



Measures taken to ensure safety during New Year celebrations: MoI

(Continued from page 1)

The Ministry of Interior, in a Tweet, said, said they and various directorates took necessary steps to ensure the safety of citizens, residents and visitors during the New Year Holidays.

Coordinating the security in all four governorates were the Community Service police, the Coast Guard Command, the General Administration of

Guards and the National Ambulance.

Officers patrolled festival sites where people thronged in large numbers. Police had also intensified surveillance at main streets and intersections near the event sites and roads where traffic was huge.

Public security has also deployed rescue patrols in various regions to support the efforts of the Police directorates and ensure speedy response.

The General Administration of Civil Defence and the General Administration of Ports Security confirmed the readiness of land, air and sea ports to receive visitors during the New Year holidays.

Oscar Slap, meltdowns

For some, 2022 was a year of the Great Resignation, a new Taylor Swift album, an Oscar slap and billionaire meltdowns.

It also saw the deaths of Queen

Elizabeth II, Brazilian football icon Pele, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jiang Zemin, and Shinzo Abe. Former pope Benedict XVI died on New Year's Eve.

In November, the global population surpassed the historic milestone of eight billion people.

But 2022 is most likely to be remembered for armed conflict returning to Europe -- a continent that was the crucible of two world wars.

There seems to be a dulled appetite for grand celebrations in Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Moscow has cancelled its traditional fireworks show after Mayor Sergei Sobyanin asked residents to vote on how to mark the occasion.

The new year will kick-off with a new leader in Brazil, where Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva takes the reins on Sunday following his razor-thin win in October polls.

However, China begins 2023 battling a surge in Covid infections after unwinding restrictions to contain the virus.

Authorities in Shanghai have said there will be no formal activities on the city's famed Bund waterfront.

Chinese President Xi Jinping told the country in a televised New Year's Eve address that, despite the outbreak, "the light of hope is right in front of us".



Indian Embassy Open House



The Embassy of India in Bahrain held its last open house of 2022 on Friday in the presence of Ambassador Piyush Srivastava, the Embassy Consular team and a Panel of Lawyers. About 50 Indian nationals and 10 associations participated in the open house. Ambassador informed them about the opening of Labour Registration Programme Centres for flexi visa holders and encouraged Indian community flexi visa holders to urgently register under the new system before the February 2023 deadline. Ambassador thanked ICRF, World NRI Council, Bharti, BKS, TKS, SPM, BICAS, and Budaiya Gurudwara for their constant support to community members and for resolving long pending cases.

Benedict received his last rites, "the anointing of the sick", on Wednesday

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier this week, Pope Francis disclosed that his predecessor was "very sick". Bruni said Benedict had received his last rites, called "the anointing of the sick", on Wednesday.

Leaders were swift in sending their condolences for Benedict, who was the first German pope in 1,000 years.

"We mourn the death of our Bavarian Pope," said Markus Soeder, premier of Benedict's home state. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Twitter that the world had lost "a formative figure of the Catholic Church".

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni hailed Benedict as "a great man who history will not forget", while Polish President Andrzej Duda called him "one of the greatest theologians of the 20th and 21st centuries".

French President Emmanuel Macron said Benedict had "worked with all his soul and intelligence for a more fraternal world". Child abuse scandals



A view of St Peter's Square after death of former Pope Benedict, at the Vatican

hounded most of his papacy but he is credited with jump-starting the process to discipline or defrock predator priests after a more lax attitude under his predecessor.

But Benedict himself ac-

knowledged that he was a weak administrator, saying he showed a "lack of resolve in governing and decision making" during his eight-year papacy which was marked by missteps and a leaks scandal. He announced he was resigning in Latin at a routine meeting of cardinals. Many had

no idea what he had said and it took time before the news sank in. He himself said he was no longer strong enough to lead the Church due to his "advanced age".

After his resignation he in-

stalled himself in a converted

convent on the Vatican grounds and chose the title "pope emeritus".

Although he rarely appeared in public, Catholic conservatives looked to the former pope as their standard bearer and some ultra-traditionalists even re-

fused to acknowledge Francis as a legitimate pontiff.

Despite the difficulties that emerged from having two men wearing white in the Vatican, Francis developed a warm relationship with Benedict, and said it was like having a grandfather living in the house.

Green and fresh clean and delish

Farmers' market takes people back to the Greenways

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Hundreds thronged the Bahrain farmers' market yesterday with their families and friends, enjoying the fresh air, having picnics, and buying fresh fruits and vegetables.

People were seen touching, smelling and tasting the fresh-grown produce at the market, which also included dates from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The dates attracted many visitors, who were eager to taste and buy them in plenty.

Cucumbers, melons, eggplants, peppers, tomatoes, lettuces, strawberries, herbs, plants and honey were some of the other products on display at the stalls.

Some stalls also had a variety of leaves, including Neem.

Farmers said they are many benefits to eating Neem leaves, as it can help reduce acne breakouts, boosts immune systems, improve oral health, helps regulate blood sugar levels, and maintains a healthy scalp.

Tomatillos were a particular variety that grabbed buyers' attention.

The fruit, green in colour, is said to help support the anti-ageing of skin. It also has vitamins to help promote collagen, which is crucial for maintaining skin.

Mohammed Merza Hassan, a farmer at the venue, told *The Daily Tribune*: "We sell many types of melon ranging from orange, yellow, and pink. Typically, it takes 70 days to grow them."

Hassan is also the winner of the best farmer in Bahrain award in 2018.

Further explaining, he said: "The pink watermelons sell the



best. Many people buy, and they sell out very quickly. We also sell our products to other markets

and have three farms where we grow our fresh produce.

"The orange melon is sweet,

and people buy many of them.

"Our customers like the sweet taste of the melon.

"Usually melons come from

America, Iran, and Turkey, but we grow them here, in Bahrain."



Bahraini Farmers Market continues every Saturday from 7 am to 1 pm in the Budaiya Botanical Garden.

Also speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, another farmer Merza Hasan Mansoor said: "At our stall, we sell eight different types of tomatoes."

"We sell orange, red, yellow, and brown tomatoes.

"However, the red cherry tomatoes tend to sell the best.

"Red tomatoes are usually sweeter, one of the reasons why people buy those kinds often."

Picnic, fresh air

Besides giving an opportunity to enjoy the freshly grown green delicacies, visitors at the market were also seen enjoying the opportunity to feel some fresh air and spend time with their loved ones.

Families on picnics had breakfast on the grass, and read books sitting on the benches.

Children were busy playing in the grass area while enjoying the fruits and vegetables sold at the market.

The Bahrain farmer market, many said, is a great way to buy fresh produce, enjoy time with friends and family, and get some exercise from walking around the different stalls.



More than 60,000 people visited Farmers' market in four weeks

TDT | Manama

More than 60,000 people visited the Farmer's market, which has successfully completed its fourth week, since opening to the public on December 10, according to the organising committee of the market. The wide popularity of the

current edition, according to the organising committee, is partly due to the newly introduced events that contributed to upgrading the market as well as increased participation of Bahraini farmers and agricultural companies.

Besides hosting various activities since the launch of the market, the market also included a corner for children called Mun Kids village.

According to farmer Ibrahim Nasser, who is participating in the market, "One of the positive

things about the farmer market is the introduction of new agricultural products that Bahraini farmers were not interested in growing.

"Demand from visitors promoted farmers to grow them and bring them here."

Besides, farmers are using organic fertilisers, making their products high value.

"This practice has also increased the quality of their products, making it much better than imported products, yet available at lower prices."

CAPTAINS CORNER

The secret to world change



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The scale of our personal improvement ambitions – a.k.a. New Year Resolutions – is often a commentary on the times that we are living in. Gone are the days when we lived in an innocent world where losing weight and travelling the world were the top resolutions. Today, much weightier concerns shape our goals – doing something about climate change, for example, or raising awareness about mental health or saving the Antarctic ice shelf.

The problem of course is that the internet has made internet warriors of us all. We sit in the comfort of our living rooms and try to solve the worries of the world at the click of our mouse. Well,

here's an unpleasant bit of news – the internet is a mighty alter universe which has changed the way we communicate and store knowledge. But it cannot substitute for real engagement. You can send out a thousand forwards about things that need changing and participate in hundreds of protests online but it all boils down to one thing: as Mahatma Gandhi said, 'Be the change you want to see.'

Simply put, it all begins with you. Want to do something for the environment? You don't need to be a Greta Thunberg. You can begin by reducing and reusing plastics in your household, by responsibly disposing of e-waste and batteries, by leading a sustainable life where you are aware of every purchase – food waste from your household refrigerator and textile waste from the factory floor make up the bulk of the world's garbage.

Want to tackle mental health awareness? Be understanding to those whom you believe need support as they tackle their mental crises. Talk openly in your community and among friends about mental health awareness and solutions so that the stigma is erased. If you are in a position to support a mental health sufferer as an employer, embrace the opportunity.

Let us step into 2023 with the clear knowledge that it all boils down to one person – you. Change and the world will change with you.

Happy New Year!

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

Eating and driving

A recipe for disaster

Eating and drinking at the wheel is more common than using mobile phone

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Distracted driving covers a broad range of risky behaviours.

An all-too-familiar scenario is steering a car with one hand while simultaneously munching away a big treat.

Studies point out that this ultimately diverts attention from what they need their focus on. Driving.

The blame is squarely on the fast-paced modern life, where people rush from one responsibility to another.

In such a scenario, obviously, fast food and convenience stores are the quick options for a meal or snack.

Making this worse is the convenience of the drive-thru window that enables motorists to order and tuck into their favourite foods as they floor the pedal.

Studies say driving while eating or drinking increases crash risk by about 70%.

The behaviour also ranks just below holding a cell phone when it comes to the prevalence of behaviours that distract drivers.

Mostly, people between 40 and 50 years of age are at fault here more than others.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Mr Juma, a prominent citizen, said, "Every time I leave the office in the morning, I see many people eating while driving.

"This is very common in the Kingdom, and nobody sees it as a concern until people get distracted and involve themselves in an



Representative picture



In the United States, over 3,100 people were killed and about 424,000 were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver in 2019. About 1 in 5 of the people who died in crashes involving a distracted driver in 2019 were not in vehicles they were walking, riding their bikes, or otherwise outside a vehicle.

accident.

"Some vehicles now have the technology to sense when someone is about to rear-end someone.

"The tech will automatically either brake the car for you or give you the warning to let you know that this is about to happen.

"It is challenging for people to understand what they are not

allowed to do and for law enforcement to be able to know that those particular behaviours are covered by this law," according to Juma.

Juma believes that technology will play a significant role in addressing distracted driving problems.

So, is there a solution?

Planning the route with a rested

and healthy driver is the first step in ensuring road safety.

Even though drivers try to compensate for eating and drinking by driving more slowly and carefully, they are often unable to brake in time to avoid collisions.

The recommendation is to set their alarms to wake up earlier and eat at home before commuting to prevent accidents involving food and distracted driving.

The message is clear: By picking up lunch at a drive-through and taking a short break to eat it in the restaurant's parking lot, one could considerably lower the risk of a major or deadly auto accident.

Police arrest 19-year-old for flaunting his flashy car and creating commotion

TDT | Manama

Flaunting a flashy car before friends and causing disturbances in a residential neighbourhood had landed a teenager in police custody.

The 19-year-old driver of the car, police said, was creating a commotion in the Raml area by revving the vehicle hard and performing other stunts.

Police said they had also confiscated the car and initiated legal actions against the driver.

In a statement, the General Directorate of Traffic Department said it won't tolerate any violation of traffic rules and regulations.



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted a joint inspection campaign in the Southern Governorate, in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) of the Ministry of Interior and the Southern Governorate Police Directorate. The campaign resulted in reporting violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws and was referred for legal action. LMRA stressed its commitment to reporting any violation through a continuous and intensive inspection plan, in cooperation with the relevant government entities. The Authority also renewed its call to support government agencies to address illegal labour practices. To report violations, use the electronic form on LMRA's website www.lmra.bh or call the authority on 17506055.

Drugmakers to raise prices on at least 350 drugs in US in January

● In 2022, drugmakers raised prices on more than 1,400 drugs according to data published by 46brooklyn

● AstraZeneca is set to raise prices in the 3% range on blood cancer treatment Calquence, non-small cell lung cancer drug Tagrisso and asthma treatment Fasenra.

● Sanofi plans to raise prices on 14 of its drugs or vaccines

● Increases for Pfizer include a 6% rise on the cost of Xeljanz, a treatment for autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis and ulcerative colitis, and 7.9% increases on cancer drugs Ibrance and Xalkori

Reuters | New York

Drugmakers including Pfizer Inc (PFE.N), GlaxoSmithKline PLC (GSK.L), Bristol Myers Squibb (BMY.N), AstraZeneca PLC (AZN.L) and Sanofi SA (SASY.PA) plan to raise prices in the United States on more than 350 unique drugs in early January, according to data analyzed by healthcare research firm 3 Axis Advisors.

The increases are expected to come as the pharmaceutical



Customers wait in the pharmacy department at a Target store in the Brooklyn borough of New York

industry prepares for the Biden Administration's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which allows the government's Medicare health program to negotiate prices directly for some drugs starting in 2026. The industry is also contending with inflation and supply chain constraints that have led to higher manufacturing costs.

The increases are on list prices, which do not include rebates

to pharmacy benefit managers and other discounts.

In 2022, drugmakers raised prices on more than 1,400 drugs according to data published by 46brooklyn, a drug pricing non-profit that is related to 3 Axis. That is the most increases since 2015.

The median drug price increase was 4.9% last year, while the average increase was 6.4%, according to 46brooklyn. Both

figures are lower than inflation rates in the United States.

Drugmakers largely have kept increases at 10% or below - an industry practice followed by many big drugmakers since they came under fire for too many price hikes in the middle of the last decade.

Antonio Ciaccia, president of 3 Axis, said that drugmakers have focused on launching their drugs at higher prices because of the attention paid to annual price increases. The IRA should further this dynamic, he said.

"Drug makers have to take a harder look at calibrating those launch prices out of the gate ... so they don't box themselves into the point where in the future, they can't price increase their way back into profitability," he said.

More drug prices are likely to be announced over the course of January - historically the biggest month for drugmakers to raise

prices.

To date, Pfizer announced the most increases, with prices rising on 89 unique drug brands, and an additional increase on 10 drug brands at its Hospira arm.

That was followed by GSK, with planned increases so far on 26 unique drugs, including nearly a 7% increase on its popular shingles vaccine Shingrix.

GSK was not immediately available for comment.

Notable increases expected include 9% price hikes on Bristol Myers Squibb's (BMY.N) personalized CAR-T cell therapies Abecma and Breyanzi, both of which were already more than \$400,000 for the blood cancer treatments.

A company spokesperson said there were several driving factors in increasing the list price of the two CAR-T cell therapies, including the rate of inflation, the value of the therapies, and the personalized nature of the CAR-T manufacturing process.

Increases for Pfizer include a 6% rise on the cost of Xeljanz, a treatment for autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis and ulcerative colitis, and 7.9% increases on cancer drugs Ibrance and Xalkori.

A Pfizer spokesperson said in an email that the company's average list prices for drugs and vaccines in 2023 are well below overall inflation at approximately 3.6%, noting that the increases are needed to support investments in drug discovery.

Pfizer noted that net prices - those the company actually receives for its drugs - have fallen in the past four years because of higher rebates and discounts paid to insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers.

AstraZeneca is set to raise prices in the 3% range on blood

cancer treatment Calquence, non-small cell lung cancer drug Tagrisso and asthma treatment Fasenra.

"AstraZeneca has always taken a thoughtful approach to pricing, and we continue to do so, considering many factors," said company spokesman Brendan McEvoy.

In addition to significant R&D investments, McEvoy said AstraZeneca considers clinical value, size of patient population, government/payer coverage requirements, patient affordability, competition and other market conditions.

Sanofi plans to raise prices on 14 of its drugs or vaccines.

A Sanofi spokesperson said the drugmaker's 2023 pricing actions are consistent with its approach to responsible pricing. A Sanofi spokesperson said the drugmaker's 2023 pricing actions are consistent with its approach to responsible pricing, adherence to government policies, and the need to respond to evolving trends in the marketplace.



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Zenseact becomes fully owned subsidiary of Volvo Cars



Representative picture

Reuters

Sweden-based Volvo Car AB said yesterday it had taken 100% ownership of its autonomous driving (AD) software development subsidiary Zenseact.

Volvo Cars acquired 13.5% of shares in Zenseact from ECARX where it asked for 15% shareholding in the software company.

Zenseact had struck a deal with Luminar Technologies (LAZR.O) in 2021 to offer a combination hardware-software system to other automakers.

Despite Volvo Cars taking ECARX's shares in the software company, the ongoing collaboration discussions between Zenseact and ECARX will continue as planned, Volvo Cars said.

Zenseact received a strategic investment in 2021 from ECARX where it asked for 15% shareholding in the software company.

Zenseact had struck a deal with Luminar Technologies (LAZR.O) in 2021 to offer a combination hardware-software system to other automakers.

Oil ends year of wild price swings with 2nd straight annual gain

● Brent crude logs 10% gain in 2022, WTI records 7% increase

● Year marked by Ukraine war supply concerns, Chinese demand drop

● Heading into 2023, China's COVID spike hurts demand outlook

● POLL-Economic weakness set to weigh on oil price in 2023

Reuters | New York

Oil prices swung wildly in 2022, climbing on tight supplies amid the war in Ukraine, then sliding on weaker demand from top importer China and worries of an economic contraction, but closed the year on Friday with a second straight annual gain.

Prices surged in March as

Russia's invasion of Ukraine upended global crude flows, with international benchmark Brent reaching \$139.13 a barrel, highest since 2008. Prices cooled rapidly in the second half as central banks hiked interest rates and fanned worries of recession.

"This has been an extraordinary year for commodity markets, with supply risks leading to increased volatility and elevated prices," said ING analyst Ewa Manthey. "Next year is set to be another year of uncertainty, with plenty of volatility," she said.

Brent crude on Friday, the last trading day of the year, settled at \$85.91 a barrel, up nearly 3% to \$2.45 per barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude settled at \$80.26 a barrel, up \$1.86 or 2.4%.

For the year, Brent gained about 10%, after jumping 50% in 2021. US crude rose nearly 7% in 2022, following last year's gain of 55%. Both benchmarks fell sharply in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic slashed fuel demand.

Investors in 2023 are expected to keep taking a cautious ap-

proach, wary of interest rate hikes and possible recessions.

"The demand and demand growth is going to be a real question because of the heavy-handed actions by the global central banks and the slowdown that they're trying to engineer," said John Kilduff, partner at Again Capital LLC in New York.

A survey of 30 economists and analysts forecast Brent would average \$89.37 a barrel in 2023, about 4.6% lower than the consensus in a November survey. US crude is projected to average \$84.84 per barrel in 2023, down from the prior view. [read more](#)

While a jump in year-end holiday travel and Russia's ban on crude and oil product sales

has supported crude, tighter supply will be offset next year by declining fuel consumption due to a deteriorating economic environment, said CMC Markets analyst Leon Li.

Oil's decline in the second half of 2022 as rising interest rates to fight inflation boosted the US dollar. That made dollar-denominated commodities like crude more costly for holders of other currencies.

The dollar was on track to post its biggest annual gain since 2015. [read more](#)

China's zero-COVID restrictions, which were eased only this month, had squashed demand recovery hopes. The world's top oil importer and second-biggest consumer in 2022 posted its first drop in oil demand for years.

While China's oil demand is expected to recover in 2023, a recent surge in COVID-19 cases has dimmed hopes of an immediate boost in barrel buying.

In an indicator of future supply, the US oil and gas rig count rose 33% for the year, energy services firm Baker Hughes Co (BKR.O) said in its latest report.

85.91

Brent crude on Friday, the last trading day of the year, settled at \$85.91 a barrel, up nearly 3% to \$2.45 per barrel.

Wall Street concludes 2022 with biggest annual drop since 2008

● Wall St booked biggest annual percentage drop since 2008

● S&P market cap declined by about \$8 billion in 2022

● Indexes down: Dow 0.22%, S&P 500 0.25%, Nasdaq 0.11%

Reuters

U.S. stocks closed out 2022 lower on Friday, capping a year of sharp losses driven by aggressive interest rate hikes to curb inflation, recession fears, the Russia-Ukraine war and rising concerns over COVID cases in China.

Wall Street's three main indexes booked their first yearly drop since 2018 as an era of loose monetary policy ended with the Federal Reserve's fastest pace of rate hikes since the 1980s.

The benchmark S&P 500 (.SPX) has shed 19.4% this year, marking a roughly \$8 trillion decline in market cap. The tech-heavy Nasdaq (.IXIC) is down 33.1%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average (.DJI) has fallen 8.9%.

The annual percentage declines for all three indexes were the biggest since the 2008 financial crisis, largely driven by a rout in growth shares as concerns over Fed's rapid interest rate hikes boost US Treasury



A trader works on the trading floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City, U.S.

yield.

"The primary macro reasons ... came from a combination of events: the ongoing supply chain disruption that started in 2020, the spike in inflation, the tardiness of the Fed beginning its rate tightening program in the attempt to corral the inflation," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research.

He also cited economic indicators pointing to recession, geopolitical tensions including the Ukraine war, and China's surging COVID cases and uncertainties over Taiwan.

Growth stocks have been un-

der pressure from rising yields for much of 2022 and have underperformed their economically linked value peers, reversing a trend that had lasted for much of the past decade.

Apple Inc (AAPL.O), Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O), Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O), Nvidia Corp (NVDA.O), Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O), Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) are among the worst drags on the S&P 500 growth index (.IGX), down between 28% and 66% in 2022.

The S&P 500 growth index has fallen about 30.1% this year, while the value index (.IVX) is down 7.4%, with investors preferring high dividend-yielding

sectors with steady earnings such as energy.

Energy (.SPNY) has recorded stellar annual gains of 59% as oil prices surged.

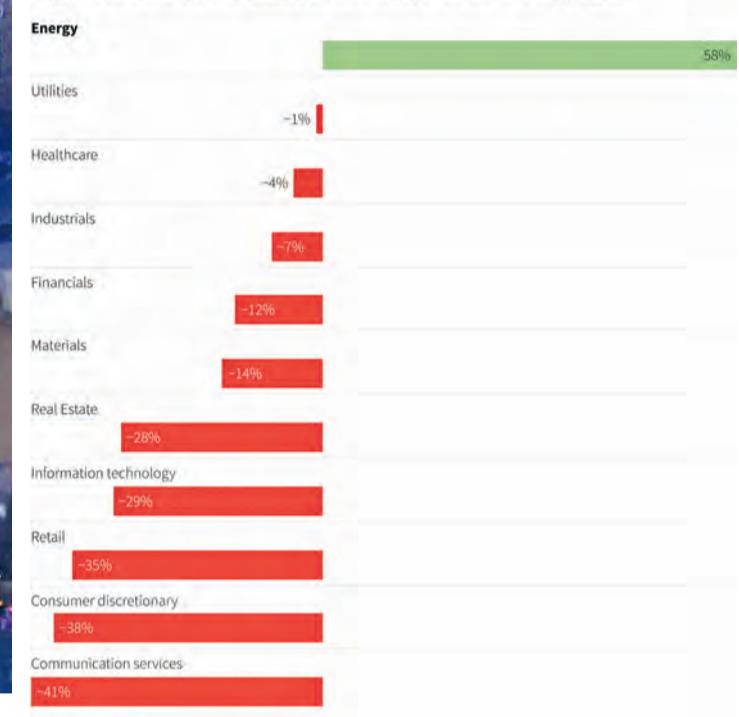
Ten of the 11 S&P (.SPX) sector indexes dropped on Friday, led by real estate and utilities.

"The housing market has really slowed down and the values of people's homes have declined off of the highs earlier this year," said J. Bryant Evans, investment advisor and portfolio manager at Cozad Asset Management in Champaign, Illinois.

"That affects people's mind frame and actually affects their spending a little bit."

Most major S&P sectors fall in 2022, energy outperforms

Rate-sensitive tech and growth stocks are biggest losers on the S&P 500, energy soars



Source: Refinitiv Eikon

0.22%, to 33,147.25; the S&P 500 (.SPX) lost 9.78 points, or 0.25%, at 3,839.50; and the Nasdaq Composite (.IXIC) dropped 11.61 points, or 0.11%, to 10,466.48.

Volume on US exchanges was 8.50 billion shares, compared with the 10.79 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the NYSE by a 1.50-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.03-to-1 ratio favored decliners.

The S&P 500 posted no new 52-week highs and no new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 85 new highs and 134 new lows.

Fed reverse repo facility hits record \$2.554 trillion

● The reverse repo facility takes in cash from eligible financial firms in what is a de facto loan from the Fed. The current rate stands at 4.3%, which is a return that often bests private sector short-term lending rates.

Reuters | New York

A key facility the Federal Reserve uses to help control short-term interest rates saw record inflows on Friday, the final trading day of the year.

The New York Fed said that its reverse repo facility took in \$2.554 trillion in cash from money market funds and other eligible financial firms, besting the prior high water mark seen on Sept. 30, when inflows totaled \$2.426 trillion.

The cash surge was almost certainly tipped into record territory on a typical quarter end pattern which can be further exacerbated on the year end. On those dates, for a variety of reasons, many financial firms prefer to park cash at the central bank



The Federal Reserve building is seen in Washington, U.S.

rather than in private markets.

The Fed's reverse repo facility has been very active for some time. After seeing almost no uptake for an extended period, cash began to gravitate toward the central bank in the spring of 2021 and then grew consistently. Daily reverse repo usage has been holding over the \$2 trillion mark since June.

The reverse repo facility takes in cash from eligible financial firms in what is a de facto loan

from the Fed. The current rate stands at 4.3%, which is a return that often bests private sector short-term lending rates.

The reverse repo facility is designed to provide a soft floor for short-term rates and the federal funds target rate, the Fed's main tool to achieve its job and inflation mandates. To set the high end of the range, the Fed also pays deposit taking banks to park cash at the central bank, with its interest rate on reserve

balances now standing at 4.4%.

The federal funds rate is currently set at between 4.25% and 4.5% and traded at 4.33% as of Friday, bound between the reverse repo and interest on reserve balances rates.

NO SIGNS OF SHRINKAGE

Even with the massive usage of the reverse repos, Fed officials have been consistently unworried about the large inflows, even as some in financial markets have worried about the

prospect the Fed could drain the life out of private money market borrowing and lending.

Fed officials have also expected that as the central bank presses forward with its interest rate increases aimed at lowering very high levels of inflation, usage of the reverse repo facility should fall. But that has yet to happen, and some in markets now believe consistently high usage of the Fed facility will be around for some time to come.

Research from the New York Fed has suggested bank regulation issues are keeping demand for the Fed reverse repo tool high. Meanwhile the Kansas City Fed added its view that large inflows are tied to limited private market investment opportunities and policy uncertainty.

Strong inflows of cash to the central bank may not alarm central bankers, but it has pushed their operations into a de facto loss. The Fed funds itself through interest on the bonds it owns as well as services it provides to the financial community. Normally it earns a notable profit and by law hands that back to the Treasury.

Right now, the cost of paying interest on reverse repos and on reserve balances is outstrip-



The US central banking system—the Federal Reserve, or the Fed—is the most powerful economic institution in the United States, perhaps the world. Its core responsibilities include setting interest rates, managing the money supply, and regulating financial markets.

ping income. The Fed reported on Thursday that as of Dec. 28, an accounting measure it uses to track the loss stood at \$18 billion. Many observers expect the Fed's plans to raise rates further and maintain them at high levels means fairly substantial losses for the central bank over time, even as those losses will not impact the Fed's monetary policy work.

Key events that dominated world headlines in 2022



January

15: Underwater volcano Hunga-Tonga Hunga-Ha'apai violently erupts with 20km ash plume, sending tsunami over nearby Tonga, with shock waves heard in New Zealand



24: French President Emmanuel Macron wins re-election defeating National Rally's Marine Le Pen, first sitting French president re-elected in 20 years

25: Twitter announces a deal to sell itself to Elon Musk for \$44 billion



May

9: Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa submits his resignation to his brother President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, amid continuing violent protests causing four deaths



14: US records one million COVID-19 deaths, with The White House ordering flags to fly at half mast through the weekend

15: Finland and Sweden say they intend to apply to join NATO, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, ending decades of neutrality

June

2: Queen Elizabeth II marks her Platinum Jubilee with four days of celebrations starting with a military parade at Buckingham Palace



24: US Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, eliminating constitutional right to choose abortion, in a 6-3 vote

July

7: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces his resignation at Downing Street after pressure from, and mass resignations of his ministers



February

4: XXIV Olympic Winter Games open in Beijing, China

24: Russian leader Vladimir Putin announces the start of a "special military operation" in Ukraine to "demilitarize" the country moments before Russia launches a full-scale pre-dawn invasion by land, air and sea, with bombings in several cities amid international condemnation

March

4: Four-ton rocket debris crashes into the far side of the moon, unconfirmed booster from China's Chang'e 5-T1 mission in first unintentional collision with the moon



27: 94th Academy Awards: "CODA" wins best film, best director Jane Campion, best actress Jessica Chastain, best actor Will Smith who also controversially slaps host Chris Rock live on stage

April

10: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan removed from power after losing a no-confidence vote in parliament



8: Former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe assassinated while giving a speech in Nara, Japan

20: An intense heatwave across Europe results in over 1000 deaths in Portugal and 500 in Spain; while starting wildfires across Spain, France, Italy and Greece

August

2: US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is the first speaker to visit Taiwan in 25 years, prompting condemnation from the Chinese Communist Party

14: US records one million COVID-19 deaths, with The White House ordering flags to fly at half mast through the weekend

15: Finland and Sweden say they intend to apply to join NATO, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, ending decades of neutrality

September

8: Queen Elizabeth II dies at Balmoral Castle after ruling for 70 years, as the UK's longest-serving monarch. Her eldest son inherits the throne as King Charles III

17: Protests erupt in Iran and continue the next few days at the treatment of women, after the funeral of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year old who died in morality police custody

30: Russian President Vladimir Putin signs treaties absorbing four Ukrainian provinces into the Russian Federation

October

1: Stampede at Indonesian soccer stadium kills 131 people in Malang city, East Java, started after police fire teargas at rioters

29: Crowd surge at Halloween festivities in Seoul, South Korea, leaves 155 people dead

in the crowd

22: Italy forms new coalition government, choosing far-right Brothers of Italy (Fratelli d'Italia - FdI) leader Giorgia Meloni as Prime Minister, the 1st female to hold the office



22: Xi Jinping is elected as General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party by the Central Committee, beginning a third term as the paramount leader of China



24: UK's ruling Conservative party appoints Rishi Sunak as their next leader and Prime Minister, replacing Liz Truss after six weeks; Sunak is the first PM of color in the country's history

29: Crowd surge at Halloween festivities in Seoul, South Korea, leaves 155 people dead

30: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is elected President of Brazil for a third term after a tight run-off race against sitting President Jair Bolsonaro

regional capital to be taken by Russia since the start of the war

15: The world population reaches 8 billion

16: US Republican party regains control of the House of Representatives by a narrow margin, with Kevin McCarthy as Leader of the House

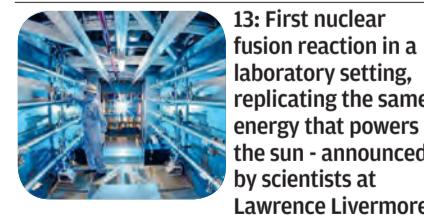
December



8: American basketball star Brittany Griner is released by Russian authorities in a prisoner exchange for Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout; Griner detained on drug smuggling charges since February 2022



11: NASA's Orion spacecraft returns to earth after completing Artemis I test flight around the moon in 25.5 days - record distance traveled by a spacecraft designed to carry humans



13: First nuclear fusion reaction in a laboratory setting, replicating the same energy that powers the sun - announced by scientists at Lawrence Livermore

National Laboratory, California

29: Brazilian soccer attacking midfielder Pele dies from colon cancer at 82



THE DAILY tribune

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023



January 1	February 2	March 4	March 24	May 3	June 5	July 1	August 5	September 1	October 1	November 1	December 2
Bahrain raises VAT to 10%, 94 basic food products, over 1,800 government services unaffected	Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi invites HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to visit India.	HRH Prince Salman calls for peaceful and diplomatic ways to resolve issues during talks with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken	HM King names 2022 as the Year of Bahraini youth	HM King and HRH Prince Salman perform Eid Al Fitr prayers with Royal family members	Bahrain celebrates the 20th anniversary of RHF, issues commemorative stamps	Bahrain rolls-out chip-enabled Sehati card in Muharraq	Bahrain announces free monkeypox vaccines, opens pre-registration, vaccination is voluntary	Bahrain condoles with the Russian president over the death of former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev.	HM King tell Putin to activate dialogue and negotiations for lasting peace	Pope Francis begins historic Bahrain visit	US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet praises longstanding ties between the US and Bahrain
Jan 5	Feb 8	March 5	March 28	May 7	June 6	July 3	August 7	September 14	Oct 2	Nov 8	Dec 4
HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, affirms Kingdom's support to enhance Alba's key role in the national economy	Bahrain introduced longer-duration permanent visas to attract highly talented individuals and foreign investors.	Bahrain, US signs deals to boost ties in industry, logistics and space science sectors.	Legislative and Executive branches agree on a maximum BD50 pension for Bahraini citizens	Arab Coalition completes transfer of 163 Houthi prisoners to Yemen	Bahrain unveils plans to employ 20,000 Bahrainis, train 10,000 annually until 2024, plans to facilitate trade procedures and increase their efficiency to attract investment worth more than \$2.5 billion by 2023	Bahrain join hands to boost terrorism fight, sign 3 MoUs	Bahrain joins hands with WHO to accelerate obesity battle	Private sector companies, Tamkeen join hands for alternative penalties programme	Bahrain starts accepting election nomination fees for the 2022 Parliamentary and Municipal elections	Bahrain supports global cooperation to mitigate climate change	US Navy intercepts fishing boat smuggling ammunition in the Gulf of Oman
Jan 7	Feb 12	March 6	March 29	May 10	June 8	July 4	August 18	Sept 3	Oct 3	Nov 9	Dec 5
Bahrain's vaccination drive reaches a major milestone, by fully vaccinating 94% of the eligible population. Boosters are given to 83%	Al Khaldiya win maiden King's cup	HM King reiterates Bahrain's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, all endeavours	Masks are made optional for citizens and residents in both indoor and outdoor areas	HM King establishes a Military Institution for the development of warfare industries at BDF	World Bank raises forecast for Bahrain's economic growth by 3.5%	HM King orders financial support to 127,945 low-income Bahraini families	Iran's navy briefly seizes two US drones	HRH Prince Salman announces new labour market reforms replacing Flexi permits	HM King welcomes Maldives president, sign multiple deals	Bahrain announces discovery of two new natural gas reservoirs in Al Juba and Al Jawf.	HRH Prince Salman welcomes 8th batch of PMS Fellowship programme at Gudaibiya Palace
Jan 9	March 7	April 3	April 7	May 12	June 14	July 7	August 21	Sept 8	Oct 4	Nov 12	Dec 9
Bans plastic bottles with less than 200 ml capacity	Bahrain provides \$1 million for the humanitarian needs of civilian refugees fleeing Ukraine	Two-month truce in force in Yemen, Bahrain calls it a major step to ending the war.	A new scheme launched for the private sector to invest in Government land through investmentland.gov.bh	Bahrain gets British eVisa waiver status	US Navy enhances security operations in Mideast with unmanned vessels, Artificial Intelligence	HM King orders financial support to 127,945 low-income Bahraini families	Nasa clicks Bahrain's fascinating underwater landscape; Bahrain approves faster and more efficient technologies for internet users	HM King performs Eid prayers and wishes Bahrain and its people safety, progress and prosperity	HM King welcomes Maldives president, sign multiple deals	GCC-China summits reflect GCC's resolve to enhance ties says, HM King	HM King to participate in GCC, Arab Summits with Xi Jinping
Jan 11	March 9	April 8	April 17	May 13	June 16	July 17	August 22	Sept 10	Oct 5	Dec 11	Dec 10
HRH Prince Salman orders 2,000 additional housing units for Bahrainis	Bahrain joins US-led Artemis Accords on peaceful and responsible space exploration	Decision made to provide booster doses every nine months to those aged 18 years and above	International Civil Aviation Organisation commends Bahrain's services to regional air navigation	HM King reshuffles Cabinet	Deputy Prime Minister and new ministers take oath before HM King	HM King tells leaders at Jeddah summit to stay united, end Iran's interferences	Bahrain launches project to develop a 100% Bahrain-built satellite	HRH Prince Salman orders financial support for driving instructors	HM King performs Friday Prayers, and shares wishes on the anniversary of the Prophet's birthday	Voting for the 2022 Parliamentary and Municipal elections begins	GCC-China summits reflect GCC's resolve to enhance ties says, HM King
Jan 12	March 13	April 18	April 23	May 14	June 17	July 20	August 23	Sept 11	Oct 10	Dec 13	Dec 13
HRH Prince Salman opens new state-of-the-art BIBF headquarter in Bahrain Bay	Bahrain signs a 15-year arrangement with Formula 1, the longest in the history of the sport, to stay on the Grand Prix calendar for 10 more years.	Bahrain completes implementation of Royal Directives to provide 40,000 housing units to citizens	HRH Prince Salman orders hike in pension, honours 30 top-performing government agencies remotely	US Navy enhances security operations in Mideast with unmanned vessels, Artificial Intelligence	HRH Prince Salman receives winners of the Crown Prince's International Scholarship programme	Bahrain retains tier 1 ranking in US State Department's 2022 report on Trafficking in Persons	HM King arrives in London to pay respects to Queen Elizabeth II	Bahrain celebrates the 21st anniversary of the Supreme Council for Women	HM King received Indian Orthodox Church Supreme Head His Holiness Pope Moran Mar Baselios	HM King opens the 6th legislative term's first session with a vow to further develop financial and economic support programmes for Bahrain	HM King to participate in GCC, Arab Summits with Xi Jinping
Feb 16	March 16	April 19	April 22	May 15	June 18	July 21	August 24	Sept 12	Oct 11	Dec 14	Dec 14
HRH Prince Salman and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett vow to further advance bilateral ties and cooperation	Bahrain and UAE call for boosting Arab unity to enhance joint Arab action	HRH Prince Salman orders hike in pension, honours 30 top-performing government agencies remotely	HM King orders Eid Al-Fitr gifts for widows and orphans	Sheikh Mohammed named the new UAE President	UNESCO King Hamad Prize awards projects from India and Tanzania	HM King participates in Sharm El-Sheikh tripartite summit that calls for regional solidarity	Bahrain detects monkeypox in a 29-year-old expat, who returned from abroad	Manama Dialogue opens with calls to end the conflict	HM King pardons 361 inmates, promotes 359 officers	HM King to participate in GCC, Arab Summits with Xi Jinping	HM King to participate in GCC, Arab Summits with Xi Jinping
Feb 18	March 18	April 20	April 23	May 16	June 20	July 22	August 25	Sept 13	Oct 12	Dec 15	Dec 15
Bahrain ends precautionary quarantine for contacts of active COVID-19 cases. Tests are only for those having symptoms.	Bahrain kicks off F1's new era at Bahrain International Circuit	Moody's upgrades Bahrain's outlook to stable from Negative and affirms B2 rating	HRH Prince Salman orders Eid Al-Fitr gifts for widows and orphans	HRH Prince Salman calls for boosting investment in renewable energy	UNESCO-King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize awards winners	HM King participates in Sharm El-Sheikh tripartite summit that calls for regional solidarity	HM King arrives in London to pay respects to Queen Elizabeth II	HRH Prince Salman orders financial support for driving instructors	HM King received Indian Orthodox Church Supreme Head His Holiness Pope Moran Mar Baselios	HM King opens the 6th legislative term's first session with a vow to further develop financial and economic support programmes for Bahrain	HM King to participate in GCC, Arab Summits with Xi Jinping
Mar 20	March 20	April 21	April 24	May 17	June 23	July 23	August 26	Sept 14	Oct 13	Dec 16	Dec 16
Bahrain International Circuit announced the completion of the solar project	Charles Leclerc led Ferrari to a one-two victory in F1 at BIC.	HRH Prince Salman directs Civil Service Bureau to transfer annual leave surplus to COVID-19 heroes	HRH Prince Salman directs Finance and National Economic Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said Bahrain's economic recovery is on track	HRH Prince Salman calls for boosting investment in renewable energy	HM King affirms keenness to consolidate the independence of Bahrain's Judiciary	HM King participates in Sharm El-Sheikh tripartite summit that calls for regional solidarity	Bahrain launches project to develop a 100% Bahrain-built satellite	HRH Prince Salman orders financial support for driving instructors	HM King received Indian Orthodox Church Supreme Head His Holiness Pope Moran Mar Baselios	HM King opens the 6th legislative term's first session with a vow to further develop financial and economic support programmes for Bahrain	HM King to participate in GCC, Arab Summits with Xi Jinping
Mar 21	March 23	April 25	April 27	May 18	June 24	July 24	August 27	Sept 15	Oct 14	Dec 17	Dec 17
Charles Leclerc led Ferrari to a one-two victory in F1 at BIC.	HRH Prince Salman orders the disbursement of Ramadan donations to RHF-sponsored Bahraini families. 11,000 benefit from HM gift.	HRH Prince Salman directs Civil Service Bureau to transfer annual leave surplus to COVID-19 heroes	HM King affirms keenness to consolidate the independence of Bahrain's Judiciary	HRH Prince Salman calls for boosting investment in renewable energy	HM King affirms keenness to consolidate the independence of Bahrain's Judiciary	HM King participates in Sharm El-Sheikh tripartite summit that calls for regional solidarity	HM King arrives in London to pay respects to Queen Elizabeth II	HRH Prince Salman orders financial support for driving instructors	HM King received Indian Orthodox Church Supreme Head His Holiness Pope Moran Mar Baselios	HM King opens the 6th legislative term's first session with a vow to further develop financial and economic support programmes for Bahrain	HM King to participate in GCC, Arab Summits with Xi Jinping
Mar 25	March 25	April 28	April 29	May 19	June 25	July 25	August 28	Sept 16	Oct 15	Dec 18	Dec 18
HRH Prince Salman directs the activation of a unified system and a guide for internal auditing across all ministries and government agencies	HM King orders the disbursement of Ramadan donations to RHF-sponsored Bahraini families. 11,000 benefit from HM gift.	HRH Prince Salman directs Civil Service Bureau to transfer annual leave surplus to COVID-19 heroes	HM King affirms keenness to consolidate the independence of Bahrain's Judiciary	HRH Prince Salman calls for boosting investment in renewable energy	HM King affirms keenness to consolidate the independence of Bahrain's Judiciary	HM King participates in Sharm El-Sheikh tripartite summit that calls for regional solidarity	Bahrain detects monkeypox in a 29-year-old expat, who returned from abroad	HRH Prince Salman orders financial support for driving instructors	HM King received Indian Orthodox Church Supreme Head His Holiness Pope Moran Mar Baselios	HM King opens the 6th legislative term's first session with a vow to further develop financial and economic support programmes for Bahrain	HM King to participate in GCC, Arab Summits with Xi Jinping
2022 Year in Review											

2022

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Review

News in brief

Barbara Walters, news pioneer and 'The View' creator, dies



◆ Barbara Walters, the intrepid interviewer, anchor and program host who blazed the way as the first woman to become a TV news superstar during a career remarkable for its duration and variety, has died. She was 93. ABC broke into its broadcast to announce Walters' death on air Friday night. "She lived her life with no regrets. She was a trailblazer not only for female journalists, but for all women," her publicist Cindi Berger also said in a statement, adding Walters died peacefully at her New York home. An ABC spokesperson did not have an immediate comment Friday night beyond sharing a statement from Bob Iger, the CEO of ABC parent The Walt Disney Company. "Barbara was a true legend, a pioneer not just for women in journalism but for journalism itself," Iger said.

◆ China's top lawmaking body has given Hong Kong leader John Lee the power to bar foreign lawyers from national security cases, removing the decision from the city's courts, in a move likely to further fuel concerns over judicial independence. The use of foreign lawyers by both prosecutors and the defence have long been part of the former British colony's rule of law traditions. The move, reported by state news agency Xinhua on Friday, comes after a Hong Kong court this month postponed a national security trial against media tycoon and China critic Jimmy Lai to September, to give time for the ruling by China's National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC).



Bolivia protesters burn cars, clash with police after governor arrested



◆ Protesters in Bolivia's Santa Cruz, a relatively wealthy farming region, attacked buildings, burned cars and blocked highways as part of a 24-strike on Friday following the arrest of the regional governor, a right-wing opposition leader. As night fell, protesters in parts of the provincial capital torched cars and tires and hurled fireworks toward police forces, who used tear gas to disperse the crowds. During the day, around the city largely peaceful groups had protested by blocking roads with tires, rocks and flags strung across streets as blockades. The protests are the latest face-off between Santa Cruz, led by right-wing Governor Luis Fernando Camacho, and leftist President Luis Arce's government. Camacho was detained Wednesday on a charge of "terrorism" for his alleged involvement in 2019 political unrest that saw then-President Evo Morales flee the country.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Hundreds of 4,500-yr-old tombs found in central China

Xinhua | Beijing

Archaeologists have found more than 300 tombs dating back around 4,500 years in central China's Henan Province, which are of great significance to studying the burial system and social structure of prehistoric China.

Located in the Suyang relics site in the city of Luoyang, the tomb complex covers an area of about 15,000 square meters, and all of the tombs are earth pits in a rectangular shape, according to the Luoyang Municipal Institute of Archaeology.

"The tomb cluster is large in size and can be traced back to the transition period from Yangshao Culture to Longshan Culture. It is extremely rare to see this in Zhongyuan, a region known as the central plain area," said Ren Guang, head of the excavation project on the Suyang site.

Archaeologists have unearthed nine tombs so far, and the skeletons of 10 people have been found in the tombs. Some of the tombs show evidence of having been seriously damaged by tomb raiders.

Preliminary excavation showed that the tomb complex can be traced back to the early stage of the Longshan Culture, Ren said.

The discovery of the tomb cluster has great academic value, Ren said, adding that it can help researchers better understand the burial system



The aerial photo shows the Suyang relics site in the city of Luoyang, central China's Henan Province



The tomb cluster is large in size and can be traced back to the transition period from Yangshao Culture to Longshan Culture. It is extremely rare to see this in Zhongyuan, a region known as the central plain area,

REN GUANG, HEAD OF THE EXCAVATION PROJECT

during this period, while also providing important clues for the study of social complexity and the civilization process in the Longshan Culture.

The Suyang relics site spans more than 600,000 square meters. The Luoyang Municipal Institute of Archaeology launched excavation work at the site in early 2021, and it is still in progress.

Russian missiles strike Kyiv on New Year's Eve

Ten explosions were heard in the centre of Ukraine's capital as air raid sirens sounded nationwide

At least one dead

Reuters | Washington

Russia carried out its second major round of missile attacks on Ukraine in three days yesterday, Ukrainian officials said, with explosions reported throughout the country on New Year's Eve.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said at least one person had been killed and eight wounded after a series of explosions in the capital. Reuters correspondents reported hearing 10 loud blasts in the city.

The mayor said one of those wounded by the blasts was a Japanese journalist who had been taken to hospital.

A hotel just south of Kyiv's city centre was hit and a residential building in another district was damaged, according to the city administration.



A local resident embraces his son as they stand next to a site of a Russian missile strike

The governor of the surrounding Kyiv region, Oleksiy Kuleba, had warned shortly beforehand of a possible incoming missile attack, and said air defences in the region were engaging targets.

"The terrorist country launched several waves of missiles. They are wishing us a happy New Year. But we will persevere," Kuleba wrote on Telegram in a separate post after explosions shook the capital.

Nationwide blasts

Other cities across Ukraine also came under fire. In the southern region of Mykolaiv, local governor Vitaliy Kim said



The terrorist country launched several waves of missiles. They are wishing us a happy New Year. But we will persevere

OLEKSIY KULEBA, GOVERNOR OF KYIV OBLAST on television that six people had been wounded.

In a separate post on Telegram, Kim said Russia had targeted civilians with the strikes, something Moscow has previously denied.

"According to today's tendencies, the occupiers are striking not just critical [infrastructure]... in many cities [they are targeting] simply residential areas, hotels, garages, roads."

In the western city of Khmelnytskyi, two people were wounded in a drone attack, Ukrainian presidential aide Kyrylo Tymoshenko said.

North Korea fires 3 ballistic missiles after unprecedented year of tests

AFP | Seoul

North Korea fired three short-range ballistic missiles yesterday, Seoul's military said, adding a final salvo to Pyongyang's record-breaking blitz of launches this year.

Military tensions on the Korean peninsula have risen sharply in 2022 as the North has conducted sanctions-busting weapons tests nearly every month, including firing its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile ever.

Yesterday's launch comes a day after South Korea successfully tested a solid-fuel space launch vehicle, and follows the incursion of five North Korean



A TV screen shows a file image of North Korea's rocket with the test satellite during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station

drones into the South's airspace earlier in the week.

South Korea's military said it had detected "three short-range ballistic missiles launched by North Korea into the East Sea from the area of Chungwha County, North Hwanghae Prov-

ince, at around 08:00 (2300 GMT)", referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

The missiles flew about 350 kilometres (217 miles) before splashing down, it added.

Three Egypt police killed in attack in Suez Canal city



Egyptian police inspect cars at a checkpoint in North Sinai (file photo)

Reuters | Cairo

Three Egyptian police men were killed and four others, including a police officer, wounded Friday in an attack in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, security and medical sources said.

Two cars approached a checkpoint in a residential neighbourhood of the city and two armed assailants opened fire at the policemen, the security source said.

The policemen responded, killing one of the assailants while the other fled.

The source said the attack was likely a "terrorist act", describing it as the first of its kind in nearly three years in mainland Egypt, which has largely been spared the deadly insurgency in the Sinai peninsula.

Medical sources confirmed the casualty toll from the attack, for which there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Mexican authorities uncover human skulls in package headed for US

Reuters | Mexico City

Four human skulls were discovered inside a package at a Mexican airport that was due to be sent by courier to the United States, local authorities said on Friday.

The skulls were found wrapped in aluminium foil inside a cardboard box at Queretaro Intercontinental Airport in central Mexico, a statement from the National Guard said.

The package had been sent from the western coastal state of Michoacan - one of the most violent parts of the country -



Four human skulls wrapped in plastic and aluminum foil are seen during an inspection

and was destined for an address in Manning, South Carolina, it said.

The National Guard gave no further details on the age, identity or possible motive for the

sending of the human remains. The transfer of human remains requires a special permit

from a competent health authority which was not obtained, it said.

45 BC

The Julian calendar takes effect for the first time

630

Prophet Muhammad sets out with an army 10,000 strong to conquer Mecca

1863

Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln to free slaves in US confederate states



1896

German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen announces his discovery of x-rays

Pope Francis to lead unique funeral for ex-pope Benedict



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, left, greets Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican (file photo)

● Benedict XVI's funeral to be held on Thursday

Reuters | Vatican City

For the first time in modern history, a sitting pope will preside over his predecessor's funeral next week, with Pope Francis leading a "simple" ceremony for Benedict XVI, who died yesterday.

Benedict, the first pontiff to resign since the Middle Ages, had renounced the papal throne -- but lived within the Vatican and still wore white.

The 95-year-old would have a "solemn but simple" funeral on Thursday, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni told journalists at a briefing after his death.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Unlike when previous popes have died, there is no need to call a conclave to elect a new pontiff, as Francis -- chosen to succeed Benedict in 2013 -- remains very much in the post.

The sudden deterioration of the ex-pope's health earlier this week sparked questions over what would happen next.

The death of a Roman Catholic pope usually sets in motion

time-honoured traditions, but would someone who had given up the papacy get papal treatment?

Unlike when previous popes have died, there is no need to call a conclave to elect a new pontiff, as Francis -- chosen to succeed Benedict in 2013 -- remains very much in the post.

Under rules set out in 1996, a pope must be buried between four and six days after his death.

How and when he is buried is usually decided by cardinals who gather from around the world, and who also organise the Vatican's nine days of mourning, known as novemdiales.

They decide because the death of a pope traditionally creates a power vacuum at the top of the church.

However, no such vacuum exists in this case, as Francis is in charge.

Last rites

The Vatican said it would be respecting Benedict's wishes.

The ex-pope's funeral will take place in St Peter's Square, the vast square in front of the basilica, on Thursday at 9:30am (0830 GMT).

"As the Pope Emeritus wished, the funeral will be simple," Bruni told journalists.

Francis had alerted the world to Benedict's frailness on Wednesday, when he called on the world's Catholics to pray for him.

He later visited him at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery inside the Vatican gardens which became Benedict's home when he retired.

Francis said the ex-pope had that same day received "the anointment of the sick", or "last rites" as it is often called, a Catholic tradition in which a person's soul is cleansed of sins in preparation for the afterlife.

That was performed at the end of a mass at his home, in the presence of the Memores Domini, four lay women similar to nuns, who lived with him.

The body of the German pope, whose birth name was Joseph Ratzinger, will lie in state from

With deep feeling, we recall his person, so noble, so gentle. And we feel in the heart so much gratitude: gratitude to God for having given him to the Church and to the world

POPE FRANCIS

Francis said. "And we feel in the heart so much gratitude: gratitude to God for having given him to the Church and to the world," the pope said. "Gratitude for to him, for all the good he did, and above all for his witness of faith and of prayer, especially in these last years of withdrawn life.

"Only God knows the value and the strength of his intercession, of his sacrifices offered for the good of the Church," Francis said, speaking softly.

In his first public comments about Benedict since the Vatican announced his mid-morning death in the monastery where the former pontiff lived out his last years, Francis spoke of his feelings over the passing, adding to tributes that poured in for his predecessor throughout the day.

During his homily at a New Year's Eve Vespers service in St. Peter's Basilica, Francis said "thoughts go spontaneously to the very dear Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who this morning left us."

"With deep feeling, we recall his person, so noble, so gentle,"

Global reactions to the death of former Pope Benedict

As a "German" #Pope, #BenedictXVI was a special church leader for many, not only in this country. The world is losing a formative figure of the Catholic Church, a forthright personality and a clever theologian. My thoughts are with Pope Francis.

- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

Benedict XVI was a giant of faith and reason. A man in love with the Lord who put his life at the service of the Universal Church and has spoken, and will continue to speak, to the hearts and minds of people with the spiritual, cultural and intellectual depth of his Magisterium. A Christian, a pastor, a theologian: a great man whom history will not forget.

- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni

Principled in his faith, tireless in his pursuit of peace, and determined in his defence of human rights, he was a spiritual guide to millions across the world and one of the leading academic theologians of our time... His powerful calls for solidarity with marginalized people everywhere and his urgent appeals to close the widening gap between rich and poor are more relevant than ever.

- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

My thoughts go out to Catholics in France and around the world, bereaved by the departure of His Holiness Benedict XVI, who worked with all his soul and intelligence for a more fraternal world.

- French President Emmanuel Macron

Although his pontificate was short, he leaves an immense legacy for the Catholic Church, for all Christians and for humanity... In defense of the truth of the Gospel, he fearlessly criticized the errors of the so-called 'liberation theology,' which intends to mix up Christianity with erroneous concepts of Marxism

- Outgoing Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

The absolute authority of Benedict XVI as an outstanding theologian allowed him to make a significant contribution to the development of inter-Christian cooperation... and to the protection of traditional moral values. During the papacy of Benedict XVI, the relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church developed significantly in the spirit of fraternal cooperation and the desire to interact on how to overcome the sometimes painful legacy of the past.

- Patriarch Kirill, Head of The Russian Orthodox Church

Pope Benedict was one of the greatest theologians of his age - committed to the faith of the Church and stalwart in its defence. In all things, not least in his writing and his preaching, he looked to Jesus Christ, the image of the invisible God. It was abundantly clear that Christ was the root of his thought and the basis of his prayer.

- Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Leader of The Anglican Communion

I... recall his constant efforts to promote peace and goodwill to all people, and to strengthen the relationship between the global Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church.

- Britain's King Charles

He was a great spiritual leader and committed with all his heart to the historic reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Jewish world, a tradition he upheld during his historic visit to Israel in 2009.

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



Pope Benedict XVI greets the crowd from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on April 19, 2005

Monday so that the faithful can pay their respects.

In 2005 the body of John Paul II, the last pope to die, also lay in state before a funeral mass in St Peter's Square presided over by Ratzinger, then a senior cardinal.

An estimated one million people attended, alongside heads of state from around the world.

Fisherman's Ring

It was not immediately clear which heads of state would attend Benedict's funeral.

In 2020, media reports said Benedict had chosen to be buried in the former tomb of John Paul II, in the crypt of St Peter's.

The body of the beloved Polish pope was moved to the upper part of the basilica when he was beatified in 2011. He was confirmed a saint in 2014.

Benedict, a conservative intellectual, was not as popular as John Paul II, who was pope between 1978 and 2005, but his funeral is still likely to draw large crowds and dignitaries.

Traditionally, when a pope dies, his "Fisherman's Ring" -- a signet ring specially cast for each new pope which once was used to seal documents -- is also destroyed.

When Benedict left office, the face of his ring was etched with an "X" to make it unusable.



TOP
4
TWEETS

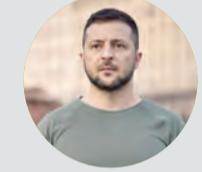
01



It is with great sadness that I have learned of the passing of His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. I offer my deepest condolences to Catholics and others around the world who were inspired by his life of prayer and tenacious commitment to non-violence and peace.

@antonio_guterres

02



I express my sincere condolences to Pope Francis @Pontifex, the hierarchy and the faithful of the Catholic Church all over the world on the death of Pope Benedict XVI – an outstanding theologian, intellectual and promoter of universal values.

@ZelenskyyUA

03



I am saddened to learn of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. He was a great theologian whose UK visit in 2010 was an historic moment for both Catholics and non-Catholics throughout our country. My thoughts are with Catholic people in the UK and around the world today.

@RishiSunak

04



Pope Benedict's passing saddens me. My sympathy goes out to all Catholics. He had set a strong signal through his resignation. He saw himself first as a servant for God and his Church. Once his physical strength waned, he continued to serve through the power of his prayers.

@vonderleyen

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

Celebs

Bella Thorne says Disney channel almost fired her for wearing a bikini at age 14

IANS | Los Angeles

Actress Bella Thorne was a staple on the Disney Channel for many years, but she apparently almost lost her job when she was 14.

During Tuesday's episode of Emily Ratajkowski's 'High Low With EmRata' podcast, Thorne opened up about many instances where she felt she was sexualized as a young girl, reports 'Variety'.

"One time I almost got fired off the Disney Channel because I was 14, and I wore a two-piece on the beach," Thorne said.

"This stylist that I was hanging out with put this chain on me that's, like, a body chain. I don't know? I don't care. There was a fan, they got a photo of me on the beach. I almost got fired. It was all over the media, it was literally viral in that time. It was, 'How dare this little girl do this? This is so disgusting'."

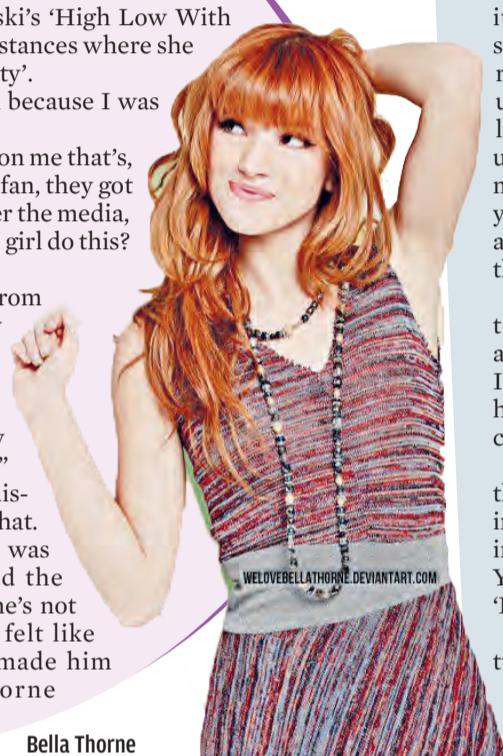
Thorne, who starred opposite Zendaya on 'Shake It Up' from 2010 to 2013, explained that people were "putting Disney under pressure" to fire her, but ultimately they didn't.

"They were like, 'Hey, we're getting a lot of heat for this. Everyone's getting heat for this because you're in a bikini on a beach, so she needs to make sure she goes out in boy shorts and a loose t-shirt next time she's at the beach'."

During the episode, the actor, 25, also recounted a disturbing situation that happened four years before that.

"I had a director give me feedback once and I was 10. The casting director calls my agent and the agent calls my mom, and they're like, 'So she's not moving forward because the director felt like she was flirting with him, and it made him really uncomfortable,'" Thorne said.

Bella Thorne



Adele boosts fortune by £11.5 million in past year

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Adele has boosted her fortune by £11.5 million in the past year.

The 34-year-old singer's company now has cash reserves of nearly £15 million, according to the Daily Mail.

Statements for her Melted Stone Ltd company show its net assets were £14,940,260 as of December 2021 – up from £3,566,954 the previous year, the publication said.

It comes after Adele released her fifth studio album '30' and started her delayed Las Vegas residency.

Adele tearfully cancelled her scheduled concerts at the last minute in January but is now understood to be earning around £750,000 per show for the 32-night run.

Tickets for the concerts were on sale for up to £200,000 each on resale sites.

Other big names to have headlined Vegas in recent years include Britney Spears, Lady Gaga and Jennifer Lopez.

Adele told fans on her opening night at Caesars Palace: "I should be giving you a standing ovation, thank you so much for coming back to me."

"I really appreciate it. You look amazing and it looks just what I imagined it would look like, it's perfect."

Adele



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Yesterday's solution

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

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Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

Arkan Itihad Development Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMSBAHRAIN.COM

ASIM JEWELERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35075586 or MS4WLL@GMAIL.COM

Arkan Itihad Development Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMSBAHRAIN.COM

SEASHELL CLEANING SERVICE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39932361 or FASHAFEEZ.AH@GMAIL.COM

Arkan Itihad Development Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMSBAHRAIN.COM

INFORAD TECHNOLOGIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39693569 or waleed.alsaf@inforadtech.com

Arkan Itihad Development Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMSBAHRAIN.COM

ABDULRAHMAN EBRAHIM ALMOOSA CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531235 or GALIBALMOOSA@YAHOO.COM

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39468574 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

AHMED QAED CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826260 or info@CIHBAHRAIN.COM

AHMADI SECURITY SERVICES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38406711 or SAMKV@MACBH.COM

MERCURE GRAND HOTEL SEEF W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17299511 or AHMED@JAZAYANI.COM

ANSAR GALLERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17140001 or pr@ag-bh.com

ANSAR GALLERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17140001 or pr@ag-bh.com

City shine cleaning has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331663 or JEFFFREEBH@GMAIL.COM

303SECURE SHIELD W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or AQEEL@BASMA.COM.BH

WALAA ALBAHRAIN FOR MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38139157 or ZAINAB.AHMED.1274@HOTMAIL.COM

ECHA MEDIA HUB W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of GRAPHIC DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38343585 or ECHAMEDIAHUB@GMAIL.COM

PAK KHAIBER CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33079909 or Bahrainp@hotmail.com

BOSS BURGER 40 has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66632555 or NASERKHAN44321@GMAIL.COM

HOLIDAY MOMENTS SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33157637 or HINAK3637@GMAIL.COM

MASUD RANA REPAIR OF ELECTRONIC, ELECTRICAL, AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36984242 or CITYDREAM087@GMAIL.COM

SAGAR FACILITIE SUPPORT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36740731 or BABARSAGAR5250@GMAIL.COM

ADEL HUSSAIN ABDULLA HAMADA WAFI /7520 has a vacancy for the occupation of FISHERMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470778 or ADEL.HAMADA789@GMAIL.COM

AHL ALJUD CAMPAIGN has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(BUS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 3327714 or AHLALJOOD@GMAIL.COM

ALGHANIM INTERNATIONAL GENERAL TRADING AND CONTRACTING CO. - For has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17300616 or karim.eissa@alghanim.com

HAJI HASSAN READYMIX B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785353 or VIJESH.NAIR@HAJIIHASSAN.COM

EBRAHIM KHALIL KANOOG CO. B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33688622 or HR.S@EKKANOOG.COM.BH

ABDULRAHMAN EBRAHIM ALMOOSA CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531235 or GALIBALMOOSA@YAHOO.COM

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or NASSERAB@BATELCO.COM.BH

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552722 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

GULF INTERNATIONAL BANK B.S.C. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17522514 or Ali.alzuhaira@gib.com

YOUNG JIN ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700711 or JEONG.DONGJIN.0102@GMAIL.COM

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

SAMARA TOUCHES FASHION has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344292 or QAS1971SIM@OUTLOOK.COM

CERAMICA DELMON CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17608216 or md.delmon@gmail.com

Najran garage for cars has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36693802 or HAMOOD_F200@HOTMAIL.COM

MAHMOOD ALNOOH CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17795104 or info@mancob.com

S BY SAYEDATI W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37747775 or noora.zuwayed@gmail.com

ABLE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39275734 or M-RAHMA@HOTMAIL.COM

ALIA FLOWERS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39992020 or SEREEN@ALIAFLOWERS.COM

HOME TOWER CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39659950 or INFO@HANIBH.COM

VICTORIA TOUCH CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77089192 or VICTORIATOUCHCONTRACTINGCO@GMAIL.COM

BASHIR SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13691113 or YASEENSABT@HOTMAIL.COM

CLASSIC MOON BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17792636 or masooma.shuber.1990@gmail.com

Raising Cane's has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17556655 or ayman.jafar@alshaya.com

RASAM RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39643508 or STEELCAR11995@GMAIL.COM

Havelock One Interiors W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (OPERATIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826200 or info@CIHBAHRAIN.COM

AHMED QAED CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826260 or info@CIHBAHRAIN.COM

AHMED ISA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832030 or hamida.alhubail@havelockone.com

MECHANICAL CONTRACTING & SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or msc@mcscwll.com

Havelock One Interiors W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LEADER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832030 or hamida.alhubail@havelockone.com

AL-NAWAISEEB ABAYAT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39664667 or KARAK1977.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ALGHANAH GROUP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TEAM LEADER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722333 or info@alghanah.com

AMBALI CLEANING AND CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39165508 or AMBALICLEANING@GMAIL.COM

PLANT TRIBE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38884676 or plantribebahrain@gmail.com

NATIONAL FINANACE & EXCHANGE CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MONEY CHANGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226061 or SAM11300@HOTMAIL.COM

SPHINX SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700032 or hr_bh@spinxservicesbh.com

SABAYA SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33676000 or info@wadialsalgate.com

WADI ALSAIL GATE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39871069 or ADEL.JABBER@WPHOME.COM

Westin Hotel Bahrain City Centre has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39280008 or malaalom@hotmai.com

GREEN STAR TRADING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17257566 or greenstartrading77@gmail.com

WADI ALSAIL GATE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33367000 or info@wadialsalgate.com

BRITISH LINE FASHIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33345415 or a123aftab@hotmail.com

Elegant Marble & Ceramic Trading Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32234485 or z.alhaiki@elegantpalace.com

MINDTECK MIDDLE EAST LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33367000 or info@wadialsalgate.com

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or ALANSARI@AREENAGROUP.COM

Al nabeel cleaning has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39897070 or ALNABLEY@GMAIL.COM

UK CARE AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39966665 or ALAMEEDMOTORS@GMAIL.COM

Diva hotel has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or BUAHMED101@HOTMAIL.COM

NOVAR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36950505 or NOVARBH@YAHOO.COM

CAPITAL FACILITIES MANAGEMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77132211 or jobcfmbh@gmail.com

BU KAMEEL AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39633632 or EKTHISA2020@GMAIL.COM

MC6 INDUSTRIAL SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17218333 or SMAKAREM@ARCAPITA.COM

NINJA ACADEMY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SPORT INSTRUCTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32001614 or EREX.SOLAR@SGEICOM

POWER TECH DEVELOPMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34010755 or gm@powertechdevelopment.com

FISTOQ HALABI SWEETS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404071 or pastriesonthefly@gmail.com

PASTRIES ON THE FLY CATERING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTAURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404071 or PASTRIESONTHEFLY@GMAIL.COM

Rawaa Beauty Salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33199200 or ENAS_S@MOE.GOV.BH

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

MCR Recruitments services W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13699336 or MGHUNEIM@MCRME.COM

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

Bayanco Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77370909 or BAYANCOGM@GMAIL.COM

Bayanco Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (CONTRACTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77370909 or BAYANCOGM@GMAIL.COM

Rawaa Beauty Salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33199200 or ENAS_S@MOE.GOV.BH

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

WTE Wasserschnitk Gmbh- foriegn Branch has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38406071 or Kawther.Alghazal@wte.de

Dar alameerat beauty saloon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36333557 or AHLMAM30@YAHOO.COM

ALMASI COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331663 or JEFFFREEBH@GMAIL.COM

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

NAIBTECH INDUSTRIAL SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33220131 or SPARKLINKBH@GMAIL.COM

Latif shoe b.s.c closed has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR SALES, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17223527 or layla@alaujan.com.bh

SPEED SUPPORT SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33233758 or FAIZALBALOOSH185@GMAIL.COM

METROTECH RENTING AND CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPEFITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36390606 or metrotech09@gmail.com

PERFECT CUT BARBER has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33289671 or MA7844233@GMAIL.COM

AL JINNERBI INTERIOR DECORATION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38912362 or ALJINNERBIINT@GMAIL.COM

SALON ALSAYED ALSHAEBI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3638878 or SALAMA98559@OUTLOOK.COM

ALMANAFA FOR TRANSPORTATION AND

HEAVY EQUIPMENTS has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33966689 or MANAFA18@HOTMAIL.COM

ALMANAFA FOR TRANSPORTATION AND HEAVY EQUIPMENTS has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33966689 or MANAFA18@HOTMAIL.COM

Fabtech contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(MECHANICAL MACHINERY)GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701112 or idawani@fabtechbahrain.com

FIRST & FUTURE INTERIOR DECORATION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39913838 or MIZAN82@GMAIL.COM

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

ESMAEYL LENZOHM ELECTRICAL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830909 or info@esmaelylenzohm.com

ALGHANAH GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722333 or info@alghanah.com

Jindol Hotel W.L.L has a vacancy for the

occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36863829 or AHMED_ALSAIGAL@HOTMAIL.COM

WADI ALSAIL GATE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33367000 or info@wadialsailgate.com

KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

PROJECTS ACCESS SCAFFOLDING & FORMWORK CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36067003 or rafathglwn@yahoo.com

SILVER CITY CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39188855 or SILVERCITYCONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM

ELITE FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382228 or MUSTAFA@ELITEFCM.COM

REEF ALYEMEN FOR RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34000422 or WHAIDARAH@GMAIL.COM

V BEACH RESORT HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33658488 or MoosaA@addresshotels.com

YASALAM RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy

for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38700027 or salwa@al-abraaj.com

NOOR ALQAMAR BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33543519 or EHABALI555@GMAIL.COM

ZAROOB W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION QUALITY INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35511112 or HALKOOFI@KITOP.COM

ZYLISH CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39199881 or LUCKYBSSA68338@GMAIL.COM

JUFFAIR BOULEVARD HOTEL & SUITES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35475656 or HR@JUFFAIRBOULEVARD.COM

GREAT CHENNAI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17625997 or GREATCHENNAI.RESTAURANT@GMAIL.COM

LUMEE STREET RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38700027 or salwa@al-abraaj.com

MAZMIZ YASALAM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GRILLING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35194795 or CHAUDHARYASIF4795@GMAIL.COM

38700027 or salwa@al-abraaj.com

WALLARTIS SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34394345 or ANEEZA93@ICLOUD.COM

INFORAD TECHNOLOGIES W.L.L has a

vacancy for the occupation of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39693569 or waleed.alisaif@inforadtech.com

SASTECH TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FINANCIAL &

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Ronaldo 'excited' to start new chapter with 'inspiring' Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr

Al Arabiya

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo has said he is 'excited' to join the 'inspiring' Saudi club Al Nassr on a two-and-a-half-year contract.

The club announced details of the contract on Friday. The five-time Ballon D'or winner is now set to undergo a medical at Mrsool Park, home of Al Nassr, before completing any formalities. He will appear in the club's yellow and blue colours in the Saudi capital Riyadh in the coming days.

"I am excited to experience a new football league in a different country," said Ronaldo, in a statement issued by the club. "The vision of what Al Nassr [is] doing and developing in Saudi Arabia both in terms of men's and women's football is very inspiring."

"We can see from Saudi Arabia's recent performance at the World Cup that this is a country with big football ambitions and a lot of potential."

"I am fortunate that I have won everything I set out to win in European football and feel now that this is the right moment to share my experience in Asia. I am looking forward to joining my new teammates and together with them help the Club to achieve success."

Ronaldo's contract has been estimated by media to be worth more than 200 million Euros (\$214.04 million).

Al Nassr Football Club President Musalli Almuammar said: "This is more than history in the making. This is a signing that will not only inspire our club to achieve even greater success but inspire our league, our nation and future generations, boys and girls to be the best version of themselves."

"He is a special footballer and a special person whose impact is felt far beyond football. Cristiano is joining a club with big ambitions, a competitive club amongst the very best in Asia and will be welcomed to a country that is making massive pro-



Cristiano Ronaldo being presented with the club's number seven jersey by club president Musalli Al-Muammar in Madrid



We can see from Saudi Arabia's recent performance at the World Cup that this is a country with big football ambitions and a lot of potential

CRISTIANO RONALDO

gress on and off the pitch with opportunities for all."

"But first and foremost, we can't wait to see him in the number 7 shirt of Al Nassr doing what he does best, scoring goals, winning titles and bringing joy to those who love the beautiful game."

Ronaldo departed Old Trafford last month following an explosive television interview in which the 37-year-old forward said he felt betrayed by the club and did not respect their Dutch manager Erik ten Hag.

Ronaldo will arrive in Saudi Arabia with a vast collection of club honours after a glittering spell at Spanish giants Real



Ronaldo will arrive in Saudi Arabia with a vast collection of club honours after a glittering spell at Spanish giants Real Madrid from 2009-18 where he won two LaLiga titles, two Spanish Cups, four Champions League titles and three Club World Cups

Madrid from 2009-18 where he won two LaLiga titles, two Spanish Cups, four Champions League titles and three Club World Cups.

He went on to score a club record 451 times for Real and has more than 800 senior goals overall for club and country.

Ronaldo claimed two Serie A titles and a Copa Italia trophy in three years at Juventus before rejoining United with whom he had bagged three Premier League crowns, the FA Cup, two League Cups, the Champions League and Club World Cup.

He played for Portugal at the World Cup, where he became the first player to score in five World Cups after netting a penalty in his side's opening Group H game against Ghana. Portugal was knocked out in the quarter-finals by Morocco.

Ronaldo said Qatar would probably be his last World Cup as he plans to retire at 40, with a move to Saudi Arabia likely to mark the swansong in the career one of the game's greatest current players alongside Lionel Messi.

As the number one sport in Saudi Arabia, football has continued to gain prominence and momentum in recent years especially following the recent victory for the national team over Argentina in the FIFA World Cup 2022, with the entire squad based in Saudi Arabia.

Sabalenka looking to keep ATP Finals momentum going in Australia

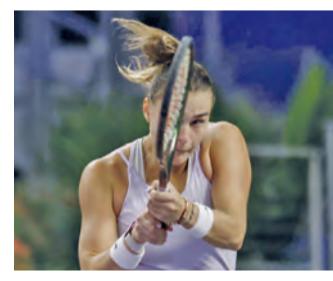
AFP | Adelaide

World number five Aryna Sabalenka is aiming to hold onto the momentum from her season-ending run at the WTA Finals when she starts as second seed at the Adelaide International next week.

The Belarusian lost in the decider of the WTA Finals in Texas in November to France's Caroline Garcia after stunning top-ranked Iga Swiatek en-route.

With an elusive maiden Grand Slam title on her mind, the 24-year-old only took a week off before resuming training for the Australian Open where she has never gone beyond the fourth round.

Sabalenka said she was keen to get as much match practice as possible in Adelaide in the run-up to the opening Grand Slam of the year in January as she searches for a first WTA title since the Madrid Masters



Aryna Sabalenka in action during a match (file photo)

in 2021.

"We all want to win this tournament, that would really help me at the Australian Open," she said. "I will do my best here, because I feel like I need to play some matches."

"I prefer to play matches, to be in a different situations on court, make sure that in the Grand Slam I'll be ready for everything."

Sabalenka, who is seeded behind Wimbledon finalist Ons Jabeur at the Memorial Drive venue, has a bye in the first round which starts on Sunday.

Canadian star Auger-Aliassime keen to ride wave of momentum

AFP | Adelaide

Rising Canadian star Felix Auger-Aliassime said yesterday he was determined to "improve and improve" in a bid to keep riding the wave of success he enjoyed over the closing stages of 2022.

Speaking ahead of the season-opening Adelaide International, the 22-year-old said his brilliant late-season form had nothing to do with luck and was all down to his preparation.

The world number six won three tournaments in October and November before leading Canada to Davis Cup glory when they beat Australia in the final.

He said he wanted to take that form into the Australian summer.

"When you have it, you try to ride that wave as long as it lasts, or at least you try to see what's working and you try to



Felix Auger-Aliassime in action during a match (file photo)

kind of keep going with what's working as much as you can," Auger-Aliassime said at a press conference.

"I feel like momentum plays a huge role on your confidence."

"For me, it's been great in the last few months. I like to understand why it's happening, right?"

"I try to recreate it, not just think it's some sort of stars aligned or some type of luck that you're just trying to ride a wave on."

Loeb makes solid start on Dakar victory trail

French ace relishing battle ahead as Bahrain Raid Xtreme go for glory in Saudi

TDT | Manama

The 45th Dakar Rally is under way in Saudi Arabia, and Sébastien Loeb has given immediate notice of his desire to secure victory for Bahrain Raid Xtreme.

Partnered by Fabian Lurquin in his BRX Prodrive Hunter, Loeb is aiming to go one better after finishing runner-up in Saudi last year, and the nine-time World Rally Champion made a confident start in yesterday's 13-km prologue on the shores of the Red Sea.

Outpacing defending champion Nasser Al Attiyah by 11 seconds, the Frenchman was second quickest on the stage, just one second away from Mattias Ekström in his Audi RS Q e-tron.

Guerlain Chicherit and Alex Winocq, impressive winners of the Rallye du Maroc in October, set the fifth fastest time in their Prodrive Hunter, with the other BRX duo of Argentinian Orly Terranova and Spaniard Alex



Sébastien Loeb powering his Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter in yesterday's Dakar prologue stage

Haro in ninth place.

Lithuanians Vaidotas Zala and Paulo Fiuza in the fourth Prodrive Hunter suffered two punctures, but were happy to finish the prologue before real test begins tomorrow, with the first of the long desert stages that add up to 4,705kms in a route totaling 8,550 kms in length.

Loeb is clearly relishing the battle ahead with four-times winner Al Attiyah, who finished fourth on the day, and the Audi team, who also had Stephane

Peterhansel in third spot on the prologue, and Carlos Sainz in sixth.

"The stage was good, no problem," said Loeb. "I tried to push hard, but to drive like in the WRC as it's a flat stage, like in the WRC. I tried to be efficient, and that seems to have worked."

"Of course, the prologue was nothing to compare with the rest of the stages. But it's good to start like this. The car feels good. It's the right set-up for the big stages. So yes I'm confident we can do something."

“The stage was good, no problem. I tried to push hard, but to drive like in the WRC as it's a flat stage, like in the WRC. I tried to be efficient, and that seems to have worked”

SEBASTIEN LOEB

Terranova, tackling his 15th Dakar after finishing fourth last year, completed the prologue to say: "The feeling was good. The speed of the WRC drivers is incredible, but we are more or less on pace. I enjoyed the stage – it was fun to drive. Now we have to complete the race ahead."

Chicherit said: "I'm super happy and excited. As always, the first stage is not easy, and sometimes you think too much after waiting a year to be here. But now this is done and we can be focused for the first real stage tomorrow."

Each of the four Prodrive Hunters are running on Prodrive EcoPower biofuel, created by Coryton from sustainable sources, which produces 80% less CO2 than petrol.

Man City title bid rocked by Everton draw, dropped Rashford makes his point

AFP | London

Manchester City's Premier League title defence suffered a major setback as Everton snatched a 1-1 draw against the champions, while Marcus Rashford responded to his benching for missing a team meeting with the late strike that clinched Manchester United's 1-0 win at Wolves yesterday.

City needed a victory at the Etihad Stadium to put pressure on Arsenal ahead of the leaders' trip to Brighton in yesterday's late game.

But Pep Guardiola's second placed side blew the lead given to them by Erling Haaland as Demarai Gray scored an eye-catching equaliser for struggling Everton.

City trail Arsenal by four points after failing to win for the second time in their last three league games.

Haaland had scored eight goals more than Everton's entire squad in the first 16 Premier League matches this season.

And inevitably it was Haaland who put City ahead in the 24th minute with his 27th goal in 20 competitive appearances since his close-season move from Borussia Dortmund.

Riyad Mahrez provided the assist with a dazzling run and pin-point pass to the Norway striker, who slotted past Jordan Pickford in ruthless fashion.

Yet Everton equalised against the run of play in the 64th minute as Gray robbed City midfielder Rodri, cut in from the right flank and curled a blistering strike into the top corner, in the process buying



Marcus Rashford of Manchester United scores a goal as Jose Sa of Wolverhampton Wanderers attempt to make a save

“We draw a line under it and move on. I was a little bit late for a meeting. I overslept but it can happen. Obviously it's team rules. I made a mistake. I'm obviously disappointed not to play but I understand the decision and I'm happy we managed to win anyway. I think I'm in a good place”

MARCUS RASHFORD

under-fire boss Frank Lampard some much-needed breathing space.

While City laboured, their Manchester rivals survived an eventful day that started when United manager Erik ten Hag

dropped Rashford because of an "internal disciplinary" issue that broke "our rules".

The 25-year-old's exile only lasted until half-time when he was sent on by Ten Hag in a move that proved the catalyst for United to seal their fifth successive win in all competitions.

Rashford looked determined to prove Ten Hag wrong as he rampaged through the Wolves defence to score his 11th goal in all competitions this season and his third in three appearances since the World Cup.

In a post-match television interview, the England forward said he was disappointed to be left out after missing the meeting because he overslept.

But both Ten Hag and Rashford appear ready to bury the hatchet and move on.

"We draw a line under it and move on. I was a little bit late for a meeting. I overslept but it can happen," Rashford said.

Rafael Nadal crashes in season-opening match as Iga Swiatek cruises at United Cup

“Cameron Norrie stuns Rafael Nadal to secure momentous win”

AFP | Sydney

Rafael Nadal lost his opening match of the season yesterday in the countdown to the defence of his Australian Open title, but women's world number one Iga Swiatek cruised to victory at the United Cup.

Nadal, who was also below-par at the season-ending ATP Finals in November, crashed to Britain's 14th-ranked Cameron Norrie 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the mixed-teams tournament in Sydney.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion struggled with his first serve, getting just 58 percent in, which ultimately cost him a first defeat to Norrie in their fifth meeting.

"It's pretty crazy, I never won a set before (against him) so firstly I wanted to do that and I had to stay super patient," Norrie said after the 2hrs 44mins battle at a packed Ken Rosewall Arena.

"It was a super physical match and huge to get through that and finally beat him. He's beaten me easy the last few times."

There was little to separate them in the opening games, with a first break point in game six for Nadal, but Norrie saved with a half-volley.

Nadal's relentless pressure earned him a second and this time the Spanish world number

Returning Zverev says he is weeks from peak match fitness



Jiri Lehecka of the Czech Republic is congratulated by Germany's Alexander Zverev

Reuters | Sydney

Alexander Zverev yesterday marked his return to competitive action for the first time since June following ankle surgery but said after his 6-4 6-2 loss to the Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka in the United Cup that he was some way from peak match fitness.

Zverev, 25, had surgery to repair damaged ankle ligaments following an injury he sustained during his French Open semi-final against Rafa Nadal.

The German's return was further delayed in September after he suffered from a bone edema, which forced him to withdraw from the Davis Cup Finals group stage. He then played in this month's Diriyah Tennis Cup exhibition event in Saudi Arabia.

Zverev, who rose to world number two in June and has since dropped to 12, said the

injury was not a concern anymore but he will need more time to get his body up to speed after his tame defeat in the mixed-team tournament in Sydney.

"Physically, I'm not at the level I have to be. This isn't even a question. I'm getting tired a lot quicker than I always did," Zverev told reporters.

“I'm not as fast as I probably was. To be honest, I'm only pain-free for about two, three weeks now, since all Saudi Arabia basically. Before that, I had pain and I wasn't able to do all the different kind of things I want to do”

ALEXANDER ZVEREV



Britain's Cameron Norrie, right, is congratulated by Spain's Rafael Nadal

“YOU KNOW WHAT”

Midway through the third set, the crowd applauded a gesture of sportsmanship from Nadal, who indicated to the umpire he had not hit the ball with his racquet when trying to return a Norrie forearm

two converted with a searing cross-court forehand before methodically closing out the set in 52 minutes.

But his poor first-serve was an issue and he was broken to go 4-2 behind in the second

set. He saved two set points but Norrie nailed a third on his serve to level at one set-all.

Nadal fired consecutive double faults to open set three and while he recovered to hold, his serve once more deserted him in the fifth game when he was broken and the 36-year-old couldn't find a way back.

In Brisbane, Swiatek got Poland off to the perfect start with a dominant 6-1, 6-3 win over Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva.

She broke three times in the first set and twice in the second to completely overpower her opponent in just 64 minutes.

"I'm pretty happy with my performance -- first matches of the season are always rusty so I'm happy that in the important moments I was very composed," Swiatek said.

"I feel that representing Poland is always really special. I am willing to focus even more because when I go on court I have goosebumps."



Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa visited the Kingdom's senior men's national football team training at Al Ahli Club Stadium. The nationals are preparing for their much-awaited title-defence in the 25th Gulf Cup, which takes place in Iraq from Friday. Bahrain Football Association (BFA) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa was also on hand, as were BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, BFA secretary general Rashid Al Zoubi, a number of the BFA board of directors, and national team head coach Helio Sousa and his staff. HH Shaikh Isa spoke with the players and wished them the best in their participation in the Gulf Cup. Bahrain are in Group B for the eight-nation competition, along with the UAE, Qatar and Kuwait. Group A features Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Oman and hosts Iraq. Far left, HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa speaks with the national team; while left, players participate in drills during training

Bahrain name full-strength squad for world championships

Nineteen-player senior men's national handball team selected by head coach Aron Kristjansson for 28th IHF Men's Handball World Championship, co-hosted by Poland and Sweden

● Bahrain to be led by veteran stars Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed Mirza, Ali Mirza, Jassim Al Salatna and Mohammed Abdulhussain

● Bahrainis to open Group H bid on 13 January against Tunisia, to also play Denmark and Belgium in preliminary round

TDT | Manama

Bahrain have named a full-strength, 19-player squad to compete in the 28th International Handball Federation (IHF) Men's Handball World Championship, taking place 11 to 29 January, co-hosted by Poland and Sweden.



Hussain Al Sayyad and Mohammed Habib Mohammed in action during training

The roster was announced yesterday by the Bahrain Handball Association.

Senior men's national team head coach Aron Kristjansson from Iceland has selected a number of his most talented veteran stars to spearhead the team. Among them are long-time skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, Mo-

hammed Mirza, Ali Mirza, Jassim Al Salatna, and goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain.

The rest of the team features the always dependable Mohammed Habib Mohammed, Ali Eid, Hasan Alsamaheiji, Ahmed Fadhl, Mohammed Ali, Hassan Mirza and Komail Mahfoodh, as well as Hesham Ahmed Isa, Qas-

sim Qambar, Abdulla Alzaimoor, Mujtaba Alzaimoor, Mahmood Hussain Mohammed, Muntadher Ebrahim Ali and Abdulla Ali.

Prior to the world championship, the Bahrainis are scheduled to have a training camp and warm-up tournament in Spain, where they will take on Argentina, Romania and the host Spaniards

The nationals have been training over the past several weeks under Kristjansson in the Kingdom. During this period,

they played five friendly games against top international opponents, including two against Egypt, one with Saudi Arabia and another two facing visiting European giants Belarus.

Both Egypt and Saudi are also set to compete amongst the 32 nations in the worlds.

Prior to the global tournament, the Bahrainis are scheduled to have a training camp and warm-up tournament in Spain.

The other nations in the friendly event are Argentina, Romania and the host Spaniards. Argentina and Spain are another two sides set to be playing in the global showcase.

Bahrain have been drawn in Group H for the worlds alongside Denmark, Belgium and Tunisia. The Danes are the heavy favourites, being the defending world champions, while the Belgians are making their first-ever appearance at the worlds.

The 32 national teams from five confederations have been divided into eight groups for the tournament's preliminary stage. The Bahrainis are one of five countries from Asia. They qualified as the runners-up from the continental championship held last year.

Bahrain's games in Group H will be played in Malmo, Sweden. They open their campaign on 13 January against Tunisia, and then face off with Denmark on 15 January. Their final fixture of the first stage will be against Belgium on 17 January.

The world championship will see the top three teams from each of the eight preliminary round groups move on to the main round, where they will be divided into four further groups of six teams apiece.

The other eight squads will vie for the President's Cup. The upcoming event will mark Bahrain's fifth appearance at global handball's premier competition, and fourth straight. The nationals had previously also played in the 2011, 2017, 2019 and 2021 editions.

Ahli hold off Isa Town in basketball league

● Ali Aqeel scores 26 points to lead five Al Ahli players in double figures

● Victors improve to 10-2 win-loss record while Isa Town drop to 1-11

TDT | Manama

Al Ahli defeated Isa Town 94-91 last night to wrap up week 14 in the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Isa Town held a slim 24-22 advantage at the end of the first quarter but Ahli turned things around in the second period to go ahead 56-46 at the half.

Ahli maintained their advan-



Al Ahli's Ali Aqeel goes for a lay-up as he is challenged by Isa Town's Jehad Ahmed during their game last night

tage from there and staved off a late Isa Town charge, in which they got back to within three points in the game's closing moments.

An Ali Aqeel free-throw gave Ahli a 94-89 edge with 24 seconds remaining, and then Mohammed Nabeel had a lay-up to peg the final score.

Aqeel led five Ahli players in double figures with 26 points, while Hesham Sarhan had 18, Subah Hussain 17, American professional Lenny Daniel 15 and Maitham Jameel 11 off the bench.

Nabeel had 23 to pace Isa Town while import Oumar Barry contributed 21 in the loss.

With the result, Ahli improved to a 10-2 win-loss record while Isa Town dropped to a 1-11 mark at the bottom of the table.

Barca drop points in heated Catalan derby

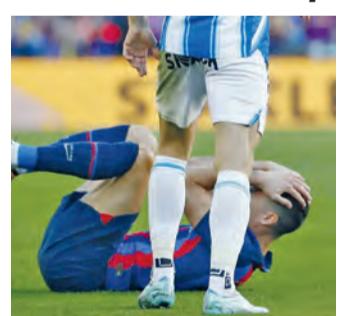
AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona stumbled in the Spanish title race with a 1-1 draw against rivals Espanyol in a bad-tempered Catalan derby yesterday, levelling Real Madrid at the top of La Liga.

Xavi's side threw away the two point advantage they had earned before the World Cup break, with Joselu's penalty pegging Barcelona back after Marcos Alonso's opener.

Both teams finished with 10 men as Jordi Alba and Vinicius Souza were sent off, with referee Mateu Lahoz allowing the game to spiral out of control at Camp Nou.

The teams were at loggerheads before a ball as kicked because Barcelona started Robert Lewandowski, who had been banned before a late court ruling allowed him to play.



Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski holds his head after a fall

The forward, due to miss three league matches, was only allowed to play thanks to a controversial decision announced on Friday, suspending his punishment.

It greatly angered Espanyol, whose president and directors boycotted the match, while Barca coach Xavi admitted his team had prepared all week expecting to be without the division's top goalscorer.