

Encourage lifts National Day Cup

Al Mohamediya Racing contender takes feature race as one of five wins yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club | P12

SATURDAY
DECEMBER, 2022
220 FILLS
ISSUE NO.9416



Jennifer Lawrence feels 'guilty' as a mom

8 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Child workers detected throughout Hyundai-Kia supply chain, Alabama

Martyrs' Day

TDT | Manama

Bahrain can never forget its sons who had defended its honour, said HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, affirming that the Martyrs' Day represent an immortal national epic and will remain a beacon that illuminates our paths.

The representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs was speaking on the occasion of Bahraini Martyrs' Day, celebrated on December 17 each year.

"The Day carries forward the stories of sacrifices, pride, dignity, gains and patriarchy written by people of Bahrain in various arenas."

Shaikh Nasser added, "The leadership, government and people of Bahrain appreciate the sacrifices of its righteous martyrs and will not be forgotten."



Fireworks held yesterday in Bahrain as part of National Days celebrations

HRH Prince Salman orders to distribute 6,128 houses

TDT | Manama

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday ordered to distribute 6,128 housing services to citizens

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister also ordered the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to start the process in all governorates of the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness' directive is in line with the implementation of the Royal Directive to provide appropriate housing for citizens through sustained investment, innovative solutions, and private sector partnerships.

Man in the dock over Al Naim attack

TDT | Manama

Capital Police Directorate took legal action against a 54-year-old Bahraini man for assaulting several Asian nationals in the Al Naim area.

Interior Ministry in a statement said the attack was over personal disputes.

The case is being referred to Public Prosecution.

'Joy is back in our lives'

HM King patronises National Days celebrations, honours national work pioneers

TDT | Manama

The National Days have brought joy back to our lives to their former states, thanks to God, said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday, patronising a ceremony held at Al-Sakhir Palace celebrating National Days.

The event was in the presence of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Every new commemoration of this day, HM King said, fills more confidence in our progress, in building towards the goal of advancement and prosperity of honourable citizens.

"It's a matter to which our esteemed Government is committed and strives with determination and diligence," said HM King.

In this regard, HM King highlighted the need to commend national endeavours undertaken, including the Economic Recovery Plan, whose positive impact extends to all sectors.

"We are proud of the active role of financial and economic support programmes, particularly in facing the economic and health difficulties," HM King



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday awarded an elite group of officials from various entities with the National Action Medal of the First Degree. The honourees included BIC Corporate Services Director Beshara Abdu Beshara.

said, directing to raise the efficiency of the programmes and equitable access.

HM King also called for continuing developing plans for the housing sector in partnership with the private sector to ensure decent and suitable housing for

citizens, commending the government for its achievements in the housing sector.

On the alternative sanctions and measures, HM King said it gives new hope to their families and contributes to the building of society. "Our country contin-

ues to preserve and protect human rights under the auspices of its independent legal institutions, and among the results of those efforts is the comprehensive programme of alternative sanctions and measures," said HM King.

HM King said this special occasion brings us together and celebrates the pioneers of national actions.

"The day honours their efforts and outstanding services, which we greatly appreciate," HM King said.

"We will not find a more remarkable day in the country to express pride in their leadership and excellence and thank them for giving this day its most beautiful meaning."

Earlier, HM King and cavalry were honoured with 21 rounds of an artillery salute upon arrival.

National Days commemorate the establishment of the modern Bahraini State as an Arab and Muslim state, founded by Ahmed Al Fateh in 1783, the anniversary of its membership in the United Nations, and the anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.

World's largest freestanding cylindrical aquarium bursts



Emergency services work after a leak of the AquaDom aquarium

Reuters | Berlin

An aquarium in Berlin that was home to around 1,500 exotic fish burst early on Friday, spilling 1 million litres (264,172 gallons) of water and debris onto a major road in the busy Mitte district, emergency services said.

Around 100 emergency responders rushed to the site, a leisure complex that also houses a Radisson hotel and a museum as well as the aquarium.

Sea Life Berlin offered glass elevator rides through the Aquadom aquarium, which it says was the world's largest freestanding cylindrical aquarium at 14 metres (46 ft) in height.

Two people were injured by splinters of glass, and police evacuated the hotel in the complex on concern that there could be structural damage. "Just chaos. The whole aquarium burst and what's left is total devastation. Lots of dead fish, debris," hotel guest Sandra Weeser told Reuters.

Search and rescue dogs scoured the ground floor of the building, which was too littered with debris for responders to access, but found no casualties, the Berlin fire brigade said on Twitter. A spokesperson for the fire brigade said it was still unclear what had caused the AquaDom aquarium to burst.



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority yesterday took legal action against several for violations related to labour and residency laws. The campaigns were in cooperation with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs and the Northern Governorate Police Directorate. LMRA renewed its call on all to support the efforts of government agencies to address illegal labour practices. Report violations through www.lmra.bh or by calling 17506055.

220 fills (includes VAT)



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Google doodle spotlights National Days

National Days celebrations continue in the Kingdom, around the globe

TDT | Manama

Celebrations of National Days are continuing all across the Kingdom and abroad, with tech giant Google also joining the party yesterday wearing a red and white-themed livery.

The search engine joined the festivities by wearing a dedicated animated Google Doodle featuring the red and white flag and wrote: "Today's Doodle celebrates Bahrain National Day."

An explanation followed: "National Day celebrations span two days, as the sound of violins and rebabs fill the air with traditional Khaleeji music. Majestic fireworks, cultural concerts, acrobatic performances, magic, and laser shows entertain people until sundown. In the evening, colourful lights illuminate up to half a mile of city streets and walkways. Buildings across the country are decorated with national flags—like the one found in today's Doodle."

"Happy National Day, Bahrain!"

Google had also come up with doodles for Bahrain in 2021, 2020, 2019 and many other times, celebrating National Days.

In one such instance, Google termed Bahrain as the "Pearl of the Gulf" and said, "Bahrain commemorates over 6,000 years of history with two days of events including fireworks, vibrant decorations, and cultural parades filled with song and dance."

The doodle artwork illustrates the red and white flag, formally adopted by Bahrain in 2002.

"The flag's two-colour design traces its origins back to the 1820 General Treaty of Peace with the UK, when Bahrain added the white band to the existing red background to symbolise the harmonious relationship between the two countries," Google wrote in 2020.

In 2021, the tech giant appreciated the significant development of Bahrain along with a doodle. "Since achieving independence in 1971, Bahrain has undergone significant developments in its economy, education, and healthcare, transforming the nation into a key financial, commercial, and tourist centre of the Gulf."

Drones enter

Things were interesting not in the cyber world alone. Just like in the online world, there was also no shortage of celebrations in the real world too, as in Manama where drones took matters up a level into the sky.

National slogans, wordings of love and artistic performance lit the skies, creating a splendid display for citizens and residents to enjoy.

As drones move out, lasers entered the stage, following which the Public Security Band handled the proceedings.

Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Capital Governor, said the national holidays present a good opportunity to express our deep affection and love for the nation and its leadership.

In the Northern Governorate, Ali bin Sheikh Abdul Hussain Al-Asfoor, Northern Governor, led the celebrations with an Arda organised in cooperation with the General Foundation

Bahrain on track towards optimising landmark achievements: HM King



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday affirmed that Bahrain is on track towards optimising its landmark achievements, strengthening its leading status and meeting the aspirations of its loyal people.

HM said this while receiving members of the Royal Family

Council at the Al-Sakhir Palace in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Members of the council lauded the tremendous efforts exerted by HM King Hamad to enhance the kingdom's relations with brotherly and friendly countries.

HM King Hamad welcomed

and exchanged with them congratulations.

Separately, HM King received the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musallam, the Chairman of the Shura (Consultative) Council, Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, and their deputies at the Sakhir Palace.

HM King Hamad expressed his pride in the top role played

by the legislative branch to develop national action, strengthen the democratic process, defend national interests and fulfil the aspirations of citizens.

King Hamad also commended the dedicated efforts of Bahrainis to serve the Kingdom in all fields and enhance its status at various international gatherings.



2022



2021



2020



2019

The evolution of Google doodle celebrating Bahrain's National Days

for the King Fahd Causeway and Bahraini Arda Society. Brigadier General Khaled Rabia Sinan Al-Dosari, Deputy Governor and a number of officials in the governorate and the General Corporation for the King Fahd Causeway were also present.

Meanwhile, making the festivities vibrant, with a global touch, were embassies of the Kingdom around the globe.

In a ceremony hosted by Ibrahim Mahmoud Ahmed Abdullah, Ambassador to Tunisia, prominent personalities including Fathi Al-Salouti, Minister of Education, representative of the Tunisian government and am-

bassadors representing brotherly and friendly countries took part.

Celebrations in Japan were led by the Ambassador of Bahrain to Japan, Ahmed Mohammed Al-Dosari. Festivities there also coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Bahraini-Japanese diplomatic relations.

The embassy organised an exhibition on the Bahraini natural pearl and gold industry.

Abu Dhabi

In Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Ambassador of Bahrain to the Arab Emirates, led a celebration



The Russian Space Agency Roscosmos yesterday presented a picture of Bahrain taken from the Russian Spacecraft. The picture titled "This is how Bahrain looks from space" was presented by Russian astronaut Sergey Kudsvorckov to Ahmed Abdulrahman Al Saati, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Russian Federation.

with the participation of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, and ministers, accredited ambassadors, senior military officials, prominent figures in the country and citizens.

From Russia with Love

Ambassador Bahrain to the Russian Federation, Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Saati, led festivities in Russia. Special Envoy of the Russian President to the Middle East and Africa, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mikhail Bogdanov, congratulated the government and people of Bahrain.

He said, "Russian Federation is proud of the strength of bilateral relations and the bonds of cooperation that bind the leadership and people of the two friendly countries."

Mikhail Bogdanov also praised the continuous progress and growth witnessed by Bahrain, the establishment of democratic institutions and commitment to the principles of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and interfaith dialogue, praising the great success achieved by the parliamentary elections that took place in the Kingdom.

Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Russian Parliament, Leonid Slutsky, said Russia is looking forward to strengthening and intensifying joint bilateral cooperation and coordination.

Besides, Moscow decorated its streets with Bahraini flags, including the bridges over the Moskva River near Kremlin in Central Moscow.

Oman

Similarly, celebrations in Oman were led by Dr Juma Ahmed Al-Kaabi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Sultanate of Oman.

Students join hands

Another notable sight yesterday was the love for homeland expressed by people of determination in government schools across the Kingdom.

Student Fatima Ahmed Al-Khayyat from Al-Rawda Elementary School for Girls said: "The love of the homeland has always lived in my eyes."

Muhammad Fadl Halim from the Secondary Religious Institute, Abdul Rahman Al-Dulaimi from Hamad Town Secondary School for Boys, Fatima Al-Dairi from Fatima Bint Al-Khat-tab Primary School for Girls, Adam Moatsem Muhammad from Ammar bin Yasser Primary School for Boys, Farah

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday conferred medals on national work pioneers

The honorees are:

1. Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa
2. Faeqa bint Saeed Al-Saleh
3. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Romaihi
4. Ayman bin Tawfiq Al-Moayyed
5. Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa
6. Eman Ahmed Al-Dossari
7. Osama Saleh Al-Alawi
8. Major-General Mohammad Abdulla Al-Noaimi
9. Brigadier-General Fahd Mohammed Al-Humaidan Al-Najdi
10. Brigadier-General Dr. Hassan Mohammad Noor
11. Brigadier-General Mohammed bin Mohammed bin Dinah
12. Colonel Tariq Ahmed Ali Al-Buflasa
13. Warrant Officer Ahmed Mohammad Ali Mohammad
14. Abdulla Jihad Abdulla Al-Zain
15. Faisal Mohammed Hassan Al-Mahroos
16. Ghassan Ali Muhanna Mohammed Al-Muhanna
17. Mark Joseph Thomas
18. Mazen Mohammed Ahmad Mattar
19. Ahmed Yousif Talib Abdulghani
20. Abdulla Ali Al-Binkhalil
21. Mustafa Mohammed Ahmed Mustafa
22. Nawaf Abdulla Hamza
23. Shaikha Mariam bint Abdulwahhab Al Khalifa
24. Chancellor Rashid Mohammed Bu Najma
25. Abdulla Khalid Ahmed Al-Nassari
26. Mohammed Khalid Al-Fadhala
27. Hamad Ali Al-Mannai
28. Ambassador Ali Jassim Al-Arabi
29. Nada Ahmed Mustafa
30. Adnan Abdulwahhab Eshaq
31. Kefaya Habib Al-Anzoor
32. Akbar Jassim Ashour
33. Ziyad Adel Darwish
34. Fatima Abdulghani Ismail
35. Amna Ali Al-Arriyad
36. Huda Mirza Abbas Al-Salman
37. Mohammad Yusuf Al-Binfalah
38. Ramzi Raisan Al-Badran
39. Najlaa Mohammed Qassim Al-Shirawi
40. Dr. Haitham Ali Jahrami
41. Dr. Abdulla Mohammed Al-Khan
42. Badriya Jassim Al-Kuwaiti
43. Marwan Fuad Salman Kamal
44. Alia Ali Al-Aali
45. Mustafa Aqeel Al-Shaikh
46. Lama Abbas Saeed Al Mahroos
47. Abdullhussain Ibrahim Isa
48. Beshara Abdo Beshara
49. Hanan Ibrahim Al Emadi
50. Mohammed Salman Makki Habib
51. Ahmed Abdulghani Isa Ahmed Madan
52. Nabeel Abdulrahman Ajur
53. Hussain Jassim Mohammed Ali Al-Sakran
54. Khalifa Yacub Yousif Al-Amer
55. Mohammed Jassim Al-Amer.

Ahmed from Kairouan Preparatory School for Girls and several other joined hands in love for Bahrain.

The University of Bahrain also joined the festivities with several events with the participation of a large number of students. Art exhibition, Taekwondo performances, and productive families were part of the event.

Legends at Al Dana

The live performances at Al Dana Theatre also added more colour to festivities yesterday.

"It was a pleasure to welcome an elite group of Gulf singers to our theatre to revive our celebrations of the National Day," said Shane Chalmers, CEO of Al Dana Theatre.

Deadly combination! Cats, cars and cold

Call to save feline lives as incidents of cats getting trapped under hoods on rise

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Following many incidents with cats getting trapped under vehicles or hit by motorists on highways, animal lovers in the Kingdom have urged drivers to exercise caution.

As temperature drops, cats spot unusual places for warmth, and mostly under hoods too! Stray cats are the culprits here, who could not afford the luxury of a comfy shelter.

Residents who have witnessed such incidents or had saved a few felines from disaster warn people to watch their cars before accelerating away.

They also urge motorists to



abandoned pets become feral as they have to fend for themselves.

"Now, feral cats are said to have outnumbered dogs as it is impossible to reintroduce cats to a new owner.

Another cat lover said, "I think reducing the amount of freely available food will reduce the attractiveness of an area to the cats and thus help in population control."

"People should understand that left-out food not just attracts cats, but also rats and other unsavoury pets.

"The most effective way of controlling the population is by capturing the adult cats and having them sterilised and releasing them back to the community.



”
I think reducing the amount of freely available food will reduce attractiveness of an area to the cats and thus help in population control. People should understand the left out food not just attracts cats, but also rats and other unsavoury pets.

A CAT LOVER

take care not to run over cats on the streets.

Mishel Fernandes, an animal enthusiast and cat owner, told The Daily

Tribune, "I reside in Adliya, and I notice a lot of cats in my region every time.

"It's heartbreaking to witness animals getting struck by cars. "Since owners either unintentionally or consciously abandon them, stray cats have become a major issue in the Kingdom.

"When pets become disruptive or grow too large, people abandon them. These cats are often left alone on the property or dropped off on the roadside.

"Such animals are often discovered after foreclosure when the new realtor enters the home.

"Animals fortunate enough to survive were discovered often in poor condition due to lack of resources such as water and food."

She also pointed out: "These

"Pets won't survive in the wild without resources, which means they are at a disadvantage whenever they are left without humans to watch over them.

"Many are left to starve or become dehydrated.

I request the concerned authorities in the Kingdom to look into the issues of stray cats."

What happens to a cat that is relocated or abandoned? He will be frightened and run off in a panic looking for his "home." He will use considerable energy searching for his original home and have no known food source or shelter. Many of these cats starve or die from exposure within weeks or a few short months.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Pardoned inmates & their families thank HM King

TDT | Manama

Inmates who had gained their freedom for a second chance in life through Royal Pardon on the occasion of Bahrain celebrating National Days yesterday expressed their gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HM King had pardoned 361 people serving jail terms in various cases, presenting them with an opportunity to integrate into society anew and participate in the Kingdom's development march.

The inmates were released as per the provision of the Alternative Penal Code.

Families said the royal pardon confirms the paternal gesture of HM King and "it has warmed our hearts."

"Our children have been returned to our arms again.

"They now can return to their normal lives by turning a new page for a stable and prosperous future."



Bahrain Cancer Society explains the importance of receiving annual tests

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Cancer is a disease that does not come with very early warning signs; therefore, it is crucial to receive annual tests to ensure you are in good health.

According to the World Cancer Research Fund International, there were an estimated 18.1 million cancer cases globally in 2020. Of the 18.1 m cases, 9.3m were in men, and 8.8 m were in women, the study states.

The study states that with the growing number of cancer cases, prevention is a significant public health challenge of the 21st century.

With changing lifestyles and higher rates of obesity, the incidence of cancer is bound to rise over the years to come, the study reports.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Abdul Rahman Ebrahim Fakhro, President of the Bahrain Cancer Society, said: "Any disease has a cause and discovering the causes of cancer may spare future generations. Specific types of cancers have definitive causes and cures."

"Smoking cigarettes can affect the lungs leading to lung cancer. Environment having chemical and ionising radiation can lead to cancer, as is obesity. Consumption of fatty foods, roasted food, and canned food are all unhealthy lifestyle habits that could lead to future health problems like cancer."

Unfortunately, there are no very early symptoms or signs of cancer, as it usually starts in silence. "So, it is essential to practice self-examination to be aware of Breast Cancer, Hodgkin's that affects the lymphatic system and non-Hodgkin's," said Fakhro.

"Individuals should take routine medical check-ups and seek medical advice if they have noticed any change like loss of weight, mass in the abdomen, persistent respiratory manifestation, or gastro-intestinal manifestation."

There are specific cancers that have been increasing in the Kingdom. "We have noticed that prostate cancer numbers have been increasing in the Kingdom; therefore, we advise people to be aware of this and do a PSA test annually. Additionally, we documented that ovarian cancer has surpassed the cancer of the uterus; therefore, we again advise ladies that have reached menopause or contain a family history of cancer to receive ovarian sonography annually," added Fakhro.

Thankfully, the cancer of Os-Cervix has been controlled, as the Ministry of Health introduced new health measures like the PAP smear examination, which is free of charge. Also, this test has been mandatory and widely used at health centres for all women over the last thirty years and more."

All individuals must seek routine check-ups to catch the early stages of cancer.



The most common cancers are breast, lung, colon and rectum and prostate cancers. Around one-third of deaths from cancer are due to tobacco use, high body mass index, alcohol consumption, low fruit and vegetable intake, and lack of physical activity.

Killing brother: Public Prosecution denies social media reports

TDT | Manama

The Deputy Head of the Family and Child Prosecution yesterday rejected social media reports about an accused killing his brother.

"Reports spreading on social media are false," the prosecutor said, denying the 'veracity' of the stories published online.

Prosecutors confirmed: "It was the victim who got released on the day of the incident."

He returned to his family home, where he fought with his brother, who used a white weapon to attack the victim and killed him immediately.

Reports had said that the person had assaulted his brother at



his home with a knife.

Following the incident, prosecutors said they had examined the crime scene with experts

from the Criminal Laboratory Department of the General Department of Investigations and Forensic Evidence.

Following this, a coroner examined the body.

The accused, Public Prosecution had said, admitted the crime he committed.

He told investigators that he had personal grudges against him.

Public Prosecution also conducted a photographic examination of the crime scene and ordered the accused to pre-trial detention, pending further investigation.

Reports also said that investigations are underway to determine the circumstances of the crime and expedite technical reports for referring the accused to a criminal trial.

'Russia to aid Bahrain's space programmes'

Bahrain-Russia bilateral ties are scaling new heights, says Russian envoy to the Kingdom

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

From space to investments and agriculture to education, Russia and Bahrain have been building relationships encompassing many spheres. In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Russian Ambassador Alexey Skosyrev says based on the MoU signed between the National Space Studies Agency of Bahrain and Roskosmos, bilateral ties in the field are set to soar higher via expertise exchanges, capacity building and training of specialists.

Excerpts:
1) Your Excellency, how does Russia see the visit of Pope Francis to the Kingdom of Bahrain?

The Bahrain Dialogue Forum and the visit of His Holiness the Pope are truly historic events. We hope they will contribute positively to building confidence between the people of the region and all over the world. And of course, it underscores the status of the Kingdom as a promoter of peaceful co-existence and communication between civilizations. Like Bahrain, Russia is a staunch advocate of cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue. Our leadership spares no effort in promoting the values of religious tolerance both domestically and internationally. Russia fully supports the initiatives in this regard.

This position was confirmed by the wide participation of the delegations from the Russian Federation to include especially those from the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Orthodox Church and Russian Muslim organisations in the event.

2) One of the core milestones in the bilateral



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah Al Zayani during the joint press conference in Manama

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court jailed a 40-year-old man for five years on charges of laundering BD2 million and conning a GCC businessman out of BD3m by playing as an investor.

The court also slapped him with a fine of BD100,000 and



His Majesty with President Putin ties between Russia and Bahrain has been the partnership between the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and Mumtalakat. Will the sanctions on Russia by the West affect the progress of this partnership?

I don't believe it has. Prior to my arrival in Bahrain, I had a meeting with key executives of RDIF in Moscow focused on the Mumtalakat-RDIF co-investment agreement. They reassured me that there are no palpable sanction risks for the investments made by the Bahraini sovereign wealth fund. More than that, I believe that it's the right time to concentrate our efforts on direct investments instead of portfolio ones. This is the case, by the way, reflected in the RDIF-Mumtalakat Memorandum concerning the possibility of building a Russian pharmaceutical factory in Bahrain. In fact, the illegitimate Western sanctions imposed on our country provide a lot of new opportunities for Russian-Bahraini cooperation.

The current geopolitical situation gives us reasons to expect that the investors from Russia will be more active in the GCC region soon, as its market is becoming a much more attractive

destination for their assets and funds than the jurisdictions that proved to be unreliable like the EU, UK and US.

It also enables our partners from abroad, including Bahraini private sector operators, to acquire the lucrative businesses left by Western companies despite their profitability under favourable conditions. Subsequently, their shares in the Russian market are now open for direct suppliers and mediators from other parts of the world, too. For sure, these items will be on the agenda of my future meeting with Mumtalakat.

3) Your Excellency, could you speak on the cooperation in the education sector between Russia and Bahrain? What advantages does Russia have compared to the educational institutions in the West?

It's been a long and successful tradition in my country to provide technical assistance and transfer of knowledge to many countries, including Bahrain. Our approach is different from the Western one where universities are more engaged in indoctrinating students instead of informing them. Yet, some 150 young people from Bahrain to date study in Russia to get higher education in engineering, medicine, chemistry, petrochemicals, oil and gas and beyond, which is not surprising if we take into account that our universities combine high-quality tuition with reasonable fees.

The number of Bahraini students receiving education free of charge, as part of our federal government scholarship programme, and the number of seats allocated to Bahrainis has increased recently. We also intend to rejuvenate the agreement signed between the Uni-



Russian Ambassador Alexey Skosyrev

versity of Bahrain (UoB) and the Russian University of Peoples Friendship, a major educational vehicle and think-tank in Russia that has a very high rating in medicine, law, linguistics and more. We also will be reaching out to UoB and other major faculties in Bahrain to train our young professionals in Islamic banking, as Bahrain is an internationally acclaimed leader in this field.

4) Is there any ongoing cooperation in the space sector between the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Bahrain?

In May 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Space Studies Agency of Bahrain and a state corporation of the Russian Federation responsible for space flights, cosmonautics programmes, and aerospace research known as Roskosmos. This document contains the provisions concerning bilateral cooperation in the field of space exploration via expertise exchanges, capacity building and training of specialists.

Russia retains leadership in space technologies, and as Bahrain embarks on the opportunity to co-develop relevant joint projects we expect that the practical implementation of this MoU would give a major boost to the space programme of the Kingdom.

5) Your Excellency, has the war in Ukraine affected Russia's image in the Middle East including countries like Bahrain? If at all that has happened how could damage control be done?

We have witnessed un-

● Like Bahrain, Russia is a staunch advocate of cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue. Our leadership spares no effort in promoting the values of religious tolerance both domestically and internationally. Russia fully supports the initiatives in this regard.

● The current geopolitical situation gives us reasons to expect that the investors from Russia will be more active in the GCC region in the near future, as its market is becoming a much more attractive destination.

● We will look for increased incentives and opportunities to promote Bahrain in Russia, including tourism and doing-business-in-Bahrain conferences, seminars, special events and the like.

from both sides in comparison with their Euro-Atlantic partners.

Russian-based channels and newsfeeds broadcasting in Arabic (like RT Arabic and Sputnik) are also available here. As a result, the general public in the Middle East, and Bahrain in particular, understands the true complexity of the situation, it sees clearly that in reality Ukraine is being used by the manipulators from abroad as a weapon against our country. More than that, quite regularly we actually receive letters and messages of solidarity from Bahraini citizens and residents.

6) Your Excellency, could you speak on Russian firms operating in the Kingdom?

As of now, Russian firms generally supply goods and services to the Bahraini market without active branches here. At the same time, the expansion of our businesses to the Kingdom is being studied by several Russian companies from various fields, including IT, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and banking. Still, although Bahrain provides one of the best business environments in GCC, which is certainly on par or excels that of other neighbouring countries, there is much room for improvement with incentives so that big Russian corporations could expand investment in Bahrain as a country of their destination and business development.

We will look for increased incentives and opportunities to promote Bahrain in Russia, including tourism and doing business-in-Bahrain conferences, seminars, special events and the like. Such a promotion is a must for mid-size companies who are seeking relocation to GCC countries. The goal is to make Bahrain a centerpiece in the GCC of doing business for Russians. We have to visualize this as soon as possible.

7) Your Excellency, when can we expect Vladimir Putin's visit to the Kingdom?

HE President Putin maintains constant communication with HM King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, with whom he has cordial ties of friendship. They conducted a phone conversation quite recently, on September 30. Our leaders are eager to meet in person in the near future, as in 2014 and 2016, while the precise modalities of their possible meeting – its timing and whereabouts will most likely be discussed in their upcoming contacts.

tarnish the relations between Russia and the Middle East nations by certain Western states through their loyal media networks. Thankfully, people in the region do not live in "the information bubble": Arab news agencies and papers and especially Bahraini media tend to give substantially more objective coverage of the events in Ukraine based on the sources

Man gets five years in jail for laundering BD 2 million

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court jailed a 40-year-old man for five years on charges of laundering BD2 million and conning a GCC businessman out of BD3m by playing as an investor.

The court also slapped him with a fine of BD100,000 and

ordered to seize from him BD2,517,709 as money or properties.

The man, court files say, lured victims by selling the idea of investing in real estate and introducing several others claiming to be investment partners.

Following the meetings, the

victim made six transfers totalling BD3 million for investing in Bahrain and other Gulf Countries, where the suspect promised a 12% to 15% interest.

Starting in 2011 and up to 2015, the victim was handed over profits of up to BD85,000 but stopped afterwards.

The developments led to the victim investigating the investor, only to find he had several money laundering cases against his name and that the Central Bank of Bahrain had cancelled the registrations of institutions under his name, making it illegal for him to collect funds.

According to the General Di-

rectorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, the defendant worked in an international bank and owned several contracting establishments, all of which were cancelled by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce several years ago.

Further investigations re-

vealed that the defendant had defrauded several with the promise of investment.

Police also found him as a fugitive sentenced to prison in other cases and had illegally fled to Europe.

The names he used in investment contracts are fictitious ones to deceive victims.

Child workers detected throughout Hyundai-Kia supply chain, Alabama

● The employment of children at Hwashin and Ajin hasn't been previously reported

● As many as 10 Alabama plants that supply parts to Hyundai or Kia have been investigated for child labour

Reuters | Greenville, Alabama

At least four major suppliers of Hyundai Motor Co and sister Kia Corp have employed child labour at Alabama factories in recent years, a Reuters investigation found, and state and federal agencies are probing whether kids have worked at as many as a half dozen additional manufacturers throughout the automakers' supply chain in the southern U.S. state.

At a plant owned by Hwashin America Corp, a supplier to the two car brands in the south Alabama town of Greenville, a 14-year-old Guatemalan girl worked this May assembling auto body components, accord-



Authorities caught wind of child workers in Hyundai's supply chain when a school official heard kids missed class to work at Hwashin, which builds body parts in Greenville

ing to interviews with her father and law enforcement officials. At plants owned by Korean auto-parts maker Ajin Industrial Co, in the east Alabama town of Cusseta, a former production engineer told Reuters he worked with at least 10 minors. And six other ex-employees of Ajin said they, too, worked alongside multiple underage laborers.

In two separate statements sent by the same public relations firm, Hwashin and Ajin said their policies forbid the hiring of any worker not of legally employable age. Using identical language, both companies said they hadn't, "to the best of our knowledge," hired underage

workers. The employment of children at Hwashin and Ajin hasn't been previously reported. The news follows a Reuters report in July that revealed the use of child workers, one as young as 12, by SMART Alabama LLC, a Hyundai subsidiary in the south Alabama town of Luverne. In August, the U.S. Department of Labor said that SL Alabama LLC, another Hyundai supplier and a unit of South Korea's SL Corp, employed underage workers, including a 13-year-old, at its factory in Alexander City.

Since then, as many as 10 Alabama plants that supply parts to Hyundai or Kia have been investigated for child labour by various state and federal law en-

forcement or regulatory agencies, according to two people familiar with the probes. The investigations are being conducted across small towns and rural outposts where many of the suppliers and the job recruiters that staff them are located. It isn't yet clear whether the probes will lead to criminal charges, fines or other penalties, the two people said.

On Aug. 22 a team of Labour Department and Alabama state inspectors arrived unannounced at one of Ajin's plants, according to people familiar with the operation. As the team arrived, workers rushed out the back and left the premises before they could be questioned, one of the inspectors told a meeting of Alabama's anti-human trafficking task force last month, according to two people who attended. The inspection hasn't previously been reported.

A Labour Department spokesman, Eric Lucero, told Reuters that the agency's Wage and Hour Division has an open investigation into Ajin, but declined to confirm whether the probe was related to child labor.

In its statement, Ajin said it "will cooperate fully" with any investigations by regulators and law enforcement.

Aramco and TotalEnergies to build \$11 bn Saudi petrochemicals plant

Reuters | Paris

Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Aramco) and TotalEnergies (TEF.PA) will join forces to build a new petrochemicals complex in Saudi Arabia, the French energy group said on Thursday.

The project involves investment of about \$11 billion, of which \$4 billion will be funded through equity by Aramco (62.5%) and TotalEnergies (37.5%), the statement said.

The investment decision is subject to closing conditions and approvals, with construction scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2023 and commercial operation targeted for 2027.

The planned Amiral complex, integrated with the existing Saudi Arabia Total Refining and Petrochemical (SATORP) refinery located in Jubail on Saudi Arabia's eastern coast, will be owned and operated by Aramco and TotalEnergies.

The overall complex, including adjacent facilities, is



A sign with the logo of French oil and gas company TotalEnergies

expected to create 7,000 jobs locally.

The petrochemicals facility will enable SATORP to convert its refinery off-gases and naphtha, as well as ethane and natural gasoline supplied by Aramco, into higher-value chemicals.

The complex will eventually provide feedstock to other petrochemicals and speciality chemical plants in the Jubail industrial area, requiring an estimated \$4 billion of additional investment.

Turkey's Baykar launches new jet-powered drone, aiming for air-to-air combat

Reuters | Istanbul

Turkish defence firm Baykar said its first jet-powered unmanned aerial combat vehicle (UCAV) completed its maiden flight on Wednesday, as the company continues to gain popularity globally, most recently by helping Ukraine's army fight Russian forces.

Baykar released a video showing the Kizilelma (Golden Apple) UCAV taking off and then returning to an airbase which it said was in the northwestern Corlu province, 85 kilometers west of Istanbul.

Flightradar data also showed an unknown aircraft with a BYK07 call sign detected over Corlu Airport on Wednesday.

The company's earlier Bayraktar TB2 drone has featured prominently in global conflicts, pushing Baykar into the global spotlight and transforming it into a major manufacturer and



Kizilelma (Red Apple), Turkish defence firm Baykar's first jet-powered unmanned aerial combat vehicle (UCAV)

exporter.

International demand for Baykar's propeller-driven drones soared after their impact in Syria, Ukraine, and Libya, where their laser-guided armor-piercing bombs helped repel an offensive by UAE-supported forces two years ago. International demand for Baykar's propeller-driven drones soared after their impact in Syria, Ukraine, and Libya

Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) celebrated with its employees National Day and His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne at the company's different departments and facilities. Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery, Bapco's Chief Executive Officer congratulated the Leadership and the loyal citizens, ensuring Bapco's continuous commitment to supporting sustainable development efforts throughout Bahrain.



Electric vehicle production set to surge in 2023 despite low sales

Reuters | Detroit

The past year was sobering for investors who poured money into Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) and rival electric vehicle startups that hoped to emulate Tesla CEO Elon Musk's success.

As interest rates rose and financial markets gyrated, shares in many EV startups deflated. Rivian Automotive Inc (RIVN.O), which had a higher market value than Ford Motor Co (F.N) shortly after it went public in 2021, lost more than 70% of its value over the past year.

Other EV startups fared worse. Electric van maker Arrival warned it could run out of cash in less than a year. Lucid Group Inc (LCID.O), backed by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, struggled to build its sleek Air luxury EVs. Chinese Tesla challenger Xpeng Inc's (9868.HK) shares lost more than 80% of their value.

Now comes the hard part: Persuading more mainstream consumers to come along for the ride.



The all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning pickup truck is unveiled at the company's world headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan

WHY IT MATTERS

The automobile industry is pouring more than \$1 trillion into a revolutionary shift from combustion engines to electric vehicles guided by software. From Detroit to Shanghai, automakers and government policymakers have embraced the promise of electric vehicles to provide cleaner, safer transportation. European countries and California have set 2035 as the deadline for ending sales of new

combustion passenger vehicles. Tesla Inc's (TSLA.O) surge to become the world's most valuable automaker - achieving a \$1 trillion valuation last year - humbled established automakers such as Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) and Volkswagen AG (VOWG.p.DE) that once were reluctant to go electric.

Starting next year, a wave of new electric vehicles from pickup trucks to middle market SUVs and sedans will hit the world's major markets.

Industry executives and forecasters do not agree on how rapidly electric vehicles could take over half the global vehicle market, let alone all of it.

In China, the world's largest single automotive market, battery electric vehicles have captured about 21% of the market. In Europe, EVs account for about 12% of total passenger vehicle sales. But in the United States, EV market share is only about 6%.

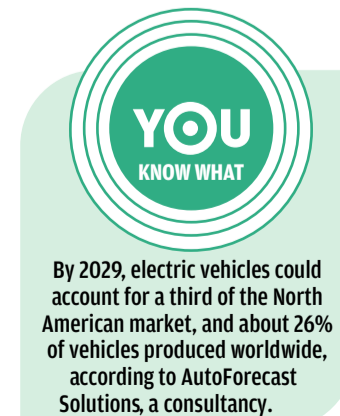
Among the barriers to EV adoption, industry executives and analysts said, were a dearth of public fast-charging infrastructure, and the rising cost of EV batteries, driven by shortages of key materials and uncertainty over government subsidies that have buoyed EV purchases in major markets including the United States, China and Europe.

Electric vehicle sales likely will not increase in a smooth, ever-ascending curve, said AFS President Joe McCabe. If there is a recession next year, as many economists forecast, that will slow EV adoption.

Wards Intelligence forecasts that combustion vehicles will make up just under 80% of North American sales in 2027. Based on automakers' product plans, Wards analyst Haig Stoddard said at a recent conference that manufacturers "expect strong ICE (internal combustion engine) volume heading into the next decade."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR 2023?

Throughout 2022, established automakers such as Mercedes, Ford and General Motors Co



By 2029, electric vehicles could account for a third of the North American market, and about 26% of vehicles produced worldwide, according to AutoForecast Solutions, a consultancy.

(GM.N) unveiled dozens of new electric vehicles to challenge Tesla and the upstarts.

Mass production of most of these vehicles kicks into gear starting in 2023 and 2024.

By 2025, there could be 74 different electric vehicle models offered in North America, McCabe said. But he predicts fewer than 20% of those models are likely to sell at volumes above 50,000 vehicles a year. Automakers could be stuck with too many niche models and too much capacity.

Slowing economies threaten overall vehicle demand in Europe and China, too.

During the early years of the 20th Century, new auto companies sprang up, backed by investors eager to catch the wave of mass mobility that Henry Ford and other automotive pioneers started. By the 1950s, the global auto industry had consolidated and once-heralded brands such as Duesenberg had disappeared.

The next few years will determine whether the 21st Century's crop of electric vehicle brands will follow a similar path.

News in brief

India declares candidature for UN Security Council membership



India has declared its candidature for non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the 2028-29 term, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said. On December 1, India assumed the monthly rotating Presidency of the Security Council. This is the second time after August 2021 that New Delhi is presiding over the Council during its two year tenure as elected UNSC member. "I am glad to inform you that we have declared our candidature for our next tenure at the Security Council for 2028-29," Jaishankar said.

Peruvian ex-President Pedro Castillo's pre-trial detention in prison was extended to 18 months, amid a deepening diplomatic spat with left-leaning countries opposed to his removal and as deadly protests extended into a second week.

At least 15 people have been killed in the protests, according to statements from authorities. A judicial panel within the Supreme Court ordered the extended period of pre-trial detention for Castillo as prosecutors continued an investigation into criminal charges against him. The decision did not touch on the merits of accusations faced by Castillo, who has been charged with rebellion and conspiracy, but a Supreme Court judge heading up the panel cited the risk of flight by the deposed president.

Castillo jail term extended as Peru protest death toll hits 15



Fire breaks out at historic Panama Canal lock



A small fire broke out in machines that operate the historic Miraflores Lock on the Panama Canal, which delayed the crossing of some ships but did not shut down interoceanic navigation. The fire started in a tunnel where the machinery of the lock is housed, but the other locks continued working normally, said the Panama Canal Authority.

"A fire outbreak was recorded in one of the machinery tunnels in the upper chamber of the Miraflores locks," the Authority said in a statement. "No injuries were reported. However, the transit of ships through this lock has been temporarily suspended as a security measure," it added.

Pet retailers are set to be barred from selling dogs, cats and rabbits in the state of New York

New York come December 2024 under a new law, signed by Governor Kathy Hochul on Thursday, designed to stop the supply of animals from so-called puppy mills. Hochul, a Democrat, said banning pet stores from selling pets will help protect animal welfare and clamp down on abusive, wholesale breeders. New York will join a small group of other states, including California, Illinois and Maryland, that have instituted similar bans on such sales. The law leaves the door open for pet stores to work with animal shelters to encourage adoptions, including rental space.

New York to ban animal sales at pet stores in 2024

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Ardern auctions transcript of parliament insult for charity

AFP | Wellington

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is raising money for a prostate cancer charity by auctioning off a transcript of a parliamentary exchange in which she called a political opponent an "arrogant prick".



Jacinda Ardern and David Seymour sign official parliamentary record

Bidding for a framed copy of the document, signed by Ardern and the insult's target, political rival David Seymour, had reached NZ\$45,500 (US\$29,000) by yesterday in an online auction.

with the idea of joining forces to raise money for charity.

New Zealand's premier was overheard muttering the insult following a heated exchange between the pair at a parliamentary session on Tuesday.

"We are thrilled it's got such good support," Seymour said yesterday, with bidding due to close on December 22.

A microphone picked up an exasperated Ardern saying "he's such an arrogant prick" in reference to Seymour as she retook her seat after answering a barbed question from the MP.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, Ardern said she had signed the official transcript with Seymour "in the spirit of good sportsmanship and a good cause".

Seymour, leader of the right-liberalist ACT party, petitioned the speaker of New Zealand's parliament for an apology by Ardern, which meant her comment was entered into the official record, known as the Hansard.

"I suggested we sign a copy of the Hansard and auction it off to raise money for the foundation and pricks everywhere," he added.

Ardern later texted an apology to Seymour, who came up

"was not significant in terms of the stuff that goes on, people were surprised as it's so out of character" for Ardern.

Pacifist Japan unveils biggest military build-up since World War Two

Reuters | Tokyo

Japan yesterday unveiled its biggest military build-up since World War Two with a \$320 billion plan that will buy missiles capable of striking China and ready it for sustained conflict, as regional tensions and Russia's Ukraine invasion stoke war fears.



Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force's (JMSDF) JS Mogami (FFM-1), a Japanese multi-mission stealth frigate, takes part in the International Fleet Review

The sweeping, five-year plan, once unthinkable in pacifist Japan, will make the country the world's third-biggest military spender after the United States and China, based on current budgets.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who described Japan and its people as being at a "turning point in history", said the ramp-up was "my answer to the various security challenges that we face".

His government worries that Russia has set a precedent that will encourage China to attack Taiwan, threatening nearby Japanese islands, disrupting supplies of advanced semiconductors and putting a potential stranglehold on sea lanes that supply Middle East oil.

"This is setting a new heading for Japan. If appropriately executed, the Self-Defense Forces will be a real, world-class effective force," said Yoji Koda, a

This is setting a new heading for Japan. If appropriately executed, the Self-Defense Forces will be a real, world-class effective force

YOJI KODA, A FORMER MARITIME SELF DEFENSE FORCE ADMIRAL

former Maritime Self Defence Force admiral, who commanded the Japanese fleet in 2008.

The government said it would also stockpile spare parts

and other munitions, expand transport capacity and develop cyber warfare capabilities. In its postwar, American-authored constitution, Japan gave up the right to wage war and means to do so.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a serious violation of laws that forbid the use of force and has shaken the foundations of the international order," the strategy paper said.

"The strategic challenge posed by China is the biggest Japan has ever faced," it added, also noting that Beijing had not ruled out using force to bring Taiwan under its control.

North Korea tests high-thrust solid-fuel engine for apparent ICBM development

Reuters | Seoul

North Korea has tested a high-thrust solid-fuel engine that experts said would allow quicker and more mobile launch of ballistic missiles, as it



A view of a "high-thrust solid-fuel motor" test in Tongchang-ri, North Korea

seeks to develop a new strategic weapon and speeds up its nuclear and missile programmes.

The test, overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, was conducted on Thursday at North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Ground which has been used to test missile technologies, including rocket engines and space launch vehicles, the official KCNA reported yesterday.

Experts say the test appears aimed at developing a new solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) given the thrust of the engine, which the North said was "the first of its kind" in the country.

North Korea has been working to build more solid-fuel missiles that are more stable and can be launched with almost no warning or preparation time.

YOU KNOW WHAT

North Korea has been working to build more solid-fuel missiles that are more stable and can be launched with almost no warning or preparation time

Twitter suspends accounts of several journalists

Reuters | Los Angeles

Twitter suspended the accounts of several prominent journalists who recently wrote about its new owner Elon Musk, with the billionaire tweeting that rules banning the publishing of personal information applied to all, including journalists.



An image of Elon Musk is seen on a smartphone placed on printed Twitter logos

Responding to a Tweet on the account suspensions, Musk tweeted: "Same doxxing rules apply to 'journalists' as to everyone else," a reference to Twitter rules banning the sharing of personal information, called doxxing.

On Wednesday, Twitter suspended @elonjet, an account

tracking Musk's private jet in real time using data available in the public domain. Musk had threatened legal action against the account's operator, saying his son had been mistakenly followed by a "crazy stalker".

Musk added on Thursday: "Criticizing me all day long is

The suspensions come after Musk has repeatedly vowed to uphold absolute free speech on the platform he bought for \$44 billion in October

totally fine, but doxxing my real-time location and endangering my family is not."

Malaysia

Malaysia rescuers race

Five children, 12 women among the dead; 12 missing

Hundreds involved in search mission

Reuters | Batang Kali

A landslide killed at least 21 people, including children, while they slept in their tents at an unlicensed campsite in Malaysia yesterday, officials said, as search teams scoured thick mud and downed trees for survivors.

The landslide in Selangor state bordering the capital, Kuala Lumpur, occurred before 3 a.m. (1900 GMT), tearing down a hillside into an organic farm that officials said was operating the campsite illegally.

Among the victims were five children and 12 women, according to the fire and rescue department.

The disaster struck about 50 km (30 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur in Batang Kali, just outside the

Residential fire in Lyon kills 10, including



French firefighters work at the scene of a residential fire in Lyon

Reuters | Lyon

Ten people including five children aged three to 15 were killed in a fire yesterday that engulfed a residential building in an impoverished town near the southeastern French city of Lyon.

Another four people were seriously injured in the blaze in Vaulx-en-Velin, which started around 3am (0200 GMT) on the ground floor before spreading up the seven-storey building, rescue authorities said.

Footage on social media showed a huge, dark cloud billowing above the building at the time of the fire before it was extinguished after daybreak.

Witnesses in nearby buildings said they had been woken up by screams and felt helpless as they stood at the foot of the building on fire, the smoke too thick for them to get in and try to rescue residents before firefighters arrived.

"At around 3.30 am, I heard shouting so I ran out of my home...I saw the building, number 12, on my left burning on the ground floor...and people trying to get out," said Furkan Bag, a neigh-

1398

Tamerlane captures and sacks Delhi, defeating Sultan Nasir-u Din Mehmud's armies by setting camels loaded with hay alight and charging them at the Sultan's armored elephants



1526

Pope Clemens VII publishes decree Cum ad zero - forms Inquisition

1903

The Wright brothers make the 1st sustained motorized aircraft flight at 10:35 AM, piloted by Orville Wright at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

1986

Davina Thompson makes medical history by having the 1st heart, lung & liver transplant at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, England

Malaysia campsite landslide kills 21

Efforts to find survivors of deadly landslide that ripped through farm campsite overnight



Civil Defense personnel search for survivors buried after a landslide hit a campsite in Batang Kali, Malaysia

popular hilltop area of Genting Highlands, known for its resorts, waterfalls and natural beauty.

The earth fell from an estimated height of 30 metres (100 ft) and covered an area of about an acre (0.4 hectares), according to the fire and rescue department's state director.

The farm owners did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Two of its workers, who are Myanmar nationals, told Reuters they managed to escape

with others after being roused by neighbours, just minutes before the farmhouse was destroyed.

"I have never seen such a horrible incident. I feel so shocked and terrified," said 35-year-old Thawng Uk.

"We could bring nothing at all as we urgently ran ... We are asking around where to get shelter and food."

His colleague Kung Tuang, 31, said he was afraid they would lose their jobs now that the farm had

been destroyed.

An initial investigation showed an embankment of about 450,000 cubic metres of earth had collapsed, according to minister of natural resources, environment and climate change, Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

There were 94 people caught in the landslide but 61 were safe, with 12 missing, according to the Malaysia National Disaster Management Agency.

Seven people were injured, including a pregnant woman, while others had wounds ranging from minor cuts to a suspected spinal injury, health minister Zaliha Mustafa said.

Close to 400 personnel were involved in the rescue mission, police said.

Three Singaporeans were among those rescued, the Singapore government said in a statement.

Its prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, expressed condolences to Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim and offered assistance in the search and rescue effort.

Unlicensed business

Pictures posted on the Father's

An estimated 450,000 cubic meters (nearly 16 million cubic feet) of debris – enough to fill 180 Olympic-sized swimming pools – hit the campsite

Organic Farm Facebook page show a farmhouse in a small valley, with a large area where tents can be set up.

Its owners were allowed to operate organic farms, but had not applied for licences to run three campsites on the property, Local Government Development Minister Nga Kor Ming told reporters.

If found guilty of violating the law, the owners can be jailed up to three years or fined up to 50,000 ringgit (\$11,300), Nga said, adding he had ordered campsites near rivers, hillsides and other high-

risk areas nationwide to close for seven days.

Local television footage showed the aftermath of a large landslide through a steep, forested area beside a road, while images on social media showed rescue workers clambering over thick mud, large trees and other debris.

"I pray that the missing victims can be found safely soon," minister Nik Nazmi tweeted.

Selangor is the country's most affluent state and has suffered landslides before, often attributed to forest and land clearance.

Landslides are common in Malaysia, but typically only after heavy rains. Flooding occurs often, with about 21,000 people displaced last year by torrential rain in seven states.

Leong Jim Meng, a camper, said he had not expected a landslide as there had been only light drizzle in recent days.

"My family and I were trapped when the soil covered our tent," he told Malay-language daily Berita Harian. "We managed to run to the parking lot and called the authorities. They arrived quite quickly, about 30 minutes later."

Near French city suspected children



Massive building fire

A third of Vaulx-en-Velin's population lives under the poverty threshold, in what is one of France's many highrise areas hastily developed in the second half of the 20th century to ease a housing shortage and accommodate waves of immigrants

bour and restaurant owner. He saw a woman jumping out of a window to escape the flames and smoke, and falling to her death.

"The fire was growing bigger and bigger ... it was at the entrance of the building, they (rescue) could not get in."

The Lyon prosecutor's office opened an investigation to determine how the fire broke out, and said it could not rule out any hypothesis including arson.

Angry neighbours told reporters they felt abandoned by public authorities, amid local media reports that the building hit by the fire had been in poor condition and the ground floor occupied by drug dealers.

Russia fires scores of missiles in one of its biggest attacks on Ukraine

Reuters | Kyiv

Russia fired more than 70 missiles during yesterday's morning rush hour in one of its biggest attacks on Ukraine since the start of the war, forcing Kyiv to introduce emergency power cuts nationwide, Ukrainian officials said.

Two people were killed when an apartment block was hit in central Kryvyi Rih and another died in shelling in Kherson in the south, they said. Russian-installed officials in occupied eastern Ukraine said 12 people had died in Ukrainian shelling.

Kyiv warned late on Thursday that Moscow planned a new all-out offensive early next year, around a year after its Feb. 24 invasion, which has destroyed huge areas of Ukraine but



A police officer stands next to a part of a Russian cruise missile shot down by the Ukrainian Air Defence Forces

brought little of it under Moscow's control.

Russia has rained missiles on Ukrainian energy infrastructure almost weekly since early October after several battlefield

defeats, but yesterday's attack seemed to have caused more damage than many others and snow and ice is now widespread.

Russia had flown warplanes near Ukraine to try to distract its

60
out of 76 Russian missiles fired at Ukraine area were shot down but Energy Minister said at least nine power generating facilities had been hit

air defences, Ukraine's air force said. Its army chief said 60 of 76 Russian missiles had been shot down but Energy Minister German Galushchenko said at least nine power generating facilities had been hit.

Moscow says the attacks are aimed at disabling Ukraine's military. Ukrainians call them a war crime.

National Archives releases documents related to JFK assassination

Reuters | Washington

The US National Archives on Thursday released thousands of documents related to the 1963 assassination of then-President John F. Kennedy, acting shortly after President Joe Biden issued an executive order authorizing the release that also kept hundreds of other sensitive records secret for up to another year.

The release of 13,173 documents was not expected to include any new bombshells or change the conclusion reached by the commission led by Chief Justice Earl Warren that Lee Harvey Oswald, a former Marine and communist activist who had lived in the Soviet Union, acted alone. However, the latest cache will be useful



Roses lie on a marker outside the home where John F. Kennedy was born

for historians focusing on the events around the assassination.

Kennedy was shot and killed while riding in his motorcade through Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, at the age of 46.

The US National Archives said that 515 documents would remain withheld in full, and another 2,545 documents would be partly withheld

Thousands of books, articles, TV shows and films have explored the idea that Kennedy's assassination was the result of an elaborate conspiracy. None have produced conclusive proof that Oswald - who was fatally shot by nightclub owner Jack Ruby two days after killing Kennedy - worked with anyone else, although they retain a powerful cultural currency.

Many of the documents released on Thursday belonged to the Central Intelligence Agency,

including several that focused on Oswald's movements and his contacts. Other documents focus on requests from the Warren Commission investigating the assassination.

The documents show that the US government opened a so-called 201 file on Oswald in December 1960, nearly three years before Kennedy's murder and after Oswald's failed defection to the Soviet Union in 1959.

A December 1963 document described how CIA officials in Mexico City "intercepted a telephone call" Oswald made in October from that city to the Soviet Embassy there "using his own name" and speaking "broken Russian." Oswald was hoping to travel through Cuba on his way to Russia and was seeking a visa, documents show.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The future of Ukraine begins with its children. We are helping rebuild the schools destroyed by Russia's war, with 100 million in EU funds. And we are sending hundreds of school buses so children can travel to school safely. More are coming. #SchoolBusesForUkraine

@vonderleyen

02



The United States stands with Japan at this critical moment. Our alliance is the cornerstone of a free and open Indo-Pacific and we welcome Japan's contributions to peace and prosperity.

@POTUS

03



If anyone posted real-time locations & addresses of NYT reporters, FBI would be investigating, there'd be hearings on Capitol Hill & Biden would give speeches about end of democracy!

@elonmusk

04



Glad to participate to the launch the Global Network of National Heads of Road Safety Agencies, a @WHO initiative reinforcing the collaboration and driving global actions to achieve the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for #RoadSafety 2021-2030.

@JeanTodt

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

celebs

Jennifer Lawrence feels 'guilty' as a mom

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jennifer Lawrence struggles with a constant feeling of guilt as a mom.

The Oscar-winning actress gave birth to a baby boy called Cy in February, and Jennifer admits that she's still trying to come to terms with the demands of motherhood.

Jennifer, 32 - who married Cooke Maroney in 2019 - explained: "Every day of being a mom, I feel awful. I feel guilty."

"I'm playing with him and I'm like, 'Is this what he wants to be doing? Should we be outside? We're outside. What if he's cold? What if he's going to get sick? Should we be inside? Is this enough? Is this developing your brain enough?'"

“Every day of being a mom, I feel awful. I feel guilty. I'm playing with him and I'm like, 'Is this what he wants to be doing? Should we be outside? We're outside. What if he's cold? What if he's going to get sick? Should we be inside? Is this enough? Is this developing your brain enough?'"

JENNIFER LAWRENCE



Jennifer Lawrence

explained how working through childhood trauma led her to appear in the movie, which centres

on a soldier who suffers a traumatic brain injury.

Jennifer - who suffered anx-

in working through childhood trauma, living with it as an adult, not being able to just get rid of it, and not being able to take a pill and make it go away, or have a good therapy session and have it go away ... I mean, I'm not a hero who's risking my life to save my country at all; I'm an actor.

"But when I read 'Causeway', even though the situations could not be more different, the idea of carrying this invisible injury and knowing that the healing is not linear - there is so much progress and then there's a step back. And she has this very complicated relationship with home.

"I also had a beautiful childhood. I also had parents who loved me as much as they were capable and did the absolute best that they could. That is also true.

Christian Bale had lot of time to jam on 'Amsterdam'

IANs | Los Angeles

Hollywood star Christian Bale has revealed that his period comedy film 'Amsterdam', which is based on the 1933 political conspiracy of 'Business Plot' in the US, is one of those films for which they had the luxury of time to experiment and come up with new ideas.

Talking about the same, the actor said, "There is usually a mad rush to get movies made, and that is often a necessity because of the financiers or when the studios want the films released, but there were no time limits at all."

He further mentioned how he and the film's director - David O. Russell jammed together, "We could just sit and pour through tons of ideas, and he would give me books, and I would find ideas, and I would bring him quotes. So, there were all these other characters that came and went, and different people that we would meet and be inspired by."

The film follows three friends and everyone they encounter on their adventure with a fascinating and richly intricate tale that brilliantly weaves historical fact with



Christian Bale

fiction for a timely, cinematic experience. The movie also stars Margot Robbie and John David Washington and the three are joined by celebrities like Alessandro Nivola, Andrea Riseborough, Anya Taylor-Joy, Chris Rock, Matthias Schoenaerts, Michael Shannon, Mike Myers, Taylor Swift, Timothy Olyphant, Zoe Saldana, Rami Malek, and Robert De Niro.

The development process for the movie began five years ago with Christian Bale in a westside diner.

Ryan Reynolds says family give him strength

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ryan Reynolds says his family give him "more strength than any man could possibly deserve".

The 46-year-old actor - who has daughters Inez, six, Betty, three, and James, turning eight this month, with wife Blake Lively, and the couple are expecting their fourth child - was honoured with the People's Choice Icon award at the ceremony and used his acceptance speech to pay tribute to his loved ones.

He said: "It's gonna be a fourth child very soon. If it happens tonight



Ryan Reynolds

while I'm here I will be looking for a couch to sleep on for a little while....

"But Blake and my girls, you are quite literally - you're my

“I joke that my family exhausts me but in reality you give me more strength than any man could possibly deserve”

RYAN REYNOLDS

heart. You're my hope, you're my happiness.

"I joke that my family exhausts me but in reality you give me more strength than any man could possibly deserve."

While Ryan admitted he had a

lot of people to thank, he made sure the focus was on his family.

He told the audience at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, California: "I'd be pretty remiss if I didn't mention that it starts with my family and it ends with my family.

"To my mom, to my three brothers...and to my dad who left us a few years ago. Boy, if he could see all the things that have been going on, he wouldn't be impressed with this stuff, he'd be most blown away by his three little granddaughters.

"Wherever he is right now. I promise you he's probably not watching the People's Choice Awards.

'I am not Tom': Catherine Zeta-Jones on doing own stunts in 'National Treasure'

ANI | Los Angeles

Welsh actor Catherine Zeta-Jones has no qualms in admitting the truth when it comes to performing stunts in films.

In her recent project, 'National Treasure: Edge of History', the 53-year-old actor performed her own stunts and did not

have any injuries.

Talking to the US-based entertainment outlet, People, the 'Chicago' actress said, "Certain stunts in movies and stuff, you have to do, unless you're Tom Cruise and you really want to fly out of a plane".

"I'm not Tom and I admire him for all he does. But for me, it's a wonderful career. Those stunt people are wonderful," she added.

Cruise and Zeta-Jones had starred together in the musical comedy 'Rock of Ages' in 2012.

Meanwhile, the Academy Award-winning actor was re-

cently seen at the red-carpet premiere of her latest Disney+ series with her 22-year-old son, Dylan Douglas.

"I enjoy every minute with this guy. Well, he's a good son. It's just the best," Zeta-Jones told People Magazine.

Zeta-Jones plays the role of the antagonist Billie, in the series, which is set to release on December 14.



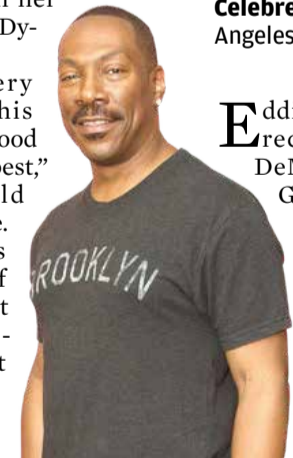
Catherine Zeta-Jones

Eddie Murphy set to receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Eddie Murphy is set to receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the Golden Globes.

The 61-year-old comedian will be honoured at the ceremony on January 10 for his "outstanding contributions to the world of entertainment".



Eddie Murphy

SUDOKU

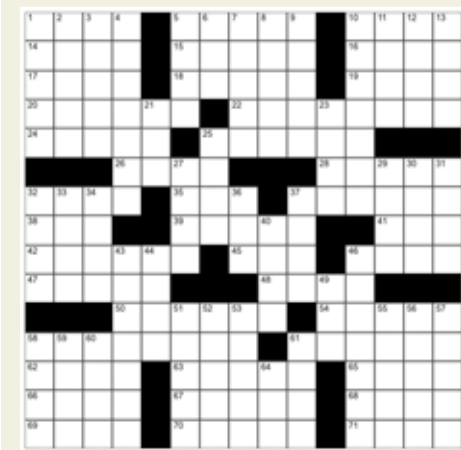
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Yesterday's solution

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

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- Judge's seat; 5- In the future; 10- Ireland; 14- Zeno of ...; 15- Piece of poetry; 16- Super; 17- Basin; 18- Strictly accurate; 19- Chamber; 20- Kind of garage; 22- Back-and-forth; 24- Danger; 25- Hogwarts attendee; 26- Polo of 'Meet the Parents'; 28- Connected series of rooms; 32- Gorge; 35- Good hole card; 37- Maximally; 38- 'Nova' subj.; 39- Loose coil of yarn; 41- Chinese 'way'; 42- Flog; 45- Back muscle, briefly; 46- Fix hose; 47- Squalid; 48- House rodents; 50- Beginnings; 54- Sleek swimmer; 58- Very hot day; 61- Compel by intimidation; 62- Crazy as a ...; 63- Varnish resin; 65- One and only; 66- Skin eruption; 67- Hit back, perhaps; 68- Spot on the tube; 69- Tailless amphibian; 70- Bandleader Shaw; 71- Hardeners;

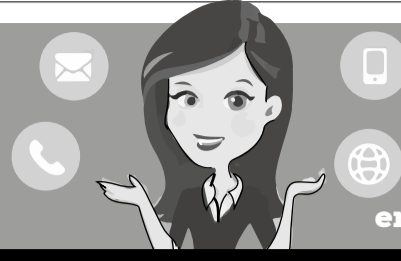
Down

1- Jazz genre; 2- Home ...; Culkin movie; 3- More current; 4- Stalagmite makeup; 5- Say for sure; 6- Curse; 7- Muse of poetry in Greek mythology; 8- Horse race venue in England; 9- Coup ...; 10- Membrane in the ear canal; 11- Mouth part; 12- Are you ... out?; 13- Verne captain; 21- Bar order; 23- Resting place; 25- Select; 27- Like some decisions; 29- Scintilla; 30- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 31- School founded by Henry VI; 32- Fast fliers; 33- Twinge; 34- Make weary; 36- Serpentine swimmer; 37- Opposed; 40- Alpo alternative; 43- Decked out; 44- Match up; 46- Hates intensely; 49- Dove's sound; 51- He-Man's twin sister; 52- Conger catcher; 53- Pay for; 55- Treasure ...; 56- Dazzling display; 57- Orchestra section; 58- Blind part; 59- First name in fashion; 60- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 61- Quote; 64- Sprint rival;

Yesterday's solution

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

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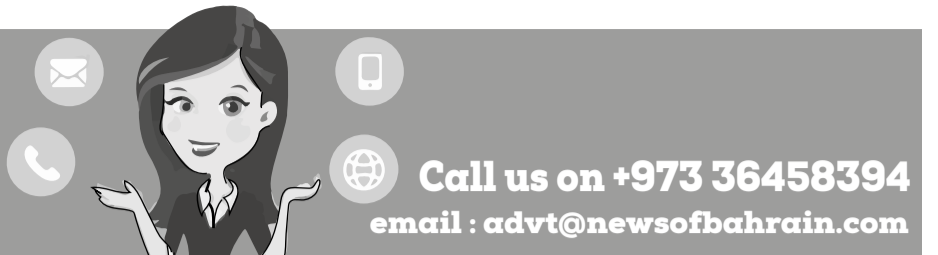
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Real Madrid agree deal to sign Brazilian 16-year-old prodigy Endrick

Reuters | Madrid

Real Madrid have reached an agreement to sign Brazilian teenager Endrick from Palmeiras, the teams announced on Thursday, beating a host of leading European clubs linked to the prodigy.

The 16-year-old striker will join the European and LaLiga champions in July 2024, due to world soccer governing body FIFA's rules prohibiting underage players from playing abroad.

Real have reportedly trumped several top clubs, including Paris St-Germain, Chelsea, Barcelona, Liverpool, Manchester City and Manchester United,



Endrick who were chasing the young prospect. Palmeiras and Real did not provide any details of the deal but Brazilian media group Globo said the transfer would be

YOU KNOW WHAT

Endrick, who has been at the club since 2017, was Palmeiras' youngest ever debutant at 16 years two months and 15 days before becoming their youngest ever scorer less than a month later

170 goals were scored by Endrick in 176 matches for Palmeiras' academy

worth 70 million euros (\$74.88 million), the second biggest in the history of the Brazilian championship only behind the reported 88 million euros Barcelona paid for Neymar in 2013.

Pakistan's Azhar to retire after England series

AFP | Karachi

Pakistan's top order batsman Azhar Ali will quit international cricket after the third and final test against England beginning in Karachi on Saturday, the country's cricket board said.

The former captain's tally of 7097 runs from 96 tests puts him in the fifth place in the list of Pakistan's leading test scorers.

The 37-year-old played 53 one-Day internationals before quitting the format and does not play T20 cricket for the national team.

"Deciding on when to call it a day is always tough, but, after contemplating deeply, I realised that this is the right time for me to retire from Test cricket," Azhar said in a statement issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) yesterday.

"I retire from international cricket as a fulfilled cricketer who ticked most of the goals he had set for himself.

"Not many cricketers go on to lead their countries, and that I was able to captain Paki-



Azhar Ali

Gill, Pujara hit tons as India dominate Bangladesh in first Test

● **Kuldeep five-for put India in firm control**

AFP | Chattogram

Shubman Gill and Cheteshwar Pujara each struck a century as India took control of the first Test against Bangladesh in Chittagong yesterday.

The visitors declared their second innings on 258-2 in the third session of the third day to set the home side a daunting 513-run target.

Bangladesh were all out for 150 runs in their first innings, leaving India the overwhelming favourites to secure victory.

"Obviously we will see a result in this match. Either we will win or they will win," said Bangla-



India's Shubman Gill plays a shot

desh all-rounder Mehidy Hasan. "But our batsmen need to take responsibility," he said. "The wicket is still good. Execution is very important."

India's skipper KL Rahul

called back his batsmen once Pujara brought up his 19th Test hundred with a four off Taijul Islam soon after their lead surpassed the 500-run mark.

Pujara, who scored 90 in In-

dia's first innings total of 404, was unbeaten on 102 after smashing 13 fours, with former skipper Virat Kohli 19 not out at the other end.

Gill earlier completed his maiden Test century before he was dismissed by Mehidy for 110.

Obviously we will see a result in this match. Either we will win or they will win. But our batsmen need to take responsibility. The wicket is still good. Execution is very important

BANGLADESH ALL-ROUNDER MEHIDY HASAN

Deciding on when to call it a day is always tough, but, after contemplating deeply, I realised that this is the right time for me to retire from Test cricket

AZHAR ALI

stan is a matter of great pride for me.

"From being a kid who started as a leg-spinner to becoming a mainstay in the test batting line-up, I had the loveliest moments of my life that I will cherish forever."

Azhar is the only Pakistan batsman to score a triple-century in a pink-ball test and his 302 not out in that 2016 match in Dubai against the West Indies remains his highest score in that format

France players sidelined ahead of final

France squad struck by cold virus as Argentina final looms

Raphael Varane and Ibrahima Konate the latest to fall ill

Reuters

France's World Cup final preparations were rocked as three more players were forced to miss training with cold-like symptoms yesterday just two days before their showdown with Argentina.

Raphael Varane, Ibrahima Konate and Kingsley Coman were all sidelined as Les Bleus prepare to take on Lionel Messi and Argentina in Sunday's final.

The trio of absentees sparked further fears of a mystery virus in the French camp after two players -- Adrien Rabiot and Dayot Upamecano -- were ruled out of the semi-final win over Morocco.

Rabiot and Upamecano both returned to training yesterday.

Coman, the Bayern Munich winger, had already been forced to miss a training session on Thursday because of a "light



Raphael Varane, Steve Mandanda and Ibrahima Konate of France sing their national anthem prior to a match

viral syndrome", the French Football Federation (FFF) said.

France forward Randal Kolo Muani sought to play down the illnesses yesterday.

"There is little bit of flu going around but nothing serious," he said.

Earlier this week, France coach Didier Deschamps suggested frigid air conditioning might be to blame for the illness-

es in the French squad.

"The air conditioning is on all the time and so we have had a few cases of flu-like symptoms but we will try to avoid it spreading," Deschamps said.

"The players put in so much effort on the pitch and so their immune systems suffer. Your body is weakened and you are more prone to getting infected."



France are aiming to become the first team to win back-to-back World Cups since Brazil achieved the feat in 1962 as Argentina captain Messi looks to crown his glorious career with the one major title that has eluded him

"We're not scared of that virus. Dayot and Adrien got a bit of a stomach ache, I made them a ginger and honey tea and then they felt better. I hope everyone will be ready for the final

OUSMANE DEMBELE

Today's matches

Croatia v Morocco 6PM

reaching fever pitch, with the cheapest tickets on the secondary market changing hands for more than \$4,000.

Ticket protests

Yesterday, Argentina fans who have flooded into the host country for the tournament staged a second day of demonstrations outside a Doha hotel, demanding their country's national federation help them find tickets for Sunday's showpiece.

Cintia Echanis, 51, told AFP the protesters wanted access to tickets at face value.

"We don't want problems. What we want as Argentines is to have the chance to cheer for Argentina again," she said.

Sunday's final will bring the month-long football tournament, one of the most controversial World Cups in history, to a close.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino shrugged off criticism of the event yesterday, describing it as the "best World Cup ever".

"The World Cup has been an incredible success on all fronts," Infantino added.

"The main one being the fans, the behaviour, the joyful atmosphere, the bringing of people together. The fans meeting the Arab world, it has been very important for the future of all of us."

Infantino said the tournament had exceeded revenue predictions in the four-year cycle leading to 2022, rising to a record \$7.5 billion -- \$1 billion more than the previous four-year period leading to the 2018 World Cup.

France's Dembele says no room for sentiment for Messi

AFP

France star Ousmane Dembele has admitted he will have no room for sentiment for Lionel Messi in Sunday's World Cup final as the holders look to retain the trophy when they face Argentina.

The final represents the last chance for Messi, now 35, to win football's greatest prize -- he has already suggested he will not play again at a World Cup.

"With the great career he has had it would be good if he won the World Cup, but we also want to win it," Dembele, who played alongside Messi for four years at Barcelona, told reporters yesterday.

"We are France, we are fighting for our country, for our team, to finish the job after all we have done to get here.

"It is true that this is the tro-



Ousmane Dembele

phy he is missing, but we are also here to make our country proud. I hope France win it."

The 25-year-old Dembele has been a key player for France, starting every game on their run to the final except their defeat

"With the great career he has had it would be good if he won the World Cup, but we also want to win it. We are France, we are fighting for our country, for our team, to finish the job after all we have done to get here

OUSMANE DEMBELE

by Tunisia in their final group match, when they had already qualified for the knockout stage.

It is a change from 2018, when he made four appearances in France's victorious campaign in Russia but featured for just two minutes in the knockout rounds and did not play at all as Les Bleus beat Belgium in the

semi-final and then Croatia in the final.

The French team has changed considerably since then, not least because key players such as N'Golo Kante, Paul Pogba and Lucas Hernandez are now missing due to injury.

But Dembele also said that the experience of having won the trophy last time means the mood in the French camp is very different this time.

"There are some similarities, but 2018 was something else. There were more crazy guys in the team," he joked.

"We have a great atmosphere this time, but 2018 was our first final in 20 years, it's not the same.

"There is much more calmness, more experience after 2018. We were a bit more euphoric at the time after we beat Belgium in the semi-final.

FIFA to 'revisit' plan to scrap four-team groups: Infantino

AFP

FIFA looks set to revise plans to introduce three-team groups for the 2026 World Cup, world football chief Gianni Infantino said yesterday.

FIFA had previously indicated that the 2026 finals, which will expand to 48 teams from 32, would see countries divided into 16 groups of three during the first round.

Under that format, the top two teams in each group would advance to a 32-team knockout tournament.

However, FIFA president Infantino said the thrilling success of the existing first-round format at the 2022 World Cup -- where teams were divided into traditional groups of four -- had prompted a rethink.

Several groups went down to the wire, with qualification hanging in the balance until the final whistle.

"The groups of four have been absolutely incredible until the last minute of the last match," Infantino told a press



Gianni Infantino

"We have to revisit or at least rediscuss the format, whether it's 16 groups of three or 12 groups of four. This is something that will be on the agenda in the next few weeks

GIANNI INFANTINO

conference. "We have to revisit or at least rediscuss the format, whether it's 16 groups of three or 12 groups of four. This is something that will be on the agenda in the next few weeks."

Santos quits as Portugal coach with Mourinho tipped as possible successor

AFP | Lisbon

Fernando Santos quit as coach of Portugal on Thursday following the team's shock World Cup quarter-final loss to Morocco with colourful and controversial Jose Mourinho named as a leading candidate to take over.

The Portuguese football federation (FPF) said in a statement that an agreement was reached with the 68-year-old Santos "to end the journey of great success that began in September 2014".

The FPF added that it "will now launch the process to choose the next national coach".

Daily sports newspaper Record claims that Mourinho is the federation's number one target to take over ahead of qualifying for Euro 2024.

They would even reportedly entertain a deal which would see Mourinho take charge of



Fernando Santos

the national team on an interim basis to allow him to see out the season with club side Roma in Italy.

Asked about the national team job by journalists late Thursday afternoon when he arrived in southern Portugal for a training camp with Roma, Mourinho made no comment.

Qualifying for Euro 2024 gets underway in March.

Portuguese coaches Rui Jorge (under-21s), Abel Ferreira (Palmeiras), Paulo Fonseca

Mourinho has yet to coach at international level but has an impressive record at some of Europe's heavyweight clubs. He has managed Porto, Chelsea twice, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Manchester United



Jose Mourinho

League titles with Chelsea, two Serie A crowns at Inter and a Liga triumph at Real.

He also coached Porto to 2004 Champions League victory and repeated the feat with Inter Milan in 2010.

In May this year, he led Roma to the Europa Conference League title, the club's first ever major European trophy.

That was his fifth European title and made him the first coach to win all current UEFA competitions.

(Lille), Rui Vitoria (Egypt) and Jorge Jesus (Fenerbahce) are also among the potential candidates cited by local media.

Mourinho, 59, has yet to coach at international level but has an impressive record at some of Europe's heavyweight clubs.

He has managed Porto, Chelsea twice, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Manchester United.

Mourinho won three Premier

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Encourage lifts National Day Cup

Al Mohamediya Racing contender takes feature race as one of five wins yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club

● Jockey Neil Callan claims four victories on day

● Trainer Hesham Al Haddad clinches hat-trick

TDT | Manama

Encourage lifted yesterday the prestigious National Day Cup, sponsored by the Ministry of Information Affairs, to headline an exciting eight-race card at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Sakhir.

Owned by Al Mohamediya Racing, trained by Hesham Al Haddad and saddled by Neil Callan, Encourage triumphed in the 12-furlong event carrying a BD10,000 total prize.

Rayounpour claimed the runner-up spot for Al Adiyat Racing, Allan Smith and JH Davies, while Recovery Run was third once again for Al Adiyat and Smith, with JP Hamagen in the saddle.



Winners from yesterday's races

Also triumphant yesterday was Chimgan to lift the Ebrahim bin Saad Al Romihi Cup.

Ridden by Neil Callan, Chimgan won the eight-furlong race with a BD3,000 prize in 1:38.619 for Al Mohamediya Racing and Osama Hashim.

Al Fajir Mukbile clinched second place for Raed Ahmed Yousif Alboainain, Yousif Alboainain and Abdulla Faisal; while Prince Elzaam came third for Al Mohamediya Racing, Taleb Ali and Liam Keniry.

Meanwhile, Mudallal and Bond's Boy won the two Al Ha-

Owned by Al Mohamediya Racing, trained by Hesham Al Haddad and saddled by Neil Callan, Encourage triumphed in the 12-furlong event to claim the lion's share of the staggering BD10,000 total prize

waj Cups on offer yesterday. Both horses are owned by Al Mohamediya Racing and were both saddled by Neil Callan.

Mudallal clinched the Al Hawaj Cup in the day's sixth race, held over eight furlongs with a BD2,000 prize. The four-year-old, trained by Hesham Al Haddad, won in 1:41.209.

Taufan was the runner-up for HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Haider Ebrahim and Abdulla Faisal; while Manama Girl came third for Ramadhan Stable, Jaber Ramdhan and Jerome Moutard.

In the day's fifth race, Bond's Boy won the Al Hawaj Cup over 10 furlongs to take the lion's share of the BD3,000 prize. The



Action from the meeting

Osama Hashim-trained five-year-old triumphed in 2:06.247, narrowly beating out Dark Lion representing owners Victorious and Fawzi Nass and trainer Hesham Al Haddad, while ridden by Rosie Jessop. Jazeel finished third for Ahmed Al Isa, Hesham Al Haddad and Stephane Ladjadj.

Yesterday's other trophy was the Al Wasmiya Cup in the first race, held over five furlongs with a BD1,500 prize. Al Hamdany 1810 won in 1:11.338 for Victorious, Yousif Taher and Salem Alajmi; Obeyan 1867 came sec-

ond for Al Wasmiya, Abdulla Kuwaiti and Jerome Moutard; while Tuwaisan 1844 was third for Al Riffa, Yousif Alboainain and Adnan Jaffar.

Elsewhere yesterday, Aahad clinched first place in the fourth race for Al Khaldiya, Hesham Al Haddad and Stephane Ladjadj; Sir Henry Cotton won race three for Al Mohamediya Racing, Abbas Al Malawi and Liam Keniry; and Athba clinched the second race for HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Haider Ebrahim and Abdulla Faisal.

Khaldiya, Hala triumph in football league



Al Khaldiya's Obus Prince Aggreh looks to create a play against Bahrain Club

● Mahdi Humaidan scores winner for Al Khaldiya against Bahrain Club

● Hala beat Hidd; Baba Diop, Mahmoud Al Haiki, Alain Eyenga on target

TDT | Manama

Al Khaldiya and Al Hala were both victorious to wrap up the seventh week of play in the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Khaldiya defeated Bahrain Club 1-0 while Hala overcame a tough challenge from Hidd 3-2.

In Khaldiya's triumph, Mahdi Humaidan fired in the match's lone goal. His strike helped his team come away with their fourth win as they improved to 14 points for sec-

| Standings | P | W | D | L | +/- | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| Muharraq | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 17 |
| Al Khaldiya | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 14 |
| Riffa | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 13 |
| Manama | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 12 |
| Al Ahli | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| Al Hala | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Sitra | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | -1 | 7 |
| Al Shabab | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | -1 | 7 |
| East Riffa | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | -3 | 7 |
| Hidd | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | -6 | 7 |
| Bahrain Club | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | -1 | 6 |
| Budaiya | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | -15 | 2 |

ond place on the league standings.

Bahrain Club suffered their third loss to stay on six points in the bottom half of the table.

In Hala's victory, Baba Diop, Mahmoud Al Haiki and Alain Eyenga were on target for the winners. On the opposing end, Mohammed Abdulwahab scored Hidd's two goals.

Hala claimed only their first win of the season as they improved to eight points, while Hidd were dealt their fourth loss and stayed on seven.

Morocco's run is like Croatia's four years ago, says coach Dalic

Reuters

Croatia are preparing for a "huge" match against Morocco in Saturday's World Cup third-place playoff with the African team's surprise run to the semi-finals reminiscent of Croatia's own success at the 2018 tournament, said coach Zlatko Dalic.

Morocco, punching above their

weight, beat Belgium and Canada in the group stage before eliminating 2010 world champions Spain on penalties in the last 16 and then beating 2016 European champions Portugal in the quarter-finals.

Morocco's dream run ended in the last four against France, who had beaten surprise finalists Croatia in the 2018 World Cup final, but they

still became the first African and Arab country to reach a World Cup semi-final.

African football had suffered a crisis of confidence after the last World Cup in Russia, when none of the five teams made it out of the group phase, but that has now all changed with the performance of Walid Regragui's team.



Zlatko Dalic

Drama at BRAVE CF 68 weigh-ins! Lutterbach shaves head, but doesn't make weight for headliner

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation's return to Germany has already been filled with plenty of drama even though no punches have been thrown just yet.

During the official weigh-ins for BRAVE CF 68, Joilton Lutterbach went to extremes to make weight for his interim championship fight against Mihail Cotruta - but failed to do so, even though he shaved his hair to see if it would make a difference.

In the end, 100g stood between Lutterbach and the title shot. The main event goes on at Super Lightweight, but only Cotruta can win the interim belt now.

If Joilton wins, there's no interim champion crowned. "Peregrino" will also have to give up 20% of his purse to Cotruta.

In the co-main event of the evening, more drama, as Ismail Naurdiev initially weighed in north of the Super Welterweight limit, and came in with less than a minute to spare in the weigh-in window to finally make weight and confirm his bout against Vadim Kutsyi.

Max Holzer didn't make



Joilton Lutterbach shaved his hair to try and make weight

weight for the curtain-opener of BRAVE CF 68/NFC 11 but his fight against Andrey Tyshchenko goes on.

Florim Zendeli vs Tamirlan Dadaev and Maurice Adorf vs Anastasios Chatzigorgiadis have been scrapped from the fight card altogether.



Mihail Cotruta had no trouble making weight for the BRAVE CF 68 headliner

BRAVE CF 68 / NFC 11 Weigh-In results

Main card

BRAVE CF Interim Super Lightweight Championship: Joilton Lutterbach (74.94kg)* vs Mihail Cotruta (74.7kg)

Super Welterweight: Ismail Naurdiev (79.5kg) vs Vadim Kutsyi (79.7kg)

Lightweight: Husein Kadimagomaeov (70.74kg) vs Agshin Babaev (70.54kg)

Featherweight: Mohammed Trabelsi (66.22kg) vs Pantelei Taran (66.22kg)

Catchweight 77kg: Axel Sola (76.8kg) vs Matheus Miranda (76.96kg)

Preliminary Card

Middleweight: Julian Pennant (83.96kg) vs Aleksandar Djukic (84.4kg)

Lightweight: Christian Mach (70.14kg) vs Gokhan Aksu (70.78kg)

Featherweight: Ali Guliyev (65.76kg) vs Jefferson Oliveira (65.04kg)

Bantamweight: Max Holzer (61.82kg)* vs Andrey Tyshchenko (61.54kg)