

Equestrian talents shine at Noora bint Hamad dressage championship
 HH Shaikha Noora bint Hamad Dressage Championship ends with remarkable performances | P12



Hugh Jackman's movie role changed how he speaks to his kids 10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Al Baraka Islamic Bank, Youth Pioneer Society join hands

US sanctions Syria intel officer Damascus

The US sanctioned a Syrian intelligence officer yesterday, accusing him of "coldly and methodically" murdering at least 41 unarmed civilians in 2013 and warning countries against normalising ties with the Assad regime.

Next month will mark 12 years since the outbreak of the Syrian civil war, which has pitted the Assad regime, backed by Iran and Russia, against opposition groups, some of which have turned into terror organisations.

Twitter suffers major outage

AFP | San Francisco, US

Twitter yesterday suffered a major outage with users worldwide reporting they could no longer read links to articles from outside websites.

"Some parts of Twitter may not be working as expected right now," the company's tech support account said in a tweet, blaming the problem on "unintended consequences" from an update to the platform.

The breakdown, which appeared fixed in less than an hour, comes as the Elon Musk-owned social media giant was trying hard to stabilise after several rounds of layoffs saw more than two thirds of staff let go.



Iranian women face punishment Dubai

Women violating the Islamic dress code will be punished, Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said yesterday according to the official IRNA news agency.

Following the death of Iranian Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini by Iran's morality police for flouting the country's strict dress code on Sept. 16, Iran was faced with nationwide protests that represented one of the toughest challenges to the Islamic Republic since its establishment in 1979.

Praise for strong Bahrain-UN ties

HM King Hamad highlights international organisation's key role in 'serving humanity'

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa commended the strong cooperation and partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Nations.

HM the King stressed the key role played by the international organisation in boosting regional and international security and peace, solving global issues, handling environmental and natural disasters, fighting climate change and poverty, and serving humanity.

This came as His Majesty received at Safriya Palace yesterday former presidents of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the occasion of their visit to Bahrain at a royal invitation to participate in the meeting of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly (CPUNGA), hosted by the Kingdom.

The delegation of the UNGA former presidents comprised CPUNGA Chairman, President of the 56th session Dr Han Seung-soo, Deputy Chairman and



HM the King receives the former UNGA presidents

President of the 57th session Jan Kavan, President of the 61st session Shaikha Haya bint Rashid Al Khalifa, President of the 62nd session Srgjan Kerim, President of the 65th session Joseph Deiss, President of the 67th session Vuk Jeremic, President of the 70th session Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 72nd session Miroslav Lajcak, and Director of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism Dr Jehangir Khan.

HM King Hamad also dis-

cussed with the former UNGA presidents regional and international issues.

Invitation

His Majesty welcomed the delegation, thanking them for accepting the invitation to visit Bahrain, praising the important meeting hosted by the Kingdom with the participation of an elite of prominent international personalities.

He commended their tireless efforts to promote the UN role on the international scene, lauding strong relations of friendship between the Kingdom and their countries.

HM the King wished CPUNGA every success in serving the goals of the international organisation to foster global peace and security and achieve growth and prosperity for all humankind.

The delegation expressed thanks and appreciation to HM

“The UN plays key role in boosting regional and international security and peace, solving global issues, handling environmental and natural disasters, fighting climate change and poverty, and serving humanity.”

- HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

the King for the gracious welcome and hospitality and for Bahrain's hosting of CPUNGA.

They hailed the vital role of the Kingdom in backing the UN efforts and briefed HM the King on the main issues on the meeting's agenda, and the development in Bahrain under HM the King's leadership.



'Consensus'

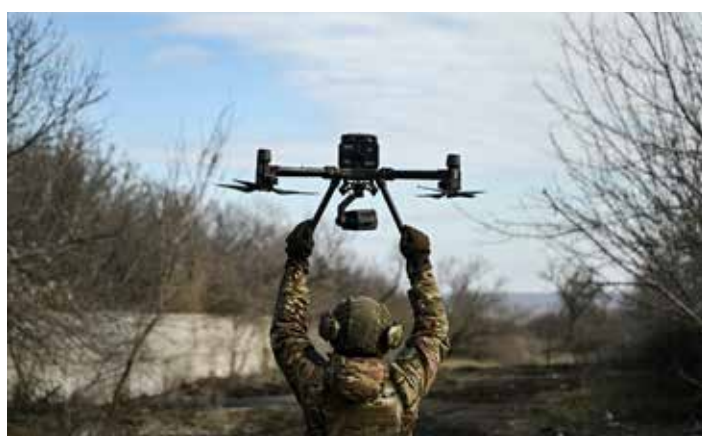
Ukraine military to 'continue defending' Bakhmut

Russia determined to capture embattled city

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak said yesterday there was a "consensus" within the Ukraine army to continue defending the embattled city of Bakhmut in the country's east that Russia is determined to capture.

Bakhmut has become the bloodiest and longest-running battle of Russia's year-



A Ukrainian serviceman flies a drone to spot Russian positions near the city of Bakhmut, in the region of Donbas. (AFP)

long campaign in Ukraine, even though analysts suggest the city holds little strategic significance.

"There is a consensus among the military on the need to continue defending the city and the attrition of enemy forces, while building new lines and lines of defence in case the situation changes," Podolyak told AFP.

According to Podolyak, the defence of Bakhmut has "achieved its goals" by exhausting Russia's "main combat-ready" units and providing the opportunity to train "tens of thousands of

Ukrainian troops to prepare a counteroffensive".

He added that "even if at some point the military leadership decides to withdraw to more advantageous positions", the defence of Bakhmut will be a "great strategic success" for Ukraine's army.

"However, to date no such decision has been made" by the military leadership, Podolyak added.

Earlier yesterday, Ukraine said it would bolster its defences in the badly destroyed salt-mining city, where both sides have suffered heavy losses.

