



**Saudi-led coalition destroys Houthi drone**

Reuters | Dubai

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis in Yemen said it intercepted and destroyed yesterday an explosives-laden drone launched by the Iran-aligned group in the direction of Saudi Arabia, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported.

The coalition command also reported on Thursday night the destruction of a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis in direction of the Saudi region of Najran, near Yemen's border.

The coalition has regularly reported during August attacks or attack attempts by the Houthis using drones and missiles.

The Houthis, who declined comment on the latest incidents, say the drone and missile attacks are retaliation to bombings carried out by the coalition targeting their regions.

210 fils (includes VAT)



**King performs Friday prayer**



His Majesty the King

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday performed Friday prayer at the Al-Sakhir Palace mosque along with Royal Family members signalling further easing and gradual re-opening of mosques.

"This blessed day has brought joy and happiness to the hearts of citizens and residents by returning to prayer in the mosques of Bahrain, coinciding also with the end of the commemoration ceremony of the Ashoora," HM the King said, wishing the success of the annual ritual.

"May Allah the Almighty protect our country, Muslim countries, and the whole world from the evil of epidemics, dis-

eases and illnesses, for He is the All-Hearer and one who answers supplication," said HM the King.

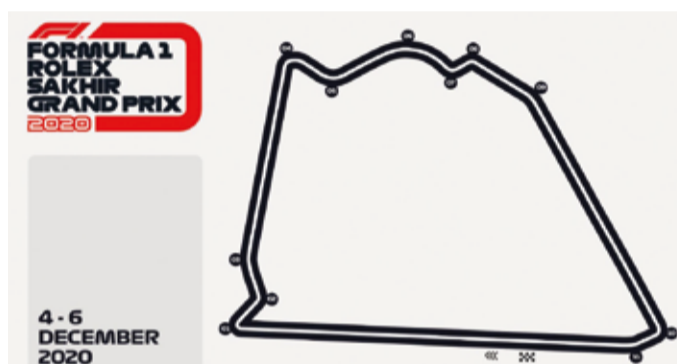
HM, the King and the other worshippers listened to the Friday sermon during which the Khateeb praised Allah the Almighty for blessing the Kingdom of Bahrain and its loyal and devout people with security, safety, stability and prosperity, led by HM the King.

HM, the King expressed praise to Allah Almighty for the blessing of health and wellness and the success in performing prayers in mosques.

King Hamad also thanked authorities for their full compliance and adherence to preventive measures set by the National Taskforce for Combating COVID-19.

**Race confirmed on 'outer track'**

F1 to use Bahrain's short 'outer track' for second race



The track which will have 87 race laps is also the 2nd shortest in Formula 1



Sheikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa

**F1 Simulations predict qualifying lap times below 55 seconds**

TDT | Manama

Formula 1 and Bahrain International Circuit yesterday announced that this year's Formula 1 Rolex Sakhir

Grand Prix, scheduled for 4th to 6th December 2020, will take place on the circuit's 3.543 km outer track.

Following a detailed analysis of the circuit's different track layouts, all of which have an FIA Grade 1 license, Formula 1 has concluded the outer circuit as the most suitable option for the second of Bahrain's doubleheader races. The Grand Prix will be a full night race with both qual-

ifying and the race taking place later in the evening compared to the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix taking place the previous weekend on the usual 5.412 km international track layout.

The track has contrasting characteristics compared to the international track layout and will have the highest number of race laps at 87 and be the 2nd shortest circuit in Formula 1.

(Continues on page 2)



ROLEX

OYSTER PERPETUAL COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA



Modern Art Studio

Rolex Boutique - Bahrain City Centre

# Work ban ends on Monday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's two-month outdoor work ban which began on 1 July will come to an end this Monday.

This year's work ban which came amid the deadly coronavirus outbreak presented several unprecedented challenges especially to the construction industry, which employs over 150,000 labourers in about 30,000 worksites.

The annual ban, first introduced in 2007 and kicks off on the first of every July, prohibits working in open worksite from midday until 4:00 pm. Though limited initially to construction workers, the law was later expanded to include labourers in all sectors, considering the successful reduction in workplace incidents.

This year, the Labour Ministry said it carried out 6,315 inspections, while also recommending legal actions against 27 establishments for violating restrictions put in place to safeguard workers from soaring temperatures.

The ministry also announced referring 37 workers to the judiciary for similar violations, a report by *Albilad* quoting Labour Ministry said.

Explaining other actions taken during the ban period,



Picture courtesy of construction week

## 6,315

inspections were carried out by the labour ministry during the two months to refer 27 establishments and 37 workers for legal actions

the ministry said it conducted several awareness-raising campaigns and virtual-workshops to educate employers and workers on the negative impacts of working under high temperatures.

The ministry said it also distributed multilingual brochures and leaflets as part of campaigns.

Earlier in July, Jameel Hu-

maidan, the minister of labour and social development, described the work ban as the best means for safeguarding workers against heat exhaustion, sunstroke, summer-related diseases and several occupational incidents.

He also said that in the past 98 per cent of private sector companies had complied with the work ban.

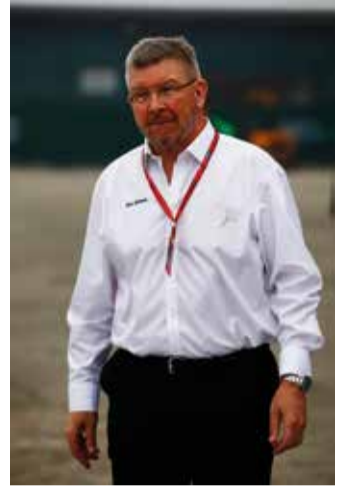
# Race laps below 60 seconds

(Continues from page 1)

Formula 1 simulations predict qualifying lap times below 55 seconds and race laps below 60 seconds.

The Bahrain International Circuit, in collaboration with The Bahrain Motor Federation and the FIA, will be working over the coming weeks to ensure all elements of the track are prepared and tested according to current standards for an F1 race.

Sheikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Chief Executive of Bahrain International Circuit, said: "We thank Formula 1 for all their work in analysing options for our second race and it's a great testament to our venue that we will be able to hold what is likely to be very contrasting races on consecutive weekends. Our outer track has never been



Ross Brawn, Managing Director of Motorsport, Formula 1

Our outer track has never been used for international competitive racing, so will be a new and exciting challenge for all participants

SHEIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT

used for international competitive racing, so will be a new and exciting challenge for all participants."

Ross Brawn, Managing Director of Motorsport, Formula 1 said: "We are excited to announce the outer circuit as the format for the Sakhir Grand Prix and want to thank our partners at the Bahrain International Circuit for their continued support. We assessed a number of options for the alternative circuit layout and concluded the outer circuit will provide the best alternative and will provide a new challenge for all the teams and entertain all our fans with high speeds and fast lap times."

# Body found in Aker



Picture courtesy of AlAyam

TDT | Manama

Police recovered an unidentified body near the western coast of Aker amid piles of waste and construction debris, yesterday.

Following the incident, several nearby residents thronged the place, with police officers

quickly securing the spot.

The identity, including the gender, of the dead person, is not revealed.

Officials conducted a preliminary inquiry at the scene, but the findings are not revealed.

The investigation is ongoing.

# Man in the dock for insulting religious figures during sermon

TDT | Manama

Bahraini officials arrested a man for allegedly insulting the companions of Prophet Muhammad PUBH and on charges of promoting sedition and sectarianism, and risking civil peace.

He was arrested based on evidence proving his direct involvement in the crime.

Officials brought in the accused for questioning after the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security was notified of a video of the ser-

mon circulating online with the offensive remarks.

The man allegedly made the comments during a sermon he delivered on a religious occasion.

Investigators found that his comments defamed the companions of the Prophet Mohammed. He was accused of publicly abusing a respected figure to a sect.

The man violated the clause 310/2 of the penal code law by promoting sedition and sectarianism and risking civil peace.

Public prosecution is taking legal action.

The Ambassador of Bahrain to Germany, Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, participated in the Bahrain Economic Forum for Investment, organised remotely by the Kingdom's embassy in Berlin, the Economic Development Board, and the German Arab Chamber of Commerce. Ambassador Abdullah and Ambassador of Germany to Bahrain, Kai ThamoBockmann praised the relations between Bahrain and Germany in various fields. Also speaking was the Chairman of the Economic Development Board, Khalid Humaidan, President of the Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Peter Ramazzauer. Discussions focused on enhancing bilateral trade as well as tourism, banking, vocational education, and encouraging small and medium-sized companies to invest in the two countries.



# One more COVID-19 death

TDT | Manama

A 59-year-old Bahrain man is the latest casualty in Bahrain's battle against the deadly pandemic, which until yesterday has claimed 189 lives.

Ministry of Health announced the death and condolences to the family of the deceased on its twitter handle.

There are currently 65 COVID-19 cases receiving treatment in the Kingdom, of which 30 are in a critical condition.

Some 3,164 active cases are

there, out of which 3,134 patients are health-wise stable.

Health Ministry also conducted 9,651 more COVID-19 tests yesterday raising the total tests conducted to 1,088,418.

New 357 cases were detected yesterday, of which 115 are expatriate workers, 232 are contacts of active cases, and 10 are travel related.

Bahrain also announced 390 more recoveries yesterday, increasing the number of patients cured of their infection in the Kingdom, till date, to 47,760.

# Protect society from pandemic, evil: Al-Fateh mosque Imam

TDT | Manama

Al-Fateh Mosque Imam called on all to remain committed to public order and laws, and assume the responsibility of protecting the society from the pandemic and evil.

This is an "opportunity to strengthen cooperation on righteousness and piety, and cohesion among the members of the same country," said Shaikh Adnan bin Abdulla Al-Qattan.

Al-Qattan was leading a sermon and prayer which were attended by 170 preachers.

The Imam also congratulated the Kingdom's decision to reopen mosques gradually thanking His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prime Minister Prince Khali-



Shaikh Adnan bin Abdulla Al-Qattan

fa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister. He also reminded all that the Ashura Commemoration is an occasion to follow the footsteps of the family of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) regarding compassion, love, communication, mutual advice and love of goodness.



Salman bin Isa Bin Hindi Al Mannai, the Muharraq Governor, and Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Jeeran, Deputy Governor, yesterday visited Muharraq and the villages of Samaheej, Al Deir and Arad to review the implementation of coronavirus precautionary measures in connection with Ashura. Al Mannai praised the preparations and said that the governorate had set up a mechanism to conduct the rituals safely. Adnan Al-Sada, Director of Community Affairs and Lt. Col. Abdulaziz Al-Baker, Security Coordination Officer were also present.



Artist Abbas Al Mousawi with his painting portraying the solidarity of humankind, amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, regardless of the diversity of colours and ethnicities. The exhibition, part of Imam Hussein (PBUH) Art Festival 21, was held under the patronage of Jaafari Endowments Department. Al-Mousawi explained that the circular motion in the centre represents the slogan of the festival "Ashura, Solidarity and Peace" and the rotation of the earth. The rose of hope sends the message of love and healing to all the people on the Earth. (picture courtesy of AlAyam)



Screengrabs of a video posted by Defend Bahrain show worshippers wearing face masks and carrying prayer mats entering a mosque after taking temperature checks at the entrance

# Bahrain begins the day with Fajr

TDI | Manama

Worshippers all over the Kingdom offered their first socially-distanced Fajr prayers yesterday, as the dawn calls for the prayers were given out from mosques early morning, after a break of nearly 160 days.

Videos of the prayers circulating online showed men offering prayers with a gap of at least 2 metres between each other, with several mosques also leaving every second row empty.

Upon hearing prayers calls, wearing face masks and carrying prayer mats, worshippers entered the mosques adhering to strict precautionary guidelines laid out by the authorities to reduce the spread of the virus.

Mosques in Bahrain suspended services earlier this year in March following the outbreak of coronavirus which until yesterday has claimed nearly 190 lives.

For receiving worshippers, mosques yesterday kept their doors wide open 10 minutes before the prayer, setting a gap of five minutes between the muezzin's call and praying, while also closing its doors 10 minutes after the prayers.

After the designated prayer times, worshippers left their places gradually and orderly, without any delay or overcrowding to perform Sunnah prayers at home.

Customary exchange of hugs and handshakes after prayers also didn't happen yesterday with worshippers heeding to a call to refrain from such habits during these times.

Besides, the mosques also kept closed ablution places, bathrooms, toilets, refrigerators, and water taps with worshippers performing washing rituals at



Pictures showing Fajr prayers from around Bahrain. Pictures on the left were posted by Usman @FABT123 and Alayam



**The Fajr prayer or dawn prayer is one of the five mandatory salah (Islamic prayer). As an Islamic day starts at sunset, the Fajr prayer is technically the first prayer of the day. If counted from midnight, it is the first prayer of the day. Fajr starts at twilight and ends at sunrise.**

their homes before coming to the mosques.

As per the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, worshippers have to perform Sunnah prayers (optional additional prayers) at home.

Mosques will continue Fajr prayers daily, but other services will continue to remain suspended except at Ahmed Al-Fateh Mosque where Friday prayers are allowed with limited participation.

Fajr prayer entry in mosques yesterday was also offered only to men, with the ministry preventing those who are sick, women and children aged below 15 from entering mosques.

Authorities also encouraged elderly people to perform their prayers at home.

Several people also brought

the Quran with them or read if from their mobile phones, as not any Qurans were kept inside mosques for shared use.

After the prayers, worshippers left the mosque taking care not to touch the doors or any other objects in their way.

## Social media celebrates

Shortly after, several people took to social media platforms to express their elation for returning to mosques after a long time.

"Happiness of going to Masjid after a very long time !! Fajr Prayer with precautionary measures #Bahrain," wrote Usman on his *Twitter* handle @FABT123.

A video posted by 'Defend Bahrain' on *Facebook* showed worshippers entering a mosque

wearing face masks and carrying prayer mats, as they were also subjected to temperature checks at the entrance.

"Alhamdulillah... gradually everything will be back to normal Insh'Allah. Stay safe and be patient," wrote Sameerah Anisa in the comment section of 'Defend Bahrain' video which quickly garnered over 7.3k view and over 500 likes.

"Alhamdulillah, Something better than nothing," wrote another user Ishtiaq Qasim.

Ism Ali, another worshipper, expressed happiness with the words, "Finally open mosque it's mean Allah forgives us and all things are coming back normal."

Bahrain's GCC neighbours had also opened mosques as part of a

phased reopening from coronavirus induced lockdowns.

In UAE, the mosque reopening in July was performed at 30 per cent capacity after 107 days of closure.

The call for prayers performed there didn't have the phrase "Hayya alas-salah" (come to prayer) but said 'As-salatu fi buyutikum (pray in your homes)' to encourage the faithful to perform prayers at home.

The UAE first announced the suspension of public prayers on March 16, which was extended until further notice on April 9.

Neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Kuwait also reopened mosques after months of closures with strict preventive measures.

## Education Ministry gears up for school year with televised lessons

TDI | Manama

Video lessons for various classes are being designed and shot by the Education ministry in full swing for the new academic year, revealed an Education ministry official.

To date, the ministry has recorded a total of 501 classes in its hi-tech recording studio at Wadi Al Sail Primary Preparatory School for Boys.

"The ministry will telecast classes on Bahrain's satellite channel and YouTube channels at the start of the new school year," said Ahlam Al-Amer, Assistant Undersecretary for Curricula and Educational Supervision, Ministry of Education.



A recording session. (Courtesy of AlAyam)

Lessons are for classes in Arabic and English, Mathematics, Science, Citizenship, Social and Islamic Education, in addition to specialisation courses in general secondary education.

"The recording of the classes, which began on 28th this June, is being done as episodes," said Al Amer.

The first episode, which has 160 lessons explains lessons in a classroom environment and simulates reality by employing various teaching methodologies to attract children and motivate them.

The second and third episodes have 117 and 94

video lessons, respectively.

Another 130 classes shot are for secondary school students of various educational levels.

Videos will be telecast at a rate of 15 lessons per day.

Al Amer explained that the ministry has roped in teachers for videos from various government schools in the Kingdom.

"Assisting them are curriculum specialists who will also vet the recorded video," added Al Amer.

The whole process, the official said, is being realised with the support of the ministry of information affairs.

## Oil eases as producers, refiners avoid worst of hurricane

● **Oil producers had shut 1.56 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude output, or 83pc of the Gulf of Mexico's production**

Reuters | New York

Oil prices inched lower yesterday as Hurricane Laura passed the heart of the US oil industry in Louisiana and Texas without causing any widespread damage and companies were beginning to restart operations.

Brent crude futures LCOc1 for October, set to expire on Friday, were down 11 cents to \$44.98 a barrel by 11:01 a.m. ET (1501 GMT.) US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude CLC1 fell 18 cents to \$42.86 a barrel.

Both benchmarks were on track for weekly gains of about 1.3 per cent, with WTI headed for a fourth straight weekly rise. The benchmarks hit five-month highs earlier in the week as U.S. producers cut crude output ahead of Laura at a rate close to the level of 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

Laura, since downgraded

**44.98**

dollar a barrel was the price of Brent crude futures LCOc1 for October by 1501 GMT

## Gold jumps over 1.5pc on weaker dollar, new Fed strategy

Reuters

Gold rebounded over 1.5 per cent on Friday, a day after a steep sell-off, as the U.S. dollar weakened and the U.S. Federal Reserve signalled a prolonged low interest rate strategy.

Spot gold rose 1.7pc to \$1,960.72 per ounce by 11:00 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT), taking gains this week to more than 1pc. Prices fell as much as 2.2pc on Thursday after U.S. Treasury yields gained following Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech.

US gold futures rose 2pc to \$1,971.40.

"The sizeable sell-off in the greenback has propped up gold," said David Madden, market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

"The Fed said it can allow inflation to run above its 2pc target for some time seems like they are going to keep their monetary policy extremely loose, which should help gold."

The dollar .DXY fell to an over one-week low, making gold cheaper for holders of other currencies, and was on track to post its biggest weekly percentage fall since end-July.

Powell said on Thursday the central bank would adopt an average inflation target, meaning rates are likely to stay low even if inflation rises a bit in future.

On the other hand, global

to a tropical depression, hit Louisiana early on Thursday with winds of 150 miles per hour (240 km per hour). The storm killed at least six people, damaged buildings, felled trees and cur power was cut to hundreds of thousands people in Louisiana and Texas, but refineries were spared from feared massive flooding.

Oil producers had shut 1.56 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude output, or 83pc of the Gulf of Mexico's production, while nine refineries had shut around 2.9 million bpd of capacity, or 15pc of U.S. processing capacity, ahead of the hurricane.

Valero Energy Corp began restarting its 335,000 bpd Port Arthur, Texas, refinery on Friday, while Exxon Mobil was preparing to restart its 370,000 bpd Beaumont, Texas, refinery.

However, repairs to Citgo Petroleum's 418,000-bpd Lake Charles, Louisiana, plant that was on the storm's path could take four to six weeks, according to Mizuho Securities. The company did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Late on Thursday, the Port of Houston, the top US crude oil export hub accounting for about 600,000 bpd of shipments, was in the process of reopening to commercial shipping.

Further ahead, demand expectations continue to be bearish. The contango between Brent crude for nearby delivery and six-months ahead remained near its widest since late May with the front-month contract more than \$2 cheaper. LCOc1-LCOc7



**1.7pc**

Spot gold rose 1.7pc to \$1,960.72 per ounce by 11:00 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT)

## Stocks pause for breath after Fed, dollar weakens

● **Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell indicated Thursday that US interest rates will stay ultra low for as long as needed**

● **News of further coronavirus infection spikes around the world, particularly in Europe, continues to rattle investors**

● **The yen also spiked by more than one percent versus the dollar as Shinzo Abe announced he would resign**

AFP News

Global stock markets paused for breath yesterday as traders eyed the outlook for both US interest rates and the global coronavirus crisis, while the yen briefly spiked after Japan's prime minister said he was stepping down for health reasons.

Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell indicated Thursday that US interest rates will stay ultra low for as long as needed, as the central bank looks to nurture the recovery from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

European stocks closed slightly lower as London, Frankfurt and Paris all shed around half a percent while on Wall Street, the Dow edged ahead 0.3 percent two hours in.

The dollar weakened, meanwhile, as the pound notably climbed to its highest level since December 2019.

'Taps on'

Although "the promise of lower rates for longer was music to the ears of Wall Street bulls" Craig Erlam, senior market analyst with OANDA Europe, said that "for now, little has changed. The taps will be



News that Shinzo Abe was stepping down as Japanese prime minister sent prices down at home but global stocks generally paused for breath after the Fed said US rates will stay ultra low as long as needed

on for the foreseeable future as the economy recovers from the wreckage of the pandemic, hopefully aided by a vaccine later this year". News of further coronavirus infection spikes around the world, particularly in Europe, continues to rattle investors after Germany and Spain imposed fresh control measures as cases surge following the easing of lockdowns.

"It looks like the Fed news wasn't... appetising for European investors, who (are) showing signs of distress regarding rising COVID-19 cases... and the possibility of seeing stricter government measures again," Swissquote Bank senior analyst Ipek Ozkardeskaya said.

Powell said Thursday the Fed would be in no rush to reel in inflation even if it overshoots the central bank's two percent

**Abe heads for exit**

The yen -- regarded as a safe haven in times of turmoil -- also spiked by more than one percent versus the dollar as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced he would resign.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 ended down 1.4 percent ahead of the official confirmation, which ends a record-breaking tenure at the helm of the world's

third-largest economy.

Abe said he is suffering a recurrence of the ulcerative colitis that forced him to cut short a first term in office, and that he no longer felt able to continue.

Analysts said there would be concerns about the end of his big-spending, easy money policy -- dubbed Abenomics -- that has been credited with supporting the fragile economy for years.

"Such a policy response will stifle economic growth and will most likely send the dollar soaring higher."

## Coca-Cola to cut thousands of jobs



Bottles of Coca-Cola are displayed at a supermarket of Swiss retailer Denner

Reuters

Coca-Cola Co yesterday joined a list of big US companies laying off thousands of workers in response to the coronavirus crisis, offering voluntary deals across its businesses and promising to halve its number of operating units.

The company was offering voluntary redundancy to 4,000 workers in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and would offer similar deals in other markets, it said in a statement, while also signaling other layoffs were likely to follow.

"The voluntary program is expected to reduce the number of involuntary separations," the world's largest beverage maker said, adding that the global severance programs would incur expenses of about \$350 million to \$550 m.

## India gold discounts hit five-month high

Reuters | Mumbai/Bengaluru

Dealers in India offered the highest discounts on gold in five months this week as a dip in domestic prices failed to revive demand, while in top consumer China prices remained at a sharp discount to the international market.

In India discounts of \$43 an ounce were offered over official domestic prices, the highest since the last week of March, versus \$20 discounts last week. The domestic price includes a 12.5 per cent import and 3pc sales taxes.

On Friday, local gold futures traded around 51,200 rupees (\$699) per 10 grams, having retreated from a record 56,191 rupees hit earlier this month.

Chinese discounts eased to \$60-\$70 an ounce against international spot gold rates, which traded in a \$1,902.22-\$1,976.03 range, from last week's \$80-\$70.

In Hong Kong, gold was sold at anywhere between a discount of \$0.50 to a \$1.50 premium over global prices.

## El Al to fly Israel's first flight to UAE by commercial carrier

Reuters | Tel Aviv

El Al Airlines will on Monday fly Israel's first flight to the United Arab Emirates by a commercial carrier, an airline spokesman confirmed on Friday, as the countries forge ahead with a deal to normalise ties. The direct flight between Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport and the UAE's political capital of Abu Dhabi is due to carry an Israeli delegation and top aides to US President Donald Trump, who brokered the Aug. 13 accord.

Trump's senior adviser Jared Kushner will be among the US officials on the El Al flight departing on Aug. 31 at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT), a US official said.

A return flight from Abu Dhabi to Tel Aviv was scheduled



El Al Israel Airlines planes are seen on the tarmac at Ben Gurion International airport in Lod, near Tel Aviv, Israel

for Tuesday afternoon, the El Al spokesman said, confirming timetable information on the Israel Airports Authority (IAI) website.

IAI listed the flight number for the outbound leg as "LY 971" and the return leg as "LY 972", a nod to the UAE and Israel's respective country codes.

There are no official air links between Israel and the UAE, and it was unclear whether El Al would be able to fly over Saudi Arabia to cut down on flight

time.

The exact flight route and landing time were still being worked on, the US official said.

In May, an Etihad Airways plane flew from the UAE to Tel Aviv to deliver coronavirus supplies to the Palestinians, marking the first known flight by a UAE carrier to Israel.

The Israel-UAE deal awaits negotiations on details such as opening embassies, trade and travel links before it is officially signed.

## Corrigendum

The story published on Tribune's page 3 on 28 August 2020 with the title "Future Bank slapped with more fines" wrongly mentioned Valiollah Seif's designation as the governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain. Kindly read it as Valiollah Seif, who was the governor of the Central bank of Iran from 2014 until 2018. The error is regretted.

# Shinzo Abe resigns over health problems

Ailing Abe quits as Japan PM as COVID-19 slams economy, key goals unmet

● The 65-year-old has suffered for many years from ulcerative colitis

Reuters | Tokyo

Japan's Shinzo Abe yesterday said he was resigning because of poor health, ending a tenure as the country's longest-serving prime minister in which he sought to revive an economy stricken by deflation and push for a stronger military.

His abrupt departure triggers a leadership battle in his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) over the next few weeks. The winner will likely stick to Abe's reflationary "Abenomics" policies that had mixed results in resuscitating the world's third-largest economy.

Abe has battled ulcerative colitis for years, and two recent hospital visits within a week had raised questions about whether he could stay on in until his term ends in September next year.

## Shinzo Abe

Japan's longest-serving prime minister



1977 Graduated from Seikei University

1979-1982 Worked at Kobe Steel before turning to politics

1993 First time elected to parliament

2006-2007 First term as prime minister Resigned citing health problems in part

Since 2012 Second term as PM

Despite the deepening concerns about his health, news of Abe's resignation sent tremors through Tokyo financial markets. Japan's main stock market, which has more than doubled under Abe, fell some 2% before recovering, while the yen rose on concerns of a return to deflation.

"I cannot continue being prime minister if I do not have the confidence that I can carry out the job entrusted to me by the people," Abe, 65, told a news conference as he announced his decision.

He said he wanted to avoid a political vacuum as Japan copes with the novel coronavirus. It was the second time Abe has resigned as prime minister because of poor health, the first more than a decade ago.

"I apologise from the bottom of my heart that despite all of the support from the Japanese people, I am leaving the post with one full year left in my term," he said.

At times during his news conference he choked up and blinked back tears.



On Monday, Abe surpassed a record for longest consecutive tenure as premier set by his great-uncle Eisaku Sato half a century ago

Apart from inheriting an economy in the throes of its worst downturn since World War Two, Abe's successor will be left to try and ensure next year's Olympics - already delayed for a year by the COVID-19 pandemic - will go ahead.

Former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba and former foreign minister Fumio Kishida quickly expressed interest in the top job, media reported. Among others whose names have been floated is Abe's close aide, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

## News in brief



Several areas of the Niger capital Niamey remained under water as the death toll in recent floods that have displaced over 225,000 people rose to 45, authorities said.

Niger capital flooded as death toll rises to 45

Around 25,000 households had been hit by the floods, a statement by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management said. In Niamey, where some areas have been submerged since Tuesday after heavy rainfall caused the Niger river to breach its banks, the river rose again by several centimetres after further heavy rains on Wednesday, an AFP journalist said.

Three dead as storms lash Australia's southeast

A fierce storm in Australia's southeast killed three people, including a four-year-old boy and left emergency crews working to restore power and drinking water to thousands of homes.



High winds sent trees crashing into homes and crushing cars near Melbourne, state premier Daniel Andrews said. A four-year-old was struck by a tree while reportedly walking with his father on Thursday night in the southeast of the city. The child was rushed to the hospital but later died from his injuries.



Typhoon Bavi toppled trees in the streets of North Korea's capital though state media reported that leader Kim Jong Un said the country was "fortunate" and had suffered only limited damage.

Typhoon causes little damage in N Korea: Kim

The storm -- at one point categorised as a severe typhoon -- made its way up the peninsula this week, raising fears of havoc as it approached the North. Trees were uprooted in Pyongyang, including along Mirae Scientists' Street, one of Kim's showpiece developments.

Mauritania's ex-president says 'victim of score settling'

Former Mauritanian president Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz has lashed out at unnamed enemies, saying he had been targeted for "a settling of old scores" after undergoing a week-long interrogation over suspected corruption.



Aziz, who handed over power in August last year, took his case to the media late Thursday, three days after being released from questioning.

The United Nations rights chief called on the Democratic Republic of Congo to swiftly investigate death threats against Nobel Peace Prize laureate Denis Mukwege and bring those responsible to justice. "His life seems to be at serious risk," Michelle Bachelet said in a statement, calling for an impartial probe into the threats against him.

The South Korean government ramped up efforts to end a strike by thousands of the country's doctors yesterday, as Seoul took the unprecedented step of restricting eateries in the capital in a bid to blunt a surge in coronavirus cases. The Health Ministry extended a back-to-work order for doctors to the entire country and filed a complaint with police against at least 10 doctors it said have not abided by an order that has been in place in Seoul since Wednesday.

## Hurricane Laura leaves six dead in Louisiana but less damage than feared

Reuters | Houston

At least six people were killed by Hurricane Laura in Louisiana and search teams may find more victims, but the governor said that the most powerful storm to make landfall in the US state in living memory did not cause the "catastrophic"



A damaged building in Louisiana

damage that had been feared. "We have a lot to be thankful for," Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said.

"It is clear that we did not sustain the absolute catastrophic damage that we thought was likely based on the forecast we had last night," Edwards said.

"But we have sustained a tremendous amount of damage," he said, and thousands of residents have had their "lives turned upside down."

Hurricane Laura struck the coast of Louisiana early Thursday as a Category 4 storm -- the second-highest on the wind scale. It has since been downgraded to a tropical storm.

## Landmine kills 13 in southern Afghanistan

AFP | Kandahar

At least 13 people were killed yesterday when their vehicle set off a landmine in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province, local officials said, blaming Taliban fighters for the attack.

The blast happened in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province when people were travelling to an open-air market, where hundreds of villagers gather for weekend sales.

Bahir Ahmad Ahmadi, a spokesman for Kandahar provincial governor said the villagers were blown to pieces, and could not be identified.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the landmine blast. Taliban fighters say they use roadside bombs and landmines to attack security forces, but civilians are frequently hurt or killed.

Years of conflict have left Afghanistan strewn with landmines, which are often picked up by curious children.

## Dozens dead as record rains lash Pakistan

Reuters | Karachi

Dozens of people have been killed in accidents and floods caused by torrential rains that have lashed Pakistan for days on end, officials said yesterday.

Precipitation reached record levels in Karachi, the country's largest city, where waist-deep rivers of trash-strewn floodwater swept down streets and into homes and businesses.

Eighteen people died in the southern city on Thursday "in various rain-related accidents," a police spokeswoman said.

A record 230mm of rain was recorded in Karachi, home to about 20 million people, compared to the average of 130mm for the time of year, the city's



A vegetable vendor rides his donkey cart through a flooded street

meteorological service chief Sarfraz Ahmed said.

In the mountainous north-western province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16 people were killed in flash floods yesterday, with landslides damaging 67 houses, said provincial disaster management authority Taimur Ali.

And in the eastern province of Punjab, local officials said four workers were killed when a warehouse roof collapsed yesterday.

The monsoon, which usually lasts from June to September, is essential for irrigating crops and replenishing water supplies across the Indian sub-continent, home to one-fifth of the world's population.

**230mm** of rain was recorded in Karachi, home to about 20 million people, compared to the average of 130mm for the time of year

## Global

Covid-19 Cases: **22,151,696**

Deaths: **779,655**

Recovered: **14,880,183**

New cases: **+108,136**

New deaths: **+2,582**

Middle East

## Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New cases	Total Deaths	New deaths
1 USA	5,623,512	+11,485	174,141	+425
2 Brazil	3,363,235		108,654	
3 India	2,752,765	+51,161	52,853	+928
4 Russia	932,493	+4,748	15,872	+132
5 South Africa	589,886		11,982	
6 Peru	541,493		26,481	
7 Mexico	525,733	+3,571	57,023	+266
8 Colombia	476,660		15,372	
9 Chile	388,855	+1,353	10,546	+33
10 Spain	382,142		28,646	
11 Iran	347,835	+2,385	19,972	+168
12 UK	320,286	+1,089	41,381	+12
13 Saudi Arabia	301,323	+1,409	3,470	+34
14 Argentina	299,126		5,877	+63

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	96,590		5,173		60,651	30,766	41	942
Saudi Arabia	301,323	+1,409	3,470	+34	272,911	24,942	1,716	8,638
UAE	64,906	+365	366	+2	57,909	6,631		6,552
Kuwait	77,470	+643	505	+3	69,243	7,722	101	18,107
Oman	83,418	+192	597	+9	77,977	4,844	154	16,285
Qatar	115,368		193		112,088	3,087	69	41,088

## Mammal-like Triassic creature beat polar winters by hibernating



An artist's rendition shows the Triassic Period mammal relative *Lystrosaurus* in a hibernation-like state  
AFP | Washington

The tusks of a stoutly built plant-eating mammal relative that inhabited Antarctica 250 million years ago are providing the oldest-known evidence that animals resorted to hibernation-like states to get through lean times such as polar winters.

The research published on Thursday focused on a four-legged forager called *Lystrosaurus* whose fossils have been found in China, Russia, India, South Africa and Antarctica. It was an early member of the evolutionary lineage that later gave rise to mammals.

The findings indicated that *Lystrosaurus* entered a state of torpor - a temporary reduction in metabolic activity - to cope with the long, perpetually dark winters in the Antarctic Circle when food was scarce, although Earth then was much warmer than today and the region was not ice-bound.

The findings also suggested *Lystrosaurus*, which may have had hair, was warm-blooded.

Hibernation is a form of torpor found in warm-blooded animals like certain bears, rodents, echidnas, hedgehogs and badgers.

*Lystrosaurus*, ranging from roughly the size of a pig to the size of a cow, possessed a tur-



tle-like beak and lacked teeth except for a pair of ever-growing tusks protruding from its face useful for digging up tasty roots and tubers. These tusks had incremental growth marks visible in the form of dentine - the hard tissue that forms the bulk of a tooth - deposited in concentric circles like tree rings.

The researchers examined tusk cross-sections from six *Lystrosaurus* individuals from Antarctica and four from South Africa, away from the polar conditions. The Antarctic tusks bore closely spaced, thick rings suggestive of periods of less deposition during a hibernation-like state.

"Torpor is an incredibly common physiological phenomenon in animals today," said Harvard University paleontologist Megan Whitney, lead author of the research published in the journal *Communications Biology*.

# Biden, Harris slam Trump over social unrest, Covid response

Kamala Harris hit out at Donald Trump over what she said are his failures to protect Americans and contain the coronavirus pandemic

● Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden accused President Donald Trump of fueling social unrest

AFP | Washington

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and running mate Kamala Harris launched a two-pronged attack Thursday against Donald Trump, saying the president is fueling unrest over police brutality and racial injustice and has failed to protect Americans.

Trump "refuses to even acknowledge there is a racial justice problem in America," Biden said in a statement amid swelling social unrest after an African-American man, Jacob Blake, was shot in the back at close range multiple times by police in Wisconsin.

The shooting sparked nationwide rage and three nights of violence in the city of Kenosha. Tensions soared when two protesters were shot dead Tuesday.

A white 17-year-old was detained on murder charges connected to the protesters' slayings, and Trump announced he was sending federal forces to Kenosha to "restore law and order."

On Wednesday Vice President Mike Pence warned people watching the Republican convention that they "won't be safe in Joe Biden's America."



Democratic vice presidential running mate, US Senator Kamala Harris, listens to presidential nominee and former US Vice President Joe Biden speak (file photo)

Biden shot back that the deadly violence did not occur on his watch, and won't during a future Biden presidency.

"The violence we're witnessing is happening under Donald Trump. Not me," Biden said, adding that Trump -- who has yet to publicly address Blake's shooting -- is turning a blind eye to the crisis.

"Instead of looking to calm the waters, he adds fuel to every fire. Violence isn't a problem in his eyes -- it's a political strategy," Biden said. "And the more of it, the better for him."

With Trump set to close out the Republican convention

with a speech Thursday night, Harris sought to shine a light on racial injustice and police brutality.

"As vice president Biden put it, the shots fired at Mr Blake pierced the soul of our nation," she told reporters in an address in Washington. "It's sickening to watch. It's all too familiar. And it must end."

Harris said she would "always defend" peaceful protesters but they should not be confused "with those looting and committing acts of violence."

She also warned against citizens taking the law into their own hands, a veiled reference



The violence we're witnessing is happening under Donald Trump. Not me. Instead of looking to calm the waters, he adds fuel to every fire. Violence isn't a problem in his eyes -- it's a political strategy. And the more of it, the better for him

JOE BIDEN

to the arrested teen.

"Make no mistake, we will not let these vigilantes and extremists derail the path to justice," Harris said.

Harris also went after Trump for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, saying the president showed "reckless disregard" by failing to take decisive action.

"President Trump got it wrong in the beginning. And then, he got it wrong again, and again. And the consequences have been catastrophic," she said.

"Donald Trump has failed at the most basic and important job of a president of the United States. He failed to protect the American people," she said.

Trump is expected to speak Thursday about his efforts to end the pandemic and revive the battered US economy.

## Ivanka: Trump daughter-confidante makes case for four more years

AFP | Washington

Ivanka Trump, the omnipresent first daughter who may harbor White House ambitions of her own, has remained her president father's loyal senior advisor, seeking to humanize him Thursday as she introduced the "warrior" standing for reelection in November.

Of Donald Trump's five children, Ivanka was the only one invited to address the final night of the Republican National Convention -- interpreted as a sign of the president's closeness to her.

But if Ivanka Trump is presenting herself as the heir apparent carrying the family political banner into 2024 and beyond, she has competition from her older brother Donald Jr, who is a political force unto himself.

The telegenic 38-year-old Ivanka relished her repeat role at the Republican National Convention, recalling how she took the stage as a relative newcomer to national politics in 2016 when she introduced her father as the party's nominee.

"Four years ago I told you I would fight alongside my father, and four years later here I am," she said.

With a recording of Elton John's "I'm Still Standing" blaring, she strode out to cheers



Ivanka Trump, daughter of US President Donald Trump and White House adviser, addresses attendees

from more than 1,000 non-social-distancing guests packed into seats on the South Lawn of the White House.

She appeared comfortable and confident as she proclaimed "the people's president" as a man of conviction who would once again be a champion of the American worker, "our voice for the forgotten men and women of the United States."

"Now more than ever, America needs four more years of a warrior in the White House,"

she said to a roar, before addressing her father directly.

"Dad, people attack you for being unconventional. But I love you for being real and I respect you for being effective."

"I recognize that my dad's communication style is not to everyone's taste. And I know that his tweets can feel a bit unfiltered," she said. "But the results, the results speak for themselves."

She also painted the president as a family man who keeps her



Ivanka Trump painted the president as a family man who keeps her son's Lego replica of the White House in the Oval Office to show world leaders just so they know he has the greatest grandchildren on earth

son's Lego replica of the White House in the Oval Office "to show world leaders just so they know he has the greatest grandchildren on earth."

When Trump took the stage afterwards he thanked his "amazing daughter" and asked her to stand up, as her siblings remained seated.

**'Doing something really right'**

Accused of benefitting from a nepotistic connection to the commander in chief, Ivanka Trump holds a broad White House portfolio focusing on education, women's empowerment, job creation, workforce development and entrepreneur-

ship.

While her husband Jared Kushner has been given his own outsized role seeking Middle East peace, Ivanka often aligns herself with key domestic initiatives of the president, as she adroitly did Thursday with Trump's bid to lower prescription drugs.

"Now, when we see attack ads from Big Pharma, my dad smiles and says to me 'You know, we're doing something really right if they're hitting us so hard,'" she said.

While she is cool elegance and soft-spoken effectiveness, an insider who hosts women's roundtables at the White House, brother Don Jr inherited their father's bombastic, rabble-rousing style.

Speaking to the convention on Monday, the son served as dutiful attack dog against his father's election rival Joe Biden, branding him the "Loch Ness monster" of the Washington swamp who "sticks his head up every now and then to run for president, then he disappears and doesn't do much in between."

He also connects on a basic, intuitive level with Trump voters, often taking to conservative radio and other media to blast Democrats and convince working-class Americans that his father deserves their vote.

## US Senator Rand Paul escapes 'angry mob'



Rand Paul  
Reuters | Washington

US Senator Rand Paul, who attended President Donald Trump's Republican Party nomination convention, said yesterday he was attacked by what he described as an "angry mob" of more than 100 people near the White House and had to be rescued by the police.

"Just got attacked by an angry mob of over 100, one block away from the White House. Thank you to DC Police Dept for literally saving our lives from a crazed mob," the senator wrote on twitter.

Videos circulating on social media, which could not be immediately verified by Reuters, show the senator and his wife Kelley walking down the street as crowds gathered near them shouting and shoving the police who tried to protect the couple.

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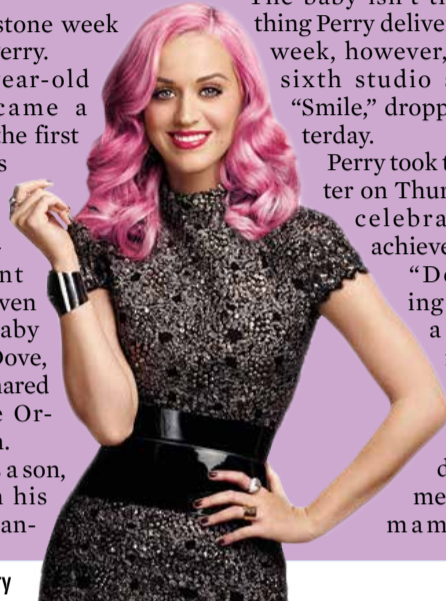
# celebs

## Katy Perry addresses delivering a baby and new album 'in the same week'

Fox | Los Angeles

It's a milestone week for Katy Perry. The 35-year-old singer became a mother for the first time this week with Wednesday's announcement that she'd given birth to a baby girl, Daisy Dove, whom she shared with fiancé Orlando Bloom.

Bloom has a son, Flynn, with his ex-wife Miran-



Katy Perry

da Kerr.

The baby isn't the only thing Perry delivered this week, however, as her sixth studio album, "Smile," dropped yesterday.

Perry took to Twitter on Thursday to celebrate the achievements.

"Delivering a baby and a record in the same week, do not mess with mama aka

#whatmakesawoman #smile."

Her hashtags were written in references to the album title and the closing track "What Makes a Woman."

Perry also used the music video for her song "Never Worn White" to announce her pregnancy, baring her baby bump at the end of the clip.

Daisy's birth was announced on UNICEF's Instagram, as the couple serves as Goodwill Ambassadors for the foundation.

They shared a black and white image of the "Firework" singer and English actor holding onto the newborn's hand. They didn't, however, show their daughter's face.

## Alicia Vikander feels 'lucky' she never developed an eating disorder

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Alicia Vikander feels "very lucky" she never developed an eating disorder.

The 31-year-old actress trained in ballet from the age of nine, and Alicia thinks she's fortunate she never developed an eating disorder due to the pressures of the ballet lifestyle.

She said: "Being in a leotard looking at your body in a mirror seven hours a day, six days a week and having people talk about your body in front of you and in front of other girls and boys, growing up with that is not healthy."

Alicia feels her mother played an important role in helping her to navigate the pressures

she faced.

The actress shared: "I was very lucky to go through ballet school without having an eating disorder. I don't know how, I think it was my mum who talked about it to me every day."

Alicia has been married to fellow Hollywood star Michael Fassbender since 2017, and she's now keen to work with him again, having met on the set of "The Light Between Oceans".

However, Alicia also sees their

independence as a strength of their relationship.

The actress told the October issue of ELLE UK magazine: "I would love to work with him one day, but we're very much individuals, which I love and I think is good in any relationship."

"We both take on parts because it's a film that is right for us, so it would have to be the same if we were ever to work together again."

Alicia is also looking forward to returning to work following the coronavirus lockdown.



Alicia Vikander

## Thandie Newton admits surprise for receiving support after Tom Cruise revelation

IBT | Los Angeles

Thandie Newton said during a podcast interview on Wednesday that she did not expect to get any positive response after she called out Tom Cruise for making her feel insecure on the set of "Mission: Impossible."

The "Westworld" star admitted that she expected repercussions after she shared



Thandie Newton

her bad experience working with the actor. She said she thought that she "would be in trouble" because it is something that she is used to.

Instead, she received the support of other celebrities including Leah Remini, who has been outspoken about her dislike for Scientology. Cruise's ex-wife, Katie Holmes, also followed Newton on social media following her revelation.

"I was surprised by the appreciation I had got," the 47-year-old shared during an interview with Marc

Malkin for Variety's "The Big Ticket" podcast on iHeart Radio.

"I just happened to be an older woman who has recognized that knowing the truth and speaking the truth has benefited me a hell of a lot more than being silenced or seeing people silenced around me," Newton continued.

"I have nothing to lose because I could just then not get hired, which is kind of normal for people in my generation anyway. So I've got nothing to lose and I would rather go out using this moment..." she added.

## Sarah Harding held 'emotional phone calls' with Girls Aloud bandmates before announcing cancer diagnosis

OK! | Los Angeles

Sarah Harding made emotional phone calls to each of her former Girls Aloud bandmates before announcing her cancer diagnosis publicly, according to reports.

The 38-year-old made the devastating announcement that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year, with the disease

then spreading to other parts of her body.

All four other members of the chart topping band have shared their support for Sarah publicly, with it being believed the shock news has brought them closer than ever.

Following their split in 2013, Cheryl has remained close with Kimberley Walsh and Nicola Roberts, but has grown distant from Sarah and Nadine Coyle.

A source said: "There is so much shared history between them all and to hear this from Sarah was utterly heartbreaking. They adore Sarah and are

with her every step of the way.

"They've all shed a lot of tears but all of the girls vowed to be strong and be there for her no matter what. They are closer than ever as a unit," the insider continued to tell Mirror.

Showing their support publicly, all four other members of the Sound Of The Underground hitmakers have commented on the news on social media.

Cheryl, 37, simply tweeted a broken heart emoji to her 5.8million followers, marking her first social media post in three months.



Sarah Harding

## Amanda Holden reveals she guessed Katy Perry's baby name

Evening Standard | Los Angeles

As well as being a TikTok superstar, it would appear Amanda Holden is a bit of a mind-reader too.

The 49-year-old has revealed she managed to correctly guess Katy Perry's secret baby name months before she welcomed her first child into the world.

Sharing a video of Perry, 35, appearing on the Heart Breakfast radio programme a few months earlier, Holden pinpointed the moment she knew she had landed on the Roar singer's ideal moniker for her

then-unborn child.

Holden captioned the video: "I love Katy Perry's face when I correctly predict her baby's name back in June!"

The extract saw Britain's Got Talent judge Holden telling Perry: "Don't tell anyone the name! Because everyone judges you! Everyone goes: 'Don't call them that! My school bully was called that,' or, 'I hated this person called that.' There's always an opinion."

While Perry jokingly tells Holden's co-host Jamie Theakston that Jamie was a name she was considering, Holden

chipped in: "I like Daisy Bloom."

"I think the surname of Bloom and daisies and flowers...And Perry-Bloom is a brilliant hyphen. Daisy Perry-Bloom."

Perry, who shares her newborn daughter Daisy with actor Orlando Bloom, announced she had given birth earlier today.

The pair announced the happy

news via Unicef, a charity supporting disadvantaged children, for which both Perry and Bloom are ambassadors.

"We are floating with love and wonder from the safe and healthy arrival of our daughter," the couple said, before urging fans to donate money to those less fortunate than themselves.



Amanda Holden

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### SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

1	9	8	2	7	6	5	4	3
7	2	5	4	8	3	1	6	9
3	4	6	5	1	9	2	7	8
2	6	1	3	5	8	4	9	7
5	3	4	7	9	2	8	1	6
8	7	9	1	6	4	3	5	2
4	8	7	6	2	5	9	3	1
6	5	2	9	3	1	7	8	4
9	1	3	8	4	7	6	2	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- Perform or portray; 6- Streamlined; 11- General on Chinese menus; 14- Kitchen gadget; 15- Sophia of the screen; 16- Swiss river; 17- ... evil...; 18- Novelist Calvino; 19- Mom-and-pop org.; 20- Marnie; 22- Walk; 24- Artlessness; 26- Sixth planet; 30- Classic Chevy; 31- Extra-terrestrial being; 32- Scores; 33- Made cheerful; 37- Timecard abbr.; 38- Ages; 39- Copy; 40- Will; 43- Hinge; 45- Corpulent; 46- Break away; 47- Merciful; 49- Word after two, three or four; 50- Occupied; 51- False god; 52- ... glance; 53- Clod of turf; 56- Deadly virus; 61- French possessive; 62- ... Mio; 63- Color anew; 64- Summer drink; 65- More current; 66- Passover meal;

Down

1- Trauma ctrs.; 2- Never, in Nuremberg; 3- Star of the rotation; 4- 100 yrs.; 5- Plastering tools; 6- Slip; 7- A great deal; 8- History book chapter; 9- Long fish; 10- Entangled; 11- Get to the point?; 12- The devil; 13- Toward the mouth; 21- Hellenic vowel; 23- Mysterious character; 24- The dark; 25- Dean Martin's "That's ..."; 26- Bridge declaration; 27- Actor Kilmer; 28- Perspective; 29- Helps; 31- Isolated; 33- Farm layers; 34- Umbilicus; 35- Form of lyrical poem; 36- Inhibit; 38- Traditional prayer ending; 41- Heavy book; 42- Forsake; 43- Kitchen gadgets; 44- Rocks; 46- Doo-woop syllable; 47- Couldn't stand; 48- Edict of the czar; 49- Faucet stuff; 50- See ya!; 51- Tree trunk; 54- British verb ending; 55- Pledge; 57- Honey insect; 58- Peculiar; 59- Drain-cleaning chemical; 60- ... Lingus;

### CROSSWORD

Yesterday's solution

B	E	E	F	A	S	I	S	E	T	E			
A	U	R	A	V	O	D	K	A	E	P	I	C	
C	R	O	C	A	R	A	I	L	N	E	E	R	
H	O	S	T	I	L	E	P	L	A	T	E	A	U
O	D	O	R	S	I	R							
B	A	R	R	E	N	E	N	T	R	E	N	C	H
O	B	E	Y	S	I	N	C	A	E	E	R	O	
U	L	U	A	R	O	A	R	P	A	N			
R	E	S	T	M	I	C	A	E	L	A	T	E	
G	R	E	E	N	I	S	H	M	A	I	L	E	D
L	E	A	R	E	V	S							
E	A	R	L	O	B	E	O	N	E	T	I	M	E
S	M	E	E	L	I	B	Y	A	I	B	I	D	
A	F	A	R	E	N	I	A	C	N	A	N	A	
U	M	P	S	O	L	E	G	R	I	M			

## 'No chance' Klopp rules out Liverpool move for Messi



Barcelona's Lionel Messi is congratulated by Liverpool's coach Jurgen Klopp after the 2019 Champions League semi-final first leg (file photo)

AFP | London

Jurgen Klopp said on Thursday there is "no chance" of Liverpool signing Lionel Messi, but the German admits the unsettled Barcelona star would be a great addition to the Premier League.

Messi has told Barcelona he wants to leave after growing unhappy with the club's problems on and off the pitch.

The Argentina forward has been linked with a move to Manchester City, where he could link up with his former Barca boss Pep Guardiola.

Paris Saint-Germain, Inter Milan and Juventus have also been mooted as potential destinations for Messi if he gets his wish to quit the Camp Nou.

Klopp insisted he would love to have Messi, but made it clear the 33-year-old would not end up at Anfield.

"Interest? Who doesn't want to have Messi in their team? But no chance," Klopp told reporters.

Liverpool finished 18 points ahead of second placed City last season as they won the English title for the first time since 1990.

And Klopp conceded Liverpool's bid to retain the Premier League crown would clearly be under threat if Messi joined City.

But the former Borussia Dortmund boss believes it would be a significant coup for English football to have one of the world's greatest ever players in the Premier League.

"It would obviously help Man City and make it more difficult to beat them," Klopp said.

"For the Premier League it would be great, but I am not sure the Premier League needs that boost."

**Interest? Yeah, who doesn't want Messi in their team. But no chance. The numbers are absolutely not for us. But... good player**

JURGEN KLOPP

# Verstappen is hot while Mercedes form cools

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was in sparking form in practice for the Belgian GP

● Verstappen leads Ricciardo and Hamilton in second practice in Belgium

AFP | Brussels

Max Verstappen was fastest for Red Bull ahead of Renault's Daniel Ricciardo as Mercedes struggled in a surprising conclusion to yesterday's second free practice for the Belgian Grand Prix.

The Dutchman clocked a best lap in one minute and 43.744 seconds to outpace the Australian by 0.048 seconds, leaving championship leader Lewis Hamilton down in third for Mercedes, 0.096 adrift of the pace-setter.

Hamilton, the six-time champion, was on hard tyres and struggled to find the dominant form of recent meetings. He wound up third, ahead of Alex Albon, in the second Red Bull, Sergio Perez of Racing Point and Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas.

Lando Norris was seventh in the leading McLaren ahead of Esteban Ocon in the second Renault, Carlos Sainz in the second McLaren and Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri.

The rest of the top 10 were all within eight-tenths of a second



Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen during the practice session

of Verstappen, a tight bunching of times that suggests a close contest in Saturday's qualifying and Sunday's race if the cooler conditions continue.

It was a disappointing day for last year's winner Charles Leclerc and Ferrari. Leclerc finished up 15th with four-time champion Sebastian Vettel 17th.

On a cool afternoon with rain threatening in the Belgian Ardennes, the air temperature was 16 degrees Celsius and the track only 23 degrees when the session began with most teams slow to send their cars out first.

Eleven minutes passed before Antonio Giovinazzi ventured out in his Alfa Romeo. If there

were had been spectators, they

**0.048**

seconds lead was all that Max Verstappen had over Daniel Ricciardo

would have had every reason to complain at the lack of action.

Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff suggested after the morning's opening session that after the heat wave at Silverstone and Barcelona and on the longest

circuit on the calendar, his team was having trouble finding a balanced set-up.

Verstappen, taking advantage of Red Bull's high down-force set up, topped the times and stayed there ahead of Ricciardo's Renault with half an hour remaining. Soon after this, the Australian was requested by Renault to pull up and park on the Kemmel straight and a Virtual Safety Car (VSC) was deployed. The team said his car had lost hydraulic pressure.

As soon as this was resolved, an advertising hoarding flew on to the track close to Eau Rouge, causing a red flag stoppage for a further two minutes ahead of a final flurry of action.

## First names confirmed to take part at BRAVE CF's Kombat Kingdom in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation will host three events in three weeks in its home in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and will put on some of the best cards of the year as the fastest-growing organization in the world moves on from its European Invasion with a true homecoming featuring its biggest stars.

Officials have announced that Middleweight world champion Daniel "Gaucho" will defend his title for the first time, and also the confirmation of at least two fights in the Flyweight tournament, the biggest of the year in MMA.

Jose "Shorty" Torres, who is scheduled to fight in the first quarter-final matchup has been announced as one of the fighters that will be in action at Kombat Kingdom. Torres is coming off a victory over Amir Albazi at BRAVE CF 23.

Another Flyweight confirmed for the tournament and for the Bahrain events is Zach Makovsky. The American wrestler made a winning debut for BRAVE CF when he beat previously undefeated Velimurad Alkhasov in a razor-thin deci-



Daniel Pereira



Jose Shorty Torres



Zach Makovsky



Daniel Pereira

sion. A Sambo world champion, Alkhasov is also expected to fight at the Flyweight tournament. Finally, Dustin Ortiz will be making his much-anticipated promotional debut in another

quarter-final matchup. In the coming days, more big names will be announced by the truly global organization as BRAVE CF gears up for an unforgettable last quarter of 2020.

## Ibrahimovic agrees to play another season at AC Milan for 7m euros

AFP | Milan

Zlatan Ibrahimovic will remain at AC Milan next season having reached agreement on a new deal reportedly worth 7 million euros (\$8.3m) without bonuses, according to multiple reports in Italy yesterday.

Ibrahimovic, who turns 39 years in October, yesterday posted a photo of himself on social media wearing an AC Milan jersey with the number 11 written over the 21, and his arms wide: "As I said, I'm just warming up".

The Swedish forward also posted a photo showing him lying relaxing with the caption "The quiet before the storm".

Gazzetta Dello Sport reported that Ibrahimovic was expected back in Milan ahead of the new season on August 29, the same day he first joined the

club back in 2010.

Ibrahimovic rejoined Milan in January on a six-month contract after leaving Los Angeles Galaxy, on a deal worth 3.5 million euros (\$3.9 million) with the option for an additional season.

The former Manchester United, Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona player had a big impact, scoring 11 goals in 20 games.

"I think that we can all see that Ibra has played an important part in our season and our growth," AC Milan CEO Ivan Gazidis said this week.

"We are doing everything we can to see that this can continue."

The former seven-time European champion moved up from



Zlatan Ibrahimovic



**Ibrahimovic helped AC Milan to the last of their 18 Serie A titles in 2011. He also won three league titles with Inter Milan and two with Juventus which were both revoked because of the 'Calciopoli' match-fixing scandal**

11th on his arrival to sixth, finishing the league season on a 12-game unbeaten run.

Ibrahimovic helped AC Milan to the last of their 18 Serie A titles in 2011.

He also won three league titles with Inter Milan and two with Juventus which were both revoked because of the 'Calciopoli' match-fixing scandal.

The Italian season kicks off again on September 19.