

**World Series of Darts to debut in Bahrain**

The world's best darts players to compete at inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters Championship on January 12 and 13 at Bahrain International Circuit | P12

WORLD 6 Kremlin in 'sporadic' contact with US after Washington warning

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**World Series of Darts set for Bahrain debut**

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain will be hosting its first-ever event in the World Series of Darts early next year, it was announced yesterday by Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

BIC will be staging the inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters on January 12 and 13 at its facility. It is part of a global tour of the world's best darts players.

BIC and sports promoter CBX have teamed up with the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain.

The 2023 Bahrain Darts Masters will comprise two days of competition, with eight top players – set to include reigning World Champion Peter Wright and world number one Gerwyn Price – taking on eight regional representatives, including Bahrain's best.

BIC chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa said: "The sport is a spectacle that has to be seen to be believed and the atmosphere at PDC events is something that we expect will be a unique experience for fans in Bahrain."

**HM King returns from successful Saudi visit**



**Bahrain and Saudi Arabia bilateral relations are strengthened further**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa returned to Bahrain following a successful visit to Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, led the well-wishers as they welcomed HM the King at the airport.

Highlight of His Majesty's visit was his meeting with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques



HM the King is welcomed back by HRH Prince Salman and senior government officials

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud that focused on enhancing relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and reviewed regional and international developments.

HM King Hamad also met the Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

In a cable to King Salman, HM King Hamad thanked him for the gracious hospitality accorded to the Bahraini delegation.

His Majesty expressed deep gratitude for the constructive talks the two leaders had and

stressed they would deepen the strong relations between the two countries.

HM the King lauded the sincere efforts exerted by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the sake, unity and solidarity of the nation, as well as the dedicated commitment to defend the interests of the Arab and Islamic countries and to preserve their security, stability and prosperity.

HM King Hamad wished King Salman abundant health and Saudi Arabia further progress and prosperity under his rule and with the support of HRH Prince Mohammed.

**Snowden is now 'Russian citizen'**

Washington

President Vladimir Putin yesterday granted Russian citizenship to former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, nine years after he exposed the scale of secret surveillance operations by the National Security Agency (NSA).

Snowden has been living in Russia since 2013, after the US charged the former intelligence analyst contractor under the 1917 Espionage Act for leaking highly classified documents about government surveillance programs.

**Team Bahrain 'vital' for economic growth**

TDT | Manama

Team Bahrain's efforts to implement the Economic Recovery Plan were commended by the Cabinet, noting its positive contribution to the Kingdom's economic growth.

The Cabinet thanked those who contributed to the Kingdom's economic success and urged them to continue development efforts with the same determination.

This came as His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet discussed a memorandum submitted by the Minister of Finance and National Economy on Bahrain's quarterly economic report for Q2 of 2022. The report outlined the outcomes of implementing the Economic Recovery Plan, as Bahrain recorded remarkable growth during the second quarter of 2022 YoY.

The quarterly report shows that the total Real GDP grew by 6.9% in Q2, the highest YoY growth rate since 2011, while the



HRH Prince Salman chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

non-oil sector grew by 9%. It also revealed positive economic growth driven by the strong performances of the non-oil sectors thanks to the Economic Recovery Plan.

**Positive outcomes**

The Cabinet highlighted the outcomes of the meeting held by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

It lauded the meeting for strengthening the everlasting relations of cooperation and coordination between both countries.

The Cabinet also highlighted the meeting held between HM the King and the Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. In this regard, the Cabinet noted Saudi Arabia's pivotal role in consolidating regional security, stability, and peace.

The Cabinet noted that the mediation led by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a leading diplomatic and humanitarian initiative to settle regional and international disputes by diplomatic means and support regional and global peace and stability.

In this regard, the Cabinet noted the success of the Saudi mediation in releasing 10 prisoners as part of the prisoner exchange process between Russia and Ukraine.

(Continued on Page 3)

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**HM King receives warm send-off**



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa left Jeddah, returning to Bahrain after a visit to Saudi Arabia where he had talks with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. HM the King was bidden farewell by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Governor of Makkah Region HRH Prince Khalid Al Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, State Minister and Cabinet Member HRH Prince Turki bin Mohammed Al Saud, and Bahrain's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Shaikh Ali bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa.

**Bahrain greets Turkmenistan**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to President Serdar Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan on his country's Independence Day.

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman wished good health to President Berdimuhamedow and Turkmenistan more progress.

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister,

commended the progress achieved by the Kingdom's national carrier, Gulf Air, highlighting its increased competitiveness in transport and air navigation services.

HRH Prince Salman issued directives to continue enhancing Gulf Air's performance and quality of services, corresponding with its contributions to elevating the global image of Bahrain at all levels.

This came as His Royal Highness met yesterday with the Minister of Industry and Commerce and Chairman of the Gulf Air Board of Directors, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, and the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Air, Captain Waleed Al Alawi, at Gudaibiya Palace.

The meeting took place to mark Gulf Air's achievement in being awarded the World's Most Improved Airline in 2022 by Skytrax World Aviation Awards.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised the importance of the logistics sector in supporting the national economy and enhancing the competitiveness of the Kingdom's economic sectors to achieve its comprehensive



development goals, led by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He extended his congratulations to the Chairman and the Board of Directors of Gulf Air, as well as to the airline's employees, on their achievement, wishing them continued success.

Al Zayani and Captain Al Alawi expressed their gratitude to

His Royal Highness for his ongoing support in developing the Kingdom's logistics sector.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, also attended the meeting.



HRH Prince Salman with Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla, Al Zayani and Captain Al Alawi

**nogaholding plans for strategic projects**

TDT | Manama

The Oil and Gas Holding Company B.S.C. (nogaholding) Board of Directors reviewed the executive management report, which dealt with the company's latest developments, and the transformational plans of a number of strategic projects.

In addition, the Board approved a set of decisions related to supporting quality projects and improving internal work systems.

This came as His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al



HH Shaikh Nasser chairs nogaholding's board meeting

Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, and nogaholding's Chairman of the Board of Directors, commended the past endeavours and efforts of the company to advance the development of the

oil and gas sector. They are in line with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the aspirations of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

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# Cabinet supports strategy to boost infrastructure development

(Continuation from Page 1)

TDI | Manama

The Cabinet yesterday discussed and approved a memorandum by the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning regarding the continued implementation of the strategy for infrastructural development and social services in the new housing projects.

Chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the weekly Cabinet meeting held at Gu-



HRH Prince Salman chairs the Cabinet meeting yesterday

daibiya Palace also approved a memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on develop-

ments regarding the executive mechanisms of the decree-law on the Electronic Transferable Records Law.

It also approved a memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on the government's re-

sponse to four proposals submitted by the Council of Representatives.

The Cabinet reviewed a memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding the unified framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs and government agencies on technical support in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Cabinet also reviewed a memorandum by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs regarding the implementation of the Govern-

ment Priority Framework 3.0. Each minister was directed to develop an executive plan for the remaining 23 projects within the framework, which aim to achieve financial sustainability and development.

The Cabinet took note of ministerial reports regarding foreign participation of the Ministers and the visits of foreign delegations to the Kingdom of Bahrain in October 2022, as well as the first Bahrain International Medical Conference for AIDS, and participation in the 52nd session of the Arab Information Ministers' Council, held in Egypt.

# Kingdom's 'eco-friendly' move to promote plastic alternatives

Initiative aims to protect environmental balance by curbing the spread of plastic waste

● **Commerce Ministry calls on everyone to cooperate in protecting environmental systems**

Staff Reporter  
TDI | Manama

The governmental agencies are in their best efforts to promote plastic alternatives as part of a bid to implement pro-environment measures, according to a senior government official.

Shaikh Hamad bin Salman Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said a comprehensive study is ongoing regarding the introduction of alternative products to plastic bags in the longer run.

The official's comment comes in light of the Kingdom banning single-use plastic bags having thickness of less than 35 microns since September 18.

The ministry's assistance aims to protect and preserve the environment in order to achieve Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030

“This move would create more awareness and responsibility around saving our environment with the enforcement of the law - and with all our cooperation, we can definitely build a safe and sustainable environment for all living creatures.”

- SHAIKH HAMAD BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA, ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

goals of protecting natural spaces and reducing pollution. This can be accomplished by reducing the spread of plastic waste, which also endangers wildlife.

“The ministry had conducted a comprehensive study to see the status of plastic bags in factories and the main point of sale,” Shaikh Hamad said.

“According to the Assistant Undersecretary for Local and Foreign Trade, market surveys



The Kingdom is in its best efforts to curb the spread of plastic wastes

revealed that all local factories intend to manufacture multi-use plastic bags thicker than 35 microns.

“The survey also revealed that 86 per cent of those local factories will continue to produce plastic products that are exempt from the new ban on single-use plastic bags.

“This move would create more awareness and responsibility around saving our environment with the enforcement of the law - and with all our cooperation, we can definitely build a safe and sustainable environment for all living creatures.

“Various measures are being implemented with the support

of officials in order to achieve a safe and secure life for citizens while also assuring the availability of technical capabilities to manufacture multi-use of 35 microns or more,” Shaikh Hamad added.

He also emphasised that the ministry will continue to take steps to protect environmental systems, emphasising the importance of everyone's cooperation in moving forward with these efforts.

The officials noted that several neighbouring and developed countries have applied similar regulations to limit the spread of plastic bags, in hope of curbing litter and minimising

greenhouse emissions caused by plastic bag productions.

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism (MOICT) earlier issued an order to ban selling, manufacturing, circulating and importing single-use plastic bags, which are less than 35 microns in thickness.

Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani said that the decision aims to support environmental protection initiatives and limit the spread of plastic waste.

He highlighted that the ban is in line with the government's plans of securing an environment that supports sustainability and reduces pollution.

The ban will exclude single-use plastic bags that are more than 35 microns in thickness, single-use plastic bags that are used for medical purposes and bags that are used for exports, he said.

Al Zayani said that the MOICT held stakeholder engagement sessions especially with the private sector through the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The minister noted that several neighbouring and developed



**The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism (MOICT) has issued an order to ban selling, manufacturing, circulating and importing single-use plastic bags, which are less than 35 microns in thickness.**

countries have applied similar regulations to limit the spread of plastic waste, which poses a great danger to the environment and wildlife.

He stressed that the ministry will continue to take measures that contribute to environmental systems protection, calling on the need for everyone's cooperation to move forward in enforcing these efforts to preserve environmental safety.

## Boost for tourism



Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi met with the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization, Zurab Pololikashvili, on the sidelines of her participation in the “World Tourism Day” events being held in Bali, Indonesia. During the meeting, Al Sairafi highlighted the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to strengthen cooperation with the UNWTO. She affirmed the Kingdom's growing contribution to global initiatives aimed at accelerating the recovery of the tourism sector following the COVID-19 pandemic. They also agreed to provide Bahrainis in the tourism industry with vocational training programmes at the UNWTO's regional and head offices.

## COURT STORIES

### Three Asian men jailed for peddling drugs

● **Court upholds 10-year prison sentence upheld**

● **Fined BD5,000 each followed by deportation**

TDI | Manama

The Supreme Court of Appeal upheld a 10-year prison sentence for three Asians who were convicted of procuring and peddling drugs, fining each BD5,000 followed by deportation at the end of the sentence.

Security investigations had detected the first defendant's pos-

session of drugs with intent to sell.

An undercover agent contacted the defendant to purchase cannabis for BD100. A meeting was agreed upon in the Salmabad area where the first defendant's friend would bring the drugs.

Under police observation, the drug exchange took place.

The second defendant withdrew to a car where the first defendant was seated, and the two were immediately arrested and found in possession of the sale money as well as a bag containing 30 methamphetamine tablets. The second defendant delivered drugs for the former in return for a commission of the sale percentage.

Per search warrant, the se-

curity force entered the first defendant's apartment.

The third defendant who supplied the drugs was found; moreover, three sensitive scales, five bongs and other tools used in the abuse and sale of drugs were identified, and approximately 50 grams of various drug substances.

The first and third defendants confessed their involvement in the procurement and promotion of drugs while the third defendant carried out delivery to customers.

The three also got 10-year jail term and BD5,000 fine each. The third defendant was fined an additional BD100 for possession of pornographic material in his phone.

### Woman arrested for fraud

TDI | Manama

The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security's Anti-Economic Crimes Police has arrested a woman suspected of fraud.

She cheated some citizens through social media by making them believe that she could import international branded products for low prices compared to the prices in the local market.

She used to post the products on social media, pretending to be a client for international

companies and shops to win their victims' trust and give her money to import the products.

She delivered the branded products to some of her customers to attract more victims. Eventually, she didn't hand over the products or the money.

An investigation into the case led to her arrest, while legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

The directorate called upon citizens and residents to report such cases to the hotline 992.



# ILA celebrates Dandiya Night 'Garbha Ni Raat 2022' in style

● Indian Ambassador Srivastava and wife grace Indian dance festival event

TDT | Manama

The Indian Ladies Association (ILA) Bahrain conducted its iconic Dandiya Night "Garbha Ni Raat 2022" on 23 September at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bahrain.

This event is being organised by ILA Bahrain since last 25 years. It is the biggest and grandest Indian dance festival in the Kingdom. It marks the beginning of festive season in India.

More than 1,600 people from Indian, Bahraini and other nationalities participated in this grand event.

Chief guests of the program were H.E. Piyush Srivastava, the Ambassador of India in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and his wife Mrs Monica Srivastava, who is also the patron of ILA in Bahrain. Guest of Honour at the event was Mr Yusuf Lori Director of Information and Follow up, Capital Governorate.

Other invited dignitaries included heads of businesses of Bahrain, heads of various asso-



Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava and his wife Mrs Monica Srivastava share the joy with the Indian community at the event

ciations like BCICAI, American Women Association, Rotary, Lions Club, Bahrain Cancer society, Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Bahrain Reproductive Health Association, Anti Smoking Society, Bahrain Diabetic Association, Bahrain Society For Child Development, among others.

Main attractions were a Live DJ for dancing crowd, Live Dhol Band (Indian Drums performance), Live Traditional Dance performances by ILA members

and other groups with various stalls and bazaars for Art n Craft, Jewellery, clothes and food.

There were many competitions for the crowd like Best Rangoli (indian art of painting using colored powdered), Best Thali Decoration, Best Traditional Navratri Outfit, Best Dancing Group, Best Dancing couple, Best Dancer Male/Female, Best Dressed Fusion Male/Female, Best Dressed kid, and a grand Raffle Draw for 3 mega prizes.

The decorations in the Hall were done by ILA members. A charity stall was set up by students for donations to Sneha. In addition, there were many attractive stalls set up by the members of ILA. Main sponsors of the event were Mega Mart, Zayani, Kolmaz, Asian Paints, Kewalrams, YK Almoayyed. Media partner Radio Mirchi Bahrain.

Funds raised from this event will be used for various charitable activities of ILA.



This event is the biggest and grandest Indian dance festival in the Kingdom. It marks the beginning of festive season in India.

## ICTGC meeting discusses BD2.2m government procurement requests



The virtual meeting chaired by Al Qaed in progress

TDT | Manama

Procurement requests by government entities valued at approximately BD2.2 million were discussed at the 55th Information and Communication Technology Governance Committee (ICTGC) meeting.

The virtual meeting was chaired by Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed.

The meeting included a discussion on the eWallet, an iGA project approved by the Cabinet, that aims to introduce an electronic wallet as an alternative to cash collection for government transaction fees.

The committee also reviewed the installation of digital chips in smart meters at the



They discussed the eWallet, an iGA project that aims to introduce an electronic wallet as an alternative to cash collection for government transaction fees.

Electricity & Water Authority (EWA), which will enable the meters to remotely read consumption data in real-time and automatically spot any issues in the meters and/or discrepancies in consumption. The project is part of EWA's plan to install smart meters across the Kingdom's governorates.

## RCSI Bahrain welcomes 356 new undergraduate students on campus

TDT | Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) was delighted to welcome 356 new undergraduate students on campus for the start of the 2022-23 academic year.

Once again, RCSI Bahrain welcomed medical students from all corners of the globe, among which 26% are Bahraini nationals, 43% are from the Middle East and Africa (excluding Bahrain), 15% are from North America, 13% from Asia and 3% are from Europe.

Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, RCSI Bahrain Chief Operating Officer, commented: "The start of the academic year is a key moment for RCSI Bahrain. It is always with immense pleasure that we welcome our



RCSI Bahrain Professor Sameer Ootom

newcomers from several global regions and reconnect with other students.

"More importantly, it is an occasion for all of us to create and nurture relationships with one another for years to come, even beyond graduation. RCSI Bahrain takes pride in the development of its global Alumni community with a network of 2,746 Alumni health practitioners present in 35 countries as of



RCSI Bahrain Mr Stephen Harrison Mirfield

this year."

Under the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the Nursing Year 1 students were the first to commence followed by the students from the School of Medicine, enrolled in the Medical Commencement programme, Foundation Year and Medicine Year 1 programmes.

During the course of their first week, new students participated in the orientation pro-

gramme and Freshers' activities with teaching starting the following week. All new students have been assigned a Buddy - a student from a more senior year acting as a guide, to support their transition to university.

Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Bahrain, stated: "The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated to the world that the healthcare sector is a founding pillar of society upon which rests the general public's health and wellbeing.

"At RCSI Bahrain, we are committed to supporting the healthcare sector of Bahrain and beyond, by educating and training healthcare professionals to international standards. I wish our new students an exciting and rewarding journey with us while their leading careers in healthcare await."



RCSI Bahrain MCP students



RCSI Bahrain MCP Buddies



## Apple says it will manufacture iPhone 14 in India



Reuters | New Delhi

Apple Inc (AAPL.O) said on Monday it will manufacture its latest iPhone 14 in India, as the tech giant moves some of its production away from China.

The company launched the flagship iPhone 14 at an event earlier this month, where it focused on safety upgrades rather than flashy new technical specifications, with the exception of a new adventure-focused watch.

"The new iPhone 14 line-up introduces groundbreaking new technologies and important safety capabilities. We're excited to be manufacturing iPhone 14 in India," Apple said in a statement.

Analysts at J.P.Morgan expect Apple to move about 5% of iPhone 14 production from late 2022 to India, which is the world's second-biggest smartphone market after China.

Apple could make one out of four iPhones in India by 2025, JPM analysts said in a note last week.

## Twitter to interview Elon Musk, known for combative testimony

Reuters | Wilmington, Del.

Billionaire Elon Musk's tendency to dish out insults while being questioned under oath will be tested anew yesterday, when lawyers for Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) are due to interview the Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) CEO about his abrupt decision in July to ditch his \$44 billion deal for the social media company.

Testifying in past legal battles, the world's richest person has called opposing attorneys "reprehensible," questioned their happiness and accused them of "extortion." He asked one attorney if he was working on a contingency because the lawyer's client was allegedly behind on child support payments.

"So probably you're on a contingency or you're taking that kid's money. Which is it?" Musk said to a lawyer for a whistleblower in a case against Tesla, according to a transcript of the 2020 deposition. The high-stakes Twitter interview is closed to the public and scheduled to begin Monday and run into Wednesday, if needed, according to court records.

In a 2019 deposition in litigation over Tesla's takeover of solar-panel maker SolarCity, Musk refused five times to answer one of the initial questions because of the way it was worded, the transcript shows.

# Alba debuts first concrete pour for PS5 Block 4 project

TDT | Manama

Alba's Chairman of the Board of Directors Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa performed the First Concrete Pour for the foundation of Power Station 5 (PS5) Block 4 Project on Monday, thus commencing the early works at the Project's construction site.

Alba's Chairman of Board Shaikh Daij was joined by Alba's Board member Shaikh Isa bin Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Chief Executive Officer Ali Al Baqali, Chief Power Officer Amin Sultan, the Company Executives and Management members as well as representatives from Mitsubishi Power & SEPCOIII consortium.

Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa stated: "We are pleased to carry out the first foundation concrete pour for PS5 Block 4 Project, thus debuting the kick-off of construction activities and other site works.



Shaikh Daij performs the First Concrete Pour for the foundation of Power Station 5 (PS5) Block 4 Project

This Project -- part of Alba's ambitious decarbonisation initiatives -- is a combined cycle power plant with a hydrogen-ready J-series gas turbine technology which upon completion in Q4 2024 will reduce Alba's overall GHG emissions, thus setting the benchmark in

terms of sustainable and efficient Aluminium production all the while accelerating the Kingdom's goals to reach Net Zero Emissions by 2060."

Alba PS5 Block 4 is a 680.9 megawatts (MW) Combined Cycle Power Plant that is an expansion of the existing PS5 and includes tie into the existing 220kV Substation. On completion of this Project, the nameplate capacity of PS5 will increase from 1.8 GW to more than 2.4 GW. Mitsubishi Power & SEPCOIII consortium will be responsible to design, engineer, procure, construct and commission Block 4; the Project's commercial operations are expected to begin in Q4 2024.



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Alba top officials and staff during a group photo opportunity

## Group of countries to push EU for gas price cap

Reuters | Brussels

A group of European Union countries want to push Brussels to produce plans this week for a bloc-wide cap on the price of gas, according to a draft letter seen by Reuters.

The EU proposed a package of emergency measures to tackle soaring energy prices earlier this month, but has steered clear of a gas price cap, an idea which has split the bloc's 27 member states.

Countries in favour plan to step up pressure on Brussels, with a letter asking the European Commission to make proposals on a gas price cap for discussion at a meeting of EU energy ministers on Friday, followed by a legislative proposal as soon as possible.

"We acknowledge the efforts made by the Commission and the measures it has

put forward to face the crisis. But we have yet to tackle the most serious problem of all: the wholesale price of natural gas," said a draft of the letter, seen by Reuters.

EU officials said around 10 countries are considering signing the letter, with Belgium, Italy, Poland, Malta and Greece among them.

Addressed to EU energy commissioner Kadri Simson, the draft letter called for a price cap on all wholesale gas transactions. Diplomats were negotiating over the letter on Monday, and its contents could still change.

The draft said capping gas prices would help countries rein "untenable inflationary pressures" hitting households and businesses, and could be designed in a way that ensures security of supply.



A wind gauge flutters over the landfall facility of the Baltic Sea gas pipeline Nord Stream 1 in Lubmin, Germany

## LuLuFin MD Adeeb Ahamed gets long-term visa in Oman



Adeeb Ahamed received the investor residency card from Qais Mohammed Moosa Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion

TDT | Manama

Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Lulu Financial Holdings, has been granted Oman's long-term residency card for expat investors.

Adeeb Ahamed received the investor residency card from Qais Mohammed Moosa Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion, Government of Oman.

"I am humbled and delighted

to receive this honour today. I thank His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, the government and people of Oman, for bestowing this recognition on me," Adeeb said, after receiving his residency card, adding, "Oman is blessed with a robust economy, and it has been a privilege to invest in its growth."

Launched in late 2021, the Investor Residency Visa is part of the country's economic recovery plan to attract global

talent and boost investment in Oman, in line with the Oman Vision 2040.

Adeeb is a prominent entrepreneur whose investments have immensely contributed to the sultanate's financial services and cross-border payments sector. Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Financial Holdings - which has a presence in 11 countries globally, operates a slew of LuLu Exchange branches apart from digital payment solutions, in Oman.



News in brief

◆ **The head of the Russian Orthodox Church** has said that Russian soldiers who die in the war against Ukraine will be cleansed of all their sins, days after President Vladimir Putin ordered the country's first mobilisation since World War Two. Patriarch Kirill is a key Putin ally and backer of the invasion. He has previously criticised those who oppose the war and called on Russians to rally round the Kremlin. "Many are dying on the fields of internecine warfare," Kirill, 75, said in his first Sunday address since the mobilisation order. "The Church prays that this battle will end as soon as possible, so that as few brothers as possible will kill each other in this fratricidal war."



**Orthodox Church leader says Russian soldiers dying in Ukraine will be cleansed of sin**

◆ **A Kazakh court** yesterday sentenced a nephew of former president Nursultan Nazarbayev to six years in prison for embezzlement, the first verdict against a close relative of the once powerful leader of the oil-rich Central Asian nation. The court found businessman Kairat Satybaldy guilty of embezzling money from state-owned companies. Nazarbayev resigned as president in 2019 after ruling the ex-Soviet nation for three decades, and endorsed Kassym-Jomart Tokayev as his successor.

**Kazakh ex-leader's nephew sentenced to 6 years for embezzlement**



◆ **The leaders** of Italy's opposition parties yesterday blamed their defeat on a lack of unity and on voters choosing a path of populism, after Georgia Meloni's rightist bloc overwhelmingly won the national election. Near final results showed the conservative alliance, which includes Meloni's Brothers of Italy, Matteo Salvini's League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, on course for a solid majority in both houses of parliament. Centre-left and centrist parties, who fought the election on their own after a series of bust ups, collectively won more votes than the right, but an electoral law that awards a third of seats on a first-past-the-post system favours broad alliances. Enrico Letta, the head of the opposition Democratic Party (PD), announced he would stand down.



**Italy's opposition blame disunity and populism for defeat**

◆ **Iran accused** the United States yesterday of using unrest triggered by the death of a woman in police custody to try to destabilise the country, and warned it would not go unanswered, as the biggest protests since 2019 showed no signs of abating. Iran has cracked down on nationwide demonstrations sparked by the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini after she was detained by morality police enforcing the Islamic Republic's strict restrictions on women's dress.

◆ **Iran accuses US of trying to use unrest to undermine country**

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COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	97,905,915	1,081,715	620,405,933
2 India	44,572,243	528,530	
3 France	35,157,046	154,887	Deaths: 6,540,798
4 Brazil	34,674,422	685,860	
5 Germany	32,952,050	149,458	Recovered: 600,621,637
6 S. Korea	24,634,296	28,246	
7 UK	23,621,952	189,919	New cases: +159,867
8 Italy	22,313,612	176,912	
9 Japan	21,067,544	44,375	New deaths: +398
10 Russia	20,833,109	386,842	
11 Turkey	16,873,793	101,139	
12 Spain	13,403,502	114,009	
13 Vietnam	11,473,733	43,146	
14 Australia	10,204,195	14,928	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613			48,850
Saudi Arabia	816,000	+161	9,344	+2	+115	3,406
UAE	1,025,910	+342	2,344	+1	+323	18,300
Kuwait	658,520		2,563			641
Oman	397,993		4,260			9,064
Qatar	447,133		682			6,051

# Kremlin in 'sporadic' contact

- **US warns Russia against using nuclear weapons in Ukraine**
- **Fourth day of voting in referendums on joining Russia**
- **Ballot boxes taken door to door, says Ukraine**
- **Heavy fighting continues along frontline**
- **Russians protest against military draft**

Reuters | Kyiv

The Kremlin said yesterday it was in "sporadic" contact with the United States on nuclear issues, a day after Washington warned of



Local residents wait before receiving ballots from members of an electoral commission and casting their votes into a mobile ballot box on the third day of a referendum

"catastrophic consequences" if set to annex. Citizens in four regions of Ukraine were voting for a fourth day on Monday in Moscow-organised referendums on joining Russia, a plan Kyiv and the West

# Swastika-wearing gunman kills 13 at Russian school



Police officers secure the area near a school after a gunman opened fire there, in Izhevsk, Russia

Reuters | Moscow

A gunman with a swastika on his t-shirt killed 13 people, including seven children, and wounded more than 20 at a school in Russia on Monday before committing suicide, investigators said.

Russia's Investigative Committee, which handles major crimes, said it was looking into the attacker's suspected neo-Nazi links. It named him as Artem Kazantsev, a man in his early thirties, and said he was a graduate of the school. "Currently investigators ... are conducting a search of his residence and studying the personality of the attacker, his views and surrounding milieu," the committee said in a statement. "Checks are being made into his adherence to neo-fas-

cist views and Nazi ideology." Investigators released a short video showing the man's body lying on the floor of a classroom with overturned furniture and papers strewn on the bloodstained floor. He was dressed all in black, with a red swastika in a circle drawn on his t-shirt.

The committee said the six adult victims included teachers and security guards. It said 21 people, including 14 children, were wounded.

Tass news agency quoted investigators as saying the attacker was armed with two pistols and a large supply of ammunition.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said President Vladimir Putin "deeply mourns" the deaths. He described the incident as "a terrorist act by a

Police officers secure the area near a school after a gunman opened fire there, in Izhevsk, Russia

person who apparently belongs to a neo-fascist organisation or group".

He said doctors, psychologists and neurosurgeons had been sent on Putin's orders to the location of the shooting in Izhevsk, about 970 km (600 miles) east of Moscow.

Russia has seen several school shootings in recent years.

In May 2021, a teenage gunman killed seven children and two adults in the city of Kazan. In April 2022, an armed man killed two children and a teacher at a kindergarten in the central Ulyanovsk region before committing suicide.

# NASA's nears p

Reuters

Ten months after launch, NASA's asteroid-deflecting DART spacecraft neared a planned impact with its target yesterday in a test of the world's first planetary defense system, designed to prevent a doomsday collision with Earth.

The cube-shaped "impactor" vehicle, roughly the size of a vending machine with two rectangular solar arrays, was on course to fly into the asteroid Dimorphos, about as large as a football stadium, and self-destruct around 7 pm EDT (2300 GMT) some 6.8 million miles (11 million km) from Earth.

The mission's finale will test the ability of a spacecraft to alter an asteroid's trajectory with sheer kinetic force, plowing into the object at high speed to nudge it astray just enough to keep our planet out of harm's way.

It marks the world's first attempt to change the motion of an asteroid, or any celestial body. DART, launched by a SpaceX

# India's C

Reuters | New Delhi

India's main opposition Congress party is likely to elect a new party president from outside the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty for the first time in nearly 25 years.

Formed 137 years ago during India's struggle for independence from Britain, Congress was thumped by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the last two general elections.

Many senior Congress leaders have quit to form their own party



William the Conqueror's troops set sail from Normandy for conquest of England

John Adams negotiates Revolutionary War peace terms with Great Britain



French scholar Jean-François Champollion announces he has deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphics using the Rosetta Stone

Henry Ford's first Ford Model T automobile leaves the Piquette Plant in Detroit, Michigan

# Ukraine with US after Washington warning

have branded a sham. They say the outcomes are pre-determined and they will not recognise the results.

But by incorporating the four regions - Luhansk and Donetsk in the east and Zaporizhzhia and Kherson in the south - Moscow could portray Ukraine's efforts to retake them as attacks on Russia itself.

President Vladimir Putin said last week Moscow was ready to use nuclear weapons to defend any of its territory as he announced a mobilisation drive that threatens to significantly escalate the seven-month-old conflict in Ukraine.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday the United States would respond "decisively" to any Russian use of nuclear weapons against Ukraine, without elaborating. He said Washington had privately told Moscow "exactly what that would mean".

Asked on Monday about Sulli-

van's comments, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "There are channels for dialogue at the proper level, but they are of a very sporadic nature. At least they allow for the exchange of some emergency messages about each other's positions."

## DOOR-TO-DOOR VOTING

The exiled mayor of Russian-controlled Melitopol in the Zaporizhzhia region condemned the referendums - which are due to end on Tuesday - as "a fake and a farce".

"The voting takes place in front of assault rifles, men with weapons... People are grabbed right on the street and are forced to vote

not only for themselves but for their whole families," he said via videolink from an undisclosed location.

Fedorov also accused Russia of forcibly enlisting Ukrainian men in occupied areas into its armed forces.

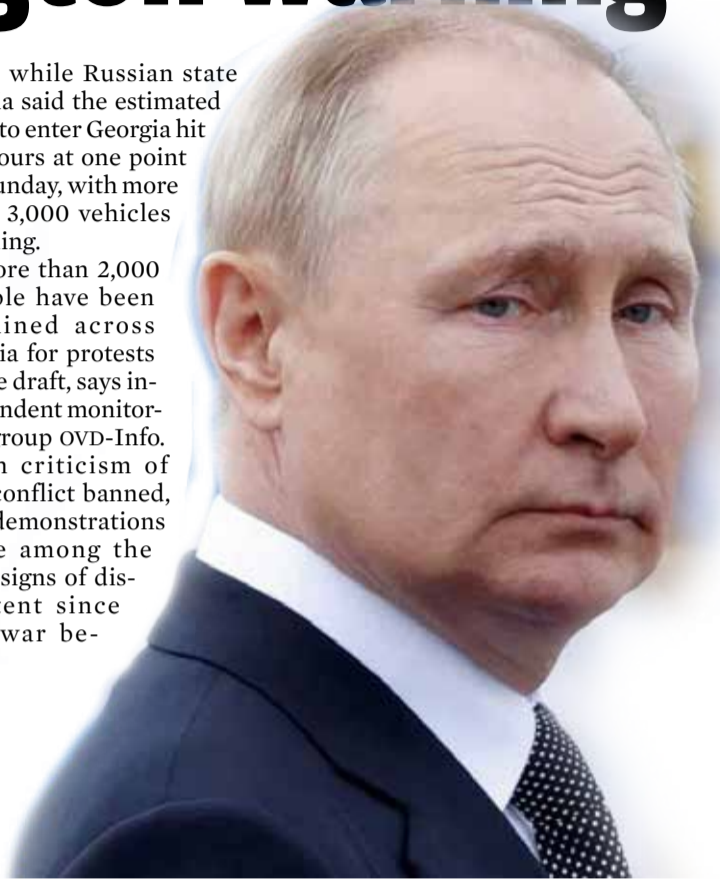
## PROTESTS

Kremlin spokesman Peskov said on Monday Russia had taken no decisions on closing its borders, amid an exodus of military-age men since Putin's announcement, which aims to enlist some 300,000 reservists.

Almost 17,000 Russians crossed the border into Finland over the weekend, Finnish authorities

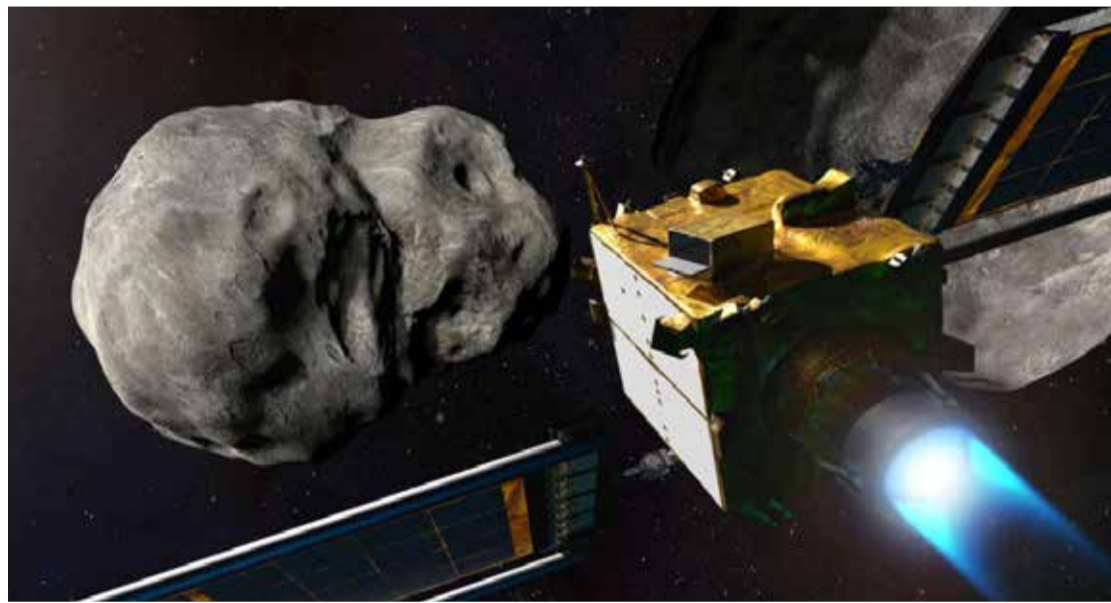
said, while Russian state media said the estimated wait to enter Georgia hit 48 hours at one point on Sunday, with more than 3,000 vehicles queuing.

More than 2,000 people have been detained across Russia for protests at the draft, says independent monitoring group OVD-Info. With criticism of the conflict banned, the demonstrations were among the first signs of discontent since the war began.



Ukraine, bolstered by sophisticated Western weapons, has recaptured swathes of territory over the past month, prompting Putin last week to order Russia's first military mobilisation since World War Two to enlist 300,000 additional troops.

# asteroid-deflecting DART spacecraft planned impact with its target



NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spacecraft prior to impact at the Didymos binary asteroid system showed in this undated illustration handout.

rocket in November 2021, has made most of its voyage under the guidance of NASA's flight directors, with control to be handed over to an autonomous on-board navigation system in the final hours of the journey.

Monday evening's planned impact is to be monitored in real time from the mission operations center at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, Maryland.

DART's celestial target is an as-

teroid "moonlet" about 560 feet (170 meters) in diameter that orbits a parent asteroid five times larger called Didymos as part of a binary pair with the same name, the Greek word for twin.

Neither object presents any ac-

tual threat to Earth, and NASA scientists said their DART test cannot create a new existential hazard by mistake.

Dimorphos and Didymos are both tiny compared with the cataclysmic Chicxulub asteroid that struck Earth some 66 million years ago, wiping out about three-quarters of the world's plant and animal species including the dinosaurs.

Smaller asteroids are far more common and pose a greater theoretical concern in the near term, making the Didymos pair suitable test subjects for their size, according to NASA scientists and planetary defense experts.

Also, their relative proximity to Earth and dual-asteroid configuration make them ideal for the first proof-of-concept mission of DART, short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.

## ROBOTIC SUICIDE MISSION

The mission represents a rare instance in which a NASA spacecraft must ultimately crash to succeed.

The plan is for DART to fly directly into Dimorphos at 15,000 miles per hour (24,000 kph), bumping it hard enough to shift its orbital track closer to its larger companion asteroid.

Cameras on the impactor and on a briefcase-sized mini-spacecraft released from DART days in advance are designed to record the collision and send images back to Earth.

DART's own camera is expected to return pictures at the rate of one image per second during its final approach, with those images streaming live on NASA TV starting an hour before impact, according to APL.

The DART team said it expects to shorten the orbital track of Dimorphos by 10 minutes but would consider at least 73 seconds a success, proving the exercise as a viable technique to deflect an asteroid on a collision course with Earth - if one were ever discovered. A small nudge to an asteroid millions of miles away could be sufficient to safely reroute it away from the planet.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Nuclear disarmament is not a utopian dream. I urge all countries to ease tensions, reduce risk & forge a new consensus around defusing the nuclear threat for good. Eliminating these devices of death is possible, and necessary.

@antonioguterres

02



I am traveling to Tokyo tonight to participate in the State Funeral of former PM Shinzo Abe, a dear friend and a great champion of India-Japan friendship.

@narendramodi

03



"Of course, there's no way to prove we're living in a simulation."

@elonmusk

04



Senator Lindsey Graham has proposed a national ban on abortion that would put criminal penalties on doctors. This November, if Republicans win control, they will vote for a nationwide ban on abortion. But if you give me two more Democrats in the Senate, I will codify Roe.

@JoeBiden

# Congress party likely to get first non-Gandhi chief in 25 years



A supporter waves a flag of India's main opposition Congress party at a massive rally organised by the party against inflation, at Ramliia Ground, in New Delhi, India

or to join the BJP, blaming the weak Congress leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the son of ailing party president Sonia Gandhi, who took charge temporarily in 2019.

The party has ruled the country for much of India's independent history, mostly led by a member of the Gandhi family.

Around 9,000 party delegates will vote for a new president. Gandhi family loyalist Ashok Gehlot, the chief minister of Rajasthan state, and Shashi Tharoor, a lawmaker from the southern state

of Kerala and a former top UN official, could file nominations this week, party sources said.

"The election authority of the party started the election process on Sept. 22 for which polling will happen on Oct. 17 if there is more than one candidate," said Pranav Jha, secretary at the Congress's Election Authority.

The party has unanimously elected a president for a term of five years, except in 1937, 1950, 1997 and 2000, when elections were held as there was more than

one candidate, Jha said.

Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, led the party uninterrupted for nearly two decades until 2017.

Rahul Gandhi, who took over from her but resigned in 2019 following the drubbing by Modi's party, has declined to stand in the party election.

He is currently leading the party's five-month-long protest march against rising prices and what it calls Modi's divisive politics.

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





Ibrahim Kalesic, 88-year-old parachuter, jumps from airplane during Para Challenge Cup in Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina

# Skydiving keeps 88-year-old Bosnian in the pink

Reuters | BIHAC, Bosnia

**B**osnian Ibrahim Kalesic is living proof that extreme sports are not always a young man's game - at the age of 88 he keeps fit by regularly jumping out of aeroplanes.

"It's an excellent feeling," Kalesic, who was introduced to the sport more than 70 years ago, said after completing his 1,487th jump during a parachuting competition in the western town of Bihac at the



weekend.

"I feel super, rested psychologically and enjoying great company," he told Reuters, adding that he exercises daily for 15 minutes and his wife ensures he is careful with his diet.

As a young man, Kalesic underwent training at a flying centre in Serbia before becoming a jumping instructor himself. In 1963, he set a Yugoslav record by leaping out of plane at an altitude of



Ibrahim Kalesic, 88-year-old parachuter, waits to jump

5,500 meters.

"I am the oldest active parachuter in Europe," the white-haired Kalesic said with a smile. "I wish to go on with this for

another 10 years so to get into a Guinness book of world records as the Bosnian parachuter."

Kalesic made 21 jumps in five days last month during a competition in the northwestern town of Prijedor. The Prijedor aeroclub will lend him a parachute as long as he has a valid health certificate.

His biggest wish is to get his own parachute and another one to use for training young jumpers.

"I am a pensioner without means to buy a parachute and I would love to have one to train my students who would then replace me in jumping competitions," Kalesic said.

He has a simple recipe for keeping fit at his age.

"Parachuting is an extreme sport and requires concentration. To be well concentrat-

ed, one has to sleep well, and to sleep well one has to have a clear consciousness that one has not offended or harmed anyone, and then one may sleep without nightmares and be able to jump."



Early parachutes were made of silk. The most common fabric today is nylon. A parachute's canopy is typically dome-shaped, but some are rectangles, inverted domes, and other shapes. The oldest modern parachute was designed in the 1470s in Renaissance Italy to help people escape from burning buildings.

## India's push for home-grown navigation system jolts smartphone giants



Reuters | New Delhi

**I**ndia is pushing tech giants to make smartphones compatible with its home-grown navigation system within months, worrying the likes of Samsung, Xiaomi and Apple who fear elevated costs and disruptions as the move requires hardware changes, according to two industry sources and government documents seen by Reuters.

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive for self-reliance, India has over the years expanded the use of its regional navigation satellite system called NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).

The Indian government wants to reduce dependence on foreign systems, including the widely used U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), and says NavIC provides more accurate domestic navigation and that its use would benefit the economy.

China, the European Union, Japan and Russia have their own global or regional navigation systems to rival GPS. Operational since 2018, NavIC's uptake is minimal; it is mandated in public vehicle location trackers, for example.

But government and industry documents show Modi's administration and space officials want to broaden its use, and have this year pushed smartphone giants to make hardware changes to support NavIC, in addition to GPS, in new phones they will sell from January 2023.

# Philippines to shut 175 offshore gambling firms, deport 40,000 Chinese workers

Reuters | Manila

**T**he Philippines will stop operations of 175 offshore gambling firms and deport about 40,000 Chinese workers, a justice ministry official said yesterday, part of a crackdown on the notoriously opaque on-line gaming industry.

The sector emerged in the Philippines in 2016 and grew exponentially.

At their peak, Philippine off-



shore gambling operators, or POGOs, employed more than 300,000 Chinese workers, but the pandemic and higher taxes have forced many to operate

elsewhere.

"The crackdown was triggered by reports of murder, kidnapping and other crimes committed by Chinese nationals against fellow Chinese nationals," justice ministry spokesperson Jose Dominic Clavano said.

The POGOs targeted for closure had licenses that either expired or were revoked, for violations like non-payment of government fees, Clavano said, adding the deportation of the Chinese workers would start next month.

The government generated 7.2 billion pesos (\$122.21 million) in 2020 and 3.9 billion last year in POGO fees alone, according to the finance ministry. Economists estimate considerably larger amounts are being spent on taxes, workers' spending and office rental.

China's embassy in Manila in a statement said Beijing supports the deportation and crackdown on POGO-related crimes, adding the government "firmly opposes and takes tough measures to combat gambling".

The Philippines regulator, which recently said there were 30 licensed POGO firms versus 60 before the pandemic.

Real estate consultancy Leechiu Property Consultants estimates that a complete exit of the POGO industry would leave vacant 1.05 million square metres (259 acres) of office space - a third of the size of New York's Central Park - and 8.9 billion pesos (\$151 million) in foregone annual rent.

The sector employs 201,000 Chinese and 111,000 Filipinos.

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French authorities on Saturday closed the airport in the southern city of Montpellier after a cargo plane overran the runway and ended up in a lake. Images showed the West Atlantic Boeing 737 tilting, with its nose in the lake and body perched on land. The three crew escaped the accident in the early hours of Saturday unhurt, local authorities said. The prefecture for the Hérault region said the airport would be closed to passenger and cargo planes until a specialised firm could take the plane away.



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# celebs

## Rihanna set to headline the next Super Bowl Halftime Show



Rihanna

ANI | Washington

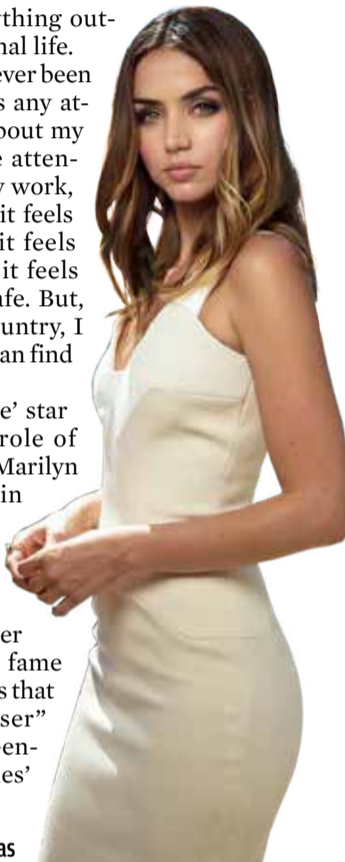
Pop star Rihanna has signed to perform at the mega-event, which is set to take place during Super Bowl LVII, on February 12 just outside of Phoenix, Arizona. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the 2023 Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show has found its main act. The programme will be produced by DPS alongside Roc Nation and Jesse Collins, with both serving as executive producers and Hamish Hamilton directing. Roc Nation is also serving as the live performance's strategic entertainment advisor. "Rihanna is a generational talent, a woman of humble beginnings who has surpassed expectations at every turn. A

person born on the small island of Barbados who became one of the most prominent artists ever. Self-made in business and entertainment," Jay-Z said in a statement, as quoted in The Hollywood Reporter. "We are thrilled to welcome Rihanna to the Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show stage," Seth Dudowsky, NFL Head of Music, added in his own statement. "Rihanna is a once-in-a-generation artist who has been a cultural force throughout her career. We look forward to collaborating with Rihanna, Roc Nation and Apple Music to bring fans another historic Halftime Show performance." The Super Bowl Halftime Show is one of the year's biggest musical spectacles, with musicians often going all-out for their performances and frequent guest appearances. Apple Music will be the event's presenting sponsor for the first time in 2023, replacing Pepsi, which had sponsored the show for the previous decade. Before the big game, Apple promises behind-the-scenes glimpses and other material. "Rihanna is an incredible recording artist who is a favourite for many millions of Apple Music customers around the world," Oliver Schusser, Apple's vice president of Apple Music and Beats, said. "We're excited to partner with Rihanna, Roc Nation and the NFL to bring music and sports fans a momentous show -- what an incredible artist for the inaugural Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show."

## Ana De Armas has 'never wanted' the attention that comes with fame

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ana De Armas has "never wanted" the attention that comes with fame. The 34-year-old actress - who dated 'Argo' star Ben Affleck just before he rekindled his romance with now-wife Jennifer Lopez - explained that she finds it "disrespectful" when the media report on anything outside of her professional life. She said: "I have never been someone that wants any attention that's not about my work. So when the attention is not about my work, it is upsetting, and it feels disrespectful, and it feels inappropriate, and it feels dangerous and unsafe. But, especially in this country, I don't know how you can find protection." The 'No Time to Die' star is now taking on the role of late Hollywood legend Marilyn Monroe - who died in 1962 at the age of 36 - in the new Netflix biopic 'Blonde' and explained that her experience with fame is one of the things that "brought her closer" her to the iconic 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes' actress.



Ana De Armas

## Khloe Kardashian went through 'difficult' time

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Khloe Kardashian went through a "difficult time" when she was expecting her second child. The Good American founder welcomed her second child, a son, into the world in August, but the surrogate she and Tristan Thompson used fell pregnant around the same time it was revealed the NBA player had been unfaithful and was expecting a child with another woman, and she admitted the circumstances meant it was a very "different" experience to when she was carrying their daughter True, now four.

In a teaser trailer for the new season of 'The Kardashians', Khloe tearfully said: "There is something that I'm ready to talk about. Tristan and I are having another baby. It's supposed to be a really exciting time, and it's just a different experience." But Khloe later vowed to focus on the positive. She added: "This has been a difficult time in my life, but it's the start of something positive and happy and beautiful."

The 38-year-old star's mother, Kris Jenner, was also upset by the situation.

She tearfully said in a confessional featured in the promo clip: "It's hard to watch [Khloe] in pain."

Khloe recently admitted she thinks it is an "honor and a gift" to have children and "shape" them into the adults they will become one day.

She said: "Being able to shape little people into really incredible big people is an honor and a gift,

"I know it's cliché, but I love everything, even the hard parts [of parenting]. It's super scary but I take my job very seriously."

Khloe Kardashian



The Super Bowl Halftime Show is one of the year's biggest musical spectacles, with musicians often going all-out for their performances and frequent guest appearances

Dua Lipa

## Dua Lipa feeling 'liberated' writing third album

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Dua Lipa is feeling "liberated" like never before as she works on her third album.

The 'Potion' singer has never felt more "in control" of a musical project before.

She said: "As I'm writing my new album, I feel even more liberated in a completely different

way. "And even more in control than I thought." Asked what liberation means to her, she told Vogue Australia: "Freedom, especially as a woman, means to be able to take things into your own hands, to have control over the things that you believe in. "To really have a voice."

Dua recently admitted she was "not afraid to talk about things" on her "grown-up" third album. The 'Levitating' hitmaker, 27, says her follow-up to 2020's 'Future Nostalgia' is her most mature record to date, and she doesn't hold back when speaking up on what matters to her. She said: "I've definitely grown

up. Overall, whether it's sonically or in terms of the themes, I've matured. "It's like I'm coming into my power and not afraid to talk about things. "It's about understanding what I want." In March, the pop star revealed the record was "50 per cent done".

## Mariah Carey says people just 'let you down'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Mariah Carey says most people "let you down".

The 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' hitmaker - who has teamed up with Chopard to launch two butterfly-themed jewellery collections - admitted while there are "exceptions" in life, she thinks diamonds really are a girl's best friend.

She told PEOPLE magazine: "I hate to say it, but for the most part, people let you down. So I might have to go with it. With very few exceptions, but for the most part, yeah."

The pop megastar was also asked if the meaning of butterflies has changed over the past 25 years, since releasing her album 'Butterfly'. She explained: "I don't acknowledge time, so it's 25 seconds, 25 minutes, whatever we want to call it. "Seriously, after going through what I had to go through to even create the Butterfly album and to break free from that shell... it's part of my 25 years and that's kind of unbelievable. "It represents so much to me as just a human being and particularly as a woman." Mariah also reflected on her appearance on shows like MTV's 'Cribs' where celebrities invite people into their homes.



Mariah Carey

### SUDOKU

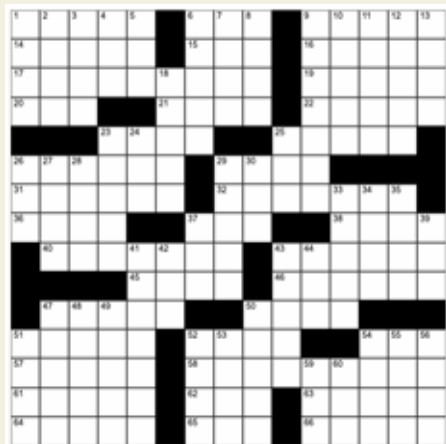
	2	7	6					
5			8		3			4
				7				1
			1			5		3
	3	6				7	4	
2		5			4			
	9			1				
6			3		2			5
					6	2	8	

Yesterday's solution

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

How to play Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### CROSSWORD



Across

1- Jack of "The Great Dictator"; 6- Derive; 11- Monopoly quartet; Abbr.; 14- Mountaineer's tool; 15- Money spent; 16- ... the land of the free...; 17- Inclined; 18- Render weaponless; 19- Exec's degree; 20- Concerning; 22- Brainstorms; 24- Deeked out; 28- Elder; 30- Medium setting?; 31- Twisted expression?; 32- Assail; 33- Bony structures; 37- Bard's "before"; 38- Mimicry; 39- ... Dawn Chong; 40- Funky; 43- Gnu cousin; 45- Sluggish; 46- Show clearly; 47- Ring combo; 49- Air bubble; 50- Holmes's creator; 51- Stepped; 52- "You've got mail" co.; 53- Rate; 56- Lauder of cosmetics; 61- ...pitch softball; 62- Author Calvino; 63- Approaches; 64- Solo of "Star Wars"; 65- Shifted; 66- Pipsqueak;

Down

1- Lubricate; 2- Hotshot; 3- New Zealand parrot; 4- Author Fleming; 5- Died out; 6- Melon, e.g.; 7- Crescent-shaped figure; 8- LAX posting; 9- Cabinet dept.; 10- Candidate; 11- Lover of Juliet; 12- Rod used to reinforce concrete; 13- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.; 21- Maiden name indicator; 23- Gossip; 24- It's a plus; 25- Tractor maker; 26- Western; 27- Cellular stuff; 28- Dummy Mortimer; 29- Slippery; 31- Trapshooting; 33- Hubert's successor; 34- Praying figure; 35- John Garner; 36- Passover meal; 38- Not many; 41- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 42- Meantime; 43- Plain; 44- Fleur-de-...; 46- "Yanadu" band; 47- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 48- Thermoplastic yarn; 49- Young; 50- Morse element; 51- One with a glazed look, perhaps; 54- From ...; 55- The last letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 57- Stitch up; 58- ... kwon do; 59- Be mistaken; 60- Mentalist's claim;

Yesterday's solution

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



## Al Ahli outclass Al Tadamun in handball league



Action from Al Ahli's game against Al Tadamun

TDT | Manama

Contenders Al Ahli defeated Al Tadamun 33-26 last night to kick off the fourth week of action in the 2022/2023 Khalid bin Hamad Bahrain Handball League, being played at the Bahrain Handball Association Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Ahli held a slim 16-13 lead at the half but were a class above their rivals after the break.

With the result, Ahli claimed

their second victory in three games while Tadamun suffered their third successive loss to start the new season.

League action continues tonight with defending champions Al Najma going for their fourth straight win when they take on Al Ettifaq at 5.30pm. That will be followed by Al Shabab going head-to-head with Al Ettihad.

Tomorrow, Bahrain Club and Samaheej face off in a single contest.

## Bahrain highest risers on FIBA World Ranking

● Senior men's national team go up a massive 18 places on latest edition of global classification

TDT | Manama

Bahrain were the biggest risers on the latest edition of the FIBA World Ranking, going up a massive 18 places to 86th overall.

The classification of senior men's national basketball teams was released by international basketball's governing body FIBA.

The Bahrainis were previously ranked 104th but after improving to 116.5 points have



Bahrain national team players celebrate during a recent game (File photo)

cracked into the top 100 globally.

The nationals are also 16th amongst 43 teams in FIBA Asia,

The nationals are also 16th amongst 43 teams in FIBA Asia, ahead of other top continental teams such as Qatar (89th), Iraq (90th), Palestine (91st) and the UAE, to name a few

ahead of other top continental teams such as Qatar (89th), Iraq (90th), Palestine (91st) and the UAE, to name a few.

Amongst GCC nations, only Saudi Arabia are ranked higher in 73rd.

Bahrain's senior national team are currently competing in the Asian qualifiers for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023.

# Murray backs Federer as future Laver Cup captain

Andy Murray says coaching mere mortals could be a challenge for Roger Federer

● Murray says he hopes Roger Federer will stay involved in tennis as he heads into retirement

AFP | London

Andy Murray has backed Roger Federer as a future Laver Cup captain after Bjorn Borg indicated the sixth edition in Vancouver next year could be his last.

Federer bade farewell to professional tennis at the tournament in London at the weekend, playing doubles alongside great rival Rafael Nadal on Friday in his final competitive match, which ended in defeat.

Team Europe suffered a 13-8 loss to Team World in the Ryder Cup-style tournament to ensure Federer, 41, was denied one final trophy but a vacancy for the captaincy will open up when Swedish great Borg steps away.

Federer, who won 20 Grand Slams in his glittering career, said he had no immediate plans after hanging up his racquet but it is likely he will want to stay involved in the Laver Cup, which he helped to create.

"I'm sure Roger is going to stay involved in the event in some capacity and maybe one



Roger Federer (L) and Andy Murray react during a match at the Laver Cup

He had the ability to play everything and he had so many options at his disposal that that's the challenging thing also as a coach sometimes, especially someone in his position

ANDY MURRAY

day captain the team," Murray said.

"Look, he's great on the side (coaching). He watches a lot of tennis, he loves the game. I

think for ex-players that go into coaching, I think that's important to sort of stay current and know a lot of the players.

"He had the ability to play everything and he had so many options at his disposal that that's the challenging thing also as a coach sometimes, especially someone in his position."

Murray made his Laver Cup debut at London's O2 arena, joining other members of the "Big Four" -- Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic in competing for Team Europe.

Djokovic expressed his hope that Federer would turn his hand to coaching.

BETTER YOU KNOW  
Federer declined to say what his plans are, when asked on Sunday, but said being Laver Cup captain was not on the radar

"I think that Roger can offer a lot," he said. "I mean... it's logical to expect him to be able to share so many useful and valuable things with anybody really."

"If he ever would consider doing that, I'm sure that he's going to bring a lot of positive things to the improvement of that player, whether male or female, in every aspect on and off the court."

"He's undoubtedly one of the greatest players to play the game, the way he played it, with his style and effortlessness."

Both Murray and Djokovic tasted defeats on the final day to prevent a dream finale for Federer, who watched Team World win a maiden Laver Cup by a five-point margin.

## England won't take risks with Buttler before T20 World Cup



England head coach Matthew Mott talks to Jos Buttler after a match (file photo)

Reuters | London

England's limited-overs coach Matthew Mott said Jos Buttler is itching to make his return from injury during their seven-match series in Pakistan but they will not take any risks with the batsman so close to the Twenty20 World Cup.

Buttler has not played in the series so far as he recovers from a calf injury he sustained while playing in The Hundred, with the team being led by Moeen Ali.

The World Cup takes place in Australia from Oct. 16-Nov. 13.

"With regard to Jos (But-

With regard to Jos (Buttler), he's still a while off, he's not a player we want to take a risk on at this stage, so close to the World Cup, and it was a reasonably significant injury that he had

MATTHEW MOTT

ter), he's still a while off, he's not a player we want to take a risk on at this stage, so close to the World Cup, and it was a reasonably significant injury that he had," Mott said.

## Djokovic managing wrist issue, ATP Finals remains his goal

Reuters | London

Novak Djokovic said he was bothered by a wrist problem during the Laver Cup in London and that his lengthy absence from the Tour recently could be to blame.

The three-day tournament in London's O2 Arena was Djokovic's first event since the Serb won his 21st Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon in early July.

The 35-year-old, who missed the North American hardcourt swing and the U.S. Open due to not being vaccinated against COVID-19, produced a dazzling performance on his return to



Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Felix Auger-Aliassime in Lavers Cup

the Tour on Saturday by winning his singles and doubles matches.

However, he lost to Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime on the

Djokovic's Wimbledon victory guarantees him a spot in the Tour-ending Finals if he remains ranked in the world's top 20

final day of competition on Sunday.

"I have been struggling with my right wrist for the last four, five days, to be honest. I have been keeping it under control," Djokovic told reporters.

"The two matches yesterday probably had an effect. Today was not easy. I couldn't serve as fast or as accurately as I would

like to. That has affected the whole game."

Djokovic said qualifying for November's ATP Finals in Turin remained his goal and that he will play a tournament in Tel Aviv this week followed by an event in Kazakhstan next week and then the Paris Masters at the end of October.

His Wimbledon victory guarantees him a spot in the Tour-ending Finals if he remains ranked in the world's top 20.

Djokovic, who is currently ranked seventh, said the wrist issue could be due to a combination of factors.

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# Jackson triumphs for Bahrain1 Racing while teammate Bond comes second

● **HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad praises Bahrain1 Racing team for victory in NHRA event in North Carolina**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty the King's personal representative His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa praised the Bahrain1 Racing team's one-two victory in the Pro Mod category of the 2022 NHRA Carolina Nationals event, held at zMAX Dragway in North Carolina, the US.

HH Shaikh Abdulla affirmed



HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa

that the honourable results achieved by the team are thanks to the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa as well as the backing of His

Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Abdulla explained that these successes will motivate the team to continue confirming the high capabilities that its members possess during the upcoming championships, praising the great abilities of the drivers.

Bahrain1 accomplished a one-two win in the round's final. Jackson won ahead of his teammate Justin Bond.

Their teammate Khaled Al Ballooshi was knocked out of the first elimination following stiff competition. He was beaten by just 0.024 seconds.

"It's a great win and I am happy to triumph in this strong race



Bahrain1 Racing team members celebrate their one-two

at the zMAX Dragway in North Carolina," said Jackson.

"This win was made possi-

ble thanks to the support of HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa. This also cannot go

without mentioning the efforts of the team to get the cars ready for the race."

# World Series of Darts to debut in Bahrain

The world's best darts players to compete at inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters Championship on January 12 and 13 at Bahrain International Circuit

● **Event to feature eight leading darts players, including the current world champion, combined with the best of local darts talent**

● **BIC signs multi-year deal to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain on an annual basis**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), together with sports promoter CBX, has teamed up with the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain for the first time ever.

On January 12 and 13, 2023, BIC will host the Bahrain Darts Masters, part of the global tour of the world's best darts players. Bahrain will play host to the first event of the 2023 World Series, as part of a global calendar which was announced today by the PDC. BIC and CBX have

signed a multi-year deal with the PDC, which will bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain on an annual basis.

PDC darts events are broadcast in over 185 countries, reaching a global audience of over 200 million people and darts is the second most watched sport in the UK after football. The sport is best known for the hosting of the World Darts Championship, which attracts a crowd of over 90,000 people to Alexandra Palace in the UK every year across the Christmas and New Year period.

The 2023 Bahrain Darts Masters will comprise two days of competition, with eight top players— set to include reigning World

Champion Peter Wright and world number one Gerwyn Price—taking on eight regional representatives, including Bahrain's best players, across two days. The event will be played out to a live audience in a specially designed format at BIC's entertainment dome and will also be broadcast live to a global audience.

Tickets for this limited capacity event will go on sale later in the year and fans are encouraged to register now at [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) for all the latest information on tickets and the event.

BIC chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa said: "With our partners at CBX, we can't wait to welcome the best darts players in

the world to the inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters early next year.

"The sport is a spectacle that has to be seen to be believed and the atmosphere at PDC events is something that we expect will be a unique experience for fans in Bahrain.

"I welcome the PDC as a new member of the BIC family, and with our friends at CBX we look forward to putting on a stellar event for fans around the world."

Carlo Boutagy, Founder and CEO of CBX, said: "We are proud to partner with BIC and the PDC to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain for the first time. While we at CBX are best known for motorsport, we work in a variety of sporting disciplines and it is fantastic to now venture into the world of darts. As a sport, it has a huge global following and we are excited to welcome fans to the Kingdom as part of our ever-growing sporting portfolio, and add to the expanding list of new sports being showcased in the region.

We are looking forward to working together to put on an unforgettable event."

Professional Darts Corporation chief executive Matt Porter said: "Our global growth through the World Series of Darts in the past decade has been incredible and it's

”  
The sport is a spectacle that has to be seen to be believed and the atmosphere at Professional Darts Corporation events is something that we expect will be a unique experience for fans in Bahrain.

- SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

another big step for us to stage the Bahrain Darts Masters in January. We're delighted to be working with Bahrain International Circuit and CBX on this exciting event, which will showcase PDC darts to a new audience and also be an opportunity for players from the region to test themselves against the world's best. This is an exciting new event and will be a great way to begin our 2023 World Series of Darts."

The Professional Darts Corporation operates a global £15 million circuit

of events, which includes the World Darts Championship, four-month Premier League tour and World Series of Darts, which will also visit Denmark, America, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands in 2023.

Star players have become household names through their playing achievements and entertaining styles, from Peter "Snakebite" Wright's colourful Mohawks and unique outfits to the flamboyant Gerwyn "The Iceman" Price and generational talent of "Mighty" Michael van Gerwen.

Winners on the 2022 World Series of Darts circuit included Michael Smith, Belgium's Dimitri Van den Bergh and Wales' Jonny Clayton, as well as Van Gerwen and Price, who also won the season-ending World Series of Darts Finals.

For more information on the Bahrain Darts Masters Championship or other BIC events and activities, visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.



Peter Wright



Michael van Gerwen

## 'We have to focus on winning' against Spain, says Portugal's Santos

AFP | Lisbon

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said his team would not settle for the draw they need to reach the Nations League finals when they host Spain in Braga on Tuesday.

Portugal, who won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2019, moved top of Group A2 on Saturday with a 4-0 victory over the Czech Republic as Spain lost at home to Switzerland.



Fernando Santos

Santos' side now hold a two-point lead over their neighbours ahead of the final group match.

## Rohit backs Kumar as India look to fix T20 bowling

AFP | New Delhi

Improving India's bowling remains the team's focus ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup next month, skipper Rohit Sharma has said, adding that he backs seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar to come out of a recent slump.

India went past Aaron Finch's Australia by six wickets to clinch the three-match T20 series 2-1, and now host South Africa for a white-ball series



India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar (R) celebrates with team captain Rohit Sharma during a match (file photo) starting Wednesday.

The team's batsmen, including Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav, have been in good form

and shared a 104-run partnership to secure victory on Sunday, but the final-overs bowling has been a cause of worry.

Kumar, once a champion of choking runs in the final overs of a T20 match, has been expensive lately. He leaked 21 runs in the 18th over in the series-decider, with Tim David hitting him for two sixes and a four.

"We know that he has had more good days than the bad days in the last so many years," Rohit said of the veteran fast

bowler in a post-match press conference.

"Yes, of late it has not been the kind of performance that he wants but that can happen to any of the bowlers. You can see the opposition as well, it's not easy to bowl in the death."

The 32-year-old Kumar, who remains a key member of the team's plans for T20's showpiece event in Australia, had just two wickets from two matches and an expensive economy rate of 13.00.