

Iran may accept EU proposal to revive nuclear deal if demands met. IRNA reports



Reuters | Dubai

European Union pro- A_{posal} to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal "can be acceptable if it provides assurances" on Tehran's key demands, the state news agency IRNA said yesterday, quoting a senior Iranian diplomat.

The EU said on Monday it had put forward a "final" text following four days of indirect talks between US and Iranian officials in Vienna.

A senior EU official said no more changes could be made to the text, which has been under negotiation for 15 months. He said he expected a final decision from the parties within a "very, very few weeks.'

IRNA quoted the unidentified Iranian diplomat as saying Tehran was reviewing the proposal. "Proposals by the EU can be acceptable if they provide Iran with assurance on the issues of safeguards, sanctions and guarantees," the diplomat said.

The Islamic Republic has sought to obtain guarantees that no future US president would renege on the deal if it were revived, as then-President Donald Trump did in 2018 and restored harsh US sanctions on Iran.

Rushdie stabbed in the neck in western New York

Reuters

 \mathbf{S} alman Rushdie, the Indi-an-born novelist who spent years in hiding after Iran urged Muslims to kill him because of his writing, was stabbed in the neck onstage at a lecture in New York state on Friday and airlifted to a hospital, police said.

He was alive and in surgery, according to his literary agent, Andrew Wylie.

the Chautauqua Institution and attacked Rushdie, 75, as he was being introduced to give a talk trooper present at the event took stage from I don't know where attacker was restrained, on artistic freedom to an audi- the attacker into custody, police and started what looked like according to another witence of hundreds, eyewitnesses said. said. A New York State Police



A man rushed to the stage at Author Salman Rushdie is treated by emergency personnel after he was stabbed on stage before his scheduled speech at the Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New York

beating him on the chest, repeat-"A man jumped up on the ed fist strokes into his chest and

neck," said Bradley Fisher, who was in the audience. "People were screaming and crying out and gasping."

Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," fell to the floor when the man attacked him, and was then surrounded by a small group of people who held up his legs, seemingly to send more blood to his upper body, as the ness attending the lecture. (Continues on page 2)

Wanted terrorist blows himself up in Jeddah

The suicide blast injures four including three state security force members

SPA identifies the man as Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Bakri Al-Shehri

Al-Shehri detonated the explosive belt on Wednesday night in Jeddah's Al Samer neighbourhood

Bahrain affirms solidarity with Saudi Arabia in fight against terrorism **TDT** | Manama

try said the Kingdom backs the wanted terrorist.

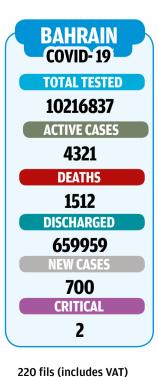
sure the safety and security Bahrain yesterday ex- of the citizens and residents pressed full solidarity of Saudi Arabia. The ministry with Saudi Arabia in facing wished a speedy recovery threats against its security for all those injured in the and stability. Foreign Minis- suicide blast carried out by

all measures it takes to en-

Saudi forces suspect Al-Shehri as a member of a domestic terrorism cell that coordinated the 2015 suicide bombing of a mosque in Abha, targeting security force members.

That blast killed eleven members of the security forces and four Bangladeshi nationals and injured 33 people.

The Saudi government named Al-Shehri in early 2016 as one of six Saudi nationals wanted The three people injured in in connection with the bomb-Reports say Saudi Police had SPA said police rushed the in- killed five of the nine-member security operation in Bisha. Security officials have said the arrest of Uqab Al-Otaibi had dealt a severe blow to ISIS operation in the region. Tava Salem al-Sai'ari, one of the most dangerous in the cell, and their leader Saeed al-Shahrani was also declared 'eliminated' by Saudi forces.



Al-Shehri was wanted for the 2015 bombing that killed 11

TDT | Manama

man wanted by Saudi Arabian state security in 2015 bombing blew himself up, according to state TV. killing himself and injuring four others in Jeddah.

Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Shehri

him, Saudi News Agency in a the Kingdom's determination national. report yesterday said.

killed in the blast Wednesday and residents. night as Abdullah bin Zayed Al-

Shehri.

Al-Shehri had been sought connection with a deadly by authorities for seven years,

"The wanted terrorist Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Bakri Al-The man detonated an explo- Shehri killed himself by detosive belt in the Al Samer neigh- nating an explosive belt, said a bourhood in Jeddah when secu-spokesman of the Presidency of

State Security.

The Presidency of State Secu- the blast were members of the ing. He is the brother of another rity forces attempted to arrest rity said the operation confirms security forces and a Pakistani wanted man Majed al-Shehri. to crack down on terrorists and

SPA also identified the bomber ensure the safety of all citizens jured to hospitals without giving cell and arrested another in a details of their injuries.



Presidency of State Security is a Saudi Arabian security body created in 2017 by combining the counterterrorism and domestic intelligence services under one roof. The new body is concerned with all matters related to state security, and is overseen by the king.

Unknown toxic substance

Mass fish die-off in German-Polish river

Reuters | Berlin/Warsaw

n unidentified highly toxic Asubstance in the Oder river, which runs through Poland and Germany, appears to be the cause of a mass die-off of fish in the waterway, officials from both counties said. An analysis of river water tak-



Dead fish float on the surface of the Oder rive

en this week showed evidence toxic effects for vertebrates," the German state of Brandenstance entered the water.

According to local German cury was found only in "trace of "synthetic chemical sub- broadcaster rbb, the state labo- amounts", well within allowed stances, very probably also with ratory found high levels of mer- levels. cury in the water samples.

burg's environment ministry the head of Poland's Lubusz said the situation was serious said on Thursday, adding that it province, quoted by PAP news and that by Thursday evening remained unclear how the sub- agency said that tests run on Poland had collected over 11 Aug. 10 and 11 showed mer- tonnes of dead fish.

The head of Poland's national However, Wladyslaw Dajczak, water management authority

PWS of bahrain

THE **tribun**e



Works Minister, Ibrahim bin Hassan Al-Hawaj, yesterday received the Media Affairs Advisor of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Infrastructure Minister, Waleed Khalid Al-Shaikh, who presented him a copy of the thesis of the master's degree from UoB on "Government Communication and Its Role in Highlighting Development Projects Included in the Government Action Plan 2019-2022". The minister said the study proved the success of the Works Ministry in taking advantage of government communication to highlight the development projects it is implementing.



Assistance Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Brigadier Hamood Saad Hamood, has inaugurated a workshop on implementing the National Human Rights Plan 2022-2026. The workshop was part of the directives of the Interior Minister, General Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and under the follow-up of the Interior Ministry's Undersecretary. Approved by the cabinet, the Foreign Ministry drafted the plan in coordination with concerned authorities. The Head of the Human Rights Team, Major Ali Najjem, highlighted the human rights projects and programmes.



The Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, on Thursday directed to step up awareness programmes during a meeting with Health Minister Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayyed Jawad at Al Wadi Palace. He gave directives to coordinate the campaign in partnership between the General Sports Authority and the Ministry of Health, in order to build a healthier society. The meeting was attended by GSA Deputy Chairman HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, GSA Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar and Bahrain Committee for Sports Medical and Sport Science Chairman Dr Jamal Saleh.

Social Development Minister Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfoor received on Thursday Iraqi Embassy Charge d'Affaires Moayyed Omar Abdulrahman and hailed strong bilateral relations and expanding cooperation. He outlined Bahrain's social development achievements in line with the national goals which were set out by the Government. The Iraqi Charge d'Affaires stressed his country's keenness on expanding joint social development cooperation towards achieving joint interests and aspirations.





The Civil Personnel Affairs Department of Human Resources organised a training course on "Plan for recovery and rebuilding oneself after the pandemic." The event held at the training hall of the customs building had the participation of 30 employees from various departments of the Ministry of Interior. The course was presented by Dr Khaled Al-Baker.



Brigadier Adel Abdullah Ameen, the Assistant Undersecretary for Human **Resources, vesterday received Rehab** Hamad Al-Maraj, one of the members of the team that won first place for the "Blue Point" initiative. and Amal Abdel Karim Hajji, one of the members of the third-place winning team for the "Dumna Initiative". The initiatives were part of a "Climate Innovation programme" held under the patronage of Dr Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina. Minister of Oil and Environment, and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, from March to July 2022.

Rushdie faced death threats for his novel "The Satanic Verses

(Continues from page 1)

D ushdie, who was born into a Mus-

Nlim Kashmiri family in Bombay, now known as Mumbai, before moving to the United Kingdom, has faced death threats for his fourth novel, "The Satanic Verses," which some said contained blasphemous passages. The novel was banned in many countries upon its 1988 publication.

A year later, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then Iran's supreme leader, pronounced a fatwa, or religious



Author Salman Rushdie is transported to a helicopter after he was stabbed on stage before his scheduled speech at the Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New York, U.S

the novelist and anyone involved in s publication for blasphemy.

many years.

translator of the novel, was murdered in 1991.

The Iranian government said in 1998 that it would no longer back the fatwa, and Rushdie has Friday's attack.

lived relatively openly in recent years.

Iranian organi-

murder. And Khomeini's successor as published in February. Rushdie, who called his novel supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamepretty mild," went into hiding for nei, said in 2017 that the fatwa was still. Iran's semi-official Fars News Agency Hitoshi Igarashi, the Japanese and other news outlets donated money that year to increase the bounty by

> more than \$600,000. "insulted the prophet" in its report on

Rushdie published a memoir in 2012 to the institution's website. about his life under the fatwa called

worth millions of dollars for Rushdie's new novel "Victory City" is due to be

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson should never cease to defend."

Fars called Rushdie an apostate who serving as an asylum for writers and artists in exile and "as a home for freedom of creative expression," according when asked about security measures.

There were no obvious security in 2016 and lives in New York City. "Joseph Anton," the pseudonym he checks at the Chautauqua Institution, sations, some af- used while under British police pro- a landmark founded in the 19th cen- in New York did not respond to a refiliated with tection. His second novel, "Midnight's tury in the small lakeside town of the quest for comment.

edict, calling upon Muslims to kill the government, have raised a bounty Children," won the Booker Prize. His same name, with staff simply checking people's tickets for admission, the evewitness who was in the audience said.

> "I felt like we needed to have more said he was appalled that Rushdie was protection there because Salman Rush-"stabbed while exercising a right we die is not a usual writer," said Anour Rahmani, an Algerian writer and hu-Rushdie was at the event to take part man rights activist who was also in the in a discussion about the United States audience. "He's a writer with a fatwa against him."

> > The institution declined to comment Rushdie became an American citizen Iran's mission to the United Nations

news of bahrain THE tribune **High Civil Court comes to aid** of woman injured in accident

TDT | Manama

n insurance company has been ordered by the High Civil Court to pay BD5,000 in claim money to a Bahraini woman who suffered a 12% disability in an accident.

The verdict came in a case filed seeking BD8,000 in compensation from the insurance company and the vehicle's driver, who got implicated in the accident

Court files say the woman was walking with her daughter when



Bahraini woman awarded BD5,000 insurance compensation

the speeding vehicle came in a negligent manner and hit them. The medical report says both the woman and her daughter sustained injuries due to the impact.

In a filing before the court, the injured woman's lawyer accused the driver of the car of reckless driving, citing a Bahrain's court judgement implicating the car's driver in the accident.

criminal charges against the woman in the accident," the yer argued. woman's lawyer told the court.

A medical report filed before the court showed that the woman suffered a 12% disability in the accident.

"This makes the injured woman eligible to receive a suitable tion. However, after studying "The authorities had pressed compensation, considering the an expert report assessing the nature of her injuries," the law-

A medical report filed before pay BD5,000.

the court showed that the woman suffered a 12% disability in the accident.

Issuing the verdict, judges viewed that the accident occurred due to negligent driving and that the insurance company is liable to cover the compensation as per law.

The woman filed the case seeking BD8,000 as compensawoman's injuries, the court ordered the insurance company to

10-year-old illegal construction: Court revokes demolition order & fine, citing forfeiture law

Villa owner served with demolition order in 2020

He contested that order, wins

Authority serves new notice again for demolition

New court battle begins

TDT | Manama

Bahraini man who fought criminal charges and molition threats over a 10-year-old construction can now heave a sigh of relief for the High Appeals Court told the Representative picture authorities they had exhausted illegal construction after three 'continuous'. vears of inaction.



his garage, without obtaining a criminal charges on him again building permit 10 years back.

However, the man said he re- BD1,000 fine. ceived the shock of his life on the 6th of December 2020 on court that the order was to rethat account.

thorities served him with a no- appeal again. tice describing the 10-year-old construction as illegal.

The notice said the construction is illegal as the owner did it rooms in question. without obtaining the necessary licence from the competent authority.

Lawyer Riyadh Al Sindi, representing the appellant, told the court that it's illogical for the authority to ask the appellant to remove the construction now.

The notice said the man should remove the violating construction within two months at

and slapped him again with a

This time, the man told the move the violations within three On that day, he said the au- months, forcing him to file an

The man's lawyer also filed a memorandum requesting to assign an expert to examine the

The expert confirmed to the court that construction - a room and a bathroom on the first floor-- was built ten years ago.



ten years ago.

Ruling in favour of the ac-

"If three years have passed crime which is fully consummatsince the date of the incident ed or completed in and by a sinwithout filing a lawsuit, the right gle act. Arson, murder and the to file a lawsuit has forfeited," like are examples of such crimes. ous' crime. the court said, overruling an or- It is different from crimes which der to remove the rooms built involve a series or repetition of actions.

"The villa owner had expandcused, the court described the ed the first floor without obtain-

authority. However, he had com-verdict said. An 'instantaneous' crime is a pleted that act with the end of construction and never repeated criminal charges, citing the exit," the court said.

"Therefore, it's an 'instantane- of time.

"Besides, if three years have How did it all start? passed without filing a lawsuit, the competent authority also tracted court battle started with against the man. forfeits its right to file a lawsuit. the appellant building a room,

their right to litigate against the crime as 'instantaneous' and not ing a licence from the competent in favour of the appellant," the

The court also overruled the

piry of the criminal case by lapse

Incidents leading to the pro-

his expense.

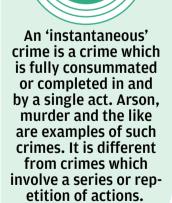
The Public Prosecution had also slapped him with a fine of BD1,000.

However, the man approached the Court of First Instance against the notice and got a ruling in his favour.

The court also dropped the criminal charges pressed against him.

However, that doesn't prevent the authorities from moving

Despite the court ruling, the "Therefore, the court rules with an attached bathroom, over man said authorities pressed



Dr Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina. the Minister of Oil and Environment, and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, yesterday stressed the role of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme in developing Governmental work streams. This came during his meeting with the fellows of the seventh batch of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme. Dr Dina reviewed the responsibilities of the Ministry of Oil and Environment to develop sustainable policies for the oil and environment sector and the role of the executive body of the Supreme Council for Environment, headed by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the personal representative of His Majesty the King, Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Environment. The discussion also focused on the modernisation of the Bahrain Refinery - one of the largest and most important strategic projects in the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco).



news of bahrain

DAILY **tribune**

Bapco opens tender to buy sofa sets



Representative picture TDT | Manama

⊤he Bahrain Petroleum L Company (Bapco) has on offer a three-year agreement to supply sofa sets for Awali Houses.

Awali was the first modern self-contained township in Bahrain, when it was constructed in 1934. Since then, it has remained an integral part of the Bapco community providing employees with the comfort and convenience of a gated residence and work environment comprising offices, living quarters, leisure amenities, playgrounds, restaurant, supermarket and a community garden.

The tender says Bapco will receive Technical & Commercial offers only through its iSupplier portal. Bidders must have atleast

three years of experience and submit evidence supporting their claims. Make bids before the 4th

of September 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Medical insurance of Bahrain **Polytechnic staff:** tender

TDT | Manama

 ${f B}^{
m ahrain}$ Polytechnic has launched a tender for its staff and their family members.

Interested companies should provide coverage from 1.1.2023 to 31.12.2023. The coverage is for em-

ployees above 60 years of age.

Bidders should submit proposals for corporate coverage, not for individual coverage.

Staff may pay an excess (quote should show with

Tender board suspends bids of Future **Generation Reserve Tower Project**

as an approved LEED-certified building in the Kingdom. The

rain Financial Harbor and Bahrain Bay and is set to become

TDT | Manama

Generation Reserve Tower Prohe bids received by the Tender board document.

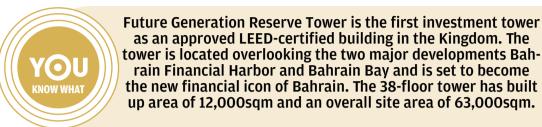
Ministry of Finance & National Economy for an (BHD 14,850.000) and Savills erty and Facility Management" FGR Council. Integrated Property and Facility Middle East (BHD 148,500.000) in accordance with recognized Management Service Future are suspended.

The tender was for hiring a and standards. ject now stand cancelled, says a top-tier international Property The bids by CBRE Bahrain for the supply service of "Prop- one time at the discretion of the

professional current practices

The contract was offered for Management Service Provider three years and renewable up to





Maintenance works at **EWA: Tender** TDT | Manama

The Electricity and Water Authority has launched a tender for maintenance works. The works, the tender

says, are for the roof of its System Control Centre.

Those interested make bids before the 6th of September 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

MoE gets 14 bids for AC maintenance and repairs

TDT | Manama

A tender by the Ministry of Education inviting bidders for maintenance and repairs

attracted 14 companies. The bids received range between BHD 6,238.100 and BHD 1,075,547.000.

brid Electro-Mechanical Co, Dasman Airconditioning Company, Arabian Houses ten others.

central AC units sis, supplying spare parts and ument said.

Singapore currently has the highest installed rate of ACs per capita, and at least 24% of electricity consumption is for ACs in a typical home. More and more people have access to cooling as previously, air conditioners have always been considered a luxury item.

Contracting, conducting preventive mainte-Almoayyed Air nance of AC units at schools and Conditioning and directorates of MoE.

"The total cost of the tender The tender was for is 1,000,000 Bahraini dinars, conducting the emergency excluding the value added tax of repair of faults on a daily ba- for spare parts," the tender doc-

BTEA tender attracts eight bids



Diesel for generators at Bilaj Al Jazayer



Representative picture TDT | Manama

 $B^{\mathrm{ilaj}\,\mathrm{Al}\,\mathrm{Jazayer}\,\mathrm{Real}\,\mathrm{Es}}_{\mathrm{tate}\,\mathrm{Development}\,\mathrm{has}}$ launched a tender for supplying diesel for electricity generators.

The tender, which calls for making bids before the 21st of this month, is for supplying diesel for generators at Al-Jazayer Public Beach.

Bids should come with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Tatweer opens tender for buying building materials



TDT | Manama

Tatweer Petroleum is offering a three-year supply contract for building materials.

A tender launched says the contract is for fulfilling its daily work admin team need to main offices of Tatweer Petroleum.

The tender reads, "This job requires to purchase of some materials to replace the damaged ones, such as Electrical, Carpenter, Plumping, and other miscellaneous items."

Make bids before the 23rd of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

SIO offers preventive maintenance

Analytics Platform -TDT | Manama he National Bureau for

NBR gets five bids for Data

Revenue has announced plans to automate its data analytics platform, for which it has also launched a tender.

The tender attracted technical bids from five players: Clariba Solutions, Beyond Solutions, Beinex Solutions, iWorld Connect, and Invent **Business Solutions.**

platform.

query, analysis performance, rate of 10% Value Added Tax



70% marks will be considered for Commercial evaluation.

The National Bureau of Rev-NBR plans to streamline and enue is the government entity enhance analysis exercises on responsible for implementing an integrated data analytics and collecting VAT in Bahrain. Value Added Tax was first in-The move aims at integrat- troduced in the Kingdom on ing workflows containing data 1st January 2019. A standard

Bidders include Hy-

and without the excess).

Bidding companies should also keep the paperwork for claiming against any scheme(s) to a minimum.

The Technical Evaluation Criteria will focus on three things. The number of hospitals and clinics covered, maximum limit cover per person per year and duration of the claim process.

Companies should also provide standard coverage without Maternity & Dental and special coverage with maternity & dental.

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



output display, result approv- (VAT) has been applied in the



als, and data communication Kingdom of Bahrain with ef-Bidders who score at least fect from 1st January 2022. The global big data analytics market size was valued at USD 240.56 billion in 2021. The market is

projected to grow from USD 271.83

bn in 2022 to USD 655.53 bn by

2029, exhibiting a CAGR of 13.4%

during the forecast period.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Tourism & Exhi- & Build, Salam Enterprises, bition Authority received Alshaya international trading huge interest for its tender for company and Jassim Almutpurchasing furniture for VIP tawa showroom triad are the Majlis and lobby for Exhibi- bidders. However, according tion World Bahrain.

tween BHD 36,831.300 and BHD receive the contract, as price 163,995.700.

Yousif Ben Yousif Fakhro Co, only after fulfilling technical Designers Gallery Company, and other criteria.

Universal Enterprises, Awal stationery, Murano Design to the tender board, the low-The bids received range be- est bidder may not necessarily

becomes a principal concern

contract



TDT | Manama

The Social Insurance Or-ganisation has opened a tender for hiring a contractor for preventive maintenance for its offices and branches.

SIO is offering a one-year contract, the tender says.

The contract should start from the 1st of February 2023 to the 31st of January 2024 and cover electrical, air condition, plumbing, and emergency generator works.

Make bids before the 31st of August 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

UoB opens tender for establishing currency, security trading faculty

TDT | Manama

The University of Bahrain is **L** establishing a simulation lab for currency and security trading faculty to bridge the gap between theory and practical experience.

The move aims at equipping business graduates with soft skills needed to derive innovation and sustainable growth in Bahrain, a tender document launched by UoB says.

The project includes setting



up a simulation room to provide challenge based on relevant fun- edge in the real world. students with an educational damental investment knowl-

UoB says the trading room

will allow college students to be in direct contact with financial markets to learn how to implement investment and speculative portfolio management strategies.

Those interested in setting up the lab should submit bids before the 28th of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees. Bids, signed and stamped by the Participant, should be delivered to Tender Section, Purchasing Dept, University of Bahrain, SakhirArea, before 1:30 pm.

DAILY tribung

Oil slides 2% on expectations that US Gulf supply disruption will ease

Repair to pipe that shut US offshore output due by end of day

For the week, Brent is set to rise 3%, WTI up 3.7%

Contradicting IEA and OPEC demand outlooks

US oil rig count rises three to 601 this week -Baker Hughes

Reuters | New York

il prices plunged around 2% yesterday, on expectations that supply disruptions in the US Gulf of Mex- track for a weekly gain. ico would be short-term, while mand outlook.



A pump is seen at a gas station in Manhattan, New York City

(WTI) crude fell \$2.08, or 2.2%, Brent crude futures fell \$1.47. to \$92.26 a barrel. Both conrecession fears clouded the de- or 1.5%, to \$98.13 a barrel by tracts gained more than 2% on 11:10 a.m. EDT (1510 GMT), while Thursday. Futures, however, were still on US West Texas Intermediate

Price Futures Group. Brent was on track for a 3.5%

gain this week after last week's 14% tumble on fears that ris- contrasting demand views from will hit economic growth and um Exporting Countries (OPEC) course for a 3.7% gain.

Crews were expected to recial said, allowing for the resumption of production at seven offshore US Gulf of Mexico oil platforms.

On Thursday, top US Gulf the main concern." of Mexico oil producer Shell

after the big run-up yesterday," forms in the region. The three ordinated energy release agreed said Phil Flynn, an analyst at platforms are designed to pro- by the United States and other per day combined.

The market also absorbed year. Agency (IEA).

place a damaged oil pipeline slowdown, but its unclear if it's look ebbed in August, the latest piece by the end of the day on as big a slowdown as some of signs that price pressures may Friday, a Louisiana port offi- the recent outlooks have been have peaked. predicting," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at this week, energy services firm Saxo Bank. "The demand will Baker Hughes Co (BKR.O) said. ebb and flow, but supply is still The rig count, an indicator of

(SHEL.L) said it halted produc- sian oil are due to tighten later seen recovering to pre-pandemtion at three deepwater plat- this year while a six-month co- ic levels next year.

duce up to 410,000 barrels of oil developed economies is due to run its course by the end of the

In the United States, import ing inflation and interest rates the Organization of the Petrole- prices fell for the first time in seven months in July, helped by demand for fuel. WTI was on and the International Energy a strong dollar and lower fuel and nonfuel costs, while con-"We are seeing an economic sumers' one-year inflation out-

US oil rigs rose three to 601 future output, has been slow to European sanctions on Rus- grow with oil production only



On Thursday OPEC cut its forecast for growth in world oil demand in 2022 by 260,000 barrels per day (bpd). It now expects demand to rise by 3.1 million bpd this year. The IEA, meanwhile, raised its demand growth forecast to 2.1 million bpd, citing gasto-oil switching in power generation. The IEA also raised its out-look for Russian oil supply by 500,000 bpd for the second half of 2022 but said OPEC would struggle to boost production.

Europe eyes Musk's SpaceX to replace Russian rockets

"We are pulling back a little bit

SpaceX did not reply to a

The political

Reuters | Paris

he European Space Agency Elon Musk's SpaceX that could lead to the temporary use of its launchers after the Ukraine conflict blocked Western access to Russia's Soyuz rockets.

The private American competitor to Europe's Arianespace has emerged as a key contender mained at an exploratory phase to plug a temporary gap alongside Japan and India, but final decisions depend on the still undelayed Ariane 6 rocket.

"I would say there are two

Josef Aschbacher told Reuters. vibration.

"Japan is waiting for the in-The European Space Agency $T_{(ESA)}$ has begun prelimi- augural flight of its next gen- nical compatibility but we have nary technical discussions with eration rocket. Another option not asked for a commercial offer Web, a competitor to SpaceX's could be India," he added in an yet. We just want to make sure Starlink satellite internet venthat it would be an option in interview.

"SpaceX I would say is the order to make a decision on more operational of those and asking for a firm commercertainly one of the back-up cial offer," Aschbacher said. launches we are looking at."

Aschbacher said talks re- request for comment. and any back-up solution would fallout from be temporary.

Russia's in-"We of course need to make vasion of resolved timetable for Europe's sure that they are suitable. It's Ukraine has not like jumping on a bus," he already been said. For example, the interface a boon for and a half options that we're between satellite and launcher SpaceX's Faldiscussing. One is SpaceX that must be suitable and the pay- con 9, which is clear. Another one is possibly load must not be compromised has swept up

Japan," ESA Director General by unfamiliar types of launch other customers severing ties with Moscow's increasingly iso-"We are looking into this tech-

lated space sector. Satellite internet firm Oneture, booked at least one Falcon 9 launch in March. It has also booked an Indian launch.

On Monday, Northrop Grumman booked three Falcon 9 missions to ferry NASA cargo to the International Space Station while it designs a new version of its Antares rocket, whose Russian-made engines were withdrawn by Moscow in response to sanctions.

India sticks to 'one-China' policy stance but seeks restraint on Taiwan

Reuters | New Delhi

ndia said yesterday it op-'one-China' policy remained consistent, days after Bei-Taiwan.

aircraft and warships around tion." Taiwan in recent days, angered by US House of Representa- actions to change the status tives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

India was one of the first coun- he said.

tries to recognise Beijing's 'one-China principle' - that bosed any unilateral change Taiwan is an inalienable part to the status quo over Taiwan of China - and that it hoped but that its stance on the India would not change its position.

Asked by a reporter about Injing said it hoped New Delhi dia's position on the one-China would continue to recognise policy, Indian foreign ministry its claim to self-governing spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said: "India's relevant policies China launched ballistic are well known and consistent. missiles and deployed multiple They do not require reitera-

"We urge the exercise of reby last week's visit to the island straint, avoidance of unilateral quo, de-escalation of tensions The Chinese Embassy in and efforts to maintain peace New Delhi said last week that and stability in the region,"



Nass Construction Platform Divisions, committed to achieving world-class standards for services, has embarked on an in-house Supervisor & Foreman Development Programme to further enhance the skills of supervision. This programme, developed by champions within the business, will run for six months. Above, Nigel Hector, Nass Construction Platform General Manager, and Ahmed Al Jabri, Human Resources & Administration Manager with the first batch of Supervisors in the programme.

India's LIC June-quarter premium income jumps as policy sales rebound

Reuters | Bengaluru

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) (LIFI.NS) reported a 20.4% rise in

June-quarter premium income sold.

yesterday, as easing COVID-19 restrictions boosted sales of of new business (VNB), which policies for the insurer that measures expected profit from largely depends on its agents. new premiums and is a key

an army of 1.3 million sales margins came in at 13.6%. agents, was hit by pandemengagement.

Kumar said.

said net premium income rose premiums.

to 983.52 billion rupees (\$12.34 bn) from 817.21 bn rupees a year earlier, with nearly a 60% jump in the number of policies

The company's gross value

The company, which drives gauge for future growth, stood its business mostly through at 18.61 bn rupees, while VNB

We don't see much market ic-led lockdowns last year volatility going forward that that disrupted the work of its could impact results. Kumar agents who focus on in-person said in a press briefing, adding that the insurer sees VNB "As the COVID situation nor- margin at over 15% by the end malises, we are seeing a larger of the year. The company, synactivity on the ground, there- onymous with buying protecfore bringing us back closer tion policies in India, listed in to our model of having 'feet May following a record \$2.7 on street'," Chairperson M R billion initial public offering. It commands a market share

LIC, India's biggest insurer, of over 60% in terms of overall

THE **tribune**

QUOTE **OF THE** DΔY

DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY BY THE HARVEST YOU REAP BUT BY THE **SEEDS THAT YOU PLANT ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON**

News in brief

UN's Guterres expresses 'clear commitment' to North Korea denuclearisation



• United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres vesterday expressed his "clear commitment" to North Korea's denuclearisation during his visit to Seoul, weeks after Pyongyang said it was "ready to mobilise" its nuclear deterrent. Guterres arrived in Seoul on Thursday following a trip to Japan, where

he gave a speech to mark the 77th anniversary of the world's first nuclear bomb attack in Hiroshima. He has also been to Mongolia. "I would like to reaffirm our clear commitment to the full, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, of the DPRK," he said at his meeting with South Korean president Yoon Suk-yeol, using North Korea's official name.

Ethiopia said yesterday it has completed the third filling third filling of Nile mega-dam of its mega-dam on the Blue Nile, a development that could raise further tensions with downstream neighbours Egypt and Sudan. The announcement comes a day after Ethiopia said it had launched electricity production from the second turbine at the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) which lies in the west of



Ethiopia says completes

the country. "Today as you see behind me, the third filling is complete," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in images shown on state television from the dam site. "The Nile is a gift of God given to us for Ethiopians to make use of it.".

Germany suspends part of Mali military mission over flight spat



♦ Germany suspended its military reconnaissance mission

in Mali after local authorities again withheld a flight clearance, a spokesperson for the defence ministry in Berlin said yesterday. "We will, at least for the time being, suspend the reconnaissance part of mission," the spokesperson said, adding that Malian

authorities had not issued the clearance for a flight to rotate some staff. At the start of August, Mali had already withdrawn clearances for German flights over the country, but later reversed that decision.

Protests broke out Syria rebels call for protests in Syria's rebel-held north over Turkey's 'reconciliation' call yesterday over a call from Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut **Cavusoglu for reconciliation** between the Syrian government and opposition. "We have to somehow get the opposition and the regime to reconcile in Syria. Otherwise, there will be no lasting peace, we always

say this," Cavusoglu said Thursday, in remarks to diplomats. The comments have sparked calls for protests after Friday weekly prayers in key cities that fall under the control of Turkish forces and their supporters, including in Al-Bab, Afrin and Jarablus.

COVID-19: Countries worst affected											
	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally							
1	USA	94,479,779	1,061,346	502 570 576							
2	India	44,223,557	526,928	593,578,576							

Justice Department seeks to unseal search warrants of Trump's home

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2022

Reuters | Washington

s federal agents were look-Us for documents relating to nuclear weapons when they raided former President Donald Trump's home in Florida this week, the Washington Post reported.

It was not clear if such documents were recovered at the former president's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, the Post said. Reuters could not immediately confirm the report.

The US Justice Department asked a judge on Thursday to make public the warrant that authorized the FBI search of Mar-a-Lago, after Trump, a Republican, portrayed it as political retribution.

The request means the public could soon learn more about what investigators were looking for during the unprecedented search of a former president's home.

The search was part of an investigation into whether Trump illegally removed records from the White House as he left office in January 2021, some of which the Justice Department believes are classified.

Attorney General Merrick Garland, the top law enforcement officer and an appointee of Democratic President Joe Biden, told a news conference that he had personally approved the search. The Justice Department also seeks to make public a redacted receipt of the items seized.

take such a decision lightly. unusual. US law enforcement Where possible, it is standard officials typically do not discuss practice to seek less intrusive ongoing investigations in order means as an alternative to a to protect people's rights. In search, and to narrowly scope this case, Trump himself anany search that is undertaken," Garland said.



Former President Donald Trump gestures as he departs Trump Tower



Should the warrant be released it could disclose unflattering information about the former president and about FBI scrutiny of his handling of sensitive government documents right as he prepares for another run for the White House

His decision to publicly con-"The department does not firm the search was highly day night statement.

Not only will I not oppose the release of documents ... I am going a step further by ENCOURAGING the immediate release of those documents

DONALD TRUMP

Garland said the Justice Department made the request to make public the warrant "in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances and the substantial public interest in this matter."

A source familiar with the matter said the FBI retrieved about 10 boxes from Trump's property during the search.

Trump was not in Florida at the time of the search.

Late on Thursday, Trump called for the immediate renounced the search in a Mon- lease of documents related to the search.

Ukrai of nuc

Russia and Ukraine ha

• UN calls for demilitarised zone

Zelenskiy demands **Russia return plant** to Ukraine

Reuters | Kyiv

kraine and Russia accused each other yesterday of risking nuclear disaster by shelling Europe's largest nuclear power plant, occupied by Russian forces in a region expected to become one of the next big front lines of the war.

Western countries have called for Moscow to withdraw its troops from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, and the United Nations called on Thursday for it to be declared a demilitarised zone. But there has been no sign so far of Russia agreeing to move its troops out of the facility they seized in March.

The plant dominates the south bank of a vast reservoir on the Dnipro river that cuts across southern Ukraine. Ukrainian forces controlling the towns and cities on the opposite bank have come under intense bombardment from the Russian-held side.

Three civilians, including a boy, were wounded in overnight shelling of one of those towns, Marhanets, Valentyn Reznichenko, governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region, said in the latest in a string

Suspected Rome bank robber foiled by tunnel collapse

Reuters | Rome

A n Italian man had to be





3	France	34,169,281	152,990	Deaths
4	Brazil	34,124,579	681,025	(1 10 (0 2
5	Germany	31,489,484	145,561	6,449,603
6	ик	23,420,826	186,087	Recovered:
7	Italy	21,455,291	173,853	E6E 62E 202
8	S. Korea	21,111,840	25,499	565,625,282
9	Russia	18,824,282	383,011	New cases
10	Turkey	16,295,817	99,678	
11	Japan	15,086,304	34,537	+558,934
12	Spain	13,280,557	111,339	New deaths
13	Vietnam	11,362,540	43,096	1010
14	Australia	9,760,161	12,739	+1,013
	Figures as of closing			

MI	aale E	-	-			
Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	811,748	+106	9,266	+1	798,564	3,918
UAE	1,003,129	+823	2,339		981,884	18,906
Kuwait	655,854		2,562		652,250	1,042
Oman	397,231		4,260		384,669	8,302
Qatar	418,039	+649	681		411,418	5,940

Arescued after becoming trapped in a collapsed tunnel near the Vatican, suspected of being part of a gang burrowing its way to a nearby bank, police said vesterday.

Firefighters spent eight hours digging him out from under a road in the west of Rome, before he was finally freed on Thursday evening and taken to hospital.

"Two people from Naples



told AFP.

ories," he said.

For Italian newspapers, however, the motive was clear, noting the tunnel was found near a bank ahead of the August 15 long weekend, when residents traditionally head out of town and much of Rome becomes empty



First responders during a rescuing operation for a suspected thief who was buried under rubble for about eight hours, as he was allegedly digging a tunnel with his accomplices

were arrested for resisting a traditionally head out of town public official and two, from and much of Rome becomes Rome, for damage" to public empty.

property, a police spokesman "The hole gang," headlined the Corriere della Sera daily, The rescued man, one of the while La Stampa said: "They two Romans, remains in hospi- dig a tunnel to rob a bank, and tal, he said without giving an one of them is buried underupdate on his condition.

ground." "We are still investigating, The man was brought out we do not exclude that they alive on a stretcher, after a are thieves, it is one of the the- day-long operation involving dozens of emergency service For Italian newspapers, how- workers using mechanical ever, the motive was clear, not- diggers.

The tunnel began underneath ing the tunnel was found near a bank ahead of the August 15 an empty shop that had recently long weekend, when residents been rented.

AFP | Johannesburg

t least 150 critically-endan- ${f A}_{
m gered}$ vultures were poisoned to death in separate incidents in Botswana and South Africa, conservationists said yesterday, warning the killings pushed the birds closer to extinction.

Vulture poisoning is not uncommon in wildlife-rich southern Africa, where they are targeted by poachers because they draw unwanted attention to their illegal activities.

Their heads are also used in traditional medicine, according to wildlife groups.

In the latest incidents, more than 50 white-backed vultures were found dead in Botswana's northern Chobe district yesterday, while about 100 more were discovered in South Africa's Kruger National Park Thursday, according to vulture conservation group Vulpro.

In both cases, the birds died after feeding from the carcass of a buffalo, which appeared to have been laced with poison, said Vulpro's founder Kerri Wolter.

"What makes this even more catastrophic is that it's breeding

TODAY IN HISTORY

Spanish conquistadors under Hernán Cortés capture Aztec Emperor Cuauhtémoc in Tenochtitlan marking the end of the Aztec Empire



Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens discovers Mars' southern polar cap



Prussia joins Anglo-Dutch alliance to form Triple Alliance to prevent spread of Russo-Swedish War of 1788-90

The 'Manhattan Project' commences, under the direction of US General Leslie Groves: its aim - to deliver an atomic bomb

ne, Russia trade blame for risk lear disaster at frontline plant

ave traded blame over fresh shelling at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear complex as fears of a potential disaster rise



A view shows the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in the course of Ukraine-Russia conflict outside the Russian-controlled city of Enerhodar in the Zaporizhzhia region

of similar reports.

capture Zaporizhzhia and neigh- an-held towns and cities. bouring Kherson provinces, the still in Russian hands. Moscow there may be a danger on a global to join Russia.

tion, said the power station was Ukrainian national television. struck five times on Thursday, blamed each other for the blasts tion. Secretary-General Antonio control. and Reuters could not verify ei- Guterres called on both sides to ther account.

Russia says Ukraine is reckless-

selves, and are also using the plant Kyiv has said for weeks it is as a shield to provide cover while

seized after its Feb. 24 invasion (of the plant), do not strike where site. has installed regional officials scale. We understand that the Ukraine's Energoatom agen- to strike there," Natalia Humenicy, whose workers still operate uk, spokesperson for Ukraine's

The UN Security Council,

stop all fighting near the plant.

The facility must not be used as part of any military operation. Instead, urgent agreement is needed at a technical level on a safe perimeter of demilitarisation to ensure the safety of the area

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES

needed at a technical level on a safe perimeter of demilitarisation to ensure the safety of the area," Guterres said in a statement.

At the Security Council meetplanning a counteroffensive to re- they bombard nearby Ukraini- ing, the United States backed the ar security for all of Europe," he call for a demilitarised zone and said in a video address. "The Ukrainian Armed Forces urged the International Atomic largest part of the territory Russia do not damage the infrastructure Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit the mand and said Russia's occupa- plained how it was carried out.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said the world was who say they intend to stage votes invaders are hiding behind such being pushed "to the brink of nu- the Russian armed forces near in buildings at Russia's Saki air a shield because it is not possible clear catastrophe", comparable the plant significantly increase base. The base, on the southin scale with the 1986 Chornobyl disaster in then-Soviet Ukraine. tially devastating consequences," the plant under Russian occupa- southern military command, told He said IAEA officials could visit the French foreign ministry said least eight destroyed warplanes the site as soon as this month.

Ukrainian President Volodyincluding near where radioactive where Russia wields a veto, met myr Zelenskiy demanded Rusmaterials are stored. Both sides on Thursday to discuss the situa- sia return the plant to Ukraine's

Russian troops struck it them- Instead, urgent agreement is guarantee a resumption of nucle- the south.



Russia says Ukraine is recklessly firing at the plant. Kyiv says **Russian troops struck** it themselves, and are also using the plant as a shield to provide cover while they bombard nearby Ukrainian-held towns and cities

France echoed Zelenskiy's de-

tion of the site endangered the world

the risk of an accident with poten- west coast of Crimea, suffered in a statement.

Devastation at Russian base

"Only a full withdrawal of the in recent weeks, but fighting has role in the blasts, but noted that Russians ... and the restoration been intensifying lately in antic- the initial explosions took place "The facility must not be used of full Ukrainian control of the ipation of what Ukraine says is simultaneously hundreds of mely firing at the plant. Kyiv says as part of any military operation. situation around the station can a planned counter-offensive in tres apart, which would appear to

Ukraine's General Staff yesterday reported widespread shelling and air attacks by Russian forces on scores of towns and military bases, especially in the east where Russia is trying to expand territory held on behalf of separatist proxies.

Pavlo Kyrylenko, governor of the eastern Donetsk region, said on Telegram seven civilians had been killed and 14 wounded in the past 24 hours.

Kyiv hopes that by acquiring new missiles capable of striking Russian logistics deep behind the front lines, it can turn the tide of the conflict in coming weeks.

Satellite pictures released on Thursday showed devastation at an air base deep in Russian-annexed Crimea, struck on Tuesday in what appeared to be some form of attack, although Kyiv has not claimed responsibility or ex-

Images from independent satellite firm Planet Labs showed "The presence and actions of three nearly identical craters extensive fire damage with at visible.

Russia has denied aircraft were damaged and said explosions at The main Ukrainian front lines the base were accidental. Kyiv have been comparatively static neither confirmed nor denied any rule out an accident.

FWEETS

thank President Yoon Suk Yeol for his kind invitation and the rich discussions on non-proliferation, the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula & climate action. The Republic of Korea's strong commitments are a solid contribution to peace among nations & peace with nature.

@antonioguterres



Happy International #YouthDay! Let's celebrate and recommit to empowering younger generations to help us create a brighter future for everyone, everywhere. @WHO is highlighting the top health issues we need to address to improve the health of young people

@DrTedros



housands of he-Troic firefighters are working tirelessly against wildfires raging across our continent. EU has mobilised help

dangered vultures death in southern Africa

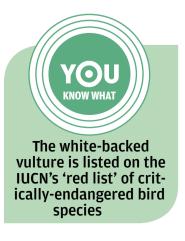
Mexican officials say close to accessing trapped miners

Reuters | Mexico City

Texican authorities said



The carcass of a vulture is seen at a farm in Southern Africa (file photo)



season now," Wolter told AFP, explaining chicks will not survive without their parents.

Park officials in South Africa said they were investigating the incident, adding some of the carcasses appeared to have been harvested for their body parts.

"Given the critical status of vultures globally, poisonings at this scale place the species at increasing risk of extinction," Yolan Friedmann, the head of the Endangered Wildlife Trust conservation group, said in a statement on the Kruger incident.

LVL yesterday they are in a position to enter the flooded coal mine where 10 workers have been trapped for more than a week.

"We have all the conditions to go down there today... to search for and rescue" the miners, said Laura Velazquez, the civil defense national coordinator, during President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's morning press conference.

Velazquez said the rescue operation will become possible once "97 percent of the water" has been extracted from the 50-meter deep mine in the town of Agujita in the northern Coahuila state.

"The necessary resources for the search and rescue have been prepared," she added.

The water level in one of the three wells in which rescuers will try to enter has been brought down to just 70 centimeters (27 inches), from a high of 30 meters (98 feet) the day after the accident that flooded the mine, Defense Minister Luis Cresensio Sandoval said.

3.9 and 4.7 meters of water. Authorities consider 1.5 me- bete mine.



Volunteers drain water from a flooded and collapsed coal mine



Five miners managed to escape following the initial accident. in which workers carrying out excavation activities hit an adjoining area full of water

ters to be an acceptable wa-The other two wells still have ter level to gain access to the

"In any case, we're going to continue pumping.... The process is slow but we don't want to take any risks," added Velazquez.

Since the August 3 accident, there have been no signs of life from the 10 miners trapped inside.

Five miners managed to escape following the initial accident, in which workers carrying out excavation activities hit an adjoining area full of water.

Several hundred rescuers, including soldiers and military scuba divers, are taking part in efforts to save the miners, whose relatives held a vigcrudely constructed El Pina- il Thursday night for those trapped underground.

for Portugal, Slovenia, Czechia, Albania & France via #rescEU. @vonderleyen

04



o American should have to make a decision between putting food on the table and going to the doctor. The Inflation Reduction Act will lower health insurance costs for 13 million Americans covered under the Affordable Care Act.

@POTUS

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

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DAILY **tribune**

Drought in England, fires rage in France as heatwave persists

UK declares drought in parts of England amid heatwave as Firefighters from across Europe help France with monster fire

Europe hit by successive heatwaves

Reuters | Paris

****irefighters from across Europe came to France's rescue yesterday to battle a massive wildfire, while fire also raged in Portugal and parts of England faced a severe drought, as successive heatwaves renewed the focus on climate change risks.

Much of Europe has faced weeks of baking temperatures that have also depleted water levels of the Rhine River in Germany and seen the source of Britain's River Thames dry France battle the fire in the re- we can also focus on the other up further downstream than in previous years.

worsening drought brought a France, local officials said, even nian firefighter Cristian Buhaafter an overnight reprieve held ianu, in Gironde. in check the wildfire that has thousands of hectares and dis- support in an area that already placed 10,000 people.



An aerial view shows a wildfire burning as firefighters work to extinguish it

gion - home to Bordeaux wine - operation," she said. as well as on other fronts, includ-

out in Gironde, in southwestern there to help," said chief Roma- destruction in its wake, includ- all still here."

French commandant Stephbeen burning for days, scorched anie Martin welcomed their a major French city such as Nice. wildfire raged into its seventh battled a massive fire for weeks Firefighters from Germany, last month. "Our firefighters are Romania, Greece and beyond tired after one month of fighting. home of the family of 19-year Spain, combating the blaze that ly declaring parts of southern, Vosges area, as some tensions

But while an expected end High temperatures and a ingin Brittany in the northwest. of France's third heatwave on ing over 7,400 hectares (18,286 acres) of forest burnt to the ground - equivalent to the size of

were on the ground to help. It is really good support for us, so old student Juliette Pilain, from has destroyed about 15% of the central and eastern England in over water rose.

The day is likely to be complicated since temperatures continue to increase and humidity continues to drop, so obviously we remain vigilant and mobilised SENIOR LOCAL OFFICIAL RONAN LEAUSTIC

Belin-Beliet, in the heart of Gironde.

"It is complicated to process this news. It's a house that's been in the family for years, it's especially painful for my grandparents," Pilain told Reuters.

"We had all the furniture of my great-grandparents there, books and encyclopaedia belonging to my great grandmother ... we "It doesn't matter the country, Sunday could bring some relief, cried a lot but then thought it is high risk of new fires breaking we are firefighters and we are the fire has already left much just material damage and we are

Portugal fires, UK drought

In central Portugal, a huge What firefighters called a day, with 1,600 firefighters "monster fire" also destroyed backed by 13 waterbombing airhouses, including the ancestral craft, including one sent from



Ongoing wildfires in France have unleashed nearly 1 million metric tonnes of carbon from June to August. That is roughly equal to the yearly carbon dioxide emissions from 790,000 cars

Serra da Estrela national park. After starting in the Covilha

area on Saturday, the fire has councils, burning around 15,000 hectares overall.

Meanwhile, water levels on the river Rhine in Germany have fill up paddling pools. fallen again, with some vessels no longer able to sail, shipping are restrictions on water use, operators and brokers said.

heatwave was also hitting hard, reported that outdoor jacuzzis with the government formal- were vandalised in the tourist

drought after a prolonged period of hot and dry weather.

England suffered its driest July since 1935, with only 35% of the average rainfall for the month, and parts of England and Wales were now in the middle of a four-day "extreme heat" alert.

"All water companies have reassured us that essential supplies are still safe, and we have made it clear it is their duty to maintain those supplies," Water Minister Steve Double said, following a meeting of the National Drought Group.

The companies will now begin enacting pre-agreed drought plans to help protect supplies, and the government said members of the public and businesses in drought-affected areas were urged to use water wisely.

Earlier yesterday, Yorkshire spread to several neighbouring water announced a hosepipe ban would begin on Aug. 26, forbidding customers from using hoses to water gardens, wash cars or

Across France as well, there and water police has been hand-Further north, in Britain, the ing out fines. Local media have

Kenya election commission says vote tally moving too slowly



Gang violence leaves 11 dead in Mexican border city

AP | Mexico City

A gang riot inside a border prison that left two inmates dead quickly spread to the streets of Ciudad Juarez where alleged gang members killed nine more people, including four employees of a radio station, security officials said yesterday.

The surge in violence recalled a far more deadly period in Juarez more than a decade earlier. Mexico's powerful drug cartels commonly use local gangs to defend their



Bullet holes are seen in the windows of a pizzeria

after 1 p.m. Thursday, when member of the Mexicles gang attacked members of the rival Chapos.

Two inmates were killed and 20 injured. Then suspected gang members outside the prison began burning businesses and shooting up Ciudad Juarez.

"They attacked the civilian, innocent population like a sort of revenge," President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said. "It wasn't just the clash between two groups, but it got to the point in which they began



Various political parties delegates are seen at the IEBC National Tallving centre at the Bomas of Kenya, in Nairobi

Reuters | Nairobi

Without providing any proof, the secretary-general of Kenya's governing party has said there in the manner in which was election rigging, fuelling we are proceeding as if public anxiety vesterday as media outlets significantly slowed down their unofficial tallies from Tuesday's tight vote

legations that have previously sparked violence.

richest and most stable nation endorsed Odinga. it also has a history of violent Media tallies, which had tions.

ident Uhuru Kenyatta, who marginal candidates.



The agents in this exercise cannot proceed we are doing a forensic audit

ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WAFULA CHEBUKAT

Only the electoral commis- must step down after serving sion is authorised to declare a the maximum two five-year winner, but the tallies done by terms. Leading contenders media were seen as a bulwark are former political prisoner against the kind of rigging al- and veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga and Deputy President William Ruto. Kenyatta While Kenya is East Africa's has fallen out with Ruto and

elections disputes. More than nearly stopped by yesterday 1,200 people were killed after morning, showed Odinga and the 2007 elections and more Ruto neck and neck, just under than 100 after the 2017 elec- the 50% mark they needed to win. Less than a percent was

The race is to succeed Pres- divided between two other

territory and carry out their vendettas. dersecretary, Ricardo Mejía Berdeja, said to shoot civilians, innocent people. That is The federal government's security un- the violence started inside the state prison the most unfortunate thing in this affair."

US, Indonesia, Australia hold drills amid China concerns

AFP | Baturaia

oldiers from the US, Indo-**O**nesia and Australia joined a live-fire drill yesterday, part of annual joint combat exercises on Sumatra island amid growing Chinese maritime activity in the Indo-Pacific region.

A total of more than 5,000 personnel from the US, Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore are participating in this year's Super Garuda Shield exercises, making them the largest since they began in 2009.

The expanded drills are seen by China as a threat. Chinese state media have accused the US of building an Indo-Pacif- Papua New Guinea and East stronger ties as China grows inic alliance similar to NATO to and diplomatic influence in the this month. region.

The United Kingdom, Can- mander, Adm. John C. Aquilino, South Korea, New Zealand, the training are signaling their as it applied to the threatening Aquilino said.



US and Indonesian during the joint military exercises in Baturaja, Indonesia

Timor also sent observers to creasingly assertive in claiming limit China's growing military the exercises, which began early virtually the entire South China ince. Sea and holds exercises threat-

The US Indo-Pacific com- ening self-ruled Taiwan.

ada, France, India, Malaysia, said the 14 nations involved in the People's Republic of China respond to any contingency,"

The destabilizing actions by the People's **Republic of China** as it applied to the threatening activities and actions against Taiwan is exactly what we are trying to avoid

US INDO-PACIFIC COMMANDER, ADM. JOHN C. AQUILINO

activities and actions against Taiwan is exactly what we are trying to avoid," he said at a joint news conference with Indonesian military chief Gen. Andika Perkasa in Baturaja, a coastal town in South Sumatra prov-

"We'll continue to help deliver a free and open Indo-Pacific "The destabilizing actions by and be ready when we need to



Dwayne Johnson ridiculed after he says he'd be Megan Thee Stallion's pet

IANS | Los Angeles

wayne 'The Rock' Johnson has been ridiculed online after excitedly saying that he apparently has a crush on rapper Megan Thee Stallion.

eagerly said that he would be the 'Sweetest Pie' raptress' pet, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Dwayne and Kevin Hart did an interview to promote their new movie 'DC League of Super-Pets'.

During the interview, which was uploaded to the actor's Instagram page, Dwayne excitedly unveiled that he's willing to be Megan's dog.

The actors were asked by the interviewer: "If you could be any celebrity's pet, who would you be?

Without skipping a beat, Dwayne responded that his ideal owner would be hip-hop star Megan, prompting his co-star Kevin, who said that he'd love to be Denzel Wash-

During an interview, Dwayne excitedly unveiled that he's willing to be Megan's dog

In a new interview, the actor ington's pet, to wince and cringe ever-so-slightly.

In response, the interviewer said: "Oh, that's a good one. Why Megan The Stallion?" Reacting to the question, Dwayne, who tied the knot with Lauren Hashian in 2019,

coyly said: "Oh, we don't need to talk about that."

Shortly after, social media users reacted to The Rock's quick response.

> "That response was fast as hell. He's been holding that in for a while!" one person commented on his post, with another said: "He been waiting his whole life to be asked that

> > question lmao-0000." "He ain't take no time to say it (trio crying emojis)," a third added. **Dwayne Johnson**

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Kim Kardashian 'supports' Pete **Davidson attending** therapy

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

∕ im Kardashian is "very K supportive" of Pete Davidson's decision to attend therapy.

The 41-year-old star and Pete, 28, recently called time on their high-profile romance, and it's subsequently emerged that the 'Saturday Night Live' star has turned to therapy after being repeatedly mocked by Kanye West - Kim's ex-husband - on social media.

A source told the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column: "Kim was very supportive of Pete going to therapy.

Kim Kardashian

Brad Pitt has a black book of actors 'he won't work with again'

plays Maria Beetle, the

handler of trained killer

laborate again in

Celebretainment | Los Angeles the s*** list."

rad Pitt has a list of ac- his 'good' list is Sandra Bullock tors he won't work with 'Bullet Train' co-star Aaron Taylor-Johnson.

The 58-year-old Hollywood Ladybug (Pitt), in his latlegend is said to keep notes on est movie 'Bullet Train' the actors who he loves and the and Brad hopes he and ones he doesn't wish to be on his "old friend", who set with again, just like Aaron, is also 58, will col-32

Speaking to Variety, the latter the future. said of Brad: "He just wants to The 'Fight

bring light and joy into the Club' star said world and be around peo- in a recent ple who are there to have a interview: good time. You work with "Sandy is an many actors and after a old friend. while you start making She's a diehard notes: 'I am definitely not person I could working with this person call for favours ever again.' Brad has this over the years list too: the 'good' list and and I have done

many many times and she's always there.

One star who is definitely on "Her timing was great, she Brad filmed a cameo for San- was a great person to have in again, according to his dra's 'The Lost City' and she my ear in a situation like what

which is actually kind of intimate. It just worked out really well and she had her film and I got to do a little bit of hers. I think we'll continue to do the same."

The 'By the Sea' star was also full of praise for co-star Joey King, 23, who plays hired killer Prince.

He said: "She's a powerhouse. She was just 21 when we were filming. Listen, I consider us pretty sharp but she's the sharpest of us all."

Britney Spears says her teenage kids are 'hateful', 'rude' towards her

IANS | Los Angeles

ship with her children, noting gave them everything...Only one out of my home!!' that her Instagram posts are word: HURTFUL...I'll say it...My not why her kids don't want to mother told me 'You should visit her.

She denied that her nude photos on social media are the reason her two sons, Sean Preston folks!!!" and Jayden, don't want to stay at her house anymore as their issues pre-date her more liberal usage of the photo sharing app and definitely not onsince she was released from the line," she added, taking 14-year conservatorship that aim at their father's gave her father Jamie Spears Kevin Federline's recontrol over her financial, cent tell-all to the Daily health and professional deci- Mail. sions, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In a post on Instagram, the claimed that their step-40-year-old wrote: "As we all mom's goal is to keep know, raising teenage boys is the children away from never easy for anyone...it con- all the controversy and

GIVE them to their dad' ...I'm sharing this because I can...Have a good day

"The situation should have been 100 per cent dealt with privately

"A British network

cerns me the fact that the reason trauma in my home... I have love \mathbf{P} op star Britney Spears fur- is based on my INSTAGRAM...it in my home and I have blessings ther addressed her relation- was LONG before Instagram...I from the people I allow in and

Brad Pitt

She also said, "I looked forward to seeing my kids every week... It was 2 days a week but I asked him

> to ask to stay for more days... maybe 3 days week they stayed HATEFUL ..."

> > **Britney Spears**

The situation should have been 100 per cent dealt with privately and definitely not online

BRITNEY SPEARS

But then the next walk in the door, go straight to their room and lock the door for only one day !!! The MONITOR would tell me (sad face emoji). that he just likes to be in his Yeah, I know that room .. I'm like why come visit teenagers are just me if they don't even visit me !!! hard to deal with But I never said that because I that that age... but have to be kind !!! REMEMBER COME ON, there's a if I speak up as a woman or being rude then something argumentative like I sav-

come visit me, for 4 months !!!"

there's being did with a dance move ing no to it, I got "They would sent to that place

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Demi Lovato in happy relationship with new musician boyfriend

IANS | Los Angeles

she/her pronouns, is cur- the insider. rently dating a fellow musician.

the news, reports People. 19

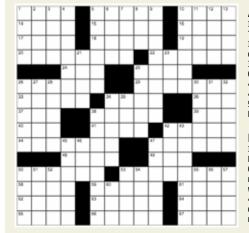
"He's a super great guy."

ry Not Sorry' singer shared of their eighth studio album that for itself," they ex-'Holy Fvck' -- featuring the plained on June 6 of the Singer Demi Lovato, who "It's a really happy and singles 'Skin of My Teeth' forthcoming 16-track has gone back to using healthy relationship," says and 'Substance' on August album, their first fulllength body of work

"Never have I been more since 2021's 'Dancing Lovato is hard at work sure of myself and my mu- with the Devil... The A source close to the 'Sor- gearing up for the release sic, and this record speaks Art of Starting Over'.

Demi Lovato

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				6	9		8	5									



CROSSWORD

Across

- Ultimate; 5- Nimble; 10- Hurler Hershiser; 14- Actress Raines; 15- The Younger and The Elder: 16- Hindu hero: 17- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax: 18- Dumas dueler: 19- Dry and waterless; 20- Festive gathering; 22- Late bloomers; 24- Uris hero; 25- Unit of computer memory: 26- Confused: 29- Insecticide and weed-killer: 33- Night vision? 34- In this way; 36- Amusement; 37- Back muscle, briefly; 38- Visit habitually; 39- Old California fort; 40- "_____ Believer" (Monkees hit); 41- Assist, often in a criminal act; 42- VCR button; 44- Might have claw and ball feet?; 47- Like some brides and threats; 48- Like duck soup: 49- 100%: 50- Conviction: 53- Casing or covering: 58- Sleep like 59- Iranian money; 61- "The Time Machine" race; 62- Scottish body; 63- Trunk line; 64-Dweeb; 65- Monogram ltr.; 66- Pending; 67- Domesticated;

Down

- Actor Cobb; 2- Pierce portrayer; 3- Close with force; 4- Monetary unit of Malawi; 5-Mite; 6- Fence opening; 7- Spillane's "__Jury"; 8- Canterbury car; 9- Editorial writer; 10-Gave a speech; 11- Steak order; 12- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 13- Scottish boys; 21- City near Provo; 23- RR stop; 25- Frank; 26- Wing it; 27- Stage play; 28- Coup _; 30- In conflict with, with "of"; 31- Suckle; 32- Broke off; 34- Domestic cat; 35- Shade; 38- Housewife; 42- Brazilian soccer star; 43- Illness; 45- Stature; 46- _-Bo; 47- Feudal tenant; 50- In-donesian holiday resort; 51- North Carolina college; 52- Sites; 53- Wagon; 54- Prefix with meter; 55- Zeno of __; 56- Standard; 57- It may turn; 60- Electrically charged particle;

Yesterday's solution

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THE tribune

MI Emirates sign Pollard and Boult for UAE T20 league Reuters | Dubai



Kieron Pollard

West Indian Kieron Pollard and New Zealand's Trent Boult will represent MI Emirates in the inaugural International League T20 tournament in the United Arab Emirates, the Abu Dhabi-based franchise owned by Reliance Industries said yesterday.

The Indian conglomerate also owns Pollard's Indian Premier League (IPL) team Mumbai Indians and the Cape Town-based franchise in an upcoming Twenty20 league in South Africa.

Pollard is one of the four West Indies players, including white-ball captain Nicholas Pooran and veteran Dwayne Bravo, to join MI Emirates for the six-team tournament beginning in January next year.

Bravo and Pooran have played for Mumbai Indians in the past.

Former Mumbai Indians player Boult is among the 14 overseas players directly signed by the franchise.

The left-arm seamer gave up his central contract with New Zealand Cricket on Wednesday to spend more time with his family and focus on playing Twenty20 leagues.

Bahrain punch semi-finals tickets in Asian volleyball

Kingdom's senior men's national team oust Pakistan in straight sets to take second place in Pool F and earn berth in final four of 2022 AVC Cup for Men in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

Mohamed Abdulla top scores for Bahrain against Pakistan with 14 points, all in attack

Bahrainis next set to take on Pool E winners Japan in final four, South Korea to face China

TDT | Manama

ahrain barged through to the semi-finals of the **B** to the semi-mass of 2022 Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Cup for tion, showed their class against Men yesterday after sweeping their Pakistani counterparts past Pakistan 3-0 (25-18, 27-25, 25-20) in their concluding game of the main round at Nakhon Pathom Provincial Gymnasium giants Iran in their previous fixin Thailand.

Pool F and earn their spot in against Pakistan. the final four along with fellow group members China.

South Korea.



Bahrain players celebrate after securing their win against Pakistan

vesterday in their straight-sets victory.

Fresh from stunning Asian ture on Thursday, the Bahrainis The result put them in second continued to show their impresplace to end their campaign in sive form and went right to work

Naser Anan and Mohamed Abdulla came up with hard at-There, the Bahrainis are set to tacks from both wings to help take on Pool E winners Japan, lift the team's 25-18 victory in the 2-0 match advantage. They while the Chinese will be fac- the first set. In a see-saw second, then sealed the win in a domiing off with Pool E runners-up both teams matched each other nant third set, going five points point for point until 25-all, but clear midway through and hold-The nationals, who are mak- then the Bahrainis managed to ing on to that gap until the end. ing their debut in the competi- claim the next two points to take

It was a difficult match for us as some players in my team are tired. Regarding our teamworks, I think we can do better than this in sideouts and attacks

ISSANAYE RAMIRES

Abdulla top scored for Bah-



Bahrain's Abbas Al Khabbaz attacks the net during their game against Pakistan

rain with 14 points, all from his powerful attacks. Fahad Raza first time in the AVC Cup for led Pakistan with 12 points.

"It was a difficult match for us edition. as some players in my team are tired," said Bahrain head coach been one of their best players Issanaye Ramires from Brazil. in the tournament, and Naser "Regarding our teamworks, I Anan, the rest of the team comthink we can do better than this peting in Nakhon Pathom inin sideouts and attacks."

semi-final clash against Japan spikers Mahmood Ahmed and as the underdogs, but will give Yusuf Ali; opposites Mohamed their maximum effort. The game Anan and Ali Khamis; middle is scheduled for an 11am start, Bahrain time.

nese clash in the next final four and liberos Ayman Haroona and contest at 2pm, Bahrain time.

Bahrain are playing for the Men, which is in its seventh

Along with Abdulla, who has cludes setters Mahmood Hasan Bahrain head into their and Mahmood Alafyah; wing blockers Abbas Al Khabbaz, Husain Aljeshi, Mohamed Al-The South Koreans and Chi- dawiri and Mohamed Abdulla; Husain Sultan.

Swiatek ambushed by Brazil's Haddad Maia in Toronto

AFP | Toronto

Brazilian outsider Beatriz Haddad Maia toppled world number one Iga Swiatek 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the WTA Toronto Masters.

The South American ranked 24th in the world beat her third





Kyrgios schools de Minaur to reach Montreal quarters

AFP | Montreal

Nick Kyrgios crushed fel-low Australian Alex de Minaur 6-2, 6-3 on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the ATP Montreal Masters. Kyrgios carried on constant backchat with his player box, giving almost a running commentary of his state of mind on court in a display that seems minutes. second nature to him. the all-Aussie match, wina contest which took just 64 hand into the net.



top-10 opponent this season, but notched her first career win over a world number one as she clawed out the victory in three hours

Haddad Maia, who won titles at Nottingham and Birmingham in June, became the first Brazilian to reach the quarters at a WTA 1000 tournament.

She was the first from her country to face a number one since Telian Pereira lost to Serena Williams at Roland Garros in 2016.

Swiatek, whose six titles this season include the French Open, missed her chance at a 50th match win this year.

Her run of 23 straight wins at the Masters 1000 level was snapped in difficult playing conditions.

"At the beginning I struggled to find my rhythm, probably because she's lefty and I had a hard time adjusting to her the next tournament, for sure." serve," Swiatek said.

"Without the wind I would manage. But it was pretty crazy out there.

"In the third set I knew (the strong balls. mistakes) I'd made. So I know what I want to work on and her. She was a little bit more what I want to improve before solid."

Iga Swiatek reacts during her loss to Beatriz Haddad Maia

At the beginning I struggled to find my rhythm, probably because she's lefty and I had a hard time adjusting to her serve. Without the wind I would manage. But it was pretty crazy out there

IGA SWIATEK

Swiatek added: "She just used

the conditions better than me. When she was playing with my next match. But, yeah, I feel the wind she was playing really happy. I believe in myself.

"I made more mistakes than

titles this season include the French **Open**, missed her chance at a 50th match win this year

ble-faults to squeeze out a 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7/4) win over Aryna Sabalenka.

The American teenager contributed just under half of the miscues in the error-strewn affair, with her opponent account-

errors to a dozen, backed up ing for 18 additional doubles. Tenth seed Gauff, who fell to Swiatek at Roland Garros in her first Grand Slam final this year, battled for three and a quarter

> Gauff finished with nine aces that she faced.

"The conditions weren't easy "I think I hung in there mentally and that's what I'm most

Victory for the 18-year-old came a day after she beat Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina in the third round in a match In other third-round action, that took two and three-quarter

Nick Kyrgios in action

The second-set pace was Nevertheless, the Wimble- just as torrid, with Kyrgios don runner-up dominated in breaking in the opening game. He failed to serve out the ning the opening set at a clip win leading 5-2, missing on a of three minutes per game in drop shot and sending a fore-



Haddad Maia put Swiatek on the defensive, forcing her to save 15 of 19 break points while committing nine double-faults. She limited her own unforced

by 23 winners while Swiatek ended with 33 winners and 28 unforced errors.

"I'm happy and proud of myself and my team, it's a special hours against sixth-seeded Samoment," she said. "It's not al- balenka. ways easy to beat the number one on a huge stage and against and saved 10 of 14 break points all the crowd.

"I think I passed through very tough moments in my career to today, a lot of wind," Gauff said. live this moment. I just want to enjoy a little bit.

"I don't want to think about proud of."

Gauff perseveres

Coco Gauff survived 15 dou- hours.

THE **tribune**

Bahrain add five more medals in Konya

Kingdom's national athletics team wrap up competition on the track and in the field by winning two more gold, two silver and one bronze at fifth Islamic Solidarity Games in Turkey

Winfred Yavi claims women's 1,500m gold to add to her women's 3,000m steeplechase title on last day of athletics competition

Aminat Jamal, Muna Mubarak, Awatif Imoleayo, Zenab Moussa Ali and Edidiong Odiong take women's 4x400m relay gold

Men's and women's 4x100m relay teams win silver medals while men's 4x400m relay squad clinch bronze

TDT | Manama

ahrain picked up five men's 4x400m relay team. more medals, including Two gold, yesterday on the Bahrain's final day of the athletics compe- medal taltition at the fifth Islamic Solidar- ly to date at ity Games being held in Konya, the Games to Turkey.

Winfred Yavi bagged the gold nine gold medal in the women's 1,500 me- medals, sevtres while the women's 4x400m en silver and relay team comprising Aminat four bronze Jamal, Muna Mubarak, Awatif medals. Imoleayo, Zenab Moussa Ali and Edidiong Odiong won gold in but their event at Konya Athletic Field

The national team's athletes also won two silver medals



Bahrain's athletes and officials pose for a photograph at the end of last night's events

YAVI

through the men's 4x100m relay one of Bahrain's total medal team and the women's 4x100m haul has been won in athletrelay squad; while also coming ics. The other was claimed by away with one bronze from the Ahmed Madan in road cycling, with the history-making Team

The five-medal haul brought Bahrain Victorious Winfred won the onds. women's 1,500m 14.35 seconds. It was Aminat Jamal, the second title for Fatima Mubarak, Winfred at the Games, Hajar Alkhaldi having also clinched and Edidiong

Meanwhile, the women's 4x400m relay team clinched their gold medal after win ning in 3:35.24.

In the men's 4x100m relay, Yaqoob Salem, rider claim- Abdulraof Rashid. ing the men's Ebrahim Simon and individual time Saeed Alkhaldi.won trial gold medal. their silver medal af-In yesterday's ter completing their athletics events, race in 39.01 sec-The women's

gold medal in a 4x100m relay time of four minutes team included the women's 3,000m Odiong. They steeplechase gold medal. took their

nings in Konya. The Kingdom's quartet included Musa Isah, Abbas Ali, Ali Khamis and Husain Aldoseri. With yesterday's events, Bahrain's men ual time trial.

silver medal in

lay team

44.11s.

and women athletes and in the field.

Bahrain's five-medal haul yesterday brought their medal tally at the Games to 20, including nine gold, seven silver and four bronze medalsall but one having been won in the sport of athletics. The other was claimed by Ahmed Madan in road cycling

Attending the final day of the athletics competition was Bahrain Olympic Committee secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, who presented some of the winners with their respective medals.

The BOC secretary general also met with his Uzbek counterpart The men's Ovbek Kasimov on the sidelines 4x400m re- of events.

The pair discussed ways of added a further cooperation between bronze the two Olympic committees, medal to including developing joint-proyesterday's win- grammes in wrestling, boxing and judo.

Elsewhere yesterday, Bahrain Cycling Association president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa expressed his sincere congratulations to the Kingdom's wise leadership on the success of Madan in the individ-

In shooting yesterday at the wrapped up their par- Games, Bahrain was taking part ticipation on the track but were not able to ascend onto the podium.

Bahrain youth football team continue Turkey camp

20, including

A 1 1



Surprise date-change overshadows World Cup 100-day countdown

AFP | Geneva

 $\mathbf{F}_{ ext{yesterday counted the cost}}^{ ext{IFA and Qatar organisers on}}$ of bringing forward the start of the World Cup by a day as they launched the 100-day countdown to the event. Football's ruling body and the wealthy Gulf state both promised action to help fans, sponsors and broadcasters hit by the change, announced late Thursday, but did not give details. The sudden move to bring forward Qatar's match against Ecuador by 24 hours -- to make it the gala opening match -has only added to the public relations concerns as the conservative host country counters criticism of its rights record and fan worries about what to expect when they arrive. "It is less than three months from the start. This has come tradition of marking the start out of the blue. It is not critical but it is a headache," said an executive for one World Cup of the first match featuring eibroadcaster, speaking on condition of anonymity. FIFA said its president Gianni Infantino and the six heads of the continental confedera- tar against Ecuador was to be tions had unanimously agreed the official inauguration match will seek to address any issues to make Qatar's game and the on the evening of November arising from this change in a official opening ceremony a 21 but Senegal against Neth- case-by-case basis."



Bahrain's youth national team's players and officials at their camp

Nationals gearing up for future competitions, including qualifiers for 2023 AFC U-17 Asian Cup this October

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth national this stage of the quantity of Mariana Islands; Group H is their overseas training camp ed into 10 groups-four with composed of hosts Tajikistan, vesterday in Turkey where they are preparing for their upcoming competitions.

warm-ups, the first of which nament. they won and then followed it up with a draw.

U-17 Asian Cup.

Lebanon.

ahrain's youth national this stage of the qualifi- China, Cambodia and Northern five teams and six with four Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and teams.

The under-17s are set to play each other once at a centralised gyzstan and Laos; and Group their final friendly of their camp venue. The ten group winners J features South Korea, Brutoday against a local club team. and the five best runners-up nei, hosts Uzbekistan and Sri They have already played two will qualify for the final tour- Lanka.

Among the tournaments the and Turkmenistan; Group B tician Bader Khalil.

nationals are gearing up for are includes hosts Indonesia, Mathe qualifiers for the 2023 AFC laysia, Palestine, Guam and the UAE; Group D is composed of

The Bahrainis are in Group C India, hosts Saudi Arabia, Myof the qualification process, the anmar, Maldives and Kuwait; matches of which will be played Group E consists of Yemen, this October in Muscat. The hosts Bangladesh, Singapore other teams in their division and Bhutan; Group F features are the Omanis, Iraq, Qatar and Thailand, hosts Vietnam, Chinese-Taipei and Nepal; Group

There are 44 nations in G consists of hosts Australia, Mongolia; Group I consists of

In each group, teams will play Iran, Hong Kong, hosts Kyr-

There are 28 players in the Group A features Japan, hosts Bahrain squad in their Turley Jordan, Syria, the Philippines camp, coached by Bahraini tacThe FIFA World Cup trophy is displayed during a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum 2022 (WEF) in the Alpine resort of Davos, Switzerland

"stand-alone" event.

"The change ensures the of the World Cup with an opening ceremony on the occasion ther the hosts or the defending champions," FIFA said in a statement.

Under the old schedule, Qa- date/time."



erlands would have been the first match of the day, followed England against Iran.

Under the new plan, the continuity of a long-standing Group A game between Senegal and the Netherlands has been shifted from 1:00pm (1000 GMT) on November 21 to 7:00pm start.

FIFA said tickets for the affected matches "will remain valid irrespective of the new

It added: "In addition, FIFA

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