

Bahrain1Racing keep up winning ways

Two-time defending Pro Mod World Champion Stevie "Fast" Jackson powers to his first victory of the season at NHRA Four-Wide Nationals in Charlotte | P12

WORLD 6 Bill Gates had an affair with an employee?

THE DAILY tribune

Henry Cavill addresses 'speculation' about his personal life

9 CELEBS



BUSINESS 5 gig Bahrain, Takaful and BIBF launch graduate development programme

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Gatherings increase the risk of COVID-19 infection

Call to extend loan payment relief

P3

Bahraini held for entering 'Qatari waters' illegally
TDT | Manama

A 32-year-old Bahraini citizen on board a water scooter was arrested by Qatari Coast Guards on Sunday for allegedly entering its territorial waters illegally.

This was confirmed by the Kingdom of Bahrain's Coast Guard Command which said that the Operations Center had received a fax message from the Qatar Coast Guards and Border Security.

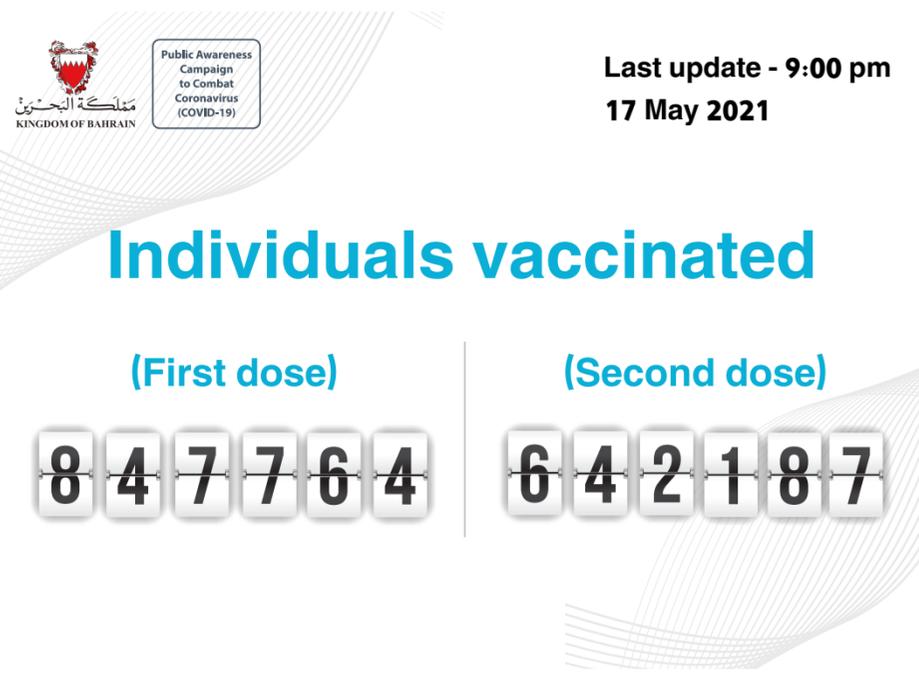
It stated that a water scooter with a Bahraini plate had been seized for "entering the territorial waters of the State of Qatar".

The rider was arrested and he will be referred to the relevant authorities in Qatar, the Qatari notice said.

The Coast Guard said it was following the necessary legal procedures.



A breath of fresh air P4



Fierce fighting rages on

With no end in sight, Israel-Gaza bloody conflict enters a second week

● **Israel missile attacks leave top commander dead**

● **204 Palestinians killed; 58 children, 34 women die**

Reuters | Gaza/Tel Aviv

Israel pummeled Gaza with air strikes yesterday and Palestinian fighters launched rockets at Israeli cities despite a flurry of US and regional diplomacy that has so far failed to halt more than a week of deadly fighting.

Israel's missile attacks on the densely populated Palestinian enclave killed a top commander and left a crater in a seven-storey office building that Israel's military said was used by Hamas.

Rocket barrages, some of them launched in response to the killing of Hussam Abu Harbeed, sent Israelis dashing for bomb shelters with direct hits on a synagogue in Ashkelon and an apartment building in Ashdod.

With the fiercest regional hostilities in years showing no



Rescuers carry Suzy Eshkuntana, 6, as they pull her from the rubble of a destroyed building in Gaza City

sign of abating, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged all sides to protect civilians. Washington, Egypt and UN mediators stepped up diplomatic efforts, and the UN General Assembly will meet to discuss the violence on Thursday.

Gaza health officials put the Palestinian death toll since hostilities flared up last week at least 204, including 58 children and 34 women. Ten people have been killed in Israel, including two children.

The cross-border hostilities

have been accompanied by an uptick of violence in the occupied West Bank, and by riots involving Arab and Jewish mobs within Israel and clashes in Jewish-Arab communities. Police said an Israeli man died in hospital yesterday after being attacked by Arab rioters last week.

As Palestine mourned Harbeed's death, Israel's military said he had been "behind several anti-tank missile terror attacks against Israeli civilians", and an Israeli general said his

country could carry on the fight "forever".

At least seven Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza yesterday by evening. Two died in the missile attack on the office building, which Israel's military said was used by Hamas internal security.

"My children couldn't sleep all night even after the wave of intensive bombing stopped," said Umm Naeem, 50, a mother of five, as she shopped for bread in Gaza City.

US approves \$735m arms sale to Israel

Reuters | Washington

President Joe Biden's administration approved the potential sale of \$735 million in precision-guided weapons to Israel, and congressional sources said yesterday that US lawmakers were not expected to object to the deal despite violence between Israel and Palestinian militants.

Three congressional aides said Congress was officially notified of the intended commercial sale on May 5, as part of the regular review process before major foreign weapons sales agreements can go ahead.

The sale was first reported by the Washington Post.

Congress was informed of the planned sale in April, as part of the normal informal review process before of the formal notification on May 5.

Under US law, the formal notification opens up a 15-day window for Congress to object to the sale, which is not expected despite the ongoing violence.

The sale of Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAMs, made by Boeing Company, was considered routine at the time, before the start last week of the fiercest hostilities in the region in years.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

4374017

ACTIVE CASES

16185

DEATHS

752

DISCHARGED

185619

NEW CASES

1579

CRITICAL

180

'Staunch partners' in nation building

Shura Council discusses more than 100 decrees, drafts and law proposals during 30 sessions

● **Tangible achievements made through cooperative relationship between executive and legislative branches**

TDT | Manama

The Shura Council has discussed more than 100 decrees, draft and law proposals, as well as projects, during the fifth legislative's third ordinary session.

There were a total of 30 sessions, 29 of which were regular and one was extraordinary.

This was based on the statistics and official data issued by the Council's General Secretariat.

Twelve law decrees were approved by the parliament during the third session. The parliament and its committees discussed 61 draft laws, nine final accounts, and 20 law proposals.

The draft laws received the highest percentage of the total topics discussed by the Council, reaching 60 percent, followed by proposals for laws at 19 percent. The percentage of decrees in laws reached 12 percent, and final accounts 9 percent of the total topics.

There were 29 draft laws and 32 projects referred from previous sessions. Thirteen projects were approved, and the House of Representatives was notified of them for referral to the government.

The Shura Council, under the



The Shura Council session in progress

chairmanship of Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, and the House of Representatives, under Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, agreed to reject nine draft laws. The Council returned 11 projects to the House of Representatives.

There are seven draft laws still being studied by the Council committees, while nine draft laws are ready for discussion at the Council in the next session.

The Council completed discussions on seven final accounts, and their reports were submitted to the government. Two final accounts are still under consideration by the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee.

It also approved eight proposals for laws, which were referred to the government, reaching 40 percent of the total proposals for laws. Five proposals are still under discussion and research by the relevant committees.

The Council has one report ready for discussion about a law proposal that had already reached the relevant committee.

The proposals for laws that the Council submitted to the government included the following: strategic stocks of goods, establishment of the Supreme Council for Medical Studies, organisation of the activities of sports centres and academies, and amendment to Clause (a) of Article (99) of the Labour Law.

In the private sector, the proposals for laws that the Council submitted to the government included the following: promulgation by Law No. (36) of 2012 and its amendments, establishment of a Center for Settlement and Resolution of Sports Disputes in the Kingdom of Bahrain, amendment to the text of Article (21) of the Court of Cassation Law promulgated



A total of 40 questions were directed by Council members to ministers about economic, financial, service, health, educational, food and other fields.

by Decree Law No. (8) of 1989, and its amendments, and concerning stem cells, as well as the establishment of the Public Authority for Food Security.

A total of 40 questions were directed by Council members to ministers about economic, financial, service, health, educational, food and other fields.

Prominent Bahraini businesswoman wins ILO post in election

● **To represent West Asian Business Group for three-year term**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) board member Sonya Janahi has been elected unopposed as International Labour Organisation (ILO) alternate member to represent West Asian Business Group for a three-year term (2021-2024).

She won the majority of votes of the ILO member states which took part in the election process during the coordination meeting of Arab business owners in West Asian countries, which was held yesterday.

Janahi thus becomes the first Arab businesswoman to feature in the ILO board, reflecting Bahraini women's strides as well as regional and international standing.

It is also a tribute to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) President, for their support.

In a statement, Janahi extended thanks to the SCW, hailing Bahraini women' local, regional and international standing.



Janahi

Janahi thus becomes the first Arab businesswoman to feature in the ILO board, reflecting Bahraini women's strides as well as regional and international standing.

She praised the pivotal role played by HRH Princess Sabeeka to empower Bahraini women across all sectors and allow them to benefit from the national economic strides.

She also commended the BCCI board for supporting her to win the ILO board membership which, she said, reflects Bahrainis' determination and potential to hold international leadership positions.

BCCI also congratulated Janahi on this international achievement, praising Bahraini women's string of successes.

Holder of a master's degree in strategic marketing from the University of Hull, the United Kingdom, Janahi is ranked among the prominent influential personalities in the Arab and international arenas.

Man trapped under the rubble rescued



A man was pulled out from under the rubble after part of an apartment building's roof collapsed. Emergency patrols and the Security Directorate rushed to the scene in Manama and successfully rescued the victim who was immediately taken to the hospital for treatment. According to the Civil Defense Forces, residents were evacuated and six vehicles near the area removed for safety reasons.

Bridge development project on target for completion

● **Site located on Umm Al Saad Street, south of Sitra**

TDT | Manama

About 35% of works on the 17th Bridge development project on Umm Al Saad Street, south of Sitra, has been completed.

The foundation, casting and reclamation works for the main parts of the first bridge are almost done.

The Director of Roads Projects and Maintenance Department at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Engineer Sayed Badr Alawi, expects the project to be completed during the last quarter of this year.

The remaining works include replacing the current



Construction work in progress

bridge with two bridges and adding a lane in each direction; the first bridge with two lanes in the northeast direction towards Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Street; and the second bridge with two lanes in the southwest direction towards Bandar Al Dar in order to meet the requirements of develop-

ing Umm Al Saad Street in the future.

Eng. Alawi pointed out that the work also includes converting a number of service lines, improving lighting, providing channels for ground services, installing steel and concrete barriers, providing traffic signs, and painting land lines to raise

the level of traffic safety.

It is part of a series of important projects in the road sector due to its connection with the existing expansion work of the Bahrain Petroleum Company refinery, and its strategic and national importance to the Kingdom and Bapco.

It will also provide the necessary space under the bridge to extend other lines of the plant development project.

Bapco refinery, in addition to the bridge, will have a greater width of 28 metres to create a space for the future expansion of the street to three lanes in each direction. It will serve the industrial areas next to the bridge, and a number of people in that area, such as residents of Umm al Bayadh.

The project was awarded by the Board of Tenders to Sayed Kazem Al Dirazi and Sons Contracting Company, with a total value of BD792,992.

Bahrain Ambassador to Italy meets FAO officials



Bahrain Ambassador to Italy Dr Nasser Muhammad Al Balushi met remotely Sasha Ko Oshima, Deputy Director of the Land and Water Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and Lionel Dabadi, Senior Officer of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Office, among other officials. Dr Al Balushi stressed that achieving food security is one of the Kingdom's priorities, praising the efforts of the FAO to achieve this and eradicate hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the world. He also noted the importance of cooperation between the Kingdom and FAO regarding the development of the food and agricultural sector, specifically in food security strategy, livestock, fishing and breeding, and statistics.

Call to extend loan payment relief

Postpone bank installments for another six months: MP Ibrahim Khalid Al Nafiei

● An important step in light of current economic conditions and pandemic

● Must be offered to all customers in Kingdom, whether individuals or companies

● Previous decision to defer loan payments will expire at end of next month

TDT | Manama

MP Ibrahim Khalid Al Nafiei has called on the government, Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and banks to lay down a new provision to postpone loan installments for another six months, in a manner that guarantees the rights of all employees.



Increasing purchasing power in the local market key to sustaining economic progress



Central Bank of Bahrain

MP Al Nafiei urged the Central Bank to urgently reassess the continuation of such measures for this year.

Easing pressure amid pandemic

Last December, CBB ordered all banks and financing companies to extend repayment of loan installments for six more months, starting in January, as part of the government's measures to ease pressure amid the pandemic.

"Licensees must offer their customers six-month installment deferment options, starting from January 1, 2021. The said option must entail extending the tenor to take into account the additional profit/interest, while keeping the installment amount unchanged," the CBB said its circular to banks.

The Central Bank indicated that the option to postpone installments must be offered to all customers residing in the Kingdom, whether individuals or companies, with the exception of amounts owed on credit cards and loans transferred to

BD4.3 billion

The financial package assistance approved by the government in March last year

the court, unless there is coordination with the court.

Earlier in March last year during the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, Bahraini nationals were given the option of delaying payment of bank loans by six months. The waiver at the time also covered credit cards but did not include inter-bank deposits or borrowings.

Bahrain also announced in March a financial package of BD4.3 billion to combat the fallout from the coronavirus outbreak, including measures covering electricity and water payments for individuals and companies for three months starting in April.



Last December, CBB ordered all banks and financing companies to extend repayment of loan installments for six more months, starting in January, as part of the government's measures to ease pressure amid the pandemic.

He explained that the current economic conditions and the effects caused by the pandemic on the commercial and investment sectors require this.

MP Al Nafiei explained that the previous decision to voluntarily stop the premiums, which will expire at the end of next month, requires an extension, given the repeated and increasing demands of citizens, and many of them were affected by the repercussions of the coronavirus, which changed the lifestyle, increased the cost of living and seriously affected the medium and small sectors.

He added that extending installments for another six months will help achieve financial balance, increase purchasing power

“Delaying installments for another six months will help achieve financial balance, increase purchasing power in the local market, and increase the income of the added tax, which is included in the state treasury.”

- MP IBRAHIM KHALID AL NAFIEI



in the local market, and increase the income of the added tax, which is included in the state treasury.

Fire breaks out at agricultural waste area in Sanad



The Civil Defense Forces put out a fire at an agricultural waste area in Sanad. Individual near the premises were evacuated and seven vehicles removed for safety purposes.

EST 1880

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- Bachelor of Engineering in Architectural Engineering

A breath of fresh air for two kingdoms

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia travellers cross King Fahd Causeway for first time in more than a year

● Reopening of 25km-long bridge will strengthen bilateral relations

● Trade exchange through border expected to improve significantly

TDT | Manama

Hundreds of travellers between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia patiently endured long queues of cars early Sunday morning before being allowed to pass through the King Fahd Causeway for the first time in more than a year.

Past 1 in the morning, travel restrictions were officially lifted at the 25-kilometre long causeway road linking the two kingdoms after it was temporarily closed on March 8 last year to control the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Despite expected delays, visitors waiting to enter from both countries passed through the border happily.

Delays in border crossing were mainly due to strict COVID-19 checks in a bid to mitigate



Scenes at the reopening of causeway

the spread of the deadly virus. Causeway staff were checking that every traveller had complied with current security health measures when arriving at the border.

Travellers reported being

stuck for up to an hour or two waiting to cross checkpoints. But they were delighted and heaved a collective sigh of relief after passing through the security border.

However, increased daily pas-

senger numbers, lengthy traffic queues, longer wait times than normal, and more delays are expected in the coming days when more travellers from both countries flock to the border.

The causeway was due to open

on March 31 but this was delayed when authorities on both sides of the bridge increased safety measures.

King Fahd Causeway was opened in 1986, and today it is one of the busiest land border crossings in the Middle East with an estimated 390 million passengers having used the bridge since its opening.

The re-opening of the King Fahd Causeway will add billions of dollars to Bahrain's economy as visitor levels return to pre-pandemic levels.

It is expected to eventually add around \$2.9 billion to Bahrain's economy this year based on average tourist spending in 2019.

However, certain travel restrictions are still in place in both Saudi Arabia and Bahrain as a result of the pandemic.

Those travelling from Saudi Arabia must either be vaccinated or recently recovered from the COVID-19 virus, and the proof of this must be available on the Tawakkalna app. A coronavirus insurance certificate is required for those under the age of 18.

Meanwhile, passengers travelling from Bahrain to Saudi Arabia will be required to use GCC-approved health apps confirming their status whether



Travellers reported being stuck for up to an hour or two waiting to cross checkpoints.

But they were delighted and heaved a collective sigh of relief after passing through the security border.

they have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19.

Passengers will also need to provide PCR certificates confirming that they have tested negative for COVID-19, ensuring that the test result does not exceed 72 hours from the time of taking the sample.

Although trade between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia has continued throughout the pandemic, tourism has been severely affected. But now that it has finally reopened, it will surely reenergise Bahrain's economy this year.

**The Chairman, Board of Directors, Executive Management
and all staff of Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) Group**



مجموعة بنك البحرين للتنمية
BAHRAIN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

**express their deepest condolences to
Mr. Sanjeev Paul (Group CEO)
and his family on the sad demise of his father.**

May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

World Economic Forum cancels 2021 annual meeting in Singapore

Reuters

The World Economic Forum has cancelled its annual meeting - the blue riband event for the global elite to discuss the world's problems - due to be held in Singapore later this year, the organisers said on Monday.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant it was not possible to hold such a large event as planned on Aug. 17-20, they said.

"Regretfully, the tragic circumstances unfolding across geographies, an uncertain travel outlook, differing speeds of vaccination roll out and the uncertainty around new variants combine to make it impossible to realise a global meeting with business, government and civil society leaders from all over the world at the scale which was planned," the WEF said in a statement.

The event, which attracts VIPs from the worlds of politics and business, has been held since 1971.

It was originally shifted from the Swiss Alpine resort of Davos last December due to concerns about safeguarding the health of participants.

Singapore has in recent days imposed some of the tightest



restrictions since it exited a lockdown last year to combat a spike in local COVID-19 infections.

Acknowledging WEF's decision to cancel the event, the Singapore trade ministry said on Monday that it "fully appreciates the challenges caused by the ongoing global pandemic, particularly for a large meeting with a broad span of international participants."

The WEF's next annual meeting will instead take place in the first half of 2022. Its location and date will be determined based on an assessment of the situation later this summer, it added in a statement.

Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab said the decision to cancel had been difficult.

gig Bahrain, Takaful and BIBF launch graduate development programme

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (gig Bahrain) and Takaful International announced launching their first Graduate Development Programme on Sunday.

The programme designed in strategic partnership with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance will provide fresh graduates with the technical knowledge and competencies to start their career in Insurance.

The talent management programme aims at providing a unique career opportunity to fresh graduates seeking a professional career in Insurance. The programme will run for 9-12 months and aims at delivering a high-end on-the-job learning exposure both in Bahrain and abroad. It is complemented by professional qualifications in Insurance and Digital Transformation, such as the Award for Certified Insurance Practitioner (ACIP) and the Digital Transformation Essentials for



Officials during a group photo session following the launch

All. Successful trainees with exceptional performance will qualify for an internal career opportunity within each of the respective companies.

BIBF "MyClass" e-learning platform will deliver the sessions.

Commenting, CEO of gig Bahrain, Dr Abdulla Sultan said, "We're delighted to partner with the BIBF as a leading authority in Insurance training in

the region, to extend our support towards developing the future Bahraini workforce to gain important knowledge and marketable experience in their area of study."

Essam Al Ansari, the CEO of gig Takaful, said they are looking forward to welcoming the students and "wish them all the best for joining us."

BIBF Director, Dr Ahmed Al Shaikh, said, "The insurance

industry is facing one of the most profound disruptions in decades. Therefore, it is crucial to develop the best talent pool to bridge the digital skills gap and help empower the Kingdom's Insurance sector."

Candidates, who are eligible and interested, can visit the respective Instagram pages and follow the instructions on the GDP post: @gigbh and @takafulbh.

PIF boosts US equities exposure to over \$15 billion

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund has increased its US stock holdings to \$15.4 billion in the first quarter from nearly \$12.8 bn at the end of 2020, according to a US regulatory filing on Monday.

The Public Investment Fund (PIF) bought 2.9 m class A shares in SoftBank Group Corp-backed Coupang Inc, equivalent to \$141 million, and dissolved its share stake in Suncor Energy, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing.

It more than doubled its position in Activision Blizzard to 33.4 m shares from 15 m shares at the end of the fourth quarter, which led it to a \$3.1 bn exposure from \$1.4 bn.



Governor of the Saudi Public Investment Fund Yasir Othman Al-Rumayyan, Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Abdullah Al Jadaan, Tourism Minister Ahmed Aqeel Al Khateeb, Minister of State Ibrahim Abdulaziz Al-Assaf, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Commerce Minister Majid Abdullah Al Qasabi, Investment Minister Khalid Abdulaziz Al Falih and Advisor to Royal Court Mohamed Mazyed Altwajri pose for photo during meeting to Launch Public Investment Fund Strategy 2021-2025, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The fund increased its shares in Electronic Arts Inc to 14.2 m, equivalent to \$1.9 bn, from a \$1.1 bn position at the end of the previous quarter.

PIF, which did not immediately

respond to a comment request on the filing, is at the centre of Saudi Arabia's plans to transform the economy by creating new sectors and diversifying revenues away from oil.

The \$400 bn fund is expected to inject at least \$40 bn annually in the local economy until 2025, and increase its assets to \$1 trillion by that date, which would make it one of the world's

biggest sovereign wealth funds.

"PIF would have wanted to take advantage of the bullish sentiment in equity markets in Q1 to make opportunistic investments and add to its portfolio," said Rachna Uppal, director of research at Azure Strategy.

"In line with domestic efforts to achieve the objectives of Vision 2030, the Saudis also appear to be favouring investments into sectors such as technology, mobility, and especially future mobility, tourism and entertainment," she said.

At the start of last year PIF piled up minority stakes in companies worldwide, taking advantage of market weakness caused by the coronavirus crisis.

Bitcoin drops to 3-month low

Reuters

Bitcoin fell to a three-month low yesterday in a volatile session that saw investors selling and buying the digital currency after Tesla boss Elon Musk tweeted about the carmaker's bitcoin holdings.

Bitcoin fell to as low as \$42,185, its lowest since Feb. 8, and was last down 6.2% at \$43,564. In his latest tweet, Musk said "Tesla has not sold any bitcoin". A day earlier, he suggested Tesla may have done so, and last week, Musk said Tesla would stop taking bitcoin as payment due to environmental concerns about energy use to process transactions.

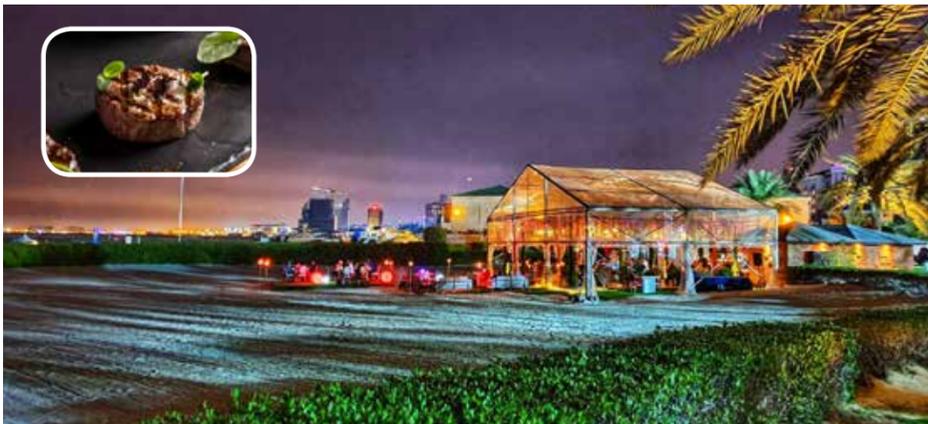
The Ritz-Carlton launches pop-up concept 'Plums Al Fresco'

TDT | Manama

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain yesterday announces the launch of Plums Al Fresco, a new pop-up concept at its incredible beachfront venue, Nikmati, making it the fifth offering in a series of gastronomic concepts since its inception. Plums Al Fresco, welcomes a truly authentic outdoor culinary experience making it ideal whether for a romantic date night or a special family dinner.

Led by Chef de Cuisine, Alexis Knecht, who joined the property in 2017 and has been a culinary pillar, and who has been fully involved in a variety of our award-winning outlets around the resort, Plums Al Fresco will dare its diner's imagination as their palates are treated to a gastronomic journey through the outlet's premium steak and seafood selection amidst the swaying palm trees and the gentle breeze of the Arabian Gulf.

"I am proud to announce that Plums Al Fresco will be moving



outdoor with a special menu carefully curated by our Chef de Cuisine Alexis Knecht, under the guidance of our newly appointed Director of Culinary and Food and Beverage, Yann Bernard Lejard. As the world slowly gets back on its feet, Plums Al Fresco will be a breath of fresh air, becoming an ideal venue for culinary connoisseurs who appreciate the bounties from

land and sea, accompanied by the unique flavours of their signature appetizers as well as delectable desserts, which will further cement The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain as the Kingdom's premier dining destination," says Bernard de Villèle, General Manager.

Premium steak

Plums Al Fresco's special

menu boasts a selection of premium steak and seafood from the only Jospier grill in Bahrain. Crowd favourites include US Black Angus Beef Tenderloin with grilled asparagus or steamed vegetables with olive oil and thyme, Chateaubriand, Australian Lamb Rack, and a sumptuous plate of Salmon or local Seabass. For appetizers, Foie Gras and Sea Scallop are

a must try to start the dining experience on a tasteful note. An after-dinner treat of creative desserts abounds including Cheesecake, Roasted Pineapple with coconut ice cream and Triple Chocolate Cake with strawberry ice cream.

Located next to the marina with the sparkling Arabian Gulf as a backdrop, Plums Al Fresco's design provides a familial at-

mosphere of a hanging garden, embellished with top hats taken from its original location and complemented by the black and amber accents of each table, perfectly arranged by our dedicated Ladies and Gentlemen.

Plums Al Fresco pop-up opened on the first day of Eid continues until June 30, 2021. Open daily except Sundays and Mondays, 7 pm to 11 pm.

The Central Bank of Bahrain

Notice

With regard to the cancellation of the Investment Business Firm Category 2 license of "United Markets Financial Services B.S.C. (c)"

With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (13) of 2021 pertaining to the cancellation of the Investment Business Firm Category 2 license of "United Markets Financial Services B.S.C. (c)" issued on 21st Ramadan 1442H, corresponding to 3rd May 2021, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the Investment Business Firm Category 2 license of "United Markets Financial Services B.S.C. (c)" issued on 7th July 2014, registered under commercial registration No. 91435 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of issuing and publication of the above resolution in the Official Gazette.

News in brief

◆ **After much delay and on the cusp of a third wave of Covid-19 infections, South Africa yesterday launched a large-scale immunisation drive, targeting around five million people aged over 60 by the end of June.** Health Minister Zweli Mkhize was on hand as nurses administered jabs at an elderly care facility in the mining town of Krugersdorp, around 30 kilometres (18 miles) west of Johannesburg. Among the first seniors to receive their vaccinations under the mainstream campaign was 89-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner and retired archbishop Desmond Tutu.



South Africa launches large-scale vaccination rollout

◆ **Britons streamed into pubs, museums and other indoor venues on Monday as the country eased pandemic restrictions.** "Together we have reached another milestone in our roadmap out of lockdown, but we must take this next step with a heavy dose of caution," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Sunday.

Britain eases virus lockdown



"We are keeping the spread of the variant first identified in India under close observation and taking swift action where infection rates are rising." Across England, Wales and most of Scotland, people on Monday could once again grab a drink, a bite and dine inside pubs, restaurants and cafes.

◆ **The US military has offered to provide some Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) coronavirus vaccines for South Korean troops,** the defence ministry said on Monday, as South Korea struggles with a shortage of COVID-19 shots. The offer comes days before President Moon Jae-in is due to visit Washington for his first summit with U.S. President Joe Biden, amid calls for Moon to secure more and faster deliveries of U.S.-made vaccines.

US military offers J&J vaccines for South Korean troops



◆ **Thailand reported a new daily high of nearly 10,000 coronavirus cases** yesterday, more than two-thirds of them in prisons, as the kingdom battles its third wave of the pandemic. The kingdom's Covid-19 task force reported 9,635 new cases, 6,853 of which were among prisoners. Nearly half of 24,000 inmates tested at eight prisons, mainly in Bangkok and its suburbs, including several where prominent democracy activists have been detained, were found to have the virus.

Thailand virus cases soar with prison clusters

Cannabis and cocaine seized in big Niger and South Africa drug busts

◆ **Drugs with a street value of nearly 100 million euros** have been seized in operations in Africa and the Middle East, including two major busts that show how traffickers are packing larger loads into their shipments, Interpol said yesterday. Interpol worked with customs and police officials from 41 countries for two operations in March and April that coordinated enforcement action at borders and other hotspots.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	33,727,307	600,308	164,139,714
2 India	25,227,970	278,751	
3 Brazil	15,627,475	435,823	
4 France	5,877,787	107,616	3,400,790
5 Turkey	5,127,548	44,983	
6 Russia	4,949,573	116,211	Recovered: 142,832,376
7 UK	4,452,756	127,684	
8 Italy	4,162,576	124,296	New cases: +185,707
9 Spain	3,615,860	79,432	
10 Germany	3,608,143	86,860	New deaths: +3,171
11 Argentina	3,307,285	70,522	
12 Colombia	3,118,426	81,300	
13 Poland	2,855,190	71,675	
14 Iran	2,765,485	77,222	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	245,721		14,327		181,478	49,916
Saudi Arabia	433,980	+886	7,174	+12	418,914	7,892
UAE	547,411	+1,229	1,633	+2	527,519	18,259
Kuwait	291,629		1,693		277,820	12,116
Oman	206,297	+786	2,206	+13	191,065	13,026
Qatar	213,485	+302	532	+2	207,796	5,157



Bill Gates had an affair with an employee

Reuters

Microsoft conducted a probe into co-founder Bill Gates' involvement with an employee almost 20 years ago after it was told in 2019 that he had tried

to start a romantic relationship with the person, the company said on Monday. Microsoft said it had received a concern in the latter half of 2019 that Gates "had sought to initiate an intimate relationship with a company employee in the year 2000," a Microsoft spokesman said in a statement.

"A committee of the Board reviewed the concern, aided by an outside law firm to conduct a thorough investigation. Throughout the investigation, Microsoft provided extensive support

to the employee who raised the concern," the statement said.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday that Microsoft's board had decided that Gates' involvement with the female employee was inappropriate and he needed to step down in 2020, citing people familiar with the matter.

The Microsoft spokesman declined to comment on whether the board had decided it should go.

In a statement to the Street Journal, a spokesman for Gates said his decision to leave the board of Microsoft had nothing to do with his involvement with an employee.

"There was an affair almost 20 years ago that ended amicably. Bill's decision to transition off the board was in no way related to this matter," the statement said.

"In fact, he had expressed an interest in spending



The affair came to light after the Microsoft employee wrote to the board in 2019 detailing it - and allegedly asked that Gates' estranged wife Melinda Gates, 56, read the letter.

2020

Gates, 65, quit the board suddenly in March 2020 while the investigation was still underway.



Chile's govt in shock loss as voters pick independents to draft constitution



Poll workers wearing protective masks sort through and count the votes

Reuters

Chile's center-right ruling coalition suffered a shock loss on Sunday night after failing to secure a critical one-third of seats in the body that will draft the country's new constitution.

With 90% of the votes counted, candidates backed by President Sebastian Pinera's centre-right Chile Vamos coalition had won only a fifth while independents picked up the most votes. New proposals will require two-thirds approval and without a third of the delegates, the government will struggle to block radical changes to the constitution unless it can forge new alliances.

The result and defeats for Chile Vamos candidates in mayoral, gubernatorial and municipal elections held at the same time bode ill for the ruling coalition ahead of general and presidential elections in November.

France, Germany and Spain strike deal over joint combat jet

Reuters



France, Germany and Spain said on Monday they had reached a deal over the next steps of the development of a new fighter jet, Europe's largest defence project at an estimated cost of more than 100 billion euros (\$121.4 billion).

France in particular has billed the combat jet project -- which includes a next-generation manned and unmanned aircraft -- as crucial for Europe to strengthen its defence autonomy and face competition from China, Russia and the United States.

The next development phase for the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) is expected to cost 3.5 billion euros (\$4.25

billion), to be shared equally by the three countries.

France, Germany and Spain are building one of the most important tools for their sovereignty and that of Europe in the 21st century," French Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly tweeted.

France's Dassault Aviation, Airbus and Indra - the latter two representing Germany and Spain respectively - are involved in the scheme to start replacing French Rafale and German and Spanish Eurofighters from 2040. The sum will cover finalisation of the designs of both the combat jet and drone by 2024 and the building of demonstrators for both.

Monster cyclone

AFP News

More than 200,000 people were evacuated from their homes in the Indian state of Gujarat and authorities shut ports and major airports as the most powerful cyclone in more than two decades made landfall in the state late yesterday.

Rain intensified and several incidents of power outages were reported in the state. Electricity pylons and trees were uprooted and buildings were damaged in coastal areas of Gujarat, state authorities said.

With the worst of the storm expected to last for several hours after it slammed into the state's coast, it piles more pressure on Indian authorities already struggling with a huge caseload of COVID-19 infections.

"This cyclone is a terrible double blow for millions of people in India whose families have been

Bengal tiger found unharmed

AFP News

A Bengal tiger last seen a week ago roaming the lawns of suburban Houston and terrifying locals has been found unharmed and was moved Sunday to an animal sanctuary, police said.

"We got him, and he's healthy," Houston police commander Ron Borza was seen saying in a video.

The animal, named India, had been in the custody of the wife of its owner, a 26-year-old man seen in social media videos last week kissing the untethered tiger before placing it into his car and driving off.

The man, identified as Victor



A Bengal tiger called "India" is seen in a cage after being captured by authorities nearly a week after being seen roaming in Houston

1804

Napoleon Bonaparte proclaimed Emperor of France by the French Senate

1896

Khodynka Tragedy: A mass panic on Khodynka Field, Moscow, during the festivities of the coronation of Russian Tsar Nicholas II, results in the deaths of 1,389 people



India becomes the sixth nation to explode an atomic bomb

1974

2009

Sri Lankan Civil War: The LTTE are defeated by the Sri Lankan government, ending almost 26 years of fighting between the two sides.

affair ee?

the more time on his philanthropy starting several years earlier.”
A spokesman for the Gates Foundation told Reuters it stood by the statement to the paper.
The billionaire, who co-founded Microsoft in 1975 and served as its CEO until 2000, said in March 2020 that he was stepping down from the board to focus more on philanthropy.
Gates and his wife Melinda filed for divorce earlier this month after 27 years of marriage.

Dubai ruler dissolves tribunal for settling disputes with home lenders

Reuters

Dubai's ruler dissolved a special tribunal formed after the global financial crisis over a decade ago to settle disputes related to real estate lenders Amlak Finance and Tamweel, the government media office said on Twitter yesterday.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum ordered the creation of the special judicial committee in 2009 to protect creditors of mortgage lenders Amlak and Tamweel following the debt and property crisis that wobbled the emirate's economy.

“Pursuant to the Decree, all complaint and lawsuits that have been reviewed by the Special Tribunal and haven't received a final judgment will be referred to the concerned Court of First Instance at Dubai Courts,” a statement on Sheikh Mohammed's website said.

Dubai eases COVID-19 restrictions, allows full hotel capacity



Reuters

Dubai yesterday eased COVID-19 restrictions, allowing hotels in the regional tourism hub to operate at full capacity and permitting concerts and sports events where all attendees and participants have been vaccinated.

The United Arab Emirates ranks highly globally for COVID-19 testing and vaccination rates.

Social distancing and compulsory face masks will continue, Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management said. Capacities for restaurants and entertainment venues also increased.

Dubai has pushed to keep its economy, which relies on international trade and business, open through the pandemic after an initial lockdown. The emirate is due to host the Expo 2020 world fair from October, hoping to attract millions of overseas visitors.

The UAE has in recent weeks banned entry from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka to guard against the spread of the highly contagious Indian variant.

Saudi to reopen to foreign tourists soon, official says



Tourists watch Saudi men perform a traditional folk dance
Reuters

Saudi Arabia plans to soon reopen to foreign tourists, a senior tourism official said yesterday after the kingdom announced the lifting of quarantine restrictions for certain foreign arrivals.

The kingdom announced late on Sunday that non-citizens arriving from certain countries and who were fully vaccinated against or recently recovered from COVID-19 would no longer be required to quarantine in designated government hotels.

Those new measures, however, only apply to residents, government and business travellers or those visiting friends and family but not foreign tourists, according to the Saudi Tourism Authority (STA).

STA Chief Executive Fahd Hamidaddin said the kingdom would reopen to foreign tourists this year with an announcement expected to be made “very soon.”

Hamidaddin declined to say exactly when.

Saudi Arabia liberalised its tourism industry in 2019, making it easier for foreigners to apply for tourist visas to the kingdom that had been relatively closed off for decades.

Hamidaddin said the kingdom was still targeting 100 million annual visits by 2030, up from about 40 million a year before the pandemic. It was also still targeting for tourism to account for 10% of GDP, up from 3%, by 2030, he said.

China to relax birth policy

Reuters

China will tread carefully in relaxing its birth policies for fear of harming social stability, even as the latest census highlights the urgency to address the country's declining birth trends and ageing population, policy sources said.

Expectations for birth policy reforms are rising after the 2020 census last week showed China's population grew at its slowest in the last decade since the 1950s as births declined and ageing accelerated.

A fertility rate of 1.3 children per woman in 2020, on par with ageing societies like Japan and Italy, underscores the risk for China: the world's second-biggest economy may already be in irreversible population decline without having first accumulated the household wealth of G7 nations.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



#Cancer affects nearly 20 million people & causes 10 million deaths. Responding to the global cancer burden requires solidarity. I thank @IARCWHO staff for their valued contribution to cancer research & congratulate Elisabete Weiderrass, @IARC_DIR, for her visionary leadership.
@DrTedros

02



Interacted with doctors across India. They shared insightful inputs, based on their own experiences of curing COVID-19. The determination of our doctors during these times is remarkable!

@narendramodi

03



Daily average of #COVID19 +ve cases from 1 to 8 May was 37, 144. Down to 35,919 in the last week. 10% - 30% decrease in 8 districts. Active cases down from 4,45,000 to 3,62,315. Lockdown will bear fruit. Let us continue to be cautious. We shall overcome!

@vijayanpinarayi

04



The current violence in Gaza & Israel only perpetuates the cycles of death, destruction & despair, and pushes farther to the horizon any hopes of coexistence & peace. Fighting must stop immediately. The @UN is actively engaging all sides towards an immediate ceasefire.

@antoniouterres

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

one makes landfall in India, Gujarat evacuates over 200,000



A damaged car is seen on a road after a tree fell on it



Passenger buses are stranded on a waterlogged road

struck down by record COVID infections and deaths. Many families are barely staying afloat,” said Udaya Regmi, South Asia head of delegation, International Federation of Red Cross.

The cyclone has already killed at least 16 people and left a trail of destruction as it brushed past the coastal states of Kerala, Kar-

nataka, Goa and Maharashtra, the authorities said.

“The landfall process has started, and it is expected to last for four hours. The intensity of the Cyclone Tauktae will go down once it is over,” Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said in a social media address on late Monday evening.

State revenue secretary Pankaj Kumar told Reuters it would be the most severe cyclone to hit Gujarat in at least 20 years. A 1998 cyclone killed at least 4,000 people and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage in Gujarat. Regmi said the Indian Red Cross Emergency team was working with authorities and helping

with the evacuations from low lying areas to relief centres further inland in the face of what he called a “monster storm”. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) categorised the storm, which formed in the Arabian Sea, as an “extremely severe” storm, upgrading it from “very severe”.

with the evacuations from low lying areas to relief centres further inland in the face of what he called a “monster storm”.

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med after week missing in Texas

Cuevas, was arrested Monday, freed Wednesday, then re-arrested Friday. He had faced a past murder charge.

When the incident began May 9, frightened neighbors saw the nine-month-old tiger wandering through their yards in a residential neighbourhood.

Videos showed an off-duty sheriff's deputy pulling a gun when he saw the tiger, before Cuevas arrived to take it away.

The animal was recovered by the owner's wife, and she agreed to hand it over to police, Borza told reporters late Saturday.

had spent the week but stressed that the woman had always known its whereabouts.

“We are happy to report that the missing tiger seen in a Houston neighborhood last week has been found and appears to be unharmed,” city police said.

Easy to catch a tiger?

Owning a tiger is illegal within Houston city limits -- though it is permitted in many parts of the state under certain conditions -- but police said Cuevas's wife would face no charges.

Still, Borza told reporters, “You should not have that in your

home. It's not good for the tiger.”

The Houston Police Department released a video of the 175-pound (80-kilogram) tiger being petted and given a drink.

The big cat was transported to the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas, where it will have its own habitat with half an acre of land (0.2 hectare), including a wooded area and pool.

“Our goal is to provide him the best quality of life for the rest of his life,” ranch director Noelle Almrud told a press conference.

Almrud told reporters that India would go into quarantine for

30 days before being introduced to its new habitat, although he looked healthy based on an initial visual inspection.

Texas is known for having a large number of tigers in captivity.

Nationwide, the WWF conservation group estimates that there are some 5,000 tigers living in captivity, a number greater than the entire world population of wild tigers.

Borza, in his news conference, thanked the Houston police officers who helped track the animal down. “I think the public thought it'd be easy to catch a tiger,” he said. “But it wasn't at all.”

Classifieds

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CELEBS

celebs

McConaughey quietly making calls about potential run for Texas governor

Fox | Los Angeles

Matthew McConaughey is reportedly further exploring a potential pivot to politics in Texas.

The 51-year-old actor has been publicly toying with the idea of throwing his hat into the upcoming race for governor in Texas against the incumbent candidate, Gov. Greg Abbott. While it has been all talk so far, a new report indicates that the “Dazed and Confused” star is taking the temperature of prominent figures in the state to assess the viability of his candidacy.

Politico reports that the Academy Award-winning star has been quietly making calls to influential people in the state’s political and business circles to see if he would have enough legitimate backing to unseat Abbott if he were to run a race for governor.

The outlet reports that McConaughey has been in talks with “a deep-pocketed moderate Republican and energy CEO” so far.

Representatives for the actor did not immediately respond to Fox News’ request for comment.

However, before people start getting too excited about a “McConaughey for governor” campaign, the outlet notes that most political strategists in the state doubt the star would sacrifice his status as a Hollywood icon in favor of getting into politics. Furthermore, even if he did, his support might not be enough to carry him to a win against the incumbent.

The Texas native has been teasing a potential run against Abbott for weeks. He recently told the host of “The Hugh Hewitt Show” that “it would be up to the people more than it would

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Matthew McConaughey has been quietly making calls to influential people in the state’s political and business circles to see if he would have enough legitimate backing to unseat Abbott if he were to run a race for governor

me” whether or not he pivots his career into politics.

However, many believe that, despite some wind at his back ahead of any real political aspirations, the star would have to define his political stance in a big hurry given the election is rapidly approaching. At the moment, the star has taken a moderate view of political issues, often finding himself on one side of the aisle in one statement and the other side in another.

McConaughey has previously criticized both parties and has come across as more of a moderate who condemns the entire political system as the problem rather than any one party. For example, in December he criticized what he called “illiberals” and the “extreme” right during an appearance on “Good Morning Britain.”

The star has also previously spoken out in favor of gun control, calling gun violence an “epidemic” in 2018 in a call for both sides of the issue to unite and talk out a solution.

Matthew McConaughey

Henry Cavill addresses ‘speculation’ about his personal life

ANI | Washington

Hollywood star Henry Cavill has addressed some recent fan speculation about his personal life, affirming that he is “very happy in love” with his girlfriend Natalie Viscuso.

According to People magazine, the British actor asked people to stop making negative assumptions about him on social media, noting that such assumptions cause harm to his loved ones.

Cavill wrote, “Dear fans and followers, I wanted to make a wee community announcement. I couldn’t help but notice that there has been some social animosity of late. It’s becoming increasingly prevalent on my feed. There has been lots of, let’s

“I couldn’t help but notice that there has been some social animosity of late. It’s becoming increasingly prevalent on my feed. There has been lots of, let’s call it speculation for now, about my private life and professional partnerships.”

HENRY CAVILL

call it speculation for now, about my private life and professional partnerships.”

The ‘Justice League’ star continued, “Now, while I do appre-

ciate the passion and support by those very people who are ‘speculating’, It has come to such a point that I needed to say something, which in itself, is a bad thing. We are living in an age of social enlightenment. More and more, people are realizing that their views may have been blinkered and that they need to expand them to encompass others.”

Cavill did not go into specifics about the speculation he was addressing. “So, to you out there who are expressing your disdain and showing your displeasure through a surprising variety of ways, it’s time to stop,” he continued.

Henry Cavill



Seth Rogen recalls getting ‘humiliated’ by Beyoncé’s bodyguard

Fox | Los Angeles

Although Seth Rogen did co-star in “The Lion King” with Beyoncé in 2019, the comedian did not make the best first impression the first time they met.

In an interview with E! News’ “Daily Pop” talk show, Rogen recalled trying to meet Beyoncé backstage at the 2011 Grammy Awards but was physically stopped by the singer’s protective bodyguard. “I was at the Grammys, and I saw Beyoncé with Gwyneth Paltrow actually and they were together,” Rogen told E!’s Justin Sylvester. “And I charged over. Instinct took over and I was like I got to go say: ‘Hi.’”

Unfortunately for Rogen, who was 29-years-old at the time, he hadn’t gotten the chance to introduce himself properly.

“I was hit so hard by her security guard that I spilled a drink. I was drinking a screwdriver, which is a bad drink. I deserved what I got,” Rogen joked. “But, I spilled it all over myself and then a second later someone came up to me and was like: ‘You now have to present a Grammy.’”

Billie Piper sought therapy to help deal with teen pop star fame

Daily Mail | London

Billie Piper has revealed she sought therapy to help her recover from the ‘very adult’ situations she found herself in as a teen pop star.

The actress, 38, enjoyed meteoric fame as a singer after debut single Because We Want To was released when she was just 15.

In The Big Issue’s Letter To My Younger Self, she wrote: ‘I was

very often in strange, very adult situations that I wouldn’t subject my own kids to [at the age of] 16.

‘I was going through everything a teenager goes through, but very publicly. Therapy has been crucial to my getting better.

‘If you can get your kids any sort of mental health support, get it.’

Billie found success with her debut album Honey To The B in 1998 which was followed by her second album Walk

of Life two years later.

The star confirmed in 2003 that she had abandoned her music career in favour of pursuing acting.

Billie previously told how she battled through similar mental health issues to Britney Spears.

Britney, 39, famously suffered a public breakdown in 2007 after checking out of rehab, which saw her shave her head and attack paparazzi with an umbrella. Billie recalled how working 18-hour days and having a ‘lack of control’ over everything had a very ‘negative impact’ on her life.



Billie Piper

Robert De Niro updates fans about injury sustained on set of Martin Scorsese’s film

ANI | Washington

Hollywood veteran star Robert De Niro, who recently injured his leg on the set of Martin Scorsese’s ‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ in Oklahoma, gave fans an update regarding his injury, saying that the “pain was excruciating.”

But according to People magazine, the two-time Academy

Award winner believes the show must go on, even amid the “excruciating” pain.

Giving an update on his recovery, De Niro said “I tore my quad somehow. It’s just a simple stepping over something and I just went down. The pain was excruciating and

now I have to get it fixed. But it happens, especially when you get older, you have to be prepared for unexpected things. But it’s manageable.”

The actor also noted that he didn’t think the injury would affect his performance as cattleman William Hale.



Robert De Niro

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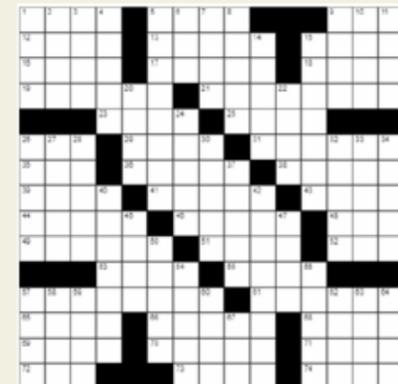
Yesterday’s solution

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

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- Mower brand; 5- Yard tunneler; 9- 1959 Kingston Trio hit; 12- Jump lightly; 13- Blow one’s top; 15- 365 days; 16- “Is so!” rebuttal; 17- Puzzled; 18- Prod.; 19- District; 21- Vulnerable; 23- Musical epilogue; 25- Blackthorn fruit; 26- Frozen Wasser; 29- Fervor; 31- Egg yolk; 35- Actress Joanne; 36- Slip; 38- Bullwinkle, e.g.; 39- Actor Stoltz; 41- Sub system; 43- Grating; 44- Ditto; 46- Sherpa’s home; 48- Bit of film, to a photo; 49- To-do list; 51- Confirmation, e.g.; 52- Trick ending?; 53- City on Norton Sound; 55- Clock face; 57- Starlike symbol; 61- Speaker; 65- Camaro model; 66- Severe; 68- Track event; 69- Harangue; 70- Capital city of Yemen; 71- Lawyer Dershowitz; 72- Dallas-to-Houston dir.; 73- Basin; 74- Eye sore;

Down

1- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 2- Depression-era migrant; 3- Circular band; 4- Pertaining to the eye; 5- Doesn’t stay on topic; 6- Meal crumb; 7- Succulent; 8- Sporting blades; 9- Slight; 10- License plates; 11- Mars’ Greek counterpart; 14- Reckoning; 15- Christmas item; 20- Exude slowly; 22- Composition in verse; 24- Biblical brother; 26- Plant problem; 27- Like some vbs.; 28- Connected series of rooms; 30- Hermit; 32- TV producer Michaels; 33- Bendable twig, usually of a willow tree; 34- Like cake slices; 37- Swift; 40- Link; 42- Lucid; 45- Scent; 47- Cordelia’s father; 50- Off-track; 54- Cornerstone abbr.; 56- Actor Lorenzo; 57- Melodies; 58- Ladies of Sp.; 59- Muscle quality; 60- Vegas game; 62- Slant; 63- Oil of _; 64- Actor Auberjonois; 67- Uncooked;

Yesterday’s solution

S	K	I	D	H	A	I	T	I	L	A	S	T	
A	N	T	I	E	D	G	A	R	I	A	L	O	E
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S	P	L	A	T	T	E	R	S	P	E	S	T	
B	O	H	R	S	R	A	S						
R	E	A	L	M	C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	
A	G	R	E	E	S	A	L	E	S	I	A	N	
B	R	E	D	R	U	R	A	L	E	D	G	E	
B	E	A	O	H	G	O	D	S	T	E	E	R	
I	T	S	A	D	E	A	L	T	E	R	R	A	
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S	A	G	O	K	A	P	I	T	I	V	E	S	
K	I	E	V	M	E	T	O	O	T	O	G	S	
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Federer expects battle to get back to the top

After a year out Roger Federer returned to the court in Qatar in March

● Federer was out for more than a year following two knee surgeries

AFP | London

Roger Federer said yesterday he expects to return to the top tier of tennis even though the next generation of players will have gained ground during his lengthy injury lay-off.

Federer begins his comeback-proper on Swiss home soil in Geneva on Tuesday, with the 39-year-old tennis legend starting a run of tournaments including the French Open, Halle, Wimbledon and then the Tokyo Olympics.

Federer returned to the courts in March, having been out for more than a year following two knee surgeries, winning his first match in Qatar before losing his second.

Doha was his first appearance since January 2020 and an Australian Open semi-final defeat to Novak Djokovic.

"I'm just concerned about where my game is at. The guys



Roger Federer hits a return during a match

on tour are all in a good rhythm. The level that everybody is producing in great. I want to achieve that as well again," Federer told reporters.

His old rivals Djokovic and Rafael Nadal played out a two-hour 49-minute final in Rome on Sunday, with Nadal claiming a 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 victory to match the Serbian world number one's record of 36 Masters 1000 series titles.

"I'm excited about the comeback, that's what my focus needs to be on and not about trying to be at the same level as Rafa and

Novak right now," Federer said. But the 20-time Grand Slam title winner added: "I believe I will be part of the top tier."

'Next Gen' threat

Federer said he was impressed by the level of tennis on show during his absence from the tour.

He said the so-called "Next Generation" of players such as Stefanos Tsitsipas, Andrey Rublev, Alexander Zverev and Daniil Medvedev plus 2020 US Open winner Dominic Thiem would all prove a much tougher

"I'm just concerned about where my game is at. The guys on tour are all in a good rhythm. The level that everybody is producing in great. I want to achieve that as well again"

ROGER FEDERER

challenge now.

"One thing is for sure, I would expect that the generation of Tsitsipas, Zverev, Rublev, Medvedev have all again gotten better naturally because they have more experience," he said.

"Dominic won a Slam in the meantime. Rafa, Novak are still where they are. You would think that the game has improved again.

"For me, that's going to be an extra challenge, extra hard for me to find that level, but I guess I knew from the get-go it was never going to be simple, regardless of whether I was going to be out for three months or almost a year and a half."

Cricket legend Tendulkar reveals anxiety, insomnia



Sachin Tendulkar signs autographs during a celebrity cricket match in Melbourne
AFP | New Delhi

Record-breaking Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar has revealed he struggled with anxiety for much of his career, often suffering sleepless nights before a game.

The "Little Master," who accumulated more Test and one-day runs than any other player, said he would shadow bat, watch TV and play video games in the small hours when he was unable to sleep.

"In my mind the match started long before I entered the ground. The anxiety levels were very high," he said, according to the Times of India.

"I felt anxiety for 10-12 years, and had many sleepless nights before a game. Later on I started accepting that it was part of my preparation.

"Then I made peace with the times I was not able to sleep at night. I would start doing something to keep my mind comfortable."

200
Tests and 463 ODIs were played by Sachin Tendulkar during his 24-year international career

Mental health has become a key consideration among athletes, including cricketers and especially during the pandemic when many are spending long periods in bio-secure "bubbles".

Tendulkar, who played 200 Tests and 463 ODIs during a 24-year international career, said it was vital to accept first that there is a problem.

"When there is an injury, physios and doctors examine you and diagnose what is wrong with you. Same is the case with mental health," he said.

Djokovic admits 'long shot' to beat Nadal at Roland Garros

AFP | Rome

Novak Djokovic admitted Sunday that he's "a long shot" to win Roland Garros where he would likely have to dethrone rival and 13-time Paris champion Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic may be world number one, but it's Nadal who is the undisputed king of clay in the French capital where he has lost just twice in 102 matches since 2005.

On Sunday, Djokovic again felt the full, raw power of Nadal on clay as the Spaniard clinched a 10th Italian Open title with a 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 win in the final.

In the pair's 57th meeting, the victory also took Nadal level with his Serb rival on 36 Masters 1000 titles.

"Going into Paris brings me a good sensation," insisted Djokovic despite a roller-coaster clay court swing which yielded a round-of-16 exit in Monte Carlo and a semi-final loss on home ground in Belgrade.

Nadal, by comparison, has two titles in Rome and Barcelona but sobering quarter-final losses in Monte Carlo and Madrid.

"I actually now started to feel like I actually want to feel



Rafael Nadal shakes hands with Novak Djokovic after Italian Open final

on clay," added Djokovic.

"So I think if I manage to play the way I played last night (against Lorenzo Sonego in a three-set semi-final) and today, I think I have a good chance to go all the way in Paris.

"Of course it's a long shot." Djokovic has 18 Grand Slam titles to his name -- two behind the record of 20 shared by Nadal and Roger Federer.

However, only one of those has been captured at Roland Garros, in 2016 when Nadal withdrew with a wrist injury after the second round.

Djokovic was swept aside by Nadal in the 2020 final.

Before that, he had lost three other finals in Paris, two also to Nadal and one against Stan Wawrinka.

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KARNAN (PG-15) (TAMIL)(NEW) ● DHANUSH, LAL, RAJISHA VIJAYAN OASIS JUFFAIR :10.45 PM + (1.45 AM THURS/FRI/SAT/SUN) AL HAMARA:12.00 + 6.00 + 12.00 MN	CHATHUR MUKHAM (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) (NEW) ● SUNNY WAYNE, MANJU WARRIER OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.00 PM + (1.45 AM THURS/FRI/SAT/SUN) AL HAMARA:3.00 + 9.00 + (3.00 AM THURS/FRI/SAT/SUN)		

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Mokaev rallies fans to urge BRAVE CF for a fight in Belarus

Muhammed Mokaev urges fanbase to convince promotion for a bout at BRAVE CF 51

● Mokaev went on social media to ask BRAVE CF president to give him a fight at the upcoming event in Minsk

TDT | Manama

Muhammed “The Punisher” Mokaev has been on a road towards making history ever since his professional debut with BRAVE Combat Federation. After earning five pro victories, and recently coming out victorious at the British Senior Wrestling Championship, Mokaev jumps in the conversation asking for a fight at BRAVE CF 51 planned for June 4th in Minsk, Belarus.

Viewed as the biggest rising star in the sport, Mokaev is a prime example of the importance of professional mixed martial arts promotions working alongside the amateur mixed martial arts scene and a testament to the BRAVE Combat Federation world-class scouting program.



Muhammed Mokaev in action during a bout

During his last fight under the BRAVE CF banner, Mokaev demonstrated his readiness for tougher and more challenging bouts by defeating the #1 Flyweight in the Nordic Europe region Abdul Hussein, a fellow amateur world champion, in a bout which his exceptional wrestling made the difference against a top opponent.

After winning his division at the British Senior Wrestling Championship, Mokaev shifted the focus back to mixed martial arts and went on social media

to ask the president of BRAVE CF Mohammed Shahid to give him a fight at the upcoming event in Minsk, Belarus, and urging his ever-growing fanbase to “convince” the fastest-growing organization in the world to promote his return to action.

This comes after his latest statement regarding the reason behind his desire to take part in the event.

“Belarus would be a great country for me to fight as there are Russian speaking fans that can finally watch me live,” says

“Belarus would be a great country for me to fight as there are Russian speaking fans that can finally watch me live. I believe I will be fight of the night again in Belarus. I had three fights in BRAVE CF and three Fight of the Night bonuses

MUHAMMED MOKAEV

Mokaev. “I believe I will be fight of the night again in Belarus. I had three fights in BRAVE CF and three Fight of the Night bonuses.”

BRAVE CF 51: The Future Is Here has a stacked fight card ready to go, which is headlined by two of the top Lightweights on the roster, as former German two-division champion Marcel Grabinski takes on former world champion Lucas “Mineiro” Martins. The biggest show in Belarusian MMA history will be held in association with Rukh Sport Management.

Zamboanga in ‘best shape’ of her career



Zamboanga is training hard for the bout

TDT | Manila

Undefeated Filipina fighter Denice “The Menace” Zamboanga is supremely confident of beating mixed martial artist veteran Seo Hee Ham in their ONE women’s atomweight bout, declaring that “I’m in the best shape of my career.”

The division’s No. 1 contender has been gearing up for the biggest test of her budding career as an MMA warrior ahead of ONE: Empower, an all-women card event, at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on May 28.

“I’ve been preparing hard for this fight. A lot of pain, sweat, tears, and blood went into this training camp. I’m in the best shape of my career,” said the 24-year-old Zamboanga, who sports an immaculate 8-0 record, including three victories in ONE Championship.

“Physically, mentally, and spiritually, I’m ready for this fight. I’m ready to give it 100%, and do anything it takes to win.”

Though Zamboanga is considering the South Korean to be the “toughest opponent” so far in her career, the Filipina made it clear to make the terms mutual for her opponent.

Thanks to Marrok Force and her brother Drex, who also competes in ONE Championship, the younger Zamboanga had emerged as a “complete martial artist” throughout their 12-week training camp.

“More than anything, they continue to motivate me every day to be the best Denice Zamboanga that I can be,” the unbeaten Filipina said.

“I’ve diversified my game and transformed my style and

“Physically, mentally, and spiritually, I’m ready for this fight. I’m ready to give it 100%, and do anything it takes to win

DENICE ZAMBOANGA

techniques. I haven’t even stepped into the Circle with her, but I can tell you that Seo Hee Ham has already brought out the best in me.”

Against Seo, Zamboanga is set to face a seasoned MMA fighter who is a newcomer to the Singapore-based promotion.

One of the favourites to win the tournament, the 34-year-old Seo is banking on experience with a 23-8 record.

“I can say that this is the biggest challenge I could face in this tournament, especially for a first-round matchup. But this is what I live for, to test myself against the best,” said Zamboanga.

“I didn’t get to where I am by facing easy opponents. I’m heading into this fight with the best Denice Zamboanga you’ve ever seen.”

Zamboanga will face the fighter from South Korea who is riding high on a six-match win streak so obviously she is not taking her lightly.

“Ham is a very experienced fighter, the most experienced out of all of us. I’m not taking her lightly by any means. She’s held multiple world titles in different organizations, and she’s a legit, well-rounded striker,” said Zamboanga.

PBA teams gearing up for return to practices

TDT | Manila

Several teams are easing back to training mode to shore up their chances in the 46th season of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) next month.

They are going on with their respective plans to hold face-to-face scrimmages following completion of all necessary safety protocols and swab testing requirements and approval from the league and local government units (LGUs) where they are looking to set up their camps.

Meralco, the first team to complete all necessary safety protocols and swab testing requirements, earning them the league’s green light to train, is setting up camp in Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

A 25-man squad assembled by head coach Norman Black will spend 10 days up north thanks to provincial governor Matthew Manotoc, son of PBA coaching great Tommy Manotoc.

“We are still going to practice in Ilocos,” Black said.

“It will be similar to the bubble set up like before. It will be practice then hotel then practice.”

Rain or Shine Coach Chris Gavina said they will proceed to Batangas City Coliseum for their training camp while awaiting an approval by Mandaluyong City for the use of the Reyes Gym.

Phoenix Super LPG team manager Paolo Bugia said they need to begin practicing by next week and are also waiting for the green light from Pasig City Hall. Blackwater and Magnolia are also waiting for a similar response from the Quezon City and San Juan City governments.



Alaska is eager to resume its practice session



The easing to general community quarantine (GCQ) of the National Capital Region (NCR) Plus was like a shot in the arm that the PBA needed to open its 46th season next month

But the three teams will still proceed to Batangas City for a closed-circuit training system.

“If we don’t get an approval from the LGU, we will practice in Batangas, we are not going to stay there and we’ll be traveling back and forth,” Bugia said.

The closed-circuit system obliges the teams to follow a

strict home-gym-home routine.

TNT KaTropa will still travel to Laoag City to set up camp at the Centennial Arena.

NLEX, on the other hand, intends to hold a team building activity in Subic also later this month.

The entire Ilocos Norte and Zambales, including Subic, are under MGCQ.

Blackwater tactician Nash Racela said that the squad is now waiting for the training permit to finally conduct practices in Aero Gym in Quezon City.

Terrafirma assistant manager Ireneo “Iby” Bautista said they have no immediate plans of training in the provinces and are awaiting an approval from Parañaque City.

Barangay Ginebra San Miguel, Alaska, Northport and San Miguel Beer are still finalizing their plans for their respective camps.

Marcial said protocol violators will be meted a 75,000-peso fine and a 10-day suspension.

Germany’s Ter Stegen to undergo knee operation, out of Euros



Marc-Andre ter Stegen
AFP | Berlin

German international goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen announced yesterday that he is to undergo an operation on his right knee that will rule him out of Euro 2020.

“I have decided together with the medical team of the club (Barcelona) that I will do a complementary intervention on my knee. I’m sad that I will miss the Euro 2020 this summer with Germany,” the 29-year-old said on Instagram.

Barca said in a statement that Ter Stegen is scheduled to go under the knife on May 20. It will follow a similar operation in August last year, which kept him out of action until November. His announcement comes a day after Barca were officially left out of the running for the Spanish league title after a 2-1 home defeat by Celta Vigo left them seven points behind La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid with one game to play.

Ter Stegen has played just 24 times for his country as he has struggled to dislodge Bayern Munich stopper and Germany captain Manuel Neuer from the number one spot.

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Sagan delivers after team's hard work to win Giro stage 10

AFP | Milan

Slovakia's Peter Sagan finished off the job done by his Bora-Hansgrohe team as he claimed victory in the 10th stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday.

The triple world champion outsprinted Colombian Fernando Gaviria at the end of a 139-km ride from LAquila to Foligno after his team's acceleration on a climb had shaken off some of the top contenders for the final sprint.

Italian Davide Cimolai finished in third place.

Colombian Egan Bernal, who took the overall lead on Sunday, retained the Maglia Rosa with a 14-second lead over his main rival Remco Evenepoel after both went toe-to-toe for bonus seconds at the intermediate sprint.

Bora-Hansgrohe accelerated on the short ascent to Valico



Peter Sagan crosses the finish line

della Somma, a move that resulted in Belgian Tim Merlier, Italian Giacomo Nizzolo and Dutchman Dylan Groenewegen being dropped.

Bernal and Evenepoel battled it out for bonus seconds at the intermediate sprint with the Colombian's Ineos-Grenadiers team mate Jhonatan Narvaez getting in the mix to deny the Belgian prospect first place.

Narvaez collected three bonus seconds with Evenepoel taking two and Bernal salvaging one.

All-time Liverpool great Ian Rush visits Bahrain

● **Legendary football icon makes trip to the Kingdom on the invitation of Riffa Club board member Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa Al Khalifa**

TDT | Manama

Legendary football icon Ian Rush MBE was in Bahrain recently on the invitation of Riffa Club board member Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa Al Khalifa.

During his stay, the former Wales international forward and all-time leading goal scorer at English club Liverpool visited various locations across the Kingdom. These included the British Club in Adliya and Rashid Equestrian Horseracing Club in Riffa to attend a horseracing meeting, to name a few.

Saad Wadia, Rush's manager from Avalon Sports Group, said: "Ian Rush was very grateful for Shaikh Ahmed's warm welcome to the Kingdom of Bahrain."

"It was a great opportunity to learn about the Kingdom and was pleasantly surprised



Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa Al Khalifa with Ian Rush in Manama

to see Liverpool fans who have been supporting the football club since the 70's and 80's."

Rush enjoyed an illustrious senior career. At club level, he laced up his boots for Liverpool from 1980 to 1987 and from 1988 to 1996. He scored a total of 346 goals in all competitions at the club, earning him the tag of being one of Liverpool's greatest



Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa Al Khalifa with Ian Rush at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club

players.

Rush also competed for Italian giants Juventus, and English sides Leeds United and Newcastle United, among other clubs. He made 73 appearances for the Welsh national team and scored 28 goals.

Shaikh Ahmed is also the ex-director of Bahrain's under-23 Olympic team, and is a huge Liverpool fan.

Bahrain1Racing keep up winning ways

Two-time defending Pro Mod World Champion Stevie "Fast" Jackson powers to his first victory of the season at NHRA Four-Wide Nationals in Charlotte

● **Bahrain1Racing make it back-to-back victories in E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain1Racing continued their winning ways in the National Hot Rod Association's (NHRA) 2021 season in the US this weekend, as two-time defending World Champion Stevie "Fast" Jackson took home a victory in Pro Mod category at the NGK NTK NHRA Four-Wide Nationals at ZMAX Dragway in Charlotte.

After losing on a holeshot in the final round of the previous meeting of the E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series in Atlanta earlier this month, Jackson made up for it



The blown Bahrain1Racing Camaro driven by Stevie Jackson in Charlotte over the weekend

in this event to keep the Bahrain flag flying high in the world's most competitive drag racing championship.

With the result, Jackson picked up his first victory of the season and the 11th in his standout career.

Bahrain1Racing is owned by His Majesty the King's personal

representative, His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Jackson posted an impressive 5.685-seconds time at 253.75mph in his blown Bahrain1Racing Camaro, racing past a final-round quad that also included Brandon Snider, Mike Castellana and Jeffrey Barker.



Our Bahrain1Racing team has shifted this thing into high gear, and the rest of the season is going to be a shootout

STEVIE JACKSON

Castellana broke before staging, while Barker ran into trouble early in the run. Snider went 5.717s at 250.97mph, but Jackson had the lead early and never relinquished it en route to a satis-



In the NGK NTK NHRA Four-Wide Nationals, each run in Qualifying and Eliminations features cars in four lanes racing against one another, instead of the standard two-car head-to-head

fying victory.

Following his win, Jackson was quoted as saying on nhra.com: "This was an emotional weekend for our team. Lane four almost killed me in 2018 and to conquer the four-wide in lane four [this year] with all of our

amazing fans here to support us was amazing.

"Our Bahrain1Racing team has shifted this thing into high gear, and the rest of the season is going to be a shootout."

The victory also handed Jackson his first four-wide victory after appearing in the final round at both 2019 and 2018. Jackson crashed just past the finish line in 2018, giving the standout plenty of redemption with his victory on Sunday.

After qualifying fourth, Jackson won his first-round quad and finished second in the next round to advance to the final round, going 5.696s at 253.28mph in the semifinal quad.

The E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series returns to action June 24 to 27 as part of the Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals, to be held at Summit Racing Equipment Motorsports Park in Norwalk, Ohio.

Bahrain team named for Arab Futsal Cup foray

● **Bahrainis to depart for Cairo today to compete in tournament, which kicks off Thursday**

● **Nationals to go against hosts Egypt, Kuwait and Mauritania in group stage**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain have named a 16-player squad that will be travelling to Cairo today to compete in the fifth Arab Futsal Cup 2021, which kicks off on Thursday.

The Bahrain Football Association (BFA) confirmed the roster yesterday that is to be coached by Brazilian tactician Lino Gomes.



Head coach Lino Gomes directs players during training

The players include Sayed Fadel Radhi, Sayed Mohammed Hamid, Youssef Janahi, Ahmed Abduljaleel, Ahmed Abdunabi, Ahmed Antar, Ali Al Alwani, Ali Hussain, Ammar Hassan, Falah Abbas, Jassam Anan, Mirza Al Nuaimi, Mohammed Abdulla, Muhammad Al Sindi, Saleh Ahmed and Salman Al Mulla.

The team have been training locally at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town in preparation for the tournament.

Bahrain have been drawn in Group A alongside hosts Egypt, Kuwait and Mauritania for the first stage of action. Group B

consists of Morocco, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Comoros.

The Bahrainis kick off their campaign on Thursday against their Kuwaiti counterparts. Egypt and Mauritania face off in the group's other game that night.

All four teams are back on the playing court on May 22, when Bahrain play Mauritania and Egypt go against Kuwait.

The final Group A games are then scheduled for May 24, when the Bahrainis play their Egyptian counterparts and Mauritania take on Kuwait.

The top two teams from each group at the end of this phase move on to the last four, which is scheduled for May 27. The final will then be held on May 29.

Swiatek enters WTA top 10 after Rome win

Reuters | Rome

Iga Swiatek's victory at the Rome Open saw the Pole enter the top 10 for the first time in her career when the new WTA rankings were published yesterday.

The 19-year-old, who will head to Roland Garros in a fortnight as defending French Open champion, beat Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-0 in the final in Rome at the weekend to climb six places to ninth, leapfrogging her Czech opponent who slips to tenth.