

HH Shaikh Nasser crowned champion of Windsor's 160km ride

Another fantastic accomplishment added to Bahrain's endurance sport with the victory of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the Windsor Equestrian Championship | P12

WORLD 6 Ukrainian forces thwart Russians at river as fight shifts to Donbas



CELEBS 10 Keanu Reeves was considered for Brad Pitt's 'Lost City' role

BUSINESS 5 Musk says \$44 bln Twitter deal on hold over fake account data

Erdogan says Turkey not supportive of Finland, Sweden joining NATO

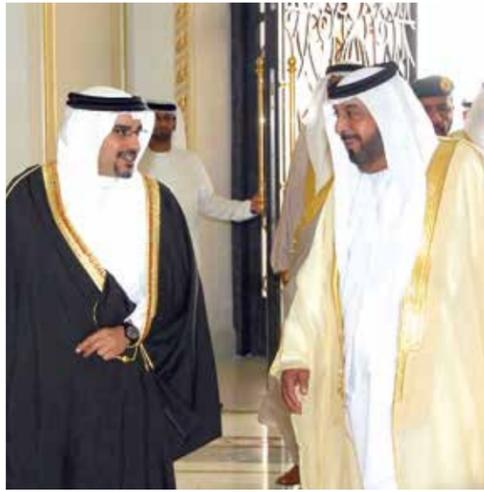
Reuters | Ankara/Helsinki

President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday it was not possible for NATO-member Turkey to support plans by Sweden and Finland to join the pact given that the Nordic countries were "home to many terrorist organisations". Though Turkey has officially supported NATO enlargement since it joined the US-led alliance 70 years ago, its opposition could pose a problem for Sweden and Finland given new members need unanimous agreement.

Turkey has repeatedly slammed Sweden and other Western European countries for its handling of organisations deemed terrorist by Ankara, including the Kurdish militant groups PKK and YPG, and the followers of US-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen. Ankara says Gulenists carried out a coup attempt in 2016.

Finland's plan to apply for NATO membership, announced Thursday, and the expectation that Sweden will follow, would bring about the expansion of the Western military alliance that Russian President Vladimir Putin aimed to prevent by launching the invasion of Ukraine.

"We are following the developments regarding Sweden and Finland, but we don't hold positive views," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul, adding it had been a mistake for NATO to accept Greece as a member in the past.



'A leader of great wisdom'

TDT | Manama

Bahrain leaders, Royal Family members, ministers and top officials yesterday condoled with the leaders and people of UAE on the sad demise of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates President.

In a condolence message, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa said the late President has dedicated his life to serving his country and the Arab and Islamic nations, as well as the entire humanity.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the UAE, following the passing of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a leader of great wisdom who devoted his life to public service, his nation and his people," His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, wrote on his Instagram page.

Three-day mourning

At the order by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Royal Court extended condolences

to the Al Nahyan family and the UAE people, praying to Allah the Almighty to bless the deceased with mercy and rest his soul in vast paradise.

The Royal Court also declared official three-day mourning, during which flags in Bahrain will fly at half-mast. His Majesty the King also directed all the mosques in the Kingdom to perform the absentee funeral prayer (Salat Al-Ghaib) for Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the late President of the UAE. Imams will perform the prayers after the noon (Al-Dhuhr) prayer today.

'Emirates has lost its virtuous son'

UAE president Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan passes away

● Sheikh Khalifa, born in 1948, had rarely been seen in public since suffering a stroke in 2014

● The UAE observes a 40-day mourning period with flags flown at half-mast

● Condolences started pouring in from Arab leaders including Bahrain's King, Egypt's president and Iraq's prime minister.

● Vice-president and premier Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, ruler of Dubai, will act as president until the federal council meets

● Federal council will meet within 30 days to elect a new president



United Arab Emirates' President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan



I am deeply saddened to know about the passing away of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed. He was a great statesman and visionary leader under whom India-UAE relations prospered. The heartfelt condolences of the people of India are with the people of UAE. May his soul rest in peace

NARENDRA MODI, INDIAN PRIME MINISTER

40 days of mourning, with flags at half-mast from Friday and suspended works in the public and private sector for the first three days.

"The Ministry of Presidential Affairs has mourned to the UAE people, Arab and Islamic nations and the world the death of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan," the official WAM news agency tweeted. Under the constitution, vice-president and premier Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, ruler of Dubai, will act as president until the federal council, which groups the rulers of the seven emirates, meets within 30 days to elect a new president.

Sheikh Khalifa, who was born in 1948, came to power in 2004 in the richest emirate Abu Dhabi and became the head of state. He is expected to be succeeded as ruler of Abu Dhabi by his half-brother Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

Mohammed bin Zayed has been the de facto ruler of UAE, particularly after Khalifa suffered a stroke in 2014, following which he has rarely been seen in public.

Sheikh Khalifa, who had no formal higher education, led the UAE as Dubai emerged as a tourism and trade hub and Abu Dhabi pumped oil as a key OPEC player. He came to the rescue of Dubai when it was hit by the global financial crisis in 2009, extending a multi-billion-dollar lifeline to the debt-laden emirate. (Continued on page 3)

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED
9772208

ACTIVE CASES
17

DEATHS
1479

DISCHARGED
568696

NEW CASES
633

CRITICAL
3

Drug peddler gets his 10-year jail term confirmed by appeals court

● Marijuana and Hashish were found stored in his house during a raid

● Police opened an investigation based on a tip-off received

TDT | Manama

A drug peddler, who appealed a ten-year jail term awarded by a Bahraini court, has had his prison terms upheld by the High Appeals Court.



Representative picture

The officer in plain-clothes approached the suspect and offered to buy BD800 worth of drugs from him, which was immediately accepted.

Court files say police arrested the man and confiscated undisclosed quantities of Marijuana and Hashish stored in his house during a raid.

Police also charged him with drug abuse.

Police opened an investigation against the man based on a tip-off received saying he was selling drugs in the Kingdom.

Investigators also assigned an undercover agent to catch the

suspect red-handed.

As per the plan, an officer in plain clothes approached the man and offered to buy BD800 worth of drugs from him, which was immediately accepted.

He also agreed with the agent to meet in a public place to complete the deal.

Unsuspecting the trap, the man came to the agreed meeting place and handed over the drugs to the agent, only to find himself surrounded by police officers, who took him into custody.

After obtaining a court order, police officers conducted a raid at his house and recovered various banned drugs.

The court had also slapped the man with a fine of BD5,000.

Son torches boat, Court orders parent to pay fisherman BD7000

TDT | Manama

A fisherman who sued the parents of a minor boy, who torched his boat, has been awarded BD7,000.

The High Civil Court ordered the boy's parents to compensate the fisherman for the boat, which he told the court was his only source of income.

The boat's owner, a fisherman, had told the court that the destroyed boat was his only source of income.

An earlier court verdict had determined the boy guilty of torching the boat.

The boat's owner, a fisherman, had told the court that

the destroyed boat was his only source of income.

The minor boy was convicted of the crime and allowed to remain with his parents.

The boat, worth BD7,000, according to court files, became unusable following the incident.

"My client proved his legal situation which confirmed that he was hugely affected by the

incident," said the plaintiff's lawyer. "He produced several witnesses who testified in his favour and other documents explaining the losses he suffered as the fire wrecked his boat."

The lawyer also informed the court that his client, the fisherman, had several loans and other financial commitments and struggling to live up to them.

Bahrain to organise international conference on combating AIDS in September

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will host the first Bahrain International Medical Conference for AIDS on September 22 and 23, this year.

The conference will be under the patronage of Chairman of the Supreme Council for Health (SCH), Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The event will bring together a host of international experts in the field of combating

AIDS, said Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health, Deputy Chairperson of the National Committee to Combat AIDS, Dr Meriam Al Hajeri, during a press conference.

She noted that forming the National Committee to Combat AIDS, under the chairmanship of the Health Minister, reflects the kingdom's commitment to the UN agreement in this regard and keenness on enhancing prevention through various plans and strategies.

Over 80 women attend PWA 'Eid Fiesta'

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Over 80 women attended 'Eid Fiesta' a fun-filled charity event organised by Pakistan Women's Association at Ramee Grand Hotel on Wednesday.

The Pakistan Women's Association (PWA) Bahrain, is a functional ladies group, relentlessly working for humanitarian as well as social causes apart from bringing the community together for the past 24 years.

The association stands in support of both Pakistanis and other nationalities in Bahrain, through its charitable causes and welfare initiatives. It supports 50 students from needy families by offering educational scholarships.

The event included speeches, a performance by a Cuban flute player Leidy Sampedro, a dance performance by Fitness 365 and raffle draws.

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, PWA President Shahmeen Islam said: "At the event, we pledged to offer support to upcoming women entrepreneurs apart from continuing the support initiatives we offer to the students and needy individuals of the community.

"We have supported 75 families with ration bags; 1,200 meals were served at a mosque in Sitra apart from distributing 150 meals at a labour camp. We also



PWA board members and sub-committee members at the event



Raffle draw winner with Pakistani actress Maheen Siddiqui



Ms Shahmeen addresses the gathering



Ms Shahmeen with (left) Tahira Saleem, Community Welfare Officer at the Pakistan Embassy



Guests at the event



Guests at the vendors' stalls



Cuban flautist Leidy Sampedro performing on stage

distributed food vouchers to almost 40 families.

"At the event, we launched the Youth Ambassador's Pro-

gramme aimed at offering the youth of Bahrain a platform to work towards charitable and welfare causes. Pakistan Em-

bassy and His Excellency Muhammed Ayub are supporting the initiative."

The vendors' stalls showcased

included apparel and clothing from Noureen Fashions, Libas and Diyas as well as a craft stall by Shamsaha Collaborative and

products of Mommying Since 2020, a new brand coming up, which will deal with sensory toys for children.

Labour minister opens BKS 75th anniversary celebrations, hails growing Bahrain-India ties

TDT | Manama

The Minister of Labour and Social Development, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, Jameel Humaidan, inaugurated a celebration organised by Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam, marking the 75th anniversary of its establishment in the Kingdom.

Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, Piyush Srivastava, BKS President PV Radhakrishna Pillai, and several prominent personalities were present.

Humaidan praised the deep-rooted historical ties binding the two friendly countries and stressed Bahrain's keenness, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to further develop and strengthen cooperation in various fields.

The minister pointed out that the establishment of BKS in Bahrain 75 years ago is a shining example that throws the light on the role of the Indian community in the Kingdom.

The ministry also hailed the role of BKS in introducing the culture of the two countries through various events.

PV Radhakrishna Pillai thanked the minister for his par-



The Minister of Labour and Social Development, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, Jameel Humaidan, inaugurates BKS 75th anniversary celebrations by lighting the lamp, as Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava and other dignitaries look on



icipation in the festival, pointing to the depth of the historical relations between Bahrain and India.

He also thanked the attention and care given by the Bahrain government in supporting and securing the rights of expatriate workers, which contributes to consolidating and upgrading relations between the two friendly countries.

Carnatic performance

Yesterday, well-known singer and music director M Jayachandran gave a carnatic vocal per-

Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam postpones programmes

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam announced postponing its programmes on Friday and Saturday until further notice.

The postponement follows the three-day national mourning announced for UAE president, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, said BKS in a press note.

formance at BKS on the eighth day of the Indo-Bahrain Dance & Music Festival' as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Week Celebration.

Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, the Secretary-General, Royal Charity Organization of Bahrain, and 2022 ONV Malayalam literature awardee T. Padmanabhan, were also present. A day before, on Wednesday, Indo-Bahrain Dance & Music Festival' saw a Dance Ballet 'Buddha The Divine' led by Vidyasree, featuring 60 dancers from the Indian community at BKS.



Well known singer and music director M Jayachandran during a Carnatic performance



Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, the Secretary-General, Royal Charity Organization of Bahrain, and 2022 ONV Malayalam literature awardee T. Padmanabhan (left)



Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School student bags 'Best Player' award in rapid chess



TDT | Manama

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School student Atharva Aditya Balvalli of Grade 9 bagged the "Best Player" title in the Under 16 category at Bahrain Rapid Chess Tournament 2022. He was awarded a Gold medal and Cash Prize.

The Tournament was organ-

ised by Bahrain Mind Sports Federation from 6th to 7th May 2022 at Seef Mall. Around 125 participants contested in various age categories.

Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob congratulated Atharva Aditya Balvalli for his outstanding performance.



Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, held yesterday talks with Nikos Dendias, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, during an official visit to Athens. They discussed the strong historical ties and the growth and development at all levels. Discussions also focused on regional, international, political and security situations. During a press conference, the ministers stressed the importance of developing bilateral relations in economy, trade, investment, culture, tourism, technology and the environment. They also discussed enhancing cooperation in diplomatic training through the Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies and the Greek Academy for Diplomatic Studies. Dr Sheikha Munira bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Director-General of the Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies, Ambassador Talal Abdul Salam Al Ansari, Director General of Foreign Affairs Affairs, and other top officials were present.

"True partner and friend of the United States"

(Continued from page 1)

Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, said, "With hearts racked by sadness... and with souls that believe in God's decree and destiny... we mourn the patron of our march... and our president, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the people of the Emirates, the Arab and Islamic peoples, and to the

world."

US President Joe Biden described Khalifa as a "true partner and friend of the United States" and said in a statement that the US would continue strengthening its ties with the UAE.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, whose country has often had tense relations with the UAE, sent a letter of condolences to his Emirati counterpart, Iran's

state media said. Sayyid Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, the Speaker of the Shura Council, said the UAE and the Arab world lost, with his death, a wise and loyal leader, who dedicated his life for the renaissance and development of the UAE, and strived with a dedication to serve the Arab and Islamic nations, and humanitarian and just causes.

Al Sales also sent cables of condolences and sympathy to UAE leaders.

Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Speaker of the House of Representatives, recalled the merits of the late deceased and his active and pivotal role in strengthening relations between the two brotherly peoples of the UAE and Bahrain and in promoting political, development and humanitarian work in the region. The speaker extended to the brotherly Emirati people and UAE leaders her sincerest condolences.

Dawajin needs egg box cartons and carry bags for egg trays

TDT | Manama

The General Poultry Company (Dawajin) is looking forward to purchasing plastic bags (meeting the requirements of the Supreme Council for the Environment) to carry egg trays.

Interested parties should deliver the bags with printing on them in batches on demand to the farms of Dawajin in Hamala.

Only local companies in the Kingdom are allowed to participate.

Those meeting the requirements, if interested, should make bids before the 29th of May 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Separately, Dawajin had also launched a tender for buying corrugated Egg box- es.

The tender is for "corrugated Egg boxes carton 5 ply brown BC-RSC W-vent two side holes glues and printed without logo."

The egg boxes could be multi-coloured as per the design supplied.

The tender closes on the 29th of May 2022. To apply, make bids with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Government Hospitals buying ventilator for home patients

TDT | Manama



Representative picture

Government Hospitals have launched a tender for buying portable ventilators for home patients.

The tender requests quotes for "low pressure, portable, electrically powered ventilation unit with computer control that delivers gas to patients independent of a compressed gas power source that could be fixed on a stand for comfortable movement with an internal rechargeable battery." Technical specifications and quantities are in the RFQ document.

Interested suppliers should make bids before the 17th of this month, with a BD142 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Sales point at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention centre

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Tourism & Exhibition Authority has invited proposals for supplying, installing, testing and commissioning "point of sale soft and hardware" for the new Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre.

Make bids before the 15th of June 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Shops for rent in central market, Alzebara

TDT | Manama

Capital Municipality is looking forward to holding an auction for renting a shop in the Manama Central Market.

A tender launched by the municipality identifies the shop as "No 89B Road 1405 Block 314 at Manama Central Market."

The move, the municipality said, aims at achieving the "principle of equality and equal opportunities among investors to benefit from the investment opportunities provided by the Capital Municipality."

Through the auction, the municipality also aims at encouraging the private sector to participate in the economic development of the Capital Municipality. Interested investors should submit their offers for the shop for four "Gregorian years". The tender closes on the 24th of this month. Make bids with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Shop 6A

Separately, the municipality



Representative picture

had also launched another tender for auctioning shop 6A in Alzebara Road.

The shop for auction is in Al Zubarah Street, Block 318, Hoo-

ra District - Manama, says the tender.

Area per unit is "(6.4 m x 4.5 m), total area (28.8 square meters), area (49.4 square meters)."

The tender board would stop accepting bids for shop 6A on the 22nd of this month. Make bids with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees before that.

Souq Al Manama Events 2022 on way

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism & Exhibition Authority is looking forward to conducting the Souq Al Manama Events 2022.

A tender launched says the authority is open to receiving proposals for the event, which aims at attracting local and regional tourists.

The tender, BTEA says, is for ensuring the highest quality equipment, venue setups and logistical attributes.

Make bids before the 25th of this month, with a BD1,000 bond and BD50 tender fees.



Representative picture

Single bidder for consultancy services for Sports City



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning tender for pre-contract consultancy services for Sports City at Sakhir - Phase 1A received a single bid.

The bid by Populous Limited is for BHD 10,980,000.000.

The project comprises the Consultancy Services for the Pre-contract Consultancy Services for Sports City at Sakhir to ensure that the project is an economically feasible tourist, sports and entertainment attraction.

The tender was for finalizing the Master plan development and the Internal infrastructure development, Phase (1A) Design works, including the preparation of the Tender Documents.

LMRA is hiring security guards



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority is seeking to hire Security guards for its buildings. A tender launched says LMRA is looking forward to signing a contract with a "well-established company to

provide security guards."

LMRA tender says it needs both male and female guards.

Openings are available at all LMRA branches. Those interested make bids before the 25th of this month, with a BD2,500 bond and BD100 tender fees.

Need Health Economics Specialists

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Council of Health is inviting proposals to provide resources that can perform the required functions within the Health Economics Directorate within SCH as well as contribute to building the capacity within the directorate.

The tender closes on the 29th of this month. Make



Representative picture

bids with a BD2,500 bond and BD100 tender fees.

Secondment of Finance Staff for Mumtalakat

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company has launched a tender for secondment of finance staff.

The tender says a bidder should second the "services of a finance and accounting staff (two Staffs), preferably a Bahraini national."

The appointments are for assisting the Finance department of Mumtalakat for five years.

The selected staff should provide the following functions: Finance Back-Office support, Payment processing, Treasury back-office support, Accounting and monthly closing, MIS and Reporting, and Group consolidation, says the tender.

If interested, make bids before the 5th of June 2022, with a BD2,500 bond and BD100 tender fees.

Justice ministry hiring 36 Hajibs, 16 security guards

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs is hiring 36 Hajib for court halls in the ministry.

The appointment will be for a year and six months.

The ministry also wants 16 security guards for its main buildings and other buildings for the same period.

Interested suppliers should make bids before the 29th of this month, with a BD2,500 bond and BD100 tender fees.

New website for MoFA, diplomatic missions abroad

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opened tender inviting proposals for designing and developing a website for the ministry and diplomatic missions abroad.

The websites should follow the latest technological trends and methods in website designs and development, says the tender.

Those interested make bids before the 22nd of June 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

50 Mbps dedicated Internet & Wi-Fi for Urban planning

TDT | Manama

The Urban Planning and Development Authority is calling for a vendor to supply it with a 50 Mbps dedicated Internet & Wi-Fi solution. The connection is for the current UPDA building (Zayed Town) starting from the 1st of July 2022 till the 30th of September 2022 and the new UPDA building (Sanabis) starting from the 1st of August 2022 till the 31st of December 2024.

Interested service providers should make bids before the 25th of this month, with a BD500 bond and BD15 tender fees.

Three-month contract for installing Madinat Khalifa signboard

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has opened a tender for installing MOW'S PROJECT advertisement Sign Board (4.1x3 m) with Electronic Video (LED) Screen adjacent to King Hamad Highway near Madinat Khalifa Health Centre. The tender is for completing all works, including construction, electrical and associated jobs.

The ministry is offering a three-month contract.

Those interested make bids before the 29th of June 2022, with a BD500 bond and BD30 tender fees.



A secondment (sometimes referred to as a "job rotation") is a chance to temporarily work on a different team within your organisation, or in some cases, for a different organisation entirely. Think of secondments as the on-the-job equivalent of exchange student programmes.



Musk says \$44 bln Twitter deal on hold over fake account data

● Musk decided to waive due diligence when he agreed to buy Twitter on April 25, in an effort to get twitter accept his "best and final offer."

● Twitter is planning no immediate action as a result of Musk's comment

● Musk has said that if he buys Twitter he "will defeat the spam bots or die trying"

● Spam or fake accounts are designed to manipulate or artificially boost activity on services like Twitter.

Reuters

Elon Musk tweeted yesterday that his \$44-billion cash deal for Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) was "temporarily on hold" while he waits for the social media company to provide data on the proportion of its fake accounts.

Twitter shares initially fell more than 20% in premarket trading, but after Musk, the chief executive of electric car market Tesla Inc (TSLA.O), sent a second tweet saying he remained committed to the deal, they regained some ground.

The shares were down 10%



Elon Musk's Twitter profile is seen on a smartphone placed on printed Twitter logos

to \$40.50 in morning trading on Friday, a steep discount to the \$54.20 per share acquisition price.

Musk, the world's richest person, decided to waive due diligence when he agreed to buy Twitter on April 25, in an effort to get the San Francisco-based company to accept his "best and final offer." This could make it harder for him to argue that Twitter somehow misled him.

Since then, technology stocks have plunged amid investor concerns over inflation and a potential economic slowdown.

The spread between the offer price and the value of Twitter shares had widened in recent days, implying less than a 50% chance of completion, as investors speculated that the downturn would prompt Musk to walk or seek a lower price.

"Twitter deal temporarily on hold pending details supporting calculation that spam/fake

accounts do indeed represent less than 5% of users," Musk told his more than 92 million Twitter followers.

Twitter is planning no immediate action as a result of Musk's comment, people familiar with the matter said. The company considered the comment disparaging and a violation of the terms of their deal contract, but was encouraged by Musk subsequently tweeting he was committing to the acquisition, the sources added.

There was no immediate reaction from the investors that Musk tapped last week to raise \$7.1 billion in funding.

Spam or fake accounts are designed to manipulate or artificially boost activity on services like Twitter. Some create an impression that something or someone is more popular.

Musk tweeted a Reuters story from ten days ago that cited the fake account figures. Twitter



has said that the figures were an estimate and that the actual number may be higher.

The estimated number of spam accounts on the microblogging site has held steady below 5% since 2013, according to regulatory filings from Twit-

ter, prompting some analysts to question why Musk was raising it now.

"This 5% metric has been out for some time. He clearly would have already seen it... So it may well be more part of the strategy to lower the price," said Susanah Streeter, an analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Representatives for Musk did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Reuters.

Tesla's stock rose 4% on Friday morning. The shares have lost about a quarter of their value since Musk disclosed a stake in Twitter of April 4, amid concerns he will get distracted as Tesla's chief executive and that he may have to sell more Tesla shares to fund the deal.

There is plenty of precedent for a potential renegotiation of the price following a market downturn. Several companies repriced agreed acquisitions when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020 and delivered a global economic shock.

In one instance, French retailer LVMH (LVMH.PA) threatened to walk away from a deal with Tiffany & Co. The US jewelry retailer agreed to lower the price by \$425 million to \$15.8 billion.

Acquirers seeking a get out sometimes turn to "material adverse effect" clauses in their merger agreement, arguing the target company has been significantly damaged.

But the language in the Twitter deal agreement, as in many recent mergers, does not allow Musk to walk away because of a deteriorating business environment, such as a drop in demand for advertising or because Twit-

ter's shares have plunged.

In practice, acquirers who lose a specific performance case are almost never forced to complete an acquisition and typically negotiate a monetary settlement with their targets.

"The nature of Musk creating so much uncertainty in a tweet (and not a filing) is very troubling to us and the Street and now sends this whole deal into a circus show with many questions and no concrete answers as to the path of this deal going forward," Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives wrote in a note.

DEFEAT THE BOTS

Musk has said that if he buys Twitter he "will defeat the spam bots or die trying" and has blamed the company's reliance on advertising for why it has let spam bots proliferate.

He has also been critical of Twitter's moderation policy and has said he wants Twitter's algorithm to prioritize tweets to be public and was against too much power on the service to corporations that advertise.

Nevertheless, Musk is targeting advertising revenue to more than double by 2028, according to slides he presented to investors that were reported by the New York Times.

Ads are expected to make up about 45% of Twitter's total revenue by that time, down from nearly all of its revenue today, according to the investor presentation.

Earlier this week, Musk said he would reverse Twitter's ban on former U.S. President Donald Trump when he buys the social media platform, signaling his intention to cut moderation.

Bitcoin set for record losing streak after 'stablecoin' collapse

● Bitcoin edges back up from 16-month low

● TerraUSD collapse shakes crypto market

● Analysts say impact on traditional markets limited

Reuters | Singapore/Hong Kong/London

Cryptocurrencies nursed large losses yesterday, with bitcoin back above \$30,000 and but still set for a record losing streak after the collapse of TerraUSD, a so-called stablecoin, rippled through cryptocurrency markets. Crypto assets have also been swept up in broad selling of risky investments on worries about high inflation and rising interest rates. Sentiment is particularly fragile, as tokens supposed to be pegged to the dollar have faltered.

Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency by total market value, managed to bounce in the Asia session and traded around \$30,500 at 1140 GMT. It has staged something of a recovery



Representations of the Ripple, Bitcoin, Ethereum and Litecoin virtual currencies are seen on a PC motherboard

from a 16-month low of around \$25,400 reached on Thursday.

But it remains far below week-ago levels of around \$40,000 and, unless there is a rebound in weekend trade, is headed for a record seventh consecutive weekly loss.

"I don't think the worst is over," said Scottie Siu, investment director of Axion Global Asset Management, a Hong Kong based firm that runs a crypto index fund.

"I think there is more downside in the coming days. I think what we need to see is the open interest collapse a lot more, so the speculators are really out of

it, and that's when I think the market will stabilize."

BEYOND BITCOIN

Crypto-related stocks have taken a pounding, with shares in broker Coinbase (COIN.O) steady overnight but still down by half in little more than a week.

In Asia, Hong Kong-listed Huobi Technology (1611.HK) and BC Technology Group (0863.HK), which operate trading platforms and other crypto services, eyed weekly drops of more than 20%. But broader financial markets have so far seen little knock-on effect from the cryptocurrency crash.

STABLECOIN SQUEEZE

Selling has roughly halved the global market value of cryptocurrencies since November, but the drawdown has turned to panic in recent sessions with the squeeze on stablecoins.

Stablecoins are tokens pegged to the value of traditional assets, often the U.S. dollar, and are the main medium for moving money between cryptocurrencies or to convert balances to fiat cash.

Cryptocurrency markets were rocked this week by the collapse of TerraUSD (UST), which broke its 1:1 peg to the dollar.

The coin's complex stability mechanism, which involved balancing with a free-floating cryptocurrency called Luna, stopped working when Luna came under selling pressure. TerraUSD last traded around 9 cents, while Luna plunged close to zero.

Tether, the biggest stablecoin and one whose developers say is backed by dollar assets, has also come under pressure and fell to 95 cents on Thursday, according to CoinMarketCap data, but was back at \$1 on Friday.

Tesla puts India entry plan on hold after deadlock on tariffs

Reuters | New Delhi

Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) has put on hold plans to sell electric cars in India, abandoned a search for showroom space and reassigned some of its domestic team after failing to secure lower import taxes, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The decision caps more than a year of deadlocked talks with government representatives as Tesla sought to first test demand by selling electric vehicles (EVs) imported from production hubs in the United States and China, at lower tariffs.

But the Indian government is pushing Tesla to commit to manufacturing locally before it will lower tariffs, which can run as high as 100% on imported vehicles.

Tesla had set itself a deadline of Feb. 1, the day India unveils its budget and announces tax changes, to see if its lobbying brought a result, the sources with knowledge of the company's plan told Reuters.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government did not offer a concession, Tesla put on hold the plans to im-



Model Y cars

port cars into India, added the sources, who sought anonymity because the deliberations were private.

Tesla has assigned additional responsibilities for other markets to some of its small team in India. Its India policy executive Manuj Khurana has taken on an additional "product" role in San Francisco since March, his LinkedIn profile shows.

As recently as January, Chief Executive Elon Musk had said Tesla was "still working through a lot of challenges with the government" in regard to sales in India.

But the strong demand for Tesla's vehicles elsewhere and the standoff over import taxes prompted the shift in strategy, the sources said.



News in brief

Australia says Chinese spy ship's presence off west coast 'concerning'
Australia's west coast within 50 nautical miles of a sensitive defence facility, Australia said yesterday, raising concern amid an election campaign about China's assertive behaviour in the region. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the Chinese navy vessel was not in Australian territorial waters but its presence was "concerning". Australia had tracked the spy ship over the past week as it sailed past the Harold E Holt naval communications station at Exmouth, which is used by Australian, US and allied submarines.

At least 11 people died after their boat, which was carrying an unknown number of passengers, overturned off the coast of Puerto Rico, the US Coast Guard said. "As of 6 PM Thursday (2200 GMT), responding partner agency units have rescued 31 survivors, 11 female and 20 male. 11 deceased have been recovered," the Coast Guard said in a tweet. The spokesperson said most of the survivors were from Haiti or the Dominican Republic, and that the search was ongoing.

Alleged senior leader of 1994 Rwandan genocide confirmed dead
fugitives sought over the 1994 Rwandan genocide, has been confirmed dead and the case against him has been closed, the prosecutor of the successor court to the UN Rwanda tribunal said on Thursday. An international investigation concluded that Mpiranya died on October 5th in 2006 in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. He was alleged to have been a senior leader of the 1994 Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi population and was indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in 2000.

The families of eight missing miners in Burkina Faso desperately awaited news from rescue teams continuing yesterday to locate the men who have been stuck underground for 26 days. There has been no communication with the miners since they were trapped more than 500 metres (1,640 ft) below ground during a flood at Canada-based Trevali Mining Corp's Perkoa zinc mine on April 16.

Somalia will hold a long-awaited presidential election on Sunday, ending months of delays, with the new leader set to confront huge challenges including a grinding Islamist insurgency and a punishing drought that has sparked famine fears. The troubled Horn of Africa nation has been grappling with a political crisis since February 2021, when President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's term ended without a new vote.

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	84,107,931	1,026,233	520,170,239 Deaths: 6,285,998 Recovered: 474,842,200 New cases: +464,402 New deaths: +1,338
2 India	43,117,836	524,190	
3 Brazil	30,639,130	664,700	
4 France	29,130,343	147,257	
5 Germany	25,733,580	137,809	
6 UK	22,159,805	176,708	
7 Russia	18,250,290	377,464	
8 S. Korea	17,727,086	23,606	
9 Italy	16,993,813	165,091	
10 Turkey	15,051,761	98,885	
11 Spain	12,127,122	105,444	
12 Vietnam	10,690,471	43,063	
13 Argentina	9,101,319	128,729	
14 Japan	8,260,356	29,974	

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	758,361	+559	9,111		743,309	5,941
UAE	901,809	+369	2,302		885,537	13,970
Kuwait	632,074		2,555		629,114	405
Oman	389,370		4,259		384,543	568
Qatar	365,938	+123	677		364,214	1,047

Sri Lanka's new PM struggles to form unity government

AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka's new prime minister was struggling yesterday to forge a unity government and forestall an imminent economic collapse after a senior opposition figure refused to helm the finance ministry.

Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in late on Thursday to navigate his country through the worst downturn in its history as an independent nation, with months of shortages and blackouts inflaming public anger.

The 73-year-old insists he has enough support to govern and has approached several potential allies to join his administration.

But frontline opposition lawmaker Harsha de Silva publicly rejected an overture to take charge of the nation's finances and said he would instead push for the government's resignation.

"People are not asking for political games and deals, they want a new system that will safeguard their future," he said in a statement.

De Silva said he was joining "the people's struggle" to topple President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and would not support any political settlement that left the leader in place.

He is a member of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party, the largest opposition grouping in parliament, which has split on whether to support a unity government without Rajapaksa's resignation.

Huge public demonstrations have for weeks condemned Rajapaksa over his administration's mismanagement of the crisis.

Hundreds remain outside his seat office in the capital Colombo at a protest camp that



Sri Lanka's new prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, third left, takes part in religious observances at a temple in Colombo

YOU KNOW WHAT
Wickremesinghe is seen as a pro-West free-market reformist, potentially making bailout negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and others smoother

tion to a position where our people will once again have three meals a day," he said.

Mahinda Rajapaksa, the president's brother, resigned as prime minister on Monday after his supporters attacked anti-government demonstrators who had been protesting peacefully.

At least nine people were killed and more than 200 injured in ensuing clashes, with dozens of Rajapaksa loyalist homes set on fire by furious mobs.

Mahinda has since been banned by a court from leaving the country and he has taken refuge at the Trincomalee naval base in Sri Lanka's east.

Troops have largely restored order and a nationwide curfew has been in effect for most of the week.

Wickremesinghe is seen as a pro-West free-market reformist, potentially making bailout negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and others smoother.

But it remains to be seen whether a new cabinet will be enough to calm public anger if Rajapaksa continues to resist calls for his resignation.

"I can't call it anything but a terrorist act," the mayor, Vyacheslav Zadorenko, told Reuters. "They wanted to hit the base where we store provisions and create a humanitarian catastrophe." Another missile had slammed into the building on Thursday and Russian shelling had wounded a staff member at a clinic and killed a young couple in their home, he said.

Ukrainian forces thwart Russians at river as fight shifts to Donbas

Ukraine destroys Russian military vehicles attempting to cross Donbas river

Ukraine says it set Russian supply ship in Black Sea on fire

Reuters | Washington

Ukrainian forces destroyed parts of a Russian armoured column as it tried to cross a river in the Donbas region, video from Ukraine's military showed yesterday, as Moscow appeared to be refocusing its assault in the east after a new pushback by Kyiv.

Ukraine has driven Russian troops away from the second-largest city of Kharkiv in the fastest advance since Kremlin forces pulled away from Kyiv and the northeast over a month ago, although Moscow is still bombarding villages north of Kharkiv.

The city, which had been under fierce bombardment, has been quiet for at least two weeks and Reuters journalists have confirmed Ukraine now controls territory stretching to the Siverskiy Donets River, around 40 km (25 miles) to the east.

Some 10 km (six miles) north of the city, firefighters doused smouldering wreckage in Derzhachi after what local officials said was an overnight Russian missile attack on the House of Culture, used to distribute aid. Volunteers inside were trying to salvage packages of baby diapers and formula.

"I can't call it anything but a terrorist act," the mayor, Vyacheslav Zadorenko, told Reuters. "They wanted to hit the base where we store provisions and create a humanitarian catastrophe." Another missile had slammed



An aerial view of destroyed buildings and burnt vehicles on the banks of Siverskiy Donets River, eastern Ukraine

YOU KNOW WHAT
Russian forces have been bombarding the steelworks, the last bastion of Ukrainian defenders in a city almost completely controlled by Russia after a siege of more than two months

into the building on Thursday and Russian shelling had wounded a staff member at a clinic and killed a young couple in their home, he said.

Russia, which denies targeting civilians, said its forces had shot down a Ukrainian Su-27 aircraft in the Kharkiv region and disabled the Kremenchuk oil refinery in central Ukraine.

It was not immediately possible to verify the reports.

Southeast of Kharkiv, Britain said Ukraine had stopped Russian forces crossing the Siverskiy Donets river west of Severodonetsk. Footage released by Ukrainian Airborne Forces Command appeared to show several burnt out military vehicles near segments of a partially submerged bridge and many other damaged or abandoned vehicles, including tanks, nearby.

The British defence ministry

Thanks to the actions of our naval seamen, the support vessel Vsevolod Bobrov caught fire - it is one of the newest in the Russian fleet

SERIHY BRATCHUK, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ODESSA REGIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATION

said Russia was investing significant military effort near Severodonetsk and Izium, and trying to break through towards Sloviansk and Kramatorsk to complete their takeover of Ukraine's industrial Donbas region.

Russian-backed separatists said they had taken the Zarya chemical plant in Rubizne near Severodonetsk.

The Kremlin calls its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine a "special military operation" to demilitarise a neighbour threatening its security. Ukraine says it poses no threat to Russia and that the deaths of thousands of civilians and destruction of cities and towns show that Russia is waging a war of aggression.

Ukraine accused Russia of forcibly deporting more than 210,000 children since its invasion on Feb. 24, saying they were among 1.2 million Ukrainians transferred against their will.

The Kremlin says people have come to Russia to escape fighting. In Kyiv, a court began hearing



A man stands in a street, with Azovstal Iron and Steel Works seen in the background

the first case of what Ukraine says are more than 10,000 possible war crimes; a Russian soldier is accused of murdering a civilian soon after the invasion. Moscow has accused Kyiv of staging such crimes.

In the southern port of Mariupol, Russian forces intensified their bombardment of the Azovstal steelworks, the last bastion of Ukrainian defenders in a city almost completely controlled by Russia after a siege of more than two months.

Reuters video showed explosions and thick smoke on Thursday and Ukrainian fighters released footage showing gunbattles. Some of the civilians evacuated recently from tunnels under the plant where they had taken shelter described terrifying conditions.

"Every second was hellish," 51-year-old nurse Valentyna Demianchuk told Reuters.

I am deeply saddened to know about the passing away of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed. He was a great statesman and visionary leader under whom India-UAE relations prospered. The heartfelt condolences of the people of India are with the people of UAE. May his soul rest in peace.



@narendramodi

I am deeply saddened to hear of the death of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Abu Dhabi.



@BorisJohnson

My heartfelt condolences to the people of the #UAE for the death of their President, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. May his soul rest in peace.



@DrTedros

I offer my condolences to the people of the UAE on the passing of Sheikh Khalifa. The Sheikh devoted his life to his country, working for the welfare and future of the Emirates. With him, the UAE became prosperous, tolerant and open to the world. His legacy will live on.



@vonderleyen

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

North Korea reports first COVID-19 death as fever spreads 'explosively'

Reuters | Seoul

At least one person confirmed to have COVID-19 has died in North Korea and hundreds of thousands have shown fever symptoms, state

YOU KNOW WHAT
Experts said that given North Korea's limited testing capabilities, the numbers released so far probably represent a small fraction of the infections, which could lead to thousands of deaths in one of only two countries in the world without a COVID-19 vaccination campaign

media said, offering hints at the potentially dire scale of country's first confirmed outbreak of the pandemic.

The data represents an unprecedented admission of an "explosive" outbreak in a country that had reported no previous confirmed cases since the pandemic began, and could mark a grave public health, economic and political crisis for the isolated regime.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits the State Emergency Epidemic Prevention Headquarters

South Korea's new president, Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office this week, plans to provide COVID-19 vaccines and other medical support to North Koreans, and his government would discuss details with Pyongyang, his spokeswoman said yesterday, without elaborating.

Experts said that given North Korea's limited testing capabilities, the numbers released so far probably represent a small fraction of the infections, which could lead to thousands of deaths in one of only two countries in the world without a COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

Police clash with mourners at Palestinian journalist's funeral

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israeli police clashed with Palestinian mourners packed around the coffin of slain Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh at the start of her funeral procession in Jerusalem yesterday.

Masked police officers faced scores of flag-waving and chanting Palestinians in the compound of St. Joseph's Hospital in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, television footage showed.

Officers then charged the crowd and at one point the group carrying her coffin backed against a wall and almost dropped the casket, recovering it just before one end hit the ground.

The violent scenes underlined the growing anger over Abu Akleh's killing which has threatened to add further fuel to an already raging conflict.



Israeli police confront with mourners as they carry the casket of slain Al Jazeera veteran journalist Shireen Abu Akleh during her funeral

Shireen Abu Akleh, who had covered Palestinian affairs and the Middle East for more than two decades, was shot while reporting on an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday.

Palestinian authorities described Abu Akleh's killing as an assassination by Israeli forces. Israel's government initially suggested Palestinian fire might have

UK frigate seizes illegal heroin shipment in Gulf of Oman

CMF | Manama



United Kingdom Royal Navy frigate HMS Montrose (F 236)

A frigate from the United Kingdom Royal Navy seized illicit narcotics from a fishing vessel while conducting patrols in international waters in the Gulf of Oman, May 5.

HMS Montrose (F 236) was operating as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, one of four task forces under Combined Maritime Forces. The international naval force has increased regional patrols to locate and disrupt unlawful maritime activity.

The seizure included 95 kilograms of heroin with an estimated U.S. street value of \$4 million.

One killed, 12 injured in Karachi bombing; police



Pakistani investigator examine the site of the explosion

One person was killed and 12 injured in a bomb blast late Thursday in Karachi, police said, just two weeks after a suicide attack by a Pakistan separatist group killed four in the same city.

The explosion tore through the Saddar neighbourhood of Pakistan's most populous city at around 11:00 pm (1800 GMT).

"Initial investigation suggested that the explosive material was planted in a motorcycle that was parked near a trash bin," said local police station house officer Sajjad Khan.

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Swiatek asserts No. 1 status with win over Andreescu in Rome

Tsitsipas sees off Sinner to reach Rome semis after match point drama

● Zverev sees off Garin to ease into Italian Open semi-finals

AP | Rome

Iga Swiatek extended her winning streak to 26 matches and reached the Italian Open semifinals after beating former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu 7-6 (2), 6-0 yesterday.

Swiatek struggled to handle being a top-five player last year. Now she's learned how to use her recent success to intimidate. "I needed time to learn how to do that properly, how to use the streak or ranking to put pressure on my opponents," Swiatek said. "Last year when I had (a) better ranking (than opponents), it felt like it's something that's pressuring me down. This time it's totally different."

Considering her prowess on hard courts, the often-injured Andreescu has been tossed



Iga Swiatek returns the ball to Bianca Andreescu

around as a potential No. 1. But Swiatek slowly wore Andreescu down in a lengthy first set at the Foro Italico and dictated the tie-breaker by moving her opponent from side to side.

In all, Swiatek produced 27 winners to Andreescu's 12 and converted all six of her break points.

"I feel like every match I'm playing better and better," Swiatek said. "Even though the first set was pretty tight, I had some

ups and downs, I feel like I could play well in important moments and break back anytime.

"I'm pretty happy that also the second set was more solid because it shows that I'm learning my lessons throughout the whole match."

Swiatek's semifinal opponent will be third-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, who rallied past Amanda Anisimova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 for her first victory over the American in five tries.

” I needed time to learn how to do that properly, how to use the streak or ranking to put pressure on my opponents. Last year when I had (a) better ranking (than opponents), it felt like it's something that's pressuring me down. This time it's totally different

IGA SWIATEK

In the men's tournament, fifth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas served 10 aces to defeat Jannik Sinner 7-6 (5), 6-2.

It's the third consecutive Masters semifinal on clay for Tsitsipas, who defended his Monte Carlo Masters title last month and then was beaten by Alexander Zverev in the Madrid Open semifinals last weekend.

Tsitsipas will face Zverev

again in the Rome semifinals after the 2017 champion beat Cristian Garin 7-5, 6-2.

Later, top-ranked Novak Djokovic faced Felix Auger-Aliassime for the first time, and Denis Shapovalov was looking to follow up his win over an injured Rafael Nadal when he met Casper Ruud.

Swiatek is attempting to win her fifth straight tournament and defend her title in Rome.

The last player to win more consecutive matches was Williams in 2014-15, when she had a streak of 27.

Swiatek's run makes her a favorite to win a second French Open title when the year's second Grand Slam gets underway in nine days. When Swiatek won at Roland Garros in 2020 she was ranked No. 54 — making her the lowest-ranked woman to win the Paris major in the Open era.

Swiatek's recent success has also given her a comfortable 2,000-point lead in the rankings over No. 2 Barbora Krejčíková, who is out injured.

Tsitsipas kept his cool with

nearly the entire crowd of 10,500 fans supporting Sinner, the Italian who is ranked 13th and considered a future Grand Slam contender.

The 20-year-old Sinner dropped to 0-12 in his career against opponents ranked in the top five.

He was treated by a physical trainer after twisting his left hip during the final point of the first set.

His body is still developing physically.

"That's where the gap is," Sinner said. "In terms of tennis, I'm there. Physically, I need to improve."

There was an interruption of more than 10 minutes when Tsitsipas held his second match point because a spectator fell ill near the top of the stadium. But Tsitsipas held his nerve and won the point when play resumed by running down a drop shot and responding with a forehand winner up the line.

"It's a tricky situation," Tsitsipas said. "I've never been faced with that before."

Arteta says referee's decisions destroyed game

AFP | London

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta rounded on the referee Paul Tierney after his side's hopes of wrapping up fourth spot were wrecked by a 3-0 defeat at rivals Tottenham Hotspur on Thursday.

Arsenal, who would have guaranteed a first top-four finish since 2016 with victory, looked comfortable early on.

But their night fell apart after Harry Kane gave the hosts the lead from the penalty spot in the 22nd minute after Cedric



Referee Paul Tierney with Arsenal's Granit Xhaka after awarding Tottenham Hotspur a penalty

Soares was adjudged to pushed Son Heung-min.

Ten minutes later Rob Holding was shown a second yellow card for a crude block on Son, having already been booked for wrestling the South Korean earlier.

"I have two options I can lie to you, or I can be suspended, and I really want to be on the touchline against Newcastle," Arteta told reporters when asked about the first-half decisions that left his side in disarray.

” I have two options I can lie to you, or I can be suspended, and I really want to be on the touchline against Newcastle

MIKEL ARTETA

Lewandowski turns down Bayern extension

AFP | Munich

Robert Lewandowski has reopened the door to a high-profile transfer after telling Bayern Munich that he will not be extending his contract beyond June 2023 when it expires, German media reported yesterday.

The 33-year-old Poland international forward has scored 343 goals for Bayern and twice picked up FIFA's Player of the Year Award since joining from Dortmund in 2014.

343

goals have been scored by Robert Lewandowski for Bayern Munich



Robert Lewandowski of Bayern Muenchen lifts the Bundesliga Meisterschale trophy following their sides finish as the Bundesliga champions

"Goal machine Robert Lewandowski will leave the club no later than the summer of 2023," claimed the daily Sport Bild.

"In recent weeks, FIFA's 2021 Player of the Year told his bosses at Bayern that he would not extend his contract, which is still valid for one year."

The Sport1 site, citing its own sources, confirmed this information.

Until now, Bayern has maintained they would not part with Lewandowski but, as the German media points out, not selling him now would mean the Pole would leave for free next summer.

Kuwaiti pair claim boys' doubles title in Bahrain ITF event

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Alawadhi and Abdulrahman Alabdullah from Kuwait captured the boys' doubles title in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) 14 and Under Development Championships for West and Central Asia, hosted by the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) last week.

Alawadhi and Alabdullah clinched the title after defeating Bahrainis Hashim Altoobli and Ahmed Ibrahim 6-4, 5-7 [10-4] in a tightly contested final, played at the BTF courts in



Boys' doubles champions Mohammed Alawadhi and Abdulrahman Alabdullah, left pair, with fellow-finalists Hashim Altoobli and Ahmed Ibrahim, right tandem, and the match's chair umpire

Isa Town.

The result earned Alawadhi a double for the tournament, after

he had also claimed the boys' singles crown.

The boys' doubles final

marked the end of the ITF tournament, after which the top two competing national teams were promoted to the ITF 14 and Under Development Championships for West and Central Asia Finals in 2023, while the top two players amongst the boys and girls joined a side project known as the ITF Touring Team that will be going to the finals this year.

Last week's event was the first of two ITF competitions in Bahrain. The second event will commence today for another four days of action at the BTF courts in Isa Town.

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Manchester City unveil Aguero statue on 10th anniversary of '93:20'



Sergio Aguero poses beside his statue at Etihad Stadium

Reuters | Manchester

Manchester City unveiled a statue of former striker Sergio Aguero outside the Etihad Stadium yesterday to mark the 10th anniversary of his winning goal that gave them their first league title in 44 years.

Aguero netted a dramatic 94th-minute winner against Queens Park Rangers on the final day of the 2011-12 season to beat cross-town rivals Manchester United to the title.

Often dubbed the "93:20" goal in reference to the time it was scored, Aguero's strike set City on their way to domestic dominance in the years that followed.

"Truthfully, it is a very beautiful thing for me, to see myself 10 years ago is very moving," said Aguero, who scored a club-record 260 goals before moving to Barcelona and retiring last year at the age of 33 due to a heart condition.

HH Shaikh Nasser crowned champion of Windsor's 160km ride

Another fantastic accomplishment added to Bahrain's endurance sport with the victory of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the Windsor Equestrian Championship

● Al Hashemi wins first place in 120km race

● Isa bin Faisal successfully ends race

TDI | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs was crowned the champion of the 160km race, which was held as part of the Windsor Equestrian Championship.

The race featured elite riders from across the world.

With this success, HH Shaikh Nasser added a new accomplishment to Bahrain's endurance sport.

HH Shaikh Nasser crossed the finish line in first place following plenty of stiff competition, especially from the UAE's riders.

His Highness' teammate Abdulrahman Al Zayed finished third, while Maria of Portugal came second as fourth place



Royal Endurance Team riders, led by HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, left, gesture towards the end of the race

went to Saif Al Mazrouei of the UAE.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's Mohammed Al Hashemi has won first place in the 120km race, followed by his teammates Shahad Waleed Al Ahmad and Nasser Al Qahtani as Bahrain swept the podium of this contest.

Moreover, young rider HH Shaikh Isa bin Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa produced a great per-

formance to successfully end the race.

HH Shaikh Nasser confirmed that winning first place came thanks to the support extended to the equestrian sport from HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the interest of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa during the 160km ride

HH Shaikh Nasser commented after the race: "We have developed a vision to upgrade the Windsor Equestrian Championship by adding the 160km race in light of the keenness of the countries to compete in this distance, which represents a great addition for the riders, considering that there are many jockeys who will take part in the upcoming World Championship.

"Organising a race covering

“We have developed a vision to upgrade the Windsor Equestrian Championship by adding the 160km race in light of the keenness of the countries to compete in this distance, which represents a great addition for the riders, considering that there are many jockeys who will take part in the upcoming World Championship.

- HH SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

this distance for the first time has witnessed strong competition, and this reflects the keenness of the riders to leave a mark in it."

HH Shaikh Nasser added: "Windsor's results will be a great driver for the Royal Endurance Team to continue on the same path in order to achieve further successes in abroad events."

Vettel says climate change makes him question his F1 job

Reuters | London

Four times Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel said on Thursday that climate change had made him question his job as a driver travelling the world to race cars.

Speaking on BBC Question Time, a television panel show mixing politicians and celebrity guests, the German was asked whether his position on the environment made him a hypocrite considering he was part of a "gas-guzzling" sport.

"It does, it does, and you're right when you laugh," the 34-year-old father-of-three replied. "There's questions I ask myself every day and I'm not a saint.

"Certain things are in my control and certain things are not. It's my passion to drive a car, I love it and every time I step in the car I love it.

"When I get out of the car, of course I'm thinking as well 'Is this something that we should do, travel the world, wasting resources?'"

The Aston Martin driver wore a T-shirt before last weekend's Miami Grand Prix with the slogan "Miami 2060 - first grand prix underwater - Act Now or Swim Later" to highlight the effects of climate change.

He has also been outspoken about the environment and renewable energy as well as



Aston Martin's German driver Sebastian Vettel waves from his car during the drivers parade

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SEBASTIAN VETTEL

addressing human rights and LGBTQ+ issues.

Vettel said Formula One, which is making a big push for

sustainability, also played an important social role as entertainment.

"There's things that I do because I feel I can do them better. Do I need to take a plane every time? No, not when I can take the car," added the driver, who is out of contract with his team at the end of the year.

Formula One is aiming to achieve a net zero-carbon footprint by 2030, with 100% sustainable fuels from 2026 when a new engine is introduced.

Vettel also offered opinions on Brexit, the war in Ukraine, whether Finland should join NATO, energy dependence and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's involvement in a "partygate" scandal over breaches of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

GCC Games' start of competition postponed

TDI | Manama

The start of action at the third GCC Games in Kuwait was postponed for three days yesterday in mourning the passing of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE.

Bahrain's women's athletics team were set to go for gold yesterday on the first day of competition, but the start has now been put off to Monday.

All other scheduled games



have also been adjusted.

Athletics is one of 16 sports in which Bahrain is participating in at this year's GCC Games.

The others are basketball, volleyball, judo, karate, fenc-

ing, shooting, tennis, cycling, swimming, ice hockey, Esports, table tennis, padel, futsal and handball.

Basketball includes 5x5 for men and 3x3 for women.

Bahrain's men's futsal team will also set to be in action today before the postponement was announced.

The GCC Games is a multi-sport competition set to feature around 2,000 athletes competing in 17 sports, representing all six GCC countries.

Riffa depart for AFC Cup group matches



Riffa players during their training in Bahrain prior to their departure for Kuwait

TDI | Manama

Bahrain champions Riffa leave for Kuwait City today to compete in their group stage matches of the AFC Cup 2022.

The matches are scheduled to be held from Wednesday next week up until May 24.

Riffa are in Group B of the competition alongside Shabab Al Khalil of Palestine, Dhofar of Oman and home side Al Arabi.

Riffa's travelling delegation includes the club's CEO Mo-

ammed Ahmed Al Janahi, head coach Ali Ashoor and his coaching and support staff.

There are 23 players on the team's roster, to be spearheaded by top stars Mohammed Jassim Marhoon, Komail Alaswad, Jassim Al Shaikh, Redha Sayed Isa, Hazza Ali, Hamad Al Shamsan, Sayed Mahdi Baqer and Hashem Sayed Isa, to name a few.

Riffa open their campaign on Wednesday against Arabi, before playing Dhofar on May 21. They then complete the group

stage with their match against Shabab Al Khalil on the 24th.

Riffa need to finish atop their group or be the best runner-up from the West Asia Zone to advance to the next round of the competition.

There are three groups in all in West Asia.

Fellow-Bahraini side East Riffa are competing in Group C—the matches of which will take place in the Kingdom at the Muharraq Club Stadium in Arad.