



Hamas official says hostage talks possible without permanent ceasefire

AFP | Jerusalem

A top Hamas official said yesterday that the group were ready to discuss a hostage deal and an end to the Gaza war without a "complete and permanent ceasefire".

"Hamas had previously required that Israel agree to a complete and permanent ceasefire," the official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"This step was by-passed, as the mediators pledged that as long as the prisoner negotiations continued, the ceasefire would continue," he added.

Israel has previously strongly opposed Hamas demands for a permanent ceasefire, officials said.

The Hamas official said Egypt and Turkey would also step up their efforts in coming days to reach an accord. If full negotiations start, Hamas expects them to take between two to three weeks, according to the official.

Second Almond festival celebrates success



TDI | Manama

Dr. Khalid Ahmed Hassan, the Undersecretary for Agriculture and Animal Resources Affairs at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, confirmed that the second edition of the Almond Festival has achieved remarkable success in supporting local products and promoting Bahraini fruits. He mentioned that the Ministry plans to add this festival to the list of annual events in Bahrain, highlighting its importance alongside the achievements of the Farmers Market in recent years.

The second edition of the Almond Festival, which lasted for three days, saw a large turnout of citizens, residents, and visitors. The event featured the participation of 13 farmers, 5 nurseries, and several productive families.

Rethinking Retirement

Should Bahrain raise retirement age? Shura Deputy Chairman sparks debate

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With people living longer and leading healthier lives, shouldn't they also work a bit longer?

Their valuable experience and skills—shouldn't the country benefit from those a bit longer, rather than sending them off the grid? An intriguing question, isn't it? However, when a person like Jamal Fakhro, who holds one of the top positions in the Kingdom's bicameral legislature, throws such a question into the spotlight, it is worth a discussion.

Sparking a new debate, he wrote on his handle on platform X: "With life expectancy surpassing 80 years in most, if not all, GCC countries, it is time to reconsider the retirement age. Many European countries have already raised their retirement age to over 62 years, and in some, like Germany, it has even reached 67 years."

It's worth noting that the life expectancy in Bahrain and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is notably high. As of recent data, Bahrain's life expectancy is approximately 78.6 years. Other GCC countries also have high life expectancies: Qatar at 80.2 years, the United Arab Emirates at 78.2 years, Kuwait at 78.5 years, Saudi Arabia at 75.8 years, and Oman at 77.4 years. These figures reflect the significant advancements in healthcare and living standards across the region.

So, the pressing question is: what actions should be taken?

Proponents highlight Bahrain's demographic profile, economic conditions, and social dynamics, arguing that the benefits are numerous.

Experts believe that as life expectancy increases, raising the retirement age can help ensure the sustainability of pension systems by reducing the number of years pensions are paid out. Older individuals bring valuable experience and skills to the workforce, contributing positively to the economy. An older workforce also means a lower dependency ratio, easing the financial burden on the



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 @JFAKHRO_58700



The focus should ideally be on enhancing the quality of life for retirees across the Gulf by reducing or eliminating various government fees they face and providing them with a broader selection of healthcare providers.
 JAMEEL MULLA HASSAN



Try enhancing the rights and conditions of retirees, rather than making them work more. It is concerning to know that a Bahraini pensioner now receives only 300 dinars after contributing a lifetime of service
 HAMAD AL-DOY

working-age population. Additionally, extending the working years allows individuals to accumulate more savings, leading to greater financial security in retirement.

However, not everyone is on board with this idea. Hamad Al-Doy, a member of the Council of Representatives, came forward criticizing Fakhro for the tweet.

Raise pensions, not age: Al-Doy

Rejecting the idea, he argues that the focus should ideally be on enhancing the rights and conditions of retirees, rather than making them work more.

He argues that it's now time to raise their pensions, stating that pensioners currently receive a paltry amount. Al-Doy noted it is concerning to know that a Bahraini pensioner now receives only 300 dinars after contributing a lifetime of service to the Kingdom.

Restore bonus: Jameel Hassan

Jameel Mulla Hassan, another parliament member, has a

different take on the issue. He calls on Fakhro to instead work towards restoring the 3% bonus for pensioners, considering the high oil prices. Hassan also emphasizes the importance of offering quality healthcare services to pensioners.

He proposes enhancing the quality of life for retirees across the Gulf by reducing or eliminating various government fees they face and providing them with a broader selection of healthcare providers.

Impact on society: Dr AlBuainain

In his response, Dr. Ahmed AlBuainain pointed out that such a move, like raising the pension age, should be done

only after considering several crucial factors, including the quality of work life, the level of health services, and the needs of the labour market, as everything is interconnected. He warns: "Ultimately, it will bring about a significant impact on society, whether positive or negative."

Comprehensive analysis must

Experts say any decision to raise the retirement age in Bahrain should be based on a comprehensive analysis of these factors. It may be beneficial to implement gradual changes and provide support systems, such as retraining programs and healthcare services, to ease the transition for the aging workforce.

Hotline launched for reporting Summer Midday work ban violations



p2

Napoleon's pistols sold in France for 1.7 mn euros: auctioneers

AFP | Paris, France

Two pistols that Napoleon Bonaparte once intended to use to kill himself were sold in France on Sunday for 1.69 million euros (\$1.8 million), the auction house said, with the government insisting that they stay in the country as national treasures.

The identity of the buyer at the auction in Fontainebleau south of Paris of the finely adorned objects was not made public but the final sale price, with fees, was above the estimates of 1.2-1.5 million euros.

Ahead of the sale of the weapons, the national treasures commission of the French culture ministry had classified the objects as national treasures and placed a ban on their export, in a decision published in the government's official journal on Saturday.

"Being classified as a national treasure gives an incredible value to the object," said a representative of the Osenat auction house, asking not to be named.

The richly decorated guns inlaid with gold and silver feature the engraved image of Napoleon in full imperial pomp.

They are said to have almost been used to end the French ruler's life in 1814, when he was forced to give up power after foreign forces defeated his army and occupied Paris.



BETTER YOU KNOW
 Greece is noted for having one of the highest retirement ages globally, set at 67 years for both men and women. To qualify for full pension benefits, workers must have contributed to the pension plan for at least 15 years, equivalent to 4,500 working days. Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and Italy similarly have a retirement age of 67 years.

Help them beat the heat

Ministry of Labour establishes Hotline for reporting Summer Midday work ban violations

TDI | Manama

Don't hesitate to call 32265727 immediately, if you find someone violating the summer midday work ban.

Mustafa Aqeel Al-Sheikh, the Director of Inspection and Occupational Safety at the Ministry of Labour, urges citizens and residents to use this number to report violations. The official emphasizes not to hesitate.

Bahrain's two-month midday ban on outdoor work during the afternoon began on July 1. According to Resolution (3) of 2013, the ban on work under direct sunlight and in open places will be enforced from noon (12 pm) until 4 pm throughout July and August.

Al-Sheikh explains that the ban reflects the Kingdom's humanitarian responsibility, awareness, and culture in safeguarding workers' safety and health.

Highlighting the positive outcomes of the ban, Al-Sheikh noted that many employers have voluntarily extended the work ban period.

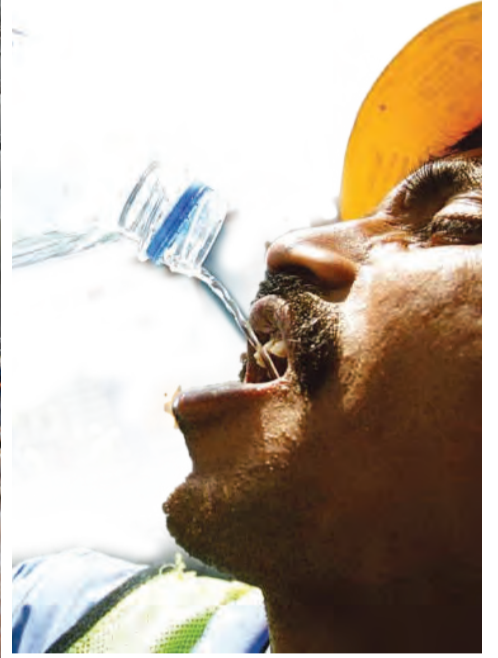
He emphasised the importance of employers implement-



Mustafa Aqeel Al-Sheikh, the Director of Inspection and Occupational Safety at the Ministry of Labour

ing comprehensive preventive measures during Bahrain's high-temperature and high-humidity seasons.

These efforts aim to safeguard workers from heat stress, sunstroke, and other summer-related health risks, ultimately minimising workplace accidents and injuries," he stressed, adding, "This initiative underscores Bahrain's commitment to fostering a safe and healthy work environment across its production sites."



Pictures for representation only

What about other GCC nations?

The timing of the summer work bans in GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) nations generally varies slightly from country to country, but they typically occur during the hottest months of the year, primarily from June

to September. Here's a general overview:

1. Saudi Arabia: The work ban typically starts from mid-June and extends through mid-September. It restricts outdoor work under direct sunlight during the hottest hours of the day, usually from noon to 3 pm.

2. UAE (United Arab Emirates): The UAE's work ban also runs from mid-June to mid-September. It usually prohibits outdoor work from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

3. Qatar: In Qatar, the work ban typically begins from mid-June and continues until

mid-September. It restricts outdoor work from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm.

4. Kuwait and Oman: Both Kuwait and Oman also implement similar bans during the summer months, typically restricting outdoor work during the hottest hours of the day.

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Top court orders Juffair hotel to pay BD40,000 in disputed revenue case

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The court battle over revenue sharing from a facility within a Juffair hotel concluded with the High Civil Court ordering the hotel to pay a hotel management company BD40,000, along with BD1,000 for expert fees, court costs, and legal fees.

The dispute stemmed from disagreements over the contract between the plaintiff, the management company, and the hotel. According to Zahir Abdullatif, the plaintiff's lawyer, the company had managed and operated the facility from August 30, 2021, to August 29, 2022.

The contract stipulated revenue sharing based on a predetermined ratio, with the hotel responsible for collecting and paying the company's share within 10 days.

Abdullatif stated that despite



Representative picture

the facility generating BD97,906 in revenue, the hotel had only paid BD8,648, leaving a balance of BD40,205. On April 30, 2022, the company's access to the facility was revoked, citing con-

The facility under dispute generated BD97,906 in revenue during the contract period, but the hotel had only paid BD8,648, leaving a balance of BD40,205.

tract termination.

To resolve the dispute, the company hired an accounting expert, whose report concluded they were owed BD44,613, covering seven months of revenue plus development costs.

The hotel countered with its own expert report claiming no outstanding payments and asserting the company owed BD929.

The court reviewed the hotel's monthly revenue statements, which were undisputed, and found them valid.

It also deemed the plaintiff's expert report credible, based on thorough analysis.

Consequently, the court ruled the hotel failed to prove full payment to the plaintiff and ordered it to pay BD40,250, plus 3% annual interest from the claim date until settlement. Additionally, the hotel must cover expert fees, court expenses, and legal fees.

High Civil Court orders BD6,000 compensation for motorcyclist in insurance liability dispute case

TDT | Manama

The High Civil Court has ordered an insurance company to compensate a motorcyclist with BD6,000 for injuries sustained in an accident caused by its insured.

The court determined that the car driver, resulting in a 15% permanent disability for the rider, and the insurance company are jointly liable for the compensation. According to Zainab Madan, the plaintiff's lawyer,



Representative picture

The court ruled that the insurance company is liable under Article 2 of Decree-Law No. 3 of 1987, which mandates coverage for civil liability arising from vehicle accidents in Bahrain.

the accident caused significant injuries to the plaintiff, with a medical board assessing a 15% permanent disability.

Madan emphasised the insurance company's liability under Article 2 of Decree-Law No. 3 of 1987, which mandates coverage

for civil liability arising from vehicle accidents in Bahrain.

Article 12 of the same law stipulates that insurance policies must cover compensation for bodily injuries resulting from vehicle accidents. Therefore, the court ruled that both the driver and the insurance company are responsible for compensating the plaintiff with BD6,000 in material and moral damages, alongside court costs, BD100 for legal fees, and BD90 for expert fees.

'2010' caravan purchase unveils surprise—it's actually 1996 model

High Civil Court orders seller to return BD5,000 along with additional expenses

TDT | Manama

A seller who advertised a 27-year-old caravan as a 2010 model on Instagram is facing legal repercussions after the buyer pressed charges, seeking reimbursement.

The High Civil Court ruled in favour of the plaintiff, ordering the seller to refund 5,105 Bahraini dinars, covering the purchase price, repair costs, court fees, and legal expenses.

The vehicle's registration falsely stated it as a 2010 model, with the owner also altering its chassis number. An expert appointed by the court confirmed the caravan was actually manufactured in 1996, valued at no more than 1,800 dinars.

The report also revealed frequent recent ownership transfers.

Represented by lawyer Riyadh Al Sindi, the buyer discovered the deception post-pur-



Representative picture

chase for 5,000 dinars. The seller had denied dealer-ship inspection, which revealed the true 1996 model status with

The vehicle's registration falsely stated it as a 2010 model, with the owner also altering its chassis number.

irreparable damage and unavailable manufacturer spare parts.

The buyer had initially paid 1,000 dinars through Benefit and the remainder the next day, incurring an additional 88 dinars for repairs.

The court's ruling highlighted the seller's failure to disclose accurate information and deliver as agreed, emphasising the misrepresentation of the caravan's age and condition.

Police seize half a million dinars worth of drugs in major narcotics bust



The picture released showing the suspect and confiscated drugs, money TDT | Manama

In a significant operation, police have arrested four individuals found in possession of over 84 kilograms of assorted narcotic drugs and 18,500 narcotic pills, valued at approximately half a million dinars. The arrests were announced by the Anti-Narcotics Department of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Forensic Evidence.

Authorities revealed that the arrests stemmed from actionable intelligence received, prompting the formation of a specialized task force to monitor and apprehend the suspects. Upon apprehension, the suspects were found in possession of the illicit substances along with a substantial amount of cash in various currencies, believed to be proceeds from their illicit activities. Law enforcement officials promptly confiscated the drugs and cash, initiating necessary legal procedures to transfer the case to the Public Prosecution for further investigation and judicial proceedings.

Southern Governorate handles 761 community inquiries in H1 2024

TDT | Manama

The Southern Governorate has announced that it received 761 inquiries and requests in the first half of 2024, spanning security, service, and social sectors. In addition to traditional methods like phone calls (323) and email (146), the Governorate has utilized modern technology through the "Southern Governorate" application (205 requests) and the national "Tawasul" program (49 requests).



Representative picture

The Governorate also engages actively with the community via the "Governorate Council," which received 38 inquiries and suggestions. The data highlights a significant demand for security-related services (30%), followed by social services (35%) and service-related requests (33%). The remaining 2% of inquiries pertain to other categories.

His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Governor of the Southern Governorate, affirmed the Governorate's com-

mitment to serving all residents by enhancing communication and interaction for swift responses, thus fostering community partnership.

"To ensure efficient responses, a specialized team analyzes and categorizes the information received, forwarding it to the relevant departments within the Governorate. The field team then monitors the requests and suggestions within their respective areas, discussing them during Coordinating Council meetings to ensure recommendations

align with the aspirations of the residents," he stated.

Notably, the Governorate has established 24 communication channels, including both direct and electronic options, to maximize interaction with citizens and residents. These channels include a Customer Service Reception Desk, email, direct phone line, video call service, instant chat service, the National System for Suggestions and Complaints (Tawasul), and various social media platforms.

Türkiye ambassador affirms Gulf tourism continues unfazed amid recent incidents

TDT | Manama

The Ambassador of Türkiye to Bahrain, Esen Çakıl, has assured that her country remains eager to welcome visitors from the Gulf region with traditional Turkish hospitality. Referring to the recent incident involving a knife-wielding Turkish man, Ambassador Çakıl emphasized that such incidents can occur anywhere and do not reflect the broader Gulf-Turkey tourism relationship.

"The tourism sector is one of the essential pillars of the relationship between the Gulf states and Türkiye," said Ambassador Çakıl. "We are delighted that Türkiye is a top destination for our brothers and sisters from the Gulf, with thousands of Gulf nationals even purchasing real estate and becoming our neighbors."

Last year, Türkiye welcomed over 1.5 million visitors from the Gulf, a figure the ambassador expects to rise. Türkiye's traditional hospitality, combined with its natural and cultural attractions and advanced tourism infrastructure, has established the country as a leading global tourism hub, attracting 57 million visitors worldwide in 2023.

Addressing the recent events circulated on social media, Ambassador Çakıl reiterated that isolated incidents within broad human interactions



The Ambassador of Türkiye to Bahrain, Esen Çakıl

do not justify generalizations, which she deemed incorrect and malicious. She stressed that the Gulf nations have not been swayed by such allegations, as evidenced by the continued influx of Gulf tourists to Türkiye.

Looking ahead, the ambassador mentioned the recent visa exemptions extended unilaterally by Türkiye to citizens of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Oman, in addition to the Gulf countries previously exempt from visas. This, she said, further demonstrates Türkiye's intention to ensure a seamless and welcoming experience for all its guests from the Gulf region.

"We have proven, once again, that our hearts and doors are always open to our brothers from the Gulf countries, including Bahrain," concluded Ambassador Çakıl. "We will continue to welcome all our guests to Türkiye through our ancient traditions and hospitality."

MKCC instals Photon-Counting CT Scanner

TDT | Manama

The Mohammed Bin Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa Specialist Cardiac Centre (MKCC) has announced the installation of the latest photon-counting computed tomography (NAEOTOM Alpha

PCCT) scanner. This state-of-the-art technology in computed tomography is the first of its kind in the Middle East, positioning Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) military hospitals at the forefront of modern medical facilities both regionally and internationally.

Tamkeen's health sector initiatives a qualitative shift: MP Al Dhaen

TDT | Manama

Initiatives launched by Tamkeen in revolutionizing the health sector will bring about a significant qualitative shift in the Kingdom's health system, MP Dr. Maryam Al Dhaen said.

Detailing the scope of the initiatives, the MP said they focus on the development and training of national cadres in the health sector. These programmes will provide support to over 700 Bahraini doctors and nurses through five main initiatives. Key components include covering the costs for Bahraini doctors to obtain board certifications, supporting the wages of doctors working in the private sector during their training period, and facilitating the enrolment of Bahraini doctors in medical fellowship programs abroad. Additionally, the initiatives aim to support the graduation of Bahraini students with bachelor's degrees in nursing and assist Bahraini nurses in obtaining specialized qualifications in various fields of nursing, the MP said.

"These initiatives will make Bahraini cadres the best choice for employment in the private health sector," said Dr. Al-Dhaen. "Through rigorous training and professional devel-



These initiatives will make Bahraini cadres the best choice for employment in the private health sector. Through rigorous training and professional development, we aim to enhance the quality of healthcare in Bahrain, ensuring that our national medical workforce is well-equipped to meet the community's health needs

DR. MARYAM AL DHAEN

opment, we aim to enhance the quality of healthcare in Bahrain, ensuring that our national medical workforce is well-equipped to meet the community's health needs."

Dr. Al-Dhaen lauded the dedication of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in driving initiatives that increase employment opportunities for Bahraini doctors and elevate their professional standards. She also commended the efforts of Tamkeen in launching this extensive programme package, the largest of its kind, and expressed gratitude to His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board

of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tamkeen.

"This initiative epitomizes the spirit of partnership within the Bahrain team, opening up promising horizons for Bahraini youth who are medical and nursing graduates," Dr. Al-Dhaen noted. "It offers significant opportunities for creating quality jobs within one of the Kingdom's most prominent and promising sectors."

Looking ahead, Dr. Al-Dhaen expressed her aspirations for Bahrain to maintain its leadership in the National Genome Programme, aimed at establishing a comprehensive database to monitor and prevent genetic

diseases. She also highlighted the importance of expanding the use of modern technologies and robotics in medicine, positioning Bahrain as a pioneer in the Arabian Gulf in utilizing medical robots in isolation wards.

"We anticipate the broadening of artificial intelligence applications in health services," Dr. Al-Dhaen continued. "Through collaboration with global experts, emerging technologies like AI, biotechnology, materials science, and robotics can significantly advance the medical sector. Promoting innovation and scientific research in medicine will enhance patient care and healthcare services in Bahrain and worldwide."

Hamad Town's 1209 complex walkway hits 60% completion

TDT | Manama

Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, confirmed that 60% of the development work on the 1209 Complex Walkway in Hamad Town has been completed.

The walkway spans an area of 11,608 square meters and



Officials during the inspection

stretches over 920 meters. It includes a walking path, green spaces, exercise equipment, rest areas, and shaded trees. He assured that the project is progressing according to the established timetable.

This announcement was made during an inspection tour to review the progress of the walkway development.

Training institute owner accused of defrauding Tamkeen of 4,470 dinars with forged certificates

TDT | Manama

An owner of a training institute in the Kingdom is under scrutiny for allegedly defrauding Tamkeen of 4,470 dinars by submitting forged documents.

The accusations claim that

the owner falsified training certificates to illegitimately obtain financial support from the Tamkeen Labour Fund.

According to the Acting Head of the Cybercrime Prosecution, the Public Prosecution initiated an investigation following

findings from the Anti-Corruption Crimes Department of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security. Witnesses and individuals named in the fraudulent training certificates confirmed they did not partic-

ipate in the referenced courses.

Further inquiries with the training institution that purportedly issued the certificates confirmed their invalidity. Investigations also revealed that the accused received financial support from Tamkeen through

The accusations claim that the owner falsified training certificates to illegitimately obtain financial support from the Tamkeen Labor Fund.

the training institute's bank account.

Following interrogation, the Public Prosecution confronted the accused with the evidence and subsequently ordered their referral to the appropriate criminal court for trial.

GFH Partners expands US industrial, logistics platform

Launches new fund with total transaction value of US\$300 million

TDI | Manama

GFH Partners Ltd., the DIFC based global asset management arm of GFH Financial Group, yesterday announced that it has successfully launched and closed its seventh logistics and industrial fund in the United States. Keeping with GFH Partners' thematic investment approach, the Fund comprises two types of assets: industrial and transportation logistics.

With a total transaction value of US\$300 million, the Fund's portfolio includes 25 industrial and transportation logistics assets in more than seven locations across the US.

Industrial assets within the Fund include six Class A, newly built mission-critical properties. The assets are well-diversified in terms of location, space usage, and tenant base with long-lease terms and investment grade occupants such as Tesla, Teleflex, Tower Health, and UGI Energy Services.

The Fund's transportation logistics assets are comprised of around 20 small to medium sites used for truck parking/servicing, sorting and fulfillment of goods, and electrical vehicle battery charging, loading/unloading, and transportation worker facilities. They are 100% occupied and spread across 600 square feet of rentable area leased to the likes of SRS Distribution, Steiner, AT&T, and Penske.

Interest in this asset class is rising due to limited availability, strict zoning requirements,



Nael Mustafa, CEO of GFH Partners

and decreasing supply resulting from growing demand from trucking, bus, and other mass transport operators. In addition, the assets acquired by the Fund capitalize on the reemergence of the Midwest logistics spine, which connects Chicago to Texas and the southern border of

the US. Demand in these markets is also supported by tailwinds driven by the onshoring/reshoring of a number of manufacturing and warehousing activities in Mexico. To manage these assets, GFH Partners has entered into a strategic partnership with Transport Properties,

an investment manager uniquely specialized in developing and enhancing properties for trucks, buses, construction, and material storage, ranging from single tenant to large scale, complex integrated facilities. The company has a portfolio of more than 45 properties acquired across 605 acres of land and is vertically integrated, managing each step in-house by controlling the process.

Nael Mustafa, CEO of GFH Partners, said, "We believe the current phase of the economic cycle is characterized by slowing inflation, the end of the rate hike cycle, and continued strong performance in the sectors GFH Partners specializes in, of which logistics and industrial are key components. The slowdown of new developments and constructions, coupled with strong macroeconomic drivers for industrial and logistics assets are also contributing to stable rent growth and an overall positive outlook for the sector."

He continued, "The Fund also introduces transportation logistics, a subsector within US logistics with potential for growth due to the combination of limited available land and zoning constraints, indicating the likelihood of rental growth upside. We look forward to maximizing the value and potential of these assets through our partnership with Transport Properties. This is an approach that we have effectively employed, engaging with proven operators on-the-ground with whom GFH Partners is strategically aligned."

Mercosul appoints Zaid Mirza as MENA Global Director and Ambassador



Zaid Mirza, Global Director for the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region

TDI | Manama

The Mercosul Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) has announced the appointment of Zaid Mirza as the Global Director for the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region. This strategic decision, made by Argentinian MCCI President Miguel Lujan Paletta, underscores the Chamber's commitment to strengthening economic ties and expanding its influence in the MENA region.

Mercosul stands as one of the world's foremost economic blocs, boasting a combined GDP exceeding \$2.6 trillion. Bilateral business relations between Mercosul and the MENA region have already reached an impressive \$25.7 billion as of last year.

"I look forward to implementing MCCI's strategic vision. Our plan includes opening offices in major cities throughout the MENA region to facilitate increased business transactions," stated Mirza.

Headquartered in São Paulo, Brazil, MCCI has regional branches across its member and associate countries, in-

cluding Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Venezuela, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Portugal, Spain, Germany, Italy, India, China, Russia, Japan, Canada, and the United States, among others.

President Miguel Lujan Paletta expressed his satisfaction with the business relations between the two regions. "We already have a strong presence in the Far East and Asia," he said. "We look forward to boosting the commercial aspects of trade, acquisitions, and establishing a strong presence in the MENA region. I will be visiting the region in the near future." He concluded.

Mercosul's exports to the Arab world amounted to \$12.3 billion, compared to \$12.2 billion in imports from the Arab world.

"The size of the business between Mercosul and the Middle East is substantial and growing," noted Zaid Mirza. "The main products traded include agricultural products such as soybeans, corn, sugar, and meat from Mercosul, and petroleum products, natural gas, and minerals from the Middle East."

'Bulldozed and shelled': Gaza's farming sector ravaged by war

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Tank tracks still fresh on his field in southern Gaza's coastal area of Al-Mawasi, Nedal Abu Jazar lamented the damage war has wrought on his trees and crops.

"Look at the destruction," the 39-year-old farmer told AFP, holding an uprooted tomato plant.

He pointed to his greenhouse's metal frame and its white plastic sheeting strewn across the plot, inside an area designated a humanitarian zone by the Israeli army.

"People were sitting peacefully on their farmland ... and suddenly tanks arrived and fired at us, and then there were (air) strikes."

Abu Jazar said the Israeli operation in late June destroyed about 40 dunams (10 acres) of land and killed five labourers.

His is not an isolated case. Across Gaza, 57 percent of agricultural land has been damaged since the war began, according to a joint assessment published in June by the UN's agriculture and satellite imagery agencies, FAO and UNOSAT.

The damage threatens Gaza's food sovereignty, Matieu Henry of the Food and Agriculture Organization told AFP, because 30 percent of the Palestinian territory's food consumption comes



Israeli soldiers are seen during a ground operation in the southern Gaza Strip

from agricultural land.

"If almost 60 percent of the agricultural land has been damaged, this may have a significant impact in terms of food security and food supply."

The Gaza Strip exported \$44.6 million worth of produce in 2022, mainly to the West Bank and Israel, with strawberries and tomatoes representing 60 percent of the total, according to FAO data.

That number fell to zero after the October 7 attack on southern Israel that resulted in the deaths of 1,195 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures.

Israel's retaliatory offensive

has killed at least 38,098 people, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

The damage assessment on the agricultural land comes as the UN's hunger monitoring system estimated in June that 96 percent of Gaza faces high levels of acute food insecurity.

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli army said it "does not intentionally harm agricultural land".

In a statement, it said Hamas "often operates from within orchards, fields and agricultural land".

No work, no income

The impact is worse in the Pal-

estian territory's north, where 68 percent of agricultural land is damaged, although the southern area encompassing parts of Al-Mawasi has seen the most significant increase in recent months due to military operations.

UNOSAT's Lars Bromley told AFP the damage is generally "due to the impact of activities such as heavy vehicle activity, bombing, shelling, and other conflict-related dynamics, which would be things like areas burning".

Near the southern city of Rafah, 34-year-old farmer Ibrahim Dheir feels helpless after the destruction of 20 dunams (five acres) of land he used to lease,

and all his farming equipment with it.

"As soon as the Israeli bulldozers and tanks entered the area, they began bulldozing cultivated lands with various trees, including fruits, citrus, guava, as well as crops like spinach, molokhia (jute mallow), eggplant, squash, pumpkin and sunflower seedlings," he said, before listing more damage in a testimony of the area's past agricultural abundance.

Dheir, whose family exported its produce to the West Bank and Israel, now feels destitute.

"We used to depend on agriculture for our livelihood day by day, but now there's no work or income."

Lasting damage

Farmer Abu Mahmoud Za'arab also finds himself with "no source of income".

The 60-year-old owns 15 dunams (3.7 acres) of land on which crops and fruit trees used to grow.

"The Israeli army passed through the land, completely wiping out all trees and crops," he told AFP.

"They bulldozed and shelled the land, turning it into barren pits."

The harm done to farmland in Gaza will last far beyond tank tracks and explosions, said

Bromley of UNOSAT.

"With modern weaponry, a certain percentage is always going to fail. Tank shells won't explode, artillery shells won't explode ... so clearing that unexploded ordnance is a massive task," he said.

It will require "probing every centimetre of the soil before you can allow the farmers back onto it".

Despite the risks, Dheir wants to return to farming.

"We want the war to stop and things to return to how they were so we can farm and cultivate our lands again."



The Gaza Strip exported \$44.6 million worth of produce in 2022, mainly to the West Bank and Israel, with strawberries and tomatoes representing 60% of the total

QUOTE OF THE DAY
TRAVEL BECOMES A STRATEGY FOR ACCUMULATING PHOTOGRAPHS
SUSAN SONTAG

TODAY IN HISTORY

1099
First Crusade: 15,000 starving Christian soldiers march in religious procession around Jerusalem as its Muslim defenders look on

1497
Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama departs on his first voyage, will become the 1st European to reach India by sea

1777
Independent Vermont introduces a new constitution, prohibiting slavery

1800
Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse gives the first cowpox vaccination in the United States to his son to prevent smallpox

News in brief

Sri Lanka pilgrims flee as elephant runs amok
A Hindu religious festival in Sri Lanka ended in chaos after an elephant in the procession panicked, with 13 people in the crowd injured as they fled, police said yesterday. Video footage shared on social media showed one of the elephant's keepers trying to pull the agitated animal by its tail in a desperate attempt to control it, while screaming devotees lining the street rushed to escape. The images show a parade of elephants covered in red, blue and gold robes from trunk to tail, in front of a large crowd while cymbals clanged. Thirteen people were taken to hospital and treated for minor injuries in Kataragama, 280 kilometres (175 miles) south of the capital Colombo, a police spokesman said.

Ukraine Drone Attack Sets Russian Munitions Depot Ablaze
An overnight Ukrainian drone attack set a Russian munitions depot ablaze in the region of Voronezh near the border between the two neighbours, local authorities said yesterday. "Several drones were detected and destroyed overnight by air defence systems above the Voronezh region," regional governor Alexander Gusev wrote on Telegram. "Their falling debris set off a fire in a depot" in the Podgorenski district where "explosives began to detonate", Gusev said, adding that there were no indications anybody had been hurt.

Eight killed in gun battles in Indian Kashmir: police
Two soldiers and six suspected militants were killed in two separate gun battles in Indian-administered Kashmir, police said yesterday. Kashmir police inspector general Vidhi Kumar Bardi said that authorities in the disputed territory had "carried out two different operations" in villages in the Kulgam district. Bardi said two members of the security forces had been killed, with clashes continuing in Modergram and Frisal Chinnigam villages. "We have retrieved the bodies of two terrorists from Modergram, and four others from Frisal Chinnigam," said Bardi.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

'Ready to come out?' Scientists reemerge after year 'on Mars'



Volunteer crew commander Kelly Haston speaks alongside crewmates (L-R) Ross Brockwell, Nathan Jones and Anca Selariu, as they exit the first simulated Mars habitat mission at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas

It's the kind of experience that would make anyone who lived through pandemic lockdowns shudder -- but all four were beaming as they reemerged Saturday, their hair slightly more unruly and their emotion apparent. "Hello. It's actually so wonderful just to be able to say hello to you," Haston, a biologist, said with a laugh. "I really hope I don't cry standing up here in front of all of you," Jones, an emergency room doctor, said as he took to the microphone -- and nearly doing just that several moments later as he spotted his wife in the crowd. The habitat, dubbed Mars Dune Alpha, is a 3D printed 1,700 square-foot (160 square-meter) facility, complete with bedrooms, a gym, common areas, and a vertical farm to grow food. An outdoor area, separated by an airlock, is filled with red sand and is where the team donned suits to conduct their "Marswalks", though it is still covered rather than being open air.

Ex-PM Blair lays out 'advice' to Britain's new leader



Britain's Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, Britain's former Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown speak together ahead of a meeting

In a piece headlined "My advice to Keir Starmer", Blair wrote in the Sunday Times that "all over the western world, traditional political parties are suffering disruption." "Where the system allows new entrants to emerge, they are running riot everywhere. Look at France or Italy. "We need a plan to control immigration. If we don't have rules, we get prejudices," he added. Blair, the only Labour leader to lead his party to three consecutive election victories starting with his own landslide win in 1997, couched his "advice" in an article about harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI). He said he believed digital ID technology offered the best solution to controlling irregular immigration, a key issue on the doorstep during the election campaign. It won five seats in the Westminster parliament and 14 percent of the vote, prompting Farage to warn that it will target Labour voters next.

French voters turn out en masse as far right eyes huge gains

High voter turnout marks tense election as National Rally party poised for significant gains

- Record-breaking 61.4% voter turnout by 5 PM
- Macron's snap election gamble backfires
- Tactical voting pacts formed to counter far-right

YOU KNOW WHAT
The voter turnout by 5:00 pm is the highest for a legislative race since 1981, indicating heightened public interest and tension



France's President Emmanuel Macron (C), flanked by his wife Brigitte Macron, casts his ballot to vote

French voters turned out in large numbers yesterday for the final round of a high-stakes election that is expected to leave the far right as the biggest force in a deeply divided parliament. By 5:00 pm (1500 GMT), according to interior ministry figures, some 61.4 percent of voters had turned out -- the most at this stage of a legislative race since 1981, with three hours of polling to go. President Emmanuel Macron called the snap elections three years ahead of time after his forces were trounced in June's European parliament vote, a gamble

which seems to have backfired. The mood in France is tense, with 30,000 police deployed to head off trouble and voters anxious about a potential electoral earthquake shifting the political landscape. In the village of Rosheim, outside the eastern city of Strasbourg, an "anguished" 72-year-old Antoine Schrameck said he feared France would see "a turning point in the history of the republic." And in Tourcoing, near the northeast city of Lille, 66-year-old retiree Laurence Abbad said she feared violence after the results

are announced. "There's so much tension, people are going mad," she said. The president was to assemble Prime Minister Gabriel Attal and the leaders of the parties in his out-going centrist coalition at the Elysee Palace while voting continued, sources in his camp said. France's inter-national standing and threaten Western unity in the face of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. European Union officials, already learning to deal with far-right parties in power in Italy and the Netherlands, are watching France closely. And in Rome, Pope Francis chose the day of the French vote to warn against "ideological temptations and populists", adding: "Democracy is not in good health in the world today."

With the country on tenterhooks, last week saw more than 200 tactical-voting pacts between centre and left wing candidates in seats to attempt to prevent the RN winning an absolute majority. This has been hailed as a return of the anti-far right "Republican Front" first summoned when Le Pen's father Jean-Marie faced Jacques Chirac in the run-off of 2002 presidential elections. Opinion polls now forecast that the RN will fall well short of the 289 seats needed for an outright majority in the 577-seat National Assembly, while still becoming the largest party.

Pope deplores state of democracy, warns against 'populists'

AFP | Vatican City



Pope Francis arrives to lead a mass in Trieste

Pope Francis decried the state of democracy and warned against "populists" during a short visit to Trieste in Italy's northeast yesterday ahead of a 12-day trip to Asia -- the longest of his papacy. "Democracy is not in good health in the world today," Francis said during a speech at the city's convention centre to close a national Catholic event. Without naming any countries, the pope warned against "ideological temptations and populists" on the day that France holds the

second round of a snap parliamentary vote that looks set to see the far right National Rally (RN) party take the largest share of the vote. "Ideologies are seductive. Some people compare them to the Pied Piper of Hamelin: they seduce but lead you to deny yourself," he said in reference to the German fairy tale. Ahead of last month's European parliament elections, bishops in several countries also warned about the rise of populism and nationalism, with far-right parties already holding the reins to power in Italy, Hungary and the Netherlands. Francis also urged people to "move away from polarisations that impoverish" and hit out at "self-referential power". After Venice in April and Verona in May, the half-day trip to Trieste, a city of 200,000 inhabitants on the Adriatic Sea that borders Slovenia, marked the third one within Italy this year for the 87-year-old pontiff, who has suffered increasing health problems in recent years.

Six hurt in Spanish bull running

AFP | Pamplona



A participant is hit by a young cow after the "encierro" (bull-run) of the San Fermin festival in Pamplona

Six people were hurt yesterday in Spain's traditional annual San Fermin bull running festival, with one participant gored and five suffering bruising, local government sources said. A 37-year-old Spanish man emerged from his goring with slight injuries, officials said. The curtain went up on nine days of festivities on Saturday as thousands of revellers dressed in white clothes and red scarves filled the city's main square for the "chupinazo" -- the firecracker which launches an event dating back to medieval times.

The run became world famous after being immortalised by US writer Ernest Hemingway in his novel "The Sun Also Rises" in 1926.

Floods and landslides kill 14 in Nepal: police



A resident wades through flood after Hanumante river overflowed following heavy rain in Bhaktapur on the outskirts of Kathmandu

missing, police said yesterday. Flooding in neighbouring India, as well as in downstream Bangladesh, has also caused widespread damage and impacted millions. "Police are working with other agencies and locals to find the missing people," Nepalese police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki told AFP. Those killed and missing are in multiple locations. Monsoon rains from June to September bring widespread death and destruction every year across South Asia, but the numbers of fatal floods and landslides have increased in recent years. Experts say climate change and increased road construction are exacerbating the problem. Parts of Nepal have been receiving heavy rainfall since Thursday, prompting disaster authorities in the Himalayan nation to warn of flash floods in multiple rivers.

ISRO's Aditya-L1 completes first halo orbit around Sun-Earth L1 point in 178 days

TDT | Agencies



ISRO's Aditya-L1

India's first solar mission Aditya-L1 spacecraft completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point on Tuesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a statement. The Aditya-L1 mission is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point L1, launched on September 2 last year and was inserted in its targeted halo orbit on January 6. Aditya-L1 spacecraft in the Halo orbit takes 178 days to complete a revolution around the L1 point. During its travel in the halo orbit, the spacecraft will be subjected to various perturbing forces that will cause it to depart from the targeted orbit, the ISRO stated. Further, it underwent two station-keeping manoeuvres on February 22 and June 7, respectively, to maintain this orbit.

The understanding of various perturbing forces acting on the spacecraft helped in determining the trajectory accurately and planning precise orbit manoeuvres. However, with today's manoeuvre, the state-of-the-art flight dynamics software developed in-house at URSC-ISRO for the Aditya-L1 missions stands fully validated, according to the ISRO. Further, the ISRO detailed the trajectories marked in the figure. The blue trajectory, in the figure, is the orbit around the Lagrangian point L1. This trajectory is a 3-dimensional trajectory, and what is shown is the projection of it in the X-Y plane. "SK#1, 2 & 3 are the Station Keeping manoeuvres by the Aditya-L1 spacecraft. The final firing of the thrusters, ie, SK#3 on July 2, placed the spacecraft back in the required orbit," it stated. Moreover, if an accurate firing was not done, the spacecraft would have moved away in a trajectory shown in green colour. The X-Y axes are marked in the distance of km, with Lagrangian point L1 at the origin, it added.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Pezeshkian, and the Future of Bahraini-Iranian Relations



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

When reading about the history of the newly elected Iranian President, Masoud Pezeshkian, we find many keys and few locks. He is, so far, considered the harbinger awaited by the Iranian people and a figure who could serve as a gateway to Bahraini-Iranian relations. To start, we see Pezeshkian as a doctor and university professor who values the importance of science in dealing with others. This is also evident in his positions on reforming education and healthcare. He served as Minister of Health and Medical Education in Mohammad Khatami's government and focused his election campaign on development, social justice, transparency, fighting corruption, and promoting economic growth. Here, we notice that he speaks the same language as the region and uses the same terminology. From his promises in foreign policy, we can discern his efforts to "reduce international tensions and restore participatory diplomacy with the world." This marks a positive point of convergence, opening the door to restoring good relations and neighborliness with Tehran, which we have long missed. Pezeshkian's previous statements suggest he has the ability to balance satisfying the religious regime while implementing his reformist policies. He described himself saying, "I am a conservative, and these are the principles we want to reform for." In this sentence, I see the political intelligence and experience that qualify him to pass his agenda without opposition from hardliners. Pezeshkian has opposed dealing with the opposition violently, due to his scientific and academic background. He strongly criticized the authorities' handling of the Mahsa Amini case and her death while in custody, calling for the formation of an investigative team to uncover the circumstances of her death.

What distinguishes the new Iranian president is his experience in parliamentary and governmental work, which will undoubtedly result in a balanced character with a harmonious blend between the legislative and executive branches

TOP 4 TWEETS

01 @Keir_Starmer

02 @antonioguterres

03 @JustinTrudeau

04 @POTUS

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

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Bahrain Olympic Academy celebrates graduation



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's speech

Certificates being awarded

Hussain Almaskati TDT | Manama

Highlighting Bahrain's dedication to sports education, the Bahrain Olympic Academy recently marked a significant milestone with a graduation ceremony under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, presided over the ceremony honoring grad-

uates from six specialized courses.

Under the leadership of His Highness Shaikh Khalid, the graduation ceremony at Wyndham Grand Manama celebrated the accomplishments of 81 graduates.

They successfully completed programs including the Advanced Sports Management Diploma and the Olympic Studies Diploma.

The event saw distinguished guests such as His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, who presented awards alongside officials from the General Sports Authority and the

Bahrain Olympic Committee. Key supporters including Tamkeen, the University of Bahrain, and Mahzooz Gulf were also acknowledged for their contributions.

Makis Asimakopoulos, Director of the International Olympic Academy, highlighted the effective partnership between the IOA and the Bahrain Olympic Committee in his address.

The ceremony showed Bahrain's commitment to building excellence in sports education, resulting in a memorable occasion marked by gratitude and future aspirations.

Bahraini jockey Hussein Asgar excels in French competition



Hussein Asghar from Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club claimed fifth place in the Prix Together for Racing International - Finale Ears competition's 2500 meters race, which was held on the Deauville track.

Unity key to stopping Mbappe at Euros: Spain's Cucurella

AFP | Berlin

Spain defender Marc Cucurella believes the key to stopping France striker Kylian Mbappe in their Euro 2024 semi-final clash is a unified approach.

Joint record three-time winners Spain face France in Munich on Tuesday after ousting hosts Germany in extra-time.

Explosive new Real Madrid signing Mbappe has struggled at the Euros after breaking his nose in France's first match, scoring once from the penalty spot, but remains Les Bleus' main attacking threat.

"I think football is a collective sport, and it's true that if it was one-on-one it would be tricky, but it's up to us in the end," Cucurella told a news conference yesterday.

"Apart from being good with the ball, we are a very hard-working team, we give everything for each other,



Spain's defender #24 Marc Cucurella fights for the ball with Germany's midfielder #25 Emre Can

and I think that's the key.

"We have to be united, to know what to do in each moment, and above all we need to minimise their counter-attacks which are perhaps their strongest weapons."

Cucurella has been one of the most impressive players in Spain's side this summer, a surprise to some after an

inconsistent season with Chelsea.

The left-back had only appeared once for his country before this year, but improving performances at Stamford Bridge in the final months of the season and Valencia defender Jose Gaya's injury helped him claim a starting spot.

Alcaraz struggles into Wimbledon last-eight as tearful Keys quits

Alcaraz overcomes mid-match slump to defeat Humbert as Keys forced to retire due to leg injury while leading

● **Alcaraz beats Humbert 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5**

● **Paolini progresses to quarters for first time**

● **Shelton reaches fourth round, faces Sinner next**

AFP | London

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz survived a worrying mid-match slump to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals yesterday, while injured American Madison Keys quit her last-16 clash in floods of tears after being one game from victory.

World number three Alcaraz defeated French 16th seed Ugo

Humbert 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 to make the last-eight of a Grand Slam for the ninth time in just 14 appearances.

However, it was another uncomfortable afternoon for Alcaraz, who had needed five sets to see off Frances Tiafoe in the third round.

His erratic performance yesterday saw him drop serve five times and commit an uncharacteristic 33 unforced errors.

The 21-year-old, bidding to become just the sixth man to win the French Open

and Wimbledon back-to-back, eased through the first set under the Centre Court roof before crucially saving four break points in the

first game of the second.

Humbert stormed back, breaking the champion three times in the third set as Alcaraz went spectacularly off the boil.

Alcaraz was twice unable to hold onto breaks in the fourth set and had to fend off three break points in the eighth game to stay level at 4-4.

Left-hander Humbert then lost his bearings to hand over a service break in Carlos Alcaraz

the 11th game and Alcaraz took full advantage to quickly seal the tie.

'Fight to last ball'

"I will be there, fighting until the last ball," said Alcaraz, who is chasing a fourth Grand Slam title.

Alcaraz will take on either American 12th seed Tommy Paul or 36-year-old compatriot Roberto Bautista Agut, a semi-finalist in 2019.

Over on Court One, US 12th seed Madison Keys was just one game away from a third quarter-final at the All England Club when she was forced to quit against Italy's Jasmine Paolini.

After dropping the first set to the seventh seeded Italian, Keys hit back to level the match at 3-6, 7-6 (8/6).

The 2017 US Open runner-up then raced into a 5-2 lead in the decider when she suffered a left



Carlos Alcaraz is bidding to become just the sixth man in history to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back, showcasing his potential to dominate the tennis world

legged to move and was immediately broken by Paolini.

Keys gamely tried to continue but, after failing to run for a Paolini drop shot, she retired with the score level at 5-5.

'It's sad'

"I'm very sorry for her. It's sad," said French Open runner-up Paolini, who had never won a match at Wimbledon before this year.

Ben Shelton has made Wimbledon a family affair, reaching the fourth round 30 years after his father Bryan made the same stage.

"We're back, big dog," the 21-year-old American told his dad after seeing off Denis Shapovalov in the third round.

The 14th-ranked Shelton takes on world number one and Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner for a place in the quarter-finals.

Uruguay beat Brazil on penalties to reach Copa America semi-finals

AFP | Las Vegas

Uruguay beat Brazil on penalties (4-2) to reach the semi-finals of Copa America after an ugly game ended goalless on Saturday.

Uruguay, who finished the game with ten men after Nahitan Nandez was sent off in the 74th minute, will face Colombia in Charlotte, North Carolina, in their semi-final on Wednesday.

Colombia, now unbeaten in 27 games, beat Panama 5-0 in Saturday's other quarter-final earlier in Arizona.

The other semi-final, in New Jersey on Tuesday, will see world champions Argentina face surprise package Canada.

For five-times world champions Brazil it was a disappointing early end to a tournament in which they never truly clicked, and a lot of work remains to be done if Dorival Junior's team are to be in shape to compete for the title in the 2026 World Cup.



Uruguay celebrated a penalty shoot out victory over Brazil

In a city better known for boxing than for the beautiful game, it was a bruising contest with little quality play and a tournament high 41 fouls.

A poor quality playing field hardly helped with both teams struggling to produce their best football on an uneven surface.

The first - and best - chance of a game of few opportunities came in the 35th minute when Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez had a clear header in front of goal but mis-timed his effort which flew wide off his shoulder.

Within moments, Brazil cre-

A poor quality playing field hardly helped with both teams struggling to produce their best football on an uneven surface

ated an opening of their own with Raphinha breaking clear, but Uruguay keeper Sergio Rochet stayed tall and made a vital save.

Marcelo Bielsa's Uruguay were as tenacious as always, harrying Brazil in midfield and never afraid to interrupt their flow with a foul.

Brazil resorted too often to long balls forward but with only their 17-year-old talent Endrick, in for the suspended Vinicius Junior, as a central striker they lacked the physical presence to make that approach effective.

The game deteriorated the longer it went on with foul after foul, not deterred by lenient refereeing.

Abhishek century guides India to T20 victory against Zimbabwe



Abhishek Sharma reached his first international century

AFP | Harare

Scorecard

India 234 for 2 (Abhishek 100, Gaikwad 77*, Rinku 48*) beat Zimbabwe 134 (Madhevere 43, Avesh 3-15, Bishnoi 2-11) by 100 runs

Abhishek Sharma slammed a 46-ball century as India bounced back with a 100-run win over Zimbabwe in the second Twenty20 international at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Sharma, playing in his second international match, made 100 in an Indian total of 234 for two.

Zimbabwe, who won the first match by 13 runs on Saturday, were bowled out for 134.

The left-handed Sharma, who was out for a duck on debut on Saturday, thrashed eight sixes and seven fours.

"It was a good performance after the defeat yesterday," said Sharma when he was named man of the match.

"Thanks to the coaches and captain to keep confidence." After opening his score with a six against off-spinner Brian Bennett, who dismissed him on Saturday, Sharma charged to his half-century with a six off medium-pacer Dion Myers.

He then raised his hundred with three successive sixes off left-arm spin bowler Wellington Masakadza before being dismissed next ball, caught at

backward point. Sharma was dropped on the long-off boundary off Luke Jongwe when he had 27.

"After the drop I thought it was my day," he said. "I always believe in my ability. If it's in my arc and even if it's the first ball I will go after it."

Ruturaj Gaikwad (77 not out) and Rinku Singh (48 not out) continued to take the attack to the Zimbabwe bowlers, who conceded 160 runs in the last 10 overs.

India made more runs in their innings than the combined total of both teams in a low-scoring encounter on the same pitch on Saturday when Zimbabwe made 115 for nine and India were bowled out for 102.

Despite an aggressive 26 off nine balls by Bennett, Zimbabwe's hopes were virtually extinguished when they crashed to 46 for four after four overs, with seamers Mukesh Kumar and Avesh Khan taking two wickets each.

Djokovic gets kick out of England Euros win at Wimbledon

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic reached the Wimbledon fourth round for the 16th time on Saturday after taking a break to help the Centre Court crowd celebrate England's Euro 2024 win over Switzerland in Germany.

Djokovic claimed a battling 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) win over Australia's Alexei Popyrin as he stayed on course for a record-equalling eighth title at the All England Club and 25th Grand Slam.

He has now made the last 16 at the majors for a 65th time while Saturday's win was also the 95th at Wimbledon for Djokovic who underwent knee surgery last month.

Djokovic also marked England's quarter-final win over Switzerland by imitating taking a penalty kick during the match.

At 4-1 ahead in the second set, fans inside Centre Court let out a huge roar and applause to mark the national team's penalty shoot-

out win in Dusseldorf. While Djokovic shadow-kicked the ball, his

Australian opponent took on the role of goalkeeper, shaping to make a save.

"I assumed it was a penalty shootout between England and Switzerland - it felt like for a set and a half the crowd really wanted to understand what the score is in the football match," explained Djokovic.

"Did England win in the end? That's why you guys stayed. Congrats to England."

He added: "I tried to shoot a penalty, I'm left footed, but Alexei defended it well."



Novak Djokovic



I assumed it was a penalty shootout between England and Switzerland - it felt like for a set and a half the crowd really wanted to understand what the score is in the football match

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

World number two Djokovic will face Holger Rune, the 15th seed from Denmark, for a place in the quarter-finals.

Rune, a quarter-finalist last year, defeated Quinton Halys 1-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 to register his first win from two sets down.

Hamilton wins British Grand Prix to end three-year drought

Emotional victory marks Lewis Hamilton's record 104th career win and 9th at Silverstone

● Hamilton ends 56-race winless streak

● Verstappen finishes second, Norris third

● Changing weather conditions impact race strategies

● McLaren shows strong performance with both drivers in top 4

AFP | Silverstone

Lewis Hamilton claimed an emotional and long-awaited record 104th career victory yesterday when he resisted Max Verstappen to triumph in vintage fashion at the British Grand Prix for a record ninth time.

The seven-time champion, who will turn 40 in January, cracked with emotion and was in tears as he spoke on Mercedes team radio on his victory lap, having finished 1.465 seconds ahead of Red Bull's series leader and three-time champion.

In a roller-coaster race of changing weather and track conditions, Lando Norris came



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates on the podium

home third ahead of his McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri, Carlos Sainz of Ferrari and Haas' Nico Hulkenberg with Lance Stroll finishing seventh for Aston Martin.

Hamilton, who had not won since the 2021 Saudi Arabia Grand Prix, delivered a masterclass in tyre and race management to secure his 150th podium finish for Mercedes.

"I've been waiting for this," shouted Briton Hamilton after crossing the line in his Mercedes to claim a ninth victory at Silver-

stone, breaking a tie with Michael Schumacher for most wins at one track.

"I can't stop crying," said Hamilton. "I think, since 2021, every day getting up, trying to fight, and to train, and to put my mind to the task and work as hard as I can with this amazing team."

Hamilton is leaving Mercedes for Ferrari after this season.

"This is my last British GP with this team. I wanted to win so much for them. I love them so much. All the hard work they've



I can't stop crying. I think, since 2021, every day getting up, trying to fight, and to train, and to put my mind to the task and work as hard as I can with this amazing team

LEWIS HAMILTON

been putting in."

Verstappen overtook Norris in the closing laps.

"We just didn't have the pace today," said Verstappen. "I was slowly dropping back when it mattered at the beginning. It really wasn't looking great at one point, but we made the right calls."

Norris had lost the lead after a misjudged pit stop.

"First of all, congrats to Lewis," Norris said. "That crucial decision at the end, he just did a better job, so hats off to him and Mercedes, they deserve it. It was tough. It was fun battling these guys and these tricky conditions, risking a lot, on a knife-edge."

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso was eighth in the second Aston Martin, ahead of Williams' Alex Albon and Yuki



Hamilton's victory at Silverstone breaks Michael Schumacher's record for most wins at a single track, cementing his legacy in Formula 1 history just months before his move to Ferrari

Tsunoda of RB.

On a day of clouds and intermittent sunshine in central England a crowd of more than 120,000 witnessed three Britons starting their home race at the front of the grid for the first time since 1962.

George Russell started on pole and made a clean start with Hamilton moving in tight behind him to provide protection from Verstappen who had quickly passed Norris.

Russell settled and by lap six led by 1.6 seconds with Hamilton 1.4 seconds ahead of Verstappen and the two McLarens.

By lap 14, rain began to sweep

across the old wartime airfield as Norris passed Verstappen to regain third. As the rain intensified, the McLarens came alive and Piastri passed Verstappen on lap 17.

"The sun's coming out"

Hamilton then overtook Russell for the lead as both Mercedes slithered in the rain. Norris, revelling in the conditions, passed Russell for second on lap 19 and then powered past Hamilton while Piastri made it a McLaren 1-2, on lap 21.

As the first shower relented, Verstappen was five seconds adrift in fifth.

By lap 28, Norris led Hamilton who was trying to preserve his tyres while hanging on to the rapid McLaren.

Russell's race ended on lap 34 when he was called in to pit and retire the car with a hydraulic problem.

With 15 to go, Hamilton reported that "the sun's coming out" before on lap 39 he, Verstappen and Piastri pitted together. Norris pitted a lap later losing the lead to Hamilton who measured his final stint to perfection, ending 56 winless races to a tumultuous home reception.

Hamilton wept as he fell into the arms of his father as the home crowd roared.

Pogacar lashes out at 'scared' Vingegaard tactics at Tour de France

● Turgis wins first major career victory

● Pidcock narrowly misses first place

AFP | London

Tour de France overall leader Tadej Pogacar voiced frustration with Jonas Vingegaard's defensive tactics yesterday, claiming the defending champion was "scared" as little-known Frenchman Anthony Turgis won stage nine.

The attack-minded Pogacar tried to break several times on a novel run through the champagne vineyards, including dusty gravel roads for a first time, but finished alongside his title rivals Visma Lease-a-Bike's Danish rider Vingegaard and Belgian Remco Evenepoel.

"It's a shame me, Remco and Jonas didn't go for it together," said Slovenian Pogacar.

"I think it's because of Visma's tactics.

"Otherwise, we'd have been the three of us on the podium.

"They are scared of me and just followed," the 25-year-old lamented.

Second-placed Evenepoel, 24, agreed with UAE Emirates' Po-



TotalEnergies team's French rider Anthony Turgis cycles to the finish line

gacar but was less disappointed.

"It's a shame yes, we could have taken three or four minutes off the others," said Evenepoel.

"I had a good time though, I enjoyed it.

"You have to accept other team tactics," the Soudal Quick-Step rider added.

Briton Tom Pidcock was second on the day after tailing Turgis but looked to be slightly blocked as he made a last-gasp bid for the line ahead of third-placed Derek Gee of Canada.

Turgis, 30, claimed the first major victory of his career having come fourth in the French road race championships last month and second at 2022's Milan-San Remo.

"That was wonderful," Turgis

said at the finish line in the city of Troyes.

"I've been close to winning for ages and to get one here is just great," the Total Energies rider added.

As France voted in the second round of a parliamentary election, hundreds of thousands of cycling fans turned out for the Tour on this first holiday weekend.

A shake-up in the overall standings had been expected as the peloton tackled 14 rustic white gravel paths in the region's celebrated champagne vineyards that produce over 300 million bottles of bubbly a year.

One of them was cracked open at the finish line by Turgis, who had been part of the long-



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TADEJ POGACAR

range break-away from a group of one-day specialists.

Uno-X rider and mountains' polka-dot jersey wearer Jonas Abrahamson and his team paid homage yesterday to Norwegian compatriot Andre Drege who died in a fall on the Tour of Austria on Saturday.

Seven out of the outfit's eight riders on this Tour de France are Norwegian.

Sprint ace Biniam Girmay holds the green jersey after his two wins on stage three and eight, with a wide lead in the points standings.

While Monday is a rest day in Orleans, most riders will ride out for a few hours somewhere and all the leading contenders will have media duties to fulfil.

Stage 10 on Tuesday heads south from Orleans for a flat stage where Mark Cavendish will target a 36th stage win.

Bagnaia capitalises on late Martin crash in Germany



Francesco Bagnaia (L)

AFP | London

Francesco Bagnaia capitalised on Jorge Martin's late crash to win the German MotoGP yesterday and take control of the world championship.

Martin appeared to have the race wrapped up but made a mistake and fell at turn one on the penultimate lap to hand the win to the double world champion.

Marc Marquez, who will be Bagnaia's teammate next season on the factory Ducati, took second, with Alex Marquez, his younger brother, completing the podium.

Martin's dramatic departure

from the Sachsenring stage gifted not only the race victory to Bagnaia but also the riders' standings.

Bagnaia heads into MotoGP's summer break 10 points clear of Martin.

"It wasn't easy," said Bagnaia.

"I saw Jorge was starting to make some mistakes, then when he had his crash I just slowed down a lot. (I'm) very happy. It's the first time I win here in Sachsenring."

Marc Marquez is an eight-time winner on this circuit but the six-time former world champion has not won a race since October 2021.