



**Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Preventative measures reduce the spread of COVID-19**

**VACCINATE AND STAY SAFE**

**Coalition intercepts drone attack on Saudi commercial vessel, Bahrain condemns attack**  
 TDT | Manama

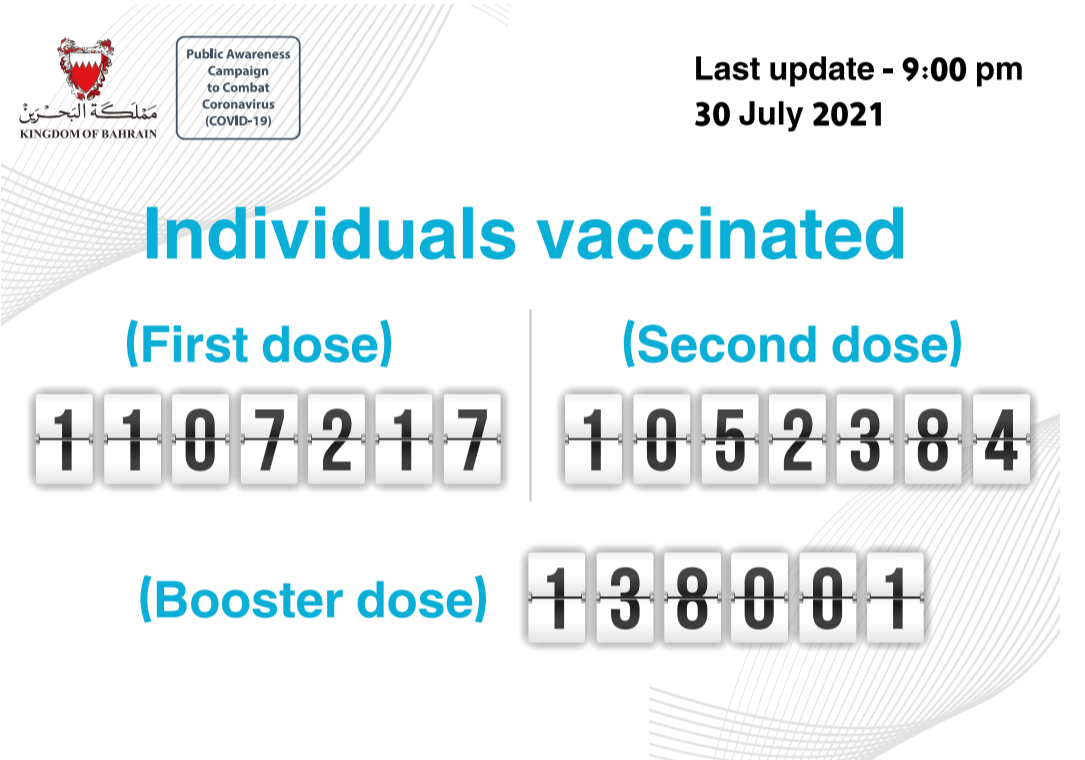
Bahrain yesterday condemned in strongest terms an attempt by Iran-backed Houthi militia to attack a Saudi Commercial ship using a booby-trapped drone.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the repeated hostilities show the determination of Houthis to continue the vicious attacks on Saudi and destabilise the security and stability of the region.

The foreign ministry statement also commended the efficiency of the coalition forces in thwarting the attack. The military coalition led by Saudi Arabia had intercepted the drone.

The ministry also called on the international community to take deterrent measures against repeated attacks on maritime traffic in the region.

The coalition said the attack was part of a continued threat posed by Yemen's Houthi militia.



## Averting next health crisis

Bi-yearly medicals made mandatory starting today for expatriate workers

- Employers should book appointments for workers
- Expatriates in food, cosmetics, health clubs and resorts should take the tests
- A health certificate is mandatory for keeping jobs

TDT | Manama

Periodic medical check-ups every two years are now mandatory for expatriate workers, starting today.

According to Labour Market Regulatory Authority, the bi-yearly check-ups are for expatriates working "in commercial and industrial premises related to public health."

Workers in establishments handling food, cosmetics, health clubs and resorts come under this new decision.

A complete list of occupations that require medical examination is available on this link - <https://bit.ly/3fcZsEh>



Employers should book an appointment for their expatriate employees through Bahrain eGovernment periodic Medical Checkup Appointment service. Click this link for making an appointment - <https://bit.ly/3x8fuWg>

E-Government authority has developed the electronic system to support the Ministry of Health.

The new service allows booking appointments for expatriate employees in private hospitals,

view, and reschedule the appointments.

The service also allows employers to view their employees' health check-up fitness reports.

The check-up, which repeats every two years, aims at preventing the spread of "communicable diseases", said Dr Maryam Al Hajri, the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health at the Ministry of Health.

The move, Al Hajri said, is as per Ministerial Resolution No (15), Resolution (5) of 2021 and Resolution (71) of 2021, regulating periodic medical check-ups of expatriate employees in commercial and industrial premises.

The resolutions oblige employers to do period medical check-ups for workers every two years.

The workers, Dr Najat Abu Al-Fateh, the Director of the Public Health Department at the Ministry of Health, said, will get a certificate after completing the tests, which have a prescribed fee structure.

"If the certificate expires, workers are not allowed to continue their jobs," said Dr Al Fateh.

**950,000 to get booster dose**



**FBI probe shows amount of chemicals in Beirut blast was a fraction of original shipment**



**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

TOTAL TESTED 5433692

ACTIVE CASES 991

DEATHS 1384

DISCHARGED 266705

NEW CASES 106

CRITICAL 5

210 fils (includes VAT)



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Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hasan Al Hasan, the Public Security Chief, during a meeting with Dana Stroul, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence, at the Coast Guard Command. Coast Guard Commander Rear Admiral Ala Abdullah Siyadi and Stroul's accompanying delegation were present. Discussions focused on issues of common interest.



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), with General Sir Nicholas Carter, while visiting the UK's Ministry of Defence Ministry. They discussed ways to enhance cooperation and bilateral ties, mainly in the military and defence areas. The BDF Commander-in-Chief asserted the importance of such visits in boosting deep-rooted ties.



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, holding a meeting with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, in the presence of Chief of Public Security, Lieutenant-General Tariq Al Hassan. The meeting reviewed counterterrorism cooperation and coordination and bilateral coordination in fighting narcotics and human trafficking. Discussions also focused on topics of common interest. Ambassador Fatima Abdulla Fares Aldhaen, Chief of Afro-Asian Affairs, was also present.



Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, affirmed the depth of the Bahraini-Sudanese relations during a meeting with Dr Mariam Al-Mansoor Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, the Sudanese Foreign Minister. Sudan's Foreign Minister expressed thanks and appreciation to the Speaker for the Representatives Council's keenness to enhance Bahraini-Sudanese relations.



Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, the Shura Council Chairman, meeting Padam Sundas, the outgoing Nepal Ambassador to Bahrain. Al Saleh praised the relations between the two countries, stressing Bahrain's keenness to enhance cooperation.



Defence Affairs Minister Lieutenant-General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi received US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for the Middle East Affairs Dana Stroul and the accompanying delegation. The meeting reviewed ways of cooperation and joint military coordination between the two countries. Assistant Chief-of-Staff for Logistics Naval Major General Yousef Ahmed Mal-Allah, Director of Planning, Organisation and Technology, Major-General Shaikh Salman bin Khalid Al Khalifa, Director of Military Cooperation Major General Pilot Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman Al Khalifa, and several senior BDF officers, were present.



Foreign Minister, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, meeting his Pakistani counterpart, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who is on a visit to the Kingdom, to attend the second meeting of the Bahrain-Pakistan Joint Ministerial Committee. They discussed efforts to develop bilateral cooperation and the vital role of Bahrain in promoting security and stability in the region.



Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Governor of Makkah Region, His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, meeting the outgoing Consul General of Bahrain, Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Maslamani. The Consul General expressed pride and gratitude to the Government of Saudi Arabia for the support he received from all official agencies throughout his tenure.



Ali bin Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, the Information Affairs Minister, discussing with the outgoing Omani Ambassador to Bahrain, Abdulla bin Rashid Al-Mudailwi, during a meeting. The minister lauded the depth of the solid deep-rooted brotherly Bahraini-Omani relations, wishing him further success.



Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan, meeting the Bahrain Public Relations Society Chairman, Dr Fahad Al Shahabi, Chairman of the Bahrain Jurists Society, and Dr Abduljabbar Ahmed Al-Tayeb. The ministry congratulated them for obtaining the Consultative Status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Humaidan stressed that granting the two societies the special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council reflects the confidence of international organisations in Bahrain's civil society organisations.



Dr Abdul-Hussain bin Ali Mirza, the Chairman of the Sustainable Energy Authority, discussed with MP Mamdouh Al-Saleh the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr Mirza shed light on the projects lined up by the authority until the year-end.

## New educational park on the way in Isa town



Dr Al Nuaimi with Edumah and Amanat officials during the ground-breaking ceremony

**TDT | Manama**

Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company (Edamah) and Amanat - Edu-Safe Park broke grounds yesterday for establishing a first-of-its-kind

Education Park in Isa Town. The facility offers a one-stop solution for students and parents, which will add value to education beyond school hours. Dr Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi, the Minister of Education, Dr Shaikha May bint Sulaiman Al

Otaibi, Amanat Founder and Chief Executive, Dr Mohamed Mubarak Bin Ahmed, the Director-General of Schools Affairs, and Amin Alarrayed, Edamah CEO, were present at the ceremony. The facility includes a library,

sports halls and fields, offered in cooperation with one of the private schools in the area. Edamah said it expects to complete phase one of the Educational Park in April 2022 and phase two of the park in September 2022.



Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, the Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council, held a discussion to review the latest developments of the establishment of Isa Al Kabeer's "Al Hidayah Alkhalifa" University. The meeting discussed various aspects of administration, construction and academic programmes. Dr Sheikha Rana bint Isa bin Dajj Al Khalifa, the Secretary-General of the Higher Education Council and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council, Dr Mona Al Balushi, Assistant Secretary-General for Evaluation and Accreditation, and officials from the General Secretariat for Higher Education were present.

## 950,000 to get booster dose

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Bahrain will have its green light shining again only after administering booster doses to 95,000 or 80% of people aged 40 years and above.

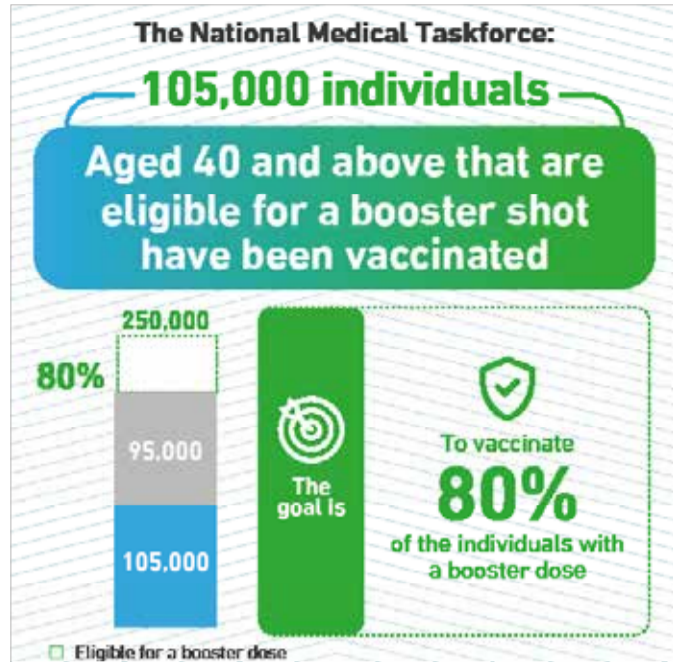
### 250,000 eligible candidates

The total number of people eligible to receive a booster dose in the Kingdom is 250,000, out of which 105,000 had already received their booster doses.

The National Medical Taskforce for Combating COVID-19 pandemic had earlier announced moving Bahrain to yellow alert level on the COVID-19 traffic light alert system until 80% of those aged 40 years and above take their booster vaccine doses.

### To Maximise immunity

In a statement yesterday, the Taskforce urged all those eli-



gible to register for receiving booster doses to maximise their immunity against new COVID-19 variants. "This is particularly

important for at-risk groups and adults aged 40 and above," the Medical Taskforce statement added.

## Mumtalakat to refurbish offices

● The makeover is for Mumtalakat's offices on the fourth floor of Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay, Manama.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, the sovereign wealth fund of the government of Bahrain, is giving its offices a facelift.

The company has launched a tender seeking a pre-qualified contractor for the purpose.

The makeover is for Mumtalakat's offices on the fourth floor of Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay, Manama.

The tender description calls for demolition, refurbishment, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of interior fit-out works



Representative picture

with furniture for the officers.

Interested bidders should enclose a BD5,000 initial bond and a fee of BD100. Bids should reach the tender board before the 7th of September 2021.

The tender is subject to the provisions of the Tender Law issued by the Legislative Decree No. 36 of 2002, its amendments, and its Implementing Regulations issued by Decree No. 37 of 2002.

Enclose a copy of a valid Commercial Registration Cer-

tificate (CR) and a valid certificate of Bahrainization issued by the Ministry of Labour.

Micro, small and medium enterprises are eligible to obtain 10% preference.

Mumtalak, which started in 2005 as an economic reform workshop held under the patronage of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, now provides around 14,000 direct jobs within its local companies.

## BIC fireworks display



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit has launched a tender for conducting fireworks displays during the 2021-2022 period.

The tender description says the appointment will be through an international public tender.

Interested parties should submit their bids before the 22nd of August 2021 with a BD4,000 initial bond and BD100 tender fee.

Separately, BIC has launched a tender for buying WEC 2021 - Marshals Uniforms. Place bids before the 11th of August 2021, with a BD15 tender fee.

## Gulf Air buying stainless steel cutlery



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air is to commence an international public tender for buying Economy Class stainless steel cutlery, said a tender launched.

The international public tender, Gulf Air said, is for bringing more specialised suppliers, obtain better pricing options, ensure cost-effectiveness and get more item varieties and options.

Make bids before the 12th of September 2021 with a BD1,000 initial bond and BD50 fee.

## Road renovation at South Alba area

TDT | Manama

Works ministry is rehabilitating the roads at South Alba Industrial Area.

The ministry is planning to construct a 3,100 meter long two lanes single carriageway with asphalt paving having a width of 8 metres.

Earthworks, drainage, concrete kerbs installation, asphalt paving, footpath construction, road-marking and street lighting works are part of the project.

A tender launched for the project calls for completing the works in 28 weeks.



Representative picture

Those bidding for the project should have a valid pre-qualification licence registered with the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning in Road Works under graders AA, A, B & C.

Enclose a BD4,000 initial bond and a BD100 fee along with the bids before the 25th of August 2021.

## Scrap cars for sale

TDT | Manama

Capital Municipality has issued a tender for selling scrap cars at its stores in Tubli.

The cars on sale are those removed by the municipality from roads and streets of the Kingdom.

If interested, make bids before the 5th of August 2021. Bidders should enclose a



Representative picture

BD500 initial bond and BD15 tender fees.

## EWA demolishing Sitra power and water station

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The Central Stores Directorate of the Electricity and Water Authority has launched a tender for demolishing and removing Sitra power and water station.

The tender description says the contractors shall be responsible for arranging and mobilising all required tools, equipment and lifting arrangement.

The tender is for demolishing the civil structure and con-



Representative picture

crete foundation of all plants, machinery and equipment.

Interested parties should make their bids before the 7th of November 2021, with a BD5,000 initial bond and BD100 fee.

## Bapco buying seafood items

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Bahrain Petroleum Company has launched a tender for buying seafood items, both fresh and frozen.

The items are for the Bapco club, Al Dar, Awali Hospital and Refinery cafeteria.

Bids should reach the tender



Representative picture

board before the 22nd of August 2021 with BD1,000 initial bond and BD50 tender fee.

## Eskan bank plans portal for social housing



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

Eskan Bank is looking forward to creating a property portal dedicated to social housing beneficiaries.

The portal is for connecting developers, brokers and property owners with potential home buyers across the Kingdom.

The move aims at making the Ministry of Housing and Eskan Bank a regulator, facilitator or mediator, rather than continuing as a direct provider of housing solutions.

The tender launched is for appointing a consultant to con-

duct a feasibility study for the project.

If interested, submit bids before the 11th of August 2021, with a BD500 initial bond and BD15 tender fee.

The Ministry of Housing is responsible for the social finance services for citizens. Eskan Bank supports the ministry to manage the disbursement of these funds to beneficiaries of citizens.

Mazaya programme is one of the initiatives introduced by the Ministry of Housing in cooperation with the private sector to provide housing for citizens on the waiting lists.

## Eleven bidders for Al Natakin school work

TDT | Manama

Eleven companies had expressed their interest in taking up the works of Al Natakin Girls Primary School.

Almoayed Contracting, Al Hafeera Contracting Company, Mohammed Jalal Contracting are among the 11 bidders. Bids ranged between BHD 1,025,000.000 and BHD 1,340,700.000.

Bokhowa Contracting and Trading Group made the lowest quote.

The tender is for building an additional academic block with 19 classrooms, first-aid rooms, labs, teachers rooms, and other facilities.

A successful bidder should complete the works in 18 months.

The tender board says that all bids are subject to technical and financial evaluation, and the price will be the principal criterion if a bidder fulfils technical and other criteria. Meaning, the lowest price bidder is not necessarily awarded the tender.

The details emerged as the Tender and Auction Board opened 74 bids received for 16 tenders by eight managing authorities.

### General repair works

Works Ministry also had two other tenders for carrying out general repair works at A'ali Intermediate Girls School, A'ali Primary Boys School, Al Sehla Primary Girls School and Saar Primary Girls School.

Works for schools at A'ali attracted six bidders, whose bids ranged between BHD 306,262.000 and BHD 378,070.000.

Dar Al Khaleej Trading and Contracting made the lowest quote. The contract duration of the works is three months.

Works for Al Sehla and Saar schools attracted seven bidders. Their bids ranged between BHD 267,300.000 and BHD 545,928.123. Dar Al Khaleej Trading and Contracting quoted the lowest amount. The contraction duration is three months.

## UoB hiring 30 office helpers

TDT | Manama

The University of Bahrain is hiring 30 officer helpers, said a tender board document.

The job description says the contract period is two years and four months.

The contract will start on the 1st of September 2021 and ends on the 31st of December 2023.

Interested parties should make bids before the 16th of August 2021 with a BD1,000 initial bond and BD100 tender fee.

## SMC Accident and Emergency expansion attracts seven bids



TDT | Manama

The expansion project of the Accident and Emergency at the Salmaniya Medical Complex attracted seven companies.

Two seas electromechanical services, Global Power Systems, Modern Mechanical Electrical and Transport, Almoayed Air Conditioning, Sayed Kadhem Al Durazi & Sons, Contratech and Kartech Services are the bidders.

Their bids ranged between BHD 128,102.100 and BHD 230,891.063.

Global Power Systems emerged as the lowest bidder.

SMC wants to expand the ambulance car park area of the Accident and Emergency wing to create more patients rooms for Pediatrics and Adult patients and increase the number of clinics.

The contract also calls for conducting electrical works.

## The dignity of the citizen and the resident



**DR. SAWSAN KAMAL, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

On the International Day to Combat Trafficking in Persons, we look with great pride at what the Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved in this field. We are proud of Bahrain maintaining its position for the third year in a row among the first category countries (TIER1) in the US State Department report on human trafficking issued at the end of July 2020. The evaluation highlights the leadership for their efforts to controlling trafficking, stressing the importance of intensifying awareness and cooperation with state agencies in combating these phenomena.

Under these circumstances, there is a need for some constructive criticism for maintaining this distinction or even doubling it. We always attend social events and programmes by the various communities in the Kingdom of Bahrain to know their views on our country and their interest in human rights.

During those visits, we saw cases of female residents without sponsors or personal cards seeking help from the community to access health care safely. There is no doubt that this will not happen in Bahrain except in illegal residency cases and transgression of law and order. But all these are no justifications for blocking access to health care.

We are a tolerant country, and everyone knows that the esteemed government took the initiative to provide vaccinations against the Coronavirus to everyone, whether a citizen or a resident, under the generous guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the country, may God support him and take care of him. Some hospitals had also provided integrated medical examination packages for those who are "helpless".

Amidst all this, some poor communities must have been lost their way in confusion and alienation and lost access to health services, most probably for not correcting their legal status. What preventing them might be the laws of their country or the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain, or their limited financial capabilities and lack of knowledge in official circles, and asylum in such cases.

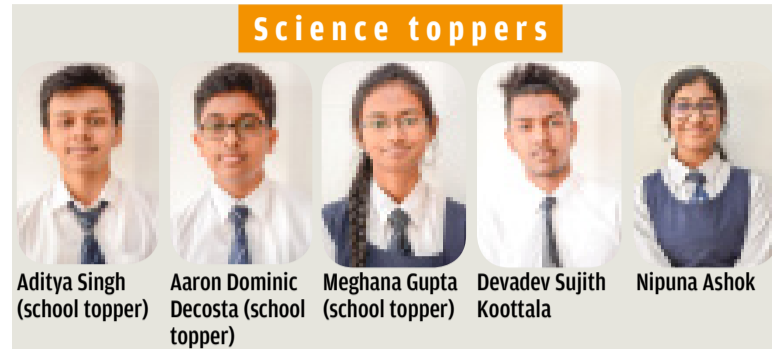
Aren't these reasons that push them to choose ways with undesirable consequences? Aren't these reasons why some of them committing suicide or offences, some of which amount to criminality? Are these reasons that make their health condition worse and find them trapped in human trafficking networks?

Today, we want explicit directives to intensify focus on civil society organisations and communication with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, and the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments to settle issues. Let the communities intensify communication with the concerned authorities to support those in need and extricate the marginalised groups. We should not deprive them of the care they need.

**We are a tolerant country, and everyone knows that the esteemed government took the initiative to provide vaccinations against the Coronavirus to everyone, whether a citizen or a resident, under the generous guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the country, may God support him and take care of him. Some hospitals had also provided integrated medical examination packages for those who are "helpless".**



## CBSE class XII exam: ISB registers 100% success



TDT | Manama

Indian School Bahrain (ISB) students achieved an overall pass percentage of 100 in the CBSE exam results. A total of 646 students took the exam from ISB.

The Central Board of Secondary Education yesterday released the class 12 results which this year registered a 99.37 pass percentage, which is nearly 10% higher than the previous year 88.8%.

Aaron Dominic Decosta and Aditya Singh securing 99% each (495 / 500), emerged as ISB toppers from the Science stream.

Meghana Gupta and Riddhi

Nileshkumar Rathod, science and Commerce, respectively, scored 98.4% (492 / 500) each. They shared the second position in the school.

Enas Mohammed Shuaib from the Humanities stream with 98% (490 / 500) secured the third position in the school.

Eighteen students got A1 in all subjects, while 63 got all A grades. 97.8% students got 60% and above, 69.8% students got 75% above and 19.5% students scored aggregate 90% and above.

ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, Member Academics Mohammed Khursheed Alam, Members



of the Executive Committee and Principal VR Palaniswamy congratulated students, teachers and parents. In his message, Natarajan said: "The children have made the school proud and proven that trying circumstances can't defeat the combined

will and dedicated effort of students and teachers."

Congratulating the students, Principal V R Palaniswamy said: "The results prove beyond doubt that the school stands head and shoulders above others in quest of its excellence."

## NMS excels in CBSE Grade XII Examination



TDT | Manama

The New Millennium School-Bahrain announced securing a pass percentage of 100 in the All India Senior School Certificate Examination (AISSCE), 2021. The school said 85 out of 135 students (i.e., 63%) scored 90% and above in aggregate and 133 students (98.5%) passed with distinction (75%).

CENTUM in Chemistry, English, Physics, Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies

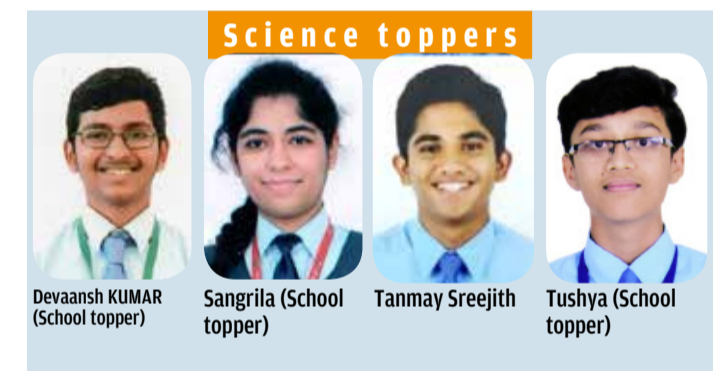
71 students (53%) excelled

with an 'A grade' in all the subjects

Of the 85 students, who appeared in the Science stream, 58 students (68.23%) secured above 90%, and 46 students (54.1%) passed with an 'A grade' in all subjects

Of the 40 students, who appeared in the Commerce stream, 19 students (47.5%) secured above 90% marks, and 22 students (55%) excelled with an 'A grade' in all subjects.

Of the ten students who appeared in the Humanities



stream, eight students (80%) secured above 90% marks and three students (30%) excelled with an 'A grade' in all subjects.

In the Science stream, Devaansh Kumar and Sangrila Ojha topped the school with 98.4%

In the Commerce stream, Leharr Gupta securing 98% is the highest scorer.

In the Humanities stream, Aafreen Mohammed Asif scored the highest marks 95.4%.

## Nuwab hiring skilled workers, technicians

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives (Nuwab) has launched a tender for hiring three specialised and skilled technicians.

Nuwab is hiring workers for carrying out electrical, carpentry, plumbing and maintenance of electrical appliances, including elevators, central and split air conditioners.

Bids should reach the board before the 10th of August 2021 with a BD500 initial bond and BD15 tender fee.

Nuwab has also launched another tender to hire three workers for moving and dismantling office furniture.

Workers should carry out the works from Saturday to Thursday every week from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, except on holidays. Make bids before the 17th of August 2021 with a BD500 initial bond and BD15 tender fee.

## Bapco fuel station work attracts eight bidders

TDT | Manama

Bapco Retail Company's tender to create a new service station at Hamad Town Roundabout 14 had attracted eight bidders.

Dadabhai Construction, Almoayed Contracting, Mohammed Jalal Contracting and RP construction are among the bidders.

Their bids ranged between BHD 910,000.000 and BHD 1,245,000.000. RP Construction made the lowest quote.

The project on a plot area of 5,502 sqm will have a



Representative picture

drive-through QSR, coffee shop, commercial shops, car care and car wash, fuel tanks and other facilities.

The contract duration is seven months.

## BIPD to hire security men, tender launched

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Institute For Political Development is hiring security services for its building in the Umm Al Hassam area.

The tender description says BIPD is looking for two security men, who should work in two shifts - evening and morning.

The description says the men should be "good-look-

ing, experienced, should have good behaviours, and speak and write English.

Make bids before the 25th of August 2021 with BD500 initial bond and BD15 tender fee.

## Amazon hit with record EU data privacy fine

Reuters

Amazon.com Inc has been hit with a record \$886.6 million (746 million euros) European Union fine for processing personal data in violation of the bloc's GDPR rules, as privacy regulators take a more aggressive position on enforcement.

The Luxembourg National Commission for Data Protection (CNPD) imposed the fine on Amazon in a July 16 decision, the company disclosed in a regulatory filing on Friday. (<https://bit.ly/2TLIZQ8>)

Amazon will appeal the fine, according to a company spokesperson. The e-commerce giant said in the filing it believed CNPD's decision was without merit.

CNPD did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

EU's General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, requires companies to seek people's consent before using their personal data or face steep fines.

Globally, regulatory scrutiny of tech giants has been increasing following a string of scandals over privacy and misinformation, as well as complaints from some businesses that they abuse their market power.

Alphabet's Google, Facebook Inc, Apple Inc and Microsoft Corp have drawn heightened scrutiny in Europe.

In December, France's data privacy watchdog handed out its biggest ever fine of 100 million euros (\$118.82 million) to Google for breaching the nation's rules on online advertising trackers.

# US House advances bills to address Archegos, GameStop turmoil

Reuters | Washington

Wealthy families that set up investment funds known as "family offices" to manage their personal wealth would face stricter oversight from US regulators under a bill advanced by a US congressional panel late on Thursday.

The bill was among 11 that lawmakers hope will address failings highlighted by March's meltdown of family office Archegos Capital which led to billions of dollars in losses for some banks and January's GameStop saga.

Whether they pass or not, the bills considered by the House Financial Services Committee would increase the pressure on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to take swift action, analysts said.

The legislation targets family offices with more than \$750 million in assets, retail trading practices and short selling.



US one dollar banknotes are seen in front of displayed GameStop logo in this illustration

The bills also target January's GameStop meme stock saga during which retail investors trading on low-cost brokers like Robinhood Markets Inc banded together to burn hedge funds that had bet against the retailer.

One bill directs the SEC to study restricting "payment for order flow" whereby brokers route orders to wholesale mar-

ket makers in return for a fee. Critics say the practice creates conflicts of interest that can push up prices for retail investors.

Any changes to the model could hurt Robinhood, which had a miserable stock market debut on Thursday, partly due to investor worries over regulatory risks.

The bill was among 11 that lawmakers hope will address failings highlighted by March's meltdown of family office Archegos Capital which led to billions of dollars in losses for some banks and January's GameStop saga.

Another bill directs the SEC to require investors to disclose their positions monthly instead of quarterly, and to include certain derivatives and "short" bets that stocks will fall.

Several industry insiders said Wall Street will fight the changes.

Thomas Handler, a partner at law firm Handler Thayer which has over 300 family offices as clients, said the proposal for family offices to register with the SEC would become an "intrusion of privacy."

## Services buoy US consumer spending; inflation pushes higher

Reuters | Washington

US consumer spending surged in June as vaccinations against COVID-19 boosted demand for travel-related services, but part of the increase reflected higher prices, with annual inflation accelerating further above the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

Though personal income barely rose last month, other data on Friday showed wage growth in the second quarter was the fastest in 13 years on an annual basis.

Consumer spending grew at a robust 11.8% annualized rate last quarter, accounting for much of the economy's 6.5% growth pace, which lifted the level of GDP above its peak in the fourth quarter of 2019. Spending on goods rose 0.5%. Spending on long-lasting goods decreased 1.5%, reflecting a decline in motor vehicle purchases. Outlays on non-durable goods rose 1.8%.

With demand outpacing supply, inflation is rising.

The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, excluding the volatile food and energy components, rose 0.4% in June after advancing 0.5% in May. The index was lifted by increases in prices of airline tickets, used cars as well as hotel and motel accommodation.

In the 12 months through June, the core PCE price index shot up 3.5%, the largest gain since December 1991, after rising 3.4% in May.

The US central bank had kept its overnight benchmark interest rate near zero and left its bond-buying program unchanged.

## Robinhood turns higher on day after weak debut

Reuters

Shares of Robinhood Markets Inc shuffled between gains and losses on Friday, a day after star stock picker Cathie Wood picked up 1.3 million shares of the company for the ARK Invest fund during the online brokerage's grim market debut.

Robinhood's shares were up around 3.7% at \$36.10 in afternoon trading, after losing more than 8% on Thursday and falling earlier in Friday's session. Market watchers attributed part of the shares' weakness to a comparatively cold reception from



The logo of Robinhood Markets, Inc. is seen at a pop-up event on Wall Street

retail investors who have fueled rallies in the shares of other so-called "meme stocks," as well as Robinhood's decision to reserve

as much as 35% of its shares for its users.

That performance has not dissuaded Wood, who gained fame on the strong performance of her funds in 2020. According to ARK's daily update for its actively managed ETFs on Thursday, it bought 1,297,615 shares of Robinhood in its ARK Innovation ETF. At Thursday's closing price, that would have been worth around \$45.2 million.

Other investors stayed on the sidelines, citing concerns over its valuation, the risk of regulation and lingering anger with

the company's imposition of trading curbs during the meme stock trading frenzy in January.

"Calls itself Robinhood, steals from the people. Gotta love it," said one user on Reddit's popular WallStreetBets, where retail investors have gathered this year to coordinate buying that has helped drive big rallies in Gamestop, AMC Entertainment Holdings and other names.

Retail investors bought a net \$18.85 million of Robinhood stock on Thursday, according to Vanda Research, a relatively low amount compared with other initial public offerings.

# World stocks head for sixth month of gains, dlr near 1-month low

● MSCI World Index down 0.3%; Asia ex-Japan -1.1%

● Dollar set for worst week since May

● Central banks, earnings vs Delta numbers, China tech

Reuters | London

Global shares edged lower yesterday but remained on course for their sixth straight month of gains as solid corporate earnings and central bank largesse kept sentiment intact, while the dollar held near a one-month low.

MSCI's World index was last down 0.3%, leaving it broadly flat on the week, but up 1.1% for the month, just shy of a record high.

Markets remain in a tussle, though, as a Chinese crackdown on its technology sector and rising cases of the Delta coronavirus variant range against still-Dovish monetary policy and punchy earnings from a range of



Visitors look at an electronic stock quotation board at the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in Tokyo, Japan

companies.

In Europe, UniCredit, BNP Paribas and Eni saw profits rise on Friday. But underwhelming numbers overnight from Amazon -- as some developed market economies begin to reopen after lockdown -- proved it was not all one-way traffic.

"We have a bit of day-to-day volatility, but the overall market is quite strong," said Hans Stoter, global head of core investments at AXA Investment Managers.

"It's largely still a function of limited alternatives available,

with a still attractive pick up in return versus the more risk-free alternatives."

Bank of America analysts, however, said they had turned "neutral" on European equities after a 60% rally year-to-date, saying they expected the STOXX Europe 600 to remain close to current levels of 460 until early in the fourth quarter.

Across Europe, the STOXX Europe 600 pulled back from its lows to trade down 0.6%, tracking overnight weakness in Asia where the MSCI Asia ex-Japan

index was down 1.1%.

US stock futures pointed to a lower open on Wall Street, down 0.6% to 1.1%, after robust earn-

# 75.88

Brent was down 0.22% at \$75.88 per barrel and US West Texas Intermediate crude traded down 0.43% at \$73.30.

ings and solid second-quarter US growth numbers had helped blue-chips in the world's biggest economy hit a record high.

The US economy grew past pre-pandemic levels in the second quarter, helped by rising COVID-19 vaccinations and government aid, though the expansion fell short of expectations and growing coronavirus infections are clouding the outlook for the current quarter.

After rising on Thursday on the economic data, US Treasury yields pulled back, particularly towards the long end of the yield curve.

Benchmark 10-year notes last yielded 1.2473%, down from 1.269% late on Thursday, and the 30-year yield stood at 1.9013%, down from 1.916% on Thursday.

The spread between the US 10-year and 2-year yield narrowed to 105 basis points.

But following Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's remarks this week that rate increases are "a ways away" and the job market still had "some ground to cover", the dollar wallowed near one-month lows on Friday and was set for its worst week since May.

The dollar index was last flat at 91.845, with the euro up 0.1%

at \$1.1897. The greenback was 0.1% higher against the yen at 109.57.

"We expect the Fed to remain flexible, edging toward tightening only when justified by consistently strong economic data. Powell was a Fed board member in 2013 when taper talk unsettled markets, so he looks set to remain cautious in his communications," said Mark Haeefe, Chief Investment Officer, UBS Global Wealth Management.

In European debt markets, German government bond yields were set for their biggest monthly fall since January 2020, as investors watched inflation data in the bloc, although they remained steady on the day.

In commodities markets, oil prices fell back after global benchmark Brent on Thursday topped \$76 a barrel on tight US supplies.

Brent was down 0.22% at \$75.88 per barrel and US West Texas Intermediate crude traded down 0.43% at \$73.30. Brent crude is still up nearly 2% for the week.

Spot gold was flat at \$1,827.5 an ounce, on course for its best week in more than two months on the prospect of delayed Fed tapering.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL, BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS**  
GEORGE ORWELL

**News in brief**

**Proposed US arms sale to Nigeria on 'hold' over human rights concerns**

◆ US lawmakers have put on

hold a proposal to sell almost \$1 billion of weapons to Nigeria over concerns about possible human rights abuses by the government, three sources familiar with the matter said. The proposed sale of 12 AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters made by Bell and related equipment worth \$875 million is being delayed in the Senate



Foreign Relations Committee and in the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

◆ **French police sealed off a street in Paris due to an incident, the local police said on Twitter after local media reported that a car had crashed into a Paris cafe terrace injuring several people.**

**Police seal off Paris street after car crashes into cafe**



Citing police sources, Le Parisien newspaper and BFM TV reported that a car had driven into an outdoor cafe terrace in Paris' 17th district. The outlets cited the sources saying that the driver had fled the scene and the incident was most likely an accident.

◆ **French finance minister's phone investigated in Pegasus spyware case**

◆ The phone of France's finance minister

Bruno Le Maire is currently being investigated to determine whether it has been infected by a spyware known as Pegasus. "We are in an investigation phase, and that includes my own device," Bruno Le Maire told France Inter radio. He refused to elaborate on the investigation.



◆ **Thousands of Guatemalans took to the streets in protest, lighting fires and blocking roads across the Central American country, to demand the resignation of President Alejandro Giammattei after the firing of a well-known anti-corruption prosecutor.**

**Thousands protest in Guatemala demanding president's resignation**



The protests have gained momentum since Guatemala's Attorney General Maria Porras last week removed anti-graft fighter Juan Francisco Sandoval as head of the Special Prosecutor's Office Against Impunity (FECI), a move that drew condemnation from Washington.

◆ **Belarus would not hesitate to invite Russian troops if needed, President Alexander Lukashenko said, although he said there was no need for them now.** Russia has maintained close military and economic ties with its ally Belarus, even as Western countries have ostracised the country since Lukashenko cracked down on mass protests following a contested presidential election last year.

**20 dead, 300,000 stranded in flood-hit Bangladesh region**

AFP | Dhaka

Monsoon floods and landslides have cut off more than 300,000 people in villages across southeast Bangladesh and killed at least 20 people including six Rohingya refugees, officials said yesterday.

The region along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border where nearly one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are in camps has been battered by torrential rain since Monday.

"The floods have stranded some 306,000 people in Cox's Bazar district. At least 70 villages have been submerged by floods," Mamunur Rashid, the district administrator, told AFP.

"At least 20 people have died in floods and landslides including six Rohingya refugees," he added.

About 36,000 people have been moved into schools and cyclone shelters, officials said.

"Many homes are water-logged. Thousands of people have not been able to get out for the last three days. The roads are all blocked," Tipu Sultan, a councillor in remote



General view of a flooded area following heavy monsoon rains at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

**The floods have stranded some 306,000 people in Cox's Bazar district. At least 70 villages have been submerged by floods**

MAMUNUR RASHID, THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Jhilwanja Union, told AFP by telephone.

Earlier this week Bangladesh

evacuated 10,000 Rohingya from around refugee camps in Cox's Bazar because of the storms.

Aid workers said a coronavirus lockdown in the camps, following a major spike in cases, has affected rescue work as access is restricted.

About 740,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar's Rakhine state in 2017 after security forces launched a clampdown that the UN has said may amount to genocide.

**FBI probe shows amount of chemicals in Beirut blast was a fraction of original shipment**



A view shows the site of the August 4 explosion at Beirut port, Lebanon

◆ **FBI say blast consistent with 552 tonnes of chemicals**

Reuters | Washington

The amount of ammonium nitrate that blew up at Beirut port last year was one fifth of the shipment unloaded there in 2013, the FBI concluded after the blast, adding to suspicions that much of the cargo had gone missing.

As the first anniversary approaches on Aug. 4, major questions remain unanswered, including how a huge quantity of ammonium nitrate - which can be used to make fertiliser or bombs - was left unsafely stored in a capital city for years.

The blast was one of the largest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded, killing more than 200 people, wounding thousands, and devastating swathes of Beirut.

The FBI's Oct. 7, 2020 report, which was seen by Reuters this week, estimates around 552 tonnes of ammonium nitrate exploded that day, much less

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

The FBI report does not give any explanation as to how the discrepancy arose, or where the rest of the shipment may have gone

port and its findings said the Lebanese authorities agreed with the Bureau on the quantity that exploded.

Many officials in Lebanon have previously said in private they believe a lot of the shipment was stolen.

The ammonium nitrate was going from Georgia to Mozambique on a Russian-leased cargo ship when the captain says he was instructed to make an unscheduled stop in Beirut and take on extra cargo.

The ship arrived in Beirut in November 2013 but never left, becoming tangled in a legal dispute over unpaid port fees and ship defects. No one ever came forward to claim the shipment.

The senior Lebanese official said there were no firm conclusions as to why the quantity that exploded was less than the original shipment. One theory was that part of it was stolen.

A second theory was that only part of the shipment detonated, with the rest blown out to sea, the official said.

The FBI report said "an approximate amount reaching around 552 metric tonnes of ammonium nitrate exploded in warehouse 12".

**Philippine deal 'in**

Philippines' President

◆ **Visiting Forces Agreement, which the Philippine president had planned to cancel, is a key part of the relationship between the two nations**

AFP | Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has walked back on a decision to end a key military deal with the United States, his defence secretary said yesterday during a visit by Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin.

Duterte told the United States in February last year he planned to axe the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) after Washington cancelled the visa of a close ally who led his internationally condemned war on drugs.

The deal has been prolonged three times since then, most recently in June after months of negotiations between the two sides.

Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday the VFA was "in full force again", during a news conference with Austin, who was in Manila on the last stop of a Southeast Asia tour.

"Last night, after the meeting between Secretary Austin and the president... the president decided to recall or retract the termination letter for the VFA," Lorenzana said, adding: "We are back on track".

The 1998 VFA provides the legal framework for the US to hold joint military exercises and operations in the Philippines and is a key

**International S**

Reuters | Washington

The International Space Station (ISS) was thrown briefly out of control yesterday when jet thrusters of a newly arrived Russian research module inadvertently fired a few hours after it was docked to the orbiting outpost, NASA officials said.

The seven crew members aboard - two Russian cosmonauts, three NASA astronauts, a Japanese astronaut and a European space agency astronaut from France - were never in any immediate danger, according to NASA and Russian state-owned news agency RIA.

But the malfunction prompted NASA to postpone until at least Aug. 3 its planned launch of Boeing's new CST-100 Starliner capsule on a highly anticipated uncrewed test flight to the space station. The Starliner had been set to blast off atop an Atlas V rocket yesterday from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Thursday's mishap began about three hours after the multipurpose Nauka module had latched onto the space station, as mission controllers in Moscow were performing some post-docking

**COVID-19: Countries worst affected**

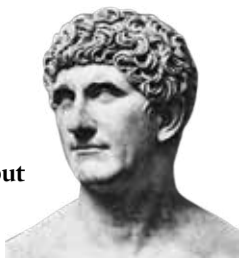
Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	35,592,710	628,549	197,756,860
2 India	31,612,762	423,840	
3 Brazil	19,839,369	554,626	Deaths
4 Russia	6,242,066	157,771	
5 France	6,103,548	111,824	4,219,807
6 UK	5,830,774	129,583	Recovered:
7 Turkey	5,704,713	51,253	178,765,045
8 Argentina	4,905,925	105,113	New cases
9 Colombia	4,766,829	120,126	+437,185
10 Spain	4,447,044	81,486	New deaths
11 Italy	4,343,519	128,047	+5,823
12 Iran	3,851,162	90,074	
13 Germany	3,774,013	92,114	
14 Indonesia	3,372,374	92,311	

Figures as of closing

**Middle East**

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	284,170		16,514		229,167	
Saudi Arabia	524,584	+1,187	8,226	+14	505,003	+1,176
UAE	679,321	+1,520	1,943	+4	656,680	+1,497
Kuwait	396,332		2,309		381,575	
Oman	295,857		3,814		278,195	
Qatar	226,077	+172	601		223,591	+97

Battle of Alexandria: Mark Antony achieves minor victory over Octavian, but most of his army subsequently deserts, leading to Octavian's invasion of Egypt



Pilgrim Fathers depart Leiden, Netherlands for England on their way to America

Israel welcomes its one millionth immigrant

Operation Banner, the presence of the British Army in Northern Ireland, and longest-running British Army operation ever, comes to an end

# ines says US military full force again'

Rodrigo Duterte fully restores key troop pact with United States



US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin fist bumps with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte during a courtesy call at the Malacanang Palace in Manila

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

The 1998 VFA provides the legal framework for the US to hold joint military exercises and operations in the Philippines and is a key component of their decades-long alliance



Last night, after the meeting between Secretary Austin and the president... the president decided to recall or retract the termination letter for the VFA. We are back on track

PHILIPPINE DEFENCE SECRETARY DELFIN LORENZANA

component of their decades-long alliance.

It is also seen as a bulwark against China's growing clout in the region.

Austin, who was visiting Southeast Asia for the first time as US defence secretary, welcomed Duterte's decision, saying it "provides us some degree of certainty

going forward".

"A strong, resilient US-Philippine alliance will remain vital to the security, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific," Austin said.

"A fully restored VFA will help us achieve that goal together."

### South China Sea

The move comes with tensions growing in the hotly contested South China Sea, where Beijing's growing assertiveness has raised alarm.

China claims almost all of the resource-rich sea, through which trillions of dollars in trade passes annually, with competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Manila was angered after hundreds of Chinese boats were spotted inside the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone in March, sparking a war of words between

the two countries.

Speaking in Singapore on Tuesday, Austin said China's claim to the vast majority of the waters had "no basis in international law" and reiterated the United States would support countries defending their rights.

Duterte has sought to pivot away from the United States, the Philippines' former colonial master, towards China since taking power in 2016 and has appeared reluctant to confront Beijing.

But facing growing domestic pressure to take a harder line, Duterte has insisted Philippine sovereignty over the waters is not negotiable.

"Gone are the days when the Philippines decides and acts in the shadows of great powers," Duterte said Monday.

"We will assert what is rightfully ours and fight for what is rightfully due to the Filipino people."

## Four killed as wildfires sweep Turkey, villages evacuated



A forest fire burns near the town of Manavgat, east of the resort city of Antalya Reuters | Istanbul

The death toll from wildfires on Turkey's southern coast has risen to four and firefighters were battling blazes for a third day yesterday after the evacuation of dozens of villages and some hotels.

More than 70 wildfires have broken out this week in provinces on Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean coasts as well as inland areas, President Tayyip Erdogan said, adding that 14 were still burning.

Planes from Russia and Ukraine helped battle the flames and another from Azerbaijan was joining them. "As of midday, with the arrival of the planes, we are turning in a positive direction," Erdogan told reporters after Friday prayers.

Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said fires raged on in six provinces and officials promised to bring to account anyone found responsible for starting them.

Villages and some hotels have been evacuated in tourist areas and television footage has shown people fleeing across fields as fires closed in on their homes.

Pakdemirli said fires were still blazing in the Mediterranean resort region of Antalya

"We were hoping to contain some of the fires as of this morning but while we say cautiously that they are improving, we still cannot say they are under control"

FORESTRY MINISTER BEKIR PAKDEMIRLI

and the Aegean resort province of Mugla.

"We were hoping to contain some of the fires as of this morning but while we say cautiously that they are improving, we still cannot say they are under control," he said.

Wildfires have broken out elsewhere in the region, with more than 40 in Greece in the last 24 hours, fanned by winds and soaring temperatures, authorities said. On Tuesday, a blaze tore through a pine forest north of Athens, damaging more than a dozen homes before it was brought under control.

Fires also burned large swathes of pine forest in the mountainous north of Lebanon this week, killing at least one firefighter and forcing some residents to flee.

## Space Station thrown out of control by misfire of Russian module -NASA



The Nauka (Science) Multipurpose Laboratory Module is seen docked to the International Space Station (ISS)



The Nauka (Science) Multipurpose Laboratory Module is seen during its docking to the International Space Station (ISS)

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Stretching 43 feet (13 meters) long, Nauka became the first new compartment for the Russian segment of the outpost since 2010

"reconfiguration" procedures, according to NASA.

The module's jets inexplicably restarted, causing the entire station to pitch out of its normal flight position some 250 miles above the Earth, leading the mission's flight director to declare a "spacecraft emergency," US space agency officials said.

An unexpected drift in the station's orientation was first detected by automated ground sensors, followed 15 minutes later by a

"loss of attitude control" that lasted a little over 45 minutes, according to Joel Montalbano, manager of NASA's space station program.

### 'Tug-of-war'

Flight teams on the ground managed to restore the space station's orientation by activating thrusters on another module of the orbiting platform, NASA officials said.

In its broadcast coverage of the

incident, RIA cited NASA specialists at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, as describing the struggle to regain control of the space station as a "tug-of-war" between the two modules.

At the height of the incident, the station was pitching out of alignment at the rate of about a half a degree per second, Montalbano said during a NASA conference call with reporters.

The Nauka engines were ultimately switched off, the space

station was stabilized and its orientation was restored to where it had begun, NASA said.

Communication with the crew was lost for several minutes twice during the disruption, but "there was no immediate danger at any time to the crew," Montalbano said. He said "the crew really didn't feel any movement."

Had the situation become so dangerous as to require evacuation of personnel, the crew could have escaped in a SpaceX crew

capsule still parked at the outpost and designed to serve as a "lifeboat" if necessary, said Steve Stich, manager of NASA's commercial crew program.

What caused the malfunction of the thrusters on the Nauka module, delivered by the Russian space agency Roscosmos, has yet to be determined, NASA officials said.

Montalbano said there was no immediate sign of any damage to the space station. The flight correction maneuvers used up more propellant reserves than desired, "but nothing I would worry about," he said.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Deeply honoured to meet His Majesty the King of #Bahrain, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. @WHO is proud to open its 152nd Country Office, in Bahrain. I thank His Majesty for his leadership & hospitality. We look forward to further strengthening our partnership to deliver #HealthForAll..

@DrTedros

02



The Delta variant is different than what we've dealt with previously. It's highly transmissible and causing a new wave of cases. But here's the good news: we have the power to stop it. Get vaccinated — and let's defeat this virus once and for all.

@POTUS

03



Children are at great and growing risk of human trafficking: they represent one-third of victims globally — a share that has tripled in the last 15 years. Governments must take urgent steps to strengthen prevention, support victims and bring perpetrators to justice.

@antonioguterres

04



The "White House has spoken to Israeli officials about spyware concerns following Pegasus Project revelations." The Israeli government approved licensing of the spyware to all the governments that abused it.

@KenRoth

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

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## Brazil's Bolsonaro escalates rhetoric over electoral fraud



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro attends the ceremony marking his 200 days in office (file photo)

Reuters | Brasilia

Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro pleaded on Thursday for the adoption of printed ballots that can be counted, alleging that it is necessary to avoid fraud in the country's electronic voting system in next year's election.

"I want elections next year, but clean, democratic and sincere elections," he said in his weekly social media webcast to supporters.

Bolsonaro showed a series of internet video clips as alleged evidence of past fraud, maintaining that democracy was at risk in Brazil.

Critics say that Bolsonaro, like former US President Donald Trump, is sowing election doubts to pave the way for him not to accept defeat in 2022.

With his popularity falling after overseeing the world's second deadliest coronavirus outbreak, opinion polls show

**”**  
I want elections next year, but clean, democratic and sincere elections

JAIR BOLSONARO

he trails former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, though neither of them has officially announced they will run.

Bolsonaro has insisted for months that Brazil should adopt the paper ballot, even though a constitutional amendment changing the electoral system has not gained much traction in Congress.

He advocates a mixed system in which voters submit ballots at electronic urns, which also print out votes that can be counted if the result is challenged.

Brazil's top electoral authority, the TSE, has refuted unfounded allegations by Bolsonaro that there was fraud in the 2014 election, saying electronic voting can be audited well. Even the loser in 2014, Aécio Neves, who was defeated by Lula's candidate Dilma Rousseff in a close election, said it was fair.

The escalation of Bolsonaro's claims of electoral fraud came at a fraught time, just days after a bombshell newspaper report that Brazil's defense minister had issued a threat that the 2022 election would not take place unless printed ballots were used.

## Peru's Castillo names far-left PM; no finance minister in cabinet

AFP | Lima

Peruvian President Pedro Castillo named Guido Bellido, a member of his Marxist party, as prime minister yesterday, dimming hopes of a moderate administration, and swore in most of his cabinet, but did not name a finance minister.

The lack of an economy czar is likely to create uncertainty in Peruvian markets about the future of Castillo's administration, who as a candidate campaigning for a self-described Marxist-Leninist party had already spooked investors.

Castillo had scheduled the swearing in of his full cabinet for Thursday evening, but started the event over two hours late.

The favourite for the finance job, moderate leftwing economist Pedro Francke, left the ceremony's venue just minutes before it started, sparking questions over whether he had rejected or lost the job at the last minute.

Prime minister Bellido, a congressman, is a member of the Free Peru party, with which



Peru's new President Pedro Castillo addresses the law makers and invitees during the Inauguration Day at the Congress in Lima, Peru

Castillo won the presidency this year.

His appointment underscored the way that far-left Free Peru will have in Castillo's administration, which began only on Wednesday and is set to last until 2026.

Castillo had recently tried to strike a moderate tone on economic issues - even as party members doubled down on far-left messaging - largely by rely-

ing on Francke as his economics spokesman.

But late on Thursday it remained unclear what direction he would now pursue for the economy, one of Latin America's most stable, but which has suffered in recent years because of political turmoil that is likely to continue.

Castillo also named Ivan Merino as energy and mines minister, a little-known mining

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

In an interview with local media in April, Prime minister Bellido defended members of the Shining Path, a Maoist rebel group that killed tens of thousands of Peruvians in the 1980s and 1990s in an attempt to take power

specialist who is close to Free Peru, according to local news site IDL-Reporteros.

Still, Bellido and the rest of the cabinet will need confirmation by the opposition-led Congress, where Bellido's appointment in particular is set to face stiff resistance. A majority of Congress votes are held by center and right-wing parties.

## First flight of Afghan interpreters fleeing Taliban arrives in US

AFP | Washington

The first flight carrying Afghans who worked as interpreters for American troops and diplomats has arrived in the United States, President Joe Biden said Friday, the start of an operation to evacuate thousands from possible Taliban retaliation.

Around 20,000 Afghans worked for the United States following the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan in the wake of the 9/11 attacks and have applied for evacuation under the State Department's Special Immigrant Visas program.

Some estimates suggest the total number of prospective evacuees under what has been dubbed "Operation Allies Refuge" could be as high as 100,000 once relatives are included.

Many of them fear retaliation from the Taliban, which has secured a vast swath of the country since foreign troops began the last stage of a withdrawal due to be complete by late August.



Former Afghan interpreters, who worked with US troops in Afghanistan, demonstrate in front of the US embassy in Kabul (file photo)

"Today is an important milestone as we continue to fulfill our promise to the thousands of Afghan nationals who served shoulder-to-shoulder with American troops and diplomats over the last 20 years in Afghanistan," Biden said in a statement released by the White House.

He added that the administration was working to quickly

relocate visa-eligible Afghans "out of harm's way."

Biden said these first arrivals had already completed extensive background checks and security screenings and would undergo medical checks and other processing in Fort Lee, Virginia before being resettled across the country.

This first flight of around 200

**”**  
These arrivals are just the first of many as we work quickly to relocate SIV-eligible Afghans out of harm's way - to the United States, to U.S. facilities abroad, or to third countries - so that they can wait in safety while they finish their visa applications

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Afghans is part of a broader group of about 2,500 who are furthest along in the visa process and who are being prioritized for relocation to the United States in the coming weeks, according to Russ Travers, an official on the White House National Security Council.

"They now join the over 70,000 Afghans who have received (Special Immigrant Visas) and started new lives in the US since 2008," Travers said.



Critics say that Bolsonaro, like former US President Donald Trump, is sowing election doubts to pave the way for him not to accept defeat in 2022



# Mercedes pair edge Verstappen in Hungarian GP practice

● Bottas heads Hamilton and Verstappen in second Friday practice at Hungaroring

AFP | Budapest

Mercedes pair Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton edged Red Bull's Max Verstappen in practice for the Hungarian Grand Prix yesterday as the two teams renewed their rivalry following their controversial collision at Silverstone.

Verstappen had been quickest in the morning session but Bottas came through a blisteringly hot afternoon to set the pace with a quickest time of 1min 17.012secs, just 0.027s ahead of Hamilton.

"It feels like being in a Finnish sauna," said Bottas.

"It's a good comparison especially when you stop running, you get the heat. It's way more than 60 degrees, 70 degrees in the cockpit.

"It's sweaty but out on track at least you get a bit of air. It's good to see that most likely we're going to be in the fight for pole tomorrow so that's really motivating."

Verstappen, who appeared to be having problems with the



Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas in action during practice session

balance of his car, was third almost three-tenths of a second behind Bottas with Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez back in fifth behind the Alpine of Esteban Ocon.

Relations between the two leading teams have been on edge since Hamilton and Verstappen collided on the opening lap of the British GP, sending Red Bull's championship leader Verstappen careening off the course and out of the race.

Hamilton was given a 10-second penalty but went on to win the race and close the gap between the two in the title race to just eight points.

The rivalry cranked up a few more notches on Thursday when Red Bull failed to win a review into the 10-second pen-

alty handed to Hamilton with Mercedes later accusing them of attempting to "tarnish the good name and sporting integrity of Lewis Hamilton".

Verstappen, who was in hospital when Hamilton took the chequered flag at Silverstone, had also weighed into the argument by describing the Briton's podium celebrations as "disrespectful".

Hamilton denied the charge but admitted he would not hesitate to pull the same manoeuvre again.

Verstappen put in the quickest time in the morning when he switched to soft tyres but could not match the Mercedes pair later on, complaining over the radio that the car was "so understeering it's incredible".

”

It feels like being in a Finnish sauna. It's a good comparison especially when you stop running, you get the heat. It's way more than 60 degrees, 70 degrees in the cockpit

VALTTERI BOTTAS

When he went out again he said "all the time I try to turn I'm losing the rear".

Hamilton, who is looking for his 100th Grand Prix win this weekend and his ninth in Hungary, might have gone quicker but for a big snap of oversteer that took him briefly off track but the Briton was pleased with the day's work.

"To see Valtteri and I both on the front row pace-wise, I think, is great for the team and we'll only improve on that," he said.

"We've got some work to do tonight to see how we can finesse the car a little bit more but it's a good start."

Pierre Gasly claimed sixth for AlphaTauri while Fernando Alonso, who celebrated his 40th birthday on Thursday, put in a good day's work in the Alpine, clocking the sixth-quickest time in the morning and seventh in the afternoon.

## Bahrain delegation chief receives UAE Olympic official



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa presents Eng Azza bint Suleiman with a token of appreciation

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president and the Kingdom's delegation head at the Tokyo Olympics His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa received UAE Olympic Committee assistant secretary general for financial and administrative affairs Eng Azza bint Suleiman.

Also on hand was BOC secretary general and delegation deputy head Mohammed Al Nusuf.

HH Shaikh Isa praised the strong relations linking Bahrain and the UAE at all levels, especially in the sports field. They also discussed issues of mutual interest. At the end of the meeting, souvenirs were exchanged between HH Shaikh Isa and Eng Azza.

## Manchester United's Rashford to have shoulder surgery

AFP | London

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford is to undergo shoulder surgery, the Premier League giants announced yesterday, and could now miss the opening months of the new season.

The 23-year-old has long had shoulder trouble, nursing the injury for much of last season and during his involvement in Euro 2020, where Rashford was one of several England players who missed a penalty in a shootout loss to Italy in the final.

## Fakhreddine is a few days away from a chance to make BRAVE CF history

TDI | Manama

A big part of the success of BRAVE CF Middleweight World Champion Mohammad "The Latest" Fakhreddine as a mixed martial artist is his astonishing knockout power.

Out of his 14 career victories, the 37-year-old spitfire from Lebanon has won 11 by way of knockout. Furthermore, his last seven wins haven't reached the judges' scorecards.

His most recent victim was Daniel Pereira at BRAVE CF 41 in September 2020, where he stopped the highly-touted Brazilian in the fourth round to capture the promotion's Middleweight World Championship.

Next up on Fakhreddine's agenda is to become the first athlete to ever hold two world titles at the same time in BRAVE CF history. He is set to vie for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Championship in the main event of BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood in Milan, Italy on Sunday, August 1 against Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem.

There are questions whether Fakhreddine can carry his signature power up in weight, but history shows that his power-punching ability has been with him wherever he goes.

Fakhreddine started out as a welterweight with a knack for shutting the lights off on his opponents, but after spending five years in the 170-pound weight class, he went out of his comfort zone and faced Lukasz Witos in



Mohammad Fakhreddine



Next up on Fakhreddine's agenda is to become the first athlete to ever hold two world titles at the same time in BRAVE CF history

a 179-pound catchweight contest at BRAVE CF 6 in April 2017.

"The Latest" didn't disappoint as he thwarted Witos with 36 seconds remaining in the first round. He then became a full-fledged middleweight at BRAVE CF 27 in October 2019, chopping down Christofer Silva with a series of leg kicks.

When the Bahrain-based MMA organization hosted the KHK Open-Weight World Championship Tournament in 2019, Fakhreddine participated in the four-man competition, where he finished Kleber Silva in the semi-final phase before succumbing to Azamat Murzakanov in the finals.

This weekend, Fakhreddine makes his debut at light heavyweight against an established division contender like Said Maalem, who earned a title shot with two big wins under the company's banner.

Aside from inserting his name into an elite group of "champ-champ" competitors in the sport, Fakhreddine looks to provide an emphatic answer once again to his naysayers by toppling Said Maalem in an outcome that he has been associated with throughout his career—a knockout.

## Said Maalem found true calling through MMA

TDI | Manama

Wrestling is one of the most difficult disciplines in combat sports to master, but Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem has excelled in the said field at the highest level.

In fact, he is one of the most lauded grapplers in mixed martial arts (MMA) today.

Said Maalem was a natural at wrestling. He trained every single day at a very young age, dominated the competition, and became a national champion in his home country of Algeria.

His caliber and credentials as a wrestler could have made him a regular fixture in the prestigious Summer Olympic Games as a representative of Algeria, but he found his true calling when he met Brazilian coach Anderson Pereira in 2010.

The trainer invited him to spar with a pro MMA athlete, which turned out to be an eye-opener for him due to the all-encompassing nature of the sport. At that very moment, he made the decision to continue competing, only now it would be inside the cage as a prizefighter.

The methodical Algerian already had a world-class grappling base. Now, all he needed to do was add striking and submissions to his arsenal.

Four years later, Said Maalem made his professional debut, and since then, he never looked back. "L'Ambiance" has been an unstoppable force, racking up 11 victories out of 14 bouts with six wins by way of knockout.



Mohamed Said Maalem



When Mohamed Said Maalem inked an exclusive deal with BRAVE Combat Federation in 2019, he immediately established himself as one of the most exciting light heavyweights on the roster in his maiden appearance

When he inked an exclusive deal with BRAVE Combat Federation in 2019, he immediately established himself as one of the most exciting light heav-

yweights on the roster in his maiden appearance.

Said Maalem outclassed Todd Stoute via unanimous decision in his first assignment under the promotion's banner and then put the division on notice by dispatching Zvonimir Kralj in the first round at BRAVE CF 45 in November 2020.

After propelling himself into the international limelight, Said Maalem now faces the opportunity of a lifetime. He is booked to face BRAVE CF Middleweight World Champion Mohammad "The Latest" Fakhreddine for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Championship in the main event of BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood in Milan, Italy on August 1.

If Said Maalem can defeat Fakhreddine, not only will he have an intricately-crafted belt around his waist, but he will certainly elevate his name closer to greatness.

**Novak Djokovic fails in Olympic quest as US-Russia doping row erupts**

# Djokovic's golden dream ends on day of upsets

● Alexander Zverev ends Novak Djokovic's Golden Slam hopes with comeback win

AFP | Tokyo

**W**orld number one Novak Djokovic became the latest big name to crash out of the Tokyo Olympics yesterday as he was defeated by American swimmer aimed doping accusations at a Russian rival, drawing a furious response from Moscow.

Djokovic's bid for a calendar Golden Grand Slam -- winning all four Grand Slam tournaments plus the Olympics -- was dramatically ended by Alexander Zverev at the Ariake Tennis Park.

The Serb collapsed from a set and a break ahead as German fourth seed Zverev won 1-6, 6-3, 6-1 and will meet Russian Karen Khachanov in the final.

Djokovic's second chance of a gold medal vanished hours later, as he and Nina Stojanovic lost their mixed doubles semi-final to Russian pair Aslan Karatsev and Elena Vesnina 7-6 (7/4), 7-5.

He joins leading players including Naomi Osaka and Ash Barty in failing to make it through the tennis competition.

**Brilliant Barga strikes gold as Olympic athletics underway**



Selemon Barga of Ethiopia celebrates after winning the final

**E**thiopian distance runner Selemon Barga stormed to a brilliant 10,000m victory to claim the first gold medal of a spectator-less Olympic athletics competition at the Tokyo Games yesterday.

Barga, 21, ran a superb tactical race to hold off world champion Joshua Cheptegei and Ugandan compatriot Ja-

cob Kiplimo to win in 27min 43.22sec. Cheptegei took silver in 27:43.63, with Kiplimo third.

It completed a subdued start to the 10-day track and field competition, which got under way in a mostly empty 68,000-capacity Olympic Stadium with spectators barred due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**American awake after crash**



Connor Fields of the United States receives medical attention

**R**eigning BMX champion Ron Connor Fields, who crashed heavily in the third run of his semi-final, was

awake in hospital awaiting further checks to determine the extent of his injuries, an American team spokesperson said.

He was close to the front heading into the first steeply banked corner at the Ariake Urban Sports Park and appeared to tangle with another rider, crashing heavily.

The semi-finals were marred by other crashes after a 45-minute rain delay, although the course was dry and did not appear to be a factor.

"I don't think that the track or the weather had anything to do with the crashes," Dutch rider Merel Smulders, who took bronze in the women's race after her sister Laura also crashed in the semis, told Reuters.

"I feel like there were a lot more crashes in Rio. But there were some bad crashes today and no one wants to see that."

OLYMPIC MEDAL TABLE				
				TOTAL
China	18	9	11	38
Japan	17	4	7	28
USA	14	16	11	41
ROC	10	14	10	34
Australia	9	2	11	22
Great Britain	6	9	9	24
South Korea	5	4	6	15
Netherlands	3	7	5	15
France	3	5	5	13
Germany	3	4	8	15
Canada	3	3	5	11
New Zealand	3	3	2	8
Czech Republic	3	2	1	6
Croatia	3	1	2	6

## Schoenmaker shatters world record

**F**lying South African Tatjana Schoenmaker smashed the long-standing women's 200m breaststroke world record.

Schoenmaker carved out her own slice of history with a sensational swim in the 200m breast final to claim gold.

The 24-year-old touched in 2:18.95 to better the 2:19.11 world record set by Denmark's Rikke Moller Pedersen way back in 2013.

It was the third new world record in the Tokyo pool, but the first individual record after Australia's women in the 4x100m relay and China in



Tatjana Schoenmaker of South Africa in action

the women's 4x200m relay.

Lilly King was second to the South African, with her USA teammate and training partner Annie Lazor third.

Schoenmaker, who won silver in the 100m, had thrown down the gauntlet by going close to the record in the heats.

## Fraser-Pryce feature in day one of Olympics athletics

**J**amaican sprint queen Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce made an impressive start in the 100m as she attempts to become the first woman to win an individual Olympic athletics event three times.

The Jamaican, champion in 2008 and 2012, accelerated out of her blocks and strode over the line for a first-round victory in 10.84sec.

One of her rivals, the Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou, blasted to 10.78sec and reign-



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce in action

ing champion Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica recorded 10.82sec on what looks to be a fast track.

The semi-finals and final of that event take place today.

## McKeon anointed sprint queen

**A**n electric Emma McKeon ablazed to the women's Olympic 100m freestyle title yesterday.

Australia's McKeon claimed her fourth Tokyo medal when she hit the wall in a new Olympic record of 51.96 seconds, the second fastest ever swim.

"I think it'll probably take a while to sink in then the emotions will really come out," said McKeon, who became only the second swimmer ever to dip below 52 seconds.

"I knew that I've been working hard and I was the best prepared."



Emma McKeon of Australia poses on the podium

Just Sarah Sjostrom has gone faster, when she set the 51.71 world record at the Budapest world championships in 2017. The Swede finished sixth yesterday.

## Doping 'broken record'

**I**n a bitter row at the pool, American swimmer Ryan Murphy said he had been "swimming in a race that's probably not clean" after Russian Evgeny Rylov beat him in the 200m backstroke.

Rylov said he was "surprised" by Murphy's "strange" suggestion.

The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) hit back, tweeting "the broken record is once again playing the song about Russia doping and someone is diligently pressing the button on the English-language

propaganda".

The Russian Anti-Doping Agency said Rylov had been tested three times this year and that he was "prepared and clean".

Russia are banned from Tokyo 2020 after being found guilty of state-sponsored doping, meaning their athletes cannot use the Russian flag and anthem.

But more than 300 Russian competitors have been allowed to compete under the ROC moniker, and they have won 10 golds to lie fourth in the medals table.



Evgeny Rylov of the Russian Olympic Committee, Ryan Murphy of the United States and Luke Greenbank of Britain pose on the podium

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# Team Bahrain



# Bahrain clinch historic Olympic win!

Kingdom's national handball team overcome Tokyo Games hosts Japan in thrilling 32-30 victory to keep hopes of advancing to quarter-finals alive

● **Team captain Hussain Al Sayyad and Mohammed Habib top score for Bahrain with seven goals apiece**

● **Goalkeeper Mohammed Abdhussain puts in another fine performance with 10 saves**

TDI | Manama

**B**ahrain's senior men's national handball team made sporting history last night after claiming their first-ever victory at the Olympic Games on their debut campaign.

The Bahrainis defeated Tokyo 2020 hosts Japan 32-30 in a thrilling Group B encounter at Yoyogi National Stadium to keep their hopes alive of advancing to the quarter-finals.

It was their first win in their preliminary pool after four tries and it gave them two points on the table. They rose to fourth place out of the six teams behind Denmark, Egypt and Sweden and ahead of Portugal and Japan.

Members of Bahrain's Olympic mission were in attendance at the match, including Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president and delegation head His Highness Shaikh

Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, BOC secretary general and delegation deputy head Mohammed Al Nusuf, and Bahrain Handball Association president Ali Isa.

The Bahrainis now have to win their last fixture tomorrow against Egypt to strengthen their chances of advancing to the next phase.

Bahrain, coached by former Iceland international Aron Kristjansson, made all the key plays at the end of the contest to secure the tight win.

After Japan took a 26-25 lead with a little over 12 minutes to play, goals from skipper Hussain Al Sayyad and Mohammed Habib helped the Bahrainis regain the advantage for good.

Ali Eid then scored to give Bahrain a two-goal cushion, and the nationals were able to maintain that gap until the final buzzer with efforts from Ali Mirza, Mohammed Mirza and a pair from Habib, which included the Bahrainis' last goal that was the final nail in the coffin.

The victors did well to fight back in the second half after trailing 16-17 at the interval.

Al Sayyad and Habib finished as Bahrain's top scorers with seven

goals apiece, while the Mirza brothers stepped up big and contributed five goals each. Ahmed Fad-hul chipped in with four goals, while Eid had two and Hasan Ali and Mahdi Saad both fired in one.

Goalkeeper Mohammed Abdhussain was in his usual fine form, finishing the contest with 10

saves. Hiroki Motoki spearheaded the Japanese with seven goals, while Tatsuki Yoshino had six.

The Olympic hosts suffered their fourth straight loss and are out of the running for a place in the next stage. Their last game, also tomorrow, will be against Portugal.

## Group B standings

(Qualified for quarter-finals)

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Denmark*	4	4	0	0	+38	8
Egypt*	4	3	0	1	+10	6
Sweden*	4	3	0	1	-1	6
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	-10	2
Portugal	4	1	0	3	-12	2
Japan	4	0	0	4	-25	0



Bahrain players celebrate the victory

Bahrain's Hasan Ali in action against Japan

**Bahrain register first points on Group B standings with first win after four tries in Olympic men's handball preliminary round, rise to fourth place**

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## Noor impresses with new personal best

● **Fifteen-year-old Bahraini swimmer makes Olympics debut, registers individual record of 28.87s and beats her previous top mark of 29.42s**

TDI | Manama

**B**ahraini swimmer Noor Yusuf Taha clocked a new personal best in the Women's 50m Freestyle yesterday as she made a successful appearance at the Tokyo Olympics.

The 15-year-old, who is the Kingdom's youngest competitor at the Games, posted a finishing mark of 28.87 seconds in her race, which was the fourth of 11 heats.

Noor was classified fifth out of the eight in her heat and had a reaction time of 0.71s. She beat her old personal best of 29.42s in the distance.

Judith Meaurio of Papua New Guinea was the race's winner in 27.56s as Aleka Persaud of Guyana came second in 27.76s. Angelika Ouedraogo of Burkina Faso was third in 28.38s, while Mya de Freitas from St Vincent and the Grenadines finished narrowly ahead of Noor in 28.57s.



Bahrain's Noor Yusuf Taha is all smiles after setting a new personal best

None of the swimmers in Noor's heat advanced to the semi-finals. There were a total of 83 entrants competing over 11 heats in the Women's 50m Freestyle, and only 16 went through.

Emma McKeon of Australia was the top qualifier in a new Olympic record of 24.02s, while Femke Heemskerk from the Netherlands was the last to book a place in the next round with a 24.77s time.

Noor's participation wrapped up Bahrain's campaign in swimming in Tokyo. Earlier, teammate Abdulla Isa was unlucky in the Men's 100m Butterfly, where he was disqualified in his heat.

This year's Games marked the sixth straight Olympics where young Bahraini swimmers competed, and seventh overall.

At the previous Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, the Kingdom was represented in the pool by Farhan Saleh, aged 19 at that time, and Fatema Almahmeed, who was aged 17. In 2012 in London, Bahrainis Khalid Alibaba (15 at the time) and Sara Al Flajj (17) took part; in 2008 in Beijing, Bahrain was represented by Omar Jasim (17 at the time) and Sameera Al Bitar (18); in 2004 in Athens, Hesham Shehab (16 at the time) and Sameera (14) participated; and in 2000 in Sydney, Dawood Jasim (15 at the time) and Fatema Hameed Gerashi (12) were the Kingdom's Olympians. Fatema was the youngest competitor of any event and any nationality at the Sydney Games.

Bahrain's first appearance in Olympic swimming was in 1984 in Los Angeles, when Hamad Bader and Esa Fadel competed.

## Koech suffers injury, out of Steeplechase

● **Bahrain's Aminat Jamal in action today in Women's 400m Hurdles heats**

TDI | Manama

**B**ahrain's elite athlete John Koech suffered an injury yesterday as he did not finish his heat in the Men's 3,000m Steeplechase on day one of the athletics events at the Tokyo Olympics.

Koech was the Kingdom's first participant on the track at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium, but he struggled from the very beginning and eventually limped off the track after one lap.

Lamecha Girma of Ethiopia won the heat in eight minutes 09.83 seconds, while Ryuji Miura of Japan was the runner-up in a new national record of 8:09.92. Benjamin Kigen of Kenya was third in 8:10.80 and was the last automatic qualifier for the final.

Koech was one of 15 runners to start the race.

Bahrain's campaign on the track continues today with sprinter Aminat Jamal set to compete in the Women's 400m Hurdles.

She will be in the first of five first round heats. She will be up against seven others, and will need to finish in the race's top four or be among four fastest losers to advance to the semi-finals.

Aminat heads into her run with a season's best of 57.00 seconds, but has a personal best of 55.12s. All but one of her rivals in today's race have been quicker this year.

Koech and Aminat are part of Bahrain's 13-member athletics team in Tokyo.

The other men are Abdelrahman Mahmoud in the Shot Put, Al Siddique Mikho in the 1,500m, Dawit Fikadu and Birhanu Balew in the 5,000m, and the trio of Elhassan Elabbassi, Alemu Bekele and Shumi Dechasa in the Marathon. The four other women are Winfred Yavi in the 3,000m Steeplechase, Kalkidan Gezahegne in the 10,000m, and the pair of Eunice Chebichii Chumba and Tejitu Daba in the Marathon.



Bahrain's John Koech limps off the track after suffering an injury following one lap in Men's 3,000m Steeplechase heat