

Bahrain football team set for Asiad

Twenty-two players named on Kingdom's squad for men's football tournament at Hangzhou Asian Games | P12

68 China warplanes, 10 vessels detected around Taiwan

AFP | Taipei

Dozens of Chinese warplanes and 10 navy ships were detected around Taiwan, authorities in Taipei said yesterday after warning that Beijing was conducting air and sea drills in the Western Pacific.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its territory and relations have soured since the island's independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen came to power in 2016.

Beijing has in recent years ratcheted up diplomatic and military pressure on Taiwan and the number of warplane flights around the island increased dramatically following last August's visit by Nancy Pelosi, then-speaker of the US House of Representatives.

Venice heritage not in danger, says Unesco

AFP | Paris

The UN's cultural organisation said yesterday it had stopped short of placing Venice, one of the world's top tourist destinations, on its world heritage in danger list.

The Italian city has been in Unesco's sights because of mass tourism and rising water levels, but at its annual meeting in Riyadh the agency decided against a downgrade.

"The Committee has taken the decision not to include Venice on the list of World Heritage in Danger," a Unesco source said.

Houthis head for Saudi talks

AFP | Sanaa

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels left for Riyadh yesterday on their first publicly announced visit since a Saudi-led coalition launched hostilities in 2015, raising hopes of progress towards ending the conflict.

An Omani plane carrying a 10-strong Houthi delegation and five officials from mediator Oman headed towards the Saudi capital for what a Houthi government official said would be a five-day visit.

Royal praise for solid Bahrain-US relations

HRH Prince Salman: They are based on shared values of fairness, justice, tolerance, peace and diversity

HRH holds key talks with US National Security Advisor and Secretary of Defense

Washington

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, noted that longstanding Bahrain-US relations are based on shared values of fairness, justice, tolerance, peace and diversity.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he held a meeting yesterday with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the White House. It took place during HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's official visit to the US.

During the meeting, Sullivan reaffirmed the US's enduring commitment to Bahrain's security, and thanked HRH Prince Salman for the Kingdom's steadfast partnership, which includes hosting the US Navy's Fifth Fleet and the headquarters of US Naval Forces Central Command.

They praised the signing of the new Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement, which will serve as a cornerstone for cooperation among a broader group of countries that share mutual interests and a common vision with regard to deterrence, diplomacy, and escalation.



His Royal Highness with the US Secretary of Defense

The Bahrain and US delegations discussed opportunities to strengthen economic and commercial ties under the new agreement, including a target of summer 2024 to launch direct flights between Bahrain and the US.

His Royal Highness and Sullivan also discussed exploring bilateral cooperation on the development of commercial advanced small modular reactors, in line with shared goals of deploying innovative, zero-carbon technologies.

They pledged to stay in regular contact in the coming weeks and months to oversee implementation of the agreement.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the Bahraini delegation also participated in

bilateral technology dialogue with senior US officials at the White House yesterday to explore ways of deepening cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

Support for global security and peace

His Royal Highness also met with the US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III, at the Pentagon.

During the meeting, HRH Prince Salman emphasised Bahrain's steadfast commitment to supporting efforts to enhance international security, stability and peace, and to address regional and global challenges.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad and Austin welcomed the



US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan reaffirmed the US's enduring commitment to Bahrain's security.

historic signing of the new Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement.

They noted that the agreement will significantly bolster shared efforts to protect region-

al stability.

The meeting also addressed ongoing bilateral military and defence cooperation and covered regional and international developments of common interest.

The National Security Advisor, Secretary-General of the Supreme Defence Council, and Commander of the Royal Guard, HH Lieutenant-General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, HE Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Bahrain Defence Force Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al-Nuaimi, and a number of senior officials also attended both meetings.

Migrant crisis



Migrants gather outside the operational center called "Hotspot" on the Italian island of Lampedusa yesterday. The tiny Italian island of Lampedusa struggled to cope with a surge in migrant boats from North Africa after numbers peaked at 7,000 people - equivalent to the entire local population. (AFP)

Germany blocks full Chinese takeover of satellite startup

AFP | Frankfurt

Germany has blocked a complete Chinese takeover of a satellite startup on national security grounds, sources close to the matter revealed yesterday, as Berlin takes an increasingly hard line against Beijing.

Concerned at the heavy reliance of Europe's top economy on China, Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government has been pushing to "de-risk" and dial back dependencies.

The German tech company KLEO Connect aims to establish its own network of satellites in low Earth orbit that can pro-

vide internet to remote locations, hoping to rival Starlink.

The strategic importance of space telecommunications has been highlighted by the Ukraine war where Starlink, operated by Elon Musk-owned company SpaceX, has become a key battlefield tool for Kyiv.

According to German media reports, Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST) holds about 53 percent of KLEO Connect and wanted to acquire another 45 percent from German firm EightyLeo.

But Berlin blocked SSST's move after an investment review by the economy ministry.



HM King, HRH Prince Salman hailed on global day of democracy

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, received cables of congratulations from Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Council of Representatives Speaker

Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, marking the International Day of Democracy today, which comes under the theme "Empowering the Next Generation".

Chairman Al Saleh and Speaker Al Musallam expressed their pride in Bahrain's achievements, led by HM the King's support and patronage of the legislative authority since the launch of the



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

comprehensive development process to boost parliamentary and political participation.

They affirmed that these achievements contributed to a qualitative leap in the comprehensive development process and sustainable democratic reform, strengthening the state of law and institutions, as well as the advancement of parliamen-

tary life and political participation, thereby improving Bahrain's economic development, stability, and prosperity.

The Speaker noted that the National Action Charter, which underpinned principles for further developing the state of law and institutions, launched a new era of political development in the kingdom.

A successful US visit



1. His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, departing from the US after a historic official visit. 2. Crown Prince meeting US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J Austin III. 3. Crown Prince with Jake Sullivan, US President's National Security Advisor. 4. Crown Prince being seen off by senior officials of the US administration. 5. Crown Prince signing the guest log at the Pentagon. 6. Crown Prince (at the centre on left side) and other delegates from Bahrain at the meeting.

Shura Council to celebrate International Day of Democracy

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Shura Council will mark International Day of Democracy today, which comes under the theme "Empowering the Next Generation".

In a statement, Shura Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh said that the National Action Charter and the Constitution were established based on democracy, expressing pride in the civilised images of democracy provided by the legislative branch in Bahrain, which stems from parliamentary elections and the keenness to exercise civil and political rights in the electoral process.

He noted that there is considerable awareness of democracy principles among various groups and segments of society, which motivates them to fulfill their national responsibilities and to participate positively in decision-making processes.

Al Saleh affirmed that this contributed to boosting the success of the comprehensive development process of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, hailing the government's efforts led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in consolidating the values of democracy and the principles of human rights. He expressed his pride in the positive awareness of Bahraini youth of their role in protecting democracy and practicing it within the framework of constitutional and national institutions.

Bahrain supports growing GCC economic cooperation

Salalah

Industry and Commerce Minister Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro has affirmed the importance of strengthening cooperation partnership with the standardisation bodies in the GCC countries.

Fakhro was speaking as he headed Bahrain's delegation in the fifth Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Standardisation Affairs.

Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, GCC Secretary General, and the GCC Ministers of Industry attended the meeting.

The minister noted that the gains and advantages that come through integration in various areas of standardisation would

contribute to supporting the Gulf economy by emphasising the importance of imported and exported products that meet technical requirements and smart conformity assessment procedures, which preserve human health and safety and protect the environment.

It also contributes to facilitating intra-trade procedures between the GCC countries, and streamlining the passage of commercial products while following international laws and regulations.

GCC-UK ties

The meeting was also attended by Nigel Huddleston, UK Minister of State for International Trade.



Mr. Fakhro heads Bahrain's delegation at the event

The minister underlined the strong cooperation between the GCC and the UK which contributed to supporting the efforts of business integration and enhancing the council's economic status.

He praised the strong com-

mercial ties between the GCC and the UK and the progress it continues to witness.

The meeting discussed topics of common interest and ways to further expand investments between the GCC and the UK.



The meeting discussed the strong cooperation between the GCC and the UK.

Labour Minister opens workshop on occupational safety and health

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Labour Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan opened a specialised workshop under the theme "Reviewing and discussing the draft profile of occupational safety and health in Bahrain".

The workshop was organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in cooperation with the Labour Ministry, which was held from 13-14 September.

The workshop reviewed ILO's standards on occupational safety and health, developed a file and a special strategy in this regard, and discussed issues related to heat stress, housing units for workers, and issues specific to the building and construction sector (work at height).

During his opening speech, the minister affirmed that the government has dedicated special attention to occupational safety and health, as well as protecting the work environment.

He noted that the qualified and trained supervisory bodies have been established to ensure that these systems and laws are implemented properly and complied with, to enhance workforce protection.

Humaidan emphasised that the industry requires new skills to keep up with rapid advances in science and technology in occupational safety and health to maintain national standards.

US-Bahrain Agreement: Key Points

Details of the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement were released on Thursday. Here are the main takeaways:

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Security cooperation: The Parties agree to further implement existing security agreements and arrangements, and to meet on a regular basis to discuss ways to further integrate air and missile defense capabilities, special operations forces, intelligence capacity, cyber security, strategic communi-

cation, and mutual awareness of emerging threats. They also agree to coordinate on a regular basis on military and defense matters, and to hold a Defense Working Group annually to review progress on implementation of this Article.

Economic cooperation: The Parties agree to deepen and strengthen their economic partnership, and to identify strategic

investment opportunities and develop projects that enhance bilateral and multilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Science, technology, and network security cooperation: The Parties agree to promote scientific and technical cooperation, including through the negotiation of appropriate arrangements for such cooperation. They also agree to develop

and share relevant standards, guidelines, and best practices with a view to each Party securing its networks, communications systems, software, and hardware.

Dispute resolution: Any divergence in views or disputes regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved through consultation among the Parties.

Defendant detained for defamatory video clips on social media

● Seven days in jail as investigation continues

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The Chief Prosecutor of Cybercrimes has ordered the provisional detention of a defendant pending investigation for publishing video clips on a social media platform.

The clips in question contained defamation and insults towards a revered figure in their religion.

After receiving a report from the Anti-Cybercrime Department of the Ministry of Interior, the prosecution's attention was drawn to this matter.

With approximately one million followers, the accused's electronic account was found to contain these objectionable clips.

The prosecution swiftly initiated investigations, interrogated the accused, and confronted her with the evi-



dence. The accused admitted to publishing the clips, leading to a seven-day detention as a precautionary measure.

Currently, the investigation is ongoing, and the prosecution emphasised that individuals have the right to express their opinions freely on social media platforms, as long as they respect the provisions of the Constitution and the law. However, it is crucial for users to be aware of their responsibilities, including the need to respect different religions and sects and refrain from violating their sanctities and rituals.

Failure to comply with these guidelines can result in criminal charges, including imprisonment and fines.

Four Asians arrested for illegal shrimping practices

TDT | Manama

The Coast Guard has arrested four Asians and confiscated two boats carrying over 400 kilograms of shrimp in an operation aimed at curbing illegal fishing practices.

The suspects were found to have used bottom trawl nets, which have been prohibited

under Ministerial Resolution No. 205 of 2018.

The Coast Guard Command has affirmed that legal measures are being taken to prepare the case for referral to the Public Prosecution.

This operation is part of ongoing efforts by the Coast Guard to combat violations related to fishing and its tools.

Oil and Environment Minister inaugurates fuel farm project at BIA

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The Oil and Environment Minister and the Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dainah, yesterday inaugurated the fuel farm project at the Bahrain International Airport (BIA).

The inauguration ceremony, held under the patronage of the minister, was attended by Bahrain Airport Jet Fuel Company (BAJFC) chairman Mark Thomas Group Chief Executive Officer of Bapco Energies, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah, Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Chief Executive Officer and other officials from partner companies.



Dr. Bin Dainah at the event



The new project enhances Bahrain's global position as a main hub for jet fuel services, the minister said, noting that the fuel farm was equipped with the latest technology.

The minister affirmed that the current development in implementing economic projects contributed to achieving the objectives of the comprehensive development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and reflected the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Dr. Bin Dainah welcomed the modernisation of services, oil facilities and infrastructure in BIA utilising advanced and efficient technology that is compliant with environmental standards and international health and safety measures.

The new project enhances Bahrain's global position as a main hub for jet fuel services, the minister said, noting that the fuel farm was equipped with the latest technology, a network of underground pipelines and advanced storage facilities, which will contribute to operational efficiency, reducing environmental impact and offering world class services that target sustainable economic growth.

Dr. Bin Dainah said the project came to meet the increase in demand on jet fuel as the global aviation sector recovers its levels of activity following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Preloved to loved

Shaikha Showaiter: From thrifting enthusiast to app founder, revolutionising Bahrain's fashion scene

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

Owing to the broad selection of clothing available, affordability and the most important factor – sustainability, thrifting is growing increasingly popular among youngsters.

Thrifting since her junior years, Shaikha Showaiter, founder of a marketplace app to buy and sell preloved fashion, longed for Bahrain to produce more thrift stores.

"When the pandemic hit Bahrain, I saw lots of Bahrain-based Instagram accounts emerge of people trying to sell their pre-owned fashion," the fashion lover said.

Through her years of yearning for thrifting stores as a child, and at the age of 21 when she was developing the app, the entrepreneur set out to create a platform that makes it easier for Bahrainis to purchase preloved fashion.

How it works

"After taking a picture of the item, the seller can then list it by uploading, categorising, and pricing it. These listings are available for browsing and purchasing," Shaikha said.

Citing affordability, especially compared to malls in Bahrain and rise in inflation, the 22-year-old Bahraini says that she has noticed an increase in interest in sustainable fashion



"People can sell their preloved clothes to create space in their wardrobe and the almost new clothes get a second life, rather than being dumped into a landfill."

- KAI MIETHIG,
RENOUNDED ENVIRONMENTALIST



factured," the young Bahraini explained.

Fast fashion impact on the environment

Not only can Bahrainis browse for cheaper preloved clothing through an app, Shaikha said, but buyers can also assist in a "circular economy".

"You can reduce the demand for new production since an item is used until its full potential, reducing fashion waste, which furthers in achieving responsible consumption and production

"The app is the most sustainable option as recycled fashion, despite being an ethical option, still emits waste when manu-

Seconding the practice of sustainable fashion, renowned environmentalist and founder of W-AI-STE Kai Miethig, said, "People can sell their preloved clothes to create space in their wardrobe and the almost new clothes get a second life, rather than being dumped into a landfill."

"The throwaway culture has worsened progressively over the years, and at present, many items are only worn seven to ten times before being tossed. That's a decline of more than



"The lower prices align with our mission to make sustainable fashion accessible to a wider audience, which is essential for encouraging more people to adopt eco-friendly purchasing practices."

- SHAIKHA SHOWAITER

produced each year, 92 million tonnes end up in landfills," he relayed.

In fact, he revealed that most of the items returned to retailers from consumers end up in landfills.

Citing the reasoning, he noted that it costs the company more to put the item back into circulation than it does to get rid of it.

To put things into perspective, this means that every second the equivalent of a garbage truck full of clothes ends up on a landfill site.

Graduation ceremony



A batch of 41 students have graduated after completing the vocational training programmes "Cambridge International Certificate in Education and Teaching". The Arab Open University (AOU) Bahrain branch held the graduation ceremony under the patronage of the Minister of Education, Higher Education Council (HEC) Board of Trustees' Chairman Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma. The university hosted the graduation ceremony at its headquarters in the area of A'ali in cooperation with the US Embassy to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

BIPD hails Bahrain's democratic strides

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD) has lauded the constant advancement of the kingdom's democratic system since the launch of the comprehensive development march, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which contributed to achieving the true and full partnership of the citizens in the decision-making process, through effective national institutions, and within the national laws and legislation.

In a statement marking the

International Day of Democracy 2023, themed "Empowering the next generation", BIPD also commended the efforts of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to strengthen the pillars of the state of institutions and law, in a way that achieves the aspirations of the citizens, and within well-established rules that regulate democratic work in the Kingdom.

BIPD indicated that this year's celebrations of the International Day of Democracy are in line

with the sound royal vision, and the kingdom's programmes and plans to enhance the role of youngsters and youth in the democratic process, by providing all means to prepare a generation capable of leading the democratic process, in accordance with the fundamentals of society, as well as Arab and Islamic values, based on peace, acceptance of others and tolerance.

The ultimate goal is to build a modern society whose members are capable of preserving and protecting democracy in the future, BIPD statement said.

Emergency response exercise at Bahrain airport successful



Security officials monitor the practical drills
TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Airport Police Directorate, in collaboration with the Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), recently conducted a virtual exercise at the airport premises.

The exercise involved the participation of several entities, including the Special Security Force, General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Evidence, General Directorate of Civil Defense, and the Antiquities Wing.

Colonel Ahmed Jassim Al

Hatimi, Director General of the General Administration of Ports Security, stated that the virtual exercises were carried out in line with the directives of the Minister of the Interior and under the supervision of the Presidency of Public Security. The aim was to assess the readiness and efficiency of relevant authorities in responding swiftly and professionally to any emergency situation. Additionally, the exercise aimed to strengthen cooperation and coordination among these entities to effectively manage any emergency event.

Arab Woman Jailed For Assaulting Police

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced an Arab woman to one year in prison followed by deportation for a series of serious charges.

This includes assaulting and using force against police officers, tearing a police uniform, and hurling insults at law enforcement officials.

The incident occurred after a traffic accident, and it was revealed during the trial that the accused was allegedly intoxicated at the time.

According to court documents, two police officers rushed to the scene of the accident to provide assistance and ensure the safety of all parties involved. However, they were met with an aggressive and disrespectful response from the



Image used for illustrative purposes only

intoxicated defendant. Witnesses described a chaotic and alarming scene as the defendant unleashed her alleged assault on the officers.

The defendant, however, maintained her innocence throughout the trial. In a surprising turn of events, she

claimed that she had been engaged in a business discussion at a local restaurant and was unaware that the food and beverages served contained alcohol. Her defense argued that she had unknowingly consumed intoxicating substances, which led to her alleged erratic behaviour.

The incident gained significant attention when a video capturing the altercation went viral on social media platforms, sparking public outrage. The Public Prosecution promptly launched a thorough investigation, including testimonies from the officers involved and interrogations of the defendant.

During these proceedings, it was discovered that the defendant also had an unlawful residency status, further complicating the case.

In addition to the charges of assault and intoxication, the defendant now faces accusations of illegal residence in the country.

The court's verdict of one year in prison followed by deportation reflects the outcome of the trial and the seriousness of the charges brought against her.

Two UoB students develop innovative walking robot

● Project aims to help individuals with lower limb impairments walk again

TDT | Manama

Two students from the College of Engineering at the University of Bahrain have designed a walking robot specifically tailored for individuals with lower limb impairments caused by spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, or stroke.

Ammar Mahdi Ghuloum and Asmaa Mahmoud Zayer, who are both Mechanical Engineering students, secured second place in the graduation projects category of the Mechanical Engineering program for their creation.

Ghuloum pointed out that the robotic walking device aims to provide stability and support to individuals with weak knee joints. Prior to manufacturing, the device underwent rigorous evaluations, including tests for mechanical strength, response, and safety through stability, dy-



Ghuloum and Zayer receive their certificates



The robotic walking device aims to provide stability and support to individuals with weak knee joints. Prior to manufacturing, the device underwent rigorous evaluations, including tests for mechanical strength, response, and safety through stability, dynamics, and pressure analysis.

namics, and pressure analysis.

Zayer revealed that the team is actively working on enhancing the current model to address the limitations related to sensors and the device's reliance on a single joint.

She emphasised that developing an affordable walking aid device is a significant step towards improving the quality of life for individuals with mobility issues.

Looking ahead, the students envision incorporating advance-

ments such as battery integration, motion sensors for customisation, Internet of Things (IoT) technology, artificial intelligence (AI), enhanced portability, and extended battery life. These improvements have the



The specialised walking robot project

potential to enhance the accuracy, performance, safety, and comfort of the device, while catering to the specific needs of the users.

The project was supervised by lecturer Syed Ghani Fateh Rahman, a faculty member in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

It was part of a collection of 71 distinguished graduation projects completed by 199 male and female students during the second semester of the 2022/2023 academic year at the College of Engineering.

Canada award for quality health services

TDT | Manama

Dr. Lulwa Rashid Showaiter, Primary Healthcare Centres Chief Executive Officer, has affirmed the kingdom's unwavering keenness to provide the best health services to all members of society to contribute to achieving the goals of the comprehensive development process, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and supported by the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Dr. Showaiter made the statements following the success of Bahrain's Primary Healthcare Centres in obtaining the diamond-level accreditation by Accreditation Canada International (ACI) for its excellence in meeting the standards of primary health services in the Kingdom.

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School celebrates Hindi Diwas

TDT | Manama

Hindi Diwas commemorates the day when the Constituent Assembly of India accepted Hindi as the official language of the country along with English.

The listing of Hindi as the official language took place on September 14, 1949. Across the world 14th September is celebrated as Hindi Diwas.

To commemorate the day, Bhavans Bahrain Indian School Kindergarteners were dressed up in tricolour attire. They recited Hindi rhymes and indulged in Hindi craft activity thereby expressing their love towards the language.

Students also presented a special assembly wherein they presented panorama of poems showcasing the hopes and emo-



Students perform a dance as part of the celebration

tions of the Indians. Further students performed advertisements and jokes were incorporated for enjoyment.

Students presented an informative skit highlighting the launch of Chandrayan 3 and the research on the moon followed by another skit wherein the presenters asked numerous questions to the stu-

dents too thereby making it a power packed entertainment series.

The dance emphasising the importance of Hindi language added sparkle to the assembly. A splendid declamation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech as delivered at the G-20 summit was well narrated by a student.

Human rights forum

A delegation from the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), headed by Ali Ahmed Al Darazi, participated in the Human Rights Institutions Forum held in Oman. The forum was organised by the Oman Human Rights Commission, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). They discussed ways to enhance cooperation with the GCC General Secretariat in order to facilitate joint human rights action, in addition to reviewing Gulf national institutions' efforts to promote and disseminate the culture of human rights in the region.



Inspection campaign

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted a joint inspection campaign in the Northern Governorate, in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) and the Governorate's respective Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, as well as the Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs. The campaign resulted in reporting a number of violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The cases were referred for legal action.

ECB hikes rates again, maybe for last time

AFP | Frankfurt, Germany

The European Central Bank hiked a key interest rate to a record high Thursday as it battles stubbornly high inflation but indicated that its historic hiking cycle may be at an end.

Policymakers raised borrowing costs by another quarter point, taking the closely-watched deposit rate to 4.00 percent -- its highest level since the introduction of the euro in 1999.

It marked the 10th straight



Policymakers raised borrowing costs by another quarter point, taking the closely-watched deposit rate to 4.00% -- its highest level since the introduction of the euro in 1999.

increase since the central bank launched the most aggressive hiking cycle in its history in July last year after energy and food costs surged following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The bank pushed ahead with another hike despite growing

signs of a rapidly deteriorating economic outlook in the 20 countries that use the euro.

But, while the ECB reiterated inflation was still "expected to remain too high for too long", it also said borrowing costs had reached levels that would help

bring price rises back to the two-percent target in a timely manner.

Speaking after the rate decision was announced, ECB president Christine Lagarde stressed that rates had now reached levels that would make a "substantial contribution" to taming fast-rising prices.

She held back from making a firm commitment to no more increases, insisting that officials "can't say" yet that rates had peaked and future decisions would depend on incoming data. But analysts nevertheless be-

lieved the language indicated the current run of interest rate increases was ending.

"The ECB's communication is clear: today was the last hike in the current cycle," said ING economist Carsten Brzeski.

Berenberg Bank economist Holger Schmieding agreed it was the final increase for now, and that the central bank had "signalled that it expects to be on hold from now onwards for a significant period of time".

Observers had been divided ahead of the meeting about whether the ECB would pause

or hike, and Lagarde conceded some on the 26-member governing council had wanted to stay their hand.

But she insisted a "solid majority" ultimately backed a hike and the discussion was neither "antagonistic" nor "adversarial".

Highlighting the continued difficulties in bringing consumer prices under control, the ECB raised its forecast for inflation this year and next.

They lowered it slightly for 2025 to 2.1%, close to the ECB target.

LuLu Financial Holdings opens 300th Customer Engagement Center

● This is LuLu Exchange's 96th customer engagement center in the UAE

TDT | Manama

14 years, 10 countries, 300 customer engagement centers and counting.

UAE based financial services conglomerate LuLu Financial Holdings (LFH) has scripted a new chapter in its illustrious journey with the grand opening of its 300th Global Customer Engagement Center in Dubai's Al Rigga.

The new Engagement Center is the company's 96th in the UAE under the LuLu Exchange brand, and was inaugurated by Saad Cachalia, South African Ambassador to the UAE.

The event was also attended by the Guest of Honor - Renato N. Dueñas, Jr., Philippine Consul General in Dubai, as well as the company's Managing Director, Adeb Ahamed, and other senior management from the global and regional offices.

Congratulating LuLu Financial Holdings Saad Cachalia said, "I am delighted to be part



The 300th global customer engagement center of LuLu Financial Holdings & 96th LuLu Exchange located at Al Rigga, Dubai, being inaugurated by Saad Cachalia, South African Ambassador to the UAE, in the presence of Renato N Duenas Jr., Philippine Consul General in Dubai, Adeb Ahamed, Managing Director, LuLu Financial Holdings and other senior management from the global and regional offices.

of the celebrations of LuLu Financial Holdings' 300th Customer Engagement Center, a global company hailing from the shores of UAE, which has in a short span of time emerged as one of the most trusted names in cross-border payments. The company's approach to growth, through meaningful partnerships and people-centric services, has been key to its expansion and enabling the cause of financial inclusion in low- and middle-income countries. I congratulate the team on today's remarkable achievement and wish them many more years of success."

Renato N. Dueñas, Jr., said, "LuLu Financial holdings has

achieved tremendous growth over the last 14 years, fostering a sense of community among the diaspora they serve, in UAE and other countries. I congratulate the team on reaching this grand milestone of 300 Customer Engagement Centers and convey my best wishes as they aspire to touch newer milestones."

Adeb Ahamed said, "The inauguration of our 300th Customer Engagement Center signifies our remarkable journey and unwavering dedication to transforming cross-border payments. This journey wouldn't have been possible without our valued customers, as well as various regulators & industry partners, who have spurred us

to embed a culture of innovation into our fabric. Today's milestone is a significant step forward, and we look forward to continue innovating value and inspiring experiences for all our stakeholders."

Since its inception in 2009 with the opening of the first LuLu Exchange Customer Engagement Center in Abu Dhabi, the company has evolved into a diversified player in the global payments industry. With a strong emphasis on digital transformation and platform-based innovations, the company's various investments serve segments such as cross-border payments, foreign exchange, banknotes, and microfinance.

Four local startups took to the stage in sixth StartUp Bahrain pitch



During a presentation ceremony

TDT | Manama

StartUp Bahrain, the leading platform for startups in the Kingdom of Bahrain, recently hosted the sixth edition of the eagerly anticipated StartUp Bahrain Pitch series.

The event was organized in collaboration with key industry stakeholders, including the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), the Bahrain Economic Development Board, and Bahrain Development Bank (BDB). The Pitch event included a keynote speech by Talabat's former CEO and Faith Capital's Managing Partner, Mohammed Jaffar.

Four Bahraini startups took to the stage to present their business ideas to judges that featured local and regional experts, including: Suhail Algozaibi, Founder and CEO

of Falak Consulting, Passant Abed, Investment Professional at Shorooq Partners, Egypt, Tara Arnaout, Principal of BY Venture Partners, Dubai, and Shaheeda Abdul Kader, Investment Advisor at Shaheed-aSays, Dubai. Among the participating startups were Thrift It, a marketplace application that enables users to buy and sell second hand clothing and accessories; Doctori, an online platform that makes healthcare accessible and available to patients, allowing them to reach their healthcare providers virtually; Fermendiet, a Bahrain-based factory that produces fermented foods beneficial for general health and fitness; and lastly Truckly, a logistics platform intended for supply chain management for B2B entities, bridging land transport carriers with shippers to streamline last-mile delivery services.



Blooming buds of NMS celebrated Grandparents Day to acknowledge the vital contribution of grandparents to society. Students showcased their love and gratitude for their grandparents through the beautiful assembly. The event was laced with fun games and activities. Principal, Arun Kumar Sharma presented tokens of gratitude to the grandparents on behalf of the entire NMS family. Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai and Managing Director, Geetha Pillai thanked the Principal, Staff, Parents and grandparents for making this event memorable.

Maersk unveils world's first bio-methanol container ship

AFP | Copenhagen, Denmark

European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen yesterday christened the world's first bio-methanol container ship, Laura, which joined the fleet of Danish shipping giant Maersk.

Built in South Korea by Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) and fitted with a dual-fuel engine, Laura is a relatively small model that will be able to transport 2,136 20-foot (TEU) containers.

It will begin operating in the Baltic Sea in October, Maersk said.

"Green methanol is our fuel of choice ... because it is the only scalable solution that can meet



This aerial view shows the world's first methanol-enabled container vessel called "Laura Maersk" of A.P. Moller-Maersk after its namegiving ceremony in Copenhagen.

the net-zero (carbon emissions) requirements," Maersk chief executive Vincent Clerc said during Thursday's inaugura-

tion ceremony in Copenhagen's harbour. "Neither we nor the climate can afford complacency or waiting for other solutions to emerge in the late 2020s," he added.

In line with tradition for christening vessels, von der Leyen then swung a bottle of champagne across the ship's hull.

Green methanol, also known as "e-methanol", is composed of waste carbon dioxide (CO2) and "green hydrogen", which is created by using renewable energy to split water molecules.

Over the past two years, Maersk, the world leader in container shipping, has ordered 25 vessels that run on green methanol. Of them, 19 are under con-

struction and should set sail by 2025. The company estimates this will enable it to reduce its annual carbon dioxide emissions by around 2.3 million tonnes.

Laura alone will help reduce its CO2 emissions by 100 tonnes a day, compared to the same vessel running on fuel oil, it said.

On a global scale, maritime transport is more polluting than air transport, according to the Higher Institute of Maritime Economics (ISEMAR).

The sector accounts for 2.89 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions, according to the latest figures published by the International Maritime Organisation.

Maersk, which sold its oil di-



Built in South Korea by Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) and fitted with a dual-fuel engine, "Laura Maersk" is a relatively small model that will be able to transport 2,136 20-foot (TEU) containers. It will begin operating in the Baltic Sea in October 2023

vision to TotalEnergies in 2017, aims to become carbon neutral by 2040.

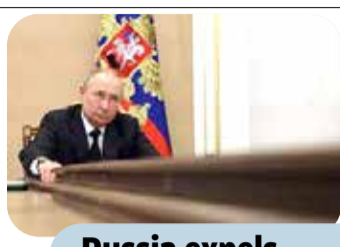
QUOTE OF THE DAY

IF YOU CANNOT DO GREAT THINGS, DO SMALL THINGS IN A GREAT WAY
NAPOLEON HILL



News in brief

◆ **Russia on Thursday** said it was expelling two US embassy staff for allegedly "liaising" with Robert Shonov, a former US consulate worker accused by Moscow of spying. Shonov, who worked for the US consulate in Vladivostok, was charged with allegedly passing information about the conflict in Ukraine to American diplomats, a claim the US has rejected. Russia's foreign ministry said the two US diplomats -- Jeff Sillin and David Bernstein -- conducted "illegal activities by liaising with a Russian citizen, (Robert) Shonov". "The US ambassador was told that Sillin and Bernstein must leave the territory of Russia within seven days under the status of persona non grata," it said. Tensions between Russia and the United States have been deteriorating for years, and both sides have expelled diplomatic staff. The United States strongly condemned Shonov's arrest in May, accusing Russia of using "increasingly repressive laws against its own citizens".



Russia expels two US diplomats for links to 'spy'

Taiwan slams Musk for calling it an 'integral part' of China

◆ **Slamming Elon Musk** for calling Taiwan an "integral part of China," the Taiwan foreign minister has asserted that Taiwan is "not for sale". Musk, the owner of the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter), as well as the Tesla (TSLA.O) electric car company and Starlink satellite network has stated that Taiwan is an integral part of China. His remarks at the All-In Summit in Los Angeles were recorded and posted to YouTube this week. "Their (Beijing's) policy has been to reunite Taiwan with China. From their standpoint, maybe it is analogous to Hawaii or something like that, like an integral part of China that is arbitrarily not part of China mostly because ... the US Pacific Fleet has stopped any sort of reunification effort by force," Musk said. Responding to this, Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu, posted on X on Wednesday night, "Hope @elonmusk can also ask the #CCP to open @X to its people. Perhaps he thinks banning it is a good policy, like turning off @Starlink to thwart #Ukraine's counterstrike against #Russia. Listen up, #Taiwan is not part of the #PRC & certainly not for sale! JW."

◆ **An iconic red sweater** worn by Princess Diana shortly after her engagement to then-Prince Charles, featuring rows of fluffy little sheep, sold at auction for more than \$1.1 million following a frenetic bout of final bidding. Sotheby's announced yesterday. The 19-year-old sported the knit garment -- which includes one black sheep amid dozens of otherwise white woolly creatures -- at a June 1981 polo match during her whirlwind days as a shy royal-in-the-making. The playfully patterned "Black Sheep" sweater became one of the most emblematic articles of clothing worn by Diana, which in hindsight seems to foretell her troubled journey as a member of the British royal family.

Princess Diana's 'Black Sheep' sweater sells at auction for \$1.1 mn



CURIOSER & CURIOSER
NASA joins the still controversial search for UFOs



Representative picture

AFP | Washington, United States

NASA on Thursday officially joined the search for UFOs -- but reflecting the stigma attached to the field, the US space agency wouldn't identify the director of the new program tasked with tracking mystery flying objects. The official's appointment is the result of a year-long NASA fact-finding report into what NASA calls "unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP)". "At NASA, it's in our DNA to explore -- and to ask why things are the way they are," NASA chief Bill Nelson said. An independent team of 16 researchers concluded in the report that the search for UAPs "demands a rigorous, evidence-based approach." "We need to ensure that the scientific process and methods are free," said Daniel Evans,

who worked on the year-long NASA report leading to the announcement.

"Some of the threats and the harassment have been beyond the pale quite frankly," Evans said.

800 events

There have been more than 800 "events" collected over 27 years, of which two to five percent are thought to be possibly anomalous, the report's authors said during a May meeting.

These are defined as "anything that is not readily understandable by the operator or the sensor;" or "something that is doing something weird," said team member Nadia Drake.

The US government has begun taking the issue of UAPs more seriously in recent years, in part due to concerns that they are related to foreign surveillance.

Ukraine backtracks on retaking village near Bakhmut
Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukraine's deputy defence minister Ganna Malyar backtracked on an announcement earlier Thursday that Kyiv had retaken an eastern village near Bakhmut after troops on the ground said fighting was ongoing. Kyiv began pushing back against Moscow's forces in the south and east of the country in June after building up Western weapons and recruiting assault battalions. Malyar had announced that the village of Andriivka was "ours", saying Kyiv's forces were "moving forward in the Bakhmut sector." The announcement was rejected by Ukrainian soldiers on the ground.

"The statement about the capture of Andriivka is premature," the 3rd Separate Assault Brigade, fighting in the Donetsk region, said on social media. "There are serious and important battles in the areas of Klishchivka and Andriivka," it said, calling the statement "unfair." Malyar said she was "clarifying" the situation, blaming it on a "communication breakdown."

German Red Cross says Morocco aid plan thwarted
Berlin, Germany

The German Red Cross (DRK) yesterday said it had been forced to cancel a plan to deliver aid to earthquake-hit Morocco.

"For reasons beyond our control... new rules and regulations announced at short notice have made it impossible for the plane to take off today," the DRK said, without giving further details.

"We deeply regret these developments because the people on the ground urgently need help," it said.

Japan warns against 'violations' of UN ban on arms deals with N.Korea
Tokyo, Japan

Japan warned yesterday against violating UN resolutions on arms deals with North Korea, after Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Kim Jong Un.

"We are watching (the talks) with concerns including the possibility that it could lead to violations of the Security Council's ban on all arms-related material transactions with North Korea," new Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa said. Kamikawa said that the "Russian invasion of Ukraine cannot be accepted". She added: "Japan has urged third parties not to provide support to Russian forces. We are watching related activities with concerns."

Global aid effort intensifies for flood-stricken Libya



This image grab from footage published on social networks by Libyan al-Masara television channel on September 13 shows an aerial view of floods after the Mediterranean storm "Daniel" hit Libya's eastern city of Derna.

AFP | Derna, Libya

A global aid effort for Libya gathered pace yesterday after a tsunami-sized flash flood killed at least 4,000 people, with thousands more missing -- a death toll the UN blamed in part on the legacy of years of war and chaos.

The enormous surge of storm water burst two upstream river dams late Sunday and reduced the city of Derna to an apocalyptic wasteland where entire city blocks and untold numbers of people were washed into the Mediterranean.

"Within seconds the water level suddenly rose," recounted one injured survivor who said he was swept away with his mother

Most casualties could have been avoided: UN Geneva, Switzerland

The United Nations said Thursday that most of the thousands of deaths in Libya's flood disaster could have been averted if early warning and emergency management systems had functioned properly.

With better functioning coordination in the crisis-wracked country, the human toll could have been far smaller, the UN's World Meteorological Organ-

ization said. It warned that other conflict-hit countries faced similar, dangerous deficiencies to their early warning systems.

If the system in Libya had worked properly, "the emergency management forces would have been able to carry out the evacuation of the people, and we could have avoided most of the human casualties," WMO chief Petteri Taalas told reporters in Geneva.

in the late-night ordeal before both managed to cling onto and scramble into an empty building downstream. "The water was

rising with us until we got to the fourth floor, the water was up to the second floor," the unidentified man said from his hospital bed, in

EU parliament backs criminalising prostitution
Strasbourg, France

The European Parliament voted on Thursday to back a motion calling for those paying for prostitution to face criminal prosecution.

The motion is non-binding, but comes at a time when several EU member states are reconsidering their laws on prostitution, which vary wildly around the bloc.

Immunologist wins 'Breakthrough Prize' for innovative cancer work

AFP | Washington, United States



Dr Michel Sadelain

When Michel Sadelain began his decades-long quest to genetically modify immune cells to fight cancer, his peers dismissed his ideas as absurd and even his mother grew concerned for his career. On Thursday, the French and Canadian scientist was announced as a winner of the pres-

tigious Breakthrough Prize for his pioneering work in CAR T-cell therapy, a new form of treatment that has shown exceptional efficacy against blood cancers.

"Over the years, I can't tell you how many times I've heard this won't work, can't work, even if it works it has no future," the 63-year-old told AFP in an interview.

He was passed up for grants, promotions became uncer-

tain, and graduate students steered clear of joining his lab. "One thing I have to do is to throw a big party with all those who contributed," Sadelain said,



The Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences is awarded to the most brilliant scientists in the world.

First non-aristocratic, free public school in Europe is opened in Frascati, Italy

HMS Beagle with Charles Darwin on board reaches the Galapagos Islands



First use of tanks in warfare, "Little Willies" at Battle of Flers-Courcelette, part of the Battle of the Somme

Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin while studying influenza

nsifies Libya



al view of a extensive damage in the wake

testimony published by the Benghazi Medical Center.

"We could hear screams. From the window I saw cars and bodies being carried away by the water. It lasted an hour or an hour and a half -- but for us, it felt like a year."

Hundreds of body bags now line Derna's mud-caked streets, awaiting mass burials, as traumatised and grieving residents search mangled buildings for missing loved ones and bulldozers clear streets of debris and mountains of sand.

"The scale of the flood disaster in Libya is shocking and it is heartbreaking," said UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths.

ying for sex

split on the issue and MEPs voting as they wished.

Some EU countries such as Croatia and Lithuania ban prostitution and have criminal penalties for sex workers. Some -- notably Germany, Austria and the Netherlands -- have legalised and regulated it.

Some others -- including Sweden, France and Ireland -- have sought to switch the criminal responsibility for sex work onto the clients in the transaction.

cancer treatment

Breakthrough Prize awards "the world's brilliant minds" in fields including life, fundamental physics and mathematics, itself as the Silicon Valley-backed answer to Nobel. Founding sponsors include Sergey Brin and Mark Zuckerberg.

laughing. He will split \$3 million with American immunologist Carl June, who also led groundbreaking research into the field independently of his co-winner.

Putin, Kim gifted each other 'rifles': Kremlin

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un gifted each other rifles when they met in Far Eastern Russia, the Kremlin said on Thursday, confirming the isolated Russian leader will visit North Korea as Moscow woos another pariah state.

The Russian president met with Kim on Wednesday amid speculation they would agree on an arms deal. Putin "gave (Kim) a rifle from our production of the highest quality. In return, he also received a North Korean-made rifle," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Putin also gifted the North Korean leader a "glove from a space suit that has been to space



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (2nd L) and Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R) visiting the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's Amur region

several times." Kim, who seldom leaves his country, held talks with Putin at the Vostochny cosmodrome.

The Kremlin said his visit to Russia's Far East would last "a few more days." Moscow also

eign Minister Sergei Lavrov to Pyongyang, with his trip expected in October, before a Putin visit can be arranged.

North Korean into space

Putin and Kim also discussed the possibility of sending a North Korean into space, Russian news agencies quoted Putin's spokesman as saying.

"We talked about the fact that if the North Korean side wishes, a North Korean cosmonaut can be trained and sent into space," the TASS and RIA Novosti news agencies quoted Dmitry Peskov as saying. If that were to happen, the cosmonaut would be the first North Korean ever to go into space.

London police pay 'substantial' damages to women arrested at vigil

AFP | London, United Kingdom

London's Metropolitan Police has apologised and paid "substantial" compensation to two women arrested at a March 2021 vigil for Sarah Everard who was kidnapped, raped and murdered by a serving police officer, their lawyers said Thursday.

Hundreds of people, mostly women, attended the vigil for Everard in south London near where the 33-year-old marketing executive went missing.

Police officers scuffled with some members of the crowd towards the end of the vigil, held despite coronavirus re-

strictions, with the sight of male officers restraining and handcuffing female demonstrators drawing widespread criticism.

Patsy Stevenson and Dania Al-Obeid, who were both detained at the event and took legal action, had reached a settlement with the Met Police, Bindmans, the law firm representing them, said.

Bindmans said the Metropolitan Police issued an apology and paid "substantial" damages.

"It has taken over two years to reach this conclusion," Stevenson said in a statement.

UK man swims entire New York river in clean-water campaign



Lewis Pugh arrives at the finish of his 315-mile Hudson River swim in New York

AFP | New York, United States

British endurance swimmer Lewis Pugh on Wednesday completed a 315-mile (500-kilometer) journey down New York's Hudson River, highlighting its successful decades-long cleanup as a beacon for other waterways.

"Fifty years ago, this was one of the most polluted rivers in the whole world," said Pugh, 53, who was appointed the first UN patron of the oceans a decade ago.

"We need to have clean, healthy rivers," he told reporters after completing the unassisted trip from the Hudson's mountain source all the way down to New York City.

He said that in New York's industrial past, the river would sometimes change color from day to day, depending on what

dyes and other pollutants were dumped or ran off.

But after decades of action to clean up pollution, Pugh was able to safely swim down the river, a month-long feat he said will hopefully inspire others.

"They're going to be inspired by what happened here and say to themselves: 'If they can do that in the Hudson, surely we can do it in our river and our river can also be saved,'" he said. Pugh has previously undertaken high-profile swims in Antarctica, the North Pole and the Red Sea to advocate for rivers clean enough to swim and fish in safely.

His Hudson River feat comes as leaders from the around the globe are set to descend on New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly, during which a historic High Seas Treaty is to be formally signed.

India imposes curbs after two die of Nipah

AFP | New Delhi, India



Health workers wearing protective gear shift people who have been in contact with a person infected with the Nipah virus to an isolation center at a government hospital in Kozhikode

India has curbed public gatherings and shut some schools in the southern state of Kerala after two people died of Nipah, a virus from bats or pigs that causes deadly fever, officials said Thursday.

The virus has no vaccine and a fatality rate ranging from 40 to 75%, according to the World Health Organization.

Symptoms include intense fever, vomiting and a respiratory infection, but severe cases can involve seizures and encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, and result in a coma.

Three others have tested positive, and more than 700 people including 153 health workers who came in contact with those infected are under observation, health officials said. At least four people have been hospitalised, including

the nine-year-old child of one of the victims.

Initially transmitted from animals such as fruit bats or pigs, Nipah is also spread from person to person, the WHO said. The incubation period -- the time from infection to the onset of symptoms -- ranges from around four to 14 days, but has been reported to be as long as 45 days, according to the WHO.

Body of Ecuadorean crime boss stolen from Colombian cemetery

AFP | Bogota, Colombia



Junior Roldan

The body of Ecuadorean fugitive Junior Roldan was illegally exhumed from a Colombian graveyard, police said Wednesday, months after the former Los Choneros drug gang boss was buried.

Roldan, who went by the alias JR, was accused of several attacks and murders in Ecuador's prisons.

More than 430 inmates have died violently since 2021, dozens of them dismembered and incinerated in disputes between rival gangs linked to Colombian and Mexican cartels.

Roldan's body disappeared from the vault where he was buried in May, local police told AFP Wednesday.

Roldan was released from a prison in the Ecuadorean port city of Guayaquil -- a hub for several drug gangs -- in February 2023 and was granted parole, a decision criticized by President Guillermo Lasso. He was wounded in an armed attack in March, after which prison authorities lost track of him.

Colombian authorities found his body shot in the head in a rural area in the country's northwest two months later.

After no one claimed the

body, it was buried in a cemetery in Envigado on the outskirts of Medellin, Colombia's second city, on May 18.

There are more than 13 organized crime groups operating in Ecuador, officials say, the oldest and most powerful of which is Los Choneros.

Following the murder of Los Choneros leader Jorge Luis Zambrano in 2020, the gang reportedly split into several factions.

Roldan, Zambrano's former lieutenant, became part of the Las Aguilas gang, while Adolfo Macias, also known as Fito, began commanding the Los Fatales group.

Macias, imprisoned since 2011, was transferred to a maximum security jail last month soon after the murder of presidential hopeful Fernando Vilavicencio, who was shot by Colombian hitmen days before the first round of voting.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Humanity is facing huge challenges. People are looking to their leaders for a way out of this mess. Next week, many of these leaders will be gathering for #UNGA. They have a special responsibility to achieve compromise in designing our common future for our common good.

@antonioguterres

02



We're mobilizing a whole-of-country effort to cut America's cancer death rate by half in the next 25 years and boost support for patients and families. And it starts with a government-wide effort like this first-ever Cancer Cabinet to unleash every asset within our power.

@POTUS

03



We strongly welcome the @EuroparLEN's voting today to set stricter limits on #airpollution, following the @WHO air quality guidelines. This is a major step towards healthier environments and protecting people's health.

@DrTedros

04



@POTUS has appointed Penny Pritzker as the U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery. She will work with Ukraine's government, international partners, and the private sector to accelerate Ukraine's economic transformation.

@SecBlinken

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

celebs

Shakira thanks sons for 'cheering her up'

celebretainment | Los Angeles

Shakira has thanked her sons for "cheering her up" after a tough year.

The pop superstar brought her two boys - Milan, nine, and

Sasha, seven - along to the 2023 MTV Video Music Awards at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey on Tuesday night and she dedicated her Vanguard Award to them in an

emotional speech in which she credited them with helping her get back on her feet and move forward with her career after her devastating split from their dad Gerard Pique.

Taylor Swift, Shakira shine at MTV Video Music Awards



Colombian singer Shakira performs on stage during the MTV Video Music Awards

AFP | Los Angeles

Taylor Swift cleaned up at Tuesday's MTV Video Music Awards and won the evening's top trophy, as Shakira accepted the night's prestigious Video Vanguard honour with a hip-shaking, career-spanning performance.

Swift continued her global reign by scooping awards including Best Song, Best Pop and Best Direction, as well as the top competitive award for Video of the Year, which she won for her hit "Anti-Hero."

Turn-of-the-millennium teen heartthrobs NSYNC reunited onstage for the first time in a decade to present her with the Best Pop award, leaving Swift, who is poised to post the first billion-dollar tour, fanning her cheeks.

"This is unbelievable," Swift said as she accepted the night's top prize, which she also took home in 2022. "I just want to say that the fact that this is a fan-voted award means so much to me."

But she didn't perform on the night known far more for its spectacle than its awards, instead sipping her drink as artists including Olivia Rodrigo, Anitta and Doja Cat took the stage.

The made-for-broadcast show, held this year in Newark's Prudential Center, frequently panned to Swift who was seated



US singer-songwriter Taylor Swift accepts the award for Best Pop Video, presented by (from L) Joey Fatone, Lance Bass and Justin Timberlake

near the main stage next to Ice Spice, the viral Bronx rapper who has collaborated with the pop phenom and who won the evening's prize for Best New Artist.

A camera operator was reportedly tasked with filming Swift for the show's entire duration.

The nearly four-hour show that included some 20 performances ended without handing out awards in a number of categories, however, including for Artist of the Year, which for the first time was an all-women slate including Swift, Shakira and Beyonce.

Lil Wayne opened the show in a nod to this year's 50th anniversary of hip hop, and Sean Combs -- known by his stage

names Puff Daddy, Puffy, P. Diddy and Diddy -- delivered a career-spanning performance as he accepted the night's Global Icon lifetime achievement award.

"This is so surreal," said the 53-year-old from Harlem. "I started out as a paper boy."

And it was Shakira who scored the night's most prestigious honor for lifetime achievement, the Video Vanguard award that celebrates music video innovations.

The Colombian performer, 46, stole the show as she performed her signature hip swings and pops, singing a bilingual medley including "She Wolf;" "Te Felicito;" "Objection (Tango);" "Whenever, Wherever" and "Hips Don't Lie."

CINEMA

A HUNTING IN VENICE

(15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/HORROR) (NEW)

KENNETH BRANAGH, KYLE ALLEN, CAMILLE COTTIN

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 8.45 PM

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

CITY CENTRE (IMAX-2D): 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN

WADI AL SAIL: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

AL LIWAN: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

97 MINUTES

(PG-15) (THRILLER) 97 (NEW)

JONATHAN RHYS-MEYERS, ALEC BALDWIN, MYANNA BURING

CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

AL LIWAN: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

AWLAD HAREEM KARIM

(PG-15) (ARABIC/ROMANTIC/COMEDY) (NEW)

MOSTAFA AMAR, AMR ABDUL GELIL, DALIA AL BEHERI

CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (I): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL: 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM

AL LIWAN: 1.30 + 6.00 + 10.30 PM

SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL

(15+) (THRILLER/DRAMA) (NEW)

NICOLAS JOGE, JOEL KINNAMAN, KAIWI LYMAN

CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 3.30 + 8.00 PM

SEEF (I): 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

THE CELLO

(18+) (THRILLER/HORROR/DRAMA) (NEW)

TOBIN BELL, JEREMY IRONS, SAMER ISMAIL

SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

RABBIT ACADEMY: MISSION EGGPOSSIBLE

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/FAMILY) (NEW)

CALLUM MALONEY, LUCY CAROLAN, JONAS ELKHAWAD

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 12.00 + 1.45 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 7.00 + 8.45 + 10.30 PM

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 2.45 + 4.30 PM

SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 12.15 + 2.00 + 3.45 PM

WADI AL SAIL: 11.00 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 4.15 PM

AL LIWAN: 1.15 + 4.45 + 8.15 PM

BUHE BARIYAN

(PG-15) (PUNJABI/DRAMA) (NEW)

NEERU BAJWA, NIRMAL RISHI, RUBINA BAJWA

FROM FRI 15th

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

MARK ANTONY

(PG-13) (TAMIL) (NEW)

VISHAL, S.J.SURYAH, SUNEEL

FROM FRI 15th

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

SEEF (I): 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

AL HAMRA: 2.45 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN FRI)

KASARGOLD

(PG-15) (MALAYALAM) (NEW)

VINAYAKAN, ASIF ALI, SIDDIQUE

FROM FRI 15th

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

JAWAN

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA) HINDI

SHAH RUKH KHAN, NAYANTHARA, DEEPIKA PADUKONE, VIJAY SETHUPATHI

OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 1.45 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 8.15 + 10.30 + 11.30 PM

OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 5.30 PM

CITY CENTRE: 10.00 AM + 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 2.00 + 5.00 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

CITY CENTRE (IMAX-2D): 2.45 + 8.15 PM

CITY CENTRE (THEATRE): 12.00 + 3.30 + 7.00 + 10.30 PM

SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 2.30 + 5.15 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + (12.15 MN THURS/FRI)

WADI AL SAIL: 12.15 + 1.15 + 3.30 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 7.45 + 10.00 + 11.00 PM

AL LIWAN: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 1.45 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 8.00 + 11.15 PM

AL HAMRA: ON THURS: 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 8.45 PM

AL HAMRA: FROM FRI: 11.30 AM + 5.45 PM

TAMIL

OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.45 + 8.00 PM

AL HAMRA: ON THURS: 5.30 + 12.00 MN

THE NUN 2

O(15+) (HORROR/THRILLE)

TAISSA FARMIGA, JONAS BLOQUET, STORM REID

OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.15 + 6.00 + 10.45 PM

OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 11.00 PM

CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

CITY CENTRE (THEATRE): 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (I): 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

WADI AL SAIL: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

AL LIWAN: 10.30 AM + 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 5.00 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 10.45 + 11.00 PM

THE EQUALIZER 3

(PG-15) (ACTION/CRIME)

NEENZEL WASHINGTON DAKOTA FANNING DAVID DENMAN

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 3.45 + 8.30 PM

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 11.00 AM + 12.45 + 1.15 + 3.00 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 5.45 + 7.30 + 8.00 + 9.45 + 10.15 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

CITY CENTRE (THEATRE): 1.00 + 3.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN

SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 4.45 + 9.00 PM

AL LIWAN: 11.15 AM + 3.45 + 8.15 PM

RDx: ROBERT DONY XAVIER

(PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

ANTONY VARGHESE, SHANE NIGAM, NEERAJ MADHAV

OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.45 AM + 5.00 + 11.15 PM

SEEF (I): 2.30 + 8.00 PM

SOUND OF FREEDOM

(15+) (CRIME/DRAMA/THRILLER/BIOGRAPHY)

JIM CAVIEZEL, MIRA SORVINO, BILL CAMP

CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

CITY CENTRE (THEATRE): 1.30 + 4.30 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

SEEF (I): 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM

RETRIBUTION

(PG-15) (THRILLER/CIRME)

LIAM NEESON, NOMA DUMEZWENI, MATTHEW MODINE

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

GRAN TURISMO

(PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/DRAMA/SPORT)

DAVID HARBOUR, ORLANDO BLOOM, ARCHIE MADEKWE

CITY CENTRE: 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

BLUE BEETLE

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

XOLO MARIDUENA, SUSAN SARANDON, HARVEY GUILLEN

CITY CENTRE: 1.00 + 5.30 + 10.00 PM

MEG 2: THE TRENCH

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

JASON STATHAM, WU JING, SOPHIA CAI

CITY CENTRE: 2.00 + 8.00 PM

SEEF (I): 12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM

OPPENHEIMER

(PG-15) (DRAMA/HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY)

CILLIAN MURPHY, EMILY BLUNT, MATT DAMON

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 4.30 + 10.30 PM

CATS IN THE MUSIUM

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE)

JORDAN WORSLEY, STEPHEN PETER KRISSEL, MARIA SMAKHTINA

AL LIWAN: (JUNIOR CINEMA): 11.30 AM + 3.00 + 6.30 + 10.00 PM

SUDOKU

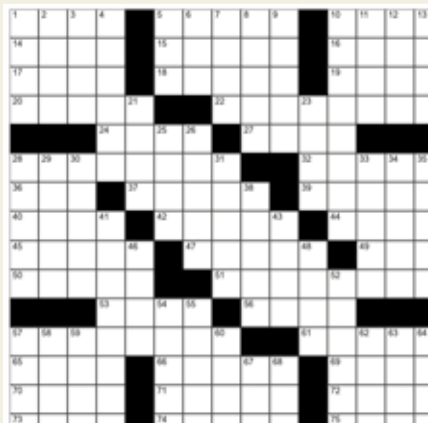


Yesterday's solution

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

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

1- Schoolmarmish; 5- President Garfield's middle name; 10- Very, in Versailles; 14- Actress Downey; 15- Fluff, as bangs; 16- Methods; 17- Not much; 18- Tall and thin; 19- Sceptic's scoff; 20- Tourist draw; 22- Well statistic; 24- Hullabaloo; 27- Small songbird; 28- Defensive mounds; 32- Femme fatale; 36- 7th letter of the Greek alphabet; 37- Lasso; 39- Govt. security; 40- Bust maker; 42- Feed on grass; 44- Adhesive; 45- Aquarium buildup; 47- Rudner and Moreno; 49- Hall or Byrnes; 50- Suspicious; 51- Hermits; 53- Slippery; 56- Karate blow; 57- Zealous environmentalist; 61- Main impact; 65- Laugh loudly; 66- Fear greatly; 69- Draft classification; 70- Commedia dell'arte; 71- Garden figure; 72- Vegas line; 73- Eye sore; 74- Short literary composition; 75- Throw;

Down

1- London stroller; 2- Routine; 3- Apple variety; 4- Reckless; 5- City in GA; 6- Actress Arthur; 7- Monetary unit of South Africa; 8- Crooked; 9- Gangster Lansky; 10- Union; 11- Broccoli (leafy vegetable); 12- Organs used for sight; 13- Fast fliers; 17- Hebrew month; 23- Nudnik; 25- Not a dup; 26- Fab Four name; 28- Of the kidneys; 29- of Two Cities; 30- A Simpson; 31- Flight segment; 33- Actor's parts; 34- Piece of music written for a solo instrument; 35- Food and water; 38- Nahuatl speaker; 41- Without anxiety; 43- A head; 46- Observer; 48- Pig; 52- How to harvest a carrot; 54- Flat shelf; 55- Threads; 57- Important times; 58- Bud of "Harold and Maude"; 59- Like Cheerios; 60- Greek island in the Aegean; 62- Bring to ruin; 63- Beatty and Rorem; 64- Soviet news service; 67- Doctors' org; 68- Susan of "L.A. Law";

Yesterday's solution

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

Classifieds



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email: advt@newsofbahrain.com

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Sahel Karbabad Grills has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39997757 or M.KHABBAZ92@GMAIL.COM

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HIBATRADING09@GMAIL.COM

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MUHAMMAD JAVED MAINTENANCE CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33963714 or JAVEDSARDAR248@YAHOO.COM

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Bin Saleh Industrial services has a vacancy for the occupation of ESTIMATOR(COST), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36210088 or Binsit@hotmail.com

MALABAR SPICE KITCHEN has a

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India enjoy 'problem of plenty' ahead of ODI World Cup



India's team celebrates the win against Sri Lanka

AFP | Colombo

India face a "problem of plenty" in their bowling stocks ahead of Sunday's Asia Cup final and the ODI World Cup starting next month, coach Paras Mhambrey said.

India booked their place in the final after wins over Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with their bowlers excelling in both matches. Rohit Sharma's side bowled out Pakistan for 128.

"A problem of plenty is always good, we have four quality bowlers out there, we have great options," bowling coach Mhambrey said Yesterday of a pace attack led by Jasprit Bumrah and also boasting Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur. There is also all-rounder Hardik Pandya.

Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav hold the spin force.

"The option of choosing the right combination will depend on what surface we are playing

and what opponents we are playing," he added.

Indian players including up-and-coming batsman Tilak Varma and T20 star Suryakumar Yadav trained in the nets on the eve of the team's last Super Four match, against Bangladesh in Colombo on Friday.

Mhambrey gave little away about the line-up.

"We haven't decided on what we will do, but obviously there is an opportunity to give a game to other players since we have qualified for the final," said the former medium-pace bowler.

Bangladesh have won just one match at the Asia Cup, but Mhambrey said: "They have played very competitive cricket in the last few years. They have got some quality fast bowlers coming through."

"From our perspective everyone that we play is important, every team is going to challenge us. Bangladesh is a good team and we will have to play our best cricket."

North Korea set to end years-long sporting isolation at Asian Games

AFP | Beijing

North Korea has 191 athletes signed up for the Asian Games starting next week, according to organisers, suggesting the country is poised to end its more than three-year isolation from the

global sporting arena.

North Koreans are listed on the Games' website for accredited media to compete in the Chinese city of Hangzhou in sports including athletics, gymnastics, basketball, football, boxing and weightlifting.

Maguire can handle 'pressure' from mocking rival fans

AFP | London

Harry Maguire said he can cope with the pressure of being in the spotlight for club and country after England manager Gareth Southgate condemned the "ridiculous treatment" meted out to the defender.

The Manchester United centre-back won his 59th cap as a substitute in England's 3-1 friendly win in Glasgow on Tuesday but his performance was marred by an own goal.

Maguire was sarcastically cheered by Scotland fans every time he touched the ball.

"It's a joke," said Southgate. "I've never known a player treated the way he is -- not by the Scottish fans, by our own commentators, pundits, whatever it is."

The 30-year-old has struggled for playing time at United under Erik ten Hag but has remained a regular for England, who have reached the latter stages at the past three major tournaments.

"I would not say I am a person who struggles with pressure mentally," said Maguire, who laughed off the Scotland fans' behaviour as "banter".

"I have been through a lot in the last couple of years and I



Scotland's defender Andrew Robertson (C) celebrates as England's defender Harry Maguire (R) reacts after scoring an own goal

"I would not say I am a person who struggles with pressure mentally. I have been through a lot in the last couple of years and I have been Manchester United captain for nearly four years (Bruno Fernandes is the new skipper)

HARRY MAGUIRE

have been Manchester United captain for nearly four years (Bruno Fernandes is the new

skipper). "You take a huge lot of responsibility and everything that comes with it and that is a lot of bad as well as good. "But it was a huge honour and of course it is a hostile environment here, which is how I described it, and they piled pressure on myself. I would not say I am used to it but I can deal with it."

Maguire has only made one substitute appearance for United so far this season after a move to West Ham failed to materialise.

"I considered everything and I know, at the moment, when I

BETTER YOU KNOW

Maguire has only made one substitute appearance for United so far this season after a move to West Ham failed to materialise

have not started a game in the first four games of the season, the story comes to me," he said.

"The first four weeks were hard because it was one game a week and the manager didn't select me but we have lots of games coming up now and I am sure I will play lots of games."

Maguire's mother Zoe said on Instagram that the abuse the defender receives had gone "far beyond 'football'".

"As a mum, seeing the level of negative and abusive comments which my son is receiving from some fans, pundits and the media is disgraceful and totally unacceptable to any walk of life, never mind someone who works his socks off for club and country."

Top-seeded Jabeur sent packing in San Diego, Garcia advances

AFP | San Diego

Anastasia Potapova surprised top-seeded Ons Jabeur of Tunisia to reach the quarter-finals of the WTA San Diego Open on Wednesday as second-seeded Caroline Garcia made it safely through.

Potapova, ranked 27th in the world, said patience was the key to her 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) victory over world number seven Jabeur, who reached her third Grand Slam final at Wimbledon this year.

"Ons is very tough to play," said Potapova, who had edged Alicia Parks in three sets in the first round as Jabeur enjoyed a first-round bye.

"She is truly one of the best in the world and with her style it's



Anastasia Potapova plays a forehand in the first set against Ons Jabeur

very uncomfortable. She likes to mix it up a lot, and actually I'm really proud of myself today that

I was able to stay calm, focused and just do what I've got to do." Jabeur was coming off a

Jabeur was coming off a fourth-round showing at the US Open, where she battled illness in the opening rounds

fourth-round showing at the US Open, where she battled illness in the opening rounds.

Potapova notched her sixth career victory over a top-10 player and lined up a quarter-final meeting with 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin, a 1-6, 6-4, 6-2 winner over fellow American Katie Volynets.

Potapova converted six of her 11 break chances, breaking the Tunisian at love to seal the opening set.

China's Zhou extends F1 contract with Alfa Romeo to 2024



Zhou Guanyu

AFP | Singapore

Zhou Guanyu, China's only Formula One driver, said yesterday that he has extended his contract with Alfa Romeo to the end of the 2024 season.

He will now get the chance to race on home soil for the first time in Formula One, with the Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai returning in April next year for the first time since the Covid pandemic.

"Next year I have my home race, I've been waiting for it for two years already," the 24-year-old Zhou told reporters ahead of Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix.

"I think it will be forever a memorable weekend for me in Formula One because I grew up, obviously, watching the race back home in China.

"It's going to be amazing just to catch up with the fans and the people in the home crowd."

Zhou heads into his third season on the grid where he will again partner Valtteri Bottas in the Swiss-based team, which is expected to revert to its Sauber name for the 2024 campaign.

Verstappen, Perez wary of 'really painful' Singapore GP

Max Verstappen concedes record-breaking win streak at risk as Red Bull faces stiff competition

● Verstappen says he feels no extra pressure after winning a record 10th grand prix in a row

AFP | Singapore

Runaway Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen conceded yesterday that his win streak was under threat at this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix where his car is "not as competitive".

The Red Bulls have been unstoppable in 2023, winning all 14 races, with flying Dutchman Verstappen taking the chequered flag 12 times.

He said he would spare no effort to extend his record of consecutive wins to 11, but conceded the nature of Singapore's high downforce layout would enable Ferrari, Mercedes and Aston Martin to get closer.

"We are not as competitive here as other tracks, street circuits are a bit tougher for our car," said Verstappen, who could wrap up a third world title in a row as early as the Japanese Grand Prix next week.

"It will be very tight. The key (at Singapore) is adapting as every single session can be dif-



Red Bull's Max Verstappen (CL) and Sergio Perez (CR) walk prior to the Italian Formula One Grand Prix (file photo)

"We are not as competitive here as other tracks, street circuits are a bit tougher for our car. It will be very tight. The key (at Singapore) is adapting as every single session can be different

MAX VERSTAPPEN

ferent," he added, as he guns for a maiden victory on the Marina Bay track.

Verstappen's Red Bull team-

mate Sergio Perez won in wild conditions a year ago, when the race start was delayed by more than an hour because of a huge tropical storm that soaked the track.

The Mexican will make his 250th grand prix start on Sunday, becoming just the 11th driver in history to hit that milestone, and knows that qualifying will be crucial on a track where overtaking is near impossible.

"This one, we know if Saturday goes well, it can go really well," Perez told reporters. "There is nothing in the middle in Singapore -- it's either a strong result or really painful." Ferrari and Mercedes are

YOU KNOW WHAT

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez won in wild conditions a year ago, when the race start was delayed by more than an hour because of a huge tropical storm that soaked the track

scouting a chance to end Red Bull's season-long dominance.

Carlos Sainz was third behind Verstappen and Perez at Monza a fortnight ago.

'We seem to struggle'

"I feel more at one with the car since the beginning of the season, it's just been putting the weekend together," said the Spaniard.

"As to who we are racing against this weekend, I have no idea -- could be Aston Martin, could be Mercedes, could be McLaren. Red Bull will be one step ahead."

His Ferrari teammate, Charles Leclerc, said: "It's difficult to

know what will happen. Low downforce we seem to be strong, high downforce we seem to struggle more.

"But there are quite a lot of inconsistencies between the teams on high downforce tracks. And it's a city track so the driver can make a difference."

The Singapore lap times will be quicker this year because of construction work near the city-centre circuit which has meant the removal of four 90-degree corners towards the end of the lap.

The total number of corners has dropped from 22 to 19 and seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton thinks it could help the Mercedes cause.

"I'm just trying to prepare as best I can and see how that new section works. It should bring us closer together, less corners for Red Bull to get ahead," he joked.

Verstappen says he feels no extra pressure after winning a record 10th grand prix in a row in Monza.

"No, I never really looked at the number eight, nine, 10. I just always want to do the best I can," he said.

"Naturally every single weekend it's basically the same amount of pressure you put on yourself to try and get the best result out of it. So, nothing really changes."

BRAVE CF's Kadimagomaev challenges newly-contracted Dizzy

TDT | Manama

BRAVE CF's latest signing Anthony "La Masse" Dizzy quickly got a taste of the pressure that comes with being a contracted BRAVE Combat Federation athlete this week when Husein Kadimagomaev called the Frenchman out just days after his debut fight.

Dizzy climbed into BRAVE Nation hearts when he took a short-notice fight at BRAVE CF 74 before producing an impressive show against four-time Combat Sambo World Champion Vladyslav Rudniev in the co-main event.

While "La Masse" lost the Lightweight fight via unani-



mous decision, his performance demanded the respect of millions of MMA enthusiasts, and BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid rewarded the Frenchman with a multi-fight contract.

BRAVE CF officially welcomed "La Masse" to BRAVE Nation by

posting a graphic of the courageous athlete that included President Shahid's thoughts: "This man grappled a four-time Combat Sambo World Champion. Despite coming in on such short notice, he gave it his all and produced a spectacular

show. He is BRAVE CF caliber, and I can't wait to watch him with a full camp."

The post had not even simmered yet before Kadimagomaev responded to President Shahid.

"President Shahid, I will be waiting for him with a full camp," said Switzerland's Kadimagomaev, who is on a three-fight win streak and hungry to make another big splash as he bears down on contender status. Both men can transit freely between the Featherweight and Lightweight divisions which makes this fight clearly an exciting prospect for both men as they get ready to get back into the BRAVE CF arena.

Wolff 'Wikipedia' comments slapped down by Verstappen

AFP | Singapore

World champion Max Verstappen snapped back at Toto Wolff yesterday, saying the Mercedes boss spent too much time talking about Red Bull and should concentrate on improving his own team.

Wolff had dismissed Verstappen's achievement in becoming the first driver to win 10 grands prix in a row at Monza two weeks ago, sniffing that it was "for Wikipedia and nobody reads that anyway".

"No, I'm not disappointed in that," Verstappen said about Wolff's comments ahead of this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix.

"I mean they had a pretty sh*t race, so probably he was still pissed off with their performance," added Verstappen, referring to the Italian Grand Prix where Mercedes pair George Russell and Lewis Hamilton finished fifth and sixth.

Mercedes are a distant second in the constructors' championship, 310 points behind Red Bull, and Verstappen thinks Wolff should recognise their achievements.

"I think you should be able to appreciate when a team is doing really well, which I think we've done in the past as it worked as a kind of inspiration," said Verstappen, who is close to wrapping up a third



Toto Wolff

"I think it's just important that you focus on your own team, that's what we do, and what we did in the past as well when we were behind them and when they were dominating"

MAX VERSTAPPEN

world title.

"We knew that we just had to work harder, try to be better, and try to get to that level."

"He almost sounds like he's an employee of our team sometimes, but luckily not," he added.

"I think it's just important that you focus on your own team, that's what we do, and what we did in the past as well when we were behind them and when they were dominating."

Kane will be 'an absolute success story', says Bayern boss Tuchel

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel said yesterday new striker Harry Kane was already on his way to becoming "an absolute success" story at the club.

Kane has scored three goals and created another in his three Bundesliga appearances for Bayern since his big-money move from Tottenham.

"With his personality and the way he plays, we have exactly the player we need," Tuchel told reporters ahead of Friday's clash with early league leaders Bayer Leverkusen.

"At this time we're trying to get him more involved in our



Bayern Munich's English forward #09 Harry Kane is exchanged by Bayern Munich's German head coach Thomas Tuchel

game. We know it'll be an absolute success story.

"We're more than happy with him."

Tuchel said while Kane, who scored one goal and assisted another in recent England games against Ukraine and Scotland,

would play against Leverkusen, captain Joshua Kimmich was a "question mark".

Kimmich picked up a muscle issue while on international duty and missed Germany's 2-1 friendly win over France -- their first victory since March.

Tuchel however said Jamal Musiala, who on Tuesday was named Bayern's player of the season for 2022-23, would return to the squad after overcoming a back complaint.

Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer also suffered a setback in his return from a broken leg, with Tuchel revealing the Germany captain was struggling with a calf issue.

Bahrain football team set for Asiad

Twenty-two players named on Kingdom's squad for men's football tournament at Hangzhou Asian Games

● **Under-23s to be led by Mubarak Mohammed, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Sayed Jawad Alawi, Hussain Abdulkarim**

● **Two designated veteran players of more senior age named in Sayed Mohammed Adnan, Ali Dhaif**

● **Bahrain in Group E of tournament's preliminary stage along with South Korea, Thailand and Kuwait**

TDT | Manama



The men's football tournament is one of the competitions at this year's Asian Games that is scheduled to kick off before the official opening ceremony. The grand inauguration is only scheduled for 23 September, but action on the pitch begins from Tuesday next week

Bahrain's 22-player squad that will be competing in the men's football tournament at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, starting next week has been named.

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) announced yesterday the team list ahead of their highly anticipated participation.

A majority of the roster features names that represented the Kingdom's under-23 Olympic team at the just-concluded qualifiers for the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2024. According to competition

rules, Asian Games football participants must be of that age-group, although teams are allowed to have up to three players older.

The Bahrainis, coached by Dario Basic from Croatia, only features two veterans, namely Sayed Mohammed Adnan and Ali Adnan Dhaif. The rest of the list includes Khalil Ebrahim

Basic...ready for challenge

Ahmed, Hasan Isa Juma, Ali Mohamed Redha, Ahmed Abdhameed Hasan, Hussain Ali Aleker, Hassan Abdulnabi Ali, Sayed Jawad Alawi, Hani Taha Alharobi, Mahmood Mohamed Ali, Hussain Abdulkarim, Hussain Jaafar Haroona, Abdulla Nemer Almesaeed, Ahmed Dheyaa Ali, Abdulla Ali Alahmed, Abdulla Ali Alsubaiei, Mubarak Mohammed, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Salman Abdulla Qadhaib, Mohammed Abdulkayoom and Salman Adel Al Isa.

Football is one of 18 sports the Kingdom will be participating in at this year's Asiad.

The men's tournament is scheduled to begin from Tuesday, a few days before the official opening ceremony of the Asian Games. The grand inauguration is only scheduled for 23 September, but Bahrain get their campaign underway in Group E beforehand.

The nationals are in the same group as South Korea, Thailand and Kuwait. They play their first game on opening night against the Thais, and then face Kuwait two days later on Thursday. They wrap up the preliminary phase against the South Koreans on 24 September.

There are 23 nations in all competing in men's football, divided into six groups for the preliminaries. Group A features hosts China, Bangladesh, Myanmar and India; Group B comprises Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Mongolia; Group C includes Uzbekistan, Syria, Hong Kong and Afghanistan; Group D consists of Japan, Palestine and Qatar; and Group F features North Korea, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Chinese-Taipei.

At the end of a single round-robin, the top two teams from each group along with four best third-placers advance to the round of 16.

Bahrain will be sending its largest-ever contingent to the Hangzhou Asiad, with 248 male and female athletes flying the Kingdom's flag in the multi-sport event.

Aside from football, the nationals will also be competing in athletics, handball, boxing, judo, weightlifting, wrestling, jiu-jitsu, rowing, shooting, cycling, table tennis, taekwondo, sailing, basketball, volleyball, E-sports and cricket.

This year's Asiad will mark the 13th Asian Games Bahrain is taking part in. The BOC is hopeful for a record-breaking campaign in Hangzhou and for exceeding their medal tallies from the last two editions of the Asian Games.



Bahrain's Mubarak Mohammed competes during the just-concluded AFC U23 Asian Cup qualifiers

BREEF approves 2023/2024 endurance season programme

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Royal Equestrian Endurance Federation (BREEF), under the presidency of HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, has approved the racing and championship programme for the new endurance season 2023/2024.

The Federation has begun its preparations for the new season, always striving to implement the directives of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Honourary President of BREEF, in order to achieve the utmost success for all the races of the upcoming season.

The new season will commence with the international and local qualifying races on October 13 and 14, 2023, featuring an international race of 100 km and local qualifying races of 40 km and 80 km will be held.

The second International qualifying race and local qualifying races will take place on November 2 and 4, 2023.

They will include international

Event	Date	Km
1. BREEF Endurance Qualifier/s 1	13-14 Oct. 2023	CEI 1* 100 CEN 80 KM + CDN 40 KM - Restricted Speed 16KM/H
2. BREEF Endurance Qualifier/s 2	03-04 Nov. 2023	CEI 1* 100 KM CEI 2* 120 CEN 80 KM + CDN 40 KM - Restricted Speed 16KM/H
3. National Day Endurance Ride Championship	08-09 Dec. 2023	CEI 1* 100 KM CEI 2* 120 CEI 3* 160 KM CEN 80 KM + CDN 40 KM - Restricted Speed 16KM/H
H.H. Sh. Khalid Bin Hamad Al Khalifa Endurance Cup	05-06 Jan. 2024	CEI 1* 100 KM CEI 2* 120 + CEI 3* 120 KM CEN 80 KM + CDN 40 KM - Restricted Speed 16KM/H
H.M. The King's Cup Equestrian Festival Endurance Ride Championship for Seniors & Juniors & GCC Private Stables	16-17 Feb. 2024	CEI 1* 100 KM CEN 120 Km (Local GCC Private Stables) CEI 2* 120 + CEI 3* 120 KM CEN 80 KM + CDN 40 KM - Restricted Speed 16KM/H
H.H. Sh. Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa Endurance Cup	08-09 Mar. 2024	CEI 1* 100 KM CEI 2* 120 + CEI 3* 160 KM CEN 80 KM + CDN 40 KM - Restricted Speed 16KM/H
7. BREEF Ramadan Endurance Qualifier/s	29-30 Mar. 2024	CEI 1* 100 KM CEI 2* 120 CEN 80 KM + CDN 40 KM - Restricted Speed 16KM/H

al races of 100 km and 120 km, as well as local qualifying races of 40 km and 80 km.

In December, specifically on December 8 and 9, the National Day Endurance Championship will take place. It will include international races, covering 100 km, 120 km, and 160 km, in addition to local qualifying races of 40 km and 80 km.

The HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Endurance Cup is scheduled for January 5 and 6, 2024.

This prestigious cup will

showcase an international race covering a distance of 100 km, an international race of 120 km, open to both international and local participants, and a challenging race of 160 km.

There will also be local qualifying races of 40 km and 80 km, providing opportunities for local riders to showcase their skills and compete at various levels.

The eagerly awaited His Majesty the King's Endurance Cup Festival is set to take place on February 16 and 17, 2024.

This prestigious event will bring together passionate equestrian enthusiasts to witness an extraordinary showcase of skill and determination.

The Festival will feature a series of races, including a local race of 120 km for GCC private stables, an international race of 120 km for youth and juniors, an international race of 120 km for the general category, an international race of 160 km, and an international race of 100 km.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Endurance Cup will be held on March 8 and 9, 2024.

This eagerly anticipated event will feature an international race of 100 km, an international/local (locals only) race of 120 km, an international race of 160 km, and local qualifying races of 40 km and 80 km.

The season will conclude with the organisation of the International Ramadan Qualifying Race and local qualifying races on March 29 and 30, 2024.

It will include international races of 100 km and 120 km, a 160 km race, and local qualifying races of 40 km and 80 km.

Sri Lanka stun Pakistan to earn Asia Cup final match against India



Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis (L) celebrates after scoring a half-century (50 runs) with Sri Lanka's Sadeera Samarawickrama

AFP | Colombo

Kusal Mendis' 91 and an unbeaten 49 by Charith Asalanka helped Sri Lanka edged out Pakistan by two wickets in a last-ball thriller of the Asia Cup to set up a final clash with India.

Chasing a DLS revised target of 252 in the 42-overs-a-side contest in Colombo, Sri Lanka needed eight from the final over and achieved the target with Asalanka's winning hit on the last ball at 1.07 am local time.

A raucous home crowd rejoiced but the result broke the heart of millions of fans awaiting an India-Pakistan final in the 50-over tournament, a prelude to the upcoming ODI World Cup.

The left-handed Asalanka held his nerve despite Shaheen Shah Afridi's two wickets in two balls in the penultimate over and the first four balls from Zaman Khan giving away just two runs and a wicket in the 42nd over.

Mendis set up victory with a 100-run third-wicket stand with Sadeera Samarawickrama, who made 48, but Asalanka took it on himself after their departure.

Off-spinner Iftikhar Ahmed took three key wickets including Mendis and Samarawickrama to keep the game in the balance till the last.

Earlier Mohammad Rizwan hit an unbeaten 86 to steer Pakistan to 252-7 after they elected to bat first in the rain delayed start to the match.

Bonucci confirms legal action against Juve after 'humiliating' treatment

AFP | Rome

Leonardo Bonucci has confirmed that he is taking legal action against Juventus, claiming that the Serie A club has not told the truth about their treatment of him after he

was frozen out and eventually sold over the summer.

Veteran defender Bonucci, who has won a host of trophies with club and country over his long career, was shunted aside by Juve in pre-season, missing out on July's tour in the USA

and training away from the first team.

And the 36-year-old said he had made the "hard decision" to sue the club for which he played over 500 times and won eight league titles for what he considers "humiliating" treatment.



Leonardo Bonucci