

**Bahrain shift focus to Panama friendly**

Kingdom's senior men's national to next take on CONCACAF giants in second tune-up game of local training camp on Tuesday | P12

WORLD 6 Russia stiffens penalty for surrender, replaces top general

THE DAILY **tribune**



Taylor Swift turned down Super Bowl halftime offer

10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 BIAS 2022, Vatel Bahrain join hands

**Death toll doubles, hundreds arrested in 'harrowing' Iran protest crackdown**

TDT | agencies



The official death toll has nearly doubled to 35 in a crackdown by Iran's security forces on more than a week of protests that erupted after the death of a young woman in custody.

Hundreds of angry demonstrators have been arrested with crowds taking to the streets of major cities across Iran for eight straight nights since the death of Mahsa Amini.

State television said the number of deaths in "recent riots" had risen to 35, up from 17 previously, including at least five security personnel.

Sweeping arrests have been reported, with the police chief in the north-western province of Guilan announcing Saturday "the arrest of 739 rioters including 60 women" in his region alone, Tasnim news agency said.

State media quoted President Ebrahim Raisi yesterday as saying Iran must "deal decisively with those who oppose the country's security and tranquility".

**92nd National Day of Saudi Arabia**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, attended a reception held yesterday at the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia, in the presence of members of the Kingdom's delegation headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, on the occasion of the 92nd National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Foreign Minister congratulated Saudi Arabia and its people, expressing his pride in the relationship between the two countries and its development in various fields. He also highlighted Saudi Arabia's wide-ranging achievements, wishing it further success and prosperity.



**Towering Obelisk celebrates Saudi National Day**

P2



**Brace for more scorching days**

**'200 unusually hot days in the coming years'**

Staff Reporter

TDT | Manama



Working hours in the construction sector will have to be reduced by 40pc by 2030'

GCC countries including the Kingdom will have 200 unusually hot days in the coming years, according to a study conducted by a leading science research institute.

According to a report by Germany's Max Planck Institute, temperatures in the Mena region could increase as high as 4 degree Celsius in the coming years. Extensive research into the

matter predicts that conditions in the Gulf region, including low elevations, very high humidity and temperature and intense sun, will make the region "a specific regional hotspot where climate change, in the absence of significant mitigation, is likely to severely impact human habitability in the future".

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), increases in heat stress resulting from global warming are projected to lead to global productivity losses equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs in the year 2030. "In the Arab states, the construction sector will be hit most, with heat stress in this sector expected to account for 40 per cent of the total loss of working hours in 2030.

"In the Gulf states, where the construction sector accounts for 23pc of employment...high temperatures and humidity, alongside outdoor work, can exacerbate heat-related risks for these workers," the ILO observed.

The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications' Meteorological Directorate last week reported in their monthly weather summary that the month of August 2022 was warmer than normal in temperatures with below average wind speed.

The mean temperature of the month was 36.3°C which is 1.2°C above the long-term normal for August and this goes on record as the fifth highest mean temperature for August since 1902.

(Continues on page 4)

**Police arrest three women for begging**

TDT | Manama

Southern police arrested three women, all Asian nationals, for begging in the directorate yesterday.

Legal measures are being pursued against them by the Southern Governorate Police Directorate.

Major-General Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Deputy Chief of Public Security, said community service police are intensifying the campaign to address this issue.

"Police directorates are contributing to promoting community awareness to combat beggary," he added.

Dr Shaikh Hamad urged all to report cases of beggary and refrain from giving money to such people.



An era ends

**World bids emotional farewell to tennis legend**

Reuters | London

Sitting courtside Rafa Nadal cried as his great rival, Roger Federer, bid an emotional farewell to tennis at the Laver Cup on Friday, later saying an important part of him was also leaving the men's Tour with the retirement of the Swiss.

Pictures and videos of Federer and Nadal - who shared one of tennis's most enthralling rivalries - crying together after combining for Team Europe in a doubles defeat at London's O2 Arena went viral on social media, leaving their legions of fans highly emotional.

Nadal, who has won a men's record 22 Grand Slam singles

titles, said it was a difficult night for him emotionally as the defeat to the American pair of Jack

Sock and 41-year-old m a r k e d Federer's

dazzling career.

"For me, has been huge honour to be a part of this amazing moment of the history of our sport, and at the same time a lot of years sharing a lot of things together," the Spaniard said of Federer.

"When Roger leaves the tour, yeah, an important part of my life is leaving too because all the moments he has been next or in front me in important moments of my life. So has been emotional (to) see the family, see all the people. Yeah, difficult to describe. But, yeah, amazing moment."

Federer, who won 20 major

singles titles, played Nadal 40 times in one of the most compelling rivalries across any sport.

"I think every year the personal relationship gets better and better, on a daily basis," Nadal, 36, told reporters. "I think in some way we understand at the end we have a lot of things similar. We approach the life probably similar.

"On court we have completely opposite styles, and that's what probably makes our matches and our rivalry probably one of the biggest and most interesting.

"Very proud to be part of his career in some way. But even happier to finish our career like friends after everything we shared on court like rivals."



**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

TOTAL TESTED  
10352785

ACTIVE CASES  
2871

DEATHS  
1520

DISCHARGED  
673889

NEW CASES  
319

CRITICAL  
1

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority organised a series of events to observe Saudi National Day under the slogan 'Delighted to See You' - a brotherly message to the thousands of Saudi tourists who travel across the Kingdom on a regular basis.

The event, which was held under the slogan "Road to Manama," included a Bahraini folk troupe that performed a number of Saudi and Bahrain traditional songs, kids and advanced workshops aimed at introducing ancient Bahraini crafts, traditional games and band and kids' puppet show, and many more.

Dr Nasser Qaida, CEO of the Tourism and exhibition Authority, stated that the "authority chose Manama Souq as the location to celebrate the National Day as the two countries' long-standing historical ties, one of which is a trade and cultural exchange, with a particular emphasis on the shared history that unites the people."



Traditional bands singing Saudi and Bahrain folk songs.

Dr Qaidi explained, "We welcome everyone from the Kingdom of Saudi, we promise them a rich tourism and entertainment programme through which they will explore many of the accommodation, hospitality, and entertainment experiences offered by the establishments of the Bahraini tourism sector, thus enhancing Bahrain's position as their preferred first destination."

Zain Murtada Al Sakib, a calligrapher at Manama Souq, told the Daily Tribune, "I write names in Arabic calligraphy and it especially attracts foreigners as they like Arabic font because the writing starts from left to right and they prefer names written in seashells

and bookmarks."

He said that most visitors are families who come here on weekends to shop for antiques. He also mentioned that arts and crafts are the first thing that draws tourists here.

The Bahrain International Airport also marked Saudi Arabia's 92nd National Day. Airport employees, who were carrying the Saudi flag, presented souvenir gifts to passengers coming from Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, a folk group performed patriotic Al Ardah songs to express joy over the precious occasion.

Mainsails of boats illuminated in Saudi and Bahrain flags

Saudi passengers being welcomed at Bahrain International Airport

## Spectacular events add charm to Saudi National Day celebrations

● BTEA organises entertainment and fun-filled activities at Manama Souq



## Towering Obelisk welcomes travellers from Saudi Arabia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain inaugurated an LED-lit obelisk - a rectangular pillar with a tapered top forming a pyramidion - to commemorate the Saudi National Day celebrated annually on the 23rd of September.

The structure, commissioned by Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority with Bahrain Bay Development yesterday, is in the Bahrain Bay Area.

The monument has internally LED-lit calligraphy and a beacon of light pointing towards the Holy Kaaba in the Grand Mosque in Makkah.

The memorial also has green lasers pointing towards Saudi Arabia.

The grand structure is in the middle of the maze in the Gardens area in Bahrain Bay.

The inauguration featured events, including a musical performance and a Dhow show lasting for three hours.

"Through this memorial, we wish to welcome our Saudi brothers to Bahrain and greet Saudi Arabia on the occasion of its National Day," BTEA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nasser Qaedi, said.

"The unveiling of this memorial is just one of the celebrations of the Saudi National Day that BTEA has planned and executed successfully," Dr Qaedi said.

Gagan Suri, CEO of Bahrain Bay Development Company, said that Bahrain Bay is proud to showcase the outstanding monument of The Obelisk at Bahrain Bay, inaugurating it with the colours of the Saudi National Flag on its National Day.

"We chose this monument because it brings the past, present and future all in one monument intertwined with a practical function."

The name "obelisk" is Greek for "spit", as in a long pointed piece of wood generally used for cooking, because the Greek historian Herodotus was the first to write about them and so named them. The Egyptians called them tekhen which means "to pierce" as in "to pierce the sky".



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Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, met yesterday Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. They discussed aspects of joint cooperation and ways to advance it in various fields of common interest to address the challenges facing the countries of the world. Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Ambassador Jamal Faris Al-Ruwai'i, Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations in New York, and the delegation accompanying the Minister of Foreign Affairs were present.



Over 5,000 were served traditional Onasadya at a grand event held at Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam on Friday. Onasadya, the grand vegetarian feast associated with Onam, the major festival of Malayalees, was prepared by Chef Maestro Pazhayidam Mohanan Nampoothiri. Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava and many other dignitaries attended.

# 'Criminal background' check costs a man his right to vote

● The Court ruling came in an appeal challenging a supervisory committee in the Muharraq Governorate

TDI | Manama

What goes around will come around. A Bahrain man learned the meaning of this saying quite painfully the other day in a Courtroom.

The incident happened when the person in question approached the Second Civil Supreme Court of Appeal, appealing a decision to drop his name from the voters' list.

The court, however, after reviewing the appeal, told him that he did not stand a chance to vote because he had committed crimes against honour and trust.

The court reminded him that he had in his name a previous conviction for practising as a pharmacist in the Kingdom without a licence.

The Court ruling came in an appeal filed by the man challenging a supervisory committee



Representative picture

decision in the Muharraq Governorate.

After finding that his name was not on the voters' list, the man filed a request before the supervisory committee.

The committee, after a review, rejected the application and informed him that in a text

message, following which he approached the court.

Explaining the rationale behind the ruling, the court said that universal suffrage gives the right to vote to all citizens. However, there will be an exception when it comes to criminal offences.

The court said that the law deprives that right to anyone convicted of a felony or a crime involving dishonesty or honour unless rehabilitated.

"He shall not have received jail terms in one of the electoral crimes stipulated in Decree-Law No. 3 of 2002 unless the sen-

tence is suspended or received rehabilitation."

In this case, the court said that the appellant had failed one of the conditions of not having criminal precedence.

The court viewed that selling drugs without registration and storing them outside a pharmacy in an unlicensed place are crimes against honour and trust.

The court also pointed out that the appellant failed to provide evidence for his rehabilitation.

"Therefore, he is deprived of the right to vote following Article 3 of Decree-Law No. 14 of 2002 regarding the exercise of political rights replaced by Law No. 36 of 2006."

The court confirmed the judgment of the election supervisory committee to drop the man's names from the voters' list.

The court also ordered the appellant to bear the expenses incurred.

In a similar case reported by Tribune, a sitting MP got his request for inclusion in the voters' list rejected for swearing at a woman in 2019.

The High Appeals Court rejected the appeal by the MP against cancelling his candida-

The court viewed that selling drugs without registration and storing them outside a pharmacy in an unlicensed place are crimes against honour and trust.



ture on account of the old conviction.

The MP was found guilty in a phone harassment case filed by a woman. However, despite receiving a conviction, he was saved from paying penalties at that time after the Bahraini parliament refused to lift his immunity. But it proved fatal this time.

## Unfair dismissal: Court orders \$310,000 compensation to European national

TDI | Manama

A company in the Kingdom landed in hot waters for firing one of its directors after the High Labour Court ruled the dismissal unfair.

The court also ordered the company to pay the man a compensation of \$310,000 or BD120,000.

The ruling came in a case filed against the branch of a Gulf-based company by its ex-director, a European national.

Court files say the man started



Representative picture

his career with the company as a Chief Technology Officer in 2020.

"He was drawing a monthly wage of BD18,000 at that time," the man's lawyer Ali Khalifa Al Shaikh, told the court.

However, after 18 months, the company allegedly sacked him without providing a legal justification.

The lawyer also claimed that the company cancelled his work permit and failed to pay his salary dues.

Accepting the arguments,

The ruling came in a case filed against the branch of a Gulf-based company by its ex-director, a European national.

the court ruled in favour of the plaintiff.

"The plaintiff had proved his claims, while the defendant failed to provide evidence of paying salaries. Therefore, the court rules in favour of the plaintiff," the court ruling read.

## Fire engulfs apartment; three injured



TDI | Manama

A fire engulfed a residential apartment in the Hooraa A'ali area, with authorities reporting minor injuries to three people yesterday.

The injured were rushed to hospital by the National Ambulance team.

Interior Ministry later said in a tweet that the victims suffered suffocation and minor burns.

Civil Defence Force had rushed to the scene soon after receiving an intimation and started rescue efforts, as police officers cordoned off the area to prevent further adversities.

Residents nearby said they saw thick smoke billowing from the building as the blaze burned the building ferociously.

The fire was brought under quickly, with firefighters also performing cooling operations to reduce the dangers posed by the hot smoke in enclosure fires.

It is, however, not clear what sparked the fire.

An investigation is ongoing.

## Woman granted divorce from abusive husband ending nine-month marriage

TDI | Manama

A Shariat Court granted a 21-year-old woman divorce from her abusive husband in a case filed nine-month after marriage.

The husband, the court heard, used to physically attack his wife, in one instance also using broken pieces of furniture.

The husband also allegedly failed to provide for his wife.

The woman told the court that the man ruined her dignity by constantly subjecting her to sex-



Representative picture

ual, physical and verbal assaults.

The wife also told the court that she had to depend on her family to satisfy her financial

needs.

"My family helped me financially as he didn't give me any money and failed to live up to his

responsibilities as a husband," the woman told the court.

"He didn't even give me a proper space to live, in stark violations of the conditions, agreed in the marriage contract," she added.

Lawyer Khalil Ibrahim, who represented the woman in court, said his client has a legal marriage contract with him.

"However, it wasn't a smooth going from the start itself and disintegrated gradually to the point of no return, just in about nine months, despite her at-

tempts to save the wedlock."

The lawyer also told the court that the husband took away all her gold jewellery and other belongings with force.

The court ruled the evidence provided by the woman seeking a divorce as credible and reliable, including a medical certificate proving the physical and mental harassment she suffered from her husband.

"The Court grants here divorce based on the conditions she endured," the court ruling stated.

## CAPTAINS CORNER

## Bahrain needs "drone age" rules



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

With the launch of the iPhone14, Bahrain entered the sci-fi world of drones in a unique way. Batelco, in collaboration with the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) delivered the first iPhone14 in the Kingdom at a midnight launch by drone.

Given the traffic on Bahrain's streets especially on weekends, does this mean we can look forward to commercial use of drones to beat the crush of vehicles on our streets? Of course, this may quickly lead to hazardous air traffic conditions, so we have to be careful what we wish for.

The iPhone14 has already generated interesting news related to customer interest, with one young man spending hundreds to fly from Kerala to Dubai to be the first by a few hours to get his hands on an iPhone14. He made sure the news went viral on social media – but I wonder if he is ready with answers to questions that I am sure the customs officers will have for him when he returns!

Are we in Bahrain thinking clearly about the implications of commercial drone delivery? In the USA, where Amazon, Walmart and other giant corporations have petitioned to launch drone delivery services, there is an argument brewing that they are snatching up private airspace rights and paying the State nothing in return. What this means to the ordinary citizen is that companies will seek federal authority to route low-flying drones directly over their home or school playgrounds and there will be no right to object.

Commercial delivery drones fly within a few hundred feet of the ground through space that landowners have historically controlled. Like the internet and social media, drones too are an inevitable sign of progress I guess but we must start now to draft laws and rules that will keep citizen safety and rights in view when large-scale use of drones are used. Otherwise can you imagine the potential for damage when two drones carrying fragile loads collide over a crowded school yard or busy street?

We are at the start of an adventure. Let us get the rules right.

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

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## GCC-Russia ministerial meeting



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, yesterday took part in a joint ministerial meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Russian Federation at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The meeting was on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The GCC side was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the current session of the Ministerial Council of the Cooperation Council, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, and saw the participation of GCC Secretary-General, Dr Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf. The Russian Federation was headed by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov. The meeting discussed aspects of cooperation between the GCC states and the Russian Federation in various fields, and reviewed areas of developing joint action, based on the mechanisms of strategic dialogue and the executive work programme launched in November 2011.

## Bahraini man undergoes life-saving surgery at SMC

TDT | Manama

A team of surgeons from the Ear, Nose, Throat and Anaesthesia Department at the Salmaniya Medical Complex saved the life of a Bahraini man in his sixties suffering from a cancerous tumour in his larynx through a complex surgery.

The tumour created a life-threatening condition for the patient, who developed an obstruction in his airway producing difficulty in swallowing.

Dr Dina Shabib, a consultant laryngeal and vocal cord specialist, and Dr Melda Khalil, an anaesthesiologist consultant, led the surgery.

The medical team included Dr Amr Bahr, Dr Rehab Gharib from the Anaesthesia Department, Dr Talal Hassan, Dr Muhammad Siyadi, and Dr Esraa Qaidi.

"The patient developed severe swelling leading to a complete closure of his air-



way, requiring urgent surgical intervention," doctors said.

Dr Dina Shabib, a senior consultant in the field of breathing and throat at the ENT department at SMC, said that conducting such operations reflects the outstanding capabilities and skills of the medical staff at SMC.

Dr Melda Khalil, a Senior Consultant in the Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Care, praised the outstanding performance of SMC staff.

Dr Talal Hassan explained the multiple symptoms that

may appear in patients with this type of cancer, which are a change in the voice, the appearance of a lump in the neck, a feeling of pain in the throat, suffering from breathing problems, difficulty in swallowing, and unexplained weight loss.

Dr Talal added that the genetic mutation in throat cells is one of the most important causes of throat cancer, where smoking is the root cause of these mutations. Other factors include alcohol consumption and problems in the immune system.

## Labour Ministry holds 147 inspection visits in H1 2022

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Labour announced conducting 147 inspection visits during the first half of 2022 to ensure the commitment of vocational training institutions.

In Bahrain, 82 private training institutions are functioning in the private sector.

The Director of the Department of Vocational Institutes Affairs at the Ministry of Labour, Ahmed Jaafar Miftah, said the ministry, from January to August 2022, withdrew the licences of nine institutions, authorised 367 programmes, licensed 191 trainers and investigated 20 complaints from trainees, of which resolved eight.

The ministry issued 35 warnings for non-compliance and completed 771 services for training institutions, a 22% decline compared to 991 in the same period a year ago.

## Too hot to work: Bahrain had 18 days exceeding 40°C in August

(Continued from page 1)

The highest mean monthly temperature for August was 36.8°C recorded in 2021.

The mean maximum temperature of the month was 40.5°C which is 0.9°C below the long-term normal and this goes on record as the eighth highest mean maximum temperature for August since 1946. The highest mean monthly maximum temperature for August was 41.8°C recorded in 2021. During the month, Bahrain had 18 days with a maximum temperature exceeding 40°C. The highest temperature recorded during

the month was 43.7°C which occurred on the 15th of August at Bahrain International Airport.

The highest temperature recorded for August at Bahrain International Airport was 45.7°C which occurred on 9th August 1993.

The *Daily Tribune* earlier reported on the plight of different categories of workers including small-scale restaurant cooks, food delivery workers and others who were struggling from heat stress during the rising summer temperature.

The report quoted construction and outdoor work-

ers, who were pleading to the Labour and Social Development Ministry to extend the outdoor work ban to September as well amidst the mercury levels continuing to remain high in the Kingdom. The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 41 degree Celsius.

The plea came as the outdoor work ban strictly implemented by the ministry, starting July 1 ended yesterday. The ban aimed to protect outdoor labourers from heat stress.

Other countries in the region including the UAE generally offer midday breaks for

outdoor workers from June 15 to September 15.

During the months of July and August this year, the ministry directed all employers to strictly follow the outdoor work ban in line with the Kingdom's keenness to protect workers from occupational health issues and injuries, especially during the summer period, which witnesses a rise in temperature and an increase in humidity.

The Labour Ministry has always implemented initiatives that affirm the Kingdom's position as a leader in ensuring a secure and safe work environment for workers.

## New executive committee formed

TDT | Manama



Nithyan Thomas Kalarickal



Vinu Christy

Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) has elected its new Executive Committee, which will be headed by Mr Nithyan Thomas Kalarickal and Mr Vinu Christy.

The Annual General Meeting held on Saturday at KCA VKL Hall, elected the new Executive Committee for the years 2022-2024.

The new executive committee members are Mr Nithyan Thomas Kalarickal (President); Mr Thomas John (Vice President); Mr Vinu Christy (General Secretary); Mr Jinson Puthussery (Assistant General Secretary); Mr Asok Mathew (Treasurer); Mr Thomas Velikkakath Mathew (Assistant Treasurer); Mr Joyal Jose Neyyan (Membership Secretary); Mr Jithin Jose (Entertainment Secretary); Mr Vinod Daniel (Sports Secretary) and Mr Ranjith Thomas (Lounge Secretary). Mr Antony Roch and Mr K E Richard are being selected as Internal Auditors.

## Bhavans students top NGSE

TDT | Manama

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) students - Aditya Mishra and Harshvardhan Chellaraja came out with flying colours in the National Genius Search Examination (NGSE) conducted by National Genius Search Foundation, India.

National Genius Search Examination is a scientifically devised assessment tool which aid in accelerated learning. Aditya Mishra and Harshvardhan Chellaraja scored 100 percentile in their class category and topped all CBSE schools participating from India as well as abroad. Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob congratulated the winners.



Aditya Mishra



Harshvardhan Chellaraja



Earth's temperature has risen by 0.14° Fahrenheit (0.08° Celsius) per decade since 1880, but the rate of warming since 1981 is more than twice that: 0.32° F (0.18° C) per decade. 2021 was the sixth-warmest year on record based on NOAA's temperature data.



Global temperature is projected to warm by about 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7° degrees Fahrenheit) by 2050 and 2-4 degrees Celsius (3.6-7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100.

# BIAS 2022, Vatel Bahrain join hands

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Organising Committee of the Bahrain International Airshow (BIAS 2022) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Vatel Bahrain - International Hospitality School.

Under the MoU, a group of Vatel Bahrain students will be trained within the work team of the BIAS 2022, set to be held at the Al-Sakhir Airbase on November 9-11, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The first-of-its-kind initiative is launched based on the interest of BIAS Supreme Organising Committee, led by HM the King's Personal Representative, His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, in involving future competencies in impor-



The deal signing

tant events and creating training opportunities for Bahraini stu-

dents in BIAS.

Vatel Bahrain Director-Gen-

eral, Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and BIAS Group

Director, Yousif Mohammed Mahmood, signed the MoU, in the presence of Transportation and Telecommunications Minister, Mohammed bin Thamer Al-Kaabi and Tourism Minister, Fatima bint Jaffar Al-Sairafi.

Commenting, the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications stressed that BIAS is committed to developing Bahraini competencies to achieve optimum benefits for various segments of society, by providing them with distinguished expertise in the field of hospitality, tourism and hotel management, which is in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

Tourism Minister asserted said that BIAS is an opportunity for national cadres to develop their scientific and practical capabilities by meeting interna-

tional companies, companies' representatives, senior officials and important personalities to hone their skills and gain experience in the financial and business sector and enhance the objectives of the curriculum at Vatel Bahrain - International Hospitality School.

Vatel Bahrain chief expressed delight at providing a unique opportunity for the students of the Vatel Bahrain - International Hospitality School to take part in BIAS 2022, which is a prestigious international event that attracts mega companies.

This will contribute to providing those students with the required practical skills in accordance with international standards, through field training, which will boost the role of the hospitality, tourism and hotel sector in the kingdom.

# Musk says he will activate Starlink amid Iran protests

● The US Treasury Department on Friday issued guidance expanding internet services available to Iranians

Reuters

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk said yesterday that he would activate the firm's satellite internet service, Starlink, in response to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's tweet that the United States took action "to advance internet freedom and the free flow of information" to Iranians.

The US Treasury Department on Friday issued guidance expanding internet services available to Iranians despite U.S. sanctions on the country, amid protests around Iran following the death of a 22-year-old wom-



an in custody.

A Treasury official briefing reporters said: "Our understanding of Starlink is that what they provide would be commer-

cial grade, and it would be hardware that's not covered in the general license; so that would be something they would need to write into Treasury for."

A US State Department spokesperson later said of Friday's updated license that it was self-executing and that "anyone who meets the criteria outlined in this general license can proceed with their activities without requesting additional permissions."

Musk said on Monday that the company wanted to provide Starlink satellite broadband service - already provided to Ukraine for its fight against Russia's invasion - to Iranians, and would ask for a sanctions exception. The US State Department spokesperson added that if SpaceX were to determine that some activity aimed at Iranians requires a specific license, "OFAC would welcome it and prioritize it".

"By the same token, if SpaceX determines that its activity is already authorized and has any questions, OFAC also welcomes that engagement," the State Department spokesperson said.



Municipalities' Affairs and Agriculture Minister, Wael bin Nasser Al-Mubarak, has affirmed Bahrain's unwavering resolve to continue providing all kinds of support for Bahraini farmers to enhance the progress of the agricultural sector. The minister was speaking while meeting the Bahrain Agricultural Cooperative Society President, Mohammed Mohsen Ali, and members. Minister Al-Mubarak discussed the formation of a joint working group between the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the Bahrain Agricultural Cooperative Society to hold periodic meetings aimed at providing the necessary support to Bahraini farmers.

## Mubadala withdraws offer for Brazil's Burger King

Reuters | Sao Paulo

Brazil's Zamp SA (BKBR3.SA) said yesterday that Abu Dhabi state investor Mubadala had revoked its tender offer to purchase a controlling stake in the company, prompting shares in the Brazilian owner of the Burger King brand to fall.

Mubadala had offered 8.31 reais (\$1.61) per share to buy

a 45.15% stake in Zamp this month, up from an original offer of 7.55 reais per share in early August.

The Abu Dhabi investor said in a letter to Zamp it had dropped out after failing to obtain confirmation on whether the deal would imply the termination of Zamp's franchise and trademark licensing agreements.

# Fisker to sell electric SUV in India with view to local production

● Fisker to launch brand with imported Ocean electric SUV

● Scouting for showroom space, in talks with auto part makers

● Considers local production, but not before 2026

Reuters | New Delhi

US startup Fisker Inc (FSR.N) will begin selling its Ocean electric sport-utility vehicle (SUV) in India next July and could begin manufacturing its cars locally within a few years,



Fisker CEO Henrik Fisker unveils the Fisker Ocean during the 2021 LA Auto Show in Los Angeles, California, US

the company's chief executive officer told Reuters.

Sales of electric cars in India will gather pace by 2025-26, Henrik Fisker said in an interview in New Delhi, adding that the company wants to secure a

first-mover advantage.

"Ultimately, India will go full electric. It may not go as fast as the US, China or Europe, but we want to be one of the first ones to come in here," Fisker said.

Electric cars currently make

up just 1% of India's roughly 3 million annual car sales, with insufficient charging infrastructure and high battery costs partly to blame for the slow shift.

The government, which wants to increase this share to 30% by 2030, is offering companies billions of dollars in incentives to build their EVs and associated parts locally.

Fisker rival Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) put its India entry plans on hold after failing to secure a lower import tariff for its cars.

The Ocean retails at around \$37,500 in the United States but importing it to India would add logistics costs and a 100% import tax. That would put it out of reach of most buyers in a market where the bulk of cars sold are priced under \$15,000.



The company's next EV - the smaller, five-seater PEAR - is being considered for production in India but not before 2026, he said.

"If we can get that vehicle just below \$20,000 locally in India, that would be ideal. Then I think we'll get to a certain volume and market share," he said, adding that if they find the right local partner the timeline could be shorter.

To set up a plant in India would require volume of at least 30,000 to 40,000 cars a year, Fisker said.

He did not directly comment on the size of investment the company considered necessary, but said that to set up a plant with an annual production capacity of 50,000 cars would likely cost \$800 million in India.

## News in brief

### French MPs want inquiry into alleged Russian party financing



Members of the French National Assembly said yesterday they had asked the president of the lower house of the country's parliament to set up an investigation committee to look into alleged Russian financing of political parties. In a letter to Yael Braun-Pivet, shown to reporters, MPs said the move was prompted by a recent declassification of U.S. intelligence showing Russia had paid hundreds of millions of

euros to foreign political parties "with the aim to ... influence elections". The eight MPs, who belong to French President Emmanuel Macron's En Marche party, also noted that Marine Le Pen's far-right Rassemblement National party is still paying off a loan granted by Russian banks.

### NASA's Artemis moon launch delayed as storm expected in Florida

NASA said

yesterday that it was scrapping Tuesday's plans to launch Artemis, the U.S. return to the moon after five decades, noting concerns about a tropical storm headed to Florida. Tropical Storm Ian is expected to hit Florida, home to the Kennedy Space Center, next week, according to the US National Hurricane Center. Apart from weather and technical challenges like a fuel leak, Artemis I, the uncrewed test flight, signals a major turning point for NASA's post-Apollo human spaceflight program, after decades focused on low-Earth orbit with space shuttles and the International Space Station. Artemis will be headed to the moon, as a stepping stone for a future flight to Mars.



### Clashes erupt at Mexico protest over missing students



Protesters hurling rocks and homemade explosive devices clashed with security forces at a Mexican military base during a demonstration over the disappearance of 43 students in 2014. Hundreds of demonstrators, some shouting "murderers," pulled down metal fencing and tried to enter Military Camp No. 1 in Mexico City in the latest event marking the eighth anniversary of the tragedy. Authorities fired water

cannon in response..

### Armed bandits kill 15 at mosque in northwest Nigeria, residents say

A gang of armed men killed at least 15 people at a mosque in northwest Nigeria's Zamfara state, residents said yesterday.

The attack in the Bukkuyum local government area took place during Friday prayers at the Jum'at central mosque in Ruwan Jema town, three residents told Reuters. "The armed bandits came on motorbikes while holding their guns and moved straight to the mosque and began to shoot sporadically us," resident Amimu Mustapha said. Another resident who asked not to be named said the attack took place at roughly 2pm local time, adding there were many others



## US sending 'dangerous signals' on Taiwan, China tells Blinken

Reuters | New York

China has accused the United States of sending "very wrong, dangerous signals" on Taiwan after the US secretary of state told his Chinese counterpart on Friday that the maintenance of peace and stability over Taiwan was vitally important.

Taiwan was the focus of the 90-minute, "direct and honest" talks between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York, a US official told reporters.

"For our part, the secretary made crystal clear that, in accordance with our long-standing one-China policy, which again has not changed, the maintenance of peace and stability across the Strait is absolutely, vitally important," the senior US administration official said.

China's foreign ministry, in a statement on the meeting, said the United States was sending "very wrong, dangerous signals" on Taiwan, and the more rampant Taiwan's independence activity, the less likely there would be a peaceful settlement.

"The Taiwan issue is an internal Chinese matter, and the United States has no right to interfere in what method will be used to resolve it," the ministry cited Wang as saying.

Tensions over Taiwan have soared after a visit there in August by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi - which was followed by large-scale Chinese military drills - as well as a pledge by US President Joe Biden to defend the democratically governed island.

Biden's statement was his most explicit to date about



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Chinese State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

to those seeking an independent Taiwan.

In a phone call with Biden in July, Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned about Taiwan, saying "those who play with fire will perish by it."

China sees Taiwan as one of its provinces and has long vowed to bring the island under its control and has not ruled out the use of force to do so.

Taiwan's government strongly objects to China's sovereignty claims and says only the island's 23 million people can decide its future.

Taiwan's foreign ministry, responding to the meeting between Blinken and Wang, said China's "recent provocative actions" had made the Taiwan Strait a focus of discussion, and China was trying to "confuse the international audience with arguments and criticisms that contradict reality."

The State Department had said earlier that Blinken's meeting with Wang was part of a US effort to "maintain open lines of communication and manage competition responsibly," and the senior official said Blinken had reiterated US openness to "cooperating with China on matters of global concern."

The White House has insisted its Taiwan policy has not changed, but China said Biden's remarks sent the wrong signal

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Tensions over Taiwan have soared after a visit there in August by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi - which was followed by large-scale Chinese military drills - as well as a pledge by US President Joe Biden to defend the democratically governed island

## COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	97,880,451	1,081,566
2 India	44,565,874	528,487
3 France	35,087,657	154,887
4 Brazil	34,666,387	685,816
5 Germany	32,952,050	149,458
6 S. Korea	24,594,336	28,140
7 UK	23,621,952	189,919
8 Italy	22,284,812	176,867
9 Japan	20,982,896	44,262
10 Russia	20,746,163	386,662
11 Turkey	16,852,382	101,068
12 Spain	13,403,502	114,009
13 Vietnam	11,471,340	43,146
14 Australia	10,201,791	14,925

**Global tally**  
619,885,033  
**Deaths**  
6,539,503  
**Recovered:**  
599,722,528  
**New cases**  
+249,426  
**New deaths**  
+539

## Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	815,743	+57	9,341	+1	803,035	3,367
UAE	1,025,213	+368	2,343	+1	1,004,581	18,289
Kuwait	658,520		2,563		655,316	641
Oman	397,993		4,260		384,669	9,064
Qatar	446,277	+528	682		127,093	2,892

## North Korea may be preparing to test submarine-launched ballistic missile, South Korea military says

Reuters | Seoul

South Korea's military has detected signs that North Korea may be preparing to test a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), Yonhap news agency reported yesterday, days before a visit by US Vice President Kamala Harris.

The military detected preparations this week in Sinpo,



This photo provided by the North Korean government shows a ballistic missile launched from a submarine

South Hamgyong Province, North Korea, Yonhap reported, citing an unnamed South Korean military source. This is in line with a US-based think tank's report this week, which cited commercial satellite imagery.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol is aware of signs and movements suggesting North Korean provocations, including SLBMs, the presidential office said in a statement yesterday.

US Vice President Harris is set to visit the region next week and meet with leaders of Japan and South Korea.

A senior US administration

official told a briefing on Friday that a nuclear test or other provocation was possible during Harris' trip to the region, but that they had no predictions or announcements to make.

A US aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea on Friday for the first time in about four years, joining other military vessels to participate in joint drills with South Korean forces.

North Korea has denounced previous US military deployments and joint drills as rehearsals for war and evidence of hostile policies by Washington and Seoul.

# Ru surre

Russia sac

## “Butcher of Mariupol” appointed Russia's Deputy Defence Minister

AFP | Kyiv

Russia yesterday toughened penalties for voluntary surrender and refusal to fight with up to 10 years imprisonment and replaced its top logistics general after a series of setbacks to its seven-month war in Ukraine.

The tough new amendments and personnel change come days after Russia instigated partial mobilisation with Kyiv taking back more and more territory in a counter-offensive.

It also comes as Kremlin-held regions of eastern and southern Ukraine voted for a second day on becoming part of Russia, dramatically raising the stakes.

Integrating the four regions into Russia would mean that Moscow would consider any military move there as an attack on its own territory.

Russia's invasion, launched on February 24, and Ukraine's recent gains have laid bare flaws with some analysts seeing logistics as the weak link in Moscow's army.

"Army General Dmitry Bulgakov has been relieved of the post of deputy minister of defence" and will be replaced by Colonel General Mikhail Mizintsev, aged 60, the defence ministry said.

The new general who will be

## 89 dead in Lebanon

AFP | Damascus

Eighty-nine bodies have been recovered since a boat carrying migrants from Lebanon sunk off Syria's coast, Syrian state media said yesterday, as the Lebanese army said it arrested a suspected smuggler behind one of the deadliest recent shipwrecks in the eastern Mediterranean.

Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), called it a "heart-wrenching tragedy".

At least 14 people rescued were recovering in hospitals in Syria while six others were discharged, as search efforts continued, with several people still missing since the boat sank on Thursday.

"There are 89 victims, while 14 people are receiving treatment at Al-Basel Hospital, two of whom are in intensive care," Syria's official news agency SANA reported, quoting Iskandar Ammar, a hospital official.

Lebanon's army said it arrested a Lebanese man who "admitted to organising the recent smuggling operation from Lebanon to Italy by sea".

Lebanon, a country which hosts more than a million refugees from Syria's civil war, has since 2019

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

A senior US administration official told a briefing on Friday that a nuclear test or other provocation was possible during Harris' trip to the region, but that they had no predictions or announcements to make

1066

Battle of Stamford Bridge: English army under King Harold II defeat invading Norwegians led by King Harald Hardrada and Harold's brother Tostig, who were both killed

1237

Treaty of York signed between kings Henry III of England and Alexander II of Scotland which establishes a boundary between the two countries (mostly unchanged in modern times)

1513

Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crosses the Panama Isthmus becoming first European to see the Pacific Ocean



1926

Henry Ford announces an 8 hour, 5-day work week for workers at the Ford Motor Company

# Russia stiffens penalty for surrender, replaces top general

Replaces deputy defence minister after battlefield defeats that revealed widespread logistical problems



Two boys cheer at passing vehicles from their mimicked checkpoint at the curve of a road in Chuhuiv, Kharkiv region

in charge of logistics is dubbed "Butcher of Mariupol" for his role in the siege of Mariupol and destruction of civilian targets in the city

Russia's partial mobilisation announced on Wednesday will likely be one of his first big logistical challenges with the hundreds of thousands of reservists being called up needing to be equipped and trained before deployment.

Military-age men have sought to leave, with flights full and neighbouring countries receiving an influx of Russians, including Georgia where 2,300 private vehicles were waiting to enter at one crossing, regional Russian authorities said.

Now that President Vladimir Putin has signed the legislation, servicemen who desert, surrender "without authorisation", re-

fuse to fight or disobey orders can face up to 10 years imprisonment.

## 'Sham'

Looting will be punishable by 15 years imprisonment.

A separate law, also signed yesterday, facilitates Russian citizenship for foreigners who enlist in the Russian army as the Kremlin seeks to bolster the ranks.

On Friday, US President Joe Biden has dismissed as a "sham" the voting on whether Russia should annex four regions of Ukraine, which ends next Tuesday.

Even Beijing, Moscow's closest ally since the war began, called for the respect of "sovereignty and territorial integrity".

The voting is being held in Russian-controlled areas of Donetsk and Lugansk in the east, and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south.



Ukrainians have reported armed soldiers going door-to-door in occupied parts of the country to collect votes for self-styled "referendums" on joining Russia

For four days, authorities are going door-to-door to collect votes. Polling stations then open Tuesday for residents to cast ballots on the final day. Results are expected as early as late Tuesday or Wednesday.

"Ultimately, things are moving towards the restoration of the Soviet Union. The referendum is one step towards this," Leonid, a 59-year-old military official, said.

The snap referendums were announced just this week after the Ukrainian counter-offensive seized most of the northeast Kharkiv region -- bringing hundreds of settlements back under Kyiv's control after months of Russian occupation.

Irpin, close to the capital, was recaptured after weeks of fighting and residents have rallied to start rebuilding before winter sets in.

Over 100 apartment blocks in Irpin -- dubbed a "hero city" by



Two men pose for a photo in front of motorcade organized to support voting in a referendum in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine

President Volodymyr Zelensky for holding back Russian invaders -- were badly damaged by shelling.

## Evidence of 'war crimes'

Head of his building's residents' association Mykhailo Kyrilenko looked proudly at the new roof taking shape.

"People don't have much money, but they agreed" to donate funds to gradually restore the shattered homes, he said.

Putin this week warned that Moscow would use "all means" to protect its territory -- which former Russian leader Dmitry Medvedev said on social media could include the use of "strategic nuclear weapons".

Zelensky has denounced the polls, on Friday calling them "crimes against international law

and the law of Ukraine".

G7 nations declared the polls will "never" be recognised and have "no legal effect or legitimacy".

UN investigators on Friday accused Russia of committing war crimes on a "massive scale" in Ukraine -- listing bombings, executions, torture and horrific sexual violence.

In the eastern Kharkiv region, Ukrainian officials said they had exhumed 447 bodies from a site near the city of Izyum, which was recaptured from Russian forces.

"Most of them have signs of violent death, and 30 have signs of torture," said Kharkiv regional governor Oleg Synegubov.

"There are bodies with rope around their necks, with their hands tied, with broken limbs and gunshot wounds."



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Since the signing of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, +4.3 million metric tonnes of food have been moved, bound for 29 countries. Food prices have dropped sharply but are still almost 8% higher than last year. Shipments must increase so commodity markets can further stabilize.

@antonioguterres

02



Both Earth & Jupiter (as do all planets) have oval orbits around the Sun. Every now and then, Earth is farthest from the Sun while passing Jupiter when it's closest to the Sun. That's what's going on next week, accounting for Jupiter's extra brightness in the night sky.

@neiltyson

03



I met with PRC Foreign Minister Wang Yi today in NYC. I reiterated the need to maintain open lines of communication and discussed ways to responsibly manage the U.S.-PRC relationship, especially during times of tension.

@SecBlinken

04



A society and an economy without young people are sad, pessimistic and cynical. We are grateful to God that you are here. I am counting on you! Do not be afraid to bother us! Be an example for us! #EconomyOf-Francesco

@Pontifex

## migrant shipwreck off Syria: new toll



Lebanese Red Cross and Palestinian rescue team ambulances carrying dead bodies cross a border point between Lebanon and Syria, in Arida, north Lebanon

been mired in a financial crisis branded by the World Bank as one of the worst in modern times.

It has become a launchpad for illegal migration, with its own citizens joining Syrian and Palestinian refugees clamouring to leave.

As many as 150 people were on board the small boat that sank off the Syrian port of Tartus, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Tripoli in Lebanon, from where the migrants set sail.

Those on board were mostly Lebanese and Syrians and Palestinians, and included both children and the elderly, the UN said.

## #ChinaCoup trends on Twitter

TDI | Agencies

Rumours are doing the rounds on social media that Xi has been removed as the chief of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and China's capital, Beijing, is currently under the army's control.

The news comes a day after a former top security official was sentenced to life in prison by the Chinese court. He was believed to be part of anti-Xi "political clique". Another two people associated with the group were similarly given suspended death sentences and three others received lengthy prison terms this week.

Other rumours circulating on the Internet include Li Qiaoming, the General serving for the Chinese PLA, has replaced Xi Jinping as China's ruler.

However, there is no official confirmation from the Chinese Communist Party or the state media about these rumours.

A Chinese human rights activist Jennifer Zeng, who is now residing in the US, shared a video on Twitter and claimed the PLA was moving toward Beijing. Zeng's tweet reads: "#PLA



military vehicles heading to #Beijing on Sep 22. Starting from Huanlai County near Beijing & ending in Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province, entire procession as long as 80 KM. Meanwhile, rumor has it that #XiJinping was under arrest after #CCP seniors removed him as head of PLA."

There are also rumours that both international and domestic flights to and from Beijing have been halted and that the city has been cut off from the rest of the world. More rumours claim nearly 60 per cent of flights in China were grounded without any explanation on Friday.

Gordon Chang, a Chinese



author, also based in the US, replied to Zeng's Tweet and wrote: "This video of military vehicles moving to #Beijing comes immediately after the grounding of 59% of the flights in the country and the jailings of senior officials. There's a lot of smoke, which means there is a fire somewhere inside the #CCP. #China is unstable."



Since 2020, Lebanon has seen a spike in the number of migrants using its shores to attempt the perilous crossing in jam-packed boats to reach Europe

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

# Fiona knocks out power with strong winds in Atlantic Canada

Post-tropical cyclone Fiona hits eastern Canada with hurricane-force winds, forcing evacuations

● Storm surges and heavy rainfall expected before weather event gradually weakens this weekend, say meteorologists

Reuters | Halifax

Powerful storm Fiona slammed into eastern Canada yesterday with hurricane-force winds, blowing over trees and powerlines and leaving hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses without electricity.

The US National Hurricane Center said the center of the storm, now called Post-Tropical Cyclone Fiona, was now in the Gulf of St. Lawrence after racing through Nova Scotia. Reports of downed trees and power lines were widespread in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Fiona, which nearly a week ago devastated parts of the Caribbean, made landfall between Canso and Guysborough, Nova Scotia, where the Canadian Hur-



A sailboat lies washed up on shore following the passing of Hurricane Fiona, later downgraded to a post-tropical storm, in Shearwater, Nova Scotia

ricane Centre said it recorded what could have been the storm with the lowest barometric pressure to hit land in the country's history.

Some 79% of customers, or 414,000, were without power in Nova Scotia, and 95%, or 82,000, had lost power on Prince Edward Island, utility companies said. The region was also seeing spotty mobile phone service.

Police across the region reported multiple road closures.

The storm weakened somewhat as it travelled north. As of 8 a.m. (1200 GMT), it was over the Gulf of St. Lawrence about 200 miles (340 km) northeast of Halifax, carrying maximum winds of 85 miles per hour (140 kph) and barreling north at around 23 mph (37 kph), the NHC said. Experts predicted high winds,

It's going to a bad one. We of course hope there won't be much needed, but we feel there probably will be. Listen to the instructions of local authorities and hang in there for the next 24 hours

PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU

storm surges and heavy rainfall from Fiona. The storm was forecast to gradually weaken but was expected to maintain hurricane-force winds until yesterday afternoon, the NHC said.

Formerly designated a hurricane, Fiona battered Caribbean islands earlier in the week, killing at least eight people and knocking out power for virtually all of Puerto Rico's 3.3 million people during a sweltering heat wave. Nearly a million people remained without power five days later.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delayed yesterday's



Hurricanes in Canada are somewhat rare, in part because once the storms reach colder waters, they lose their main source of energy. But post-tropical cyclones still can have hurricane-strength winds, although they have a cold core and no visible eye. They also often lose their symmetric form and more resemble a comma

response, Press Secretary Cecely Roy said on Twitter.

A hurricane warning was in effect for much of central Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, home to more than 150,000 people, and parts of Newfoundland, the Miami-based NHC said.

Canadian authorities sent emergency alerts in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, warning of severe flooding along shorelines and extremely dangerous waves. People in coastal areas were advised to evacuate.

"We've had a few before, but they say this is going to be the biggest of them all," said Chris MacPhee, 53, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, who stocked up on groceries, batteries and candles. He said he was feeling "a little nervous, I guess."

The storm could prove to be more ferocious than the benchmarks of Hurricane Juan in 2003 and Hurricane Dorian in 2019, Canadian Hurricane Centre meteorologist Bob Robichaud told a briefing on Friday.

The country's two largest carriers, Air Canada and WestJet Airlines, suspended regional service starting Friday evening.

## Air traffic controllers suspend strike in West and Central Africa

AFP | Dakar

A 48-hour strike by air traffic controllers in West and Central Africa has been suspended, their union said.

The strike, which started on Friday, has disrupted flights across the region and left hundreds of passengers stranded at airports yesterday.

The Union of Air Traffic

Controllers' Unions (USYCAA), which called the wildcat strike, said in a statement it decided suspend its strike notice for 10 days immediately so as to allow for negotiations.

"Air traffic services will be provided in all air spaces and airports managed by ASECNA from today Saturday, September 24, 2022 at 1200 GMT," the statement said.

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## Typhoon lashes central Japan, killing two

AFP | Tokyo

A typhoon lashed central Japan yesterday with torrential rain and fierce winds, killing two and leaving tens of thousands of households without power, the Kyodo news agency reported.

Shizuoka city, southwest of the capital, Tokyo, was hit especially hard, seeing a record 417 mm (16.42 inches) of precipitation since the rain started on Thursday, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

Winds at the centre of Typhoon Talas were blowing at about 65 kph (40 mph), with peak gusts of about 90 kph (56 mph), it said. A man in his 40s was killed in a landslide and a 29-year-old man was found dead after his car plunged into a reservoir, Kyodo reported.



A worker places a barricade at the scene of a landslide that damaged a residential area in Hamamatsu of the Shizuoka prefecture, central Japan

Power was also cut to about 120,000 households, supplier Chubu Electric Power Grid Co said, adding that a landslide had knocked over two electricity pylons.

"We apologise deeply for the

inconvenience caused by this power outage. The outage is being prolonged due to landslides, among other factors, but we are doing all we can to fix it as swiftly as possible," the company said on Twitter.



Winds at the centre of Typhoon Talas were blowing at about 65 kph (40 mph), with peak gusts of about 90 kph (56 mph)

By yesterday afternoon, power had returned to the majority of households, though some 2,800 were still without power. Chubu Electric Power Grid estimated that it would take a few months for the pylons to be restored.

## Equatorial Guinea president to run again to extend 43-year rule

Reuters | Dakar

The world's longest-standing leader, President Teodoro Obiang of Equatorial Guinea, will run for office again in November elections, his party announced on Friday, likely extending a 43-year tenure that began when he snatched power in a 1979 coup.

The rule of Obiang, 80, has been marked by torture of political opponents, sham elections, and corruption, rights groups and foreign powers say. Obiang denies such charges.

Under him, the West African country has become increasingly reclusive and reliant on oil and gas, which provide about



Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo

three quarters of state revenues. The money lines the pockets of those close to the president while the majority of the nation lives in poverty, rights groups say.

His son, Vice-President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangué, a

Under Teodoro Obiang, Equatorial Guinea has become increasingly reclusive and reliant on oil and gas, which provide about three quarters of state revenues. The money lines the pockets of those close to the president while the majority of the nation lives in poverty, rights groups say

jet-setter with a love for parties, fast cars, and jewellery and who was convicted of embezzlement

by a French court in 2020, said on Twitter on Friday that his father had been nominated to run again "due to his charisma, leadership and political experience".

Another term will bring fresh challenges. The economy was knocked back by COVID-19 and a drop in oil prices, although the Ukraine war and the resulting need for non-Russian oil and gas may help spur growth.

Widespread poverty remains. That was laid bare when a series of explosions at an army barracks flattened a part of the coastal city of Bata last year, killing about 100 people and triggering an aid response from former colonial power Spain.

English Daily newspaper

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# Tears flow as curtain comes down on Federer's glittering career

Roger Federer retires after teaming with Rafael Nadal in last match at Laver Cup

● Roger Federer retires after teaming with Rafael Nadal in last match

AFP | London

Roger Federer's trophy-laden career ended with defeat on Friday, but for once the result hardly mattered as the Swiss maestro headed into retirement with tears in his eyes and cheers ringing in his ears.

With a sellout crowd of 17,500 at London's O2 Arena willing him on, the 20-time Grand Slam champion returned after more than a year away to play alongside Rafael Nadal, the Spaniard with whom he shared one of tennis's most captivating rivalries.

With the clock past midnight, Federer could have sealed victory in the Laver Cup doubles clash when he served at match point in a tense deciding tie-break, but it was not to be as Americans Jack Sock and Frances Tiafoe ripped up the script.

Sock thumped a forehand winner and sealed a 4-6 7-6 11-9 win for Team World. After a brief moment of stunned silence around the packed arena, the crowd rose to salute the 41-year-old Federer, whose elegance, charisma and sportsmanship has graced tennis and transcended sport during a 24-year career.

Federer produced moments of his trademark magic during a fiercely contested duel and kept his emotions in check.

But the tears flowed afterwards as Ellie Goulding sung while a montage of Federer's feats was projected on the black court.

When he was hugged by wife, Mirka, children Leo, Lenny, Myla and Charlene, and his parents Lynette and Robert, there was hardly a dry eye in the house.

"We'll get through this somehow. It's been a wonderful day. I told the guys I'm happy, not sad,"



Team Europe's Roger Federer, front, and Rafael Nadal in action during their Laver Cup doubles match

**“We'll get through this somehow. It's been a wonderful day. I told the guys I'm happy, not sad. I enjoyed tying my shoelaces one more time, everything was the last time. Playing with Rafa and having all the greats here, all the legends”**

ROGER FEDERER

said Federer, who announced last week that this would be his final event after struggling to overcome a knee injury.

"I enjoyed tying my shoelaces one more time, everything was the last time," he added. "Playing with Rafa and having all the greats here, all the legends."

Federer broke down as he thanked his wife.

"She could have stopped me a long, long time ago but she didn't. She kept me going and allowed me to play, so it's amazing - thank you," he said.

Federer's eagerly anticipated final bow came after British favourite Andy Murray had battled against Australian Alex De Minaur for two and a half hours, but lost.

Murray's two Wimbledon titles made him a national sporting icon, but the night was all about Federer - a player who resides in the pantheon of sporting greats with the likes of Pele, Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan and Muhammad Ali.

Even his practice sessions here have been standing-room-only affairs, and an electric atmosphere greeted him as he walked out into the cavernous arena alongside Nadal just after 10pm.

"I've done this thousands of times, but this one feels different. Thank you to everybody who's coming tonight," Federer posted on Twitter earlier in the day.

## Team event

The crowd included Australian



A tearful Roger Federer (SUI) and Rafael Nadal (ESP) look on after his last Laver Cup Tennis match

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Over the years, Federer and Nadal showed off individual greatness and compelling contrasts across their 40 matches, 14 at Grand Slam tournaments, nine in major finals: righty vs. lefty, attacker vs. grinder, seeming effortlessness vs. relentless intensity

great Laver - the man who inspired Federer to create the team competition being staged in London for the first time.

Loud cheers accompanied Federer and Nadal, or 'Fedal' as they are nicknamed, on to court and The Clash's London Calling boomed out as they warmed up.

An even bigger roar went up when Federer punched away a volley in the opening

## Nadal pulls out of Laver Cup after doubles with Federer

Reuters | London

Rafa Nadal has pulled out of the remainder of the Laver Cup due to personal reasons after partnering friend and rival Roger Federer in a doubles match that brought down the curtain on the Swiss great's glittering tennis career.

"Rafael Nadal withdrew for

personal reasons. He will be replaced by Cameron Norrie," the organisers of the tournament said on Saturday.

Nadal is also expecting his first child with wife Mery Perello soon but made the trip to London to play alongside Federer in the Swiss maestro's final professional outing.

game - his first competitive shot since defeat by Hubert Hurkacz at Wimbledon last year ended his dream of a record-extending ninth title on Centre Court.

During changeovers video screens showed iconic moments of Federer's career with tributes from Nadal and his mother.

But this was no exhibition match.

American duo Sock and Tiafoe, pantomime villains for the night, tested Federer's reactions with some lusty blows aimed at the Swiss maestro.

Federer was equal to pretty much everything, his silky shot-making and nimble footwork on show despite a long time away from the court.

The iconic

pair, with a combined age of 77 and 42 Grand Slam titles between them, edged the opening set by breaking Tiafoe's serve. But the Americans levelled as Federer and Nadal began to fade.

Chants of "Let's go, Roger, let's go" resounded around the packed stands in the championship tiebreak as Federer and Nadal clawed their way towards a victory the occasion demanded.

Even the tennis gods could not intervene to allow Federer one last victory, but nothing could take the gloss off a night to celebrate a player who led tennis into a golden era.

"It still feels like a celebration for me and that's exactly what I hoped for," said Federer, who scaled unprecedented heights and rewrote the record books. "It's been a perfect journey and I would do it all over again."

## Raducanu retires from Korea Open semi-final

AFP | Seoul

Emma Raducanu was forced to retire from her Korea Open semi-final against Jelena Ostapenko due to injury, leaving the Latvian to face second seed Ekaterina Alexandrova in Sunday's final.

The 2021 US Open winner was featuring in her first semi-final since that fairytale triumph at Flushing Meadows, and took the opening set 6-4 after making a flying start on Saturday.

Ostapenko then fought back to level the match, with Raducanu first appearing to struggle with her movement when she was a break up in the second, forcing her to take an off-court medical timeout.

The 19-year old later retired citing a left glute injury when 3-0 down in the decider, ending



Emma Raducanu receives treatment

her confidence-boosting run in Seoul and teeing up a final meeting between the top two seeds.

Indeed, Alexandrova enjoyed a more routine outing in her meeting with Wimbledon semi-finalist Tatjana Maria, downing the German 6-2 6-4 to advance to her second final of the year.

At the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, meanwhile, Chinese teen-

**Raducanu moves from 77th to 66th in the world rankings after her encouraging tournament, but another injury will be a concern**

ager Zheng Qinwen reached her first WTA Tour final with a hard-fought win over world number 13 Veronika Kudermetova.

Having required over three hours to seal her 5-7 6-3 7-6 (7-3) triumph, the world number 36 said: "After the match when I won the last point, the feeling was incredible.

"The opponent, she's playing unbelievable tennis. She has a really good serve and hits the ball hard, she moves well. It's my first time in the final. I'm so happy."

## Torrente wins again in Italy to extend lead in F1H2O title race

TDT | Manama

Team Abu Dhabi's Shaun Torrente extended his lead in the 2022 UIM F1H2O World Championship today with a commanding victory in an incident-packed Grand Prix of Regione Emilia Romagna in Italy.

Torrente produced a flawless performance over the 1,971m Po River circuit in San Nazzaro to follow up his opening round success in France, winning with 10.1 secs to spare from Sweden's defending world champion, Jonas Andersson.

Making it a near perfect day for Team Abu Dhabi, Thani Al Qemzi took the third podium place to retain second spot in the championship standings, 13 points behind Torrente. Finn Alec Weckstrom, France's Peter Morin and Dutchman Ferdinand Zandbergen completed



Shaun Torrente in action

the top six.

After their 1-2 triumph in France, Team Abu Dhabi now look almost unbeatable in their bid to secure a fifth successive F1H2O team title.

Torrente was left at the start as a succession of boats roared past him, but the 2018 and 2019 world champion made a dramatic recovery, powering his way past Selio and the rest into the lead on the first lap.

It seemed that the pattern

for the race was being set, as the American driver resisted attempts by Selio to close the gap, before a series of incidents brought two re-starts and left a succession of Grand Prix casualties.

First, Portugal's Duarte Benavente retired on the 14th of 45 laps with mechanical problems. Ten laps later Selio, who dropped out when leading in France, exited again after damaging the front of his boat.

## MMA Federation presidents, fighters congratulate HH Shaikh Khalid and BRAVE CF

● **IMMAF President sends his congratulations on sixth anniversary of BRAVE CF and HH's birthday**

TDT | Manama

The Presidents of various federations from across the globe were in full praise for the man of the hour, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who not only celebrated his birthday, but also the 6th anniversary of BRAVE Combat Federation on Friday, 23rd September.

Six years after the very first BRAVE CF event, the promotion has come a long way in building the sport and laying down foundations for federations, athletes and fans across the globe. With that said, International Mixed Martial Arts (IMMAF) president, Kerrith Brown, formed part of a long list of distinguished members of the Mixed Martial Arts and larger sporting community who took the time to congratulate His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa on the sixth anniversary of BRAVE Combat Federation, as well as wishes of happy birthday to the combat sports visionary.

"As President of the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation, I, Kerrith Brown, would like to wish His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa a very happy birthday on the 6th anniversary of BRAVE CF. His Highness has had an extraordinary impact on the global development of this sport in the Middle East and in Asia," said Brown.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

"His Highness has made bold investments in the sport, from the grassroots up to the professional level. Now, with BRAVE CF progressing his Highness' vision for the growth of Amateur MMA through the impressive Super Cup which was held earlier this year, I look forward to future collaborations with the Bahrain MMA Federation and BRAVE CF for the benefit of the sport and its participation worldwide. Happy Birthday, Your Highness!" added Brown.

Heads of various MMA boards showered His Highness and BRAVE CF with blessings for the great work being done thus far with an eye on further global expansion of mixed martial arts.

"I would like to congratulate His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for the sixth anniversary of BRAVE Combat Federation. We as the Slovenian MMA Federation are looking forward to a bright future together, hoping to host more events in Slovenia in the future, even bigger than the BRAVE 34 event hosted in 2020. We aim to take the sport to new heights and develop new superstars in our re-

gion for the entire world. Thank you so much, Your Highness, for all your support you have given to Slovenian MMA and we are very excited for the future of BRAVE CF in our country. MMA is on!" said Slovenian MMA Federation President, Zlatko Mahic.

"I would like to congratulate His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa on the sixth anniversary of BRAVE CF! Thank you so much for your support, Your Highness, for all the support you have given Colombian MMA," said Jaime Baron, the executive director of LFC and President of the Colombian MMA Federation. While Mixed Martial Arts Mauritius President, Avinash Ramtohol also highlighted the value brought forward by His Highness.

"I would like to take this opportunity to wish a wonderful

IMMAF PRESIDENT, KERRITH BROWN

and blessed birthday to His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa," says Ramtohol.

"He had a wonderful vision of uniting nations via the celebration of MMA competitions and create opportunities for athletes from around the world. This is also a special occasion as we celebrate the 6th anniversary of BRAVE Combat Federation. I feel proud to be a representative of KHK Sports and BRAVE CF and we are very happy to have his support in the development of MMA in the African region. Thank you, Your Highness, for laying out the plans to bring BRAVE Combat Federation to Mauritius soon for yet another big celebration of African mixed martial arts. We are eager and happy to welcome you to our beautiful island, Mauritius, very, very soon!"

Current and former BRAVE Combat Federation athletes took time out of their busy schedules to pay homage to His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and congratulate him on BRAVE CF's ongoing success.

Former BRAVE CF star and globally-known athlete, Muhammad Mokaev took a moment from his shopping to send blessings to His Highness - whose vision has also created the KHK MMA team - whom Mokaev is affiliated with.

"Hey, BRAVE NATION, it's Muhammad Mokaev here, UFC Flyweight fighter. I would like to congratulate His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa on his success of six years with BRAVE Combat Federation. I would like to wish him and the entire BRAVE CF staff complement, everybody who works behind the scenes, all the best

and I will be at the next BRAVE CF event after my next fight," said Mokaev.

BRAVE CF Middleweight contender, South Africa's Chad Hanekom was basking in the South African sun while sending a warm message of love and well wishes to Shaikh Khalid.

"What's up BRAVE NATION, South Africa's Superman, Chad Hanekom here. I would just like to wish His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa a very happy birthday. And I would like to congratulate him on his continued success with the global expansion of mixed martial arts with BRAVE Combat Federation. See you soon!"

Former BRAVE CF star and current UFC athlete, France's Benoit Saint-Denis was grateful for the opportunity His Highness gave him and for what he learned at BRAVE CF.

"A big congratulations to Your Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for the work



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's birthday falls on the same day as BRAVE Combat Federation's 6th anniversary after the promotion's first event - The Beginning - took place exactly six years ago (23rd of September, 2016)

that he and his team have been doing over the last six years. The hard work and dedication put into BRAVE Combat Federation. I am very lucky and happy to have been part of BRAVE Combat Federation's story. I grew up there as a mixed martial artist and am forever grateful. Thank you, Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and thank you, BRAVE CF!"

Other big-name athletes who have also shared their congratulations to BRAVE CF and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa include former champion Jarrah Al-Silawi and Flyweight tournament finalist Ali Bagautinov.

As if the day is not special enough, His Highness' birthday and BRAVE CF's 6th anniversary also coincided with the official launch of the much-anticipated BRAVE CF TV App.

Global MMA superstar, Conor McGregor's head coach, Ireland's John Kavanagh took a moment from his time in Portugal to send BRAVE CF founder and owner, HH Shaikh Khalid a very special birthday message and congratulations on the six years of BRAVE CF.

"For six years BRAVE Combat Federation has been going now, and you've certainly achieved what you set out to do. BRAVE CF is truly the one global MMA organization, that other big one in the United States of America likes to say it is, but pretty much 99 percent of their shows are in the USA," quipped Kavanagh alluding to the fact that BRAVE CF is truly more globally recognized than the Ultimate Fighting Championship especially after BRAVE CF became the most-travelled MMA organization on the planet visiting its 28th country in August.

# Bahrain shift focus to Panama friendly

Kingdom's senior men's national to next take on CONCACAF giants in second tune-up game of local training camp on Tuesday

● **Panama national team arrive in Kingdom with 18-member squad**

● **Tuesday's friendly to be played at the National Stadium in Riffa**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team will be looking to bounce back from their loss to Cape Verde in an international friendly match on Friday when they take on Panama on Tuesday in another tune-up contest.

The Panamanians have already arrived in the Kingdom and have begun their final preparations for the contest.

They have travelled with an 18-member squad, coached by former player Thomas Christiansen.

A number of Panama's players ply their trade overseas, suiting up for clubs in Germany, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Belgium, the US, Colombia, Guam, Ecuador and Israel.

Tuesday's game will be held at



Bahrain's starting 11 from their friendly against Cape Verde

the National Stadium in Riffa. It will mark the end of their latest local training camp.

The nationals are using the fixture as part of their preparations for their upcoming tournaments, including their much-awaited title-defence in the Gulf Cup and their participation in the continent's biggest event, the AFC Asian Cup, both happening next year.

Bahrain head coach Helio Sousa has a 24-player squad to choose from. In their match against Cape Verde, he field-

ed a starting 11 that included Rashed Alhooti, Sayed Redha Isa, Waleed Al Hayam and Hamad Shamsan in defence; Mahdi Humaidan, Ali Madan, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Jassim Khelaif and Ali Haram in a five-man midfield; Mohammed Al Rumaihi as the lone striker and goalkeeper Ammar Abbas between the posts.

The friendlies against Cape Verde and Panama are the second and third scheduled by the Bahrain Football Association for the senior men's national team.



Bahrain's friendly with Panama will mark the end of their latest local training camp, where they are preparing for their upcoming tournaments, including their much-awaited title-defence in the Gulf Cup and their participation in the continent's biggest event, the AFC Asian Cup

They have added to the game Bahrain will be playing against FIFA World Cup 2022 participants Serbia on November 18, also at home.

All three of the national team's opponents are classified above Bahrain in the FIFA World Ranking.

Panama head into the game



Panama national team players being instructed by head coach Thomas Christiansen during their training session in Bahrain

### Panama team roster

Goalkeepers: Orlando Mosquera, Carabobo FC (Venezuela); Cesar Samudio, AC Independent (Panama)  
Defenders: Eduardo Anderson, Alianza FC (Panama); Fidel Escobar, Saprisa (Costa Rica); Andres Andrade, Arminia Bielefeld (Germany); Jose Cordoba, Levski Sofia (Bulgaria); Cesar Blackman, DAC (Slovakia); Michael A Murillo, RSC Anderlecht (Belgium)  
Midfielders: Adalberto Carrasquilla, Houston Dynamo (US); Cristian Martinez, Monagas SC (Venezuela); Cesar Yanis, CD del Este (Panama); Angel Orelion, CD Plaza Amador (Panama); Martin Moran, FC Etar (Bulgaria); Jorge Mendez, Once Caldas (Colombia); Romeesh Ivey, Spartak Varna (Bulgaria)  
Forwards: Azarias Londoño, Communications FC (Guam); Ismael Diaz, Catholic University (Ecuador); Eduardo Guerrero, Beitar Jerusalem (Israel)

ranked 61st, with Bahrain in 85th.

The upcoming Gulf Cup is scheduled to take place in Basra, Iraq, from January 6 to 19 next year. It will be the 25th edition of the prestigious competition. The Asian Cup 2023 will take place in June and July at a yet-to-be-determined venue.