

Bahrain beat Bhutan in Asian U-20 football
 Hosts keep hopes alive of finishing as Group B winners with second successive victory in qualification for AFC U-20 Asian Cup 2023 | P12

WORLD 8 India's Modi assails Putin over Ukraine war

THE DAILY tribune



Tom Cruise's 'Mission: Impossible 8' set interrupted by a flock of sheep

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Flights in Europe disrupted by French air traffic control strike

India's Modi, Erdogan hold unexpected meeting at regional summit

Reuters



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of a regional summit yesterday. "The two leaders discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors," Modi's office said on Twitter, posting a photo of him shaking hands with Erdogan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) regional security group summit in Uzbekistan. The meeting was not included on Modi's tentative schedule for the summit shared by India's foreign ministry with reporters.

Putin warns: the war can get more serious

Reuters Samarkand, Uzbekistan



President Vladimir Putin yesterday brushed off a lightning Ukrainian counter-offensive with a smile but warned that Russia would respond more forcefully if its troops were put under further pressure. "The Kiev authorities announced that they have launched and are conducting an active counter-offensive operation. Well, let's see how it develops, how it ends up," Putin said with a grin.



Election fever heating up P2

King Charles visits Wales, miles-long line to see queen lying in state paused

P6



Bahrain records Monkeypox case

Infection detected in a 29-year-old expat who was returning from abroad

● The patient is in isolation after exhibiting symptoms

● Monkeypox is caused by monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.

● Saudi now has 8 cases, UAE 16, and Qatar 4 monkeypox cases

TDT | Manama

WHO says

If you think you might have monkeypox, self-isolate and contact a health worker immediately. If they advise that you isolate yourself at home, keep in touch with them and seek immediate advice if your rash becomes more painful, shows signs of being infected (such as fever, redness or pus), if your fever, nausea or vomiting gets worse, if you are unable to eat or drink, have difficulty breathing or if you feel dizzy or confused.

MoH declined to disclose the details of the patient or where he is isolated.

The ministry also assured that contact tracing and disease surveillance mechanisms are in place to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Always alert

Health Ministry said it had been on a general alert against the disease and is prepared to deal with developments based on set local and global disease prevention protocols while cooperating with regional and Global health bodies.

As part of its proactive efforts to combat the virus, the Minis-

try of Health said it has established contingency plans and conducted awareness sessions for health workers about the virus and transmission modes.

The ministry has also set up a reporting mechanism for suspected cases at the Public Health Directorate, provided testing requirements and adopted contact-tracing plans, besides supplying vaccines.

Monkeypox is a viral-zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of central and west Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.

The disease appears with general symptoms of flu, including fever and headache. However, it is distinguished often by the lesions appearing on the face a few days after contracting the fever.

Incubation period

The incubation period for the disease — the time from exposure to the virus to symptoms — ranges from five to 21 days.

Transmission occurs only through close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets or by touching or sharing the clothes or bedding contaminated with the virus. Viral transmission extends throughout the course of the illness, where symptoms last from 2 to 4 weeks.

As part of its proactive efforts to combat the virus, the Minis-



BeAware, but don't panic, Dr Al Qahtani on first Monkeypox case

P3

Iran woman's death after morals police arrest sparks protests

Reuters | Dubai

A young Iranian woman has died after falling into a coma following her detention by morality police enforcing Iran's strict hijab rules, sparking protests by Iranians on social media.

Videos posted on social media have shown cases of what appeared to be heavy-handed action by morality police units against women who had removed their hijab.

The interior ministry and Tehran's prosecutor launched probes into the death of Mahsa Amini following a demand by President Ebrahim Raisi, state media reported on Friday.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage carried by state TV appeared to show a woman identified as Amini falling over after getting up from her seat to speak to an official at a police station. Reuters could not authenticate the video.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED
10327861

ACTIVE CASES
2186

DEATHS
1519

DISCHARGED
671755

NEW CASES
255

CRITICAL
0

220 fils (includes VAT)



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The monkeypox virus has to date spread to over 100 countries, with the global caseload topping 60,000, according to the World Health Organization in August.

Human monkeypox was first identified in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a 9-month-old boy in a region where smallpox had been eliminated in 1968.

Monkeypox is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting from 2 to 4 weeks. Severe cases can occur. In recent times, the case fatality ratio has been around 3-6%.

Monkeypox virus is an enveloped double-stranded DNA virus that belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus of the Poxviridae family. There are two distinct genetic clades of the monkeypox virus: the central African (Congo Basin) clade and the west African clade. The Congo Basin clade has historically caused more severe disease and was thought to be more transmissible.

Fuel to Sanabis gas station shut over violations; affects 30 jobs

Bapco cites contract violations as the reason for terminating supply

● Reports say financial arrears is the reason

● Bapco said supply stopped "until full compliance" with contract

● Gas station employees fear termination

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) yesterday confirmed that it stopped supplying fuel to a gas station run by Sanabis Cooperative Consumer Society for failing to adhere to the contractual terms, in response to social media claims that the closure impacted 30



jobs.

"The Sanabis Cooperative Station has not complied with its contractual agreements with Bapco," the statement said, add-

ing that they are ceasing the fuel supply "until full compliance to the contractual agreement."

Earlier yesterday, the Sanabis Cooperative Consumer Society

announced through an Instagram post that they are closing its gas station until further notice.

The society also blamed the

closure on the non-supply of fuel by Bapco.

Meanwhile, several who came to the station to fill gas told ALAyam, our sister concern, that there were surprised by the closures of the lanes for "Good 91"

and "Excellent 95" fuels. "We had to fill tanks with Super 98 fuel, which was available."

ALAyam report said Diesel stock was not affected at that time.

The report, however, warned that the Diesel and Super 98 supply would cease to exist without restoring supply.

ALAyam report also claimed "financial arrears" as the reason for supply stoppage.

The report also said the standoff affected the jobs of over 30 employees at the Sanabis station and association.

"Workers complain that if the issue is not settled, it will affect their livelihood and their families."

Bahrain heating up with election fever

TDI | Manama

Citizens of Bahrain continued to ensure their right to participate in the upcoming Parliamentary and Municipal Elections 2022 yesterday by visiting supervisory centres and verifying the voters' list.

The supervisory centres in all four governorates of the Kingdom welcomed voters.

At some centres, voters queued up at the doors before opening at 5 pm. The centres welcomed visitors until nine in the evening.

Officials at the committees said they received requests for changing addresses, correcting voters' data, requests for listing and registering names and filing objections.

The voters' list is also available on the website www.vote.bh.

All the processes for submitting requests and filing objections are available online without visiting centres.

The centre at the Capital Governorate is in the Khawla Secondary School for Girls, the Muharraq Governorate Committee in Al-Hidaya Al-Khalifa Secondary School for Boys, the Northern Governorate Committee in Yathrib Preparatory School for Girls, and the Southern Governorate Committee in Al-Mustaqbal Primary School for Girls.

At some centres, voters queued up at the doors before opening at 5 pm. The centres welcomed visitors until nine in the evening.

124,000 reviewed voters' lists in two days: official

TDI | Manama

More than 124,000 people reviewed the voters' list two days after its launching, said Chancellor

Nawaf Abdullah Hamza, the President of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission (LLOC), Executive Director of the Elections.

"This is according to data of in-person visits and at www.vote.bh," said Hamza.

"Such a large number of visits in about two days reflects the citizen's awareness of the electoral process."

In 2018, after three days of publishing, 81,000 people reviewed the voters' list. The voters' list published on Thursday will remain open for a week for voters to review, either through supervisory committees or online.

Separately, the heads of supervisory centres also confirmed to ALAyam, our sister concern, that there are no fees for filing requests or objecting, rejecting all claims in this regard.

Confirming the fee news circulating as fake, the head of the supervisory centre in Muharraq Governorate, Counsellor Dr Ali Al-Shuwaikh, said what circulated on social media is false.

He reaffirmed that the services provided at the supervisory centres and election websites are free.

Any citizen who does not find a name on the voters' lists can submit a request to include them

or want to change their address could do so without paying any fees."

If a supervisory centre rejects a request, citizens can approach the court to file an appeal, for which there is a BD32 fee.

Counsellor Nayef Youssef, head of the Supervising Committee for the Safety of Referendum and Elections in the Capital Governorate, also confirmed that there are no fees for the objection at the current stage.

He explained that filing an objection and an appeal is different.

Objections come before a Supervisory committee regarding names or changing addresses.

An appeal comes three days after the committee's decision, before the judiciary, for which there is a charge.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Al-Haddi, a potential candidate for House of Representatives from the ninth constituency in the Northern Governorate, said the supervisory centres are working smoothly.

Added 35 names in an hour

He said that 35 people from his constituency complained to him about not finding their names on the voters' list.

"The committee managed to resolve the issues in about an hour," he said.

He called on voters not to get outraged at missing names but to approach the supervisory centres to get back on the list, which would not even take a minute.

Representative Hamad Al-Kooheji, during a visit to the supervisory centre in Muharraq Governorate, said, "The process is well organised, with hassle-free communication."

"We encourage everyone to exercise their voting rights in this democratic process."

A candidate for the second constituency in the capital governorate, Hassan bin Rajab described the electoral movement so far as excellent.

The supervisory centres also set aside spaces and light snacks for journalists and media pro-

fessionals.

Fatima Habil, head of the supervisory committee in the southern governorate, said they received ten applications at the start of the second day.

She confirmed taking decisions on all of the applications received on Thursday, where some got decided today.

"Some of the requests are under study," she added.

Representative Mahmoud Al-Bahrani described the electoral movement witnessed in Bahrain as "positive and good."

North gets 114 requests

Head of the Supervisory Centre in the Northern Governorate, Attorney General Fahd Al-Buainain, said they received 114 applications yesterday, of which resolved 77, accepted 71 and rejected 6. Five of the rejected cases were on account of criminal charges, while one applicant didn't reach the legal voting age.

Al-Buainain said 58 requests were made in person and 56 online.

"We are holding 37 requests as they came during the last five minutes of accepting requests."

Counsellor Dr Ali Al-Shuwaikh, the head of the Supervisory Centre in Muharraq Governorate, said they received 40 objections, of which 18 were made in-person and 22 online.

"We rejected five applications and accepted 35," he said, adding that one of the applicants hadn't reached the legal age.

Some of the other rejected requests were over criminal cases. Counsellor Nayef Youssef, the head of the Supervising Committee for the Safety of Referendum and Elections in the Capital Governorate, announced receiving 60 objections, of which 40 were online and 20 in-person at the Khawla Secondary school for Girls.



BeAware, but **don't panic**, says Dr Al Qahtani on Monkeypox

There is no need to worry in light of the availability of all possibilities to limit its spread. Our medical team is fully prepared to deal with developments and take the necessary precautionary measures following health protocols in force locally and globally

DR AL QAHTANI, AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONSULTANT AT THE MILITARY HOSPITAL, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TASKFORCE TO COMBAT THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).



TDT | Manama

Bahrain's top infectious disease expert, Lieutenant-Colonel Dr Manaf Al-Qahtani, called on all to remain cautious but advised to shed fears confirming that the Kingdom is fully prepared to handle monkeypox infections.

"There is no need to worry in light of the availability of all possibilities to limit its spread," said Dr Al Qahtani, an infectious disease consultant at the Military Hospital, a member of the National Taskforce to combat the Coronavirus (Covid-19).

"Our medical team is fully prepared to deal with developments and take the necessary precautionary measures following health protocols in force locally and globally," he reassured.

He, however, cautioned that the virus that causes monkeypox, like other viruses, is not specific to a specific group and requires awareness from everyone to prevent it.

Dr Al Qahtani said Bahrain started preparations to handle the infection several months ago and was "able to discover the first case of monkeypox timely, reducing the chances of spread."

"Health authorities here confirmed the first case in Bahrain in record time, with transparency," he pointed out in a tweet.

"We have all the necessary preparations and medical tools for examination, treatment and procedures for tracing contacts with a specialised team to limit

the spread of monkeypox.

"Preparations included educating health workers about monkeypox and transmission methods, setting up a mechanism for reporting suspected cases to the Public Health Department, providing treatment and laboratory needs for diagnosis, identifying mechanisms for follow-up cases, tracing contacts, and providing anti-vaccinations.

"The Ministry of Health has been keen to develop an emergency proactive plan to deal with monkeypox since cases started emerging in several countries to preserve public health.

Al-Qahtani also tweeted

thanks to everyone for cooperating with the Ministry of Health and contributing to taking vaccinations according to medical instructions.

Bullying @ school: MoE opens investigation

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education has opened an investigation into assaulting and bullying charges levelled against a group of students by a parent.

The Communications Department of the Ministry of Education reports that the Operations Department of the First Educational Zone has begun taking necessary measures.



The complaint by the parent alleges that his son was assaulted and bullied by a group of students at a Preparatory School for Boys.

The ministry said that it would take deterrent actions against physical violence and

bullying. Actions will follow an investigation into the complaint, the ministry said.

Court rejects appeals of human traffickers; confirms jail, fine

TDT | Manama

Two women convicted of human trafficking charges had their appeals rejected by the High Appeal Court.

The women, both Asian nationals, will now have to spend five years in a Bahraini jail and pay a fine of BD2,000 each.

Police say the suspects lured a woman, another Asian national, to come to Bahrain with fake job offers.

The victim, later rescued by cops, told the court that upon



Representative picture

reaching Bahrain, the suspects took her to an apartment, locked her up and forced her to have sex with strangers.

When I resisted, they intimidated me and said I had no other option but to pay for my tickets and visa. However, on a lucky day, the victim got a window of opportunity, which she used to alert a passer-by, who in turn alerted the police.

Police sent a squad and rescued the woman from the clutches of her captors, leading to the court battle.

Drug mule gets 15 years for smuggling heroin capsules

TDT | Manama

Attempting to smuggle 50 heroin-filled capsules by swallowing them before boarding a plane to the Kingdom landed a man in a Bahraini jail for 15 years.

The High Criminal Court passed this judgement in a case involving a suspect in his twenties.

He was arrested at the Bahrain International Airport after customs officers subjected him to further examinations on the red lane after stoking suspicion of abnormal behaviour.

After spotting this man, we removed him to the red lane for a detailed examination.



Representative picture

"We also gave him a chance to confess before going ahead.

"However, he stood his ground and denied having anything illegal with him.

"We also failed to spot any hidden spaces or anything illegal from this baggage after an inten-

sive search.

"However, the man showed severe physical discomfort, which made us subject him to a medical examination.

"An x-ray scanned, however, told a different story.

The scan revealed that the

suspect was carrying drug capsules in his abdomen.

"Doctors at the Salmaniya Medical Complex counted 50 capsules inside his stomach.

They also gave him laxatives to help the capsules pass through his body.

Later, during an interrogation, the suspect confessed to working as a drug mule.

"A friend of mine promised me a job if I bring these capsules here."

Police continued their investigation and found that the arrested man was a member of a drug smuggling network.

How smugglers risk their lives?

Experts at the United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime point out that this is a dangerous way of smuggling drugs.

Popularly known as 'drug mules', the victims swallow balloons containing illicit drugs and travel across borders. Once they 'reach' their destination, traffickers retrieve these balloons from their bodies.

The balloons are of multilayered condoms that are often force-fed to the victim. The traffickers use a 'special machine' to open the condom and put drugs into it.

UN points out that on many occasions, the drug mules first take a soup laced with drugs to numb their throats. The soup is very oily and makes the balloons

slide down their throat. The victim's mouth can also be sprayed with anaesthesia, enabling them to swallow up to 120 balloons. A drug mule may swallow up to one kg of illicit drugs. This painful procedure can lead to 'serious injuries in the throat'.

During the journey, they take medication to inhibit bowel movement. After reaching the destination, laxatives are fed for the balloons to pass through their bodies. This medically dangerous way of transporting drugs can lead to the death of persons if and when balloons rupture within the body. Stomach acids can sometimes cause the rupture of the balloons, and death is quick.

Major upgrade for Sh. Zayed Highway; tender launched



TDT | Manama

Sh. Zayed Highway (Buquwah Interchange) is to get a major upgrade, for which the Works Ministry has launched a tender.

The tender says the ministry plans to widen and extend the highway.

Accordingly, the ministry intends to build a new bridge linking Salmabad and Buquwah across Sh. Isa Bin Salman Highway, a loop slip road for traffic coming from Salmabad to Jasra and a second loop allowing traffic from Buquwah to Manama.

The two envelop tender offers a contract duration of 104 weeks.

Emirati Contractor (100%) Registered First Category for Road Works and Bahraini Contractors Registered Under Category AA for Road Works as per Ministry of Works in the Kingdom of Bahrain are eligible to apply.

The technical response should not include any prices. Bids that pass the cut-off point will get evaluated financially.

Interested companies should bid before the 30th of October 2022, with a BD326,000 bond and BD100 tender fees.

TRA hiring consultancy for review of revenue declarations

TDT | Manama

Telecommunication Regulatory Authority has launched a tender for hiring a consultancy to review the historic revenue declarations by a licensee.

The audit review should cover both licenced and unlicensed revenue streams from 2015 to 2020. Make bids before the 2nd of October 2022, with a BD100 bond and BD30 tender fees.

New National Skills Agency on the way

TDT | Manama

A new National Skills Agency is on the way to synergizing skill development initiatives in the Kingdom.

The project is from Labour Fund (Tamkeen) as part of the Vision 2030 project that aims at developing a five-year strategy and an operating model.

The project is already on its way, with Tamkeen launching a tender seeking a "consultancy" for establishing the skills agency.

In a similar move, Tamkeen had earlier announced that works are underway to launch the Skills Bahrain Initiative for creating professional standards



for vocations and professions and meet the rising demand for qualified nationals across different sectors.

The current tender also calls for the winning bidder to work on developing the capacity of the local team in Tamkeen.

This move would help them "move from a division or business unit to a fully functional and sustainable independent body after the incubation period."

Interested companies could bid through the website of the Tender board.

Bids should reach the board before the 12th of October 2022, with a BD5,000 bond and BD100 tender fees.

Tamkeen from funding authority to key driver of economic growth

TDT | Manama

Tamkeen is looking forward to turning around its current perception of being "purely a funding authority" into a key driver of economic growth for enterprises and individuals. Tamkeen's Marketing and Communication Department, in a public relation agency retainer tender, says it aims to generate a strong and positive impact in the local market

through its programmes, activities, and initiatives.

The tender says, "Tamkeen aims to showcase the organization as a trusted partner for success while bridging rational and approachable connections to its offerings with its targeted audiences."

Companies interested in the project should bid before the 19th of October 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.



Representative picture

Vessel Waste Removal at Salman Naval Base

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications has launched a tender for vessel waste removal at Salman Naval Base.

The tender says the contract is for removing waste generated from vessels at Salman Naval base 24 hours upon request.

Waste should be handled according to the laws and regulations of concerned entities in the Kingdom.

The ministry is offering a four-year contract.

Interested companies should bid before the 5th of October 2022, with a BD1,000 bond and BD50 tender fees.



Representative picture

Bapco opens tender for debit, credit card payments at service stations

TDT | Manama

Bapco Retail Company is moving ahead with plans to introduce debit and credit card payment solutions at its service stations in a bid to simplify and



ease payments. Bapco, through a tender, has invited all specialized vendors to participate in providing payment solutions across credit and debit card processing POS devices for five years. The devices, the tender

says, should accept accepting all types of card schemes like visa, master card, Amex, JCB, Benefit and CUP.

Make bids before the 26th of October 2022, with a BD5,000 bond and BD100 tender fees.

Solar to power Manama Central Market



TDT | Manama

Renewable energy will soon light up the premises of the 40-year-old Manama Central market that deals in fresh produce.

Capital Municipality, in a tender launched, says it aims to fix Solar Flood Lights, Solar Street Lights and LED High Bay Lights at the market.

The municipality is offering a six-month contract for completing the work.

A successful bidder should also complete all other related works required for the project.

Interested contractors should bid before the 5th of October 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD30 tender fees.

Tender for 231,000 chicks; Dawajin gets two bids

Representative picture
TDT | Manama

A tender by the General Poultry Company (Dawajin) for buying 231,000 one-day-old layer chicks attracted two bids.

Arab Poultry Breeders Co.ltd quoted BHD 98,178.396, and Albayad Farms Company Ltd quoted BHD 91,332.280.

Dawajin needs 231,000 one-day-old Lohmann LSL classic- Hisex - white colour - to be delivered in three batches upon request.

BACA plans new square north of historic Siyadi Majles

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities plans to create a new square north of Siyadi Majles as part of the pearling project.

There are currently 16 public spaces as part of the 3.5 km pearling project that crosses the narrow lands of old Muharraq.

The public squares serve as spaces of encounter and interaction between the residents and the visitors to the path and act as places of gathering for leisure, rest, and interaction between community members.

The current tender is for appointing a contractor to implement the new public square, says BACA.



Interested contractors should bid before the 2nd of October 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD30 tender fees.

(tajir al-lu'lu') in the Kingdom, is part of the Siyadi Complex.

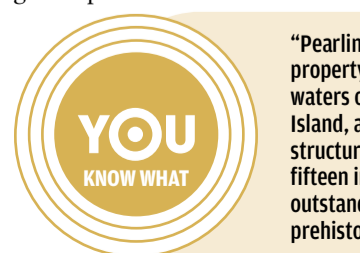
The exquisitely decorated Siyadi Majlis, the pearling era's only four-storey building, is the jewel of the nominated pearling testimony. Its ground-floor apartments, built in 1850, are among the earliest stone structures in Muharraq.

Added in 1921, the majlis offers the last remaining example in which a tajir al-lu'lu' re-

ceived pearl merchants from as far away as India and Europe to negotiate over his special pearl collections.

The complex consists of three interrelated buildings: Siyadi House, a family residence built by Abdullah bin Isa Siyadi; Siyadi Majlis with an impressive guest room built by Ahmad bin Jassim Siyadi and Siyadi Mosque, donated to the community by Isa and Jassim bin Ahmad Siyadi.

A bit of history
Siyadi Majlis, the second family residence of one of the leading grand pearl merchant families



"Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy" is a serial nomination consisting of 15 property components: three vast oyster beds located in the northern territorial waters of Bahrain, one seashore site at the southern tip of Bahrain's Muharraq Island, and nine clusters of historic buildings consisting of seventeen architectural structures embedded in the urban fabric of Muharraq city. Taken together, the fifteen individual sites reflect the final expression and last remaining - and thus outstanding - example of a cultural tradition that dominated the Arabian Gulf from prehistory to the early 20th century.

Putin: 25% of Russian gas supplies to Turkey will be paid for in roubles

Reuters | London

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that 25% of Russian gas supplies to Turkey would be paid for in roubles, and that an agreement on this would come into force soon.

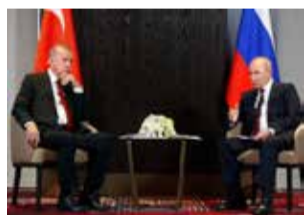
Speaking during a meeting with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Uzbekistan, Putin said: "Our agreement on deliveries of Russian natural gas to Turkey should come into effect in the near future, with 25% of payment for these deliveries in Russian roubles."

Since Western countries imposed sweeping sanctions over its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, Russia has sought to conduct as many transactions as possible in currencies other than dollars or euros - the usual default currencies for energy contracts, in particular.

It has also demanded that payments for some gas exports be made in roubles, in some cases in contravention of existing contract terms.

Several European Union member states including Poland and Bulgaria have had gas supplies from Russia cut off after refusing to make the rouble payments.

Turkey has maintained warmer relations with Russia than European Union countries have.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan attend a meeting

Flights in Europe disrupted by French air traffic control strike

Reuters | Paris

European flights faced widespread disruption yesterday as a French air traffic controllers' strike forced airlines to cancel half of those scheduled to arrive or depart Paris airports and others due to have flown over France.

Strikes and staff shortages in the past few months have forced airlines to cancel thousands of flights, dashing their hopes of a summer rebound after wide-

Gate 72	16:35	Dublin	EI 539	Cancelled
Gate 36	16:35	Londres Stansted	FR 8504	Cancelled
	16:45	Londres Gatwick	U2 8964	Planned
	17:20	Geneve	DS 1366	Planned
		Milan Malpensa	EC 2712	Planned
		Paris CDG	AF 7731	Cancelled
		Toulouse	XK 321	Cancelled
		Via St-Nazaire		
		Palma	VY 2973	Cancelled
		Faro	TO 7823	Planned
		Lisbon	TP 7890	Cancelled

A traveller looks at a flight departure screen displaying a series of flight cancellations during an air traffic controller's strike at the Nantes Atlantique airport in Bouguenais near Nantes, France

spread COVID-19 lockdowns, with disruption continuing into the autumn. "It's a little stressful, we'll have to find a solution quite quickly because we're expected at another hotel at another place," Canadian traveller Cedric Jutra told Reuters.

French air traffic control union SNCTA said in a statement that the walkout by its members was over the effects of inflation and its demand for more staff members.

"It is inexplicable that thou-

sands of European citizens/visitors will have their travel plans unfairly disrupted by yet another French ATC (air traffic control) strike," Ryanair said.

The Irish airline said the travel plans of 80,000 passengers had been affected when it had cancelled 420 flights, mainly intended to fly over France.

Air France had said on Wednesday that it would operate only 45% of its short and medium-range flights and 90% of its long-haul flights.

India's SBI aims to achieve double-digit deposit growth

● SBI expanded its domestic loans by 14.93% year-on-year in the last quarter

Reuters | Mumbai

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, is aiming for double-digit growth in deposits as loan demand gathers steam and utilisation of existing credit lines improves, a top executive said yesterday.

"We believe 9% to 10% (deposit growth) is definitely possible for us, it is a sustainable growth rate, though we have an internal target of 11% to 12%," Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, managing director at SBI, told Reuters.

Alongside stepping up efforts to garner more domestic deposits, banks are also seeking foreign deposits more aggressively.

Setty said foreign currency deposits of non-resident Indians in domestic banks "still needs improvement" even after banks have increased interest rates.

"I think we have to still witness more momentum in these FCNR flows," he said.

In the quarter to June end, SBI's deposits grew 8.73%, registering a marginal decline from the March quarter. The bank's advances grew 15-16% annually.



A man checks his mobile phones in front of State Bank of India (SBI) branch in Kolkata, India

SBI has also seen its credit line utilisation inch up by 10 percentage points over a year ago to nearly 60%.

"We are witnessing capacity utilisation going up in many industries and working capital utilisation is also going up which shows that growth momentum will continue," he added.

SBI expanded its domestic loans by 14.93% year-on-year in the last quarter, led by strong growth in retail loans. It expects that its international asset book will continue to be around 15% of the total assets.

SBI had international gross advances of 4.49 trillion rupees at end-June, up over 20% compared to last year.

The bank is also aiming to focus on boosting its fee-based income from its overseas operations.

"We would like to now focus on how we can increase our fee based income, whether we can take larger participations and also be part of the club deals and be part of the origination and then distribute later," Setty explained.

The bank remains watchful about the volatile global economic scenario and may review its growth strategy for international operations as the situation evolves, he said. For now, asset quality in this portfolio remains strong, with the bad loan ratio at 0.52%.

SBI's shares have risen 22% so far this year.

UAE extends rally as oil rebounds on growth outlook



Investors monitor screens displaying stock information at the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

Reuters

Closing bell

ABU DHABI ▲ 1.9% to 10,205 pts

DUBAI ▲ 0.8% to 3,489 pts

Stock markets in the United Arab Emirates closed higher yesterday as oil prices rebounded on expectations of better demand in the long run, offsetting fears that more interest rate hikes could curb global economic growth.

Two of the most closely followed predictors of global oil demand, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) - see it growing by between 2% and 3% this year and next.

Abu Dhabi equities (.FTFADGI) advanced 1.9% to mark their best day since early March. The country's largest lender Abu Dhabi First Bank (FAB.AD) jumped 3.1% and telcom firm e& (ETISALAT.AD), formerly known as Emirates Telecommunications, gained 3.8%.

Among other stocks, investment firm Multiply Group (MULTIPLY.AD) surged 6.9%, rallying for a ninth straight day. The company on Tuesday acquired a 7.3% stake in Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA.AD) in a deal valued at AED 10 billion (\$2.72 billion).

Shares of Dhahi National Energy Company were up 4.4%.

In Dubai, the main share index (.DFMGI) rose 0.8%, with state-run Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWAA.DU) adding 1.6% and blue-chip developer Emaar Properties (EMAR.DU) increasing 0.9%.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai indexes posted weekly gains of 4.1% and 3.8%, respectively.

China plans sanctions on CEOs of Boeing Defense, Raytheon over Taiwan sales

Reuters | Beijing

China will impose sanctions on the chief executives of Boeing Defense and Raytheon over their involvement in Washington's latest arms sales to Taiwan, a foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

The sanctions on Boeing Defense, Space, and Security CEO Ted Colbert and Raytheon Technologies Corp (RTX.N) boss Gregory Hayes are in response to the US State Department approval on Sept. 2 of the sale of military equipment to Taiwan.

Those sales include 60 anti-ship missiles and 100 air-to-air missiles, of which the respective principal contractors are Boeing Defense, a division of Boeing Co (BA.N), and Raytheon.

Colbert and Hayes will be sanctioned "in order to protect China's sovereignty and security interests" said foreign ministry



Flags of US and China are seen in this illustration

spokesperson Mao Ning citing "their involvement in these arms sales."

Mao did not elaborate on what the sanctions would entail or on how they would be enforced. Neither company sells defence

products to China, but both have robust commercial aviation businesses there.

US defence procurement rules generally prohibit Chinese-origin content, so sanctions have had no impact on the US military.

"The Chinese side once again urges the US government and relevant entities to... stop selling arms to Taiwan and US-Taiwan military contacts."

The Pentagon announced the package in the wake of China's aggressive military drills around Taiwan following a visit last month by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-ranking US official to travel to Taipei in years.

A Raytheon spokesman declined to comment. Boeing declined to comment immediately, but on Thursday said it plans to remarket some airplanes that it had earmarked for Chinese airlines as geopolitical tensions have delayed deliveries.

In December 2021, China approved the return of Boeing's 737 MAX to service after it had been grounded following two accidents involving the airliner that killed 346 people.

Boeing plans to remarket some 737 MAX jets earmarked for Chinese airlines

Reuters | Washington/Chicago

Boeing (BA.N) will begin to remarket some 737 MAX jets earmarked for Chinese customers, as it cannot wait indefinitely while political tensions between the United States and China snarl deliveries, the company's top executives said on Thursday.

Chief Executive Dave Calhoun and Chief Financial Of-

ficer Brian West discussed the need to remarket some of the planes at separate events.

"We have deferred decisions on those planes for a long time. We can't defer that decision forever. So we will begin to remarket some of those airplanes," West said at a Morgan Stanley conference.

Calhoun expressed pessimism about resuming deliveries in China.



China has previously sanctioned Raytheon, Boeing Defense, and unspecified individuals involved in arms sales to Taiwan.

News in brief

Kyrgyz-Tajik border conflict escalates with alleged use of heavy weaponry



Tajik forces once again opened fire on several of its outposts, an escalation of tension between the Russian allies after a brief confrontation earlier this week. Kyrgyz border guards were returning fire as clashes took place along the whole length of the border, the service said, adding that Tajik forces were using tanks, armoured

personnel carriers, and mortars. In turn, Tajikistan accused Kyrgyz forces of shelling one of its outposts and seven villages with "heavy weaponry". A civilian was killed and three injured, authorities in the Tajik city of Isfara said.

◆ Kyrgyzstan's border guard service said that

◆ **Support for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida tumbled to its lowest level since he took office, hit by growing anger over a state funeral for slain former leader Shinzo Abe and his ruling party's ties to a controversial church, an opinion poll showed.**

Japan PM's support tumbles as anger over state funeral grows



Kishida's support fell to 32.3% from 44.3% a month before, according to the survey by Jiji news agency conducted at the weekend - approaching what is widely seen as a "danger level" of 30% that signifies a government may run into trouble carrying out its political agenda. Those who did not support his government climbed to 40%, a rise of 11.5 points, Jiji added.

Mexico arrests general over disappearance of 43 students



◆ **A Mexican army general has been detained in connection with the disappearance of 43 students in 2014, the government said - the latest arrest in a case that generated international condemnation.** The general, who commanded a battalion in the area of southern Mexico where the incident occurred, is one of three suspects detained, Deputy Security Minister Ricardo Mejia told reporters. He did not identify the suspects but said the other two were also military personnel.

◆ **Pope Francis said it was morally legitimate for nations to supply weapons to Ukraine to help the country defend itself from Russian aggression.**

Pope says supplying weapons to Ukraine is morally acceptable for self defence



Speaking to reporters aboard a plane returning from a three-day trip to Kazakhstan, Francis also urged Kyiv to be open to eventual dialogue, even though it may "smell" because it would be difficult for the Ukrainian side. The war in Ukraine, which Russia invaded on Feb. 24, provided the backdrop to the pope's visit to Kazakhstan, where he attended a congress of religious leaders from around the world. In a 45-minute-long airborne news conference, a reporter asked if it was morally right for countries to send weapons to Ukraine. "This is a political decision which it can be moral, morally acceptable, if it is done under conditions of morality," Francis said.

King Charles visits Wales as queue paused due to swells

King greets public in Wales as mourners in London warned not to

● **Police mount huge security operation ahead of funeral**

Reuters | London

As tens of thousands of people poured into London ahead of Queen Elizabeth's state funeral on Monday, the miles-long queue of mourners waiting to see her lying in state was temporarily closed yesterday after it swelled to capacity.

People of all ages and from all walks of life have paid their respects to the late queen, joining a well-organised line that stretches along the south bank of the Thames then over the river to parliament's Westminster Hall.

But by mid-morning, the line was just too big - a testimony to the public's respect and affec-



Britain's King Charles greets members of the public in Cardiff, Wales

tion for the queen, who died in Scotland on Sept. 8 at the age of 96 after a 70-year reign.

"Entry will be paused for at least 6 hours," Britain's culture department said shortly before 10 a.m. (0900 GMT) "Please do not attempt to join the queue until it re-opens."

It warned of waiting times of up to 12 hours. Some 750,000

people in total are expected to file past the queen's coffin.

Yesterday night, King Charles, who was visiting Wales, and his sister Princess Anne and brothers Princes Andrew and Edward were to keep a silent vigil around the coffin, joining the ceremonial guard for a 15-minute period.

"I've no sensation in my

Through all the years of her reign, the land of Wales could not have been closer to my mother's heart. I know she took immense pride in your many great achievements - even as she also felt with you deeply in time of

KING CHARLES

knees at all or my legs," said Hyacinth Appah, a mourner from London who was in the queue.

"But it's been fine. Most of the people have been lovely and we've had quite a nice time."

Another mourner from London, Naomi Brown, said she waited for nearly 11 hours after joining the queue on Thursday



People queue

night after

"I just went to do much res not once

29-year-old going to Re the front o

"She ha

Swedish moose crash-test dummy wins spoof Ig Nobel prize



A car lies in front of the moose crash-test dummy

BBC | Boston

An innovation to improve safety on the roads for Swedish drivers has won one of this year's Ig Nobel prizes.

The moose crash-test dummy was developed by IT engineer Magnus Gens to see how cars would crumple when they collided with big wildlife.

The annual spoof awards for quirky science are supposed to "make us laugh but then make us think".

Although to be honest, the more you think about it, there is not much that is humorous about fatal accidents.

Magnus won the Safety Engineering Ig Nobel.

Other awards this year included a Literature Prize for research that examined the impenetrability of legal documents; and a Physics Prize for the study that sought to understand formation swimming in ducklings.

The science humour magazine, the Annals of Improbable Research, hands out the Ig Nobel awards.

The ceremony is a light-hearted affair that is usually put on at Harvard University in the US, but for the last few years has been conducted through a web-cast because of Covid concerns.

Magnus and his fellow Ig Nobel laureates received their awards virtually - from real No-

Full list of the 2022 Ig Nobel winners

Applied Cardiology Prize: Eliska Prochazkova and colleagues, for seeking and finding evidence that when new romantic partners meet for the first time, and feel attracted to each other, their heart rates synchronize.

Literature Prize: Eric Martinez and colleagues, for analysing what makes legal documents unnecessarily difficult to understand.

Biology Prize: Solimary Garcia-Hernandez and Glauco Machado, for studying whether and how constipation affects the mating prospects of scorpions.

Medicine Prize: Marcin Jasinski and colleagues, for showing that when patients undergo some forms of toxic chemotherapy, they suffer fewer harmful side effects when ice cream replaces one traditional component of the procedure.

Physics Prize: Frank Fish and colleagues, for trying to understand how ducklings manage to swim in formation.

Engineering Prize: Gen Matsuzaki and colleagues, for trying to discover the most efficient way for people to use their fingers when turning a knob.

Art History Prize: Peter de Smet and Nicholas Hellmuth, for their study "A Multidisciplinary Approach to Ritual Enema Scenes on Ancient Maya Pottery".

Peace Prize: Junhui Wu and colleagues, for developing an algorithm to help gossipers decide when to tell the truth and when to lie.

Economics Prize: Alessandro Pluchino and colleagues, for explaining, mathematically, why success most often goes not to the most talented people, but instead to the luckiest.

Safety Engineering Prize: Magnus Gens, for developing a moose crash-test dummy.

bel Laureates, as has become the custom.

The number of moose, or elk, collisions in Sweden each year is thought to run into the thousands. Ten or more of these will result in the deaths of the vehi-

cle occupants.

Magnus told BBC News he was proud of his award and the renewed focus it put on his research, which was actually conducted a decade ago as the topic of a Master's thesis.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	97,430,411	1,078,018	616,290,861
2 India	44,522,777	528,273	
3 France	34,831,399	154,644	Deaths
4 Brazil	34,610,590	685,258	
5 Germany	32,643,742	148,845	6,526,787
6 S. Korea	24,316,302	27,725	
7 UK	23,585,305	189,026	Recovered:
8 Italy	22,131,785	176,335	
9 Japan	20,488,312	42,985	595,505,770
10 Russia	20,324,039	385,727	
11 Turkey	16,852,382	101,068	New cases
12 Spain	13,384,876	113,725	
13 Vietnam	11,454,079	43,137	+340,249
14 Australia	10,155,992	14,475	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	815,035	+98	9,327	+3	802,182	3,526
UAE		+441	2,342		1,001,630	18,094
Kuwait	657,745		2,563		654,870	312
Oman	397,993		4,260		384,669	9,064
Qatar	440,060	+773	682		433,396	5,982

At least eight dead as flash floods hit central Italy

Reuters | Milan

At least nine people were killed by torrential overnight rains and floods in the central Italian region of Marche, authorities said yesterday, as rescuers continued to search for four still missing.

In Cantiano, a village close to the neighbouring Umbria



People work to clear way in Cantiano

region, residents were clearing mud from the streets, Reuters footage showed, after torrents had swept through several towns leaving a trail of trapped and damaged cars.

"My fruit shop has been turned upside down," Luciana Agostinelli, a local resident, told Reuters.

Around 400 millimetres (15.75 inches) of rain fell within two to three hours, the civil protection agency said, a third of the amount usually received in a year.

"It was like an earthquake," Ludovico Caverni, the mayor of Serra Sant'Abbondio, another village hit by the floods, told RAI state radio.



As lying-in-state selling numbers

...t to join queue to see coffin



...e at Southwark Park to visit Britain's Queen Elizabeth lying in state

... work. thought, I'm never to it again. I have so spect for the queen, did she ever falter," d Brown said, speak- ters as she neared of the queue. ... been such a good

symbol for our country. It feels like we have lost a family member."

The coffin stands in the ancient Westminster Hall on a purple-clad catafalque, draped in the Royal Standard and with the bejewelled Imperial State Crown placed on top.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Soldiers in ceremonial uniform and other officials are keeping vigil around it as people walk past to pay homage after their long wait. Many have been in tears, and others have saluted or bowed their heads

Soldiers in ceremonial uniform and other officials are keeping vigil around it as people walk past to pay homage after their long wait. Many have been in tears, and others have saluted or bowed their heads.

Judge rules for Trump, blocks review of seized classified records

Reuters | Washington

A US judge refused to let the Justice Department immediately resume reviewing classified records seized by the FBI from Donald Trump's Florida estate in an ongoing criminal investigation, siding with the former president.

Federal Judge Aileen Cannon also appointed Senior District Judge Raymond Dearie as a third party to review records seized by the FBI for materials that could be privileged and kept from federal investigators.

The Justice Department has promised to take the case to an appeals court if Cannon ruled against their request. They had also sought to block the independent arbiter, Dearie, from vetting the roughly 100 classified documents included among the 11,000 records gathered in the court-approved Aug. 8 search.

"The court does not find it appropriate to accept the government's conclusions on these important and disputed issues without further review by a neutral third party in an expedited and orderly fashion," Cannon wrote Thursday.

A Justice Department spokesperson and Trump's attorneys did not immediately return requests for comment.

Cannon's ruling further complicates the Justice Department's investigation. The special master's review could wall off documents from prosecutors as they weigh the possibility of criminal charges.

Cannon on Thursday said she would

The selection of Dearie, a former federal prosecutor who for years served as the chief judge of the federal court based in Brooklyn, came after both the Justice Department and Trump's lawyers made clear they would be satisfied with his appointment as a so-called special master



The documents allegedly seized at Mar-a-Lago is spread over a carpet

The court does not find it appropriate to accept the government's conclusions on these important and disputed issues without further review by a neutral third party in an expedited and orderly fashion

FEDERAL JUDGE AILEEN CANNON

instruct Dearie to prioritize reviewing the classified records first. She also directed him to complete his review of all the seized materials by Nov. 30.

The Justice Department is investigating Trump for retaining government records - some marked as highly classified, including "top secret" - at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach after leaving office in January 2021.

The department also is looking into possible obstruction of the probe after it found evidence that records may have been removed or concealed from the FBI when it sent agents to Mar-a-Lago in June to try to recover all classified documents through a grand jury subpoena.

The documents inquiry is one of several federal and state investigations that Trump is facing as he considers another run for the presidency in 2024.

Armenia's hypocrisy against Azerbaijan



AMBASSADOR OF AZERBAIJAN TO SAUDI ARABIA SHAHIN ABDULLAYEV

Over the past month, the provocations of the Armenian armed forces have exaggerated in Azerbaijan's Dashkasan, Lachin and Kalbajar districts, near the state border. Azerbaijani Army's positions in those districts have been fired from different types of weapons which are intensive, including mortars. The recent attacks clearly manifest Armenia's hypocrisy and rivalry against Azerbaijan and the peace process.

The most troubling reality is that the last meetings held in Brussels between President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Armenia's premier Nikol Pashinyan, and European Council President Charles Michel both states with the facilitation of the European Union were just a false front of cooperation from the Armenian side. The leadership of Yerevan was never true to the cause of peace and humanity. The hostile armed forces have been continuously escalating conflict and military interventions near Azerbaijan's border areas along with the deployment of large-caliber weapons and heavy equipment which is a vivid example of Armenia's vicious agenda to sabotage peace.

Official Yerevan's action undermines the Brussels meeting after which Azerbaijan proposed to hold a meeting between the foreign ministers of two countries at the end of September, to launch negotiations on the normalization of relations between the two countries based on mutual recognition and respect for each other's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and state borders but the peaceful proposal of Azerbaijan was left unanswered by Armenia.

The Azerbaijani government and Foreign investors has allocated state funds (3 billion) towards rebuilding territories liberated from Armenian occupation along with wide-range post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation works. Military clashes are an immediate danger to these projects because Azerbaijan is trying to take reciprocal measures to ensure the safety and security of the civilian workers involved in infrastructure activities in the Kalbajar and Lachin districts. However, ceasefire violation, provocation, ecological crimes, state-sponsored terrorism, and planting landmines have remained noticeable strategies of the Armenian offensive realist approach.

Also just a few days ago, the Azerbaijani side demonstrated another good-will gesture and released five more citizens of Armenia detained in Azerbaijan. This process took place directly between Azerbaijan and Armenia without mediation of any third party as an indicator of goodwill with a view to contributing to the peace process. The Republic of Azerbaijan, demonstrating its commitment to the international humanitarian law and the values of humanism, calls on Armenia to ceasefire and states that they are ready to hand over corpses of about 100 Armenian servicemen, who were killed while preventing provocation committed against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan on September 12-13 of this year. The International Committee of the Red Cross was also informed of this issue.

Armenia without any delay must come back to the table of peace talks. Peace agenda is extremely required for security, prosperity, and coexistence in our neighbourhood.

As a result of Armenia's thirty-year illegal occupation of Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur, large-scale and difficult humanitarian demining activities were carried out, but Armenia continues to plant mines in the territories of Azerbaijan deliberately. Therefore, it is a high-time the international community must witness Armenian aggression toward Azerbaijan and stark violation of the fundamental norms and obligatory rules of the ceasefire agreement. The country must be held accountable for its provocative acts and violations. These recent military escalations, vandalism of resources, and blasts have sabotaged the trilateral truce protocol and regional stability due to the Armenian conventional nature of war. The leadership has been yet again exposed due to its aggression and pessimistic strategic approach.

Moreover, during the nearly 30-year illegal Armenian occupation of the Karabakh region, environmental crimes, including deforestation, illicit trafficking of natural resources, and contamination of water reserves, became common. It has also been confirmed that Armenians have been deliberately contaminating the rivers to disturb the environment, and agriculture and create humanitarian disasters in Azerbaijan.

The Pashinyan administration has been fully trying to overturn the trilateral ceasefire agreement. It wants to wage war to redraw the political map of the Caucasus region. War has always been pointless, yet Armenia, through its hostile moves continue to annihilate deaths, atrocities and jeopardize security via agreement violation. Despite the international interventions to establish peace, the ill-will of Yerevan is blunt to challenge the efforts.

The war has been over, and the world has come to know the rightful claim of Azerbaijan as it liberated the regions. However, Armenia has been still trying to light a fire beneath the ashes and igniting hostile sentiments through its violations, resulting in chaos and casualties. Yerevan leaders have a narcissist approach and are war-obsessed, aiming at creating instability in the region. Azerbaijan, on the other hand, has always remained true to the cause of peaceful co-existence and cooperation. The visionary leader, President Ilham Aliyev has showcased strategic discipline and followed all protocols for regional development and joint collaboration.

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

Armenia without any delay must come back to the table of peace talks. Peace agenda is extremely required for security, prosperity, and coexistence in our neighbourhood

TOP 4 TWEETS

01

Had a wonderful meeting with President Putin. We got the opportunity to discuss furthering India-Russia cooperation in sectors such as trade, energy, defence and more. We also discussed other bilateral and global issues.
@narendramodi

02

In 78 people on Earth has been #ForcedTo-Flee. This is a political crisis that world leaders must solve together.
@antonioguterres

03

I have directed another \$600 million draw-down to expedite our 21st shipment of arms and equipment from @DeptofDefense inventories to Ukraine, as its defenders push back Russian invasion forces. The United States stands #UnitedWithUkraine.
@SecBlinken

04

The state of decay of our common home merits the same attention as other global challenges such as grave health crises and wars. #WorldOzoneDay #TimeOfCreation
@Pontifex

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

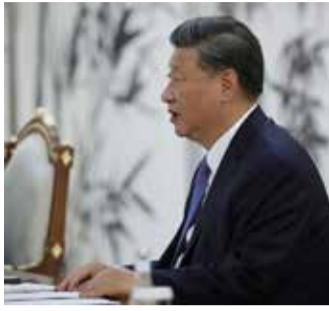
China's Xi skips dinner with Putin, allies as COVID precaution

AFP | Samarkand

Chinese leader Xi Jinping stayed away from a dinner attended by 11 heads of states at a regional security summit in line with his delegation's COVID-19 policy, a source in the Uzbek government told Reuters yesterday.

Xi, who is making his first foreign trip since the beginning of the pandemic, is attending a meeting this week of the China- and Russia-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in the Uzbek city of Samarkand.

However, he was absent from group photographs published late on Thursday when the leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan,



Chinese President Xi Jinping talks to Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting

went for dinner.

An Uzbek government source confirmed Xi's absence and said the Chinese delegation cited its COVID-19 policy as the reason.

In Beijing, the Chinese foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Third 'armed bank withdrawal' in a week in Lebanon



Lebanese policemen enter a bank from a window that was broken by depositors to exit the bank, in Beirut (file photo)

AFP | Beirut

A Lebanese man carrying a gun and a jerrican of fuel withdrew his frozen savings at gunpoint yesterday, the third such incident in the crisis-hit country this week.

When a branch of the Byblos bank opened in the southern town of Ghaziyeh, a depositor, reported to be in his 50s, stormed the premises with his adult son.

He threatened bank employees with a gun, which a Lebanese TV channel said may have been a toy, and demanded his savings.

"He emptied a jerrican of fuel on the floor," a bank security guard told an AFP reporter.

The man walked away with around \$19,000 and turned himself in to the police moments later as a crowd formed in front of the bank to support

The raids are seen as mostly acts of desperation by Lebanese depositors who do not have criminal records and are trying to settle bills, drawing wide sympathy from the general public

him.

It was the latest in a series of heists in Lebanon, where the savings of depositors have been devalued and trapped in banks for almost three years amid a crippling economic crisis.

They are usually acts of economic desperation by depositors with no criminal record trying to settle bills, and have drawn wide sympathy among the general public.

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India's Modi assails Putin over Ukraine war

Narendra Modi tells Vladimir Putin now 'is not an era of war'

Xi cautions on foreign meddling

Reuters | Samarkand

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday that now was not the time for war, directly assailing the Kremlin chief in public over the nearly seven-month-long conflict in Ukraine.

Locked in a confrontation with the West over the war, Putin has repeatedly said Russia is not isolated because it can look eastwards to major Asian powers such as China and India.

But at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), concerns spilled out into the open.

"I know that today's era is not an era of war, and I have spoken to you on the phone about this," Modi told Putin at a televised meeting in the ancient Uzbek Silk Road city of Samarkand.

As Modi made the remark, Russia's paramount leader since 1999 pursed his lips, glanced at Modi and then looked down before touching the hair on the back of his head.

Putin told Modi that he understood the Indian leader had concerns about Ukraine, but that Moscow was doing



Oleg Kotenko, the Commissioner for Issues of Missing Persons under Special Circumstances uses his smartphone to film the unidentified graves of civilians and Ukrainian soldiers in the recently retaken area of Izium

everything it could to end the conflict.

"I know your position on the conflict in Ukraine, the concerns that you constantly express," Putin said. "We will do everything to stop this as soon as possible."

He said Ukraine had rejected negotiations. Ukraine has said it will fight until it drives all Russian troops from its land. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy says he will never accept a "peace" that allows Russia to keep Ukrainian land.

The war in Ukraine, triggered when Putin ordered troops to invade on Feb. 24, has killed tens of thousands of soldiers, touched off the worst confron-

tation with the West since the Cold War and sent the global economy into an inflationary spiral.

India has become Russia's No. 2 oil buyer after China as others have cut purchases following the invasion.

Putin told Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday he understood that Xi had concerns about the situation in Ukraine but praised Beijing's leader for a "balanced" position on the conflict.

'Colour revolutions'

Xi, on his first trip outside China since early 2020, did not mention the war in Ukraine in public.

”

I know that today's era is not an era of war, and I have spoken to you on the phone about this

NARENDRA MODI

The Chinese leader said the world had entered a new period of turmoil and that partners such as Putin and Central Asian leaders should prevent foreign powers from instigating "colour revolutions".

"The world has entered a new period of turbulent change, we must grasp the trend of the times, strengthen solidarity and cooperation, and promote the construction of a closer community of destiny with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization," Xi said.

"We should support each other's efforts to safeguard security and development interests, prevent external forces from staging colour revolutions, and jointly oppose interference in the internal affairs of other countries under any pretext."

Xi criticised "zero-sum games and bloc politics", a veiled reference to the United States which Beijing has criticised in the past for leaning on allies to counter China's spectacular rise to the status of a superpower in waiting.

Ukraine says hundreds of bodies found in mass burial site

Reuters | Kyiv

Ukrainian officials said they had found a mass burial site with hundreds of bodies in territory recaptured from Russian forces, in what President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called proof of war crimes by the invaders.

Zelenskiy told Reuters in an interview many Ukrainians were also buried in other sites in the northeast and appealed for foreign powers to step up weapons supplies, saying the outcome of the war hinged on their swift delivery.

"As of today, there are 450 dead people, buried. But there are others, separate burials of many people. Tortured people. Entire families in certain territories," Zelenskiy said in his presidential office yesterday.

The head of the pro-Russian administration which abandoned the area last week dismissed the accounts of the burials outside the city of Izium and accused Ukrainians of stage-managing atrocities. "I have not heard anything about burials in Izium," Vitaly Ganchev told Rossiya-24 state television.

Outside the city yesterday, men in white overalls were digging out bodies at the site in a forest where around 200 makeshift wooden crosses were scattered among trees. Some 20 white body bags could be seen.

"We are at the site of the mass burial of people, civilians who were buried here, and now



Ukrainian servicemen guard a mass grave site during an exhumation

As of today, there are 450 dead people, buried. But there are others, separate burials of many people. Tortured people. Entire families in certain territories

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY

according to our information they all have the signs of violent death," Kharkiv Governor Oleh Synehubov said at the site.

"There are bodies with hands tied behind (their backs). Each fact will be investigated and will be properly and legally evaluated," Synehubov said.

If the numbers of bodies are confirmed, the site in Izium, a former Russian front-line stronghold, would be the big-

gest mass burial found in Europe since the aftermath of the 1990s Balkan wars.

Russian President Vladimir Putin did not immediately respond to the accusations, and has yet to comment on the battlefield setback suffered by his forces this month. Ukrainian officials say 9,000 sq km (3,400 sq miles) have been retaken, about the size of the island of Cyprus.

But Putin defended his operations in Ukraine, saying yesterday he had sent his troops into Ukraine to prevent Western plans to break up Russia.

Speaking at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and discussing the war publicly for the first time since Ukraine routed Russian troops in the Kharkiv region last week, Putin threatened strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure, and said: "We will see how (Ukraine's counteroffensive) ends"

YOU
KNOW WHAT

If the numbers of bodies are confirmed, the site in Izium, a former Russian front-line stronghold, would be the biggest mass burial found in Europe since the aftermath of the 1990s Balkan wars

Russia regularly denies targeting civilians during what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine and has said in the past that accusations of human rights abuses are a smear campaign.

In Kupiansk, a northeastern railway junction city whose partial capture by Kyiv's forces on Saturday cut Russia's supply lines and led to the swift collapse at the front, small units of Ukrainian troops were securing a nearly deserted ghost town.

A formerly Russian-occupied police station had been hastily abandoned. Russian flags and a portrait of Putin lay on the floor amid broken glass. Records had been torched. Behind the steel doors of the station's jail cells there was blood on the floor and stains on the mattresses

CELEBS

celebs



Tom Cruise

Tom Cruise's 'Mission: Impossible 8' set interrupted by a flock of sheep

Fox | Los Angeles

Tom Cruise and the rest of the "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning - Part One" cast had to pause production after a run-in with a flock of sheep in the Lake District in England.

The actor, 60, was seen admiring the large flock as he

stood to the side to make way for the sheep passing through. Cruise was also captured mid-air attached to a blue parachute while filming a scene in the upcoming movie.

Cruise, who plays Ethan Hunt in the film series, sported a black jumpsuit as he descended back down to the ground.

Cruise also recently had a run-in with Lake District vacationers. Adam Wheeler and Lucy Hinch were walking their Siberian Husky named "Blitz" when they stumbled

upon Cruise and the movie set.

According to the Northern Echo, Cruise "happily" posed for a picture with the couple before hopping back inside of a helicopter used on set. "He was nice and polite and really humble. Tom Cruise apologized for the noise of the helicopters and asked if we were alright," Wheeler told the outlet.

"He was making sure everybody who wanted to, got their photos with him," he continued. "We were the last ones to get his picture and

then he just paraglided off the mountain back to his camp next to Buttermere."

"I have seen a few of the Mission Impossible films but haven't really watched many of his others - but I definitely will now," Wheeler added.

He shared with the outlet that Cruise was performing all his own stunts and the pair waited for about an hour to get a chance to meet the star.

Cruise was photographed jump-

ing off a mountain in the British countryside and paragliding down in July. Cruise began filming for "Mission: Impossible 8" immediately after wrapping up filming on "Mission: Impossible 7."

The films will be released as part one and part two of "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning." The coronavirus pandemic did stall filming of "Mission: Impossible 7," which is now set to be released July 14, 2023, with part two slated to debut in the summer of 2024.

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Blake Lively is expecting her fourth child.

The former 'Gossip Girl' star, 35, debuted her baby bump on the red carpet on Thursday (15.09.2022) at the 10th annual Forbes Power Women's Summit.

Blake already has three daughters - James, seven, Inez, five and Betty, two - with her husband Ryan Reynolds, who she began dating 2011 before marrying in 2012.

The pair - who keep their private life very under wraps - revealed their youngest child's name with the help of Taylor Swift, who named her 'Folklore' album track after the toddler in 2020 and later detailed how they trust the 32-year-old singer songwriter "implicitly".

Ryan, 45, said: "She's very sensitive to any of that stuff. And obviously, the song has nothing to do with our kids other than our kids' names. But I mean,

what an honor. We thought it was pretty damn amazing. We still do. You know, I still walk down the street and shake my head thinking, 'I can't believe that happened.'"

The 'Deadpool' star recently shared about his decision to step away from acting for a bit to focus on fatherhood.

Ryan said: "The biggest thing for me, and I know you have kids as well, is that I don't want to miss this time with my kids.



Blake Lively

Ryan Reynolds undergoes 'life-saving' colonoscopy

SIANS | Los Angeles

Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds had an "extremely subtle polyp" removed in a "potentially life-saving" colonoscopy.

The 'Deadpool' actor, 45, underwent the procedure with his friend Rob McElhenney, also 45, on camera in a new YouTube video to raise awareness of cancer, reports ace-showbiz.com.

Dad-of-three Reynolds, who shares his kids with actress wife Blake Lively, 35, joked he only agreed to publicly broadcast the procedure if Rob learned Welsh. He told viewers: "It's a simple step that could literally, and I mean literally, save your life."

Following his 30-minute rectal

exam, Reynolds was told by his doctor an "extremely subtle polyp" had been found.

The medic told the actor: "This was potentially life-saving for you, I'm not kidding, I'm not being overly dramatic. This is exactly why you do this. You had no symptoms."

The doctor added after he removed the growth: "You are interrupting the natural history of a disease of something of a process that could have ended up developing into cancer and causing all sorts of problems."

Rob was found to have had three polyps, but was told they were "not a big deal".

The footage was produced in partnership with Lead from Behind and

the Colorectal Cancer Alliance.

It comes after Ryan admitted about his mental health: "I've had anxiety my whole life really. And you know, I feel like I have two parts of my personality, that one takes over when that happens."



Ryan Reynolds

Blake Lively is expecting her fourth child

'Traumatized' Britney Spears may never perform again

SIANS | Los Angeles

Singer Britney Spears has claimed that she "probably won't perform again" because she's "pretty traumatized for life".

The 'Toxic' hitmaker went on about the "worst" experience ever working with "offensive people" on her live shows in the past, and she suggested that she wouldn't return to the stage again because she's "stubborn" and wants to prove her "point", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

In a since-deleted Instagram post, she had said: "The most offensive SO CALLED professional

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Britney Spears admitted last year that she was going through a "transition" in her life and isn't sure if she will ever take to the stage and perform for her fans again

pictures on every tour. I mean they could have at least cheated and re-touched them for me... just saying... two day shoots for new show in Vegas literally the worst ever...and me excited for the pictures for five months on tour...

they never showed me any." "I'd rather quit s*** in my pool and shoot photos of myself in studios over working with the most offensive people in my life."

She added: "I'm pretty traumatized for life and yes I'm p***** as f*** and no I won't probably perform again just because I'm stubborn and I will make my point."

The 40-year-old pop idol signed off the post: "kiss my God damn mother f***** a**."

The 'Lucky' singer's last tour was 'The Piece of Me Tour' in 2018.

She previously said that she has "no idea" if she'll ever perform again.

The 'Sometimes' hitmaker admitted last year that she was going through a "transition" in her life and isn't sure if she will ever take to the stage and perform for her fans again.

SUDOKU

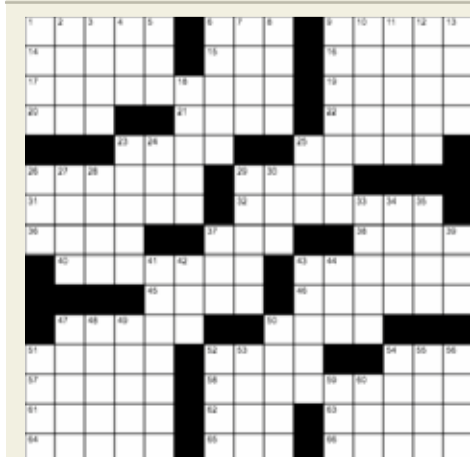
6		4				3		
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		8	1		2	7		
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8		2	3			1		
	9			5				6

Yesterday's solution

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

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- Puff up; 6- 'Michael Collins' actor; 9- Stories; 14- Western Australia's capital; 15- French connections; 16- Praying figure; 17- Muscle manipulator; 19- Self-respect; 20- Start of something?; 21- Forever's partner; 22- Loudness units; 23- Taverns; 25- Seeped; 26- Financially solvent; 29- Actress Hatcher; 31- Thin soups; 32- Prior; 36- Glow; 37- Decide; 38- ... ex machina; 40- Develop slowly; 43- Minuscule; 45- Get in a hand; 46- Killer; 47- Mimicry; 50- Travel on water; 51- Felon; 52- In excess of; 54- Messenger; 57- TV producer Michaels; 58- Lie; 61- Up and about; 62- Clay today; 63- Very; to Verdi; 64- Flat-topped hills; 65- Bit of film, to a photog; 66- Citrus hybrids;

Down

1- Fraternal org.; 2- Minus; 3- Table scraps; 4- Supped; 5- Howe'er; 6- Peruses; 7- Bluesy James; 8- Pale; 9- Garden's necessity; 10- ... con pollo; 11- Singer Frankie; 12- Finished, terminated; 13- Canonized Fr. women; 18- Trousers; 23- Little bits; 24- Nope; 25- Eight-time Norris Trophy winner; 26- Attorney's org.; 27- '60s dance; 28- Knowledge; 29- Native American tent; 30- Devour; 33- Model; 34- Start of a counting rhyme; 35- Subterfuge; 37- Polo Grounds legend; 39- Neighbor of Leb.; 41- Large ships; 42- Film director Lee; 43- Former Russian rulers; 44- Yale student; 47- ... by any other name...; 48- Harbor towns; 49- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 50- Baseball commissioner Bud; 51- A type of bake; 52- In the blink ... eye; 53- Low-lying area; 54- Drum sound; 55- Words of denial; 56- Hullabaloo; 59- Flightless bird; 60- Pig;

Yesterday's solution

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

Winners of BTC Tennis Classic Championship honoured

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of Saleh bin Isa bin Hindi Al Manaei, HM King's Advisor for Youth and Sports Affairs, the Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) Tennis Classic Championship concluded on Thursday.

The closing ceremony of the event was held in the presence of many dignitaries and VIPs, during which Al Manaei honoured the winners of the Championship.

The event was sponsored by Royal Bahrain Hospital, and among the attendees were HE Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, President of BTC, Dr Sheriff Sahadulla, the



Officials with the winners at the end of the awarding ceremony

Chief Executive Officer of KIMS Healthcare Group, Dr Faisal Al Mosawi, Khamees Mohammed Al Muqla, Chairman of the Bahrain Tennis Club, Nasser Mohammed, Head of Alayam Sports Section and Tawfiq Al

Salehi, Director of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Media Office and Information Centre.

The games of the event have been officiated by Bahraini international referee Ahmed Al

Hawaj.

"It's a privilege to be the patron of this event," Bin Hindi said, highlighting the contributions of the Bahrain Tennis Club in developing the tennis sport in Bahrain.



Officials at the closing ceremony

He also hailed the wide participation the event feature.

The event included various categories and saw participants

from various ages take part, starting from 30 years old and up to 65 years old from both genders.

Twilight of a golden era

Roger Federer, Serena Williams retiring within weeks of each other marks end of tennis' best era

● Federer and Serena helped grow the game in ways that make it impossible to envision the sport without them

Reuters | London

As Roger Federer joined Serena Williams in bringing down the curtain on an illustrious career, tennis moved ever closer to the end of a golden era.

Williams' emotional goodbye at the U.S. Open earlier this month was followed by Federer's announcement on Thursday that next week's Laver Cup in London would be his last professional outing.

Both players had taken their sport to new levels and been proclaimed the best to ever wield a racket, with 43 Grand Slam singles titles between them.

Their departures, along with the fact that Federer's great rivals Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic aren't getting any younger, have left fans looking back wistfully at a glorious period in the sport's history.

The 41-year-old Federer's decision was not unexpected given his recent struggles with injuries and form, but it was still met with an outpouring of sadness by tennis fans and former players.

"I wanted to find the perfect way to say this, as you so eloquently put this game to rest -- perfectly done, just like your career," Williams said in an Instagram post, reacting to Federer's retirement.

"I have always looked up to you and admired you. Our paths



Serena Williams (L) and Roger Federer take a selfie following their mixed doubles match on day four of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth (file photo)

"I wanted to find the perfect way to say this, as you so eloquently put this game to rest - perfectly done, just like your career. I have always looked up to you and admired you. Our paths were always so similar, so much the same. You inspired countless millions and millions of people - including me - and we will never forget"

SERENA WILLIAMS

were always so similar, so much the same. You inspired countless millions and millions of people -- including me -- and we will never forget.

"Welcome to the retirement club."

Like the 23-times Grand Slam singles champion Williams, who in 10 days will also turn 41, the

triumvirate of Federer, Nadal and Djokovic have dominated their sport for the last two decades.

And despite spending so many years on the tour, they continue to lure fans to the stands and television screens while their commercial pull still mesmerises brands and advertisers.

Williams's place in the sport was underlined by the fact that her final match at Flushing Meadows was the most-watched tennis telecast in ESPN's 43-year history while the 2022 edition broke the tournament's all-time attendance record.

'Big three'

The so-called men's 'Big Three' revolutionised the sport with their own achievements and riveting rivalries. They won a combined 63 Grand Slam singles titles between them.

Federer played Nadal 40 times while Djokovic faced the Swiss in 50 matches as the trio boosted each other and along with it the sport as a whole and brought in

The so-called men's 'Big Three' revolutionised the sport with their own achievements and riveting rivalries. They won a combined 63 Grand Slam singles titles between them

new and old fans.

Yet in recent years injuries to Williams, Federer and Nadal have brought their retirement into sharper focus. Fans and pundits have wondered how the sport would cope with the prospect of losing their most marketable athletes.

With the exit of Williams and Federer in the space of three weeks, the answers could be at hand.

At 36, Nadal is a bit younger, but a chronic foot issue forced the Spaniard to contemplate retirement in 2021 and again this year after he won a men's record 22nd major title at the French Open, playing with numbing injections before each match in Paris.

A radio frequency treatment eased pain in his foot and allowed him to play Wimbledon, but the left-hander does not know whether the injury will flare up again.

The 35-year-old Djokovic is the youngest among the trio, undoubtedly the fittest and appears to be the best bet to keep the flag flying for tennis' older generation.

Nadal's message on social media for his "friend and rival" Federer echoed the mood of the tennis world.

"I wish this day would have never come. It's a sad day for me personally and for sports around the world," Nadal said.

Djokovic hails 'incredible moments and battles' with Federer



Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer are seen during centre court centenary celebrations at Wimbledon (file photo)

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic paid tribute to his long-time rival Roger Federer yesterday, hailing the "incredible moments and battles" the pair shared on court.

"Roger, it's hard to see this day and put into words all that we've shared in this sport together," Djokovic wrote on Instagram, saying they had "over a decade of incredible moments and battles to think back on".

Djokovic and Federer played each other 50 times, with the Serb holding a 27-23 winning record.

The duo played 17 matches at Grand Slam tournaments, including five finals, with

50 matches have been played between Djokovic and Federer with the Serb holding a 27-23 winning record

"Over a decade of incredible moments and battles to think back on. Your career has set the tone for what it means to achieve excellence and lead with integrity and poise. It's an honour to know you on and off court, and for many years to come"

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

Djokovic leading that head-to-head 11-6.

"Your career has set the tone for what it means to achieve excellence and lead with integrity and poise," added the 35-year-old.

"It's an honour to know you on and off court, and for many more years to come."

Federer's last major final was the epic Wimbledon showpiece in 2019 which Djokovic won in a final-set tie-break after the Swiss had earlier missed two championship points.

Former England soccer captain Beckham queues to see Queen Elizabeth's coffin

Reuters | London

Former England soccer captain David Beckham queued for more than 13 hours alongside thousands of other mourners to see Queen Elizabeth lying in state in London yesterday.

The 47-year-old former Manchester United and Real Madrid



David Beckham leaves after paying his respects

midfielder and current co-owner of American Major League Soccer team Inter Miami, said he had joined the queue at 2.15 a.m. (0115 GMT).

"We all want to be here together, we all want to experience something where we celebrate the amazing life of our queen. Something like this

today is meant to be shared together," Beckham, who was wearing a dark flat cap and a dark suit with a black tie and appeared to be alone, told reporters in the queue.

He talked of snacking on crisps, sweets and donuts with his fellow queuers to keep their energy up.

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Bahrain senior men's national team kick off training camp



Veteran international Said Dhiya Saeed leads his teammates in drills during last night's training session

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team kicked off last night their latest training camp in the Kingdom.

The nationals are preparing for a pair of upcoming friendlies this month, which is part of their programme leading up to their highly anticipated title-defence in the Gulf Cup and the AFC Asian Cup, both happening next year.

The nationals held their opening practice session at the Hamad Town Stadium under the supervision of head coach Helio Sousa and his staff.

The Portuguese tactician has called up 24 players for this period, including Ali Madan, Abdulla Yusuf, Ali Haram, Hamad Shamsan, Jassim Al Shaikh, Komail Al Aswad, Mohammed Jassim Marhoon, Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Sayed Redha Isa, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Amine Hasan, Rashed Al Hooti, Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Waleed Al Hayam, Mahdi Humaidan, Mohammed Adel, Sayed Dhiya Saeed, Ammar Abbas, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Mahdi Abdullahif,

Hussain Al Khayyat, Jassim Khelaif, Abdulaziz Mohammed and Ebrahim Luthfallah. All but one of the players were present yesterday, with Jakarta-based Abdulla Yusuf having a club fixture today. He is scheduled to join training by Monday, according to a national team official.

The Bahrainis will play their first tune-up game next week against Cape Verde on September 23, and then face off with Panama on September 27, which will also be the final day of this training camp. Both contests are to be held at the National Stadium in Riffa, kicking off at 7pm each time.

The friendlies are the second and third warm-up games scheduled by the BFA for the senior men's team. They have added to the game Bahrain will be playing against FIFA World Cup 2022 participants Serbia on November 18, also at home.

Both Cape Verde and Panama are classified above Bahrain in the FIFA World Ranking. Cape Verde are in the Confederation of African Football, and they are currently 72nd in the world.

Bahrain beat Bhutan in Asian U-20 football

Hosts keep hopes alive of finishing as Group B winners with second successive victory in qualification for AFC U-20 Asian Cup 2023

TDT | Manama

Bahrain made the most of home-field advantage and posted a hard-earned 2-1 victory over Bhutan last night in the Group B qualifiers for the AFC U-20 Asian Cup 2023, currently being held in the Kingdom.

Skipper Mohammed Mubarak Habib and midfielder Salem Isa Aldoseri were both on target for the hosts on either side of half-time.

For Bhutan, forward Santa Kumar Limboo fired in their consolation goal.

The result earned the Bahrainis their second successive victory of the qualifiers, while Bhutan suffered their third loss in four games.

Bahrain stayed in second place on the division standings after improving to seven points, while Bhutan completed their qualification campaign with three points from a single victory.

The nationals remained behind Qatar on the Group B table. The Qataris outclassed Bangladesh 3-0 in yesterday's other game to remain undefeated in three matches.

The result kept them in first place with nine points, while Bangladesh suffered their first



Bahrain's Mubarak Mohammed Habib tries to keep possession of the ball against Bhutan's Karma Tashi Jamtsho

loss and are third with four points.

Only one matchday remains in the qualifiers being held in Bahrain. That will be played tomorrow, with Nepal taking on Bangladesh at 6pm followed by Qatar and Bahrain clashing at 9pm. Both fixtures will take place at the Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium in Arad.

The Bahrainis' match with their Qatari counterparts will determine the Group B winners, who will earn an automatic spot at next year's AFC U-20 Asian Cup.

A draw or loss for Bahrain could put them in second place in the division, and they will hope to be one of the best five

runners-up from the qualifiers to secure their place in the tournament proper.

In Bahrain's win last night, the home side took the lead in the 20th minute after being awarded a penalty when Abdulla Jamal Hashem was taken down in the box by Bhutan goalkeeper Dorji Gyeltshen.

Habib stepped up to take the spot kick and he sent his effort

to the right of the net. That was enough to put the Bahrainis ahead heading into the locker rooms.

In the second half, Habib was this time the supplier of the assist that led to their second goal in the 60th minute. His low cross from the right was left uncleared by the Bhutan defence, and Aldoseri pounced and tapped the ball in from close range.

The nationals should have tripled their advantage just three minutes later when they were given another penalty after midfielder Sayed Ali Naser was tripped in the area by Bhutan defender Kinzang Tshering, but Habib's left-footed shot was poorly hit and was saved by Gyeltshen.

The visitors then gave Bahrain a scare when they reduced the deficit in the 76th minute with their lone goal—a left-footed effort to the bottom-right corner by Limboo.

Group B standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Qatar	3	3	0	0	11	9
Bahrain	3	2	1	0	7	7
Bangladesh	3	1	1	1	-2	4
Bhutan	4	1	0	3	-6	3
Nepal	3	0	0	3	-10	0

'Exceptional' Haaland can get even better, says Guardiola

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola has described Erling Haaland as the "perfect person" to manage but says the prolific Manchester City striker can get even better.

Guardiola compared the Norwegian to Johan Cruyff in mid-week after his superb late winner against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League.

The strike was Haaland's 13th in just nine appearances since his £51 million (\$58 million) move to the Etihad Stadium from Dortmund in the summer transfer window.

"He's an exceptional striker, I've said it many times," City boss Guardiola told reporters yesterday.

"But at the age he is, and I think he has ambition, he wants to be better and I think he will be better."

"He's a perfect person to manage. He's a nice guy and this is the most important thing."

"The quality he has he had before he came here and he has continued to do what he has done. We didn't add many things."

City, second in the Premier League, are back in action at Wolves in the early kick-off on Saturday.

The champions won 5-1 at Molineux, with four goals from



Manchester City's Erling Haaland, right, scores his side's second goal

26

goals have been scored by Erling Haaland in 21 in the Champions League games

Kevin De Bruyne, on their last visit in May but Guardiola expects a different encounter this time.

He feels Wolves are a much tougher proposition than their record of one win in six league games suggests.

"It's a completely different team to previous seasons. They played five at the back with (Conor) Coady, now they decide to play with four and I'm really impressed with the way they play," Guardiola said.

"Their position in the table is because football is unpredictable and sometimes you don't get what you deserve."

"They have a lot of good things in terms of central defenders making a good process and when they attack they have incredible runners, a lot of talent."

"We have to be mentally prepared, otherwise it will be difficult."

While City can rely on

“He’s an exceptional striker, I’ve said it many times. But at the age he is, and I think he has ambition, he wants to be better and I think he will be better. He’s a perfect person to manage. He’s a nice guy and this is the most important thing

PEP GUARDIOLA

Haaland's predatory instincts, Wolves have found it harder to score this far this term.

Bruno Lage's team have netted just three times in six league games, prompting the free transfer signing of Spanish striker Diego Costa this week.

But the 33-year-old, a two-time Premier League champion with Chelsea, has not played since leaving Brazilian club Atletico Mineiro in January and Lage admits he will need time to make an impact.

"When Sasa (Kalajdzic) got injured Diego was available, so it was time to talk to him and convince him to come to us," Lage said.

"He is fit, there are no problems but he needs to be ready to compete at this level."

Mourinho urges Roma forwards to be 'mean'



AS Roma coach Jose Mourinho reacts during a match (file photo)

Reuters | Rome

AS Roma manager Jose Mourinho called on his strikers to shake off the "playmaker bug" and focus on scoring goals after his side beat HJK Helsinki 3-0 in the Europa League on Thursday but passed up several chances to inflict a heavier defeat.

Roma scored three times in the second half to beat 10-man HJK in their Group C encounter, with Andrea Belotti recording his first goal for the club since joining last month.

"We need to improve in how quickly we move the ball,"

“We need to improve in how quickly we move the ball. Our forwards need to be mean; we waste too many openings

JOSE MOURINHO

Mourinho said. "Our forwards need to be mean; we waste too many openings."

The Portuguese manager said that new striker Belotti seemed to have caught the "playmaker bug".