

**Bahrain 'must win first game'**

Head coach Helio Sousa stresses importance of making a triumphant start to their Group E qualifying campaign for the AFC Asian Cup 2023 | P12

WORLD 6 Ukraine will fight for all territory, stalemate 'not an option': Zelenskiy



Jennifer Lopez thanked everyone who 'lied' to her in MTV awards speech

10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Beyon entities host 'ELEVATE'

**The wait is over, BFC Pay Cards are here!**



**Silah Gulf sponsors E3 CX Conference in Riyadh**



**UAE has five new monkeypox cases**  
Dubai

The UAE's Ministry of Health and Prevention announced five new cases of monkeypox yesterday, taking the total number of infections recorded so far to 13.

Two patients who had monkeypox and were receiving medical care in government hospitals have fully recovered, the ministry added.

It urged all members of the public to follow appropriate preventive measures and careful precautions while travelling and when encountering large crowds, and to avoid risky behaviours.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

- TOTAL TESTED: 9882771
- ACTIVE CASES: 5714
- DEATHS: 1489
- DISCHARGED: 583603
- NEW CASES: 997
- CRITICAL: 5

# Progress on right track

World Bank raises forecast for Bahrain's economic growth by 3.5% this year

Kingdom is thriving despite existing pandemic and global challenges

TDT | Manama

The World Bank expects the Bahrain economy to further grow despite lowering its forecast for global economic growth.

According to the international financial institution's latest Global Economic Prospects report, the GDP projections for Bahrain have been revised upwards, from January 2022's 3.2% to 3.5%, and from January 2023's 2.9% to 3.1%.

This rise confirms the progress of Bahrain in the right direction in its development plans, the most important of which is the Economic Recovery Plan.

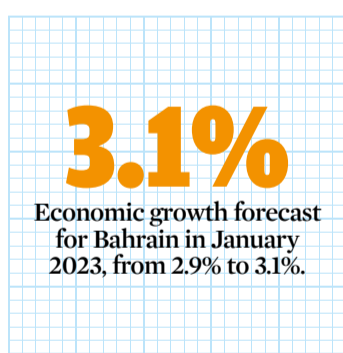
The World Bank releases its own forecasts twice a year, every January and June. The report offers a systematic assessment of current global economic conditions amid the existing pandemic and other global challenges such as the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Earlier, Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa had said that the Kingdom's economy has "recovered" and is moving towards achieving financial stability and development sustainability that will benefit the citizens and have an impact on the nation's overall progress.

He highlighted the positive indicators that have been achieved in various targeted sectors in the Kingdom, among them the implementation of the five priorities of the Economic Recovery Plan, namely creating job opportunities for citizens, and developing legislation and policies,



Bahrain economy is in full swing



financial market sector, financial services and financial technology,

and the insurance sector.

The Economic Recovery Plan comprises 27 integrated programmes, and 16 of the 27 programmes included in the plan have been completed, while work is underway to implement 11 programmes during the coming period.

Shaikh Salman thanked 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 the great leadership offered in implement-

ing the Economic Recovery Plan.

The implementation of the priorities and programmes will continue, and the pace of achievement will be accelerated while ensuring the highest possible efficiency and quality levels as planned, he added.

Bahrain's improving economy can also be attributed to the government's move to launch the BD4.5 billion stimulus package last year to support the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic and protect citizens' jobs through the fiscal balance programme.

**Global growth forecasts**

Meanwhile, the World Bank's global growth for 2022 has been revised down from 4.1% to 2.9%, reflecting a considerably slow growth from 5.7% in 2021.

Middle East and North Africa's 2022 growth prospects have been revised upwards by 0.9 percentage points to 5.3%.

The report indicates that the war on Ukraine and the two years of the pandemic have sharply hastened the deceleration of global economic activity.

Call to exercise caution

## New Covid-19 cases cross 1,000 after two months

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

New cases of Covid-19 crossed the 1,000 mark for the first time yesterday after a space of nearly two months.

The Health Ministry reported 1,008 cases yesterday, highlighting the need to exercise caution in the coming days.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a leading medical practitioner warned that the battle against the pandemic is not yet over and the existing success must persist in the coming days as well.

The rising numbers of Covid-19 cases comes amid the



Kingdom remaining on alert against the threat caused by Monkeypox cases, which are increasing across the world.

The Kingdom's existing suc-

cess against the pandemic is attributed to its vaccination milestones and preventive measures adopted by the Ministry of Health.

As of now, the Kingdom has approved Pfizer/BioNTech Comirnaty, Gamaleya Sputnik Light, Gamaleya Sputnik V, Johnson and Johnson Ad26.COV2.S, Covishield AstraZeneca, Bharat Biotech Covaxin, Sinopharm Covilo and ValnevaVLA2001.

Bahrain became the first country in the world to authorise, receive and administer Valneva's Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by the French biotech major.

A recent study published by the Nature Magazine showed that the risk of Covid infection, intensive care unit admissions and deaths remained high among recipients of the Sinop-

harm vaccine in the Kingdom. The study, carried out by Dr Sid Mukherjee, a researcher in the field, probes into the Kingdom's Covid-19 related outcomes from a national database, taking into consideration the administering of four vaccines to tackle the pandemic risk.

"Despite the overall effectiveness of all four vaccines in decreasing the risk of COVID-19 related hospitalisations, intensive care unit admissions and deaths, we noted a significantly higher risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection, hospitalisations and ICU admissions among recipients of the Sinopharm vaccine compared to other vaccine recipients."

# The wait is over – BFC Pay Cards are here!



● **Two unique card products, BFC Pay Salary Card and BFC Pay VISA Prepaid Card, launched**

TDT | Manama

**B**FC Payments B.S.C. (C), the Fintech arm of BFC Group Holdings, is all set to expand its digital payment solutions portfolio with the launch of the BFC Pay Cards.

The fintech has partnered with Visa and Benefit to launch two unique card products designed to meet the evolving needs of banked and underbanked individuals, supported by a feature-rich mobile app and contactless payment technology.

The first variant, BFC Pay Salary Card, is developed for the Kingdom's unbanked customers, providing financial services to meet their daily financial needs.

BFC Payments caters to this segment through the Wages Protection System (WPS) compliant salary services, and the Salary Card will empower them with an additional touch point.

The second variant, BFC Pay VISA Prepaid Card, addresses the growing needs and increasing demands for cashless spending. These products enable BFC Pay cardholders to shop online or offline at various merchant and ATMs in Bahrain. BFC Pay Cards will play a crucial role in fuelling digital transactions and contributing to the country's vision of a cashless economy.

Commenting on the launch, Davis Parakal, General Manager, BFC Payments, said, "It is an exciting phase for BFC Payments. Adding cards to our portfolio allows us to achieve Bahrain's financial inclusion goals. With the physical and digital ap-



Expanding BFC'S digital payment solutions portfolio with the launch of BFC Pay Cards

**"It is an exciting phase for BFC Payments. Adding cards to our portfolio allows us to achieve Bahrain's financial inclusion goals. With the physical and digital approach, the BFC Pay mobile app will be the central touchpoint for customers while bringing physical elements like the BFC Pay Cards."**

- DAVIS PARAKAL, GENERAL MANAGER, BFC PAYMENTS



The fintech has partnered with Visa and Benefit to launch two unique card products designed to meet the evolving needs of banked and underbanked individuals, supported by a feature-rich mobile app and contactless payment technology.

Card and an extensive network of BFC branches.

In addition, the flagship product BFC Pay mobile app, launched in November 2021, offers international money transfers along with mobile recharges, utility bill and school fees payment, gaming vouchers and lots more.

Ebrahim Nonoo, Managing

**"Our vision is to serve our customers with market-leading digital products and cutting-edge solutions that deliver great customer experiences. The BFC Pay Card is just the first step towards achieving our goals and we have many more exciting products in the pipeline."**

- EBRAHIM NONOO, MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO, BFC GROUP HOLDINGS

Director & CEO, BFC Group Holdings, said, "Our vision is to serve our customers with market-leading digital products and cutting-edge solutions that deliver great customer experiences. The BFC Pay Card is just the first step towards achieving our goals and we have many more exciting products in the pipeline."

## Bahrain thanked by Jordanian Monarch



HM the King  
TDT | Manama



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister  
Rania Al Abdullah.

**H**is Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of thanks from His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan, in reply to HM's condolences over the demise of Dr Faisal Sidqi Al Yasin, the father of HM Queen

Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received cables of thanks from Eritrea President Isaias Afwerki in reply to their congratulations on his country's Independence Day.

## HM King promulgates law on Social Insurance

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**H**is Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday ratified and promulgated Law (21) of 2022 on amending some provisions of Decree-Law (24) of 1976 on Social Insurance, following its approval by the Shura and Representatives Councils.

According to the law, the following paragraph shall be added to Article (2) of Decree-Law (24) of 1976 on Social Insurance:

"The provisions of this law shall also apply to the fami-

ly members of the employer who work with him/her, in accordance with the terms and conditions set as per an edict issued by the Minister."

Item (9) of the first paragraph of Article (3) of the Decree-Law (24) of 1976 on Social Insurance shall be repealed, and the remaining items of this paragraph shall be renumbered accordingly.

The Prime Minister and ministers, each in their capacity, shall implement the provisions of this law which becomes effective upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

## Kingdom promotes labour market growth



Humaidan delivering a speech

● **Initiatives include launch of four-year recovery plan to stimulate national economy**

Geneva

**B**ahrain has made strides in protecting workers, preserving their rights, and creating a safe working environment.

This was emphasised by Labour and Social Development Minister and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, as he delivered a speech at

the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILO) in Geneva.

He reviewed the initiatives implemented in the Kingdom as part of its response to the coronavirus pandemic and the Economic Recovery Plan aimed at revitalising, stabilising and sustaining the labour market.

The Minister stressed the Kingdom's keenness to promote the growth of the labour market after the pandemic, by launching a four-year recovery plan to stimulate the national economy, develop the labour market, and attract foreign investment.

Humaidan affirmed that Bahrain boasts qualified national workers, thanks to the great care given to training and qualifying the citizens.

## Bahrain-Philippines relations

Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani received yesterday the Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of the Philippines, Anne Jalandon-Louis. They reviewed relations of cooperation and friendship between the two countries, and means to develop them in various fields for the benefit of the two friendly peoples. They also discussed a number of regional and international issues of common interest.



# Silah Gulf sponsors E3 CX Conference in Riyadh

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**S**ilah Gulf, multi-award-winning, customer-experience business process outsourcing (BPO) provider, was a Gold sponsor in the E3 CX Conference held in Riyadh, KSA from 7 to 9 June 2022.

The conference showcased both regional and international Customer Experience (CX) success stories, and connected communities in the Middle East. Notable practitioners in the field from the region and beyond addressed the high-profile audience presenting new strategies, technologies, and tools tailored to support CX reforms in line with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

With an agenda to Educate, Engage and Empower, the E3 Conference was held this year under the theme, "Making customer centricity your game changer."

Over 300 CX leaders attended the content-rich conference and workshops, advocating the importance of customer-centric



Notable practitioners in the field from the region at the event

businesses in a diversified smart economy.

With its significant CX experience in the region, Silah Gulf was a key partner in sharing lessons learnt from the CX journey and in the effort to impart training and career development for professionals looking to refresh skillsets and spearhead KSA's next level CX projects.

"Our experience with Customer Experience solutions and innovations across businesses aligns with the Kingdom's endeavor to

bring about a digital transformation to the industry and evolve it in new and innovative ways. We are excited to be amongst so many pioneers, creative thinkers and future leaders from the region and beyond," said Mr Feras Ahmed, CEO, Silah Gulf.

"We look forward to building a network that will have a transformational impact in the GCC and help us in our united goal of driving value driven programs to deliver complete, end-to-end customer experience solutions spe-



cific to the needs of an enterprise." "The E3 Conference is significant in that it emphasizes the importance of integrating digital technology into all areas of a business, showcasing how profoundly it changes how businesses operate and deliver value to customers," said Ms Noor Bubshait, Director - Business Development, Silah Gulf.

"Digital transformation is today inspiring and influencing companies across the region to evolve their business models

and adapt to the digital transformation journey. Saudi Arabia's digital landscape is a fast-growing one and we welcome this opportunity to be a part of it."

Mr Abdulrahman Nabeel Benshams, General Manager, Silah Gulf, added, "For over a decade, Silah Gulf has empowered organizations across the region with the tools required to deliver quality customer experience. We have a clear understanding of the importance of digital transformation and an ongoing



**"For over a decade, Silah Gulf has empowered organizations across the region with the tools required to deliver quality customer experience. We have a clear understanding of the importance of digital transformation and an ongoing commitment to enhance the experience. Our participation in this event is one further step in taking this vision forward."**

— MR ABDULRAHMAN NABEEL BENSHAM, GENERAL MANAGER, SILAH GULF

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## '1,300 emergency patients handled everyday at SMC'

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

**T**he Accident and Emergency Department at Salmaniya Medical Complex receives 1,300 patients everyday, according to a study conducted by the Ministry of Health.

This comes amidst an ongoing project to upgrade the Accident and Emergency Department, where the capacity will be raised from the current 80 beds to 123 beds.

The study found that the patient satisfaction at the Accident and Emergency Department stood at 80 per cent, highlighting the great infrastructure, facilities and services offered.

As part of upgrading initiatives, five new rooms will be created at the department for receiving patients; eight rooms to deal with non-urgent cases and three rooms exclusively for offering initial treatments.

This is other than expanding the patient waiting area to accommodate over 120 patients. A new pharmacy will also be established as part of the ongoing initiative.

The study also found that doctors and other staff in the emergency department are paid a higher salary compared to others.

A special team was recently constituted at SMC to handle accident and emergency cases

Dr Ahmed Al Ansari, the Chief Executive Officer of Government Hospitals, said the initiative is part of the policy being implemented across public health institutions to upgrade the existing health system in



Ongoing project aims to improve infrastructure, facilities and services at the hospital

the Kingdom and is also aimed at improving the overall treatment experience of both citizens and residents.

The official said that the initiative is based on the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to implement the goals of sustainable development, in which the health of individuals is a top priority.

"The team aims to provide the highest levels of support and care in the Accident and Emergency Department in order to manage the medical needs of all patients and improve workflow, in addition to providing direct assistance to patients.

"Every patient has to access the best treatment facilities and teams of doctors and nurses will be offering the best of services in line with the Kingdom's health policies.

"Special teams will submit monthly reports related to the problems of the Accident and Emergency Department about its functioning and efficiently before authorities concerned."

SMC has a busy Accident and

Emergency department, which are intended to help people who have had trauma or acute surgical or medical problems.

The Emergency Medical Services was developed in 1985 within the Department of Accident and Emergency at Salmaniya Medical Center to provide pre-hospital emergency medical care services to the sick and injured patients by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), paramedics during transportation to the hospital.

According to the Health Ministry, accident and emergency services are expanding rapidly as the population and the need for such services grow.

The hospital provides two types of ambulance services differentiated by nature of calls at science of accidental injury or sudden illness and during transportation to the medical facilities.

Acute emergency cases handled at the hospital include road traffic accidents, cardiac cases, acute respiratory conditions, all trauma cases, burns cases, psychiatry cases and neonatal care.

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# Cooperation boost as Huawei donates IdeaHub tool to UTB

University of Technology Bahrain is committed to enhancing digital education and ICT talent development in the Kingdom

TDT | Manama

In line with the University of Technology Bahrain's (UTB) efforts to enhance its education and use technology to improve teaching and learning, UTB officials headed by its president, Dr Hasan Almulla, recently welcomed Mr Eric Li, Managing Director of Huawei Bahrain, along with other senior Huawei managers to the university.

During the meeting, Huawei donated an IdeaHub to the university and both parties discussed further collaborations on digital education and ICT talent development.

Huawei IdeaHub is a productivity tool for the smart office — bundles intelligent writing, High Definition (HD) video conferencing and wireless sharing, saying that this product is a Red



UTB President, Dr Hasan Almulla, welcomes Mr Eric Li, Managing Director of Huawei Bahrain

Dot Award 2020 winner, designed to suit any environment. The product effortlessly turns conference rooms, executive offices, and open areas into smart spaces.

Dr Almulla expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Huawei Bahrain for its generosity and continued initiatives for education.

"In its pursuit of quality, relevant and innovative education, UTB continues to collaborate with reputable technology companies like Huawei for further integration of up-to-date technologies into teaching and learning, following the University's objective of providing students and faculty members with the best quality training in cutting-edge technologies and practical experience," said Dr Almulla.

"UTB hopes for more future collaborations with Huawei and

may Huawei's initiatives inspire other companies to cooperate in our commitment to develop students' skills and enable them to play a key role in Bahrain's overall development, and effectively contribute to achieving the nation's objectives underlined in Bahrain Vision 2030," he added.

In response, Mr Eric Li, Managing Director of Huawei Bahrain, commended UTB for its drive to provide ICT training to students. The Huawei Certified ICT Associate (HCIA) program has been embedded with the university's Artificial Intelligence course in the BS Computer Science program as part of its collaboration with Huawei.

He also expressed that with

**"With the challenges of hybrid learning and the reopening of schools after a multitude of restrictions, Huawei Bahrain together with UTB, are working together to sustain a hybrid education system with key digital solutions to ensure continuity of education, while providing a quality educational experience to ensure continued talent development in Bahrain."**

- MR ERIC LI, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HUAWEI BAHRAIN

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## Jail terms upheld for two human traffickers

● Suspects brought victims to Bahrain by offering fake employment opportunities

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has upheld the five-year imprisonment issued against two defendants involved in trafficking two Asian women.

The duo includes one man and an Asian woman, both of whom played a part in bringing the victims to the Kingdom of Bahrain by offering fake employment opportunities.

The woman obtained employment visas for the victims as well as air tickets so they can come to Bahrain. The victims thought they would work as waitresses.

"When we arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain, they seized our passports and told us that we would become prostitutes. We refused, and we demanded to be sent home, but we were threatened. She told us that she would inform our families that we have become prostitutes," one of the victims told prosecutors.

According to court files, the second defendant's role was to deliver the pair to the customers. They managed to flee and contact the police with the help of one of the customers.

The defendants were charged with human trafficking and forcing up the duo into prostitution.

**"In its pursuit of quality, relevant and innovative education, UTB continues to collaborate with reputable technology companies like Huawei for further integration of up-to-date technologies into teaching and learning, following the University's objective of providing students and faculty members with the best quality training in cutting-edge technologies and practical experience."**

- DR HASAN ALMULLA, UTB PRESIDENT

## Tamkeen always committed to creating quality job opportunities for Bahrainis

TDT | Manama

The Chief Executive of the Kingdom of Bahrain's Labour Fund, Tamkeen, HE Husain Rajab, has reiterated the importance of the recently held Economic Recovery Forum.

He praised the commitment by all parties in implementing the initiatives of the Economic Recovery Plan, which positively impacts the national economy and creates high value sustainable jobs for local talents especially in high potential sectors, and achieve the desired results of financial sustainability.

Tamkeen's Chief Executive praised the success of the forum, which was held under the patronage of HE Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council and organised by the Shura Council in cooperation with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF).

He noted the Kingdom's achievements in enhancing His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's comprehensive development, supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as well as the continuous cooperation between all entities that comprise Team Bahrain.

Rajab added, "The excellent results achieved thus far as a



Rajab is upbeat on the Kingdom's progress

result of the economic recovery plan, particularly in the targeted sectors, reflect Bahrain's efforts and swift progress toward the successful implementation of the priorities outlined in the Economic Recovery Plan within the timeframe planned."

Tamkeen's Chief Executive participated in the first panel discussion, which focused on Human Capital Development, alongside His Excellency Jameel Mohamed Ali Humaidan, Minister of Labour and Social Development, and Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Banna Board Chairman of the International Federation of Training and Development Organizations (IFTDO).

The session was moderated by Dr Jihad Abdullah Al Fadhel, the Head of the Shura Council's

Services Committee.

He highlighted during the panel discussion that "Tamkeen" launched its new programs on 26th January 2022 as part of the 2021-2025 strategy, in which the 16 programs aim to develop the local Bahraini talent and incentivize high potential sectors.

He noted that since the launch of the programs the number of approved applications reached over 9,300, with funding support reaching over BD39 million.

Tamkeen also introduced seven human capital programs with the objective of ensuring Bahrainis are the employee of choice and remain competitive in the current and future markets.

## Bahrain to have more cycle tracks

TDT | Manama

Transportation Ministry Assistant Undersecretary of Land Transportation Nada Deen said that the Transportation Ministry has licensed two companies to operate bikes and scooters in selected walkways, corniches and in Salman City and East Hidd.

Approximately 670 scooters and more than 50 bicycles are currently available at the sites.

Assistant Undersecretary for Joint Municipal Services at Works Ministry Shawqiya Humaidan said Bahrain has more than 10 cycle tracks.

She pointed out that the construction of a special cycle track at King Faisal Corniche was completed on an experimental basis, with the aim of spreading it to all sites later.

The two ministries will continue to organise the process of managing, developing and operating cycle tracks through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two sides in early 2021.

The MoU stipulates that special tracks are to be provided for bicycles and scooters in all walkways and corniches.

## COURT STORY

## Doctor lawsuit to cancel job assignment rejected

TDT | Manama

The High Administrative Court rejected the lawsuit filed by a doctor who demanded to cancel the Ministry of Health's decision to assign him from government hospitals to medical centres.

The Court confirmed that assigning employees is one of the public administrative bodies' rights as per the authorities entrusted to them to arrange tasks for what's best for the workplace, and they can be denied when they found that they are abusing their authorities.

The plaintiff had filed a lawsuit requesting the annulment of the administrative decision issued to assign him to work in a medical centre, citing that he was serving at Salmaniya Medical Complex for 10 years, and he was surprised to learn that he was tasked to serve at a medical centre due to worker shortage.

He indicated that he addressed the Civil Service Bureau requesting that his job data be returned as a doctor affiliated with government hospitals and not the medical centers, and he suspended the implementation of the assignment decision until his request is met.

The Court stated in its ruling that governmental bod-

**The plaintiff had filed a lawsuit requesting the annulment of the administrative decision issued to assign him to work in a medical centre.**

ies are allowed to assign their forces to other workplaces in the event that they received the green light from the Civil Service Bureau and approval from the party in which the employee will serve. It pointed out that among the conditions to fill vacant positions by assigning employees from other public agencies is the absence of a capable employee to cover their tasks and that the assignee is capable of doing that.

"All the conditions are met in this case, and there is no wrongdoing as the decision was made for what's best to ensure high-quality public services. As a result, this case is rejected," the court said in its ruling.



# Beyon entities host 'ELEVATE'

A customer-focused technology forum



In pictures, scenes from the ELEVATE, a technology forum, held under the theme, Digital Transformation Accelerated, at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain

● A technology forum under the theme of Digital Transformation Accelerated

TD | Manama

Beyon Connect, Beyon Cyber and Beyon Solutions, subsidiaries of Batelco, hosted ELEVATE, a technology forum, under the theme, Digital Transformation Accelerated, at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain, yesterday.

Batelco Chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and iGA Chief Executive Mohammed Ali AlQaed were in attendance along with customers from Bahrain's Enterprise sector, including industry leaders, technology experts and a number of Beyon's international partners.

ELEVATE which was organised exclusively for enterprise customers who are on a digital transformation journey, brought together resources and expertise from Beyon entities and other local,

regional and international companies. More than 300 customers attended the event to benefit from the invaluable opportunity for discussion on the challenges presented by digitisation and the emerging solutions being developed to address the evolving ecosystem.

Batelco Chief Digital Growth Officer, Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa welcomed the guests and introduced Beyon's three business-focused brands, Beyon Cyber and Beyon Solutions and their respective CEOs Dr Shaikh Khalid Duaij Al Khalifa and Saad Al-Rashed, and Beyon Connect

COO Benjamin King, who each gave an overview about the companies and the role they play in supporting businesses to overcome challenges faced in today's digital environment.

Following the opening addresses, a keynote titled 'Transforming the Software and Data Marketplace', was given by Marta Whiteaker, AWS Marketplace EMEA Managing Director, and an open panel discussion addressing cyber security threats was led by the Beyon Cyber team and experts from Microsoft, AttackIQ, British Telecom, and Palo Alto. Attendees had the opportunity to

select from a wide variety of specialised breakout sessions on topics such as cloud solutions, digitalising critical systems, application security and digital communications, led by the Beyon entities' team members and supported by representatives from Palo Alto, AWS, OutSystems, Avaya, Thales Bahrain, CyberArk, Microfocus-Cyber, Oregon Systems and Benefit.

The Beyon teams also held separate sessions to outline their product offerings in detail and responded to questions from attendees. Batelco Chief Digital Growth Officer,

Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said, "We are delighted to host this exclusive technology forum, the first event of its kind for Bahrain's enterprise sector, to showcase our own business-centric brands, which we are very proud of. We believe that the synergy generated between the three Beyon brands will positively impact our customers across various industry verticals in taking the next steps towards digital transformation."

"ELEVATE provided the ideal platform to bring together private and public sector players, and give great networking opportunities, shared learning and building relationships. Additionally, we were very pleased to have signed a number of agreements with major entities from the local enterprise sector during the event." "We extend our appreciation to the many companies that supported the success of the event and look forward to further collaboration in the future" Shaikh Mohamed added.

## Imad Abdel Khaleq to head AWRIS

TD | Manama

The Bahrain Based Arab War Risks Insurance Syndicate (AWRIS) announced yesterday the appointment of Imad Abdel Khaleq as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Syndicate.

Ashraf Bseisu, Chairman of the Technical Committee, said: "Imad has vast expertise in the insurance and reinsurance industry regionally and internationally. He is no stranger to the Syndicate and has served in



Imad Abdel Khaleq

the past on its Technical Committee".

"The Committee is confident



Ashraf Bseisu

of his abilities to guide further and develop the Syndicate in the current challenging market

environment," said Bseisu.

Abdel Khaleq welcomed the appointment and thanked the Technical Committee. "I am privileged to have been selected to lead the Syndicate," said Abdel Khaleq.

Abdel Khaleq is a well-known seasoned professional with over 35 years of experience in the management of insurance and reinsurance firms, having held key executive positions at Munich Re and Jordan Insurance Company.

## World Bank slashes global growth forecast to 2.9%

Reuters | Washington

The World Bank on Tuesday slashed its global growth forecast by nearly a third to 2.9% for 2022, warning that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has compounded the damage from the COVID-19 pandemic, and many countries now faced recession.

In a news conference, World Bank President David Malpass said global growth could fall to 2.1% in 2022 and 1.5% in 2023, driving per capita growth close to zero, if downside risks ma-

terialised.

"The danger of stagflation is considerable today," Malpass wrote in the foreword to the report. "Subdued growth will likely persist throughout the decade because of weak investment in most of the world. With inflation now running at multi-decade highs in many countries and supply expected to grow slowly, there is a risk that inflation will remain higher for longer." Between 2021 and 2024, the pace of global growth is projected to slow by 2.7 percentage points.

## EU agrees single mobile charging port in blow to Apple

● Brussels has been pushing for a single mobile charging port for more than a decade

Reuters | Brussels

Apple (AAPL.O) will have to change the connector on iPhones sold in Europe by 2024 after EU countries and lawmakers agreed on Tuesday to a single mobile charging port for mobile phones, tablets and cameras in a world first.

Brussels has been pushing for a single mobile charging port for more than a decade, prompted by complaints from iPhone and Android users about having to



iPhone 12 phones are seen at the new Apple Store on Broadway in downtown Los Angeles, California

switch to different chargers for their devices. iPhones are charged from a Lightning cable, while Android-based devices use USB-C connectors.

Half the chargers sold with mobile phones in 2018 had a USB micro-B connector, while 29% had a USB-C connector and 21% a Lightning connector, according to a 2019 Commission study.

"By autumn 2024, USB Type-C will become the common charging port for all mobile phones, tablets and cameras in the EU," the European Parliament said in a statement.

EU industry chief Thierry Breton said the deal would save around 250 million euros (\$267 million) for consumers.

"It will also allow new technologies such as wireless charging to emerge and to mature without letting innovation become a source of market fragmentation and consumer inconvenience," he said.



The political intervention, which the European Commission said would make life easier for consumers and save them money, came after companies failed to reach a common solution.

Apple, which has warned the proposal would hurt innovation and create a mountain of elec-

tronic waste, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

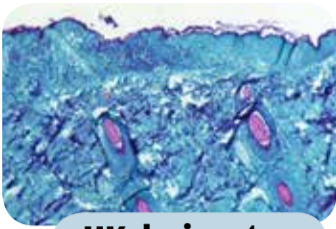
"We are proud that laptops, e-readers, earbuds, keyboards, computer mice, and portable navigation devices are also included," said lawmaker Alex Agius Saliba who steered the debate at the parliament.

Laptops will have to comply with the legislation within 40 months of it entering into force. The EU executive will have the power in future to harmonise wireless charging systems.

The fact the deal also covers e-readers, earbuds and other technologies will impact Samsung (005930.KS), Huawei (HWT.UL) and other device makers.

News in brief

◆ **The UK Health Security Agency said monkeypox would be designated as a notifiable infectious disease from Wednesday, meaning doctors in England will have to notify local authorities when they suspect a patient has the virus.** "Rapid diagnosis and reporting is the key to interrupting transmission and containing any further spread of Monkeypox," Wendi Shepherd, Monkeypox incident director at UKHSA, said in a statement. "This new legislation will support us and our health partners to swiftly identify, treat and control the disease."



UK designates monkeypox as a notifiable disease

◆ **Leaders of India's ruling party** yesterday instructed officials to be "extremely cautious" when talking about religion on public platforms. Two BJP leaders said the verbal instructions were given to over 30 senior officials and some federal ministers who are authorised to take part in debates hosted by Indian news channels often broadcast live to millions of viewers. "We don't want party officials to speak in a way that hurts the religious sentiments of any community...They must ensure the party's doctrine gets shared in a sophisticated manner," said a senior BJP leader and federal minister in New Delhi.

India's ruling party asks officials to exercise caution on religious issues



Russian superyacht to leave Fiji, court rules

◆ **A Fiji court has ruled** a Russian-owned superyacht be removed from the Pacific island nation by the United States because it was a waste of money for Fiji

to maintain the vessel amid legal wrangling over its seizure. The 106-metre (350-foot) Amadea arrived in Fiji on April 13, after an 18-day voyage from Mexico. It was seized by Fiji authorities after the country's High Court granted a US warrant last month that linked the yacht to sanctioned Russian oligarch Suleiman Kerimov.

◆ **President Vladimir Putin signed** a decree on Monday ordering the payment of 5 million roubles (\$81,500) to the families of members of Russia's National Guard who died in Ukraine and Syria. The decree amounted to official recognition that members of the guard, known as Rosgvardiya, are among the casualties of the war in Ukraine that Russia describes as a special military operation. The force, which answers directly to Putin, was created in 2016 to

Putin orders \$81,500 payment to families of National Guards who die in Ukraine



fight terrorism and organised crime, and has been used domestically to crack down on peaceful anti-government protests. Putin had

already announced compensation schemes for the families of dead and wounded soldiers. Russia has not updated its casualty figures since March 25, when it said 1,351 servicemen had been killed and 3,825 wounded.

Russian parliament votes to break with European Court of Human Rights



Russian lawmakers attend a session of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, in Moscow, Russia

Reuters | London

Russia's parliament yesterday passed a pair of bills ending the European Court of Human Rights' jurisdiction in the country, a rupture provoked by Russia's war in Ukraine.

The break removes a legal avenue that Russians, including jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, have used in the past to raise high-profile cases that had been rejected by national courts.

Parliament's lower house, the Duma, approved two bills - one removing the country from the court's jurisdiction and a second setting March 15 as the cut-off point, with rulings against Russia made after that date not to be implemented.

The bills were passed nearly unanimously, with only one deputy from the opposition Communist Party voting against. They must now be signed by President Vladimir Putin before becoming law.

Ukraine will fight stalemate 'not an option'

Fierce street fighting for key eastern industrial city

Ukraine troops outnumbered, will not surrender-Zelenskiy

Eastern front under constant shelling

Russian-held ports ready to resume grain exports - Moscow

Reuters | Kyiv/Druzhkivka, Ukraine



Ukrainian service members fire a shell from a M777 Howitzer near a frontline, as Russia advances in the Donetsk Region, Ukraine

Ukraine will fight to recover all its territory occupied by Russian forces, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Tuesday, as his troops battled street-to-street in Sievierodonetsk in one of the bloodiest land battles of the war.

"We have already lost too many people to simply cede our territory," he said by video link at an event hosted by Britain's Financial Times newspaper.

Stalemate was "not an option", he said. "We have to achieve a full deoccupation of our entire territory." Zelenskiy's remarks were a forceful response to suggestions

that Ukraine must cede territory to Russia to end the war, now in its fourth month.

French President Emmanuel Macron said in a recent interview that it was important not to "humiliate" Moscow, comments interpreted in Ukraine as implying it must accept some Russian

demands.

Asked about Macron's comments, Zelenskiy said: "We are not going to humiliate anyone, we are going to respond in kind."

As he spoke, Ukrainian troops in the ruins of Sievierodonetsk were trying to hold onto gains Kyiv had claimed to have made

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	86,637,487	1,033,830	536,136,938
2 India	43,185,049	524,708	
3 Brazil	31,195,118	667,106	Deaths
4 France	29,647,790	148,464	
5 Germany	26,593,732	139,769	6,321,953
6 UK	22,339,004	178,866	
7 Russia	18,358,459	379,657	Recovered:
8 S. Korea	18,174,880	24,299	
9 Italy	17,543,136	167,089	507,237,052
10 Turkey	15,072,747	98,965	
11 Spain	12,403,245	106,797	New cases
12 Vietnam	10,727,005	43,081	
13 Argentina	9,276,618	128,973	+303,598
14 Japan	8,957,135	30,773	
			New deaths

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	773,221	+952	9,160	+2	756,255	7,806
UAE	912,086	+572	2,305		895,099	14,682
Kuwait	634,067		2,555		630,463	1,049
Oman	389,473		4,260		384,669	544
Qatar	370,551	+316	677		367,921	1,953

Colombia discovers two historical shipwrecks in Caribbean



Artifacts found in the wreckage of Spanish galleon San Jose, Cartagena, Colombia

◆ **The San Jose galleon, thought by historians to be carrying treasure that would be worth billions of dollars**

Reuters | Bogota

Colombian naval officials conducting underwater monitoring of the long-sunken San Jose galleon have discovered two other historical shipwrecks nearby, President Ivan Duque said on Monday.

The San Jose galleon, thought by historians to be carrying treasure that would be worth billions of dollars, sank in 1708

near Colombia's Caribbean port of Cartagena.

Its potential recovery has been the subject of decades of litigation.

A remotely operated vehicle reached 900 meters depth, Duque and naval officials said in a video statement, allowing new videos of the wreckage.

The vehicle also discovered two other nearby wrecks - a colonial boat and a schooner thought to be from around the same period as Colombia's war for independence from Spain, some 200 years ago.

"We now have two other discoveries in the same area, that show other options for archaeological exploration," navy commander Admiral Gabriel

Perez said. "So the work is just beginning."

The images offer the best yet view of the treasure that was aboard the San Jose - including gold ingots and coins, cannons made in Seville in 1655 and an intact Chinese dinner service.

Archaeologists from the navy and government are working to determine the origin of the plates based on inscriptions, the officials said.

"The idea is to recover it and to have sustainable financing mechanisms for future extractions," President Ivan Duque said. "In this way we protect the treasure, the patrimony of the San Jose galleon."

Elaborate sting drug gang, to

Reuters | Rome

Italian police have seized 4.3 tonnes of cocaine with a street value of 240 million euros (\$255.86 million), carrying out an elaborate sting against the Colombian Clan del Golfo drugs gang, investigators said yesterday.

Magistrates said it was one of the largest such seizures in Europe and followed daring subterfuge by undercover agents, with Colombian authorities sequestering the cocaine before it left for Europe, without the dealers being aware their operation had been busted.

The drugs were then flown to Italy where undercover agents passed it on to awaiting Italian traffickers, who were subsequently arrested in possession of the banned narcotics.

"The purchasing organisations were different and did not know that the cocaine had already been seized, the producer in Colombia had already been paid and did not know about the seizure," Colonel Leonardo Erre of the Trieste Guardia di Finanza police told a press conference on Tuesday.

"And so thanks to front companies and undercover agents, we were able to run the operation, delivery after delivery for over a year until the end of May," he added.

Italian investigators said they



# for all territory, option': Zelenskiy



Luhansk province on behalf of separatist proxies.

The situation inside the city could not be independently verified, but Ukrainian officials appear to have backed away from claims to have regained control of as much as half of it. After saying for days that Ukrainian forces had recaptured substantial territory, Luhansk regional governor Serhiy Gaidai said on Monday the situation had again deteriorated.

Other Ukrainian officials spoke of heavy battles underway. Moscow has said its own troops have been advancing.

**'HOLDING THE LINE'**

The city's mayor, Oleksandr Stryuk, told Ukrainian television on Tuesday Ukrainian forces were doing all they could to hold their ground: "Our armed forces have strengthened their positions and are holding the line."

Another local official, Roman Vlasenko, said Ukrainian forces were in control of the city's industrial zone and the Azot chemical plant. Reuters could not independently verify his statement.

Ukrainian officials had said their forces staged the surprise counter-attack last week, driving the Russians from a swath of the city centre.

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the Russian-occupied Ukrainian ports of Berdyansk and Mariupol were



**Russia on Tuesday placed Dmitry Glukhovsky, a popular science fiction writer, on its wanted list after accusing him of spreading false information about its military intervention in Ukraine. In a post on the Telegram messaging app, Glukhovsky wrote that he stood accused of discrediting Russia's armed forces in an Instagram post.**

ready to resume grain exports. Ukraine says any such shipments from territory seized by Moscow would amount to illegal looting.

Zelenskiy said Kyiv was gradually receiving "specific anti-ship systems", the best way to break a Russian blockade of Ukrainian ports.

The Kremlin said that for exports to resume from Ukrainian-held ports, Kyiv must first clear them of mines. Russia could then inspect and escort ships to international waters, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

## ing targets Colombian tonnes of cocaine seized



Seized cocaine wrapped in clingfilm is pictured as part of an international investigation

had issued arrest warrants for 38 people in Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Colombia.

The investigation lasted more than a year and involved both the Colombian judiciary and U.S. Homeland Security. Besides the cocaine, police also confiscated 1.85 million euros (\$1.97 million) in cash.

Colombian authorities said last November they were focused on breaking up the Clan del Golfo gang, whose network extends to 28 countries around the world, after the capture of the group's leader, Dairo Antonio Usuga, alias "Otoniel", in October.

important group among Colombian narcotics gangs," Italian investigators from the northeastern city of Trieste said of the seizure.

They said their work had uncovered a "dense network" of ties between South American cocaine producers and European buyers, who answered to organised crime groups operating across Italy, including in Calabria, home of the 'Ndrangheta mafia.

They said police had followed 19 consecutive deliveries of drugs from May last year, enabling them to identify "important middlemen" in the global drug trafficking system and a "substantial number" of carriers.

## US wins authority to seize Russian oligarch's planes

Reuters | New York

A US court yesterday issued warrants for the seizure of two luxury planes owned by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich under US measures imposed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, court records showed.

But the US government's likelihood of gaining control of the aircraft worth nearly \$400 million was uncertain.

A Department of Justice official said the \$350 million Boeing 787 Dreamliner and \$60 million Gulfstream G650 ER were not in US custody, and the official declined to say if the US government knows their locations.

A federal judge in Manhattan issued the warrants on the grounds that recent flights violated US export controls imposed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. The US Department of Commerce filed related administrative charges against Abramovich.

But the official said the warrants are likely to dissuade companies from helping to move the aircraft.

## US bars Cuba, Venezuela from Americas summit; Mexican leader sits out

Reuters | Washington/Mexico City

The White House on Monday excluded Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua from the US-hosted Summit of the Americas this week, prompting Mexico's president to make good on a threat to skip the event because all countries in the Western Hemisphere were not invited.

The boycott by Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and some other leaders could diminish the relevance of the summit in Los Angeles, where the United States aims to address regional migration and economic challenges. President Joe Biden, a Democrat, hopes to repair Latin America relations damaged under his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump, reassert U.S. influence and counter China's inroads.

The decision to cut out Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua followed weeks of intense deliberations and was due to concerns about human rights and a lack of democracy in the three nations, a senior US official said.

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said the Biden administration "understands" Mexico's position, but



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro shakes hands with his Cuban counterpart Miguel Diaz-Canel during the ALBA group meeting in Havana, Cuba

"one of the key elements of this summit is democratic governance, and these countries are not exemplars, to put it mildly."

Biden aides have been mindful of pressure from Republicans and some fellow Democrats against appearing soft on America's three main leftist antagonists in Latin America. Miami's large Cuban-American community, which favoured Trump's harsh policies toward Cuba and Venezuela, is seen as an important voting bloc in Florida in the November elections that will decide control of the US Congress, which is now in the hands of the Democrats.

## Harry and Meghan release Lilibet's first birthday photo



Lilibet Diana Mountbatten-Windsor, daughter of Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, reacts in Windsor, Britain

Reuters

A new photo released on Monday by Prince Harry and Meghan Markle showed their daughter Lilibet celebrating her first birthday in a backyard picnic over the weekend.

Wearing a light blue frock and white bow on her head, the red-haired toddler sat on the grass in a candid snapshot taken by close family friend taken by close family friend Misan Harriman on Saturday, a spokesperson said.

A highlight of the intimate gathering at Frogmore Cottage in Windsor was a cake by American baker Claire Ptak, who created the wedding cake for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in 2018.

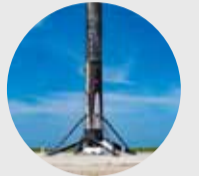
Lilibet Diana Mountbatten-Windsor was born in California and was named in honor of Queen Elizabeth II, whose family nickname has been Lilibet since she was a child.

The family, who live in Montecito, California, were in Britain last week for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

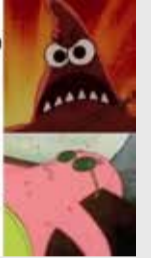


TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



YouTube when someone swears



Youtube when there are obvious scam ads all over their site

@elonmusk

02



In all #NextGenerationEU plans, investments are linked to reforms. In the case of Poland, linked to clear commitments on the independence of the judiciary. These commitments, translated into milestones, must be fulfilled before any payment can be made.

@vonderleyen

03



Had a phone conversation with @AndrzejDuda about defense cooperation between Ukraine and Poland. I am grateful for his efforts to consolidate international support for Ukraine's EU candidate status.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



Congratulations to Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary, who has been elected President of the 77th #UNGA session. My deep appreciation to @abdulla\_shahid for his exceptional leadership as @UN\_PGA during this 76th session.

@antoniogeterres

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



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# CELEBS

## Will Poulter 'never planned' to star in 'Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 3'

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actor Will Poulter has opened up about joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In a new interview, the 'We're the Millers' actor said that he never expected to be cast in 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3'.

The 29-year-old actor will star alongside the likes of Zoe Saldana and Chris Pratt in the upcoming superhero movie as villain Adam Warlock but said he "never planned" to be part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

He said: "I've gotta say, I never banked on being involved, in any capacity, really, but I'm certainly very grateful," reports aceshowbiz.com. "I'm especially grateful that my introduction has taken place in the world of the Guardians, specifically," Will continued. "It's a franchise that I'm a particularly big fan of, and I couldn't ask for a nicer, more fun introduction, really, into the Marvel universe."

"The Score" star was then asked if he had "considered" the possibility that he may have to sign up to appear as the character in several other MCU movies and TV shows, to which he acknowledged that he had to but has no idea what is in store for the character follow-

**It's a franchise that I'm a particularly big fan of, and I couldn't ask for a nicer, more fun introduction, really, into the Marvel universe**

WILL POULTER

ing his upcoming debut in 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3'.

He told Collider: "Yeah, you do

have to entertain that possibility (of signing up for more). The truth is, I don't actually know what the future holds for me, regarding the character. Certainly, it comes with a certain level of commitment that requires con-

sideration, but obviously, I'm very grateful to have been given the role!

Will Poulter



## Jennifer Lopez thanked everyone who 'lied' to her in MTV awards speech

Fox | Los Angeles

Jennifer Lopez' thank-you list for her MTV award speech looked a little different as she thanked those who "lied" to her in the past as well as those who told her she wouldn't make it.

Lopez, 52, was honored with the generation award during Sunday night's MTV Movie & TV Awards. The award goes to "beloved actors whose diverse contributions to both film and television have turned them into household names," according to MTV.

"I look at those movies and I see all the wonderful people that I've been blessed to know and to work with," Lopez said during her speech. "You're only as good as the people that you work with."

"And if you're lucky, they make you better. And I

have been very lucky in that regard. As an actor, I'm not any of the women that I've played, but there's a part of what is deeply true to me in each one of those characters."

The "Hustlers" star went about her thank-yous list differently at this awards show, specifically calling out people who "lied" to her and those who told her she couldn't be an actress.

"And since you cannot create truth unless you've really lived it, I have a different kind of list of

thank-yous tonight," the "Let's Get Loud" singer said. "I want to thank all the people who gave me this life. I want to thank the people who gave me joy. And the ones who broke my heart. The ones who were true and the ones who lied to me. I want to thank true love. And I want to thank the way that I lied to myself, because that's how I

knew that I had to grow."

"I want to thank disappointment and failure for teaching me to be strong and my children for teaching me to love," she wrote. "I want to thank all the people who told me to my face or when I wasn't in the room that I couldn't do this. I really don't think I could have done it without you! And I know I couldn't have done it without the fans."

Jennifer Lopez



**I want to thank the people who gave me joy. And the ones who broke my heart. The ones who were true and the ones who lied to me**

JENNIFER LOPEZ

## Chris Rock 'not concerned' with Jada Pinkett Smith's reconciliation plea

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Chris Rock is ignoring Jada Pinkett Smith's plea for him to reconcile with Will Smith.

The 'Top 5' star was slapped by the 'King Richard' actor on stage at the 2022 Oscars after he made a joke about the 'Red Table Talk' host's shaved head, and though the 'Girls Trip' actress recently made a public call for them to put their differences behind them, Chris is reportedly "not concerned" about the drama with the couple at the moment and is focused on his own career.

A source told 'Entertainment Tonight' that Chris is the "most genuine person ever" and he is "not caught up in the Hollywood scene".

They added: "He's not con-

cerned with the Smiths at the moment. He's touring and he's preparing for a comedy special."

Last week, Jada admitted she hoped Will and Chris would "talk out" the situation and ultimately "reconcile".

During the latest episode of 'Red Table Talk', she said: "Now, about Oscar night, my deepest hope is that these two intelligent, capable men have an opportunity to heal, talk this out, and reconcile.

Chris Rock

"The state of the world today, we need them both, and we all actually need one another more than ever.

"Until then, Will and I are continuing to do what we have done for the last 28 years, and that's keep figuring out this thing called life together."

Jada suffers from alopecia - a condition that causes hair loss - and the actress revealed that "thousands" of people have contacted her since the Oscars ceremony, when Chris made a joke about her appearance.



## Vanessa Hudgens 'so emotional' as pal Sarah Hyland finally gets bridal shower

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Vanessa Hudgens got "so emotional" as her friend Sarah Hyland finally got to celebrate her bridal shower over the weekend.

The 'High School Musical' star opened up about her longtime pal's party and admitted it's been a long wait as the wedding was delayed twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic - insisting the actress "looked so beautiful".

Vanessa told Eonline.com: "Oh my gosh, I am like, so emotional about it.

"I've known her for so long and we've been waiting for this wedding for so long, and then COVID happened and couldn't do it, but it's just so exciting. She looked so beautiful. I melt, I just melt."

The actress also shared pictures from the shower on social media and captioned one group shot "My coven for life".

Another picture showed Sarah wearing a white dress and sunglasses and Vanessa captioned it: "My girl Sarah Hyland is getting married and what a vision she is."

It was a busy weekend for Vanessa as she was also hosting the 2022 MTV Movie and TV Awards in Santa Monica, California on Sunday.

'Modern Family' star Sarah has been dating 'The Bachelorette' star Wells Adams since 2017. They got engaged in July 2019, but had to postpone the wedding twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wells recently joked that if they have to cancel their big day again, they will just elope and tie the knot in Las Vegas.

Vanessa Hudgens



English Daily newspaper

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**SUDOKU**

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Yesterday's solution

1	6	8	7	4	5	9	3	2
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3	7	4	2	9	1	8	5	6
4	9	6	1	2	3	5	8	7
7	5	3	4	6	8	1	2	9
8	1	2	9	5	7	4	6	3
9	3	7	5	1	2	6	4	8
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**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- "Peter Pan" pirate; 5- Swab; 8- Sitarist Shankar; 12- Klutz's cry; 13- Horse locks; 15- Biblical garden; 16- Settled down; 17- Grenoble's river; 18- Run smoothly; 19- Rebuild; 22- Cleaning agent; 23- Acceptable score for a professional golfer; 24- 27th president of the U.S.; 26- Simpler; 29- Feathered fisher; 31- Georgia, once; Abbr.; 32- Express mirth; 34- Sensitive spots; 36- Give it \_; 38- At the bottom of the barrel; 40- Polite address; 41- Flowering tree of Hawaii; 43- Ages; 45- Capote, to friends; 46- Emblem; 48- Make less sensitive; 50- Lacking slack; 51- Just the Way You \_; 52- Sound of disgust; 54- Touchy; 61- Driver's license datum; 63- Elicit; 64- Like Cheerios; 65- Labor; 66- Less common; 67- Fork feature; 68- Lemony Snicket's evil count; 69- Slangy negative; 70- Important times;

Down

1- Go sky-high; 2- Yard tunneler; 3- Long poem, such as those attributed to Homer; 4- Bars legally; 5- Spar; 6- Doozy; 7- Andean country; 8- Agent; 9- Make impure; 10- Extremely; 11- Memo opener; 13- Engage in textual misprision; 14- Shakers et al.; 20- Arrest; 21- Knocks lightly; 25- Whence; 26- Adial's running mate; 27- Irregular heartbeat; 28- Bucolic; 29- 1977 George Burns film; 30- Long; 31- Gal of song; 33- I didn't know that!; 35- Dallas sch.; 37- Arizona city on the Colorado River; 39- Athletic shoe; 42- Touch on; 44- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 47- None of the above; 49- Signify; 52- A law \_ itself; 53- London jail; 55- Lend of tennis; 56- Director Ephron; 57- Slant; 58- Neet rival; 59- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano; 60- Turns red, say; 62- Pixie;

Yesterday's solution

T	M	E	G	A	S	T	R	A	P	S	T	A
O	M	E	G	A	T	A	T	A	R	H	A	I
E	S	S	A	I	A	R	E	S	O	D	R	R
S	T	R	I	N	G	O	T	S	A	R	S	
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P	A	A	N	G	A	A	R	R	A	I		
A	M	I	S	S	P	L	A	I	N	S	M	A
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# France held by Croatia

Kramaric penalty rescues Croatia against France in Nations League

● **Penalty cancels out Rabiot opener as both teams stay winless**

AFP | Paris

Andrej Kramaric scored a late penalty as Croatia salvaged a 1-1 draw at home to world champions France on Monday that left both teams still chasing a first win in the Nations League.

Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot fired France ahead on 52 minutes in Split as coach Didier Deschamps selected an inexperienced side without star forwards Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema.

Croatia equalised seven minutes from time when Andrej Kramaric won and converted a spot-kick.

"We did some good things taking into account all the changes. We were ahead and we could have got the second goal. It's a shame we gave them the equaliser with the penalty," Deschamps told M6.

"Of course the result doesn't fully satisfy me. But there's tiredness to factor in and with all the other matches I'm forced to make changes. It's an ideal



Croatia's Andrej Kramaric, left, scores his side's opening goal from penalty

preparation for the World Cup."

France and Croatia have just one point apiece in League A, Group 1. France were beaten 2-1 by Denmark in their opening game at home last week, while Croatia crashed to a 3-0 loss to Austria.

Monday's game between Austria and Denmark in Vienna was delayed by an hour and a half because of a power outage.

On a night Luka Modric earned his 150th cap for Croatia, Deschamps handed a number of fringe players the chance to make an impression before the World Cup starts in Qatar in November.

But it was experienced defender Presnel Kimpembe who

raced back to block as Ante Budimir hesitated to shoot with team-mate Lovro Majer also in position for a tap-in.

Christopher Nkunku, coming off a brilliant season with RB Leipzig, dinked the ball home over Dominik Livakovic but was adjudged offside on the half-hour.

Moussa Diaby was then denied by Livakovic as he burst towards goal down the right, with Aurelien Tchouameni's long-range drive punched away by the Croatia goalkeeper.

Rabiot broke the deadlock when he was played in by a superb ball from Wissam Ben Yedder, sweeping clinically inside the near post for only his second

international goal.

Substitute Antoine Griezmann saw a shot repelled by Livakovic shortly before Croatia were awarded a penalty following a VAR review after it was initially overruled for offside.

Maignan saved at the feet of Luka Sucic, but Jonathan Clauss caught Kramaric from behind, the Hoffenheim striker calmly rolling home from the spot after a lengthy wait to review the incident.

Nikola Vlasic threatened to snatch a first win for Croatia over France in nine attempts, but Maignan got down sharply to turn behind.

Griezmann was then unable to take advantage of a miskick by Josip Juranovic in the closing moments as he dragged wide.

”

**Of course the result doesn't fully satisfy me. But there's tiredness to factor in and with all the other matches I'm forced to make changes. It's an ideal preparation for the World Cup**

FRANCE COACH DIDIER DESCHAMPS

## Lewandowski looking for 'more emotions' than Bayern can offer

AFP | Berlin

Bayern Munich star Robert Lewandowski revealed yesterday he wants to call time on his career with the Bundesliga giants because of his desire for "more emotions in life".

The Polish forward announced last week that his time with Bayern "had come to an end" without specifying his future plans.

Asked Monday during a podcast on Polish website Onet.pl if his departure was dictated by a desire for more money or emotions in life, the 33-year-old answered without hesitation it was for him "emotions in life".

"Firstly, something went out inside me and it's something you can't recover, can't make up for," he explained.

Barcelona are reported to have made an offer of 32 million euros (\$34 million) for Lewandowski, FIFA men's best player for 2020 and 2021, whose contract with Bayern expires in June 2023.

The only way the Bavarians can make a financial profit from Lewandowski's departure would be to sell him this summer.

"With what I acquired thanks to Bayern -- and (reciprocally) Bayern thanks to me -- it would be better to find a solution acceptable to both parties," he said.

After eight seasons together,



Bayern's Robert Lewandowski waves with the trophy after he was awarded as top scorer of the German Bundesliga



**Lewandowski notably won the 2020 Champions League and eight German league titles with Bayern Munich since 2014**

"loyalty and respect are more important than business, I think," continued the striker, insisting he would leave behind 'friends' rather than 'colleagues'.

## Raducanu injured at Nottingham in blow to Wimbledon preparations



Britain's Emma Raducanu receives medical attention during her first round match against Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic

AFP | Nottingham

Emma Raducanu's Wimbledon preparations were thrown into turmoil after the US Open champion was forced to retire from her Nottingham Open first round match yesterday.

Raducanu needed a medical timeout in the early stages of her clash with Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic after suffering an injury.

The 19-year-old Briton received treatment on her left side and took painkillers in an attempt to carry on, but had to pull out after just 33 minutes while trailing 4-3 in the first set.

It was the third time Raducanu had withdrawn from a tournament due to injury since she burst onto the tennis scene with her stunning US Open triumph in September last year.

The world number 11 also bowed out of matches in Guadalajara in February and Rome in May with injuries.

The latest retirement will raise further questions about



**Raducanu, who made her WTA debut at Nottingham 12 months ago, has not won more than two matches at a tournament since her remarkable journey from the qualifying rounds to the title at the US Open**

Raducanu's fitness as she continues to struggle with the physical demands of life on the WTA Tour.

She is due to play in Birmingham next week, but doubts about her participation at Wimbledon are certain to increase ahead of the start of the grass-court Grand Slam on June 27.

## I would probably not have played any other Grand Slam with my injury, says Nadal after French win

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal would probably not have played any Grand Slam other than the French Open with the chronic foot injury that needed numbing injections in Paris, the 14-time Roland Garros champion said on Monday.

The Spaniard's record-extending triumph on the Paris clay earned him an all-time best 22nd men's singles major with a 6-3 6-3 6-0 crushing of Norway's Casper Ruud and put him two titles clear of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

It was the "most unexpected" of his French Open titles, Nadal told Reuters on Monday after limping into the scintillating salon of a central Paris hotel.

Asked if he would have played any other Grand Slam with the injury that forced him to have injections to numb his foot, Nadal said: "Probably not".

"We have been through a lot of emotions. Probably the most unexpected, surprising (title) and all the things I had to do to play the event makes the title one of the most special," the 36-year-old said.

Nadal said that because of the injury, which also meant he arrived in Paris with no title on the European clay, he was not confident he would be able to fight for the Musketeers' Cup.

"Of course when you arrive with a poor preparation like I did, every day is a challenge; you need to increase your level of tennis every single day," he explained.

Nadal has traditionally started his French Open campaigns with at least one claycourt title under his belt but this year



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates with the trophy

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**I always had the confidence that I would be able to play because I played with no feeling in the foot, with a foot asleep because of the anaesthetic injections into the nerve. But the problem is not just the match, it's also the practice. I never thought about not playing here but I thought it would be very difficult to be competitive**

RAFAEL NADAL

got to the French capital empty-handed.

"(Winning those titles) gives you an extra security if you want to reach at least the level you need to fight for the final rounds," the Mallorcan said.

"This time before the tour-

namment started I didn't know if I would be able to fight for the second week so I just took it one (round) at a time."

### Defeat of Djokovic

While there was no doubt in his mind that he would take part in the claycourt major, whether he would be capable of gunning for the title was another matter, especially with world number one Novak Djokovic awaiting in the quarter-finals.

"I always had the confidence that I would be able to play because I played with no feeling in the foot, with a foot asleep because of the anaesthetic injections into the nerve," he said.

"But the problem is not just the match, it's also the practice. I never thought about not playing here but I thought it would be very difficult to be competitive."

While he appeared below his best physically at times, Nadal still managed to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime in five sets in the last 16 before taking down



**Nadal has traditionally started his French Open campaigns with at least one claycourt title under his belt but this year got to the French capital empty-handed**

Djokovic in a four-set thriller.

He had already been on court for more than three hours, sweating like never before, when Alexander Zverev sustained a freak ankle injury that ended their semi-final contest with the Spaniard leading 7-6 6-6.

While he still does not know what his schedule will look like in the coming weeks, Nadal agreed to cast his mind forward to two years from now, when Roland Garros will host the Olympics after the French Open.

Nadal has won both titles but should he have to choose between the two tournaments in 2024, the French Open would have his preference.

"Roland Garros is part of the history of my career, it's the most important place in my career and of course the Olympics is the most important event in the world of sports," he said.

"So it's difficult to choose but possibly Roland Garros (the French Open) is a little more special for me."

# Bahrain 'must win first game'

Head coach Helio Sousa stresses importance of making a triumphant start to their Group E qualifying campaign for the AFC Asian Cup 2023

● **Sousa in pre-match Press conference: We will face for sure a very competitive game**

● **Nationals to open qualifiers against Bangladesh in a match kicking off at 12.15pm, Bahrain time**

TDI | Manama

Head coach Helio Sousa stressed yesterday the importance of Bahrain winning their opening game today in their Group E qualifying campaign for the AFC Asian Cup 2023.

The nationals are scheduled to face Bangladesh in the first of three matches to be played in Kuala Lumpur.

They are also set to face off with group hosts Malaysia and Turkmenistan in the coming week, but Sousa underlined that his team is only looking ahead to locking horns with their upcoming opponents.

"We are mostly focused now on this first game," Sousa said yesterday during his pre-match Press conference.

"If we don't win this first game, we will have many problems for the next ones. We have to think on this first one. The others, we will deal with them as they come."

"After this game will be another game to manage. But before that, all plans can go down the drain if we don't get what we want in this first game."



Bahrain players participate in drills during training in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

Bahrain's match with Bangladesh is scheduled for a 12.15pm kick-off, Bahrain time, and it will be played at Bukit Jalil National Stadium in the Malaysian capital.

Sousa said that his side is not underestimating their opponents, despite being the heavy favourites, as the Bahrainis are ranked 89th in the world while Bangladesh are 188th.

"Some teams, the value of them, it doesn't have anything to do with their ranking at this moment," said the Portuguese tactician.

"The teams are building up and their quality is not reflected in their ranking. We will face for sure a very competitive

game tomorrow."

Sousa noted that "anything can happen" in this qualifying competition, which is being played in a single round-robin between the four teams in their group.

It was previously set to feature home-and-away matches, but due to the current circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic, the teams will face each other just once, with all matches being played at a centralised venue.

"This was to be played home-and-away, and that kind of competition gives more conditions for the strongest team in the end to arrive first in the group," he explained.



Bahrain head coach Helio Sousa speaks yesterday during his pre-match Press conference

"But in a closed competition like this one—three games, seven days—it is much more open. Anything can happen."

"Almost all the teams will depart with the same expectations, and to win the first game is very important."

"We are expecting a very competitive game. Both teams will fight to win, and we must fight against that and try to conquer our opponents."

## Encounter

Following today's encounter, the Bahrainis play Malaysia on Saturday at 4pm, Bahrain time, before completing their qualifying campaign against Turkmenistan on Tuesday next week, again at 12.15pm, Bahrain time.

The 24-player Bahrain squad in Kuala Lumpur features goalkeepers Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Sayed Shubbar Ala-

**“We are mostly focused now on this first game. If we don't win this first game, we will have many problems for the next ones. We have to think on this first one. The others, we will deal with them as they come”**

HELIO SOUSA

wi and Ammar Mohammed; defenders Rashed Alhooti, Ahmed Abdulla, Waleed Al Hayyam, Ameen Denade, Ahmed Bughammar, Hamad Shamsan, Abbas Ayyad and Sayed Redha Isa; midfielders Ali Haram, Jassim Al Shaikh, Mahdi Abdullatif, Ammar Jaffar, Komail Alaswad, Abdulwahab Almalood, Ali Madan, Mohammed Jassim Marhoun, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Mahdi Humaidan and Saeed; and strikers Hashim Sayed Isa and Abdulla Yusuf.

There are 24 teams in all in this final round of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup 2023. They have been divided into six groups, each of which is being played at a centralised venue.

All six group winners plus the five best runners-up will earn berths in the Asian Cup, which will be held next year at a yet-to-be-determine venue following the recent withdrawal of China as hosts.

Bahrain are looking to secure their seventh appearance in the tournament proper.

## Bahrain draw with Oman in West Asian futsal

● **Ammar Ali, Jassam Anan on target for Bahrainis in second successive draw**

● **Nationals must win last group assignment against UAE to have semis chance**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain played to a 2-2 stalemate with Oman last night in their Group B match of the fourth West Asian Football Federation (WAFF) Men's Futsal Championship, which is currently taking place in Kuwait.

The Bahrainis twice took the lead in the contest with goals from Ammar Ali and Jassam Anan in the opening period, but the Omanis were able to equalise both times.

The result gave Bahrain their second successive draw in the tournament's preliminary round. They were previously held by Lebanon 1-1 in their first fixture.

The Lebanese beat the UAE 2-1 in the yesterday's other Group B game. Oman and



Bahrain's Salman Muhammad, left, battles for possession with Oman's Muatasim Alshamsi during their match last night

early in the first half when Ali fired home from just outside the penalty area. His left-footed strike flew past Oman goalkeeper Hisham Alwahaibi and into the right of the net.

The Omanis, however, equalised three minutes later after the Bahrainis gave away possession easily.

The nationals went ahead once again through Anan, who scored on a quick counter-attack with seven minutes to play in the first period. He hit a low shot off a fine through-pass from Saleh Sanjar.

But four minutes prior to half-time, the Omanis were level once again, and they sent the match into the break deadlocked.

The game remained tied throughout the final period. Bahrain missed a golden opportunity to steal the win when, with two minutes to go before the final whistle, Sanjar shot wide of the target on a free-kick.

### Group B standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Oman	2	1	1	0	2	4
Lebanon	2	1	1	0	1	4
Bahrain	2	0	2	0	0	2
UAE	2	0	0	2	-3	0

Lebanon now top the group table with four points apiece, followed by Bahrain with two points and the UAE with none.

The Bahrainis face off with the Emiratis in their final group assignment tomorrow, and must win to have any chance of going through to the semi-finals.

Bahrain opened the scoring

## Najma storm into Gulf clubs handball semis

● **Bahrain champions defeat Al Salmiya of Kuwait 34-30 to finish preliminaries as Group B winners**

● **Najma next set to take on runners-up in Group A in semi-finals, scheduled for tomorrow**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain champions Al Najma defeated Al Salmiya of Kuwait 34-30 last night to barge into the semi-finals as Group B winners in the 38th Gulf Clubs Men's Handball Championship, being played in Kuwait.

It was the second successive victory for Najma in as many games in the competition's preliminary round. They had previously outclassed Mudhar of Saudi Arabia 33-28 in their opener.

The Bahrainis built on their momentum in their impressive win over the Kuwaitis, in which they led 15-13 at the end of the first half.

Following the contest, Mohammed Habib Naser was named the Best Player of the Game by officials, and he received a commemorative award in a ceremony.

Najma now move on to the



Al Najma's Mohammed Habib Naser, centre, tries to break the Al Salmiya defence

### Group B standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Al Najma (BRN)	2	2	0	0	9	4
Mudhar (Saudi Arabia)	2	1	0	1	0	2
Al Salmiya (Kuwait)	2	0	0	2	-9	0

final four, where they will face the runners-up of Group A, which features Al Kuwait SC of Kuwait, Al Ahly of Qatar, Al Jazeera of the UAE and Muscat of Oman.

The top spot is being contested between Kuwait and Ahly.

The semi-finals are scheduled to be held tomorrow. Mudhar have also advanced from Group B along with Najma.

Also playing key roles for Najma last night were long-time Bahrain national team captain Hussain Al Sayyad, the French international pairing of brothers Olivier Nyokas and Alix Kevynn Nyokas, goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain, Hassan Shehab, Bilal Basham, Mahdi Saad, Komail Mahfoodh and Mohammed Mirza, to name a few.