

Bahrain keep World Cup qualifying hopes alive

Senior men's national basketball team upset Syria 76-67 in Aleppo to claim first win in penultimate game of qualification competition for FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 | P12

WORLD 6 Russia kills 21 with missiles near Odesa after abandoning Snake Island

THE DAILY tribune



Julia Roberts, George Clooney reunite for romantic comedy

10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Indonesia and United Arab Emirates reach trade pact

Prince Faisal sworn in as deputy to King Abdullah



Prince Faisal bin Hussein
Reuters | Amman

Jordan's Prince Faisal bin Hussein was sworn in as deputy to his brother King Abdullah, state television reported yesterday.

US sending Ukraine two surface-to-air missile systems - Pentagon

Reuters | Washington

The United States is sending Ukraine two NASAMS surface-to-air missile systems, four additional counter-artillery radars and up to 150,000 rounds of 155mm artillery ammunition as part of its latest weapons packages for Ukraine, the Pentagon said yesterday.

The assistance package, worth about \$820 million, was broadly announced by US President Joe Biden on Thursday in Madrid following a gathering of NATO leaders that was focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



The Pentagon is seen from the air in Washington

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED
10028681

ACTIVE CASES
14070

DEATHS
1493

DISCHARGED
611764

NEW CASES
1471

CRITICAL
10

220 fils (includes VAT)



EU recognition reflects international confidence in Bahrain: Ministry

TDT | Manama

The decision by the European Union to recognise the COVID-19 certificates issued by Bahrain reflects their confidence in the health system of Bahrain, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

"The mutual recognition reflects the international confidence in the health system of the Kingdom and the measures



it took to address COVID-19 following the highest international standards," the ministry said.

These are "result of the efforts of Team Bahrain, led by His Roy-

al Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister," the statement stressed.

The decision allows Bahrain and the European Union countries of their mutual recognition of digital certificates related to vaccination, examination and recovery from COVID-19, as well as their acceptance of all travellers coming from both sides as of July 1, 2022. The foreign

ministry explained that the approval of the request came after confirming the readiness of "Be Aware Bahrain" and its compliance with the international technical standards in ensuring the validity and safety of official certificates.

The European Commissioner for Justice Affairs, Didier Reyniers, welcomed the accession of Bahrain to the European Union system linked to 75 countries.

The Commission of the European Union has announced that it has decided to recognise the COVID-19 certificates issued by Bahrain, Ecuador, Korea, Kosovo, and Madagascar.

The European Union mission of Bahrain praised this step, which would facilitate travel procedures, as the European Union extended the use of digital COVID-19 certificates until the end of June next year.

Pilgrims throng Mecca for Hajj



More than 344 thousand pilgrims arrive in Medina for pilgrimage

● **One million fully vaccinated pilgrims to perform the 2022 Hajj**

TDT | Manama

Pilgrims from across the globe started converging in thousands on Mecca in Saudi Arabia yesterday for the Hajj pilgrimage -- the world's biggest gathering, which this year would welcome some 1 million pilgrims after two years of COVID-19 pandemic-induced disruptions.

This year, entry is only for pilgrims aged 18 to 65 who are fully vaccinated against COVID and do not have chronic diseases.

Wrapped in white robes, hajjis yesterday walked under the burning desert sun, with some carrying umbrellas, to perform the first ritual of Hajj, as thousands walked around the Kaaba, the sacred building at the centre of Mecca's grand mosque, immersing themselves in divinity.

"Praise be God... It's impossible to describe my feelings right now," said Ahmed Sayed Mahmoud, an Egyptian pilgrim. "Being in the Grand Mosque and in the land of the two holy mosques makes me very happy."

The latest statistics of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah show that 344,881 pilgrims have arrived in Madinah through the air and land ports to perform Hajj, a once-in-a-lifetime duty for every able-bodied Muslim

who can afford it.

According to the Saudi Press Agency, 278,751 pilgrims have arrived at Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah since receiving the first Hajj flights this year.

Land Migration Centre received 49,806 pilgrims, and the Hajjaj Al Ber Centre received 16,162 pilgrims.

Bangladeshis top the chart of foreigners with 12,411 pilgrims, followed by Pakistan with

8,229 pilgrims, India with 6,595 pilgrims, Iran with 6,433 pilgrims, and Nigeria with 6,320 pilgrims.

Statistics say 265,130 pilgrims left Medina during the past days to Makkah, while 79,451 pilgrims are still there in Medina.

Security was tight with officers stationed among the pilgrims as cameras repeatedly scanned the surroundings and checkpoints.



July 9 will be the first day of Eid Al Adha. Accordingly, June 30 was the first day of Dhu Al Hijjah, marking the start of the Hajj pilgrimage season this year. The first day of Eid Al Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu Al Hijjah. Arafat Day falls on the ninth day of Dhu Al Hijjah, which is on Friday, July 8.

NATO in talks to build naval base in Albania, prime minister says

Reuters | Tirana

Albania is in talks with NATO to build a naval base at Porto Romano, a port under construction on its Adriatic coast, Prime Minister Edi Rama said yesterday.

Rama told a news conference that Porto Romano, situated close to the coastal town of Durres and intended as the country's biggest port, would have a commercial section as well as a military naval base.

The military base would be built and co-financed by NATO and Albania, he said.

"We will soon go back to Brussels to continue our discussions regarding our proposal...for the installation of a NATO naval base in the new port in Durres," Rama added.

Protesters break into Libya's parliament building

Reuters | Benghazi

Protesters broke into Libya's parliament in Tobruk yesterday evening and set a fire in front of the building to express their anger towards Libya's warring political parties, witnesses told Reuters.

Security forces protecting the parliament withdrew from the site, the witnesses added.

Demonstrations took place on Friday in Tobruk, Benghazi and some smaller towns over a failure of government.

Revamped gun laws

New York may ban concealed guns in many places, including Times Square

Reuters | New York

New York lawmakers began voting yesterday on revamped gun laws that would ban guns from a long list of "sen-



The New York State Capitol in Albany

sitive places," including Times Square, after the US Supreme Court said the state's restrictive gun-license rules were unconstitutional. The emergency legislative session began on Thurs-

day, a week after the Supreme Court's conservative majority ruled for the first time that the US Constitution grants an individual right to carry weapons in public for self-defence.

The court also allowed that people could be banned from carrying their weapons in certain "sensitive places," but warned lawmakers against applying the label too broadly.



Works Minister Ibrahim bin Hasan Al Hawaj yesterday received Sustainable Development Minister Noor bint Ali Al Khulaif and reviewed major joint projects, focusing mainly on sustainable infrastructure schemes. The drive is in line with the wide-ranging development drive, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa with the support and follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. Al Khulaif stressed HM the King's care for sustainable development projects, particularly the priorities and programmes of the Government, chaired by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.



Ayman bin Tawfiq Al-Moayyed, Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs, received Esen Cakil, the Ambassador of Turkey to the Kingdom. During the meeting, the Minister stressed the importance of boosting the bilateral and opening more areas of joint cooperation. Turkish Ambassador expressed her appreciation of Bahrain for its keenness to strengthen relations with her country and increase the volume of joint cooperation in various fields.

LMRA inspects work sites in Muharraq, takes action



LMRA, NPRA and Muharraq Governorate officials during the inspection campaign

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA)

conducted an inspection campaign at several work sites in Muharraq. The Nationality, Passports and

Residence Affairs of the Ministry of Interior and Muharraq Governorate took part. The campaign identified sev-

eral violations of LMRA and Immigration laws and announced taking necessary legal actions. LMRA stressed the pivotal role

of society in supporting the government's efforts in preserving economic, social, security and health stability.

Officials urged the public to report any labour market violations and irregular migrant workers to the authority.



Maritime search and rescue exercise



Combined Maritime Forces, a 34-nation maritime partnership based in Bahrain that undertakes counter-terrorism, counter-piracy and regional cooperation, conducted a maritime search and rescue exercise in the Arabian Gulf from June 21 to 23. The exercise by CMF's Task Force 152 enhanced coordination and interoperability among international partners for conducting rescues at sea. Forces from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America participated.

Ministers review work progress of Muharraq Private Health Care Centre



TDT | Manama

Ibrahim bin Hassan Al-Hawaj, the Minister of Works and Dr Jalila bint Al-Sayed Jawad Al-Sayed Hassan, the Minister of Health, yesterday visited the Muharraq Medical Complex to review the work progress of the Muharraq Private Health Care Centre project.

The Ministry of Works is supervising the implementation of the project.

Upon completion, the centre will have more than 100 beds, and all medical and administrative support services to care for patients with diseases that require special medical care, such as cerebral palsy.

In addition to rooms and suites for patient care, the centre includes an isolation unit for patients with infec-

tious diseases, a laboratory, a pharmacy, x-ray rooms, and a rehabilitation unit for physical therapy and hydrotherapy.

Minister Al-Hawaj said, "The Ministry of Works assures full support to all ministries and government agencies to help them implement strategic programmes and plans to serve the country and the citizen."

The Minister of Health called for completing the work as scheduled by adhering to the noon work ban to ensure the safety of workers.

The Muharraq Private Healthcare Centre project is part of the Muharraq Medical Complex, which includes a medical centre for patients with multiple sclerosis and a maternity hospital, in addition to the existing centre for elderly care and a multi-storey building for parking.

Traditional wind towers



One of 5 of the last surviving traditional wind towers, a traditional form of air-conditioning, in Bahrain at Al Alawi House. Pictures tweeted by @AhmadNooh. The wind tower functions as a Solar or thermal chimney that uses convection of air heated by passive solar energy. It creates a pressure gradient which allows less dense hot air to travel upwards and escape out the top.

Realty broker wins appeal in BD2000 advance refund case

TDT | Manama

A real estate broker has won an annulment of a lawsuit seeking him to return a BD2000 advance taken in an apartment sales deal that failed to materialise.

The Civil Appeals Court decision came in an appeal challenging an earlier verdict allowing the broker to keep the advance as the buyer failed to fulfil contract terms.

The plaintiff had approached the Court demanding the broker return the BD2,000 advance he paid for purchasing an apart-



Representative picture

ment worth BD120,000. The contract was such that the purchase should happen in a month.

During the hearing, the plain-

tiff said he was shocked to learn that the broker had sold the apartment to another party, despite signing the deal.

"This happened after completing all required procedures to obtain a mortgage loan from Eskan bank," the plaintiff told

the Court. "The broker, however, told me that he sold the chosen property to another, and now I have to pay a new advance to buy

another," he said.

The Court, however, found, based on witness testimonials, that the plaintiff was required to make full payment within a month to realise the deal.

The plaintiff failed to do so, and it took him four months to arrange the deal amount, the Court found.

Considering this, the Court of the First Instance ruled in the defendant's favour, which prompted the plaintiff to challenge the verdict.

The High Civil Appeals Court rejected the appeal and confirmed the initial ruling.

Court orders legal heirs to settle debts of deceased company owner

Verdict in a case seeking BD8040 against cheques signed by person before death

TDT | Manama

The Third high Commercial Court yesterday ordered the legal heirs of a deceased company owner to clear the cheques he signed for BD8040 and presented to another company before passing away.

The Court also ordered the defendants to pay the plaintiff a 1% interest on the owed amount from the due date.

The Court also ordered the defendants to pay the plaintiff BD268,500 towards lawsuit expenses and BD20 attorney fees.

Case files say the company owner had signed and presented two cheques for BD8040 to another company in return for some commercial before his



Representative picture

death.

However, when the compa-

ny presented the cheques for collection, the cheques got

bounced.

The defendant notified the company heirs of the cheques but failed to get a positive response.

Further investigators ordered by the Court found out that the company owner had died and the defendants were the legal heirs based on his legal heirship certificate.

After the defendants turned out as the heirs of the defendant, authorities asked them to fulfil the claim.

The Court confirmed in the verdict that the deceased's property becomes heritable only after paying his debts. The remaining property, movable or immovable, is heritable, as per Islamic Sharia law.

Stocks sufficient, prices stable: official

TDT | Manama

Markets in the Kingdom have sufficient stocks of foods, said a top Industry ministry official, who also termed the availability and prices of basic commodities and products as "stable".

The official also warned stringent actions against those found guilty of price manipulation, monopoly, commercial fraud or any illegal practices.

This came as Abdulaziz Al-Ashraf, an Assistant Undersecretary for Control and Resources at the Ministry of Industry, commerce and tourism, held an inspection campaign to ensure price stability and availability of food stock in the markets.

The campaign covered various commercial markets and outlets for food and other commodities in the governorates of the Kingdom.

Al-Ashraf said the campaign found the availability of commodities and products in the



markets stable, with sufficient food stocks.

"Traders are keen to ensure goods and products from multiple sources in the market," he said.

Shops, he said, are also providing offers and discounts to all.

The public can report complaints regarding price manipulation, commercial fraud or any illegal practice through the National System for Suggestions and Complaints "Tawasul or Inspection@moic.gov.bh or WhatsApp: 17111225 or call centre: 80001700.

Get ready for 'Bahrain Beach Festival'

Events begin next thursday at Bilaj Al Jazayer beach

TDT | Manama

"Bahrain Beach Festival", aimed at boosting the potential of Bahrain as a beach tourism destination, will open next Friday from one of the most beautiful beaches in the Kingdom, Bilaj Al Jazayer, announced Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority.

The festival,

which continues until the 27th of August 2022 will also reach famous locations like the "Marassi Al Bahrain" beach and "Water Garden" City beach.

The 3-kilometre-long Bilaj Al Jazayer beach, located approximately 5 kilometres southwest of the Bahrain International Circuit, was reopened to the public last year after receiving a stunning makeover. It is part of the mixed-use mega

project "Bilaj Al Jazayer development".

"Live musical performances, activities and games for children, mobile restaurants, sports and aquatic events are on the line up the festival aimed at attracting domestic and international tourists alike," said Fatima bint Jafar Al Sairafi, the Minister of Tourism.

The authority is working on presenting rich programmes during the Bahrain Beaches Festival, details of which



the ministry will announce later.

"We intend to turn this season into a milestone in the busy tourism events programmes implemented by the authority throughout the year and increase tourist and visitor numbers," Al Sairafi added.

Bahrain Beach Festival supports the goals of the tourism strategy 2022-2026, which comes within the economic recovery plan and prioritises marine facades and activities, along with business tourism, sports tourism, recreational tourism, medical tourism, and cultural tourism.

Located on the Southwest coast of Bahrain, the Bilaj Al Jazayer development includes a string of hotels, entertainment and leisure facilities, restaurants, and retail and residential components.



Tender for flow measurement at 10 pumping stations

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has launched a tender for purchasing flow measurement devices at ten pumping stations.

The scope of work consists of supplying and installing flow measurement devices at ten sewer pumping stations.

The ministry will collect the flow readings data for two weeks.

A report for each station will be submitted, with flow readings and analysis of the data collected.

If interested, make bids before the 24th of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

15 bids for Labour ministry LED screen

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development has attracted huge interest for its tender to supply and install an outdoor LED screen at the ministry building.

According to the tender document, the tender received 15 bids from companies, including Transworld Information Technology, Castillo Trading and Construction, Bin Hindi Informatics and Awal Plastics.

Bids range between BHD 19,470,000 and BHD 55,000,000. The lowest bidder is Four Square Publicity and Advertising.

Tent Rental Services for BIC

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit has on offer a one-year contract for tent rental services and accessories.

A tender launched says the appointment will be through a Public Internal tender. Requirements are in the Tender Specifications document, which is part of the Tender documents.

Make bids, before the 20th of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Tender for temperature transmitters

TDT | Manama

Tatweer Petroleum has launched a tender for buying temperature transmitters.

The transmitters are for installation on well outlet flow lines.

"These transmitters will help knowing temperatures in the well outlet flow lines and trip the Beam Pump Unit, in case of High temperature," the tender says.

Make bids before the 26th of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Restoring pearling history

Murad house, Siyadi Majlas renovation attracts two bids

TDT | Manama

Tender for appointing interior design contractors for restoring the historic Murad House and Siyadi Majlas attracted two bids.

Design Creative (BHD 1,502,679.750) and General Contracting & Trading Services (BHD 1,310,866.050) are the bidders.

However, according to the tender board, the lowest bidder may not necessarily receive the contract, as price shall become the principle criterion only after fulfilling technical and other criteria.

The project is part of preserving old Muharra, which narrates the history of the Pearling era in Bahrain in line with Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy.

The contractors are for implementing the final interior finishes, lighting, exhibition tables and showcases, toilet fittings and supplying furniture.



The Siyadi mosque and the Siyadi house behind it.



Murad House and Murad Majlis are two buildings facing each other on either side of a small public square, separated by a mosque

Murad house will function as a guesthouse (Boutique hotel), representing a wish of the family to foster the remembrance of the property as a 'house of hospitality.

Murad House

Siyadi Majlis will operate as a pearl museum.

Murad House and Murad Majlis are two buildings facing each other on either side of a small public square, separated by a mosque.

Murad House, which belongs to the Murad family - pearl traders (tawawish) for many generations, are still in use today.

The house stands on land received as a gift from the ruler Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa at the end of the 19th century.

Constructed of coral stone, they provide the best-preserved

and most authentic remaining example of the residence and guesthouse of a tawwash (pearl trader).

As was typical for tawwash complexes, the Murad Majlis is a separate building from the primary family home.

Siyadi complex

The Siyadi family arrived in Bahrain in the early 19th century and settled close to the rulers' houses in the Sh. Abdallah neighbourhood. As grand pearl merchants, the family-owned its pearling fleet. The immense wealth from pearls allowed the family to build the Siyadi complex.

The Siyadi complex consists of three interrelated buildings: Siyadi House, a family residence built by Abdullah bin Isa Siyadi; Siyadi Majlis, a second family

residence with an impressive guest room built by Ahmad bin Jassim Siyadi; and Siyadi Mosque, donated to the community by Isa and Jassim bin Ahmad Siyadi.

The exquisitely decorated Siyadi Majlis, the pearling era's only four-storey building, is the jewel of the nominated pearling testimony. Its ground-floor apartments, built-in 1850, are among the earliest stone structures in Muharra.

While the Siyadi House was built under Ahmad bin Jassim Siyadi, the construction of the Siyadi Majlis was initiated by Ahmad bin Jassim Siyadi. The Siyadi Mosque was a shared initiative of Isa and Jassim bin Ahmad Siyadi.

Siyadi House, dated 1931, is still occupied by the builder's grandson.



The Murad House, located in the corner property of two small alleyways and inaccessible to vehicular traffic, was at one time just 50 metres from the shore.

The architectural and decorative detail of the Murad Majlis is relatively simple compared to the prestigious guest reception rooms built by the grand merchants - and thus credibly documents the status of a tawwash.

Nuwab gets six bids for medical insurance

TDT | Manama

Six companies are in the fray for a tender launched by the Council of Representatives for providing medical insurance for its members and their family members.

The participating bidders were required to quote for 4 years, with the first policy year commencing on 01-Jan-2023 and ending 31-Dec-2023 (12 months).

Bahrain Kuwait insurance, Solidarity Bahrain, Orient Insurance, SNIC Insurance, Medgulf Takaful and Bahrain National Life Assurance Company



Representative picture are the bidders.

644,212.800 was from Bahrain Kuwait Insurance.

The lowest quote of BHD

BAC tender calls for renewal of licences and support for backup solution

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Company has launched a tender for renewing the licences and support for its backup solution.

The tender seeks the services of authorised Dell EMC Partners in Bahrain to renew the licenses and support of the backup software EMC Networker and backup storage EMCData Domain DD2500.

The bidders should be an au-



Representative picture

thorised Dell EMCreseller Partner. Make bids before the 26th

of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Six bids for school repair works



Representative picture TDT | Manama

A tender by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning for general repair work at Saar Secondary Girls School attracted six companies.

Saraya Contractors, Dar Al Khaleej Trading and Contracting, Al Moayyed Contracting, Dadabhai Construction, Zaedon building construction and Mohammed Saif Ajlan Almannai Contracting are the bidders.

The lowest bid of BHD 242,650,000 was from Dar Al Khaleej Trading.

The project includes civil and structural maintenance and mechanical and electrical works.

Works Ministry's tender for repair works of Al Quds Primary Girls School & Bilad Al Qadeem Primary Girls School also attracted six bids. BHD 312,800,000 by Saraya Contractors emerged as the lowest bid. The contract period for the work is five months.

Pyrotechnic display at Al Dana Amphitheatre

TDT | Manama

Al Dana Amphitheatre is planning a pyrotechnic display in October this year, for which it has launched a tender.

The tender says Al Dana is looking forward to appointing a service provider for the event in October 2022.

The exact dates will be determined later.

Those interested should bid before the 20th of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Nuwab wants desktops, laptops

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives (Nuwab) is looking forward to upgrading all its desktop PCs with new PCs besides buying new laptops.

A tender launched says Nuwab wants to replace 251 desktop CPUs and buy 35 22-inch monitors and 55 new laptops for remote working and training.

Interested suppliers make bids before the 24th of this month, with a BD1,000 bond and BD50 tender fees.

Tatweer wants AAQMS maintenance service provider

TDT | Manama

Tatweer Petroleum is hiring those capable of maintaining and monitoring Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems or AAQMS for three years.

A tender launched seeks a comprehensive annual maintenance and calibration contract to be provided by an experienced Contractor for the entire AAQMS system for three years monthly.

The warranty period for the AAQMS (including the analyzer) ended in September 2018. Interested parties enter bids before the 17th of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Flight simulator update: GAA gets a single bid

TDT | Manama

Gulf Aviation Academy's tender for updating the flight simulator for Airbus Standard 2.1 attracted a single bid.

CAE inc. quoted BHD 1,446,054.640 for taking up the job.

The tender was for updating A320 SIM from Airbus standard 1.6 to standard 2.1 for 2 CEO engines (CFM-56, IAE V2522) and an additional NEO engine (LEAP).

Work also includes updating A320 SIM from Airbus standard 1.6 to standard 2.1 for 1 CEO engine (CFM-56) and an additional NEO engine (LEAP).

Indonesia and United Arab Emirates reach trade pact

● Sharply reduced duties on most goods

● Text of the agreement was not released

● Deal to increase bilateral non-oil trade to \$10 billion within five years

Reuters | Abu Dhabi

Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates yesterday signed a free trade agreement, strengthening economic ties between Southeast Asia's largest economy and the major oil producing Gulf state.

The accord, reached during a visit by Indonesian President Joko Widodo to Abu Dhabi, will remove or sharply reduce duties on most goods traded between the Muslim countries.

The UAE economy ministry said Indonesian palm oil, food products, fashion wear and Emirati petrochemicals, rubber products, plastics and steel would benefit from reduced or

“It's going to add about \$4.6 bn to our GDP by 2030. It's going to increase the exports by \$3.2 bn and increase the imports by \$2.6 bn by 2030

EMIRATI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN TRADE THANI AL ZEYUUDI



Trucks with palm oil fresh fruit bunches queue for unloading at a factory in West Aceh, Indonesia

eliminated tariffs. The accord includes chapters on services, investments, intellectual property rights and mutual recognition of each others' halal certification, Indonesia's trade ministry said.

The text of the agreement was not released and still needs to be ratified by both countries, which is largely procedural in autocratic UAE but could take months in democratic Indonesia.

Indonesia's main exports to the UAE are palm oil, jewellery and precious metals, while Emirati exports to Indonesia are mostly petroleum gases and non-crude oils, iron and non-al-

loy steel, according to the Observatory of Economic Complexity.

Oil rich UAE has forged closer trade ties with Indonesia as part of an ambition to double its own economy to \$816 billion by the end of the decade, in part by signing free trade agreements.

It has signed similar deals with India and Israel this year.

Emirati Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq told reporters the deal with Indonesia could increase bilateral non-oil trade to \$10 billion within five years, up from around \$3 billion last year.

Indonesian Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan said that Jakarta

expects more UAE investment in Indonesia following the pact, which he said would boost exports to the Middle East and elsewhere.

The UAE will benefit from greater access to the Indonesian market of over 270 m people at time when it is diversifying its trade links and seeking to create jobs for its 1 million citizens.

Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani Al Zeyoudi told Reuters the government estimated the trade pact would create 55,000 highly skilled jobs in the UAE by 2030.

“It's going to add about \$4.6 bn to our GDP by 2030. It's going

to increase the exports by \$3.2 bn and increase the imports by \$2.6 bn by 2030,” he said in an interview.

The UAE is in bilateral free trade talks with at least a dozen other countries, including Aus-

tralia and South Korea.

“We're almost done with Colombia. It is going to be signed in the coming few weeks,” Al Zeyoudi said, adding that an accord in Turkey could be reached before the end of the year.



The UAE, a country of about 10 million people, is a major trade hub for the Middle East and parts of Africa, Asia and Europe.

US factory activity slows to two-year low

Reuters | Washington

US manufacturing activity slowed more than expected in June, with a measure of new orders contracting for the first time in two years, signs that the economy was cooling amid aggressive monetary policy tightening by the Federal Reserve.

The survey from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) on Friday also showed a gauge of factory employment contracting for a second straight month, though an “overwhelming majority” of companies indicated they were hiring.

The ISM survey's index of national factory activity dropped to 53.0 last month,



Autonomous robots assemble an X model SUV at the BMW manufacturing facility in Greer, South Carolina

the lowest reading since June 2020, when the sector was rebounding from a COVID-19 slump. That followed a reading of 56.1 in May. The index would need to decline to 43.1 to signal a recession.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion in manufacturing, which accounts for 11.8% of the US economy.

Tesla hit by new lawsuit alleging racial abuse against Black workers

Reuters | San Francisco

Fifteen Black former or current employees at Tesla (TSLA.O) filed a lawsuit against the electric car maker on Thursday, alleging they were subjected to racial abuse and harassment at its factories.

The workers said they were subjected to offensive racist comments and behaviour by colleagues, managers and human resources employees on a regular basis, according to the lawsuit filed in a California state court.

The harassment, which occurred mostly at Tesla's Fre-



The view of Tesla Inc's US vehicle factory in Fremont, California

mont, California, factory, included using the n-word and such terms as “slavery” or “plantation” or making sexual comments such as “likes booty,” the lawsuit said, adding that the automaker's “standard operating procedures include blatant,

open and unmitigated race discrimination.”

The filing described one plaintiff, Teri Mitchell, as being regularly harassed by co-workers and managers who used racial slurs and made statements including, “It is rare for Blacks to work here. I don't know how long you will be able to stay here.”

It said that Montieco Justice, a production associate at Tesla's Fremont factory, was immediately demoted upon returning to Tesla after taking an authorized leave of absence as a result of contracting COVID-19.

Chinese state airlines to buy almost 300 Airbus jets

Reuters | Beijing/Sydney

China's “Big Three” state airlines pledged on Friday to buy a total of almost 300 Airbus jets, the biggest order by Chinese carriers since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In apparently coordinated announcements, Air China and China Southern Airlines said they would each buy 96 A320neo-family jets worth \$12.2 billion at list prices. China Eastern Airlines said it would buy 100 airplanes of the same type, worth \$12.8 bn.

Ukraine requests Turkey detain Russian-flagged ship it says carrying Ukrainian grain

● Ukraine says ship involved in illegal export of grain

● Kahakh based owner says ship chartered to Russian company

● Kremlin previously denied Russia stolen any Ukraine grain

Reuters | London/Istanbul

Ukraine has requested that Turkey detain and arrest the Russian-flagged cargo ship Zhibek Zholy carrying a cargo



Workers storage grain at a terminal during barley harvesting in Odesa region, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, Ukraine

of Ukrainian grain taken from the Russian-occupied port of Berdyansk, according to a

Ukrainian official and document seen by Reuters.

The Ukrainian foreign min-

istry official, citing information received from the country's maritime administration, said the 7,146 dwt Zhibek Zholy had loaded the first cargo of some 4,500 tonnes of grain from Berdyansk, which the official said belonged to Ukraine.

In a letter dated June 30 to Turkey's justice ministry, Ukraine's prosecutor general's office separately that the Zhibek Zholy was involved in the “illegal export of Ukrainian grain” from Berdyansk and headed to Karasu, Turkey, with 7,000 tonnes of cargo, which is a larger cargo than cited by the official.

The Ukrainian prosecutor general's office asked Turkey to “conduct an inspection of this sea vessel, seize samples of

grain for forensic examination, demand information on the location of such grain”, the letter said, adding that Ukraine was ready to conduct a joint investigation with Turkish authorities.

A Russian-installed official in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region said on Thursday that after a stoppage of several months the first cargo ship had left Berdyansk port without naming the Zhibek Zholy.

Kremlin officials in Moscow did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday.

Ukraine has accused Russia of stealing grain from the territories that Russian forces have seized since its invasion began in late February. The Kremlin has

previously denied that Russia has stolen any Ukrainian grain.

Turkey's foreign ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the arrival of the Zhibek Zholy.

Kazakh based KTZ Express confirmed to Reuters the Zhibek Zholy was owned by the company but said it was taken under a bare boat charter - when no crew or supplies are involved in the lease - by Russian company Green-Line, which was not designated under any sanctions.

Earlier this month Russia's defence minister said the Ukrainian ports of Berdyansk and Mariupol, controlled by Russian forces, were ready to resume grain shipments.

News in brief

Japanese asked to save power as country's east sizzles ♦ The highest temperatures in at least 147 years have scorched much of eastern Japan for a week as of yesterday, with the government asking citizens to cut power use as much as possible, while still running air conditioners to stay safe. The region around Tokyo was set for its seventh straight day of temperatures above 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) and faced a hot weekend as well, and the western city of Nagoya was predicted to hit a sizzling 40C. Slightly cooler temperatures and possibly rain could bring relief on Monday.

♦ **India imposed a ban on many single-use plastics yesterday in a bid to tackle waste choking rivers and poisoning wildlife, but experts say it faces severe headwinds from unprepared manufacturers and consumers unwilling to pay more.** The country generates around four million tonnes of plastic waste per year, about a third of which is not recycled and ends up in waterways and landfills that regularly catch fire and exacerbate air pollution.

Peru's Machu Picchu threatened by wildfire ♦ Peruvian firefighters were fighting to contain a forest fire near the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu, as the blaze threatened to close in on the ancient city high in the Andean mountains. The fire, which had engulfed an area about half the size of Vatican City, was started on Tuesday by farmers burning grass and debris to prepare to sow new crops. As of Wednesday, about 20 hectares (49 acres) had been affected by the fire, the mayor of the nearby city of Cusco said.

♦ **Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos appointed career diplomat Enrique Manalo as foreign affairs secretary, the president's press secretary said yesterday.** Before the appointment, Manalo served as the Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Prior to that, he was undersecretary for policy at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Manalo has asked for a few days before he takes over the position previously held by Teodoro Locsin so he could wind up affairs in his previous post, press secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said in a text message.

♦ **Turkey has cut access to public broadcasters from Germany and the United States, threatening to stoke new diplomatic tensions during Russia's invasion of Ukraine.** An Ankara court banned access to Deutsche Welle and Voice of America on Thursday night, after both failed to apply for local broadcasting licences required by regulations introduced this year.

In Hong Kong, Xi says 'one country, two systems' is here to stay

● John Lee sworn in as new Hong Kong leader by Xi Jinping

Reuters | Hong Kong

There is no reason to change Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" formula of governance, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on a rare visit to the global financial hub after swearing in the city's new leader, John Lee, yesterday.

Britain returned Hong Kong to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997, with Beijing promising wide-ranging autonomy, unfettered individual rights and judicial independence at least until 2047.

China's critics accuse authorities of trampling on those freedoms, unavailable on the authoritarian mainland, with a sweeping national security law imposed by Beijing on the city in 2020 after mass pro-democracy protests the year before.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday that China had failed to meet its handover commitments.

China and Hong Kong reject the accusations, saying the law "restored order from chaos" so that the city could prosper.

Xi said the "one country, two systems" formula was successful under China's "comprehensive jurisdiction."

"For this kind of good system, there is no reason at all to change it. It must be maintained over the long term," Xi said.

"After experiencing wind and rain, everyone can painfully feel that Hong Kong cannot be chaotic, and must not become chaotic again ... Hong Kong's



Hong Kong's new Chief Executive John Lee, left, walks off the stage with China's President Xi Jinping following a swearing-in ceremony

“For this kind of good system, there is no reason at all to change it. It must be maintained over the long term. After experiencing wind and rain, everyone can painfully feel that Hong Kong cannot be chaotic, and must not become chaotic again ... Hong Kong's development cannot be delayed again, and any interference must be eliminated”

XI JINPING

development cannot be delayed again, and any interference must be eliminated."

Xi added China would support Hong Kong's role as an international finance and trade hub.

At the swearing-in ceremonies, all officials, including Xi, wore masks and did not shake hands. Former police officer Lee, sanctioned by Washington over his role in implementing the security law, takes charge

BETTER YOU KNOW
Xi did not attend the traditional flag-raising ceremonies yesterday, with media reporting he stayed overnight across the border in Shenzhen after arriving in Hong Kong on Thursday

as the city is facing an exodus of people and talent amid some of the toughest COVID-19 restrictions in the world.

Authorities deployed a massive security force, blocking roads and the airspace around the picturesque Victoria Harbour, where the last colonial governor, Chris Patten, tearfully handed Hong Kong back to China at a rain-drenched ceremony in 1997.

Red lanterns, Chinese and Hong Kong flags, and posters declaring a "new era" of stability decorated districts across the city.

Russia Odesa

Thirty-eight injured at

● Zelenskiy hails victory at Snake Island

Reuters | Kyiv

Russia flattened part of an apartment building while residents slept yesterday in missile attacks near Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa that authorities say killed at least 21 people, hours after Russian troops abandoned a nearby outpost at Snake Island.

Neighbours in the resort village of Serhiivka helped workers comb through the rubble of the nine-storey apartment block, a section of which had been completely destroyed at 1:00 a.m.

Walls and windows of a neighbouring, 14-storey apartment block had also been damaged by the blast wave. Nearby holiday camps were also hit.

"We came here to the site, assessed the situation together with emergency workers and locals, and together helped those who survived. And those who unfortunately died. We helped to carry them away," said Oleksandr Abramov, who lives nearby and had rushed to the scene when he heard the blast.

Serhiy Bratchuk, spokesman for the Odesa regional administration, said 21 people had been confirmed killed, including a 12-year-old boy. Authorities said

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	89,441,903	1,042,945
2 India	43,471,282	525,139
3 Brazil	32,358,451	671,466
4 France	31,208,925	149,585
5 Germany	28,293,960	141,189
6 UK	22,741,065	180,417
7 Italy	18,610,011	168,425
8 Russia	18,433,394	381,165
9 S. Korea	18,368,857	24,555
10 Turkey	15,123,331	99,032
11 Spain	12,734,038	107,906
12 Vietnam	10,747,397	43,087
13 Argentina	9,367,172	129,070
14 Japan	9,329,520	31,281

Global tally
553,197,696
Deaths
6,358,850
Recovered:
528,162,270
New cases
+515,700
New deaths
+773

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	795,811	+625	9,209	+1	777,925	8,677
UAE	947,588	+1,788	2,317	+1	927,789	17,482
Kuwait	643,004		2,555		635,767	4,682
Oman	390,244		4,260		384,669	1,315
Qatar	382,635		679		376,869	5,087

North Korea blames 'alien things' near border with South for COVID outbreak

Reuters | Seoul

North Korea claimed yesterday that the country's first COVID-19 outbreak began with patients touching "alien things" near the border with South Korea, apparently shifting blame to the neighbour for the wave of infections in the isolated country.

Announcing results of an investigation, the North ordered people to "vigilantly deal with alien things coming by wind and other climate phenomena and balloons in the areas along the demarcation line and borders," the official KCNA news



Former North Korean defectors living in South Korea, release balloons containing one dollar banknotes, radios, CDs and leaflets denouncing the North Korean regime, towards the north

The agency did not directly mention South Korea, but North Korean defectors and activists have for decades flown balloons from the South across the heavily fortified border, carrying leaflets and humanitarian aid

The agency did not directly mention South Korea, but North Korean defectors and activists have for decades flown balloons from the South across the heavily fortified border, carrying leaflets and humanitarian aid.

South Korea's unification ministry, handling inter-Korean affairs, said there was "no possibility" of the virus entering the North through leaflets sent across the border.

According to KCNA, an 18-year-old soldier and a five-year-old kindergartner who contacted the unidentified materials "in a hill around barracks and residential quarters" in the eastern county of Kungang in early April showed symptoms and later tested positive for the coronavirus.

The KCNA said all other fever cases reported in the country until mid-April were due to other diseases, but it did not elaborate.

'Stop interfering in

● Taliban leader hails Afghan victory at gathering to forge national unity

AFP | Kabul

The Taliban's reclusive supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada called yesterday for the world to stop telling them how to run Afghanistan, insisting sharia law was the only model for a successful Islamic state.

Akhundzada, who has not been filmed or photographed in public since the Taliban returned to power in August, hailed the group's 2021 takeover of Afghanistan during a major gathering of religious scholars in the Afghan capital called to rubber-stamp the hardline Islamist group's rule.

Over 3,000 clerics have gathered in Kabul since Thursday for the three-day men-only meeting, and Akhundzada's appearance had been rumoured for days -- although media are barred from covering the event.

"Why is the world interfering in our affairs?" he asked in an hour-long speech broadcast by state radio.

"They say 'why don't you do this, why don't you do that?' Why does the world interfere in our

626

Incident at Xuanwu Gate: in fear of assassination, Li Shimin ambushes and kills his rival brothers Li Yuanji and Li Jiancheng



1776

Continental Congress resolves "these United Colonies are and of right ought to be Free and Independent States"

1823

Bahia Independence Day: the end of Portuguese rule in Brazil, with the final defeat of the Portuguese crown loyalists in the province of Bahia

1964

US President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act into law

Russia kills 21 with missiles near Kyiv after abandoning Snake Island

After two missiles hit apartment building and recreation centre



Bodies of civilian people killed by a Russian missile strike are seen in front of a damaged residential building

Earlier 41 people had been rescued from the apartment building where 152 lived.

The regional governor said the Soviet-era missiles had been fired from the direction of the Black Sea.

The Kremlin denied targeting civilians: "I would like to remind you of the president's words that the Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The attack came just four days after Russia struck a crowded shopping mall in central Ukraine killing at least 19 people.

Kyiv says Moscow has dramatically escalated its long-range attacks hitting civilian targets far

from the front line in recent days, which Ukraine describes as a war crime. Russia says it has been aiming at military sites.

Thousands of civilians have been killed since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 in what Ukraine says is an unprovoked war of aggression. Russia calls the invasion a "special operation" to root out nationalists.

On Thursday, Russia pulled its troops off Snake Island, a desolate but strategically important outcrop that it seized on the war's first day and had used to control the northwestern Black Sea, where it has blockaded Odesa and other ports.

In his nightly video address, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

"The superiority in fire power of the occupiers is still very much in evidence. They have simply brought in all their reserves to hit us

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY

hailed what he described as a strategic victory at Snake Island. "It does not yet guarantee security. It does not yet ensure that the enemy will not come back," he said. "But this significantly limits the actions of the occupiers. Step by step, we will push them back from our sea, our land and our sky."

Standing ovation for EU flag

In Kyiv, Ukrainian lawmakers gave a standing ovation as the flag of the European Union was carried through the chamber to stand alongside Ukraine's own flag behind the dais, a symbol of Ukraine's formal EU candidate status granted last week.

Zelenskyy and the lawmakers also stood for a minute of silence for those killed in the morning attacks near Odesa.

Russia's stepped up campaign of long-range missile attacks on Ukrainian cities has come as its forces have ground out success on the battlefield in the east, with a relentless assault to force Kyiv to

YOU KNOW WHAT

Moscow has so far denied responsibility for the strike and the Kremlin spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov, yesterday reiterated Russia's claim that it was not targeting residential areas

cede two provinces to separatists.

Moscow has been on the verge of capturing one of those provinces, Luhansk, since taking the city of Sievierodonetsk last week after some of the heaviest fighting of the war. Ukraine's last bastion in Luhansk is the city of Lysychansk across the Siverskyi Donets river, which is close to being encircled under relentless Russian artillery assault.

The Russians were shelling Lysychansk from different directions and approaching from several sides, regional Governor Serhiy Gaidai said on Ukrainian television.

"The superiority in fire power of the occupiers is still very much in evidence," Zelenskyy said. "They have simply brought

in all their reserves to hit us."

National symbol

In Russian-occupied Sievierodonetsk, residents have emerged from basements to sift through the rubble of their city.

"Almost all the city infrastructure is destroyed. We are living without gas, electricity, and water since May," Sergei Oleinik, 65, told Reuters. "We are glad that this ended, and soon maybe reconstruction will start, and we will be back to more or less normal life."

But after its losses in the east, the Ukrainian victory at Snake Island gives Kyiv a major success in the Black Sea. The island has been a national symbol since the first day of the war when a Ukrainian guard ordered by Russia to surrender radioed back: "Russian warship, go fuck yourself."

Russia has used its control of the sea to impose a blockade on Ukraine, one of the world's biggest grain exporters, threatening to shatter Ukraine's economy and cause global famine.

Moscow denies it is to blame for a food crisis, which it says is caused by Western sanctions hurting its own exports. President Vladimir Putin met the president of Indonesia on Thursday and spoke by phone yesterday to the prime minister of India, promising both major food importers that Russia would remain a big supplier of grain.

'In Afghanistan', says Taliban leader in rare appearance



A man sells stickers picturing Taliban supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada at market in Kabul (file photo)

work?" After receiving pledges of allegiance from participants raising their hands, Akhundzada praised the Taliban's victory last August, which marked the end of a 20-year struggle to overthrow a western-backed government and drive US-led forces out of the country.

"The success of the Afghan jihad is not only a source of pride for Afghans but also for Muslims all over the world," he said according to state-run Bakhtar News Agency, using the Arabic word signifying a spiritual struggle.

Akhundzada rarely leaves Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace and spiritual heartland, and apart from one undated photograph

and several audio recordings of speeches, has almost no digital footprint.

But analysts say the former Sharia court judge has an iron grip on the movement and he bears the title "Commander of the Faithful".

His arrival at the meeting hall was greeted with cheers and chants, including "Long live the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan", the Taliban's name for the country.

Akhundzada's appearance comes a week after a powerful earthquake struck the east of the country, killing over 1,000 people and leaving tens of thousands homeless.

No women are attending the clerics' meeting, but a Taliban

"Why is the world interfering in our affairs? They say 'why don't you do this, why don't you do that?' Why does the world interfere in our work?"

HIBATULLAH AKHUNDZADA

source told AFP this week that thorny issues such as girls' education -- which has divided opinion in the movement -- would be discussed.

Akhundzada did not mention the subject in his speech, which was confined largely to telling the faithful to strictly observe Islamic principles in life and governance.

Since the Taliban's return, secondary school girls have been barred from education and women dismissed from government jobs, forbidden from travelling alone, and ordered to dress in clothing that covers everything but their faces.

They have also outlawed playing non-religious music, banned the portrayal of human figures in advertising, ordered TV channels to stop showing movies and soap operas featuring uncovered women, and told men they should dress in traditional garb and grow their beards.

In age-old ritual, Mexican mayor weds alligator to secure abundance

Reuters | Mexico City

A small town Mexican mayor married his alligator bride in a colourful ceremony as traditional music rang out and revellers danced while imploring the indigenous leader to seal the nuptials with a kiss.

San Pedro Huamelula Mayor Victor Hugo Sosa obliged more than once during Thursday's wedding, bending down to plant his lips on the small alligator's snout, which had been tied shut presumably to avoid unwanted biting.

The ritual marriage likely dates back centuries to pre-Hispanic times among Oaxaca state's Chontal and Huave indigenous communities, like a prayer pleading for nature's bounty.

"We ask nature for enough rain, for enough food, that we have fish in the river," said Sosa, mayor of the small fishing village on Oaxaca's steamy Pacific coast.

Oaxaca, located in Mexico's poor south, is arguably the country's richest in indigenous culture and home to many groups that have stubbornly maintained their languages and traditions.

The age-old ritual in San



Mayor of San Pedro Huamelula Victor Aguilar holds his alligator wife

The unusual tradition, which dates back hundreds of years, requires the mayor of San Pedro Huamelula to marry a reptile every summer to 'bring luck' to local fishermen

Pedro Huamelula, now mixed with Catholic spirituality, involves dressing the alligator or caiman in a white wedding dress plus other colourful garments.

The seven-year-old reptile, referred to as a little princess, is believed to be a deity representing mother earth, and her marriage to the local leader symbolizes the joining of humans with the divine.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I am grateful to my friend President @EmmanuelMacron for increasing France's security assistance to Ukraine. Today we need it more than ever to protect Ukraine, to protect the values of Europe on the frontline

@ZelenskyyUa

02



believe in Ukraine's European future. It is your future and only you can make it happen. You can change this country for good and this will be your ultimate victory. A free and vibrant Ukraine. A sovereign Ukraine, finally reunited with our European family.

@vonderleyen

03



@WHO welcomes the #UNGA political declaration on Global #RoadSafety, as Member States committed to cut road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030. This is an important milestone for road safety and sustainable mobility.

@DrTedros

04



Investors are still backing fossil fuels, and governments still hand out billions in subsidies for coal, oil and gas - some \$11 billion every minute. For the health of our societies and planet, we need to quit our addiction to fossil fuels. Now.

@antonioguterres

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

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Call us on +973 36458394
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Stage set for Asian wrestling championship in Bahrain

● Kingdom to host from today first edition of U15 and U20 Asian Wrestling Championship until July 1

● Total 675 wrestlers taking part representing 17 countries from across continent in event

TDT | Manama

The stage is set for Bahrain to host the first edition of the U15 and U20 Asian Wrestling Championship, which will open today and conclude on July 10.

The continental competition will be held at the Khalifa Sports City arena, under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

Bahrain Wrestling Federation is organising the competition in cooperation with the Bahrain Martial Arts Council and the Asian Wrestling Federation, under the supervision of the International Wrestling Federation.

A total of 675 wrestlers will



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa be taking part in the championship, representing 17 countries, including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, India, Iran, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Taiwan and Uzbekistan.

The event will be officiated by 49 referees accredited by the International Wrestling Federation.

HH Shaikh Khalid stressed the importance of hosting the championship, paying tribute to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his support to all sports.

He praised the support accorded His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, lauding the efforts of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) Chairman.

HH Shaikh Nasser hails Victorious' triumph in Dragon Stakes race

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs has hailed the victory of Rocket Rodney, owned by Victorious Racing team, in the Coral Dragon Stakes race (Listed, Class 1) which took place at the San Down Racecourse, Britain.

The Horse produced a stunning performance to storm to victory in the race. HH Shaikh Nasser confirmed that this result underlines the successful journey of Victorious Racing team in Europe, adding that winning the Coral Dragon Stakes race will be a great motivator to accomplish further successes abroad.

Moreover, HH Shaikh Nasser



Rocket Rodney, owned by Victorious Racing team at the Coral Dragon Stakes race

expressed thanks and appreciation to trainer George Scott for preparing Rocket Rodney ahead

of the race. He also praised the high qualities of jockey Daniel Muscutt.



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa

It's worth noting that Rocket Rodney's victory came in the wake of a second-place finish at the Royal Ascot race last month.

Bahrain tennis players shine in Belgium tournament

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national youth tennis team finished third in three categories at the Ten-Pro Junior Tour, which was held in Belgium.

Fares Al Toubali claimed third in the under-16 category, while teammates Ahmed Hosam and Hashem Al Toubali also achieved positive results, finishing third in the under-14 and under-12 divisions, respectively.

Bahrain Tennis Federation president Shaikh Abdulaziz bin



Members of Bahrain's youth national tennis team in Belgium

Mubarak Al Khalifa hailed the honourable results, praising the support and directives of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) Chairman.

Shaikh Abdulaziz also paid tribute to HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, SCYS First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

Djokovic makes light work of Kecmanovic

Novak Djokovic schools Miomir Kecmanovic to reach Wimbledon last 16 again

● Women's draw loses six appeal

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic comfortably reached the last 16 at Wimbledon yesterday while Maria Sakkari became the sixth top-10 women's seed to crash out in the first week.

Three-time defending champion Djokovic demolished Serbian compatriot Miomir Kecmanovic 6-0, 6-3, 6-4 to stay on course to pull level with Pete Sampras as a seven-time champion, one behind Roger Federer's men's record.

Yesterday's win was the 330th of Djokovic's Grand Slam career. "So far, so good," said the 35-year-old top seed after beating a player who described him as his "idol".

"I expect high standards from myself. You always want to raise the level and things are shaping up well."

Waiting in the fourth round is Dutch wild card Tim van Rijthoven.

Playing in his debut Grand Slam main draw, the world number 104 defeated 22nd seed Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia,



Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Miomir Kecmanovic

6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

The 25-year-old Van Rijthoven proved his prowess on grass by winning the 's-Hertogenbosch title last month, defeating world number one Daniil Medvedev in the final.

"Before the tournament started, it was a dream for me to play Djokovic," said Van Rijthoven, only the seventh man since 2000 to reach the round of 16 on his Grand Slam debut.

"So to be able to have that chance and to maybe even play on Centre Court or Court 1 is beautiful and magical."

Women's seeds tumble

Greek fifth seed Sakkari lost

6-3, 7-5 to German world number 103 Tatjana Maria, who only returned to the tour last year after maternity leave.

Maria, in the fourth round of a Slam for the first time, will face former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko for a place in the quarter-finals.

"It feels amazing, first time in the last 16, so that's amazing. To win against Sakkari today, it's pretty awesome," said mother-of-two Maria.

Ostapenko, a semi-finalist at the All England Club in 2018, took her winners count to 102 over three rounds by defeating Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Germany's Jule Niemeier fol-

13,728
aces have been served by John Isner to set a new record

lowed up her win over second seed Anette Kontaveit by seeing off Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko in three sets.

Also exiting yesterday was 2018 champion Angelique Kerber, with the German 15th seed beaten 6-4, 7-5 by Elise Mertens.

The Belgian, who had to save two match points in her previous round, next faces world number two Ons Jabeur.

A quarter-finalist in 2021, Tunisia's Jabeur breezed past French teenager Diane Parry 6-2, 6-3.

John Isner set a new record for serving aces in his third-round clash against Jannik Sinner.

The 37-year-old American started his match against the 10th seed four aces behind Croatia's Ivo Karlovic, who has served 13,728.

Nadal taking extra care with COVID scare at Wimbledon

Reuters | London

Rafael Nadal is not taking any chances with COVID-19 and staying indoors when he is not on court, the Spaniard said on Thursday with three big names in the men's singles draw having pulled out of Wimbledon after contracting the virus.

Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut joined Croatian Marin Cilic, the former US Open champion and 2017 Wimbledon runner-up, and Italian eighth seed Matteo Berrettini, who lost to Novak Djokovic in the 2021 final, in withdrawing from the Grand Slam.

Nadal, who tested positive for coronavirus at the end of last year, said he was taking extra precautions.

"No, no, no paranoia at all. Reality," he told reporters after reaching the third round



Rafael Nadal returns against Ricardas Berankis

with a 6-4 6-4 4-6 6-3 victory over Ricardas Berankis on Thursday.

"That's the thing. A good friend of mine today had to pull out, Roberto Bautista, with another case. When this kind of stuff happens it's because probably a lot of cases are around."

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Best still to come from 'legend' Salah after signing new Liverpool deal



Mohamed Salah

Reuters | London

Jürgen Klopp said Mohamed Salah's best years are still ahead of him after the Liverpool star ended speculation over his future by signing a new contract on Friday.

Salah's new deal will reportedly make him the club's highest paid player of all-time on £350,000 (\$425,000) a week until 2025.

The 30-year-old had entered the final year of his previous contract with talks stalling over his wage demands.

But tying Salah down to a new deal was key to Liverpool's hopes of continued success under Klopp.

In five years at Anfield, the Egypt forward has scored 156 goals in 254 appearances.

"This is a special treat for our supporters to enjoy their weekend even more. I'm sure there will be some celebrations for this news tonight," Klopp told Liverpool's website.

"It's the best decision for us and best decision for him. He belongs with us I think. This is his club now.

Bahrain keep World Cup qualifying hopes alive

Senior men's national basketball team upset Syria 76-67 in Aleppo to claim first win in penultimate game of qualification competition for FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023

● Wayne Chism leads all Bahrain scorers with 20 points while Ahmed Hassan Alderazi adds 18

● Bahrain enjoy leads as big as 20 points in game and hold on to advantage in final moments

TDT | Manama

Bahrain kept their hopes alive in the qualifying competition for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 following an upset 76-67 victory over Syria last night at Al Hamadaniyah Stadium in Aleppo.

The Bahrainis gave up a 20-point first-half lead but managed to hold on to their advantage in the game's closing stages to come away with the all-important result.

It was the first win for the nationals after five tries so far in Group D of continental qualification. They avenged their earlier loss to the Syrians in their first meeting in Bahrain held in February of this year.

Bahrain play one more game in the qualifiers on Monday against Kazakhstan in Astana. They must win that contest and



Bahrain big man Wayne Chism is hounded by Syria's players during their game last night in Aleppo

hope Syria lose against Iran the same evening to have any chance of advancing to qualifying's next round. Only the top three teams in each of the four groups in Asia march through.

The Kazakhs, who are undefeated so far after their 68-60 win over Iran in yesterday's other Group D game, are already moving forward, along with the Iranians.

Naturalised big man Wayne Chism led all Bahrain's scorers with 20 points. He also had seven rebounds and four blocked

shots. Court general Ahmed Hassan Aldurazi added 18 including an impressive five three-pointers. He did well to orchestrate Bahrain's offence and control the tempo of the game.

Brothers Mustafa Hussain and Ali Hussain provided a welcome spark off the bench, scoring 11 and eight points, respectively, while Maitham Jameel and Mohammed Ameer had seven points each. Jameel also dished out a superb 12 assists.

Subah Hussain rounded off



Bahrain play one more game in the qualifiers on Monday against Kazakhstan in Astana. They must win that contest and hope Syria lose against Iran the same evening to have any chance of advancing to the next round of qualification

the national team's scoresheet with four points.

Bahrain roared to a brilliant start and led by as many as 20 points in the opening half. They raced out to a 6-0 lead and then enjoyed their first double-digit advantage, 13-3, following a Jameel three-pointer.

They ended the first quarter ahead 20-8 and then continued to widen the gap in the second. An Ameer three-pointer from the left corner, a Mustafa Hussain fast-break lay-up and then a Ali Hussain slam dunk by Chism then put them up 29-10.

A Jameel triple later gave

Standings

	P	W	L	+/-	Pts
Kazakhstan	5	5	0	79	10
Iran	5	3	2	52	8
Syria	5	1	4	-25	6
Bahrain	5	1	4	-104	6

them a 32-12 cushion midway through the period, which helped the Bahrainis take a 39-27 lead into the break.

The Syrians, however, clawed their way back in the second half. The home side were able to cut Bahrain's lead to single digits in the third, but a late three-pointer in the quarter by Ali Hussain gave them some breathing room heading into the final canto up 54-48.

Back-to-back baskets by Chism and Ali Hussain from beyond the arc then gave the nationals a 60-48 lead at the start of the fourth, and then jump shots from Subah Hussain and Chism made it 66-51. Syria threatened once again but an Ali Hussain fast-break lay-up restored the Bahrainis' 13-point lead.

The home team continued to fight until the end and came to within single digits with under two minutes to go. But Bahrain had the answers in the closing stages and were able to close out the nine-point win with an Aldurazi triple.

Sainz edges revived Hamilton in second Silverstone practice

AFP | Silverstone

Carlos Sainz outpaced local hero Lewis Hamilton in yesterday's second practice at the British Grand Prix, his Ferrari edging the revived Mercedes by one tenth of a second on a rain and wind-affected day.

The Spaniard, recording his first session-topping time since the Australian Grand Prix in April, clocked a best lap in one minute and 28.952 seconds to beat the seven-time world champion, who appeared to have rediscovered his verve, by 0.163 seconds.

Another Briton, Lando Norris of McLaren, was third fastest for McLaren, ahead of world champion and series leader Max Verstappen of Red Bull and Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari.

Fernando Alonso was sixth for Alpine ahead of Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull, George Russell in the other Mercedes, Daniel Ricciardo and Aston Martin's Lance Stroll.

For Hamilton, who lost a



Carlos Sainz in action during practice

Lewis Hamilton backed down in a spat with Formula One's governing body and removed a nose stud before taking part in practice for the British Grand Prix

piece of his car's bodywork in the final minutes, it was a solid demonstration of the potential of his Mercedes.

After an embattled week during which he has rebutted offensive comments from various

critics, including revelations of a vulgar attack by Nelson Piquet, this was a classic Hamilton riposte.

On a blustery and cool day punctuated by more off-track news and reaction at the former airfield, the Red Bulls led the field out to make up for lost time after the wet opening session had allowed little meaningful running.

Alonso set an early fastest time for Alpine before Sainz and then Leclerc went top. Both Ferraris were running with more new parts for their power units.

Lampaert wins first Tour stage

AP | Copenhagen

Belgian rider Yves Lampaert won the Tour de France opening stage while two-time defending champion Tadej Pogacar finished third yesterday.

Pogacar placed ahead of his Slovenian countryman and main rival Primoz Roglic, the 2020 runner-up, who was eighth in the time trial.

Lampaert is a former world champion in team time trial but this was his first stage win at the three-week Tour. He clocked 15 minutes, 17 seconds on the 13-kilometer (eight-mile) route around Copenhagen.

The Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl rider was five seconds ahead of countryman Wout van Aert — Roglic's Jumbo-Visma teammate — and seven ahead of Pogacar, who leads UAE Team Emirates. Pogacar was nine seconds clear of Roglic.

Lampaert could scarcely believe it when he realized he won, wiping away tears and putting his hands on his mouth.

The rain was teeming when Roglic finished under grey skies shortly after 4:30 p.m., and still lashing when Pogacar set off around 40 minutes later. Even



Yves Lampaert in action

“To win a stage in the Tour de France, this is something I could never believe would happen and now I've done it. To beat Van Aert, Van der Poel, Ganna ... it's unbelievable”

YVES LAMPAERT

though he is a specialist in the wet, Pogacar looked cautious taking the first turn.

It might have cost him victory.

Riders set off to loud cheers.

“There was so much noise you could hardly hear anything in the earpiece,” French rider David Gaudu said.

The noise level went up again when local rider Jonas Vingegaard — Roglic's teammate and the Tour runner-up last year — rolled down the start ramp. He placed seventh, one second ahead of Roglic.

Large parts of the Danish capital were shut down. The wet roads made the route treacherous — especially the section across the square of Amalienborg Palace, the main residence of Denmark's royal family, which is paved with cobblestones.