

Al Khaldiya win Bahrain Super Cup

Samy Frioui, Zahir Sulaiman Al Aghbari both on target for winners in single-game affair against last season's title clinchers | P12

Death toll in Pakistan floods nears 1,500; hundreds of thousands sleep in open

THE DAILY tribune

DiCaprio, Gigi seen together for first time amid dating rumours

OpenNode testing bitcoin payment system in Bahrian

Russia says longer-range US missiles for Kyiv would cross red line

Reuters | Moscow

Russia's Foreign Ministry said yesterday that if the United States decided to supply Kyiv with longer-range missiles, it would cross a "red line" and become "a party to the conflict".

In a briefing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova added that Russia "reserves the right to defend its territory".

"If Washington decides to supply longer-range missiles to Kyiv, then it will be crossing a red line, and will become a direct party to the conflict," Zakharova said.

HIMARS launchers can also be used to fire longer-range ATACMS tactical missiles, which can have a range of up to 300 km. A senior Ukrainian official declined to say on Aug. 19 whether Kyiv now had ATACMS.

HRH Prince Salman orders financial support for driving instructors

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday directed to continue distributing financial support for eligible Bahraini



driving instructors.

His Royal Highness assigned the Ministry of Social Development and the relevant authorities to disburse financial support and evaluate the rules and criteria immediately. Separately, the

Ministry of Social Development announced coordinating with competent authorities to disburse the amounts to the beneficiaries.

"Based on the mandate of HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the

ministry, in coordination with the concerned authorities, has started working to disburse the financial support for driving instructors," said Social Development Minister Osama bin Ahmed Al Asfoor.

Special voting plans for corona-infected citizens



Biden committed to 'two-state solution'

US envisages a plan that will enable Israelis and Palestinians to live safely and securely: top US official

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

The Biden Administration is committed to keeping the 'two-state peace solution' hopes alive for the overall betterment of Israel, Palestine and the Mideast region, said a top US official yesterday.

Barbara A Leaf, a US diplomat serving as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, was speaking to journalists from the region including those from Bahrain in an online press conference when she made this remark.

"During my recent travel to Israel and West Bank, I continued discussions on a range of critically important issues with Israeli and Palestinian officials. I reiterated President Biden's message, conveyed in his trip in July, that the US remains unwavering in its ironclad commitment to Israel's security and that we will work to strengthen all aspects of the US-Israeli partnership.



Barbara Leaf during a discussion with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah



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BARBARA A LEAF, A US DIPLOMAT SERVING AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

"In all my meetings with Israelis and Palestinians, I also stressed the administration's commitment to keeping alive

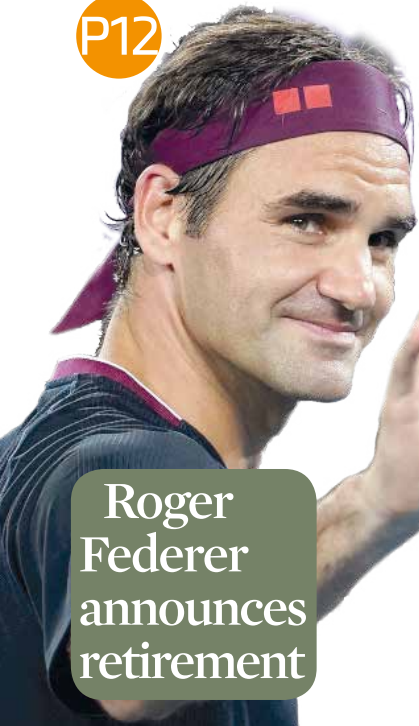
the vision of a future two-state solution so that Israelis and Palestinians can live safely and securely and enjoy equal measures of freedom, security, and prosperity. That means working together collaboratively on key economic and security issues as well as reducing unilateral actions."

(Continued on page 5)

Final respects for Queen



The state funeral of Britain's Queen Elizabeth will unite people from across the globe, the official in charge of the huge ceremonial event said yesterday, as mourners from all walks of life queued for hours to file past the late monarch's coffin. World leaders will gather on Monday for the funeral for Elizabeth, queen for 70 years whose global stature was almost without equal.



Roger Federer announces retirement

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

10325653

ACTIVE CASES

2128

DEATHS

1518

DISCHARGED

671559

NEW CASES

296

CRITICAL

1

220 fils (includes VAT)



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LuLu celebrates 15 years of retail excellence in Bahrain

Great deals & own-label launch for delighted shoppers



● **LuLu Group today has 9 hypermarkets and two malls (Ramli Mall and Dana Mall) and a LuLu Express store in Bahrain**

TD T | Manama

With a growing footprint that has transformed everyday retail expectations in Bahrain since it started in 2007, the LuLu Group announced the start of a grand 15th-anniversary celebration on Wednesday at Dana Mall called 'LuLu Goodness Week' with a slew of offers, deals, promotions and the launch of an exciting 'own-label' range of groceries, food, non-food, health and beauty goods and 'Made in Bahrain' products that bring goodness to every household with the LuLu promise of excellent quality and affordable price.

Having begun its foray into Bahrain with the flagship store in Dana Mall, the Group today has 9 hypermarkets and two malls (Ramli Mall and Dana Mall) and a LuLu Express store in the fast-developing urban res-



In pictures, the launch of 'LuLu Goodness Week'

idential space of Danat Al Lawzi. For its 15th anniversary, LuLu is offering products across the entire spectrum of household goods, from premium cheeses and delicious processed and ready-to-cook snacks like chicken nuggets, seasoned snacks like shish tawouk, lemon and

pepper chicken breast, kubbeh, beef shawarma etc. to meats, deli cuts and a wide variety of special rice grains from around the world. Shoppers can also look for white goods, electronics and homeware. The 15th Anniversary promotions start on 14th September 2022.

LuLu has also added muscle to its tasty and thriving own-label portfolio with a carefully curated range of ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat foods that bring great taste, nutrition and ease of cooking to households. The trusted LuLu label is also to be seen on Health and Beauty products, formulated with care for users and on household cleaning products that put hygiene first.

"The LuLu Group is proud of its success in Bahrain and we wish to thank the leadership for their vision and trust in our partnership of Bahrain's progress," said LuLu Group Director Juzer Rupawala. "For our 15th anniversary, we have brought the best of the world to our Bahrain shoppers trolleys - be it groceries or health and beauty products or home appliances or toys



and electronics, the best items at the best prices in Bahrain will be at LuLu! We are also proud to showcase our expanded own-label products which bring together the best and latest food and product R&D with the choicest ingredients and quality promise. So do try the LuLu brand of products for a great way to live." LuLu will also be promoting popular children's brands of school items, toys, edutainment and children's healthy eating and grooming products from the Disney and Warner Brothers. The wildly popular 'Friends' and 'Batman' TV series lends its name to many cosmetic and household deals. Shamim Sainulabdeen, Director of LuLu Group Private Label, said, "This 15th Anniversary promotion sees the expansion

of LuLu's amazing own-label brand, which is an exciting addition to every shopper's trolley. It brings the best of local culinary flavours to the table in a format that is easy to prepare, especially these days, when most women, who are the primary nutrition caregivers of the family are career women and want access to healthy, great-tasting and quick meals for their families. The winning combination of LuLu's global marketing platform and the latest food tech and home tech know-how holds amazing promise to make such a range accessible to all. Private label products have been growing double-digit over the years, as shoppers have understood the quality and value of these products which are on par with international brands."



Two Asians killed in horrific crash

TD T | Manama

Two Asians died in an accident yesterday after the minibus in which they were travelling collided with a car on Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Highway.

The victims were identified as Pakistani nationals Abdul Basit,

25, and Jabir Khan, 24. Both died instantly. Many passengers in the minibus along with the driver of the car, a Saudi national, were taken to Salmaniya Medical Complex after suffering serious injuries. The Interior Ministry has begun a probe into the accident.

Alba says Europe wary of ordering aluminium for next year

TD T | agencies

European customers are reluctant to place orders for next year due to worries about a recession, spurring a fall in demand, the head of Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) (ALBH.BH) told Reuters.

"Overall demand is lower... because of people hesitating to order," Alba Chief Executive Ali Al-Baqali said on the sidelines of an aluminium conference in Barcelona.

"Many (European) customers have an order book, but they don't have certainty on when they are going to take the metal because they are afraid that if they book the full quantity, then the recession starts."

A decline in prices together with costs that have shot up about 30%

since 2020 is weighing on the business, Al-Baqali said.

"The profitability...in the first half is not there anymore, the challenge now is how we are going to break even," he said.

Industry association Eurometaux has said that about half of the European Union's aluminium production capacity has been forced offline due to high power prices that have surged since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The London Metal Exchange three month price, which jumped to a record of over \$4,000 a tonne in March, is now trading at around \$2,300 a tonne.

"We are not in the red but if the LME continues below \$2,000, that will be a red flag for us and the whole industry."

Alba is currently producing about 1.6 million tonnes a year, which is slightly above capacity, Al-Baqali said.

Bieber's Justice World Tour cancelled over health concerns

TD T | Manama

Al Dana Amphitheatre has confirmed that the Justin

Bieber Justice World Tour concert scheduled for October 5 will be cancelled due to the artists' ongoing health concerns.

Shane Chalmers, Chief Executive Officer of Al Dana Amphitheatre, said, "We acknowledge the disappointment this

may cause many fans. We support Justin's decision to put his health first and we wish him a speedy recovery."

Tickets bought online will be refunded automatically to the account from which the payment was made within 21 work-

ing days.

For queries, visit www.aldana.com.bh or call +973-17454444.

Special voting arrangement for Corona-infected citizens

- Local civil society institutions to monitor elections
- Voters list now available for review, appeal
- Online appeal system through national portal
- Registration for election oversight to open soon

Nargis Al Banna
TDT | Manama

Special arrangements will be in place for voters and candidates infected with Coronavirus across voting centres on the 12th of November this year when the nation will go to polls to elect its new Parliament and municipal councils.

Special measures will be in place for those infected and wishing to run for office to file their nomination in association



Minister Al Maawda and Mr Hamza at the press conference at Isa Cultural Centre yesterday

with the Ministry of Health.

This was announced by the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments and Chair of the High Elections Committee, Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, during a press conference at Isa Cultural Centre yesterday.

He highlighted the commitment to upholding citizens' constitutional rights of choosing their representatives throughout the two decades since the launch of the first legislative term in 2002.

Minister Al Maawda stressed that the electoral process would be monitored and supervised by

the judiciary throughout all its stages to ensure transparency and integrity of the elections.

He added that the higher committee would continue cooperating with independent civil societies to monitor the electoral process.

"The Supreme Elections Committee will start accepting applications from societies soon," said Al Maawda.

For his part, the President of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission (LLOC), Executive Director of the Elections, Chancellor Nawaf Abdullah Hamza, stated the preliminary plans for holding the upcoming

Parliamentary and Municipal Elections are ready.

He added that the voters' list had been prepared and uploaded, calling on voters to ensure their names and other details were correct and up-to-date.

The President of the LLOC added that measures to ensure that those who may be COVID-19 positive during the elections can practice their democratic right are taken by dedicating a polling station for them with the aid of experts from the Ministry of Health.

Hamza said the authority started preparing for the elections in March this year.

There will be 14 polling centres across the Kingdom. Between September 15 and 21, voters can request changes to their address or other corrections for updating the list. They can file complaints or appeals before the supervisory committees until the 24th of September.

Judicial authorities will issue final decisions in cases of disputes before the 4th of October.

Candidates can file their nominations from the 5th to the 9th of October 2022.

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The voting will take place on the 12th of November from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, as per Decree-Law (14) of 2002. If required, a re-run will be on the 19th of November from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm.

Historic Ain Umm Guwaifa Natural Water Spring opened after revamp



TDT | Manama

The historic Ain Umm Guwaifa Natural Water Spring was opened following its revamp yesterday in the presence of Municipalities' Affairs and Agriculture Minister, Wael bin Nasser Al-Mubarak, and Southern Governor, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa,

Al-Mubarak affirmed his Ministry's interest in developing heritage sites to preserve them for current and future generations.

He also unveiled plans to revamp various historical and heritage sites, historic springs and parks in cooperation with governorates and municipal councils.

Southern Governor, HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali commended His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for improving the quality of services delivered to the citizens.

Are you on the voters' list? visit www.vote.bh to make sure



The voters' list for the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections 2022 is available on www.vote.bh.

- Voters could file appeals through the national eGovernment portal, which operates round the clock, the call centre and the supervisory committees.

TDT | Manama

The voters' lists for the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections 2022 are now available for review on the elections committee website and in person.

In case of discrepancy, voters could file appeals through the national eGovernment portal, which operates round the clock, the call centre and the supervisory committees.

The voters' list is available on www.vote.bh.

Authorities further said the online appeal system is for filing appeals against voters' and candidates' lists and election

results.

Anyone whose name is absent in the voters' list or spotted an error has the right to request the supervisory committees to record his name or correct the data.

Four supervisory committees have started receiving the voters to verify their names in the lists that remain open until the 21st of this month.

"The amendments will be through judicial supervision, and the decisions of supervisory committee judges can be appealed before a competent court," said Nawaf bin Mohammed Al-Maawda, the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Chair of the High Elections Committee.

The President of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission (LLOC), Executive Director of the Elections, Chancellor Nawaf Abdullah Hamza, urged all to encourage their family members to ensure their names are on the list to exercise their constitutional right.

No change in electoral districts, ready to receive people of determination

TDT | Manama

Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister, Chair of the High Elections Committee, yesterday confirmed having no changes in the electoral districts.

The minister also told *AlAyam*, our sister concern, that they have added new housing complexes to the districts.

The minister was visiting the Supervising Committees for Referendum and Elections in the Capital Governorate and Muharraq.

The committees are in Khaw-



la Girls Secondary School (Capital Governorate) and Al Hedaya Al Khalifiya Boys' Secondary School (Governorate of Muharraq).

Muharraq, Northern and Southern Governorates are the electoral districts in the Kingdom. The municipal elector-

al districts will have electoral constituencies: Eight in Muharraq, 12 in Northern and 10 in Southern governorates. Each electoral constituency will have a sub-committee to conduct the polling and counting processes.

When asked about the calls to boycott the election, the ministry said, "We are confident of the Bahraini citizen's awareness and keenness to exercise his political rights."

The ministry further stressed that the Executive Committee is keen on preparing all centres to receive people of determination at all stages of the electoral process.

Muharraq gets 16, Southern Governorate 19 requests

TDT | Manama

Fatima Faisal Hubail, the head of the supervisory committee in the southern governorate, announced receiving 19 requests from voters.

All of the requests were made in person.

"We are yet to receive a request through our website, which is up and ready."

"We are currently looking at requests, which includes adding names and address modifications," Hubail said.

She pointed out it would take at least three days to complete the verification process after receiving a request, even if it is on the last day.

The official also called on voters to ensure the legal requirements for filing a request, including that they are over 20 years of age and had no criminal charges against them.



Supervisory committee officials in Muharraq, Southern governorate

The head of the Supervisory Committee in Muharraq Governorate, Counsellor, Dr Ali Al-Shuwaikh, said they received 16 requests, of which nine passed and rejected eight.

"Two were for changing addresses and the rest for including names and other details."

"We rejected some of the requests for having criminal charges against them," he said,

adding that the voters have the right to file an appeal before the Supreme Court of Appeal.

"We received a healthy response from citizens on the first day," the official said, calling on all to review the list.

North gets 59 applications

Al-Ali Fahd Al-Buainain, the head of the supervisory center for the Northern



Governorate, said they received 59 applications, of which only rejected three for having criminal charges against them.

"54 were for listing names, and five were for amending address," he said.

People, he said, have the right to appeal their decision before a competent court within three days of rejecting the application.

Head of Bahrain's mission to France named

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday appointed Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Ghaffar as Bahrain's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France, based on the nomination of the Foreign Affairs Minister and the approval of the Cabinet.

The appointment is effective immediately.

For breathing cleaner air

New law to focus on curbing air pollution

● The new environmental law marks a watershed moment in the Kingdom's legislative history governing environmental and climate work

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

With the Kingdom leaving no stone unturned in its compliance with the Paris Climate Accord and net zero emission target by 2050, the new Environmental Law that came into effect yesterday is serving as a shot in the arm for the nation's go-green and environmental-friendly initiatives.

The new law, according to the Supreme Council for the Environment, is intended to protect the environment and its sources from all activities and practices



that cause pollution, environmental degradation, destroy biodiversity and lead to excess carbon emissions.

The law also aims at preventing and combating pollution in all of its forms and stopping the deterioration of the environment by implementing the necessary plans and policies to preserve it from detrimental effects resulting from activities that harm humans, marine, land and air environments.

The Kingdom has one of the worst air qualities in the world owing to the frequent occurrences of dust storms, which are common to the Arabian region.

The Supreme Council for Environment recently released a new app showing air quality across Bahrain as part of the initiatives to study and tackle air polluting components.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) app will show live readings from stations monitoring pollution across the Kingdom. These stations have been built in Sitra and Awali. There is already a station at the US Embassy in Manama.

Available from both Apple App store and Google Play, the app will also give information about what action you can take as a precaution when the pollution is at a hazardous or unhealthy level.

Earlier, the roadmap for better air quality was drawn up by the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), encompassing short, medium and long-term solutions.

Within the boundaries of the Kingdom, it also attempts to protect and develop natural resources in a way that guarantees the objectives of sustainable

development and biodiversity.

The Supreme Council for the Environment noted that the new law includes 125 articles as a result of the contributors' tireless work in updating the draft environment law, and through fruitful cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities.

It called on environmental authorities, businesses, and individuals to work together more to improve workplace conditions and achieve the goals outlined in the aforementioned legislation.

The Supreme Council for Environment is a government entity in charge of the development of Bahrain's future strategy for the environment and sustainable development, and following up on the implementation of this strategy with relevant ministries, agencies and institutions.

● The new law is intended to protect the environment and its sources from all activities and practices that cause pollution, environmental degradation, destroy biodiversity and lead to excess carbon emissions.

● The law also aims at preventing and combating pollution in all of its forms and stopping the deterioration of the environment by implementing the necessary plans and policies to preserve it from detrimental effects resulting from activities that harm humans, marine, land and air environments.



Bahrain is renowned for its verdant groves of date palms; since ancient times it has been an entrepôt for trade and a source of natural resources for the surrounding area. Bahrain Island is widely believed to be the site of the ancient kingdom of Dilmun, a commercial centre that traded with ancient Sumer.

The SCE's mandate also includes protecting Bahrain's natural habitat and human environment, ensuring the sustainability of its components, and preserving and developing its resources for future generations.

Bahrain started phasing out plastic products in July, 2019



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Voluntary Work honours 18 winners



The award ceremony

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Voluntary Work yesterday honoured 18 prominent Arab personalities for their outstanding contributions in battling the deadly Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Now in its 12th edition, the award had received a total of 69 nominations for the Best Institutional Voluntary Performance Award.

The ceremony was in the

presence of Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure and Cabinet Affairs Ministry Under-Secretary and Good Word Society honorary president Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa.

Kuwait Prime Minister's Court Advisor Dr Basel Humood Al Sabah, Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity Dr Nivine Nivine El Kabbag, Labour Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, Youth and Sports Affairs Minister Aymen bin Tawfiq Almoayyed, Social

Development Minister Osama bin Ahmed Al Asfoor and other officials were present at the ceremony.

The Abdulrahim Al-Kooheji Charitable Foundation was awarded the His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Leadership in Community Work.

A group of Bahraini NGOs and three volunteer projects won the award for best institutional voluntary performance. The "Rayaat Scholarship Programme" of AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Association won

first place, the "Recovery from Drugs" project of the Recovery Association won second place, and the "Prince Sultan Centre for Hearing and Speech Development" project by the Bahrain Society for Child Development won third place.

The ceremony also witnessed honouring the award sponsors, including the GFH Financial Group, stc Bahrain, and the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), as well as media sponsors of the award, including the Al-Bilad and Al-Ayyam newspapers.

HM King, HRH Crown Prince condole with Saudi King Salman

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday sent condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud over the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Abdulkarim bin Saud bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

In the cable, HM the King prayed to Allah the Almighty to have mercy on the deceased and rest his soul in paradise and give the Royal Family solace and fortitude.

His Royal Highness sent a similar cable to the Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Minister honours policeman



The Minister of Interior General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday honoured, in the presence of the Chief of Public Security Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan, a community police personnel from the Northern Governorate Police Directorate Fadhel Abbas Alawi Al Khabarz, who accompanied a primary school student to his school in Hamad Town to ensure his safety. The minister hailed the policeman's honourable act and positive response in dealing with humanitarian cases. The Assistant Undersecretary for Human Resources and the Director-General of Northern Governorate Police attended the meeting.



Bitcoin accepted here!



OpenNode testing bitcoin payment system in Bahrian

TDI | Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain has made a bold step to test bitcoin payment processing and payouts solutions in the Kingdom through OpenNode, a leading Bitcoin payments infrastructure platform servicing companies in 126 countries.

OpenNode said they are testing the solutions in CBB's regulatory sandbox - a crucial step in transforming the Kingdom's economy away from oil. The Sandbox Framework allows Fintech firms to test their ideas and solutions in the Kingdom.

During the testing phase, OpenNode said it intends to show the central bank that Bitcoin has the capacity to expand the Bahrain economy by strengthening businesses in the region.

OpenNode CEO and cofounder Afnan Rahman called the agreement with the CBB "a watershed moment for the people of Bahrain, the Middle East and the Bitcoin economy as a whole."

Additionally, OpenNode stated that this is the first announcement of many that will be coming from the region.

In his comments, Dalal Buhajji, Executive Director - Investment Development for Financial Services at the Bahrain Economic Development Board, said, "We are proud to have worked with the Central Bank towards establishing a strong financial services ecosystem within the Kingdom of Bahrain. As a country, we have always been ahead of the curve in adopting Fintech solutions thanks to our regulator's flexibility and forward thinking."

The CBB set up a regulatory sandbox in 2017 and enhanced it in 2021. In 2021, Bahrain licensed the local Sharia-complaint crypto exchange Coin-MENA.

This year, the CBB licensed Binance to operate in the country, making Binance the first international crypto exchange to receive a license in the GCC. It also partnered with JPMorgan Chase's crypto unit Onyx to create an instant cross-border payment solution.

OpenNode is currently active in more than 160 countries, including El Salvador. The company was founded in 2018 with financing from venture capitalist Tim Draper and his Draper Capital.

\$100 million East Jerusalem Hospital Network on the way

● **Outbreak of violence in Baghdad was a source of great concern, says Barbara A Leaf**

● **Urgent need for Iraq's political leaders to come together**

(Continued from page 1)

On the wide range of projects being supported by the Biden administration in Palestinian territories, she said they will measurably contribute to economic growth and greater opportunities for Palestinians. "That includes an extension of 4G cellular service for the West Bank and Gaza



In Baghdad, I delivered a straightforward message to a range of senior governmental leaders, including the prime minister, the president, the Council of Representatives speaker, saying that there is an urgent need for Iraq's political leaders to come together for an inclusive dialogue to make important compromises that will chart a way out of Iraq's current crisis over government formation.

BARBARA A LEAF

and expanding hours and capacity for travellers and goods at the Allenby Bridge. It also includes the \$100 million announced by President Biden for the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, subject to congressional approval. USAID recently disbursed the

first \$14.5 million of that health-care assistance so that we can see it becoming a reality."

With regard to the ongoing crisis in Iraq, the top Biden administration official pointed out that the 2008 Strategic Framework Agree-



ment remains a solid foundation for the bilateral relationship between both nations. "The recent outbreak of violence in Baghdad was a source of great concern to us here in Washington as well

as to Iraq's international partners. In Baghdad, I delivered a straightforward message to a range of senior governmental leaders, including the prime minister, the president, and the Council of Representatives speaker, saying that there is an urgent need for Iraq's political leaders to come together for an inclusive dialogue to make important compromises that will chart a way out of Iraq's current crisis over government formation. This was a message that I shared with a full spectrum of Iraqi political leaders, including that outside of government. "I reiterated this message with political leaders in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region during my two-day visit to Erbil. And while there, I also discussed human rights. I emphasized the importance of respect for human rights and freedom of expression. Journalists and activists have a vital role to play in a strong democracy. We regard Iraq as a vital partner of the United States on so many levels - a partner with which we want to accomplish much, much more on global issues, including - and regional issues, including water security, climate change, and increasing trade and investment opportunities.

The grinding impasse over government formation which flared into violence 10 days ago unfortunately only underlined the degree to which such opportunities are being squandered, and the degree to which the acute need for basic services for Iraq's people remains unaddressed, she added.



NBB bids farewell to Group Strategy Officer Yaser Alsharifi

TDI | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain has announced the resignation of Yaser Alsharifi from his position as Group Chief Strategy Officer.

During his five-year tenure, Alsharifi has been instrumental in leading the bank's strategy, transformation and innovation efforts by heading the project management office and business development arm, as well as the Bank's operations in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.



Yaser Alsharifi

Alsharifi has been an integral member of NBB's senior leadership team since 2017, and has helped to pave NBB's growth and transition into one of the leading banks in the Kingdom. During his tenure, and under his guidance, NBB celebrated pivotal milestones across key business verticals, including regional expansion and digitalisation. Alsharifi's extensive industry experience and strategic acumen have been critical in driving NBB's digital transformation strategy and helping the bank achieve its business objectives.

NBB extends its heartfelt appreciation to Yaser Alsharifi for his distinguished efforts and instrumental role in supporting the bank's transformation journey, and in helping to cement NBB as an industry leader across the region. The bank wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.

Putin says delegation of 80 large Russian companies to visit Iran next week -RIA

Reuters | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that a delegation of 80 large companies will visit Iran next week, Russian state-owned news agency RIA reported.

President Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi are at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Samarkand, in Uzbekistan. Earlier, Iran's foreign minister



Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Tehran had signed a memorandum to join the bloc.

News in brief

Swedish PM resigns as
right-wing parties win vote



her government was defeated in Sunday's election. Magdalena Andersson's centre-left coalition looks set to narrowly lose to a bloc of right-wing parties, 176 seats to 173, with 99% of the votes counted. Moderate Party leader Ulf Kristersson is now expected to form a government. The bloc includes the Sweden Democrats, a far-right party that has campaigned against rising gang shootings. The final result is still to be confirmed after a recount, which is standard practice in Sweden.

◆ Sweden's prime minister says she will stand down after

◆ A US Senate committee approved legislation that would significantly enhance US military support for Taiwan, including provisions for billions of dollars in additional security assistance, as China increases military pressure on the democratically governed island. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee backed the Taiwan Policy Act of 2022 by 17-5, despite concerns about the bill in US President Joe Biden's administration and anger about the measure from Beijing. The strong bipartisan vote was a clear indication of support from both Republicans and Biden's fellow Democrats for changes in US policy toward Taiwan, such as treating it as a major non-NATO ally.

US Senate panel advances
bill to boost support for Taiwan



At least nine dead, 20 injured after
stampede at Guatemala concert



in a stampede at a large concert in the western Guatemalan city of Quetzaltenango, emergency services said yesterday. First aid workers were helping injured people and ambulances were at the scene, images from Guatemala's Red Cross showed on Twitter. Local media described the concert as an event marking independence day in the

Central American country. The injured people, some with suspected fractures, were taken to hospital, local firefighters said on Twitter. The dead have not yet been named by authorities, Guatemalan newspaper Prensa Libre said.

◆ The billionaire founder of the outdoor fashion retailer Patagonia says he has given away his company to a charitable trust.

Yvon Chouinard said that under a new ownership structure, any profit not reinvested in running the business would go to fighting climate change. This will amount to around \$100bn (\$86bn) a year, he claimed, depending on the health of the company. Patagonia sells hiking and other outdoor clothing in over 10 countries. Founded in 1973, its estimated revenue was \$1.5bn this year, while Mr Chouinard's net worth is thought to be \$1.2bn. "Despite its immensity, the Earth's resources are not infinite, and it's clear we've exceeded its limits," the entrepreneur said of his decision to give up ownership.

Billionaire boss of
Patagonia gives firm to charity



Putin acknowledges China's concerns
over Ukraine in sign of friction

● Vladimir Putin thanks China's Xi Jinping for his 'balanced' stand on Ukraine

Reuters | Samarkand

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday he understood China's Xi Jinping had concerns about the situation in Ukraine, a surprise acknowledgement of friction with Beijing over the war after a week of stunning Russian losses on the ground.

"We highly value the balanced position of our Chinese friends when it comes to the Ukraine crisis," Putin told Xi at their first meeting since the war began.

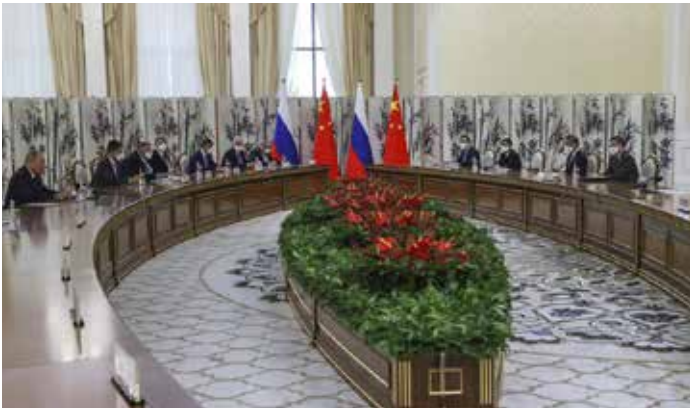
"We understand your questions and concern about this. During today's meeting, we will of course explain our position."

Xi did not mention Ukraine in his public remarks, nor was it mentioned in a Chinese readout of their meeting, which took place in Uzbekistan on the sidelines of a regional summit.

Beijing's support is widely seen as essential for Moscow, which needs markets for its energy exports and sources to import high tech goods as it faces sanctions imposed by the West.

The last time the two men met they signed a "no limits" friendship agreement between their two countries. Three weeks later, Russia invaded Ukraine. Since then, China has trod a careful line, criticising Western sanctions against Russia but stopping short of endorsing or assisting the military campaign.

In Kyiv, Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the Europe-



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Samarkand



The last time Xi and Putin met in person, just weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, they declared a "no limits" partnership and inked a promise to collaborate more against the West



We highly value the balanced position of our Chinese friends when it comes to the Ukraine crisis. We understand your questions and concern about this. During today's meeting, we will of course explain our position

VLADIMIR PUTIN

to maintain the pace of their advance.

Putin has yet to publicly comment on the setback suffered by his forces after Ukrainian troops made a rapid armoured thrust through the front line last week. Russian troops have abandoned dozens of tanks and other armoured vehicles in haste.

Kyiv says it recaptured more than 8,000 sq km (3000 sq miles), nearly equivalent to the size of the island of Cyprus. The speed of the advance has lifted Ukrainian morale, pleased Western backers who have provided arms, intelligence and training, and raised hopes of further significant gains before the winter sets in.

an Commission, held talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy where she told him Ukraine's accession process to the European Union was well on track.

White House spokesman John Kirby said China should reject Russia's invasion: "The whole world should be lined up against what Mr Putin is doing," Kirby told CNN. "This is not the time for any kind of business as usual with Mr Putin."

After a week of the fastest Ukrainian gains since the war's early weeks, Ukrainian officials said Russian forces were now fortifying defences and it would be hard for Kyiv's troops

Death toll in Pakistan floods nears 1,500; hundreds of thousands sleep in open

Reuters | Karachi

Unprecedented floods that have submerged huge swathes of Pakistan have killed nearly 1,500 people, data showed yesterday, as authorities said hundreds of thousands of people were still sleeping in the open air after the disaster.

The deluge, brought by re-



Rescued flood victims sit in a boat, following rains and floods during the monsoon season in village Arazi, in Sehwan, Pakistan

cord monsoon rains and glacial melt in northern mountains, has impacted 33 million people out of a population of 220 million, sweeping away homes, vehicles, crops and livestock in damage estimated at \$30 billion.

The tally of the dead stands at 1,486, with about 530 children among them, the National Disaster Management Authority said, as it released its first country-wide total since Sept. 9. Hundreds of thousands of

people have been made homeless by flooding in the southern Sindh province, with many sleeping by the side of elevated highways to protect themselves from the water.

"We have been buying tents from all the manufacturers available in Pakistan," Sindh's chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said yesterday.

Still, one-third of the homeless in Sindh don't even have a tent to protect them from the elements, he said.



Hundreds of thousands of people have been made homeless by flooding in the southern Sindh province, with many sleeping by the side of elevated highways to protect themselves from the water

Queen
world

First full day of lying in state

● Mourners queue for more than four miles to see coffin

Reuters | London

The state funeral of Britain's Queen Elizabeth will unite people from across the globe, the official in charge of the huge ceremonial event said yesterday, as mourners from all walks of life queued for hours to file past the late monarch's coffin.

Presidents, prime ministers and royalty from around the world will gather on Monday for the funeral for Elizabeth, queen for 70 years whose global stature was almost without equal.

She will be finally laid to rest at a chapel at her Windsor Castle home alongside her husband of 73 years Prince Philip, who died last year, ending 10 days of national mourning.

Meanwhile, Prince William, now the heir to the throne, has said the solemn events revived memories of the funeral procession for his late mother Princess Diana, whose death in 1997 triggered a national outpouring of grief.

The body of the late Queen Elizabeth is now lying in state in London's ancient Westminster Hall, where tens of thousands are waiting patiently in line to pay their final respects to Britain's longest-reigning monarch.

"These events are taking place against the backdrop of an

UN hopes A

● More than 170 killed in 48 hours of fighting

Reuters | London

The United Nations welcomed yesterday a ceasefire announced between Armenia and Azerbaijan after two days of violence linked to a decades-old dispute between the former Soviet states over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The fighting - which both sides blamed on each other - left more than 170 soldiers dead and threatened to drag Turkey, Azerbaijan's key backer, and Armenia's ally Russia into a wider conflict at a time of already high geopolitical tensions.

A fragile ceasefire was agreed between the two sides late on Wednesday after almost 48 hours of clashes, a senior Armenian official said on state TV. Moscow, which has a self-defense pact with Armenia and a military base in the country but also strives for friendly relations with Azerbaijan, claimed credit for brokering the deal.

UN Assistant Secretary-General

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	
1	USA	97,340,016	1,077,477	Global tally
2	India	44,516,479	528,250	
3	France	34,831,399	154,644	
4	Brazil	34,602,662	685,057	Deaths
5	Germany	32,604,993	148,498	6,523,931
6	S. Korea	24,264,470	27,593	Recovered:
7	UK	23,554,519	189,026	594,881,522
8	Italy	22,114,423	176,335	New cases
9	Japan	20,399,933	42,985	
10	Russia	20,265,004	385,727	+380,462
11	Turkey	16,852,382	101,068	New deaths
12	Spain	13,374,116	113,279	
13	Vietnam	11,450,999	43,137	+771
14	Australia	10,124,671	14,475	

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	814,937	+108	9,324	+2	802,069	3,544
UAE	1,021,625	+434	2,342		1,001,218	18,065
Kuwait	657,745		2,563		654,870	312
Oman	397,993		4,260		384,669	9,064
Qatar	439,287	+788	682		432,865	5,740



Queen Elizabeth's funeral 'will unite' as mourners queue for miles

Funeral service begins, with huge queues forming in London



The coffin carrying Queen Elizabeth II rests in Westminster Hall for the lying in state, in London



The queen held a unique and timeless position in all our lives. It is our aim and belief that the state funeral and events of the next few days will unite people across the globe

EARL MARSHAL, EDWARD FITZALAN-HOWARD, THE DUKE OF NORFOLK

behind.

It was a scene reminiscent of when, as boys 25 years ago, the princes followed the casket of their mother Diana when it was taken on a similar procession through central London.

"The walk yesterday was challenging ... brought back a few memories," William said as he and his wife Kate spoke to well-wishers and viewed the sea of floral tributes outside the royal residence of Sandringham in eastern England.

Charles, who has returned to his Highgrove home in south-west England after a hectic schedule of events since Elizabeth's death age 96 last Thursday, and his three siblings, Princess Anne and Princes Andrew and Edward, will themselves hold a silent vigil alongside the catafalque on Friday evening.

Some of those queuing to see the coffin had travelled from abroad, dropping off bags at nearby hotels to join those moving slowly through Westminster Hall. There were former soldiers with military medals and babies being



People queue near Tower Bridge to pay their respects, following the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, in London

carried by their parents. Many wiped away tears.

The mourners included former Prime Minister Theresa May and her husband Philip, who bowed their heads before the coffin as they filed past with members of the public.

Amy Tsai, 24, said she had travelled from Taiwan in May and had taken part in celebrations for the queen's jubilee in June in the Scottish capital Edinburgh.

"Now I'm waiting in line to see her lying in state. I'm just shocked," she said.

Funeral

For the first time, palace officials also provided details of the funeral, likely to be one of the grandest ceremonies ever seen in the British capital, involving thousands from the military and with details overseen by the monarch before her death.

"It was her majesty the queen

that went through the plans and made sure they were alright and the king is implementing those plans," a spokesman for Charles said.

After the lying in state ends early on Monday morning, the coffin will be carried onto the State Gun Carriage of the Royal Navy where 142 naval service personnel will pull it to Westminster Abbey, the same church where Elizabeth was crowned in 1953, for the funeral.

The service will begin at 11 a.m. (1000 GMT) and last for about an hour. At its conclusion the Last Post will sound and there will be a two minute silence to be observed by the nation.

The body will then be taken on the gun carriage in a large procession, with Charles and members of the royal family walking behind, from the Abbey to the Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner. Guns will fire and parliament's Big Ben bell will toll every minute.



Prince William, now the heir to the throne, has said the solemn events revived memories of the funeral procession for his late mother Princess Diana, whose death in 1997 triggered a national outpouring of grief

outpouring of grief, affection, and gratitude for people in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and across the world," said the Earl Marshal, Edward

Armenia, Azerbaijan ceasefire holds



People stand around a coffin of Azeri serviceman Elshan Babazade killed at Azerbaijani-Armenian border

Miroslav Jenca yesterday said "the international community must remain fully committed to a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and spare no effort to deescalate the current tensions, bring the parties back to the negotiation table and help them achieve peace and stability in the region."

Before the ceasefire was announced, Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said Azerbaijani forces had struck and seized several Armenian settlements along their shared border, in territory beyond the disputed

Nagorno-Karabakh region. Baku said it was responding to "provocations" by the Armenian side.

Russia said yesterday it was seeking to reverse any shift in the military balance of the region that had occurred as a result of this week's fighting.

"We are in close contact with both countries, so as to arrive at a sustainable ceasefire and the return of Azerbaijani and Armenian military to their positions of origin," Russia's ambassador to the UN Vassily Nebenzia told the 15-member Security Council yesterday.



The international community must remain fully committed to a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and spare no effort to deescalate the current tensions, bring the parties back to the negotiation table and help them achieve peace and stability in the region

UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL MIROSLAV JENCA

The clashes triggered calls for de-escalation from Russia, the United States and the European Union. Armenia's deputy defense minister said the conflict risked spilling over into a full-blown war, while some analysts said Baku was trying to take advantage of Russia's war in Ukraine to advance its position in the region.

"This week's events are also a stark reminder that tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan also have the potential to destabilize the region," the UN's Jenca said.

Typhoon Muifa downgraded to strong tropical storm, but rain, floods loom



Workers carry sandbags to reinforce a riverbank to prevent the river back flow caused by the approaching typhoon Muifa in Jiashan County of Jiaxing City, east China's Zhejiang Province

Reuters | Beijing

Typhoon Muifa was downgraded to a strong tropical storm by Chinese weather forecasters yesterday, but it will bring heavy rains and flash flooding across several provinces as it moves north across populated coastal provinces.

The 12th cyclone of the year, which local media said was the strongest tropical cyclone to reach the populous Yangtze River Delta in the past 10 years, made landfall overnight in Shanghai.

Despite causing flight can-

cellations at several airports, city metro contingency planning and grinding port activities to halt, there was little damage reported. However, some photos on China's Twitter-like social media platform Weibo showed shallow-rooted curbside trees uprooted and fallen leaves carpeting roads.

Travelling at a speed of 20-30 km per hour (12-19 miles per hour) in a north-westerly direction, Muifa is now expected to skirt along the eastern coast of Jiangsu province and cross the Shandong peninsula, the China Meteorological Administration said.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



We've never been in a better place to end the #COVID19 pandemic, but only if all countries, manufacturers, communities and individuals step up and seize this opportunity. Otherwise, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, disruption and uncertainty. Let's finish the job!

@DrTedros

02



Ukraine's accession process is on track. In the meantime, we are deepening EU-Ukraine cooperation. Supporting fast recovery, winter preparedness and planning reconstruction.

@vonderleyen

03



The progress we've made is only the beginning. Together, we will continue to champion investments that America's working families depend on and fight for the future that our kids deserve.

@POTUS

04



Across the world, democracy is backsliding. Media workers face censorship, detention & physical violence, often with impunity. Without a free press, democracy cannot survive. Now is the time to stand up for democratic principles & protect the rights of all.

#DemocracyDay

@antoniogeturres

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

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S.Korea police arrest woman over dead children in suitcases in New Zealand

AFP | Seoul

South Korean police yesterday announced the arrest of a 42-year-old woman accused of murdering two children whose remains were found in suitcases in New Zealand.

The woman, who is believed to be the mother of the two dead young children, was arrested in South Korea on murder charges following a request from New Zealand, police in both countries said.

She will now face extradition proceedings, they added.

“Police arrested the suspect at an apartment in Ulsan yesterday following a stakeout with tips on her whereabouts and CCTV footage,” Seoul’s National Police Agency said in a statement.

“The suspect is accused by the New Zealand police of having murdered two of her children, aged seven and 10 then, in around 2018 in the Auckland area,” it said.

“She’s been found to have ar-



A woman sits on a car as she leaves Ulsan Jungbu police station in Ulsan

rived in South Korea after the crime and has been in hiding ever since,” it added.

The Yonhap News Agency reported that the woman was a South Korean-born New Zealand citizen.

“Police plan to transfer the woman to the Seoul Central District Prosecutors Office in

preparation for an extradition screening by the Seoul High Court,” Yonhap said.

The grisly discovery came after an unsuspecting family bought a trailer-load of items -- including the suitcases -- at an auction for abandoned goods near Auckland, New Zealand’s biggest city.



To have someone in custody overseas within such a short period of time has all been down to the assistance of the Korean authorities and the coordination by our New Zealand Police Interpol staff

TOFILAU FA'AMANUIA VAAELUA, DETECTIVE INSPECTOR IN AUCKLAND

Detective Inspector Tofilau Fa’amanuia Vaaelua in Auckland said the case was “a very challenging investigation”.

“To have someone in custody overseas within such a short period of time has all been down to the assistance of the Korean authorities and the coordination by our New Zealand Police Interpol staff,” the detective said.

Florida governor flies migrants to toney Martha’s Vineyard



Venezuelan migrants stand outside a church in Edgartown, Massachusetts

AFP | Boston

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis took credit yesterday for sending two plane-loads of undocumented Venezuelans to wealthy Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, as Republicans play up immigration issues before the November election.

Around 50 of the migrants, including children, landed Wednesday on the island, where Democratic presidents from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton and Barack Obama have summered.

According to Dylan Fernandes, a local state legislator, they were flown on chartered flights that took off from Texas.

And yesterday two buses reportedly also from Texas deposited dozens of migrants in front of the Washington residence of Vice President Ka-

mala Harris, the latest of such moves by Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott.

“Immigrants are being dropped off on Martha’s Vineyard by chartered flights from Texas. Many don’t know where they are. They say they were told they would be given housing and jobs,” Fernandes wrote on Twitter.

“Republicans who call themselves Christians have been plotting for some time to use human lives -- men, women, and children -- as a political pawns. It is evil and inhumane,” he said.

The moves came as DeSantis and Abbott, two of the country’s most prominent and combative Republican governors, have sought to highlight politically the issues of tens of thousands of migrants trying to cross the southwest border into the US each month.

How many must die? Pope blasts Russia war, appeals for peace

AP | Nur-Sultan

Pope Francis told the Russian Orthodox hierarchy and other faith leaders that religion must never be used to justify the “evil” of war, and asked at an outdoor Mass in Kazakhstan, “How many deaths will it take?” for peace to prevail in Ukraine.

An increasingly frail Francis made the appeal during his first full day in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, where he opened a global interfaith conference and ministered to the tiny Catholic community in the majority Muslim country.

In the conference audience of imams, patriarchs, rabbis and muftis was Metropolitan Anthony, in charge of foreign relations for the Russian Orthodox Church, which has firmly backed Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. His boss, Patriarch Kirill, was supposed to have participated in the congress but canceled last month.

Kirill has supported Russia’s invasion on spiritual and ideological grounds, calling it a “metaphysical” battle with the West. He has blessed Russian soldiers going into war and invoked the idea that Russians and Ukrainians are one people.

Francis didn’t mention Russia or Ukraine in his remarks to the Kazakh conference. But



Pope Francis meets with Metropolitan Anthony, right, in charge of foreign relations for the Russian Orthodox Church, at the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan



Peace is urgent, because any military conflict or outbreak of tension and confrontation today can only have an adverse ‘domino effect’ and gravely threaten the system of international relations

POPE FRANCIS

he insisted that faith leaders themselves must take the lead in promoting a culture of peace, since it would be hypocritical to expect that non-believers would promote peace if religious lead-

ers don’t.

“If the creator, to whom we have devoted our lives, is the author of human life, how can we who call ourselves believers consent to the destruction of that life?” he asked. “Mindful of the wrongs and errors of the past, let us unite our efforts to ensure that the Almighty will never again be held hostage to the human thirst for power.”

Francis then laid down a challenge to all those in the room to commit themselves to resolving disputes through dialogue and negotiation, not with arms.

“May we never justify violence. May we never allow the sacred to be exploited by the profane. The sacred must never



Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has supported Russia’s invasion on spiritual and ideological grounds, calling it a “metaphysical” battle with the West. He has blessed Russian soldiers going into war and invoked the idea that Russians and Ukrainians are one people

be a prop for power, nor power a prop for the sacred!”

He made the appeal more explicit in an afternoon outdoor Mass for Kazakhstan’s tiny Catholic community, in which he asked for prayers for “beloved Ukraine.”

“How many deaths will it still take before conflict yields to dialogue for the good of people, nations and all humanity?” he asked. “The one solution is peace and the only way to arrive at peace is through dialogue.”

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celebs



IAN S | Los Angeles

Leonardo DiCaprio, Gigi Hadid seen together for first time amid dating rumours

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio and supermodel Gigi Hadid have fuelled speculation that they're in a relationship. The 'Titanic' star and the supermodel were spotted getting cozy at a party in New York City just weeks after the actor called it quits with Camila Morrone, reports aceshowbiz.com. In photos obtained by Daily Mail, 'The Wolf of Wall Street' actor and the 27-year-old supermodel could be seen leaning in close together.

Gal Gadot opens up about her 'Evil queen' role in 'Snow White'

ANI | Washington

'Wonder Woman' star Gal Gadot opened up about her 'Delicious' Evil Queen role in 'Snow White'. Gal Gadot enjoys exploring her dark side, the upcoming live-action adaptation of Disney's Snow White, starring West Side Story actress Rachel Zegler in the lead role, has the Wonder Woman actor as the Evil Queen. The co-stars discussed "modernising" the beloved animated film for contemporary viewers while speaking to People Magazine on Friday at the D23 Expo. Gadot also explains why she loved the opportunity to play a villain. "I wanted to make sure that we keep her delightful and delicious, and we understand what makes her tick. Then the evilness is interesting, and not just flat," she says. "For me," adds Gadot, "it was making sure the Queen is not just evil for the sake of being evil. There is complexity. Between the two characters, it's like a mother-daughter relationship in a weird way. It's what hap-

pens to a woman when she feels like she's not relevant anymore, what can come out of her." Gadot reveals that she managed to spook other set members while wearing her "heavy as hell" costume, even though her character's appearance has not yet been disclosed. "Just to be able to be that character and feel what it makes other people feel," she explains. "Usually I make people talk to me, open and comfortable. With this one, I truly felt people were intimidated by me." "Yeah. It's very intimidating," agrees Zegler. "And it was also the black lipstick, it was the nails, it was the lashes."



Leo and Gigi weren't afraid to get close to each other either, with the 'Don't Look Up' star leaning in to speak next to Gigi's ear

Idris Elba wants fans to 'see themselves' in The Beast

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Idris Elba wants fans to "see themselves" in 'The Beast.' The 50-year-old actor stars as recently widowed Dr. Nate Samuels who visits a South African game reserve with his two teenage daughters and the trio must fight to survive when stalked by a lion in the and explained that the he wants audiences to "relate" to the survival thriller.

He said: "There's definitely a lot of ingredients in this film, it's a genre film, it's popcorn and it's designed to thrill. But at the same time, we want to add a layer that you care about. In some of these films, you have to have characters that you can relate to and care about and see a little bit of yourself within so that you care whether they get

away from the beast or not and that is part of the c."

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IDRIS ELBA



Emma Roberts 'always wanted to work' with Thomas Mann

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Emma Roberts "always wanted to work" with Thomas Mann.

The 31-year-old actress stars alongside 'Halloween Kills' actor Thomas, 30, in new rom com 'About Fate' - which tells the story of two strangers who meet on New Year's Eve and fall in love - and explained that she "loved" shooting the project because she "always" wanted to work with Thomas and was reunited with writer Tiffany Paulsen. She said: "First of all, I

loved making that movie. I filmed it with Thomas Mann, who is an actor who I've always wanted to work with, in Boston, and it was written by Tiffany Paulsen, who wrote 'Nancy Drew' and 'Holiday'. So it was so much fun to get a script and see her name on it, and her and I kind of have a shorthand, and I just love the way she writes characters for me. So it's a really fun rom-com and I think it'll make everyone smile." 'About Fate' was released in cinemas and on streaming on September 9 and in the meantime, Emma has teamed up with Karah Preiss to produce a Hulu adaptation of Carola Lovering's bestseller 'Tell Me Lies', which explores the ups and downs of a college romance and while there are "some differences" between the novel and the series, the 'Wild Child' star is confident that audiences can enjoy both. She told ScreenRant: "Karah and I are very hard on book to movie or show adaptations. And this is one that I think we can say we're very proud of kind of keeping the relationship from the book, you know, into the show. And also, you can enjoy both. Obviously, there are some differences here and there, but I think it's a really, really great adaptation that we're proud of."

First of all, I loved making that movie. I filmed it with Thomas Mann, who is an actor who I've always wanted to work with

EMMA ROBERTS



SUDOKU

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

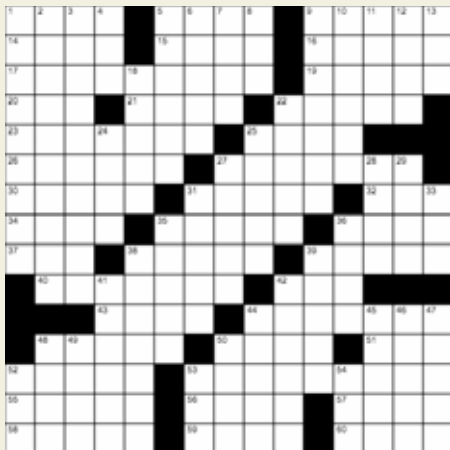
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Army N.C.O.; 5- Horne solo; 9- Pixie; 14- Like ... not; 15- 1996 Tony-winning musical; 16- Befuddled; 17- Lay waste; 19- Carlike fish; 20- Hydrocarbon ending; 21- Bushy hairdo; 22- Bay window; 23- Layer of material; 25- Warts and all; 26- Bodily organ; 27- Giggle; 30- Clear the boards; 31- Conceals; 32- Chop off; 34- Pub quantity; 35- West-ern; 36- General ... chicken; 37- Animal pouch; 38- Gillette razors; 39- Eats to a plan; 40- Nor's partner; 42- Foot digit; 43- Arise (from); 44- Companion; 48- Tree insect; 50- Shoppe sign word; 51- Calendar abbr.; 52- ... I'm Adam; 53- Transmit; 55- At quite an incline; 56- ... above; 57- Doozy; 58- Biblical verb; 59- Spouse; 60- Like pie?;

Down

1- Dodges; 2- Very loud; 3- Control; 4- ...la-la; 5- Tricky; 6- Give guns again; 7- A big fan of; 8- Chowd down; 9- Cloths; 10- On the line; 11- Of course!; 12- Sincere; 13- Thanksgiving tuber; 18- French composer Erik; 22- Willow; 24- Kind of prof.; 25- Peaks of Peru; 27- Lute of India; 28- Different; 29- Cheer; 31- Seraglio; 33- Letter addenda; 35- Different; 36- Echelon; 38- Try; 39- Like some stadiums; 41- Sharon's land; 42- So far; 44- Influence; 45- Maytag brand; 46- Prescribed amounts; 47- Diary bit; 48- Alternative to a shower; 49- Ancient theaters; 50- Killer whale; 52- Ed.'s pile; 53- Pow!; 54- Runner Sebastian;

Yesterday's solution

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

Manama, Ahli triumph in basketball league



Al Ahli's Hesham Sarhan dribbles past Al Hala's Nigel Spikes on a fastbreak

- **Ahmed Salman scores 20 with six triples to lead Manama to 92-62 win against Sitra**
- **Maitham Jameel paces five players in double figures in Ahli's 72-56 victory over Hala**

TDT | Manama

Manama and Al Ahli were last night victorious in their respective week two games of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League. Defending champions Manama routed Sitra 92-62 while Al Ahli defeated Al Hala 72-56. Both games were played at the Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam. In Manama's big win, they took a 23-16 lead at the end of the first period, which they turned to a 44-27 advantage at the half. Manama stayed well ahead in the final two periods, going up by as many as 34 points en route to the final whistle.

Ahmed Salman paced the winners with 20 points, including six three-pointers, while Ahmed Najaf chipped in with 20. Ahmed Aldurazi added 18 and Mohammed Ameer scored 11. Elijah Milak paced Sitra with 25 as Sitra's only player in double figures. In Ahli's triumph, a fine second quarter where they outscored Hala 18-9 turned a slim 23-22 edge to a comfortable 41-31 advantage. They stayed ahead 56-46 heading into the fourth period, where they cruised to the final buzzer, enjoying a biggest lead of 16 markers. Maitham Jameel had 17 points for Ahli with four triples, while Davon Jefferson added 13 markers and 12 rebounds. Subah Hussain added 12 and Hesham Sarhan 11 in the win. Nigel Spikes had 23 to spearhead 23 markers and Ahmed Khalifa scored 10. League action continues on Tuesday next week with Isa Town facing Nuwaidrat and Samaheej playing Al Ettihad. Then, on Wednesday, Muharraq face off with Bahrain Club in that evening's lone fixture.

Bahrain ProAm 1000 confirmed for January

The only major GT race in the world exclusively for ProAm and Am driver crews set to be hosted by Bahrain International Circuit in January next year

- **Ground-breaking GT endurance race dedicated to gentleman and semi-professional entrants**
- **Entries open to GT3, GT4 and Cup classes**
- **Only global GT endurance race to guarantee overall victory for a gentleman driver**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", will host the Bahrain ProAm 1000 on 28 January 2023, a ground-breaking GT endurance race dedicated to gentleman and semi-professional entrants. An innovative format sees entries open exclusively to ProAm and Am driver line-ups. ProAm combinations feature an FIA Gold-rated, professional driver alongside Silver or Bronze team-mates, while the Am class is dedicated to drivers rated as Silver or Bronze. As the first major international race in which Pro driver line-ups, consisting only of professional Gold-rated competitors, are not permitted, the Bahrain ProAm 1000 becomes the only



A past GT race at Bahrain International Circuit (File photo)

global GT endurance race to guarantee overall victory for a gentleman driver. A high-quality field of GT3, GT4 and Cup cars from around the world will do battle over 1000km on the spectacular Bahrain International Circuit, venue for the Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix since 2004. The Bahrain ProAm 1000 is a cooperation between Bahrain International Circuit and Driving Force Events, promoter of the famous Gulf 12 Hours race which has been bringing the glamour and excitement of dedicated GT racing to the region annually since its launch in 2012. The Bahrain ProAm 1000 joins an action-packed weekend of motorsport at Bahrain International Circuit on 27-28 January 2023. Also on the same

weekend schedule is the third round of the relaunched Middle East TCR Series, the only championship in the Gulf region dedicated exclusively to TCR cars. Teams, drivers, media, race fans and all interested in the Bahrain ProAm 1000 can register and find further information at www.proam1000.com or via BIC's website at www.BahrainGP.com. Sherif Al Mahdy, Commercial Director at Bahrain International Circuit, said: "With our long history of hosting endurance racing, we are delighted to bring the first edition of the Bahrain ProAm 1000 to the Kingdom. The unique structure of the race, combined with the relaunched Middle East TCR series in the same weekend, offers a true racing spectacle for fans. We look forward to wel-

”
We want to celebrate the gentleman and semi-professional drivers whose passion and commitment is vital to endurance racing by offering them a world-class, unique event
ANDREA FICARELLI

coming all those involved early next year.” Andrea Ficarelli, head of Driving Force Events, said: “We want to celebrate the gentleman and semi-professional drivers whose passion and commitment is vital to endurance racing by offering them a world-class, unique event. “We initially planned to launch the Bahrain ProAm 1000 last year but Covid travel restrictions intensified over the winter, so we made a pragmatic decision to delay. We believe now is the right time to launch this new international event, tailor-made around gentlemen and semi-professional drivers, on one of the world's most prestigious circuits. “By opening the Bahrain ProAm 1000 only to ProAm and Am driver line-ups, we guarantee that at least one gentleman driver will stand on the top of the podium. Thank you to our friends at Bahrain International Circuit who have shared and supported this vision.”

BRAVE CF announces return to Bahrain with three huge events in October

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation has had a historical 2022 thus far, and it continues to build-up to an amazing third trimester as the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world has announced the return of the Kombat Kingdom series. Between October 19th and October 28th, three special shows will take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with multiple title fights, several bouts and world-class MMA action for the world to witness. Kombat Kingdom 2022 kicks off with BRAVE CF 63, set to take place on October 19th. It continues with BRAVE CF 64, on October 22nd, and will have its grand finale on October 28th, with a huge BRAVE CF 65, the biggest show of the series. Having travelled to a record-breaking 28 countries in six years, BRAVE Combat Federation is set for a huge homecoming as the three events will rock the Kingdom of Bahrain sporting scene to the core. Athletes from around the world are expected to descend upon Kombat Kingdom to see



action, as BRAVE Combat Federation looks to build upon an already record-breaking year, with debuts in South Korea, Uzbekistan and Germany, as well as an announced return to Kazakhstan.

All three events will have public attendance as the Bahrain-based organization anticipates a major turn-up after the massive success of last March's BRAVE CF 57 in the Kingdom, with the three shows taking

Ticket Prices

October 19th

BRAVE CF 63 (limited capacity available)*
Cageside seats - 10 BHD
Standard seats - 5 BHD

October 22nd

BRAVE CF 64 (limited capacity available)*
Cageside seats - 10 BHD
Standard seats - 5 BHD

October 28th

BRAVE CF 65 (full capacity)*
VIP - 25 BHD
PREMIUM A - 16 BHD**
PREMIUM B - 12 BHD**
STANDARD - 5.6 BHD**

*All prices subject to 10% VAT fee
**Early Bird Tickets - 20% OFF - prices valid until September 29th

place at the Khalifa Sports City Arena, in Isa Town. Tickets will be sold through ticketing partner WanasaTime's platform.

Bahrain Super Cup named after late basketball chief

- **The Late Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa Bahrain Super Cup 2022 scheduled for next Thursday between Manama and Al Ahli**

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) announced yesterday that this year's Bahrain Super Cup is being held in honour of the Late Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, one of the former presidents of the BBA. The game is scheduled to take place next Thursday at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam, and it will be contested between defending league champions Manama and reigning holders of the Khalifa bin Salman Cup Al Ahli. The naming of this year's contest after the Late Shaikh Mohammed is in appreciation of his great efforts in developing Bahrain basketball while he was BBA president, as well



The Late Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa

as his contributions as head of basketball at Muharraq Club. Current BBA president Captain Waleed Al Alawi said that this honour is the least that can be done for the Late Shaikh Mohammed, who served the national game for many years and is one of the reasons why Bahrain basketball has reached its development and growth. The BBA is currently preparing the financial rewards for this year's Bahrain Super Cup for the champions and runners-up, along with the best player and best scorer of the game.

Al Khaldiya win Bahrain Super Cup

Samy Frioui, Zahir Sulaiman Al Aghbari both on target for winners in single-game affair against last season's title clinchers

● **Samy Frioui sends ball home from face of goal off a short cross from the left of the penalty area**

● **Zahir Sulaiman Al Aghbari fires in fine left-footer from edge of the box to secure the victory**

TDT | Manama

Al Khaldiya were last night crowned champions of the 2022/2023 Bahrain Super Cup.

Samy Frioui and Zahir Sulaiman Al Aghbari scored just a minute apart in the second half to help lift their team to the victory, which came at the National Stadium in Riffa.

Khaldiya clinched their first Bahrain Super Cup title with the result.

Present at the game and awarding the winners their trophy were Bahrain Football Association (BFA) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa and other BFA officials.

In the first half of last night's match, Riffa had a number

of opportunities to go ahead. They had a golden chance just a minute before the half when Ali Hasan Saeed intercepted a pass by Khaldiya's Mohammed Adel several metres outside the penalty area. His ensuing lobbed shot flew over Khaldiya goalkeeper Sayed Shubbar Alawi but bounced off the crossbar.

Hashem Sayed Isa also had a chance but his effort went inches wide of the right post.

After the re-start, it did not take long for Khaldiya to take



Al Khaldiya skipper Ismaeel Abdullatif receives the Bahrain Super Cup from HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa

control of the game with their successive strikes.

They opened their account in the 57th minute through Frioui, who tapped the ball home from the face of goal off a short cross from the left supplied by Al Aghbari.

Then, the very next minute, Al Aghbari strengthened their claim for the Bahrain Super Cup with a brilliant left-footed shot from the edge of the box that he fired in despite some defensive pressure from Riffa.

Those goals were enough to separate the two sides and earn them the coveted crown.

Khaldiya's win prevented Riffa from repeating as the game's winners. Riffa clinched last season's Bahrain Super Cup following a penalty shootout win over East Riffa. That result completed an historic treble last season after also clinching the Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League title and lifting His Majesty the King's Cup.



Al Khaldiya players celebrate with the Bahrain Super Cup



Al Khaldiya's victory prevent Riffa from repeating as Bahrain Super Cup winners. Riffa were last year's titlists after defeating East Riffa in an exciting penalty shootout

Legend Federer hails 'incredible adventure' as he announces retirement



AFP | London

Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer is to retire after next week's Laver Cup after admitting yesterday his battles with a knee problem had forced him to call time on his historic career.

"The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event," he said in a statement posted on social media.

The 41-year-old winner of 20 Grand Slam titles has been out of action since a quarter-final loss at Wimbledon in 2021, after which he underwent his third knee surgery in 18 months.

"The last 24 years on tour have been an incredible adventure," he wrote. "While it sometimes feels like it went by in 24 hours it has also been so deep and magical that it seems as if I have already lived a lifetime."

Federer has struggled with the knee problem for the past three years that has restricted him

to only three of the 11 Grand Slams staged since the start of 2020.

His fellow tennis legend Serena Williams is all but certain not to play again after bowing out of the US Open in the third round this month. Federer said that his body had effectively told him it was time to bring the curtain down.

"I've worked hard to return to full competitive form," he wrote.

"But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message to me lately has been clear.

"I am 41 years old. I have played more than 1500 matches over 24 years.

"Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognize when it is time to end my competitive career."

'Most fortunate people'

Wimbledon paid him a handsome tribute in keeping with him being a record eight-time champion in the only Slam played on grass.

"Roger, Where do we begin?" tweeted Wimbledon.

"It's been a privilege to witness

Federer's records and milestones

- Won **20** Grand Slam titles, only behind Rafael Nadal (22) and Novak Djokovic (21).
- Claimed **103** titles, second only to Jimmy Connors' Open Era record of 109.
- Won **1,251** singles matches, second in the Open Era behind Connors' 1,274.
- Most consecutive weeks at world number one (**237**).
- Oldest player to hold the number one ranking (36 years, 320 days).
- Most Wimbledon titles for a men's singles player (**8**).
- Oldest men's player to win Wimbledon (35 years, 342 days in 2017).
- Never retired from a match in his career, having played **1,526** singles (W 1,251) and 223 doubles (W 131) matches.
- Only player to win two Grand Slams five consecutive times - Wimbledon from 2003-07 and the US Open from 2004-08.
- Only player to reach **10** straight men's Grand Slam finals (2005-06). He played **31** finals in all, one behind Novak Djokovic's record tally of 32.
- Only player to reach all four Grand Slam finals in the same calendar year three times (2006, 2007 and 2009).
- Holds the Open Era record for the longest winning streak on grass (**65**) and the all-time record on hard courts (**56**).
- Only men's player to win at least **10** titles on clay, grass and hard courts.
- Won **24** straight finals on the ATP Tour (2003-05).
- Holds the record for most titles (**6**) at the year-end Tour Finals, which only features players ranked in the top eight.

your journey and see you become a champion in every sense of the word.

"We will so miss the sight of you gracing our courts, but all we can say for now is thank you, for the memories and joy you have given to so many."

Teenager Carlos Alcaraz, the coming man in tennis having won the US Open last Sunday to become the youngest ever world number one, paid tribute to him as well with a broken heart emoji on Twitter.

"Thank you for everything you have done for our sport," Alcaraz said.

The Laver Cup team event in London will also give him a final chance to play competitively as part of the "Big Four", who dominated tennis over the past two decades.

Reactions

Dear Roger, my friend and rival, I wish this day would never have come. It's a sad day for me personally and for sports around the world. It's been a pleasure but also an honour and privilege to share all these years with you, living so many amazing moments on and off the court

Rafael Nadal

Thank you for everything you have done for our sport

Carlos Alcaraz

Roger, Where do we begin? It's been a privilege to witness your journey and see you become a champion in every sense of the word. We will so miss the sight of you gracing our courts, but all we can say for now is thank you, for the memories and joy you have given to so many

Wimbledon

What a career, Roger Federer. We fell in love with your brand of tennis. Slowly, your tennis became a habit. And habits never retire, they become a part of us. Thank you for all the wonderful memories

Sachin Tendulkar

"I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years. Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognize when it's time to end my competitive career"

ROGER FEDERER