

Djokovic battles into Shanghai semis

Novak Djokovic secures semi-final spot after tough battle with 19-year-old Mensik | P12



Israeli army says fired at 'immediate threat' near UN position in Lebanon
 Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military said its forces fired at a threat near a UN peacekeeping mission position on Friday in southern Lebanon, and acknowledged that a "hit" was responsible for wounding two people, after an initial examination of the incident.

Israeli "soldiers operating in southern Lebanon identified an immediate threat against them. The soldiers responded with fire toward the threat. An initial examination indicates that during the incident, a hit was identified on a UNIFIL post, located approximately 50 meters (yards) from the source of the threat, resulting in the injury of two UNIFIL personnel," the statement said.



Coast Guard rescues four after rowing boat sinks in Bahrain Bay

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Coast Guard has rescued four individuals after their rowing boat capsized in the waters of Bahrain Bay. The incident occurred yesterday, prompting an immediate response from the Coast Guard, who swiftly arrived on the scene.

Thanks to the quick actions, all four individuals were safely recovered and found to be in good health. They were assessed for any potential injuries and provided with necessary support.



Bran alert

BFMC warns wheat bran black market doubles prices to BD6 per bag



Picture for representation only

Black market manipulation: Subsidised wheat bran is being resold at inflated prices by intermediaries, with prices reaching up to BD 6 per bag, double the official rate.

Intermediaries: Farmers rely on intermediaries to collect bran from the BFMC, but these intermediaries are diverting the surplus to the black market.

Call for government intervention: The BFMC is urging authorities to regulate the bran distribution system to prevent further exploitation.

H Naser
TDT | Manama

Subsidised wheat bran, locally known as "shwar," allocated by the Bahrain Flour Mills Company (BFMC) to livestock farmers, is not reaching its intended recipients. Instead, a network of individ-

uals and businesses is exploiting the government support system for profit, illegally obtaining and reselling the subsidized bran at inflated prices, well above the official rates.

The BFMC has confirmed this, noting that it severely disrupts the subsidy's intended purpose.

In a statement released last week, the BFMC highlighted the issue of third-party sellers manipulating the market.

Farmers also confirm black market sellers are charging them up to BD 6 per bag, more than double the official rate.

The BFMC is urging authorities to take swift action, calling for stronger regulations to ensure that the bran reaches its rightful recipients—legitimate livestock farmers and agricultural businesses.

How is this happening?

An investigation conducted by Alayam, our sister newspaper, uncovered concrete evidence of this black market. Visits to several feed stores revealed quantities of BFMC-distributed wheat bran being sold at prices between BD 3 and BD 3.5 per bag—still higher than the official rate.

What went wrong?

A farmer explained that many farmers rely on intermediaries to collect their share of bran from the BFMC, avoiding the in-

convenience of daily collection. These intermediaries purchase bran on behalf of the farmers and deliver it to their doorsteps.

While this seems straightforward, the farmer explained that it's more complicated than it appears.

Intermediaries are exploiting the system by adding 10 to 20 extra bags beyond what the farmer requested.

For example, if a farmer orders 100 bags, the intermediary might take 110 or 120 bags, as the BFMC often provides a surplus of 10-20 bags for every 100 bags.

However, this extra bran never reaches the farmer; instead, it is sold on the black market.

The original buyer, the farmer, remains unaware that this illicit trade is happening under their name.

Farmers confirmed that this illegal practice has been ongoing for some time, primarily benefiting hobbyist breeders, such as horse owners, and small-scale farmers who are not registered with the Ministry of Agriculture and, therefore, do not qualify for direct subsidies.

Illegal price controllers

The market regulation system, originally intended to stabilize prices, has fallen into the hands of resellers who now act as price controllers.

According to the farmers, this black market is tightly controlled, with resellers manipulating prices across various regions. In some places, bran prices have surged to BD 4.5 or BD 5 per bag, doubling the BFMC's official rate. In extreme cases, particularly during shortages, stores have charged up to BD 6 per bag, placing immense financial strain on farmers.

Conditional sales

Resellers have also introduced conditional sales, limiting the quantity of bran they sell to unfamiliar buyers while reserving larger amounts for regular customers.

For unfortunate farmers who approach resellers for only one or two bags, especially during periods of scarcity, the price can reach up to BD 6 per bag. This situation is causing significant hardship, with many farmers even forced to abandon their profession.

Urgent intervention needed

The BFMC is urging authorities to address this issue immediately, warning that the black market is harming Bahrain's livestock farming sector and causing unnecessary financial hardship. As the situation worsens, many farmers are calling for stricter enforcement and regulation to protect their livelihoods from further exploitation.

Japanese atomic bomb survivor group Nihon Hidankyo wins Nobel Peace Prize



Oslo, Norway

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to Japan's Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors and anti-nuclear campaigners, at a time when states like Russia are threatening to use nuclear weapons. The group, also known as Hibakusha and founded in 1956, received the honour "for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again," said Jorgen Watne Frydnes, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo. (Full story on pages 6-7)

Coast Guard responds swiftly to health emergency on tanker

TDT | Manama

Coast Guard patrol came to the aid of a crew member aboard a marine tanker who experienced a health emergency while working near Khalifa Port.

Upon arrival at the scene, Coast Guard personnel provided assistance to the individual, ensuring their safety before coordinating with the National Ambulance service. The affected crew member was promptly transported for medical treatment and is reported to be in good health following the incident.

Half a million stateless people got citizenship in past decade: UN

Geneva, Switzerland

The UN said Friday that in the decade since it launched a campaign to end the limbo of statelessness, over half a million people without a nationality had acquired citizenship.

In a report, the United Nations' refugee agency detailed the progress made since it launched its #IBelong campaign in 2014. Its aim was to mobilise international action to resolve the problem of statelessness.



Black market is estimated to account for around 10% to 20% of the global economy. This underground economy includes a wide range of illegal activities, from the sale of counterfeit goods to trafficking in drugs and weapons. The sheer size of the black market illustrates how demand for certain products or services can drive illegal trade, often undermining legal markets and economies worldwide.



Sick horse? Ignoring it could land you in jail!

This regulation extends to mules, donkeys, zebras, and ponies as well

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

What would you do if you stumbled upon a sick horse?

If your instinct is to simply walk away, you might want to think again—authorities are cracking down on those who neglect their duty to report such situations, and the consequences could be severe.

A new directive issued by the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Wael Al Mubarak, has made it clear: failing to alert the authorities upon discovering a sick equine can result in jail time. This regulation doesn't just cover horses; it extends to mules, donkeys, zebras, and ponies as well.

The rule primarily targets horse owners and veterinarians who neglect to report any infected animal suffering from one of the 20 listed epidemic diseases to the Animal Health Directo-



Representative picture

rate. Under the law, offenders could face up to a month behind bars, fines reaching 1,000 dinars, or both.

This measure is part of Article 6 of Law No. (52) of 2014, which

established the Animal Welfare Law across Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The decree emphasizes the importance of swift action, stating that if any member of the equine family shows signs of illness, the responsible veterinarian, owner, or caretaker must report it immediately.

Among the diseases that must be reported are African Horse Sickness (AHS), Burkholderia mallei (glanders), Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Dourine (Trypanosoma equiperdum), Vesicular Stomatitis, and Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA). The list also includes serious illnesses such as rabies, anthrax, and West Nile fever.

As authorities ramp up efforts to protect animal health, the message is clear: when it comes to the welfare of our four-legged friends, ignorance is not bliss. If you encounter a sick horse, it's not just a matter of compassion—it's the law.



Each horse has its own distinct vocalizations, often referred to as "whinnies." Just like human fingerprints, no two horses have exactly the same sound. This means they can actually communicate with each other through their unique calls, allowing them to recognize one another even from a distance!



New Shura and Representatives Council members to take oath on Sunday

TDT | Manama

The swearing-in of newly appointed and elected members of Bahrain's Shura and Representatives Councils is scheduled for this Sunday, marking the first session of the third convening period of the sixth legislative term.

Dr. Anwar Khalifa Al Sadah will take the constitutional oath as a new member of the Shura Council, succeeding the late Abdul Rahman Moham-



Abdul Wahid Qarata



Dr. Anwar Khalifa Al Sadah

med Jamshid. His appointment adds fresh expertise to the council.

In the Representatives Council, Abdul Wahid Qarata, elected during last September's by-elections, will take his oath as the new deputy for Muharraq's first constituency, officially starting his parliamentary duties.

The oath-taking ceremony will follow the opening events, signifying the formal commencement of the legislative work for the new session.



The Ministry of Education participated in the 65th General Assembly meeting of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, in collaboration with the National Centre for Educational Research. The ministry was represented by Dr. Samah Mohammed Al Ajjawi, Assistant Undersecretary for the Development of Education and Learning Policies at the Ministry of Education. The meeting gathered over 100 participants from more than 60 countries.

Need for directional signs: Council members urge improvements in visibility and resources as they approach a century of public service

TDT | Manama

People are finding it difficult to spot Muharraq Municipal Council as there are no directional signs to show them the right way, says Council Chairman Abdulaziz Al Naar

During this week's Muharraq Municipal Council meeting, Al Naar said this is a glaring disparity compared to other municipal councils in Bahrain.

"This is the case despite the council's importance as a central point for citizens in the Muharraq Governorate."

He said there is need to install signs similar to those found at other municipal councils to clearly indicate its location.

Council member Ahmed Al



Muharraq Council Chairman Abdulaziz Al Naar



Representative picture

Al Naar said this is a glaring disparity compared to other municipal councils in Bahrain.

Moqahwi, representing the seventh district, echoed these concerns, noting that while municipal councils are on the verge of celebrating a century of service, they still lack many basic necessities, including adequate signage.

He emphasized that municipal councils are at the forefront of public service delivery but face significant challenges, including insufficient funding. Al Moqahwi expressed a desire to see municipal councils

play a more active and empowered role in better serving the community.

Fadel Al Oud, a representative of the sixth district, also highlighted the absence of directional signs specifically for the council, despite there being signage for the Muharraq Municipality. He called this oversight unacceptable, noting that the council serves an essential function in addressing citizen complaints and providing vital services.

Push for higher disability job quota hits a hurdle

- The Shura Council has proposed raising the job reservation for disabled individuals from 2% to 4% in firms with 50 or more workers

- The government cautions that increasing the quota could lead to surplus vacancies, as there are currently more unfilled positions than registered disabled job seekers

- Officials argue that the proposal is unnecessary and conflicts with existing laws

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Raising the job reservation for people with disabilities from 2% to 4% could jeopardize the system, as there are currently not enough applicants for the available positions.

Shura Council members who proposed increasing job quotas for this sector received this response from the government.

The government has warned



Picture for representation only

them that allocating 4% of government jobs for disabled workers might have unintended consequences.

Reasons: The number of un-

filled positions reported exceeds the number of available disabled job seekers. This could lead to many vacancies, preventing other eligible citizens from ap-

plying. However, Shura members argue that this perspective overlooks the significant barriers faced by disabled job seekers. They say by framing

the situation as one of surplus vacancies rather than a lack of effort to hire disabled individuals, the government implies that the current system is fulfilling its

obligations.

The proposal

Shura members aimed to raise the reservation for disabled individuals from 2% to 4% in firms with 50 or more workers.

However, officials stated that the proposal is already addressed under Law No. 74 of 2006, which focuses on the care, rehabilitation, and employment of people with disabilities. This law is also part of the national disability strategy's action plan for 2023-2027.

The explanation

Officials point out that the proposal is unnecessary, as "many jobs designated for people with disabilities remain vacant" in the private sector. Some jobs are reserved, while others are available depending on the alignment of an applicant's qualifications with job requirements and mutual agreement between both parties.

Officials also object to an amendment to Article 12, which would require the Labour Ministry to prioritise hiring disabled individuals for specific roles. They argue that this is in direct conflict with the Civil Service Law, which grants the Civil Service Bureau control over government jobs. They insist that the authority to assign roles for disabled applicants should remain with the Minister of Labour.

Construction firm fined BD20,000 for abandoning Villa project

TDT | Manama

A construction company has been hit with a hefty BD20,000 fine after abandoning a villa construction project halfway, leaving the owner entangled in a legal battle.

The High Civil Court ordered the company to repay the full amount with 2% interest from the contract's termination date until the debt is cleared. The company was also saddled with legal fees.

The case arose when the villa owner paid BD20,000 upfront after signing a BD73,500 contract. However, as the project progressed, the owner found the company's work substandard and faced repeated delays despite numerous requests for completion.

Zainab Ali Madan, the lawyer representing the villa owner, explained that an initial termination agreement was reached, with the company agreeing to return BD17,500. A second agreement followed, promising the full refund of BD20,000, but the company failed to honour it.

According to Article 128 of the Civil Code, contracts serve as binding law between the parties, and Article 584 outlines construction contracts as agreements where one party is paid



Representative picture

Owner to receive full refund with 2% interest after company's failure to complete BD73,500 villa contract

to complete work without being controlled by the other.

Although the construction company tried to contest the

documents provided, the court sided with the villa owner, accepting the original paperwork as valid evidence.

Plan to plant a tree for every home



Southern Governorate Municipal Council meeting

H Naser
TDT | Manama

The Southern Governorate Municipal Council is set to initiate an ambitious project aimed at planting at least one tree per household across the governorate. This initiative is part of a broader set of proposals designed to enhance the quality of life for residents by improving environmental conditions, community facilities, and recreational spaces.

In a bid to expand green spaces and beautify neighborhoods, the council plans to submit these proposals to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture shortly.

Additionally, the council has unanimously approved a proposal to request the allocation of a plot of land owned by the

Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs, and Endowments for the construction of a community events hall near the Hisham Al Rayes Mosque in the third constituency. This decision comes in response to the increasing population density in the Al-Buhair area and the urgent need for such a facility.

The council has also shown a strong commitment to addressing community needs by approving a proposal to allocate land from the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture for the construction of a mosque in Block 913 of the sixth constituency. This mosque will cater to local residents, especially the elderly, who currently lack access to a nearby place of worship.

In a further demonstration of their dedication to enhanc-

In a bid to expand green spaces and beautify neighborhoods, the council plans to submit these proposals to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture shortly.

ing recreational opportunities, the council has unanimously approved a proposal to request the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to construct a recreational walkway in Block 913 in the Al Bukwarah area. This project, made possible by the recent removal of oil pipelines, aims to provide residents with a valuable recreational space and promote physical activity in the community.

Bahrain's Travel Boom

Over 3.4 million pass through in August surge

H Naser
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's transportation hubs were abuzz in August, welcoming an impressive wave of over 3.4 million travellers through its various ports, including the bustling Bahrain International Airport, the vital King Fahd Causeway, and the country's sea ports.

The numbers tell a remarkable story: the King Fahd Causeway alone saw a staggering 1,476,813 passengers crossing its threshold. Meanwhile, Bahrain International Airport processed a total of 515,048 travellers, with 219,534 arriving and 295,514 departing. The country's sea ports contributed to the momentum with 3,274 passengers navigating their waters. This surge in traffic



Bahrain International Airport (file)

continues a positive trend observed in recent months. In July,

Bahrain's entry points facilitated the journey of over 3.3 mil-

lion people, with the King Fahd Causeway handling an impres-

sive 2,835,159 passengers—comprising 1,407,970 arrivals and

1,427,189 departures. Bahrain International Airport played its part by managing 471,348 passengers, while the sea ports registered 3,748 travellers.

Even in June, Bahrain was a hub of activity, recording 3,378,007 passengers. The King Fahd Causeway again dominated, with 1,431,932 arrivals and 1,455,995 departures, while the airport saw 213,032 arrivals and 273,466 departures, and the sea ports noted 1,912 arrivals and 1,670 departures.

These impressive figures highlight Bahrain's growing allure as a prime destination for both business and leisure travellers, showcasing the Kingdom's vibrant connectivity and the importance of its transportation networks in facilitating seamless travel.

Housing Ministry signs deals for 123 new homes in Buhair and Hoora Sanad

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has partnered with Al Saraya and Al Namal

● Al Saraya will construct 76 units in Buhair, while Al Namal will build 47 homes in Hoora Sanad

● This project is part of a larger effort to utilize public land for housing

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has signed agreements with two prominent property developers, Al Saraya and Al Namal, to construct 123 new homes on government-owned land in Buhair and Hoora

Sanad. The move is part of Bahrain's initiative to create affordable housing in the Southern Governorate.

Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, Amna bint Ahmed



The deal signing

Al Rumaihi, formalized the agreements with Saud Abdulaziz Kanoo, Chairman and CEO of Al Saraya, and Laji George, General Manager of Al Namal. Under the deal, Al Saraya will build 76 homes in Buhair, while Al Namal will construct 47 units in

Hoora Sanad. These projects are aligned with directives from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to maximize the use of public land for housing. The new developments bring the total number

of projects launched under the program to four, following the Suhail housing project in Al Lawzi (132 units) and ongoing work in Salman City (131 units).

Al Saraya's development will span 20,000 square meters in Buhair, while Al Namal's Hoora



Representative picture

Sanad project will cover 10,000 square meters. Both projects are designed to provide homes for beneficiaries of the ministry's housing financing programme.

Saud Abdulaziz Kanoo and Laji George expressed their enthusiasm for collaborating

with the government, highlighting the success of public-private partnerships in delivering affordable housing solutions. More projects are expected to follow as part of the Government Land Development Rights Programme.

Mother faces manslaughter, prostitution charges in child abuse case

H Naser
TDT | Manama

Mother of a four-year-old and another woman, who are in the dock for the brutal killing of the child by holding him in a hot water bath now faces a more severe manslaughter charges.

The 28-year-old mother is also facing prostitution charges. Earlier, they were facing only charges for causing permanent injury leading to death.

The Public Prosecution has amended charges as the suspects, aged 25 and 28, appeared in court on Tuesday.

The High Criminal Court scheduled the case for closing arguments on October 15th.

A forensic medical report has accused the 25-year-old defendant of intentionally immersing and holding down the child in a hot water bath, causing injuries that ultimately led to his death. She was also charged with

child abuse, alleging she subjected the child to physical mistreatment while responsible for his care. The woman has also confessed to practising prostitution for supporting her financially.

The 28-year-old mother, who has two kids under 7-years of age, is facing charges for neglect, and failing to take care of her children and harming both of them. The first defendant denied involvement in the child's death but admitted to the im-

migration violation. The mother admitted to all charges, including prostitution. A medical report presented to the court during an earlier hearing indicated that the burns caused infections leading to kidney failure, requiring dialysis. While the child's condition initially stabilized, the burns, infections, and kidney failure ultimately resulted in his death on September 19, 2024.

Testimony from a witness revealed that his wife (the second witness) lived in a shared

apartment with the 25-year-old defendant. On the day of the incident, he received a message about a problem with one of the children and discovered his four-year-old son had been scalded. Meanwhile, his wife testified that she heard a child crying and inquired about it. When inquired, the 25-year-old defendant claimed the child had turned on the hot water himself.

The second defendant told the court that she placed the

children in the bathtub with the water running at a moderate temperature, then left to prepare clothes for approximately 20 minutes. Upon hearing the child's screams, she discovered he had turned on the hot water. She applied aloe vera gel, dressed him, and contacted the child's mother.

The forensic doctor's testimony that the child had no pre-existing disabilities suggests the injuries were intentionally inflicted.

US expands sanctions against Iran's oil biz

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States hit Iran's oil and petrochemicals sectors with fresh sanctions yesterday in response to Tehran's October 1 attack against Israel, designating dozens of new companies and firms.

In a statement Friday, the Treasury Department said it was going after Iran's so-called "shadow fleet" of ships involved in selling Iranian oil in circumvention of existing sanctions, designating 10 companies and 17 vessels as "blocked property" over their involvement in "shipments of Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products."

The State Department announced it was sanctioning an additional six firms and six ships for "knowingly engaging in a significant transaction for the purchase, acquisition, sale, transport, or marketing of petroleum or petroleum products



US President Joe Biden, accompanied by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas from Iran."

The sanctions form part of the US response to Iran's attack, in which it launched some 200 ballistic missiles against Israel in retaliation for the killing of Tehran-backed militant leaders and a general from Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Israel has said its response to Iran's second direct attack

against its territory this year would be "deadly, precise, and surprising."

US President Joe Biden told reporters last week that Israel should consider "other alternatives than striking oil fields," amid reports it was planning to do so.

"In response to Iran's attack on Israel, the United States is

taking decisive action to further disrupt the Iranian regime's ability to fund and carry out its destabilizing activity," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement.

"Today's sanctions target Iranian efforts to channel revenues from its energy industry to finance deadly and disruptive activity -- including development of its nuclear program, the proliferation of ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles," she added.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington had made clear after the October 1 attack that Tehran would face consequences.

"To that end, we are taking steps today to disrupt the flow of revenue the Iranian regime uses to fund its nuclear program and missile development, support terrorist proxies and partners, and perpetuate conflict throughout the Middle East," he said in a statement.

Fierce competition for BTEA's New Year's eve event contract



Representative picture

● For the New Year's Eve 2025 event, the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has received bids from three companies.

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

In its latest session, The Tender Board opened bids for 12 tenders, receiving a total of 70 submissions. Among them, Bapco's tender for the supply of oil and gas well pipes drew 14 offers, with the lowest standing at BHD 3.2 million.

For the New Year's Eve 2025 event, the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has received bids from three companies. PICO International submitted the lowest offer of BHD 595,980, with TARTEEB Events and Marketing bidding BHD 709,500, and Al Wasmiya Tent House offering BHD 1.27 million.

Three firms are competing to provide maintenance services for the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications headquarters. The lowest offer came from Utility Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Services at BHD 249,249.

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L. submitted the lowest bid, BHD 52,257, to supply bottled water and dispensers to the Electricity and Water Authority.

Bapco Refining opened two tenders: the first for hydrogen cleaning services, with a low bid of BHD 3.1 million, and the second for precision instrument services, with the lowest at BHD 2.1 million.

Tamkeen is seeking an executive partner to assist micro, small, and medium enterprises with digital transformation, receiving seven bids, the lowest at BHD 435,000.

The Ministry of Works has put forward two tenders, one for consultancy on the re-operation of the B1 sewage pumping station (lowest bid: BHD 202,000) and another for rehabilitating five heritage buildings (lowest bid: BHD 48,000).

The Ministry of Youth Affairs opened a tender to equip the Network of Hope 2024 Exhibition, with the lowest bid at BHD 44,000.

A tender for maintaining substations in Salman City, submitted by the Ministry of Housing, received two offers, the lowest being BHD 37,000.

Finally, Edamah is looking to install LED advertising screens at its properties, with the lowest bid coming in at BHD 89,000.



The tradition of making New Year's resolutions dates back over 4,000 years to the ancient Babylonians.

They would make promises to their gods at the start of each year, often to return borrowed items or pay debts. Today, people around the world continue this tradition by setting personal goals for the upcoming year, ranging from health improvements to career aspirations.

Half-brother to succeed Indian tycoon Ratan Tata

AFP | Mumbai, India

Late Indian tycoon Ratan Tata's half-brother was appointed yesterday to succeed him as chairman of a collective of philanthropic institutions that wield indirect control over the \$165 billion Tata Group.

Noel Tata succeeds Ratan, who died Wednesday after turning the sprawling family-run Tata Group conglomerate into a global giant.

Ratan was until his death the chairman of Tata Trusts, which through a complex ownership structure has a roughly 66 percent stake in the group's holding company Tata Sons.

Tata Sons is the single largest shareholder in firms like IT giant Tata Consultancy Services, India's second-biggest company by market cap, and Tata Motors -- which owns British luxury carmaker Jaguar Land Rover.

"It was unanimously decided to appoint Mr. Noel Naval Tata



Noel Tata

as the Chairman of the various Trusts that constitute the Tata Trusts and also designate him as Chairman," a press release said.

Tata Sons is the single largest shareholder in firms like IT giant Tata Consultancy Services, India's second-biggest company by market cap, and Tata Motors -- which owns British luxury carmaker Jaguar Land Rover.

"His appointment comes into place effective immediately."

Noel Tata said in a statement that he was "deeply honoured

and humbled by the responsibility" and looked forward to carrying on his half-brother's legacy.

While Noel has been associated with the group for decades, he is mostly publicly known for being chairman of Trent, the conglomerate's wildly successful apparel retailer.

Tata Trusts was set up in 1892 and plays no role in the day-to-day functioning of listed firms that come under the Tata brand, instead supporting housing, healthcare and education charities.

Tata Sons is in charge of the group's strategy and is currently headed by chairman N. Chandrasekaran, who was appointed in 2017.

Because the Tata Trusts is the largest shareholder in Tata Sons, its chairman effectively oversees the sprawling empire, and will play a key role in deciding Chandrasekaran's eventual successor.

Bahrain tops Gulf in book reading, ranks 82nd globally

H Naser
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has claimed the top spot in the Gulf region and 82nd place globally in a ranking of countries with the highest per capita book readership for 2024. According to a report published in *Ceoworld* magazine, Bahrainis read an average of 3.44 books per year, dedicating 77 hours annually to reading.

Oman followed in second place in the Gulf and 89th globally, with an average of 3.13 books per person per year (69 hours of reading). Kuwait ranked third in the Gulf and 90th worldwide, with an average of 3.08 books per year (69 hours).

Qatar came in fourth in the Gulf and 93rd globally (2.93



books, 67 hours), followed by the UAE (98th globally, 2.71 books, 60 hours) and Saudi Arabia (99th globally, 2.69 books, 60 hours).

The *Ceoworld* report, based on a survey of book readers in 102 countries and over 6,500,000 interviews, placed the United States and India at the top of the global rankings.

Americans read an average of 17 books annually, while Indians read 16, with both countries showing a preference for physical books over e-books or audiobooks, despite the growing popularity of digital media.

The global book market was valued at \$144.67 billion in 2023 and is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.8% from 2024 to 2030, according to the report.

QUOTE OF THE DAY THE WORLD IS ROUND SO THAT FRIENDSHIP MAY ENCIRCLE IT PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

TODAY IN HISTORY

539 BC The army of Cyrus the Great of Persia takes Babylon

1279 Nichiren, a Japanese Buddhist monk, founder of Nichiren Buddhism, inscribes the Dai-Gohonzon

1492 Christopher Columbus's expedition makes landfall on a Caribbean island he names San Salvador (likely Watling Island, Bahamas). The explorer believes he has reached East Asia

1915 Ford Motor Company under Henry Ford manufactures its 1 millionth automobile at the River Rouge plant in Detroit

News in brief

Thai opposition MP wins 'rare' royal defamation acquittal

violating a royal defamation law, a lawyers' group said, in a rare example of acquittal on lese majeste charges in the kingdom. Piyarat "Toto" Chongthep was accused of installing a placard criticising the king in Kalasin province, northeast of the capital, Bangkok, in 2021. A court in Kalasin yesterday dismissed the case against the People's Party MP on grounds of insufficient evidence, according to the Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR) group.

The UN said yesterday that in the decade since it launched a campaign to end the limbo of statelessness, over half a million people without a nationality had acquired citizenship. In a report, the United Nations' refugee agency detailed the progress made since it launched its #IBelong campaign in 2014. Its aim was to mobilise international action to resolve the problem of statelessness. The UNHCR described statelessness as "a major human rights violation".

One killed, 12 people trapped in Colorado gold mine

One person died and a dozen people remain trapped deep in a disused Colorado gold mine after the shaft's elevator system malfunctioned during a tour yesterday, local police said. The incident occurred during the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine Tour, which takes visitors 1,000 feet (300 meters) underground in the western US state. A group of visitors were on board the elevator trolley system when the mechanical failure occurred, killing one person and injuring four.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Everest climber's remains believed found after 100 years



Tents of mountaineers are pictured at Everest base camp in the Mount Everest region of Solukhumbu district

AFP | London

Documentary team discovered human remains on Mount Everest apparently belonging to a man who went missing while trying to summit the peak 100 years ago, National Geographic magazine reported yesterday.

Climate change is thinning snow and ice around the Himalayas, increasingly exposing the bodies of mountaineers who died chasing their dream of scaling the world's highest mountain.

Britain Andrew Irvine went missing in 1924 alongside climbing partner George Mallory as the pair attempted to be the first to reach Everest's summit, 8,848 metres (29,029 feet) above sea level.

Mallory's body was found in 1999 but clues about Irvine's fate were elusive until a National Geographic team discovered a boot, still clothing the remains of a foot, on the peak's Central Rongbuk Glacier.

On closer inspection, they found a sock with "a red label that has A.C. IRVINE stitched into it", the magazine reported. The discovery could give further clues as to the location of the man's personal effects and may help resolve one of mountaineering's most enduring mysteries: whether Irvine and Mallory ever managed to reach the summit.

that has A.C. IRVINE stitched into it", the magazine reported. The discovery could give further clues as to the location of the man's personal effects and may help resolve one of mountaineering's most enduring mysteries: whether Irvine and Mallory ever managed to reach the summit. That could confirm Irvine and Mallory as the first to successfully scale the peak, nearly three decades before the first currently recognised summit in 1953 by climbers Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. "It tells the whole story about what probably happened," Irvine's great-niece Julie Summers told National Geographic. Members of the Irvine family reportedly offered to share DNA samples to confirm the identity of the remains. Irvine was 22 when he went missing. He, along with Mallory, was last spotted by one of the members of their expedition on the afternoon of June 8, 1924, after beginning their final ascent to the summit that morning.

Israel faces UN anger after peacekeepers hit

Diplomatic backlash after four UN peacekeepers injured in Lebanon amid Israel-Hezbollah conflict

Israel investigating injuries to four UN peacekeepers in Lebanon

Diplomatic condemnation from US, UK, EU, and France

Lebanese PM calls for immediate ceasefire resolution

AFP | Beirut

A diplomatic backlash erupted after Israel's troops allegedly injured four UN peacekeepers in Lebanon, prompting Israel to launch a "thorough review" into the incident yesterday. UN peacekeepers patrolling the Lebanese side of the border with Israel have been thrust into the violence of the Israel-Hezbollah war that has killed more than 1,200 people in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures, and displaced a million others. The UN peacekeeping mission said two more of its members were wounded yesterday -- after two Indonesian Blue Helmets were injured on Thursday -- leading the Israeli army to say it was "conducting a thorough review at the highest levels



People walk past the rubble of a building at the site of an Israeli strike on the Basta neighbourhood in the Lebanese capital Beirut

The UN mission had on Thursday said its headquarters and nearby positions were "repeatedly hit", and that two peacekeepers had been wounded. "These attacks constitute serious violations of international law and must cease immediately. The Israeli allies in the White House, Britain and the EU, while France yesterday said it had summoned the Israeli ambassador. The UN force warned yesterday of "very serious risks" for their Blue Helmets after explosions wounded two of them near the Israeli border.

li authorities must explain themselves," the French foreign ministry said. The incidents came nearly three weeks into Israel's war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has seen Israeli warplanes conduct extensive strikes since September 23 on the Iran-backed militants' strongholds and ground troops deployed across the border. Yesterday, air raid sirens were activated across areas of northwestern Israel after 80 projectiles were fired from Lebanon, the army said.

'Immediate ceasefire' Also yesterday, Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati said his government would ask the UN Security Council to issue a resolution calling for a "full and immediate ceasefire". Calling for the Lebanese army and peacekeepers to be the only armed forces deployed in the south of the country, he said that "Hezbollah is in agreement on this issue" -- though the group has yet to comment on his speech. Iran-backed Hezbollah is heavily armed and controls large swathes of Lebanon, and successive Lebanese governments have failed to subdue it.

Hezbollah has fought Israel numerous times in recent decades, while the weak Lebanese military has been mostly unable to deploy in many areas under the militants' control.

YOU KNOW WHAT The Israeli strikes on Beirut reportedly targeted Hezbollah's security chief, Wafiq Safa, who was close to the late leader Hassan Nasrallah, killed in an earlier Israeli strike last month

Lebanon's army said an Israeli strike on one of its positions in south Lebanon killed two of its soldiers yesterday.

The worst-affected areas in the war are home to majority Shiite Muslims, where Hezbollah built its support base by providing protection and services in a state long wracked by sectarianism and corruption. But Christian villagers near the border have also been trapped in the cross-fire.

"When Israel bombards, it flies over our heads. And when Hezbollah fires back, it also whizzes by above," Christian Joseph Jarjour told AFP by phone from the border village of Rmeish.

Japanese atomic bomb survivor group Nihon Hidankyo wins Nobel Peace Prize

AFP | Oslo

The Nobel Peace Prize was yesterday awarded to the Japanese anti-nuclear group Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as Hibakusha.

The group, founded in 1956, received the honour "for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again," said Jorgen Watne Frydnes, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo. The co-head of the group expressed surprise at winning the award.

"Never did I dream this could happen," Toshiyuki Mimaki told reporters in Tokyo with tears in his eyes. The Nobel committee expressed alarm that the international "nuclear taboo" that developed in response to the atomic bomb attacks of August 1945 was "under pressure".

The war in Ukraine has recently heightened concerns about the risk of nuclear war, in particular with Russia's announcement that it plans to review its doctrine on the use of the atomic weapons.

"This year's prize is a prize that focuses on the necessity of upholding this nuclear taboo. And we all have a responsibility, particularly the nuclear powers," Frydnes told reporters.



Tomoyuki Mimaki, representative director of the Nihon Hidankyo, attends a press conference after the group was awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize, in Hiroshima

YOU KNOW WHAT Nihon Hidankyo, the Nobel-winning group, was founded in 1956 and is led by survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said the award for Nihon Hidankyo was "extremely meaningful".

The committee noted that next year will mark 80 years since two American atomic bombs killed an estimated

120,000 inhabitants of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and a comparable number later died of burn and radiation injuries. "Today's nuclear weapons have far greater destructive power. They can kill millions and would impact the climate catastrophically," Frydnes said. The committee noted that nuclear powers are modernising and upgrading their arsenals. "New countries appear to be preparing to acquire nuclear weapons and threats are being made to use nuclear weapons in ongoing warfare," Frydnes said. "A nuclear war could destroy our civilisation," he warned.

With wars raging around the world, Nobel-watchers had struggled to predict this year's laureate, with full-scale conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, famine in Sudan, and a collapsing climate painting a grim picture of world affairs.

Hurricane Milton leaves at least 16 dead as Florida cleans up



A vehicle drives through a flooded street after Hurricane Milton, in Siesta Key, Florida

AFP | Tampa

The death toll from Hurricane Milton rose to at least 16 yesterday, officials in Florida said, as residents began the painful process of piecing their lives and homes back together.

Nearly 2.5 million households and businesses were still without power, and some areas in the path cut through the Sunshine State by the monster storm from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean remained flooded.

Milton crashed into the Gulf Coast late Wednesday as a Category 3 storm, smashing communities still reeling from Hurricane Helene two weeks ago, which killed 237 people across the US southeast, including in Florida.

On Siesta Key, a beautiful barrier island near Sarasota where the storm made landfall, Milton left a desolate landscape. Some streets were still flooded yesterday. Fallen trees and debris -- sofas, beds, chairs and appliances, much of it left behind by Helene -- were strewn haphazardly on roadsides.

Resident Mark Horner, who moved there six years ago, said while his house was largely spared, the island "got hit really hard" and people were reassessing the future.

But the 67-year-old sounded a note of optimism, telling AFP: "Our paradise will come back. It's just a little shocking to absorb it."

20 Pakistan coal miners shot dead in attack



Labourers gather to protest against the killings of coal miners in an overnight attack in Duki district of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province

AFP | Quetta

Twenty coal miners were shot dead in an overnight attack on their lodgings by a group of heavily armed men in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, police said yesterday.

No group has claimed the attack, but separatist militants in Balochistan regularly target natural resource extraction projects dotted across the mineral-rich province, which is the poorest in Pakistan. Up to 40 attackers fired at miners for half an hour starting around 12:30 am (1930 GMT Thursday) "before escaping into the night", said Asim Shafi, police chief in Duki district, where the attack occurred. "They had rocket launchers and

hand grenades with them," he told AFP. A senior government official in the district, Kaleemullah Kakar, confirmed the death toll and said seven more people had been wounded. "The attackers also set fire to the machinery on-site," he said. Yesterday, the workers' coffins were laid out in a public square where hundreds of protesting union and labour group members demanded better protection amid a rise in violence.

"We are protesting here for our protection as terrorists always attack mine workers and coal-load- ed vehicles and law enforcement agencies fail to provide protection," said Mohammad Ghous, 36, from a neighbouring district who joined the protest.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01 We are thinking of everyone impacted by #HurricaneMilton. This disaster once again demonstrates the urgency to act to mitigate the #ClimateCrisis and invest in resilience, including in the health care sector. @DrTedros 02 03 Thank you @kmitso-takis for the good exchange ahead of today's #MED9. I look forward to working with you on all our shared priorities, from improving EU competitiveness and managing the clean and digital transition, to tackling migration. @vonderleyen 04 The East Asia Summit is a key forum for addressing pressing challenges, including the ongoing crisis in Burma and tensions in the South China Sea. Welcomed today's discussion with leaders and partners on how we can work together to tackle these issues for a secure Indo-Pacific. @SecBlinken Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

International Day of the Girl Child: Why Financial Literacy for Girls is Essential

DR. BILAL AHMAD PANDOW, FINANCIAL LITERACY ADVOCATE AND AUTHOR

Every year on October 11th, the world celebrates the International Day of the Girl Child to highlight the challenges girls face and promote their empowerment. This year, the focus has expanded beyond simply ensuring that girls receive an education. It's time to emphasize a critical but often overlooked skill: financial literacy. Educating girls on how to manage money, understand savings, investments, and economic decision-making could be one of the most transformative ways to create a brighter, more equitable future.

According to a UNICEF, despite clear evidence showing the importance of girls' education for development, gender gaps in schooling remain widespread. Globally, 119 million girls are not attending school, with 34 million of them at the primary level, 28 million at the lower-secondary level, and 58 million at the upper-secondary level. In conflict-affected countries, girls are more than twice as likely to be out of school compared to those in peaceful regions.

A 2018 study by the World Bank estimates that restricted access to education for girls, along with obstacles to finishing 12 years of schooling, results in a loss of \$15 trillion to \$30 trillion in lifetime productivity and earnings for countries. While, the disparities are more noticeable in countries experiencing fragility, conflict, and violence. In these nations, girls are 2.5 times more likely than boys to be out of school, and at the secondary level, they are 90% more likely to be out of school compared to girls in non-fragility, conflict, and violence regions.

Learning about finances can help close the gap between men and women in the workforce. Women around the world are less likely than men to own land or be able to use financial services. Philanthropists can help close this gap by teaching girls how to handle and grow their finances.

Philanthropists have a unique opportunity to empower the next generation of women by focusing on education rather than immediate financial aid. Programs that prioritize financial literacy should be at the forefront of any girl-child empowerment initiative. These programs not only provide valuable life skills but also instill confidence, self-reliance, and a sense of purpose in girls.

In regions like sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and conflict-affected areas such as Kashmir, where girls face systemic barriers to education and independence, financial literacy programs are crucial. Philanthropists can collaborate with schools, local NGOs, and international organizations to integrate financial literacy into existing educational curricula.

Girls can learn about financial matters in a variety of ways, such as in the classroom, through workshops, mentorship programs, and online resources. These methods can make learning more comprehensive, making sure that everyone can receive and enjoy financial education.

The International Day of the Girl Child is a reminder of how much girls around the world can do. Giving girls financial support may help in the short term, but giving them financial literacy is an investment in their future. Giving money to charities that teach girls about financial literacy doesn't just improve people's lives; it also makes the world more equitable and prosperous.

Let's move beyond temporary solutions and invest in the transformative power of education, ensuring that girls everywhere have the tools to shape their financial futures.

Cashouts can help girls and their families with short-term needs, but they don't fix the problems that make people poor in the first place. Teaching girls how to handle money is a skill that will help them for a long

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

celebs

Halle Berry turned down Prince after he sent paper notes asking her out

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Halle Berry has recalled late music legend Prince asking her out by paper notes.

The 'Catwoman' actress, 58, attended one of the 'Purple Rain' hitmaker's concerts at the famous Key Club on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, and has claimed the Purple One - who died in 2016 at the age of 57 - tried to pursue her by having someone send her letters asking her out on a date, but she snubbed his offer.

Appearing on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live', she spilled: "He had somebody come out with a piece of paper. You know how kids do, 'Do you like me? Yes or no?' I went, 'Yes!' I mean, I'm at his concert, right?"

"Came back out again [with another piece of paper that said], 'Would you go out with me?'"

Asked if she responded, she said: "No. I didn't send the paper back."

Halle recalling turning down Prince comes after she recently credited Pierce Brosnan with "restoring her faith in men".

The former Bond girl starred alongside the former 007 in 2002 Bond classic 'Die Another Day' and recalled the 71-year-old actor being a total "gentleman".

She told Wired: "He will always be my Bond, always. I'm a Pierce Brosnan fan."

"He restored my faith in men on that movie. There couldn't be a human who is more of a gentleman than Pierce Brosnan."

Halle was "honoured" to be a part of "cinematic history" with her role as NSA agent Jinx in the movie.

Halle Berry



Selena Gomez finds it 'overwhelming' that she has been famous for so long

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Selena Gomez finds it "overwhelming" that she has been in show business for so long.

The 32-year-old actress made her debut at the age of 10 on 'Barney and Friends' and later attained teen idol status through her Disney Channel show 'Wizards of Waverly Place' in 2007 alongside the likes of 'Hannah Montana' star Miley Cyrus and 'Camp Rock' actress Demi Lovato but endured a string of mental health issues in the years that followed and wishes that she could just reassure her younger self that everything was going to "fine" in the future.

She told E! News: "I would tell her to just calm down, everything's going to be fine

on the other side.

"It's a bit overwhelming being in this industry for so long. I'm very grateful that I'm in a much more stable place."

The 'Only Murders in the Building' star was diagnosed with bipolar in 2020 and now heads up the Rare Impact Fund to help those suffering around the world suffering with mental health issues.

Meanwhile, the 'Lose You To Love Me' songstress is currently starring in Spanish-language French musical crime

Selena Gomez



comedy film 'Emilia Perez' and has had to question whether the whole experience was "real" as Oscar rumours swirl around the project.

She said: "I just don't know if it's real. I'm even shaking in my voice. I'm grateful. I think this movie hits all different cylinders. It's very fun. It's very passionate, and it's about four women, really, and their journey. And it's been a blessing, so to just be in that category, it's an honor."

It's a bit overwhelming being in this industry for so long. I'm very grateful that I'm in a much more stable place

SELENA GOMEZ

Kristen Bell feels 'whole' after acting break

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kristen Bell feels "more whole" after taking a break from acting.

The 44-year-old star - who has daughters Lincoln, 11, and Delta, nine, with her husband Dax Shepard - has reflected on her decision to spend some time at home being a mother before returning to her career with new Netflix series 'Nobody Wants This'.

Asked if she thinks the break was good for her, she told new! magazine: "I really do."

"I don't really know how to de-

scribed it, but I do feel different. I feel more whole, if that makes sense."

Kristen is "excited to be back" and working on a creative project, particularly one like 'Nobody Wants This', which tells the story of sex podcaster Joanne (Bell) and single rabbi Noah Roklov (Adam Brody), who fall in love despite the differences between them.

She explained: "I took a break. It's been a couple of years of mostly staying home, being a mom and raising my kids."

"They are that little bit older now and I have more

time, so I'm excited to be back, to be creative again and to be part of something as positive as this."

"As soon as I read the script I knew this was the perfect project to come back with."

The 'Good Place' star was drawn in by the idea of making something so unique.

She said: "I just loved how different it was. I haven't seen anything like this for a long time. It's a beautiful rom-com involving two people who could not be more different."

"They have this extreme chemistry from the moment they meet and it's really a question of how they handle that."

"This isn't a love story about two gorgeous 21-year-olds. They are older, they have cultural differences, they miscommunicate but they still have this special connection."

Kristen Bell



Katy Perry tries to support new pop stars as she recalls her own struggles in early days of fame

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Katy Perry tries to support new pop stars with their rise to fame.

The 39-year-old singer acknowledged that social media wasn't really as prominent as it is now when she first found fame with her debut single 'I Kissed A Girl' in 2008 but still had a lot to "protect" herself from so she makes the effort reach out to younger stars like Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan as they experience success on a global scale.

Speaking on Australian talk show 'The Project', she said: "When I see them, when we cross paths, we talk about it and I do reach out to them. I think their journey now is more unique than what I went through in 2008 when I started. There wasn't social media, there weren't eight billion voices speaking all at once."

"There was still a lot to see and hear and protect yourself from but I think you have to depend on your tools even more so

these days and so I tell all the girls that I'm here, I love you, I've got you whatever. If you want a tea, I'll be here forever."

In her own early days on the music scene, the 'Lifetimes' hitmaker found something of a friend in Madonna after she brought her song 'Ur So Gay' to public attention and admitted that whenever she meets fans these days, she tries to think carefully

about how she acts towards them because she could leave an impression on them for-



Katy Perry

Reese Witherspoon proud to have 'saved' herself as a young single mom

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Reese Witherspoon is proud she was able to "save" herself as a single mom.

The 48-year-old actress - who has Ava, 25, and Deacon, 20, with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe, and Tennessee, 12, with former spouse Jim Toth - told how she "found" her voice in the wake of her first marriage ending in 2006 because

she had no one else to rely on to make decisions for her.

Appearing on a panel during her company Hello Sunshine's Shine Away event in Los Angeles on Saturday (05.10.24), the 'Legally Blonde' actress was asked if there was an "a-ha" moment where she "found" her voice, and she explained there are "so many" times, but what she loves about her company is they "look for stories that women saved themselves".

She added: "Because every woman in this room has saved herself, [from a] financial situation, an education situation, a bad relationship, you had to save yourself."

"There's a moment in all of our lives when you realise, no wait, no one's coming to help, no one's coming to make that decision."

Reese Witherspoon



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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

- Judges' garments; 6- want for Christmas.; 10- Tax experts: Abbr.; 14- Leaning;
- Burden; 16- Jocular Johnson; 17- Flight of steps; 18- Places to stay; 19- Rub the wrong way; 20- Cooking container; 21- Icon; 23- Summary; 24- Mythical hell; 26- Affirmatives; 27- Deprived of life; 29- Autocratic Russian rulers; 31- Creative spark; 32- Later; 33- Self-esteem;
- In spite of; 40- Malt beverage; 41- Fang, e.g.; 42- Hebrew month; 43- Calls for; 44- Erase;
- Tiny particles; 48- Studio sign; 49- Distant Nin; 50- once; 52- Her partner would be a buck; 55- Dick Tracy's love; 56- Decker out; 57- Grocery, e.g.; 59- Must've been something...;
- 60- Actress Spelling; 61- Dubuque native; 62- Very, in Versailles; 63- Kind of awakening;
- 64- Simpleton;

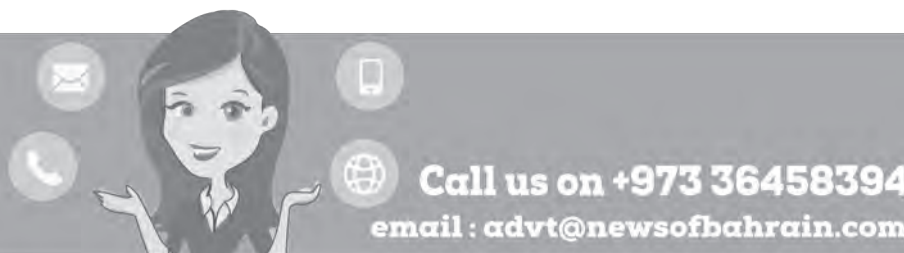
Down

- Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 2- Director Preminger; 3- He runs, then he shoots; 4- New Haven collegian; 5- Big step; 6- Assumed name; 7- Protracted; 8- Pool division; 9- Fingers;
- Fondle; 11- Cost; 12- Collection of maps; 13- Leak slowly; 22- Club...; 23- Aired again; 25- What there oughta be; 26- Divine Secrets of the Sisterhood; 27- Basic currency of Papua New Guinea; 28- Worshipped one; 29- Quizzes; trials; 30- Adam's third son; 32- Not barefoot;
- Heavy quilt; 34- Little pest; 35- Monster; 37- Agenda entries; 38- Digits of the foot;
- Surrealist Salvador; 43- Sounds; 44- Kind of fingerprint; 45- Dines at home; 46- Lend... (listen); 47- Flavor; 48- Song from the past; 49- Arguing; 50- Baseball's Felipe; 51- Hog fat;
- Algerian port; 54- Start of a counting rhyme; 56- Geom. point; 58- French pronoun;

Yesterday's solution

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

Classifieds



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England triumph in Multan Test

England clinches fourth consecutive Test win in Pakistan with stellar performances by Brook and Leach

● **Jack Leach takes 4-30 to secure win**

● **Brook and Root share record 454-run partnership**

● **England declares at 823-7, Pakistan bowled out for 220**

AFP | Multan

England's bowlers, led by spinner Jack Leach, tore through the Pakistan line-up to secure victory in the first Test in Multan yesterday after a record partnership between Harry Brook and Joe Root turned the match on its head.

England's attack made short work of the last four Pakistan batters on Day 5, dismissing the hosts for 220 to win by an innings and 47 runs and draw first blood in the three-match series.

The win is England's fourth consecutive Test triumph on Pakistan soil, after a 3-0 whitewash two years ago. England had only won two away Tests against Pakistan in the previous 61 years.

It was also filled with several new milestones for England.

"This win would be right up there. Definitely top three," said captain Ollie Pope, standing in for injured skipper Ben Stokes.

Brook smashed 317 and Root a record-setting 262 in England's mammoth 823-7 declared, giving the visitors a 267-run lead and both players their highest Test scores.



England captain Ollie Pope, left, celebrates with spinner Jack Leach, right

Their 454, England's highest-ever partnership for any wicket in Test cricket, also delivered an improbable advantage after Pakistan amassed an impressive 556 first-innings total.

Pope was full of praise for Brook and Root's heroics.

"Credit to them for the skills and determination to put the team in a winning position," he said.

By close of play on the fourth day on a lifeless pitch, England had posted the fourth-highest Test innings total of 823-7 and taken total control of the match with the hosts teetering at 152-6.

“This win would be right up there. Definitely top three”

OLLIE POPE

Along the way, Root became the highest run scorer for England in Test history.

England's bowlers then delivered a dagger blow on a lifeless Multan pitch where the first 17 wickets fell for a mammoth 1,379 runs.

Towards the end of the fourth

day, Pakistan were reeling at 82-6 before Salman Agha and Aamer Jamal came together for Pakistan's only meaningful partnership.

The pair added 109 before Leach, who marshalled the attack with 4-30, provided the first breakthrough on the fifth day when he dislodged Salman for a fighting 63 and opened the floodgates.

Leach then took a smart return catch to get Shaheen Shah Afridi for ten and then had Naseem Shah stumped for six, wrapping up Pakistan's second innings.

Last man Abrar Ahmed was unable to bat after being taken to

hospital with a high fever.

"When you come out to bat again and you're 260 runs behind and the pitch is three days older, it's never easy," said Pope of Pakistan's second-innings predicament.

Pope also lauded the grit shown by England's inexperienced attack.

"Our bowlers got the odd ball to reverse and spin," he said of Gus Atkinson who took 2-46 and debutant Brydon Carse who finished with 2-66.

'Can't be more disappointing'

The loss continues a painful stretch for Pakistan and will

YOU
KNOW WHAT

England's 823-7 declared is their fourth-highest Test innings total, and Brook and Root's 454-run stand is their highest partnership for any wicket

compound the pressure on captain Shan Masood.

His tenure has begun with six consecutive defeats, including three in Australia and two at home at the hands of Bangladesh -- the worst start for any Pakistan captain.

"It can't be more disappointing than this," said Masood. "Harsh reality is that England found a way to win after two days under the sun and 556 behind."

"Then they batted big and when they came back with the ball they had a plan and created a window of opportunity in the second innings so the harsh reality in Test cricket is no matter what the pitch quality side finds a way to win."

The hosts have gone 11 Tests without a win on home grounds, their last win against South Africa came in February 2021.

The second Test starts at the same venue from Tuesday while the third is in Rawalpindi from October 24.

Argentina held, Brazil leave it late in 2026 World Cup qualifiers

AFP | Montevideo

Argentina were held to a 1-1 draw by Venezuela on Lionel Messi's return as Brazil got their 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign back on track with a last-gasp 2-1 victory over Chile on Thursday.

Messi, who missed Argentina's last round of fixtures in September due to injury, looked to have put the world champions on course for victory after his free-kick helped set up Nicolas Otamendi's 13th-minute opener in the Venezuelan city of Maturin.

But a battling performance by Venezuela in front of their home fans was rewarded midway through the second half when veteran striker Salomon



Argentina's forward Lionel Messi (L) and Venezuela's defender Nahuel Ferraresi fight for the ball

Rondon met Yeferson Soteldo's cross with a header that flew past Argentina goalkeeper

Geronimo Rulli. Despite the dropped points, 2022 World Cup winners Ar-

gentina remain firmly on course for a place at the 2026 finals, which are being staged in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

With the tournament expanded to 48 teams, the top six finishers in South America's 10-team round-robin qualifying competition will earn a ticket to the finals.

Argentina lead the standings with 19 points from nine games, three points clear of second-placed Colombia, who suffered a shock 1-0 defeat to Bolivia in other qualifying action on Thursday.

Yet while Argentina look poised to qualify comfortably, rivals Brazil continue to make hard work of their qualifying campaign.

Kamada says Japan can close in on World Cup place against Australia

AFP | Tokyo

Crystal Palace midfielder Daichi Kamada said an eighth straight World Cup appearance will be within Japan's grasp if they beat Australia next week, after extending their perfect record in qualifying.

Japan beat Saudi Arabia 2-0 in Jeddah on Thursday to make it three wins out of three in the decisive third round of Asian qualifying.

They are five points clear at the top of Group C, with

the top two teams securing direct passage to the 2026 World Cup and the third- and fourth-placed countries facing another qualifying phase.

Japan face second-place Australia in Saitama on Tuesday and Kamada said they can all but book their place at the finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico with a win.

"We're playing our next game at home in front of lots of fans, and we have to win," he was quoted as saying by Japanese media.

Forest fined over social media criticism of VAR official

AFP | London

Nottingham Forest have been fined £750,000 (\$980,000) and warned over their future conduct after criticising VAR official Stuart Attwell on social media last season.

Forest were furious not to be awarded three penalties during a 2-0 defeat at Everton in April as they battled to preserve their Premier League status.



A flag of Nottingham Forest is waved ahead of a match

At the time, Nuno Espirito Santo's side were embroiled in a tense relegation fight with Everton, Luton and several other teams.

After the game, Forest posted on their official X account: "Three extremely poor decisions - three penalties not given - which we simply cannot accept."

"We warned the PGMOL that the VAR (Attwell) is a Luton fan before the game but they didn't

change him. Our patience has been tested multiple times. NFFC will now consider its options."

Forest denied that their comments about Attwell brought the game into disrepute by "implying bias and/or questioning the integrity of match officials".

But an independent regulatory commission found the Football Association charge proven yesterday.

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Djokovic battles into Shanghai semis

Novak Djokovic secures semi-final spot after tough battle with 19-year-old Mensik

● Djokovic aims for his 100th singles title

● Taylor Fritz to face Djokovic after beating David Goffin

AFP | Shanghai

Novak Djokovic proved his staying power yesterday, beating an opponent 18 years his junior 6-7 (4/7), 6-1, 6-4 to claim the last spot in the Shanghai Masters semi-finals.

The 37-year-old's victory over the Czech Republic's Jakub Mensik came a day after one of his greatest rivals and contemporaries, Rafael Nadal, announced he would retire in November.

The Serb, who is aiming for a 100th singles title in Shanghai, will next face world number seven Taylor Fritz after the American beat Belgium's David Goffin 6-3, 6-4 earlier yesterday.

"Overall, big battle, it took the best out of me to win it," said Djokovic after the match.

Both Djokovic and 65th-ranked Mensik brought serious firepower to the court, their



Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning against Jakub Mensik

hard-hitting rallies driving the stadium wild with tension.

The first set was closely fought, with Djokovic's break in the ninth game matched immediately by Mensik in the next.

The veteran pulled ahead early in the tiebreak, but seemed to lose focus, allowing the 19-year-

old to come from behind to win.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion dominated the second set though, breaking in the second and sixth game.

Mensik recovered to pile on the pressure again in the third, but Djokovic got a crucial break in the fifth game to be crowned winner.

Djokovic called his opponent "one of the best players we have on the tour".

"He's only 19 and he's already playing at such a high level, managing situations of high pressure so well for someone who doesn't have much experience," he said. "I think the future is very bright for him."

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He's only 19 and he's already playing at such a high level, managing situations of high pressure so well for someone who doesn't have much experience. I think the future is very bright for him

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

Speed, precision, strength

Fritz quickly took charge in the first set of his earlier match, breaking the 66th-ranked Goffin in the second and sixth games.

Underdog Goffin -- who knocked out second seed Alexander Zverev in the last round -- looked stronger in the second set, but ultimately couldn't replicate his feat with another top 10 scalp.

It is the first time US Open finalist Fritz has progressed past the third round in Shanghai.

He has lost to Djokovic at every one of their previous nine encounters.

"We've played a lot of times and I've never gotten him... (So I'm) waiting for that time that,

YOU KNOW WHAT

Despite nine encounters, Taylor Fritz has never beaten Novak Djokovic, who is now seeking his 100th career singles title

you know, maybe I can get a first win on him," said Fritz.

"I'm only getting better and better, and I'm excited for the opportunity to play him."

Djokovic said he expected the match-up to be tight.

"It's the final stages of a tournament, anybody can beat anybody. I'm going to need all of my speed, all of my precision, all of my strength," he said.

World number one Jannik Sinner booked his place in the semi-finals on Thursday, as did Mensik's compatriot Tomas Machac, who upset four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz.

Toyota returns to Formula One as Haas partner

AFP | London

Toyota announced their return to Formula One yesterday following a 15-year absence, signing a technical partnership with US team Haas.

The Japanese manufacturers spent eight seasons in Formula One before leaving at the end of 2009 with a record of 13 podium



Haas F1 Team's Nico Hulkenberg drives during Singapore Grand Prix

finishes and no Grand Prix wins.

Haas, currently seventh in the 10-team constructor standings, said Toyota would provide "design, technical and manufacturing services".

The team said their cars would feature Toyota branding at the United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, later this month. Toyota chairman Akio

Toyoda said that he "had finally gotten back to being an ordinary older guy who loves cars".

"I think that, somewhere deep in his heart, that ordinary older car-loving guy Akio Toyoda had always regretted having blocked -- by pulling out of F1 -- Japanese youths' path toward driving the world's fastest cars," he said.

Sabalenka sets up Gauff showdown in Wuhan semis



Aryna Sabalenka hits a return to Magdalena French

AFP | London

Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff will square off in the Wuhan Open semi-finals after claiming convincing victories yesterday.

The top-seeded Sabalenka produced a 6-2, 6-2 performance against Poland's Magdalena Frech to record her 15th consecutive win in Wuhan, where she was a champion in 2018 and 2019.

Gauff, the number four seed, eased past Poland's Magda Linette 6-0, 6-4 to extend her current winning streak to eight matches, having lifted the trophy at the China Open in Beijing last week.

One of those streaks will come to a halt when Sabalenka and Gauff meet for the eighth time.

Gauff leads their head-to-head 4-3 but lost their most recent encounter at the Aus-

I think the main thing is, once again, to focus on myself, focus on my footwork, go to the net, finish the point over there

ARYNA SABALENKA

tralian Open semi-finals in January.

"I think the main thing is, once again, to focus on myself, focus on my footwork, go to the net, finish the point over there," said Sabalenka of her game plan against Gauff.

"On this slow surface, you have to go there. You have to be brave enough and finish the point there. I think that's the main plan. It worked really well in our last meeting, so I'll just stick to the plan. I'll try to put as much pressure as possible on her."

Bahrain Victorious to compete at Il Lombardia

TDT | Manama

The 118th edition of this historic race features a revamped course, stretching 255 km with an elevation gain of 4,547 meters. As tradition dictates, the starting and finishing cities alternate, and for 2024, the route will run from Bergamo to Como.

After departing from Bergamo, riders will immediately face a series of tough climbs in Val Seriana, including the Forcellino di Bianzano and the Selvino climb, which replaces the Passo di Ganda (due to landslides caused by recent heavy rains). This will be followed by the Colle di Berbenno and Valpiana ascents. The peloton will have a brief respite as they approach Lake Como, but after passing Lecco, they'll encounter the Onno climb and the famous Ghisallo ascent, albeit from the easier side.

The challenges continue with the day's toughest climb, Colma di Sormano (with gradients reaching 11%), followed by the final ascent of San Fermo della



Matej Mohoric in action

Battaglia (max. 10% gradient). The race will finish in Viale Felice Cavallotti in Como, rather than the traditional lakeside location, due to the risk of flooding.

TBV Sports Director Roman Kreuziger outlines the team's objectives: "Although it's the last Monument of the season, our approach will be as focused and committed as if it were the first. It's crucial that we maintain 100% concentration and

effort right until the end of the season. As I've emphasized throughout this week, a happy and motivated rider can make all the difference."

Kreuziger acknowledged a setback: "Unfortunately, a few of our riders, including key members like Antonio Tiberi and Damiano Caruso, have been affected by a stomach bug in recent days. It's not the ideal preparation for such a demanding race, and this will impact

our strategy. However, we are prepared to adapt based on how the race unfolds and how the riders feel on the day."

Despite this, Kreuziger remains optimistic: "The rest of the squad is in good form and ready to fight. Santiago Buitrago's climbing prowess, Wout Poels' experience, Matej Mohoric's tactical intelligence, Edoardo Zambanini's sprinting speed, and Andrea Pasqualon's crucial support role will all be key to achieving a strong result."



Toyota, despite eight seasons in F1, left the sport without securing a Grand Prix victory but achieved 13 podium finishes