

**Karters shine in tense sprint battles**

Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa, Khaled Al Najjar, Mohammed Wally and Lewis Smith win Rotax MAX classes in series' fourth round at BIKC | P12

# THE DAILY tribune



'CODA' takes top honours at SAG Awards, Will Smith wins

Bahrain "essential player" in trade, says Israeli Ambassador

**Kingdom to facilitate safe evacuation of Bahrainis in Ukraine**

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is closely following up on the situation of Bahraini citizens present in Ukraine amid the current security conditions there.

The ministry said that with regard to its statement issued on February 12 urging Bahrainis to leave Ukraine, it stresses Bahrain's keenness to facilitate the necessary procedures for the safe evacuation of its citizens through the available ports as soon as possible.

The ministry called upon the citizens wishing to leave Ukraine or seeking any assistance to call its Follow-up Office on 0097317227555.

## Bahrain, US keen to boost economic cooperation

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and the US are keen to explore opportunities for furthering economic and trade cooperation.

This was both emphasised by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the second Strategic Dialogue between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the USA began virtually yesterday.

Dr Al Zayani delivered a speech in which he said the two sides are building on the strong founda-



Dr Al Zayani and Blinken at the online discussion

tions of their bilateral Free Trade Agreement, noting that laying the foundation for the United States Trade Zone in Bahrain's Salman Industrial City is one example for such cooperation.

Dr Al Zayani said the two countries celebrated 50 years of formal diplomatic relations last year and with over a century of deep-rooted bilateral cooperation across a range of sectors, He said that the partnership between Bahrain and the US is one of unique strategic attributes and advantages, adding that it is a partnership based on mutual

respect, shared priorities.

Blinken, who chaired the US side, expressed his pride in the historical relations between the Bahrain and the US.

**21st anniversary**

He noted that both countries will also celebrate this year the 21st anniversary of the designation of Bahrain as a major non-Nato ally of the US.

He also underlined that the US appreciates its partnership with Bahrain in the field of maintaining security and stability in the region.

**Arab League 'great concern'**

Cairo

The Arab League yesterday said it is following with "great concern" developments in Ukraine and "their serious military and humanitarian consequences."

The organisation, which held an emergency meeting yesterday at Egypt's request, said it supports "all efforts aimed at resolving the crisis through dialogue and diplomacy in a manner that preserves the security and safety of peoples in this important region of the world."

Russia gives no hints of ceasefire as peace talks at Belarus border make only slender progress

● More negotiations in pipeline but Moscow's invasion of Ukraine will continue

● Major cities come under intense artillery fire overnight from Russian troops

Agencies

Fighting raged around key cities in Ukraine yesterday as its first critical rounds of talks with Russia since last week's invasion concluded with no immediate breakthrough.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's top adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said the talks, held near the Belarus border, were focused on a possible ceasefire and that a second round could take place "in the near future."

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin refused to give an inch in his demands from the West yesterday and instead responded to Ukrainian resistance and Western sanctions with a vi-



Residents of Severodonetsk, Donetsk region, look out from the basement where they hid during heavy shelling by Russian forces

cious bombardment of civilians in the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

Putin himself gave no hints of any impending peace deal. After a long call with French President Emmanuel Macron, Russian media reported Putin had not only repeated his long-standing security demands over Ukraine — that the country should disarm and stay neutral outside NATO — but also insisted upon the formal recognition of Crimea as Russian, an ultimatum he had not previously stated

so bluntly to Western allies.

Even as Moscow said officials negotiating had "heard" each other, Ukraine said Kharkiv, its second-largest city, was coming under attack from heavy Russian shelling.

The talks — the first direct negotiations between the two countries since Russia launched its invasion five days earlier — went for hours, and while they brought some hope for an end to the war, Ukraine's president and residents in Kyiv made it



**Putin is not only demanding that Ukraine disarm and stay out of NATO, but also insisting on formal recognition of Crimea as Russian, an ultimatum he had not previously stated so bluntly to Western allies.**

clear they expected little out of the discussion.

Russia would not clarify its aims for the talks, but sources reported that Ukraine's key demands were an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of all Russian troops.

Russian officials said the meeting had ended by early evening and that the respective delegations were heading back to their capitals to discuss the negotiations.

Ukraine's armed forces continued to hold off Russian troops, defending and retaining control of key cities, and slowing Russia's advance on Kyiv.

The Russian assault killed 11 people and wounded dozens, local authorities said.

(More reports on Page 6-7)

Signature F1 entertainment

## World-class roaming acts to enliven Gulf Air Bahrain GP

TDT | Manama

A wide variety of roaming performers from all across the globe will once again provide vibrant, festival-like atmosphere that can be enjoyed off the track at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir during the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix from 18 to 20 March.

"The Home of Motorsport in

the Middle East" spares no effort each year in putting together a fantastic programme of fun family entertainment for all to look forward to throughout the three-day race weekend.

These colourful characters — who will be seen around BIC's F1 Villaggio vending area — include dancers and musicians, clowns and magicians, and many more kinds of charming acts that will surely put smiles on everyone's

faces.

The roster of much-beloved artists includes Abraham Thill, Aras Stilt Band, the Joker group, Colour Dancers, Dr Bubbles, Funky Style Band and Jam Batucada.

All this and so much more await all those attending this year's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

The event is set to be an historic, once-in-a-generation

occasion for motorsport, as it ushers in "A New Era" in F1 following the biggest shake-up in F1 rules and regulations.

There will also be loads of racing, as F1 will be joined by the FIA Formula 2 Championship, the FIA Formula 3 Championship and the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East.

To add to the roaming performers off the track, BIC's spectacular entertainment pro-

gramme will be highlighted by the back-to-back concerts on the Friday night of the race weekend, 18 March, when globally renowned DJs Don Diablo and Afrojack will take to the stage for separate live performances.

Tickets for the Grand Prix are available online at bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline at +973-17450000.

(Continued on Page 3)

220 fils (includes VAT)



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# 'Global chip shortage crisis'

Many Bahrain automobile retailers are struggling to deliver new cars on time, say sources

- **Waiting period reaching as high as two-three months for some cars**
- **Demand for cars also increased since the beginning of the New Year**

**Staff Reporter**  
TDT | Manama

**A**cute microchip shortage across the global automobile manufacturing markets are causing a huge delay in the delivery of cars in the Kingdom.

Sources within the retail car segment told The Daily Tribune that the "delivery delay" is unprecedented with the waiting period reaching as high as two-three months for some cars.

"Bahrain is a small market for automobiles and it remained unaffected when the microchip shortage crisis first affected all big markets a little over a year ago. But, now the crisis has trickled down to the Kingdom and we face huge delays in delivery of



The chip crisis is threatening the global automobile market recovery cycle

cars to our customers," a source explained.

He added that demand for cars also increased since the beginning of the New Year, compounding the issue.

The shortage cost the global auto industry about \$210 billion in lost revenue in 2021, according to many estimates.

After being hit hard, the auto segment was recovering from the pandemic shock when the chip crisis threatened the recovery cycle and now it is prolonging, a manager with a leading car retailer in the Kingdom, told The Daily Tribune, on grounds of anonymity.

"Initially, the chip crisis was

taken lightly by the auto sector. But now it has become wider and deeper than initially considered," he said.

It is estimated that the 11.3 million units of production were cancelled last year because of chip shortage.

The Daily Tribune visited many car showrooms in the

Kingdom only to find vacant display places offering a striking sight.

According to forecasts, the impact will continue in 2022 and 2023 with the production of seven million units and 1.6 million units getting cancelled respectively.

According to leading auto news site Motortrend, the crisis dates to March 2020 when the pandemic forced automakers to shut down plants and temporarily halt orders from suppliers.

"At the same time, the electron-

**\$210b**

The amount lost by the global automobile majors last year owing to the chip crisis



**According to forecasts, the impact will continue in 2022 and 2023 with the production of seven million units and 1.6 million units getting cancelled respectively.**

ics industry faced increased demand for cell phones, televisions, computers, games, and home appliances from customers abiding by stay-at-home orders. Chip-makers rerouted their supply to the electronics industry, which also showed a willingness to pay more for the silicon wafers.

"When the auto industry came back online faster than expected in the summer of 2020, it found the chips needed weren't available and suppliers were content to keep their more lucrative contracts with others. Big orders can't be met quickly; it takes about three months to make even the simplest of semiconductors. The auto industry only represents five percent of the chip industry, so it lacked much clout to get what it needs."

**انتخابات**  
غرفة البحرين  
**2022**  
BAHRAIN CHAMBER  
ELECTIONS

**غرفة البحرين**  
BAHRAIN CHAMBER

**Announcement**

**Bahrain Chamber calls all members to renew their membership and update their data ahead of the elections for the Chamber's (30th) Board of Directors**

The Elections Committee for the (30th) Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber calls all BCCI members to renew their membership and pay the annual subscription fee and any other financial obligations to the Chamber, in addition to visiting the Client Care Department, should they need to have their names added or edited in the Voters' List or to update their information, to be able to exercise their right in voting in the elections of the 30th Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber, scheduled to take place on Saturday 19th March 2022 at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center. Receiving applications for insertion in the Voters' List and data amendment will continue until Monday 14th March 2022 at the new Client Care Department located on the ground floor of Bahrain Chamber's Building "Bait Al Tijjar."

The accuracy of a voter's data in the Voters' List is the sole responsibility of the voter him/herself, according to Article (51) of the Chamber's Executive Bylaw issued by Resolution No. (156) for the year 2013, which stipulates that members whose names were negligently dropped from the Voters' List or those with errors in their recorded data, may appeal to have their names included and/or corrected, as the Elections Committee will not allow any voter whose data is not available or incomplete on the Voters' List to participate in the elections. Voters' participation in the elections will be according to their data as in the Voters' List, which should match their data in the Commercial Registration at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

The Elections Committee for the (30th) Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber spearheaded by Mr. Adel Hussain Al Maskati, held last Thursday its 8th meeting, and endorsed allowing all voters to have access to the car parking spaces at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center, in a bid to facilitate the elections process. Noting the importance of adhering to all precautionary measures as per the national taskforce for combating the Coronavirus (Covid-19), which are as follow:

1. Wearing face masks at all times
2. Practicing social distancing
3. Anyone with respiratory symptoms will not be allowed
4. Refraining from crowding at entrances and exits points
5. Refraining from shaking hands

It is in line with all precautionary measures that the Elections Committee decided not to designate any spaces for the candidates inside Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center, nor allow candidates' advertisements on the elections day.



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**HH Shaikh Nasser receives advisor to Nogaholding's board**



HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oil and Gas Holding Company (Nogaholding), His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday received Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza, following his appointment as Advisor to the Board of Directors of Nogaholding's Board of Directors member, Abdulla Jehad Al Zain, and Acting Managing Director, Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah, were present. HH Shaikh Nasser commended the great experience acquired by Dr Mirza throughout his long service in the government field, stressing that his new post will support the efforts of Nogaholding's board of directors to develop the company.

**Labour Minister receives UK Ambassador**



Labour and Social Development Minister Jamil bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan receives UK Ambassador to Bahrain Roderick Drummond. The two sides reviewed cooperation and exchange of expertise and experience with the aim of strengthening practices in support of human rights. They discussed the ministry's mechanisms in protecting children's rights, as the ministry is concerned with child protection and following up on physical and psychological abuse, neglect and sexual assault.

**BDF announces live ammunition firing**

TDT | Manama

The BDF General Command announced that the Royal

Bahraini Navy Force (RBNF) will implement a live ammunition firing at the "Hair Shtaya" area tomorrow at 10am and

Thursday at 4pm.

The BDF cautioned all people to keep away from the aforesaid firing zone for their safety.



# Stuck in a war zone!

Bahrain resident tells of ordeal after being trapped in Ukraine city of Kharkiv

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

Courage and persistence remain the vital words for 23-year-old Ashly Prem, a Bahrain resident, who is trapped in one of the war zones of Ukraine.

The Indian national, a former student of Asian School and Indian School Bahrain, told The Daily Tribune that she along with her fellow classmates are being sheltered at the subway station in Kharkiv, which "is considered safe from attacks".

"Initially, I was a bit worried as the loud sounds of explosions rocked Kharkiv. But now if you really ask me, I am not afraid amidst a whole nation facing a huge challenge.

"We have to summon courage when placed in such situations," said the fifth year medical student at Karazin Kharkiv National University.

Ashly said the battlefield in Kharkiv has intensified with the Ukrainian forces putting up a great resistance against the invading Russians.

A picture instantly captured on her mobile showed smoke billowing from a neighboring building after the site was targeted by Russian forces. "These scenes are horrifying and the victims are innocent people, who have nothing to do with politics. We want this fight to end and peace set in soon."

She said Ukrainians are the most gentle people. "We are one and there is no discrimination between the citizens and foreigners."

Ashly thanked the Ukrainian authorities for regularly offering food, water and other requirements to those sheltered at Kharkiv Metro Station.



Smoke billows from a building targeted by Russian forces in Kharkiv



Ukrainian citizens and expatriates sheltered at a subway station in Kharkiv

**"Initially, I was a bit worried as the loud sounds of explosions rocked Kharkiv. But now if you really ask me, I am not afraid amidst a whole nation facing a huge challenge. We have to summon courage when placed in such situations."**

- ASHLY PREM, INDIAN NATIONAL AND  
BAHRAIN RESIDENT

"We are in touch with the Indian Mission here through a weblink. Evacuating us looks

like a hard task for the embassy as this region is located in the eastern side of Ukraine and only has a border with Russia. We are only 40km away from the Russian border."

Ashly's father Preman Kandoth, a long-time resident in the Kingdom, is among the Indian parents having their children in Ukraine, who have sent a letter to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting to bring them home.

Meanwhile, Kharkiv City Governor yesterday claimed that Ukrainian forces have repelled a Russian attempt to seize Kharkiv after fierce fighting and street battles with advancing Russian troops.

According to Oleh Synyehubov, Ukrainian soldiers were

"cleaning up" the eastern city. The governor said Russian soldiers were surrendering in groups of five to 10 and throwing their equipment in the middle of the road.

"Control over Kharkiv is completely ours," Synyehubov posted on Facebook. "A complete cleansing of the city from the enemy is happening. The Russian enemy is absolutely demoralised."

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, another Bahrain resident Razzak Mohammed Sheikh said he was worried about the safety of his grandson and daughter-in-law, both Ukrainian citizens from the city of Poltava. "Last night, they were moved into a bunker following a siren. We are worried about their safety."

## Cabinet directs all agencies to cooperate with NAO initiatives

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet has stressed the importance of consolidating responsibility and accountability to protect public funds and directed all agencies to cooperate with the National Audit Office (NAO).

This came as the Deputy Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, yesterday chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet commended His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's visit to the Royal Bahraini Air Force to commemorate the Bahrain Defence Force's 54th anniversary celebrations.

It noted His Majesty's commitment to supporting the BDF's ongoing development by providing its units with the latest technology and equipment.

During the meeting, the Cabinet also discussed and approved several memorandums such as:

1. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding draft MoUs and executive programmes between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman aimed at supporting bilateral cooperation across various fields.

2. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on draft MoUs between the King-



HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak

dom of Bahrain and the US related to enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

3. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding the government's response to five proposals and two law proposals submitted by the Council of Representatives and a law proposal submitted by the Shura Council.

The Cabinet reviewed the following topics:

1. A memorandum on the electronic transformation of the service of issuing and renewing licenses for real estate professionals at the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, which will contribute to providing a 24-hour service.

The Cabinet also took note of the report by the Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism regarding participation in the 16th Arab International Conference on Mineral Resources.

## Environment, climate change cornerstone of Bahrain development

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain attaches great importance to the issue of environment and climate change, making it one of the priorities and a cornerstone of its modern development march.

This was emphasised by Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Daina, Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Vice-President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), as he participated in the second segment of the Fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2). The meeting, held virtually at the UN headquarters in Nairobi, under the theme "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals", started yesterday, and will continue until March 2.

Addressing the session, Dr Bin Daina said the policies adopted by the kingdom in the environment and climate change fields are the outcome of the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the unwavering interest of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as well as the close



Dr Bin Daina

follow-up of HM the King's Personal Representative and SCE President, His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

He indicated that over the past years, the Supreme Council for the Environment has worked strenuously to develop environment-related laws and legislative rules to make them more effective and comprehensive, commensurate with the sustainable development goals and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

Dr Bin Daina affirmed the Kingdom's resolve to face the challenges of plastic waste and eliminate their risks, as well as fulfill its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adopting basic natural solutions, such as expanding green spaces, to reach zero neutrality.

## World-class roaming performers off the track at Bahrain F1

(Continuation from Page 1)

TDT | Manama

Abraham Thill is a professional street- and circus-performer who has been performing since 1999. His is an energy-packed street show that includes clowning, pantomime, comedy, object- and subject-manipulations, improvisations, magic and extraordinary, and mind-blowing Diabolo skills.

Aras Stilt Band is a combination of one of the best groups of percussions and of stilt-walkers. Their colourful outstanding costumes with big wings and beautiful music make them one of the most appreciated in Europe, inspired by the Aras colourful bird from the rainforest. The Joker group comprises a



Funky Style Band

team of funny and playful interactive clowns. They have travelled across Europe entertaining kids and the young-at-heart with acts that include fantastic circus skills, uni-cycling, jug-

gling and stilt walking.

The Colour Dancers are charming stilt-performers in glowing colours with light-footed dances and comical interaction. They dance through streets, parks and

rooms in ever-changing formations to all kinds of music.

Dr Bubbles is a flamboyant character who comes up with colourful creations through giant soap bubbles come in all shapes and sizes. These unique structures of water reflect the bright lights at BIC, making them shimmer in colours of a rainbow and bringing sparkling joy to all.

Funky Style Band is an innovative and captivating group in the panorama of marching bands. They maintain the effective format of the union between sound and movement, but reinterpret it in a unique way. They have eye-catching uniforms and they play and dance with the grit and enthusiasm typical of a respectable street band, but without forgetting the elegance of the Italian funky style.

### COURT STORY

## Five get 10-year jail term each for sex trafficking

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced five persons to 10 years each in prison for trafficking three Asian women.

The defendants include one Bahraini man, aged 33, and three

Thai women, aged 27, 28 and 38, as well as a 32-year-old Bangladeshi man.

The defendants are said to have locked up the victims in an apartment and forced them to be prostitutes.

The Bahraini man's law-

yer argued that the victims had stated in their statements that they came to Bahrain to practise sex and offer massage services. He also provided the court with a CD that contained a video showing the victims moving around and using their

phones.

The defendants were arrested after the embassy of the three victims' country reported that they were locked up in an apartment and they were compelled to have sex with strangers.





## Delmon Poultry Company B.S.C. Invitation of Annual General Meeting & Extraordinary General Meeting

The board of Directors of Delmon Poultry Company B.S.C. CR NO. 10700 is pleased to invite the shareholder to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 2021 that will be held on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 10.30 am at Al Murjan Hall – Gulf Hotel. If the event that the quorum is not met, the second meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th Mar 2022, provided that the third meeting will be held, if necessary, on Tuesday 5th Apr 2022 at the same time and through the same arrangements above.

### The following AGM Agenda:

1. To read and approve the minutes of the previous AGM dated on 24th Mar 2021.
2. Review and approval of the Board Directors' report for the year ended 31st Dec 2021.
3. Listen to external auditor's report regarding the Company's financial status 31st December 2021.
4. Review & approval of the audited financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2021.
5. Review and approval of the Board's recommendation of the following appropriations for the year 2021:

a) Distribution of cash dividends to shareholders of 5 % share nominal value, 5 fils per share of BD152,977 for the financial year ended 31st December 2021, as below:

<b>AGM Date</b>	<b>22 Mar 2022</b>
<b>Cum – dividend date</b> (last day of trading with entitlement to dividends)	<b>23 Mar 2022</b>
<b>Ex- Dividend Date</b> (First day of trading without entitlement to dividends)	<b>24 Mar 2022</b>
<b>Record Date</b> (the day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends)	<b>27 Mar 2022</b>
<b>Payment Date</b> (the day on which the dividends will be paid to the entitled shareholders)	<b>5 Apr 2022</b>

b) Transfer to Retained Earnings BD 101,029.

6. Allocation of BD10,735 Board of Directors remuneration, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Industry and commerce and Tourist.
7. To discuss and approve the Board of Director's Corporate Governance report for the year ended 31st December 2021; and comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and central Bank of Bahrain.
8. To notify and approve the related party transaction carried out during the financial year ended 31 December 2021 as stated in note # 30 of the Financial statement in line with Article 189 of the Commercial Companies Law.
9. Relieving the Board Directors of any liability regarding the decisions they have taken during the year ended 31st December 2021.
10. Appointment or reappointment of external auditors for 2022 and authorizing the Board of Directors to decide their fees.
11. Any other Business in accordance with Article 207 of the CCL.

### The following EGM Agenda:

1. Approve the previous minutes of EGM held on 16 Mar 2018.
2. Delete the trade/sale of the veterinary medicines' activity from the Company's CR activities, subject to MOICT Approval.
3. Approve to amend the Company's Article and Memorandum of Association No.5 in line with the deletion of the trade/sale of the veterinary medicines' activity, subject to regulatory approvals.
4. Approve to amend the Company's Article and Memorandum of association in line with the amendments to the Bahrain Commercial Companies Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 28 of 2020, Legislative Decree No. 20,63,64 of 2021, Legislative Decree No. 3 of 2022, subject to regulatory approvals.
5. Authorize the Board or whomsoever the Board authorizes to undertake the necessary steps to execute the above amendments of the Memorandum and the articulated of association before a Notary Public and to represent the company before the relevant regulatory authorities in connection therewith on behalf of the shareholders.

**Abdul Rahman Mohamed Jamsheer**  
Chairman

### Notes:

1. You can obtain the financial statements for the fiscal year ending 31st December 2021 and a copy of the proxy card through the company's website www.dawajen.bh, as well as the Bahrain Bourse Site, or through Bahrain Clear as their address shown below.
2. Any shareholder whose name is registered in the shareholder's register of the company on the date of the meeting has the right to attend in person or to authorize in writing any person on his behalf to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf, considering that this agent is other than the chairman and members of the board of directors or employees of the company.
3. If the shareholder is a company, the agent attending the meeting must present an authorization letter from the shareholder, and the authorization must be in writing and issued by the person who is authorized to the company and stamped with the company's seal and submitted before the deadline for depositing the proxy.
4. The proxy must be deposited 24 hours before the date of the meeting to the offices of Bahrain Clear Financial Harbor ( fourth floor ) phone # 17108836, email csd@bahrainclear.com, or through Delmon Poultry Company's Email on alyaa.s@dawajen.bh.
5. For further inquiries, please feel free to contact us on 17608282 - 17608272

# Awareness drive for children with cancer

TDT | Manama

“Smile” Initiative, a Bahrain Future Society for Youth programme that provides psychosocial support to children with cancer and their parents in the Kingdom of Bahrain organised a three-day awareness platform at the City Centre complex.

In collaboration with government hospitals, the initiative was held to raise awareness of childhood cancer in the Kingdom on the occasion of International Childhood Cancer Day, which falls on 15 February each year.

Dr Ahmed Al Ansari, Chief Executive Officer of the Government Hospital, extended his thanks to “Smile” for its effective efforts in raising community awareness about childhood cancer and its successful campaigns and various events targeting different segments of society.

Dr Al Ansari affirmed that the participation of government



Caring for children with cancer and their parents

hospitals in these awareness events demonstrates the critical importance of raising health awareness, expressing his pride in the volunteer doctors on the platform and emphasising the need for all parties to work together within the framework of the community partnership to support children with cancer and improve their health.

“Smile” organises several

awareness platforms in various complexes for two weeks in collaboration with government hospitals, where initiative volunteers are present to clarify the social and psychological aspects of childhood cancer, as well as several doctors nominated by government hospitals to talk about health aspects of the disease such as prevention, early detection, and treatment.



## Labour camp safety campaign



As part of awareness campaigns, the General Directorate of Civil Defence has organised a labour camp safety campaign to encourage labourers who live in shared accommodation to follow safety instructions. The campaign includes visits to the camps and the distribution of awareness leaflets in different languages.

## All-Filipino basketball tournament successful

TDT | Manama

The 3rd Under-18 All-Filipino GCC Club Championship 2022 organised by Filipino Club Basketball Group was held on 25 and 26 February at Zain Basketball Arena, Manama.

Four all-Filipino basketball groups under 18 years old from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and two teams from Bahrain, took part in the two-day tournament supported by the Philippine Embassy.

The NGB Al Khobar from Saudi



NGB Al Khobar from Saudi Arabia ... champion

di Arabia bagged the championship. The Junior Falcons, Doha

placed second, Bahrain Eagles Manama third, and Bahrain Eagles Muharraq fourth.



# S&P affirms GFH rating, revise outlook to positive

TDT | Manama

GFH Financial Group yesterday announced that S&P Global Ratings (S&P) has revised the outlook on the Group's long-term issuer credit rating to positive from stable and affirmed its 'B-' long-term issuer credit rating.

According to the report, the positive outlook reflects the Group's ability to maintain resilient revenue generation over

● **Ratings supported by resilient revenue generation and improved business performance**

● **Revised outlook reflects expected strengthening of the balance sheet linked to spin off of real estate assets**

2020-2021 and a rebound in business performance in 2021 with a Group return on equity

(ROE) of 9.0% in 2021, compared with 4.7% in 2020.

This improvement is noted

to be largely spurred by higher treasury business volumes, where the Group generates a positive spread from investment in predominantly regional sovereign sukuk and structured products. Investment banking transactions also proved resilient since customers keen for cash yields retained their appetite for income-generating commercial real estate in Europe and the US.

S&P also highlighted further improvements in the Group's

commercial banking subsidiary, which showed robust results after a significant portfolio clean-up in 2020, and the positive impact of the planned spin-off of the Group's real estate assets, which it noted, once completed, would help further revitalize the Group's balance sheet and increase the share of income-generating assets.

The rating was also said to take into account expectations that the Group will operate

with somewhat stronger liquidity than before. Over the course of 2021, GFH's coverage of short-term wholesale funding improved to about 116% at Sept. 30, 2021, from about 94% at year-end 2020.

The report concludes by noting that further improvements to GFH's ratings would be linked to progressing on the spin-off of legacy real estate assets and revitalization of its balance sheet.

# Bahrain "essential player" in trade, says Israeli Ambassador

TDT | Manama

Israel sees Bahrain as an "essential player" in the emerging trade between East and West, said Eitan Na'eh, Ambassador of Israel to the Kingdom of Bahrain, yesterday.

During his first visit to APM Terminals Bahrain, Na'eh also highlighted the growing importance of hybrid trade routes and the "efficiency achieved by the port authorities and all respective parties involved in delivering goods from sea to air."

Representatives of Bahrain Economic Development Board Mohammed Al Madani and Ishaq Abdulla, Port & Maritime Affairs - Mohammed Alhameedi and Fatema Mahmood, Customs Affairs - Ministry of Interior Azzam Al Mahmeed and Rashid Al Bakir, Customs Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Bahrain, were present.

The senior management team from APM Terminals Bahrain included Maureen Bannerman, Managing Director, Isa Al-Qeta-

mi, Chief, Government & Security Affairs, and Mahesh Manikoth, GM, Business Development & Projects.

The delegation listened to a briefing on KBSP's state-of-the-art infrastructure, high connectivity, ease of doing business, data-driven approach, and capabilities to handle Sea-Air trade logistics to help expand Israel-Bahrain collaborative trade opportunities. "This, with 200+ uniquely identifiable Beneficial Cargo Owners (BCOs), positions Bahrain as an ideal trade partner for Israeli companies," said KBSP.

Maureen Bannerman, CEO/Managing Director, APM Terminals Bahrain, said, "The visit allowed us the opportunity to highlight how APM Terminals Bahrain continues to achieve greater efficiency for customers and stakeholders as well as the ways we can contribute towards strengthening investment relations between the two countries and further develop the trade corridor."



Eitan Na'eh, Ambassador of Israel to the Kingdom of Bahrain and other top officials during a visit to APM Terminals, Bahrain

# LIC (International) reports 2021 profit

TDT | Manama

LIC (International) BSC yesterday announced a net profit of USD 0.07 million for full-year 2021 during its 123rd Board of Directors meeting in Bahrain.

Board members also expressed hope that with new products in the pipeline, the company will revert to normal growth in new business during 2022.

The investment income of the company as of 31st December 2021 was USD 102.84 m, compared to USD 89.60 m last year.

LIC underwrote a new Business premium of USD 68.89 m and settled claims to the tune of USD

**The company launched four new products during the year 2021. Three products were for the UAE market and one for the Bahrain market.**

197.26 m during 2021.

A detailed review of New Business Performance, Financials and also Investment Income for the year 2021 was made in the meeting.

Siddhartha Mohanty, Managing Director of LIC of India and other

directors were present through video conference.

During the year, fourteen consultants have qualified for MDRT and three for COT this year (compared to 19 consultants for MDRT, three for COT and two for TOT during the corresponding period of the previous year).

The company launched four new products during the year 2021. Three products were for the UAE market and one for the Bahrain market. Most of the products, LIC said, launched are guaranteed endowment plans which is a combination of protection and saving guaranteed with a guaranteed addition.

# Euro slips, ruble slumps as Russia-Ukraine tensions boil

● **Ruble down about 15%, after paring earlier losses**

● **Safe-haven yen, Swiss franc supported**

Reuters | New York

The Russian ruble sank and the euro nursed sharp losses against the US dollar yesterday as the West ramped up sanctions against Russia over its Ukraine invasion, prompting investors to shun riskier currencies.

After plunging 30% to a record low of 120 per dollar, the rouble recovered some ground, to trade down about 15% on the day at 109 per dollar, as an emergency rate hike and other urgent measures adopted

by the Russian central bank helped it trim losses.

Russia's foreign ministry on Monday said talks between Ukraine and Russia had begun, shortly after the Ukrainian side had said the same.

News of the talks helped soothe some nerves and the euro pared losses to trade down 0.48% on the day at \$1.1213, after earlier falling more than 1% to a four-day low of \$1.1121.

While a jump in the price of oil, one of Canada's main exports, helped support the Canadian currency, investors' hesitancy to take on risk kept a lid on the loonie. The Canadian dollar was up about 0.2% at 78.89 US cents.

Markets are now pricing in a 90% chance the US Federal Reserve will hike interest rates by 25 basis points at its March meeting, according to CME's Fedwatch tool.

# Putin bans forex transfers to outside Russia from March 1

Reuters | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a ban on foreign exchange loans and transfers by Russian residents to outside of Russia from March 1, the Kremlin said on Monday, in retaliation for economic sanctions imposed on Moscow by the West.

Putin also signed into a law an order for exporting companies to sell 80% of their forex revenues received from Jan 1, 2022, on the market.

**NBB**

## Update on Recommendation of Declaration of Dividends

Following the initial announcement published on Bahrain Bourse and local newspapers on 23 February 2022, the Annual General Meeting date has been amended from 29 March 2022 to 24 March 2022.

The resolution of the Board of Directors of National Bank of Bahrain B.S.C. regarding their recommendation on the distribution of dividend for the year ending 31 December 2021 to the shareholders whose names are registered on the Bank's register on the record date remains the same and is subject to the approval of the Bank's shareholders in the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The proposed distribution is as follows:

- a) **Cash Dividend** 20% of share nominal value, equivalent to 20 fils per share amounting to BD 37.5 million.
- b) **Bonus Share** 10% of paid-up capital, equivalent to 1 shares for every 10 shares held.

Below are the updated key dates to be taken note of:

Event	Date
<b>General Meeting Date</b> (Shareholders' approval date)	24/3/2022
<b>Cum-Dividend Date</b> (Last day of trading with entitlement to dividends)	27/3/2022
<b>Ex-Dividend Date</b> (First day of trading without entitlement to dividends)	28/3/2022
<b>Record Date</b> (The day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends)	29/3/2022
<b>Payment Date</b> (The day on which the dividends will be paid to the entitled shareholders)	6/4/2022

**Farouk Yousuf Khalil Almoayyed**  
Chairman

(+973) 17 228800 | nbbonline.com



QUOTE OF THE DAY

IN THE LONG RUN, THE SHARPEST WEAPON OF ALL IS A KIND AND GENTLE SPIRIT. ANNE FRANK

News in brief

◆ **Home rental company Airbnb Inc** (ABNB.O) said yesterday its non-profit arm Airbnb.org would offer free, temporary housing for up to 100,000 refugees fleeing Ukraine. Chief Executive Brian Chesky and Joe Gebbia, the chairman of Airbnb.org, have sent letters to leaders of Poland, Romania, Germany and Hungary offering help to house the refugees. The countries share borders with Ukraine. At least 300,000 Ukrainian refugees have entered the European Union so far after Russia's invasion of the country, and the bloc needs to prepare for millions more, senior EU and French officials have said. Airbnb.org, which provides temporary stays for people during crisis, will work closely with governments to help address needs in each country including by providing longer-term stays.



**Airbnb to house up to 100,000 Ukrainian refugees**

◆ **Poland, Lithuania speed up gas link amid Russia supply worries**



◆ **A natural gas pipeline called GIPL** linking Poland and Lithuania will open on May 1, earlier than the scheduled mid-2022 start, linking the Polish grid with a route to a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Lithuania. The earlier start was announced after Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Thursday gave rise to worries that Russian gas supplies to Europe could be cut. Poland and Lithuania had been discussing an early start to the project for weeks amid the fears of energy supply disruption, senior government sources told Reuters.

◆ **Iran said yesterday efforts to revive a 2015 nuclear deal** could succeed if the United States took a political decision to meet Tehran's remaining demands, as months of negotiations enter what one Iranian diplomat called a "now or never" stage. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman identified the remaining outstanding issues as: the extent to which sanctions would be rolled back, providing guarantees that the United States will not quit the pact again, and resolving questions over uranium traces found at several old but undeclared sites in Iran. All parties involved in the talks say progress has been made toward the restoration of the pact to curb Tehran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief, which the United States abandoned in 2018. But both Tehran and Washington have cautioned there are still some significant differences to overcome.

◆ **Iran says key issues unresolved in Vienna nuclear talks**

◆ **Bolsonaro won't condemn Putin, says Brazil will remain neutral over invasion**

◆ **Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Sunday declined to condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine**, while departing from his government's official stance at the United Nations to say Brazil would remain neutral. Bolsonaro, a far-right populist, recently snubbed US entreaties not to visit Putin in Moscow ahead of the invasion, and angered Western allies by saying he was "in solidarity with Russia," without elaborating. On Friday, Brazil voted for a draft U.N. Security Council resolution that would have denounced the Russian invasion of Ukraine, despite reluctance by Bolsonaro. Russia vetoed the resolution.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	80,567,757	973,119
2 India	42,924,130	513,843
3 Brazil	28,768,104	649,195
4 France	22,689,332	138,135
5 UK	18,804,765	161,224
6 Russia	16,398,036	351,660
7 Germany	14,745,312	123,330
8 Turkey	14,025,181	94,232
9 Italy	12,764,558	154,560
10 Spain	10,977,524	99,410
11 Argentina	8,897,178	126,120
12 Iran	7,051,429	136,838
13 Netherlands	6,361,626	21,554
14 Colombia	6,062,701	138,693

**Global tally**  
436,408,735  
**Deaths**  
5,970,292  
**Recovered:**  
367,091,218  
**New cases**  
+571,562  
**New deaths**  
+2,466

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	482,248		24,040		412,161	46,047
Saudi Arabia	745,027	+653	8,998	+2	723,549	12,480
UAE	879,973	+605	2,301		834,041	43,631
Kuwait	619,310		2,537		606,657	10,116
Oman	382,244	+863	4,244	+2	368,677	9,323
Qatar	356,982	+311	670	+2	353,139	3,173

# Russia continues

● **Kyiv authorities warned residents emerging from a weekend curfew that they would see newly erected fortifications, tank traps and other defensive installations in the streets as the city girds for further battle.**

TDI | agencies

Blasts were heard before dawn yesterday in the capital Kyiv and in the northeastern city of Kharkiv, Ukrainian authorities said. But Russian ground forces' attempts to capture major urban centres had been repelled, they added. The Ukrainian General Staff said Russian forces were focusing on Chernihiv city, northeast of Kyiv, and parts of Donetsk region in the east among other areas.



Guardian graphic. Source: Rochan Consulting, Institute for the study of war



Kyiv authorities warned residents emerging from a weekend curfew that they would see newly erected fortifications, tank traps and other defensive installations in the streets as the city girds for further battle.

## US shuts embassy evacuation

Reuters | Washington

The United States shuttered its embassy in Minsk and allowed non-emergency employees and family members to leave its embassy in Moscow on Monday as Russia pushed on with its invasion of Ukraine for a fifth day. "We took these steps due to security and safety issues stemming from the unprovoked and unjustified attack by Russian military forces in Ukraine," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. A photo posted on Twitter by US ambassador to Belarus Julie Fisher yesterday showed mission staff lowering the American flag. All American staff have left Belarus.



Ukrainian service members are seen after Russia launched a massive military operation against Ukraine, at a check point in the city of Zhytomyr, Ukraine

## Economic reality changed: Kremlin

Reuters | Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said Russia's economic reality had changed but saw no reason to doubt the effectiveness and reliability of the central bank, which hiked interest rates to 20% as it sought to shield the economy from unprecedented Western sanctions. The bank has also introduced some capital controls as the West seeks to restrict its ability to deploy \$640 billion of forex and gold reserves and cut Russia's major banks out of the SWIFT financial network, making it hard for lenders and companies



People walk past the Central Bank headquarters in Moscow

to make and receive payments. Those moves have sent the rouble tumbling to record lows. "The economic reality has considerably changed," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "These are heavy sanctions, they are problematic, but Russia has the potential to offset the harm." "Russia has been making plans for quite a long time for possible sanctions, including

the most severe ones. There are response plans, they were developed and are being implemented as problems appear." Peskov said sanctions introduced against President Vladimir Putin himself were pointless. "(Putin) is quite indifferent. The sanctions contain absurd claims about some assets," Peskov said. "The president has no assets other than those he has declared." Putin will work on economic issues today, Peskov said, meeting with officials including Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov, and German Gref, CEO of dominant lender Sberbank.



1780

Pennsylvania becomes 1st US state to abolish slavery (for newborns only)

1869

US Postage stamps showing scenes issued for 1st time. These pictorials showed a post horse and rider, a locomotive, a shield, an eagle and a ship, the Adriatic.

1872

Yellowstone becomes the world's 1st national park



1954

US explodes Castle Bravo, a 15 megaton hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll, which accidentally became the most powerful nuclear device ever detonated by the US

# es battle for cities



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



National Science Day greetings to all scientists and science enthusiasts. Let us reaffirm our commitment towards fulfilling our collective scientific responsibility and leveraging the power of science for human progress.

@narendramodi

02



The escalation of military operations inside Ukraine is leading to escalating human rights violations. We know the result of war: civilian casualties, people forced to flee, poverty & hunger. We must show all people in Ukraine that we stand by them in their time of need.

@antonioguterres

03



The candle of freedom may burn low in Ukraine in the days and perhaps months ahead, but the UK will stand by you, by Ukraine, until that candle blazes again, bright in independence and liberty.

@BorisJohnson

04



It was great meeting @Intel CEO @PGelsinger today in Jerusalem and discussing ways to further strengthen our Start-up Nation.

@naftalibennett

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

## Ukrainian president signs formal request to join EU

Reuters | Lviv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy yesterday said he had signed an official request for Ukraine to join the European Union.

Zelenskyy has asked the European Union to allow Ukraine to gain membership immediately under a special procedure as it defends itself from invasion by Russian forces.



continued normally, it said. Ukraine denied that the nuclear plant had fallen into Russian hands, according to the news agency.

Dozens of people were killed in Russian rocket strikes on Kharkiv on Monday, Ukrainian interior ministry adviser Anton Herashchenko said.

UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said at least 102 civilians in Ukraine have been killed since Thursday, with a further 304 wounded, but the real figure is feared to be "considerably higher".

More than half a million people have fled to neighbouring countries, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

Fighting took place around the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol throughout the night, Pavlo Kyrylenko, head of the Donetsk regional administration, said. He did not say whether Russian forces had gained or lost ground, or provide any casualty figures.

A US defence official said Russia had fired more than 350 missiles at Ukrainian targets since Thursday, some hitting civilian infrastructure.

Russia yesterday barred airlines from 36 countries including Britain, Germany, Spain, Italy and Canada from using Russian airspace in a retaliatory move after sweeping sanctions targeting its aviation sector.

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

Russia's defence ministry said its forces had taken over the towns of Berdyansk and Enerhodar in Ukraine's southeastern

Zaporizhzhya region as well as the area around the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, Interfax reported. The plant's operations

## Embassy in Belarus, OKs from embassy in Moscow



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

rus, Fisher tweeted. US citizens in Belarus should also depart immediately, the State Department said in a separate travel advisory.

The United States had already relocated its Ukraine embassy operations from the capital Kyiv to the western city of Lviv two weeks ago as Russian forces amassed at Ukraine's borders.

The latest evacuations come after Russian President Vladimir Putin put Russia's nuclear deterrent on high alert on Sunday in the face of a barrage of Western reprisals for his war on Ukraine, which said it had repelled Russian ground forces attacking its biggest cities.

## Russian flights bans hit airlines from 36 countries

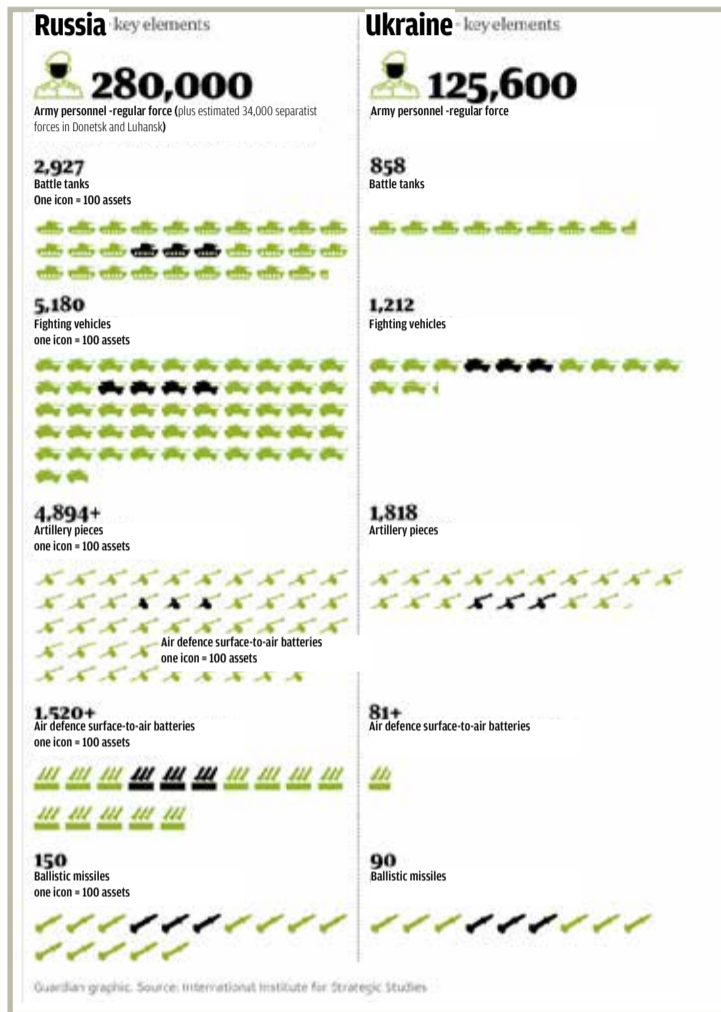
Reuters | Moscow

Russia has closed its airspace to airlines from 36 countries, including all 27 members of the European Union, in response to Ukraine-related sanctions targeting its aviation sector.

The flight bans are expected to hurt airlines that fly over the world's biggest country to get from Europe to Asia. They are likely to force them to find new routes.

Rosaviatsia said that flights from those countries could in exceptional circumstances be authorised if they secure special clearance from Russia's aviation authority or foreign ministry.

It listed the countries as Albania, Anguilla, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, British Virgin Islands, Germany, Gibraltar, Hungary, Greece, Denmark, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Jersey, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.



## NATO sending missiles, weapons to Ukraine

Partners in the US-led NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) defence alliance were providing Ukraine with air-defence missiles and anti-tank weapons, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said.

The Kremlin accused the European Union of hostile behaviour, saying weapons supplies to Ukraine were destabilising and proved that Russia was right in its efforts to demilitarise its

neighbour. "Throughout Russia, the vast majority of the population has friends or relatives who live in Ukraine. Naturally, everyone's hearts are aching for what is happening to these relatives," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

The Kremlin declined to comment on whether there was a risk of confrontation between Russia and NATO. Russia has demanded that NATO never admit Ukraine.

## Indian ministers to go to Ukraine's borders to help evacuate citizens

Reuters | New Delhi

India plans to send four senior ministers to Ukraine's border nations, a government source said on Monday, to help in the rescue of thousands of its citizens who remain trapped more than four days after Russia's invasion of the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met senior officials on Monday to discuss evacuation efforts, amid rising concerns back home about the safety of some 16,000 Indians still in Ukraine, most of them students.

Ministers Hardeep Puri, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kiren Rijju & VK Singh will travel to neighbouring countries of Ukraine to coordinate the evacuation, according to an Indian government source.

Indians make up about a quarter of the 76,000 foreign students studying in Ukraine, mainly on medical courses.

Late on Sunday night, India's embassy in Poland issued an advisory, saying it had arranged for buses at the Shehyni border in Ukraine, for those stranded there, to cross over into Poland.

## Belarus may be about to send its troops into Ukraine

The Guardian

Belarus may be preparing to send its soldiers into Ukraine in support of the Russian invasion, perhaps as soon as this week, according to a US defence official, amid mounting concern about Minsk's military preparations.

Belarus has already been used as a staging post by Russian forces, who gathered there on the pretext of joint military exercises before last week's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Now there is increasing evidence that Minsk may be moving towards becoming an explicit participant in the war.

On Monday it announced it was



Military vehicles take part in drills held by Belarusian and Russian troops at a training ground near Brest earlier this month

revoking its non-nuclear status after a referendum, allowing Russian weapons to be placed in Belarus. The move provoked rare protests in the country.











# celebs

## 'CODA' takes top honours at SAG Awards, Will Smith wins

Will Smith bags his first SAG Award for Best Actor

AP | Los Angeles

In an upset, the deaf family drama "CODA" took top honours at an unpredictable and history-making 28th Screen Actors Guild Awards that also saw wins for the leads of "Squid Game," the cast of "Ted Lasso" and Will Smith.

The ceremony, held Sunday at Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, California, and broadcast on both TNT and TBS, was notably border-breaking, with historic wins for deaf actors, Korean stars and some of Hollywood's biggest names. It culminated with "CODA," Sian Heder's heartwarming Apple TV+ coming-of-age film featuring a trio of deaf actors in Marlee Matlin, Troy Kotsur and Daniel Durant, along with newcomer Emilia Jones, winning best ensemble. The film has been seen as a watershed moment for the deaf community in Hollywood.

"This validates the fact that we, deaf actors, can work just like anybody else. We look forward to more opportunities for deaf actors," said Matlin on stage before teaching the crowd sign language for "I love you."

Matlin is the only deaf actor to win an Oscar, but her "CODA" co-star, Kotsur, may be in line to join her. Kotsur won best supporting actor Sunday, becoming the first deaf actor win an individual SAG award. When his name was read, the 53-year-old veteran actor plunged his head into his hands. On stage, he

**"This validates the fact that we, deaf actors, can work just like anybody else. We look forward to more opportunities for deaf actors"**

MARLEE MATLIN

thanked his wife for "reminding me to check my fly before walking the red carpet."

Netflix's "Squid Game," the first non-English language series nominated by the actors guild, came on strong with three awards, including Lee Jung-jae for best male actor in a drama series and Jung Ho-yeon for best female actor in a drama series. Those wins came over the likes of "Succession"

stars Brian Cox and

Jeremy Strong, and Reese Witherspoon and Jennifer Aniston of "The Morning Show."

"I have sat many a times watching you on the big screen dreaming of one day becoming an actor," Jung told the crowd, fighting back tears.

Still, HBO's "Succession" ultimately reigned in the best drama series category. Cox fittingly accepted the award with an expletive printed on his face mask, and another u t -

tered as he struggled to take it off. But Cox turned serious when discussing Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In the evening's bluntest remarks on the invasion, he noted that the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, was a comic — and thus a fellow performer. He urged censored dissenters in Russia to speak out.

"The people in Russia

Will Smith accepts the award for outstanding performance by a male actor in a leading role for King Richard

sia who don't like what's going on — and particularly the artists — I think we should join and celebrate them and hope that they can make a shift, as I believe they can," said Cox while the audience stood and applauded.

The SAG Awards are considered one of the most reliable predictors of the Academy Awards. Actors make up the largest percentage of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, and their picks often align. In 2020, when the cast of "Parasite" and Brad Pitt won, they matched exactly.

Though the actors guild and the academy diverged last year when Aaron Sorkin's 1960s courtroom drama "Trial of the Chicago 7" topped the SAG Awards and "Nomadland" triumphed at the Oscars, the win for "CODA" suggests it's a major threat to win best pic-

ture over Kenneth Branagh's "Belfast" (which went winless Sunday) and Jane Campion's leading Oscar nominee "The Power of the Dog" (which failed to get an ensemble nod even though three of its actors were individually nominated).

SAG's track record may also mean Will Smith, star of the Williams family tennis drama "King Richard," is heading for his first Oscar. Smith took best actor, scoring his first SAG award.

"That may have been one of the greatest moments of my career just now because my name was called for 'King Richard' sitting next to Venus Williams," beamed Smith.

Best actress has been more difficult category to track. Many have seen Olivia Colman ("The Lost Daughter") as the favorite to win her second Oscar. In an especially competitive category, those snubbed have often drawn the most focus. Kristen Stewart of "Spencer" was passed over by SAG, while Lady Gaga ("House of Gucci") missed with the film academy.

Yet it was Jessica Chastain, who plays the infamous televangelist in "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," who won Sunday, notching her first individual SAG award. Heading into the Oscars on March 27, no category may be more uncertain.



The cast of Coda accepts the award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture



### Dan Stevens to star in Hulu's 'Immigrant'

ANI | Washington

'Downtown Abbey' star Dan Stevens has joined the cast of Hulu limited series 'Immigrant' (working title).

According to Deadline, Stevens has been tapped for a key role in 'Immigrant' that will also feature 'Silicon Valley' actor Kumail Nanjiani.

Nanjiani will also executive produce the project from 'Pam and Tommy' creator Robert Siegel.

As per the logline obtained by Deadline, 'Im-

migrant' is the true story of Somen 'Steve' Banerjee (Nanjiani), the Indian-American entrepreneur who started Chippendales. The series will detail the insane, darkly comedic, crime-ridden story behind the unique male revue that became a cultural phenomenon.

Stevens will play Paul Snider. A hustler and serial schmoozer, Paul Snider stumbles upon the opportunity of a lifetime in the form of Steve Banerjee (Nanjiani) and his struggling LA backgammon club. Through their unlikely partnership, the iconic male stripping institution Chippendales is born.

### Rosy McEwen to star as lead in Georgia Oakley feature 'Blue Jean'

ANI | Washington

Actor Rosy McEwen of 'The Alienist' fame has boarded filmmaker Georgia Oakley's upcoming feature 'Blue Jean' in the lead role.

According to Variety, in the film, McEwen will play the eponymous Jean, a teacher who finds herself grappling with her identity during the tail-end of the 1980s.

Oakley, whose debut short film 'Little Bird' was nominated for best narrative short film at Tribeca Film Festival, will be directing the film from her



Rosy McEwen

original screenplay.

"Jean is a woman forced to wear multiple masks in the different areas of her life, and as such she has this sort of taut, cloistered energy that Rosy has

absolutely mastered," Oakley said in a statement.

She added, "I think it takes an actor such as Rosy, with such intelligence and poise to communicate these kinds of complex emotions; I can't wait to work with her to bring Jean to life."

Speaking about her role, McEwen said, "I'm so grateful and proud to be part of this project, it's a story that needs to be told and heard by everyone."

'Blue Jean' is Oakley's debut feature and will also mark McEwen's first leading feature film role.

### SUDOKU

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

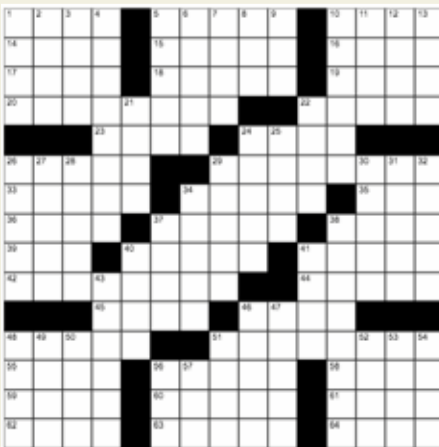
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

### CROSSWORD



Across

1- Apply powder to oneself; 5- Helpful; 10- Seethe; 14- Consumer; 15- Lowest point; 16- Writer Bombeck; 17- "Mon Oncle" director; 18- Forest makeup; 19- Longstanding argument; 20- On an upper floor; 22- Impudent; 23- Inwardly; 24- Kind of ticket; 26- Area of land; 29- Lacking a definite shape; 33- Dike, Eunomia and Irene; 34- Bring about; 35- City in GA; 36- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author; 37- Baseball manager Joe; 38- Remain; 39- "Cats" monogram; 40- Herbert Hoover, for one; 41- Egg exterior; 42- Chosen; 44- Tall and thin; 45- Antlered animal; 46- Enlarge, as a hole; 48- Groundwork; 51- Period of high birthrate; 55- Zwei cubed; 56- Merchandise; 58- Peru's capital; 59- Langston Hughes poem; 60- Mother of Perseus; 61- Some by Leaguers; 62- In excess of; 63- Severe; 64- Fast fliers;

Down

1- Ballerina's skirt; 2- Quickly, quickly; 3- Permits; 4- Crucial; 5- Before; 6- Loiter; 7- Bad time in the Senate; 8- Fairway position; 9- Hesitant sounds; 10- To happen to; 11- Raw materials; 12- Don of talk radio; 13- Godiva, for one; 21- Poker payment; 22- Just the ; 24- Feel grief; 25- Scottish Gaelic; 26- Amore; 27- Awaken; 28- Staggering; 29- Capacitance unit; 30- Devoured; 31- Stem; 32- With cunning; 34- Crouch in fear; 37- Carry; 38- Scene of destruction; 40- Locks up; 41- Kill; 43- Newspaper executive; 46- Radiolocation; 47- Clampett player; 48- Scott of "Charles in Charge"; 49- When Hamlet dies; 50- Sneaker or loafer; 51- Mother Hubbard's quest; 52- Lubricates; 53- Pass over; 54- Aggregate; 56- Mds.; 57- Feedbag bit;

Yesterday's solution

D	E	A	R	A	T	E	S	E	L	S	A			
U	C	L	A	R	A	T	O	N	E	R	O	T	C	
D	R	U	M	F	E	W	E	R	A	L	A	I		
S	U	M	M	I	T	M	U	S	T	A	R	D		
S	E	M	E	R	S	H	Y	M	N					
A	C	A	D	E	M	I	A		I	S	A	A	C	
S	A	T		A	W	L		P	A	C	E	R		
P	R	O	B	O	N	O		B	R	E	W	E	R	Y
I	L	L	E	R		B	E	E		R	I	P		
C	O	L	T	S		A	L	P	H	A	B	E	T	
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J	O	U	R	N	A	L		A	D	O	R	E	S	
A	S	T	I		G	A	M	U	T		J	A	G	O
R	H	E	A		O	Z	O	N	E		N	C	A	A
S	A	S	S		S	E	W	E	D		T	E	N	S



# Medvedev's top ranking in doubt as ITF called to take 'swift action'

Daniil Medvedev's top ranking under a cloud as Ukrainian federation demands Russia ban

● **Medvedev replaces Djokovic as world number one**

AFP | London

Moscovite Daniil Medvedev reached the pinnacle of men's tennis when he became the ATP's world number one yesterday but what should have been a day of pride for Russian sport has been engulfed by the country's invasion of Ukraine.

Medvedev is only the third Russian man to top the standings and the first player outside the so-called "big four" of Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to hold the top spot in 18 years.

But with the sporting world uniting its in condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Medvedev's meteoric rise to the top could hardly have happened at a worse time for tennis.



Daniil Medvedev of Russia returns a ball during a match

On Sunday the Ukrainian Tennis Federation urged the sport's governing body the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to immediately expel Russia and Belarus from the organisation and ban Russia from team and individual tournaments.

In a letter seen by Reuters, the Ukrainian federation described the actions of Russia and Belarus in Ukraine over the past four

days as "unprecedented, cynical and bloody".

"Civilians are dying, including women and children; civilian infrastructure is collapsing ... This is a full-scale war that will push our country back decades," the letter said, adding that the goal of Russia's invasion was "extermination."

"Russia and Belarus do not have the right not only to hold

international competitions on their territory, but also to participate in all ITF team and individual tournaments abroad," the letter continued.

In response the ITF said it had taken "swift action" to cancel all events in Russia indefinitely and that no ITF events would be held in Belarus for 2022.

"This is a fast-evolving situation; we are in active discussion with the ITF tennis family and the ITF Board to decide and align around our next course of action," it said.

"We stand united with the Ukraine and are working with the Ukraine Tennis Federation. Right now, our priority is the safety of the tennis players and the security of all those participating in our events."

Any restrictions on individual Russian players, while seen as unlikely, would cast doubt on Medvedev's participation at the next Grand Slam, the French Open in May.

Ahead of his coronation as world number one Medvedev



**Daniil Medvedev has become the first man since 2004 outside the game's "Big Four" of Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray to occupy the top spot**

took to Twitter on Sunday with a plea for peace.

"Today I want to speak on behalf of every kid in the world," he said. "They all have dreams, their lives are just starting, so many nice experiences to come..."

"That's why I want to ask for peace in the world, for peace between countries. Kids are born with inner trust in the world, they believe so much in

everything, in people, in love, in safety, in justice, in their chances in life.

"Let's be together and show them that's it true, because every kid shouldn't stop dreaming."

Medvedev's fellow Russian Andry Rublev, the world number seven, wrote "No War Please" on the lens of a TV camera on his way to winning the Dubai title last week.

French Open 2021 finalist Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova called for an end to violence and war in a social media post yesterday.

"Personal ambitions or political motives cannot justify violence," Pavlyuchenkova said. "This takes away the future not only from us, but also from our children. Stop the violence, stop the war."

Four leading players from Russia and Belarus are on the entry list for next month's prestigious Indian Wells tournament in California. Women's world number two Aryna Sabalenka and world number 16 Victoria Azarenka represent Belarus.

## 'This is the start': Klopp eyes quadruple after Liverpool win League Cup

● **Liverpool beats Chelsea 11-10 on penalties to win League Cup**

AFP | London

Jurgen Klopp challenged Liverpool to chase a historic quadruple after the Reds won the League Cup final in a dramatic penalty shoot-out against Chelsea on Sunday.

Klopp's side clinched the first of the four major trophies they are competing for this term when Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga smashed his penalty high over the crossbar.

Kepa was the only player to miss in the shoot-out as Liverpool converted all 11 of their kicks and Chelsea netted 10.

It was a fittingly tense conclusion to a thrilling encounter that finished 0-0 after extra-time despite both sides creating numerous chances.

Liverpool had a Joel Matip goal controversially disallowed for a dubious offside against Virgil van Dijk in the second half.



Liverpool players celebrate with the trophy

Chelsea were denied three times by the offside flag, with Blues boss Thomas Tuchel furious that Romelu Lukaku's effort didn't survive a VAR check.

Liverpool's record ninth League Cup triumph was their first domestic knockout tournament triumph since 2012.

Having failed to win a trophy last season, Klopp believes his players can use the momentum from their Wembley success to fuel their bid to become the first English club to enjoy a trophy clean-sweep.

The Reds are six points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City with a game

in hand, hold a 2-0 lead heading into their Champions League last-16 second leg against Inter Milan and host Norwich in the FA Cup fifth round on Wednesday.

"This is the start. We are not silly. You need luck. We have to survive, work hard and, we have to play on Wednesday again, which I cannot believe at this moment," Klopp said.

"Anfield will be rocking because of this result and hopefully we can deliver a game to enjoy."

"We don't get nervous when things don't go well. We are more experienced now."



"It's a big one for us. The time for this group. The atmosphere was outstanding. It was nice to celebrate with the people after the match."

Liverpool's final kick in the shoot-out was coolly converted by keeper Caoimhin Kelleher, who was again deputising for first-choice Allison Becker after playing all but one game in the competition this season.

"The game he played was absolutely incredible. I can remember two brilliant saves. He showed his full skill set in the penalty shoot-out," Klopp said.

"It was like two lions going at each other. It was absolutely crazy. It was one of the most spectacular shoot-outs I ever saw."

## Verreynne, Rabada and spin have South Africa eyeing New Zealand win

AFP | Christchurch

Kyle Verreynne, Kagiso Rabada and the spin of Keshav Maharaj had South Africa eyeing victory over New Zealand at stumps on day four of the second Test in Christchurch yesterday.

New Zealand, set an imposing record target of 426, were 94 for four with Devon Conway on 60 and Tom Blundell on one. South Africa declared their second innings at 354 for nine with Verreynne not out 136, his maiden Test century.

Verreynne said it was a satisfying innings that went according to plan.

"When I did cross the mark and get to a hundred there was just that sense of pride and joy that I'd made a big impact towards pushing for a result," he said, adding it was Rabada's quickfire 47 that really lifted the team.

"He said to me he was going to stick around with me until I got my hundred but once he



Kyle Verreynne (L) celebrates reaching his century

**"When I did cross the mark and get to a hundred there was just that sense of pride and joy that I'd made a big impact towards pushing for a result"**

KYLE VERREYNNE

started hitting it I said he had to keep going. It was like he couldn't miss.

"The way he played was probably one of the big factors in terms of the energy we took into our bowling. What he was able to do just gave everyone a bit of energy."

## Svitolina to donate prize money to help Ukraine's military, relief efforts

Reuters | London

Elina Svitolina said she will donate her prize money from WTA tournaments to Ukraine's military and to help with humanitarian efforts following Russia's invasion of her country last week.

The world number 15 told Eurosport her family and friends in Ukraine were defending the country and that she wanted to help.

"Really until the very last moment we did not believe that



Elina Svitolina

this war would actually start and then everything just happened at night ... Everyone is terrified, everyone is heartbroken," she said.

"My family is there. Lots of my friends who didn't leave the country are there. They're fighting for their life, some of them are fighting for our country. It takes a lot of courage and it's unbelievable that some people took weapons in their hands and went to fight for our land."

"The most painful thing I would say is I feel completely useless because I want to help them. I want to do something for them. Some of my friends are without electricity, without water, without food. They're

really struggling."

Ukraine's health ministry said on Sunday that 352 civilians, including 14 children, had been killed since the beginning of Russia's invasion. It also said that 1,684 people, including 116 children, had been wounded.

Russia calls its actions in Ukraine a "special operation" that it says is not designed to occupy territory but to destroy its southern neighbour's military capabilities and capture what it regards as dangerous nationalists.

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# Karters shine in tense sprint battles

Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa, Khaled Al Najjar, Mohammed Wally and Lewis Smith win Rotax MAX classes in series' fourth round at BIKC

● **Shaikh Ahmed's Micro MAX victory narrows gap atop championship standings with Yousif Alghaith in first place, while Al Najjar remains runaway leader in Mini MAX class**

● **Title race remains tight in Junior MAX category, currently led by Wally by just seven points over Luca Kane Houghton, whereas Najashi Rashdan is ahead of Smith in Senior MAX standings**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) hosted a thrilling fourth round in the 2022 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC) held last weekend, with Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa, Khaled Al Najjar, Mohammed Wally and Lewis Smith all taking the victory in their respective competition classes.

Shaikh Ahmed triumphed in the Micro MAX category, while Al Najjar won the Mini MAX. Wally claimed the Junior MAX win whereas Smith triumphed in the Senior MAX.

The weekend's racing took place along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA



The round's winners at their podium ceremony at BIKC

Track, as part of the season-long calendar of the Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship.

Shaikh Ahmed kicked things off in the meeting by capturing pole in his class with a best lap time of one minute 04.058 seconds in Qualifying. He then powered to a convincing win in the Pre-Final, before completing a dominant round by taking the chequered flag in the nine-lap Final with a time of 9:27.899—a comfortable 17.978s ahead of runner-up Yousif Alghaith. Mohammed Waleed completed the Micro MAX podium in third 22.761s back.

In the Mini MAX class, Al Najjar cruised to first place in all three sessions. He had a best lap of 1:00.851 in Qualifying, before taking the Pre-Final

and then winning the Final in 9:02.036, also over nine laps.

In the Junior MAX, Wally needed to overcome a tough challenge from his chief rivals with each session going down to a tight finish. Wally claimed pole for the Pre-Final by just 0.001s from Luca Kane Houghton with a best lap of 55.122s. Gracie Rose Grantham was also in close contention, going just 0.163s off the pace.

Wally went on to win the Pre-Final ahead of Houghton, who was given a five-second penalty which promoted Mohammed Alhasan to second and Grantham third. In the Final, Wally and Houghton powered to the front early on and held on to finish as the top two. Wally won the 15-lap sprint in 13:47.755,



**The Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge is a part of the Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship, and it now heads into the final three rounds of its 2022 season**

while Houghton followed 1.591s back as the runner-up. Alhasan joined them on the podium in third 1.822s back.

Shanthosh Kumar was fourth, Tye Mejia fifth and Vedant Menon sixth, while rounding off the final classification from seventh through 10th, respectively, were Grantham, Louis Safa El Nabulsi, Abdulqader Qasem and Musaad Albassam.

In the Senior MAX category, Smith was able to top a hotly contested Qualifying, in which the field of 13 drivers were separated by just 1.2s from first to last.

Smith finished the session in first with a time of 53.533s on the final classification, with his best lap time deleted for exceeding the track limit.

Shaikha Haya bint Duaij bin Salman Al Khalifa went on to claim first place in the Pre-Final 0.219s ahead of Abdul-

rahman Waleed. But then, in the Senior MAX Final, Smith was able to gain the advantage on lap three and he raced on to the finish from there to register a winning time of 13:35.473 over 15 laps. Rashdan was the runner-up 6.230s behind, while Ahmed Musalam came third 6.992s back.

Fahad Alkhaled, Abdulla Jaweed, Ahmed Alsaleh, Oliver Kruglov and Suliman Alkandari were fourth through eighth, while Yusuf Mathkooor was ninth on the final classification and Faisal Jamsheer 10th. Shaikha Haya, Waleed and Fahad Almuqla did not finish.

Following the weekend's events, the championship battles continued to heat up with only three rounds remaining in the BRMC.

Alghaith now only holds a six-point lead over Shaikh Ahmed in the Micro MAX title fight. Alghaith owns 121 points in first place followed by Shaikh Ahmed with 115. Al Najjar is the runaway leader in the Mini MAX class with 140 points.

The title race remained tight in the Junior MAX category, with Wally leading on 113 points followed by Houghton on 106. Grantham, Mejia and Alhasan are all still within striking distance, with Grantham on 89 points, Mejia on 84 and Alhasan on 83.

The Senior MAX championship standing is spearheaded by Rashdan with 118 points, as Smith follows on 93. Alkhaled and Shaikha Haya are on 77 and 74 points, respectively.

## Batelco Fitness on Track offers fun, physical activity at BIC



Participants in action at BIC

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) welcomes runners and cyclists tonight for a fun physical activity under the stars with the Batelco Fitness on Track.

This popular offering at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" gives participants a chance to maintain their health and wellbeing within a safe and controlled environment, either on foot or on a bicycle.

This evening's event is scheduled to be held between 6pm and 10pm under BIC's bright floodlights.

Those interested in taking part are advised to purchase their tickets in advance to avoid missing out. Past editions have sold out quickly and a similar turnout is expected this time.

Anyone wishing to participate must pre-register and pay in advance on bahraingp.com. The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Those under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

The running and cycling will take place on separate track layouts. Runners and walkers will be utilising the 2.550-kilometre Inner Track, while cyclists will be able to ride their bikes along BIC's 3.543-kilometre Outer circuit, with a dedicated area for children's cycling.

Additional facilities provided on site include food and beverage trucks available, as well as water stations.

For more information on Batelco Fitness on Track or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

## Formula 2's 22-driver field set for Bahrain pre-season tests

● **F2 and F3 pre-season testing to get underway tomorrow at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir**

TDT | Manama

The FIA Formula 2 Championship will have all its 22 drivers for 2022 take part in pre-season testing at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) this week.

This was announced by F2 yesterday. The tests are scheduled to get underway tomorrow and continue until Friday.

Among the top names set to take to the track are returning F2 drivers Theo Pourchaire of France, Juri Vips from Estonia, Jehan Daruvala of India and Felipe Drugovich from Brazil,

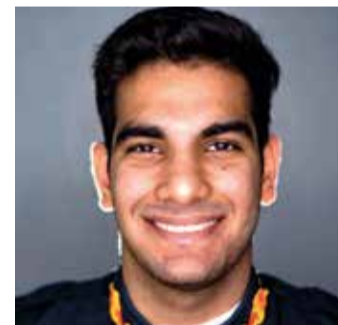


Theo Pourchaire

who were all in the top eight on the final drivers' championship standings last season.

Daruvala will be racing with defending champions Prema Racing, where he will be joined by last year's Formula 3 champion Dennis Hauger from Norway.

Pourchaire will be racing for ART Grand Prix along with Frederik Vesti, while Vips will be competing for Hitech Grand Prix alongside Marcus Armstrong. Drugovich is to suit up



Jehan Daruvala

for MP Motorsport with Clement Novalak.

Virtuosi Racing are set to field the pair of Jack Doohan and Marino Sato, Carlin will see Liam Lawson and Logan Sargeant in the cars, while Campos Racing will feature Olli Caldwell and Ralph Boschung.

The field is completed by Roy Nissany and Ayumu Iwasa for Dams, Richard Verschoor and Calan Williams for Trident, Enzo Fittipaldi and Cem Boluk-



Dennis Hauger

basi for Charouz Racing System, and Jake Hughes and Amaury Cordeel for Van Amersfoort Racing.

The F2 tests this week at BIC will be taking place simultaneously with testing for the FIA Formula 3 Championship.

Both series are preparing for their season-opening rounds, which will both be held supporting the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 taking place March 18 to 20.

## BRAVE CF announces Rain as official national kit sponsor for BICW

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation continues to empower sports in and out of Bahrain and is hosting a historic event with the upcoming Brave International Combat Week. The MMA Super Cup is the first-ever team vs team MMA competition and highest-paying competition for amateur mixed martial arts with tremendous cash prizes for the first three teams in



the world and will serve as the curtain-closer for the IMMAF season, as it selects the top-6 nations in the annual world ranking.

As the nation gets closer to the much-anticipated date, BRAVE Combat Federation is revealing new partnerships and collaborations, amongst

them is the announcement of BRAVE International Combat Week (BICW) Official National Team Kit Sponsors. The Bahrain-based Crypto Asset Brokerage firm Rain Management WLL ("Rain") has partnered with the BICW and will be the National Team Kit sponsor for the event. This means the Rain brand will be featured on Team Bahrain kit for the MMA Super Cup running from the 8th - 12th March.

"Under the guidance of HH

Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Brave has been able to reach international recognition and will continue to do so under his vision and leadership. Sponsoring home grown athletes across the world is a project we are excited to be involved with. Rain prides itself in supporting the Kingdom whenever it can, and we are proud to be part of this exciting journey" said Mohamed Ateeq, General Manager of Rain Management.