

Bahrain condemns terrorist bombing in Somalia hotel

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemned the terrorist bombing that targeted a hotel in the center of Jowhar city near the presidential palace of Hirshabelle State in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the heinous act which left a number of people dead and wounded, including government officials.

In a statement yesterday, the ministry extended sincere condolences to the families of the victims, the Somali government and people, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

It reiterated Bahrain's support and solidarity with Somalia in its efforts to maintain security and stability and combat extremism and terrorism.

It called upon the international community to assume its responsibilities in eliminating extremist terrorist organisations and drying up their financial sources.

Judiciary is key to ensuring progress

HRH Prince Salman lauds initiatives to enforce fairness and judicial independence



HRH Prince Salman meets with Al Buainain



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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the significant role played by the judiciary in enforcing fairness and judicial independence, which further strengthen the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to those who serve

in the judiciary, for their commitment and professionalism in carrying out their responsibilities in serving the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness commended the constructive relationship between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government, which has contributed to a number of national achievements, and stressed the importance of further strengthening cooperation, to achieve the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals led HM King Hamad.

This came as HRH Prince

Salman yesterday met with the President of the Constitutional Court, HE Chancellor Abdullah bin Hassan Al Buainain, at Riffa Palace.

His Royal Highness congratulated Al Buainain on his appointment as President of the Constitutional Court, wishing him every success in his role.

Al Buainain expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with His Royal Highness, and for his support to best practice within the Kingdom's justice system, in service of citizens and residents.

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 HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER,



Special Family Law Codes for non-Muslims proposed

P3

Burgeoning space programme

UAE sets up \$817m fund to boost space sector

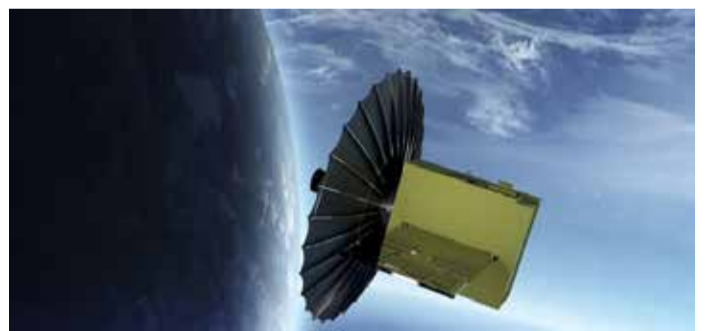
Dubai

UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed announced an \$817 million fund to support space sector in a post on Twitter yesterday.

The president announced a new \$817m national investment and development fund for the space sector, The National Space Fund.

“The establishment of a dedicated fund to support the UAE's burgeoning space programme and the launch of a new initiative to develop radar satellites are expected to expand our growing capabilities in this vital sector while accelerating innovation in environmental sustainability,” the president tweeted.

The Fund's first project to be launched to space will be a constellation of advanced remote sensing satellites using radar



UAE to develop and launch an advanced radar satellite constellation called “Sirb”

technologies to provide unparalleled imaging capabilities.

The constellation is to be named Sirb after the Arabic term for a flock of birds.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE vice president, prime minister, and ruler of Dubai, said on Twitter the fund aims to supporting the establishment of national companies in the space sector and boost national strategic and research projects.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said the “Sirb” project aims to develop the country's competitiveness in the space sector.

The planned satellites will be able to create highly detailed and complex radar ‘images’ of land use, ice cover, surface changes and characterisation, with a wide range of scientific, civil and commercial applications, state-run WAM reported.

Houthis declare they won't extend UN-brokered truce'

Al Mukalla

The Iran-backed Houthis said that they would not renew the UN-brokered truce in Yemen, slamming international calls, mainly from US President Joe Biden, to the movement to adhere to the truce and open roads in the besieged city of Taiz.

The movement's Supreme Political Council blasted the outcomes of Biden's visit to the region that called them to strengthen the truce, claiming that the calls “affect the sovereignty, security and stability of Yemen,” and pledged not to extend the truce.

“The SPC deplored the talk about understandings about extending the truce, stressing that the truce, which the side of the aggression did not abide

by the implementation of its terms, represented a shocking and disappointing experience that cannot be repeated in the future,” the movement said in a statement carried by their official media.

The joint Saudi and American statement that came out on Saturday after the US president's meeting with Saudi officials called on the Houthis to implement all of the truce's terms, including ending their siege of Taiz, Yemen's third largest city, stressing that the truce has achieved “the longest period of peace in Yemen in six years.”

Other American officials such as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also asked the Houthis to respect the truce and open roads in Taiz and the other provinces.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

10116267

ACTIVE CASES

11141

DEATHS

1506

DISCHARGED

636757

NEW CASES

1466

CRITICAL

14

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Global honours for Bahrain

WHO documents Kingdom's strategic response to COVID-19 pandemic and its achievements

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The World Health Organization (WHO) has prepared a report on the Kingdom of Bahrain's strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its achievements.

The WHO documented the most notable achievements, including the formation of an integrated national team to address the pandemic, the launch of a multilingual national campaign to raise community awareness, the implementation of testing, tracking, and treatment policy, and the development of national testing strategies for early access to existing cases and contacts.

It also indicated that Bahrain has increased the capacity of public health laboratories to detect existing cases, as well as used modern technologies in



communicating with existing cases through the application of a conscious society, conducting early clinical trials and vaccination studies, and continuing to provide high-quality healthcare services and free vaccination for citizens and residents.

Houda retires after 14 long years of diplomatic mission



Ambassador Houda

TDT | Manama

had the opportunity to participate in conversations shaping our country and region. During my tenure, we saw some of our toughest times and some of our greatest, including the establishment of relations with Israel," Ambassador Houda said.

"To have a seat at the table in helping to create a region and a future for our children and grandchildren is something I will never take for granted. It's been an honour and the privilege of a lifetime to serve this country which has given me so much."

Ambassador Houda Nonoo has retired after serving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 14 years and as the Arab world's first and only Jewish ambassador.

The Ambassador made the announcement on her official Twitter account yesterday.

She thanked His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, former Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and current Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullah Abdullatif Al Zayani for their trust and guidance.

"Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008, I've

Bahraini first."

Bahraini first."

Diplomatic cadres' contributions



Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received yesterday Ambassador Houda Ezra Nonoo and Dr Ebrahim Ali Badawi Al Shaikh on the occasion of their retirement. Dr Al Zayani appreciated their contributions in supporting Bahrain's foreign policy and promoting the values of peace, tolerance and respect of human rights and international legitimacy. He also praised their role in supporting the comprehensive development process of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. The outgoing employees expressed thanks and appreciation to the Minister for his support during their tenure, wishing the ministry success in achieving the strategic objectives of the kingdom.

Offering condolences



Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif bin Rashid Al Zayani paid a visit yesterday to the Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Bahrain to offer condolences on the death of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Dr Al Zayani expressed to the Japanese Ambassador Miyamoto Masayuki, Bahrain's sincere condolences to the Japanese government and people, recalling the good qualities of the former Prime Minister and his dedicated contributions to serving his nation and people as well as boosting historical relations of friendship and cooperation between both countries. He wished Japan further growth and prosperity.

Stage set for space sector forum

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The Arab Space Cooperation Group and Bahrain International Airshow will organise a specialised space sector forum.

National Space Science Authority (NSSA)'s CEO Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Al Asiri confirmed the significance of the distinctive forum on the sidelines of the Bahrain International Airshow, in the implementation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision to establish a

sustainable national space and science sector and promote national scientific and research capabilities.

Al Asiri stressed the forum's ability to diversify the economy and highlight Bahrain's position regionally and internationally.

He emphasised the importance of the sessions to prepare generations in the space sector and establish entrepreneurship in the space sector for the Middle East and North Africa region.

Joint inspection campaign on work sites

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The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted an inspection campaign which targeted a number of work sites in the Southern Governorate.

The joint inspection campaign was carried out in cooperation with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs of the Ministry of Interior and the Southern Governorate Police Directorate.

It resulted in the arrest of a number of workers who have violated the provisions of the LMRA Law and the Residence Law in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and necessary legal measures were taken.

The clampdown reflects the ongoing efforts exerted by LMRA, the Ministry of Interior and other government departments to improve the work environment.

It also reflects LMRA's close monitoring of practices that affect the competitiveness, flexibility and fairness of the labour market, not to mention their negative impact on social security.

LMRA stressed the pivotal role of society in supporting the gov-



The clampdown reflects the ongoing efforts to improve the work environment.



Part of efforts to improve the work environment

ernment's efforts in preserving the economic, social, security and health stability. Additionally, the public has been urged to report any labour market violations and irregular employment.

Bahrain-Germany bilateral ties



His Majesty the King's Diplomatic Affairs Advisor Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa received outgoing German Ambassador to Bahrain Kai Bochmann. The Advisor praised the Ambassador's diplomatic efforts in strengthening bilateral relations and promoting cooperation at all levels. The Ambassador thanked the Advisor for the support and cooperation and wished the Kingdom further progress and prosperity.

Speaker pushes for legislative and executive talks on rising inflation



Speaker Zainal

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Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal has followed up a request to the Government on July 7 to hold a meeting between the legislative and executive branches. The meeting aims to discuss the recent developments on the living conditions of the citizens, our sister newspaper Alayam revealed, quoting parliamentary sources.

The sources added that a joint meeting is expected to take place to highlight the rise in inflation and the new wave of increasing prices, pointing out that the decision came following a request submitted by 10 MPs.

Ten parliamentary members had earlier submitted a relevant request to the Speaker, calling for a joint meeting with the Government to discuss plans and initiatives to tackle the increasing prices and how to provide support to the citizens to help them cope with the new living conditions.

Government priorities in legislative field are discussed

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The second workshop to identify government priorities in the future was held yesterday.

The workshop, focusing on the legislative theme, is in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to hold workshops to identify the key priorities that will shape the government's future aspirations.

It is the second of the five workshops devoted to identifying the future aspirations of government work.

They focus on the following priorities, namely infrastructure and environment, legislation, social services work, finance and economy, in addition to government performance and digital transformation.

Parliament Affairs Minister Ghanim bin Fadhil Al Buainain chaired the workshop, which was also attended by undersecretaries, assistant undersecretaries and the relevant directors involved in the legislative system in government departments.

The minister indicated that the legislative theme workshop aims to enhance the output of government work to achieve excellence in its performance.

Special Family Law Codes for non-Muslims proposed

Senior woman lawyer calls for enactment of laws in line with international standards amidst the Kingdom's fast economic integration to the world

Staff Reporter

TDT | Manama

A leading senior woman lawyer in the Kingdom is suggesting the authorities adopt Special Family Law Codes for non-Muslims.

Senior Attorney and Legal Consultant Lubna Mohamed Hasan Al Hasan's comment comes in the backdrop of increasing investments in the Kingdom from the part of expatriates and non-resident foreign citizens.

"If we think in an economic aspect, the world economy is one unit with many national economies integrated into it.

I feel really proud to have taken up this issue since women empowerment is one of the basic principles of Family Law Codes. We were a group of women lawyers who campaigned for it.

LUBNA MOHAMED HASAN AL HASAN, SENIOR ATTORNEY AND LEGAL CONSULTANT

So, it is important for us to have rules and regulations that are compliant with the set standards of the world economy," she opined.

An ex-professor for International Business Relations and Laws at the University

of Technology Bahrain (formerly AMA International University of Bahrain), Ms Lubna said "we can't take a myopic view over the fact that the Kingdom is an integral part of the world economic framework".



Ms Lubna ... Attorney, Certified Arbitrator and Faculty Member

COURT STORIES

Five-year jail sentence for Asian drug smuggler upheld

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court upheld the five-year imprisonment sentence issued against an Asian defendant convicted of attempting to smuggle drugs into the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The initial verdict against the defendant included a BD3,000 fine which was also confirmed by the High Appeals Court.

The defendant was arrested at the Bahrain International Airport after a customs official suspected him of carrying illegal goods.

He was sent to the red lane for an extended search which resulted in seizing 5.3 kilo-

grams of the illegal substance known as shabu from him. The drugs were found hidden in an artistic manner in his bag.

The defendant admitted to bringing the drugs with the aim of peddling them in the Kingdom as he was part of an international network specialised in smuggling drugs into the Kingdom purposely for selling them domestically.

The defendant was charged with bringing illegal drugs into the Kingdom with the intent to sell.

The High Criminal Court initially sentenced him to five years behind bars along with BD3,000. Both punishments were confirmed by the High Appeals Court.

Asian man admits 'swallowing' drugs in exchange for 90,000 Pakistani rupees

A daring attempt to smuggle 75 drug capsules into Kingdom

TDT | Manama

An Asian man has admitted that he attempted to smuggle 75 drug capsules by swallowing them in exchange for 90,000 Pakistani rupees (BD161), according to the High Criminal Court.

The defendant was arrested at the Bahraini International Airport after customs officials suspected him of bringing illegal items.

"The defendant was sent to the red lane after I saw his unusual condition. His bag was



searched and it didn't include anything. Therefore, he was x-rayed, and we found capsules inside his stomach. He requested to go to the toilet, and an officer escorted him. He vomited around 25 capsules," the officer who arrested him told

prosecutors.

"We sent him later to the anti-drug office at the airport to take the necessary measures against him," he added.

The Asian man was admitted to the Salmaniya Medical Complex and 50 capsules were extracted from his body, while investigations established the fact that he was among a network specialised in smuggling drugs.

The Asian man was charged with smuggling drugs into the Kingdom. He is standing trial before the High Criminal Court.



Three Asians held for stealing from phone shop

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The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science has arrested three Asians aged 22 to 32 for

causing damage to and stealing from a phone shop.

The robbery items were worth BD14,000. An investigation into the case led to identifying and arresting the suspects within 24

hours of the heist.

Forty mobile phones were seized from the car that was used for the robbery. Legal proceedings were taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

Global Entry Programme to facilitate Bahrainis' entry to US

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain's Ambassador to the US, Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa, attended the Global Entry Programme launch ceremony at the Customs and Border Protection headquarters in Washington D.C.

The programme was agreed upon during the official visit of Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to the US last month.

The visit was part of efforts to further strengthen the strong ties between the two countries which contin-

ue to receive the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and saw the activation of an agreement signed between Bahrain and the US in January 2021.

The programme facilitates the entry of Bahrainis to the US through the Global Entry kiosks.

On the occasion, the Ambassador asserted that joining the programme is an international achievement for Bahrain, and will further facilitate travel

for Bahrainis to the US.

He highlighted Global Entry, a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) programme, as a mechanism that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved individuals upon arrival in the US.

Moreover, he stated that the programme is evidence of the ongoing and long-term cooperation between the two friendly countries in security and economic affairs.

It symbolises our countries' dedication and commitment to further strengthening and fostering Bahrain-US ties in facilitating commerce, tour-



ism, and people-to-people initiatives, as well as solidifying efforts to ensure the security of our borders, he added.

The programme will grant Bahrainis expedited clearance upon arrival in the US through the use of kiosks strategically placed in numerous US airports and at pre-clearance facilities worldwide.

He expressed that the Global Entry programme with the Kingdom of Bahrain signifies another layer of border security implemented to facilitate the lawful travel of Bahrainis to the US.

Unique cultural show

Embassy of the Republic of Korea show own country's history through dance and music at National Museum

● **MAKERS** dancing crew and traditional music vocalist Kim Yeonjin re-enact Korea's historical events

TDT | Manama

As part of the Bahrain summer festival, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Kingdom of Bahrain successfully organised its cultural show "Korean History through Dance & Music".

Participants included the Republic of Korea the B-boy dancing crew "MAKERS" and Korean traditional music artist Kim Yeonjin.

The visiting group has performed three times in the Kingdom, once on July 15 at the Avenues Mall for public in a free style pop-up show, and twice on July 16, at 5pm and 8pm at the Cultural Hall of the National Museum.

MAKERS is a group of b-boy crew MB Crew and WAAKIPS, an all-female street dance crew, Beatbox NAZ and the Korean traditional music vocalist, Ms Kim Yeonjin. Together, the team re-enacted Korea's top life altering historical events that has made Korea today as we know it.

Starting from the independence movement, to the liberation, then from the sorrowful bloodshed of the Korean War to the momentous Olympic Games in the 80s heading towards the enthusiastic World Cup in 2000 ending with the



The B-boy dancing crew "MAKERS" and Korean traditional music artist Kim Yeonjin



Ambassador Chung Hae Kwan



These events came as part of the Korean Embassy's cultural programs in the Kingdom and were organised collaboratively between the Embassy, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and the Korea Foundation in the Republic of Korea.

tidal K-Pop movement that is sweeping the world, the MAKERS gave the Bahraini audience a sweep movement into the Korean contemporary history in

an energetic and moving performance, earning the applause and admiration of all.

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programs in the Kingdom and were organised collaboratively between the Embassy, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and the Korea Foundation in the Republic of Korea.

Filipino women's groups celebrate Eid Al Adha



Groups of Filipino women married to Bahrainis gathered together to celebrate Eid Al Adha at the K Hotel on 14 July. The event was attended by Pinay Ikaw NaI (PIN) and Philippine Bahrain Moms (PhilBah Moms) presidents Dinah E. Sta Ana and Patty Yousef, respectively. Both women organisations are involved in exploring initiatives by charities and lay a solid basis for action that can make a difference in the lives of the needy, sick and distressed Filipino overseas workers.



Filipinos are invited to avail of free check-up

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Filipinos residing in Bahrain aged 18 years old and above are invited to a free healthy life check-up to be held at Al Hilal Medical Center Adliya Branch on 5 August. Registration will start at 7am.

The event is held by the Philippine Embassy, in coordination with Al Hilal Medical Center-Manama.

The package includes taking of blood pressure and blood test, including blood sugar (at least 10-hour fasting), creatinine (kidney screening), total

cholesterol counts, and SGPT (liver screening).

They will be provided for free by Al Hilal, as part of its corporate social responsibility program and effort to promote health and wellness among the local and expatriate communities in Bahrain.

Those who wish to avail of the package are advised to register with the Embassy through WhatsApp number +973 3995 3235 on or before 1 August. Please type "Healthy Life Check" then your NAME and Mobile Number.

Safety awareness campaign for seafarers



The Coast Guard, in cooperation with Human Resources, has conducted an awareness campaign for seafarers. The event was part of a larger strategy to improve overall safety. It highlighted the necessity of not leaving children alone and always wearing lifejackets, as well as not swimming in non-swimming zones.

Salman Town project nearing completion: Housing Minister

TDT | Manama

Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi has confirmed that the Salman Town project is nearing completion.

"The construction of the units is nearing completion, as the project is already 82 percent complete," said the minister, noting that the project is expected to be complete during the fourth quarter of this year.

Al Romaihi yesterday paid a visit to Salman Town and inspected the progress of work on a number of projects.

These include the construction of 303 units, in addition to apartment buildings and the Government-owned land plots allocated for housing developments.

Work is also in full swing to construct the beachfront apartment buildings which will accommodate 1,380 Bahraini families.

The integrative projects also include all facilities and services serving dwellers, including parking lots, gardens and children's playing areas.

The minister stressed keen-



ness to provide innovative and viable housing solutions to cater to applicants' needs and spear-



Al Romaihi visits the Salman Town project

head successful partnership with the private sector.

She pointed out that the min-

istry is studying a number of programmes and initiatives which will be given the go-ahead in the coming period, in line with the Government Action Plan and the 2030 Bahrain Economic Vision.

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

Family Companies need corporate governance



DR ABDELGADIR WARSAMA

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Family companies exist in Bahrain and Gulf Countries since long time and they took tremendous efforts to boost trade and related corporate issues. Those companies mostly started from zero, when established by older generations, but the founders were great, of exceptional determination that took the business to prominent future. Some of such companies, are doing remarkable work, good achievements from generation to generation. However, this legacy does not exist all through, due to the fact that many family companies diminish from the second or third generation.

There are many legal and corporate issues that could result in making certain obstacles in the pathway of family companies. However, some of the obstacles may arise for cultural or social reasons associated to the way of life in the region. This could happen in every part of the globe, the Gulf is not an exception by all means.

Apart from above instance, we believe that many family companies are lacking corporate governance rules. There is no clear segregation between the owners of the business and the business itself. They are all the same in one unit, the natural entity is not severed from the juristic entity. This could be one of the setbacks facing family companies and lead to their diminishment. Corporate governance rules are essential for any corporate activity otherwise the process will be damaged and the whole system will reach a non-operating stage.

Founders of family companies are required to establish and put in action a clear-cut corporate governance rules that are to be observed and monitored by family members involved in the affairs of the company. The main concept emerging from application of the corporate rules relates to clear demarcation between the affairs of the company and the affairs of the family from other end. No mixture or blending at all between the two affairs and each family member must understand and adhere to this concept. A built-in operational system within the family is required. This non-mixture includes, among other things, financial matters and related administrative affairs while maintaining the juristic entity process.

The company budget must always be different from the wallet budget and vice versa, etc. Also, family companies must have clear strategy, proper planning, standard accounting practices, different managerial levels including a Board and executive body. The role of each must be clear and in order, however, they must support each other as observed in check-and-balance concept.

The head(s) of the company must excel in giving good examples to younger generations and must plant family ego, values and traditions looking for good future harvest or, otherwise, deep roots in the tree of the family to face strong winds for survival. Nowadays, there is a legal requirement of injecting new ideas and brains by appointing good reliable independent outsiders in the Boards \ executives to play an independent active role in the affairs of the company, future plans and all other affairs for prosperous future.

Clear succession plans in family companies is required and should be carefully arranged otherwise setbacks could happen and could lead to the end of the life of the company in very short span. Succession policy is not that difficult affair, however, it could cause a real headache and unnecessary havoc for the whole process and future prospects. Succession strategy in family companies will ultimately lead to trustful continuity among present and future generations. To achieve this goal, things must be put in action in consultation with advisors. Family companies could be very strong or, in the other extreme, could be very fragile. In both cases, special intensive care is needed to go through for existence. Following legal corporate methods and solid corporate governance rules will yield in healthy and long-life family companies that will serve family members and the community wherein they are existing. Thus both ends will benefit.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

LULU gets PCI DSS certification for robust data security environment

TDT | Manama

LuLu Hypermarket, the leading regional retail chain celebrated a significant success story this week when it received international recognition for the robust data security environment that it has in place throughout its chain of 9 retail outlets in the Kingdom of Bahrain and for its growing online shopping offerings.

Crossbow Labs, the leading Cybersecurity compliance and certification body in the region, issued the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) Certification of Compliance to LuLu Hypermarket. The certificate was received by LuLu Group Director, Juzer Rupawala, presented by Cross Bow Labs CEO Deepak Umopathy in presence of



The award ceremony

MR. Shiju CS Network & Infrastructure Manager of Lulu Group international & Senior Management of Lulu Group International.

The awarding of the PCI-DSS Certification from Crossbow Labs, one of the leading cyber security compliance and certification bodies in the region, is a significant achievement for

LuLu Hypermarket and an acknowledgement of the stringent security practices the hypermarket employs to secure customers' payment transaction, information and other personal data, across all its stores in Bahrain. "As LuLu continues to grow in Bahrain and as customers opt for digital payment methods and on-

line shopping, we are keenly aware of our growing responsibility towards their cyber security," Rupawala said, "This certification is LuLu Hypermarket's assurance to customers that we are fully compliant with all PCI-DSS standards and also provides customers with a layer of assurance that the details of their transac-

tions are securely handled." The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard is an information security standard for organizations that handle branded credit cards from the major card schemes. The PCI Standard is mandated by the card brands but administered by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council.

LuLu Hypermarket places great emphasis on employing a safe and secure data protection system that adopts international best practices in cybersecurity initiatives. The hypermarket's adherence to security protocols are on par with the best in the world, in order to protect their data and payment card details, further strengthens customers' trust in the hypermarket.

UK launches aviation charter to address airport disruption

Reuters | London

The British government launched an "Aviation Passenger Charter" on Sunday to help passengers know their rights if they are faced with problems at airports after the widespread disruption seen this year.

Long queues and cancelled flights caused by staff shortages have caused chaos at times, prompting airlines to cut back their schedules as the industry struggles to keep up with a surge in demand after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new charter will help passengers know what to do if they are confronted by cancellations, delays or missing baggage, the government said, with guidance on how to complain if they feel they have been treated unfairly.

"Passengers deserve reliable services, and to be properly compensated if things don't go to plan, and the chaotic scenes we've seen at airports are unacceptable," transport minister Grant Shapps said. "The new charter will help to give UK passengers peace of mind as they enjoy the renewed freedom to travel, whether for holidays, business or to visit loved ones."

Last month, the government published a 22-point support plan to avoid further disruption, including telling airlines to run "realistic" summer schedules and promising to speed up security checks. It said these were now being processed in "record time".



Passengers queue inside the departures terminal of Terminal 2 at Heathrow Airport in London, Britain

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The company budget must always be different from the wallet budget and vice versa, etc. Also, family companies must have clear strategy, proper planning, standard accounting practices, different managerial levels including a Board and executive body. The role of each must be clear and in order, however, they must support each other as observed in check-and-balance concept.

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Seef Properties backs INJAZ Bahrain's Educational Programmes

TDT | Manama

Seef Properties said it has recently donated an amount to INJAZ Bahrain to support INJAZ Bahrain Programmes.

The cheque was handed over by Seef Properties Deputy Chairman and CSR Committee Chairman Dr Mustafa Ali Al Sayed to INJAZ Bahrain Executive Director Hana Sarwani during a special ceremony held at Seef Properties headquarters at Seef Mall - Seef District, in the presence of Seef Properties CEO Ahmed Yusuf.

Dr Al Sayed commented: "We are delighted to support INJAZ Bahrain, whose remarkable



Officials handing over the support cheque

achievements have contributed and continue to contribute significantly to developing the skills of Bahraini youth through a series of leading educational programmes."

Hana Sarwani, INJAZ Bahrain Executive Director, thanked the Company for its donation, "which will certainly contribute to the development of students' capabilities and the advancement of their educational and economic skills, making them qualified for future decision-making and accelerating the pace of sustainable development in the Kingdom."

Zain Bahrain launches its first Toastmasters Club

TDT | Manama

Bahrain, a telecommunications industry innovator in the Kingdom, has recently launched its first Toastmasters Club.

Zain Bahrain Toastmasters Club is launched to provide a space for employees to work on their communication skills and develop their leadership skills.

Toastmasters offers 11 development pathways, including dynamic leadership, effective coaching, innovative planning, and presentation mastery. Members will have the opportunity to attend regu-



lar meetings and will also be able to select a toastmaster's learning pathway, which allows them to build up to 300 unique competencies.

The Club will also enable Zain employees to speak with clarity

and fluency, think on their feet, develop meeting and leadership skills, and increase their vocabulary. During the meetings, Zain Bahrain arranged series of workshops for its members by distinguished Toastmasters covering many topics such as organizing speeches, winning the heart of your audiences, body language and more.

Rana Al Majed, Zain Bahrain Director, Human Resources, commented: "We believe this kind of leadership is essential to building the employee's successful career path."

Wala Jaafar, Zain Bahrain Learning & Development Specialist, Human Resources, added, "The newly launched Club is an excellent opportunity to empower Zain employees and elevate their public speaking skills."

"I believe in the transformation that Toastmasters can do to individuals and corporates," said Khalid Abdulla, District 20 Director Elect.

The newly launched Club comes under Toastmasters International, the world leader in developing communication and leadership skills.

News in brief

◆ **Tehran is technically** capable of making a nuclear bomb but has yet to decide whether to build one, a senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei told Al Jazeera's Arabic service yesterday. "In a few days we were able to enrich uranium up to 60% and we can easily produce 90% enriched uranium ... Iran has the technical means to produce a nuclear bomb but there has been no decision by Iran to build one," Kamal Kharrazi said.



Khamenei adviser says Tehran 'capable of building nuclear bomb'

◆ **Iran has imposed sanctions** on 61 more Americans, including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, for backing an Iranian dissident group, Tehran said on Saturday as months of talks to revive a 2015 nuclear deal remained at an impasse. Others blacklisted by Iran's Foreign Ministry for voicing support for the exiled dissident group Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MEK) included Republican former

Iran sanctions 61 more Americans



President Donald Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani and former White House national security adviser John Bolton, Iranian state media reported. The sanctions, issued against dozens of Americans in the past on various grounds, let Iranian authorities seize any assets they hold in Iran. The steps, announced

as Democratic U.S. President Joe Biden wrapped up his trip to the Middle East, appear largely symbolic given the likely absence of such assets.

◆ **The five Conservative contenders** still vying to be Britain's next prime minister will clash in a second televised debate when they are set to renew hostilities over tax policy and issues such as transgender rights. With no clear candidate to succeed Boris Johnson who is stepping down after a series of scandals, the battle to be the next leader remains unpredictable and increasingly fractious, exposing rifts in the ruling Conservative Party. Ex-finance minister Rishi Sunak has emerged as the favourite among the 358 Conservative lawmakers, who will hold further votes this week to whittle down the field of contenders to a final two. A JL Partners poll for the Sunday Telegraph suggested almost half of Conservative voters thought he would make a good prime minister ahead of his main rivals foreign minister Liz Truss and junior minister Penny Mordaunt. However, Truss also has wide support, including from those most loyal to Johnson, and junior minister Penny Mordaunt has topped surveys of the 200,000 party members who will ultimately choose



British prime minister contenders set to clash in second TV debate

Technical problem forces IndiGo plane to land in Karachi

◆ **India's biggest airline, IndiGo,** said yesterday it had diverted a plane to Karachi in neighbouring Pakistan due to a "technical defect", the second such incident for an Indian carrier involving an unscheduled landing in less than

two weeks. The flight was meant to go to Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates from the southern city of Hyderabad. It was not immediately clear when the incident occurred. "IndiGo flight 6E-1406, operating from Sharjah to Hyderabad was diverted to Karachi. The pilot observed a technical defect," IndiGo said in a statement to the media.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally	
1 USA	91,250,392	1,048,822		567,372,876
2 India	43,750,599	525,709		
3 Brazil	33,290,266	675,353	Deaths	
4 France	32,942,910	150,576	6,387,270	
5 Germany	29,692,989	142,533	Recovered:	
6 UK	23,075,360	181,580	538,441,344	
7 Italy	20,076,863	169,846	New cases	
8 S. Korea	18,761,757	24,742	+295,120	
9 Russia	18,490,296	381,881	New deaths	
10 Turkey	15,297,539	99,088	+351	
11 Spain	13,090,476	109,348		
12 Vietnam	10,760,595	43,091		
13 Japan	10,204,843	31,580		
14 Argentina	9,426,171	129,145		

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	803,764	+606	9,232	+2	787,966	6,566
UAE	973,416	+1,409	2,325		953,694	17,397
Kuwait	648,216		2,556		641,752	3,908
Oman	391,641		4,260		384,669	2,712
Qatar	395,051	+1,217	680		387,502	6,869

Ukraine war shows West's dominance is ending as China rises, Blair says



Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair leaves the BBC Headquarters after appearing on the Andrew Marr Show, in London, Britain

Reuters | London

The Ukraine war shows that the West's dominance is coming to an end as China rises to superpower status in partnership with Russia at one of the most significant inflection points in centuries, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said.

The world, Blair said, was at a turning point in history comparable with the end of World War Two or the collapse of the Soviet Union: but this time the West is clearly not in the ascendant.

"We are coming to the end of Western political and economic dominance," Blair said in a lecture entitled "After Ukraine, What Lessons Now for Western Leadership?" according to a text of the speech to a forum supporting the alliance between the United States and Europe at Ditchley Park west of London.

"The world is going to be at least bi-polar and possibly multi-polar," Blair said. "The biggest geo-political change of this century will come from China not Russia."

The war in Ukraine, Blair said, had clarified that the West could not rely on China "to behave in the way we would consider rational".

Chinese President Xi Jinping has continued supporting Putin and criticised sanctions "abuse" by the West. Putin has forged what he calls a "strategic partnership" with China.

China in 1979 had an economy that was smaller than Italy's, but after opening to foreign investment and introducing market reforms it has become the world's second-largest economy.

"China's place as a superpower is natural and justified. It is not the Soviet Union," said Blair, who was prime minister from 1997 to 2007. Its allies are likely to be Russia and Iran.

The West should not let China overtake militarily, he said.

"We should increase defence spending and maintain military superiority," Blair said. The United States and its allies "should be superior enough to cater for any eventuality or type of conflict and in all areas."

France, Spain, Portugal battle wildfires amid intense heat



A firefighting plane drops flame retardant to extinguish a fire in Guillos, as wildfires continue to spread in the Gironde region of France. Reuters | Lisbon

Authorities across southern Europe battled yesterday to control huge wildfires in countries including Spain, Greece and France, where thousands of people have been evacuated in soaring temperatures.

In Spain, helicopters dropped water on the flames as searing heat and often mountainous terrain made the job harder for firefighters.

National weather agency AEMET issued high temperature warnings for Sunday, with highs of 42 Celsius (108 Fahrenheit)

forecast in Aragon, Navarra and La Rioja, in the north. It said the heatwave would end on Monday, but warned temperatures would remain "abnormally high".

Spain has been experiencing a nearly week-long heatwave, with highs of 45.7C (114F).

In Malaga province, wildfires raged into the night, affecting local residents near Mijas, a town popular with northern European tourists.

In France, wildfires had now spread over 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres) in the southwestern region of Gironde, and more than 14,000 people have been

evacuated, the regional authorities said on Sunday afternoon.

More than 1,200 firefighters were trying to control the blazes, the authorities said in a statement.

In Portugal, firefighters were trying to control five forest and rural fires in the center and north of the country, the largest near the northern city of Chaves.

Portugal's Health Ministry said late on Saturday that in the last seven days 659 people died due to the heatwave, most of them elderly. It said the weekly peak of 440 deaths was on Thursday, when temperatures exceeded

Pope hopes Canada trip will help heal 'evil' done to indigenous people

Reuters

Pope Francis said yesterday his trip to Canada next week will be a "pilgrimage of penance" that he hopes can help heal the wrongs done to indigenous people by Roman Catholic priests and nuns who ran abusive residential schools.

The July 24-30 trip will include at least five encounters with native people as Francis makes good on a promise to apologise on their home territory for the



Pope Francis holds an audience in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace with indigenous delegations from Canada at the Vatican

Church's role in the state-sanctioned schools, which sought to erase indigenous cultures.

"Unfortunately in Canada many Christians, including some members of religious orders, contributed to the policies of cultural assimilation that in the past gravely damaged native populations in various ways,"

Francis said at his weekly address to people in St. Peter's Square. About 150,000 children were taken from their homes. Many were subjected to abuse, rape and malnutrition in what Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015 called "cultural genocide".

The stated aim of the schools, which operated between 1831 and 1996, was to assimilate indigenous children. They were run by Christian denominations on behalf of the government, most by the Catholic Church.

The schools were at the centre of discussions between the pope and indigenous people at the Vatican in March and April. Recalling the meetings, Francis said on Sunday he had expressed "my pain and solidarity over the evil that they endured".

The 85-year-old pope will visit Edmonton, Maskwacis, Lac Ste. Anne, Quebec, and Iqaluit in Canada's Arctic territory.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Francis was elected pope nearly two decades after the last schools closed. The pope had to cancel a trip to Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan in early July because of a knee problem that forced him to use first a wheel chair and later a cane.

Great Fire of Rome be-
gins under the Emperor
NeroAdolf Hitler publishes Mein Kampf
(original title was the catchy "Four
and a Half Years (of Struggle) Against
Lies, Stupidity and Cowardice")Kim Jong-un is officially appointed
Supreme Leader of North Korea and
given the rank of Marshal in the Korean
People's ArmyDetroit, Michigan, files for
bankruptcy, becoming the largest
US municipal bankruptcy ever at
\$18.5 billion

le

● Spain has been experiencing a nearly
week-long heatwave, with highs of 45.7C● In France, wildfires had now spread
over 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres)● Portugal's Health Ministry said late
on Saturday that in the last seven days
659 people died due to the heatwave● In Greece, the fire brigade said on
Saturday 71 blazes broke out within 24 hours

Southwestern France

40C (104F) in several regions and
47C (117F) at a meteorological
station in the district of Vizeu in
the centre of the country.The country is grappling with
extreme drought - mainland Por-
tugal already had 96% of its terri-
tory in severe or extreme drought
at the end of June, before the re-
cent heatwave, according to data
from national meteorological in-
stitute IPMA.Emergency and Civil Protec-
tion Authority Commander Andre
Fernandes urged people to take
care not to ignite new fires in such
bone-dry conditions.

In Greece, the fire brigade said

on Saturday 71 blazes broke out
within 24 hours. On Sunday, more
than 150 firefighters were tack-
ling a fire burning forest and farm
land since Friday in Rethymno on
the island of Crete. The flames
were fuelled by strong winds.
Local fire brigade officials said
on Sunday it had been partially
contained.In Britain, the national weather
forecaster has issued its first
red "extreme heat" warning for
parts of England on Monday and
Tuesday, predicting temperatures
could reach 40C (104F), topping
the previous record of 38.7C
(102F) in 2019.

Italians ask Draghi to overcome political crisis, stay in office

● Draghi expected
to address parliament
on Wednesday● Political source
says he is determined
to resign● Pressure grows
on him to stay in
office, face crises

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi

Reuters | Rome

Italy's mayors, business
organisations and union
leaders urged Prime Minister
Mario Draghi at the weekend
to rethink his decision to re-
sign, warning that the stability
of the debt-laden country was
at risk.Draghi tendered his resigna-
tion last week after one of the
parties in his broad coalition,
the 5-Star Movement, refused
to back the government in a
parliamentary confidence
vote.President Sergio Mattarella
rejected his resignation and
asked him to address parlia-ment this coming week, hop-
ing he would find a consensus
to stave off early elections at
a time of international tumult
and economic tension.Draghi comfortably won the
confidence vote on a package
of measures aimed at alleviat-
ing the high cost of living for
families and firms. But he
said without the full backing
of all his partners, his national
unity government could not
continue.The populist 5-Star, riven by
internal splits, says it has not
withdrawn from the coalition,
but has called on Draghi to
give the group guarantees that
he will enact its policy priori-
ties, such as a minimum wage.

Russia preparing for next stage of offensive, Ukraine says

● Russia shelling
'along the entire front
line' - Ukraine military● Russia regrouping
for offensive toward
Sloviansk, Kyiv says● Moscow orders steps
to prevent Ukrainian
strikes in east● Russia reinforcing
positions in
south - BritainEmergency crew work at a damaged building, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine
continues, in Odesa, Ukraine

Reuters | Kyiv

Russia is preparing for the
next stage of its offensive
in Ukraine, a Ukrainian military
official said, after Moscow said
its forces would step up military
operations in "all operational
areas".As Western deliveries of
long-range arms begin to help
Ukraine on the battlefield, Rus-
sian rockets and missiles have
pounded cities in strikes that
Kyiv says have killed dozens in
recent days."It is not only missile strikes
from the air and sea," Vadym
Skibitskyi, a spokesman for
Ukrainian military intelligence,said on Saturday. "We can see
shelling along the entire line of
contact, along the entire front
line. There is an active use of
tactical aviation and attack heli-
copters." Clearly preparations
are now underway for the next
stage of the offensive."The Ukrainian military
said Russia appeared to be re-
grouping units for an offensive
toward Sloviansk, a symboli-
cally important city held by
Ukraine in the eastern region
of Donetsk.The British defence ministry
said on Sunday that Russia was
also reinforcing defences across
areas it occupies in southernUkraine after pressure from
Ukrainian forces and pledges
from Ukrainian leaders to force
Russia out.Ukraine says at least 40 peo-
ple have been killed in Russian
shelling of urban areas since
Thursday as the war launched
by Russian President Vladimir
Putin on Feb. 24 intensifies.Dozens of relatives and local
residents attended the funeral
of 4-year-old Liza Dmytrieva
in the central Ukrainian city of
Vinnytsia on Sunday. The girl
was killed in a missile strike on
central Vinnytsia on Thursday
that killed 24 people, according
to Ukrainian authorities.

India's COVID vaccinations hit 2 billion

Reuters | New Delhi

The Indian government's
COVID-19 vaccinations
hit 2 billion yesterday, with
booster doses underway for all
adults, as daily infections hit
four-month high, official data
showed.Prime Minister Narendra
Modi extolled the vaccina-
tion milestone, celebrating the
world's largest and longest-run-
ning inoculation campaign,
which began last year."India creates history again!"
Modi said in a tweet.Health ministry data shows
the COVID death toll at 525,709,
with 49 deaths recorded over-
night.New cases rose 20,528 over
the past 24 hours, the highest
since Feb. 20, according to data
compiled by Reuters.The country of 1.35 billion
people has lifted most COV-
ID-related restrictions, and in-
ternational travel has recovered
robustly.A policeman reacts as he receives a booster dose of the COVISHIELD vaccine
against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), manufactured by Serum Institute
of India, at a vaccination centre in Mumbai, IndiaSome 80% of the inocu-
lations have been the Astra-
Zeneca (AZN.L) vaccine made
domestically, called Covishield.
Others include domestically de-
veloped Covaxin and Corbevax,
and Russia's Sputnik V.The federal government has
been accelerating its booster
campaign to avert the spread of
infections, edging higher in the
eastern states of Assam, West
Bengal and Karnataka in the
south.

Crew killed in cargo plane crash in Greece, airline Meridian says

Reuters | Kyiv

All the crew were killed
when an Antonov An-12
cargo plane crashed in northern
Greece late on Saturday, an offi-
cial at Ukraine's Meridian cargo
airline said yesterday."Of course they didn't survive
this," the official told Reuters
by telephone, declining to com-
ment further.Debris is seen at the crash site of an
Antonov An-12 cargo plane owned by a
Ukrainian company, GreeceTOP
4
TWEETS

01

We must never for-
get: How easily
hate speech can turn to
hate crime. How igno-
rance or indifference can
lead to intolerance. How
silence in the face of big-
otry is complicity.

@antoniogetterres

02

I met Yemeni Presiden-
tial Leadership Council
President al-Alimi in Jed-
dah, Saudi Arabia to dis-
cuss extending the @UN
truce to ease Yemenis'
suffering. I welcome
the Government's bold
leadership on the truce.
We must see meaningful
Houthi action to allow ac-
cess to Taiz, Yemen.

@SecBlinken

03

I congratulate @
Pvsindhul on winning
her first ever Singapore
Open title. She has yet
again demonstrated her
exceptional sporting
talent and achieved suc-
cess. It is a proud mo-
ment for the country and
will also give inspiration
to upcoming players.

@narendramodi

04

If I am elected, by the
time of the next elec-
tion, I will have scrapped
or reformed all of the EU
law, red tape and bureau-
cracy that is still on our
statute book and slowing
economic growth.

@RishiSunak

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

Israel to boost Asia flights when Saudi Arabia opens airspace

● Both flag carrier El Al Israel Airlines (ELAL.TA) and smaller rival Arkia have already applied for permission to fly over Saudi Arabia

● Present routes to those popular destinations bypass Saudi airspace by flying south over the Red Sea around Yemen

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israeli airlines plan to expand and open new routes to India and other Asian destinations after Saudi Arabia announced it would allow unfettered access to its airspace, a move that would save fuel costs and reduce flight times.



The Israeli flag carrier El Al's airliner carrying Israeli and U.S. delegates approaches to land in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

In the absence of open relations between the countries, however, and given talks on including Oman in the expanded corridor, Israeli Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli said implementation could take several weeks at least.

Prior to Riyadh's announcement on Friday, Israeli airlines

could overfly Saudi territory to United Arab Emirates and Bahrain only. Dropping restrictions on access to Saudi airspace means they will be able to use it to reach Asia too.

Both flag carrier El Al Israel Airlines (ELAL.TA) and smaller rival Arkia have already applied for permission to fly over Saudi

Arabia, they said on Sunday, which would cut about 2-1/2 hours from flights to India and Thailand.

Present routes to those popular destinations bypass Saudi airspace by flying south over the Red Sea around Yemen.

The United States has been mediating on the expanded overflights, which Michaeli said would eventually entail direct coordination between Israeli and Saudi civil aviation agencies - even though Riyadh has yet to formally recognise Israel.

"It's a better situation than full alienation and zero communication. So whatever we can achieve, we should go for it and work toward building more and more of a relationship and more and more trust," she told Reuters.

Asked when the expanded Saudi corridor will be implemented, she said: "Your guess is as good as mine. I hope it's not months, but weeks."



Israel's Tourism Ministry has said the expanded Saudi corridor would eventually make airline tickets some 20% cheaper. The airlines, however, have been less explicit about a price drop. An Israeli official said on Saturday he expected members of the country's Muslim minority to be able to fly directly to Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage by next year.

Asia-bound Israeli planes crossing Saudi would want to skirt Iran by continuing into the airspace of Oman - which, Michaeli said, gave initial approval for Israeli overflights in 2018.

"I'm sure it will be worked out again, just to sort of refresh this agreement. But again, this is one of the details that's being worked out and we need to be cautious about it and wait and see until it happens," she said.

Faster, more direct routes would also mean lower fuel burn.

This in turn would help efficiency for El Al by allowing it to use smaller aircraft on its route to Mumbai while saving fuel on its nearly daily flights to Thailand, said Shlomi Am Shalom, an El Al official.

"We can take a big airplane and use it in other places like Australia and Japan," he said, adding flying to Melbourne and Tokyo were still in the planning stages.

Similarly, Arkia said it planned to start flights to Goa, India, in November and was considering new destinations such as Thailand and Sri Lanka using Airbus A321neoLR aircraft.

Sudanese police fire tear gas at protesters

Khartoum

Sudanese police fired tear gas in the capital Khartoum in an attempt to disperse hundreds of pro-democracy protesters demonstrating against coup leader Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

Security forces had set up road blocks on bridges crossing the Nile river linking Khartoum to its suburbs to deter protesters who had vowed to take to the streets in large numbers.

Nine killed in separate shootings in South Africa

Reuters | Johannesburg

Police are on the hunt for suspects after nine people were fatally shot in separate shooting incidents in two provinces of South Africa on Saturday night, police said yesterday.

The latest slew of shootings come on the heels of an uptick in violent deaths in a country with one of the world's highest murder rates.

Four people were shot and

two more were injured at the Thembelihle informal settlement in the Gauteng province. Preliminary investigation suggests that a group of men were playing dice at a street corner, at approximately 19:30 p.m (1730 GMT) on Saturday, when they were attacked by unknown assailants who shot at them, the authorities said in statement.

"Four people were certified dead on the scene on Saturday

while two people were taken to the nearest medical care centre after sustaining gunshot wounds," the police said.

In another separate incident also at Thembelihle, in the south of Johannesburg, a 36-year-old man who appeared to have been robbed of his belongings, including a cellphone and bicycle was found shot dead, they added.

Police said that the motive for the shootings cannot be

Around 20,000 people are murdered in South Africa every year out of a population of about 60 million.

confirmed at this stage.

Meanwhile in the Western Cape Province, police have launched an investigation into the circumstances of a triple murder last night in Khayelitsha township. A fourth one

was an unrelated incident, Colonel André Traut said.

On Friday, eight suspects linked to the "random" separate shooting and robbery incidents of six people on Thursday night at the Alexandra township in Johannesburg were arrested, officials said.

It was not yet clear whether the suspects in the Alexandra shooting were in the same group that carried out all the killings.

Where the water once flowed: Rivers and lakes dry up as droughts take toll



Dry land surrounds Antelope Island where there used to be water in the Great Salt Lake, in Salt Lake City, Utah, the US, as a two-decade drought continues



A boat sits on the dried basin of the La Boca dam as more than half of Mexico faces moderate to severe drought conditions, in Santiago, Mexico



A man walks on the dry riverbed of Sangone river, a tributary of the Po river, as the region experiences its worst drought for 70 years, in Beinasco, Turin, Italy



Low water levels due to drought are seen in the Hoover Dam reservoir of Lake Mead near Las Vegas, Nevada, the United States of America.

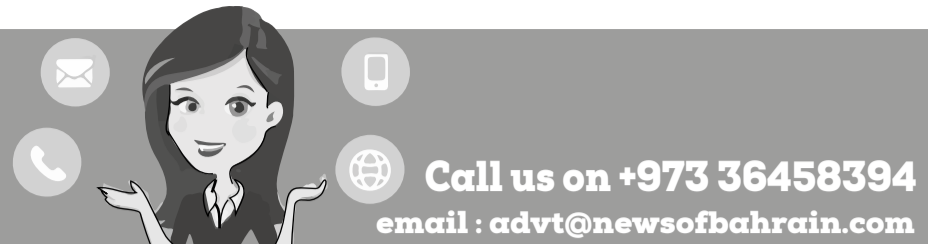


Boats and houseboats are moored at record low water at Lake Oroville near Pentz, California, the United States of America



A lone boat sits perched on a mound near Hensley Lake in Madera, California

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

IKAN CONTRACTING CO. WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33402701 or ikan.bahrain@gmail.com

MAJESTIC TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17331456 or MAJESTICTAILORING@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD ZAHID KHAN FOR REAL ESTATE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35977937 or ZIACON4@GMAIL.COM

WALEED LADIES TAILORING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33131142 or FOJ_REHMAN@YAHOO.COM

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaleh@americana-food.com

Bahrain & Kuwait Restaurant Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or SSALEH@AMERICANA.BH

Hardeez has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or MHAHMED@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

ABU AYMAN BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536668 or MINDTRAP2507@GMAIL.COM

AL ZAID AUTO SPARE PARTS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33622552 or ZAID-60607@HOTMAIL.COM

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33358312 or info@jssbahrain.com

BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.ainokhedha@bas.com.bh

Seven Energy W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500791 or hr@seven-energy.com

Seven Energy W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500791 or hr@seven-energy.com

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JAN BURGER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33367167 or janburgerbahrain@gmail.com

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AL BUNI PASTRIES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17402240 or abdulatah.albunni@gmail.com

ADMECCO MECHANICAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262256 or ALDALEEM@HOTMAIL.COM

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CELEBS

Andrew Garfield in talks to star as Richard Branson in 'Hot Air' limited series

ANI | Washington

Actor Andrew Garfield may be seen essaying the role of billionaire business mogul Richard Branson in a limited series called 'Hot Air'.

As per Variety, the series will be directed by David Leitch ("Deadpool 2"), with Universal International in discussions to produce.

Written by Jon Croker of 'Paddington 2', the six-part series is based on the book "Dirty Tricks: British Airways' Secret War Against Virgin Atlantic" by investigative journalist Martyn Gregory. The story follows Branson through the unbelievable rise of his company, Virgin Airways, and the campaign by British Airways to bring it down.

Andrew Garfield



Chris Pratt will never play Indiana Jones because he's scared of Harrison Ford

Fox | Los Angeles

Chris Pratt shut down the rumors he is interested in taking over the role of Indiana Jones, and for a very interesting reason.

During a recent appearance on the "Happy Sad Confused" podcast, Pratt discussed the possibility of taking over the iconic role from Harrison Ford in potential remakes of the film, saying it was never going to happen.

The "Jurassic World Dominion" actor went on to explain the reason he will forever turn down the role of the famous archaeologist is because he is afraid Ford's ghost will come back to haunt him if he does.

"No, aren't they doing 'Indiana Jones' with Harrison Ford?" Pratt asked while on the podcast. "All I know is I once saw a quote

from Harrison Ford and I don't even know if it was really him, but it was enough to scare me, that was like, 'When I die, Indiana Jones dies.' And I'm like, am I gonna get haunted by the ghost of Harrison Ford one day when he dies if I play...?"

In a 2019 appearance on "The Today Show," Ford made it clear that he is the one and only Indiana Jones noting, "I'm Indiana Jones. When I'm gone, he's gone. It's easy." This doesn't leave a lot of room for someone new to step in and make the role their own.

It is clear Indiana



Chris Pratt

Jones is a character Ford is attached to, as he keeps coming back to the role. He recently returned to the franchise for its fifth installment, something co-star Antonio Banderas called incredible to see.

"The first day I arrived, I was in the makeup trailer, and I turned around and there he was in the full Indiana costume with the hat and the whip," Banderas told USA Today earlier this year. "I still remember the first time I saw 'Indiana Jones' in a theater and the crowd was crazy about it. I thought, 'This is like going back to the old adventure (movies) in a completely different way.'"

Emily Blunt says it was 'shocking' acting helped her overcome her stutter

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Emily Blunt says it was "shocking" that acting helped her overcome her stutter.

The 'Mary Poppins' star didn't go into the craft to fix her speech disability but found it useful as she spoke at the American Institute for Stuttering's annual Freeing Voices, Changing Lives Gala.

While at the event, the 39-year-old actress told PEOPLE: "I wouldn't say that's why I've ventured into acting, but it was just a bit shocking the first time I was able to speak, you know, doing a silly voice or an accent pretending to be someone else. People don't talk about [it] enough if it hasn't got enough exposure, and millions of people around the



Emily Blunt

world struggle with it."

Emily added: "And I think it's a very moving force. If you can't express yourself, you can't be yourself. And there's something very poignant in freeing people of the grip of a speech impediment, because it's like a sort of impostor that lives in your body."

The 'Jungle Cruise' star - who has previously spoken about other members of her family, such as her grandfather, uncle and cousin all experienced stuttering - called the speech condition "biological and often hereditary".

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Keanu Reeves to host Formula One docuseries

IANIS | Los Angeles

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves is working on a docuseries about Formula One for the streaming portal Disney+.

The yet-to-be-titled four-part docuseries will reportedly focus on Formula 1 managing director Ross Brawn, who in 2009 bought the Honda team, renamed it Brawn GP and took it to two unprecedented championship victories, reports 'Variety'.

Reeves will host the series and has already been conducting interviews.

Among those believed to be on board are former Ferrari chairman Luca di Montezemolo, whom Reeves was pictured with last month, and drivers Jenson Button and Rubens Barrichello. Brawn himself is also set to take part.

Last week, Reeves was pictured at the British Grand Prix in Silverstone, UK, where he spoke

to a local racing journalist about the documentary series.

"We want to tell that amazing remarkable story (of Brawn). There is so much to talk about," he said.

"A friend of mine was telling me the story and I was so struck by it. He was actually working for Brawn back in the day in publicity and he's a producer/director and so we were like, well let's tell

that story, let's try and tell that story," the 'Matrix' star said.

"It's been really great to be able to learn more about what was going on in Formula One that year. It wasn't just the cars, new regulations, FOTA (the Formula One Teams Association), breakaway series. I mean there was just so much happening in Formula One at that time. The world of Formula One was just extraordinary.

"I mean, it's always extraordinary, but in that year with Brawn GP I think something really special happened," he said.



Keanu Reeves

Ryan Gosling: Ken is having a rough time in Barbie

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ryan Gosling's Ken doll in the new 'Barbie' movie is going through a tough time.

The 41-year-old actor stars opposite Margot Robbie as the famous doll in the up-

coming movie and revealed that Ken is going through a rougher time than his wanted spy character in the Netflix film 'The Gray Man' as he has no money or home.

Ryan told Entertainment Tonight: "That Ken life is even harder than the 'Gray Man' life, I think.

"Ken's got no money, he's got no job, he's got no car, he's got no house. He's going through some stuff."

The 'La La Land' star refused to give much away about the movie, with rumours suggesting that Margot and Ryan find themselves lost in the real world

as Barbie and Ken. Ryan said: "It's not what you think it is, unless it is."

"And then you know what it is, but I don't think that's what you think it is. Wait, what are we talking about?"



Ryan Gosling

SUDOKU

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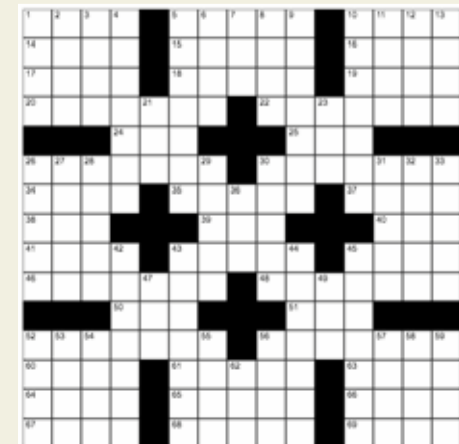
Yesterday's solution

6	5	9	2	4	8	7	1	3
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2	7	4	3	8	1	5	9	6
5	3	6	4	9	7	2	8	1
9	1	8	5	2	6	3	4	7
8	4	5	9	6	3	1	7	2
7	6	2	8	1	4	9	3	5
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How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Spar; 5- Common person of ancient Rome; 10- Prejudice; 14- Official records; 15- Author of fables; 16- Seed cover; 17- A Baldwin brother; 18- Treaties; 19- Vasco da ...; 20- Conditment; 22- Topmost; 24- Calendar abbr.; 25- Youngster; 26- Ill-fated; 30- Small round boat; 34- Christmas; 35- Biblical brother; 37- Buenos ...; 38- Call ... day; 39- Romanian monetary unit; 40- Queue after Q; 41- Throw; 43- Arrive at; 45- Family portrait; 46- Leads on; 48- Out of control; 50- Female bovine; 51- Thor Heyerdahl craft; 52- Large ships; 56- Entangled; 60- Rebuff; 61- Silly; 63- Commotion; 64- Architectural pier; 65- Wearies; 66- Ireland; 67- Cheerful; 68- Sporting blades; 69- Charge per unit;

Down

1- Yes ...; 2- Rights org.; 3- Canonized Fr. women; 4- Diplomatic; 5- Red powdery condiment; 6- Heavy metal; 7- PC key; 8- Two out of two; 9- Fifth letter of the Greek alphabet; 10- Capital of Iraq; 11- Dies ...; 12- Intentions; 13- Strip of wood; 21- Curve; 23- Needlefish; 26- Put together; 27- ... your life; 28- Minimum; 29- Some locks; 30- Lounge; 31- Wispy clouds; 32- Coherent light beam; 33- Rival of Helena; 36- Stephen of "The Crying Game"; 42- Ship hospital; 43- Editor's request; 44- Working gear of a draft animal; 45- Chatter; 47- Cedar Rapids college; 49- Center Ming; 52- Boris Godunov, for one; 53- ... Domini; 54- Kernels; 55- Short cut; 56- Leg joint; 57- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 58- Prepare a book or film for release; 59- Ready to eat; 62- Exist;

Yesterday's solution

O	W	N	E	R		P	A	N	I	C	I	S	M		
A	O	R	T	A		O	S	A	K	A		S	T		
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L	O	V	A	B	L	E		M	I	M	I	C	R	Y	
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'We can play at this level': Chism

Bahrain capable of holding their own against the continent's biggest national basketball teams, as shown in their games at the FIBA Asia Cup 2022

● **Head coach Mindaugas Lukosius expresses pride in national team**

● **Big man Wayne Chism hails national team's younger players for growth**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain proved that they are capable of competing at the highest level of continental basketball following their inspirational showing at the FIBA Asia Cup 2022.

This was underlined by naturalised big man and the national team's star centre Wayne Chism, who played a key role in their stunning showing in the competition---despite losing all three of their preliminary



Bahrain's senior men's national team lined up on the court during the Kingdom's national anthem, as part of the pre-game formalities when they faced South Korea on Saturday

round games but nearly upsetting Asian powerhouses China and South Korea.

"I see this tournament as great for us," Chism said in the post-game Press conference follow-

ing their tournament-concluding loss to the South Koreans on Saturday. "This shows us now that we can play at this level."

After losing their opening fixture to Chinese-Taipei, the Bah-

rainis bounced back with sensational performances against the heavily favoured Chinese and South Koreans, coming only a few baskets shy of slaying the basketball giants.

”

We are very happy to take part in this level of competition; we had a long-time break to play with the best teams in Asia, and we are very happy about these results—not about losing all the games, but because we had some chances to win against China and against Korea. I appreciate and am very proud of my team

MINDAUGAS LUKOSIUS

Chism praised his teammates for building their self-confidence after their early setback and showing a strong fighting spirit to make the Kingdom proud.

"Earlier, a lot of people saw Bahrain as a small country with small players, but we have heart. And these guys finally understood that especially after our loss against Chinese-Taipei.

"Once we figured that out, we got the confidence against China. At this level, you have to play [with heart]. If you don't, you can have a 50 or 100-point loss.

"These guys fought not to get embarrassed; they showed heart and they fought hard to make Bahrain proud.

Bahrain head coach Mindaugas Lukosius echoed Chism's sentiments.

"We are very happy to take part in this level of competition; we had a long-time break to play with the best teams in Asia, and we are very happy about these

results—not about losing all the games, but because we had some chances to win against China and against Korea," Coach Lukosius said.

"I appreciate and am very proud of my team."

The Lithuanian tactician added that the national team were missing a few key players, and once at full strength Bahrain will be better.

"Not all our best players were here; a few guys are injured and for other reasons not with us, so for the next tournaments in the future, we will be stronger," he claimed.

Chism agreed and further acknowledged the growth of the national team's young players in the competition.

"Our young guys grew today, yesterday and the day before. Now they have the experience of playing at this high level. This is a great tournament and I am glad that we were here to play it," Chism said.

Bahrain Rugby Federation joins Asia Rugby



Officials of Bahrain Rugby Federation and Asia Rugby at the Asia Rugby bi-annual General Assembly

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Rugby Federation (BRF) has been accepted as a member of Asia Rugby, the regional governing body for rugby.

BRF President Nader Shaheen detailed at the Asia Rugby bi-annual General Assembly in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan the history of rugby in Bahrain over the past 50 years and the plans to develop the sport in accordance with World Rugby guidelines.

Following Nader's presentation, the General Assembly voted unanimously in favour of accepting Bahrain Rugby Federation as a member. Asia Rugby has 35 other member countries, covering the geographical area from Jordan to China, and including North Africa.

Bahrain Rugby Federation was established in February 2022 following the directives of His Royal Highness, Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth & Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee to establish the federation.

A Bahrain Rugby Federation Committee headed by Nader Shaheen was set up to launch the process.

Asia Rugby membership enables Bahrain to field a national representative team in competitive and friendly international fixtures against the other 35 member countries of

Asia Rugby membership enables Bahrain to field a national representative team in competitive and friendly international fixtures against the other 35 member countries of Asia Rugby, including participation in 15s and 7s tournaments

Asia Rugby, including participation in 15s and 7s tournaments.

It will support the involvement of Bahrain Rugby Football Club in cross-border competitions such as the West Asia Premiership and Gulf Conference and will provide access to support in the development of coaches, officials and women's rugby.

Bahrain Rugby Federation aims to encourage, promote and develop the game of rugby in Bahrain and contribute to the physical, psychological and mental care of the individual through sport, social and cultural upbringing.

This is in coordination and cooperation with all the sport establishments and authorities and within the rules and regulations applicable internationally and in Bahrain.

The federation also aims to strengthen and develop international relations for the game to achieve optimum sport representation at home and abroad.

Injury prevents Bahrain's Karich from completing World Games duathlon

● **Bahrain's Moussa Karich forced to pull out from race in the middle of 40km cycling leg**

● **Bahrain wraps up participation at World Games 2022 with one silver medal, won by Ali Monfaradi in jiu-jitsu**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Moussa Karich was forced to pull out mid-race from the Men's Individual category in the Duathlon event yesterday at the World Games 2022, which came to a close in Birmingham, Alabama, in the US.

After a strong start to the opening 10-kilometre run, which he completed in sixth place with a time of 30 minutes



Bahrain's Moussa Karich, centre, rests on the sidelines after pulling out from the Duathlon, as he is accompanied by jiu-jitsu silver-medallist Ali Monfaradi, right

54 seconds, Karich went out to take on the ensuing 40km cycle.

He continued to maintain his place in the top 10, but later began to struggle and eventually withdrew from the event with a hamstring injury.

The ride was to be followed by

a concluding five-km run, which Karich no longer started.

It was a subdued ending to what started off as a strong race for the Bahraini athlete.

The gold medal was claimed by Maxime Hueber-Moosbrugger of France in one hour 47

minutes 57 seconds, while countryman Benjamin Choquert was the silver-medallist 23 seconds behind. Victor Zambrano of Mexico completed the podium-finishers 59 seconds from the victor.

Following Karich's participation, Bahrain wrapped up their participation at the World Games with one silver medal, won by jiu-jitsu star Ali Monfaradi yesterday in the Men's 77kg Ne-Waza category of the jiu-jitsu competition.

Bahrain's third competitor, snooker player Habib Sabah lost in his Round of 16 match in the Men's Snooker competition.

This year's World Games marked the 11th edition of the international multi-sport meeting, which is meant for sports, or disciplines or events within a sport, that were not contested at the Olympic Games.

A total of 110 nations from around the globe took part with around 3,600 athletes in the fray.

Philipsen wins Tour de France stage 15 as Vingegaard hits the deck

Reuters | Carcassonne

Belgian Jasper Philipsen claimed his maiden victory on the Tour de France when he won a bunch sprint in the 15th stage as overall leader Jonas Vingegaard and his team suffered a bad day yesterday.

Alpecin-Deceuninck rider Philipsen timed his effort to perfection to beat compatriot Wout van Aert and Dane Mads Pedersen, who were second and third respectively.

"It's the biggest victory you can hope for. I came close a few times last year and our ambition was to win this year. There were very few opportunities for sprinters so we had to be patient," said Philipsen.

Vingegaard retained the yellow jersey but hit the deck and lost two of his Jumbo-Visma team mates as Steven Kruijswijk crashed out and Primož Roglič did not take the start of the



Deceuninck's Jasper Philipsen celebrates as he crosses the finish line

202.5-km ride from Rodez after failing to recover from injuries.

With the temperature above 40 degrees Celsius, organisers sprayed parts of the road with water to cool down the melting tar before the riders passed.

Nils Politt and Mikkel Honoré built up an advantage of about 2:30 over the peloton while

Michael Morkov was dropped early on and suffered an ordeal alone at the back.

The breakaway was reined in with 50km left, shortly after Vingegaard crashed along with team mate Tiesj Benoot.

Vingegaard, who appeared not to suffer any injuries, made it back into the peloton and still

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JASPER PHILIPSEN

leads defending champion Tadej Pogacar by two minutes and 22 seconds.

"It was not a memorable day. Today was not the best day with Steven and Primož abandoning," the 25-year-old said.

"I don't know exactly what happened. Tiesj crashed in front of me and I could not avoid him. That's cycling, I just have some bruises on my left side. I'm ok but it was a bad day."

Mount lifts Chelsea to 2-1 win over Club America in Vegas friendly



Timo Werner of Chelsea celebrates with teammates
AFP | Las Vegas

Chelsea, prepping for their first Premier League season since Todd Boehly's consortium bought the club, beat Mexico's Club America 2-1 in an international club friendly in Las Vegas.

Mason Mount sealed the victory in the 83rd minute with a sensational right-footed shot from outside the box.

Timo Werner had given Chelsea a momentary lead in the 55th but a sloppy backpass from Reece James resulted in an own-goal five minutes later that gifted Club America the equalizer.

The 47,223 who turned out at Allegiant Stadium, home of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders, watched both teams struggle to finish in the first half.

Chelsea's Brazilian international Kenedy fired wide in the 24th, Kai Havertz shot over the crossbar in the 29th and in the 40th substitute America's keeper Oscar Jimenez blocked Thiago Silva's header from the center of the box.

Bahrain runners impress at athletics worlds

Shumi Dechasa claims top 10 finish while clocking season's best time in men's marathon, Edidiong Odiong qualifies for women's 100 metres semi-finals at World Athletics Championships 2022 in the US

● **Shumi Dechasa takes strong ninth-place finish with season's best time of 2:07:52**

● **Edidiong Odiong advances to semis after placing third in first-round heat with 11.28s run**

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Bahrain's Shumi Dechasa competes at the front of the pack during the men's marathon yesterday in Eugene, Oregon in the US

Bahrain's Shumi Dechasa put in a strong challenge for a medal yesterday to finish in the top 10 of the men's marathon at the World Athletics Championships 2022, being held in Eugene, Oregon in the US.

Also yesterday, Bahraini sprinter Edidiong Odiong booked her place in the semi-finals of the women's 100 metres to keep her medal hopes alive amongst the best elite sprinters from across the globe.

Dechasa and Edidiong are part

of a four-athlete national team going for gold at the worlds.

In the men's marathon, Dechasa did well to pace himself amongst the leading pack for much of the 42.2-kilometre race distance. He was at the very front at various stages of the run, last of which came with just 10km to go.

He fell behind towards the end but was still able to claim a strong ninth-place finish while

clocking a season's best time of two hours 07 minutes 52 seconds.

That mark is not far off his personal best in the marathon of 2:06:43, which he clocked way back in 2014.

Dechasa crossed the finish line not far behind the medalists. Tamirat Tola of Ethiopia clinched the gold with a championship record of 2:05:36, while his countryman Mo-



Bahrain's Shumi Dechasa was in the lead at various stages of the men's marathon, last of which came with just 10km to go in the 42.2km run

sinet Geremew won silver in 2:06:44. Bashir Abdi of Belgium took home the bronze medal in 2:06:48.

A total of 66 athletes took part in the men's marathon, 12 of whom did not finish. Dechasa was the lone Bahraini participant.

Meanwhile, Edidiong booked her place in the women's 100m semi-finals after finishing third in her first-round heat.

The top three from each of the seven heats secure an automatic

place in the semis, along with the next three fastest athletes.

In a hotly contested race, Edidiong powered to third place with a time of 11.28 seconds. She finished marginally behind Aleia Hobbs from the US, who won in 11.04s, while Michelle-Lee Ahye from Trinidad and Tobago was the runner-up in 11.18s.

A total of 24 athletes made it through to the semi-finals, which are to be divided into three races, scheduled to be held early today morning starting at 4.33am, Bahrain time.

Only the first two finishers from each heat, plus the next two fastest athletes, will move on to the medal round, which will be held later today morning.

Edidiong will be competing in the second semi-final race. She is set to face world number one-ranked Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica, Melissa Jefferson of the US, Manqi Ge of China, Mujinga Kambundji of Switzerland, Marie-Josee Ta Lou of Ivory Coast, Ewa Swoboda of Poland and Anthonique Strachan of the Bahamas.

Ten thousand youngsters to get top swimming training

● **Bahrain Olympic Committee, Bahrain Swimming Association sign agreement to train 10,000 boys and girls in one year**

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The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) and Bahrain Swimming Association (BSA) yesterday signed a cooperation agreement to train 10,000 youth, both boys and girls, in the sport within a one-year period.

The deal was signed by BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji and BSA chairman Dr Mohammed Mujbel.

The agreement is part of the BOC's keenness to adopt various initiatives and programmes aimed at improving all sports



Faris Al Kooheji, right, with Dr Mohammed Mujbel after signing the agreement at the Kingdom.

Al Kooheji expressed his delight in signing the pact, which he said is in line with the vision of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority president and BOC chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

He added that swimming is one of the most popular sports

at the Olympic Games, and stressed that training the Kingdom's youth will contribute to discovering a number of talents capable of representing the national team in the future.

Dr Mujbel thanked HH Shaikh Khalid for his unlimited support to the BSA and said that the programme will have a positive impact on the sport of swimming in Bahrain.

Defiant Azam ton leads Pakistan fight back in Sri Lanka Test

AFP | Colombo

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam made a defiant 119 to thwart a Sri Lankan spin attack led by Prabath Jayasuriya on day two of an evenly poised first Test yesterday.

Azam single-handedly took the tourists to just four runs short of Sri Lanka's 222 as he put on a 70-run tenth-wicket



Pakistan's Babar Azam play's a shot stand with Naseem Shah, who made five not out from 52 balls,

in Galle. Sri Lanka were 36 for one at stumps after skipper Dimuth Karunaratne fell lbw to left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz, for 16.

Oshada Fernando, on 17, and nightwatchman Kasun Rajitha, on three, were batting when bad light stopped play for the day with the hosts leading by 40 runs in their second innings.

Bahrain dominant against India, qualify for junior handball worlds

● **Bahrainis barge into Asian championship semi-finals following second successive Group B victory**

● **Japan join hosts in tournament's last four with one-sided triumph over Pakistan to stay unbeaten**

TD | Manama



Bahrain players celebrate alongside national team officials following their victory over India last night

Bahrain's junior national handball team had three reasons to celebrate last night.

The under-20 Bahrainis enjoyed a dominant 54-12 victory over India—a win that secured their place in the semi-finals of the 17th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship as well as earning them a berth in the International Handball Federation (IHF) Men's Junior World Championship, which will be held next year co-hosted by Germany and Greece.

The Bahrainis' victory was their second of the continental competition, which is currently being held in the Kingdom. It followed their earlier triumph against Pakistan.

The hosts now play in their final Group B game of the

Group B standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Bahrain	2	2	0	0	67	4
Japan	2	2	0	0	64	4
Pakistan	2	0	0	2	-51	0
India	2	0	0	2	-80	0

preliminary round tomorrow against Japan, who defeated their Pakistani opponents 47-21 in yesterday's other fixture.

Following both results, Bahrain moved to the top of the divisional table ahead of Japan, Pakistan and India.

In Bahrain's win last night, the nationals powered ahead early and never wavered. They led 25-7 at the break and didn't

take their foot off the gas the rest of the way. Jassim Khamis was selected as the Best Player of the Match and was awarded for his efforts post-game.

In Japan's triumph, they were up 21-9 at the interval and turned things up over the final 30 minutes. Kazuma Oura was named the Best Player of the Match and also received an award.

Like Bahrain, the Japanese booked their berth in the junior world championship with their victory.

Today, a pair of Group A games are on the cards. Gulf sides Saudi Arabia and Kuwait face off at 4pm, followed at 6.30pm by South Korea taking on Iran.