

Djokovic downs Nadal as Daley dives to fifth Olympic medal

Epic rivalry ends with Djokovic's triumph, Daley shines in diving, and weather impacts | P12

Keanu Reeves' knee 'cracked like a potato chip' in freak accident **8 CELEBS**

BUSINESS 5 BBK discloses H1 results, dividend

Bahrain warns citizens against Lebanon travel



Damascus

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Syrian Arab Republic underscored the importance of adhering to previous warnings issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Bahraini citizens against traveling to the Lebanese Republic due to the current security situation and potential risks.

The embassy urges any Bahraini citizens in Lebanon to evacuate immediately for their safety. It stressed the need to exercise caution and comply with the instructions issued by the relevant local authorities until their departure.

US pledges new \$1.7bn military aid to Ukraine

AFP | Washington

The United States yesterday announced new military aid for Ukraine valued at around \$1.7 billion that features air defense munitions and artillery rounds that Kyiv's forces say they desperately need.

The aid includes \$200 million in equipment that will be drawn from existing US military stocks and will reach the battlefield quickly, as well as about \$1.5 billion in new orders that will take longer to arrive, the Defense Department said in a statement.

Protests in Caracas

AFP | Caracas, Venezuela

Protests erupted in parts of Caracas yesterday against the re-election victory claimed by Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro but disputed by the opposition and questioned internationally, AFP journalists observed. Dozens turned to hundreds as more joined demonstrations despite rain and police being deployed in large numbers.

220 fils (includes VAT)



HM King hails Royal Guard's sporting achievements

His Majesty receives commemorative gift from HH Shaikh Nasser

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, commended the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Royal Guard for their impressive sporting achievements at regional and international competitions.

He also praised their distinguished participation in national celebrations and events.

HM the King was speaking as he visited the new Royal Horse Stables of the Royal Guard of the BDF yesterday.

The Supreme Commander of

the Armed Forces was accompanied by His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Personal Representative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. His Majesty's convoy was also accompanied by a group of Royal Guard cavalry.

Upon arrival at the Royal Horse Stables, HM King Hamad was received by His Highness Lieutenant-General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander; Colonel His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Royal Guard Special Force Commander; Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), and Major-General Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Nuaimi, Deputy Commander of the Royal Guard. The royal anthem was



HM the King visits the new Royal Horse Stables of the Royal Guard of the BDF

then played.

HM the King thanked HH Lieutenant-General Shaikh Nasser and all the members of the Royal Guard, commending their steadfast commitment to fulfilling their national duties, and wishing them further success.

HM the King was briefed by HH Shaikh Nasser on the new Royal Horse Stables of the Royal Guard of the BDF, including the Ceremonial and Cavalry Group Command and its facilities.

His Majesty expressed admiration and satisfaction with what he observed during the visit.

At the end of the visit, HH Lieutenant-General Shaikh Nasser presented a commemorative gift to His Majesty on this occasion.

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War 'avoidable'

US confident of avoiding 'full-blown' Israel-Hezbollah conflict

AFP | Washington

The United States is confident that a wider war between Israel and Hezbollah can be avoided despite a deadly rocket attack in the annexed Golan Heights that killed 12 children, the White House said yesterday.

US and Israeli officials had conversations at "multiple levels" over the weekend following the attack and the risk of a full-blown conflict is "exaggerated," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said.

"Nobody wants a broader war, and I'm confident that we'll be able to avoid such an outcome," Kirby said in a call with reporters.

"We all heard about this 'all-out war' at multiple points over the last 10 months, those predictions were exaggerated then, quite frankly, we think they're exaggerated now."

Regional tensions are soaring after the attack that Israel and the US have blamed on Leba-



Palestinians flee the al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. (AFP)

non's Iran-backed Hezbollah group.

Israel's Prime Minister Benja-

min Netanyahu vowed to deliver a "severe response" yesterday after he visited the site of the

attack in Majdal Shams.

Kirby said the latest attack should not have a bearing on

talks for a ceasefire in Gaza, where Israel is carrying out a military offensive against the Iran-backed Hamas group.

Significant impact

"We don't see any indications at this point in time here, on Monday morning, that there's going to be a significant impact," Kirby said.

The Pentagon said yesterday that US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant, discussing the Majdal Shams attack and "threats still facing Israel from a range of Iranian-backed terrorist groups, including Lebanese Hezbollah."

The two officials talked about "the opportunity to finalize a hostage and ceasefire deal in Gaza," as well as efforts to reach "a diplomatic solution in the north that stops all attacks and allows citizens on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border to return home safely," the Pentagon said in a statement.

'Retreat' from initial draft

Netanyahu 'stalling' ceasefire deal with new terms

AFP | Doha

Hamas yesterday again accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of delaying a Gaza ceasefire and hostage exchange deal.

It said he had set new conditions that mark a "retreat" from

an earlier draft.

The statement came after Egyptian, Qatari and US mediators met with Israeli negotiators in Rome on Sunday as international pressure for a ceasefire grows after more than nine months of war.

"We in the Hamas movement have listened to the mediators regarding what transpired recently in the Rome meeting, concerning the ceasefire negotiations and prisoner exchange," the group said in a statement.

"It is clear from what the me-

diators conveyed that Netanyahu has returned to his strategy of procrastination, stalling, and evading reaching an agreement by setting new conditions and demands," it added.

The new terms, Hamas said, represent "a retreat" from an

earlier draft communicated by mediators.

US President Joe Biden outlined in late May what he called an Israeli initiative for a truce and hostage release deal, and this has become the basis for subsequent talks.