statement issued in Kabul.

The group, widely believed to have received years of support from Pakistani intelligence, also denied

previous US accusations it was given arms by Russia.

Russia also denounced the report, with its embassy in Washington tweeting that the “baseless and anonymous accusations” in the *Times* story had “already led to direct threats to the life of employees” at its embassies in Washington and London.

Tortured history

Russia has a tortured history in Afghanistan, where the former Soviet Union in its final years was bogged down in a devastating fight against Islamist guerrillas, backed at the time by Washington.

The *Times* said there were different theories on why Russia would support Taliban attacks, including a desire to keep Washington bogged down in war.

It said Russia may also be seeking revenge over the US killing of Russian mercenaries in Syria, where Moscow backs President Bashar al-Assad.

According to the newspaper, the Taliban operation was led by Unit 29155, an arm of Russia’s military intelligence agency GRU, which has been blamed in numerous international incidents including a 2018 chemical weapons attack in Britain that nearly killed Russian-born double agent Sergei Skripal.

China sent martial artists to India border before deadly clash: state media



An Indian fighter jet flies over Leh, the joint capital of the union territory of Ladakh, on June 25, 2020, part of a show of strength after a border showdown between Delhi and Beijing

AFP | Beijing

China reinforced its troops near the Indian border with mountain climbers and martial arts fighters shortly before a deadly clash this month, state media reported.

Tensions are common between the two nuclear-armed neighbours in the mountainous border terrain, but this month’s fighting was their deadliest encounter in over 50 years.

Five new militia divisions including former members of a Mount Everest Olympic torch relay team and fighters from a mixed martial arts club presented themselves for inspection at Lhasa on June 15, official military newspaper China National Defense News reported.

State broadcaster CCTV showed footage of hundreds of new troops lining up in the Tibetan capital.

Tibet commander Wang Haijiang said the Enbo Fight Club recruits would “greatly raise the organization and mobilization strength” of troops and their “rapid response and support ability,” China National Defense News reported, although he did not explicitly confirm their deployment was linked to ongoing border tensions.

Chinese and Indian troops clashed later that day in the most violent confrontation between the two powers in decades, in the Ladakh region 1,300 kilometres away.

India says 20 of its own soldiers were killed in brutal hand-to-hand combat that day, while China suffered an unknown number of casualties.

Both sides have blamed each other for the battle, which was fought with rocks and batons without any shots fired.

India said Thursday that it had reinforced troops in the contested Himalayan border region, saying it was matching a similar buildup by China.

Chinese state media have in recent weeks highlighted military activity including high-altitude anti-aircraft drills in the Tibet region bordering India.

The new troops were recruited with the aim of “strengthening the border and stabilizing Tibet,” China National Defense News said.

Maskless, Brazil’s Bolsonaro greets supporters amid pandemic despite court ruling



President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro greets hundreds of supporters during a visit to Minas Gerais during which he appears maskless despite a court ruling that requires him to wear a face mask in public during the coronavirus pandemic. He appealed the decision on Friday.

Pepsi joining Facebook ad boycott

Reuters

PepsiCo Inc will stop advertising on Facebook Inc, Fox Business News reported yesterday, citing sources. The food and beverage company joins a growing number of companies pulling ad dollars from Facebook, including ice-cream maker Ben & Jerry’s and Unilever PLC.

ads, the report said. PepsiCo did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

The food and beverage company joins a growing number of companies pulling ad dollars from Facebook, including ice-cream maker Ben & Jerry’s and Unilever PLC.

Colombian with COVID-19 gives birth in coma



Cali | Colombia

Diana Angola was fighting for her own life when she gave birth to son Jefferson. The 36-year-old had been put into a coma having contracted the novel coronavirus, which left her lungs barely able to cope.

Doctors performed a caesarian section due to the state of her lungs and Jefferson was born at least 14 weeks prematurely.

The case generated “a lot of shock,” Paula Velasquez, a doctor specializing in internal medicine at the Versailles clinic in the southeastern city of Cali, told AFP.

“We knew that there were few reported cases of survival in a context as severe as our patient,” said Velasquez.

Angola, who also has a daughter, was taken to hospital on May 15 with a terrible fever.

Three days later she was put into an induced coma and kept that way until surgery.

Because of her pregnancy, she was kept sitting up at a 45 degree angle, when those suffering from pneumonia are normally laid down flat to help their breathing.

Jefferson, though premature, was born without the coronavirus -- but doctors said he struggled to breathe, and that they had to revive him.

“We had to go through the whole procedure of a critical patient,” pediatrician Edwin Olivo, who was one of the specialists involved in the birth, said.

But, he added, though the baby remains in an incubator



Colombian Diana Angola was terrified of going into intensive care as her mother and a sister died in hospital

he quickly started putting on weight and breathing more easily.

“A human being can survive from 24 weeks with a good weight, but with a lot of technology and an effect on neurological development and the lungs,” said Velasquez.

Painful memories

Now recovered from the virus, Angola is desperate to be discharged with her son.

“It’s really emotional knowing that we fought, that the doctors helped us survive,” she said, her voice faint.

She says she doesn’t know how she contracted the virus and her family insists she complied rigidly with the lockdown, first imposed on March 25 but which has been easing recently.

In the hospital corridors, her sister Angela breathes a sigh of relief.

Hospitals bring back painful memories: two years ago her mother and another sister died



Diana Angola’s son Jefferson remains in an incubator having been born at least 14 weeks prematurely

in intensive care, where Diana was for several weeks.

Angela remembers her sister screaming: “Don’t let them put me on artificial ventilation, get me out of here, I don’t want to die,” after doctors told her what treatment they were proposing. With Latin America now the

epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, Angela wants her sister and nephew’s case to act as a lesson for others.

“There are many people who go around without face masks, who go to parties, because they don’t know anyone (with the virus) they don’t realize” how



With more than 2,600 deaths and 80,000 cases, Colombia is the sixth most affected country in Latin America in terms of fatalities and fifth worst for infections. However, the virus is spreading quickly in the country of 50 million, with a quarter of those deaths and cases reported just last week.

UK could lock down city of Leicester after virus surge

London

The central English city of Leicester could be the country’s first to face a local lockdown due to a rise in coronavirus cases, the UK’s Home Secretary Priti Patel said Sunday.

The Midlands city recorded 658 new cases in the two weeks up to June 16, many linked to fresh outbreaks at food production plants.

Patel told the BBC that there have been “flare-ups across the country in recent weeks, in just the last three or four weeks in particular”.

“For local outbreaks, it is appropriate to have local solutions in terms of infection control, social distancing, screening and many tools,” she added.

“There will be support going into Leicester.”

Reports in the *Sunday Times* newspaper said the government was set to reimpose strict lockdown rules on Leicester “with-in the next few days”.

Leicester’s population stands at around 340,000 people, according to official figures.

The news comes at a worrying time for the UK, a country badly affected by the pandemic.

Boris Johnson’s government is set to ease lockdown restrictions from July 4 -- despite fears



UK’s Home Secretary Priti Patel

of a second wave of infections -- by opening pubs, restaurants and hairdressers among others across England.

In the last few days, Britain has seen tens of thousands of people ignore social distancing rules to flood the beaches and hold street parties. Liverpool fans also crowded that city after their football club won the Premier League.

Leading medical experts warned earlier this month of the “real risk” of a second coronavirus wave this winter.

“I think nothing would be more damaging for our country, for our economy if we do have a second wave,” Patel said.

More than 43,500 people have died due to the coronavirus in Britain, official figures show.

Boeing 737 MAX certification flight tests to begin today

Reuters | Seattle/Washington

Pilots and test crew members from the US Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing Co are slated to begin a three-day certification test campaign for the 737 MAX today, people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The test is a pivotal moment in Boeing’s worst-ever corporate crisis, long since compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic that has slashed air travel and jet demand.

The grounding of the fast-selling 737 MAX in March 2019 after crashes killed 346 people in Ethiopia and Indonesia triggered lawsuits, investigations by Congress and the Department of Justice and cut off a key source of Boeing’s cash.

After a preflight briefing over several hours, the crew will board a 737 MAX 7 outfitted with test equipment at Boeing Field near Seattle, one of the people said.

The crew will run methodically scripted mid-air scenarios such as steep-banking turns, progressing to more extreme maneuvers on a route primarily over Washington state. The plan over at least three days could include touch-and-go landings at the eastern Washington airport in Moses Lake,



Boeing 737 Max aircraft are parked in a parking lot at Boeing Field in this aerial photo over Seattle, Washington

and a path over the Pacific Ocean coastline, adjusting the flight plan and timing as needed for weather and other factors, one of the people said.

Pilots will also intentionally trigger the reprogrammed stall-prevention software known as MCAS faulted in both crashes, and aerodynamic stall conditions, the people said.

Boeing and the FAA declined to comment.

The rigors of the test campaign go beyond previous Boeing test flights, completed in a matter of hours on a single day, industry sources say.

The tests are meant to ensure new protections Boeing added to MCAS are robust enough to prevent the scenario pilots encountered before both crashes, when they were unable to counteract MCAS and grappled with “stick shaker” column vibrations and other warnings, one of the people said.

Boeing’s preparation has included hundreds of hours inside a 737 MAX flight simulator at its Longacres facility in Renton, Washington, and hundreds of hours in the air on the same 737 MAX 7 test airplane without FAA officials on board.

CELEBS



Taylor Swift

Idris Elba: Success has not negated racism for me



Idris Elba
IANS | Los Angeles

Hollywood star Idris Elba says his celebrity status does not make him immune to racism. Elba shared that he was raised with the ideas that he had to be "twice as good as the white man" to succeed in life, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The "Pacific Rim" star was a part of a live question and Answer session titled "The Reckoning: Kwame Kwei-Armah and Idris Elba on the Arts and Black Lives Matter", where he spoke about his brush with racism.

"Success has not negated racism for me. Asking me about racism is like asking me about how long I have been breathing," according to Daily Mail.

He added that normally the first time black people have "any consciousness" around their skin "it is usually about racism".

"That stays with you regardless of whether you become successful or you beat the system," Elba said.

Talking about work ethic inculcated in him by his late father Winston, who was from Sierra Leone, and his Ghanaian mother Eve, Elba said: "If you want to make it in this world, you have to be twice as good as the white man."

Swift denounces census for excluding transgender, non-binary people

ANI | Washington

American singer Taylor Swift is calling for more inclusion in the country for transgender and non-binary people.

According to Fox News, the 30-year-old pop star was one of several celebrities to join Pride Live's Stonewall Day Instagram livestream event to speak up for LGBTQ rights.

The remote event was held in honour of the 1969 riots that took place at the Stonewall Inn, a New York City gay bar and the historical site where the gay rights movement was launched.

Swift said to begin her recorded speech, "I wanted to say happy Pride Month. The

Stonewall Inn has been such a symbol of rebellion in the face of oppression and such a safe space for people. I want to say thank you to everybody who works there, everyone who has worked there, everyone who's made it the place that it is."

The Grammy winner reminisced on her time performing at the venue, calling the people she met there "so lovely and wonderful."

She also praised the U.S. Supreme Court's June 15 ruling protecting LGBT workers from job discrimination as a "really good step forward" before raising issues with policies she believes are lacking the same support.

Swift said, "The Equality Act has still not been passed and that needs to happen."

The 'Love Story' songstress then condemned the Census Bureau for its lack of inclusion for transgender and non-binary people.

She said, "I got my census the other day, and there were two choices for gender. There was male and female, and that erasure was so upsetting to me, the erasure of transgender and non-binary people. And when you don't collect information on a group of people, that means that you have every excuse in the world not to support them."

"When you don't collect data on a community, that's a really, really brutal way of dismissing them," she said.

Ariana Grande throws herself 27th birthday party

ANI | Washington



Ariana Grande

American singer Ariana Grande threw an intimate birthday bash for herself.

According to TMZ, the 'Stuck with you' songstress hosted the party Friday night (local time) for a few of her close family and friends to celebrate as she turns 27. Trucks traversed her Hollywood Hills street all day, delivering supplies and decorations for the birthday bash. As per the outlet, the 'Side to Side' songstress' guest list included, her boyfriend, Dalton Gomez, as well as her mother and brother Frankie Grande.

Ariana and Dalton have pretty much been inseparable during self-quarantine.

The outlet reported that in all, it appeared around a dozen people showed up for the party.

The theme of the party was 'Midsummer.' She showed off a flower crown, mimicking the May Queen scene in the flick.

During the party, the security was heavy. While hired musclemen blocked off the street, the trappings of the party could be seen by all the neighbours.

Shruti Haasan is a 'water baby'

IANS | Mumbai

Actress Shruti Haasan calls herself a "water baby".

Shruti, daughter of veteran stars Kamal Haasan and Sarika, took to Instagram, where she shared a throwback picture of herself from an underwater photo-shoot.

"Water baby #throwback," she captioned the image.

She also shared a photograph of her face, where she showed her two birthmarks in her eye and urged everyone to celebrate all the things that make them what they are.

"Yes, those are birthmarks in my eye - no it's not some weird reaction - no it's not a disease - yes they get lighter and darker just like freckles - yes it's very common- yes I have had them for years and years and I think they're super special ?? and YES you should celebrate all the things that make you YOU, Shruti wrote.

The actress had earlier shared a glimpse from her "wild" Thursday night.

She posted four looks and made a collage out of it. In the first image, she can be seen staring at the camera, in the second image, Shruti is seen sporting a goofy look.

The third photograph has the actress making a fish face and in the fourth, the "Gabbar Is Back" actress is smiling at the camera.

"At home, oil in my hair, fancy ring light and fleeting thoughts and moods - THURSDAY NIGHTS are wild. I hope everyone is doing

well and I hope you're entertaining yourself and falling in love with yourself a little bit more everyday," she wrote alongside the image.

Shruti made her debut in Bollywood in 2000 with the film "Luck". She was later seen in Hindi films like "Dil Toh Baccha Hai Ji", "Ramayya Vasthavayya" and "Behen Hogi Teri".

In South, she has worked in hits like "Gabbar Singh", "Yevadu" and "Puli" among others films. She will next be seen in Telugu movie "Krack" and "Laabam", a Tamil film.

Shruti Haasan



Brad Pitt and I are not dating: Alia Shawkat

IANS | Los Angeles

Actress-artist Actor Alia Shawkat has set the record straight.

She says she is "just friends" with Hollywood star Brad Pitt.

Last year, the actress was clicked walking out

of a Los Angeles playhouse alongside Brad, and the rumours have been floating since then.

"We're not dating. We're just friends," she told Vulture in an interview.

She said that initially, even her friends were curious about their relationship status.

"All my friends were like 'What's going on?' and sending

me photos," she said.

"I just felt overwhelmed. It's that feeling of being naked in school, like, 'Oh my God, everyone's looking at me.'"

She said that she connected with Brad through director Spike Jonze.

"We just became friends, and Brad introduced me to his group of friends, and it grew

from there," she said.

On the attention she grabbed due to it, she said: "To them it's like, 'We don't get it! This girl is weird! She's so different! Why are they hanging out? You get too close to the prom king, and all of a sudden, everyone's like, 'Well, who is this?'"

SUDOKU

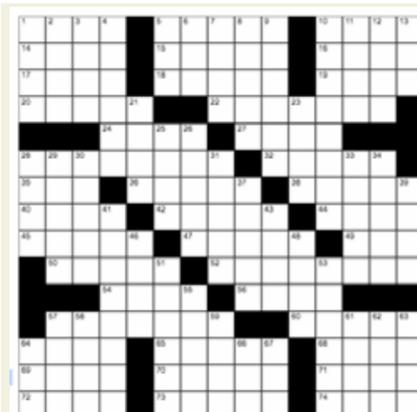
	6							
3		7	1					4
9		1		6	2			
6			3			4	2	1
1	9	3			5			8
			2	5		7		3
	3				7	8		9
								5

Yesterday's solution

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

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- Pinnacle; 5- Old Testament book; 10- "A Jug of Wine..." poet; 14- Regretted; 15- Signed; 16- Red or white, in the blood; 17- "Judith" composer; 18- Holmes's creator; 19- Hats; 20- Brief advertisement; 22- Divided, anatomically; 24- To a smaller extent; 27- Hwys; 28- Wingless; 32- Person of exceptional holiness; 35- Yank's foe; 36- Must, informally; 38- Lion sounds; 40- Image; 42- Commerce; 44- Flood survivor; 45- Giver; 47- Continental identity of a Chinese person; 49- Actress Farrow; 50- Penultimate round; 52- By means of this; 54- Wall St. debuts; 56- Radius neighbor; 57- Earthworm; 60- Actress Barkin; 64- Neighborhood; 65- Old-womanish; 68- Network point; 69- Move suddenly; 70- Heals; 71- Ton, for one; 72- Moisturizer ingredient; 73- Adlai's running mate; 74- Connections;

Down

1- Graceful horse; 2- Coil; 3- Computer list; 4- English Channel swimmer Gertrude; 5- Secreted; 6- Lennon's love; 7- The ___ the limit; 8- Conger catcher; 9- Experts; 10- Particular time; 11- Crux; 12- Mont Blanc, par exemple; 13- Literary monogram; 21- Titanic's undoing; 23- Muscle injury; 25- Chimney residue; 26- Collection of Hindu aphorisms; 28- Dry and waterless; 29- Rio Grande feeder; 30- Steak order; 31- Hiding place; 33- Model Campbell; 34- Quality; 37- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 39- He ran from Iran; 41- Ap- point; 43- British nobleman; 46- Ready for plucking; 48- Branta sandvicensis; 51- Comfort in misfortune; 53- Edible nut; 55- Nasal cavity; 57- Sea east of the Caspian; 58- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 59- Gossip; 61- Burt's ex 62- Pop singer Brickell; 63- Pulls in; 64- Abbr. on a toothpaste box; 66- Bruce ___ was a famous kung-fu movie star; 67- Double curve;

Yesterday's solution

B	A	S	A	L	S	U	I	T	V	A	S	T		
A	R	U	B	A	O	N	C	E	E	R	E	I		
I	N	N	E	R	A	D	E	S	T	E	N	E		
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D	E	E	R	B	L	E	A	T	D	T	S			
E	X	E	M	P	L	I	F	I	C	A	T	I	O	N
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Manchester City will give 'exceptional' Liverpool guard of honour, says Guardiola



Jurgen Klopp, Manager of Liverpool shakes hands with Pep Guardiola, Manager of Manchester City prior to a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola confirmed that his Manchester City side will give new Premier League champions Liverpool a guard of honour when they meet next week.

Liverpool's first English league title in 30 years was secured two days ago as second-placed City lost 2-1 at Chelsea.

The top two meet at the Etihad Stadium next Thursday and Guardiola, whose team had won the two previous Premier League titles, says Liverpool deserve to be given the traditional guard of honour.

"Of course we are going to do it," said Guardiola. "We are going to do the guard of honour of course."

"Always we receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it."

The Spaniard refuted any suggestion that his team have

not been as hungry or motivated this season, despite Liverpool winning their 19th league title with a record seven games to spare.

"A team that wins eight titles (trophies) in the last three years have passion, in every single game, in every competition, everywhere. No one in this country can say that," added Guardiola, who led City to a third straight League Cup triumph before the coronavirus lockdown in March.

"It is so difficult to do what we have done in the most difficult league in the world but you cannot win all the time."

"There was one team that was exceptional and, when one team is exceptional, I say learn from them and congratulate them. It is simple."

"This team's passion and desire, it is going and going and going again."

City are still chasing a treble of major trophies, leading Real Madrid 2-1 after the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Villarreal volley their way past toothless Valencia

Villarreal march towards top four by beating struggling Valencia

AFP | Madrid

Santi Cazorla laid on a superb assist as Villarreal continued their late surge towards Champions League qualification yesterday by beating Valencia 2-0.

Cazorla found himself under a 60-yard punt forward at La Ceramica and with one touch, he cushioned the ball perfectly for Gerard Moreno to volley in.

Paco Alcacer had scored against his former club to put Villarreal ahead earlier in the first half.

Victory means Villarreal have taken 13 points out of 15 since La Liga returned earlier this month and now sit only three points behind stumbling Sevilla in fourth.

"We're not going to put pressure on ourselves," said Alcacer. "But we know what we can do and we want to finish as high as possible."

While Villarreal have shot into contention for the top four, Valencia have plummeted away from it, this their third defeat in five games since the restart.

They have taken only four points in that time and with reports of unrest in the dressing room, coach Albert Celades appears unlikely to remain beyond the summer.

Valencia's star striker Rodrigo Moreno stayed sat in the stands, staring into space, for several minutes after the final whistle.

"It's a bad feeling," said Celades. "We've played a game where we were by far the worse team. They were better than us."

Yet for Villarreal, clinching



Gerard Moreno of Villarreal shoots the ball

fourth is now a very realistic possibility, even if a difficult final six games includes fixtures against Barcelona, Getafe and Real Sociedad.

It would be a remarkable achievement, not least for Cazorla himself, given the Spaniard's incredible resurgence over the last two seasons following a spate of horrendous injuries.

The 35-year-old's delightful touch for Moreno to volley in will go down as one of the goals of the season.

Goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen lumped the ball forward just be-



Victory means Villarreal have taken 13 points out of 15 since La Liga returned earlier this month and now sit only three points behind stumbling Sevilla in fourth

fore half-time and it dropped towards Cazorla outside the area.

He turned his body and cushioned it out of the air for Moreno to his right, who volleyed with his left and into the bottom corner.

Earlier, Alcacer had finished off Moreno's lifted ball over the top and chose not to celebrate against the club that brought him through their youth system and gave him almost 100 appearances in the first team.

"Of course I wouldn't celebrate, Valencia gave me everything," Alcacer said.

Archer 'a major threat' to Pakistani batsmen: Younis

AFP | London

Pakistan batting coach and former cricketer great Younis Khan singled out fast-rising paceman Jofra Archer as a "major threat" in his team's forthcoming matches against England.

The Pakistan squad left yesterday for England, where they will play three Tests and as many Twenty20 internationals, starting in the first week of August.

Younis said 25-year-old Archer has made a reputation for himself since qualifying to play for England and going on to play a key role in last year's Ashes and triumphant World Cup campaign.

"He (Archer) is a real match winner and a threat," Younis told AFP before the team's departure.

"Archer has strong nerves which he proved while bowling a crucial super over in the World Cup final," said Younis of England's nail-biting win over New Zealand at Lord's last year.

Barcelona annoyed and frustrated after Celta draw, says Suarez

Reuters | Barcelona

Barcelona forward Luis Suarez lamented his side's 2-2 draw at Celta Vigo on Saturday after the champions twice threw away the lead to hand more momentum to title rivals Real Madrid.

Suarez scored both of Barca's goals but Celta forward Fedor Smolov and Iago Aspas each levelled for the struggling hosts. Aspas equalised with a free kick with two minutes remaining.

"I'm happy to have been able to help the team with my goals but overall I'm left with sensations of anger and frustration," Suarez said.

"We feel as though we have dropped two points and there are many things we need to improve. We are giving away a lot of points away from home which we didn't used to do in previous seasons."

Barca were trailing Real in the standings due to their inferior head-to-head record but Zinedine Zidane's side can now cement their advantage and go two points clear at the top should they beat Espanyol yesterday.



Luis Suarez celebrates scoring his second goal

The Catalans were two points ahead when the season was halted in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic but have won three of their five matches back, also drawing away to Sevilla last week.

Barca's next match is a testing home fixture against third-placed Atletico Madrid, while Real have a slightly more comfortable run-in, with their hardest match looking like being

an away game against Athletic Bilbao.

"We're feeling very negative because we have lost two more points in the fight for the title," Suarez added.

"We had our fate in our own hands but now we have to wait for Real Madrid to slip up here and there so overall we are feeling frustrated at giving away the two points today."

Milan sink Roma with late goals



Henrikh Mkhitaryan of AS Roma competes for the ball with Hakan Calhanoglu of AC Milan

AFP | Milan

Ante Rebic and Hakan Calhanoglu scored late to give AC Milan a 2-0 victory over Roma yesterday and dent the capital side's Champions League ambitions.

Both teams struggled early in the stifling heat at the San Siro, with Roma's Edin Dzeko heading wide and Calhanoglu nodding over the bar.

But Stefano Pioli's Milan dominated after the break with Rebic breaking through after 76 minutes, rifling the ball into the roof of the net at the third attempt after a frantic

scramble following a Davide Zappacosta blunder.

Calhanoglu converted a penalty with a minute to go after Chris Smalling fouled Theo Hernandez in the area.

Roma are fifth, six points behind Atalanta who occupy the final Champions League berth.

Milan move up to seventh just below the Europa League berths after a second win this week.

Juventus beat Lecce 4-0 on Friday, and are four points ahead of Lazio, who came from behind to see off Fiorentina 2-1 on Saturday.

Chelsea, Arsenal move into FA Cup semi-finals

- **Barkley sweeps Chelsea into last four**
- **Ceballos fires Arsenal**

AFP | London

Chelsea moved into the FA Cup semi-finals as Ross Barkley sealed a 1-0 win at Leicester, while Arsenal joined their London rivals in the last four after a dramatic 2-1 victory against Sheffield United.

Looking to win the first trophy of Frank Lampard's reign, Chelsea recovered from a woe-ful start at the King Power Stadium.

The Blues could easily have been behind before the break, but Lampard rang the changes at half-time and Barkley -- one of the players introduced -- grabbed the winner with a cool finish.

Chelsea's quarter-final success could be a good omen for the Blues, who beat Leicester at the same stage en route to winning the competition for the eighth and most recent time in 2018.

Lampard made six changes to



Chelsea's English midfielder Ross Barkley (L) shoots to score the opening goal

the team that handed the Premier League title to Liverpool with a victory over Manchester City on Thursday.

Chelsea were initially out of sorts as a result and Leicester's Harvey Barnes had a sight of goal inside 30 seconds, the winger's heavy touch letting the ball squirt away as he prepared to shoot.

It was a sluggish start from Chelsea and Blues defender Antonio Rudiger angrily admonished his team-mates after snuffing out a Yuri Tielemans raid.

When Wilfred Ndidi was given acres of space to head straight at Willy Caballero,

Lampard could be heard bel- lowing "liven up" at his sloppy stars.

There was no immediate im- provement from Chelsea and Billy Gilmour gifted possession to Tielemans, who forced Ca- ballero to turn his drive away for a corner.

Leicester defender Jonny Evans headed Ben Chilwell's free-kick wastefully wide from close range.

Christian Pulisic had scored in each of Chelsea's first two games since the restart and the United States winger led their response with a fierce strike that Kasper Schmeichel tipped over.

Shaikh Khalid chairs Response committee weekly meeting



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa during the meeting

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Ham- ad Al Khalifa has chaired the weekly meeting of the Co- ordination, Execution and Fol- low-up Committee "Estijabah" (Response) which was held through video call.

The First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Bahrain Olympic Committee President welcomed the attendees, valu- ing the enormous efforts being exerted by the members of the committee towards coordinat- ing with the concern govern- mental agencies to implement the development projects de- signed to serve the youth and sports sector.

After that, the meeting dis- cussed several topics listed on the agenda as HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

reviewed the protocols for the resumption of the sport activi- ties of the 2019/2020 season in line with precautionary meas- ures taking by the Kingdom of Bahrain to combat the spread of the Coronavirus "Covid-19" pandemic to protect the well- being and the health of the sportspeople.

He also discussed the mech- anisms that will be applied to convert clubs into compa- nies in compliance with the decisions announced by the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports in its last meeting which was held under the chairmanship of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Rep- resentative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, Na- tional Security Advisor, Presi- dent of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.

Murray withdraws from third-place match at Battle of the Brits



Andy Murray

Reuters | London

Andy Murray has with- drawn from his third- place playoff match against Cameron Norrie in the Bat- tle of the Brits exhibition tournament, the Lawn Ten- nis Association (LTA) said yesterday.

Former world number one Murray, 33, returned to action following a sev- en-month injury layoff at the charity event organised by his brother Jamie this week.

The three-times Grand Slam champion played four matches in five days, beat- ing Liam Broady and James Ward on the way to the semi-finals where he lost to Dan Evans on Saturday.

BRAVE CF's Jose "Shorty" Torres and a lifetime dedicated to martial arts

TDT | Manama

We often hear many dif- ferent stories about how certain athletes began their journey and paved their way to stardom. And only a handful of them, such as Neymar, Andre Agassi, or Yao Ming are shaped since the early days to achieve success in a certain field; and so is the same with BRAVE Com- bat Federation's Jose "Shorty" Torres.

"One of the first memories I have in life is when I was play- ing fighting with my father and brother in bed", "Shorty" re- called. "At age 4, I then joined Shotokan karate classes and never stopped since then".

From his time as a toddler, until he graduated in college, he went through multiple dis- ciplines and got himself experi- enced in wrestling, boxing, kickboxing, muay thai, and pankration, to name a few building a comprehensive back- ground for his future Mixed Martial Arts career.

A turning point for the young Torres was the moment he joined Master Bob Schirmer in his native Illinois, USA. "I joined Combat-Do with head coach Master Bob Schirmer and listened to all of his instruc- tions on what to do and when to fight".

But Jose Torres didn't stop there. He made sure he had the best empirical knowledge as- sociated with developing criti- cal and academic thinking, the reason why he picked college graduation that would fit his goals and ambitions: a Bache- lor's Degree in Leadership and



Jose "Shorty" Torres during BRAVE CF 23's weigh in event (file photo)

"I fight to live life and accomplish all of the goals both my late father and my brother wanted to achieve. I also fight to be a hero and an inspiration"

JOSE "SHORTY" TORRES

Exercise Science.

"Shorty" incorporated all these references into his style, which he believes made him a unique specimen. "As a fighter, I know I'm unique because of my accomplishments and my pressure and counter fighting style. I always want to put on a show and have fun. I don't fight for myself or the enjoy- ment of the sport. I do this for other people. To make them happy, inspire and guide and teach them to accomplish their

goals", he ensured.

This mindset was something that Torres brought to his life, in all aspects, especially as a Mixed Martial Artist, without ever forgetting his roots and early days.

"I fight for two reasons", he shared. "I fight to live life and accomplish all of the goals both my late father and my brother wanted to achieve. I also fight to be a hero and an inspiration. To show people because we have/ had a tough upbringing doesn't mean you can't succeed and accomplish your goals. I want to show people if this 'Shorty' can do it, so can any- one else".

With an impressive resume; two world titles at IMMAF amate- ur world championships and as a two-division champion of Titan FC in the USA regional scene, Shorty Torres expects to emulate the same success in the international level, at BRAVE Combat Federation.

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