

**Jarrah Al-Silawi
 open to trilogy
 with Mohammad
 Fakhreddine**

BRAVE CF Welterweight champion Jarrah Al-Silawi says he is ready to face Middleweight king Mohammad Fakhreddine | P 12

WORLD 6 Paris attack suspect wanted to avenge Prophet cartoons

THE DAILY tribune



Taylor Swift makes Billboard 200 history 10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Apple suppliers to invest \$900 million in India

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

#Commit4Bahrain

during the upcoming

2 weeks

Until
1 Oct

#Commit4Bahrain



HM the King
HM King thanked by Moldova president
 TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of thanks from Moldova President Igor Dodon, in reply to HM's congratulations on his country's Independence Day.

UAE launches mini satellite into space
 TDT | Abu Dhabi

The UAE's MeznSat, a national project in partnership between UAE Space Agency, American University of Ras Al Khaimah, AURAK, and Khalifa University, KU, lifted off aboard a Soyuz-2b rocket from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in Russia.

A nanosatellite, MeznSat weighs around 2.7kg, and measures 10cm x 10cm x 30cm.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

- TOTAL CASES
69,848
- ACTIVE CASES
6,054
- DEATHS
245
- DISCHARGED
63,549
- NEW CASES
487
- CRITICAL
61

210 fils (includes VAT)



HRH Premier to discuss Bahrain visions on global issues

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa will address today the fourth edition of "Bahrain Visions-Shared Visions for a Successful Global Future" forum.

To be convened remotely under the patronage of HRH the Premier, the event is organised by his court in co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO). HRH the Premier will spotlight his vision regarding key issues related to sustainable development in the region and the whole world.

The Kingdom's efforts to support the international community in the field of sustainable

development as well as achieving global peace, security and stability will also be highlighted.

HRH the Prime Minister will also shed light on ways of handling international challenges resulting from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and means of weathering its repercussions. Organised in line with an initiative by HRH the Premier, the forum will be held in conjunction with high profile meetings of the United Nations General Assembly and the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the international organisation.

Participants will include UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, WHO Director General Dr



HRH the Premier

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director General Audrey Azoulay and Foreign Ministry Undersecretary for International Affairs Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Board of Trustees chairman of Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and En-

ergy Studies (DERASAT).

Also taking part in the forum which will be held this year under the theme "Sustainable Development Goals in Post-COVID-19 Pandemic" are high-profile international officials and experts.

The attendees will include Nobel Peace Prize 2018 winner Denis Mukwege and the UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda, Mahmoud Mohieldin.

The forum will focus this year on the sustainable development goals in the post-coronavirus phase, ways of tackling current challenges and means of backing the international efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals agenda.

HM King issues amended Commercial Companies Law

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued a Decree law 28 of 2020 amending certain provisions of the Commercial Companies Law, which was issued by virtue of Decree 21 of 2001.

The Prime Minister and the ministers, each in his own right, shall implement the provisions of this law which takes effect a day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Stimulus package extension

Bahrain government to pay 50% of salaries of citizens working in private sector

TDT | Manama

The government has decided to continue paying 50% of the salaries of insured Bahraini citizens hardest hit by the coronavirus (COVID-19) for a period of three more months, starting from October until December.

The extension of stimulus package was approved during the weekly Cabinet meeting, held remotely, and chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

More than 23,000 Bahraini private company workers and 4,000 establishments stand to benefit from the new salary pay-

ment scheme.

The government had previously extended its assistance to Bahraini citizens by paying half of their wages from April to June and from July to September to cushion the financial impact of the pandemic.

Following the Royal Directives of HM the King to unify national efforts and sustaining the Kingdom's national economy, the Cabinet also decided on the following:

- The Cabinet approved a Draft Law adding a new clause (No.5) to Paragraph (c) of Article (8) of Decree-Law No. (78) of the year 2006, regarding insurance against unemployment and recommending its promulgation in accordance with Article (38) of the constitution.



HRH the Crown Prince chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

- The payment of 50% of the salaries of a total of 524 uninsured employees in kindergartens and nurseries for a period of 3 months starting from October 2020.

- To extend the wage support provided by the Kingdom's Labour Fund (Tamkeen) for an additional 3 months, starting from October 2020, at the rate of 150 dinars per month to support



More than 23,000 Bahraini private company workers and 4,000 establishments stand to benefit from the new salary payment scheme.

950 taxi drivers, public transport drivers, and 829 driving instructors.

- The exemption of tourist facilities from tourism fees for an additional three months, starting from October 2020.

Continued on Page 2

Three die from COVID-19; 662 recoveries

TDT | Manama

Three more patients succumbed to the coronavirus (COVID-19) yesterday, bringing the virus-related death toll in the Kingdom to 245, the Ministry of Health announced.

The deceased included a Bahraini woman, 64, and an 81-year-old male citizen, along with an expatriate man, 56.

Early this morning, the ministry also announced 662 new recoveries from the respiratory ailment, raising the number of

survivors to 63,549.

There were 487 new active cases detected yesterday following 10,557 tests. The fresh infections included 135 expatriate workers and 343 from contacts of active cases, while nine were travel-related.

The new cases - including active, recoveries and deaths - brought the overall number of confirmed registered cases in Bahrain to nearly 70,000 at 69,848, dating back to when the first case was reported in February.

A total of 149 is receiving treatment with 61 critical and 5,993 in stable condition.

The total tests done in Bahrain increased to 1,418,129.

The ministry has expressed its condolences to the families of the deceased.

HM King's advisor congratulates Al Ahli Club

Ahli Club

TDT | Manama

His Majesty the King for Youth and Sports Affairs advisor Saleh bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai sent a cable of congratulations to Al Ahli Sports Club's board chairman Khalid Kanoo on winning Zain Basketball League title.

The advisor praised the great efforts made by the club's board of directors to create a suitable atmosphere for the team's technical, administrative bodies and players in order to win the title, noting the players great performance and wishing them further success in the upcoming tournaments.

Cabinet hails HM the King's address for world peace

From Page 1

During the session, the Cabinet praised HM the King's address delivered at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which reaffirmed the importance of preserving world peace for a better future for all.

HM the King's address further shed light on the Kingdom's comprehensive vision regarding regional and international issues that concern the Arab nations, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and Bahrain's position for a just and comprehensive peace with the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the Arab Peace Initiative.

The Cabinet went on to commend the turnout for volunteering for the COVID-19 clinical trials, adding that the Kingdom has received 6,000 volunteers over a period of six weeks.

The Cabinet noted that this turnout reflects the awareness and noble humanitarian values exhibited by the Kingdom's citizens and residents in support of national efforts aimed to combat the virus.

In this regard, the Cabinet noted the importance of ensuring a further 1,700 volunteers are available to guarantee the success of the clinical trials and to identify the availability of a safe and effective treatment for the benefit of mankind.

The Cabinet praised the diplomatic and humanitarian achievements of the Amir of the State of Kuwait, HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which received international recognition, adding that the Amir's efforts have had a positive impact on all.

The Cabinet called for reducing tension between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

The Cabinet highlighted the importance of resorting to dialogue and peaceful methods to resolve differences within the framework of international law and UN Security Council decisions in order to achieve security and stability in the region and the world.

HRH the Crown Prince praises GDN outgoing editor-in-chief

Williams hails HRH the Crown Prince support to national press

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met remotely with Gulf Daily News

(GDN) editor-in-chief George Williams.

HRH the Crown Prince acknowledged Williams's extensive career with the GDN, wishing him success in his future endeavours.

For his part, Williams expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet HRH the Crown Prince, and for his continued support towards further strengthening the role of the Kingdom's national press.

HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the important role of



HRH the Crown Prince during the video meeting

the national press in reporting on the Kingdom's many achievements across all sectors, adding that journalists and press outlets are partners in the Kingdom's development process.

HRH the Crown Prince noted the broad history of the Kingdom's national press, represented by those who established it and the following generations who continue to provide professional and responsible journalism to inform the public.

'Sign of recovery'

Financial and economic initiatives paying off amid COVID-19 pandemic



£ A man wearing a mask in the heart of Manama. Image Credit: AFP

Value of imports increases by 88.1% in August

Number of exporting trucks through King Fahd Causeway up by 21.5%

Average 4- and 5-star hotel occupancy rate on the rise

TDT | Manama

Ongoing efforts to drive economic growth through a number of new financial initiatives have benefitted the Kingdom and its citizens, according to the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

In particular, the economic stimulus package, launched to support the citizens and private sector through the provision of innovative initiatives, has contributed to supporting economic diversification and sustainable growth during this period.

The Ministry noted that the decisions to gradually resume and re-open various economic sectors and activities, starting in May, has had a positive impact on a number of key economic indicators, resulting in improvement across a number of sectors during the third quarter of 2020.

It was in stark contrast to this year's second quarter, which has witnessed a decline in performance indicators by 8.9% compared to the same period last year as a result of the global spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

After a monthly decline in imports to the Kingdom since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the value of imports increased by 88.1% in August, compared to July 2020.

The Ministry also highlighted a sign of recovery registered within the trade sector, evident by the monthly increase in number of exporting trucks through the King Fahd Causeway by 21.5% in August 2020 compared to July 2020.

The performance of other economic sectors and activities showed improvement within the third quarter of 2020, in-



The decisions to gradually resume and re-open various economic sectors and activities, starting in May, has had a positive impact on a number of key economic indicators, resulting in improvement across a number of sectors during the third quarter of 2020.

cluding hotel and leisure. The average hotel occupancy rate in 4- and 5-star hotels increased by 13.3% in July month on month and by 17.6% in August month on month.

Furthermore, the number of monthly transactions in the Survey and Land Registration Bureau gradually increased in July by 19.1% compared to June, and by 21.6% in August compared to July.

BCCI chief hails support to private sector

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) has hailed the government's decision to pay 50% of the salaries of Bahraini private workers adversely affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) for a period of three months, starting in October until December.

BCCI chairman Samir Abdulla Nasser said the decisions,

which were announced during the weekly Cabinet meeting, chaired remotely by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, will benefit 23,000 Bahraini citizens and 4,000 establishments.

He welcomed the royal directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to harness

all national efforts to combat the coronavirus, protect citizens and residents' health and safety and ensure state's programmes to achieve sustainable development goals.

The chamber commended the decision to shoulder 50% of the salaries of a total of 524 uninsured employees in kindergartens and nurseries for a period of three months starting from October.

Royal directives support citizens, national economy: Speaker

TDT | Manama

Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal praised the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to support all national efforts in handling the coronavirus pandemic problem at the local level.

She lauded the launch of the financial and economic package for the most adversely affected sectors to safeguard citizens' interests, support the national economy and its sustainability, and contribute to stability of Bahraini families.

The Speaker affirmed the parliamentary full support to taking all constitutional and legislative procedures to back the government's trend to provide the needed liquidity to deal with the current circumstances, combat the virus and maintain sustainable growth.

She stressed that the Representatives Council will accord utmost priority to what will be referred to the legislative branch out of the historical national responsibility to provide every support to the efforts in fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

Zainal added that the royal directives embody constant keenness of HM the King to support the nation and citizens, overcome all challenges, and protect their interests by weathering the repercussions of the pandemic.

She expressed sincere thanks and appreciation for the continuous efforts of the government led by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, commending the dis-



Speaker Zainal

tinguished and relentless follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

She also lauded the achievements of Bahrain taskforce, under the leadership of HRH the Crown Prince, thanks to well-studied plans, diverse programmes, pioneering initiatives and cooperation of all institutions.

The Speaker asserted that the financial package will contribute to backing the national economy and ensuring its sustainability as well as alleviating the negative impact of the exceptional circumstances undergone by the economic sectors.

She noted that the legislative and executive branches place citizens' interests and the economic sector among their top priorities.

She also praised the efforts of Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and his keenness to support the commercial and economic sector as well as promote economic stability and financial sustainability.

Quiz on Gandhi 'legacy' set

TDT | Manama

The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) is organising a quiz on the life, philosophy, works and principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

As part of the celebration of 150 years of The Mahatma, the quiz titled "Bapu the Sparkle", will be conducted online and it is open to all.

The preliminary round of the quiz will be conducted on 30 September at 7.30pm.

Those who wish to participate may visit the YouTube Channel Q Positive and Subscribe Channel link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGTMeE0SordNskmE_Hyo-

jjg and watch the sample Quiz videos there to get familiarised.

The final round will be held on 3 October at 7.30pm.

The quiz, in English language, will be conducted by Quiz Masters Aneesh Nirmalan and Ajay Nair through on-line using two applications - Zoom and Kahoot, both to be downloaded by the participating teams.

The winners will receive attractive prizes.

For more details on how to participate and to know the rules and regulations of the quiz, please visit ICRF Facebook page or call 36939596 or 39648304.

'BeAware Bahrain' app to offer coronavirus PCR test certificate service

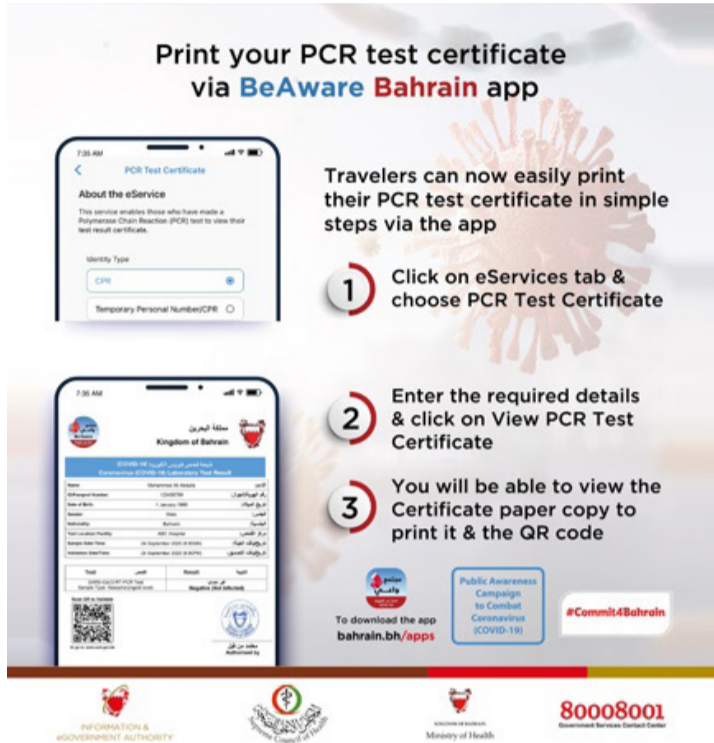
TDT | Manama

Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) chief executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed announced yesterday that the "BeAware Bahrain" app will begin providing a Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test certificate service for travellers from Bahrain to other countries.

Launched in co-operation with relevant authorities, the new service will be included in the latest app update. The issuance of the certificates via the app is in line with new travel procedures, and the certificates will be unified across public and private hospitals in the Kingdom.

Al Qaed said a certificate can only be issued for the latest test that applicants have undergone, provided that the results are negative and that no more than a month has passed since they were conducted.

Al Qaed noted that the PCR



'BeAware Bahrain' app

certificate is considered an official and valid certificate "issued by" the Kingdom of Bahrain, which does not require any fur-



iGA chief executive Al Qaed

ther approvals from specialist entities.

Travellers from the Kingdom can apply for the certificate immediately after receiving their test results, which will appear on the app within 24 hours from the date of the test. They can then select the latest test, hit the 'Print PDF' option or display the QR Code.

Al Qaed further noted that travellers from Bahrain can display their valid certificates at



The iGA urges all individuals to download the "BeAware Bahrain" app by visiting the eGovernment Apps Store www.bahrain.bh/apps, and registering on the app, which is available for iOS and Android.

entry points upon arrival but must put into consideration the official time frame for accepting the results at the destination countries.

Individuals should retake the test in case they have exceeded that duration as per the regulations of those countries.

Al Qaed emphasised the importance of printing PCR certificates to present the document to authorities at entry points.

Once a traveller arrives at the entry point, concerned authorities will inspect the validity of the certificate by scanning its QR

Code, and then receiving digital information from the National Health Information System (i-SEHA) which will display the test results.

The iGA urges all individuals to download the "BeAware Bahrain" app by visiting the eGovernment Apps Store www.bahrain.bh/apps, and registering on the app, which is available for iOS and Android.

All comments and enquiries can be submitted via the national suggestions and complaints system, Tawasul, or by calling the National Contact Center on 444.

Bahrain and Rwanda boost co-operation

TDT | Manama

Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani held yesterday a video conference with his counterpart from the Republic of Rwanda, Dr Vincent Biruta.

During the meeting, they discussed friendship and joint co-operation relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Rwanda, and the efforts exerted to further develop these relations at all levels.

They stressed the importance of promoting bilateral co-operation in all areas to serve the common interests of the two friendly countries and people.

They also discussed the regional challenges threatening regional security and stability,



Minister Al Zayani holds a video conference with Dr Biruta in addition to a number of topics of common concern.

The meeting was also attended by the assistant under-secretary for Western Countries and Afro-Asian Affairs, Ambassador Tawfeeq Ahmed Almansoor, and the ambassador of Bahrain to the UAE, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

Slow lane on Janabiyah Highway to be closed starting today



Map of the Janabiyah Highway

TDT | Manama

Ministry of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning has announced the closure of slow lane for northbound traffic leading to Budaiya and one lane will be provided for traffic movement.

The closure will be effec-

tive from today for a period of 40 days. All road users are requested to observe and obey the traffic rules for safety of all.

It will be carried out in co-operation with the General Directorate of Traffic as part of installation work of water pipelines on Janabiyah Highway between Road 7128 and Road 7113.

Ambassador guest at Bahrain Radio Programme

TDT | Manama

Bahraini Ambassador to Italy Nasser bin Mohammed Al Balooshi will today highlight his diplomatic experience and achievements at Bahrain Radio's talk show, "the Diplomatic Dialogue".

The ambassador will talk about his career, which is characterised by a combination of economy, diplomacy and multilingualism, as he is fluent in several languages, including English and French, and has written many articles and research related to economic development and technology transfer.

Dr Al Balooshi was granted the "Medal of Honour" by His



Ambassador Al Balooshi

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in 2013, the "Officier de La Legion D'Honneur Medal" by French President, Jacques Chirac, in 2003, and the "Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa Medal of Honour" by HM King Hamad in 2002.

He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics with honors, and held many key posts. He served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the advisor to former Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, for Political and Economic Affairs. He was also the kingdom's ambassador to France, Non-Resident Ambassador to the Holy See, Switzerland and Spain.

He also served as Bahrain's ambassador to the US and Non-Resident ambassador to Argentina and Canada, the Kingdom's Economic Representative to the SA, and a speaker at the Sixth Annual Monterey Congressional Forum on Trade Policy in Monterey, California,

and provided testimony before the International Trade Commission (ITC) in Washington DC. He was also the executive director of management services at the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) between 1992 and 2003.

Aired every Tuesday at 5pm on Bahrain Radio 102.3 FM, the programme documents the march and achievements of the Bahraini diplomacy which celebrated its Golden Jubilee last year.

The weekly programme is prepared and presented by a Bahrain Radio team, including Sabeeka Al Shihhy, Wafa Khalifa and Rashid Sanad, in co-operation with the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

'Sectarian sermon' lands three men behind bars

TDT | Manama

Three men have been remanded recently for organising a meeting that consisted of several violations of the law, such as insulting a sect and violating the preventive measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This has been confirmed by Chief Prosecutor Adnan Fakhro, who said in a press statement issued by the Public Prosecution this week that the three suspects were charged with "publicly insulting people who are glorified among the people of a community, and incitement

to hate a group of people" and "violating precautionary and preventive measures to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19".

Fakhro said the Public Prosecution was tipped off by the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science about a sermon posted on social media sites delivered by one of the suspects and consisted of several violations.

The official further explained that the sermon included sectarian remarks and an explicit permission to insult the companions of Prophet Muhammad, as well as the defaming of a sect in

a way that would stir up discord.

The statement mentioned: "The Public Prosecution began its investigation as soon as it received the notification, as it examined the recording of the sermon and interrogated the suspect who delivered it, as well as the second accused, and confronted them with the contents of the sermon, which constituted crimes punishable by law."

Fakhro also said that the prosecution interrogated the third suspect, who participated in the activities of the meeting.

The Chief Prosecutor clarified that investigations are con-

tinued in the case in order to refer it to the concerned criminal court.

He added: "The investigations conducted by the prosecution indicated that the meeting was held by agreement between the three suspects defendants, as the second man published a public invitation to attend the meeting without notifying the competent authorities as required by law, and in violation of the health measures taken to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, prohibiting gatherings, and urging social distancing and to avoid the atmosphere that helps on the spread of the pandemic."

Al Doseri receives German, Italian ambassadors

TDT | Manama

Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister Abdulla bin Faisal bin Jabur Al Doseri received yesterday in his office at the Ministry's General Court ambassadors Kai Boeckmann of Germany and Paola Amadi of

Italy. The meeting was attended by the director of European Affairs and European Union Directorate, Ambassador Shaikha Aysa Ahmed Saqer Alkhalifa.

Al Doseri welcomed Boeckmann and Amadi, hailing the Kingdom's distinct relations

with their countries and their development at all levels, stressing Bahrain's desire to further develop them.

The two ambassadors expressed their pride in meeting the assistant foreign minister, lauding the strong friendship

linking the Bahrain with their countries.

They also emphasised the importance of promoting joint coordination and co-operation between the friendly countries in all areas, wishing the Kingdom further development.

Donation boxes initiative a big success

More than BD3,000 collected to fund foundation's charity activities

TDT | Manama

More than BD3,000 was raised by Seef Properties to help finance the charity activities and initiatives of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF).

Seef Properties placed four donation boxes, two in Seef Mall-Seef District, one in Seef Mall-Muharraq, and one in Seef Mall-Isa Town with the aim of raising funds as part of its solid commitment to support the foundation.

The amount will be exclusively used to support projects serving orphaned children under the care of the foundation, mainly in education, health and social care.

RHF Charitable Resources Development director Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa expressed gratitude and appreciation to Seef Properties for the success of the donation boxes initiative.

Shaikh Ali also praised the creative gesture shown by the children under the care of the Foundation to decorate the boxes with their artistic drawings.



Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa, right, with Seef Properties CEO Ahmed Yusuf as Charity Donations Section head May Al Saie, left, looks on

This initiative by Seef Properties, one of the leading integrated real estate development companies in the Kingdom of Bahrain, is consistent with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's benevolent directives to provide comprehensive care and a decent living standard to orphans.

It reflects the mall visitors' recognition of the significant role played by RHF in aiding the

less-privileged segments in the Bahraini society, in line with the directives of the Foundation's honorary chairman HM the King.

Seef Properties proactively contributes to the national efforts exerted to enhance the livelihood of the Bahraini society in line with the directives of HM the King, Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Seef Properties chief executive officer Ahmed Yusuf valued the social awareness demonstrated by shoppers and visitors of the malls.

"The donation boxes initiative

at Seef Malls has constituted a true activation of community partnership and granted everyone the opportunity to contribute to charity works. Seef Properties is keen to always be one of the leaders in charity work and to support many projects and initiatives launched by RHF and other charities," Yusuf said.

"Seef Properties is aware of the importance of sustaining businesses' social work by engaging with all different segments of the society.

"Therefore, we are continuing our endeavors to spread awareness on the importance of community partnership, aiding the needy and granting all members of society the opportunity to contribute to humanitarian and charity works, in cooperation with all the related parties, chiefly the Royal Humanitarian Fund."

”
The donation boxes initiative at Seef Malls has constituted a true activation of community partnership and granted everyone the opportunity to contribute to charity works

AHMED YUSUF, SEEF PROPERTIES CEO

Foreign Ministry receives award for volunteer work



Foreign Ministry undersecretary Dr Shaikha Rana

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was honoured for supporting and patronising various voluntary initiatives and practices carried out by individuals and institutions in Bahrain.

Undersecretary Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa expressed delight with the award bestowed on the ministry and other institutions at the closing ceremony of the 10th edition of HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Volunteer Work.

She thanked HH Shaikh Isa and The Good Word for the award, stressing it would motivate further the spread of noble human values and social progress through unique volunteer work.

The event was held to honour Bahraini frontliners who made outstanding contributions in mitigating the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Dr Shaikha Rana commended the efforts of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Cabinet Affairs undersecretary and honorary president of the Good Word Society, in supporting various voluntary initiatives by individuals and institution.

She praised the Good Word Society in advancing institutional volunteer work.

Dr Shaikha Rana stressed the ceremony, which marked ten years of the award, was an important annual milestone in social and volunteer work that contributed to strengthening Bahrain's efforts in community solidarity at the regional level.

She added the foreign ministry's national duty is embodying the visions of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the wisdom of HRH Prince Khalifa

YOU KNOW WHAT

The event was held to honour Bahraini frontliners who made outstanding contributions in mitigating the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, and the aspirations of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Dr Shaikha Rana highlighted the clear and tangible role of the ministry's departments and diplomatic missions abroad in the face of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The ministry's priority is the safety of residents in the Kingdom, she noted.

Dr Shaikha Rana said the current unprecedented challenges across the world are an opportunity to show patriotism and to intensify efforts to continue voluntary work.

She stressed that Bahrain has always been a pioneer in the fields of community service and volunteer work, thanks to the leadership of HM the King and the active roles played by public and private sectors, civil society institutions and civil associations.

National Quarry's major role hailed

TDT | Manama

Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza received yesterday National Quarry consultant Rashid Juma Al Malood.

Dr Mirza lauded the major role played by the National Quarry in achieving the optimal use of natural resources in the Kingdom, and meeting the needs of government projects, in coordination with the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning.

He presented an overview of the renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives included in both the National Renewable Energy Action Plan and the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan.

He also reviewed the main government projects to which



Dr Mirza with Al Malood

SEA provides technical support in order to integrate renewable energy solutions in them and ensure their optimal use of energy efficiency technology.

The ultimate goal is to consolidate the role of various government entities in contributing to achieving the national objectives related to the sustain-

ability of energy resources, and availing of the benefits of various initiatives on them, he said.

Dr Mirza affirmed SEA's commitment to supporting the modernisation efforts of all government departments,

within the contributions of government entities to supporting the national efforts to ensure

the sustainability of energy resources. For his part, Al Malood commended the tangible efforts made by SEA to support the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.

He also highlighted the development projects of the National Quarry to support the government's projects.

Chief of Staff attends 15th Officer Candidates course opening



Lieutenant-General Al Nuaimi at the opening ceremony

TDT | Manama

BDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqer Al Nuaimi inaugurat-

ed the Cadet Officers' 15th session at the Isa Royal Military College.

Al Nuaimi delivered the inaugural speech in which he expressed pride in the participants of the course held at the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander.

He urged the course participants to embody the noble military traits derived from the Islamic faith and genuine Arabian values to become soldiers of righteousness and Bahrain's treasure.

Major-General Shaikh Ali bin Rashid Al Khalifa, assistant chief of staff for human resources, and Brigadier Salah Rashid Al Saad, director of military training were also present.

Al Saleh hails volunteers

TDT | Manama

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh praised all parties and individuals who were honoured during the 10th edition of the Shaikh Isa bin Ali Award for Volunteer Work.

Al Saleh noted that this award represents loyalty to everyone who contributed during this exceptional time to preserve the safety and health of citizens and residents in the Kingdom.

The award was dedicated this year to the frontliners in recognition of their efforts and tremendous contribution to alleviating the impact of the pandemic in Bahrain.



Shura chairman Al Saleh

National Anti-smoking Committee meeting held

TDT | Manama

Health Minister Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh delegated assistant undersecretary for public health Dr Mariam Al Hajri to participate in the National Anti-smoking Committee meeting.

The meeting discussed the committee members' opinions regarding the tobacco control national plan in Bahrain.

Anti-smoking Group head Dr Ejlal Al Alawi presented a proposal of the committee's annual report, which includes statistics, achievements and efforts made by the relevant authorities to combat smoking and tobacco of all kinds.

In addition, the committee discussed the heated tobacco



Dr Al Hajri

products memorandum to be submitted to the Cabinet.

They reviewed the tobacco economics in the GCC countries study, which was carried out with the support of the GCC Health Council.

Apple suppliers to invest \$900 million in India

● Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron all plan to make investments

● Wistron, which assembles roughly 200,000 second-generation iPhone SEs per month in India, plans to scale that up to 400,000 a month by the end of the year

● Foxconn assembles devices for Xiaomi in India

● The commitments would help Apple diversify its supply chain beyond China

Reuters | New Delhi

Three of Apple Inc's top contract manufacturers plan to invest a total of almost \$900 million in India in the next five years to tap into a new production-linked incentive plan, according to two sources familiar with the matter.

Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron all plan to make invest-



Workers adjust a hoarding of the newly launched iPhone XS in Ahmedabad, India

6.65

India's new \$6.65 billion production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme offers companies cash incentives on any increase in sales of locally-made smartphones over the next five years

ments under the scheme, said the sources, who asked not to

be named as the discussions are private.

India's new \$6.65 billion production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme offers companies cash incentives on any increase in sales of locally-made smartphones over the next five years, compared with 2019-20 levels. The scheme aims to help transform India into an export manufacturing hub.

Foxconn has applied to invest about 40 billion rupees (\$542

million), while Wistron and Pegatron have committed to invest close to 13 billion rupees and 12 billion rupees, respectively, under the PLI plan, the sources said. It is unclear whether all of

the investment will be targeted at boosting manufacturing of Apple devices in India, but the sources and industry insiders said the vast majority would be focused on expanding iPhone manufacturing in the country.

While Foxconn, Pegatron and Wistron make devices for companies other than Apple globally, Wistron's arm in India currently assembles only iPhones.

Wistron, which assembles roughly 200,000 second-generation iPhone SEs per month in India, plans to scale that up to 400,000 a month by the end of the year, one of the sources said, as it looks to cater to export demand for the device.

That plan is expected to create roughly 10,000 jobs, the source

A salesman checks a customer's iPhone at a mobile phone store in New Delhi, India



added.

Pegatron is yet to start Indian operations, but has been in talks with several states, with Tamil



Apple started assembling in 2017 a low-cost iPhone model in India through Wistron's local unit in the tech hub of Bengaluru. It later ramped up production, with Foxconn beginning to assemble iPhones last year and Wistron widening operations.

Nadu in the south emerging as a frontrunner for a planned plant to manufacture Apple devices, a third source said.

Foxconn, which also assembles devices for Xiaomi in India, already has enough capacity to meet Xiaomi's needs and is likely to use the PLI plan largely to boost iPhone production, a fourth source said.

The commitments would help Apple diversify its supply chain beyond China, which is locked in a trade war with the United States.

CBB T-Bills fully subscribed

TDI | Manama

This week's BD 70 million issue of Government Treasury Bills is fully subscribed.

The bills, carrying a maturity of 91 days, are issued by the CBB, on behalf of the Government of Bahrain.

The issue date of the bills is 30 September 2020 and the maturity date is 30 December 2020.

The weighted average rate of interest is 2.22pc compared to 2.23pc of the previous issue on 23 September 2020.

The approximate average price for the issue was 99.441pc with the lowest accepted price being 99.434pc.

This is issue No. 1828 (ISIN BH0001527371) of Government Treasury Bills. With this, the total outstanding value of Government Treasury Bills is BD 2.110 billion.

Safety top priority as RCSI opens doors for new academic year



To familiarise, RCSI Bahrain has created a mandatory online induction required before entering its campus.

TDI | Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) said it took extra health and safety measures to ensure a safer educational environment for students and staff members in the new academic year. The changes are in line with Government guidelines for reopening educational institutions under the COVID-19 pandemic.

To familiarise, RCSI Bahrain said it created a mandatory online induction required before entering its campus.

RCSI Bahrain said it closely manages and monitors the entry

Here at RCSI Bahrain, we have worked hard to put safety measures in place to protect the health and wellbeing of our students, while ensuring that the quality of the students' educational experience is maintained during this challenging time

PROFESSOR SAMEER OTOOM, PRESIDENT OF RCSI BAHRAIN

and attendance of students, staff and visitors to its campus to limit the total number of individuals on campus at any one time, and facilitate contact tracing if the need arises.

On-Campus, instructional signages are installed to guide and remind students about the precautions and steps to follow. Besides, a one-way movement system across campus and on staircases are in place to limit contact, with specific designated entrances and exits. Furthermore, plexiglass protection for front desks will avoid direct physical interactions.

RCSI Bahrain has also increased the level and frequency

of general cleaning and sanitisation on campus, by repeated cleaning of touched surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, handrails and lift buttons. There are now increased number of hand sanitisers across campus, hand-free/foot-operated devices for the doors, and restricted the usage of lifts to two persons only.

RCSI Bahrain is providing students with six reusable face masks which they will receive at the campus' main gate for using while on campus. A colour coding table is also in place for students to wear a specific coloured mask on specific days, which allows time for cleaning

the masks. Besides, the capacity and seating of all teaching spaces such as lecture theatres, tutorial rooms, labs and clinical simulations spaces, have been calculated and adjusted in line with social distancing recommendations. Students and staff members will be provided with PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for their clinical training, whether on campus or in the hospitals.

In the case, a student, staff member or visitor exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, an isolation room, and a protocol is in place to ensure that the infected individual receives required assistance while maintaining safety.

EU won't leave trade deal talks with Britain: EU's Sefcovic

Reuters | Brussels

The European Union will not leave the negotiating table with Britain on a future trade relationship even if London pushes ahead with its withdrawal treaty-breaking internal market bill European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic said.

SoftBank brings food service robot to labour-strapped Japan

Reuters | Tokyo

SoftBank's robotics arm said yesterday it will bring a food service robot developed by California-based Bear Robotics to Japan as restaurants grapple with labour shortages and a new socially distanced norm as a result of the novel coronavirus.

The robot named Servi will act as a sort of waiter, using its layers of trays to carry food and drinks and its 3D cameras and



SoftBank's robotics arm displays a food service robot Servi, developed for restaurants

Lidar sensors to navigate between kitchen and tables.

Servi will be launched in Ja-



pan in January and will cost 99,800 yen (\$950) per month excluding tax on a three-year

plan, SoftBank Group Corp said. The start up first showed a prototype to Softbank chief executive Masayoshi Son last year and SoftBank led a \$32 million round of investment in the start-up in January.

The launch leverages SoftBank's long experience in bringing overseas technology to Japan but reflects the shift away from Son's earlier focus on humanoid robots.

Servi has been tested by Japanese restaurant operators, in-

cluding Seven & i Holdings at its Denny's chain, as the sector grapples with an aging workforce and deepening labour shortages.

The launch comes as companies are scrambling to employ technology to offer contactless service and ensure social distancing.

SoftBank's humanoid Pepper robot became the face of the company following its 2014 unveiling but failed to find a global customer base.

Paris attack suspect wanted to avenge Prophet cartoons

- The suspect is from Pakistan
- He in a video say will commit an act of "resistance"
- Mehmood's father praised his son.

Reuters | Paris/Islamabad

French police are studying a video in which the man suspected of attacking people with a meat cleaver on Friday says he will commit an act of "resistance" after the republication of cartoons mocking the Prophet Mohammad in a satirical magazine.

The suspect, who is from Pakistan, was arrested soon after two people were wounded in front of the old offices of the Charlie Hebdo magazine. Officials said his clothes were spattered in blood.

The video was found on the suspect's mobile phone, French media reported. A police source confirmed a video was being examined.

In the video, the suspect identifies himself as Zeheer Hassan Mehmood and says he came



Police operation ongoing near the former offices of Charlie Hebdo, in Paris

“ If I'm sounding emotional, let me explain: here, in France, the caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad were made. I am going to do (an act of) resistance today, Sept. 25

ZEHEER HASSAN MEHMOOD SAYS IN URDU

from Mandi Bahauddin in Punjab province. Starting to sob, he then recites poetry praising the

Prophet Mohammad. "If I'm sounding emotional, let me explain: here, in France, the caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad were made," he says in Urdu. "I am going to do (an act of) resistance today, Sept. 25." Mehmood's father praised his son.

"My heart is filled with happiness," Arshad Mehmood told the online news site Naya Pakistan from the family home. "I can sacrifice all my five sons to protect the Prophet's honour."

"He called us ... and said that the God's Prophet had chosen him, and assigned him to kill the blasphemers."

The cartoons were first published by Charlie Hebdo in 2006

YOU KNOW WHAT

The weekly, which moved to a secret location after the attack, republished the cartoons earlier this month to mark the beginning of the trial of 14 people with alleged links to the Charlie Hebdo killers.

News in brief

◆ Pakistani anti-corruption officials arrested the country's opposition leader on Monday, days after he vowed to help lead efforts to dislodge Prime Minister Imran Khan's government.



Pakistan opposition leader arrested

Shahbaz Sharif -- who heads the opposition in the country's National Assembly -- was arrested in Lahore after the eastern city's high court rejected a bail plea in a money-laundering case. Sharif is the brother of three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who was ousted over corruption allegations in 2017 and is currently residing in Britain after being released from prison earlier this year for medical treatment.

◆ Indonesia landslides kill 11 including infant twins

◆ Two 10-month-old twins were among at least 11 people killed in landslides



across an Indonesian city early yesterday, a search and rescue officer said. Several houses were buried in four separate locations around Tarakan on Borneo island after hours of heavy rain and strong winds. Five children were among the dead while four other people were rescued alive.

◆ One of four suspects on trial for the 2014 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 has denied any involvement with firing



Suspect in downing of flight MH17 denies any involvement

or supplying the missile allegedly used in its destruction, a lawyer said in court on Monday. MH17 was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it was shot down by a missile fired from territory held by pro-Russian rebels during fighting in eastern Ukraine, international investigators say. All 298 people on board were killed. After an investigation lasting nearly six years, four defendants went on trial in March. The men are all still at large and three are being tried in absentia.

◆ Chancellor Angela Merkel told leaders of her Christian Democrats (CDU) yesterday that coronavirus infection rate could hit 19,200 per day in Germany if the current trend continues but stressed that the economy must be kept running, a party source said.

Infections have been rising in Germany for weeks. Data from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases showed



German infections could hit 19,200 a day: Merkel

the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Germany rose by 1,192 on Monday. The case load has leapt by more than 2,000 on some recent days.

◆ A US judge late on Sunday temporarily blocked a Trump administration order that was set to ban video-sharing app TikTok from download on Apple and Google's app stores.

The Chinese-owned TikTok was to be barred at 11:59 p.m on Sunday, but U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols, a nominee of President Donald Trump, said in a brief order he was issuing a preliminary injunction to prevent the TikTok app store ban from taking effect.

US judge blocks Trump's TikTok app store ban

"Because our planet is dying soon"

India's 8-year-old plans solo moon mission to save Earth

Reuters | New Delhi

When 8-year-old Indian climate change activist Licypriya Kangujam is older, she wants to launch a solo mission to the moon to research ways to save planet earth.

One of the world's youngest climate change activists, Kangujam was influenced by the images of the devastation caused by the Nepal earthquakes in 2015 that killed some 9,000 people and destroyed one million homes.

As a four-year-old, she helped her father raise funds and gather relief materials to be delivered to the millions of people displaced by the tragedy.

Now she is leading a youth movement calling for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian lawmakers to pass a new law aimed at capping carbon emissions in the world's third largest producer of greenhouse gases.

"I am fighting to save our planet and our future," she said as she protested outside Parliament House in New Delhi on Sept 23, clutching a placard that read: "Child movement for climate, pass the climate change law."

Born in India's northeastern state of Manipur, home to pristine mountains and crystal clear air, Kangujam has been outraged by the air quality she



Licypriya Kangujam carrying a placard is stopped by a policewoman during a protest demanding to pass a climate change law outside the parliament in New Delhi



Licypriya Kangujam holds a poster during a protest demanding to pass a climate change law outside the parliament in New Delhi

has seen in Delhi.

"I am worried about the health of the school children and small, small babies," Kangujam told Reuters from her high-rise apartment in Noida, a satellite town of New Delhi.

Just a week shy of her 9th birthday, Kangujam's home is testament to both her activism and her youth. Awards and trophies from international agencies fill a cabinet, while she and her six-year-old sister Irina have pillow fights, sing karaoke, dance and watch films like "Frozen" together.

Kangujam's ultimate ambition is to become a "space scientist" in a bid to save humans

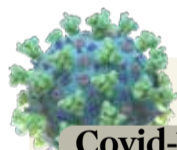
“ I will go to the moon and I will research how we can get the fresh air to breathe, and how we can get water, fresh water to drink, and food, how to grow the crops. Because our planet is dying soon

LICYPRIYA KANGUJAM

back on earth.

"I will go to the moon and I will research how we can get the fresh air to breathe, and how we can get water, fresh water to drink, and food, how to grow the crops," she said.

"Because our planet is dying soon."



Global

Covid-19 Cases: **33,383,766**

Deaths: **1,003,382**

Recovered: **24,687,430**

New cases: **+84,822**

New deaths: **+1,224**

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	102,840		5,883		95,080	1,877	41	1,000
Saudi Arabia	333,648	+455	4,712	+29	317,846	11,090	1,034	9,548
UAE	92,095	+626	413	+1	81,462	10,220		9,285
Kuwait	103,981	+437	605	+4	95,511	7,865	125	24,263
Oman	98,057	+607	924	+15	88,234	8,899	201	19,089
Qatar	125,311	+227	214		122,209	2,888	55	44,630

Figures as of closing

Countries worst affected

One million and counting!

● **United States has the highest death toll with more than 200,000 fatalities**

● **Infections in India, home to 1.3 billion people, surged past six million**

● **The IMF has warned that the economic upheaval could cause a "crisis like no other"**

AFP News

More than one million people have died from coronavirus, marking a grim milestone in the spread of the disease that has ravaged the world economy, inflamed diplomatic tensions and upended lives from Indian slums to New York City.

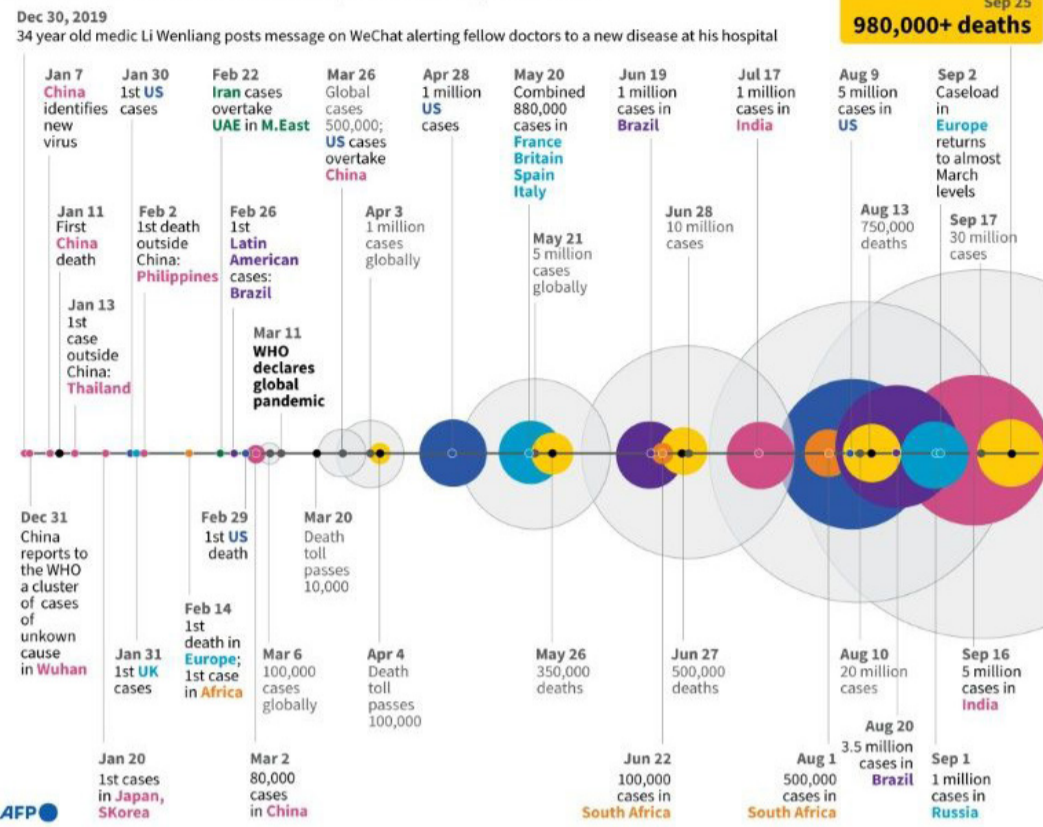
Drastic controls that put half of humanity -- more than four billion people -- under some form of lockdown by April at first slowed the spread, but since restrictions were eased, infections have soared again.

By 1100 GMT Monday, the disease had claimed 1,002,036 victims from 33,162,930 recorded infections, according to official sources, and dedicated team of data specialists.

The United States has the highest death toll with more than 200,000 fatalities, followed by Brazil, India, Mexico and Britain.

Behind the figures lie millions of lives shattered by an illness that still holds many mysteries and which cannot yet be effec-

Covid-19 timeline: development of a pandemic



tively treated or prevented, despite a global race to develop drugs and a vaccine.

For Italian truck driver Carlo Chiodi, the global mortality statistics include both his parents, whom he lost within days of each other.

"I saw my father walking out

9

Currently, nine vaccine candidates are in last-stage clinical trials, with hopes some will be rolled out next year

of the house, getting into the ambulance, and all I could say was 'goodbye'," Chiodi, 50, said. "I regret not saying 'I love you' and I regret not hugging him."

'A crisis like no other'

With new cases again surging worldwide, governments have been forced into an uneasy balancing act: virus controls slow the spread of the disease, but they hurt already reeling economies and businesses.

The IMF has warned that the economic upheaval could cause a "crisis like no other", though the Fund's outlook appears brighter now than it did in June.

Europe, hit hard by the first

wave, is now facing another surge, with Paris, London and Madrid all forced to introduce controls to slow infections threatening to overload hospitals.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman urged citizens to keep to strict hygiene measures.

"The development of infection numbers is of great concern to us," Steffen Seibert said. "We can see from some of our European friends where that could lead."

Infections in India, home to 1.3 billion people, surged past six million on Monday, but authorities pressed ahead with a reopening of the battered South Asian economy.

News in brief



◆ **German Chancellor Angela Merkel paid a personal visit to Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny while he was undergoing treatment in a Berlin hospital for poisoning, her**

Merkel visited Kremlin critic Navalny in hospital

spokesman said yesterday. "It was a personal visit to Navalny in hospital," Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert told a regular news conference, declining to disclose details of what was said or how long the meeting lasted. Germany still expects an explanation from Russia on the case, Seibert added. Navalny wrote on Twitter that it was "a private meeting and conversation with the family". He added: "I am very grateful to Chancellor Merkel for visiting me in hospital."

◆ **Taiwan expressed satisfaction on Monday and said the European Union had stepped in to help** after a global alliance of mayors stopped referring to Taiwanese cities as part of China, in a rare win for the island

With EU help, Taiwan gets rare win in China naming dispute



amid growing Chinese pressure. China has ramped up efforts to get international groups and companies to refer to their websites and in official documents to democratic,

Chinese-claimed Taiwan as being part of China, to the ire of Taiwan's government and many of its people.

◆ **The owner of Australia's biggest theme park was fined Aus\$3.6 million (\$2.5 million) yesterday for safety**



Australian theme park fined millions for ride deaths

failures leading to the deaths of four people on a popular water ride in 2016. Two women and two men died when their rafts collided on the Thunder River Rapids ride at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast, leading prosecutors to file three charges against owner Ardent Leisure in June.



Bombshell report claims Trump avoided taxes for years

◆ **US President Donald Trump on Sunday faced allegations that he paid little or no federal income tax for years** before he came to power, as his cloudy

financial past stoked controversy ahead of the first election debate. The New York Times alleged the billionaire president paid just \$750 federal income taxes in 2016 -- the year he won the White House -- and 2017, and no federal income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years because he reported losing more money than he made. Trump, who immediately dismissed the accusations as "totally fake news," is readying to come face to face with his Democratic opponent Joe Biden at a pivotal live debate on Tuesday. The Republican leader has broken with presidential tradition by refusing to release his tax returns, fighting a long battle in the courts and triggering speculation about what they might contain. "First of all, I paid a lot and I paid a lot of state income taxes too... It'll all be revealed," Trump said as he shrugged off the Times story that cited tax data extending more than 20 years.

US threatens to evacuate diplomats from Iraq

● **By Sunday, Washington had begun preparations to withdraw diplomatic staff**

Agencies

Washington has made preparations to withdraw diplomats from Iraq after warning Baghdad it could shut its embassy, two Iraqi officials and two Western diplomats said, a step Iraqis fear could turn their country into a battle zone.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threatened to close the embassy in a phone call a week ago to President Barham Salih, two Iraqi government sources said. The conversation was initially reported by an Iraqi news website.

By Sunday, Washington had begun preparations to withdraw diplomatic staff if such a decision is taken, those sources and the two Western diplomats said.

The concern among the Ira-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets with Iraq's Foreign Minister Hussein at the State Department in Washington

qis is that pulling out diplomats would be followed quickly by military action against forces Washington blamed for attacks.

Populist Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who commands a following of millions of Iraqis, issued a statement last week pleading for groups to avoid an escalation that would turn Iraq into a battleground.

One of the Western diplomats said the US administration did not "want to be limited in their options" to weaken Iran or pro-Iranian militias in Iraq. Asked whether he expected Washington to respond with economic or military measures, the diplomat replied: "Strikes."



The new Beijing law states that anyone whose tip-offs are later verified would be rewarded, and suffer no penalties.

Beijing passes law to protect medical whistleblowers

AFP News

Beijing's city government will protect "non-malicious" medical whistleblowers under a new law, passed months after a Chinese doctor was punished for sounding the alarm at the very beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He had attempted to warn authorities about the new infection but was instead reprimanded for "spreading rumours".

Other medical whistleblowers in Wuhan later told Chinese media they were punished by government officials for discussing the outbreak without permission from superiors.

The new Beijing law, which came into effect from Friday, states that anyone whose tip-offs are later verified would be rewarded, and suffer no penalties.

But the regulations do not cover anyone "fabricating or deliberately disseminating false information" about developing public health emergencies, according to a government notice on Saturday.

The new legislation is similar to a public health emergency law passed by Shenzhen municipal government in August, which also vows to protect "non-malicious" whistleblowers from legal consequences -- the first of its kind in China.

Armenian, Azeri forces battle again, 21 killed

Reuters | Yerevan/Baku

At least 21 people were killed yesterday in a second day of heavy clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh that reportedly involved air power, missiles and heavy armour.

The fiercest fighting in years between the two former Soviet republics has revived concern over stability in the South Caucasus, a corridor for pipelines carrying oil and gas to world markets.

Any move to all-out conflict could drag in major regional powers Russia and Turkey. Moscow has a defence alliance with Armenia, while Ankara backs its ethnic Turkic kin in Azerbaijan.

Angela Frangyan, a documentary film maker living in the Nagorno-Karabakh capital Stepanakert, said residents had taken cover in bomb shelters and constant shelling could be heard. All shops were closed and hardly anyone was in the streets, she said.

Armenia's parliament condemned what it said was a "full-scale military attack" by Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh that was receiving Turkey's help, adding Ankara's involvement could risk desta-



An Azerbaijani service member drives an armoured carrier in Baku



People are seen in a bomb shelter in Stepanakert



bilising the region. Azerbaijan denied Turkey was taking part in the fighting.

Nasal spray kills COVID-19 virus!

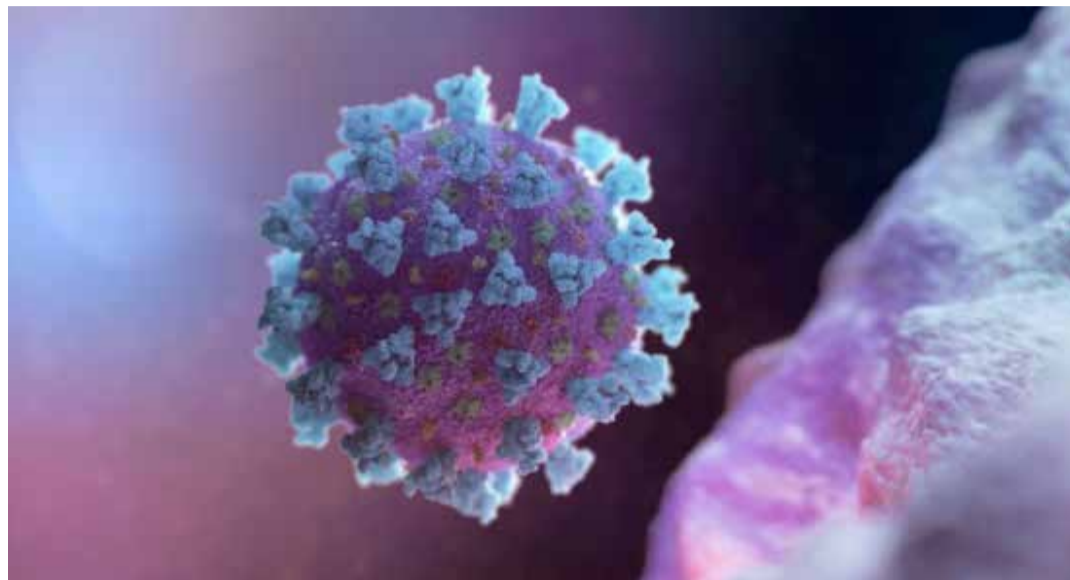
Australian firm says its nasal spray reduced coronavirus growth in animal study

Reuters | Sydney

Australian biotech company Ena Respiratory said on Monday that a nasal spray it is developing to improve the human immune system to fight common cold and flu significantly reduced the growth of the coronavirus in a recent study on animals.

A study on ferrets showed the product dubbed INNA-051, which could be used complementary to vaccines, lowered the levels of the virus that causes COVID-19 by up to 96 per cent, the company said. The study was led by British government agency Public Health England.

Ena Respiratory said it would be ready to test INNA-051 in human trials in less than four



A computer image created by Nexu Science Communication together with Trinity College in Dublin, shows a model structurally representative of a betacoronavirus which is the type of virus linked to COVID-19

875

Australia has so far reported 875 deaths and just over 27,000 coronavirus cases, far less than the numbers reported in other developed countries.

A study on ferrets showed the product dubbed INNA-051, which could be used complementary to vaccines, lowered the levels of the virus that causes COVID-19 by up to 96 per cent

months, subject to successful toxicity studies and regulatory approval.

The company has raised A\$11.7 million (\$8.24 million) for the development of the spray. Investors include venture capital firm Brandon Capital Ltd, the Australian federal government, pension funds and biotech giant

CSL Ltd.

Several companies across the world are in the pursuit of developing a coronavirus vaccine. Australia has entered into agreements with some drug companies investing billions to secure potential vaccines for COVID-19, which has killed over 992,000 people worldwide.

Malta to ask for return of shark tooth given to Prince George

Reuters | Valletta

Malta wants back a prehistoric shark tooth that was given as a present to Britain's Prince George by naturalist Sir David Attenborough, saying the fossil should be put on display in the island where it was discovered.

Kensington Palace announced the gift on Saturday, saying the giant tooth was given to the seven-year-old prince when Attenborough attended a private viewing of his latest environmental documentary with members of the royal family.

Attenborough found the fossil during a family holiday to Malta



Sir David Attenborough

in the late 1960s, the palace said. It was embedded in soft yellow limestone, and is believed to be about 23 million years old.

However, Maltese Culture

Minister Jose Herrera said the tooth should be in a local museum and promised to "set the ball rolling" to get it back.

"There are some artefacts that are important to Maltese natu-

ral heritage and which ended up abroad and deserve to be retrieved," Herrera told the Times of Malta, without giving details of how he intended to recover the fossil.

The tooth once belonged to a megalodon, an extinct species of giant shark that could grow up to 16 metres (52 feet).

"We rightly give a lot of attention to historical and artistic artefacts. However, it is not always the case with our natural history. I am determined to direct a change in this attitude," the minister said.

Malta was a British colony until 1964.

'Music is not a crime': UN experts urge Nigeria to lift singer's death sentence

Reuters | Geneva

UN rights experts asked Nigeria yesterday to release a 22-year-old singer who was condemned to death over an allegedly blasphemous song, and said the sentence broke international law.

Yahaya Aminu Sharif was sentenced last month by a sharia court in Kano, the commercial hub of Nigeria's mostly Muslim north, after he performed the song and shared it on WhatsApp.

"Music is not a crime," read a joint statement from the group of U.N. rapporteurs.

"Application of the death penalty for artistic expression or for sharing a song on the internet is a flagrant violation of international human rights law, as well as of Nigeria's constitution," said Karima Bennouna, special rapporteur on cultural rights.

The rights experts said Nigeria should overturn the death sentence.

Frenchman says tattoos cost him kindergarten teaching job

Reuters | Palaiseau, France

A schoolteacher whose body, face and tongue are covered in tattoos and who has had the whites of his eyes surgically turned black said he was prevented from teaching at a French kindergarten after a parent complained he scared their child.

But the teacher, Sylvain Helaine, 35, still teaches children from the age of six up, and said that, after an initial shock when they see him for the first time, his pupils see past his appearance.

"All of my students and their parents were always cool with me because basically they knew me," said Helaine, who estimated he has spent around 460 hours under the tattooists' needle.

"It's only when people see me from far away that they can assume the worst."

He said last year he was teaching kindergarten at the Docteur Morere Elementary School in Palaiseau, a suburb of Paris, when the parents of a three-year-old child complained to educational authorities. They said their son, who was not taught by Helaine, had nightmares after seeing him.

A couple of months later

the school authorities informed him he would no longer teach kindergarten children, he said. "I think the decision they took was quite sad," said Helaine.

A spokesman for the local education authority said an agreement was reached with Helaine to move him away from teaching kindergarten. Pupils under six "could be frightened by his appearance", the spokesman said.

Despite the setbacks, Helaine said he would stick with his chosen career. "I'm a primary school teacher

... I love my job."

He said he started getting tattoos at the age of 27 when, while teaching at a private school in London, he had an "existential crisis". Since then, he said, "Getting tattoos is my passion."

He said he hoped to show his pupils that they should accept people who are different from the norm. "Maybe when they are adults they will be less racist and less homophobic and more open-minded," he said.



He said last year he was teaching kindergarten at the Docteur Morere Elementary School in Palaiseau, a suburb of Paris, when the parents of a three-year-old child complained to educational authorities.



RCB clinch Super Over thriller against Mumbai Indians



RCB's AB de Villiers celebrates after winning the match

ANI | Dubai

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) defeated Mumbai Indians in the Super Over in Indian Premier League (IPL) at the Dubai International Stadium here yesterday.

Both the teams scored 201 runs in the allotted 20 overs which took the match into the Super Over. Mumbai Indians scored seven runs in the Super Over. Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers chased the target till the last delivery to win the match.

Earlier, chasing a target of 202 runs, Mumbai Indians witnessed a very poor start as Rohit Sharma was dismissed in the second over of the innings. In the next over, Suryakumar Yadav was sent back to the pavilion by Isuru Udana.

The fall of wickets did not stop as Quinton de Kock was removed by Yuzvendra Chahal in the seventh over, reducing Mumbai Indians to 39/3.

Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya then took the responsibility of the chase. However, the partnership did not last for a long time as Pandya got out after scoring 15 runs. Kieron Pollard was the next and provided Mumbai Indians with

some momentum, along with Kishan.

Kishan completed his half-century as he took the team over the 100-run mark. After the completion of 16 overs, Mumbai Indians were playing at 122/4 and needed 80 runs from the remaining 24 balls.

Adam Zampa bowled the 17th over and Pollard scored 27 runs in the over which included three sixes and a boundary. Pollard continued his hitting in the next over as he completed his half-century in just 20 balls.

Navdeep Saini bowled the 19th over and gave away 12 runs in the over. Last over was bowled by Udana and Kishan smashed two sixes before getting out on 99 runs.

Mumbai Indians needed five runs off the last ball and Pollard hit a boundary which dragged the match into the Super Over.

After being asked to bat first, RCB got off to a brilliant start. Aaron Finch and Devdutt Padikkal both struck regular boundaries to Mumbai Indians bowlers and took the team over the 50-run mark in the sixth over.

Nadal, Serena win openers as Thiem aces early test

Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams reached the Roland Garros second round with straight sets wins

● **Serena Williams was made to work hard in her opening match against Kristie Ahn**

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal began his pursuit of a record-tying 20th men's Grand Slam title with a straight-sets victory at the French Open while Serena Williams made a slow but successful start in her latest bid to equal Margaret Court's all-time mark.

Nadal, 34, needs one more Slam to match Roger Federer's record but has described the defence of his Roland Garros crown as the "most difficult ever" given the cold and damp conditions of a tournament delayed four months by the coronavirus pandemic.

The second seed defeated Egor Gerasimov, the world number 83 from Belarus, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 to launch his assault on a 13th French Open title, 15 years after his debut triumph.

"I'm really happy to be back at Chatrier. Thanks to the spectators for being here," Nadal said in front of a smattering of the 1,000 fans permitted daily at Roland Garros.

"Hopefully it'll be back to normal next year and I'll play in front of the beautiful crowd."

The Spaniard is appearing for the first time in Paris with-



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a shot against Egor Gerasimov of Belarus

out a clay title to his credit and skipped the recent US hardcourt swing over Covid-19 concerns.

He smacked 32 winners to just 20 unforced errors to down Gerasimov, one of 31 men entered into his first French Open main draw.

"I don't want to make any mistakes. It's a different Roland Garros this year and the weather conditions are very challenging, but we are here to try our best," added Nadal, who faces Mackenzie McDonald in round two.

Williams is chasing an elusive 24th Grand Slam title to draw level with Margaret Court's all-time haul, but clay is her least successful surface.

An error-prone beginning from the American star left world number 102 Kristie Ahn serving for the first set before

the three-time Roland Garros champion prevailed 7-6 (7/2), 6-0.

Williams, playing at the French Open for the 18th time, dropped serve twice as Ahn moved 5-4 ahead in the opener in a rematch of their first-round encounter at Flushing Meadows.

But the sixth seed forced a tie-break that she sealed with an ace after a 74-minute slog before charging to an ultimately comfortable victory.

'Play like Serena'

"She played very well in the first set, it wasn't easy for me and she hit a lot of winners," said Williams.

"The biggest difference was just confidence. I just need to play with more confidence, like I'm Serena.



Rafael Nadal won the first of his 12 French Open titles in 2005

"So that was it. I just started playing like that. And I love the clay and I started playing like it, opening the court and moving and sliding."

Williams, seeded sixth here, has not gone beyond the last 16 in Paris since her defeat to Garbine Muguruza in the 2016 final. Her last major came at the 2017 Australian Open while pregnant.

Italian journeyman Lorenzo Giustino carved out his own place in the headlines when he outlasted France's Corentin Moutet 0-6, 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/3), 2-6, 18-16 in the second longest match in French Open history at six hours and five minutes.

The match, held over from Sunday, fell 28 minutes short of Roland Garros' record marathon tie between Fabrice Santoro and Arnaud Clement in 2004.

US Open winner Dominic Thiem, the runner-up to Nadal in Paris the past two years, defeated former Slam champion Marin Cilic 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in their second meeting at a major this month.

Lampard says Chelsea need time to gel

AFP | London

Frank Lampard says he is struggling to find the time to work with his new-look Chelsea team on the training pitch as the fixtures come thick and fast.

Tammy Abraham's last-gasp strike rescued a 3-3 draw against West Bromwich Albion on Saturday after the London side had trailed 3-0.

The result means Chelsea have taken just four points from their first three Premier League matches after an opening win against Brighton and a 2-0 defeat to Liverpool.

Lampard, who has spent heavily during the summer transfer window, blamed "very clear individual mistakes" for his team's problems at the Hawthorns.

But he said it was difficult to put in enough work on the training ground, with two matches a week and a looming international break.

"I keep saying it and I'm not pleading or making excuses -- it's just a fact," Lampard said ahead of Tuesday's League Cup clash against Tottenham.

"Part of the reason we had a



Chelsea's English head coach Frank Lampard attends a training session at Chelsea's Cobham training facility (file photo)

“When you have new players in you really want to work like that. We haven't had the chance. So not just at the back, the whole way we're playing, it needs work

FRANK LAMPARD

successful year last year was the work we put in on the training ground."

"When you have new players in you really want to work like that," he added. "We haven't had the chance. So not just at the back, the whole way we're playing, it needs work."

"Football doesn't work that you throw things together and everything is amazing because otherwise we wouldn't have had managers who have shown that work brings success."

Mourinho says fixture pile-up will force Spurs to sacrifice League Cup

AFP | London

Jose Mourinho has blamed football chiefs for effectively preventing Tottenham Hotspur from fighting for League Cup success and fears more injuries as his side face three games in six days.

Spurs host Mourinho's former club Chelsea in the League Cup fourth round on Tuesday before a final Europa League qualifying tie at home to Maccabi Haifa just 48 hours later.

The hectic week is topped off by a trip to Manchester United, another of the Portuguese manager's former clubs, for a Premier League clash on Sunday.

Mourinho said he would like to mount a challenge for the League Cup but the added financial value of reaching the Europa League group stage meant that competition had to take precedence.

"I think you can imagine that with a game on Thursday, that decides a very important thing for us -- I think the EFL (English Football League) made a decision for us," said the Spurs boss.



Tottenham Hotspur's Portuguese head coach Jose Mourinho (C) attends a team training session (file photo)

3 games have to be played by Tottenham Hotspur in just six days in different competitions this week

"They didn't even create a problem -- they made a decision

for us. So that's the decision."

Spurs lost Son Heung-min to a hamstring injury at half-time of the 1-1 draw with Newcastle on Sunday.

The South Korea forward had already hit the woodwork twice after scoring four goals in the previous Premier League outing at Southampton.

Mourinho believes Son's setback will be the first of a number of injury problems his side will have to overcome due to their fixture congestion.

THREE WEEKS
THREE EVENTS

THE BIGGEST FLYWEIGHT TOURNAMENT
TITLE FIGHTS | THE BEST MARTIAL ARTISTS

Jarrah Al-Silawi open to trilogy with Mohammad Fakhreddine

BRAVE CF Welterweight champion Jarrah Al-Silawi says he is ready to face Middleweight king Mohammad Fakhreddine

● Al-Silawi will face Melvin van Suijdam in his first Middleweight bout at BRAVE CF 43

TDT | Manama

Widely considered as the best Arab MMA fighter ever, Jarrah Al-Silawi is the current, undisputed BRAVE CF Welterweight world champion. However, "The Jordanian Lion" is ready to test the waters at Middleweight and admits a clash with Mohammad Fakhreddine would be interesting down the line. Al-Silawi has fought the current BRAVE CF Middleweight world champion twice, earning a submission victory and falling to a split decision loss in the past.

As he gets ready for a main event clash at BRAVE CF 43 in his first Middleweight bout against Melvin van Suijdam, from the Netherlands, Jarrah is hopeful



Jarrah Al-Silawi in action during a bout (file photo)

“I can fight at Welterweight or Middleweight. I'm naturally heavier so it won't be an issue to fight at Middleweight, there's no difference. I will defeat anyone at any weight. I'm ready for anyone, there's not a single fighter in the world that I can't beat and Fakhreddine is included in that

JARRAH AL-SILAWI

that he can become a force in yet another division.

"I can fight at Welterweight or Middleweight. I'm naturally heavier so it won't be an issue to fight at Middleweight, there's no difference. I will defeat anyone at any weight. I'm ready for an-

nyone, there's not a single fighter in the world that I can't beat and Fakhreddine is included in that. This is a sport and I'm a very competitive person so you never know. Anyone that comes across me, I'll be ready to face them".

Al-Silawi is coming off a career-defining win as he stopped Abdoul Abdouraguimov to reclaim his world title at BRAVE CF 27, last year. He is the first man to beat Abdoul, who had earned the belt by beating Jarrah in their first contest at BRAVE CF 23, in a razor-thin split decision.

Fakhreddine, on the other hand, made history two weeks ago when he defeated Daniel Gauchon to become the latest Middleweight world champion. Also a legendary figure in the Arab MMA world, "The Latest" moved up in weight recently after spending the majority of his career at Welterweight.

If Al-Silawi beats van Suijdam, a third epic clash between two of Middle East's finest could very well become a question of when instead of if.

Two quarter-final tournament bouts earn fight of the night honours for BRAVE CF 42

Velimurad Alkhasov victory over Flavio Queiroz in the co main event as well as the draw between Jose Torres and Sean Santella in the main event earns Fight of the Night honours

● The Flyweight tournament quarter-finals at BRAVE CF 42 were so thrilling that officials decided to award the status to both of them

● The co-main event was full of excitement for the fans as both men went for the kill from the opening bell and threw everything into their strikes, elevating the level of entertainment

TDT | Manama

Ahead of the Kombat Kingdom finale, at BRAVE CF 43,



Velimurad Alkhasov joins Zach Makovsky in the semifinals as both men are scheduled to face each other in a date to be announced. Alkhasov will have the chance to avenge his only professional loss which took place at the hands of Makovsky at BRAVE CF 34

the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world has released the winners of the Fight of the

Night honours for its second installment at the series, which took place last week at BRAVE CF 42. Usually, one bout gets the prize, but both BRAVE CF Flyweight tournament quarter-finals were so exciting that officials decided to award both bouts and the four athletes with the award.

In the first quarter-final, the co-main event of BRAVE CF 42, Velimurad Alkhasov recovered from his first professional loss by edging Flavio Queiroz via unanimous decision. The affair was full of excitement for the fans as both men went for the kill from the opening bell and threw everything into their strikes, elevating the level of entertainment.

And that level was maintained throughout the main event as Jose Torres and Sean Santella put on a highly-exciting battle

for the right to advance to the semifinals. After dominating the ground exchanges in the first two rounds, Santella went on the retreat for the third round as Jose tried to score a stoppage. In the end, they fought to a draw and will rematch soon for a spot in the final four of the greatest tournament of 2020.

Meanwhile, Velimurad joins Zach Makovsky in the semifinals as both men are scheduled to face each other in a date to be announced. Alkhasov will have the chance to avenge his only professional loss which took place at the hands of Makovsky at BRAVE CF 34.

The other tournament quarter-final bout will take place in the near future as well with Dustin Ortiz waiting on a new opponent after Marcel Adur was forced to pull out of the tournament due to a shoulder injury.