



HRH Prince Salman receives letter for His Majesty from Jordan King

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has received a handwritten letter addressed to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa from King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

It was handed over by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan's Parliament, Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, to HRH Prince Salman who met him and his accompanying



HRM the King delegation, at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.



HRH Prince Salman with the Jordanian Parliament Speaker The Deputy Prime Minister, Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Speaker of the Council of Represent-

atives, Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister for Shura Council and Council of Representatives Affairs, Ghanem bin Fadhel Al Buainain, also attended the meeting. During the meeting, His Royal Highness highlighted the depth of the Bahraini-Jordanian ties that continue to receive the commitment and support of both His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Majesty King Abdullah II.

HRH the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister welcomed Al Dughmi and the accompanying Jordanian delegation to Bahrain and expressed his hope that their visit will contribute to strengthening parliamentary relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Al Dughmi and the accompanying delegation expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to meet with His Royal Highness and noted HRH's continued support to deepening Bahraini-Jordanian relations.

(Parliamentary cooperation deal signed - Page 3)

Israel buying aluminium from Bahrain: Na'eh

TDT | Manama

Israel has begun importing aluminium from the Kingdom, our sister paper Al Ayam reported after interviewing Eitan Na'eh, the Israeli Ambassador to Bahrain. Na'eh is the first Israeli Ambassador to Bahrain after the two countries normalised relations following the signing of Abraham Accords in August 2020.

However, the envoy did not specify the quantities or the value of Israel's aluminium imports from Bahrain.

Israel's airline EL AL would start flights to Manama soon, Na'eh said, according to Al Ayam. Bahrain's Gulf Air in September announced the launch of direct flights to Tel Aviv.

The two countries are also planning to sign an agreement that allows the transshipment of goods arriving by sea in Bahrain onto planes heading to Israel, the envoy said.

Royal care for citizens

HRH Prince Salman orders distribution of 2,000 additional housing units to Bahrainis by next month

● **Housing Ministry has made all necessary preparations for its implementation**

● **Cabinet congratulates National Guard on 25th anniversary of its establishment**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has directed the Housing Ministry to distribute 2,000 additional housing units to Bahraini citizens across the Kingdom's Governorates by next month.

HRH Prince Salman made the announcement at the weekly Cabinet meeting which he chaired yesterday at Gudaibiya Palace.

It is part of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's royal



HRH Prince Salman chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday at Gudaibiya Palace

directives to build 40,000 housing units for Bahraini families.

The ministry has already made all the necessary preparations for the implementation of the royal order according to schedule, Housing Minister, Eng Bassim bin Yaqoob Al Hamer, confirmed.

The Cabinet congratulated the National Guard on the 25th anniversary of its establishment, and commended its readiness and efficiency in performing national duties, including its vital role in safeguarding the Kingdom.

To mark the Diplomatic Day, held annually in Bahrain on 14 January, the Cabinet noted the success of the Kingdom's diplomatic mission over the past 50 years.

It also affirmed Bahrain's keenness to continue establishing and nurturing relations with other countries in the interest of national security and development.

The move is part of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's royal directives to build 40,000 housing units for Bahraini families.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Following a review of a memorandum submitted by the Government Executive Committee on the fourth edition of Government Innovation Competition (Fikra), the Cabinet noted that competition received an impressive number of quality entries.

The benefits of the winning projects will be studied so that they can be implemented across ministries and government agencies.

The Cabinet noted the measures undertaken by authorities regarding consumer protection. It directed the intensification of inspection campaigns to ensure the technical, organisational, and procedural aspects of consumer protection laws to be implemented.

The Cabinet also reviewed the latest developments in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

It expressed its wishes for safety and stability for Kazakhstan, and for it to maintain peace which is in the best interest of the people's well-being and country's prosperity.

(Executive-legislative cooperation - Page 2)

Seeking UN help

UAE calls for release of ship hijacked by Houthis

Dubai

The UAE government yesterday called for the release of the ship Rwabee and its crew, which were hijacked by the Iran-backed Houthi militia on January 3.

A letter to the UN Security Council signed by Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, said the ship was carrying medical equipment for a field hospital on Socotra Island.

It added that 11 people of different nationalities are onboard Rwabee.

The letter stated that the Hou-

this had previously targeted at least 13 commercial ships with explosive-laden boats and mines and had hijacked at least three in the Red Sea. The UAE delegate emphasised that Houthi piracy raises real concerns for the freedom and security of navigation and international trade in the Red Sea. Rwabee was hijacked by the Houthis on the night of January 3, 25 nautical miles west of the Yemeni ports of Salif and Hodeidah.

The tracking system on board the ship was suspended at a distance of 18 nautical miles from



A view of the ship seized by the Houthis off the Yemen Red Sea coast

Salif port several hours later.

The ship was on its way from Socotra Island in Yemen to the port of Jazan in Saudi Arabia, carrying equipment leased by a Saudi company used in a field hospital on the island, the letter said.

Onboard were seven Indian sailors, an Ethiopian, and Indonesian, a Filipino, and a sailor from Myanmar. The UAE government said that the acts of "piracy" violate international law and pose a serious threat to the safety of navigation and international trade in the Red Sea.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

8258140

ACTIVE CASES

12313

DEATHS

1397

DISCHARGED

280756

NEW CASES

1894

CRITICAL

2

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Imported livestock exempted from VAT

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, announced yesterday that imported livestock is to be included in the list of the 94 basic commodities exempt from VAT.

Following His Royal Highness' directives, imported livestock will be added to the list of basic food products exempt from VAT, which includes fresh and frozen beef, lamb, goat, poultry and fish.

Kingdom condoles with Israeli President

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of condolences to Israel President Isaac Herzog on the demise of his mother.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman offered sincere condolences to the Israeli President and his family, wishing them patience and consolation.

HM King holds call with Kazakh leader

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held yesterday a telephone call with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who informed him about developments in Kazakhstan.

HM the King reiterated Bahrain's support to Kazakhstan in its efforts to maintain its security, stability and citizens' safety. He wished Kazakhstan and its people continuous security and prosperity.

The Kazakh President commended the role of Bahrain in fostering friendly relations between both countries.

Leadership greets Oman's Sultan on accession anniversary

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said of Oman on the anniversary of his accession to the throne.

HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister wished HM Sultan Haitham abundant health and happiness and the Omani people further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman praised the deep bilateral relations and the development in both countries across various fields.



HM the King



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister



HM Sultan Haitham

Bahrain will 'invest' in government initiatives

HRH Prince Salman honours Fikra winners, vows to incorporate their ideas into Kingdom's development process

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has affirmed Bahrain's commitment to investing in and supporting government initiatives, including Fikra, which has proven to further the quality of government services.

Fikra, or the Government Innovation Competition, has produced an array of creative ideas which have contributed to furthering excellence across government services benefiting the Kingdom's citizens in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030. HRH Prince Salman yesterday received the 12 finalists of Fikra, at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Deputy Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, and a number of senior officials attended the meeting.

HRH the Crown Prince and



HRH Prince Salman with Fikra winners and senior government officials

Prime Minister highlighted that creativity and excellence are characteristic of Bahrain's citizens, and highlighted the importance of implementing plans and programmes based on creative ideas to turn challenges into opportunities.

His Royal Highness further highlighted that this approach enhances competitiveness and creates promising opportunities in line with the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH Prince Salman honoured Fikra's winners, noting that their ideas will be incorporated into the Kingdom's development process, which will enhance the public sector's efficiency.

Following a multi-tiered evaluation process, 12 concepts qualified for the final stage of the competition. The ideas were presented to an evaluation committee comprised of several Ministers and were the subject of a public vote.

The following are the three

winning concepts:

1. The 'Hawiyati Application', presented by Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Ansari and Sayed Ahmed Hameed Ahmed from The King Hamad University Hospital.

2. 'Green by Grey', presented by Hamad Badu from The Ministry of Works, Municipalities, and Urban Planning.

3. 'Nasmaek' (We Hear You) presented by Muhannad Al Noaimi from The Ministry of Information Affairs won the public vote.

The finalists expressed their thanks and appreciation of His Royal Highness' commitment to supporting government employees and promoting creativity and innovation across government workstreams.

The winners also expressed their pride in winning the competition launched by His Royal Highness and their aspiration to implement their ideas that will contribute to the Kingdom's comprehensive development.

Cabinet firms up executive and legislative cooperation

(Continuation from Page 1)

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet discussed several memorandums during its weekly meeting yesterday.

The following memorandums were approved:

1. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on avenues of cooperation between the Ex-

ecutive and Legislative Authorities. The memorandum aims to progress shared objectives which benefit the Kingdom and its citizens, and the adoption of a government guide in support of this.

2. A Memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Fiscal Balance concerning a draft decision on private ex-

ecutor licensing and renewal of licenses.

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

The Cabinet also reviewed the following:

1. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and

Legislative Affairs regarding draft legislation approving the accession of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.

2. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Fiscal Balance reporting on the Committee's work during 2021,

which focused on the delivery of the government program and the Fiscal Balance Program, and its priorities which are structured around 7 pillars and include 31 programs.

3. A memorandum by the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs on the electronic transformation of 10 services provided to over 400,000 subscribers.

Embassy of India celebrates World Hindi Day 2022

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of India organised a function to celebrate World Hindi Day 2022 yesterday.

The programme began with the screening of messages from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar on the occasion of World Hindi Day.

This was followed by a video message by Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi.

In the run-up to this event, all eight Indian schools in Bahrain organised an inter-school competition among the students for Hindi song, poetry and storytelling.

During the event at the Embassy, Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Piyush Srivastava felicitated and gave away prizes

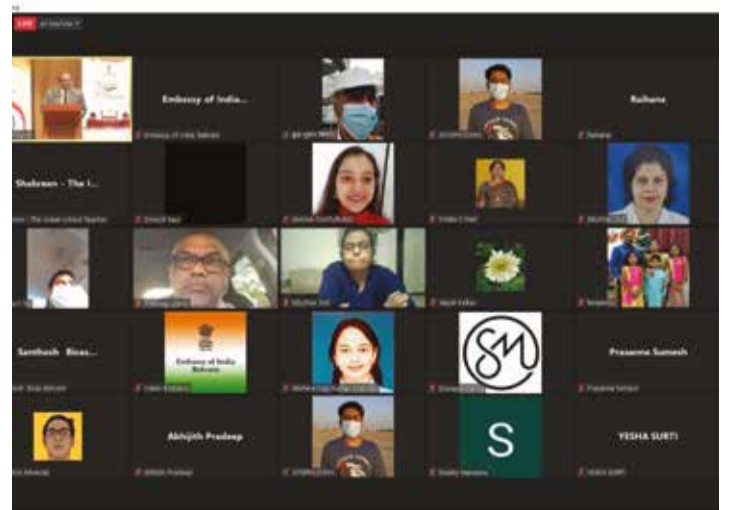


Indian Ambassador Srivastava with inter-school competition winners

to the winners. The Embassy congratulates all the children for their enthusiastic participation.

A video message by Isa Almutawaj, a Bahraini national who studied in India, was also

played, reflecting the deep rooted historical, cultural and people-to-people ties between India



Part of the celebrations is the holding of an online discussion

and Bahrain.

Following all COVID-19 protocols, the event was organised in a hybrid format.

Indian professors at different Bahraini universities, principals,

teachers and winning students physically participated, while close to 250 others, including teachers, members of Indian associations and members of Indian community joined online.

HH Shaikh Khalid opens 'burqa' artwork exhibition

TDT | Manama

First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has inaugurated the "burqa" exhibition.

HH Shaikh Khalid, also president of the Public Sports Authority and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), was delegated by Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, HH Shaikh

Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to attend the event.

The exhibition by Shaikha Hala bint Mohammed Al Khalifa is a mixture of the past and the present, the "burqa" (leather hood) to cover the eyes of falcons, and the facemask imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is hosted by the Shaikh Salman bin Ahmed Al Fateh Fort in Riffa, and will run until Thursday.

HH Shaikh Khalid expressed his pride in the creative artwork by Shaikha Hala that highlights the Kingdom's falconry heritage.



HH Shaikh Khalid with Shaikha Hala

Artistic and cultural movement

HH Shaikh Khalid praised the expansion of the artistic and cultural movement in Bahrain during the reign of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and praised the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Khalid commended the artists who contributed to supporting the Bahraini artistic and cultural movement and wished Shaikha Hala further success.



A cleaning services worker is at risk of contracting COVID-19

Rising COVID-19 cases affect cleaning services

Staff Reporter

TDT | Manama

The rise in COVID-19 cases has adversely affected the functioning of many cleaning services companies in the Kingdom.

Sources said all major cleaning companies have been forced to temporarily close many sites owing to COVID-19 cases among

the staff. Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a manager with a cleaning company, who doesn't want to be named, said: "Once a staff tests positive for COVID-19 all contacts would have to go for self-isolation. And this is making it very difficult to allocate staff to different sites."

He said there is heavy demand for cleaning services across the Kingdom, but "on the contrary, sending staff to sites have be-

come difficult".

Cleaning companies generally offer commercial and residential cleaning along with disinfecting and sanitising services.

"Our services are highly required at this point of time to tackle COVID-19 spread. Sanitising indoor areas have been proved to be of highest effectiveness in curbing the infection."

Cleaning companies have played a vital role in the King-

dom's battle against the virus as disinfection operations were carried across the Kingdom during the beginning of the pandemic season.

Many advanced methods along with new measures were adopted by the cleaning companies to contain the virus.

The Kingdom saw 1,694 new cases yesterday while the total number of active cases stood at 11,061.

Bolstering Bahrain and Jordan relations

Council of Representatives and Jordan's House of Representatives sign memorandum of understanding to strengthen parliamentary cooperation



Speaker Zainal and Chairman Al Saleh with Jordan's Parliament Speaker Al Daghmi



TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives and Jordan's House of Representatives have signed a memorandum of understanding to bolster parliamentary cooperation.

The MoU, signed in the presence of Speakers Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan's Parliament, Abdul Karim Al Daghmi, stipulates working together to enhance, strengthen and develop cooperation through parliamentary tools across various fields.

The two parties will also work on exchanging delegations to benefit from their parliamentary experiences and activities.

Under the MoU, the two sides will exchange views on issues on the agendas of the regional and international parliamentary organisations attended by representatives of the two coun-

cils in order to reach a common vision on these issues. The two sides will also form joint working groups.

Historical ties

Speaker Zainal emphasised the depth of the strong and distinguished historical relations between Bahrain and Jordan that have contributed to achieving advanced levels of integrated coordination in all political, security, development and parliamentary fields.

She commended the consolidation of the relations of the two brotherly countries based on the keenness of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein.

The talks covered developing parliamentary relations and joint work mechanisms, activating agreements and memoranda of understanding, and exchanging views on regional and international issues and topics of

shared interest.

The two Speakers stressed that parliamentary cooperation has become more important to face common challenges, saying there is greater need for wider coordination of visions and positions, convergence of views, and holding more meetings through visits and all available means of communication.

Al Daghmi stressed the depth of the relations between Bahrain and Jordan and expressed pride in the coordination of visions on various regional and international issues.

He emphasised Jordan's firm position in supporting the security and stability of Bahrain, and the decisions it takes to protect its national unity and sovereignty.

He also praised the solidarity of Bahrain's leadership, government and people with Jordan and support for the measures it takes to protect its achievements from any attempt to un-

dermine them.

Bilateral efforts

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh also received yesterday the Jordanian House of Representatives Speaker and his accompanying delegation.

The Chairman affirmed the deep Bahraini-Jordanian relations and the development in both countries. He praised the bilateral efforts in the health, education, economy, trade, security, tourism, culture, and other important sectors.

Al Saleh stressed the close parliamentary relations and the constant keenness to enhance them in a way that forms a unified stance regarding issues discussed among regional and international parliaments.

He said that the Jordanian delegation's visit opened an important dimension to exchange parliamentary expertise and review bilateral achievements at all levels.

Defense Minister receives newly appointed Australian military attache



Defense Affairs Minister Lieutenant-General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi received the newly-appointed Riyadh-based Australian Military Attache to Bahrain Colonel Bradley John Vizard. The minister welcomed the military attache and wished him every success in carrying out his duties. The meeting discussed military cooperation.

Special Envoy for Climate receives lawmaker



Special Envoy for Climate Affairs and Chief Executive Officer of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Dinah received the Representatives Council's Public Utilities and Environment Committee member Hamad Ahmed Al Kooheji. The meeting discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between the SCE and the Council. Bin Dinah praised the executive and legislative branches' partnership in promoting the development and democracy process and serving the country and citizens under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. He hailed the lawmaker's keenness to enhance bilateral efforts to meet the Kingdom's sustainable development goals.

Retirees make up '11pc of citizenry'

74,303 are alive pensioners, 40,304 in private and 33,999 in public sectors

● Children top list of beneficiaries, according to latest Social Insurance Organisation statistics

● Number of deceased pensioners stands at 13,400, 7,515 in private and 5,885 in public sectors

● There have been calls from many quarters to include expatriates as well in pension scheme

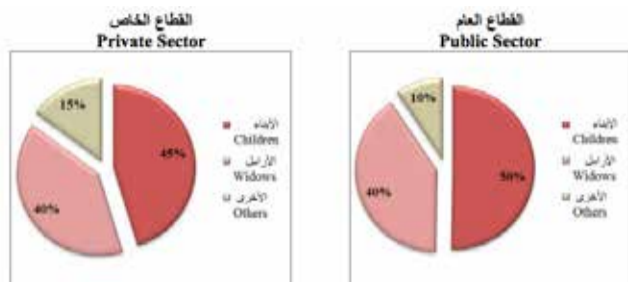
Staff Reporter

TDT | Manama

Pensioners make up nearly 11 per cent of the Kingdom's Bahraini population, according to latest statistics provided by the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO).

There are 74,303 alive pensioners – 40,304 in the private sector and 33,999 in the public sector – while the number of deceased pensioners stood at 13,400, 7,515 in the private sector and 5,885 in the public sector.

Other than pensioners, children topped the list of beneficiaries (47.5pc) followed by widows (40pc) and others (12.5pc). The 'others category' included father, mother, brother, sister



and grandchildren.

Two years ago, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree-Law 21/2020 regarding pension funds in insurance and retirement laws and regulations, according to which the Pension and Social Insurance Fund shall be overseen by the Social Insurance Organisation.

The revenues of the Pension and Social Insurance Fund include those previously allocated for the public sector retirement fund and the Social Insurance Fund, in addition to those incurred from the investment of its funds or any other activities.

The Decree-Law stipulates the cessation of annual rise in all pensions established under any law, pension or insurance scheme.

The Decree-Law mentions that retirees are not allowed to receive more than one pension under different retirement and insurance systems, except for those entitled to pensions because of disability, work accidents or kinship.

The pensioners who are entitled to any of the previous laws and get jobs that are not subject to the same law in which they are entitled to the pension may combine their previous service period with their new service period, according to the rules stipulated in the retirement and insurance laws and regulations. They may also choose to continue receiving their pensions for their previous work period, in addition to the salaries they earn from their new jobs provided that they are not subject to retirement laws and insurance against work accidents.

Employers who fail to pay the insurance contributions stipulated by the Social Insurance Law promulgated by Decree-Law 24/1976 shall have to pay a fine not less than the total value of the unpaid contributions and not exceeding three times its value. The value of the fines shall be referred to the Pension and Social Insurance Fund.

There have been calls from many quarters to include ex-



Two years ago, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree-Law 21/2020 regarding pension funds in insurance and retirement laws and regulations, according to which the Pension and Social Insurance Fund shall be overseen by the Social Insurance Organisation.

patriates as well in the pension scheme. The SIO earlier said that the government is considering a move to incorporate expatriates working in the public and private sectors within the pension fund.

Bahrain takes part in World Youth Forum

TDT | Manama

Youth and Sport Affairs Minister Ayman bin Tawfeeq Al Moayed attended the fourth edition of the World Youth Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh.

The event was held under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdelfattah El-Sisi, in the presence of leaders of many countries and dignitaries. Male and female youngsters from across the world participated in the event.

The Egyptian leader delivered a speech in the inaugural ceremony of the forum which featured many activities that underlined the role of the

youth in building a better future for the world.

Al Moayed praised the efforts of the organising committee to ensure success of the event which is considered as part of the international community's efforts to raise awareness of the youth and provide them with the opportunity to participate actively in the sustainable development process and discuss global issues.

The forum is an annual event held in Egypt bringing together the youth from all over the world. This year's event will cast light on the post-COVID-19 period and the impact of the pandemic on the life of millions in the world.

Hosny art exhibition opens today

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) will open today the exhibition of Egyptian artist and former Minister of Culture Farouk Hosny at the Arts Centre.

It is held in cooperation with Bahrain Gallery, and will run until 5 February.

The exhibition includes a number of works by Hosny, which he produced in different years, in addition to sculptural

works inspired by his creations, executed by the Bahraini artist, sculptor Khaled Farhan.

Hosny is one of the most prominent figures of contemporary plastic art in Egypt and the Arab world. He produced works presented by major art houses and international cultural institutions, and held many special exhibitions in a number of Arab and European countries.

Reformation and Rehabilitation delegation takes part in global forum



The Director-General of the Reformation and Rehabilitation chaired the delegation that took part in the international conference of the American Correctional Association in the US. The conference reviewed the development of the correctional organisations and the possibility of Bahrain to benefit from the training activities of the association.

BRCS participates in Cairo workshop on protecting volunteers

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) participated in a regional workshop in Cairo on the protection of volunteers and their symbiotic system.

The workshop was held in coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, and volunteer Abdullah Yasser represented BRCS.

The two-day workshop focused on training participants on the foundations and guidelines to ensure their safety while carrying out relief and humanitarian work in hazardous environments such as natural disasters or war zones and conflicts, and providing aid to those in need while avoiding dangers. The workshop



BRCS volunteers at the workshop

also reviewed several preventive tools to enhance the safety of volunteers and staff of national

Red Cross and Red Crescent societies before, during and after humanitarian activities.

Importance

BRCS Secretary General Mubarak Al Hadi stressed the importance of this workshop in building and raising the capacity of Bahraini Red Crescent volunteers in various areas related to relief and humanitarian work, and increasing their ability to provide humanitarian services at all times.

He pointed out the keenness of the BRCS to work with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other national associations to develop all aspects of relief and humanitarian work, including legislation that supports and protects volunteers involved in humanitarian activities and ensures that they are treated with respect and dignity.

Interior Ministry delegation for 'Arabian Gulf Security 3' drill

TDT | Manama

Brigadier Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Assistant Chief of Public Security of Operations and Training, yesterday inspected the forces who will participate in the GCC Exercise "Arabian Gulf Security 3" drill that will be held this month in Saudi Arabia.

Dr Shaikh Hamad, who will serve as head of the Interior Ministry delegation, said that the participation comes as part of the directives of the Interior Minister to promote joint security work, cooperation and coordination.

He was briefed on the duties of the work teams and their preparedness to take part in the exercise.



Dr Shaikh Hamad inspects the Bahrain forces who are taking part in the drill



Airbus says deliveries of new airline jets are nosing higher



The logo of Airbus is pictured at the entrance of Airbus Delivery Center in Colomiers near Toulouse, France

AP | Paris

Airbus said yesterday that it delivered 611 passenger jets in 2021, an 8% increase over 2020 but an indication that airlines are still cautious about adding new planes during a pandemic that has reduced travel worldwide.

More than three-quarters of last year's deliveries were for planes in Airbus' A320 family, which are mostly used for short and medium-length flights. Deliveries of wide-body, two-aisle planes continued to lag, reflecting the much slower recovery in international flights.

US rival Boeing is scheduled

to report 2021 deliveries and orders on Tuesday.

Airbus, based in Toulouse, France, said it took in a net of 507 orders last year after excluding cancellations. Most were for planes in the A320neo group of single-aisle planes. The company said it ended last year with a backlog of 7,082 aircraft on order.

CEO Guillaume Faury said the orders indicated that airlines are confident about the growth of air travel after COVID-19. He said that "while uncertainties remain," Airbus is on track to raise production rates through this year.

Airbus will report 2021 financial results on Feb. 17.

Most Gulf bourses gain; Abu Dhabi extends losses

● Most stock markets in the Gulf ended higher yesterday

Reuters | Dubai

Most stock markets in the Gulf ended higher yesterday, with crude prices holding on to recent gains as supply disruptions in Kazakhstan and Libya offset worries stemming from the rapid global rise in Omicron infections.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index advanced 0.9%, boosted by a 1.5% rise in Al Rajhi Bank and a 4.6% jump in Saudi British Bank.

Oil prices, a key catalyst for the Gulf's financial markets, eased but held on to recent gains, having climbed 5% last week.

However, Saudi Enaya Cooperative Insurance Company slid 6.4% after its shareholders rejected an offer to merge the company with Amana Cooper-



Investors speak as they monitor stocks at the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

ative Insurance Company.

Shares of Amana fell 6.1%. Dubai's main share index added 0.3%, supported by a 14.3% surge in Amlak Finance.

The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates said it expects the UAE economy to grow 4.2% in 2022, accelerating from last year's 2.1% growth.

The Qatari index ended 0.4% higher, with petrochemical maker Industries Qatar gaining

0.6%.

The Gulf markets have seen their main indices going up mostly thanks to strong oil prices, said Wael Makarem, senior market strategist at Exness.

"However, they remain exposed to some pressures deriving from the concerns around the spread of omicron in the region," added Makarem.

In Abu Dhabi, the index retreated 1%, extending losses for

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.9%	» 11,665
ABU DHABI	▼ 1.0%	» 8,354
DUBAI	▲ 0.3%	» 3,230
QATAR	▲ 0.4%	» 12,056
EGYPT	▲ 0.4%	» 12,023
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.2%	» 1,791
OMAN	▲ 0.1%	» 4,222
KUWAIT	▲ 0.5%	» 7,796

a fifth session, hit by a 2.5% fall in telecoms giant Etisalat.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index gained 0.4%, with investment bank EFG Hermes advancing 2.9%.

Egypt's central bank said yesterday it had approved a set of rules under which it would be able to provide emergency liquidity to local lenders.

Egypt's banks are facing a deterioration in asset quality due to the economic impact of the pandemic. However, the economy eked out growth in 2020 and 2021, with the help of government support packages for the hardest-hit sectors.

Moderna improves forecast for 2022 sales from COVID-19 vaccine

Reuters | Washington

Moderna Inc said yesterday it expected to record sales of about \$18.5 billion in 2022 from contracts for its COVID-19 vaccine, and about \$3.5 billion from potential additional purchases including booster candidates updated for variants.



People pose with syringe with needle in front of displayed Moderna logo

The company in November said its sales could be in the range of \$17 billion to \$22 billion in 2022.

Moderna said it was in active discussions for additional COVID-19 vaccine contracts this year.

The company also said it was developing a booster vaccine candidate, called mRNA-1273.529, that targets the

fast-spreading Omicron variant and expects it to advance into clinical trials in early 2022.

Booster doses of the company's current COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA-1273, increased neutralizing antibody levels against Omicron at both 50 microgram and 100 microgram dose levels, the drugmaker said.

Take-Two to buy "FarmVille" maker Zynga for \$11 bln in mobile gaming push

AFP | San Francisco

Take-Two Interactive said yesterday it would buy Zynga for \$11.04 billion in a deal that will bring the smash-hit video game "Grand Theft Auto" and mobile-friendly "FarmVille" under one roof as demand for affordable on-the-go gaming surges.

The deal, one of the biggest in the sector, will create a gaming powerhouse spanning console, PC and mobile devices and comes as people increasingly gravitate toward smartphone



The Zynga logo is pictured at the company's headquarters in San Francisco, California

games. Take-Two, also known for adventure game "Red Dead Redemption", offered \$9.86 per share for the deal, representing a 64% premium to the last closing price of Zynga shares. Including debt, the acquisition is worth \$12.7 billion.

"It's a bombshell deal... Zynga was on the list of potential M&A transactions for a long time in the video game business," said Serkan Toto, CEO of videogame consulting firm Kantan Games.

"Take-Two is looking at the industry map and says 'we have basically nothing here.' So, a

lot of people have been expecting Take-Two to make a big deal in mobile to close the gap with competitors like Electronic Arts for example."

Electronic Arts bought Glu Mobile for \$2 billion last year. Zynga itself has made a string of acquisitions in the past two years, including Echtra and Chartboost.

The mobile gaming sector is expected to reach a market size of \$116.4 billion by 2024, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 11.2% from 2019 to 2024, according to gaming market data firm Newzoo.

Dollar higher on interest rate hike optimism



A US one dollar banknote

Reuters | Washington

The dollar climbed against a basket of currencies yesterday as recent employment data prompted some Wall Street banks to raise their estimates for how quickly the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates this year.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against six major peers, was up 0.4% at 96.15. The index remains close to the 16-month high touched late in November.

The dollar was supported by Friday's closely watched employment report which suggested the US job market was at or near maximum employment.

Air France-KLM adds biofuel surcharge to plane tickets



Staff members refuel an Airbus A350-900, the first Air France jet long-haul aircraft fuelled with sustainable aviation fuel

AFP | Paris

Air France-KLM said yesterday it would add a surcharge of up to 12 euros (\$13,50) on its tickets to try to offset the cost of using more expensive sustainable aviation fuel.

Air France said that the fuel levy would be added to tickets from January 10.

Travellers in economy class will pay between one and four euros more while those in business class will pay between 1.5 euros and 12 euros, depending on the distance to their destination, it said in a message to its clients.

Air France's Dutch partner KLM and low-cost subsidiary Transavia will also implement the surcharge on flights departing from France and the Netherlands, the company announced, adding that it replaces between 0.5 percent and one percent of the kerosene it uses with the sustainable alternative.

Sustainable aviation fuel or SAF is chiefly made from used cooking oil or from forestry or agricultural waste.

It allows airlines to reduce

Air traffic accounts for between 2.5 and three percent of global carbon emissions. The industry aims to become carbon neutral by 2050, both by investing in jets that guzzle less kerosene and by using cleaner fuel

carbon emissions by 75 percent compared with kerosene over the lifecycle of the fuel.

Jet fuel currently accounts for between 20 and 30 percent of airlines' costs.

Take-up of SAF, which is between four and eight times more expensive, has been slow. Current production levels fall far below what would be required to power the world's aircraft fleet.

In 2019, sustainable fuel represented less than 0.1 percent of the 360 billion litres of fuel used by the aviation industry.

Air France said it was confident that the cost of SAF would fall as more European countries begin mass producing them.



The mobile gaming sector is expected to reach a market size of \$116.4 billion by 2024, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 11.2% from 2019 to 2024, according to gaming market data firm Newzoo

QUOTE OF THE DAY

IF WE DESIRE RESPECT FOR THE LAW, WE MUST FIRST MAKE THE LAW RESPECTABLE
LOUIS D. BRANDEIS

News in brief

Brazil health regulator asks Bolsonaro to retract criticism over vaccines



of Brazil's health regulator Anvisa has asked the country's vaccine-skeptic President Jair Bolsonaro to retract statements he made criticizing the agency for authorizing the vaccination of children against COVID-19. In a letter to Bolsonaro made public late Saturday, retired rear admiral Antonio Barra Torres asked the president to back up his statement that there were undisclosed "interests" behind the vaccine decision or else retract his words.

A Mexican judge has issued seven arrest warrants related to a decade-old cross border arms trafficking sting, including for the country's most notorious drug lord and an ex-security minister, the attorney general's office said.

Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the convicted Sinaloa cartel boss, ex-Security Minister Genaro Garcia Luna and former federal police intelligence official Luis Cardenas, were named in a Sunday statement from the attorney general's office linked to the so-called "Fast and Furious" gun running scandal from 2009-2011.



Mexico issues arrest warrants in 'Fast and Furious' gun trafficking case

West African nations sever links with Mali over election delay



West African nations will close their borders with Mali, sever diplomatic ties and impose tough economic sanctions in response to its "unacceptable" delay in holding elections following a 2020 military coup, the 15-state regional bloc said.

The fresh measures from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) represent a significant hardening of its stance towards Mali, whose interim authorities have proposed holding elections in December 2025 instead of this February as originally agreed with the bloc.

Australia must 'push through' the fast-moving Omicron outbreak, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday, as infections surpassed 1 million, more than half in the past week alone, throwing a strain on hospitals and supply chains.

Although aggressive lockdowns and tough border controls kept a lid on infections earlier in the pandemic, Australia is now battling record infections in its effort to live with the virus after higher vaccination rates.



Australia vows to 'push through' Omicron wave as infections cross 1 mln

Danish intelligence chief held over suspected information leaks

The head of Denmark's foreign intelligence unit, Lars Findsen, has been remained in custody over his involvement in a case involving a leak of "highly classified" information, public broadcaster DR reported. Four current and former employees of Denmark's two intelligence services were detained in December for leaking highly classified information. Findsen is the only one who remains in custody while the investigation continues.

The head of Denmark's foreign intelligence unit, Lars Findsen, has been remained in custody over his involvement in a case involving a leak of "highly classified" information, public broadcaster DR reported.

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	61,263,030	859,356
2 India	35,708,442	483,936
3 Brazil	22,523,907	620,031
4 UK	14,617,314	150,230
5 France	12,111,218	125,438
6 Russia	10,666,679	315,400
7 Turkey	9,978,452	114,586
8 Germany	7,561,358	110,800
9 Italy	7,538,701	138,881
10 Spain	7,164,906	89,934
11 Argentina	6,310,844	117,492
12 Iran	6,208,337	131,915
13 Colombia	5,330,662	130,338
14 Indonesia	4,266,649	144,136

Global tally
308,568,442
Deaths
5,508,255
Recovered:
259,968,625
New cases
+706,273
New deaths
+2,289

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	392,857		21,964		327,144	43,749
Saudi Arabia	583,531	+4,778	8,895	+2	547,507	27,129
UAE	788,187	+2,562	2,174		753,893	
Kuwait	428,100		2,469		412,996	12,635
Oman	308,261	+539	4,119	+1	301,083	3,059
Qatar	274,529	+3,878	619	+1	248,779	25,131

Myanmar's Suu Kyi faces six years in jail after new sentences

● Suu Kyi given four-year jail term on three more charges

● Charges include possession of unlicensed walkie-talkies

Reuters | Bangkok

A court in military-ruled Myanmar yesterday sentenced ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to four years in jail on charges including possession of unlicensed walkie-talkies, a source familiar with the proceedings said.

The latest sentencing in legal proceedings that rights groups have criticised as a farce and a "courtroom circus" means she faces a six-year jail term after two convictions last month.

She is on trial in nearly a dozen cases that carry combined maximum sentences of more than 100 years in prison. She denies all charges.

Nobel laureate Suu Kyi, 76, appeared calm when the verdict was read out yesterday in a court in the capital, Naypyitaw, said another source with knowledge of the court proceedings.

Suu Kyi was detained on the day of the Feb. 1 coup and days later, police said six illegally imported walkie-talkies were found during a search of her home.

The court handed her a two-year sentence for breaching an export-import law by possessing the handheld radios and one year for having a set of signal jammers. The two sentences will run concurrently, said the source.

She was also sentenced to two years on another charge



An anti-coup protester holds up a placard featuring de-facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi (file photo)

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory in a 2020 general election, but the military claimed there was widespread electoral fraud, an assertion that independent poll watchers doubt

of breaching a natural disaster management law related to coronavirus rules, the source said.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the coup against Suu Kyi's democratically elected government led to widespread protests and signalled the end of 10 years of tentative political reforms that followed decades of strict military rule.

On Dec. 6, she received a four-year jail sentence for incitement and breaching coronavirus rules.

That sentence, which was

later reduced to two years, was met by a chorus of international condemnation.

Rights group Amnesty International said on Twitter yesterday the new convictions were "the latest act in the farcical trial against the civilian leader".

It called for her release along with thousands of others "unjustly detained" since the coup.

"The latest verdict against Aung San Suu Kyi is a politically motivated verdict. Aung San Suu Kyi continues to be the leading champion of democracy in Myanmar," Berit Reiss-Andersen, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, told Reuters.

"The Nobel Committee is deeply concerned about her situation," she added.

Suu Kyi's supporters say the cases against her are baseless and designed to end her political career and leave the military free to wield power untrammelled by any challenge.

The junta says Suu Kyi is being given due process by an independent court led by a judge appointed by her own administration. A spokesman for the military council could not be immediately reached for comment.

New York kills 19

Space heater malfunction

● More than five dozen people injured and 13 in critical condition

Reuters | New York

Nineteen people were killed, including nine children, and dozens were injured when a fire started by a malfunctioning space heater spread smoke through a low-income building in The Bronx borough of New York City on Sunday, city officials said.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, just over a week into the job, confirmed 19 people had died from the blaze that broke out around 11 a.m. in the imposing 19-floor Twin Parks North West building which provided affordable housing units and was home to a Gambian community.

Earlier on Sunday, officials said 32 people had been hospitalized with life-threatening injuries and some 60 people were injured in total as smoke drifted through the building on a cold winter morning.

"This is a horrific, horrific, painful moment for the city of New York," Adams told reporters. "The numbers are horrific."

The fire itself started from a space heater in an apartment that spanned the second and third floors of the building, and only made it to the hall, officials said.

But smoke still spread to every floor of the 120-unit building, likely because the door to the apartment was left open, the city's

Israel's Netanyahu and Olmert face off in court in defamation case



Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara attend a preliminary hearing of the defamation lawsuit

Reuters | Tel Aviv

A judge yesterday proposed a compromise in a defamation case former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched against predecessor Ehud Olmert, a Netanyahu spokesman said.

Netanyahu, now Israel's opposition leader, is demanding 837,000 shekels (\$269,000) in damages, in a lawsuit revolving around comments Olmert made in two Israeli media interviews last year that Netan-

yahu, his wife and elder son are mentally ill.

Those remarks, Netanyahu said in bringing the case, were "ugly, blatant lies" that slandered the family.

At a preliminary hearing attended by both former leaders, Olmert was asked by the judge for the basis of his remark that "what cannot be fixed is the mental illness of the prime minister, his wife and elder son", according to published reports by Israeli journalists at the session in Tel Aviv.

Putin claims victory in defense

Reuters | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed victory yesterday in defending Kazakhstan from what he described as a foreign-backed terrorist uprising, and promised leaders of other ex-Soviet states that a Moscow-led alliance would protect them too.

Kazakhstan's biggest city Almaty returned to near-normal yesterday after nearly a week of unrest, by far the worst violence in the 30-year independent history of what had been the most stable former Soviet state in Central Asia.

Cleaners were removing debris from streets still littered with burnt-out cars. Most shops reopened, public transport and regular traffic returned, and the internet was switched back on for several hours in the city, for the first time since last Wednesday.

The square near the mayor's office, burnt out during the uprising, was firmly held by the security forces and closed to the public. Police searched cars at checkpoints.

Putin sent paratroopers last week to protect strategic facilities



A Kazakh state flag is lowered to half-mast at the headquarters on the day of mourning for the victims of the fire

after anti-government protesters ransacked and torched public buildings. Dozens of people are believed to have been killed in clashes between security forces and demonstrators in cities across the country.

Russia's swift deployment demonstrated the Kremlin's readiness to use force to safeguard its influence in the ex-Soviet Union, at a time when Moscow is also in a standoff with the West over thousands of troops massed near Ukraine.

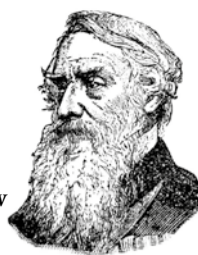
Putin told a virtual summit

1599

Jacob van Neck's fleet leaves Bantam, Java in modern day Indonesia with 1 million pounds of pepper and cloves and a further half a ship full of nutmeg, mace and cinnamon

1838

First public demonstration of telegraph messages sent using dots and dashes at Speedwell Ironworks in Morristown, New Jersey by Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail



1922

Insulin first used on humans to treat diabetes, on Canadian Leonard Thompson, aged 14

1964

First government report by US Surgeon General Luther Terry warning that smoking may be hazardous

York apartment fire including 9 children

Evacuation sparks fire in Bronx apartment building



Emergency personnel work at the scene of a fire in the New York

BETTER YOU KNOW

The flames didn't spread far – only charring the one unit and an adjacent hallway. But the door to the apartment and a door to a stairwell had been left open, letting smoke quickly spread throughout the building



The numbers are horrific. This is a horrific, painful moment for the city of New York. The impact of this fire is going to really bring a level of pain and despair in our city

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR ERIC ADAMS

Fire department commissioner Daniel Nigro told reporters at a news briefing.

"Members found victims on every floor in stairwells and were taking them out in cardiac and respiratory arrest," Nigro said.

Fire marshals had determined through physical evidence and accounts from residents the fire started in a portable electric heat-

er in the apartment's bedroom, Nigro said. He added the heat had been on in the apartment building and the portable heater had been supplementing that heating.

The catastrophe was likely to stir questions on safety standards in low-income city housing. This was the second major deadly fire in a residential complex in the US this week after twelve people, including eight children, were killed early on Wednesday when flames swept through a public housing apartment building in Philadelphia.

US Representative Ritchie Torres, a Democrat whose district includes the New York building, told MSNBC that affordable housing developments such as the Bronx one pose safety risks to residents. "When we allow our affordable housing developments to be plagued by decades of disinvestment, we are putting lives at

risk," he said.

Adams said many of the residents were from the small west African country of Gambia. The Gambian consulate in New York did not immediately respond to a request for information.

Trapped by smoke

The building did not have external fire escapes, and residents were meant to evacuate through interior stairways, Nigro said. "I think some of them could not escape because of the volume of smoke," he said.

Some 200 firefighters helped put out the blaze, and some ran out of oxygen in their tanks but pushed through anyway to rescue people from the building, Adams said.

"I really want to thank them for putting their lives on the line to save lives," Adams said.

Afghan envoy to China quits after six months of no pay



Security official stands guard in front of Afghanistan embassy in Beijing

Reuters | Kabul

Afghanistan's ambassador to China left a colourful resignation note for his post-Taliban takeover successor yesterday -- revealing that staff had not been paid for months and that a lone receptionist had been left to answer phones.

Javid Ahmad Qaem took to Twitter to detail how he had to scrape cash from the embassy's bank account to pay staff after the Taliban seized Afghanistan last August.

"Since we did not receive salaries from Kabul for the last six months, we assigned a committee from within the diplomats to solve the financial issues," Qaem wrote in a letter to Afghanistan's foreign ministry dated January 1 but posted to social media yesterday.

Still, he left some funds for his successor.

"As of today, 1st January 2022, there is around \$100,000 left in the account."

He did not say where he was going next.

In a portrait of a barely functioning embassy, Qaem's letter revealed he had left the keys for the embassy's five cars in his office and that a lone local hire had been assigned to answer queries after all the other diplomats left.



Since we did not receive salaries from Kabul for the last six months, we assigned a committee from within the diplomats to solve the financial issues. As of today, 1st January 2022, there is around \$100,000 left in the account

JAVID AHMAD QAEM

Many of Afghanistan's embassies are in diplomatic limbo, run by staff still loyal to the Western-backed government toppled by the Taliban.

Several Afghan diplomats have abandoned their Beijing postings since the fall of Kabul, Qaem wrote, calling his resignation "the end to an honourable responsibility" in an accompanying Tweet.

"I believe when the new person assigned, Mr Sadaat, arrives to Beijing, there will be no other diplomat left," the letter said, adding that China had been "well-informed".

It was not immediately clear of the whereabouts of his successor, or who had appointed him, and no immediate comment from Taliban officials in Kabul.



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



2022 cannot be yet another year of disrupted education. No effort should be spared to get children's education back on track.

@antoniouterres

02



2021 was the fifth hottest year on record, and the last seven years have been the 7 warmest years recorded.

@GretaThunberg

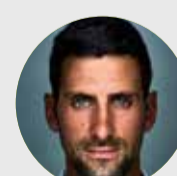
03



Not all face masks are created equal. N95 face masks are far more effective than cloth masks in preventing the spread of COVID. We must utilize the Defense Production Act to mass produce these masks and distribute them to every household in the country.

@BernieSanders

04



I'm pleased and grateful that the Judge overturned my visa cancellation. Despite all that has happened, I want to stay and try to compete @AustralianOpen I remain focused on that. I flew here to play at one of the most important events we have in front of the amazing fans

@DjokerNole

Shielding Kazakhstan from revolt



Smoke on the roof of the city administration building killed during the mass protests

of the CSTO military alliance of ex-Soviet states that the body had managed to "prevent the undermining of the foundations of the state, the complete degradation of the internal situation in Kazakhstan, and block terrorists, criminals, looters and other criminal elements."

"Of course, we understand the events in Kazakhstan are not the first and far from the last attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of our states from the outside," he said. "The measures taken by the CSTO have clearly shown we



Of course, we understand the events in Kazakhstan are not the first and far from the last attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of our states from the outside. The measures taken by the CSTO have clearly shown we will not allow the situation to be rocked at home

VLADIMIR PUTIN

will not allow the situation to be rocked at home."

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev told the summit his country had weathered "an attempted coup d'etat".

"Under the guise of spontaneous protests, a wave of unrest broke out," he said. "It became clear that the main goal was to undermine the constitutional order and to seize power."

Russia and Kazakhstan have both portrayed the unrest as a foreign-backed insurrection, although they have not said who they blame for organising it.

From puddings to trees, palace sets out queen's Jubilee celebrations

Reuters | London

Inventing puddings and planting trees are just some of the things Britons are invited to do for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, events to mark her 70th anniversary on the throne that culminate in a "blockbuster weekend of celebrations" in June.

The 95-year-old, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, will add another



Britain's Queen Elizabeth records her annual Christmas broadcast (file photo)

milestone when she marks her Platinum Jubilee in February, with the government planning four days of celebrations from June 2-5.

Buckingham Palace said Britons aged 8 and over were encouraged to apply for a baking competition to find the "perfect Platinum Pudding recipe" dedicated to the queen, while some could also "plant a tree for the Jubilee".

During the long holiday weekend in June, people will

be able to see the trooping the colour in her birthday parade, a service of thanksgiving in London's St Paul's Cathedral, a party at the Palace among other events.

In November, culture minister Oliver Dowden said the four days of celebrations would be "a celebration to remember".

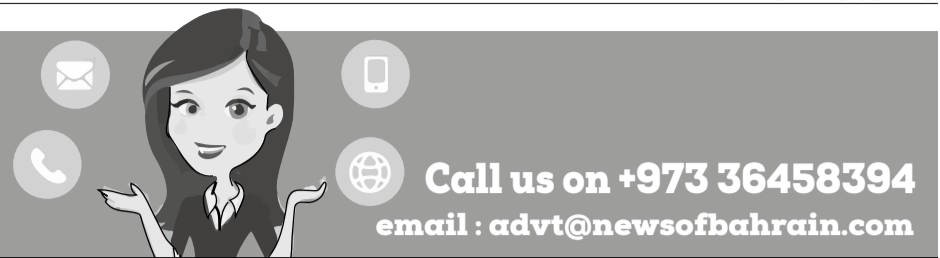
Elizabeth, who is also the world's current oldest and longest-reigning monarch, became queen on Feb. 6, 1952, on the death of her father George VI.



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

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YOUSIF ASAD AWADH SHEHABI ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699296 or SHIHABI.88@HOTMAIL.COM

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ABU ABDUIIA GODSMITH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270133 or T22722@HOTMAIL.COM

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPEFITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552722 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

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ABDULLA RASHID ALI ISA (KANZ ALSAED/9447) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17320431 or ABDULLARASHIDISA@GMAIL.COM

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UNIVERSAL FOUNDATIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17620673 or SKDGRPCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

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BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1727676 or BASMAHO@BATELCO.COM.BH

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AL AMERIYA DECUMENT CLERING has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33221246 or ZAKI.MODAWEB@GMAIL.COM

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KEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17613334 or OKA.VET@HOTMAIL.COM

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BU SARA AUTO PARTS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17883645 or M-SANAD@HOTMAIL.COM

ADMECCO MECHANICAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262256 or ALDALEEM@HOTMAIL.COM

YASMIN AKHTAR LIAQAT GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33584969 or MALIKYASMIN67@GMAIL.COM

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BILALCO FRAGRANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33058166

Buidwell Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32021590 or BUILDWELLCONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM

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BAVAS ADVERTISMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39423980 or GAFOORPT.73@GMAIL.COM

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SSP Bahrain W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66338803 or tomas@sspbahrain.com

EMPRO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES ENGINEER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33545995 or ANEESH@EVERONGCC.COM

SPICY CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39543523 or AYADSHAHIDLATIF@GMAIL.COM

REAL TECH SOLUTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34128860 or shahnamad812@gmail.com

Lolly line cafeteria Bahraini partnership company has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37193479 or KTFIROZ29@GMAIL.COM

AL ALAYAN COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36988922 or ASIAALAZAN@GMAIL.COM

INTECO Management Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SHIPS FIREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38082434 or INTECO@INTECO.SG

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AL ZLAL CAR ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33113553 or MNMAH2012@HOTMAIL.COM

AXION IMAGING ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTIONS CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL CHIPPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17005795 or INFO@AXIONIMAGINGENGINEERING.COM

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MERINO MEN TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36227207 or MERINO.BH@GMAIL.COM

FRSAN PALACE HOTEL CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17295555 or

samuigroup.bh@gmail.com

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REEM ABDULLAH AL ALHALYU FOR ABAYAT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32029999 or REAM91AL@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or HRD1@macbh.com

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

ALTAQI BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17414342 or Hussain.almarzooq1969@gmail.com

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WIRO BAHRAIN LIMITED CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17171656 or MEQDAD GHAREEB@WIRO.COM

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CAPRICON DECOR Bahraini partnership company has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39531396 or CAPRICONTRADING.BH@GMAIL.COM

Sayed Kadhem Aldurazi & sons B.S.c. close has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17624116 or sayedshubbar@skaldurazi.com

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ARABIAN GULF ASSOCIATES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (OPERATIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17770966 or HR@AGAGULF.COM

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R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRAD.MENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

Orange garage has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(METAL PARTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33118859 or MOOSA_73@HOTMAIL.COM

ALKABSI DOCUMENT CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33376070 or MUABALK@HOTMAIL.COM

MOROCCAN PALACE SPA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211110 or ABUJHAD@GMAIL.COM

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MOROCCAN PALACE SPA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211110 or ABUJHAD@GMAIL.COM

Marvel aluminum workshop has a

vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39577878 or ALGAWADAR@GMAIL.COM

Ethiopia Star for Tourism Services W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33887020 or AKZGREAT@YAHOO.COM

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Enlist Resources Co W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270123 or SHINE@ENLISTRESOURCES.COM

JBF BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17181500 or CAREERS@JBFBAH.COM.BH

ARAI PROMOTION EST has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444565 or MADIIHA@ARAI.PROMO.COM

ICE AGE TECHNICAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36799289 or ICEAIRSPAREPARTS@GMAIL.COM

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ASFAHAN COLD STORES has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34442540 or MOHAMMADFARAK52@GMAIL.COM

AHMED MOHAMMED JASSIM CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784584 or INFO@AMJASSIM.COM

OPU W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17813129 or DEVMOHANTY@DEVMOHANTY.COM

303SECURE SHIELD W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or AQEEL@BASMA.COM.BH

Falafel Palace cafeteria has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33022259 or ALWANI007@HOTMAIL.COM

MACDONALDS has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or HR@FAKHRO.COM

Ataturk Salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33427700 or ABBAS8628@HOTMAIL.COM

SYSCON TRADING & MECHANICAL SERVICES CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER/REPAIRER(ELEC. ELEVATORS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17242414 or SYSCON@BATELCO.COM.BH

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TAFCO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39661808 or mk.alhalifa@hotmail.com

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GUARDUS SECURITY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or HALA@ALMOAYYEDCG.COM

CELEBS



Jennifer Garner

Jennifer Garner named Woman of the Year by Hasty Pudding Theatricals

Fox | Los Angeles

Jennifer Garner has been named Woman of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals, based not just on her career as an actor, but also because of her record as a phi-

lanthropist and entrepreneur, the organization said.

Garner, 49, will be the guest of honor at a parade through Harvard Square, followed by a roast at which she will receive her pudding pot, the theater troupe said in a statement.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals, which dates to 1844 and bills itself the third

oldest theater group in the world, established its Woman of the Year award in 1951 to honor people who have made "lasting and impressive contributions to the world of entertainment." Last year's recipient was Viola Davis, and previous winners include Meryl Streep, Katharine Hepburn, Ethel Merman and Cher. The date of the parade, Feb. 5, is also opening night for the group's latest performance.

"We are thrilled to honor Jennifer Garner, who will be the first Woman of the Year to be honored on Opening Night," co-producer Molly Chiang said. "'13 Going on 30' was my go-to movie growing up, so I can't wait to meet her."

Hasty Pudding Theatricals, which dates to 1844 and bills itself the third oldest theater group in the world, established its Woman of the Year award in 1951 to honor people who have made "lasting and impressive contributions to the world of entertainment."



Kristen Stewart has chosen her wedding outfit

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actress Kristen Stewart got engaged to her girlfriend Dylan Meyer in November after two years together and although she is unsure how many "traditions" they will follow on their big day, she's already chosen her clothes but wants to keep the details a surprise.

She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "You're supposed to, I mean, I guess traditionally speaking and in this case, I mean, who knows how many ... I don't even know detail-wise, I don't know how many traditions we're going to follow."

"But I know what I'm gonna wear, and I can't tell you. Like, the whole thing, we kind of have to do the surprise thing."

Stewart said portraying Princess Diana in 'Spencer' was "such a trip" and a very unique role because there are so few people like the late royal, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "The most resonating takeaway that I have from making this movie was probably how big and how small I felt as her. I've never felt so big and so small at the same time."

"And I don't know, just to sort of be aware of there are certain impactful and, you know, touching people that exist and they're sort of lightning in a bottle, one-in-a-million special, but their inner lives are maybe not sometimes what it feels like for everyone outside, do you know what I mean?"

"You know, it's like this woman was able to reach out and touch so many people and responsible for so much good in the world, a just sort of unyielding, unbelievable amount of goodness, but at the same time it's just really nice to, you know, to fall into sort of wake of her dreamy nature."

"(It's) such a trip and I've never done anything like it and I love work."

"I think of her as a sort of artiste. She was so good at touching those outside of herself. That is a certain talent and connection and that's what we're doing and I think all of that was just the coolest thing."



Kristen Stewart

But I know what I'm gonna wear, and I can't tell you. Like, the whole thing, we kind of have to do the surprise thing

KRISTEN STEWART

Ben Affleck recalls filming 'Justice League' as 'worst experience'

ANI | Washington

It seems like actor Ben Affleck would apparently like to lock his 'Justice League' memories away in a hidden cave.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, during an interview with a news outlet that was published on Friday, the 49-year-old Oscar winner was asked about difficult times in his recent past.

Among the moments he discussed was his 2017 announcement that he would no longer direct 'The Batman', the Matt Reeves-helmed film that will now mark Robert Pattinson's debut as the title superhero.

After Affleck explained, he has come to the realization that he should focus on career choices that make himself happy, rather than trying to please others."

Ben Affleck



Kate Hudson once had two dates in the same night

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kate Hudson once went from one date to another in the same night.

The 42-year-old actress - who got engaged to Danny Fujikawa in last year - has opened up on her dating past and recalled one eventful evening where it definitely wasn't love at first sight.

Playing a game of 'Truth or Drink' for her King St. Vodka line, she asked her followers for their most embarrassing dating experience.

Sharing her own, she said: "I wasn't embarrassed, I just went from one date to another date in the same date."

"So, I showed up with one date, and I left with another."

Her fans loved the story, and 'Guardians of the Galaxy'

Kate Hudson



actor Dave Bautista couldn't resist a cheeky quip.

He teased: "You told me you had a 'family emergency.'"

Meanwhile, another follower commented: "My mother did that at a party once. She left with my Dad".

Kate and Danny - who have been together since 2016 and have three-year-old daughter Rani Rose together - are currently in the "pre-planning" stage of their wedding.

She recently revealed: "You know what I'm doing? I'm pre-planning the planning. Just kind of thinking of what we want to do and then I'm going back and forth be-

I wasn't embarrassed, I just went from one date to another date in the same date

KATE HUDSON

tween like, what is this really going to look like?

"Obviously, we're so excited. But the idea of planning a wedding is like, a lot, it's a lot. I made a whole movie about it."

As well as Rani Rose, Kate is also mother to Ryder Russell, 17, from her marriage to Chris Robinson, and Bing Haw, 10, with ex-fiance Matt Bellamy.

Last year, the 'Mother's Day' star revealed how co-parenting their son has helped improve her relationship with Muse frontman Matt and his wife Elle Evans.

She said: "One thing that Matt said to me, which I loved, is, 'I just want to make sure that Bing feels like he's gaining something, not losing something'."

"I think it's even bonded us closer - me, Matt, Elle and Danny - because we have to trust that we're protecting each other."

Robert De Niro questions former employee's spending

IAN S | Los Angeles

Veteran star Robert De Niro is seeking \$6 million in damages from a former employee, Graham Chase Robinson, for allegedly misusing a company credit account to fund luxury hotel rooms and lavish meals that had nothing to do with work. He has also accused her of taking 7 million of his frequent flier miles worth \$300,000.

In newly-filed court documents, the 78-year-old actor has included a 2019 letter

from his lawyer to his former employee, who worked her way up from his personal assistant to Vice President of Production and Finance at the 'Raging Bull' star's production company Canal Productions before she resigned, which detailed what he believed she bought with the credit card.

The lawyer wrote: "I was asked to respond to your recent emails addressed to Bob. Please note that Bob does not wish to communicate with you. As such, please direct correspondence regarding this matter to me."

Robert De Niro



SUDOKU

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	5				4			
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5								7
	9			1		8		5
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Yesterday's solution

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

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

- Flax refuse; 6- Scrutinize; 10- Buddy; 14- Maker of Pong; 15- Mandlikova of tennis; 16- Arizona Native American; 17- Shakespearean sprite; 18- Queue after Q; 19- Very much; 20- Inflammation of the gums; 22- Fast time; 23- Motion picture; 24- Compass pt.; 26- Remove obstruction from; 30- Pan-fried; 34- Claw; 35- Env. notation; 36- Heston's org.; 37- Langston Hughes poem; 38- Specimen of genus Aquila; 40- Med school subj.; 41- PC linkup; 42- Teen spots; 43- Employ again; 44- On in years; 46- Distinct sort or kind; 48- ... dreaming?; 49- Really moved; 50- Farrow and Hamm; 53- Patricia rank; 59- Limerick language; 60- yellow ribbon...; 61- Scheduled; 62- Island of Hawaii; 63- Inwardly; 64- ... of Two Cities; 65- Cry; 66- Billiard implements; 67- Fields of comedy;

Down

- Dutch name of The Hague; 2- Longfellow's bell town; 3- Drops from the sky; 4- Remnant; 5- Nonmetallic element; 6- Contract; 7- Class of Indian society; 8- Against; 9- Sicken; 10- Ski lodge; 11- Gap; 12- Atop; 13- Baseball glove; 21- Singer Damone; 25- Sky light; 26- Functional; 27- Birth-related; 28- Light-colored hair; 29- Elton's john; 30- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 31- World-weariness; 32- Clear the boards; 33- Palm fruits; 35- Get on; 38- Like the moon in the earth's shadow; 39- ... port in a storm; 40- Former nuclear agcy.; 42- Branch; 43- British soldier; 45- Relax; 46- Squirts; 47- Architect L.M.; 49- Inscribed pillar; 50- Feline line; 51- Dies ...; 52- Tennis great Arthur; 54- Hokkaido native; 55- Enthusiastic about; 56- Rat ...; 57- Anklebones; 58- Fencing sword;

Yesterday's solution

G	O	R	G	E		H	A	R	E	M	T	S	P
O	B	O	E	S		O	M	E	G	A	W	H	O
D	I	E	T	S		S	E	N	I	O	R	I	O
M	A	R	I	N	E	S		P	A	I	R	E	D
S	K	E	T	C	H		H	E	N	N	A		
D	E	N	S	E		F	E	R	T	I	L	I	Z
O	L	D				P	A	N	T	S			M
S	A	S	O	U	A	T	C	H		C	H	O	I
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Bahrain1 claim fantastic one-two in BIC drag

Defending champion Khaled Al Balooshi leads Bahrain1 teammate and NHRA World Champion Stevie "Fast" Jackson to Pro Mod one-two in round three of Bahrain Drag Racing Championship

● Al Balooshi claimed his third win in as many rounds, maintaining his pristine record so far in Bahrain

● Homegrown Bahraini talents were winners in seven of the 13 race classes in the meeting

TDT | Manama

Bahrain1 Racing team upheld their perfect record in the Pro Mod category of the 2021/2022 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship after posting a fantastic one-two in the season's third round, which culminated last weekend at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

Defending champion Khaled Al Balooshi stormed to yet another impressive win but only by the narrowest of margins from Bahrain1 teammate and NHRA World Champion Stevie "Fast" Jackson.

The pair went head-to-head in the meeting's final and put on a thrilling show. Al Balooshi had a run of 3.737 seconds at 319.60kph in his Gen 3 Camaro Blower, beating Jackson by just six-hundredths-of-a-second down an eighth-mile's distance along the BIC strip.

Jackson's time of 3.797s came with a 318.89kph top speed in his Camaro Gen



The car of Bahrain1's Stevie "Fast" Jackson at BIC

5 2021 challenger.

It was the third win in as many rounds for Al Balooshi, maintaining his pristine record so far in the Kingdom. The Emirati appears well on his way to claiming back-to-back Pro Mod titles in the Bahrain championship.

Completing the Pro Mod podium-placers was former champion Hani Hussain in third place.

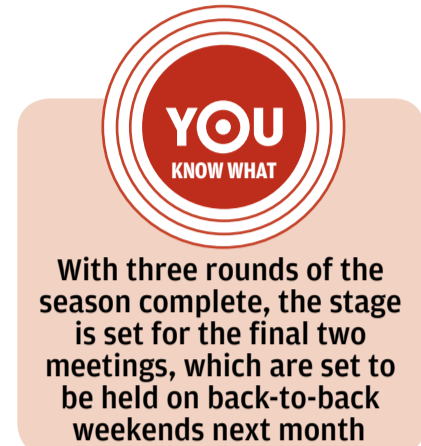
More than 200 competitors from across the Gulf and the U.S. gathered at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" to take part in the round, which marked the midway point of the season. They battled it out in 13 competition categories along BIC's world-class

quarter-mile strip, which is a member of the Worldwide Network of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

Homegrown Bahraini talents were winners in seven of the race classes.

Abdulla Yaqoub triumphed in the 10.0 Index class after beating Abdulaziz Al Qattan in the final. Abdulrahman Asker finished third. Ali Khamiri won the 9.0 Index category beating Nasser Adel Alghanem, with Tariq Mahmood coming third.

Jassim Mohamed Saleh triumphed in the Outlaw 4-Cylinder class after clocking a pass of 10.420s in the final at 214.21kph, beating Mahmood Saleh's



time of 13.625s. Zakrya Al Kuwari came third.

Yousif Alzayani won the Outlaw 6-Cylinder category with an 11.154s run to beat Nawaf Almanai, who did not register a time in their final duel. Faisal Alarab claimed third.

Hussain Mohammed followed suit, winning the Pro 29.5 V8 class with a 4.057s mark at 297.14kph. He beat Abdulla Al Shamsi's 6.688s time, with Nabeel Al Isa coming third.

Two Bahrainis were then winners in the motorbike classes. Hasan Salman took first place in the Street Fight Bikes 9.5 class after beating Yousef Al Holi, despite both riders having breakouts. Hamad Ahmed finished third.

Mohammed Hasan triumphed in the 8.5 Index Bikes class, clocking an 8.895s time at 213.37kph in the final to beat Mohammed Al Taitoon's 9.121s run. Ali

Bahram took the other podium step.

Elsewhere in the round, Abdulrahman Alkaabi from the UAE won the 8.5 Index class for cars with an 8.591s final pass at 243.92kph. Hussain Almahroos was the runner-up and Hussain Abduljalil came third.

Sayed Hussain Al Hadad from Kuwait won the 7.5 Index category after beating Mohammed Suliman, with Abdulla Al Oqab taking third place. His countryman Fawaz Karam triumphed in the Competition 4.5 class with a final run of 4.511s at 247.56kph, beating Obaid Al Balooshi. Bassel Ebraheim Abbas came third.

Mishari Al Turki from Saudi Arabia won the Pro Street Bikes class ahead of Jehad Al Jamal, who didn't register a time in their final. Khalid Al Fowzan took the other podium step.

Mohammed Al Awwad from Kuwait rounded off the winners by taking the Outlaw Bikes category with a 4.291s elapsed time at 257.96kph. Khalid Aldosary was the runner-up and Al Fowzan was once again third.

Following all the action, the top three in each class were presented their trophies in their respective podium ceremonies by officials from BIC, Bahrain Motor Federation, Bahrain Drag Racing Club and Bahrain Motorcycle Club.

With three rounds of the season complete, the stage is set for the final two meetings, which are set to be held on back-to-back weekends next month. Round four will take place 8 to 11 February, followed by the season-finale between 15 and 18 February.

Djokovic back in practice after winning appeal to stay in Australia

Reuters | Melbourne

World tennis No. 1 Novak Djokovic was back in practice hours after winning a court challenge to remain in Australia yesterday, thanking the judge who released him from immigration detention and saying he remained focused on his bid for a record 21st Grand Slam win in Melbourne.

The fight over his medical exemption from COVID-19 vaccination may not be over, however, as the Australian government said it was still considering another move to deport him.

"I am pleased and grateful that the judge overturned my visa cancellation," Djokovic wrote on Twitter, where he posted a photograph of himself on court at the Rod Laver Arena at Melbourne Park. "Despite all that has happened I want to stay and try to compete at the Australian Open."



The image Novak Djokovic posted after he was released from detention in Melbourne and returned to practice

Earlier Judge Anthony Kelly had ruled the federal government's decision last week to revoke the Serbian tennis star's visa amid was "unreasonable" and ordered his release.

"Novak is free and just a moment ago he went to the tennis court to practice," Djokovic's younger brother Djordje told a family news conference in

Belgrade. "He's out there to set another record."

Djokovic, who arrived in Australia last week to defend his Australian Open title, had spent the day at his lawyers' chambers.

There were chaotic scenes yesterday evening as supporters who had gathered outside the lawyers' office chanting "Free



I am pleased and grateful that the judge overturned my visa cancellation

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

Novak!" surged around a black car with tinted windows leaving the building, while police at one stage used pepper spray as they tried to clear a path.

A spokesman for Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said he was considering using his broad discretionary powers he is given by Australia's Migration Act to again revoke Djokovic's visa. Such a move could include a three-year ban on re-entering Australia.

"The minister is currently considering the matter and the process remains ongoing," the spokesman said.

Kyrgios says Sydney pullout due to COVID-19

Reuters | Sydney

Nick Kyrgios said yesterday that he had pulled out of the Sydney Tennis Classic after testing positive for COVID-19, but hoped to be at the Australian Open next week "if all goes well".

Australian Kyrgios had withdrawn from the Melbourne Summer Set ATP tournament last week due to asthma, according to the organisers, and pulled out of his clash with Italian seventh seed Fabio Fognini yesterday.

"I just want to be open and transparent with everyone, the reason I have had to pull out of Sydney is because I tested positive for COVID," Kyrgios said on Instagram.

"I am feeling healthy at the moment with no symptoms. I



Nick Kyrgios

wish everyone all the best and to stay safe where you can. If all goes well I will see you all at the Australian Open."

Kyrgios, a crowd favourite at Melbourne Park, has not played since late September due to knee issues and has slipped to 114th in the rankings.

He was ruled out of contention for the Australian team for the season-opening ATP Cup in Sydney this month.

Runners and bikers set for Fitness on Track at BIC tonight

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts the latest edition of Batelco Fitness on Track today – one of the most popular public activities at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" where participants have a chance to maintain their health and wellbeing in a fun and safe environment, either on foot or on a bicycle.

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

Those interested in taking part are advised to purchase their tickets in advance to avoid



Participants run during Fitness on Track at BIC (file photo)

missing out. Past editions have sold out and a similar turnout is expected this time.

Anyone wishing to participate must pre-register and pay

in advance on bahraingp.com. The cost to take part remains the same at BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Those under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

Attendees should note that the green shield, as shown on the BeAware App, must be presented on entry. Children under 12 are permitted entry when accompanied by a qualifying adult.

Batelco Fitness on Track offers the opportunity to exercise within BIC's secure and controlled setting.

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

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

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

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Bahrain to host first-ever MMA Super Cup

MMA Super Cup to take place during the 2022 BRAVE International Combat Week in the Kingdom

● Eight teams to compete for the title of best nation at the event

TDT | Manama

BRAVE International Combat week will be, once again, the stage for a milestone for the sport of Mixed Martial Arts.

During a press conference held yesterday in the Kingdom of Bahrain, it was announced that the 2022 BRAVE ICW will host the very first edition of the MMA Super Cup.

The MMA Super Cup is a new tournament promoted in association with KHK Sports, BRAVE CF, the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF), and the Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF), with 8 teams competing for the title of best nation in the world and the largest prize money ever paid for an amateur MMA tournament.

The press conference announcing the launch of BICW 2022 took place at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, in Manama, and was held by KHK Sports CEO and BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid, IMMAF president Kerrith Brown,



and the Bahrain MMA Federation Mohammed Qamber.

The participating teams were selected through the IMMAF Senior Global Rankings, with the spots being awarded to the six best ranked countries: Russia, Ukraine, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Ireland, and Tajikistan. They will be joined by two wildcards, the Balkan Champions and the Arab Champions, in the knockout tournament bracket.

Each team will be composed of 9 fighters (7 males and 2 females), one per weight class. Three alternates, or



BRAVE ICW 2022 panel with Bahrain Combat Sports Council president HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, centre

substitutes, two male athletes and one female, will also be allowed per team.

After the initial draw determining the quarter-finals, each round will consist of 9 bouts between two teams. Each fight will consist of 3, 3-minute rounds. No draws will be allowed, with extra rounds being added until one fighter is the winner if the match ends in a tie. The team with more wins after all fights will be declared the winner.

The four winners of the first round will meet in the semifinals and, finally,

the two semifinal winners will compete in the grand final, for the MMA Super Cup trophy and a US\$ 100,000 check. The runner-up team will take US\$ 75,000 home and the winner of the third place match will take US\$ 50,000. The prize money will be directed to the investment of the respective national federations.

The MMA Super Cup is the next step towards the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khaled bin Hamad al Khalifa of reforming the MMA industry, changing

YOU KNOW WHAT

The MMA Super Cup is the next step towards the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khaled bin Hamad al Khalifa of reforming the MMA industry, changing its landscape from an event-business to a sports-business under a new model and global regulation and governance

its landscape from an event-business to a sports-business under a new model and global regulation and governance.

BRAVE International Combat Week, and the inaugural MMA Super Cup, will take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from March 7 to 12. The week-long festivities will include the first edition of the MMA Super Cup and BRAVE CF 57, the first card of the year for the truly global MMA promotion.

Spain's Cordoba CF to hold camp, play friendlies in Bahrain this week

TDT | Manama

Spanish football club Cordoba CF are set to hold a training camp in Bahrain this week,

which will include two friendly matches against top local clubs.

This is according to the Spanish press. The team also posted on social media images ahead of

their departure for the Kingdom yesterday.

The camp is scheduled to be held until Tuesday next week, with training sessions set to take

place at the Bahrain Football Association pitches in Riffa, according to the Spanish media reports.

They also stated that the Span-

ish side will play friendly games against national champions Riffa on Friday and Al Khaldiya on Monday. Both games are expected to take place at the National

Stadium in Riffa.

Cordoba CF is owned by Bahrain company Infinity Capital and Bahraini Abdulla Al Zain is the club's president.

Loeb closes the gap to turn up Dakar pressure

● Bahrain Raid Xtreme star continues to eat away at Al Attiyah's lead as Terranova rises into top five

TDT | Manama

Sebastien Loeb increased the pressure for Bahrain Raid Xtreme in the Dakar Rally as he slashed another seven minutes off the lead held by Nasser Al Attiyah in Saudi Arabia.

Partnered by Fabian Lurquin in their BRX Prodrive Hunter, the nine-times World Rally Champion followed up his second stage win 24 hours earlier with a third place finish today behind Sweden's Mattias Ekstrom and Frenchman Stéphane Peterhansel.

With Al Attiyah managing only the 11th best time on the 395 km stage from Al Dawadimi to Wadi Ad Dawasir, Loeb reduced the Qatari's overall advantage to 37 mins 58 secs with four more stages amounting to 1,172-km left before Friday's finish in Jeddah.

After closing the gap by 12 mins 27 secs in two days. Loeb and Lurquin are counting on the strength, versatility and unquestionable speed of the Prodrive Hunter to keep them in the hunt for a first Dakar victory.

It was also another reward-



Sebastien Loeb in action yesterday

ing day for team-mates Orlando Terranova and Dani Oliveras who set the sixth fastest stage time in their Prodrive Hunter to continue their impressive climb to fifth in the overall rankings. Two-dimes Dakar winner Nani Roma and Alex Haro in the third Prodrive Hunter ran out of luck when a suspension problem forced them to stop to carry out repairs, losing an hour in time.

Loeb commented: "It was not easy. We had to push really hard from the start to the end because we were opening the road, so we just wanted to stay ahead and not have Nasser following, so we pushed hard very quickly."

"We had a puncture that we changed super fast before we got to the neutralisation point,

”
It was not easy. We had to push really hard from the start to the end because we were opening the road, so we just wanted to stay ahead and not have Nasser following, so we pushed hard very quickly

SEBASTIEN LOEB

but once there we discovered we had lost our other new spare wheel. It was the only new one we had so I had to be very careful towards the end and I lost time as such but I think I did a good stage there."

Terranova said: "It's great to be fifth overall now as that's another place higher up the order for us. We lost a lot of time in Vasilyev's dust as we were stuck behind him for over 120kms. We tried to push and pass him. I know we were close to Seb's time which is great to see, but frustrating too to be stuck behind someone for so long and then take big risks to get past them."

Roma said: "We did a jump, nothing hard or out of the ordinary as we'd taken 100,000 jumps harder. But maybe we just clipped a rock so we had to repair the suspension quickly to then continue. The rest of the car is continuing to be perfect so thank you everyone at BRX once more for their work."

Riffa outclass Manama in football league

● Al Khaldiya ease past Al Najma 3-0 while East Riffa score last-gasp 2-1 win over Budaiya

TDT | Manama



Riffa's Mouaiad Samir Alajaan controls the ball while Manama's Mohamed Yahya Al Hallak looks to challenge

Ra top-of-the-table clash against Manama 2-0 last night in the ninth week of action of the 2021/2022 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Bahrain national team stars Mohammed Jassim Marhoon and Komail Alaswad were both on target for the victors in the opening 11 minutes of action. Their goals eventually proved enough to secure Riffa's seventh win in nine matches. They stretched their lead atop the standings where they now have 23 points while remaining undefeated. Manama were handed their first loss and stayed on 18 points in second place.

In yesterday's two other

games, Al Khaldiya cruised past Al Najma 3-0 while East Riffa escaped with a late 2-1 win over Budaiya.

In Khaldiya's win, Bahrain international striker Ismaeel Abdullatif had a brace while Al Mandhar Al Alawi supplied their third goal. Meanwhile, Obus Prince Aggreh scored in the sixth minute of second-half stoppage time to lift East Riffa to a stunning, last-gasp win over Budaiya. Earlier in the match, Luiz Fernando Correa Sales put East Riffa ahead but Sultan Al Salatne was able to equalise.

Both Khaldiya and East Riffa improved to 15 points with their fourth wins.