

Russell leads Hamilton in Friday practice at Suzuka

Mercedes pair edge Max Verstappen in soaking Japanese GP second practice | P12

WORLD 6 Putin's nuclear threat brings risk of 'Armageddon,' Biden says



Christian Bale credits Leonardo DiCaprio for helping career 10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Batelco, Maldives' Dhiraagu join hands for cyber security

Follow the life, teachings of Prophet: HM King

HM King performs Friday prayers, shares greetings on the anniversary of Prophet's birthday

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday urged all to follow the life of the Prophet (PBUH) and his teachings that fosters the values of brotherhood, coexistence and peace with everyone.

HM King was performing Friday prayer at Sakhir Palace mosque marking the anniversary of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) with their Highnesses, members of the Royal Family and scholars.

The celebration, called Mawlid al-Nabi or simply the Mawlid, like many other Islamic celebrations, is a sign of respect and adoration of Prophet Muhammad.

On the occasion, HM King reminded all that the life of the Prophet (PBUH) and his tolerant teachings foster the values of brotherhood, coexistence and peace with everyone.

"His life laid the foundations for humanity and the highest levels of progress witnessed by the civilization of Arabs and Muslims," HM King said, thanking Muslims for their pride in the religion and adherence to the Holy Quran and the Sunnah.

HM King prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Muslim world, wishing the Arab and Islamic Nations many happy returns and further progress and prosperity. His Majesty and the attendees heard the Friday sermon by Sunni Endowments Council Chairman Dr Sheikh Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajeri, who spoke about the blessed life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the anniversary of his birthday. King Hamad then hosted a lunch banquet in honour of the attendees, including ministers, members of the Royal Family and scholars.



HM King performing Friday prayer at Sakhir Palace mosque

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday also exchanged greeting with the leaders of the Arab and Islamic countries, Royal family members, and ministers. HM King and HRH Prince Salman wished brotherly countries and people further progress, development and prosperity.



Rights champions take Nobel peace

Nobel Peace Prize goes to Ukraine, Russia, Belarus rights campaigners

● Prize highlights importance of civil society for peace

● First award since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine

● Echoes awards to Soviet dissidents during the Cold War



Ales Bialiatski Prize share: 1/3



Memorial Prize share: 1/3



Centre for Civil Liberties Prize share: 1/3

significance of civil society for peace and democracy.

The prize will be seen by many as a condemnation of

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is celebrating his 70th birthday yesterday, and Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, making it one of the most politically contentious in decades.

The award, the first since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, has echoes of the Cold War era, when prominent Soviet dissidents such as Andrei Sakharov and Alexander Solzhenitsyn won Nobels for peace or literature. (Continued on page 3)



The 2022 Peace Prize is awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Centre for Civil Liberties. The Peace Prize laureates represent civil society in their home countries. They have for many years promoted the right to criticise power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens. They have made an outstanding effort to document war crimes, human rights abuses and the abuse of power. Together they demonstrate the significance of civil society for peace and democracy.

Reuters | Oslo

Jailed Belarusian activist Ales Byalyatski, Russian rights group Memorial and Ukraine's Centre for Civil Liberties won the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize yesterday, highlighting the

Top honour

WHO Director-General honours Health Minister

TDT | Geneva

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General, yesterday honoured Dr Jalila bint Sayed Jawad Hassan, Bahrain's Health Minister, for efforts in vaccination.

The honour, Health Ministry said, constitutes a qualitative addition for Bahrain, whose

membership exceeded two consecutive terms in the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE) of the World Health Organisation.

The Minister of Health's membership is the longest term of an expert in the WHO's Global Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation.

The WHO Director-Gener-

al honoured a number of the committee members yesterday. Recently, the World Health Organisation launched a case study documenting Bahrain's strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, showcasing how the country managed to overcome critical challenges through preparedness and early response.

Health minister with Dr Tedros



Hero's welcome for HH Shaikh Nasser

NPRA offices closed today

TDT | Manama

The Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) offices in the Security Complex in Muharraq and Isa Town will remain closed today for Prophet Mohammed's birthday. Offices will be open on Sunday from 7:30 am to 7 pm.

Book appointments via MAWAEID app before visiting the offices. For inquiries, contact via info@npa.gov.bh or 17077077.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

10410538

ACTIVE CASES

2857

DEATHS

1520

DISCHARGED

678670

NEW CASES

231

CRITICAL

3

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Hero's welcome

HM King congratulates HH Shaikh Nasser, says Bahrain enjoys top position in endurance sport



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa took pride in the achievements of Bahrain in the youth and sports sector, congratulating HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his victory in the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) World Endurance Championship.

The Royal Endurance Team, under Shaikh Nasser's captaincy, had won the title of the FEI World Endurance Championship for eight-year-old horses in Spain, outclassing 57 elite riders representing 20 countries in the 120km race.

"This achievement reflects the advanced position enjoyed by Bahraini endurance sport and



In pictures, Shaikh Nasser with HM King; arrival at Sakhir Airbase

the continuous development it is witnessing," HM King said during a meeting with HH Shaikh Nasser, HM's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, Royal Endurance Team Captain. HM King congratulated HH Shaikh Nasser and took pride in his global achievement

and outstanding performance. Bahraini athletes and youth, HM King said, had spared no effort to honour the Kingdom in all sports arenas.

King Hamad praised the Royal Team riders and their resolve to honour their country.

Earlier, upon his arrival in

Kingdom, HH Shaikh Nasser was welcomed at the Sakhir Air Base by His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Personal Representative, President of the Supreme Council for Environment.

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Dep-

uty Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, senior officials and ministers, were also present.

Shaikh Abdullah congratulated Shaikh Nasser on his achievement in the World Endurance Championship in Spain, wishing him continued success in bringing about more accomplishments for Bahraini sports.

HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad stressed that the great victory reflects the high level and distinguished performance of the Bahraini endurance sport.



New Millennium School



The New Millennium School, Bahrain celebrated the Birth Anniversary of Prophet Mohammed, on the 6th of October, 2022, with great enthusiasm and spirit. Children wore traditional dresses and costumes and presented speeches in praise and appreciation of the Prophet, designed cards on the significance of the day, narrated the Prophet's Hadith and shared sweets of joy. School Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geeta Pillai and Principal, Arun Kuumar Sharma wished the staff and students.

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School



Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) celebrated Prophet Muhammad's birthday with the National and Islamic Activities Committee of the school presenting a special assembly. Students sang songs in praise of Prophet Muhammad and presented a skit highlighting his life and preaching. Students also presented an artwork exhibition and took part in a quiz session on the life of Prophet Muhammad. Students of Grade 4 Maple presented a special assembly on the life of Prophet Muhammad and also shared his teachings. Directors Himanshu Verma & Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob wished all on Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

More candidates join the fray

● 400 candidacy applications in the first two days

● The candidate lists will be on display for three days, between October 10 and 12

TDT | Manama

Citizens continued to flock yesterday to the supervisory centres in all four governorates of the Kingdom to file their nominations for the upcoming Parliamentary and Municipal elections next month.

Supervisory centres, as in the last two days, opened their doors at 5 pm. However, there was no rush, as on Day 1, with centres were quiet, with only a few citizens present to file nominations.

Officials confirmed receiving 400 candidacy applications in the first two days.

The four supervisory centres are Khawla Secondary School for Girls in the Capital Governorate (parliamentary election only), Al-Hidaya Al-Khalifa Secondary School for Boys in Muharraq Governorate, Yathreb Preparatory School for Girls in the Northern Governorate, and Al-Mustaqbal Primary School for Girls in the Southern Governorate.

The head of the Supervisory Committee on the Safety of Referendum and Elections in Muharraq Governorate, Dr Ali Al-Shuwaikh, said they received 17 applications on day two.

Of the 17 nominations, 10 were for the parliamentary election, including three women.

Seven candidates for the Municipal council included two women.

In another development, yesterday, Former MP Ibrahim Bousandal filed his nomination in the Muharraq Governorate as an independent candidate.

In the 2006 election, he was one of the prominent members of Al -the Asala Association.

When asked about dropping out, he said this allows him to work without any constraints of political association.

"I will continue the same approach when it comes to stand-



Potential candidates waiting at supervisory centres

Election monitoring: Application window opens on Monday

TDT | Manama

Civil society organisations wishing to participate in the national monitoring of the upcoming elections could file applications starting this Monday, announced the Supreme Committee for Supervising the Safety of Elections.

Application windows will remain open until the 23rd of October 2022.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments will accept applications on the third floor of its building during official working hours.

According to Article 1 of the Electoral Observation law, electoral observation means all monitoring and controlling the electoral process through field follow-up and collecting data to verify the proper application of procedures related to the electoral process.

A person who undertakes the electoral observation should be a Bahraini, not affil-

ing for the rights of citizens," he stressed.

Bousandal will run from the second district of Muharraq Governorate, Where Ibrahim Al Naifi'i is the sitting MP.

Bousandal said that during his tenure, he presented several



iated with any political parties, and not a candidate, agent, legal representative or endorser of any candidates.

Application forms and procedures are available on www.vote.bh.

- The scope of the electoral observation includes monitoring;
- The progress of the electoral process in all its stages;
- The behaviour of can-

didates, political associations and other civil institutions;

- The behaviour of voters, citizens and individuals concerning respecting the laws;
- The use of places of worship or religious discourse to promote candidates, or degrade others, or any other violations punishable by relevant laws.

proposals and was instrumental in increasing the handicapped allowance from BD50 to BD100.

Officials at the Supervisory centre in the Capital Governorate also witnessed two divorced women filing papers to fight for a parliamentary seat.

According to Al Ayam, the incident had also paved the way for another battle.

The ex-husband of one of the women said he intends to object to her candidacy. He points out that the woman is living with him on the first floor of the building temporarily only. Hence cannot claim that as her residential address.

Meanwhile, it also emerged that all of the sitting MPs from the capital governorate had

filed their nominations, with MP Ahmed Al Salloum being the last person to file nominations.

Al Salloum will face the election from the 5th district of the Capital Governorate.

MP Abdullah Al Aali also filed papers to enter the fray from fifth constituency - his sitting constituency. Al Aali is first cleric to enter the electoral race.

Yesterday, the Youth Leadership Society, the Observatory Society for Human Rights, Rotaract Bahrain, and Bahrain Debates Centre jointly launched a campaign #Youth_we_vote" to motivate young men and women to participate in the elections.

All sitting MPs file in capital

Nominations until Sunday

As per the rule, citizens wishing to run for membership in the Council of Representatives



MP Abdullah Al-Aali presents his candidacy papers



Former MP Ibrahim Bousandal files nomination

and municipal elections could file the papers until this Sunday.

COVID-19 patients, to file nominations, should contact the hotline at 77277277 to book an appointment with the relevant supervisory committee.

The nomination procedures are available for cross-checking on www.vote.bh.

The candidate lists will be on display for three days, between October 10 and 12, during which potential candidates may challenge the decisions of the supervisory committees.

Supervisory committees shall issue final decisions regarding the challenge requests by October 15, which citizens could at a competent court before October 18. The court decision will come by October 25.

Fahd Al Buainain, the head of the supervisory committee in North, announced receiving 74 nominations for the parliamentary election, of which 7 were rejected. The committee also received 54 applications for the municipal election, of which 4 were rejected.

Dr Ali Al Suwaikh, the head of the supervising committee in Muharraq, announced receiving 14 nominations for parliament and 30 for Municipal Council.

In the Capital Governorate, the supervising committee received eight applications yesterday. The committee, in total, received 85 nominations and accepted 63 applications.



Potential candidates waiting at supervisory centres



Oleg Orlov and Yan Rachinsky, members of Russian human rights organisation Memorial



Natalia Yashchuk and Anna Popova, projects coordinators of the Center for Civil Liberties



Human rights activist Ales Bialiatski, founder of the organisation Viasna (Belarus)

The Nobel Peace Prize 2022

(Continued from page 1)

“The Norwegian Nobel

Committee wishes to honour three outstanding champions of human rights, democracy and peaceful co-existence in the neighbour countries Belarus, Russia and Ukraine,” said committee chair Berit Reiss-Andersen.

“It is not one person, one organisation, one quick fix,” she told Reuters. “It is the united efforts of what we call civil society that can stand up against authoritarian states and, or, human rights abuses.”

She called on Belarus to release Byalyatski from prison and said the prize was not aimed against Putin. Belarusian security police in July last year raided offices and homes of lawyers and human rights activists, detaining Byalyatski and others in a new crackdown on opponents of Lukashenko.

Authorities had moved to shut down non-state media outlets and human right groups after mass protests the previous August against a presidential election the opposition said was rigged.

“The (Nobel) Committee is sending a message that political freedoms, human rights and active civil society are part of peace,” Dan Smith, head of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, said.

The prize will boost morale for Byalyatski and strengthen the hand of the Centre for Civil Liberties, an independent Ukrainian human rights organisation, which is also focused on fighting corruption, he said.

“Although Memorial has been closed in Russia, it lives on as an idea that it's right to criticize power and that facts and history matter,” Smith added.

Court rejects drug dealer's appeal, confirms 10-year jail, BD5,000 fine

TDT | Manama

A drug peddler had his 10-year jail term and a BD5,000 fine upheld by the Court of Appeal.

The court also ordered authorities to deport him after completing his jail term.

Court files say the man, an

Asian national, was selling drugs in the Kingdom and fell into the trap set by the Bahraini police based on a tip-off.

Police said they arrested him through a covert operation. An undercover agent, police said, contacted the suspect through an unnamed source and estab-

lished a relationship. After gaining his confidence, the agent placed an order to buy BD150 worth of 'Marijuana' to which the suspect agreed.

The suspect also agreed to deliver the drugs in the Salmabad area, kept under surveillance by a team of policemen.



Unsuspecting the trap, the suspect came to the meeting place and handed over the drug, only to find him surrounded by cops.

Police said they had to use force to bring him under control. Based on his confession, police raided his residence and

found undisclosed quantities of marijuana.

The man also confessed to receiving them from other sources.

Public Prosecution charged him with the sale of marijuana, acquisition and possession of the drug with intent to use.

Bapco offers 5-year courier deal

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Petroleum Company has invited bids from courier service providers for signing a five-year contract.

A successful bidder should handle various "types of courier services consisting of, but not limited to, letters, documents, parcels and samples of non-flammable and non-toxic sludge, catalyst powder, non-hazardous used lube oil, etc., for testing and technical analysis by laboratories overseas."

Qualifying bidders should have five years of experience providing courier services to major companies and submit documentary evidence proving their claims.

Interested parties should purchase the tender before the 26th of October 2022. Make bids before the 2nd of November 2022, with a BD1,000 bond and BD50 tender fees.

UoB wants 12 vehicles on lease



TDT | Manama

The University of Bahrain has opened a tender for leasing 12 vehicles.

The vehicles, the tender says, should be of five different types.

"All vehicles must be new and unused provided that the company delivers the vehicles to the University of Bahrain," the tender requires.

Purchase tender before the 27th of October 2022, and make bids before the 30th of October 2022, with a BD1,000 bond and BD50 tender fees.

Stay seated to win big



Representative picture

Prizes getting ready for 2023 F1 grandstand race spectators, says tender

BIC tender seeks suppliers for "10 Every 10" F1 2023 giveaways

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain International Circuit is promising to produce another glittering spectacle of race action during F1 2023, with preparations already moving on to the fast lane.

The latest news will bring smiles to spectators who aim for a seat at the Main Grandstand. Those interested can register their intent at this link: <https://www.bahraingp.com/blog/events/register-interest-for-2023-tickets/>

Like last race, BIC for the upcoming race is also getting ready to shower prizes on all those seated along the 10,500-capacity Main Grandstand.

The tender by BIC says they will be giving away several valuable prizes "as part of the 2023 Formula 1 race day promotion to encourage our Main Grandstand ticket holders to be at their seats before the start of the race."

According to the tender doc-

Design ticket stands for BIC

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain International Circuit has launched a tender inviting production houses to "design, fabricate, install and remove several stalls (ticket stands) across shopping malls and other locations across Bahrain.

According to the tender, the stalls serve as the point of sales (POS) and ticket outlets throughout the racing season.

"The aim for BIC is to have a strong presence and be able to interact, engage and sell tickets to the general public and

the tender board website. Purchase the tender before the 19th of October 2022. Bids should reach the board before the 26th of October 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Tenderers must submit their detailed profile and relevant information for evaluation.

During the last race, spectators seated along the 10,500-capacity Main Grandstand had a chance to emerge as one of the many lucky winners in the "10 Every 10" raffle.

Interested suppliers can download the document from



Representative picture

promote the various range of products & events that BIC offers," says the tender.

Interested parties can purchase the tender before the 16th of October 2022.

Submit bids before the 23rd of October 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

the tender board website.

Purchase the tender before the 19th of October 2022.

Bids should reach the board before the 26th of October 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Tenderers must submit their detailed profile and relevant information for evaluation.

During the last race, spectators seated along the 10,500-capacity Main Grandstand had a chance to emerge as one of the many lucky winners in the "10 Every 10" raffle.



Formula 1 2023 Bahrain Grand Prix is to return as the second race of the 2023 season, which reports say will take place on the 5th of March 2023 at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir.

All needed was seated in allotted seats from 4.45 pm until the 57-lap night race, which begins at 6 pm.

BIC announced ten random winners every 10 minutes during this period.

PlayStation 5, iPhone 13, Mini, Pro, Pro Max, Apple Watch N S7, SE Samsung S22, S22+, Huawei Y5P, Huawei Nova Y60, Huawei Watch GT, Huawei P50, AirPods with wireless charge case, AirPods 3rd Gen, Nokia G20, Nokia X20, AIRTAG1 Pack and more were among the giveaways last time, according to the website of Bahrain International Circuit.

Solar lights at Manama Central Market: Tender attracts 5 companies



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

Five companies expressed their interest in taking up the work of installing solar lights at Manama Central Market.

The solar flood lights, street lights and LED high bay lights will be in open areas at the market.

Kanoo Power Solutions (BHD 89,486.630), Kronos Electrical Contracting (BHD 89,348.490), Saraya Contractors Co. WLL (BHD 69,713.000), Global Power Systems (BHD 68,885.000) and Pavilion Water SPC (BHD 116,468.000).

The tender by the Capital Municipality is offering a 6-month contract.

Four-year contract for Princess Sabeeka Park maintenance at Bapco

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Petroleum Company has launched a tender for hiring a contractor for the maintenance and landscaping of Prince Sabeeka Park.

The tender says Bapco is offering a four-year contract.

Bidders should comply with the minimum safety standards of BAPCO as defined in "Guide to Safety 2017 Edition".

They should have a minimum of 60 gardeners registered/sponsored with the bidding company, two horticulturists with a minimum of five years of experience, a plumber and an irrigation technician with a minimum of three years of experience in the installation, repair and maintenance of computer-controlled irrigation system.

Bidders must have at least one 2,000 litre water tanker, two pick-ups, one six-wheel truck, One Bobcat and other plant and machinery.

The bidders should also have a qualified and trained Safety Officer with "NEBOSH" certifi-



Representative picture

cate or equivalent qualification. The safety officer must undergo Bapco's Trade Testing process for a successful bidder before the deal signing.

Purchase tender before the 23rd of October 2022 and bid before the 30th of October 2022, with a BD2,500 bond and BD100 tender fees.

Occupying a total area of over 43,000 sqm, Princess Sabeeka

Park was conceived in line with Bapco's environment-centric philosophy as well as to help educate and inspire a 'greener' generation.

It was inaugurated in February 2010 by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Women.

MoE wants duplicator printing machines

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education has opened a tender for buying duplicator printing machines for its schools and departments.

The tender says the ministry is offering a four-year contract.

Interested parties should purchase the tender before the 13th of November 2022. The tender closes on the 16th of November 2022. Make bids with a BD2,500 bond and BD100 tender fees.

EWA outsourcing customer services

TDT | Manama

The Electricity and Water Authority is looking forward to outsourcing its customer services and Customer Accounts support for two years.

A tender launched says the authority is inviting "most competitive offers."

Make bids before the 2nd of November 2022, with a BD4,000 bond and BD100 tender fees. Purchase tender before the 26th of October 2022.

Shop for rent in Arad Bay Park

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Council for Environment has invited investors to bid on renting shop no. 27 in the Arad Bay Park and Reserve.

According to the tender, the shop on rent has an area of 240 square meters.

The SCE is offering a two-year contract.

Purchase the tender document before the 13th of October 2022 and make bids before the 17th of October 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

BTEA wants desktops, laptops



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Tourism & Exhibition Authority has launched a tender for buying desktop computers and laptops.

The tender says BTEA seeks proposals from experienced commercial qualified supply companies.

The devices are for BTEA staff for their daily works related to tourism management and administration.

Purchase tender document before the 27th of October 2022, and bid before the 30th of October 2022, with a BD 500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Batelco, Maldives' Dhiraagu join hands for cyber security

TDT | Manama

Batelco and Dhiraagu, the first Maldivian telecommunications company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday to provide cyber security services in the Maldives.

The deal was signed during a meeting of the President of the Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, and a delegation from the Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) led by Board of Directors Chairman, Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Accordingly, Beyon Cyber, one of Batelco's recently launched digital companies, will provide cyber security services in the Republic of Maldives.



The deal signing

Dhiraagu is a digital services provider in the Maldives, providing integrated services for mobile, internet and data and their relationship with Bateco

dates back to 2013.

The meeting reviewed various topics on digital transformation and opportunities for cooperation.

Batelco's Chairman expressed keenness to consolidate relations between the two friendly countries, especially in telecommunications.

BTEA promoting Bahrain, Maldives as joint destination

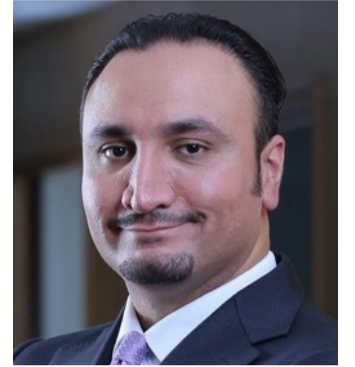
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) is collaborating with European Tour operators for promoting Bahrain and Maldives as joint destinations.

The announcement was made on the sidelines of the official visit of the President of the Republic of Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, to the Kingdom.

BTEA's CEO, Dr Nasser Qaedi stated that the Authority is working with fourteen European holiday operators to develop joint destination packages through the national carrier Gulf Air for European travellers to Bahrain and the Maldives.

Dr Qaedi said these packages come as part of the wider BTEA project to promote the



Dr Nasser Qaedi

Bahraini tourism sector in international markets through active cooperation with the private sector.

Target countries for these packages include the UK, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

The packages will include flights as well as accommodation.

Bahrain Institute of Pearls and Gemstones



First Lady of the Maldives Fazna Ahmed yesterday visited Bahrain Institute of Pearls and Gemstones "Danat" along with Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Injaz Bahrain and member of the Supreme Council for Women. They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between Bahrain and Maldives. Noura Jamsheer, the CEO of "Danat", gave a special presentation on the institute and its role in reviving the pearl sector of Bahrain and Bahraini pearling heritage spanning more than five thousand years.

Tamcon hails Flexi permit cancellation, says decision a boon to national economy



Mohammed Al Hammadi, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tamcon

Abdullah Al Abbasi, the CEO of Tamcon

TDT | Manama

The decision to scrap Flexi work permits by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, was hailed yesterday by the Tamcon, a leading Bahrain-based grade AA civil and building construction company.

Tamcon board also welcomed the decision to revoke infrastructure cost recovery fees associated with the issue of building permits and the decision to develop investment solutions for infrastructure in new areas.

"These decisions will have positive and direct repercussions on the national economy, which contribute to boosting economic development to achieve further success and prosperity at various levels under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa," said Mohammed Al Hamma-

di, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tamcon, and Abdullah Al Abbasi, the CEO of Tamcon, in a joint statement.

They pointed out that His Highness' vision is to build a strong national economy capable of facing the challenges and changes witnessed by global economy, recalling the historical position of 'The Bahrain Team' in overcoming the pandemic and recovering through a package of development projects in various fields and sectors.

"This affirms the sound approach of His Highness that enhances the prosperity of the country in accordance with the comprehensive development process established by His Majesty the King.

Al Abbasi and Al Hammadi called on all to unite to implement the decisions to meet the objectives of the economic sector and continue Bahrain's development process.

BNET wins 2022 ME Technology Excellence Award

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Network (BNET), the national telecommunications infrastructure company, announced winning the 2022 Middle East Technology Excellence Award in the Telecom Infrastructure category organised by the Institute of Middle East Excellence Award for technological innovation in the Middle East region.

The award is for companies that have implemented the most innovative and successful technological initiatives and projects that provide digital solutions, services and strategies that promote business and build modern standards of governance and institutional excellence for the region's future in accordance with international standards. The award was the outcome



The award ceremony

of BNET's efforts to achieve the separation project from Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco). The project included the separation of Information Technology, finance, broadband services, staff and data separation.

BNET Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Jaber Aldoseri, said: "We were pleased to receive

the award, which confirms the Kingdom of Bahrain's position

as a leading destination in the ICT sector in the Middle East and North Africa and crowns our efforts in developing and maintaining the Kingdom's fibre optic infrastructure."

BNET CEO further commended the support of the Transportation and Telecommunications Minister, BNET Chairman, Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Batelco Chairman, Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and staff from both organisations.



BNET - Bahrain Network is a key part of Bahrain's 5th National Telecommunication Plan, which was set up to accelerate the growth and economic diversification of the telecom sector; including rolling out a fiber optic network to all businesses and 95% of all households across the Kingdom of Bahrain. BNET provides the backbone to new mobile technologies such as 5G and access to international cable systems.

India's RBI to soon commence pilot project of digital rupee

Reuters | Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India will soon commence limited pilot launches of a central bank-backed digital rupee for specific use cases, it said in a concept paper released on Friday.

The RBI has been exploring the pros and cons of a central bank digital currency for some time and is working towards a strategy to implement it in a



A man walks behind the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) logo inside its headquarters in Mumbai, India

phased manner, it said.

Use cases are being examined for an e-rupee in a way that there is minimal or no disruption to the financial system, the RBI added. In February, the Indian government had said that a digital rupee will be launched during the course of this financial year. "It is the responsibility of central bank to provide its citizens with a risk free central

bank digital money which will provide the users the same experience of dealing in currency in digital form, without any risks associated with private cryptocurrencies," the RBI said.

The bank also indicated that it may consider both retail and wholesale digital currency, saying there is merit in both.

In its wholesale form, a digital currency could make settle-

ment systems more efficient and secure, said RBI, while a retail e-rupee would offer safer means of digital payment for citizens.

The digital rupee seeks to replicate the features of cash and hence would not pay out interest, unlike bank deposits. It would also provide "reasonable anonymity for small value transactions akin to anonymity associated with physical cash,"

the RBI said.

The RBI could consider a "token-based" retail central bank digital currency (CBDC) since they are comparable to cash, while a wholesale CBDC could be "account-based."

Further, the e-rupee could be issued via banks as intermediaries, the RBI said. The central bank remains open to different technology options, it added.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

ALL GOOD THINGS WHICH EXIST ARE THE FRUITS OF ORIGINALITY
JOHN STUART MILL

News in brief

One killed in Iraq's Erbil after vehicle explodes



◆ One person was killed and four were injured when a vehicle exploded in the northern Iraqi city of Erbil yesterday, the Kurdistan region's counter-terrorism service said. An explosive device attached to the bottom of the car detonated at around 1 pm (1000 GMT), killing the driver and injuring two women and two children who were in the car, it said in a statement. The counter-terrorism service has opened an investigation into the incident, the statement added.

A Russian cosmonaut who caught a US lift to the International Space Station arrived at her new home Thursday for a five-month stay, accompanied by a Japanese astronaut and two from NASA, including the first Native American woman in space.

SpaceX delivers Russian, Native American women to station



The SpaceX capsule pulled up to the station a day after launching into orbit. The linkup occurred 260 miles (420 kilometers) above the Atlantic, just off the west coast of Africa. It was the first time in 20 years that a Russian hitched a ride from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, the result of a new agreement reached despite friction over the war in Ukraine. Cosmonaut Anna Kikina joins two Russians already at the orbiting outpost. She'll live and work on the Russian side until March, before returning to Earth in the same SpaceX capsule.

Biden overhauls US policy on marijuana, pardons prior federal offenses



◆ President Joe Biden took steps to overhaul US policy on marijuana by pardoning thousands of people with federal offenses for simple marijuana possession and initiating a review of how the drug is classified. Biden said thousands of people with prior federal convictions could be denied employment, housing or educational opportunities and

his executive action would relieve such "collateral" consequences. Nearly 40 US states have legalized marijuana use in some form, but it remains completely illegal in some states and at the federal level. Reclassification would be a first step toward wider legalization, a move backed by a majority of Americans, and usher in sweeping changes for companies and law enforcement and impact millions.

An attacker with a large kitchen knife killed two people and wounded six others in stabbings along the Las Vegas Strip before he was arrested Thursday, police said.

Two dead, Six injured in stabbings along Las Vegas Strip



Three people were hospitalized in critical condition and another three were in stable condition, according to Las Vegas police, who said they began receiving 911 calls about the stabbings around 11:40 a.m. across the street from the Wynn casino and hotel. Yoni Barrios, 32, was booked on two counts of murder and six counts of attempted murder late Thursday, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

| Country | Total cases | Total deaths |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 USA | 98,474,755 | 1,087,350 |
| 2 India | 44,606,460 | 528,754 |
| 3 France | 35,705,236 | 155,369 |
| 4 Brazil | 34,750,108 | 686,759 |
| 5 Germany | 33,826,367 | 150,406 |
| 6 S. Korea | 24,933,756 | 28,614 |
| 7 UK | 23,735,273 | 190,888 |
| 8 Italy | 22,737,577 | 177,418 |
| 9 Japan | 21,489,738 | 45,321 |
| 10 Russia | 21,163,942 | 387,991 |
| 11 Turkey | 16,873,793 | 101,139 |
| 12 Spain | 13,431,098 | 114,262 |
| 13 Vietnam | 11,485,361 | 43,152 |
| 14 Australia | 10,274,479 | 15,358 |

Global tally
625,798,263
Deaths
6,558,502
Recovered: 605,392,442
New cases +223,336
New deaths +572

Middle East

Figures as of closing

| Country | Total cases | new cases | Total deaths | New Deaths | Total recovered | Active cases |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Egypt | 515,645 | | 24,613 | | 442,182 | 48,850 |
| Saudi Arabia | 817,403 | +139 | 9,364 | +2 | 804,375 | 3,664 |
| UAE | 1,030,146 | +343 | 2,346 | | 1,009,263 | 18,537 |
| Kuwait | 658,520 | | 2,563 | | 655,316 | 641 |
| Oman | 398,424 | | 4,260 | | 384,669 | 9,495 |
| Qatar | 456,371 | +657 | 682 | | 450,761 | 4,928 |

Putin's nuclear threat of 'Armageddon,' Biden

US President says nuclear risk highest since 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis

Russia's Eastern Commander sacked as defeats mount

Reuters | Kyiv

Russian President Vladimir Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine has brought the world closer to "Armageddon" than at any time since the Cold-War Cuban Missile Crisis, US President Joe Biden said.

As Putin's seven-month invasion unravels, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv's forces were swiftly recapturing more territory, including more than 500 sq km in the south where they burst through a second major front this week. Russia's failings on the battlefield have brought unusual public recrimination from Kremlin allies, with one Russian-installed leader in occupied Ukrainian territory going so far as to suggest Putin's defence minister should have shot himself.

Biden said the prospect of defeat could make Putin, who was 70 yesterday, desperate enough to use nuclear weapons, the biggest risk since US President John Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev faced off over missiles in Cuba in 1962.

"We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis," Biden said in New



Rescuers work at a residential building which was heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Zaporizhzhia

York. "For the first time since the Cuban Missile Crisis, we have a direct threat to the use of nuclear weapons, if in fact things continue down the path they'd been going."

Putin was "not joking when he talks about potential use of tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical weapons, because his military is, you might say, is significantly underperforming," Biden said.

Concern so far has been over the prospect of Russia deploying a so-called "tactical" nuclear weapon - a short-range device for use on the battlefield - rather than the "strategic" weapons on long-range missiles that Washington and Moscow have stockpiled since the Cold War.

But Biden suggested it made little difference: "I don't think there's any such thing as the

ability to easily (use) a tactical nuclear weapon and not end up with Armageddon."

Putin has warned he would use all means necessary, including Russia's nuclear arsenal, to protect Russian soil, which he now says includes four Ukrainian regions he declared annexed last week.

In remarks to Australia's Lowy Institute, Zelenskyy said NATO should launch preventive strikes on Russia to preclude its use of nuclear weapons.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denounced those comments as "an appeal to start yet another world war with unpredictable, monstrous consequences". Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Zelenskyy's remarks demonstrated why Russia was right to launch its operation.

"We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis. For the first time since the Cuban Missile Crisis, we have a direct threat to the use of nuclear weapons, if in fact things continue down the path they'd been going"

JOE BIDEN

'What have you done?'

Putin signed a bill this week annexing Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, representing about 15% of the country, although none is fully under Russian control.

Ukrainian forces have advanced swiftly since bursting through the Russian front in the northeast at the start of September, and in the south this week.

Since Putin proclaimed the annexation a week ago, Ukraine has recaptured the main Russian bastion in northern Donetsk, and a swath of territory on the west bank of the Dnipro River in Kherson.

Zelenskyy said in a video address on Thursday that Kyiv's forces had recaptured more than 500 square kilometres (195 square miles) and dozens of set-

Death toll in Indian Himalayas avalanche rises to 26

AFP | New Delhi

At least 26 people have been confirmed dead after an avalanche struck climbers in the Indian Himalayas, officials said yesterday, with bad weather hampering the fourth day of search and rescue efforts.

A group of 41 climbing trainees and their teachers were caught in Tuesday's massive snowslide near the summit of Mount Draupadi ka Danda II in the northern state of Uttarakhand.

"We have retrieved 26 bodies so far - 24 of them were trainees and two bodies are those of instructors," an official from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, a government agency, told AFP.



Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel stand in position during preparations for a rescue operation for missing climbers struck by an avalanche

Three members of the expedition remained missing, the official added, but bad weather forced an early end to yesterday's search. Rescue operations will resume in the morning.

Uttarakhand state disaster agency spokesperson Ridhim Aggarwal told AFP that 32 people had been rescued from the site.

An update from the Uttarkashi district disaster management agency later clarified that the figure included 20 people at the trek's advance base camp who had not been hit by the avalanche.

Survivor Naib Subedar Anil Kumar told the Indian Express that he and some of his fellow

climbers had been pulled into a crevasse when the avalanche hit their ropes.

"When the snow began to settle, I undid the ropes and started to rescue my teammates," he told the newspaper. "However, there was little we could do."

Sunil Lalwani, one of the rescued trainee climbers, credited the instructors for saving many lives.

"We were 50-100 metres from the summit with our instructors ahead of us, when suddenly an avalanche hit us and took everyone down," Lalwani was quoted as saying by the Hindustan Times on Thursday.

Although no substantial research has been done on the impacts of climate change on mountaineering risks in the Himalayas, climbers have reported crevasses widening, running water on previously snowy slopes, and the increasing formation of glacial lakes

Thais m

AP | Uthai Sawan

Relatives wailed and collapsed in grief before small coffins of children yesterday after a fired police officer stormed a rural Thai day center at naptime and massacred dozens of people.

Thailand's deadliest riot killing left virtually no one untouched in this small community nestled among rice paddies in one of the nation's poorest regions. Grief also gripped the rest of the country, where schoolchildren said prayers to honor the dead.

At least 24 of the 36 people killed in Thursday's grisly and knife attack were children, mostly preschoolers.

"I cried until I had no more tears coming out of my eyes. They are running through my heart," said Seksan Srirajwong, whose pregnant wife worked at the Young Children's Development Center in Uthai Sawan, was due to give birth this month.

"My wife and my child have gone to a peaceful place. They are alive and will have to live

1480

Great Stand on the Ugra river: Standoff between forces of Akhmat Khan, Khan of the Great Horde and Ivan III, Grand Prince of all Rus. Ends with a Tatar-Mongol retreat, leading to the disintegration of the Horde



1769

Captain James Cook lands in New Zealand at Poverty Bay on the East Coast of the North Island

1856

The Second Opium War or second Anglo-Chinese War: begins with the Arrow Incident on the Pearl River

1945

Microwave oven patented by US inventor Percy Spencer

Brings risk men says

Missile Crisis



In the northeastern Kharkiv region where Ukrainian forces regained a large swath of territory in September, the bodies of 534 civilians including 19 children were found after Russian troops left

ments in Kherson in October. There are successes in the north as well. The day will surely come when we will report on successes in the Zaporizhzhia region (in the south) as well, in those areas that the occupiers are under control," the president said. Putin has responded to the losses by ordering the call-up of hundreds of thousands of reservists, a move that sent thousands of men fleeing the country to escape the draft. Public criticism of the authorities - once all but unheard of - has become common, with Kremlin supporters openly kicking scapegoats and demanding punishment. Anger has been expressed at Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, a Putin loyalist for decades. Many say, if they were a de-

fence minister who had allowed such a state of affairs, they could, as officers, have shot themselves," said Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russian-installed administration in Kherson. "But you know the word 'officer' is an incomprehensible word for many."

There was no immediate comment from Russia's defence ministry.

"Please explain to me what the general staff's genius idea is now?" Vladimir Solovyov, one of the most prominent Russian talk show hosts, said on his channel. "Do you think time is on our side?"

In the northeastern Kharkiv region where Ukrainian forces regained a large swath of territory in September, the bodies of 534 civilians including 19 children were found after Russian troops left, said police official Serhiy Bolvinov.

The total included 447 bodies found in Izium. He also said that investigators had found evidence of 22 "torture rooms". Russia denies torturing civilians in areas it occupied.

On Thursday, a suspected Russian missile demolished an apartment block in Zaporizhzhia. Ukraine still controls the city, capital of a province that Russia claims to have annexed.

Ukrainian rescuers had retrieved 11 bodies and rescued 21 people from the rubble of buildings destroyed in missile attacks there, the State Emergency Service said in a statement.

Amid war crisis, Putin turns 70 with a prayer for his health

Reuters | London

President Vladimir Putin turned 70 yesterday amid fawning congratulations from subordinates and a plea from Orthodox Patriarch Kirill for all to pray for the health of the longest-serving paramount leader of Russia since Josef Stalin.

Putin, who rose to the Kremlin's top job on the last day of 1999, is facing the biggest challenge of his rule after the invasion of Ukraine triggered the gravest confrontation with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. His army there is reeling from a series of defeats in the past month.

On his birthday, Putin is due to attend an informal summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States in St Petersburg, the former imperial capital founded by Peter the Great that is his hometown.

Obsequious officials hailed Putin as the saviour of modern Russia while the patriarch of Moscow and All Russia implored the country to say two days of special prayers so that God grants Putin "health and longevity".

"We pray to you, our Lord God, for the head of the Russian State, Vladimir Vladimirovich, and ask you to give him your rich mercy and generosity, grant him health and longevity, and deliver him from all the resistances of visible and invisible enemies, confirm him in wisdom and spiritual strength, for all, Lord hear and have mercy," Kirill said.

Putin, who vowed to end the chaos which gripped Russia after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, is facing the most serious military crisis any Kremlin chief has faced for at least a generation since the Soviet-Afghan war of 1979-89.

Opponents such as jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny say that Putin has led Russia down a dead end towards ruin, building a brittle system of incompetent



A view shows an apartment block with a mural depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin in the town of Kashira in the Moscow region



Putin has dominated Russia for nearly 23 years since being hand-picked by President Boris Yeltsin as his preferred successor in a surprise announcement on New Year's Eve 1999

sycophants that will ultimately collapse and bequeath chaos.

Supporters say Putin saved Russia from destruction by an arrogant and aggressive West.

"Today, our national leader, one of the most influential and outstanding personalities of our time, the number one patriot in the world, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, turns 70 years old!" Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov said.



Putin has changed the global position of Russia and forced the world to reckon with the position of our great state

CHECHEN LEADER RAMZAN KADYROV

"Putin has changed the global position of Russia and forced the world to reckon with the position of our great state."

But the war in Ukraine has forced Putin to burn through vast amounts of political, diplomatic and military capital.

More than seven months into the invasion, Russia has suffered huge losses in men and equipment and been beaten back on several fronts within the past month as Putin's army has lurched from one humiliation to the next.

Putin has resorted to proclaiming the annexation of territories only partly under Russian control - and whose borders the Kremlin has said are yet to be defined - and threatening to defend them with nuclear weapons.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Instead of recovery, recession looms. People are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, which is hitting women & young people the hardest. We need responses that are people-oriented and multilateral in approach, cooperative in nature, and global in scope.

@antoniogeterres

02



Kherson - way to the Ukrainian Crimea and historical frontier of battles. Quite special region for Ukraine, where Ukraine democracy started its own way out: Cossack's sich, the first Constitution of Pylyp Orlyk in 1710. Now, as centuries ago, Kherson stands for freedom, @United24media.

@ZelenskyyUA

03



We're working with our partners around the world to improve our energy security and stand up to Putin's appalling war in Ukraine.

@trussliz

04



We had a thorough first discussion on how to limit gas prices, guarantee the the good functioning of the Single Market and boost investments via #REPowerEU

@vonderleyen

Mourn dozens, mainly kids, killed in day care attack



Relatives mourn during a ceremony for those killed in the attack on the Young Children's Development Center in Uthai Sawan, north eastern Thailand

I can't go on, my wife and my child will be worried about me, and they won't be reborn in the next life," he said.

A stream of people, including Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, other government representatives and relatives, left flowers yesterday at the day care center. By afternoon, bouquets of white roses and carnations lined the wall outside, along with five tiny juice boxes, bags of corn chips and a stuffed animal. Later, relatives received the

bodies at the local Buddhist temple. As the small, white coffins were opened, some screamed, while others fainted and were revived with smelling salts. For a time, the grounds outside the temple were crowded with people overcome by grief.

"It was just too much. I can't accept this," said Oy Yodkhaio, 51, sitting on a bamboo mat in the oppressive heat as relatives gave her water and gently mopped her brow. Her 4-year-old grandson,



The massacre is among the worst involving children killed by one person. Anders Breivik killed 69 people, mostly teenagers, at a summer camp in Norway in 2011, while the death toll in other cases include 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut in 2012, 16 at Dunblane in Scotland in 1996 and 19 at a school in Uvalde, Texas, this year

Tawatchai Sriphu, was killed, and she said she worried for the child's siblings. The family of rice farmers is close, with three generations living under one



Rescue workers carry coffins containing the body of victims at Song Serm Tham Foundation after transfer from Udon Thani hospital in Udon Thani province

roof. Som-Mai Pitfai collapsed when she saw the body of her 3-year-old niece.

"When I looked, I saw she had been slashed in the face with a knife," the 58-year-old said, holding back tears.

Elsewhere, King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida arrived at a hospital where some of the 10 people who were wounded were being treated.

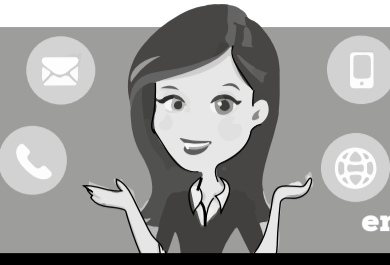
In an interview with Amarin TV, Satita Boonsom, who worked

at the day care center, said staff locked the glass front door to the building after seeing the assailant shoot a child and his father out front. But the gunman shot and kicked his way through it.

The children, mainly preschoolers, had been taking an afternoon nap, and photos taken by first responders showed their tiny bodies still lying on blankets. In some images, slashes to the victims' faces and gunshots to their heads could be seen.

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

Classifieds



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Iran says Mahsa Amini died of illness rather than 'blows'

Reuters | Uthai Sawan

Iran said an investigation into the death in custody of Mahsa Amini found she lost her life to illness rather than reported beatings that sparked three weeks of bloody protests.

Amini, 22, died on Sept 16, three days after falling into a coma following her arrest in Tehran by the morality police for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Anger over her death has sparked the biggest wave of protests to rock Iran in almost three years and a crackdown that has killed dozens of protesters and seen scores arrested.

Despite the security forces' use of lethal force, the women-led protests have continued for 21 consecutive nights, according to online videos.

Iran's Forensic Organisation said yesterday that "Mahsa Amini's death was not caused by blows to the head and vital organs and limbs of the body".

The death of Amini, whose Kurdish first name is Jhina, was related to "surgery for a brain tumour at the age of 8", it said in a statement.

Amini's bereaved parents have filed a complaint against



The fountain at Park Daneshjoo (Student Park) in the Iranian capital Tehran yesterday

the officers involved, and one of her cousins living in Iraq has told AFP she died of "a violent blow to the head".

Other young girls have lost their lives at the protests, but Amnesty International says Iran has been forcing televised confessions out of their families to "absolve themselves of responsibility for their deaths".

The mother of 16-year-old Nika Shahkarami, who died after going missing on Sept 20, insisted on Thursday she was killed by the state after joining an anti-hijab protest in Tehran.

Nasrin Shahkarami also accused the authorities of threatening her to make a forced con-

fession over the death of her daughter Nika.

"I saw my daughter's body myself... the back of her head showed she had suffered a very severe blow as her skull had caved in. That's how she was killed," she said in a video posted online by Radio Farda, a US-funded Persian station based in Prague.

Iran's judiciary has since denied reports the security forces killed another teenage girl, Sarina Esmailzadeh, at a rally in Karaj, west of Tehran.

Its website quoted a prosecutor as saying an investigation showed Esmailzadeh, also 16, had "committed suicide" by

jumping from a building.

In a widening crackdown, Iran has blocked access to social media, including Instagram and WhatsApp and launched a campaign of mass arrests.

Protesters have sought ways to avoid detection, with schoolgirls hiding or blurring their faces while shouting "Death to the dictator" and defacing images of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in verified videos.

Other footage has shown people chanting the protest catchcry "Woman, Life, Freedom" from their apartment windows under the cover of night.



A new form of protest emerged yesterday morning, with fountains in Tehran appearing to pour blood after an artist turned their waters red to reflect the deadly crackdown

US, Philippines reinforce alliance with joint military drills



Philippine marines wearing mission oriented protective posture gear and using joint chemical agent detectors take part in a chemical warfare exercise as part of a joint amphibious landing exercise with their US counterparts at a beach facing the South China Sea in San Antonio town, Zambales province

AFP | Manila

US and Philippine marines stormed a beach near a disputed rocky outcrop in the South China Sea yesterday as part of joint military drills involving more than 3,500 troops.

It is the first time the annual naval exercises have been held under Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who has expressed strong support for the decades-old alliance, after rocky relations under his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte had threatened to cancel drills and axe a key military deal with the United States as he pivoted toward China.

But Marcos told US President Joe Biden during a meeting in New York last month that he appreciated America's role in "maintaining the peace in our region".

China's recent war games around Taiwan, which it claims as part of its territory, rang alarm bells among nations surrounding the South China Sea.

America's relations with the Philippines – its oldest treaty ally in Asia – entered a difficult period under former President Rodrigo Duterte. During his time at the country's helm from 2016, he threatened to sever ties with Washington, kick visiting American forces out and once attempted to abrogate a major defense pact with the US while nurturing cozy ties with China and Russia

Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the entire sea, while the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei have overlapping claims to parts of it.

China has ignored an international court ruling that its claims have no legal basis, and has aggressively asserted its stance.

Easter Island blaze chars famous moai statues

AFP | London

A forest fire that tore through part of Easter Island has charred some of its famed monumental carved stone figures, known as moai, authorities said.

"Nearly 60 hectares (148 acres) were affected, including some moai," Carolina Perez, cultural heritage undersecretary, said in a Twitter post.

On Easter Island, which lies some 3,500 kilometers (2,175 miles) off the west coast of Chile, 100 hectares have been razed by flames since Monday, Perez said. The area around the Rano Raraku volcano, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the most affected.



Moais -- stone statues of the Rapa Nui culture -- affected by a fire at the Rapa Nui National Park in Easter Island, Chile

moai are in that area, as well as used to carve the sculptures in the quarry where the stone extracted.

"The damage caused by the fire can't be undone," Pedro Edmunds, mayor of Easter Island, told local media.

There is still no report on the total damage.

But the fire comes just three months after the island was reopened to tourism on August 5, after two years of closure due to Covid-19.

Before the pandemic, Easter Island -- whose main livelihood is tourism -- received some 160,000 visitors a year, on two daily flights.

But with the arrival of Covid-19 in Chile, tourist activity was completely suspended.

The island was long inhabited by Polynesian people, before Chile annexed it in 1888.

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celebs

Kate Hudson: Strippers in movies shouldn't be a distraction

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kate Hudson hates it when strippers in movies are the main talking point.

The 43-year-old actress plays stripper Bonnie in Ana Lily Amirpour's sci-fi thriller 'Mona Lisa and the Blood Moon', and Kate admits it's frustrating when movie star strippers distract from the most important part of a film.

She told Collider: "I also think that movies that have women as strippers, or especially movie stars, it's annoying when they make it all about that because that's not what it's about. If the movie really is about a certain type of stripper, and you go really deep into whatever that is, then it's understandable. If not, and not that this was Lily's choice, but from my perspective, as an actor who is in the public eye, all of a sudden, that's all anybody is asking about. It becomes a distraction versus a real part of the importance of the film."

The director chose to have her strippers don bikinis, and the local strippers who were extras in the flick were appreciative of her different approach to male filmmakers they've worked with before.

She said: "I find it really fascinating that the most valuable currency on earth is sex, and for sure, men have tried to be in control of that, for all of human history, but it's still a big economy, as you can see. It's a fascinating energy and space to watch this primal thing play out. What I cling to are the parts like where she's wiping the pole at the beginning."

Kate Hudson



Kanye West defends 'White Lives Matter' T-shirt

ANI | Paris

Kanye West recently raised many eyebrows by wearing a T-shirt that had "White Lives Matter" written on it.

After facing backlash from many, Kanye has now issued a statement defending his 'White Lives Matter' T-shirt.

Kanye took to Instagram to share a photo of a black T-shirt and wrote "Here's my latest response when people ask me why I made a tee that says white lives matter... THEY DO".

According to Page Six, Kanye is perplexed by the negative feedback his YZY Season Nine collection received.

"He thinks it's a PC thing," said an insider to Page Six. "He wants to give a voice to the 'other side' [of the race debate in America]." They added, "He doesn't understand why people aren't seeing that."

Page Six reports that front-row guest Jaden Smith left the show immediately when he saw the designs. Later, Kanye was criticized by many journalists,



Kanye West wears the 'White Lives Matter' T-shirt

public figures, and activists.

Kanye also brutally ridiculed Vogue editor Gabriella Karefa-Johnson's sense of fashion for disliking his harshly condemned merchandise.

Later, Gigi Hadid came in support of Gabriella and came

down heavily on Kanye in his Instagram post's comment section. Gigi wrote, "You wish u had a percentage of her intellect. You have no idea haha...If there's actually a point to any of your s-t she might be the only person that could save u".

Later, Vogue ultimately came in support of the employee and issued a statement.

"Vogue stands with Gabriella Karefa-Johnson, our global fashion editor at large and long-time contributor. She was personally targeted and bullied. It is unacceptable," the magazine wrote in an Instagram post.

"Now more than ever, voices like hers are needed and in a private meeting with Ye today she once again spoke her truth in a way she felt best, on her terms," the magazine added.

Before the posts mentioned above, Kanye took to Instagram and wrote, "Everyone knows that Black Lives Matter was a scam now it's over you're welcome."

Justin Bieber 'postpones rest of world tour until at least 2023'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

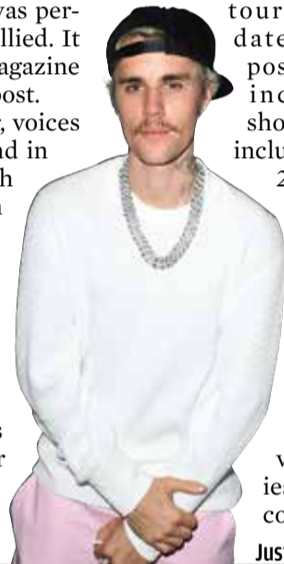
Justin Bieber has reportedly postponed the rest of his world tour.

The news comes a month after the singer, 28, announced he was suspending shows for mental and physical health reasons.

TMZ is now reporting his 'Justice World Tour' is postponed until at least 2023, which includes every show through March 25, 2023.

The outlet said on Thursday: "We're told the tour's remaining dates have been postponed... that includes every show through and including March 25, 2023."

"The good news... we're told fans who bought tickets should hold onto those and wait for further news on dates, venues and cities as updates become available."



Justin Bieber

Christian Bale credits Leonardo DiCaprio for helping career

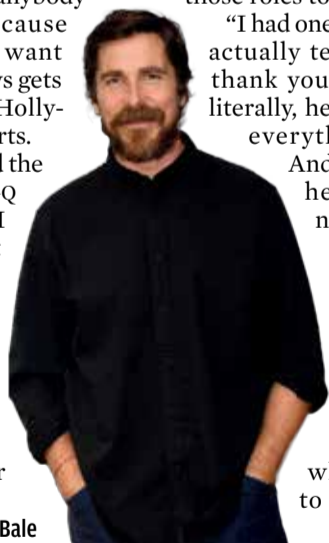
Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Christian Bale says he only has a career because Leonardo DiCaprio has passed up so many film roles.

The 48-year-old actor added "any role that anybody gets" is only because Leo, 47, doesn't want them as he always gets first choice of Hollywood movie parts.

Christian told the new issue of GQ magazine: "I would suspect that almost everybody of similar age to him in Hollywood owes their careers to him passing on whatever project it is."

Christian Bale



"It doesn't matter what anyone tells you. It doesn't matter how friendly you are with the directors.

"All those people that I've worked with multiple times - they all offered every one of those roles to him first.

"I had one of those people actually tell me that. So, thank you, Leo, because literally, he gets to choose everything he does.

And good for him, he's phenomenal."

Leo was first cast as Patrick Bateman in the 2000 film 'American Psycho' ahead of Christian - who is also said to have lost five

other roles to the 'Titanic' actor throughout the 1990s, including parts in 'This Boy's Life' alongside Robert De Niro and 'What's Eating Gilbert Grape' with Johnny Depp.

Christian, who shares two children with his former model wife Sandra 'Sibi' Blažic, 52, insisted he does not take it personally as it's "not just me", adding: "No. Do you know how grateful I am to get any damn thing? I mean, I can't do what he does. I wouldn't want the exposure that he has either."

Leonardo DiCaprio



Rihanna is 'nervous' and 'excited' to headline the Super Bowl Halftime Show

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Rihanna is "nervous" and "excited" about headlining the Super Bowl Halftime Show.

The 'Umbrella' hitmaker confirmed last month that she will provide the entertainment at the annual NFL showpiece game next year, and she has spilled how she's feeling about following in the footsteps of Beyonce, Katy Perry, Madonna and Lady Gaga.

The 34-year-old singer told TMZ: "I'm nervous... but I'm excited." Super Bowl LVII is set to take place on February 12, 2023, at State Farm Stadium.

Jay-Z, whose en-

tertainment agency Roc Nation helps produce the halftime show, commented: "Rihanna is a generational talent, a woman of humble beginnings who has surpassed expectations at every turn."

"A person born on the small island of Barbados who became one of the most prominent artists ever. Self-made in business and entertainment."

Rihanna - who gave birth to her first child, a baby boy, with A\$AP Rocky in May - previously turned down the chance to perform at the Super Bowl in 2019, due to the way Colin Kaepernick, 34, was allegedly treated by the NFL.

Rihanna



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Yesterday's solution

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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

- Taboo; 6- Driving hazard; 11- Kan; 14- "___ by any other name..."; 15- Tips off; 16- Hasten; 17- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 18- Icon; 19- Dr.'s org.; 20- Wearies; 22- Memento; 24- Intoxicating liquor; 28- Spots; 29- Yeast; 30- So far; 32- Soak leather in base solution; 33- Carousal; 35- Let's just leave ___ that; 39- Consumer; 40- Delivery room docs; 41- Estimator's phrase; 42- Blackbird; 43- At ___ for words; 45- Classic soda; 46- Western; 48- Journey; 50- Select; 53- Direct route; 54- Prepares for billiards; 55- Serious wrongdoing; 57- Small island; 58- Dazzling display; 60- Ultimate; 65- Canonized Mlle.; 66- Path; 67- Patti LuPone role; 68- Take a load off; 69- Long lock of hair; 70- Kingdom;

Down

- Where some vets served; 2- Eight-time Norris Trophy winner; 3- Cambodia's Lon ___; 4- Sugary suffix; 5- Boll; 6- Eddy; 7- Like some excuses; 8- Periods of history; 9- Chang's twin; 10- African fly; 11- Dull yellowish brown; 12- Actress Anouk; 13- Inclines; 21- Saturn models; 23- Left to one's choice; 24- Anthology of artwork; 25- Buy alternative; 26- Provide food; 27- Fail to notice; 28- Organ of sight; 30- Shady recess; 31- Cong. meeting; 34- Tent stick; 36- Rome's Fontana di ___; 37- Sallow; 38- Sheer fabric; 43- Packed away; 44- Arise (from); 47- Declare; 49- Joint; 50- Gross; 51- Part of Hispaniola; 52- Eight singers; 53- Seizes with teeth; 55- Hint; 56- Phooey!; 59- ___ anglais (English horn); 61- "___ had it!"; 62- Vardalos of 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding'; 63- City in GA; 64- Flight;

Yesterday's solution

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Warner, Starc help Australia sweep series against West Indies

David Warner and Mitchell Starc shine as Australia secure convincing win

● **Alzarri Joseph again bowled well for West Indies but their chase never really threatened**

AFP | Brisbane

An explosive David Warner slammed 75 and Mitchell Starc grabbed four wickets as Australia beat the West Indies by 31 runs yesterday to clinch the Twenty20 series 2-0 in the build-up to defending their World Cup title.

The home team were cruising at 95-1, but they lost three wickets for five runs, including Warner, as the visitors got back into contention.

The dangerous Tim David came to the rescue with an entertaining 42 off 20 balls, including three big sixes, to steer them to 178-7.

"It was a fantastic all round performance and well executed by the bowlers. At the halfway mark we had discussed about



Australia's David Warner takes a run

bowling Test match lines and lengths, and they nailed them," said man-of-the-match Warner.

Skipper Aaron Finch added: "The difference in the game was Davey and David."

The hosts clinched the first match by three wickets, and the West Indies wanted a win in what was their last game before the World Cup, where they face Scotland in the preliminary

round first-up on October 17.

But they managed just 147-8 in reply, with Starc taking 4-20, his best figures in a T20.

"Tough to lose, but they played better cricket," said West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran. "We are getting accustomed to the conditions, putting our ego aside and working on the team plans."

They had few answers to Warner, who punished an-

It was a fantastic all round performance and well executed by the bowlers. At the halfway mark we had discussed about bowling Test match lines and lengths, and they nailed them

DAVID WARNER

anything short at the Gabba in Brisbane, hitting 10 fours and three sixes in his 41-ball blitz.

Finch was on the teamsheet to open alongside Warner after coming in at four in the first game, but after Australia were sent into bat it was Cameron Green who again strode to the crease.

And for a second match, the all-rounder failed to fire, out for one.

Finch was first drop as Australia continue to experiment



ahead of the World Cup, and he was content to play second-fiddle to Warner.

After smacking two boundaries in the opening over, Warner barely put a foot wrong as he raced to his 23rd T20 half-century, bringing up the milestone off 30 balls.

They reached 88-1 -- 68 of them from Warner -- at the halfway mark, but the visitors pounced soon after with both

players falling within six balls. Finch was caught at mid-off by Rovman Powell off Obed McCoy for 15, snapping an 85-run partnership, then Warner departed caught and bowled by Odean Smith.

Glenn Maxwell's poor run of form continued, run out for one as Australia stumbled to 100-4, losing three wickets for five runs.

But David steadied the ship with his quick-fire 42. After hitting 20 off the first four balls of a McCoy over, he was finally trapped lbw.

The West Indies' chase started poorly with Kyle Mayers out in the first over to a reflex catch by Starc off his own bowling.

Australia's quality attack bowled 21 dot balls in the first five overs before the West Indies lashed 16 off Green to get themselves moving.

But Brandon King (23), Pooran (2) and Johnson Charles (29) all fell in the space of 17 runs to leave them trouble at 76-4 after 11 overs and they never recovered.

Man City the standard bearers for Man Utd, says Ten Hag

AFP | London

Manchester United have to learn from the consistency of Manchester City, according to manager Erik ten Hag as he aims to bounce back from a humiliating derby defeat.

City were on course to match the record margin of victory over their local rivals last weekend before United scored twice late on to only lose 6-3 at the Etihad.

Defeat to the English champions ended a four-game winning streak for Ten Hag's men in the Premier League since losing the Dutchman's first two games in charge.

That included impressive wins over Liverpool and Arsenal, but the former Ajax boss has urged his players to reach those levels in every game.



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola (R) and Manchester United's Dutch manager Erik ten Hag (2R) watch the action during

"It's physical, it's mental but it's also sustainability," said Ten Hag ahead of Sunday's trip to Everton.

"When you had a lack of it in the last years, it's not something

that you build or progress in a week or a month. It has to be in your system. It's a demand nowadays in top football.

"I think it's quite clear that City is a standard in that and

It's physical, it's mental but it's also sustainability. When you had a lack of it in the last years, it's not something that you build or progress in a week or a month. It has to be in your system. It's a demand nowadays in top football

ERIK TEN HAG

there are more teams, but I think also we can deliver that.

"We have seen it against Liverpool, we have seen it against Arsenal, but now we have to do it on a consistent basis and that is what we have to work for now."

Klopp calls for stuttering Liverpool to be 'unpredictable again'

AFP | London

Jurgen Klopp said yesterday that Liverpool must rediscover their unpredictability after a disappointing start to the season and expressed his belief that misfiring striker Darwin Nunez has a bright future at the club.

The 2020 Premier League champions have won just two of their opening seven games in the English top flight and are already 11 points behind leaders Arsenal, their opponents on Sunday.

Liverpool manager Klopp deviated from his established 4-3-3 system to play 4-2-3-1, or 4-4-2, in Tuesday's 2-0 Champions League victory over Scottish



Jurgen Klopp side Rangers.

He was asked at his pre-match press conference yesterday whether that was the blueprint for the future.

"For us, it is much more important that we become unpredictable again and we need dif-

For us, it is much more important that we become unpredictable again and we need different systems for that

JURGEN KLOPP

ferent systems for that," he said. "This is not the only system we can play. It was now a 4-4-2. Always when you name systems, it's 'Is it 4-3-3 or is it 4-5-1? Is it 4-4-2 or 4-2-3-1?'"

"We don't want to make it more complicated than it is, but there are obviously different systems for us available and we have to choose from now on

which one is the best for the next opponent, or the best for us in the moment.

"We have to be more unpredictable, definitely."

Klopp said even though some teams had worked out how to play Liverpool over the past few years, those opponents had often come up short because his own side had been "exceptional".

He said no system was without its weaknesses but he wanted Liverpool to put doubts in the minds of opponents.

"If you prepare for (playing) us it makes sense that you just have to think twice or three times where there might be something you could use," he said.

Kyrgios pulls out injured just before Japan Open quarter-final

AFP | Tokyo

Nick Kyrgios withdrew from the Japan Open just before his quarter-final yesterday with a sore left knee, calling it "heartbreaking".

The mercurial Australian tennis star had been scheduled to pay third-seeded American Taylor Fritz, who will now advance into the last four.

At a hastily announced press conference when the match was due to begin, world number 20 Kyrgios said he had "been playing amazing tennis all year" but it had been physically taxing.

"I actually was dealing with a bit of a knee issue around the US Open time, and got back home, probably didn't take enough time off, to be honest. I went straight back into training," said the 27-year-old.

"It's heartbreaking. When the body lets you down, it's not



Nick Kyrgios

a good feeling."

Kyrgios will now head home, but said he still plans to play several events in the run-up to the Australian Open in January, and promised to return to the Japanese tournament in 2023.

Kyrgios, who beat Poland's Kamil Majchrzak 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the second round on Thursday, said his knee had "not really" been an issue in his singles or doubles matches, but it had felt "pretty sore" while warming up yesterday.

Russell leads Hamilton in Friday practice at Suzuka

Mercedes pair edge Max Verstappen in soaking Japanese GP second practice

● Schumacher crashes

AFP | Suzuka

George Russell and Lewis Hamilton made it a Mercedes one-two ahead of title-chasing Max Verstappen in a wet-dry second practice yesterday for the Japanese Grand Prix.

Runaway Red Bull leader Verstappen can clinch his second straight world title on Sunday if he wins the race with the fastest lap, no matter what his rivals do.

But he was beaten to the quickest time in the second practice session by the Mercedes pair, with Russell clocking a fastest lap of 1min 41.935sec.

Seven-time world champion Hamilton followed his fellow Briton 0.235sec behind, with Verstappen coming in third, a sizeable 0.851sec behind Russell.

A rainy start to the session at Suzuka meant the drivers began on wet tyres but switched to intermediates once the conditions improved.

That did not satisfy Verstappen though, with the flying Dutchman telling his team "all tyres are s---, no grip", over the radio.

Dry conditions are expected for Saturday's qualifying but some rain is forecast for Sunday.

"It's probably not going to be that representative for this weekend but definitely good



Mercedes' British driver George Russell steers his car during a practice session



It's always special when you do your first lap out, you think of all the legends as you come up to the last chicane

LEWIS HAMILTON

learning for the future," Russell said of the conditions.

"Nevertheless, it's always nice to end the day top of the timesheets."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, Verstappen's nearest rival in the championship standings, finished 2.774sec behind Russell in 11th.

The Monaco driver bounced off the track and found himself on the gravel at one point, complaining that the jolt had damaged his front tyre.

His team later found a problem with his brakes and called him in before sending him back out 10 minutes later.

"The feeling is totally bad for some reason, I will try to make it better," Leclerc said over the radio.

Hamilton savours history

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez was fourth, followed by Haas driver Kevin Magnussen and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz in sixth.

Mick Schumacher of Haas did not take part in the second practice after he crashed in the first session.

Schumacher spun into the barriers and onto the grass after the chequered flag, destroying his front wing and requiring a new chassis.

Two-time world champion Fernando Alonso went quickest

BETTER YOU KNOW

With four races remaining after Suzuka, Verstappen will be champion for the second year in succession if he leaves Japan with a gap of at least 112 points

in the wet first practice, and seventh in his Alpine in the second.

The Japanese Grand Prix returns on Sunday after a three-year absence because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Fans turned up to watch practice in colourful costumes despite the grim conditions, and Hamilton said he enjoyed being back after three years away.

"It's always special when you do your first lap out, you think of all the legends as you come up to the last chicane," he said, recalling Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost's famous collision on the course in 1989.

"You just think you are driving through a space, a point on the circuit which had so much history. At that moment you think of the time before and how privileged you are to be in the position."

Bahrain bow out of Asian U-17 qualifiers with loss



Action from Bahrain's loss to Iraq

TDT | Manama

Bahrain signed off from the 2023 AFC U-17 Asian Cup in Muscat with a tough 0-3 loss to Iraq yesterday in their final Group C game.

The nationals conceded all three of their goals in the second half, and could not manage a reply.

The result was the second loss for the Bahrainis in four matches and they ended their qualification campaign with just four points from four games. They posted just one win and also had one draw—

officially dashing their hopes of booking a seat in the Asian Cup.

There were 44 nations in all in the qualifiers. They have been divided into 10 groups—four with five teams and six with four teams.

In each group, teams played each other once at a centralised venue. The ten group winners and the five best runners-up qualify for the final tournament.

The teams making it through from Bahrain's group will be confirmed on Monday following the final fixtures.

Nagelsmann looking for 'control' against unpredictable Dortmund

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich manager Julian Nagelsmann said yesterday his team needs to show "a more controlled game" to beat opponents Borussia Dortmund.

"There's a lot of reporting about Dortmund showing 'fluctuating performances' within recent games. I don't think it's that dramatic. I think they're having a good season and will be a top opponent tomorrow," Nagelsmann said.

Djokovic sets up Medvedev clash in Astana semi-finals

AFP | Astana

Novak Djokovic dominated Russian Karen Khachanov 6-4, 6-3 to reach the Astana ATP semi-finals yesterday where he will face Daniil Medvedev.

"I didn't play as well from the baseline as I did in the first two matches, but still it was enough," said Djokovic.

"I managed to produce some good tennis when it was the most needed in both sets."

Facing the US Open semi-finalist, the Serb dropped serve for the first time this week but still has not lost a set since returning to the ATP Tour after a three-month break following his Wimbledon title.

He made his comeback at the Laver Cup team event in London before winning the Tel Aviv tournament last weekend for his 89th career crown.

In the semi-finals, Djokovic will face world number four Medvedev, the man who ended his bid for a calendar Grand Slam in 2021 by winning the US Open.

"I always expect highs from myself," said 21-time Grand Slam title winner Djokovic.

"Hopefully I can elevate still the level of my game for tomorrow because it's going to



Novak Djokovic in action



I always expect highs from myself. Hopefully I can elevate still the level of my game for tomorrow because it's going to be needed

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

be needed." Medvedev made the last-four by seeing off Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain 6-1, 6-1 to record his 40th win of 2022.

Second seed Medvedev trails Djokovic 6-4 in career meet-

ings.

"I am really happy to play against Novak," Medvedev said.

"I thought about it before the match and we have only played one tournament together this year, which was Roland Garros. This is the second one and we meet again and I am really happy."

In Saturday's other semi-finals, Andrey Rublev, the fifth seed from Russia, will tackle Greek third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Yesterday, Rublev defeated Adrian Mannarino 6-1, 6-2 while Tsitsipas saw off Hubert Hurkacz 7-6 (10/8), 6-3.

Guardiola hails humility of Man City stars to welcome Haaland

AFP | London

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has praised the manner in which his star-studded squad have embraced the arrival of Erling Haaland without getting jealous over the Norwegian's media attention.

Haaland has scored 19 times in 11 competitive games for the English champions in a stunning start to his career at City.

Under Guardiola, City have won the Premier League four times in the last five years among nine major trophies.

"Every press conference - 50 questions, 45 on Erling. For me it is ok and the guys here accept it perfectly," said Guardiola yesterday.

"I've had the type of guys who wouldn't like it. Four Premier Leagues, fighting for everything, just talking about Erling? In other clubs, other people wouldn't like it.

"Here, they are delighted. We don't have incredible players who'd say: 'All the time they just talk about him'. This is why it is a joy to train these type of



Manchester City's manager Pep Guardiola (R) Erling Haaland

players." Haaland has scored in nine consecutive City games and was robbed of the chance to score a fourth hat-trick in five home matches when Guardiola withdrew him at half-time of Wednesday's 5-0 win over FC Copenhagen after he struck twice in the first half.

And Guardiola hailed Haaland's poacher's instinct to seemingly always be in the right place when the ball breaks his way inside the box.

"He has an incredible instinct. What can I teach him?

Haaland has scored in nine consecutive City games and was robbed of the chance to score a fourth hat-trick in five home matches when Guardiola withdrew him at half-time of Wednesday's 5-0 win over FC Copenhagen after he struck twice in the first half

He has an incredible sense as a striker of where the ball is going to finish and he goes one second before the ball arrives," added Guardiola.

"He has this talent, this quality. All the time - a cross, a deflection - he is there. This type of player - how can a manager teach him? It is impossible. It is instinct, completely natural.

"He did it in Norway, in Austria, in Germany and he does it here. He smells it. "Thank you so much to him for choosing us, and to all the people involved bringing him here. We are fortunate to have this talent with us."