

Bahrainis kick off final days of preparations for Group E qualifiers | P12

Bahrain wins Global Innovation Award for Convention and Conference Centres



TDT | Frankfurt

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority and Exhibition World Bahrain won the 2021 Event-seum Hall of Fame Global Innovation Award for Convention and Conference Centres for the regions of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. The Kingdom also won the "New Construction" award in the IMEX 2022 exhibition held in Frankfurt, Germany.

Bahrain welcomes extension of truce in Yemen

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday welcomed an announcement by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Yemen, Hans Grundberg, to extend the truce in Yemen for two more months.

The Foreign Ministry appreciated the efforts of the Special Envoy and the Arab coalition to support legitimacy and the Yemeni parties in line with the initiative announced by Saudi Arabia in March 2021 to end the Yemeni crisis through a comprehensive peace settlement. Bahrain expressed hope that this initiative would contribute to ending the war and supporting a comprehensive and sustainable political solution to the Yemeni crisis.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

TOTAL TESTED 9858801

ACTIVE CASES 4224

DEATHS 1488

DISCHARGED 581149

NEW CASES 594

CRITICAL 5

220 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain committed to boosting Israeli ties

HRH Prince Salman hold talks with Israel's Ushpiz

Ushpiz is leading an Israeli delegation

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is committed to broadening its bilateral ties with Israel, said His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday.

His Royal Highness also expressed the Kingdom's interest in developing areas of cooperation to achieve shared goals and aspirations.

This came during talks with Alon Ushpiz, the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, at Riffa Palace.

Ushpiz is leading an Israeli delegation for the second bilateral steering committee meeting between the two countries. The first meeting took place in Israel last August.

During Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's visit in Feb-



HRH Prince Salman holding talks with Israel's Alon Ushpiz at Riffa Palace yesterday

ruary, both sides agreed on a 10-year bilateral plan on "The Joint Warm Peace Strategy" to guide relations. It prioritises innovation, food and water security, healthcare, trade and investment, and education.

During talks yesterday, HRH Prince Salman emphasised his commitment to broadening bilateral relations with Israel and

enhancing cooperation.

His Royal Highness highlighted the importance of redoubling the efforts by the international community for global peace, stability, and security.

They also discussed regional and international issues of common interest.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid

Bahrain is committed to broadening bilateral relations with the State of Israel and developing areas of cooperation to achieve shared goals and aspirations

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

Al-Zayani, and the Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, also attended the meeting.

Israel and Bahrain established full diplomatic relations in September 2020 as part of the US-brokered Abraham Accords, a series of diplomatic deals between the Jewish state and four Arab countries.

Joe Biden welcomes Yemen truce extension, notes Saudi Arabia's 'courageous leadership'



Reuters | Washington

US President Joe Biden welcomed the extension yesterday of a UN-brokered truce between Yemen's warring parties, and said Saudi Arabia had demonstrated "courageous leadership" by endorsing and implementing its terms.

"The last two months in Yemen, thanks to the truce brokered in April, have been among the most peaceful periods since this terrible war began seven years ago," Biden said in a statement.

Biden said Oman, Egypt and Jordan had played roles in enabling the truce process. "The United States will remain engaged in this process over the coming weeks and months" and is focused on deterring threats to its friends and partners, Biden added.

Health Ministry dismisses online reports; 'inmate suffering from Tuberculosis stable'

Staff Reporter TDT | Manama

Dismissing various online and social media reports that originated from abroad, the Health Ministry said an inmate at Jaw Prison diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB) is undergoing treatment and his condition is

stable. "It is the responsibility of the Health Ministry to take care of the health of inmates at various detention and rehabilitation facilities across the Kingdom," the Health Ministry said in a statement issued last evening.

"The condition of the inmate who has been diagnosed with

Medical checks are also performed on other inmates

Tuberculosis is stable and he is receiving required medical care," the ministry statement added.

The ministry added that medical checks are also performed

on other inmates, who are vulnerable or susceptible to TB infections to avoid the spread of the disease at the facility.

The ministry pointed out that all regular medical procedures and protocols have been maintained for the inmates in the Kingdom with an aim to ensure their absolute health status.

Kingdom stands fifth in green energy increase



P3

Platinum Jubilee

Queen Elizabeth celebrates 70 years on the British throne

Reuters | London

A beaming Queen Elizabeth waved to cheering crowds massed outside Buckingham Palace yesterday as Britain kicked off four days of pomp, parties and parades to celebrate her record-breaking 70 years on the British throne.

Tens of thousands of royal supporters waving flags lined the streets of London for a military parade that marked the start of Platinum Jubilee events.

Millions of people across Britain and the world were expected to join street parties, watch



Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Anne, Princess Royal, Prince Charles, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, along with Princess Charlotte, Prince George and Prince Louis appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace

the festivities and light beacons in honour of the 96-year-old queen.

Elizabeth was joined by her son and heir Prince Charles, 73, and other senior royals on the

balcony of Buckingham Palace. Elizabeth is the third-longest reigning monarch ever of a sov-

ereign state. "Thank you to everyone who has been involved in convening communities, families, neighbours and friends to mark my Platinum Jubilee, in the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth," she said in a statement as the festivities got under way.

"I continue to be inspired by the goodwill shown to me, and hope that the coming days will provide an opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved during the last 70 years, as we look to the future with confidence and enthusiasm."

**HRH Prince Salman meets Donegan**

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister, yesterday met with Retd. Vice Admiral Kevin M. Donegan, at Riffa Palace. His Royal Highness highlighted that the historic relations between Bahrain and the United States of America, have contributed to the continual broadening of cooperation in areas of common interest and forging mutually beneficial collaboration. His Royal Highness noted the importance of further strengthening bilateral ties to achieve shared goals and cementing the strong bond between the two countries and their peoples. For his part, Retd. Vice Admiral Donegan expressed his thanks and appreciation for His Royal Highness's commitment to deepening cooperation between Bahrain and United States and wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

**HM King thanked by Saudi King Salman**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received a cable of thanks from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in reply to congratulations on his successful medical check-ups. King Salman thanked HM the King wishing him abundant health and happiness and Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity.



The Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, yesterday received Deputy Commander of US Central Command, Vice Admiral James Malloy, and his accompanying delegation, in the presence of Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Abdulla bin Hassan Al-Nuaimi. They reviewed the steadily-growing Bahrain-US relations of friendship and cooperation, as well as ways to further bolster them, especially regarding military coordination and defence cooperation

**Bahrain working to help end crisis in Yemen, says Speaker**

TDT | Manama

Parliament Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal yesterday affirmed the keenness of Bahrain, under the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on the security and stability of Yemen.

During talks with a Yemeni parliamentary delegation headed by the Chairman of the Shura Council, Dr Ahmed Abid bin Dagher Zainal, said Bahrain is working closely with regional and international partners to end the Yemeni crisis through diplomatic means.



Speaker with Yemeni Parliamentary delegates

“Such a comprehensive political solution will achieve peace, development and prosperity for Yemen and its people, under the

constitution, the GCC initiative and its executive mechanism,” she said.

The Yemeni Chairman hailed Bahrain's stances and support of Yemen and its interest in its security, stability and development.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation, the latest political and security developments in Yemen, the efforts exerted within the framework of the United Nations endeavours to reach a political solution, the latest developments in the Arab world and matters of shared interest.

**Transportation Ministry wins World Summit on the Information Society Forum award**

Minister receiving the award

TDT | Geneva

Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal bin Ahmed Mohamed participated in the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022.

Bahrain, represented by the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, won the World Summit on the Information Society 2021 (WSIS) award held by the United Nations and the International

Telecommunication Union.

The ministry participated with the electronic ‘Nawras’ system for issuing aircraft permits, the winning project in the electronic environment category. The Information and e-Government Authority was honoured for the Digital Policies Project and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development for the Digital Employment project for reaching the final stages within the distinguished projects of 2022.

**Bahrain and Israel hold second joint coordination committee**

TDT | Manama

The Joint Coordination Committee between Bahrain and Israel held its second meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Manama.

Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, headed the Bahraini side as Alon Ushpiz, the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, led the Israeli side.

Khaled Yousef Al-Jalahma, Ambassador of Bahrain to Israel, Ambassador Nancy Abdullah



Dr Shaikh Abdullah and Alon Ushpiz

Jamal, Head of the Strategic Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Eitan Nai, the Ambassador of Israel to Bah-

rain, and the accompanying delegation, were present.

The meeting reviewed the cooperation between the two countries and ways to enhance them in political, economic, social and environmental fields according to the Declaration of Support for Peace, the Warm Peace Strategy, and the activation of bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding.

Alon Ushpiz thanked Bahrain for promoting peace and coexistence among the peoples of different cultures, religions and civilizations, wishing the Kingdom and its people continued security, progress and prosperity.

**‘European Film Nights’ concludes**

TDT | Manama

The first ever “European Film Nights” event in Bahrain concluded with great success on the evening of the 29th of May at the Bahrain National Museum Auditorium.

It was co-organised by the European Union Delegation, the French Embassy and the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, with the support of the Embassies of Germany and Italy in Manama.

This series of film nights began on Thursday 26th of May with a night dedicated to short films, focused on the climate crisis followed by a discussion hosted by the Bahrain Cinema Club, on the messages and the artistic approaches of the creators.

On Friday 27th of May, “Im feuër” a film co-produced by filmmakers in Germany and Greece was screened while on Saturday 28th of May the movie “San Remo” was the product of a cooperation between artists in Italy and Slovenia.

On 29th of May, the French movie “Les parfums” was followed by a reception at the premises of the Bahrain National Museum.

The EU Ambassador to Bahrain, Patrick Simonnet said that “the success of this first attempt has made us already thinking of turning this into an annual event and we are optimistic that next year we will be able to bring a great event to the cinephiles of Bahrain, because we feel that we can rely on the support of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, which I would like to thank for

all their professionalism and dedicated work”.

The Deputy Head of Mission and Cultural Counsellor of the French Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Emmanuel Mayer, was honoured to introduce the French movie “Les Parfums”.

He highlighted that “the “European Film Nights” permitted to showcase the high quality and diversity of the European Cinema industry, offering different kinds of movies dealing with a wide range of themes”.

The relations between the people of Europe and Bahrain go back in history and this event is a tangible outcome of the ongoing cultural dialogue between the European Union and its member states with the authorities and the society of Bahrain.



Information Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al Romaihi yesterday received Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Piyush Srivastava. The Indian ambassador thanked the minister Ali bin Mohammed Al Romaihi for his interest in Bahrain-Indian relations and stressed his country's keenness on expanding cooperation with the Kingdom. The meeting reviewed ways to enhance media cooperation between Bahrain and India. They also reviewed issues of common interest.

# Bahrain stands fifth in green energy increase

Kingdom's use of green energy grew by 900pc in last ten years

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

A new study has revealed that Bahrain has seen the fifth-greatest increase in renewable capacity since 2011.

The Kingdom's use of renewable energy has grown by 900 per cent during the past ten years.

The study by *Compare the Market Australia* analysed each developed country's renewable energy capacity between 2011 and 2020, to reveal the countries with the greatest overall increases.

The nation that has seen its use of renewable energy increases the most in the United Arab Emirates, where renewable capacity has grown by almost 20,000 per cent over the last decade.

The UAE has traditionally relied on its plentiful supplies of oil but has recently made a big effort to shift away from fossil fuels, although just 7.2pc of the country's energy needs are met by renewable means.

Saudi Arabia ranks second, another country that has had a strong reliance on oil for its energy needs. Saudi Arabia however has been pushing towards more renewable alternatives with an increase of over 13,000pc in the last ten years.

The Caribbean country of Barbados comes in third place, having increased its renewable energy capacity by 4,900pc. Barbados is followed by Malta in fourth place, which saw a rise of 2,262.5 per cent.

The Kingdom, whose use of renewable energy has grown by 900 per cent during the past ten



Dr Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza visiting a renewable energy project at the Avenues Complex in Manama (file)



A solar energy project in the Kingdom (file)

years, is in fifth place on the list.

Norway tops the list of countries relying on green energy the most. "Looking specifically at the countries where renewable energy makes up the greatest share of total electricity capacity, Norway comes out on top with 97.4pc," the study says.

"The country produced 33,003 MW of hydroelectric power in 2020, but also makes use of wind, solar, and bioenergy too."

Dr Khaled Fahad Alalawi, As-

stant Undersecretary of Industrial Development within the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, was earlier quoted by The Daily Tribune, urging the Kingdom's industrial sector to take the green route.

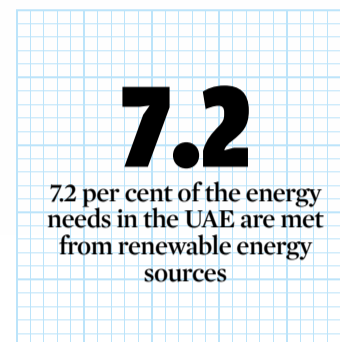
"One of the primary pillars of the industrial plan 2022-2026 is to support the sector's transformation to Industry 4.0, as well

as the implementation of the concept of the circular economy along with environmental and social governance.

"This strategy focuses on a variety of industries that offer opportunities for growth and prosperity, particularly manufacturing in the aluminium and petrochemical sectors, as well as clean industries such as renewable energy, green and blue hydrogen, which will help the Kingdom achieve its objective of Net-Zero Carbon by 2060."

"The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism, in collaboration with other stakeholders, is encouraging industrial companies to adopt environmentally friendly technology as one of the best methodologies in the industrial sector and a tool to reduce costs and increase competitiveness, as well as to ensure the efficiency of resource use, particularly water and energy. The industrial sector has a role to play in the gradual transition to a green economy focused on sustainable growth."

The Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) has already unveiled a plan to establish a green hydrogen plant.



Earlier in January this year, Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) President Dr Abdulhussain Mirza discussed the project with a high-level delegation from Al Judy Company, led by Chairman Ibrahim Ali.

Dr Mirza outlined the SEA initiatives and projects for 2022, including a plan to benefit from the green hydrogen. The delegation gave an overview of its plan to

establish a 4-Megawatt plant for the production of green hydrogen – a first in the Arabian Gulf region.

The company which holds a patent registered in Germany has also been conferred the gold medal for best invention, according to SEA.

The factory will be established according to the highest level of international standards in the construction and operational stage. The project will be built in its first phase on land with a total area of 20,000 square metres and an estimated cost of \$150 million.



## Damaging rented cars: Court orders father-son duo to pay around BD3,000

TDT | Manama

Mishandling and damaging rented cars landed a father and son in hot waters, whom the Court said should pay the car company nearly BD3,000 against repair costs and to settle unpaid traffic tickets.

Owners of the car company, who sued the father-son duo, also told the Court that a cheque paid by one of the defendants also got bounced when produced for collection.

The father-son duo also failed to defend the accusations levelled against them or attend the court proceeding.

Accepting the evidence filed



Representative picture

by the car company, the Court ordered the father and son to pay BD2,887 to the rent-a-car

company. Incidents leading to the case started with the father and son

signing a long-term lease agreement for two cars owned by the company.

However, the Court files say the duo failed to honour the agreement and amassed dues for up to three months or BD1,800.

The company also found that the vehicles had sustained several damages, which an expert evaluator said would cost the company BD1,087.

The father, reportedly, agreed to shoulder the repair costs and gave the company a cheque for BD280.

The company, however, told the Court that the cheque got bounced when produced for collection, forcing them to approach the court.

Passing the verdict, the Court ruled that the cheque issued by the first defendant and a bank

certificate show that the defendant's account didn't have sufficient funds.

The Court also found that the duo received the cars and pledged to shoulder responsibility for the damages caused to the vehicles and pay for their traffic violations. "The statements had their signs," the Court said.

"But the pair failed to come to the Court for the entire length of the hearing and defend the accusations levelled against them, while the plaintiff produced enough documents to prove their case."

"As a result, the Court orders the defendants to pay BD2877 to the company," the ruling said.

# Planting Marijuana: Appeals Court reduces jail term of Bahraini man by five years to 10

● The man, who pleaded not guilty, told the court that he had no knowledge of the marijuana and that what he planted were fruits and vegetables

TDT | Manama

Planting marijuana in his house has landed a Bahraini man behind bars for 15 years, but an appeal court yesterday said it is cutting down the sentence by five years.



This means the man will now spend ten years of his life in jail instead of 15 years. However, the appeals court confirmed that the defendant should pay a BD10,000 fine slapped on him in an earlier court decision.

Interestingly, the man, who pleaded not guilty, told the court that he had no knowledge of the marijuana and that what he planted were fruits and vegetables.

Court files say police arrested the suspect following a tip-off received.

The information said that a

Representative picture

group of men have stashed away drugs in the Kingdom and are peddling them on the street.

Officers working on the tip-off found that the suspected man had stored a good quantity of drugs for selling them.

Law enforcement authorities also obtained a warrant to search his home and retrieved several devices and tools for growing marijuana seeds from his room.

However, during interrogation, the suspect said all he did was plant fruits and vegetable seeds.

Public prosecution charged the man with planting drugs and possessing marijuana to sell it.

# That's not an accident; the viral video is fake!

TDT | Manama

No, that is not an accident! The viral video, which generated thousands of views, is not what it appears to be, as confirmed by the General Traffic Department.

Of course, the footage is genuine, but what is fake is what it claims.

Officials said this after investigating a viral video claiming to show a differently-abled man who sustained injuries in a traffic accident.



**The person sustained an injury due to a fall while walking on the road. The incident has nothing to do with any traffic accident**

GENERAL TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT



The video further claims that the driver of the car, who caused the accident, abandoned the victim without taking care of him.

The video also shows the hapless man sitting on the road

pleading for help.

"After investigation and visiting the injured person in the hospital, the department found that the incident was not true," the statement said.

The video claims that the driver of the car, who caused the accident, abandoned the victim without taking care of him

The statement also clarified that the man sustained injuries from a fall, not from an accident as claimed in the video.

"The person sustained an injury due to a fall while walking on the road," the statement said.

"The incident has nothing to do with any traffic accident," confirmed the officials.

## Illegal cabins removed



TDT | Manama

The Northern Governorate Police Directorate, in cooperation and coordination with the Northern Region Municipality, implemented a joint campaign to remove the illegal cabins in the Northern Governorate.

Brigadier General Issa Hassan Al-Qattan, the Director-General of the Northern Governorate Police Directorate, confirmed the campaigns follow periodic security surveys, statistics and other reports.



This campaign comes to control random stands and booths throughout the governorate and notify the violators of their removal from vital sites, streets and places in cooperation with the relevant authorities, said the Northern Governorate Police Directorate.

# Apartment roof collapse: Housing ministry reassures residents of affected apartments

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Housing said it had reassured the residents of an apartment in Isa Town, where its roof collapsed partly, necessary assistance to evacuate the building.

The ministry said it contacted the residents in Block 815 in Isa Town soon after receiving a roof collapse report.

"We offered necessary assistance to all residents to vacate the building to ensure their safety," the ministry said.

The apartment in question, the ministry said, was slated for demolition, and they had begun eviction procedures as part of a plan to tear down several temporary apartment buildings.

The roof collapsed build-

## Woman injured in Isa town roof collapse at SMC

TDT | Manama

A woman who sustained injuries in the roof collapse accident at Isa Town is undergoing treatment at the Salmaniya Medical Complex, confirmed Government Hospitals in a statement.

Rescue workers rushed the woman to the hospital in the National Ambulance.

She is now taken care of at the SMC Accident and Emer-



gency Department.

Her injuries are minor, and the woman is now stable.

The hospital statement said the woman got injured when the ceiling of one of the temporary housing apartments in Complex 815 in Isa Town collapsed.

Governmental hospitals said a medical team is working to provide necessary care for her.

ing was constructed back in the eighties, and its condition now poses a threat to its residents.

"The greater majority of the residents have already responded to the ministry's eviction request to benefit from the alternative solutions provided by the government."

"Eviction decision came after a technical evaluation of the building, which proved the futility of maintenance jobs."

The Ministry of Housing said it had developed an accelerated programme to demolish these buildings and establish new-generation-buildings to create more than 7000 housing units. According to an earlier report, the tenants of the derelict buildings have several

alternatives, including a BD200 allowance to take up another accommodation. The plan targets old buildings constructed at least 45 years ago.

The ministry said it had taken care of the concerns of all the citizens scheduled for eviction three months ago, and only a small number of residents had refused the eviction notice.

"All the measures and attempts made years ago to vacate the apartments were to avoid such incidents and preserve the safety of the residents."

The Ministry of Housing also called upon the remaining residents of the apartment to cooperate with the authority, especially in light of the flexible solutions and alternatives offered.

# OPEC+ brings forward oil output rises as Biden's Saudi visit looms

● OPEC brings forward oil output rises to July-Aug from July-Sept

● Faster output rises may compensate for lower Russian production

● US diplomats have been working on Biden's Saudi visit

● Biden faces inflation at 40-year high, low ratings

Reuters | Dubai/London/Riyadh

Saudi Arabia and other OPEC+ states agreed to bring forward oil production rises to offset Russian output losses to ease surging oil prices and inflation and smooth the way for an ice-breaking visit to Riyadh by US President Joe Biden.



Oil barrels are pictured at the site of Canadian group Vermilion Energy in Parentis-en-Born, France

OPEC+ said it had agreed to boost output by 648,000 barrels per day (bpd) in July - or 0.7% of global demand - and a similar amount in August versus the initial plan to add 432,000 bpd a month over three months until September.

Oil rose on the news towards

\$117 a barrel as analysts said the real production boost will be insignificant as most OPEC members except for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are already pumping at capacity. Earlier this year, oil came close to an all-time peak of \$147 hit in 2008. OPEC+, an alliance of the Or-

ganization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producing nations, includes Russia, whose output has fallen by about 1 million bpd following Western sanctions on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

US diplomats have worked for weeks on organising Biden's first visit to Riyadh.

With the Ukraine war adding to a tight crude market, the US administration has sought more supplies from Gulf allies such as Saudi Arabia, as well as from Iran whose output has been restricted by US sanctions that could be lifted if a nuclear deal is reached, and Venezuela, also under US sanctions.

**BIDEN'S APPROVAL RATINGS**  
Rocketing gasoline prices have driven US inflation to a 40-year high, hitting Biden's approval ratings as he approaches mid-term elections.

A source briefed on the matter said Washington wanted clarity on oil output plans before a potential Biden visit for a summit with Gulf Arab leaders, including MbS, in Riyadh.

The White House said it wel-

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Brent futures rose \$1.16, or 1%, to \$117.45 a barrel by 12:06 p.m. EDT (1606 GMT), while US est Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose \$1.51, or 1.3%, to \$116.77.

**The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia, known as OPEC+, agreed to raise output by 648,000 barrels per day (bpd) in July and 648,000 bpd in August**

comed Thursday's decision and recognised the role of Saudi Arabia in achieving OPEC+ consensus.

Western sanctions could reduce production from Russia, the world's second largest oil exporter, by as much as 2 million to 3 m bpd, according to a range

of industry estimates.

Russia was already producing below its OPEC+ target of 10.44 m bpd in April with output running at about 9.3 m bpd.

A Western diplomat said Russia might be ready to agree to other members of OPEC+ to fill a gap in its output to preserve unity in the group and maintain support from the Gulf, which has tended to take a neutral stance over the Ukraine war.

OPEC+ agreed to cut output by a record amount in 2020 when the pandemic hammered demand. By September, when the deal expires, the group will have limited spare capacity to lift output further.

Saudi Arabia is producing 10.5 m bpd and has rarely tested sustained production levels above 11 m bpd. Riyadh says it is working on boosting its nameplate capacity to 13.4 m bpd from the current 12.4 m by 2027.

The only other OPEC state with significant ability to produce more oil is the UAE, although OPEC is estimated to have less than 2 million bpd of spare capacity in total.

## Tamkeen backs first aluminium grain refiner project in the Gulf

TDI | Manama

The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" announced that it has enhanced its cooperation with the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) to attract direct investment opportunities.

Tamkeen signed an agreement with the first aluminium grain refiner in the GCC "Aleastur," as part of a Tamkeen programme which focuses on attracting quality investments to the Kingdom.

Aleastur, one of the most reputable Spanish factory chains, is located in 11 countries around the world and is responsible for producing high-quality aluminium alloys with multiple uses in various industries. In addition, the company has held strong ties with over 800 international enterprises since 1974.

The Bahrain factory is the first in the Gulf region and will contribute to meeting the growing regional and global demand for high quality aluminium products, with the potential to reach an estimated export rate



The deal signing

of 87%.

Husain Mohamed Rajab, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen", praised the joint efforts of the Ministry of Industry Commerce and Tourism, Tamkeen, Mumtalakat, the Bahrain EDB, ALBA and the other institutions forming Team Bahrain that contributed to the implementation and success of

this project.

Aleastur Group CEO Sergio Martínez said: "Bahrain holds many great attributes which contributed to our decision to make Bahrain headquarters of the Aleastur plant in the region, including its strategic location at the heart of the Gulf, highly skilled local talent and the availability of a number of trade



Aleastur, one of the most reputable Spanish factory chains, is located in 11 countries around the world and is responsible for producing high-quality aluminium alloys with multiple uses in various industries.

agreements."

Tamkeen has supported 3,967 enterprises in the manufacturing industry by providing various solutions in the form of financial grants to purchase machinery and equipment, marketing, and branding, as well as international quality assurance certificates, in addition to providing financing support through partnering with several local banks. Tamkeen was also able to support 7,696 training courses within this industry.

## Gulf Air launches direct flights to Manchester, Nice



Gulf Air launches direct flights to Manchester

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's national carrier Gulf Air launched its direct flights to Manchester with two weekly flights.

"We are delighted to announce the launch of our Bahrain-Manchester direct route as part of the historic official and commercial relations between the two Kingdoms," Gulf Air Acting Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed AlAlawi said.

Gulf Air will be operating a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner air-

craft on its new route, with two weekly flights on Sunday and Wednesday.

Separately, the airline said it also launched direct flights to Nice on the Cote d'Azur on Thursday.

"It is very exciting for the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain to reach further places and connect multiple cities in the East and the West to its hub in Bahrain," AlAlawi said.

Gulf Air will be operating its Airbus 321neo aircraft on its new route, with two weekly flights to Nice via Milan.

## Members of Bahrain-Japan Business and Friendship Society visit DANAT

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain-Japan Business and Friendship Society (BJBFS) organised a visit tour to Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstone (DANAT) in Bahrain World Trade Centre on 30th May 2022 to learn about pearls, gemstone and diamonds.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors - DANAT Mr Yaser Abduljalil Alsharifi delivered his welcome address followed by DANAT CEO Ms Noora Jamsheer who gave an introductory talk about DANAT and the history of



The event was attended by Japanese Embassy officials, board members as well as members and friends of the society.

pearling in Bahrain.

An explanation was given by the DANAT team Mr Ali Al Atawi, Dr Reem Al Mealla, Mr Ziad Khaled, coordinated by Ms Layal Bushehri.

Japanese Ambassador Mr Miyamoto Masayuki and BJBFS President Mr Nasser Al Arayedh expressed their admiration and appreciation over DANAT accomplishments.

The event was attended by Japanese Embassy officials, board members as well as members and friends of the society.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

ZEAL IS A VOLCANO, THE PEAK OF WHICH THE GRASS OF INDECISIVENESS DOES NOT GROW  
KHALIL GIBRAN

News in brief

**South Korea's ruling party cements presidential win with local vote success**

◆ South Korean President  
Yoon Suk-yeol's ruling party emerged victorious in local elections, vote counts showed yesterday, giving a boost to him and his plan to steer the economy into recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. Tens of millions of South Koreans went to the polls on Wednesday to elect 17 metropolitan and provincial chiefs, as well as seven members of the national assembly. Yoon's People Power Party (PPP) cemented its power in important regions in what was seen as an early test of the president who took office last month after winning a March election by a margin of just 0.7%.

**Tunisia's president sacked 57 judges on Wednesday, accusing them of corruption and protecting terrorists in a purge of the judiciary that comes as he seeks to remake the political system after consolidating one-man rule.**

◆ Tunisia's President Kais Saied said he had "given opportunity after opportunity and warning after warning to the judiciary to purify itself". Hours later the official gazette published a decree announcing the dismissals. Among those sacked was Youssef Bouzaker, the former head of the Supreme Judicial Council whose members Saied replaced this year as he moved to take control of the judiciary..

**Canada says Chinese warplanes harassed its patrol aircraft on North Korea sanctions mission**

◆ Canada's military has accused Chinese warplanes of harassing its patrol aircraft as they monitor North Korea sanction evasions, sometimes forcing Canadian planes to divert from their flight paths. On several occasions from April 26 to May 26, aircraft of the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) approached a Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft, the Canadian Armed Forces said in a statement on Wednesday.

**Flights in Nepal will be cleared to fly only if there is favourable weather forecast throughout their route, according to new regulations announced in the wake of a recent crash that killed 22 people, officials said yesterday.**

◆ Nepal tightens flight rules after crash that killed 22. Aviation companies have raised concerns about how to implement the new regulations, citing the country's limited weather forecasting infrastructure. Authorities say flight permits will now only be issued after the aircraft's operator submits a flight plan with weather information for the destination and the entire route of the flight, according to a Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal notice issued on Tuesday.

**Twelve arrested after climate activists disrupt Queen Elizabeth's military parade**

Reuters | London

Climate change protesters caused a disturbance at a military parade in London at the start of celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee yesterday, running out in front of marching soldiers before they were arrested.

The activists ran out from behind barriers where tens of thousands of people had gathered on The Mall, the grand boulevard that leads to Buck-



Police officers detain a protester who tried to disrupt the ceremony in front of a marching band, television footage showed.

**Queen Elizabeth used to take part in the parade herself on horseback until 1986 - five years after a man had fired six blank shots at her as she rode by, managing to control her startled horse in the process. She was unharmed and the man was arrested**

ingham Palace, and lay down in front of a marching band, television footage showed.

One of the people appeared to hold up a banner, before police dragged the protesters away. One of the protesters wore a gold crown on his head.

"Today we have made 12 arrests for obstruction of the highway. This follows an incident this morning where people attempted to enter the ceremo-

nial route on The Mall," police said on Twitter.

"Thank you to the crowd who showed their support by clapping our officers who returned to their post after dealing with the incident swiftly."

The Animal Rebellion group, which says it uses "non-violent civil disobedience to help the transition to a plant-based food system", said its activists were involved.

**Ukraine's Zelenskiy eyes 'inflection point' as Russia tightens grip on key target**

Reuters | Kyiv

Russia tightened its grip on a key target in a battle for control of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region while President Volodymyr Zelenskiy pleaded for more Western arms to help Ukraine reach a battlefield "inflection point" and prevail in the war.

Zelenskiy told Luxembourg's parliament via videolink yesterday that Russian forces now occupied about a fifth Ukrainian territory, with battle lines now stretching more than 1,000 km (620 miles).

As the invasion heads for its 100th day on Friday, Russia says Washington is adding "fuel to the fire" with a new \$700 million weapons package for Ukraine that will include advanced rocket systems with a range of up to 80 km.

But separately addressing a forum in Slovakia, Zelenskiy called for more weapons supplies to "ensure an inflection point in this confrontation," in Ukraine's favour.

U.S. President Joe Biden hopes extending Ukraine's artillery reach will help push Moscow to negotiate an end to a war in which thousands have been killed, cities and towns flattened and more than 6 million people forced to flee the country.

His administration said it had Ukraine's assurances it would not use the rocket systems to hit targets inside Russia.

"Ukraine is fighting an exclusively defensive war, and we always state this," the country's deputy defence minister Hanna Malyar told a briefing, when asked whether Kyiv made such a promise.

While Moscow denies targeting civilians it says it regards Ukrainian infrastructure transport used to bring in Western arms as a legitimate target. But it downplayed the effect those supplies will have on what it



A view shows a military vehicle destroyed during Ukraine-Russia conflict in the town of Rubizhne in the Luhansk region

**Ukraine needs weapons to liberate Ukrainian territory that Russia has temporarily occupied. We are not fighting on Russian territory, we are interested in our sovereignty and territorial integrity**

ANDRIY YERMAK, ZELENSKIY'S CHIEF OF STAFF

calls its "special military operation" to disarm Ukraine and rid it of ultra-nationalists the Kremlin says threaten Russian security.

"Pumping (Western) weapons into Ukraine does not change all the parameters of the special operation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Its goals will be achieved, but this will bring more suffering to Ukraine," Peskov said in response to a question whether U.S. plans to sell Ukraine drones that can be armed with missiles could change the nature of the conflict.

Four Russian missiles hit railway infrastructure targets in two places in the western Lviv region bordering Poland late on Wednesday, injuring five

people and causing significant damage, its governor said yesterday.

**Donbas city in focus**

Russian forces, backed by heavy artillery, control most of the eastern industrial city of Sievierodonetsk - now largely in ruins - after days of fierce fighting in which they have taken losses, Britain's defence ministry said in its daily intelligence report.

Ukraine's armed forces general staff said that besides its assault on the city, Russian troops were also attacking other parts of the east and northeast.

The capture of Sievierodonetsk and its smaller twin Lysychansk would give Russian forces control of all of Luhansk, one of two provinces along with Donetsk in the Donbas claimed by Moscow on behalf of separatists.

Seizing Luhansk would fulfil one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's stated aims and further shift battlefield momentum in Russia's favour after its forces were pushed back from the capital Kyiv and from northern Ukraine.

Moscow's forces were also attempting to advance south towards the Ukraine-held cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, in Donetsk province, provincial governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

**Oklahoma target**

Authorities identify g

**Shooter also dead, apparently from a self-inflicted wound**

AP | Tulsa

A man who blamed his surgeon for ongoing pain after a recent back surgery bought an AR-style rifle hours before opening fire at a Tulsa medical office, killing the surgeon and three other people before fatally shooting himself, police said yesterday.

Tulsa Police Chief Wendell Franklin says the gunman had recently undergone back surgery and had called a clinic repeatedly complaining of pain.

Franklin says the doctor who performed the surgery, Dr. Preston Phillips, was killed Wednesday, along with another doctor, a receptionist and a patient.

"We also have a letter on the suspect, which made it clear that he came in with the intent to kill Dr. Phillips and anyone who got in his way," Franklin said. "He blamed Dr. Phillips for the ongoing pain following the surgery."

Dr. Cliff Robertson, president and CEO of Saint Francis Health System, called Phillips "the consummate gentleman" and "a man that we should all strive to emu-

**Afghan Taliban launch**

AP | Kabul

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have begun a campaign to eradicate poppy cultivation, aiming to wipe out the country's massive production of opium and heroin, even as farmers fear their livelihoods will be ruined at a time of growing poverty.

On a recent day in Washir district in southern Helmand province, armed Taliban fighters stood guard as a tractor tore up a field of poppies. The field's owner stood nearby, watching.

The Taliban, who took power in Afghanistan more than nine months ago, issued an edict in early April banning poppy cultivation throughout the country.

Those violating the ban "will be arrested and tried according to Sharia laws in relevant courts," the Taliban deputy interior minister for counternarcotics, Mullah Abdul Haq Akhund, told The Associated Press in Helmand's provincial capital, Lashkar Gah.

Afghanistan is the world's biggest opium producer and a major source for heroin in Europe and Asia. Production spiralled over the past 20 years despite billions of dollars spent by the US trying to stop poppy cultivation.

But the ban will likely strike a heavy blow to millions of impoverished farmers and day laborers who rely on proceeds from the crop to survive. The ban comes

**COVID-19: Countries worst affected**

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	86,146,955	1,032,410
2 India	43,165,738	524,641
3 Brazil	31,060,017	666,848
4 France	29,570,762	148,426
5 Germany	26,461,808	139,604
6 UK	22,305,893	178,749
7 Russia	18,339,776	379,285
8 S. Korea	18,129,313	24,212
9 Italy	17,457,950	166,835
10 Turkey	15,072,747	98,965
11 Spain	12,360,256	106,493
12 Vietnam	10,720,426	43,079
13 Argentina	9,230,573	128,889
14 Japan	8,872,937	30,653

Global tally

533,786,925

Deaths

6,316,510

Recovered:

504,728,180

New cases

+381,477

New deaths

+823

Figures as of closing

**Middle East**

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	769,423	+775	9,151	+2	753,407	6,865
UAE	909,222	+575	2,305		892,687	14,230
Kuwait	633,225		2,555		630,034	636
Oman	389,473		4,260		384,669	544
Qatar	369,305	+256	677		366,902	1,726

1083

Henry IV of Germany storms Rome, capturing St Peter's Cathedral



1929

Chile and Peru sign the Treaty of Lima, finally resolving their border dispute from the War of the Pacific (1879-83). Chile keeps Arica and Peru regains Tacna

1943

A mob of 60 from the Los Angeles Naval Reserve Armory beat up everyone perceived to be Hispanic, starting the week-long Zoot Suit Riots

1979

Ixtoc I rig in the Gulf of Mexico blows, spilling 3 million barrels of oil in one of the worst oil spills in history

# Tulsa gunman who killed four targeted surgeon who treated him

Gunman, saying he was targeting doctor he blamed for back pain he felt after surgery



Media gather as Tulsa police and firefighters respond to a shooting at the Natalie Medical Building

late." He said the three employees who were killed were "the three best people in the entire world" and that they "didn't deserve to die this way."

Authorities said the gunman carried a rifle and handgun during the shooting at the medical building on a hospital campus, the latest in a series of deadly mass shootings across the country in recent weeks.

Wednesday's shooting on the campus of Saint Francis Health System happened the same week that families in Uvalde, Texas, began burying the dead from the deadliest school shooting in nearly a decade.

The victims and gunman in Tulsa were found on the second

floor of a medical office where an orthopedic clinic is located, police said. The shooter died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, Tulsa Police Department Deputy Chief Eric Dalgleish said.

All appointments at the orthopedic clinic were canceled through Friday.

The spate of recent gun violence across the country, including the killing of 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde by an 18-year-old gunman carrying an AR-style semi-automatic rifle, has led to Democratic leaders amplifying their calls for greater restrictions on guns, while Republicans are emphasizing more security at schools.

**"This campus is sacred ground for our community. For decades, this campus has been a place where heroes come to work every day to save the lives of people in our community. Right now, my thoughts are with the victims. If we want to have a policy discussion, that is something to be had in the future, but not tonight"**

TULSA MAYOR GT BYNUM

The divide mirrors a partisan split that has stymied action in Congress and many state capitols over how best to respond to a record-high number of gun-related deaths in the U.S.

Authorities investigating the Tulsa shooting executed a search warrant at a home in Muskogee, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) southeast of Tulsa, in connection with the investigation, police said.

"It appears both weapons at one point or another were fired on the scene," Dalgleish said. "The officers who arrived were hearing shots in the building, and that's what led them to the second floor."

**76**  
people have been killed in 12 mass shootings in the US since January

Police responded to the call about three minutes after dispatchers received the report at 4:52 p.m. and made contact with the gunman at 5:01 p.m., Dalgleish said.

"I was very happy with what we know so far regarding the response of our officers," Dalgleish said.

The length of time it took police officers in Uvalde to engage the gunman during last week's deadly school shooting in Texas has become a key focus of that investigation. Officers waited over an hour to breach the classroom where the gunman attacked.

Tulsa Police Capt. Richard Meulenberg also said multiple people were wounded and that the medical complex was a "catastrophic scene."

St. Francis Health System locked down its campus Wednesday afternoon because of the

situation at the Natalie Medical Building, which houses outpatient clinics and other medical offices.

"This campus is sacred ground for our community," said Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum. "For decades, this campus has been a place where heroes come to work every day to save the lives of people in our community."

Bynum added: "Right now, my thoughts are with the victims. If we want to have a policy discussion, that is something to be had in the future, but not tonight."

Philip Tankersley, 27, was leaving his father's room at nearby Saint Francis Hospital around 5 p.m., when hospital staff said there was an active shooter in the building across the street, locked the doors and warned them to stay away from the windows.

Tankersley said he and his mother sheltered in his father's hospital room for more than an hour, trying to learn scraps of information from the TV news and passing nurses. He said they heard "code silver" and "level 1 trauma" announced on the hospital speakers and wondered if they were safe in the room.

"I wasn't particularly worried because the two people that I need to look out for were in that same room as me," he said. "But it was definitely a 'this is happening here' moment."

## Taliban campaign to eradicate poppy crop



Taliban eradicate a poppy field in Washir, district of Helmand province

funding in the wake of the Taliban takeover. Most of the population struggles to afford food, and the country has been suffering under its worst drought in years.

Noor Mohammed, who owns one poppy field in Washir that was torn apart by Taliban tractors, said his plot of land is small and lacks water, so he can't survive by growing less profitable crops.

"If we are not allowed to cultivate this crop, we will not earn anything," he said of his poppies.

Day laborers can earn upwards of \$300 a month harvesting opium from the poppies. Villagers often rely on the promise of the upcoming poppy harvest to borrow money for staples such as flour, sugar, cooking oil and heating oil.

as Afghanistan's economy has collapsed, cut off from international

## Yemen warring parties agree to extend truce for two months -UN

Reuters | Riyadh

Yemen's warring parties agreed to extend a UN-brokered truce for two months under the same terms as the original deal that was due to expire today, the UN envoy to Yemen said.

Delegations from the Saudi-backed government and the movement are expected to return to the Jordanian capital Amman to continued talks, Yemeni official said.

The truce had seen a halt to major military operations in Yemen and cross-border attacks in the seven-year war between a Saudi-led coalition and the Iran-aligned Houthi group, and helped to ease a humanitarian crisis that has left millions hungry.

"For the past two months, Yemenis have experienced the tangible benefits of the truce," United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg said in a statement.

The truce is the most significant step in years towards ending the conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people and added tensions to an already strained relationship between Riyadh and Washington.



An airport staffer walks through the rubble of a building at Sanaa Airport

Grundberg said it had provided "a rare glimmer of hope".

The renewed agreement will allow for fuel ships to continue to dock into Houthi-held Hodeidah port and some commercial flights from the airport in the capital Sanaa, which is controlled by the group.

There had been intense efforts to salvage the deal which was threatened by stalled talks on reopening roads in disputed Taiz, where Houthi troops have imposed a siege for years.

The United Nations is also seeking to start broader political discussions including on shoring up Yemen's devastated

**"For the past two months, Yemenis have experienced the tangible benefits of the truce"**

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY FOR YEMEN HANS GRUNDBERG

economy, government revenues and public sector salaries.

The coalition intervened in Yemen in March 2015 against the Houthis after they ousted the internationally recognised government from the capital Sanaa.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Global well-being is in jeopardy in large part because we have not kept our promises on the environment. At #Stockholm50, I urge countries to embrace the human right to a clean, healthy environment for everyone, everywhere.

@antonioguerres

02



I'm in #Slovakia and had the pleasure of meeting with Health Minister Vladimír Lengvarský to discuss strengthening the health system with a focus on primary health care, investing in the health workforce and also covering the health care needs of refugees from #Ukraine.

@DrTedros

03



Jill and I wish Your Majesty a joyful Platinum Jubilee celebration. On behalf of the United States, congratulations to Queen Elizabeth II on an unprecedented 70 years of service to the UK and Commonwealth and thank you for your friendship to the American people.

@POTUS

04



This historic Platinum Jubilee is not only a celebration of the monarch but of the qualities she possesses. This year's #Honours recipients reflect many of those qualities. Their stories of courage and compassion are an inspiration to us all.

@BorisJohnson

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







# CELEBS

## celebs

# Depp wins out in bitter Heard defamation trial

Jury sides with Johnny Depp in libel case against ex-wife Amber Heard, awards him \$10M

AFP | Los Angeles

A US jury found both Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard liable for defamation — but sided more strongly with the “Pirates of the Caribbean” star following an intense trial riding on bitterly contested allegations of domestic abuse.

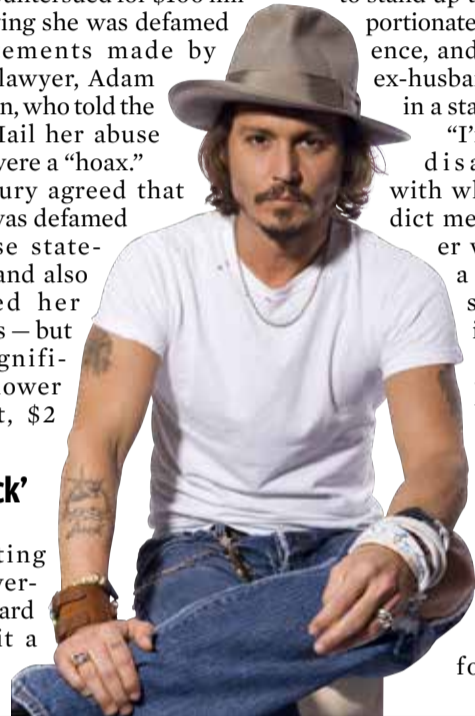
The verdict capped a bitterly-fought six-week trial riding on lurid claims and counterclaims of between the Hollywood celebrities.

The seven-member jury in Virginia awarded the 58-year-old actor \$15 million in damages after finding that a 2018 article penned by Heard on her experience of “sexual violence” was defamatory to Depp.

Heard, her eyes downcast throughout, listened impassively as the verdict was read out in Fairfax court, near the U.S. capital and

**“The jury gave me my life back. From the very beginning, the goal of bringing this case was to reveal the truth, regardless of the outcome. The best is yet to come and a new chapter has finally begun.”**

JOHNNY DEPP



in the piece, he sued her for implying he was an abuser, seeking \$50 million in damages.

The 36-year-old Heard, who had a starring role in “Aquaman,” countersued for \$100 million, saying she was defamed by statements made by Depp’s lawyer, Adam Waldman, who told the Daily Mail her abuse claims were a “hoax.”

The jury agreed that Heard was defamed by those statements, and also awarded her damages — but at a significantly lower amount, \$2 million.

**‘Setback’**

Reacting to the verdict, Heard called it a setback

back” for women.

“The disappointment I feel today is beyond words. I’m heartbroken that the mountain of evidence still was not enough to stand up to the disproportionate power, influence, and sway of my ex-husband,” she said in a statement.

“I’m even more disappointed with what this verdict means for other women. It is a setback... It sets back the idea that violence against women is to be taken seriously,” she said.

A few dozen onlookers and Depp supporters were posted outside for the ver-

dict, one man sporting a “Jack Sparrow” pirate hat and a woman with a placard reading: “No matter what happens today, Johnny, you are a winner!!! And the whole word knows the TRUTH!!!!”

Dozens of witnesses testified during the trial, including bodyguards, Hollywood executives, agents, entertainment industry experts, doctors, friends and relatives.

Depp and Heard each spent days on the witness stand during the televised trial, which was attended by hundreds of fans of the “Pirates” star and accompanied by a #JusticeForJohnnyDepp campaign on social media.

Video and audio recordings of heated, profanity-laced arguments between the couple were played for the jury, which

was also shown photographs of injuries allegedly suffered by Heard during their volatile relationship.

Depp testified that it was Heard who was frequently violent and said it has been “brutal” to listen to “outlandish” accusations of domestic abuse made against him.

Heard, who was married to Depp from 2015 to 2017, obtained a restraining order against him in May 2016, citing domestic violence.

Depp, a three-time Oscar nominee, filed a libel suit in London against the British tabloid The Sun for calling him a “wife-beater.” He lost that case in November 2020.

Both sides have claimed damage to their Hollywood careers.



# Hilary Duff loved her home birth experience

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Hilary Duff loved the “aftermath” of her home births.

The 34-year-old actress - who has Luca, ten, with ex-husband Mike Comrie, as well as Banks, three, and Mae, 14 months, with Matthew Koma - chose a water birth at

home for her two youngest children and Hilary thinks it’s “one of the best things” she’s ever done.

She explained: “A friend of mine had decided to give birth at home, and as soon as she told me, I was speechless. I didn’t think it was doable.

“With Luca, I had the classic natural birth in the hospital with all the necessary medicines. I waited many years before I had

Banks. I had her at 31 and I like to challenge myself, face something that scares me. So, I started doing research, watching documentaries.

“Childbirth is a different experience for every woman and I wanted to try this practice. Supported by my husband, I did it and it was one of the best things I’ve ever done in my life.”

Hilary loved being at home and “surrounded by family” in the af-

**Hilary originally wanted Luca and Banks to witness the birth of their sister - but her plans never came to fruition**

termath of the births. The “Wake Up” hitmaker told Grazia magazine: “It is obviously difficult and in some moments uncomfortable, but the aftermath is wonderful: being in your home surrounded by family, with the other children ready to welcome the newborn. When I had Mae, in the middle of the pandemic, I had no intention of going near a hospital anyway.”

Hilary originally wanted Luca and Banks to witness the birth of their sister - but her plans never came to fruition.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### MATRIMONIAL NOTICE

I, **MR. MUHAMMED SEYED RAYAROTH S/o.** Mr. Moidu, holder of **INDIAN PASSPORT NO. S2895621**, issued at **BAHRAIN** on 30/01/2018, permanent residence at Tharemmal, Ayanikkad post 673521 pin and temporary resident of Block 341 Al Juffair, Manama and **MS. SHERYL MARIE DORIA ENSENCIO**, holder of **PHILIPPINE PASSPORT NO. P0433213B** issued at DFA NCR North on 28/01/2019, permanent residence at Phase 3, Westwoods village, Cagayan De Oro City and temporary resident of Block 704 Salmabad, Manama intend to solemnize our civil marriage on 03/07/2022 at the **EMBASSY OF INDIA**, Building 1090, Al Seef, P.O. Box 26106, **KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN** under the Foreign Marriage Act 1969 of India. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to the Embassy of India, Kingdom of Bahrain within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

# Ewan McGregor: Obi-Wan Kenobi series is standalone

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ewan McGregor has insisted the ‘Obi-Wan Kenobi’ Disney+ series is just a “standalone” limited series for the time being.

The Scottish actor reprised his role as Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi in the new show of the same name, but he has insisted there is no plans for future episodes or a spin-off movie at this stage.

Speaking to Collider.com, he

said: “Well, at the moment, we’re just doing the six episodes. It was very much set up and made to be a limited series. So, that’s how it stands at the moment. Listen, if it does very well and Disney are excited about the prospect of doing another one...I loved doing it. I loved working with Deborah Chow.



I loved working with the new technology.

“And I thought our scripts were really good.

And I feel like the experience of doing it with the crew who were so passionate about it. So many Star Wars fans in the crew of ‘Star Wars’ projects nowadays that

it makes the experience really exciting. So, I’d be totally up for doing more. But I can guarantee, at the moment, it’s just a standalone thing.”

That’s not to say Ewan isn’t keen to do a Kenobi movie.

He previously told the same outlet: “I’d very much like to do one too. I think the story between Episode III and Episode IV, I think there’s a story there. I think that’s the Obi-Wan Kenobi movie, if there is one.”

## SUDOKU

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

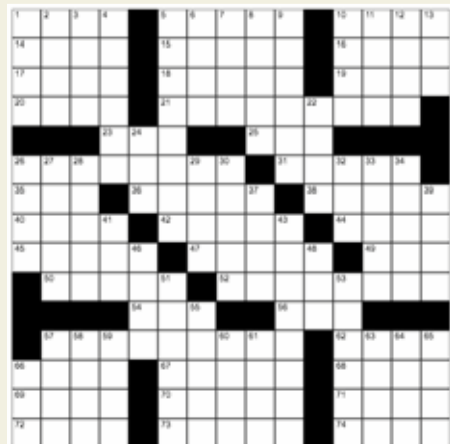
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

## CROSSWORD



Across

1- Wish for; 5- Ribbons; 10- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 14- Cupid; 15- Deadly virus; 16- Got down; 17- So long; 18- Bubbling; 19- Concerning; 20- Island of Hawaii; 21- Shrove Tuesday; 23- Animal foot; 25- Hydrocarbon ending; 26- Rulers; 31- Writer Loos; 35- Thor Heyerdahl craft; 36- Sister of Calliope; 38- Parenthetical remark; 40- Hurler Hershiser; 42- Small hill; 44- Gola of Israel; 45- Blender brand; 47- Connection; 49- It's for two, in song; 50- Ruin; 52- Horny; 54- Feather scarf; 56- Occupational suffix; 57- Listen secretly; 62- Frees; 66- Optic layer; 67- New Zealand aboriginal; 68- Assist, often in a criminal act; 69- Letter opener; 70- Scheduled; 71- Title; 72- Sunburn soother; 73- Plinth; 74- Barbershop request;

Down

1- Baylor's city; 2- What \_\_\_ mind reader?; 3- Flood survivor; 4- Company of actors; 5- Cooperative effort; 6- “Dancing Queen” quartet; 7- Wanting; 8- Exclude, remove; 9- Saltworks; 10- Den; 11- Radius neighbor; 12- Melodies; 13- Shoshone language member; 22- Actress Rowlands; 24- 100 square meters; 26- Switch back?; 27- Cattail's locale; 28- Michelangelo work; 29- Harangue; 30- Impassive; 32- Doctrine; 33- Connect with; 34- Old French expression meaning “goodbye”; 37- Bread spread; 39- Historical periods; 41- Monetary unit of Bulgaria; 43- Tippet; 46- Choir attire; 48- Compass dir.; 51- Universe; 53- Wide of the mark; 55- Hershey's bell town; 57- Devil's doing; 58- Dynamic beginning; 59- Urn; 60- Campus mil. group; 61- Like some history; 63- Girder type; 64- Moore of “G.I. Jane”; 65- Meerschaum part; 66- Country bordered by Canada and Mexico;

Yesterday's solution

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

# Swiatek extends winning run, to face Gauff in French Open final

Brutal Iga Swiatek destroys Daria Kasatkina to reach Roland Garros final

● **Gauff blitzes Trevisan to reach French Open final**

AFP | Paris

Iga Swiatek romped into her second French Open final yesterday and will face Coco Gauff for the title after the teenager became the youngest Grand Slam finalist since 2004.

World No 1 Swiatek, the 2020 Roland Garros champion, cruised to a dominant 6-2, 6-1 semifinal victory over Russian Daria Kasatkina after just 64 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier.

That extended her unbeaten streak to 34 matches.

Swiatek will equal Venus Williams' record for the longest women's winning run since 2000 if she beats 18-year-old Gauff, who brushed aside Martina Trevisan 6-3, 6-1, on Saturday.

"I'm so grateful. It's easier to play matches with this kind of support," Swiatek, who won 10 of the last 11 games, said in her on-court interview.



Poland's Iga Swiatek plays a shot against Russia's Daria Kasatkina

"It's surprising this week how much they're supporting me.

"I try to treat every match in the same way because when I think about how it's the biggest match of the season so far, it stresses me out."

It will be the 21-year-old's second major final, as she looks to win a sixth consecutive WTA title.

The Polish star has stormed up the rankings this season, moving from world No 7 to the summit during her remarkable run.

Swiatek hammered 22 winners past her opponent and she

has still lost only one set in the tournament, against Chinese teenager Zheng Qinwen in the fourth round.

Kasatkina, the 20th seed, won her first clash with Swiatek on the Eastbourne grass last year, but has lost all four of their meetings in 2022 in straight sets, without winning more than five games in a match.

**Swiatek too strong**

After a quick opening hold from Swiatek, both players struggled on serve and traded breaks.



I try to treat every match in the same way because when I think about how it's the biggest match of the season so far, it stresses me out

IGA SWIATEK

But Kasatkina was still finding it difficult to live with the consistent groundstrokes of her opponent and slipped 4-2 behind after horribly mishitting what should have been a simple winner at the net wide of the tramlines.

Swiatek had the set wrapped up just minutes later as a backhand return winner sealed a break to love.

Kasatkina managed to cling onto her first service game in the second set, but Swiatek was on a roll and forged 3-1 ahead when Kasatkina blazed long.

That effectively ended the semifinal as a contest, and top seed Swiatek finished it off with a run of five straight games, capped by her first ace on her



18-year-old Gauff is the youngest Grand Slam finalist since Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon in 2004

first match point.

**Gauff sees off erratic Trevisan**

Gauff brushed aside Trevisan in a nervous match which saw both players featuring in a major semifinal for the first time.

Gauff is the youngest Grand Slam finalist since Maria Sharapova stunned Serena Williams to win Wimbledon 18 years ago.

"I think I'm a little bit in shock right now," said 2018 junior champion Gauff. I didn't know how to react after the match. I'm lost for words."

The players made 37 unforced errors between them in a poor first set before Gauff upped her

game to race through the second.

The 18th seed will be a heavy underdog against Swiatek, but says she is not feeling the pressure.

"It's a Grand Slam final but there are so many things going on in the world right now, especially in the US, so I don't think it's worth stressing about it," said Gauff, referring to the deadly school shooting in Texas last month, after writing "peace, end gun violence" on a court-side camera.

Gauff, who burst onto the scene by reaching the Wimbledon fourth round as a 15-year-old three years ago, has still not lost a set over the fortnight in Paris.

In Friday's men's semifinals, 13-time champion Rafael Nadal will take on third seed Alexander Zverev before Norwegian Casper Ruud plays Croatia's Marin Cilic.

Second seeds Ena Shibahara and Wesley Koolhof won the mixed doubles title earlier yesterday with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 victory over Ulrikke Eikeri of Norway and Belgium's Joran Vliegen.

## Messi stars as Argentina beat Italy in Finalissima

● **Argentina on top of the world as Lionel Messi inspires Wembley win over Italy**

● **Messi leads Argentina to second international trophy in a year**

AFP | London

Lionel Messi stole the show as Copa America holders Argentina powered to a 3-0 win against European champions Italy in the Finalissima at Wembley on Wednesday.

Inspired by the peerless Messi, Argentina raced into a two-goal lead in the first half of the prestigious friendly thanks to strikes from Lautaro Martinez and Angel Di Maria.

Paulo Dybala capped Argentina's rout, but after a disappointing season with Paris Saint-Germain by his sky-high standards, it was the sight of Messi back to his imperious best that took the spotlight.

The 34-year-old's eye-catching display featured two assists and was worthy of his rare appearance at one of football's great cathedrals.

It was another memorable moment for Argentina, who have qualified for this year's World Cup as they extend the golden afterglow from the victory over Brazil that ended their 28-year wait to win the Copa America in 2021.

Argentina were already established as one of the leading contenders to win the World



Argentina's Lionel Messi tosses a trophy as he celebrates with his teammates



What we experienced here was beautiful. We knew it was going to be a nice game and a nice setting in which to be champions

LIONEL MESSI

Cup and defeating Italy was another statement of intent from La Albiceleste, who are now unbeaten in 32 matches.

If Messi can play at this level in Qatar, Lionel Scaloni's side will be a force to be reckoned with as they chase a first World Cup title since 1986.

For Italy, it was a disappointing return to Wembley 11 months after they beat England on penalties in the Euro 2020 final.

Roberto Mancini's team have gone into a steep decline since that memorable triumph.

They failed to qualify for the World Cup after suffering a hu-



The Finalissima is the revival of the CONMEBOL-UEFA Cup of Champions that has been played only twice before -- in 1985 and 1993

miliating loss to North Macedonia in their play-off semi-final.

Mancini admitted the Finalissima represented the "end of a cycle" for his European champions.

After the World Cup failure, Mancini is transitioning to a younger generation, with the forthcoming Nations League matches against Germany, England and Hungary his real focus.

## Ukraine beat Scotland to keep World Cup dream alive

● **Ukraine to face Wales on Sunday**

AFP | Glasgow

Ukraine are one game away from qualifying for the World Cup after beating Scotland 3-1 in a play-off semi-final in Glasgow on Wednesday in their first competitive match since the country was invaded by Russia.

Andriy Yarmolenko, Roman Yaremchuk and Artem Dovbyk scored the goals for Ukraine to set up a play-off final away to Wales on Sunday for a place in Qatar later this year.

The match had been moved from March, just weeks after the war began, to give Ukraine the chance to fulfil the fixture.

Six of the starting line-up for the visitors are still contracted to Ukrainian clubs and had not played competitively for months.

Manchester City's Oleksandr Zinchenko broke down in tears on the eve of the game as he described how much it would mean to take Ukraine to the World Cup.

But they showed no signs of rust or letting the expectation of a nation weigh heavily on their shoulders.

The Ukrainian players entered the field draped in yellow and blue flags before an emotionally-charged national anthem which was applauded from all sides of the stadium.

Among the Ukrainian support, children held up signs saying "stop war."

However, once the action got underway, it was the small band of travelling supporters who



Ukraine's Andriy Yarmolenko, left, scores his side's opening goal

6

of the starting line-up for Ukraine are still contracted to Ukrainian clubs and had not played competitively for months



We played for them, for those who fight with their last drop of blood, for those who suffer every day

UKRAINE COACH OLEKSANDR PETRAKOV

en in eight games, but rarely threatened a response to keep alive their hopes of reaching a first World Cup since 1998.

Manager Steve Clarke tried to turn the tide at half-time by introducing Ryan Christie for the ineffective Lyndon Dykes in attack.

Within four minutes of the restart, Scotland's mountain to climb got even steeper when Benfica striker Yaremchuk headed in Oleksandr Karavayev's cross to the back post.

Scotland finally flickered into life to appease a frustrated sell-out crowd of 50,000 at Hampden Park in the final quarter.

John McGinn somehow headed wide from point-blank range after Georgiy Bushchan spilled Scott McTominay's cross.

had travelled from around the world to see their country who had far more to cheer.

Scotland goalkeeper Craig Gordon kept his side in the game early on.

The Hearts goalkeeper was named player of the year this season in the Scottish Premiership and showed why with stunning saves to deny Viktor Tsygankov and Yarmolenko.

Ukraine's greater poise and technical ability soon told, though, as from Ruslan Malinovskyi's through ball, Yarmolenko's perfect control allowed him to lob the onrushing Gordon to make it 1-0 just after the half-hour mark.

Scotland had been unbeat-

# Bahrain must strive for 'even more great moments'

Veteran goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaafar looks for inspiration in Bahrain's 2004 AFC Asian Cup success as he hopes to help lead the national team to qualifying for the 2023 edition of the continent's biggest football competition

● Bahrainis kick off final days of preparations for Group E qualifiers

● Nationals scheduled to take on Bangladesh in first match on Wednesday

TDI | Manama

Bahrain must strive to continue building the Kingdom's national team if they hope to relive some of their past successes in major international competitions.

This was stressed by veteran goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, who next week is hoping to help lead the nationals to their seventh appearance in the AFC Asian Cup, the continent's showpiece football tournament.

Jaafar made his Asian Cup debut for Bahrain in 2004 at the age of 18. That year, the Bahrainis



Bahrain's veteran goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaafar during training yesterday in Kuala Lumpur

finished an unprecedented fourth place from the 16 participating nations, making it all the way to the semi-finals before losing to Japan in extra-time and eventually missing out on a medal finish.

Bahrain have yet to repeat that success, only making it past the group stage once since that year when they qualified for the

Round of 16 in the 2019 edition. Jaafar says that while the nationals have enjoyed other recent achievements, they must never settle and should always look to improve, and hopefully one day taste Asian Cup glory.

"That was a great moment to live," Jaafar said, looking back at the Bahrainis' 2004 Asian Cup success.



Bahrain's veteran goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaafar during training yesterday in Kuala Lumpur

"But we are also living great moments already. That's why we have to keep improving ourselves to have even more great moments."

The Muharraq Club legend earlier this week became Bahrain's most-capped active player in the history of the national team, making his 150th ap-



For me, I have long experience, so I want to pass some of my knowledge to others. So many of our young players need these kinds of moments for motivation

SAYED MOHAMMED JAAFAR

pearance for the Kingdom in a friendly win over Thailand.

"For me, I have long experience, so I want to pass some of my knowledge to others," Jaafar said.

"So many of our young players need these kinds of moments for motivation," he added. "This is what I am looking for as a player and as the captain of our team."

## Preparations

Jaafar is part of a 24-player Bahrain team that kicked off its final preparations in Kuala Lumpur yesterday for their upcoming

matches in AFC Asian Cup 2023 qualification.

The Bahrain squad at the Malaysian capital also features Jaafar's fellow-goalkeepers Sayed Shubbar Alawi and Ammar Mohammed; defenders Rashed Alhooti, Ahmed Abdulla, Waleed Al Hayyam, Ameen Denade, Ahmed Bughamar, Hamad Shamsan, Abbas Ayyad and Sayed Redha Isa; midfielders Ali Haram, Jassim Al Shaikh, Mahdi Abdullatif, Ammar Jaffar, Komail Alaswad, Abdulwahab Almalood, Ali Madan, Mohammed Jassim Marhoon, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Mahdi Humaidan and Saeed; and strikers Hashim Sayed Isa and Abdulla Yusuf.

The nationals are set to play in Group E of Asian Cup qualification alongside Turkmenistan, Bangladesh and Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

The games will be held over a single round on three match-days, first on June 8 against Bangladesh, then on June 11 against Malaysia, and finally on June 14 against Turkmenistan.

## Neymar doubles up from the spot as Brazil thump Korea

Reuters | Seoul

Neymar scored a pair of penalties to move to within four goals of Pele at the top of the country's all-time scoring list as Brazil cruised to a 5-1 win over fellow World Cup qualifiers South Korea at Seoul World Cup Stadium yesterday.

The Paris St Germain striker netted either side of halftime to move onto 73 goals in 118 appearances for his country and close in on the three-time World Cup winner's record in a comfortable win for Tite's side.

Richarlison gave Brazil the lead in the seventh minute and, although Hwang Ui-jo levelled for Korea just after the half-hour mark, it was the visitors who always looked more likely to prevail.

Neymar netted from the spot to put his side back in front three minutes before halftime and he was on hand with another penalty in the 57th minute before late goals from Philippe Coutinho and Gabriel Jesus put the seal on a comprehensive win.

Billed in some quarters as a battle between Neymar and South Korea's Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min, it was the Brazilian and his team mates who dominated in an often one-sided contest.

The South Americans took the lead early when Alex Sandro stormed into the penalty area and cut back to Fred, whose attempt was redirected past Kim Seung-gyu by Richar-



Brazil's Neymar in action with South Korea's Jung Woo-Young

# 73

goals have been scored by Neymar in 118 appearances for his country

lison from close range.

Brazil had already seen Thiago Silva's header ruled out for offside while Raphinha and Dani Alves also went close before the Koreans scored against the run of play in the 31st minute.

Receiving possession with his back to goal, Hwang used all his upperbody strength to

hold off Silva before turning to fire his right foot shot into the far corner.

The Brazilians, though, were back in front in the 42nd minute when referee Ryuji Sato awarded a penalty following a VAR review as Lee Yong upended Sandro and Neymar coolly slotted in.

He was even more composed when he rolled his second spot kick of the game home three minutes before the hour mark after Sandro was again brought down in the box, this time by Kim Young-gwon.

Coutinho added the fourth with 10 minutes remaining and Jesus scored a fifth three minutes into injury time when he sprinted through the Korea defence to score low into the corner.

## Team Abu Dhabi duo aim for flying start in bid for double world title triumph

TDI | Manama

Team Abu Dhabi's Thani Al Qemzi and Shaun Torrente once again have a double title triumph in their sights as they prepare to start the 2022 UIM F1H2O World Championship campaign in France today.

The pair have arrived in the ancient town of Macon Val de Saone in a confident mood as they pursue a fifth successive world team title, and look to reclaim the drivers' crown which agonizingly eluded them in a dramatic climax to the 2021 season.

Al Qemzi fell just one point short in his bid for a first individual driver's title while a blown engine in qualifying ended Torrente's hopes of a third success in a row as Swede Jonas Andersson emerged victorious.

All that is now history, and the Team Abu Dhabi duo are determined to make a flying start to the new season in the Grand Prix of France, with the boats taking to the Saone River circuit for an initial free practice session tomorrow afternoon ahead of Sunday's big race.

After several days of testing in San Nazzaro, Italy last week under the guidance of team manager and ten-time F1H2O champion, Guido Cappellini, Al Qemzi and Torrente are primed for action in the flagship series of international single-seater



Thani Al Qemzi in action



We trained well and prepared ourselves well in Italy. We have good boats, and everything that happened last year is forgotten. This is a new season, and I believe I can do something this time. I want to bring back the driver's title to Abu Dh

THANI AL QEMZI

inshore circuit powerboat racing.

"We trained well and prepared ourselves well in Italy," said Al Qemzi. "We have good boats, and everything that

happened last year is forgotten. This is a new season, and I believe I can do something this time. I want to bring back the driver's title to Abu Dhabi."

With the International Powerboat Federation (UIM) celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, Abu Dhabi Marine Sports Club would like to mark the occasion with a double success.

It is now 22 years since Al Qemzi first launched his quest for a world title, and no driver has worked harder or gone closer without claiming the ultimate prize.

Partnering Torrente as he emerged as champion in 2019 and 2020 has only served to underline his self-belief, and the Emirati draws strength from the bond he has forged with the American in Team Abu Dhabi colours.