

**Bahrain set for semis challenge in West Asian women's futsal**

Kingdom's national team take on counterparts from hosts Saudi Arabia for a place in the gold medal game of the third West Asian Futsal Federation Women's Futsal Championship 2022 | P12

**WORLD 6 Russia warns Lithuania of 'consequences' over blockade**

**THE DAILY tribune**



**Nicole Kidman to star, produce thriller feature 'Holland, Michigan'**

10 CELEBS

**SPORTS 11 Murray hopeful of being fit for Wimbledon**

**Mumtalakat posts highest net profit since inception P5**

**Veteran Bahrain journalist dies**



Al Hamad  
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Information mourned Saeed Abdullah Al Hamad, a prominent journalist, columnist and radio and TV presenter.

Al Hamad, 74, passed away yesterday after decades of media commitments in newspapers, radio and television.

The media in Bahrain, the Arabian Gulf and the Arab world has lost a prominent and iconic figure, the ministry said.

Al Hamad was among the pioneers on Bahrain Radio and he produced and presented a series of programs. He also had a daily column in Al Ayam daily and later became the opinion editor of Al Ayam. He appeared in several TV programs.

Al Hamad won several national and regional recognitions for his work across the print and audio-visual media.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

**TOTAL TESTED**  
9960758

**ACTIVE CASES**  
12279

**DEATHS**  
1491

**DISCHARGED**  
595783

**NEW CASES**  
2078

**CRITICAL**  
5

**Bahrain keen to strengthen Kyrgyzstan ties and cooperation**

TDT | Manama

The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to further strengthening Bahrain-Kyrgyzstan relations and trade cooperation, which continue to receive the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and President Sadyr Japarov.

HRH Prince Salman yesterday met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, His Excellency Zheenbek Kulubaev Moldokanovich, at Gudaibiya Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister was presented with a hand-written letter addressed to HM the King from President Japarov.



Deputy King welcomes Kyrgyzstan Foreign Affairs Minister

Kulubaev conveyed the President's greetings to His Majesty and HRH the Deputy King, and in return, His Royal Highness conveyed HM King Hamad's and his greetings to the President of Kyrgyzstan.

The Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with HRH the Deputy King, and for His Royal Highness's continued support on furthering cooperation and relations between the two countries.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, HE Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, also attended the meeting.

**Engine of growth**

**HRH Prince Salman: Strengthening oil and gas sector through public-private partnerships is 'important'**

TDT | Manama

The oil and gas sector is a key contributor in the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

This was emphasised by the Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, as he met yesterday with the Chief Executive Officer of Eni, Claudio Descalzi, at Gudaibiya Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised the importance of building on the progress achieved within the Kingdom's oil and gas sector, by strengthening public-private partnerships and deploying initiatives that reposition the economy as a smart oil-economy to achieve quality opportunities and long-term sustainable growth.

HRH Prince Salman commended the efforts of the Rep-



HRH Deputy King meets with the Eni CEO

resentative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, and Chairman of the Oil and Gas Holding Company B.S.C (Nogaholding),

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, in supporting the sector's growth and its contribution to the Kingdom's development. Latest developments in the

oil and gas sector at the regional and international levels were also discussed.

HH Shaikh Nasser, the Minister of Finance and National

**"It is important to build on the progress achieved within the Kingdom's oil and gas sector by strengthening public-private partnerships and deploying initiatives that reposition the economy as a smart oil-economy to achieve quality opportunities and long-term sustainable growth."**

- THE DEPUTY KING, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Oil and Environment, Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dina, also attended the meeting.

**Strategies and national plan for afforestation discussed**

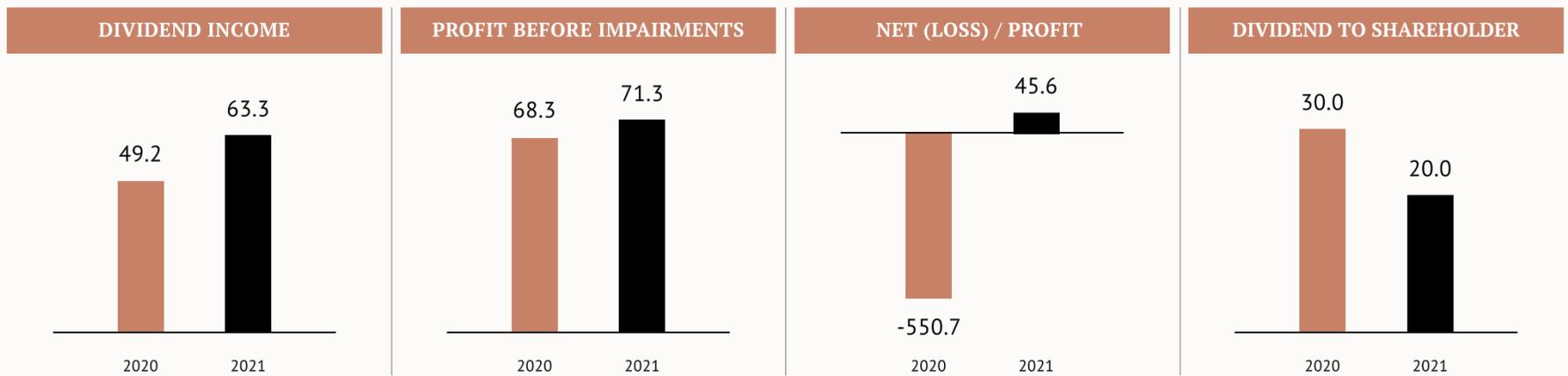


The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chaired the 427th meeting of the Coordination Committee. They reviewed the priority bills pursued by the committee, and the strategies and national plan for afforestation, as well as the bicycle track project.

# Mumtalakat

BAHRAIN MUMTALAKAT HOLDING COMPANY B.S.C. (C)

## STANDALONE KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION (BD MILLION) 31 DECEMBER 2021



Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company B.S.C. (c)  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
 31 December 2021

	2021 BD '000	2020 BD '000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and bank balances	243,467	198,078
Derivative financial instruments	8,843	8,598
Trade accounts receivable, prepayments and other receivables	452,334	303,029
Inventories	427,564	322,770
Investments carried at fair value through statement of income	521,058	497,526
Investment in associates and joint ventures	949,231	950,814
Investment properties	394,156	399,112
Property, plant and equipment	2,825,312	2,846,888
Other assets	169,788	175,501
Intangible Assets	716,138	716,545
Goodwill	220,866	222,529
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>6,928,757</b>	<b>6,641,390</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Borrowings	2,309,544	2,393,650
Derivative financial instruments	16,565	12,079
Lease liabilities	584,111	517,014
Trade payable, accruals and other liabilities	665,446	815,006
Employees' end of service benefits	13,724	11,803
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,589,390</b>	<b>3,749,552</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Share capital	2,000,000	2,000,000
Capital contribution	448,531	341,389
Statutory reserve	81,225	62,609
Other reserves	(387)	48
Retained earnings	183,862	34,792
<b>Total equity attributable to shareholder of the parent</b>	<b>2,713,231</b>	<b>2,438,838</b>
<b>Non-controlling interests</b>	<b>626,136</b>	<b>453,000</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>3,339,367</b>	<b>2,891,838</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>6,928,757</b>	<b>6,641,390</b>

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company B.S.C. (c)  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME**  
 Year ended 31 December 2021

	2021 BD '000	2020 BD '000
Revenue	2,170,068	1,615,513
Direct costs	(1,585,940)	(1,584,678)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>584,128</b>	<b>30,835</b>
Dividend income	1,723	8,609
Fair value gain on investments carried at fair value through statement of income	50,241	54,267
Other operating income	37,491	106,108
Government assistance	16,877	59,452
Selling and distribution expenses	(99,098)	(68,612)
Administrative expenses	(220,065)	(233,200)
Other operating expenses	(26,147)	(5,890)
<b>Operating profit / (loss)</b>	<b>345,150</b>	<b>(48,431)</b>
Share of profit of associates and joint ventures	27,055	42,808
Interest income	3,169	6,749
Interest expense	(131,658)	(116,455)
Fair value gain / (loss) on other financial instruments (net)	67,839	(57,730)
Impairment losses	(19,454)	(376,603)
<b>NET PROFIT / (LOSS) BEFORE TAX FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>292,101</b>	<b>(549,662)</b>
Income tax credit for the year	37,050	22,114
<b>NET PROFIT / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>329,151</b>	<b>(527,548)</b>
<b>Attributable to:</b>		
Shareholder of the parent	186,162	(417,879)
Non-controlling interests	142,989	(109,669)
	<b>329,151</b>	<b>(527,548)</b>

# Two-month summer outdoor work ban to begin on July 1

● **Violators to face BD500-BD1,000 fine and three-month jail term**

● **Labour Ministry to carry out surprise inspection at work sites**

TDT | Manama

The two-month outdoor afternoon work ban in the Kingdom of Bahrain will be in

effect starting on July 1 until the end of August.

This is in accordance with the ministerial edict 39/2013, which bans outdoor work between 12 noon and 4pm during the summer period, which witnesses a rise in temperature and an increase in humidity.

Afternoon temperatures in July average 40°C (104 °F) and can reach 46 °C (114.8 °F) in August, according to the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications' Meteorological Directorate.



Construction workers are prone to summer-related diseases

The Kingdom will enforce the annual ban to safeguard workers' health, ensure their safety against heat exhaustion and sunstroke, prevent summer-related diseases, and enhance productivity.

This also helps in reducing occupational incidents in view of the increasing temperatures and humidity and is in line with the Kingdom's commitment to human rights principles, especially regarding the need to provide secure and healthy work environment.

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan called on employers to implement the decision, affirming that Bahrain is a leader in ensuring secure and safe work environment for workers, out of its keenness on their safety and health at various production sites.

All preparations have been made by the ministry to ensure the strict implementation of the summer outdoor work ban which was first introduced in the Kingdom in 2007.

# 'Smart rats run riot at major vegetable market'

Traders in plea to authorities to order an intense pest control operation

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

Hundreds of rats consistently breeding their newer generations are raising hell at the Kingdom's largest fruits and vegetables market.

The rodent battalion claims ownership over everything, from almonds to melons and tomatoes to apples, say sources.

Traders at the fruits and vegetables selling area of the Manama Central Market say they were forced to rent storerooms outside the market to keep the vegetables and fruits safe out of fears of rodent attack.

"The market is closed everyday at 4 pm and opens at around 2 am in the morning next day. And during these ten hours, I can say it is under the rule of rodents, hundreds of them digging holes into sacks of fruits and vegetables. I really wonder from where these hundreds of them come from?" a vegetable trader at the market told The Daily Tribune.

"The authorities should immediately carry out an operation here to clear the market of rodent pests, which should be



Net cages used to keep melons safe from rats



A screenshot of the footage showing a rat digging into a carton carrying nuts at the vegetable and fruits market within the Manama Central Market

## 'Defunct AC'

Workers at the vegetables and fruits selling area of Manama Central Market said the air-conditioning system needs an immediate repair. "There are many compressors, which are defunct. I request the authorities to immediately carry out the repair work or else it would be difficult to remain here amidst an intensifying summer," a worker told The Daily Tribune.

followed by regular checks by pest control contractors.

"Our frequent appeals have fallen on deaf ears. The rodent infestation is a big issue since this is the largest vegetable and fruits market, from where fruits and vegetables are carried to small retail shops across the Kingdom."

He added that the rodent headache has become the biggest crisis he has faced since he started his vegetable and fruits sales at the market in the year 1997.

"Anyone would find it hard to believe! I am losing at least

## 'Theft common'

Theft is very common within the market, a trader told The Daily Tribune. He said the authorities should implement a better sophisticated surveillance system along with a few security guards to avoid thefts. "This is the biggest market in the country and it demands a state-of-the-art surveillance system. We are hopeful that the authorities will take notice of our request."

BD20 daily to rodent attacks and every vegetable or fruit seller at this market is a similar victim. Just calculate the thousands of dinars we are together losing every month, and that also immediately after the two-tough pandemic-hit years."

"They reproduce quickly, as far as I understand, and if remained unsolved an infestation crisis of huge intensity is set to affect the market. We will have to close this down for many days, possibly incurring huge losses."

He said the market is a place where food items are sold. "We need to have 100 per cent hy-

giene here. And as one knows, rodents and hygiene are continents apart."

According to health experts, the accumulation of rodent feces can spread bacteria, contaminate food sources and trigger allergic reactions in humans. Once the fecal matter becomes dry, it can be hazardous to those who breathe it in. Moreover, rodent droppings can spread diseases and viruses, including Hantavirus, Bubonic Plague, Salmonellosis and rat-bite fever.

## Lack of cleanliness

Another trader said the lack of cleanliness at the market must be viewed as the major reason behind the rodent attack. "Earlier, regular cleaning activities were carried out twice a week at the market. Now they are only doing it once a week and most often, they do it for the sake of doing it."

"I am sure even pest control teams will require days to devise strategies to tackle the situation, which has really gone out of control. We are maintaining our own storerooms with additional staff. I don't know whether anyone would want to address the ordeal we are going through."



"The market is closed everyday at 4 pm and opens at around 2 am in the morning next day. And during these ten hours, I can say it is under the rule of rodents, hundreds of them digging holes into sacks of fruits and vegetables. I really wonder from where these hundreds of them come from?"

- VEGETABLE TRADER



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# 'Only 10 toilets available for over 4,000 workers at Manama Central Market'

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

Only 10 toilets are available for over 4,000 labourers employed or associated with the Manama Central Market, said sources.

"We need the authorities to build more toilets here. There are two other toilet facilities here, but they remain closed," a labourer at the vegetable and fruits selling area of the Central



A toilet facility at the market, which has always remained locked



The existing toilet facility at the market

Market told The Daily Tribune. "There are four more toilets in the area, but they are controlled by some private parties, who keep the keys with them," he said.

He said altogether there are over 4,000 labourers employed or associated with the market, "which is a huge number".

"Most of us rush to the toilet facilities at the nearby mosque. But they are only open during prayer times."

# For healthy mind and body

Indian School Bahrain celebrates International Yoga Day in association with Indian Embassy



Indian Ambassador Srivastava joins teachers and students in the programme

TDI | Manama

With the theme 'Yoga for Humanity', the International Yoga Day was observed in the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) in association with the Indian Embassy on Tuesday.

One of the highlights this year was 'The Guardian Ring', which underlined 'One Sun, One Earth' concept and showcased the unifying power of yoga.

In line with this year's theme of 'Yoga for Humanity', the programme showcased students of different nationalities coming together to celebrate Yoga Day at the Jashanmal Auditorium in Isa Town.

Indian Ambassador Piyush



Srivastava attended the programme.

"Yoga is a way of living that aims towards a healthy mind in a healthy body," the Ambassador

**"Yoga is a way of living that aims towards a healthy mind in a healthy body."**

- PIYUSH SRIVASTAVA, INDIAN AMBASSADOR

said.

Indian Embassy Second Secretary Ravi Kumar Jain, ISB Physical Education teachers and around 250 students also attended the Yoga Day celebrations held under the patronage of the Embassy.



Various yoga postures, which are helpful in healing the body and the mind, were performed. The participants were introduced to Yogasanas, Pranayama,

and Meditation.

ISB Physical Education Teacher R Chinnasamy gave demonstrations on various yoga asanas. Emphasising the importance

of yoga, ISB Hon. Chairman Prince S Natarajan said in a message: "These yoga poses if practised with consistency will improve the child's wellness and help them in achieving physical, mental and spiritual stability."

"Yoga is a treasure that has been inherited and must now be imparted for the benefit and welfare of future generations to come," said ISB Hon. Secretary Saji Antony.

"Yoga brings together mind, body and breath to produce perfect balance within us. In today's rushed lifestyle, yoga can be the perfect addition to school curriculum as it can help children keep their minds calm and grow holistically," said Principal VR Palaniswamy.

## Teaching physical, mental and spiritual prowess at New Millennium School



The students are introduced to the ancient practice of yoga to maintain physical and mental well-being

TDI | Manama

New Millennium School, Bahrain celebrated International Yoga Day with ardour yesterday.

The International Yoga Day was observed to raise cognizance about this ancient practice and to celebrate the physical and spiritual prowess that yoga has brought to the world.

The Second Secretary, Mr Ravi Shankar Shukla, from the Embassy of India graced the occasion. He, in his address, motivated the students on maintaining physical and mental well-being.

The students, staff along with the Principal and the Honourable Guest, participated in the live Yoga Day activities and performed different asanas like Katichakra asan, Tadasan, Vrik-



shasan, ardh asan, Kapalbhathi, Nadi Sodhan, and meditation organised by the Embassy of India, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Throughout the day, an abundance of activities were conducted for the students during their classes as well as PE/Games Periods.

The school Principal, Mr Arun Kuumar Sharma, addressing the students remarked that

yoga can help students in developing their overall personality as it recharges the body with cosmic energy thus promoting the self-healing process.

Chairman, Dr Ravi Pillai, and Managing Director, Ms Geetha Pillai, appreciated the staff and students for participating in such enlightening sessions and emphasised on practising the Yoga asanas for a healthy life ahead.

## New Horizon School students take part in session for fun, stress relief and peace of mind

TDI | Manama

The New Horizon School, along with other Indian Schools of the island under the patronage of the Embassy of India, celebrated the 8th International Yoga Day.

As part of 75th Amrit Mahatsav celebration, all the Indian Schools in Bahrain organised a yoga session yesterday at 6:20 a.m.

Around 55 students of NHS participated in this event, which was headed by the very famous yoga instructor in Bahrain, Ms Antara Banikya.

The students were trained well in advance, under her guidance and attended the final session.

They were taught breathing exercises and its importance and benefits were shared with the students. Various Asanas of yoga were practised with the students to relieve them from stress and have a peaceful mind.

Vice Principal, Mrs Vandana Sateesh, teachers and the Indian Embassy officials also joined the session.

The students enjoyed every bit of the session and have definitely benefited physically, mentally and emotionally.

The students realised the importance of yoga and understood that it should be part of their daily life to have a sound mind in a sound body.



The students benefit physically, mentally and emotionally from the yoga session

# Mumtalakat posts highest net profit since inception

● **Contributes BD 20 Million to National Budget**

● **Standalone profit for 2021 was BD 45.6 m**

● **Revenue increased by 34% to BD 2.2 bn**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, the sovereign wealth fund of Bahrain, announced financial results for the year ended 31st December 2021, recording the highest net profit since inception, which the group attributed to the improved operational performance of Alba, a principal company of the Group, and lower impairment losses.

Furthermore, Mumtalakat said it paid dividends to the shareholder of BD20 million as a contribution to the national budget.

The unprecedented record



Mumtalakat's portfolio companies witnessed a remarkable recovery during the 2021, which in turn led to the remarkable enhancement of the financial results of Mumtalakat Group and contributed to the Kingdom's economic growth, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in line with the objectives of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, under the guidance and supervision of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board

SHAIKH KHALID BIN ABDULLA AL KHALIFA, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND CHAIRMAN OF MUMTALAKAT

Mumtalakat recorded the highest net profit since its inception, which is a result of the continued support from His Majesty the King, and in line with the economic policies driven by the Government of Bahrain and spearheaded by His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

KHALID AL RUMAIHI, CEO OF MUMTALAKAT



result, Khalid Al Rumaihi, the CEO of Mumtalakat, said, was the result of the implementation of Mumtalakat's new investment strategy, which focuses on the active ownership model to extract value from the company's portfolio assets through an active management approach, effective board representation, and providing strategic expertise.

## Results

Mumtalakat recorded a stand-

alone profit for 2021 of BD 45.6 m compared to a loss of BD 550.7 m for 2020. The results represent solely the activities of Mumtalakat as an entity.

Dividend income was BD63.3 m compared to BD49.2 m for the year 2020, and profits before impairments amounted to BD71.3 m compared to BD68.3 m for the year 2020.

Results rebounded robustly from the previous year which was impacted by the Coronavirus COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Group results represent the activities of Mumtalakat and the results of its portfolio companies which recorded a consolidated net profit of BD 329 m in 2021 as compared to a consolidated net loss of BD 528 m in 2020.

The significant improvement in net results is attributed to the improved operational performance of Alba, a principal company of the Group, and lower impairment losses.

Revenue increased by 34% from BD 1.6 billion in 2020 to BD

2.2 bn in 2021 primarily driven by higher LME prices.

It is worth mentioning that Alba registered a record net profit for the year of BD 452 m compared to a net profit of BD 9.8 m in the prior year.

The increase in net profit is primarily due to higher LME prices of aluminum in 2021 and the increase in production and sales resulting from its line 6 expansion.

In addition, the aviation industry experienced modest re-

covery due to lifting of travel restrictions which resulted in an increase in Gulf Air ticket sales.

The Group's principal associates, National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) and Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) continued to report strong results.

The Group's share of profits from Batelco and NBB for 2021 were BD 22.6 m and BD 21.9 m respectively (2020: BD 20.3 m and BD 10.8 m respectively).

## NBB, Euro Motors join hands for "Auto Loan"

TDI | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) announced signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Euro Motors, an automotive industry leader in Bahrain, as part of the Bank's "Auto Loan" product.

The signing ceremony was held on 6th June 2022, at the Euro Motors headquarters in the presence of David McGoldrick, alongside Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani and Mohamed Raees from the National Bank of Bahrain.

In line with diversifying its Auto Loan offering, NBB is providing financing solutions for both new and pre-owned vehicles. Customers will enjoy a tenor of up to 7 years with no down payment required, and an optional salary transfer, alongside a quick and seamless approval process. The product also offers exclusive rates with zero processing fees on hybrid and electric cars.

Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive Retail Banking at NBB, commented: "We are excited to pursue new opportunities in collaboration with the luxurious Euro Motors brand."

David McGoldrick, General Manager of Euro Motors, commented: "We look forward to extending our collaboration with NBB to enable the Bank's customers to purchase their vehicles of choice."

## 3rd Mentorship Forum Middle East



Her Highness Shaikha Hessa Bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, a Member of the Supreme Council for Women and Chairperson of INJAZ, launched the activities of the 3rd Mentorship Forum Middle East (MFME) by sharing personal and professional mentorship experience at a reception held at Bahrain Harbour and attended by CEOs and senior HR manager of regional and international organisations. The annual forum, MFME is created and organised by FinMark Communications and supported by the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) as a lead partner for the third consecutive year. The main forum would take place in the fourth quarter of 2022.

## CIBAFI assessed women empowerment within the Islamic Banking Industry

TDI | Manama

The General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI), the global umbrella of Islamic financial institutions successfully held yesterday a Webinar on "Women's Economic Empowerment: The Role of Islamic Financial Institutions in Bridging Existing Gaps".

The Webinar served as a soft publication launch for the 7th CIBAFI Global Islam-



Dr Abdelilah Belatik



ic Bankers' Survey (GIBS) Report. This year's GIBS Report is themed "Women Empowerment: Evaluating the Current Practices and Challenges".

The findings of the GIBS showed an overall positive outlook on women's empowerment in the Islamic financial services industry. The survey revealed that women

empowerment was mostly in the workplace, followed by the availability of tailored financial services, and lastly through philanthropic works. It also showed that large Islamic banks in particular, were generally more active in philanthropic initiatives to empower women, probably reflecting the greater resources available to them.

The webinar was inaugurated by welcoming remarks from Dr Abdelilah Belatik,

Secretary General of CIBAFI. It also featured keynote speeches from Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General, International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Saudi Arabia; and Dr Maryam Buti Al Suwaidi, Chief Executive Officer, Securities and Commodities Authority, United Arab Emirates.

The opening session was followed by a presentation on the main findings of the GIBS 2022 Report by CIBAFI Consultant, Peter Casey.



"A DAY WITH EPSON" Nabeel Almoayed, Managing Director, Business International Group with Epson and iPoint Team



A section of Audience

iPoint, the distribution division of Business International Group, held an event called "A DAY WITH EPSON", at Crowne Plaza Hotel. More than 60 guests, including customers and principals, attended the event. iPoint is the sole Distributor for Epson in Bahrain for more than 20 years and distributes a wide range of Epson products across Bahrain. Epson introduced its most innovative heat-free technology printing and scanning solutions for Enterprise, Corporate and SMB customers. Customers were given a live demo of energy-saving products and solutions by Epson's team from Middle East Office Hasan Sami, Anitha Nair, Tim O'Connor, Amine Boukantar and Kumar Neelkantham. A raffle draw was conducted for the guests. Nabeel Almoayed - Managing Director of Business International Group, handed over the gift.

News in brief

◆ **A hotel and casino resort** in the world's biggest gambling hub of Macau was locked down by authorities with 700 people inside yesterday due to a coronavirus infection outbreak on the property, local broadcaster TDM reported. The lockdown comes as the Chinese special administrative region carries out a two-day mass testing of its more than 600,000 population after dozens of locally transmitted coronavirus cases were discovered over the weekend. Footage obtained by the broadcaster and industry publications showed police officers in protective gear sealing the complex to prevent people from entering or leaving. Government officials were also preparing COVID-19 tests for the hundreds of people inside.

**Macau hotel locked down after COVID case, 700 people to be quarantined-media**

◆ **A small Chinese** study detailed in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal showed neutralising antibodies against some Omicron sub-variants were largely undetectable after two doses of a Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine, with a booster shot only partly restoring them. The vaccine, BBIBP-CorV, is one of the two Sinopharm COVID shots approved for use in China, and is also the main shot that the state-owned firm has exported. Among 25 individuals who received two doses of BBIBP-CorV vaccine, the neutralising activity against sub-variants such as BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/BA.5 "was not or only minimally detectable", researchers said in correspondence published on Monday.

**Some Omicron sub-variants escaping antibodies from Sinopharm shot, Chinese study says**

◆ **The Kremlin** said yesterday it did not know the location of two Americans captured while fighting in eastern Ukraine, but that they were mercenaries and could be sentenced to death in Russian-backed breakaway territories. Americans Alexander Drueke, 39, and Andy Huynh, 27, went missing this month while fighting near Kharkiv. Russian state media later showed video interviews with the pair, saying they had been captured by Russian-backed forces. Citing an unidentified source, the Interfax news agency reported that the men were in the separatist self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) in eastern Ukraine.

**Kremlin says it does not know location of captured US 'mercenaries'**

◆ **Tens of thousands** of workers walked out on the first day of Britain's biggest rail strike in 30 years on Tuesday with passengers facing further chaos as both the unions and government vowed to stick to their guns in a row over pay. Some of the more than 40,000 rail staff who are due to strike on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday gathered at picket lines from dawn, causing major disruption across the network and leaving major stations deserted. The London Underground metro was also mostly closed due to a separate strike.

**Thousands walk out in Britain's biggest rail strike in 30 years as Johnson vows to stay firm**

◆ **Taiwan scrambled jets** yesterday to warn away 29 Chinese aircraft in its air defence zone, including bombers that flew to the south of the island and into the Pacific, in the latest uptick in tensions and largest incursion since late May. Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has complained for the past two years or so of repeated missions by the Chinese air force near the democratically governed island, often in the southwestern part of its air defence identification zone, or ADIZ, close to the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands. The latest Chinese mission included 17 fighters and six H-6 bombers, as well as electronic warfare, early warning, antisubmarine and an aerial refuelling aircraft, Taiwan's defence ministry said.

**Taiwan scrambles 29 jets to warn away Chinese planes in its air defence zone**

# Russian journalist's Nobel Peace fetches record \$103.5 million at

◆ **Muratov, who pledged to donate about \$500,000 of that prize money to charities**

Reuters

Dmitry Muratov, the co-winner of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize and the editor of one of Russia's last major independent newspapers, auctioned off his Nobel medal for a record \$103.5 million to aid children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

All proceeds from the auction, which coincided with the World Refugee Day on Monday, will benefit UNICEF's humanitarian



Dmitry Muratov poses with his 2021 Nobel Peace Prize medal

response for Ukraine's displaced children, Heritage Auctions, which conducted the sale in New York, said in a statement. Muratov's Novaya Gazeta newspaper, fiercely critical of

President Vladimir Putin and his government, suspended operations in Russia in March after warnings from the state over its coverage of the war in Ukraine.

According to US media reports, the auction of Muratov's prize shattered the record for any Nobel medal that has been auctioned off, with reports saying that the previous highest sale fetched just under \$5 m.

"This award is unlike any other auction offering to present," Heritage Auctions said in a statement before the sale.

"Mr. Muratov, with the full support of his staff at Novaya Gazeta, is allowing us to auction his medal not as a collectible but as an event that he hopes will positively impact the lives of m of Ukrainian

# Russia warns Lithuania of 'consequences' over bloc

◆ **Russia fumes over ban on transit of goods to Kaliningrad**

● **Putin ally warns Lithuania of retaliatory measures**

● **Russian-backed separatists claim advance in Ukraine's east**

● **US Attorney General, in Ukraine, vows action on war crimes**

Reuters | Kyiv

Russia threatened yesterday to punish Lithuania with measures that would have a "serious negative impact" for blocking some shipments by rail to Moscow's Baltic Sea enclave of Kaliningrad, the latest dispute over sanctions imposed over war in Ukraine.

Within Ukraine, Russian forces and their separatist proxies made further advances in the east,



A view shows railway tracks at a commercial port in the Baltic Sea town of Baltiysk in the Kaliningrad region, Russia

pushing towards Lysychansk, now Kyiv's main bastion in the area of heaviest fighting in the eastern Donbas region that Moscow claims for the separatists.

Ukraine, its forces and weaponry dwarfed by Russia's, has begged the West to send more and better artillery. Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov announced yesterday the arrival of powerful German self-propelled howitzers.

Blaming Western sanctions, Russia has begun pumping reduced volumes of gas to Europe via Ukraine. German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said the diminished flows amounted to an economic attack on Germany that "cannot be allowed to succeed".

Diplomatic attention has turned towards Russia's Kaliningrad enclave, a Baltic Sea port and surrounding countryside where

nearly a million Russians live, connected to the rest of Russia by a rail link through EU- and NATO-member Lithuania.

Lithuania has shut the route for transport of steel and other ferrous metals, which it says it is required to do under EU sanctions that took effect on Saturday. Russian officials say other basic goods have been blocked too.

**'HOSTILE'**

Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of Russia's Security Council, visited the enclave yesterday to chair a security meeting there. He said Lithuania's actions showed that Russia could not trust the West, which he said had broken written agreements over Kaliningrad.

"Russia will certainly respond to such hostile actions," Patrushev was quoted as saying by state

news agency RIA. "Appropriate measures" were being worked out, and "their consequences will have a serious negative impact on the population of Lithuania", he said without elaborating.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte said it was "ironic" to hear Russia complain about alleged violations of internation-



A view shows a crater in the courtyard of a street following recent shelling in the city of Ukraine

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	88,054,080	1,038,385
2 India	43,320,845	524,890
3 Brazil	31,756,118	669,217
4 France	30,181,415	149,106
5 Germany	27,334,463	140,357
6 UK	22,508,928	179,601
7 Russia	18,403,427	380,577
8 S. Korea	18,289,373	24,463
9 Italy	17,959,329	167,842
10 Turkey	15,085,742	98,996
11 Spain	12,563,399	107,482
12 Vietnam	10,738,909	43,083
13 Argentina	9,341,492	129,016
14 Japan	9,159,940	31,045

Global tally

545,202,217

Deaths

6,342,280

Recovered:

520,380,130

New cases

+369,245

New deaths

+495

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	787,212	+1,143	9,191	+2	768,087	9,934
UAE	930,475	+1,556	2,309		911,226	16,940
Kuwait	639,290		2,555		632,789	3,946
Oman	389,758		4,260		384,669	829
Qatar	376,811	+662	678		372,134	3,999



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy attends a meeting with local authorities during a visit to the southern city of Mykolaiv

Galileo Galilei forced to recant his Copernican views that the Earth orbits the Sun by the Pope (Vatican only admits it was wrong on Oct 31, 1992!)



Somerset v Stewart court case finds slavery unsupported by English common law, encouraging the abolitionist movement

The CSS Shenandoah fires the last shot of the American Civil War in the Bering Strait to indicate surrender

# Prize auction

refugees.”  
Muratov, who co-founded Novaya Gazeta in 1991, won the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize with Maria Ressa of the Philippines for what the Nobel Prize committee said were “their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace.”  
Muratov, who pledged to donate about \$500,000 of that prize money to charities, dedicated his Nobel to the six Novaya Gazeta journalists who have been murdered since 2000.  
That list included the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, a critic of Russia’s war in Chechnya, who was killed in 2006 in the elevator of her Moscow apartment building.

# of ckade

al law, given that it had violated “possibly every single international treaty”.  
Moscow summoned EU envoy Markus Ederer to the Russian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday. EU spokesperson Peter Stano said Ederer asked the Russians at the meeting “to refrain from escalatory steps and rhetoric”.  
The standoff creates a new source of confrontation on the Baltic, a region already set for a security overhaul that would hem in Russia’s sea power as Sweden and Finland apply to join NATO and put nearly the entire coast in alliance territory.  
The EU sought to deflect responsibility from Lithuania, saying the policy was collective action by the bloc.  
In a symbolic but morale-boosting decision, Ukraine is set to become an official candidate for European Union membership on Thursday, diplomats said.  
US Attorney General Merrick Garland became the latest international dignitary to visit Ukraine, affirming on Tuesday Washington’s commitment to identify, arrest and prosecute those involved in war crimes during Russia’s invasion.



A residential building located in Vannikova, a site of destruction from the Ukraine-Russia conflict in Donetsk.

# Elon Musk’s child seeks name change to sever ties with father

Reuters

Elon Musk’s daughter has filed a request to change her name in accordance with her new gender identity and because “I no longer live with or wish to be related to my biological father in any way, shape or form.”

The petition for both a name change and a new birth certificate reflecting her new gender identity was filed with the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Santa Monica in April. It came to light recently in some online media reports.

The former Xavier Alexander Musk, who recently turned 18, the age of consent in California, has asked the court to change her gender recognition from male to female and to register her new name, according to court documents available online through PlainSite.org.

Her new name was redacted in the online document. Her



Elon Musk

mother is Justine Wilson, who divorced Musk in 2008.

There was no further explanation of the rift between Musk’s daughter and her father, the Tesla (TSLA.O) and SpaceX chief who is attempting a \$44 billion takeover of social media platform Twitter (TWTR.N).

Neither a lawyer who represents Musk nor the Tesla media office immediately responded to Reuters emails requesting comment on Monday.

In May, about a month after

the name and gender change document was filed, Musk declared his support for the Republican Party, whose elected representatives support a raft of legislation that would limit transgender rights in states across the country.

Musk has weighed in on the issue of transgender people choosing their preferred pronouns, tweeting in 2020, “I absolutely support trans, but all these pronouns are an esthetic nightmare.”



The couple had a baby boy named him Nevada Alexander, however, 10 weeks after being born their son stopped breathing, and was put on the life support, but the doctors could do nothing and Nevada died in his parent’s arms. Elon had a hard time dealing with the loss, and started spending even more time at work.

The couple still wanted to have children, and Justine went to a fertility clinic six weeks after Nevada passed away. She decided to try in vitro fertilisation, and in 2004 Justine gave birth to twins, Griffin and Xavier, and in 2006 to triplets, Damian, Saxon and Kai - all five are boys.

# Egypt, Saudi in deals worth \$7.7 bn on crown prince’s visit

Reuters | Cairo

Egypt and Saudi Arabia signalled their intention to strengthen economic ties yesterday during a visit to Cairo by Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, announcing deals worth \$7.7 billion.

Saudi Arabia has already provided bns in support since Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi came to power in 2014, and Cairo is struggling with the economic knock-on effects of the Ukraine war.

The stop in Egypt was the start of the first tour outside the Gulf region in over three years by the prince. He left on Tuesday evening for Jordan, and will later visit Turkey.

The prince and Sisi discussed trade, investment and security, as well as a regional summit in Saudi Arabia next month that will be attended by US President



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is received by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi upon his arrival in Cairo, Egypt

Joe Biden, a statement from Egypt’s presidency said.

The 14 deals signed yesterday ranged from renewable energy to petroleum, food and fintech. They included a \$1.5 bn agreement between Saudi Arabia’s

Acwapower (2082.SE) and the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company to build a wind power plant, according to an Egyptian cabinet statement.

Among the other agreements was the development of the mul-

ti-purpose terminal at Egypt’s Damietta port, Egypt’s General Authority for Investment and Free Zones said in a statement, and the establishment of a \$150 million “pharmaceutical city” by Egypt’s Pharco Pharmaceuticals in Saudi Arabia, the company’s chairman told Alsharq TV.

A joint statement said Saudi Arabia was resolved to lead investments in Egypt worth \$30 bn, though it was unclear what the figure referred to.

In March, Saudi Arabia deposited \$5 bn in Egypt’s central bank. The Egyptian government had said previously that cooperation with the Saudi sovereign wealth fund would result in \$10 bn in investments.

The Saudi-based Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) has started disbursing \$3 bn in new financing to help Egypt import commodities, its CEO said last week.

# Hamas to restore Syria ties after 10 years of dispute, sources say

Reuters | Gaza

Hamas has decided to restore ties with Syria, 10 years after its leadership shunned Damascus over opposition to President Bashar al-Assad’s crackdown on a revolt against his rule, two sources within the group told Reuters.

One official who asked not to be named said the two sides have held several “high-profile meetings to achieve that goal.”

A Syrian official did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Hamas leaders had publicly endorsed the revolt aimed at overthrowing Assad’s dynastic rule, and left their Damascus headquarters. That angered their common ally, Iran.

Hamas’s ties with Iran were later restored and officials of the Palestinian Islamist faction praised the Islamic Republic for help with building their Gaza arsenal of long-range rockets, which they used in fighting Israel.

# Outgoing Israeli government partners vow to block Netanyahu comeback

Reuters | Jerusalem

Ministers in Israel’s outgoing government vowed yesterday to prevent a comeback by ex-premier Benjamin Netanyahu, their fellow right winger, as the country braced for a fifth election in less than four years with polling predicting no clear winner.

Sapped by infighting that ended his razor-thin parliamentary majority, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Monday announced he would move to dissolve the Knesset, with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid assuming top office in a caretaker capacity.

A preliminary vote on that motion is set for today with final legislation continuing next week.

The prospect of an election as early as October - delighted Netanyahu, Israel’s longest-serving leader who was toppled a year ago after Bennett mustered a rare coalition of hard-right, liberal and Arab politicians.



Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

# Lebanon, Syria, Egypt sign gas import agreement

Reuters | Beirut

Lebanon, Syria and Egypt yesterday agreed to ship 650 million cubic metres of natural gas per year from Egypt to Lebanon via Syria.

The deal, signed at a ceremony at the Lebanese energy ministry in Beirut, would see gas piped to Lebanon’s northern Deir Ammar power plant, where it could add some 450 megawatts, or around four extra hours of power per day to the grid. Deir Ammar is one of several plants in Lebanon that can run on both gas and diesel, but use the latter as the gas pipeline has yet to come online.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



More than 90% of people in the northwest of Syria need life-saving aid. Today I urged the Security Council to maintain consensus on allowing cross-border humanitarian operations for an additional 12 months. We cannot give up on the people of Syria.

@antoniogutierrez

02



Southern India is home to several Mutts which have preserved and celebrated our cultural heritage.

@narendramodi

03



I gets better every day

@elonmusk

04



To recover from the pandemic, transform and cope with the food and energy crisis, the world needs a positive investment impulse. This is where the 300 billion strategy #GlobalGateway comes into play.

@vonderleyen

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

# Classifieds



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## PSG deny Galtier reports



Nice's French coach Christophe Galtier (R) and Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian head coach Mauricio Pochettino (L) speaks before AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain denied reports on Monday that Nice coach Christophe Galtier will be named the Parisian club's new coach.

Newspaper L'Equipe and radio station FranceInfo claimed the Frenchman had agreed to replace Mauricio Pochettino at Parc de Princes.

A source close to the club told AFP later that "numerous discussions are underway", despite the reports.

Argentinian Pochettino, who was appointed in January last year and led the club to the Ligue 1 title in the season just ended, has another 12 months remaining on his contract.

French newspaper has reported however that Pochettino and the club to come to an agreement that would see the Argentine leave the French capital.

Galtier's current employers were unavailable for comment. If he does make the move

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Argentinian Pochettino, who was appointed in January last year and led the club to the Ligue 1 title in the season just ended, has another 12 months remaining on his contract

to Paris, Galtier would reunite with Louis Campos, PSG's recently appointed football advisor.

Earlier this month, French press linked former Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane with the position, with PSG's Qatari owners desperate to win the Champions League.

# Murray hopeful of being fit for Wimbledon

Andy Murray admits coming days are key in effort to be fit for Wimbledon

● Briton hopeful of overcoming an abdominal injury to play

AFP | London

Andy Murray faces a race against time to be fit for Wimbledon next week, but believes he is in a better position than he was ahead of the championships last year.

The three-time Grand Slam champion was forced to pull out of last week's tournament at Queen's due to an abdominal injury suffered in losing the final of the Stuttgart ATP event to Matteo Berrettini.

"The positives are I've been able to practise but there are certain shots I've not been able to practise, so that has obviously disrupted my preparations. The injury is healing but still not perfect," said the two-time Wimbledon winner.

"I've been practising for the past three or four days and have been practising well. But unfortunately in matches you can't just not hit certain shots. In the next couple of days hopefully I'll get the chance to test that



Andy Murray receives treatment during his defeat against Matteo Berrettini

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Murray sustained the injury in the Stuttgart final against Matteo Berrettini on 12 June, his first grass-court final since his Wimbledon victory in 2016

and hopefully it will be fine."

Murray made it through to the third round at Wimbledon last year despite an injury-disrupted preparation.

His form on the grass at Surbiton, where he reached the semi-finals, and Stuttgart has edged the 35-year-old back up to 51 in the world.

And he is confident of performing well at the All England Club, as long as he is not hampered by injury.

"Going into Wimbledon last year I'd gone in with hardly any proper practice at all, hadn't really played much in the build-up

**”**

I've been practising for the past three or four days and have been practising well. But unfortunately in matches you can't just not hit certain shots. In the next couple of days hopefully I'll get the chance to test that and hopefully it will be fine

ANDY MURRAY

to it and the fact I got through a few matches was a great effort considering what I was able to do in the build-up," added Murray.

"I was in a good position against Berrettini as well before the issues so that for me is the biggest thing.

"I practised really well the last few months and worked on a lot of things with my team. I'm in a good place tennis wise. Physically I do feel good overall, I just unfortunately got this slight injury, which is frustrating."

Wimbledon begins on June 27.

## Kyrgios first to sign to Osaka's Evolve sports agency

Reuters | London

Nick Kyrgios on Monday became the first athlete to join Evolve, the new sports agency co-founded by four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka.

Osaka broke with IMG last month to launch Evolve with longtime agent Stuart Duguid. Evolve describes itself as a multifaceted agency focused on brand partnerships, investing, creating athlete-owned businesses, and philanthropy.

"Kyrgios embodies the types of athletes we want to work with at Evolve," Osaka told sports business website Boardroom.

"He's got an unmatched style, passion, and personality that is unlike any other in the sport. We have some big things in the pipeline for him that are very unique and pioneering."

Duguid called the fiery and controversial Kyrgios the most talented and entertaining tennis player on the tour.



Naomi Osaka and Nick Kyrgios during an event as part of Australian Open

**”**

He's got an unmatched style, passion, and personality that is unlike any other in the sport. We have some big things in the pipeline for him that are very unique and pioneering

NAOMI OSAKA

The world number 45 is one of the biggest draws in the sport thanks to the unpredictable nature of his matches. While the hugely talented Australian often bamboozles opponents with an array of incredible trick shots, his on-court histrionics and run-ins with umpires have often dominated the headlines.

"Love or hate him, you definitely can't keep your eyes off him. If you go to any junior tennis tournament, you will see Nick's influence," he said.

## Dzalamidze says Georgia switch was for Olympics, Wimbledon just a bonus

Reuters | London

Russian-born tennis player Natela Dzalamidze said her decision to change nationality to Georgian was motivated by her desire to play at the Olympics and that being able to compete at Wimbledon was a bonus.

In April, the All England



Natela Dzalamidze Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) banned Russian and Belarusian players from competing at Wimbledon due to the invasion of Ukraine, which Moscow calls a "special military operation".

Belarus has been a key staging area for the invasion.

Dzalamidze's nationality is Georgian in Wimbledon's entry list, allowing her to partner Serbian Aleksandra Krunick in the women's doubles at the Grand Slam.

## Giggs resigns as Wales manager to avoid World Cup distraction

AFP | London

Ryan Giggs resigned from his role as manager of Wales on Monday as the former Manchester United great awaits trial on an accusation of domestic violence.

Giggs has been on leave since November 2020 when he was arrested.

The 48-year-old is accused of controlling and coercive behaviour against his former girlfriend Kate Greville between August 2017 and November 2020.

Giggs is also accused of assaulting Greville, causing her actual bodily harm, and common assault of her younger sister, Emma Greville, at his home in the Manchester area in November 2020.

He has denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty to all charges.

His trial has been delayed until August in January to a courts backlog.

Since then, his former assistant Rob Page, has led Wales to their first World Cup since 1958.

Giggs' decision to step aside means Page will take charge of games against the USA, Iran and England in Qatar in November.

"After much consideration, I am standing down from my position as manager of the Wales men's national team with immediate effect," Giggs said in a statement.

"It has been an honour and a privilege to manage my country, but it is only right that the Wales FA, the coaching staff and the players prepare for the tournament with certainty,



Ryan Giggs looks on during a training session (file photo)

**”**

I do not want the country's preparations for the World Cup to be affected, destabilised or jeopardised in any way by the continued interest around this case

RYAN GIGGS

clarification and without speculation around the position of their head coach."

Giggs won 13 Premier League titles and two Champions Leagues among 25 major honours during a 24-year career with United at club level.

He began his coaching career at Old Trafford, taking temporary charge at the end of the 2013/14 season after David Moyes was sacked before working as an assistant to Louis van Gaal for two years.

Giggs was appointed Wales boss in January 2018 and helped

them secure qualification for Euro 2020.

And he said he hopes to return to management in the future.

"I do not want the country's preparations for the World Cup to be affected, destabilised or jeopardised in any way by the continued interest around this case," he added.

"It is my intention to resume my managerial career at a later date and I look forward to watching our national team alongside you in the stands."

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Giggs was appointed Wales boss in January 2018 and helped them secure qualification for Euro 2020

# Bahrain set for semis challenge in West Asian women's futsal

Kingdom's national team take on counterparts from hosts Saudi Arabia for a place in the gold medal game of the third West Asian Futsal Federation Women's Futsal Championship 2022

● **Bahrain scheduled to face off with Saudi Arabia at 6pm, Bahrain time**

● **Group B winners Kuwait to play Iraq in other match of final four at 8.30pm**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's women's national futsal team take on their counterparts from Saudi Arabia tonight in the semi-finals of the third West Asian Futsal Federation (WAFF) Women's Futsal Championship 2022, taking place in Jazeh, Saudi Arabia.

The nationals qualified for the last four after winning both their games in Group A of the preliminary round.



Bahrain's Yasmeeen Tobellah in action for Bahrain against Iraq in the group stage (File photo)

They first thrashed Palestine 6-0 before edging past a battling Iraq 1-0. That earned them the full six points in their division table.

The Bahrainis made it through to the semis alongside the Iraqis, who are set to take on Group B winners Kuwait in the other contest.

Bahrain's match with hosts Saudi is scheduled for a 6pm kick-off this evening. It will be followed by the Iraq and Kuwait clash starting at 8.30pm.

The winners will move on to the gold medal contest, which is scheduled to be held on Friday kicking off at 8.30pm.

The bronze medal game will take place the same evening as the early match at 6pm.

The Bahrain team in Jazeh comprises Hessa Al Isa, Shaikha Alanood bint Hamad Al Khalifa, skipper Yasmeeen Tobellah, Dalal Abdulla Mohammed, Zahra Nizar Hamid, Rose Tobellah,



Manar Yaqoob, Fatima Hamad Mohammed, Amira Sowar, Hafar Abdulrahman Al Ansari, Rawan Al Ali, Liiia Javed Sabkar, Eman Al Khattal and Wisal Ahmed Al Yasi.

Hessa is currently the joint-leading scorer of the competition with three

goals, along with Kuwait's Shrouq Basha.

Shaikha Alanood is right behind them on the top scorers list with two goals, alongside Kuwaitis Reem Almulla and Abeer Alrefaie.

Meanwhile, national team goalkeeper Zahra Ali is also recognised for her brilliant showing between the posts to date. Bahrain are the only team in the tournament with a clean sheet so far.

The Bahrainis are competing in the WAFF event fresh from winning the gold medal at the women's futsal competition at the third GCC Games in Kuwait, which took place in late May.

They had been training daily under the supervision of head coach Lino Gomes, who is from Brazil, and their coaching staff.

Heading into the tournament, the Bahrainis will be aiming for gold to add to their silver medals won in 2019.

## Norris conflicted over 'porpoising' rule changes but stresses driver safety



Lando Norris of McLaren waves on the drivers parade ahead of the F1 Grand Prix of Canada

Reuters | Montreal

McLaren's Lando Norris on Monday said he is conflicted about FIA's plans to introduce changes to reduce or eliminate the "porpoising" problem affecting this season's Formula One cars, but added that driver safety was paramount.

F1 introduced a radical rules overhaul this year that has seen cars generate a significant chunk of their downforce from the underside of the floor.

This has led to the "porpoising", in which the cars bounce dramatically at high speeds, like the motion of a porpoise through water.

Concern reached new levels at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix when seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton struggled to get out of his Mercedes at the end of a punishing race.

However, Red Bull's Christian Horner, whose team are leading both championships and have a more stable car, has said it is unfair to change the rules for all mid-season when one team is struggling more

My main concern is that it is fair for everyone - ideally you would implement any changes post-season - but inevitably it is going to affect some more than others

LANDO NORRIS

than most.

"I must admit to being a bit conflicted on it. The truth is we are not massively affected by porpoising, so we were not pushing for change," Norris wrote in the Daily Telegraph.

"If there is a real danger that drivers could have long-term health consequences ... or that they could lose focus and crash, then something has to be done. Safety has to come first, and while it might not be affecting me now, these regulations are long term.

"My main concern is that it is fair for everyone - ideally you would implement any changes post-season - but inevitably it is going to affect some more than others."

## Noor continues fine form at swimming worlds

● **Talented 16-year-old Bahraini wins women's 50m backstroke heat, but does not advance to next stage**

TDI | Manama

Bahraini swimmer Noor Taha yesterday won her women's 50 metres backstroke heat at the 19th FINA World Championships 2022 in Budapest, Hungary.

Noor was one of nine competitors in the opening race of four in the first round of the event.

The 16-year-old Bahraini showed her limitless potential



Bahrain's Noor Taha is shown on the giant video screen in the arena after winning her heat

by winning her heat in 31.38 seconds. She had a reaction time of 0.60s.

Noor completed the race 0.57s ahead of runner-up Ariuntamir Enkh-Amgalan of Mongolia,

while Lucia Ruchti of Kenya came third 0.95s off Noor's winning pace.

Despite her strong showing, Noor was unable to advance to the semi-final round.

Only 16 swimmers from all the heats made it through. Kylie Masse from Canada was the top qualifier in 27.26s, while Paulina Peda of Poland was the last to advance in 28.47s.

Noor's result marked her second successive victory at the worlds, although she did not advance both times. She previously also won her women's 100m backstroke heat.

Bahrain's participation at the global competition continues. There are three other Bahrain national team swimmers taking part, including Omar Al Rowaila, Saud Ghali and Ayah Bin Rajab.

The young nationals are being guided in Budapest by national team head coach Alex Karpalev.

## Djokovic top men's seed for Wimbledon in absence of Medvedev, Zverev

Reuters | London

Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic will head into next week's tournament as the men's top seed with Russian world number one Daniil Medvedev banned from taking part while Germany's second-ranked Alexander Zverev is out injured.

Organisers of the grasscourt Grand Slam have banned players from Russia and Belarus from playing at this year's Wimbledon following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which Russia calls a 'special operation'.

Zverev had surgery on torn ligaments in his right ankle this month after he was forced to retire from his French Open semi-final against Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic, who was unable to defend his 2021 Australian Open title and the 2,000 ranking points he earned due to his non-vaccinated status against COVID-19, recently lost his world



Novak Djokovic in action during a practice session

number one spot to Medvedev.

The Serbian, who has won the last three editions of the grasscourt major, will slip further down the rankings after Wimbledon as he will lose another 2,000 points with the ATP and WTA stripping the tournament of points.

The absence of Medvedev and Zverev means Nadal, who is halfway through a possible

calendar year Slam after winning the Australian and French Open titles, to be seeded second.

It also results in Djokovic and Nadal finding themselves in different halves of the draw and they cannot face each other until the men's final on July 10. The duo met in this year's Roland Garros quarter-final where the Spaniard triumphed.

Britain has two players in the

top 10 seeds at their home major with Cameron Norrie ninth while US Open champion Emma Raducanu is 10th in the absence of Belarussian Aryna Sabalenka.

Poland's world number one Iga Swiatek will be the women's top seed with Estonian Annett Kontaveit the number two.

There will be a 23-time Grand Slam winner in the women's draw in Serena Williams, but she will not be seeded.

