

**Bahrain all set for Asian U20 volleyball**

Seventeen nations from across continent set to vie for glory in 21st Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship starting Monday | P12

WORLD 6 At least 21 killed in Kabul mosque blast

THE DAILY **tribune**

Angelina Jolie hails 'strength' and 'resilience' of Afghan women

10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Most bourses end lower on oil, recession worries



**Israeli forces kill Palestinian in West Bank clashes, medics say**



People hold guns as they attend the funeral of Palestinian Waseem Khalifa

Reuters

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian in pre-dawn clashes in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus yesterday, Palestinian medics said. The Israeli army said he was armed and shooting at soldiers; the Palestinians denied this.

Witnesses said the clashes erupted when Israeli forces arrived to guard Jewish worshippers visiting Joseph's Tomb, a Jewish shrine that has been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Four Palestinians were shot and one of them, an 18-year-old, was killed, the Palestine Red Crescent said. At least 30 Palestinians were wounded in all.

Later in the day, in a separate development, Israeli security forces raided seven non-governmental organisations in the West Bank, confiscating computers and equipment before sealing off the entrances, Palestinian witnesses and officials said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh visited the office of Al-Haq, one of the rights groups that was shuttered in the city of Ramallah, saying his cabinet did not recognize the Israeli closures and telling officials at the NGOs to resume work immediately.

**Nuclear weapons use only in 'emergency circumstances', says Russia**

Reuters

Russia's foreign ministry said yesterday that Moscow would only use its nuclear arsenal in "emergency circumstances" and that it has no interest in a direct confrontation with NATO and the United States.

Russia's defence minister said on Tuesday that Moscow has



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres shake hands

"no need" to use nuclear weapons during its military campaign in Ukraine, describing media speculation that Moscow might deploy nuclear or chemical weapons in the conflict as "absolute lies".

Speaking at a briefing yesterday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ivan Nechaev said nuclear weapons would be used solely as

a "response" measure.

"Russian military doctrine allows a nuclear response only in response to the threat of mass destruction, or when the very existence of the state is threatened," he said. "That is, the use of a nuclear arsenal is possible only as part of a response to an attack in self-defence and only in emergencies."

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yesterday he was gravely concerned by the situation at Europe's largest nuclear power station after it came under shelling at the front lines in Ukraine.

Russia captured the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant soon after its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

**'Permanent priority' for skill development: HRH**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday affirmed that investing in the training and development of Bahraini nationals and strengthening their capabilities and skills is a "permanent priority for the Kingdom."

"This would ensure a prosperous present and a bright future for the homeland and citizens," said HRH Prince Salman, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, while meeting the seventh intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme at Gudaibiya Palace.

Launched in 2015, The Prime Minister's fellowship mentors and prepares exceptional young Bahrainis from various government entities for a career in public service leadership. Selected individuals will spend a year working as full-time research fellows in the Prime Minister's Office, benefiting from advanced training in writing skills, research methods and policy analysis, both in-house and through the Bahrain Institute of Public Administration.

The programme, until now, has created 83 fellows. In the 2020-'21 period, the fellowship accepted 13 Bahraini nationals.

HRH told the members of the 7th batch that Bahrain has pride in their attitude to achieve suc-



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, during a meeting yesterday with the seventh intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme

cess, which they always proved through their efforts and excellence.

"This proves that they are worthy of responsibility," Prince Salman said, expressing appreciation for putting the interest of their country ahead of all others.

HRH said that the experience gained by the PM programme fellows through their work in the Prime Minister's office would enhance the performance of the government work.

All these efforts, His Royal Highness said, are aimed at achieving the goals of the comprehensive development process

led by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

In this regard, HRH Prince Salman also praised the projects and ideas developed by the fellows during their year-long training to enhance government work.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman

Charity Educational Endowment, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Shaikh Khalid Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, and the Min-

Training and development of Bahraini nationals and strengthening their capabilities and skills is a "permanent priority for the Kingdom. This would ensure a prosperous present and a bright future for the homeland and citizens

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

ister of Cabinet Affairs, Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, also attended the meeting.

Fellows of the seventh batch expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to meet His Royal Highness and their appreciation for supporting and developing the Kingdom's workforce.

The programme is now accepting applications for the eighth intake. Deadline ends on the 13th of September 2022.



Applications for the 8th intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme are accepted between 13 August and 13 September 2022.



Trial begins

**Salman Rushdie attack suspect pleads not guilty**

Reuters | Mayville NY

A man accused of stabbing novelist Salman Rushdie last week in western New Jersey pleaded not guilty to second-degree attempted murder and assault charges yesterday during an arraignment hearing and was remanded without bail.

Hadi Matar, 24, is accused of wounding Rushdie, 75, on Fri-



Hadi Matar of Fairview, New Jersey

day just before the "The Satanic Verses" author was to deliver a lecture on stage at an educational retreat near Lake Erie. Rushdie was hospitalised with serious injuries in what writers and politicians around the world decried as an attack on the freedom of expression.

Matar was arraigned at the Chautauqua County Courthouse

on an indictment returned earlier in the day by a grand jury that charged him with one count of second-degree attempted murder, which carries a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison, and one count of second-degree assault.

He has been in jail since his arrest and wore a grey-striped jumpsuit and his hands were

shackled.

His next court appearance was scheduled for Sept. 22.

The attack came 33 years after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then Iran's supreme leader, issued a fatwa, or religious edict, calling on Muslims to assassinate Rushdie a few months after "The Satanic Verses" was published.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

TOTAL TESTED  
**10239647**

ACTIVE CASES  
**4411**

DEATHS  
**1513**

DISCHARGED  
**662922**

NEW CASES  
**347**

CRITICAL  
**3**

220 fils (includes VAT)



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# It's too hot to handle

## Meat sellers complain broken ACs ruin their businesses

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

These men are already tackling multiple crises in their daily lives.

On top of that is the predicament of working without air conditioning amid the intense summer heat, complains meat sellers at the Manama Central Market.

"Those AC units stopped working days ago," said traders pointing fingers at the silent boxes sitting high on the walls.

"The worst part, however, is that the heat is now hurting our businesses too as customers are finding it too hot and are walking away soon after arriving," sellers there said as they struggled to wipe away the sweat dribbling down their faces under the unusually high temperatures inside the market.

"Customers are moving out quickly, without making purchases, opting for other nearby places where they could stay cool," traders said without masking their disappointment.

"This is giving us a real nightmare," they said, adding if this continues, it could potentially lead to a huge disaster in our sales.



For the past six months, the air-conditioning system has been defunct. A technician sent by the maintenance company says that six compressors are not working and require a serious repair

A MUTTON MERCHANT



Most of us rush to the toilet facilities at the nearby mosque to attend to nature's call. But they are only open during prayer times

A MERCHANT

### 3 toilets for 500!

He said there are only three toilet facilities for over 500 workers at the meat market. "Most of us rush to the toilet facilities at the nearby mosque to attend to nature's call. But they are only open during prayer times."

The mutton merchant said a group of workers earlier raised this issue before the authorities when they inspected the market.

"However, no steps were taken in this regard. We are requesting the authorities to provide ten more facilities."

*"We are in the peak of summer and how could these officials refrain from giving a directive to repair this defunct air-conditioning system?"*

"The meat we sell needs a moderate temperature to keep it suitable for consumption and preserve it from spoilage and rotting. "If this continues, we will

have to take huge losses," the traders said, calling on authorities to act quickly to solve the issue.

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, a mutton merchant, who doesn't want to be identified, said municipality officials have always been unsympathetic to the sufferings. "For the past six months, the air-conditioning system has remained defunct. A technician sent by the maintenance compa-

ny says that six compressors are not working and require serious repairs.

"When contacted, the maintenance company officials say that they haven't received any directive from the municipality officials to perform the repair. We are in the peak of summer and how could these officials refrain from giving a directive to repair this defunct air-conditioning system?"



There are only three toilet facilities for over 500 workers at the meat market.

## Short-circuit in AC sparks off blaze, crisis averted

TDT | Manama

A large fire broke out early morning yesterday at a religious gathering house in Manama, which initial investigation said was triggered by an electric short circuit in an air-conditioner.

While the incident caused no casualties, the raging fire inflicted severe damage to the building's interior.

Onlookers said it was a "major tragedy" averted as firefighters prevented the fire from spreading to nearby buildings.

Civil Defence officers said they rushed to the spot with firefighting vehicles, responding to a call.

Soon after reaching the spot, officers cordoned off the area and put their skills to full use, as the fire got under control quickly. The fire brigade also continued with the cooling operation to prevent the fire from spreading.

Initial investigation suspects a short circuit from one of the air conditioners for the fire.



In pictures, Jaffari Endowments officials visiting the fire-hit building

Experts say the sparks due to an erratic power supply from the AC might have fallen on other things in the room, triggering a fire and thick smoke.

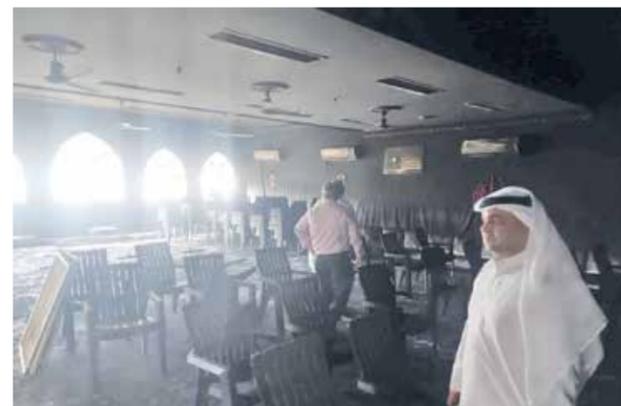
The extent of damages caused is not yet determined. An investigation is ongoing.

Witnesses told *The Daily Tribune* they saw huge plumes of black smoke rising from the building from a distance and

quickly alerted all others.

"Luckily, no one got injured as the Civil Defence officers brought the fire swiftly under control."

Images from the scene showed extensive fire damage, with the interior of the building completely burned down, with debris seen scattered across the floors and walls covered with thick soot.



Later in the day, the Director of the Jaffari Endowments Department, Muhammad Jaafar Al-Husseini and Head of the Jaafari Endowments, Yousef bin Saleh Al-Saleh, visited the fire-hit funeral of Al Bidaa in Manama.

Muhammad Jaafar Al-Husseini said the directorate offers full support for its reconstruction. Evaluating the damages, Al

Husseini said the fire damage is limited to material losses.

"Thankfully, no lives are lost,"

he said.

Al-Husseini said the authority had allocated some urgent funds to start the rehabilitation works.

"Renovations works will begin immediately and will be completed as soon as possible in coordination with relevant authorities," Al Husseini assured.

He also appreciated the Civil Defence Forces for their rapid response.

"Firefighters were quick to bring the fire under control, thereby preventing it from spreading to buildings adjacent to the funeral." The Al-Bidaa funeral administration appreciated the speedy communication of the Jaffari Endowments Department.



Experts say proper unit maintenance is the key to preventing fires. They say summer heat can put a strain on air conditioners, which can become fire hazards if they are not well-maintained. so, avoid overuse. Running your unit constantly can lead to mechanical failures and fires.

# Out of the **frying pan,** into the fire?

## Cooks grapple with 'rising kitchen heat'



As the region battles the deadly summer heat waves, a group of people here has little choice but to sweat it out: the small-scale restaurant cooks who toil all day entertaining the taste buds of hundreds of customers

Staff reporter  
TDT | Manama

While midday break is a great blessing for outdoor workers, hundreds belonging to one sect of

indoor workers are pleading to the authorities to also include them in the summer work ban group.

Most of the cooks at local restaurants are in a terrible state of affairs as cooking over hot stoves is a health risk, especially during the peak of this summer.

"Nobody is there to speak for us," a cook at a local restaurant in Umm Al Hassam told The Daily Tribune.

"I have been doing this job for eight years here. I know many cooks who developed health issues in their efforts to entertain the taste buds of hundreds of customers," he said.

Long hours in the hot kitchen often followed by late-night eating are perfect recipes for health disasters and this is common among the majority of local restaurant cooks.

Studies have revealed that inhaling cooking fumes for longer hours can lead to respiratory problems among the kitchen

”  
**Nobody is there to speak for us**  
A COOK AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT IN UMM AL HASSAM

**Restaurant kitchens filled with smoke offer health risks to cooks and other staff.**

staff.  
"A restaurant kitchen is nothing short of a hell," another cook at a restaurant in Gudaibiya, said. "We live with extreme temperatures, sharp tools, excessive working hours, late nights, split shifts, lack of proper sleep and improper diets."  
He said, however, extreme

”  
**A restaurant kitchen is nothing short of a hell**  
ANOTHER COOK AT A RESTAURANT IN GUDAIBIYA

temperature is the mightiest of all the sufferings. "I have developed acute knee pain after standing for longer hours apart from lifting heavy pots and pans. Frequently leaning over kitchen tables while preparing food has caused deformities in my ligaments and discs in the lower back."  
**Malfunctioning exhaust fans**  
Many restaurant kitchens are often filled with smoke owing to malfunctioning of the exhaust fan. The fire alarms are also

”  
**Restaurants with inappropriately cleaned or defunct exhaust systems are undoubtedly at an elevated risk of catching fires**  
SHAKIL P, A FIRE AND SAFETY EXPERT

defunct at many restaurants, risking the lives of many staff working there.  
**What does the expert say?**  
Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Shakil P, a fire and safety expert said kitchen exhaust fan failure at restaurants should not be taken lightly. "Kitchen exhaust fan failure most often originates from a build-up of grease in the ductwork. Airborne fat and oil from cooking build up in a kitchen's exhaust filter and travel through the ducts to the

roof. This blocks ventilations, reduces air flow and acts as a ticking time bomb for potential grease fires." "Restaurants with inappropriately cleaned or defunct exhaust systems are undoubtedly at an elevated risk of catching fires. Owners should be careful about this or else a small error could lead to horrifying tragic incidents," he added.

**Above 50 degrees Celsius**  
A cook at a restaurant in Manama urged the authorities to inspect every restaurant kitchen in the area and measure the temperature inside. "I am pretty sure it will be consistently above 50 degrees Celsius. We are here for a living, to support our families back home. Our vulnerabilities should not be taken advantage of by these greedy restaurant owners, who don't install the right system to maintain temperatures inside the kitchen. "No one cares for us. People relish the food we make, but does anyone ever think of the sufferings we undergo to prepare their favourite dishes? We too are human beings; our rights are being violated on a daily basis."



The General Directorate of Civil Defence participated in the second preparatory meeting for the project to update the regional risk record in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The virtual meeting was held from August 15 to 18 and discussed technical and scientific concepts to evaluate risks and timeframes to analyse and manage risks. The meeting was part of a series of meetings of the GCC Emergency Management Centre affiliated with the GCC Secretariat General and its Assistant Secretariat for Security Affairs.



Capital Governor, Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, yesterday chaired a security committee meeting and discussed preparations for the national celebrations in December. The meeting also discussed a traffic plan prepared by the General Directorate of Traffic for the upcoming return to school period. The Capital Governor also directed to ensure security, safety and health of people in shared houses. He also directed the Irregular Employment Control Committee for addressing the negative effects associated with any violations.

# Scrapyards “breeding grounds” for antisocial elements

Top municipal officials call for laws regulating scrapyards in the Kingdom

TDI | Manama

The call to regulate scrapyards in the Kingdom is gaining strength, with lawmakers terming them as “haven” and “breeding ground” for criminal activities.

Thousands of dinars worth of metals and other objects make their way through scrapyards in the Kingdom each year, where criminals are also allegedly using them for a few-questions-asked source for fast cash.

Scrapyards allegedly also help spawn an endless cycle of theft, which law enforcement cannot keep pace with.

Municipalities also accuse the scrapyards of failing to maintain security and safety measures, despite falling under the aegis of the commercial registry.

“Their irresponsible acts also expose nearby localities to grave dangers, including fire.”

Municipal officials state that such places have become a haven

for irregular workers and criminal elements to sell off stolen goods.

“Only way out is ensuring accountability and monitoring.”

According to the Chairman of the Southern Municipal Council, Bader Al Tamimi, “It’s high time we intervene and fashion them into markets that would serve the economy.”

Several proposals in these regards went into the abyss, he said, adding each of the queries is sent back with the answer we are “studying” them.

“Delaying actions are also tantamount to denying an opportunity to develop these places and create job opportunities.

Chairman of Muharraq Municipal Council Ghazi Al-Morbati highlighted the need for regulations to organise the sector to create more jobs. “This would generate sub-

tial income for Bahraini families in the sector,” he said.

“Scrapyard, he wondered, existed in the Kingdom for several years, but it is not yet clear who is responsible for them.”

He also suggested developing a unified space for collecting scraps to ensure accountability.

Muhammad Saad Al Dosari, a member of the Northern Municipal Council, stressed the need for bringing scrapyards in the Kingdom under a specific authority to ensure accountability for everything that goes in and out of such yards.

“This would help preserve the environment and safety of the areas that employ several expatriate workers.”

“The presence of proper laws will also ensure regular employment and eliminate commercial fraud.”

## Playground for mafias

Since 2016, there were frequent reports of scrapyards being used by “mafias” as cover to deal in illegal weapons, drugs, stolen cars and hazardous chemicals with the place seeing major fires that sometimes took up to a day to extinguish.

There

were also reports that the quarry area, located near to the scrapyard in Askar, had been repeatedly targeted in a spate of overnight raids by thieves who hauled away stone by truckloads – the quarry resumed operations in 2015 after being shut down for eight years.

Urbaser Bahrain, which carries out waste management operations in the Northern and Southern governorates, has been awarded a contract to run the landfill site and set up sorting and recycling facilities as part of a plan to extend

the site’s lifespan until 2025.

Two years ago, an inferno ripped through a scrapyard in Askar with flames engulfing scrap vehicles and plastic waste as well as spreading across wooden cabins and other debris.

The blaze was so intense that black trails of smoke continued to billow into the sky for more than six hours and the thick plumes could be seen from as far away as Sitra, 23km in the distance.



Representative picture

## “Little Scholars Nursery” gets ministry’s approval

● For children below four years of age

TDI | Manama

“Little Scholars Nursery” has received Education Ministry’s approval to open doors in the Kingdom.

Education Minister, Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, announced the approval in an Edict yesterday.

The establishment, the Edict said, is a “foreign nursery” for children below four years of age.

The new nursery will adhere to the Decree-Law (25) of 1998 regarding Private Educational and Training Institutions and the regulations in force in the Kingdom.

The Edict stipulates commitment to the number of children authorised, collecting fees and not raising them or adding any other fees without obtaining written approval.

Edict says the school should follow an educational pro-



Education Minister, Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi

gramme consistent with the characteristics of the children of the nursery, modern requirements, and precautions measures.

Reportedly, there are over 90 nurseries in the Kingdom.

According to data released by the Ministry of Education, during the 2018-2019 period, nurseries in the Kingdom had over 4,500 students, while there were over 34,000 students in Kindergarten.



The inaugural meeting of the National Committee on the Prohibition of Weapons of Mass Destruction was held yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, and attended by committee members representing the relevant ministries and government agencies. The Minister stressed that the development of the weapons of mass destruction file is evidence of Bahrain’s commitment to security and peace and policies to prevent the dangers of arms proliferation



The United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Steven C. Bondy paid a visit to the American Mission Hospital. He was updated on the developments of the hospital and given a tour of the facility by Corporate CEO Dr George Cheriyan and Group CEO Julia Tovey.

## Bahrain celebrates World Humanitarian Day

TDI | Manama

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, yesterday praised the leading role of Bahrain in humanitarian work on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day observed on the 19th of August. The Foreign Minister extended his gratitude to His Majesty the King, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He commended Bahrain’s humanitarian initiatives and charitable and development projects implemented by ministries and government agencies in partnership with the civil society inside and outside the Kingdom, including presenting international awards to support women, youth, education, sustainable development, and service to humanity.

Dr Al-Zayani lauded the efforts of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation and its pioneering contributions in caring for orphans, widows, the elderly and people with special needs, as well as providing social, health and educational assistance.

# Most bourses end lower on oil, recession worries

Reuters

Most stock markets in the Gulf ended lower yesterday, amid concerns about the oil price's recent slide to six-month lows and worries about a potential global recession.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index (.TASI) gave up early gains to close 0.2% lower, hit by a 1.2% fall in Dr Sulaiman Al-Habib Medical Services (4013.SE) and a 0.6% slide in Banque Saudi Fransi (1050.SE).

However, the index's losses were limited by gains elsewhere.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday maintained its economic growth forecast for Saudi Arabia even amid concerns the global economy may heading towards a recession. Saudi Arabia's economy was still projected to grow by 7.6% this year, which the IMF said would likely be



An investor monitors a screen displaying stock information at the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

## Closing bell

SAUDI	▼0.2% to 12,622
ABU DHABI	▼1.5% to 10,097
DUBAI	▼0.7% to 3,432
QATAR	▲0.2% to 14,018
EGYPT	▲0.4% to 10,094
BAHRAIN	▼0.1% to 1,898
OMAN	▼0.9% to 4,607
KUWAIT	▲0.2% to 8,580

one of the fastest growth rates in the world, helped by strong oil demand and 4.2% expected growth in the kingdom's non-oil sector. In Abu Dhabi, the index (.FTFADGI) slid 1.8%, falling for a fourth session in five, dragged down by a 2.7% slide in the United Arab Emirates' biggest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB.AD).

The Abu Dhabi bourse could see additional price corrections

in the absence of strong catalysts, said Farah Mourad, senior market analyst at XTB MENA.

"The uncertainties in the oil market could also put some pressure on performances."

Dubai's main share index (.DFMGI) dropped 0.7%, weighed down by a 2.2% slide in blue-chip developer Emaar Properties (EMAR.DU) and a 1.5% decline in sharia-compliant lender Dubai Islamic Bank (DISB.DU).

The Qatari benchmark (.QSI), however, bucked the trend to close 0.2% higher.

The Qatari market was helped by elevated natural gas prices. However, it could see some price corrections if investors move to secure their gains, according to Mourad.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index (.EGX30) finished 0.4% higher, with Abu Qir Fertilizers (ABUK.CA) advancing 4.4%.

## HSBC names new MENAT head for global banking

TDT | Manama

HSBC has announced the appointment of Julian Wentzel as Head of Global Banking for the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) region. Subject to regulatory approval, he will take up the Dubai-based role from 18 September 2022.

Julian will be transferring from London where he is currently HSBC's Head of Global Banking for the UK and International Europe. He brings more than 25 years of banking experience across client coverage, capital markets and advisory.

Stephen Moss, Group Managing Director and Regional Chief Executive, Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, said: "He will be a valuable addition to our senior leadership team as we continue to deliver on our Group's growth strategy in this hugely important region."

Commenting on his new role, Julian said: "It is thanks to our exceptional people and



Julian Wentzel

unrivalled network that we helped clients in the region to raise more than US\$19 billion from global investors last year and why we continue to lead the capital market league tables. This is a time of real opportunity for HSBC and our clients in the Middle East."

Julian succeeds Gareth Thomas, who takes on the role of Chief Risk Officer for the bank in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey region.

## BHC opens private market services to shareholding closed companies

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Clear (BHC) will today commence providing the services of Bahrain Private Market to shareholding closed companies. BHC had announced the launch of Bahrain Private Market at the beginning of this month.

The Bahrain Private Market is a new comprehensive platform for closed shareholding companies that aims to provide a full suite of bespoke share registrar services in a secure and electronic format in accordance with issued Decree No. (09) of 2022 in relation to commercial registration services published in the Official Gazette



BHC had announced the launch of Bahrain Private Market at the beginning of August.

No. (3594).

The platform will enable closed shareholding companies to access, connect, manage and execute their transactions in an efficient and effective manner. The shares will be held in safe custody by Bahrain Clear to ensure the safe keeping and visibility to the company's shareholders.

Bahrain Private Market will offer a range of services for closed shareholding companies with a total annual fee of BD 500 which includes change of partners (trading between existing shareholders), authorized signatories, directors, and company type and mergers. In addition, closed shareholding companies can

transfer company ownership, increase/decrease in capital, preform pledging and unpledging transactions, discharge & lifting, and judicial custodianship. The platform also provides for additional add-on services such as AGM management services (physical and eAGM), cash dividend distributions, share options, and auction services, eVoting, and consolidated statements.

Chief Operating Officer of Bahrain Clear, Abdulla Abdin clarified, "The new services that have been provided to public shareholding companies are now being offered to closed shareholding companies via Bahrain Private Market."

## LuLu welcomes excited young 'Back to School' shoppers



In pictures, LuLu "School Time... Finally" event inauguration

TDT | Manama

LuLu Hypermarket's "School Time Finally" promotion was inaugurated by the children of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation along with the Senior management of LuLu Group Internationals at LuLu Hypermarket Dana Mall.

The inauguration had free giveaways for kids, games, a LuLu bus ride around the outlet and many fun activities.

With the school system ready for in-person classes, parents and students had come shopping at LuLu for all essentials



"From school uniform staples like shirts and blouses in comfortable and durable fabrics to shoes, stylish yet comfortable garments and great deals on all the schoolroom supplies to fill school bags with the best classroom supplies. Whether school bags and stationery or study furniture and lunch boxes, there are branded goods for students to cherish."

Since online activities will complement in-class teaching, students have super bargains on laptops, devices, gadgets and printers for online study as well as Tabs at the best prices along

with top-quality storage devices. Parents wishing to create a safe, hygienic and healthy environment for their kids will get plenty of help from LuLu's home hygiene aisle stocked with all the essentials for germ-free protection.

Children's health too has been catered for and there is a great snack selection from well-known food brands: youngsters' favourites like Nutella spread, burgers, chips and thirst-quenching drinks. The promotion runs in all the LuLu hypermarkets from 17th August Until 15th September 2022.

## News in brief

### Myanmar to import Russian oil, military says



◆ **Military-ruled Myanmar plans to import Russian gasoline and fuel oil to ease supply concerns and rising prices, a junta spokesperson said, the latest developing country to do so amid a global energy crisis.** The Southeast Asian country has maintained friendly ties with Russia, even as both remain under a raft of sanctions from Western countries - Myanmar for a military coup that overthrew an elected government last year, and Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, which it calls a "special military operation".

### Foreign Secretary Liz Truss remains far ahead of leadership rival Rishi Sunak

◆ **UK's Liz Truss maintains big lead in leadership contest - poll** in the race to become Britain's next prime minister, a YouGov poll for Sky News showed yesterday. The governing Conservative Party is voting by postal ballot to choose a new party leader after Boris Johnson said he would step down following a series of scandals. The winner will be announced on Sept. 5. Truss, who has consistently topped polls of Conservative Party members, has a 32 percentage point lead over Sunak among those who have decided to vote, the survey showed. Truss was on 66%, with Sunak on 34%.



### Mali accuses France of arming Islamist fighters in letter to UN



◆ **Mali says France has violated its airspace and delivered arms to Islamist militants in an attempt to destabilise the West African country, the latest in a barrage of accusations that have marked the bitter end to their once close relations.** In a letter to the head of the United Nations Security Council dated Monday, Mali's foreign affairs minister, Abdoulaye Diop, said its airspace has been breached more than 50 times this year, mostly by French forces using drones, military helicopters and fighter jets. "These flagrant violations of Malian airspace were used by France to collect information for terrorist groups operating in the Sahel and to drop arms and ammunition to them," the letter said. Mali provided no evidence to show that France had supplied arms to Islamist groups. France has spent a decade and billions of dollars to stamp out Islamist militants, some with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State, in its former colony.

### The remains of 14 firefighters who died combatting a major blaze at a Cuban fuel depot last week are too badly burned to be identified, a specialist said.

◆ **Cuba unable to identify remains of 14 firefighters after fuel plant blaze** In total, 16 firefighters were killed and 17 others hospitalized due to the massive fire in Matanzas, on Cuba's northern coast. "Given that the remains found were subjected to high temperatures for a long time, it is not possible to apply DNA extraction," Jorge Gonzalez Perez, president of the Cuban Society of Legal Medicine, told a press conference.



## At least 21 killed in Kabul mosque blast

AP | Kabul

A bombing at a mosque in the Afghan capital of Kabul during evening prayers killed at least 21 people, including a prominent cleric, and wounded at least 33 others, eyewitnesses and police said yesterday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack Wednesday night, the latest to strike the country in the year since the Taliban seized power. Several children were reported to be among the wounded.

The Islamic State group's local affiliate has stepped up attacks targeting the Taliban and civilians since the former insurgents' takeover last August as US and NATO troops were in the final stages of their withdrawal from the country. Last week, the extremists claimed responsibility for killing a prominent Taliban cleric at his religious center in Kabul.

Khalid Zadran, the spokesman for Kabul's Taliban police chief, gave the figures to The Associated Press for the bombing at the Siddiquiya mosque in the city's Kher Khanna neighborhood. An eyewitness told the AP the explosion was carried out by a suicide bomber.

The slain cleric was Mullah Amir Mohammad Kabuli, the eyewitness said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the explosion and vowed that the "perpetrators of such crimes will soon be brought to justice and will be punished."

There were fears the casualty numbers could rise further. Yesterday morning, one witness to the blast who gave his name as Qyaamuddin told the AP he believed as many as 25 people may have been killed in the blast.

"It was evening prayer time, and I was attending the prayer



Mourners carry the body of a victim of a mosque bombing in Kabul



Despite the Taliban's assertion that they have brought security to the nation, Afghanistan has seen regular attacks by armed groups, many of them claimed by an ISIL affiliate known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, ISKP (ISIS-K), in recent months

“The murderers of civilians and perpetrators ... will soon be punished for their crimes”

TALIBAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ZABIHULLAH MUJAHID

which had hosted al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Since regaining power, the former insurgents have faced a crippling economic crisis as the international community, which does not recognize the Taliban government, froze funding to the country. Yesterday, the Taliban hosted a gathering of 3,000 tribal elders, religious scholars and others in Kandahar, their state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported. It wasn't immediately clear what topics they planned to discuss.

Separately, the Taliban confirmed on Wednesday that they had captured and killed Mehdi Mujahid in western Herat province as he was trying to cross the border into Iran.

Mujahid was a former Tali-

with others, when the explosion happened," Qyaamuddin said. Some Afghans go by a single name.

AP journalists could see the blue-roofed, Sunni mosque from a nearby hillside. The Taliban parked police trucks and other vehicles at the mosque, while several men carried out one casket for a victim of the attack.

A US-led invasion toppled the previous Taliban government,

## Hundreds evacuated as 'frightening' floods hit New Zealand

Reuters | London

Hundreds of families on New Zealand's South Island were forced to leave their homes yesterday after flooding caused a state of emergency to be declared in three regions.

A tropically fuelled storm has dumped more than 30 centimetres (11 inches) of rain on parts of the South Island, causing rivers to burst their banks. The extreme weather has also felled trees, blocking major roads.

A state of emergency was declared Wednesday in Buller, on the west coast, and Nelson -- where 233 homes have been evacuated after a month's worth of rain fell in just 15 hours.

The deluge turned Nelson's main river, the Maitai, into a torrent -- flooding houses, exposing pipes and leaving streets knee-deep in water.

The city's mayor Rachel Reese described the flash flooding as a "one-in-100-year event" as search and rescue teams, plus military personnel, helped people on submerged streets.

She warned locals to treat all water as contaminated, because some sewers had broken.

Nelson resident Sam Lagrutta



A road is washed away in Nelson, New Zealand



Nelson city on the South Island had received 106 millimetres of rain since midday on Tuesday - well above its average rainfall for the whole of August of 80 millimetres

said the situation was "frightening" after police gave him just five minutes to leave his home.

"I literally just grabbed a carry-on bag and filled it with my passport, wallet, and anything important I could find," he told the New Zealand Herald.

A further 160 households along the South Island's west coast were also asked to evacuate.

Buller has been hit by repeated flooding in the past few years.

Mayor Jamie Cleine said frequent evacuations took a toll on a community bracing itself for more flooding.

# Erdogan

# Chernobyl

Ukraine's President

## Turkish leader said discussed ways to end conflict

Reuters | Washington

Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned yesterday of a nuclear disaster in Ukraine during his first face-to-face talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky since Russia's invasion began, echoing pleas from the UN's chief.

A flare up in fighting around Europe's largest nuclear facility in Russian-controlled southern Ukraine has sparked urgent warnings from world leaders and UN chief Antonio Guterres cautioned during talks with Erdogan that any damage to the plant would be akin to "suicide".

"We are worried. We don't want another Chernobyl," Erdogan said during a press conference in the eastern city of Lviv, during which he also assured the Ukrainian leader that Ankara was a firm ally.

"While continuing our efforts to find a solution, we remain on the side of our Ukraine friends," Erdogan said.

Guterres said he was "gravely concerned" about the situation at the plant and said it had to be demilitarised, adding: "We must tell it like it is -- any potential damage to Zaporizhzhia is suicide".

Erdogan, who has major geopolitical rivalries with the Kremlin but maintains a close working relationship with Pres-

## China's drought Sept as it rains

Reuters | Shanghai

China warned that severe drought conditions along the Yangtze river could last well into September as local governments race to maintain power and find fresh water supplies to irrigate crops ahead of the autumn harvest.

A severe heatwave across the basin of China's longest river, the Yangtze, caused by a larger than usual Western Pacific subtropical high, has now lasted more than two months, slashing hydropower supplies and drying out large



It is expected that in September, water inflows in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze will still be low, and the drought in Anhui, Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi could develop further

LIU ZHIYU, AN OFFICIAL AT THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

## COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	95,065,403	1,064,207	598,438,859
2 India	44,298,864	527,206	
3 France	34,299,686	153,427	Deaths
4 Brazil	34,223,207	682,074	6,464,982
5 Germany	31,725,160	146,214	Recovered:
6 UK	23,460,787	187,018	572,472,108
7 S. Korea	21,861,296	25,813	New cases
8 Italy	21,581,917	174,447	+617,377
9 Russia	19,000,055	383,362	New deaths
10 Turkey	16,671,848	100,400	+1,244
11 Japan	16,161,801	35,955	
12 Spain	13,306,301	111,906	
13 Vietnam	11,376,571	43,103	
14 Australia	9,870,724	13,155	

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	812,397	+97	9,273	+1	799,354	3,770
UAE	1,007,742	+703	2,341	+1	986,102	19,299
Kuwait	118,531	+813	721	+7	109,916	7,894
Oman	397,231		4,260		384,669	8,302
Qatar	421,532		681		415,462	5,389

Octavian, later known as Augustus, compels the Roman Senate to elect him Consul



Details of Louis Daguerre's 1st practical photographic process are released in Paris

Iran and Iraq begin a cease-fire in their 8-year-old war

Operation Iraqi Freedom ends, with the last of the United States brigade combat teams crossing the border to Kuwait

# Biden warns of 'another Chernobyl' after talks in Ukraine

Biden urges United Nations to ensure the security of Europe's largest nuclear power plant



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres shake hands after a joint news conference following their meeting in Lviv

**"We are worried. We don't want another Chernobyl. While continuing our efforts to find a solution, we remain on the side of our Ukraine friends"**

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

President Vladimir Putin, met with the Russian leader less than two weeks ago in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The Turkish leader along with Guterres were key brokers of a deal inked in Istanbul last month allowing the resumption of grain exports from Ukraine after Russia's invasion blocked essential global supplies.

Ahead of the press conference with Zelenskiy, Ukraine's port au-

thority announced that the 25th cargo ship under the deal had departed for Egypt carrying 33,000 tonnes of grain.

Ukraine and Russia are two of the world's biggest grain exporters and the halt in exports saw grain prices soar and fears rise of global food shortages, particularly in poor countries already experiencing shortfalls.

Guterres said during the meeting with reporters that the sides hoped to intensify efforts to bolster operations at three southern ports designated for exports under the deal.

"We will do our best to scale up our operations to face... the coming winter," the UN chief said, hailing the deal that saw a safe corridor established for cargo ships to exit Black Sea ports.

The success of the grain deal contrasts with failed peace talks

**"The facility must not be used as part of any military operation. Instead, agreement is urgently needed to re-establish Zaporizhzhia's purely civilian infrastructure and to ensure the safety of the area"**

ANTONIO GUTERRES

early in the war and Zelenskiy yesterday ruled out peace with Russia unless it withdraws its troops from Ukraine.

He told reporters he was "very surprised" to hear from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Russia was "ready for some kind of peace", adding: "First they should leave our territory and then we'll see".

Fighting raged along the front yesterday.

In the war-scarred eastern region of Kharkiv, Russian strikes left several dead and dozens injured.

The early morning bombardments across the city of Kharkiv and nearby Krasnohrad left at least six dead and 25 injured, just one day after Russian bombardments killed 13 in the country's second-largest urban centre.

The regional governor Oleg Synegubov posted images from the scene of one Kharkiv strike showing the smouldering remains of several burnt-out buildings and twisted wreckage of destroyed

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

The Turkish leader along with Guterres were key brokers of a deal inked in Istanbul last month allowing the resumption of grain exports from Ukraine after Russia's invasion blocked essential global supplies

vehicles nearby.

"Kharkiv. 175 days of horror. Daily terror, missile strikes on residential areas and civilians," a senior presidential aide, Mykhaylo Podolyak, wrote on social media.

But fighting in recent weeks has focused around the southern region of Zaporizhzhia and the nuclear facility there, and Zelenskiy has called on the UN to ensure security at the plant after direct talks with Guterres in Lviv.

"The UN must ensure the security of this strategic object, its demilitarisation and complete liberation from Russian troops," he said, blaming Russia for "deliberate" attacks on the facility.

Russian forces took the Zaporizhzhia plant in southern Ukraine in March and uncertainty surrounding it has fuelled fears of a nuclear incident, recalling the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

## Violent storm kills five on Corsica as island raises new alert



Rescue workers at a campground in Coggia, Corsica  
AFP | Washington

A violent and unexpected storm battered the French Mediterranean island of Corsica yesterday, killing at least five people including a teenage girl, and meteorologists predicted more bad weather to come.

Hail, heavy rain and winds peaking at 224 km per hour (140 mph) swept the island early in the day. Two of the victims were killed when trees fell in campsites.

"Storms formed at sea will affect large parts of the western Corsica coast throughout the night from Thursday to Friday," Meteo France forecaster said.

Witnesses of the morning storm, which wrecked campsites, delayed trains and uprooted trees, said they had never seen anything like it on the island.

"We have never seen such huge storms as this, you would think it was a tropical storm," said Cedric Boell, manager of the restaurant Les Gones Corses in northern Corsica, who saw two pleasure boats tossed on to nearby rocks.



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



The United States of America can be defined by one word: possibilities. This week has shown us that there's nothing we can't get done.

@POTUS

02



We have the tools and the expertise to #EndPolio and prevent other deadly diseases through vaccination. But we need the funding and political commitment. So long as #polio exists anywhere, people everywhere remain at risk.

@DrTedros

03



The Myanmar junta rewards the Kremlin as one of the few governments willing to embrace it despite its brutality by agreeing to import Russian oil.

@KenRoth

04



The American people deserve a government that protects hard-working families - not billionaires and special interests. That's why @HouseDemocrats put #PeopleOverPolitics: lowering costs, creating better-paying jobs and building safer communities.

@SpeakerPelosi

## Light could last until harvests to protect harvests



A view of the exposed riverbed of Yangtze river on a hot day in Chongqing, China

expanses of arable land.

In the sprawling southwestern region of Chongqing, where most of Yangtze's Three Gorges reservoir is located, the grid is now scrambling to secure electricity from other parts of the country as supplies to industrial consumers are rationed, state media reported.

China's State Grid also promised to do its utmost to dispatch power to neighbouring Sichuan

province, which normally supplies large amounts of surplus hydroelectricity to the eastern coast but is now imposing strict consumption controls.

Normal water flows in the region could still be months away, with rainfall expected to remain low until the end of this month and beyond, said Liu Zhiyu, an official at the Ministry of Water Resources, speaking at a briefing on Wednesday.

## Russian spacewalk cut short by bad battery in cosmonaut suit

Reuters | Cape Canaveral

A Russian spacewalker had to rush back inside the International Space Station on Wednesday when the battery voltage in his spacesuit suddenly dropped.

Russian Mission Control ordered Oleg Artemyev, the station commander, to quickly return to the airlock so he could

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

The cosmonauts managed to install cameras on the European Space Agency's new robot arm before the trouble cropped up, barely two hours into a planned 6 1/2-hour spacewalk



Roscosmos' cosmonauts Oleg Artemyev and Denis Matveev are seen during their spacewalk on the International Space Station

hook his suit to station power. The hatch remained open as his spacewalking partner, Denis Matveev, tidied up outside.

NASA said neither man was ever in any danger. Matveev, in fact, remained outside for another hour or so, before he, too, was ordered to wrap it up. Matveev's suit was fine, but Russian Mission Control cut the spacewalk short since flight rules

insist on the buddy system.

The cosmonauts managed to install cameras on the European Space Agency's new robot arm before the trouble cropped up, barely two hours into a planned 6 1/2-hour spacewalk.

"You know, the start was so excellent," Matveev said as he made his way back inside, with some of the robot arm installation work left undone.

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

# Classifieds



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**NIGEL@SECURESERVICES.BH NASS SCAFFORM CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

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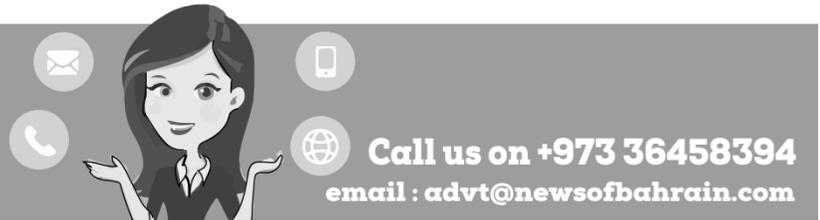
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## Flooding caused by heavy rain kills 16 in western China



Office workers walk with umbrellas during a rainy day in Beijing

AP | Beijing

Since June, China has been grappling with extreme weather from heatwaves to historic floods. The government has blamed climate change, which it says will increasingly affect the economy and society

At least 16 people have died and 36 others are missing after a sudden rainstorm in western China triggered a landslide that diverted a river and caused flash flooding in populated areas, Chinese state media said yesterday.

Rescuers have found two more people reported missing earlier and were searching for the others, state broadcaster CCTV said in an online report. The Wednesday night disaster affected more than 6,000 people in six villages in Qinghai province, CCTV said.

China is facing both heavy rains and flooding in some parts of the country this summer and extreme heat and drought in other regions. State media has described the heat and drought as the worst since record-keeping started 60 years ago.

Emergency authorities described the flash flooding in Qinghai's Datong county as a "mountain torrent." Such torrents generally result from heavy squalls in mountainous areas. Water running down the mountain can turn gullies or streams into raging rivers, catching people by surprise. Seven people died last weekend from a mountain torrent in southwestern China's Sichuan province.

## 'Tornado of fire': Algeria forest blazes kill 38

AFP | Algiers

Algerian firefighters were yesterday battling a string of blazes, fanned by drought and a blistering heatwave, that have killed at least 38 people and left destruction in their wake.

Deadly forest fires have become an annual scourge in the North African country, where climate change is turning large areas into a tinderbox.

According to multiple sources including local journalists and the fire service, at least 38 people have been killed, mostly in the El Tarf region near Algeria's eastern border with Tunisia which was baking in 48 degrees Celsius (118 Fahrenheit) heat.

At least 200 more people have suffered burns or respiratory problems from the smoke, according to various Algerian media.

A journalist in El Tarf described "scenes



Fires break out at Mount Al-Karkour on the outskirts of the city of El Tarf

of devastation" on the road to El Kala in the country's far northeast.

"A tornado of fire swept everything away in seconds," he told AFP by telephone. "Most of those who died were surrounded while visiting a wildlife park."

Emergency services were still battling a blaze around Tonga lake, he said.

Some 39 blazes were ravaging various parts of northern Algeria, according to the fire service, and there were fears that hot winds could spark new ones that authorities are ill-equipped to fight

Local media reported that eight people had been burned to death in a bus near the city of 100,000 residents.

State television reported yesterday morning that Prime Minister Ayman Benabderahmane was visiting the area.

Firefighters were also battling a large blaze in the mountainous area of Souk Ah-ras, a journalist in the area told AFP.

He described scenes of panic in the city of half a million, where nearly 100 women and 17 newborn babies had to be evacuated from a hospital near the forest.

## Malaysia ex-PM Najib says fair trial at risk in final IMDB appeal

AFP | London

Former Malaysia premier Najib Razak said yesterday his right to a fair trial was at risk in his appeal against a 12-year jail sentence linked to the IMDB scandal, after the country's top court denied a request by his lawyers to withdraw.

Najib, 69, who was convicted in July 2020, replaced his legal team just three weeks before his final appeal at the Federal Court began on Monday.

An appellate court last year had upheld the verdict finding Najib guilty of criminal breach of trust, abuse of power, and money laundering for illegally receiving about \$10 million



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak speaks during a news conference at the Federal Court

from a former unit of state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB).

Prosecutors have said some \$4.5 billion was stolen from IMDB - co-founded by Najib as premier in 2009 - in a

For such a high-profile case, it is totally unprecedented that in a criminal case, the defence is left without any counsel. This is a very serious matter. And I hope that the court will take into account and make remedial measures at some point of time

NAJIB RAZAK

wide-ranging scandal that has implicated officials and financial institutions around the

world. Najib, who faces several trials over the allegations, has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The five-member Federal Court this week unanimously dismissed a request by Najib's newly appointed lead counsel, Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, for a three- to four-month postponement so that his legal team can prepare for the case.

Hisyam told reporters another request to withdraw yesterday was denied. The prosecution was ordered to present their arguments yesterday without any rebuttals from the defence, according to media and comments by Najib after the hearing.

# CELEBS



## Marvel 'scolded' Owen Wilson multiple times for sharing deets on his 'Loki' role

ANI | Washington

Hollywood star Owen Wilson claimed that Marvel 'scolded' him 'multiple times' for sharing information on his 'Loki' role. According to Fox News, Wilson shared that the studio is "kind of uptight" when it came to the actor sharing details about the "Loki" series.

"Yeah, we're doing that. Yeah, Tom [Hiddleston] is great," Wilson said of being back on set for

season two. "Doing 'Loki,' and we're filming that now in London."

Mobius M. Mobius, played by Wilson, is the series' main character. Tom Hiddleston, who plays the lead role, Sophia Di Martino, Jonathan Majors, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Tara Strong, and Sasha Lane all appear alongside him.

Wilson refrained from responding to several questions during the interview with the outlet because he had already been "scolded" by Marvel.

"Well, I do think that... you know, we'll see what happens with this one," he said. "I immediately get kind

of self-conscious because they're so kind of uptight."

Wilson was asked by "Secret Headquarters" co-director Ariel Schulman about the scolding.

"Yes," Wilson said about being scolded. "Yeah, multiple times."

The new Paramount+ film "Secret Headquarters," which is presently streaming on Paramount+, stars the "Wedding Crashers" actor as The Guard. In the recently released movie, he co-stars with Michael Pena and Jesse Williams.

In the summer of 2023, "Loki's" second season is scheduled to pre-



Well, I do think that... you know, we'll see what happens with this one. I immediately get kind of self-conscious because they're so kind of uptight

OWEN WILSON

miere. Hiddleston, the series' actor, admitted in a 2019 appearance on "The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon" that he never sought out the part of Loki and instead was vying

for that of his brother, Thor.

"Basically, at the time, they were looking for less well-established actors, so that the audience didn't have an association," the Broadway star told the late-night TV host.

"They just wanted people to see these new characters, these new actors and the remit was, if you're over 6 foot and you've got blonde hair, you can come have a pop at it," he said. "So... I never auditioned for Loki. I only auditioned for Thor, which is nuts."

The second season of "Loki" is due in the summer of 2023.

## Dwayne Johnson persuaded makers to make standalone 'Black Adam' movie

IANIS | Los Angeles

If the DC comics superhero Black Adam has an origin film today, it's because of the Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson as he fought to give his character the movie.

The Rock will be joining the DC universe in a feature film revolving around the antihero.

"When the first draft of the movie came to us, it was a com-

ination of Black Adam and Shazam: Two origin stories in one movie," Johnson told 'Vanity Fair' quoted by 'Deadline'.

"Now that was the goal, so it wasn't a complete surprise. But when I read that, I just

Dwayne Johnson



knew in my gut, 'We can't make this movie like this.

We would be doing Black Adam an incredible disservice'. It would've been fine for Shazam having two origin stories converge in one movie, but not good for Black Adam," he added.

Johnson would then talk to studio executives to express his opinions on breaking up the characters into having their own films and reuniting them in a potential showdown down the road.

"I said, 'I have to share my thoughts here. It's very unpopular' because everybody thought, 'Hey, this script is great, let's go make this movie'. I said, I really think that you should make

## Angelina Jolie hails 'strength' and 'resilience' of Afghan women

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Angelina Jolie has praised the "strength" and "resilience" of Afghan women.

The 47-year-old actress and humanitarian has spoken out one year after US troops withdrew from Afghanistan and the Taliban

took over the country and hailed women for their fight amid horror and adversity.

Writing for TIME mag-

azine, she said: "The daughters of Afghanistan are extraordinary for their strength, resilience, and resourcefulness."

The 'Eternals' star referenced their treatment in the country, including public beatings, kidnapping, political imprisonment and forced marriages.

She added: "Yet despite the dangers, the greatest resistance to the reversal of women's rights in Afghanistan has not come from foreign powers, but from Afghan women themselves, who have taken to the streets."

Angelina condemned the way the advancement of Afghan women over the past two decades has been "overturned with unimaginable speed."

She wrote: "Overnight, they and 14 million other Afghan women and girls lost their right to go to high school or university, their right to work, and their freedom of movement."



Angelina Jolie

## Zoe Kravitz: I wish I handled the Oscars controversy differently

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Zoe Kravitz regrets her reaction to Will Smith's Oscars slap.

The 33-year-old actress was criticized for sharing her thoughts on Will's behaviour on social media, and Zoe admits that she wishes she'd handled the situation differently.

She shared: "I have very complicated feelings around it. I wish I had handled that differently. And that's OK."

Will, 53, struck comedian Chris Rock across the face after he made a joke about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith.

Zoe Kravitz



### CLASSIFIEDS

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## Hailey and Justin Bieber put 'a lot of work' into marriage

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Hailey Bieber admits she and Justin put in a lot of effort to make their marriage work.

The 25-year-old model - who tied the knot with singer Justin in a courthouse ceremony in

2018 before having a more formal wedding and celebration the following year - has opened up about the challenges facing married couples and how she has worked on her own

Hailey Bieber



relationship.

She told Harper's BAZAAR magazine:

"He's still the person that I wanna be rushing back to. I might fly somewhere

and go do a job, but I can't wait to come back and hang out.

"And I feel like that's because of the effort that's been put in on both sides. At the end of the day, like, he's my best friend, but it still does take a lot of work to make it work."

### SUDOKU

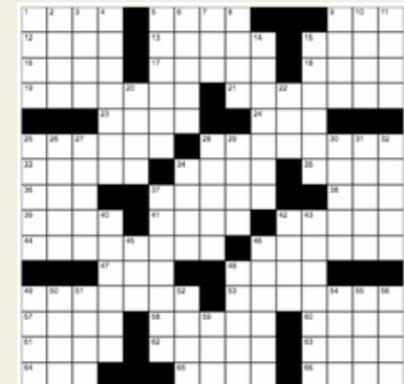
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Yesterday's solution

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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- Two-wheeled carriage, golf bunker; 5- Away from the wind; 9- Honorarium; 12- Travel on; 13- Vends; 15- Fly; 16- Petri dish gelatin; 17- Subway turner; 18- Curse; 19- Reindeer of North America; 21- Bright red color; 23- "Star Trek" speed; 24- French pronoun; 25- Consecrate; 28- Scooter or sandbagger; 33- Rope used to guide a horse; 34- Floor model; 35- Author Stanley Gardner; 36- Second sequel tag; 37- Fiend; 38- Immerse; 39- Starting on; 41- Wife of Osiris; 42- View; 44- Brief summary; 46- Evening party; 47- Incredibly powerful mythical bird; 48- Constituent; 49- Pretentious nonsense; 53- Like sea life; 57- Burt's ex; 58- Flight segment; 60- Russian parliament before 1917; 61- Cornerstone abbr.; 62- Psychics claim to have a sixth one; 63- Prepare a book or film for release; 64- That, in Tijuana; 65- Call for; 66- Part of an eye or camera;

#### Down

1- ... II (razor brand); 2- Latvian capital; 3- Jewish month; 4- Peruke; 5- Classify; 6- Cessation; 7- Cantab's rival; 8- Old cloth measures; 9- Disgusting; 10- Smooth sailing; 11- Formerly, formerly; 14- Subdivision; 15- Writer; 20- Ruination; 22- "You've got mail" co.; 25- Rap sheet info; 26- Clamorous; 27- Pungent bulb; 28- Big rigs; 29- Old Testament book; 30- Cry from the bench; 31- Dress style; 32- Home on the range; 34- He played Ricky; 37- Argue; 40- Prohibit; 42- Annoyed; 43- Stronghold; 45- Pea holder; 46- Consecrated; 48- Composure; 49- Make tracks; 50- A pitcher may take one; 51- Golden rule preposition; 52- Bingo call; 54- Unclothed; 55- Poker declaration; 56- Members of the Felidae family; 59- Hydrocarbon suffix;

Yesterday's solution

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# Nadal tastes defeat on injury return

Borna Coric crashes Rafael Nadal's Cincinnati welcome back party

## ● Fritz overpowers Kyrgios

Reuters | Cincinnati

Rafa Nadal lost 7-6(9) 4-6 6-3 to Borna Coric at the Cincinnati Open on Wednesday in the Spaniard's first match since pulling out of the Wimbledon semi-finals due to injury, dealing a big blow to his preparations for the US Open.

The 22-times Grand Slam winner had been hoping to get as many matches under his belt as possible after returning from an abdominal injury but losing to the Croat means he heads to Flushing Meadows well short of competitive action.

Taylor Fritz blasted his way to a 6-3 6-2 win over Australian Nick Kyrgios while Cameron Norrie fought back to beat former world number one Andy Murray 3-6 6-3 6-4 in an all-British clash.

After an hour-long rain delay, Coric, who returned to the Tour in March after a lengthy absence



Borna Coric is congratulated by Rafael Nadal

due to a shoulder surgery, edged a nail-biting tiebreaker to take the opener after each player had saved two set points.

With the crowd firmly behind Nadal, the 36-year-old roared back into the contest by breaking former world number 12 Coric's serve midway through the second set to force a decider.

But Coric, now ranked 152nd, got his only break of the left-hander's serve for a 4-2 lead and then sealed his spot in the third round with an inside-out

forehand winner on his first match point after two hours and 51 minutes.

"It has been very, very special," Coric said after his victory over world number three Nadal, who won the Australian and French Open titles in an injury-plagued season.

"I was honestly just looking forward to playing this match as I haven't had that in the last two years. Now that I won, it's kind of crazy."

Coric will next play another



I was honestly just looking forward to playing this match as I haven't had that in the last two years. Now that I won, it's kind of crazy

BORNA CORIC

Spaniard in Roberto Bautista Agut, who defeated home hope Marcos Giron 6-3 6-3.

The upset of the day went to American wild card Ben Shelton after the 19-year-old continued with a 6-3 6-3 win over world number five Casper Ruud.

A day after taking down Lorenzo Sonego, the 229th ranked Shelton needed just 68 minutes to beat Ruud and advance to a third-round match against fellow left-hander Norrie.

American number one Fritz sent down 16 aces to come out on top against Kyrgios, with the Australian firing just seven of his own and offsetting most of those



Nadal began the season with three titles and 20 consecutive wins but will head into the US Open after only one summer hard-court match

with six double faults.

The 11th-seeded Fritz needed just 51 minutes to hand Kyrgios his second defeat since losing to Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final.

Such was Fritz's domination on serve that Kyrgios could not muster a single break opportunity, while the 24-year-old American converted three of his seven chances.

"It feels great to have my game come together today," said Fritz.

"That's the kind of match I really needed to give me a lot of confidence going into the next match, going to the U.S. Open, a lot of things are clicking for sure."

Fritz will next meet sixth seed Andrey Rublev after the Russian scored a 6-7(7) 7-6(3) 6-2 win over Italy's Fabio Fognini.

Fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece sailed into the third round with a 6-3 6-4 victory over Serbian Filip Krajinovic while Pole Hubert Hurkacz, runner-up in Montreal on Sunday, lost to his doubles partner this week, American John Isner, 7-6(5) 6-7(5) 6-2.

It was a good day for Canada with both seventh seed Felix Auger-Aliassime and Denis Shapovalov picking up victories.

Auger-Aliassime cruised past Australian Alex de Minaur 6-3 6-2 while Shapovalov rallied for 3-6 6-4 6-3 win over in-form American Tommy Paul to register back-to-back victories for the first time since May.

Shapovalov will take on world number one Daniil Medvedev next while Auger-Aliassime meets Italian Jannik Sinner.

## Ruthless Raducanu storms into third round, Swiatek also through

Reuters | Cincinnati

Emma Raducanu stormed into the third round of the Cincinnati Open with a 6-0 6-2 thrashing of Victoria Azarenka on Wednesday, signalling she will be well prepared for her US Open title defence.

World number one Iga Swiatek beat former US Open winner Sloane Stephens 6-4 7-5 to start her campaign at the WTA 1000 tournament, the last big tune-up event before the hard-court major kicks off in New York.

It was a Tour-leading 50th win of the season for two-time French Open champion Swiatek, who will meet Madison Keys in the third round after the American beat Jelena Ostapenko 6-4 7-5.

"I'm trying to really focus on the future and kind of not coming back to expectations and everything that happened on last tournaments on hard court," said the Pole, who lost in the third round in Toronto last week.

"I'm really proud of my season, but I want to kind of really be fearless again."

After thumping Serena Williams 6-4 6-0 in the first round, Raducanu delivered another dominating display, the 10th seed needing just 62 minutes on centre court to dismiss twice Australian Open winner Azarenka.

"I was playing a great match for sure and to play Vika I had to stay focused throughout," said



Emma Raducanu inaction during a match



I was playing a great match for sure and to play Vika I had to stay focused throughout. In the second set I could feel the important moments and a couple of turning points that could have made the second set really difficult

EMMA RADUCANU

Raducanu.

"In the second set I could feel the important moments and a couple of turning points that could have made the second set really difficult.

"I am really pleased with how I dug in and serving it out in that last game was really difficult."

Raducanu, who has not won a

tournament since capturing last year's title at Flushing Meadows as a 150th-ranked qualifier, appears to be hitting her stride with the season's final Grand Slam coming up from Aug. 29 to Sept. 11.

After committing just one unforced error in her match against Williams, the 19-year-old Briton was again firing on all cylinders as she raced out to 6-0 4-0 lead before Belarusian Azarenka was able to hold serve and avoid an embarrassing double-bagel.

Looking every bit the player who stunned the tennis world a year ago with her magical run at Flushing Meadows, Raducanu had all parts of her game working, laying down five aces and unleashing a barrage of returns and a flurry of winners.

She next takes on American seventh seed Jessica Pegula, who rallied to beat Ukraine's

Marta Kostyuk 6-7(5) 6-1 6-2.

Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina barely broke sweat in a 6-3 6-1 win over Garbine Muguruza while Ons Jabeur, her opponent in the grasscourt major final, was pushed hard by hometown favourite Caty McNally.

World number five Jabeur saved three match points to edge the 20-year-old, ranked 179th in the world, 6-3 4-6 7-6(7) and set up a third-round match against twice former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova.

"Honestly, I'm not playing my best tennis right now," the Tunisian told the WTA Tour. "But it's good to win ugly."

Two-time major winner Simona Halep, who won last week's Canadian Open in Toronto, pulled out due of a right thigh injury before her match against Veronica Kudermetova, who advanced to a third round meeting with Ajla Tomljanovic.

## Brooks powers West Indies to five-wicket win over New Zealand



Shamarh Brooks raises his bat after scoring fifty runs

AFP | Barbados

Shamarh Brooks played the sheet anchor role to perfection in guiding the West Indies to a five-wicket victory over top-ranked New Zealand in a low-scoring opening day-night One-Day International of a three-match series at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Wednesday.

After the home side's bowling combination pace and spin dismissed the visitors for 190 off 45.2 overs batting first, Brooks' 91-ball 79 with nine fours and one six provided the much-needed solidity to take

It was especially gratifying to be in a good partnership with the captain and to see the way he really buckled down, which is not his nature

SHAMARH BROOKS

his team to 193 for five off 39 overs in reply.

His 72-run fourth-wicket partnership with captain Nicholas Pooran (28) steadied the chase and ensured there would be no repeat of the collapses which have become an all-too-common feature of their game in recent years.

"It was important just to get a start because this was not the easiest pitch to bat on," said Brooks after receiving the "Man of the Match" award.

"It was especially gratifying to be in a good partnership with the captain and to see the way he really buckled down, which is not his nature."

Not only did the result mark New Zealand's first ODI loss of the year but it also ended the Caribbean team's abysmal run of nine consecutive losses in the 50 overs-per-side format.



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## Man Utd supporters call for 'real investment' from any new owner

Reuters | Manchester

The Manchester United Supporters Trust (MUST) said on Thursday any new owner of the Premier League club must be willing to invest heavily to restore its former glory amid speculation of a sale by the Glaz-



Manchester United crest on a corner flag

er family.

British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe has expressed an interest in buying United after Tesla founder Elon Musk said a Twitter post in which he said he planned to buy the club was part of "a long-running joke".

The club's owners, the American Glazer family, are under pressure with United sitting bottom of league after two games of the new season. Bloomberg reported they would consider selling a minority stake, opening the door for Ratcliffe.

## Rizwan, Salman guide Pakistan to seven-wicket win over Netherlands



Pakistan's Babar Azam plays a shot

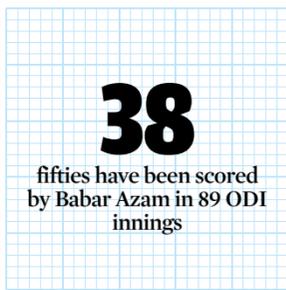
AFP | Rotterdam

Mohammad Rizwan and Agha Salman made unbeaten half-centuries as Pakistan eased to a seven-wicket win over the Netherlands in the second one-day international in Rotterdam yesterday to complete a series victory.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, the world's top-ranked ODI batsman, scored 57 off 65 balls before Rizwan and Salman led the tourists home in their pursuit of 187 with 16.2 overs to spare.

Dutch seamer Vivian Kingma removed openers Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq cheaply as Pakistan stuttered early, but Azam and Rizwan steadied the innings before Salman finished it off by blasting his first ODI fifty.

Zaman, who made 109 in the first ODI, was caught and bowled by Kingma for three and Imam was lured into a loose drive four balls later to



reduce Pakistan to 11-2.

Azam passed fifty for the 38th time in 89 ODI innings but top-edged off-spinner Aryan Dutt to Bas de Leede at midwicket, ending an 88-run stand with wicketkeeper Rizwan.

Rizwan adopted a relatively cautious approach as he compiled 69 off 82 deliveries, in contrast to the fireworks delivered by Salman, who clubbed the final ball of the match for six to finish 50 not out in just his second ODI.

Haris Rauf and Mohammad Nawaz took three wickets apiece to dismiss the Netherlands for 186 in the second of a three-match series.

De Leede (89) and Tom Cooper (66) struck battling half-centuries to lift the Dutch from 8-3 but only one other batsman passed double figures for the hosts.

Naseem Shah removed Vikramjit Singh in the second over as the teenage opener edged behind and Max O'Dowd followed when he drove Rauf straight to Azam at mid-off.

# Bahrain all set for Asian U20 volleyball

Seventeen nations from across continent set to vie for glory in 21st Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship starting Monday

● Bahrainis lose to Japan in straight sets in friendly match

● Kingdom's national team enter internal training camp

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is only days away from hosting one of the biggest competitions on the continental volleyball calendar.

The 21st Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship gets underway on Monday at the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa with 17 nations from across Asia taking part.

The Kingdom's youth national team stepped up their preparations for the event and entered an internal training camp at a local hotel.

The nationals also played a friendly game against their counterparts from Japan, with the home team losing to the visitors 0-3 (19-25, 16-25, 21-25).

Meanwhile, Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa visited the Bahrainis yesterday during their training session. He was received by BVA secretary general and tournament executive director Feras Al Helwachi, along with a number of BVA board members.

HH Shaikh Isa met with head coach Saber Abdulwahed from Tunisia and the national team's players. He encouraged them to



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, centre, watches the national team's training during his visit

give their best effort and wished them all the best for the competition.

As part of the lead-up to the championship, the supreme organising committee held a meeting this week at the BVA headquarters, headed by Al Helwachi and attended by tournament director Habib Mohamed and the heads of the working committees.

They followed up on all matters related to the hosting of the event, which will be the third time it is being held in the Kingdom.

Bahrain are in Pool A for the preliminary round alongside

Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia. Pool B features Iran, Japan and India; Pool C includes South Korea, Qatar and Kuwait; Pool D features Thailand and the UAE; Pool E includes Iraq, Australia and Bangladesh; and Pool F comprises China, Chinese-Taipei and Pakistan.

Kazakhstan were also supposed to take part and were drawn in Pool D, but have withdrawn.

The opening stage is scheduled to continue until August 24, after which a drawing of lots for Classification one to 12 (top two teams from each pool) will be conducted.



This year's tournament will mark the third time Bahrain is hosting the Asian under-20 event. The Kingdom also previously held the competition in 2014 and 2018

The teams which have already played each other in the preliminaries will not meet again in the one-to-12 classification, while the third-ranked teams of each pool will be relegated to contest the 13-to-18 classification.

The last edition of the competition was held in 2018, also held in Bahrain. Iran were crowned champions after beating South Korea in the final. Bahrain had an impressive campaign, finishing ninth overall amongst the 23 participating teams.

The 2020 event was cancelled due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.



Bahrain and Japan players and officials pose for a photograph together before their friendly match

## Opening batsmen Gill, Dhawan star as India crush Zimbabwe in ODI

AFP | Harare

Opening batters Shubman Gill and Shikhar Dhawan starred as India cruised to a 10-wicket victory over Zimbabwe yesterday in the first of three one-day internationals.

Gill (82) and vice-captain Dhawan (81) were unbeaten as the tourists knocked off a modest target of 190 with 19.1 overs to spare at Harare Sports Club.

The home side were all out for 189 in 40.3 overs, thanks largely to a brave 70-run ninth-wicket stand between Richard Ngarava and Brad Evans.

"I am enjoying batting with young Shubman and today I feel like a youngster too," said Dhawan.

"Once I was set, I went after the bowlers. I wanted to rotate the strike as well and then accelerate.

"My rhythm with Gill has settled nicely. The way he bats and



India's Shikhar Dhawan plays a shot

times the ball is lovely to watch. He has shown the consistency in converting 50s into bigger 50s.

"Our bowlers did well and it was nice to see Deepak Chahar come back from injury and pick up three wickets."

Zimbabwe captain Regis Chakabva said: "India bowled

really well and put pressure on us. I thought we started well but lost our way from the 18-over mark.

"It was good to see Richie and Brad give a good partnership at the back end. They were quite good, but we needed one or two more big partnerships.



My rhythm with Gill has settled nicely. The way he bats and times the ball is lovely to watch. He has shown the consistency in converting 50s into bigger 50s

SHUBMAN GILL

"Our bowlers tried to come hard at them but Shikhar and Gill batted really well and took us out of the game."

**Kohli, Sharma rested**

Zimbabwe used eight bowlers, but none could claim a wicket as the Indian openers struck a six and 19 fours between them.

Ngarava fared worst with the ball, conceding 40 runs in seven overs, while Luke Jongwe restricted the Indian openers to 11

runs in his two-over stint. India, third in the ODI rankings and 10 places above Zimbabwe, travelled to southern Africa without several stars, including Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, who are resting.

Head coach Rahul Dravid also took a break after matches in England and the Caribbean with VVS Laxman taking charge.

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