

F2, F3 tests begin at BIC

Bahrain to host motorsport's future stars in Formula 2, Formula 3 pre-season testing over three days this week in Sakhir | P16

THE DAILY tribune



Kendall Jenner keeps a diary to help her mental health

13 CELEBS

BUSINESS

6

BENEFIT posts 2021 net profit, 164% jump in online payments

HM King receives AJC Chief Executive and members



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received at Al Safriyah Palace yesterday Chief Executive of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), David Harris, and members on the occasion of their visit to the kingdom.

HRH Prince Salman is set to conduct official visit to the US

TDI | Manama

The Court of the Crown Prince yesterday announced that His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, will conduct an official visit to the US. HRH Prince Salman will meet with several senior US officials, and will review long-standing Bahrain-US relations and ways to further bolster co-operation across various fields.



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

Putin briefs UAE on Ukraine crisis

Dubai

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President Vladimir Putin discussed the Russia-Ukraine crisis and the energy market during a phone call yesterday, Emirates News Agency reported.

Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed was briefed by Putin on "the developments of the crisis with Ukraine," and the Crown Prince stressed the need for a "peaceful solution that guarantees the interests and national security of all parties."

Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed confirmed that the UAE will continue to keep in touch with the various concerned parties in order to help find political solutions to the crisis.

The two officials also agreed on the need to main-

'Leave Kyiv'

Russia warns residents to flee homes as tactics shift to bombarding cities

Plan underway to strike targets used by Ukraine's security service

Rocket barrages on Kharkiv kill 10 people and leave 35 wounded

Reuters | Kyiv

Russia warned Kyiv residents to flee their homes yesterday and rained rockets down on Kharkiv, as Russian commanders who have failed to achieve a quick victory shifted their tactics to intensify the bombardment of Ukrainian cities.



Rescuers in a building that was damaged by a missile in Kharkiv

With an armoured column miles long bearing down on the capital, Russia's defence ministry said it was planning to strike targets in Kyiv used by Ukraine's security service. Residents near such sites should evacuate their homes, it warned, while giving no information about where in the city of 3 million people those targets were located. Rocket strikes on Kharkiv

killed at least 10 people and wounded 35, Ukrainian Interior Ministry adviser Anton Herashchenko said. Similar strikes had killed and wounded dozens in the city the previous day.

"The rubble is being cleared and there will be even more victims and wounded," he said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said the artillery barrages on Kharkiv amounted to state terrorism.

Nearly a week since Russian troops poured over the border, they have failed to capture a single major Ukrainian city after running into far fiercer resistance than they expected.

"The Russian army is an artillery army primarily, and it looks like they are shifting into war-fighting mode," said Nick Reynolds, a land warfare analyst

at RUSI in London.

"The failure of the Russians to achieve their goals quickly has galvanised Ukraine resistance to them. Really what we are seeing now is the Russian military shifting gears."

Russia still has more forces to throw into the fight even though President Vladimir Putin faces worldwide condemnation and international sanctions.

Oil company Shell became the latest big Western firm to announce it was pulling out of Russia. The sanctions and global financial isolation have already had a devastating impact on Russia's economy, with the rouble in freefall and queues outside banks as Russians rush to salvage their savings.

(Continued on Page 2)

Extra layer of protection

Bahrain approves use of Valneva's Covid-19 vaccine

Staff Reporter
TDI | Manama

The Kingdom's National Health Regulatory Authority has granted emergency use authorisation for VLA2001, a Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by French Biotech Company Valneva SE, the company announced yesterday.

"This authorisation follows a rolling review process with the Bahraini NHRA and reflects the NHRA's initiative to support the authorisation of COVID-19 vaccines," the company pointed out.

Thomas Lingelbach, Chief Executive Officer of Valneva, commented: "We are extremely



Boosting fight against the deadly virus

pleased with this first authorisation and would like to thank the Kingdom of Bahrain for their trust and confidence. We are looking forward to addressing the evolution of the pandemic in the Middle East and starting to deliver our first vaccines in

the region.

"As the only dual-adjuvanted, inactivated COVID-19 vaccine approved in Bahrain, VLA2001 will provide a differentiated vaccine option to the Bahraini population and medical community."

Valneva signed an advance purchase agreement with the Kingdom in December 2021 for the supply of one million doses of VLA2001. The company expects to deliver the first shipments of VLA2001 to Bahrain at the end of this month.

According to the company, VLA2001 is currently the only whole virus, inactivated, adjuvanted COVID-19 vaccine in clinical development in Europe.

"It is intended for active immunisation of at-risk populations to prevent carriage and symptomatic infection with COVID-19 during the pandemic and for routine vaccination including addressing new variants. Further, VLA2001 could potentially be suited for boosting, as repeat booster vaccinations have been shown to work well with whole virus inactivated vaccines."

Late last month, the company had said it expected to start shipments of its vaccine in Europe soon after it is recommended for conditional approval at the end of March, as it received a list of questions in an initial regulatory assessment.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

9408484

ACTIVE CASES

26849

DEATHS

1455

DISCHARGED

489331

NEW CASES

2752

CRITICAL

15

220 fils (includes VAT)



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A leader worth emulating

Book highlights HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's successful economic diplomacy

● **'The First Vision Salman' chronicles His Royal Highness' national responsibilities since early childhood**

TDI | Manama

"The First Vision Salman" book, published recently by the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DERASAT), provides an in-depth analysis of the personality and career of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, who has assumed national responsibilities since his early childhood.

The publication of the episodes of the chapters of the book aims to enrich the national memory and provide an opportunity to the public to learn about the national approach of Bahraini statesmen so that they draw lessons from their experiences, and role in formulating the principles and values of national and development work in the Kingdom.

The book devoted a whole chapter, entitled "Economic Diplomacy", to highlight the prominent role played by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, through his visits, in enhancing the kingdom's foreign policy, contributing to strengthening Bahrain's relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council



HRH Prince Salman with Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan, Prince Charles of Wales, and former US President Donald Trump



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(GCC), Arab, Islamic and countries, in addition to other leading decision-making capitals.

The chapter shed light on the long-standing solid relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, the kingdom's strategic depth, and the steady progress of cooperation between the two brotherly countries across all economic cooperation fields.

The chapter also referred to the robust relations between Bahrain and The UAE in all fields, noting that thanks to their success in building partnerships with major countries, Bahrain

and the UAE have become the cornerstone of regional and global security, as well as a role model for tolerance and peaceful co-existence, in light of the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Highness President Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, of the UAE.

The chapter also talked about Bahrain's strong relations with Jordan, which is one of the countries most visited by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighting the peculiarity of relations between the



The book about HRH Prince Salman



two kingdoms and the steady progress of their trade relations.

The chapter also focused on the solid relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and both the UK and the US, with whom Bahrain enjoys strategic ties across various fields.

The chapter also reviewed the Asian diplomacy of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighting the steady growth of the kingdom's rela-

tions with Singapore, Japan, South Korea and India thanks to HRH's successful visits to them.

The chapter also indicated that HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister has been keen on strengthening the kingdom's relations with European countries, contributing to advancing the kingdom's cooperation with them in the political, economic, industrial, defence and security fields.

Ukraine soldiers, civilians ready to fight Russian 'invaders' street by street

● **Peace talks to resume today**

TDI | Manama

(Continuation from Page 1)

New peace talks would be held today, Russia's TASS news agency reported yesterday.

Talks between Russian and Ukrainian officials held on Monday at the Belarus border failed to reach a breakthrough. Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba said Kyiv was ready to talk but would not just follow Russian ultimatums.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government remained in control of Kyiv with soldiers and civilians ready to fight invaders street by street.

Pictures released by US satellite company Maxar showed Russian tanks, artillery and fuel trucks stretching for 40 miles (60 km) along a highway to the north.

"For the enemy, Kyiv is the key target," Zelenskyy, who has remained in the capital rallying Ukrainians, said in a message overnight. "We will neutralise them all."

Some Kyiv residents have been sheltering in underground metro stations at night. There are long lines for fuel and some products are running out in shops, but by day the city is still holding out, with a semblance of ordinary life on the streets.

In the south of the country, Russia claimed to have completely encircled Ukraine's Azov Sea coast. If confirmed, that would mean Russian forces invading from Crimea had joined up with separatists in the east and had cut off Ukraine's main eastern port, Mariupol.

Casualties

Ukrainian authorities also reported 70 soldiers killed in a rocket attack in a town between Kyiv and Kharkiv.

Zelenskyy, addressing the European Parliament by video link a day after he signed an official request to join the European Union, urged the bloc to prove that it sided with Ukraine.

"Do prove that you will not let us go. Do prove that you are indeed Europeans and then life will win over death and light will win over darkness. Glory be to Ukraine," he said in an emotional speech.

'We support regional and global peace'

● **Bahrain takes part in high-level meeting of Human Rights Council**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain is always committed to supporting peace in the region and the world, maintaining international security, developing international relations and achieving international cooperation.

This was emphasised by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani as he delivered a speech at the virtual high-level meeting of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on February 28-March 2.

In his speech, Dr Al Zayani reviewed Bahrain's efforts to promote and protect human rights within the framework of the comprehensive reform approach led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He noted the grave consequences of wars and conflicts in the Middle East, which deprived millions of young people of education, health care, shelter, peace and security.

The Kingdom's efforts are guided by the United Nations Charter and relevant interna-



Dr Al Zayani delivers a speech at the event

"The Kingdom's efforts are guided by the United Nations Charter and relevant international and regional conventions based on HM's approach which calls for promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, brotherhood, cooperation and peace among all the peoples of the world."

- DR ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI, FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER

tional and regional conventions based on HM's approach which calls for promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, brotherhood, cooperation and peace among all the peoples of the world.

Dr Al Zayani noted the establishment of King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, the launch of the Shaikh Isa Award for Service to Humanity, the issuance of the Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the establishment of the King Hamad Chair for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence at the Italian University of Sapienza.

The minister stressed that following the directives of HM the King, the government of Bahrain, under the leadership of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, focused on addressing this pandemic in a con-

structive and effective manner, taking into account all health, economic, social and educational aspects.

Health and safety

The government placed at the forefront of its priorities preserving the health and safety of citizens and residents alike, and provided health isolation centers, testing, treatment and free vaccination for all citizens and residents and without discrimination.

The minister highlighted that the national vaccination campaign in Bahrain, thanks to the societal awareness and demand for vaccination, has achieved great success, with the percentage of those who received the first and second vaccination doses reaching 96% of the total eligible to take the vaccination from 18 years of age and over.

The percentage of those who received the booster dose reached 85% of the total qualified people of the same age group.

He indicated that the Kingdom has succeeded in terms of vaccinating children, as the vaccination rate for the age group from 12 to 17 years reached 92%, and the number of adults aged 3 to 11 who received the vaccination reached more than 24,000, while the number of those registered so far has reached more than 30,000.

Industry Minister receives top Asian Business Leadership Forum award

● **For efforts in supporting Bahrain economic progress**

TDT | Manama

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, was presented with the Trade Ambassador Award by the Executive Council of the 16th Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF).

The award honours the minister's efforts in supporting economic relations, resolving commercial issues, developing innovative solutions and promoting government strategies for Bahrain.

Accepting the award, the minister congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for making Bahrain a role model in many sectors.

The award ceremony was at Expo 2020 Dubai - Sustainability Pavilion.



Al Zayani with his trophy

ity Pavilion.

The forum, with the theme "Resilience, Rising: Sustainable Leadership for the Ruptured World" was under the patronage of Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence in the United Arab Emirates.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Executive of Emirates Airlines, were present.

Separately, the minister also took part in a dialogue session as part of the awards ceremony in the Terra Hall at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Participants discussed many social and economic issues and

the post-pandemic world during this session.

Ban Ki-moon, Co-Chair of the Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizenship and the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Maryam bint Mohammed Al Muhairi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the UAE, Dr Tariq Mohammed Al Gurg, the CEO and Vice Chairman of Dubai Cares, and Alain Bejjani, CEO of Majid Al Futtaim Holding Company, and other influential leaders from the public and private sectors, were present.

One killed in accident involving four vehicles



A scene from the accident site

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

A person died in a traffic accident involving four vehicles on Zaid Bin Amira Street near the Damistan area yesterday.

This was confirmed by the Interior Ministry, which reported the accident on its Twitter handle: "A person died in a traffic accident involving four vehicles on Zaid Bin Amira Street near the Damistan area. The competent authorities are carrying out inspections at the accident site."

More details were not available until the press time.

Last month, a young Bahraini woman died while her eight-year-old daughter, husband and a friend sustained critical injuries in a tragic accident after the car she was driving rammed into a parked bus on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Street near Hamad Town.

Police say the speeding car smashed into the rear side of a parked bus transporting workers on the emergency lane at around 3 am.

Following the crash, the car got stuck underneath the back left bumper of the bus, crushing part of the hood and the passenger cabin.

Building partnerships to empower Bahraini youth



Higher Education Council Secretary General Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa met INJAZ Bahrain Chairperson Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa and Executive Director Hana Sarwani. The Secretary General praised INJAZ Bahrain activities that contributed to enhancing success among future generations, and stressed the council's keenness to build partnerships to prepare a generation of qualified leaders.

'Sleepless nights'

Bahrain residents, who are parents of students stranded in Kharkiv province of Ukraine, plead for help

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Many Bahraini residents, who are parents of students stranded in Kharkiv province of Ukraine, are having sleepless nights as their children are stuck in a terrifying war zone.

They have been urging the Indian government to speed up the evacuation process as the situation is worsening day-by-day.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Bahrain resident Stephen Jacob said that his daughter, a medical student in Ukraine, has been sheltered, along with her classmates, in the basement of a college hostel in Kharkiv for over a week now.

Mr Stephen's daughter Hima Maria Stephen is a first year student at Kharkiv National Medical University. She was formerly a student of Indian School Bahrain.

Naveen Shekharappa Gyana-goudar, the Indian student who was killed in Russian shelling yesterday in Kharkiv, is also a student of Kharkiv National Medical University.

"The situation is extremely bad. I am worried about my daughter's safety," said Mr Stephen, who along with 12 other parents approached the Indian Embassy in the Kingdom pleading for support to bring their children home.

"I was told that many coun-



People who are being sheltered at the subway station in Kharkiv

tries including Israel, Egypt and Pakistan have successfully evacuated their citizens from Kharkiv though I could not verify this claim."

The Daily Tribune yesterday reported the ordeal faced by the daughter of another Bahrain resident, who too has been stranded in the Kharkiv province.

Ashly Prem, a former student of Asian School and Indian School Bahrain, told The Daily Tribune that she along with her fellow classmates were being sheltered at the subway station in Kharkiv, which "is considered safe from attacks".

"We are in touch with the Indian Mission here through a weblink. Evacuating us looks like a hard task for the embassy as this region is located in the

"The situation is extremely bad. I am worried about my daughter's safety ... I was told that many countries including Israel, Egypt and Pakistan have successfully evacuated their citizens from Kharkiv though I could not verify this claim."

- STEPHEN JACOB, BAHRAIN RESIDENT

eastern side of Ukraine and only has a border with Russia. We are only 40km away from the Russian border."

Ashly's father Preman Kandoth, a long-time resident in the Kingdom, is among the Indian parents having their children in Ukraine, who have sent a letter to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting to bring them home.

Russian forces have bombarded the regional government building in Kharkiv yesterday, killing at least 10 civilians, officials were quoted by The Guardian newspaper, as a huge armoured column rolling towards the capital, Kyiv, raised fears Russia may resort to pulverising civilian areas.

Ukraine's foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba accused the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, of "murdering innocent civilians" as he tweeted video of the huge explosion in Kharkiv's Freedom Square, calling it a "barbaric missile strike" resulting from Putin's inability to "break Ukraine down".

The president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said repeated Russian missile strikes on Kharkiv - including the latest on the central administration building, which left at least 35 wounded - amounted to state terrorism and a war crime. "Evil, armed with rockets, bombs and artillery, must be stopped immediately, destroyed economically," he said.

COURT STORY

High Appeals Court acquits businessman of embezzlement

● **The businessman didn't owe any money to the plaintiff after the examination of all the documents submitted by both of them.**

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has acquitted a businessman who was earlier sentenced to two years in prison for embezzlement after participating with two others in purchasing

a popular GCC play.

The man agreed with two others, including the plaintiff, to purchase the play, settling to pay 50% of the total amount, while the remaining 50% to be equally covered by the other two men, 25% apiece. The trio agreed to share the losses and the profits as per each person's percentage.

However, according to the man's lawyer Islam Abdulrahman Ghunaim, he covered the full amount, paying almost BD31,000 to purchase the rights of showcasing the play in Bahrain, and this includes preparing a theatre to accommodate it.



The businessman didn't owe any money to the plaintiff after the examination of all the documents submitted by both of them.



The plaintiff claimed that the businessman didn't transfer to them the profits generated from the play after he paid his share as per the signed deal, and this was refuted by the lawyer who underlined that the money sent to his client was mainly to cover the costs.

"My client completely financed the project via his own

money, and the duo involved in the deal didn't live up to the agreement terms. He submitted to the Public Prosecution all the documents that confirmed the same," Al Ghunaim said in his closing argument.

An expert who looked into the case also cemented the lawyer's claims, affirming that the businessman didn't owe any money to the plaintiff after examining all the documents submitted by both of them.

The defendant was earlier sentenced to two years in prison after he was found guilty by the High Criminal Court.

Foul play ruled out in inmate death

TDT | Manama

The Public Prosecution ruled out foul play in the death of an inmate who committed suicide by hanging himself.

The inmate was found dead in his cell at the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre. It was initially suggested that he took his own life by hanging himself.

This was confirmed by the Public Prosecution which stated it established its conclusion after examining the body and reviewing the CCTV cameras' footage as well as hearing the witnesses.

Covid curve flat, yet deaths surge

Casualty numbers rise to 1,454 on Monday; 2,577 new cases reported

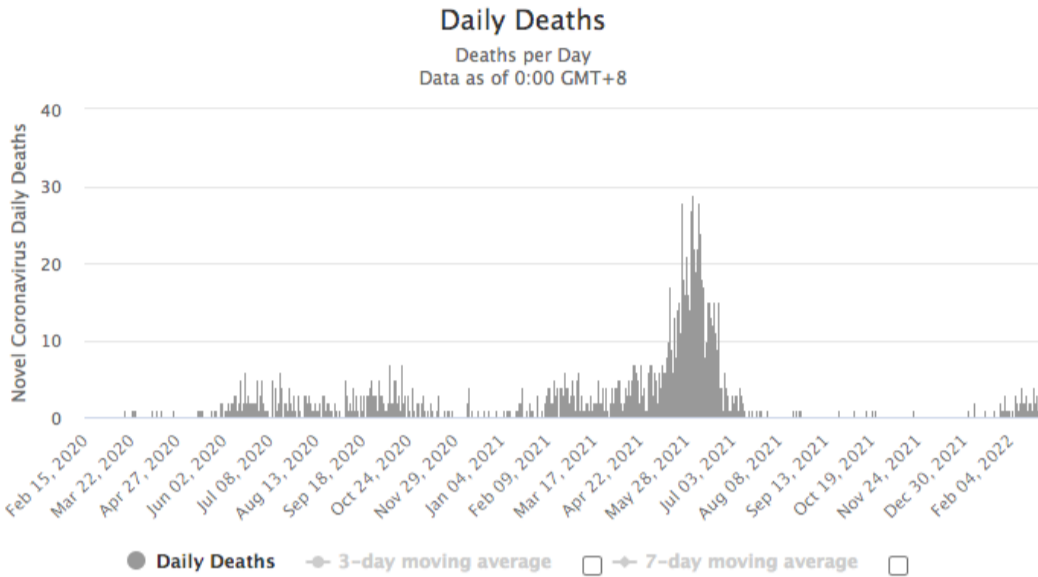
Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

With 46 Covid-19 deaths reported last month, the number of deaths in the third wave of infection has witnessed an increase despite the Covid curve flattening during the same period.

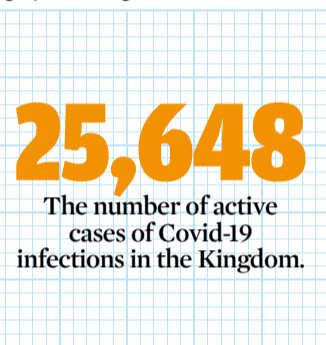
Generally, the flattening of Covid curve is associated with stabilisation of death as well as hospitalisation numbers. However, the number of deaths reported last month remains highest since July 2021. The hospitalisation numbers remained low compared to the total active cases and new cases.

The new cases graph has been stable for the past few weeks. There were 3,425 new cases on February 23 and Feb 24 saw 3,006 cases; the number of new cases for other days of the past week were Feb 25 (2,732), Feb 26 (2,599), Feb 27(2,416), Feb 28 (2,916) and March 1 (2,577). The death numbers have risen to 1,454 and there are now 16 critical cases. Highest single day death number (four) since the beginning of the New Year was reported on February 13 and February 23.

There were 2,577 new cases on Monday along with 2,776 recoveries and one death. There are 25,648 active cases including 51 hospitalised patients infected



A graph showing Covid death rates in the Kingdom



with Covid-19. The Kingdom has so far registered a total of 514,883 cases and 11,217 tests were recorded on Tuesday.

According to medical experts, the flattening of the Covid curve

reflects the Kingdom's success saga in terms of administering vaccine and booster doses along with strict measures taken to tackle the spread of virus.

On the vaccination front, the authorities have reaped an unprecedented success; 12,27,305 have received a single dose of vaccine while 11,97,343 received two doses; 950,713 have already received their booster doses.

The Kingdom has registered over 100,000 Omicron cases since January 2022, according to Lt Col Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, Infectious Diseases Consultant and Microbiologist at the BDF Hospital and Member of the

National Medical Taskforce for Combating COVID-19.

The first Omicron case was reported on December 11 last year and the infected had travelled abroad.

He stressed the success of the national vaccination campaign in achieving its goals, which contributed to raising the immune response for all age groups which took two doses and the booster jab.

"The anti-Coronavirus vaccination has proven effective in reducing the incidence of complications for existing cases, thus reducing hospital admission rates and intensive care and the



The Kingdom has had remarkable success on the vaccination front



According to medical experts, the flattening of the Covid curve reflects the Kingdom's success saga in terms of administering vaccine and booster doses along with strict measures taken to tackle the spread of virus.

death toll," he said. He underlined Bahrain's con-

tinuous efforts to combat the virus within the national vaccination campaign to protect citizens and residents' health and safety.

"It is important to focus in the current stage on the number of existing cases whose health requires hospitalisation or admission to intensive care," said Dr Al Qahtani.

Following approval by the Vaccination Committee, a second booster shot has been made available by choice for adults aged 60 years and above, and frontline medical professionals.

According to the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus, eligible individuals may receive any vaccine as a second booster shot, three months after receiving the first booster shot.

NSSA participates in economic forum

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's National Space Science Agency (NSSA) participated in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forum under the theme "Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options".

NSSA's CEO Dr Mohamed Ebrahim Al Aseeri said that the forum presented the results of scientific studies and their most important recommendations regarding plastic, which has become a real concern for the environment, the health and safety of animals and marine creatures.

It also discussed markets for



Dr Al Aseeri

recycled plastics, technological innovations in the plastics industry, legislative measures and international cooperation to reduce plastic pollution.

Shaikh Khalifa Highway lane set for full closure

TDT | Manama

Works Ministry announced that resurfacing works necessitate full closure of the lane leading from Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway to Roundabout 18 for traffic from Manama towards Hamad Town.

The three-day closure will start tomorrow at 11pm.

Road users may use the alternative access through roundabouts 14 and 22.

Works Ministry also said the resurfacing works of Al Sehla Highway that necessitate the closure of one lane in both directions at its junction with Shaikh Salman Highway.

Junior Falcons Doha performance hailed

TDT | Manama

The Junior Falcons Doha, first runner-up in the 3rd U18 All Filipino GCC Club Championship 2022 paid a courtesy call to Charge d' Affaires Maria Paz G. Cortes at the Philippine Embassy before their flight back to Qatar.

Charge d' Affaires Cortes welcomed and congratulated the players, coaches, and parents at the Embassy for their performance in the tournament and encouraged them to continue honing their basketball skills as well as appreciate the experience they have gained, regardless of the results.



Charge d' Affaires Cortes with the Junior Falcons Doha team

Embassy officials also wished them well as they travel back to Qatar.

The NGB Al Khobar from Saudi Arabia bagged the championship in the two-day tournament.

Bahrain Eagles Manama finished third, and Bahrain Eagles Muharraq fourth.



الشركة البحرينية للترفيه العائلي ش.م.ب.
BAHRAIN FAMILY LEISURE COMPANY B.S.C.

Bahrain Family Leisure Company B.S.C. Invitation to the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the Company's Shareholders.

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Family Leisure Company B.S.C., CR 32196-1, cordially invites the shareholders to attend the Annual General Assembly Meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 12.00 Noon through virtual means of communication utilizing the "ZOOM APP" and organized by Bahrain Bourse; accordingly we draw the attention of the Shareholders to adhere to the following instructions to ensure the facilitation and success of the meeting through virtual media:

1. Send a request to attend the Annual General Assembly Meeting 24 hours before the meeting with a clear copy of proof of the personal identity of the Shareholder or his representative and the power of attorney, contact number and e-mail, so that we can confirm the participant's identity to registry@bahrainclear.com
2. Upon Bahrain Clear confirming the receiving all the required documents and information, the Shareholders who wish to participate in the meeting will be provided with visual communication procedures, prior to the meeting, so that they can access the APP or download on either personal computer or any hand held device, provided that the voice and video features are available and allowing access to the APP.

Accordingly, we request the shareholders to abide by the instructions above to smoothly and interactively contribute to the success of the meeting in accordance with the rules and regulations. If the required quorum is not met, a second meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at the same time and using the same method. The alternate date for the meeting in the absence of a quorum will be Wednesday, 06th April 2022 at the same time and using the same method to consider the following agenda.

A. Agenda of AGM

1. Reading out the previous AGM minutes held on 24th March 2021 and approving it.
2. Discussing the BoD report about the group business for the year ended 31st December 2021 and approving it.
3. Listening to the External Auditor's report on the Company's financial position for the financial year ending 31st December 2021.
4. Consider and approve the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021.
5. Discuss the corporate governance report for 2021 and comply with the requirements of the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.
6. To notify and approve the transactions carried out during the financial year ended 31 December 2021 with any of the related parties as described in note 28 of the financial statements in line with Article 189 of the Commercial Companies Law.
7. Discharge the members of the Board of Directors from their liabilities for the financial year ending 31st December 2021.
8. Appointment/Reappointment of external auditors for the year ending 31st December 2022 and authorize the Board of Directors to determine their fees.
9. Election/re-election of members of the Board of Directors for the next three years.
10. New matters that may arise as per Article 207 of the Commercial Companies' Law.

Abdul Latif Khalid Al Aujan
Chairman of the Board

Importance notice to the shareholders:

- The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 are available on the Bahrain Bourse Website.
- You can obtain a copy of the power of attorney through www.bflic.com.bh
- Any shareholder registered in the company's register of shareholders on the date of the meeting shall have the right to attend in person or to give in writing any person to attend the meeting and to vote on his behalf, taking into consideration that his agent is not the Chairman or Members of the board of directors or employees of the Company.
- In case the shareholder is a company, the agent attending the meeting must submit a letter of authorization from the shareholder who is entitled to be the principal of that shareholder. The authorization must be written and issued by the person authorized by the company and stamped with the company's stamp.
- The power of attorney must be deposited at least 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting at Bahrain Financial Harbor - Bahrain Clear - Gate No. 4 - post Box 3203, Manama-Kingdom of Bahrain - Tel: 17261260 - Fax 17256362 or e-mail: csd.info@bahraimbourse.com with confirmation of receipt before the deadline. It is worth noting that the power of attorney issued after the deadline is not valid for meeting purposes.
- For any inquiries, please contact the Public Relation and Investor Relations Department at 17215080.

Exhibition for Al Oraifi set to open today
TDT | Manama

An exhibition showcasing the accomplished work of late Bahraini artist Rashid Al Oraifi will open today at the Art Centre.

Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) is hold the art expo under the theme "Visual Memoirs: Between Form and Abstract".

The expo showcases a collection of artworks that provide a visual response to urban behaviour, social practices and cultural customs in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The authority is hosting the exhibition in remembrance of the celebrated artist, who won the second prize at the Bahrain Fine Art Expo in 2020.

The exhibition is also part of the Bahrain Spring of Culture.

Emirati star to perform at Al Dana Amphitheatre

TDT | Manama

Emirati singer Hussain Al Jassmi is set to perform in Al Dana Amphitheatre on March 4, as part of Bahrain's 16th Spring of Culture.

Tickets have been selling out fast and sections A and B are already sold out.

Meanwhile, remaining available tickets can be purchased from the festival's website www.springofculture.org.

The Spring of Culture Festival features performances by various international and local artists including award-winning musicians. Performances and activities were held in February and will continue throughout



Al Jassmi

The festival is expected to attract audiences from across the globe, contributing to the Kingdom's lively art, music, and tourism scene.



Al Jassmi has received a multitude of recognitions for his contributions to music through a number of awards including ART Festival's Music Creativity Award in 2007, Best Arab Singer 2007 at the Murex Festival, as well as the award for distinct singing (Arab world) in 2009.

Al Jassmi has received a multitude of recognitions for his contributions to music through a number of awards including ART Festival's Music Creativity Award in 2007, Best Arab Singer 2007 at the Murex Festival, as well as the award for distinct singing (Arab world) in 2009.

The Emirati star has also been successful in performing in both

the Egyptian and Moroccan dialects, showcasing a wide range of music and expanding his reach to the wider Arab region.

The Spring of Culture Festival 2022 is organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), Shaikh Ibrahim Center for Culture and Research and the Dana Amphitheatre in partnership with the Bahrain

Economic Development Board (EDB), and in collaboration with the Gallery art space.

Sponsors include Bahrain Aluminum Company (ALBA), Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), Bahrain Bank and Kuwait (BBK), Bahrain Holding Property Company, National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) and Bahrain Free Markets Complex Company.

NIHR Chairman attends global solidarity forum

Cairo

National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) Chairman Ali Ahmed Al Derazi has participated in a conference on International Solidarity and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 — Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Representatives of the members of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Insti-



Al Derazi at the event

tutions and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in addition to the United Nations Development

Programme, participated in the two-day international event, held in Cairo. The conference discussed the

inter-relations between international solidarity and the implementation of the sustainable development goals, especially Goal 16.

It also discussed the procedures related to strengthening the role of national institutions in protecting human rights, enabling them to implement and follow up on the implementation of the sustainable development goals, and encouraging international cooperation and solidarity.

British Club bans Russian products

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

The British Club Bahrain yesterday said that it will not stock a single Russian product on its shelves.

This information surfaced after a poster mentioning the club's decision became viral across many social media platforms.

"The decision has been unanimously made by the executive committee of the club," The British Club Bahrain Manager Daniel Mcrae told The Daily Tribune yesterday.

"The move is against war and violence and those engaging in such acts," Mr Daniel pointed out.

"It is not against Russia or



A poster on one of the social media platforms mentioning the decision by the club to ban products from Russia

Russians as we have Russian members at the Club. We also have Ukrainian members as well here," he added.

Flats delivered to Interior Ministry female personnel

TDT | Manama

A ceremony was held yesterday to hand over flats to female personnel of the Interior Ministry under the patronage of its Undersecretary, Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa.

The flats are part of "Al Aleem Neighbourhood" in Khalifa City.

Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman expressed thanks and appreciation to the Interior Minister for his directives to ensure decent living for the ministry's personnel. He said that such support is a motivation to continue the process of accomplishment towards national development.

The Undersecretary said that the Interior Minister's directives to give female personnel the right to benefit from hous-



Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman with the Interior Ministry female personnel

ing services reflect the role of female employees in various security sectors.

He hailed the efforts and cooperation of the Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and the Electricity and Water Authority to

complete the project within the required specifications and schedule.

The Ministry's Housing Service Committee expressed in a speech delivered by the Director of Supply and Catering thanks and appreciation to the Interior Minister for his support

and care to provide appropriate homes to the personnel.

The project consists of 32 flats built in accordance with the latest construction and general safety standards to ensure sustainable communities are equipped with all services and facilities.

Developing education and training sectors



Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa received Youth and Sports Affairs Minister and Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) President Aymen bin Tawfeeq Almoayed, and BQA CEO Dr Tariq Al Sindi. HH the Deputy Prime Minister congratulated Dr Al Sindi on the royal trust, praised his experience and efficiency, and wished him further success. The minister and Dr Al Sindi expressed their appreciation of the Deputy Prime Minister's role in supporting and developing the education and training sectors, and his constant support for the authority to achieve its goals.

Outreach Programme held



The embassy's services and its attached agencies are made available for Filipinos

TDT | Manama

An Outreach Programme was successfully organised for the Filipinos in the Kingdom of Bahrain on 24 and 25 February at Thai Mart, Diyar Al Muharraq during its Street Food Culture event.

It was part of the Philippine Embassy's efforts to keep the Filipino community abreast with the developments on its services, together with its attached agencies, the Philippine

Overseas Labor Office (POLO), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and Social Security Services (SSS), in cooperation with Thai Mart Bahrain.

The two-day event aimed to connect with, disseminate information, and provide consultation services to Filipino workers on the programmes provided by POLO-OWWA-SSS. A total of 98 Filipinos availed of the attached agencies' services during the outreach.

BENEFIT posts 2021 net profit, 164% jump in online payments

● 2021 net profit was BD 715 Thousand

● Over 159 million payments made through EFTS

TDI | Manama

BENEFIT, a leading Fintech and electronic financial transactions service provider, yesterday reported a full-year 2021 profit and a massive 164% jump in online payment transactions exceeding BD20 billion.

The Group's 2021 net profit was BD 715,497 compared to 1,434,096 in 2020.



Chief Executive, Abdulwahed AlJanah

BENEFIT also said it recorded 159 million payments through the Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS) in 2021, up 164% with the total value exceeding 20 billion Bahraini Dinars compared to 16 billion Bahraini dinars in 2020, an increase of 26%. In 2021, the Group's main



Chairman, Mohamed Ebrahim Albastaki

focus was on launching the e-Cheque service, obtaining a license for trust services and e-signature from the TRA and the remittance service for BenefitPay customers.

The announcement came during the annual General and Extraordinary General Meeting

earlier this week at Benefit head office in Seef District.

The annual meeting discussed the appointment of ten directors and one CBB observer for three years, starting from February 2022 to March 2025.

Chairman of BENEFIT, Mohamed Ebrahim Albastaki, stated, "2021 was a tremendous year for BENEFIT. We became the first entity to operate MENA's first national electronic cheque system, and also obtained a license for trust services and e-signature from the TRA.

Chief Executive, Abdulwahed AlJanahi, said, "We will continue to build on this success and continue to provide innovative solutions demanded by our customers in diverse sectors."

Zain Bahrain promotes female empowerment as part of Youth Programme

● Zain Bahrain's Youth Empowerment programme is open to Bahraini nationals aged 19 to 24.

● Applicants must be fresh school graduates, in their second year of university, diploma holders, or fresh BSc graduates.

TDI | Manama



Mohammed Isa, Recruitment, Employee Relations & Zain Youth Manager, Zain Bahrain

Zain Bahrain, a telecommunications industry innovator in the Kingdom, is investing in several Zain Youth Empowerment initiatives, including a focus on young women.

In association with the Bahrain Society for Training and Development, the operator trained more than 20 women for its Consumer Marketing & Sales and Customer Care divisions. It also concluded the second edition of its Women in Technology program, which aims to set women on a path to success in the tech industry. Seven women were trained in two divisions and graduated from the program in December.

In addition, 24 male and female Zain Youth members joined the Customer Care, Consumer Marketing & Sales, and Finance departments, while two out of seven recent graduates of the program became permanent employees. In line with Zain Bahrain's commitment to creating an inclusive culture, several members of the 'We Able' category (for differently-abled individuals) spent a day shadowing managers of their choice in a work environment designed to make them feel welcomed, secure, and comfortable.

In addition to the recruitment, training, and development programs, Zain Youth members participated in the

7ewar Forum to discuss the impacts of the pandemic on the workplace and help develop solutions to enhance employee productivity and engagement. Zain Bahrain also participated in the Ahlia University Youth Connect Program, which was held under the patronage of the Minister of Labor and Social Development, Jameel Humaidan, as well as the University of Bahrain's Annual Career Fair. Zain Bahrain also arranged a one-week training program for Al Hekma International School (AHIS) students, which exposed them to the telecom sector and included mentoring sessions with managers of their choice.

"We are helping to prepare tomorrow's leaders to take up positions of responsibility, reminding our stakeholders that youth empowerment is part of Zain Bahrain's DNA. It is central to our culture of innovation because we believe young people can introduce us to powerful new concepts that can change our world," said Mohammed Isa, Recruitment, Employee Relations & Zain Youth Manager at Zain Bahrain's Human Resources department. "We are pleased to welcome our newest Zain family members and look forward to an action-packed youth calendar in 2022."

SWIFT says it is waiting for names of Russian banks to disconnect

Reuters | London

SWIFT said yesterday it was waiting to see which banks authorities want disconnected from its global financial messaging system as sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine are rolled out.

The European Union, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Britain agreed on Saturday to ensure that selected Russian banks are removed from SWIFT to harm their ability to operate globally.

"We are engaging with these authorities to understand which entities will be subject to these new measures and will disconnect them once we receive legal instruction to do so."

NBB, AUBH join hands for education finance support & training

TDI | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the American University of Bahrain (AUBH) as part of its recently launched Education Finance product.

The ceremony was held on 14th February at the Bank's headquarters with the attendance of William D. Hurt from the American University of Bahrain alongside Subah Al Zayani and Ahmed Al Maskati from the National Bank of Bahrain.

In line with its ongoing commitment towards social responsibility, NBB has partnered with the AUBH to offer its students suitable financial solutions with tenors of up to 7 years for their necessary academic expenses. Customers will enjoy a quick approval process coupled with zero processing and insurance



The deal signing

fees.

Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive Retail Banking at NBB, said: "We look forward to further extending our partnerships with more educational providers as part of our contribution and commitment towards the Kingdom's 2030 Vision."

Hurt, Chief Operating Officer

of AUBH stated: "Their product and support will not only provide additional accessibility to deserving young adults who require financial support to enrol at AUBH, it will provide our students with new professional opportunities through internships and live projects, in one of the Kingdom's leading banks."

A true success story

Enab Beirut Bahrain celebrates 2nd Anniversary



ENAB anniversary and opening ceremony

TDI | Manama

Enab Beirut Bahrain, a subsidiary of Bin Hindi Foods, announced its 2nd anniversary as a top Lebanese Cuisine chain in Bahrain.

Since its opening in March 2020, Enab Beirut Bahrain has been providing an exquisite fine dining atmosphere building memorable moments for guests to share.

"It goes without saying, that

whether you believe in "eat to Live" or "Live to eat", one thing is for sure, Lebanese Cuisine from Enab Beirut is always a preferred choice. Enab Beirut Bahrain has experienced exceptional growth and development over the past 2 years despite the numerous Market challenges," said Salim Itani, General Manager.

"Moving forward, our focus will remain on offering quality service, a small taste of Beirut,

and a big Lebanese experience to our guests."

The Anniversary Ceremony that took place at Enab Beirut Bahrain located in Adliya Block 338, included the CEO and Vice Chairman of Bin Hindi Group, Mr Ahmed Abdulla Bin Hindi, along with Top Management and Media representatives.

Bin Hindi Group strive for continuous growth and the aim to always surpass customer expectation.

Al Salam Bank launches revamped financing campaign

● The campaign will begin on the 1st of March 2022

● New version includes lower instalments and competitive profit rates.

TDI | Manama

Al Salam Bank has announced the launch of a new promotional campaign for 2022, which entails a revamped version of the financing campaign offering competitive profit rates and low monthly instalment amounts. The scheme is available for all types of financial schemes, including Mazaya, personal, auto, and real estate financing. The campaign will begin on 1st March 2022 and end on 1st April 2022.

In the first version of the campaign, clients had the chance to



Mohamed Buhijji, Head of Retail Banking

win a Tesla car when submitting for new financing applications in addition to doubling their loyalty reward points until the 19th of February 2022. In line with the Bank's promise to continually nurture long-standing relationships with its clients delivering an enriched experience; this year's version includes lower instalments and competitive profit rates.

As with the last financing campaign, the 2022 scheme is applicable for both citizens and residents of the public and private sectors, all new applicants of personal, auto, property finances, as well as current beneficiaries of the Mazaya program and individuals with existing debts who wish to benefit from competitive profit rates and reduced monthly instalments.

Commenting on the occasion, Mohamed Buhijji, Head of Retail Banking at Al Salam Bank, said, "In light of last year's success of the Financing Promotional Campaign, we are pleased to announce the launch of our revamped campaign for 2022, starting from 1st March until 1st April 2022."

Applicants can apply conveniently via mobile application, chatbot on website at www.alsalambank.com, through WhatsApp at 17005500, or by booking an appointment via virtual branch via Skiplino app.

News in brief

◆ **The antiviral drug molnupiravir** is conditionally recommended for patients with non-severe covid-19 who are at highest risk of hospitalisation, says a WHO Guideline Development Group of international experts in The BMJ yesterday. Patients who are at highest risk of hospitalisation typically include those who are unvaccinated, older people, and those with weak immune systems or chronic diseases. However, the panel says that young and healthy patients, including children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women should not be given the drug due to potential harms. Molnupiravir is an antiviral medicine that works by stopping coronavirus from growing and spreading. Used as early as possible after infection, it can help prevent more severe symptoms developing.



WHO recommends antiviral drug for patients with non-severe covid-19

11 killed in Damascus mall fire



◆ **Eleven people** died in a fire that broke out in La Mirada mall in Damascus on Tuesday, the Syrian interior ministry said according to state news agency SANA. The fire caused significant

damage and investigations to find out the cause are underway, the ministry added.

◆ **Queen Elizabeth** felt well enough to undertake two virtual audiences on Tuesday, just over a week after she tested positive for COVID-19 and following the cancellation of other similar events last week. The British monarch, 95, has been fully vaccinated against coronavirus and was previously said to have been suffering mild cold-like symptoms. Despite cancelling some events she continued with light duties after testing positive.

Queen Elizabeth well enough to carry out virtual audiences



◆ **US President Joe Biden, who has earned praise for his efforts to rally European allies** and other nations against Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, will turn to uniting Americans in the State of the Union speech yesterday. With the conflict in Ukraine raging, Biden intends to

Biden seeks to unite Americans in State of the Union speech

use the annual speech to stress the importance of countering Putin and push his domestic economic agenda, including reintroducing elements of his stalled Build Back Better program, administration officials said. "Every State of Union speech also reflects a moment of time," White House Press

Secretary Jen Psaki said on Monday. Biden, she said, will detail his efforts "to rally the world to stand up for democracy and against Russian aggression." Democrats are expected to have a difficult time holding control of the US House of Representatives - and perhaps the Senate as well - in the Nov. 8 elections, analysts said, which would likely cripple Biden's policy goals. A rebound in Biden's public standing would make the task of staying in power easier. "The (speech) comes at a good time," said John Geer, a political scientist and an expert in public opinion at Vanderbilt University. "He needs to grab the national stage and set a course that offers a brighter future."

Zelenskiy tells EU: 'Prove that you are with us'

● **Treat us as equals, Ukraine tells EU**

● **EU says to consider Ukraine candidacy, but will be 'difficult'**

● **EU lawmakers set to call Russia "rogue state" - draft**

● **EU lawmakers call for tougher sanctions**

● **European Commission prez said Putin's decision to invade Ukraine had had the effect of uniting countries against Russia.**



President of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen, applauds after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's speech at the European Parliament special session to debate its response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in Brussels, Belgium



The EU has taken unprecedented steps, including financing weapons deliveries to Ukraine, after President Vladimir Putin launched war on Russia's neighbour last week.

Reuters | Brussels

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy urged the EU on Tuesday via video link to an emergency session of the European Parliament to "prove that you are with us" in Ukraine's war with Russia, a day after Kyiv officially asked to join the bloc.

European Union lawmakers, many wearing #stand-with-Ukraine T-shirts bearing the Ukrainian flag, others with blue-and-yellow scarves or ribbons, gave Zelenskiy a standing ovation.

"We are fighting to be equal members of Europe," Zelenskiy said in Ukrainian in a speech translated into English by an interpreter who spoke through tears.

"Do prove that you are with us. Do prove that you will not let us go. Do prove that you are indeed Europeans, and then life will win over death and light will win over darkness," he said. "The EU will be much stronger with us."

Zelenskiy has remained in Kyiv to rally his people against the invasion. As he spoke on Tuesday, a Russian armoured column was bearing down on Ukraine's capital.

The presidents of eight central and eastern European nations on Monday published an open letter calling for Ukraine to be granted immediate EU candidate status and for the start of formal membership talks

HARD TO JOIN EU

But Ukraine is well aware that any membership process will be long and difficult, even if it manages after the war to avoid falling back under Moscow's domination.

Charles Michel, the chairman of EU leaders, told the EU Parliament after Zelenskiy's speech that the bloc would have to seriously look at Ukraine's "legit-

imate" request to join. But he added: "It is going to be difficult, we know there are different views in Europe (about further enlargement)."

According to a draft text they will vote on later on Tuesday, EU lawmakers are expected to brand Russia a "rogue state" and urge member states to agree even tougher sanctions.

Russia calls its actions in Ukraine a "special military operation" aimed at ridding the country of leaders it characterises as "neo-Nazis and drug addicts".

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said Putin's decision to invade Ukraine had had the effect of uniting countries against Russia. "If Putin was seeking to divide the European Union, to weaken NATO, and to break the international community, he has achieved exactly the opposite," von der Leyen told the EU Parliament, a blue and yellow ribbon pinned to her jacket.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	80,647,343	975,150
2 India	42,931,045	514,054
3 Brazil	28,787,620	649,443
4 France	22,702,815	138,367
5 UK	18,886,701	161,361
6 Russia	16,495,369	352,446
7 Germany	14,851,512	123,490
8 Turkey	14,089,456	94,445
9 Italy	12,782,836	154,767
10 Spain	10,977,524	99,410
11 Argentina	8,900,656	126,152
12 Iran	7,060,741	137,064
13 Netherlands	6,398,114	21,570
14 Colombia	6,064,583	138,767

Global tally

437,766,474

Deaths

5,978,139

Recovered:

369,474,759

New cases

+662,213

New deaths

+2,884

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	483,771		24,074		413,482	46,215
Saudi Arabia	745,590	+563	9,001	+3	724,388	12,201
UAE	880,451	+478	2,301		835,526	42,624
Kuwait	620,452	+558	2,539	+1	609,349	8,564
Oman	382,244		4,244		368,677	9,323
Qatar	357,292	+310	670		353,682	2,940

Indian student killed in Ukraine shelling

● **Indian foreign ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said the ambassadors of Russia and Ukraine had been called in "to reiterate our demand for urgent safe passage"**

Reuters | New Delhi

An Indian student was killed by shelling in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv yesterday, prompting New Delhi to step up demands for safe passage to evacuate thousands of its nationals trapped in the war zone.

Indian foreign ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said the ambassadors of Russia and Ukraine had been called in "to reiterate our demand for urgent safe passage for Indian nationals who are still in Kharkiv and cities in other conflict zones."

In a post on Twitter, he added that the ministry was in touch with the family of the student, who he did not name.

Some 6,000 Indians remain trapped since Russia invaded the former Soviet republic last



A view shows the area near the regional administration building, which city officials said was hit by a missile attack, in central Kharkiv, Ukraine,

6000

Some 6,000 Indians remain trapped since Russia invaded the former Soviet republic last week

week, a government official briefed on the situation told

Reuters.

In total, about 470,000 foreign nationals are stranded in Ukraine, including students and migrant workers, the U.N. migration agency said, urging neighbouring countries to grant them refuge if they try to flee.

Russia says its assault from the north, east and south of Ukraine is not aimed at occupying territory, calling it a special operation to demilitarise and "denazify" the country - a justi-

fication dismissed by Kyiv and the West as war propaganda.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday dismissed allegations of Russian strikes on civilian targets and said reports of the use of cluster and vacuum bombs were fake. He categorically denied that Russia had committed war crimes. Peskov said, without providing evidence, that Ukrainian nationalist groups were using people as human shields.



Tania Rebello

Eats & Treats

BAHRAIN

to your heart's content



Spring in a roll

As we glide into the spring season, let us discover some interesting facts about spring rolls. Crispy, golden cylinders filled with crunchy vegetables and a dipping sauce. This is how we have often known and enjoyed this famous appetizer which is essentially a Chinese version. But, did you know that spring rolls were actually invented by the Vietnamese? Spring rolls have their origins in Vietnam and were eaten during the spring season. That is how they got their name.

Vietnamese spring rolls consist of a moist rice wrapper that is filled with fresh, crunchy, seasonal spring vegetables such as carrots, cabbage, bell peppers, fresh rice vermicelli and herbs such as mint and coriander. A non-vegetarian version would contain shrimp as well. The roll is not deep fried; instead, it is consumed as a refreshing, colorful appetizer to be enjoyed with a sweet and savory dipping sauce. The sauce is prepared with peanut butter, garlic, soy sauce, sesame oil, vinegar and honey. Spring rolls are known by many names in other parts of the world such as popiah in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Indonesia and Philippines know them as lumpia and Westerners call them egg rolls.



Vietnamese Spring Rolls Recipe

Ingredients:

50gms rice vermicelli
1 tsp toasted sesame oil
¼ tsp salt
1 cup torn butter lettuce, ribs removed
1 cup finely sliced red cabbage
2 medium carrots peeled and julienned
1 small cucumber julienned
¼ cup thinly sliced green onions
¼ cup chopped cilantro and mint
8 sheets of rice paper /rice wrappers.

Peanut dipping sauce:

1/3 cup creamy peanut butter
2 tbsp rice vinegar
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp toasted sesame oil
2 cloves of garlic, minced
2-3 tbsp water as needed.

Method:

Peanut sauce:

Whisk all ingredients together until well combined. Add water to achieve a dip consistency that is neither too thick nor too runny.

Spring rolls:

Cook the rice vermicelli according to package directions. Drain, rinse them under cool water and return them to the pot. Turn off the heat and toss the noodles with sesame oil and salt. Set aside. Prepare all the remaining ingredients and keep them within reach. Also, keep a dish with a little water to moisten the rice wrappers. To assemble the rolls, take a wrapper, dip it in the water for a few seconds then allow it to become moist enough to handle. Lay it flat on a lint-free tea towel. Add a mix of the vegetables, noodles and herbs and roll it up in the shape of a cylinder. Serve with the dipping sauce.

An inspiring bite!

I do not follow trends just because they are trends, says top chef Tala Bashmi during a rendezvous with The Daily Tribune



From beautiful childhood memories of her trips to the souq with her father, to becoming an award-winning chef, Tala Bashmi's story is an overwhelmingly exciting one. The Daily Tribune had a one-on-one with Chef Tala, Chef Patron of Fusions by Tala at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain, to ask her a few questions about her recent award as MENA's first ever Top Female Chef 2022 and share a bite of inspiration with our readers.

To what do you owe your success?

Hard work, discipline and focus. I have to give credit to the Gulf Hotel for allowing me to study abroad and for giving me the opportunity to take over this restaurant.

Do you follow current trends while planning the menu?

I do not follow trends just because they are trends. One thing that I have learnt about trends in Bahrain is that people like to eat smaller portions and that is what I kept in mind while designing the a la carte menu. This way, people can order a variety and share. I will cater to how people like to eat, but I will not change

my style. Our outdoor lounge features a tapas menu that is perfect for customers to enjoy a drink and have a bite while doing so.

What would you say to women who wish to follow your footsteps and get into the culinary field?

You cannot rely on your motivation alone to get you to places because some days you wake up and you are not motivated; so,

are you not going to do what it takes to achieve your goals? Hard work, discipline and focus are what will get you there.

I was at the farmers market the other day and a woman who saw me there was excited to introduce me to her daughter who wants to be a chef because of me. I met her and said, "If you aim to be a chef, start out at a restaurant for a few months to decide if you actually enjoy it before starting something of your own. You have to

be passionate to physically endure the timings, sacrifices and labour that come with being a chef. Adding a culinary management degree to your existing culinary degree can help a lot when starting your own restaurant and that is what I did when I decided to start my dream restaurant".

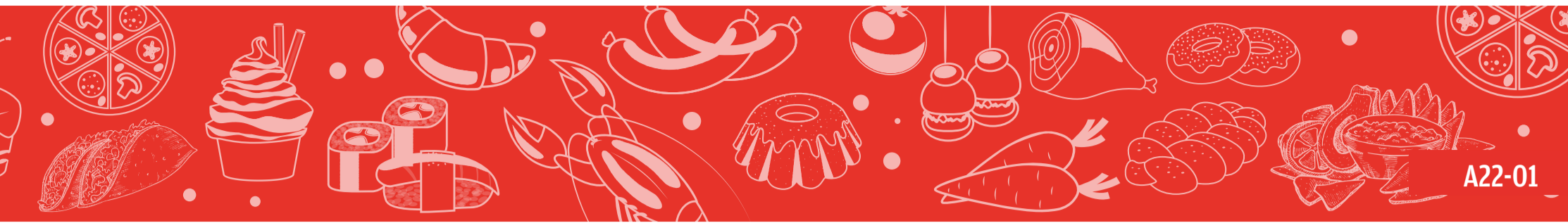
Watch chef Tala create her signature dishes when you visit Fusions by Tala.

“
If you aim to be a chef, start out at a restaurant for a few months to decide if you actually enjoy it before starting something of your own. You have to be passionate to physically endure the timings, sacrifices and labour that come with being a chef.
”

TALA BASHMI



CHEF'S TALA'S SIGNATURE DISH- PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY



A22-01

Brunch-ilicious Baharat

Friday mornings often come up with a legion of challenges, and breakfast versus brunch would be the dominant of all. The brunch will have its natural, eventual victory, for you have missed the timings. And now you need to zero in on the destination, which has to be Baharat at Le Meridien Bahrain City Center, the perfecto, numero uno dining experience for all reasons. The brunch service starts there at 12:30 pm, entailing foodies to enjoy the best of both worlds.

The Daily Tribune had the opportunity to experience the first brunch upon the reopening of this award-winning dine-out destination.

As we walked into the restaurant, the aroma of delicious food and the warm smile of the friendly greeter welcomed us. The soothing samba and bachata tunes set the vibe for a delightful afternoon.

After taking our seats, we decided to order a refreshing watermelon juice.



Today's menu features a French flair to what ideally is an international buffet.

HEAD CHEF JUAN PEREZ

pared and served, hot and fresh.

On my way to the main course section, I had the opportunity to speak to their Head Chef Juan Perez who was very excited to speak about the concept behind the day's brunch. He spoke about

bringing a French flair to what ideally is an international buffet. The main course had several French dishes.

Most of us know about the famous ratatouille, thanks to the movie, but have you heard about 'Hachis Parmentier Gratin'? The chef explained that Hachis Parmentier means ground meat with potato. This dish was created to make use of leftover meats such as chicken, beef or lamb. Of course, at the hotel, they do not use leftovers but fresh meat. The ground beef is topped with mashed potato and cheese and baked till golden.

Among the other dishes were duck confit (duck breast in a cranberry sauce, salmon with leeks, chicken blanquette (chicken and vegetables in a creamy white sauce). They also have a roasted meat counter. I tried the lamb rack with the luscious black pepper

thyme sauce. The salmon with leeks was very flavorful. The salmon was cooked to tender perfection and paired well with leeks and the white sauce.

My sweet tooth drew my attention to the dessert corner that boasted a wide array of pastries, cakes, crepes, ice cream, umm Ali and sticky toffee pudding.

The mille-feuille and sticky toffee pudding were our favorites. The fudge cake was delicious too.

One cannot miss the chocolate fountain and the children were excited about it.

This restaurant is family-oriented and pleasant in terms of ambience, quality of food and the music, which added to a memorable overall experience.

Brunch at Baharat is served every Friday from 12:30pm to 4:00pm. For reservations, WhatsApp 33204175



I sipped on my watermelon juice while glancing at the meticulous food displays.

There is a saying that we eat with our eyes first. The salad section was truly a feast for the eyes with all the beautiful salads prepared with colorful vegetables, cold cuts and sushi. I plated my first few bites from the appetizers section, which consisted of spring rolls, spinach quiche and mushroom quiche.

I expressed that I have never eaten a tastier spring roll and my colleagues agreed.

I often skip the salad section to devour more items from the main course and dessert section but I could not help but take a bite of the salad niçoise, which is essentially prepared with tuna, French beans and egg.

Bahrain is big on pastas and they have a live counter where guests can order pasta the way they enjoy it and have it pre-



LE MERIDIEN CITY CENTRE BAHRAIN
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FRIDAY BRUNCH AT BAHARAT

Le MERIDIEN CITY CENTRE BAHRAIN
سيتي سنتر البحرين

Every Friday from 12:30PM to 4:00PM

BHD 28 net inclusive of soft beverages
BHD 38 net inclusive of selected beverages

For more information or to make a reservation, please WhatsApp +973 3320 4175.

All prices quoted are in Bahraini Dinar and are inclusive of 10% VAT, 5% government levy and 10% service charge.



TODAY IN HISTORY

1796

Napoléon Bonaparte is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the French Army in Italy

1807

US Congress bans the slave trade within the US, effective January 1, 1808



1888

The Convention of Constantinople signed, guaranteeing free maritime passage through the Suez Canal during war and peace

2002

U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: US conventional forces first deployed as part of Operation Anaconda

Ukraine asks China to make Russia stop war



Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba speaks during a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly

Reuters | Lviv, Ukraine/ Beijing

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba asked his Chinese counterpart in a phone call on Tuesday to use Beijing's ties with Moscow to stop Russia's military invasion of its neighbour, the Ukrainian foreign ministry said in a statement.

According to the statement, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Kuleba that Beijing was ready to make every effort to help end the war through diplomacy.

Nord Stream 2 owner considers insolvency after sanctions

Reuters

The Swiss-based company which built the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany is considering filing for insolvency, two sources familiar with the situation said, as it attempts to settle claims ahead of a US sanction deadline for other entities to stop dealings with it.

The United States sanctioned Nord Stream 2 AG last week after Russia recognised two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine prior to its invasion of the country, which has prompted a wave of economic sanctions by the West.

Nord Stream 2 AG, which is registered in Switzerland and owned by Russian state-owned gas giant Gazprom, last year completed the \$11 billion project which was designed to double the capacity to pump gas from Russia to Germany.

The two sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks about a potential insolvency are confidential, said that Nord Stream 2 AG has been working with a financial adviser on clearing some of its liabilities and could formally begin insolvency proceedings in a Swiss court as soon as this week.

Nord Stream 2 AG did not respond to requests for comment from Reuters. Gazprom declined to comment.

Snake Island soldiers 'alive and well', confirms Ukrainian navy

The Ukraine navy said in a Facebook post that the guards had been "taken captive by Russian occupiers."

The 13 guards were initially presumed dead after they defiantly refused to surrender their post

Ukrainian officials had declared last week that the guards had all been killed

The story of the brave soldiers made international headlines when an audio clip emerged of the exchange between Ukrainian and Russian forces.

TDT | Agencies

The Ukrainian navy says the soldiers of Snake Island who defied orders from an invading Russian vessel to lay down their arms are "alive and well," according to CNN.

In a recorded communication verified by the Ukraine government, they were heard saying via translation, "Russian warship: go f--- yourself."

The Russians opened fire and were reported to have killed the group of 13 Ukrainians on Snake Island in the Black Sea.

"I am a Russian military ship proposing to put down (your) arms immediately to avoid bloodshed and unjustified deaths," begins the recording. "In worst case, you will be hit with a bomb strike."

The Ukrainian navy released a statement saying the soldiers fought off two attacks from the Russians before being forced to surrender.

The soldiers were reportedly shown on Russian state media arriving where they are currently being held in Sevastopol, Crimea.

Reports also said the island's infrastructure was "decimated" during the attack. Russia claimed on Friday that the Ukrainian guards had actually surrendered — and made no mention of carrying out strikes.



The 13 guards were initially presumed dead after they defiantly refused to surrender their post.



The Ukrainian guards were defending Snake Island in the Black Sea.

Russian billionaire Fridman to contest 'groundless' EU sanctions

Reuters | London

After some of Russia's richest oligarchs were cut out of the global financial system, billionaires Mikhail Fridman and Pyotr Aven vowed to contest European Union sanctions imposed in retaliation for the invasion of Ukraine. "These sanctions are groundless and unfair," Fridman told reporters in English. "I don't know if I will be sanctioned by the UK and US - I hope it will not happen."

Fridman, who is a UK tax resident, cast the war in Ukraine as a tragedy and said it should stop but refrained from saying more, citing the sensitivities of com-



menting on politics in Russia. "For me that's a huge tragedy what is going on," Fridman said. "The war should be stopped."

Fridman did not set out how he and Aven would go about contesting the EU sanctions. In a joint statement, Fridman and Aven they said they would "contest the spurious and unfounded basis for the imposition of these sanctions - vigorously and through all means available to them."

Western leaders say sanctioning Russia's richest men puts pressure on Putin, though many oligarchs say the West is naive if it thinks Putin will listen to the views of businessmen, especially on matters of national security. "Whatever happens with me will not have any impact on the political decisions in Russia," Fridman said. He questioned why Russians - just because they were Russian - should be prevented from doing business outside Russia.

Fridman is the co-founder of LetterOne, or L1, which has long-term investments of more than 25 billion pounds (\$33.5 billion) in the technology, energy, health and retail sectors.

Fridman and his partners also control Alfa Group, which includes Russia's top private bank Alfa Bank.

But they did not give up. All of them will be posthumously awarded the title of Hero of Ukraine," he said on his website.

It was not immediately clear if Zelensky's promise would remain in effect if the guards returned home alive.

TOP 4 TWEETS

01



For us - there is no such thing as 'sunset'. The sun will not set on Israel's security and the safety of its citizens. "The agreement does not bind us, and the date - two and a half years from now - which allows Iran to assemble countless centrifuges, certainly does not bind us."

@IsraeliPM

02



I believe it's time that we have a Court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation with a nominee of extraordinary qualifications—and that we inspire all young people to believe that they can one day serve their country at the highest level.

@JoeBiden

03



In cities around the world, people are taking to the streets and demanding an end to war. People in Ukraine want and need peace. We need peace now.

@antoniogeterres

04



We'll make it easier for Ukrainians living in the UK to bring their relatives to our country, provide up to £220 million of emergency & humanitarian aid and have put 1,000 troops on standby to help the humanitarian response in neighbouring countries.

@BorisJohnson

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

CELEBS celebs

Frank Grillo to star in horror thriller 'Man's Son'

ANI | Washington

Marvel star Frank Grillo has joined the cast of a modern horror thriller titled 'Man's Son' from director Remy Grillo.

As per Deadline, the story centres around a young couple hoping to create an aesthetically pleasing audition tape for an up-and-coming Charles Manson film. But when the couple chooses an eclectic desert Airbnb as the perfect backdrop, the dark events of the audition material slowly slip into their reality. Eventually, they find themselves intertwined in the sinister plot of an occult leader (played by Grillo).

Josh Plasse and Brev Moss have written the screenplay, which is inspired by Occult activity in the California desert.

Dare Angel will produce in partnership with Mi Nene. Producers include Plasse, Shakira Barrera, Conor Allyn, and Johnny James Fiore. Bobby McMichael, Chido Nwokocho, and Dennis Echelberger will serve as executive producers.

The movie is scheduled to go on floors in March in Yucca Valley, California.

Frank Grillo



Kendall Jenner keeps a diary to help her mental health

IANIS | Los Angeles

Supermodel Kendall Jenner keeps an "old-fashioned diary" which she keeps locked to put all her thoughts in as it helps to ease her anxiety and panic attacks.

Kendall says having a safe space for her thoughts and fears and somewhere to "let out your happiness" is important for her mental health, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

In an interview with the new issue of i-D Magazine, she said: "It's important to have a space that's just for you where you can let out your happiness, your anger, frustrations, and stress, the things that are freaking you out, the things that are making you happy and even just ideas."

"It's like an

old-fashioned diary."

"It has a lock on it and I hide it, I lock it away: mine is so, so secretive. I'm like, 'No one can ever get this.'"

Revealing that she believes in manifesting things into being and writing them into existence,

the Estee Lauder brand ambassador, whose mother is Kris Jenner, added: "Our minds are extremely powerful."

Kendall is also a keen reader and she finds that losing herself in a good book helps stop her panic attacks and keep her calm.

The supermodel, who is currently reading the romance novel 'It Ends with Us' by Colleen Hoover, said: "I was having a panic attack two nights ago, and I was just like, 'Oh, but you know what? I'm just going to pick up this book and try to forget.'"

"It's a great form of therapy and form of distraction. I just love having things that are for me and no one else, you know? I feel like reading is one of those things."



Kendall Jenner

It's important to have a space that's just for you where you can let out your happiness, your anger, frustrations, and stress, the things that are freaking you out, the things that are making you happy and even just ideas

KENDALL JENNER

Kanye West says scathing social media posts can't be traced to him

ANI | Washington

Rapper-songwriter Kanye West has claimed that his estranged wife Kim Kardashian cannot prove he wrote the scathing social media posts about her and boyfriend Pete Davidson, hence it

can't be used as evidence in their messy divorce battle.

According to legal docs obtained by TMZ, West's attorneys said the messages are hearsay and inadmissible in court. "Kim claims she read something online allegedly by Kanye and characterizes the posts in her declaration as misinformation," the documents state.

They continued, "Kim needed to offer the social media posts into evidence, and show that the posts were written by Kanye."



Kanye West

Avril Lavigne says teenage stardom was really awkward

IANIS | Los Angeles

Pop star Avril Lavigne shot to fame during her teens, after releasing her debut album, "Let Go", in 2002, and the singer admits she wasn't comfortable with the attention that came her way.

"I was so young and so shy. Being on camera for the first time and talking was really awkward for a teenager. I envied bands - because all five of the guys get to do interviews together and travel together and go on stage together. But it's always just been me by myself for my whole career," she said.

Avril acknowledges that her early hits including "Sk8er Boi" and "Complicated" will always define her career, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told the BBC: "It's quite an extraordinary thing that's happened. I look back and feel very humble. Honestly, all I really cared about as a little girl was just singing. I didn't even know what Hollywood was, or a record deal, and it all came together."

Despite this, Avril still lives her life in a relatively normal way.

The chart-topping star believes that fame has largely passed her by.

She said: "In a weird way, it didn't

YOU KNOW WHAT
Avril still lives her life in a relatively normal way

really hit me - and it almost still hasn't. I feel like I'm grounded and I'm normal. I cook, I go grocery shopping, I do normal things - and then I have my career.

"I kind of separate it. There's these crazy achievements that have happened, but I don't think about them."

She also admires the teenage stars of today, like Olivia Rodrigo.

The singer reflected: "It's cool seeing other female artists out there at the same age I was when I started out. They're writing about the things they're going through at that age - dating for the first time, breaking up for the first time, all those intense emotions.

"I love seeing them and the success they've had as singer-songwriters."



Avril Lavigne

Helen Mirren 'begged' Vin Diesel for a role in 'Fast and Furious'

IANIS | Los Angeles

Screen legend Helen Mirren, who loves driving, pleaded Vin Diesel, who plays Dominic Toretto in the blockbuster action 'Fast and Furious' franchise, to help her nab a part in the movie.

Mirren told The Hollywood Reporter: "I didn't ask, I begged! I think I was at some function, and he was there, and I got introduced to him. And I was shame-

less: 'Oh God, I'd just love to be in one of your movies! Please let me be in it.'"

"And then Vin, with that beautiful, deep voice of his, said: 'I'll see what I can do.' And he did it for me. He found this great little role for me, which was perfect. I'd just never done anything like that before -- one of those big, big movies. And, in my vanity, I just loved driving and really

wanted to do my own driving in a fast car."

The 'Good Liar' star made her debut in 2017's 'The Fate of the Furious' as Queenie, the mother of Deckard, Owen, and Hattie Shaw, and went on to star in 2019's spin-off 'Hobbs and Shaw' as well

as 'F9'.

It's not the first time Mirren has gushed over Diesel's "beautiful voice".

She said last year of working with him: "You're in very safe and loving hands when you're in 'Fast and Furious'. It was just great to be in a very small space

with Vin Diesel for quite a long time. I just loved every minute."

"It was great, hearing that beautiful, soft brown velvet voice really, really close, because we were squished together. Oh, I just so love his voice. He's got the best voice ever."

On their close bond, she added: "That's completely natural chemistry. It was there right from the very beginning of my

first meeting with Vin." "And I just adored him immediately, and he's always been so kind and lovely to me. So it was there right from the beginning, and it is very weird."

"It doesn't make any sense whatsoever on any level, but that's the weird thing about chemistry, isn't it? There's never an explanation for it. It's just one of those things that happens."



Helen Mirren

SUDOKU

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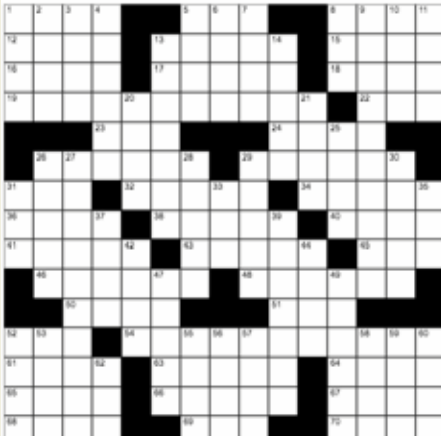
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Nervous twitches; 5- Always, poetically; 8- Savvy about; 12- Tennis great Arthur; 13- Burdened; 15- Waterproof canvas; 16- Cañon; 17- Muse of lyric poetry; 18- Draft classification; 19- Shipment; 22- Olive; 23- Essen exclamation; 24- Cereal grain; 26- Shooting star; 29- Out, in bed; 31- Corral; 32- Falls; 34- Foil maker; 36- Little biter; 38- Racket; 40- Forsaken; 41- Tin Pan Alley org.; 43- Scoff; 45- Bit of film, to a photog; 46- Corroborate; 48- General tendencies; 50- Waiter's offering; 51- Having four sharps; 52- Presidential nickname; 54- Concerning the appreciation of beauty; 61- Editor Wintour; 63- Band's sample tapes; 64- Full of energy; 65- Introduction to physics?; 66- Discharge; 67- Rime; 68- Cong. meeting; 69- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 70- Nimble;

Down

1- Apply powder to oneself; 2- Golfer Aoki; 3- Lower jaw; 4- Attacks; 5- Acquire through work; 6- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 7- Network of nerves; 8- Siouan speaker; 9- Time in which light travels one foot, approximately; 10- Low card; 11- Iridescent gemstone; 13- Chicken breed; 14- Taboos; 20- Chilled; 21- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 25- Blab; 26- Brainy bunch; 27- Laws; 28- Fowl pole; 29- It's a plus; 30- Skin openings; 31- Links org.; 33- Slender metal fastener; 35- Film director Lee; 37- London gallery; 39- Most strange; 42- Clinton cabinet member Federico; 44- 1996 Tony-winning musical; 47- Glove material; 49- Equine sounds; 52- Also alternative; 53- Leg joint; 55- Nintendo rival; 56- Revenuers, for short; 57- Flexible tube; 58- Poultry enclosure; 59- Lab gel; 60- Australasian parrot; 62- Small batteries;

Yesterday's solution

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

Tuchel 'not a politician' as Abramovich cloud hangs over Chelsea

Chelsea's Thomas Tuchel tells journalists to stop asking him about war and Abramovich

● **Chelsea manager snaps after stream of questions**

AFP | London

Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel expressed his frustration at being plagued with questions on Russia's invasion of Ukraine with the future of the club's ownership structure still unclear.

Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich on Saturday revealed he plans to place his ownership of the European champions into the "stewardship and care" of the Chelsea Foundation's trustees.

Abramovich has not been named on a growing British sanctions list targeting Russian banks, businesses and pro-Kremlin billionaires.



Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel reacts during a match (file photo)

But British Liberal Democrat MP Layla Moran used parliamentary privilege last week to name Abramovich as one of 35 "key enablers" to President Vladimir Putin who should be sanctioned personally by the UK.

Ahead of Wednesday's FA Cup

fifth round tie at Luton, Tuchel was repeatedly asked about the atrocities of the war and what Abramovich's stance means for the club going forward.

"Listen, you have to stop, honestly. I'm not a politician," said Tuchel.

"I never experienced war. So even to talk about it, I feel bad, because I'm very privileged, I sit here in peace.

"I do the best I can because you have to stop asking me these questions because I have no answers for you."

Tuchel insisted that the day-to-day football operations of the club have not been affected by Abramovich stepping back, with director Marina Granovskaia and technical and performance advisor Petr Cech still in position.

"For me as a coach and in charge of the first team that decision does not change too much the daily business," he added.

"Because I'm in the daily exchange with Petr Cech and very regular exchange with Marina about how to improve the first team.

"This will not stop because they stay in charge. But the role from Mr. Abramovich is not on

How often do I need to say it? It's horrible, of course, it's horrible, there cannot be any other opinion about it. Everybody in Europe has some noise in (their) head that nobody likes. Maybe it's the same for you, but you still try to do your job as good as possible and it's the same for us

THOMAS TUCHEL

me to comment, because I simply don't know enough about it."

On the field, Chelsea lost out on the first domestic silverware of the season in a marathon penalty shootout against Liverpool in Sunday's League Cup final at Wembley.

But they still have two more trophies to play for in the FA Cup and Champions League, as well as looking to consolidate their position in the top four of the Premier League.

Tuchel admitted the scenes from Ukraine are proving a "distraction" but believes most people in Europe are facing the same problem.

"There is a huge distraction now going on and we are worried," he added.

"But at the end, we still try to create an atmosphere to come to work and focus on our work which is our passion and we are very, very grateful and very privileged to have it.

"It's not that big a problem. But I think everybody in Europe, more or less, has some noise in their heads that nobody likes.

"Maybe it's the same for you but still you try to do your job as best as possible, and it's the same for us."

West Ham's Moyes leaves playing decision up to Yarmolenko

AFP | London

West Ham United coach David Moyes confirmed that Ukraine forward Andriy Yarmolenko has participated in light training, but said yesterday the player would decide whether to play in the FA Cup tie against Southampton on Wednesday.

The 32-year old Yarmolenko, who was given time off after Russia's invasion of Ukraine last week, did not play in West Ham's 1-0 Premier League win over Wolverhampton Wanderers on Sunday.

"Andriy Yarmolenko came back in and did a bit of light training yesterday. I had a good chat with him," Moyes told reporters yesterday.

"Obviously, he is really up-



General view as West Ham United's Andriy Yarmolenko is seen on the screen with a message in support of Ukraine before a match

set with the whole situation as many people are especially those from Ukraine so we will not rush him.

"I've asked him to come in today and see how he feels. If he feels fine and up to it, he'll travel

with the team. If he doesn't, we'll give him some more days off."

World soccer's governing body FIFA and European counterpart UEFA on Monday suspended Russia's national teams

and clubs from international football until further notice.

Moyes, whose team face Sevilla in the first leg of their Europa League last-16 tie on March 10, said he agreed with the sanctions on Russian soccer, including UEFA's decision to move the Champions League final to Paris from St Petersburg.

"It could probably have been done even quicker," he added. "UEFA have worked really hard.

"Football is such a powerful tool all round the world. Every country watches the Premier League and the Champions League. Because of that, it's really important we take action and make sure we isolate them completely.

West Ham travel to Southampton in the FA Cup fifth round on Wednesday.

Russia's sporting freeze grows over Ukraine invasion

AFP | Moscow

Russia continued to pay a heavy sporting price for its invasion of Ukraine yesterday, frozen out by a snowballing list of sports with perhaps the most painful blow coming in ice skating.

Russia, traditionally a powerhouse in the sport in which they won six medals at the Beijing Olympics including two gold, yesterday had their skaters barred from all competitions.

This rules them out of March's world championships to be hosted in Montpellier, France.

It is another significant blow to a country who under President Vladimir Putin had used sport as a powerful force for its image both globally and internally.

Under his presidency they have hosted the Winter Olympics in 2014 in Sochi -- though that was overshadowed by the state-sponsored doping scandal -- and the 2018 football World Cup.

On Monday, the governing bodies who oversee those sporting showpieces hit Russia hard.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) urged sports federations and organisers to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international events.

Hours later world football's governing body FIFA kicked Russia out of the 2022 World Cup as football's global governing body and UEFA joined forces to expel Russian national teams and clubs from all international competitions.

Yesterday they lost the right to host the men's Volleyball World Championships -- which the old Soviet Union won twice -- in August and



A Russian flag is held above the Olympic Rings (file photo)



Russian President Vladimir Putin has been stripped off his honorary taekwondo black belt. The honorary black belt was conferred on Vladimir Putin in November 2013

September.

"The FIVB Board of Administration has come to the conclusion that it would be impossible to prepare and stage the World Championships in Russia due to the war in Ukraine," said the International Volleyball Federation in a statement.

"It has accordingly decided to remove from Russia the organisation of the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship scheduled to be held in August and September 2022."

This follows UEFA stripping Saint Petersburg of hosting the Champions League final -- European football's premier club competition -- and Formula One cancelling the Russian Grand Prix last Friday.

Klopp plays down 'crazy' Liverpool quadruple talk

AFP | London

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp says it is "crazy" to even think about an unprecedented quadruple of trophies as he prepares his League Cup winners for Wednesday's FA Cup tie against Norwich.

The Reds beat Chelsea 11-10 in a dramatic penalty shootout at Wembley on Sunday to win the first piece of domestic silverware on offer in the English season and are still chasing glory on three other fronts.

Victory against Premier League strugglers Norwich would take Liverpool through to the FA Cup quarter-finals, while they are 2-0 up after the first leg of their elite European Champions League last-16 game against Inter Milan.

Klopp's men are six points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City, with a match in hand, after a run of six con-



Liverpool's manager Jurgen Klopp celebrates with the trophy after winning the English League Cup final

secutive league wins.

But the German is not entertaining the thought of winning all four trophies, with months of the season still to come.

"No team in the history of English football has won the quadruple, right? That is because it is incredibly difficult,"

Klopp said yesterday.

"We are still behind Manchester City (in the Premier League). We are not close to thinking about any crazy stuff like that.

"The only team who could get it is us because we won the first final but even City, with all the quality they have in the last

No team in the history of English football has won the quadruple, right? That is because it is incredibly difficult. We are still behind Manchester City (in the Premier League). We are not close to thinking about any crazy stuff like that

JURGEN KLOPP

years, couldn't win the quadruple."

Klopp said it was important to keep the focus on the "next step" and not become distracted.

There are likely to be plenty of changes for the visit of Norwich after a number of Liverpool players featured for 120 minutes at Wembley.

Man Utd say 'thorough process' under way to find new manager



A general view outside Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium (file photo)

AFP | London

Manchester United football director John Murtough says a "thorough process" is under way to find their next permanent manager, pledging the club remains focused on challenging for "top trophies" again.

United, who announced their latest financial results yesterday, have endured another difficult season despite the return of superstar forward Cristiano Ronaldo to Old Trafford.

A top-four finish is the best the English giants can hope for domestically, but they only managed a draw against lowly Watford on Saturday and are just two points ahead of West Ham and Arsenal -- the Gunners also have three games in hand.

United have a tough set of fixtures coming up, including meetings with title-chasing Manchester City and Liverpool as well as the second leg of their Champions League tie with Atletico Madrid, which is delicately poised at 1-1.

The club, who have not won a trophy since 2017, have been working under interim manager Ralf Rangnick since December, when the German succeeded Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after a poor start to the campaign.

Murtough said he had been heartened by the "improved results" as they look to secure



Manchester United have not won a trophy since 2017

Champions League qualification.

"We know that consistency is key as we strive for a top-four finish this season," he said.

"I want to reiterate however that this is not the ultimate objective for Manchester United, and everyone at the club is focused on challenging for the top trophies.

"We are now conducting a thorough process for the appointment of a new permanent manager who will take charge this summer, with the objective to get us back to challenging for those domestic and European titles."

Paris Saint-Germain boss Mauricio Pochettino and Ajax coach Erik ten Hag are among the favourites to permanently succeed Solskjaer.

Richard Arnold echoed Murtough's sentiments as the chief executive commented publicly for the first time since taking up the role on February 1, when executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward departed.

South Africa outsmart New Zealand, draw series

South Africa beat New Zealand by 198 runs in the second Test match

● Devon Conway fought for New Zealand with 92, but the hosts lost 6 for 61 on the final day

AFP | Christchurch

South Africa outwitted and outplayed New Zealand in a crushing 198-run second Test victory in Christchurch yesterday to draw the two-match series 1-1.

New Zealand, facing a record fourth-innings chase of 426 to win, were all out for 227 eight balls after tea on the final day.

It completed a remarkable turnaround for South Africa who read the conditions far better than New Zealand after being thrashed by an innings and 276 runs in the first Test on the same ground.

Captain Dean Elgar set the tone when he became the first captain to win the toss and bat first at Hagley Oval, demanding his side "front up" after that humiliation and they obliged.

"It paid off for us. I am one for taking risks. This is a big one in terms of playing well away from home," he said.

"We needed to rise up and level the series. We have shown in the past that we have a lot of character in the team."

In terms of South African Test victories "it ranks quite high," he added.

A century by Sarel Erwee laid the base for a first innings 364, Kagiso Rabada took five for 60 as New Zealand folded 71 in arrears and an unbeaten 136 from Kyle Verreynne in the second innings tightened the clamp on



South Africa's Dean Elgar and Aiden Markram appeal unsuccessfully during play

New Zealand.

A disappointed New Zealand captain Tom Latham, who saw the chance of a history-making first series win over South Africa slip away, put the blame on his batsmen.

"Our blueprint is about putting a big first innings score on the board, if we were able to do that things might look slightly different," he said.

"Unfortunately we were not able to build partnerships in the first or second innings."

Forlorn hope

New Zealand started the final day at 94 for four and while Devon Conway and Tom Blundell were at the crease they held hope they could salvage a draw.

But it was a forlorn hope and their 85-run partnership ended shortly before lunch when Conway went leg before wicket for 92.

New Zealand's hopes of salvaging a draw rose again at 227 for nine when rain forced the players from the field, but it was a brief respite.

The South African-born Conway, who averages a remarkable 63.91 from 12 innings, had added 32 to his overnight 60 and was in sight of his fourth Test century when Lutho Sipamla claimed the wicket with a pinpoint yorker.

Blundell pressed on with Colin de Grandhomme and went to lunch looking set on 44 only to be removed soon after the resumption without adding to his score.

He mistimed striking a short ball from Marco Jansen and skied it to Temba Bavuma at midwicket.

It started a rich spell for Jansen who also took the wickets of Colin de Grandhomme for 18 and Kyle Jamieson for 12.

Kagiso Rabada removed Tim Southee and Keshav Maharaj ended the match with Matt Henry lbw for nought.

It was a disappointing result for New Zealand after their comprehensive win in the first Test and who were searching for a first ever series win against South Africa.



The result leaves the Kiwis without a series win over South Africa after 17 attempts over 90 years

They went into the Test with an unchanged side, relying on a pace attack and no spinner which has become customary on the usually emerald Hagley Oval wicket.

But South Africa noted the second Test wicket was more khaki than green, promoted left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj into the starting eleven and he became a significant point of difference.

Maharaj set the stage in the second innings when he was introduced early and bowled top-order batsmen Henry Nicholls and Daryl Mitchell after Rabada had claimed openers Latham and Will Young.

He then finished off the Test with Henry's wicket to leave New Zealand yet again without a series win over South Africa after 17 attempts over 90 years.

Latham defended not playing a spinner in his side. "We have our way of how we like to go about things which we have done for so long here in New Zealand," he said.

"Even though the wicket was slightly flatter it didn't necessarily offer a huge amount of turn and it was certainly a side that we believed could win the Test match."

Referees' chief apologises to Everton over Man City errors

AFP | London

England's referees' chief has apologised to Everton manager Frank Lampard for mistakes made in Saturday's defeat by Manchester City, according to British media reports.

An angry Lampard labelled VAR official Chris Kavanagh a "professional who cannot do



The LED board shows the VAR decision of no penalty after checking for a possible handball during the match between Everton and Manchester City

his job right" after the 1-0 loss to the Premier League champions at Goodison Park.

Kavanagh failed to alert referee Paul Tierney over a handball by Rodri that would have given the Toffees a late chance of an equaliser from the penalty spot.

Everton chief executive Denise Barrett-Baxendale wrote to the Premier League on Monday to ask for an apology.

It has been reported that Riley, managing director of Professional Game Match Officials Limited, subsequently called both Lampard and Everton chairman Bill Kenwright to apologise for the mistakes made relating to the Rodri incident.

Lampard, speaking after the match, said: "The decision is incredible and that loses us the opportunity to get what we deserved.

Guardiola urges Grealish to ignore critics after slow start at Man City

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola has urged Jack Grealish to ignore his critics and his underwhelming statistics after a slow start to his Manchester City career.

The England midfielder has not been the dominant force he was at Aston Villa since his British-record £100 million (\$134 million) move to the Premier League champions in August, scoring just three goals and making three assists in all competitions.

The 26-year-old even admitted in an interview in December that he had found the transition more difficult than he had expected and thought he would get more assists and goals.

But Guardiola said he was happy with the winger's contribution.

"Maybe he listened too much to what the people say and it's wrong," said the City boss.

"Always we talk about the statistics. Players today play



Pep Guardiola speaks to Jack Grealish during a match (file photo)

for the statistics, but this is the biggest mistake they can do.

"Statistics are just a bit of information that we have, but there are players that make the team play good and are not in the statistics."

Grealish has not featured in City's past four games due to a shin problem but was an unused substitute for Saturday's Premier League victory at Everton and could return to action at Peterborough. Guardiola said goals would come for Grealish but emphasised that was not his main role in the team.

PEP GUARDIOLA



VAR official Chris Kavanagh failed to alert referee Paul Tierney over a handball by Rodri that would have given Everton a late chance of an equaliser from the penalty spot

F2, F3 tests begin at BIC

Bahrain to host motorsport's future stars in Formula 2, Formula 3 pre-season testing over three days this week in Sakhir

● F2 and F3 to alternate sessions across three days of testing

● F2 and F3 to run their 2022 drivers and cars in preparation for season start

TDT | Manama

A busy month of top-class international motorsport—to be headlined by the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 from 18 to 20 March—gets underway today at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir, with the first of three days of pre-season testing in the Formula 2 and Formula 3 championships.

The two international single-seater racing series are the chief feeder categories for F1, featuring talented young drivers from around the world who are looking to climb up the motorsport ladder to the top flight.

They are set to become some of the sport's future stars, with many of today's household names in F1 having graduated from F2 and F3 earlier in their careers.

F2 and F3 will alternate their sessions across the three days of testing until Friday.



F2 cars at BIC in a past event (File photo)

The F3 field will be first to hit the tarmac along BIC's 5.412-kilometre Grand Prix circuit on each day from 9am to 11.30am, to be followed by the F2 runners between 11.45am and 2.15pm.

The F3 contenders will then return for their afternoon session from 2.30pm to 5pm, and then F2 will wrap up the day's running between 5.15pm and 7.45pm under BIC's bright floodlights.

The tests are set to take place behind closed doors.

Both F2 and F3 will be running their 2022 drivers and cars as they continue their preparations for the start of their respective seasons, which follow just a couple of weeks later this month at BIC in support of this year's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

F2 will have 22 drivers from 11 teams in Sakhir, led by defending

champions Prema Racing with last year's F3 champion Dennis Hauger and returning contender Jehan Daruvala.

They will be joined by Virtuosi Racing's Jack Doohan and Marino Sato, Carlin's Liam Lawson and Logan Sargeant, Hitech Grand Prix's Marcus Armstrong and Juri Vips, ART Grand Prix's Frederik Vesti and Theo Pourchaire, MP Motorsport's Felipe Drugovich and Clement No-



This year's joint-tests of F2 and F3 will be followed by F1 pre-season testing, also to be held over three days at BIC, from 10 to 12 March

valak, Campos Racing's Olli Caldwell and Ralph Boschung, Dams' Roy Nissany and Ayumu Iwasa, Trident's Richard Verschoor and Calan Williams, Charouz Racing System's Enzo Fittipaldi and Cem Bolukbasi and Van Amersfoort Racing's Jake Hughes and Amaury Cordeel.

Almost all of the F2 outfits are also among the 10 F3 entrants, who will feature three drivers each. They are to be spearheaded by last year's title winners Trident, with Jonny Edgar, Roman Stanek and Zane Maloney in their cars.

Also in the field are Arthur Leclerc, Jak Crawford and Oliver Bearman for Prema Racing; Victor Martins and Gregoire Saucy for ART Grand Prix; Caio

Collet, Alexander Smolyar and Kush Maini for MP Motorsport; Laszlo Toth, Ayrton Simmons and Francesco Pizzi for Charouz Racing System; Kaylen Frederick, Isack Hadjar and Nazim Azman for Hitech Grand Prix; David Vidales, Hunter Yeany and Josep Maria Marti for Campos Racing; Ido Cohen, Patrik Pasma and William Alatalo for Jenzer Motorsport; Zak O'Sullivan, Brad Benavides and Enzo Trulli for Carlin; and Franco Colapinto, Rafael Villagomez and Reece Ushijima for Van Amersfoort Racing.

The Bahrain tests will be the third successive year that F2 has chosen BIC for its first on-track action of the year. F3 also had pre-season running at the F1 track in 2020, when both series held joint-testing at BIC.

This year's joint-tests of F2 and F3 will be followed by F1 pre-season testing, also to be held over three days, from 10 to 12 March.

That will set the stage for the F1 season's opening round in Bahrain, which is set to be an historic, once-in-a-generation event that will usher in "A New Era" in F1 following the biggest shake-up of rules and regulations in modern motorsport history.

For more information on the tests, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

2 Seas set for British GT championship

● 2 Seas to begin 2022 British GT campaign with first of nine rounds at Oulton Park from April 16 to 18

● Williamson, Cottingham to now carry out testing programme in newly liveried Mercedes-AMG GT3

TDT | Manama

Bahraini-British motor racing team 2 Seas Motorsport will be competing in the full 2022 season of the Intelligent Money British GT Championship.

This was confirmed yesterday by the team.

The GT3 outfit will campaign with a single entry for the nine-race calendar after a year away from the full season.

Suiting up for 2 Seas will be Lewis Williamson and James Cottingham in their Mercedes-AMG GT3 car. The pair will challenge for the Pro-Am honours.

2 Seas re-joins the British GT field after debuting with a full season entry during the 2020 season, finishing third overall in GT3 teams' championship. A switch to the Mercedes-AMG customer racing family for 2021



The 2 Seas Mercedes-AMG GT3 car in action last season (File photo)

saw a one-off entry at the blue riband Silverstone 500, delivering a dominant performance as part of a season in which the team took victories at every race event contested.

2 Seas co-owner His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa commented: "The British GT championship has proved itself to be one of the most competitive domestic GT series, and I am really pleased to have 2 Seas Motorsport back where we started out with a podium in 2020.

"We have enjoyed some strong results since then, and it was great to kick things off this year with a victory already, but the calibre of the grid is looking extremely strong with speed and experience across the whole field, so we know that it is going to be a real challenge for the whole team."

The first round of the season

will be held at Oulton Park from April 16 to 18.

Cottingham will be racing in his first full British GT season after gaining his first experience of the championship with two events last season, racing with a Mercedes-AMG GT3.

The 38-year-old has raced extensively in historic championships with some considerable success, previously taking outright victories at the Tour Auto and Spa 6 Hours.

He has scored notable race wins in the Sussex Trophy and Stirling Moss Memorial Trophy at Goodwood Revival, as well as victories in the British Grand Prix and 24 Hours of Le Mans support races.

Williamson will make his British GT series debut with 2 Seas Motorsport, but he brings significant GT experience to the line-up.

The 32-year-old Scot has

The calibre of the grid is looking extremely strong with speed and experience across the whole field, so we know that it is going to be a real challenge for the whole team

HH SHAIKH ISA BIN ABDULLA AL KHALIFA

proved himself to be a leading endurance racer, winning the Blancpain GT Series Endurance Pro-Am title in 2018 and scoring podium finishes at the Suzuka 10 Hours, Bathurst 12 Hours and Spa 24 Hours.

Former McLaren Autosport Young Driver of the Year Lewis has been working closely with the team ever since impressing at the Gulf 12 Hours Bahrain at the start of 2021 where he started on the front row.

"It is great to have James joining the team, and I am really pleased to have Lewis back in the car with us," HH Shaikh Isa commented. "They are both extremely quick, proven race winners, and I think they are going to be a tough pair to beat."

Williamson and Cottingham will now carry out a testing programme before the newly liveried Mercedes-AMG GT3 rolls out for the season-opener.

UAE to host China, Syria World Cup qualifiers



China players applaud fans after a match (file photo)

Reuters | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates has been selected as the neutral venue for this month's Asian World Cup qualifiers involving China and Syria, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Tuesday, without giving a reason for the change.

China are set to face Saudi Arabia in Group B on March 24 at the Sharjah Stadium, and Syria will play Iraq in Group A on March 29 at the Rashid Stadium in Dubai.

A number of China's home World Cup qualifiers have been moved to Dubai, Doha and Sharjah due to quarantine restrictions imposed by Chinese authorities because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The AFC announced in De-



A number of China's home World Cup qualifiers have been moved to Dubai, Doha and Sharjah due to quarantine restrictions imposed by Chinese authorities because of the coronavirus pandemic

ember that Syria would play their home World Cup qualifiers at neutral venues.