

Bahrainis defeat Kuwait to take fifth place in ninth Asian Men's Youth (U19) Handball Championship, book tickets to 2023 Men's Youth World Handball Championship | P12

Bahraini citizens in Iraq urged to leave immediately

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain has urged Bahraini citizens currently resident in Iraq to leave following the unrest in the country. It also calls upon Bahraini citizens wishing to visit Iraq to postpone their travel plans. For assistance, they may contact, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Baghdad: 009647814256980; Consulate General of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Najaf: 009647728672227; and Operations office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 0097317227555.

The Ministry expressed deep concern over the developments in the political and security situation in Iraq.

In a statement, the Ministry called on all parties to de-escalate, exercise restraint, prioritise national interest, and actively participate in a comprehensive and inclusive national dialogue in a way that meets the aspirations of the brotherly Iraqi people.

Arab League concern Cairo

Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit said he is "following with great concern the dangerous developments in Iraq." He added: "I call for giving priority to the national interest, avoiding bloodshed, and preserving civil peace in the country."

BAHRAIN COVID-19
TOTAL TESTED
10274373
ACTIVE CASES
1555
DEATHS
1515
DISCHARGED
668414
NEW CASES
232
CRITICAL
1

220 fils (includes VAT)



Early elections call to end Iraq's crisis

President Saleh speaks after Sadr supporters' withdrawal from Baghdad's Green Zone

Nearly 24 hours of clashes leave 30 Sadr loyalists dead and 570 injured

Baghdad

Iraqi President Barham Saleh yesterday encouraged early legislative elections to settle a political crisis that escalated into deadly clashes this week, killing dozens and wounding hundreds more.

Early elections, less than a year after the last polls, have been a key demand of Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada Sadr, whose supporters battled state security forces in violence that started on Monday.

"Holding new, early elections in accordance with a national consensus represents an exit from the stifling crisis," Saleh said in a speech.

"It guarantees political and social stability and responds to the aspirations of the Iraqi people," Saleh spoke hours after supporters of Sadr withdrew from Baghdad's Green Zone following nearly 24 hours of clashes that pitted them against the army and Shiite factions backed



Deadly clashes between rival factions grip Baghdad

by neighbouring Iran.

Thirty Sadr supporters were shot dead and at least 570 others were injured after fighting that began on Monday when Sadr's loyalists stormed the government palace following their leader's announcement that he was quitting politics.

Sadr and his supporters have spearheaded calls for the dissolution of parliament and new legislative elections following months of political paralysis.

Under the constitution, parliament can only be dissolved by an absolute majority vote in the house, following a request

by one-third of deputies or by the prime minister with the approval of the president.

Sadr's bloc emerged from last October's election as the biggest in the legislature, with 73 seats, but far short of a majority.

Since then the country has been mired in political deadlock

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Holding new, early elections in accordance with a national consensus represents an exit from the stifling crisis. It guarantees political and social stability and responds to the aspirations of the Iraqi people
 IRAQI PRESIDENT BARHAM SALEH

due to disagreement between Shiite factions over forming a coalition.

In June, his lawmakers quit in a bid to break the logjam.

Sadr's supporters had for weeks been staging a sit-in outside Iraq's parliament, after storming the legislature's interior on July 30.

US Navy prevents Iran from seizing unmanned vessel in Arabian Gulf

London

The US Navy has prevented an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy support ship from capturing an unmanned surface vessel operated by the US 5th Fleet in the Arabian Gulf.

The US 5th Fleet observed IRGCN support ship Shahid Baziar towing a Saildrone Explorer unmanned surface vessel in an attempt to detain it at 11 p.m. local time on Monday.

US Navy patrol coastal ship USS Thunderbolt (PC 12) was operating nearby and responded to the attempted attack. The US 5th Fleet also launched an MH-60S Sea Hawk from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 26 which is based in Bahrain.

The actions taken by US naval forces resulted in the IRGCN vessel disconnecting the towing



A radar image showing the unmanned surface vessel operated by the US 5th Fleet in the Arabian Gulf

line to the unmanned vessel and departing the area around four hours later, the US 5th Fleet said.

"IRGCN's actions were fla-

grant, unwarranted and inconsistent with the behavior of a professional maritime force," said the commander of US Naval

Forces Central Command, US 5th Fleet, and Combined Maritime Forces Vice Adm. Brad Cooper.

Afforestation strategy is a 'national priority'

TDT | Manama

Preserving the environment is a collective social responsibility, according to Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, stressing that afforestation strategy is a national priority. She made the statement while inaugurating the afforestation programme at the Council of Representatives, along with the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak.

Bahrain is making steady progress in developing the agricultural sector, as reflected in its implementation of qualitative initiatives aimed at expanding the green area.

These efforts supports endeavours to mitigate the effects of climate change and enhancing food security, she said.

Bahrain greets Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan and Trinidad and Tobago

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Abdullah bin Sultan Ahmed Shah on his country's National Day. His Majesty and HRH Prince Salman expressed their best

wishes of health and happiness to HM the Sultan and wished Malaysia's citizens further progress and prosperity.

His Royal Highness sent a similar cable to Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent cables of congratulations to Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov, on his country's Independence Day.



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

They expressed their best wishes of health and happiness to the president, and to Kyrgyzstan's citizens and residents further progress and prosperity.

His Royal Highness sent a similar cable to Prime Minister Akybek Japarov.

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman sent cables of congratulations to Trinidad and Tobago Presi-

dent Paula-Mae Weekes, on her country's Independence Day.

They wished President Weekes health and happiness, and the country's citizens and residents further progress and prosperity.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to the Prime Minister, Dr Hon Keith Rowley.

Parliamentarians hail royal support to Bahraini students

In line with His Majesty's directive, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister ordered the distribution of BD25 voucher to all government school students

Staff Reporter

TDT | Manama

Parliamentarians yesterday hailed the royal support to students, terming it as a great measure that will take the burden off a large number of Bahraini families as the new academic year begins.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, ordered the distribution of BD25 vouchers for each government school student for purchasing school bags and other basic supplies.

This comes in the implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to support the students with an aim to improve educational outcomes.

Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi extended his appreciation to HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince for their continuous support to the educational system to enrich it apart from providing the educational environment, which will motivate students to achieve greater academic goals.

Ali Zayed, Second Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, said the royal direc-



The House session in progress

tive will enhance the principle of social solidarity while helping many families meet the educational requirements of their children.

He pointed out that such directives will strengthen the educational process and alleviate the burden on parents as they prepare their children to return to schools.

Lawmaker Ahmed Al Salloom confirmed that the support will be of great help for large Bahraini families, which have many school-going children. "His Majesty's directive implemented by HRH the Crown Prince brought joy to many Bahraini families. The decision has ena-

bled them to purchase stationery and school tools in preparation for the new school year."

He also highlighted the decision to hold an introductory day for parents at the school as the classes are set to resume this Sunday. The lawmaker also praised the great efforts of the Education Minister to boost the education sector. "Bahrain has attained many achievements over the past years, which came as a translation of the diligent and continuous work by all parties concerned, who are continuously striving to develop the educational system, which today is gaining a distinguished position among the countries of

the region and the world," the lawmaker said.

Ibrahim Al Nafaei, another lawmaker, said the directive aims at creating a nation full of bright youngsters, having great trust in the Kingdom's education sector.

MP Mohamed El Sisi also praised the directives of His Majesty the King, the Crown Prince, which contributed to providing comfort for students and parents. "The Kingdom is a role model when it comes to implementing welfare measures. The leadership of the nation has been implementing the best measures to reduce the burden of citizens."

Bahrain-India relations



Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, received Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Piyush Srivastava. The Minister hailed the Bahraini-Indian relations and their development, noting the Ambassador's efforts in enhancing them. The meeting discussed topics related to oil and environment and the promotion of investment opportunities between the two countries. Ambassador Srivastava wished Bahrain success in its endeavours towards its development process.

Onam Ponnonam 2022



Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) is all set to organise Onam celebrations under the title 'KCA Beyon Money Onam Ponnonam 2022 powered by BFC' with various cultural events and Onam related competitions. It will start on September 2, 2022 and will end on September 16, 2022 with a delicious Onam special meal (Onasadhya). A press conference was held by KCA yesterday detailing the events. Roy C Antony (KCA President), Jinson Puthussery (Acting General Secretary), Sevi Mathunny, Shiju John, Manoj Mathew, Babu Varghese, Juliet Thomas, Thomas John, Shiny Nithyan, Joshy Vithayathil and Aji P Joy attended.

Development of Bahraini skills is Kingdom's 'true wealth'

TDT | Manama

The Prime Minister's Fellowship Program reflects the ambitious vision of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to develop the capabilities and skills of Bahraini citizens, who are the true wealth of the Kingdom.

This was emphasised by the Advisor for Media Affairs at the Court of the Crown Prince, Isa bin Abdul Rahman Al Hammadi,



Al Hammadi with members of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Program seventh batch

as he held yesterday a round-table discussion with the 7th intake of the Prime Minister's

Fellowship Program.

Al Hammadi said that the program contributes to develop-

ing Bahrain's skilled workforce who continue the Kingdom's advancement towards achieving

its goals.

He noted the efforts of fellows, both present and past, to support

public sector development as part of Team Bahrain.

The Media Advisor wished the current fellows success and emphasised the importance of employing the skills and knowledge they have gained from participating in the programme in their places of work.

The members of the seventh batch of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Program expressed their gratitude to Al Hammadi for his support and motivation to serve the Kingdom and its citizens.

SUMMER SPECIAL OFFERS

AT ALL

AL HAWAJ LOCATIONS, WATCH TIME & MONTALE BOUTIQUE

24TH AUGUST - 3RD SEPTEMBER

AL HAWAJ **الحواف**

SINCE 1942

Expatriate flies home after 15-year 'disappearance'

Chandran Kochukunjan has not been in contact with his family members back home for a very long period

Staff Reporter

TDT | Manama

A 'missing dad' who was later found in Muharraq by a group of social workers in co-operation with the Indian Embassy following a thorough search two months ago yesterday flew home.

The 'missing dad' - Chandran Kochukunjan - earlier expressed his willingness to reunite with his family members back in his home country, as told to social workers. It is still unclear as to why he maintained a distance from his family members for such a long period.

The search by social workers began after The Daily Tribune reported a plea from a 22-year-old Indian woman, seeking support to find out her father, who came to the Kingdom fifteen years ago and never returned home.

Anju Chandran, who hails



Mr Chandran with Mr Thirunilath at Bahrain International Airport yesterday

from Thiruvananthapuram, the capital district of the South Indian state of Kerala, said her dad left the family when she was

six years old.

She even posted her plea on social media platforms, seeking help from the community mem-

bers to find out her father.

"Long fifteen years have passed without having any information on my dad. The family has been in great struggle after 'he went missing in the Kingdom of Bahrain'."

Earlier, speaking to The Daily Tribune from Thiruvananthapuram, Anju's mother Rani, said there were no disputes between husband and wife or with any other family members.

"We have no idea as to why he left the family. The children have grown up and they need his support," she said.

Anju is a final year nursing graduation student. She also has a brother.

Sudhir Thirunilath of World NRI Council thanked Devji Group for providing air tickets to Mr Chandran. The out pass was issued by the Indian Embassy and the requirements were facilitated by the World NRI Council.

Bahraini media 'credibility and professionalism' hailed



Speaker Zainal with Dr Al Nuaimi

TDT | Manama

Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal has commended the enlightening role of the Bahraini media in highlighting the Kingdom's distinguished achievements in all areas at home and abroad.

This role stems from the credibility and professionalism in the media and its keenness to achieve the public interest in accordance with the modern visions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, she said as she received Information Minister Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi.

The meeting covered ways to bolster cooperation between the Council of Representatives and the Ministry of Information.

Zainal stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the Council and the ministry.

The Speaker praised the close cooperation between the Council and the government led by HRH Prince Salman bin

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

She highlighted the ministry's efforts in supporting the national press and the media in general, noting the development and progress.

The Speaker commended the official media institutions and its programs that have contributed to strengthening the values and principles of loyalty and patriotism and the sense of belonging.

Al Nuaimi stressed the ministry's keenness on strengthening cooperation with the Council and fulfilling the aspirations of the Bahraini citizens.

The minister noted the significance of joint work with the parliament to promote freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with national values and professional responsibility.

He also stressed the ministry's commitment to supporting press and media institutions and to enhancing and promoting the media landscape.

Comprehensive update for checking academic qualifications announced

● Canceling mandatory equivalency of certificates issued outside Kingdom

TDT | Manama

Details of the comprehensive update for auditing university degrees and educational qualifications, which was approved by the Cabinet, have been announced.

This came during yesterday's press conference attended by Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Ahmed, Chairperson of the Council for Regulating the Practice of Engineering Professions, Eng. Maryam Ahmed Jama'an, Director of the Employment Department at the Civil Service Bureau, Ali Al Hammadi, and Dr Zubaidah Al Sheikh from the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA).

Dr Mohammed said that this comprehensive update of the audit of university degrees and educational qualifications would contribute to facilitat-



Dr Mohammed, Eng. Jama'an, Al Hammadi and Dr Al Sheikh at the press conference

ing the process of employing citizens, taking into account the necessary audit of academic qualifications related mainly to specialised professions in fields like medicine, engineering.

He added that in order to achieve these ambitious goals, a comprehensive update has been made on the audit mechanism for university degrees and academic qualifications issued from inside and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, where local universities will be authorised to audit certificates, and link local university systems with the systems of the General Secretariat of the Higher Education Council.

And, then, the General Secretariat of the Higher Education Council audits the data of educational qualifications.

With regard to certificates issued from outside the Kingdom, the Director General of Schools Affairs explained that the mandatory certificate equivalency has been cancelled, and it is enough to verify the validity of the certificate through companies specialised in checking the validity of qualifications recommended by the Ministry of Education.

Regarding master's and doctoral qualifications, Dr Mohammed indicated that the comprehensive update allows for the

possibility of verifying the validity of the certificates by the employer or private sector institutions through the specialised companies recommended by the Ministry of Education. The affidavits for depositing scientific theses in the national public libraries of the Ministry of Education will continue to be granted according to the specified conditions.

Within the same context, the Schools Affairs Director General indicated that in order to speed up recruitment procedures in the private sector, the companies can optionally verify the validity of the educational qualifications.

COURT STORY

Salary cheat's jail term is reduced on appeal

TDT | Manama

A former employee of a private institution who was convicted of forgery has had his jail term reduced on appeal.

The defendant was earlier sentenced to seven years in prison, but will now serve only three years behind bars.

He was arrested for forging his salary in order to receive a higher retirement wage. He has been held guilty of serious charges of forgery and fraud. According to court files, the defendant increased his salary on three occasions as he signed a contract entitling him to receive BD1,950 monthly.

Initially, he raised it to BD2,100 because his employ-

ers trusted him with access to the General Organisation for Social Insurance's portal. He did it secretly and after one year he made the same move.

His wage reached BD2,774, but he was sacked later. However, the access was still with him, and he increased his salary to BD3,300 before applying for retirement.

The General Organisation for Social Insurance contacted the institution about the issue. It was discovered that the defendant committed various wrongdoings in order to receive a better retirement package.

As a result, he was arrested and put on trial before the High Criminal Court.

Passport counterfeiter loses plea

TDT | Manama

The appeal of a Bahraini man accused of selling a fake passport to another man after misleading him about his ties that could have given him Bahraini citizenship was denied by the High Appeals Court.

According to court files, the 24-year-old defendant had offered his services to several Bahrainis and foreigners, stating that he could get them Bah-

rains passports in exchange for cash. He actually provided them fake passports, though.

Astonishingly, a 59-year-old Arab man accepted to pay BD300,000 to the defendant for his services. The defendant was arrested while he was about to hand the Arab man the fake passport.

He told prosecutors that he had a stolen original passport which he sent to Turkey, where the fake passports were made by counterfeiters.

BRCS provides \$50,000 relief aid to Somalia

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) provided \$50,000 in relief assistance to the Somali people to help them overcome the drought crisis that afflicted their country, and the resulting humanitarian repercussions represented in the high

incidence of hunger and disease, especially among children and women, to very large levels.

The Board of Directors of the BRCS approved this donation, which comes within the framework of the Kingdom of Bahrain's relief contributions to the needy and afflicted and helping them to overcome the difficult

times they are going through.

This donation comes as a response from the BRCS to the urgent humanitarian appeal launched by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent with the aim of providing relief to Somalis from the drought disaster that struck their country, extending a help-

ing hand to them, and helping them provide the basics necessary for their survival.

On Sunday, the BRCS announced a donation of a similar amount to Sudan as relief assistance to the people affected by the floods that swept large areas of the country and left them without shelter.

Filipino group set to organise art exhibition

TDT | Manama

Under the auspices of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Filipino Creatives group will present an art exhibition from 18 to 29 September 2022 at the Harbour Gate, Bahrain Financial Harbour.

The art exhibit is entitled “Beyond Measure: Reflections of Asia.”

The theme of the exhibition depicts the Asian arts. It aims to display the outstanding craftsmanship and creativity of 42 Bahrain-based visual artists from East and Southeast Asian countries. The nationalities of the participating artists are Bahraini, Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Indonesian, Nepalese, Pakistani and Indian.

Each artist will feature his/her country's culture through artworks. Some artworks will highlight their successful life in



“Bahraini White-Cheek Bulbul”
Artist: Dr Dunia Alhashimi



“Lotus”
Artist: Catherine Paje



“Tree of Life”
Artist: Nasreen Abdulrazzaq Alawadhi

the Kingdom of Bahrain. Artistic presentations will be in the form of painting, sculpture, art installation, tapestry and digital art.

The artists group aims to display the talent and craftsmanship

of Asian artists and be an inspiration to other upcoming artists here in the Kingdom. They also want to develop deeper connections and camaraderie among other artists.

AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BAHRAIN BRANCH

Condensed interim statement of financial position As at 30 June 2022

	30 June 2022 (Unaudited) BD	31 December 2021 (Audited) BD
ASSETS		
Property and equipment	2,365	3,152
Right-of-use assets	27,580	2,814
Loans to policyholders	696,011	689,586
Investment securities:		
Available-for-sale	21,804,100	27,254,981
At fair value through profit or loss	19,296,703	23,822,099
Reinsurance contract assets	867,809	203,162
Premium debtors and other receivables	1,446,396	1,151,354
Cash and bank balances	2,501,197	1,245,306
Total assets	46,642,161	54,372,454
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office Funds		
Head Office account	5,453,743	6,262,866
Available-for-sale fair value reserve	(772,298)	1,619,944
Total Head Office Funds	4,681,445	7,882,810
LIABILITIES		
Provision for employees' end of service indemnity	13,762	11,198
Insurance contract liabilities	37,714,906	43,575,125
Due to policyholders	902,383	959,316
Accounts payable	3,306,044	1,941,139
Lease liability	23,621	2,866
Total liabilities	41,960,716	46,489,644
Total Head Office Funds and liabilities	46,642,161	54,372,454

Country Manager
Fadi Abou Ghali

About MetLife

MetLife, Inc. (NYSE: MET), through its subsidiaries and affiliates ("MetLife"), is one of the largest life insurance companies in the world. Founded in 1868, MetLife is a global provider of life insurance, annuities, employee benefits and asset management. Serving approximately 100 million customers, MetLife has operations in more than 40 markets and holds leading positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

For more information, visit www.metlife.com.

Condensed interim statement of profit or loss (unaudited) For the six month period ended 30 June 2022

	2022 Unaudited BD	2021 Unaudited BD
Income		
Gross insurance premium	6,567,811	6,258,571
Insurance premium ceded to reinsurers	(2,029,489)	(1,753,004)
Net insurance premium	4,538,322	4,505,567
Interest and other investment income	551,622	654,179
Commission income	169,179	151,161
Net income	5,259,123	5,310,907
Expenses		
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses	(1,461,382)	(2,507,334)
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses recovered from reinsurers	830,732	856,654
Insurance benefits	(2,422,670)	(1,546,836)
Expenses for the acquisition of insurance and investment contracts	(211,411)	(275,032)
Other operating expenses	(592,996)	(489,108)
	(3,857,727)	(3,961,656)
Profit for the period	1,401,396	1,349,251
Condensed interim statement of comprehensive income (unaudited) For the six month period ended 30 June 2022		
	2022	2021
Profit for the period	1,401,396	1,349,251
Other comprehensive loss:		
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>		
Net changes in the fair value of available-for-sale investment securities	(2,392,242)	(498,151)
Total other comprehensive loss for the period	(2,392,242)	(498,151)
Total comprehensive (loss)/ income for the period	(990,846)	851,100

Auditors
Deloitte & Touche (M.E.)

Pakistan workshop on 'empowering' youth



Mohamed Isa signing his book "Axelerate, Your Success"

TDT | Manama

Two prominent motivational speakers taught the youth on how to use their inner strengths and qualities to succeed in life during a workshop held at Soul Culture in Saar.

Dynamic mind transformational consultant Luna Hageli and Mohamed Isa, a heroic motivational speaker and achiever, imparted valuable knowledge to 20 teenagers who attended the event.

Organised by the Pakistani

Women's Association (PWA) as part of its youth program, the discussion was moderated by communication skills specialist Bushra Asif.

Hageli taught them mind tools and activities, while Isa talked about strategies on how to conquer their own "Everest".

"We hope this is the beginning of many such collaborations that give our youth the direction and tools to empower their lives towards personal success and achievements," said Shahmeen Islam, president of PWA.



Participants at the event

Holy Quran Prize registration

TDT | Manama

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry announced registration for the 27th edition of Bahrain Holy Quran Grand Prize.

The prize is launched under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The registration will close

on September 29. Bahrain Holy Quran Grand Prize includes seven categories for males and females.

The process of evaluating the participants will be done online and preliminary qualifiers are expected in January 2023. The final qualifiers in February 2023.

Arab Bank plc – Kingdom of Bahrain –
Retail Branch
Branch of Foreign Bank

البنك العربي
ARAB BANK



INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
At 30 June 2022 (Reviewed)

	Reviewed 30 June 2022	Audited 31 December 2021
	BD '000	BD '000
ASSETS		
Cash and deposits with Central Bank of Bahrain	229,806	369,704
Balances with banks and financial institutions	17,202	211
Balances with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	50,368	39,080
Investment at fair value through other comprehensive income	210	203
Investments at amortized cost	161,458	149,266
Derivative assets	6,851	3,159
Loans and advances	231,099	220,480
Interest receivable	4,658	4,844
Other assets	6,272	6,077
Premises and equipment	613	594
Total Assets	708,537	793,618
LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS		
LIABILITIES		
Due to banks and financial institutions	4,178	2,630
Due to the Head Office, other branches and affiliates	273,649	386,271
Customers' deposits	392,240	372,104
Derivative liabilities	5,893	3,661
Interest payable	1,372	1,454
Other liabilities	4,165	4,524
Employees' end-of-service benefits	213	181
Total Liabilities	681,710	770,825
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS		
Head Office capital	20,058	20,058
Fair value reserve	202	195
Retained earnings	6,567	2,540
Total Head Office Funds	26,827	22,793
Total Liabilities and Head Office Funds	708,537	793,618

The interim condensed financial statements and the notes to the financial statements were approved and authorized for issue on 30th August 2022 by Ms. Nadya Talhouni, Country Manager.

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2022 (Reviewed)

	Six-month period ended 30 June	
	2022	2021
	BD '000	BD '000
Interest income	13,605	13,246
Interest expense	(7,396)	(7,026)
Net Interest Income	6,209	6,220
Net fees and commission income	1,895	1,582
Foreign exchange gain	261	302
Net other income / (loss)	24	(461)
Operating Income	8,389	7,643
Staff expenses	(1,314)	(1,094)
Depreciation	(154)	(155)
Premises and equipment expenses	(441)	(416)
General and administrative expenses	(1,383)	(1,314)
Operating Expenses	(3,292)	(2,979)
Operating profit before provision for credit losses	5,097	4,664
Expected credit losses - net	(1,070)	(1,324)
Net Profit For The Period	4,027	3,340
Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss):		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	7	(20)
Total other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period	7	(20)
Total Comprehensive Income For The Period	4,034	3,320

The interim condensed financial statements and the notes to the financial statements were approved and authorized for issue on 30th August 2022 by Ms. Nadya Talhouni, Country Manager.

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2022 (Reviewed)

	Six-month period ended 30 June	
	2022	2021
	BD '000	BD '000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit for the period	4,027	3,340
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	154	155
Expected credit losses - net	1,070	1,324
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	32	16
Fair value loss on foreclosed assets	-	708
	5,283	5,543
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Compulsory regulatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	267	(21)
Balance with other branch - Non Cash Equivalent	(103)	-
Derivative assets	(3,692)	(2,191)
Loans and advances	(11,687)	(6,874)
Interest receivable	186	(379)
Other assets	(195)	(488)
Due to banks and financial institutions	1,548	(443)
Due to the Head Office, other branches and affiliates	(112,622)	220,396
Customers' deposits	20,136	4,468
Derivative liabilities	2,232	1,458
Interest payable	(82)	(636)
Other liabilities	(387)	332
Employees' end-of-service benefits	-	(13)
Net cash flows (used in) from operating activities	(99,116)	221,152
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Addition to premises and equipment	(173)	(15)
Purchase of investments at amortized cost	(12,166)	(1,477)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(12,339)	(1,492)
Net Change In Cash And Cash Equivalents	(111,455)	219,660
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	380,853	270,577
Cash And Cash Equivalents At 30 June	269,398	490,237
Comprising:		
Cash and deposits with Central Bank of Bahrain (excluding regulatory reserve)	221,988	464,780
Balances with banks and financial institutions - gross	17,202	252
Balances with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	30,208	25,205
	269,398	490,237

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2022 (Reviewed)

	Head Office Capital	Statutory Reserve	Fair Value Reserve	Retained Earnings/ (Accumulated losses)	Total
	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000
Balance at 1 January 2022	20,058	-	195	2,540	22,793
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	4,027	4,027
Total other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	7	-	7
Balance at 30 June 2022	20,058	-	202	6,567	26,827
Balance at 1 January 2021	20,058	484	215	(2,384)	18,373
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	3,340	3,340
Total other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	(20)	-	(20)
Balance at 30 June 2021	20,058	484	195	956	21,693

Fed could 'dial back' 75-basis-point hikes if inflation slows, Bostic says

Reuters | Washington



The Federal Reserve building

The Federal Reserve could have reason to 'dial back' from its 75-basis-point interest rate hikes if new data shows inflation "clearly" slowing, Atlanta Fed President Raphael Bostic said in an essay published yesterday. "I don't think we are done tightening. Inflation remains too high," Bostic wrote in the essay published on the regional bank's website. "That said, incoming data - if they clearly show that inflation has begun slowing - might give us reason to dial back ... We will have to see how those data come in."

A slowing of inflation in July "represented a reprieve," Bostic said, while noting that price

pressures remained "stubbornly widespread."

The Fed will receive the August inflation report ahead of its Sept. 20-21 policy meeting when officials are expected to approve a rate increase of either 50 or 75 basis points. Aside from the drop in the pace of inflation in July, other data show key segments of the economy remain tight - including data released on Tuesday showing job openings remained high through July, a possible indication of continued wage pressures.

Bostic called the overall picture "fuzzy," and said that while focused on the path of inflation, he was also sensitive that moving too aggressively to raise interest rates also carried risks.

Most bourses in red as oil slide weighs on region

Reuters

Most stock markets in the Gulf ended lower yesterday, following a sharp decline in oil prices and worries about a potential global recession.

Crude prices, a key catalyst for the Gulf's financial markets, fell by over \$3 a barrel on fears an inflation-induced weakening of global economies would soften fuel demand, and as Iraqi crude exports have been unaffected by clashes.

Brent crude futures for October settlement fell \$3.81, or 3.63%, to \$101.28 a barrel by 1156 GMT, after hitting a session low of \$100.90 a barrel.

Inflation is near double-digit territory in many of the world's biggest economies, a level not seen in close to half a century. This could prompt central banks in the United States and Europe to resort to more aggressive interest rate hikes that could curtail economic growth



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

and weigh on fuel demand, read more

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index (.TASI) declined 0.6%, weighed down by a 2.9% fall in Dr Sulaiman Al-Habib Medical Services (4013.SE) and a 0.6% decrease in Al Rajhi Bank (1120.SE).

The Qatari index (.QSI) eased 0.1%, with Qatar Islamic Bank

(QISB.QA) losing 1.3%.

In Abu Dhabi, the index (.FTFADGI) closed flat after a more than 1% decline in the previous session, with the United Arab Emirates' biggest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB.AD) edging 0.2% higher.

Dubai's main share index (.DFMGI), however, bucked the trend to close 0.8%, buoyed by a

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.6% to 12,456
ABU DHABI	■ at 9,963
DUBAI	▲ 0.8% to 3,464
QATAR	▼ 0.1% to 13,613
EGYPT	▲ 0.1% to 10,132
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.1% to 1,916
OMAN	▼ 0.3% to 4,577
KUWAIT	▼ 0.2% to 8,639

2.7% jump in blue-chip developer Emaar Properties (EMAR.DU).

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index (.EGX30) firmed 0.1%, ending two sessions of losses, helped by a 2.7% rise in Abu Qir Fertilizers (ABUK.CA).

The index, which is down more than 15% so far this year, has come under pressure because of a sharp slide in foreign portfolio investor holdings and rising costs of key commodity imports, especially since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

ACE American Insurance Company		
CHUBB Bahrain Branch - A Chubb Entity		
Licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain		
Condensed Interim Statement of Financial Position		
(All amounts expressed in Bahraini Dinars unless otherwise stated)		
	As at	
	30 June 2022	31 December 2021
	Unaudited	Audited
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,020,415	2,085,301
Due from related parties	150,902	43,288
Prepayments and other receivables	67,798	16,581
Right-of-use asset	8,818	16,400
Property and equipment	4,295	5,425
Total assets	2,252,228	2,166,995
Liabilities		
Due to related parties	466,646	217,240
Accruals and other liabilities	200,359	195,575
Lease liabilities	13,371	18,504
Employees' end of service benefits	221,677	191,356
Total liabilities	902,053	622,675
Net residual attributable to the Head Office	1,350,175	1,544,320
Condensed Interim Statement of Comprehensive Income		
(All amounts expressed in Bahraini Dinars unless otherwise stated)		
	Six month period ended	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	Unaudited	Unaudited
Discontinued operations		
Staff costs	(324,050)	(331,726)
General and administration expenses	(65,333)	(50,496)
	(389,383)	(382,222)
Investment income	-	2,473
Other income	174,926	234,991
Foreign exchange gain/(loss)	20,565	(9,459)
Interest on lease liabilities	(253)	(396)
Decrease in net residual attributable to Head Office from operations	(194,145)	(154,613)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the period	(194,145)	(154,613)
These financial statements were approved for issue by management on 22 August 2022 and signed on its behalf by:		
Odette Coetsee Interim General Manager		

Al Hayrat awards BD 100,000 to 10 winners for July

TDI | Manama

BBK announced that 10 winners each won BD100,000, as part of the Al Hayrat prizes for the month of July 2022. Additionally, the 10 winners for August will be announced during September to conclude this year's summer prizes from Al Hayrat, with a total of BD 500,000 being distributed. Following the announcement in September, a new campaign will be released with valuable prizes to be won.

Rehab Jawad Ali, Fuad Abdulrahim Khonji, Israa Ghazi Ahmed, Salman Isa Al Thawadi, Maher Ahmed Buali, Hooreya Ahmed Abdullah, Abdulmenem Yahya Mogbel, Shaikh Khalifa



Ali Al Khalifa, Ali Ahmed Ali Yusuf, Sayed Ebrahim Abdulla Hasan each won BD 10,000 for the month of July.

The raffle draw took place on Monday and was attended by the General Manager of the Retail Banking Division, Dr Adel Salem and was held under the

supervision of Shafi AlBalooshi of the Consumer Protection Unit at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, in addition to representatives of Internal Audit, Internal Control, Marketing and Retail Banking at BBK, and an External Audit representative from Ernest & Young, Seema Jalal.

Dr Adel commented: "At BBK, we are proud that Al Hayrat prizes are among the largest in Bahrain, with more than 16 million Bahraini Dinars awarded since its inception about 21 years ago."

Many of the winners said that receiving this exciting news from BBK about winning with Al Hayrat came as a pleasant surprise to them.

United Airlines, Emirates set to announce codeshare agreement



Emirates Airline Boeing 777-300ER planes are seen at Dubai International Airport in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Reuters | Washington/Dubai

United Airlines (UAL.O) and Dubai's Emirates are set to announce a codeshare agreement in the coming weeks, sources told Reuters.

United on Tuesday sent an invitation to reporters to a "special event" on Sept. 14 titled "Come fly with us" with Chief Executive Scott Kirby and Emirates President Tim Clark in Washington.

The Air Current reported the expected announcement earlier. United did not offer additional comment. An Emirates spokesperson confirmed the airlines will make "a joint announcement" on Sept. 14 in Washington, declining to elaborate.

After receiving government approvals, a codeshare would allow both airlines' customers access to additional destinations that each do not currently serve. The agreement is likely to help United better compete for customers flying to the Gulf region. In June, American Airlines (AAL.O) and Qatar Airways said they were expanding a strategic alliance announced in early 2020 with a new codeshare agreement, expanding the agreement to 16 additional countries.

Musk sends fresh letter to scrap Twitter deal after whistleblower claims

Reuters

Elon Musk has sent an additional letter of deal termination to Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) to include a recent whistleblower complaint from former security head of the social media firm as another reason to scrap the \$44 billion deal.

Last week, Peiter Ztko, a famed hacker known as "Mudge", said in his complaint that Twitter prioritized user growth over reducing spam and falsely claimed it had a solid security plan.

If the allegation are true, then Twitter has breached some of the provisions of the merger agreement, Musk and his legal team said in a letter dated Aug. 29.

Twitter, however, said in its regulatory filing the fresh termination notice was invalid and wrongful under the deal terms.



Musk has also subpoenaed Ztko, seeking information mostly about the way the microblogging site measures spam account.

Musk decided to terminate the deal in July, saying the company misled him and regulators about the true number of spam or bot accounts on the microblogging platform.

His legal team said allegations on certain facts, which were known to Twitter prior

to July 8 but were not disclosed to them, provide additional and distinct bases to end the deal, according to a regulatory filing by Musk on Tuesday.

The latest turn of events comes as the two sides head to a five-day trial at the Delaware Court of Chancery set to begin on Oct. 17. Twitter is asking Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick to order Musk to buy it for the agreed \$54.20 per share.

In China, Sun Yat-sen and his supporters' 'rump' parliament establishes a military government and elects Sun Yat-sen as commander-in-Chief

The Liberal Party of Australia is founded by Robert Menzies

The Provisional Irish Republican Army (Sinn Féin) declares a ceasefire in Northern Ireland



Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash in a road tunnel in Paris

THE DAILY **tribune**

QUOTE
OF THE
DAY

LIFE IS NEVER FAIR, AND PERHAPS IT IS A GOOD THING FOR MOST OF US THAT IT IS NOT
OSCAR WILDE

News in brief

◆ France accused Moscow

yesterday of using energy supplies as "a weapon of war" after Russia's Gazprom cut deliveries to a major French customer and said it would shut its main gas pipeline to Germany for three days this week. European governments are trying to coordinate a response to soaring energy costs for businesses and households and to fill storage facilities ahead of peak demand in the winter.



France accuses Russia over gas supply as Nord Stream shutdown looms

Western nations fear that Moscow is deliberately driving up gas prices to try to weaken their opposition to its invasion of Ukraine, a tactic Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday dubbed "economic terrorism". Moscow denies the charge. Nord Stream 1, the main conduit for Russian gas into Europe, has become a flash point in the dispute. Europe faces a further squeeze on supplies this week as Gazprom shuts off the pipeline for maintenance from Wednesday till the early hours of Saturday.

◆ Iraq's powerful cleric

Muqtada al-Sadr ordered his followers to end their protests in central Baghdad on Tuesday, easing a confrontation which led to the deadliest violence in the Iraqi capital in years. Apologising to Iraqis after 22 people were killed in clashes between an armed group loyal to him and rival Shi'ite Muslim factions backed by Iran, Sadr condemned



Sadr calls off protests after worst Baghdad violence in years

the fighting and gave his own followers one hour to disperse. "This is not a revolution because it has lost its peaceful character," Sadr, a former anti-U.S. insurgent leader, said in a televised address. "The spilling of Iraqi blood is forbidden." As the deadline passed at around 2 p.m. (1100 GMT), Sadr's followers could be seen beginning to leave the area in the fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad where government offices are located and where they had occupied parliament for weeks.

◆ The United Nations appealed

yesterday for \$160 million to help Pakistan as army helicopters rescued stranded families and dropped food packages into inaccessible areas following "epochal" rains and flooding. The historic deluge, mainly triggered by abnormal monsoon rains, has killed more than 1,100 people, affected 33 million, and destroyed homes, businesses, infrastructure and crops. "The Pakistani people are facing a monsoon on steroids - the relentless impact of epochal levels of rain and flooding."



UN appeals for \$160 mln to help Pakistan amid 'epochal' floods

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	96,091,120	1,069,499
2 India	44,419,671	527,829
3 France	34,482,603	153,967
4 Brazil	34,397,205	683,718
5 Germany	32,095,854	147,223
6 UK	23,492,875	187,761
7 S. Korea	23,142,479	26,689
8 Italy	21,845,943	175,505
9 Russia	19,482,648	384,254
10 Japan	18,632,422	39,253
11 Turkey	16,671,848	100,400
12 Spain	13,332,976	112,454
13 Vietnam	11,408,952	43,117
14 Australia	10,018,037	13,834

Global tally

606,851,269

Deaths

6,490,740

Recovered:

582,707,553

New cases

+413,392

New deaths

+936

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	813,376	+92	9,293	+1	800,553	3,530
UAE	1,014,899	+512	2,341		993,740	18,818
Kuwait	657,395		2,563		654,470	362
Oman	397,846		4,260		384,669	8,917
Qatar	428,791	+644	681		423,840	4,270

Taiwan shoots at Chinese drone

● The drone headed back to China after the shots were fired

Reuters | Penghu, Taiwan

Taiwan fired warning shots at a Chinese drone which buzzed an offshore islet yesterday shortly after President Tsai Ing-wen said she had ordered Taiwan's military to take "strong countermeasures" against what she termed Chinese provocations.

It was the first time warning shots have been fired in such an incident amid a period of heightened tension between China and Taiwan, which Beijing views as its own territory. Taiwan strongly disputes China's sovereignty claims.

The drone headed back to China after the shots were fired, a military spokesman said.

Taiwan has complained of Chinese drones repeatedly flying very close to small groups of islands it controls near China's coast, most recently by the Kinmen islands, as part of military drills by Beijing.

China has carried out the exercises around the island after a visit by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi this month.

Kinmen defence command spokesman Chang Jung-shun said the live rounds were fired just before 6 p.m. (1000



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen delivers a speech during her visit to a naval base in Suao, Yilan

GMT) at the drone which had approached Erdan islet, with flares being used previously. The drone then flew off back to China, he said.

There was no immediate response from China. On Monday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry dismissed Taiwan's complaints about the drones as nothing "to make a fuss about".

Footage of at least two drone missions showing Taiwanese soldiers at their posts, and in one case throwing rocks at a drone, have circulated widely on Chinese social media.

Speaking earlier on Tuesday

while visiting the armed forces on the Penghu islands, Tsai criticised China for its drone and other "grey zone" warfare activity.

"I want to tell everyone that the more the enemy provokes, the more calm we must be," Tsai told naval officers. "We will not provoke disputes, and we will exercise self-restraint, but it does not mean that we will not counter."

She said she had ordered the defence ministry to take "necessary and strong countermeasures" to defend their airspace. She did not elaborate.



Taiwan has been settled for at least 25,000 years. Ancestors of Taiwanese indigenous peoples settled the island around 6,000 years ago.

Thousands in Mississippi's capital without water after treatment plant fails

Reuters

The state of Mississippi yesterday was scrambling to bring a long-neglected water treatment plant in its capital city back on line a day after it broke down, leaving about 180,000 residents without potable running water, possibly for days.

Governor Tate Reeves on Monday evening declared a state of emergency for Jackson, with 150,000 residents, and surrounding communities where 30,000 more people live, warning residents not to drink the water.

"Until it is fixed, it means we do not have reliable running water at scale. It means the city cannot produce enough water to fight fires, to reliably flush toilets, and to meet other critical needs," Reeves said, referring to the treatment plant.

Jackson, whose residents are more than 80% Black or African American, according to U.S.



A view shows a flooded road near Pearl River following water discharges from Barnett Reservoir over the weekend, in Ridgeland, Mississippi, U.S

Census data, was already on a boiled water alert for a month.

Jeff Good, 58, owns a bakery, a pizza parlor and an Italian restaurant in Jackson. All three establishments were closed on Tuesday because of a lack of water pressure.

He had to tell his 210 employees to stay home, and in the restaurant business, he said, that means they don't get paid.

"Their hours are canceled," he said. "It's a struggle and extremely stressful."

The governor, a Republican, said state officials on Tuesday were to establish an incident command center at the O.B. Curtis Water Plant, which had been operating with smaller back-up pumps after the facility's main pumps were severely damaged.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Let's stop sleepwalking towards the destruction of our planet by climate change. Today, it is Pakistan. Tomorrow, it could be your country.

@antoniogetterres

02



Interacted with IFS Officer Trainees of the Batch of 2021. Had insightful interactions on a diverse range of issues with the officers.

@narendramodi

03



Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, if you're on Medicare and you have diabetes, your cost of insulin will be capped at \$35 a month.

@JoeBiden

04

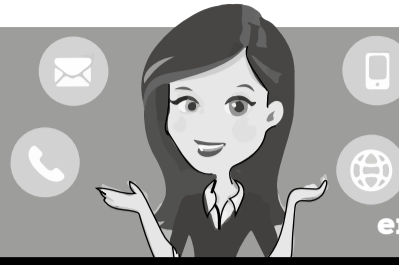


On the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances, we stand in solidarity with those affected by the egregious crime of enforced disappearance. We urge governments around the world to end this unlawful practice and respect the human rights of all persons.

@SecBlinken

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

Classifieds



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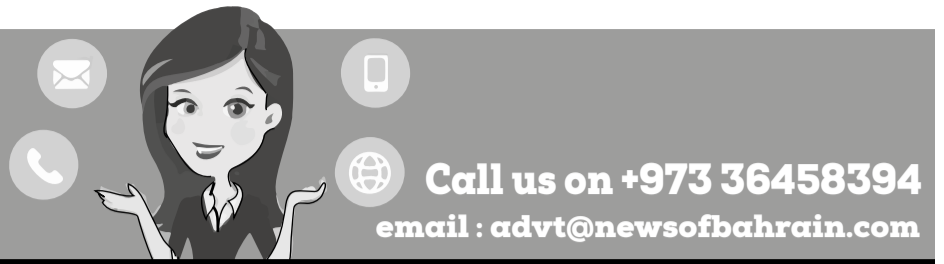
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UAE turns to science to squeeze more rainfall from clouds

Reuters | Abu Dhabi

As a twin-turboprop aircraft takes off under the burning desert sun with dozens of salt canisters attached to its wings, United Arab Emirates meteorological official Abdullah al-Hammadi scans weather maps on computers screens for cloud formations.

At 9,000 feet above sea level, the plane releases salt flares into the most promising white clouds, hoping to trigger rainfall.

"Cloud seeding requires the existence of rainy clouds, and this is a problem as it is not always the case," said Hammadi, head of rain enhancement operations in the UAE's National Centre for Meteorology.

The effects of climate change, combined with a growing population and economy diversifying into tourism and other areas have pushed up demand for water in the UAE, which has relied on expensive desalination plants that make use of seawater.

Officials say they believe cloud seeding can help. Scientists in Abu Dhabi combine shooting hygroscopic, or water-attracting, salt flares with releasing salt nanoparticles, a newer technology, into the clouds to stimulate and accel-



Hygroscopic flares are attached to an aircraft ahead a cloud seeding flight operated by the National Center of Meteorology, at Al Ain International Airport in Al Ain, in United Arab Emirates



The UAE, located in one of the hottest and driest regions on earth, has been leading the effort to seed clouds and increase precipitation, which remains at less than 100 millimetres (3.9 inches) a year on average.

have announced similar plans as they face historic droughts.

Edward Graham, a meteorologist at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Britain, said the salt used in cloud seeding in the UAE does not harm the environment.

"In terms of carbon footprint, planes that fly up into the clouds are just small planes, when compared to the billions of cars on the planet and the huge planes doing international air travel everyday, it's just a drop in the ocean," he added.

Pilots based at the UAE's al-Ain airport have to be ready to take off at a moments notice, flying over the reddish-yellow desert before directing their aircraft into the clouds located on the meteorologists' screens.

"Cloud seeding is considered the second hardest challenge for pilots," said one flyer, Ahmed al-Jaberi. "When there is a cloud, we try to figure out the way we need to go in and out of it and avoid thunderstorms or hail."



An inside view of the control room at the National Center of Meteorology in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

erate the condensation process and hopefully produce droplets big enough to then fall as rain.

"Cloud seeding increases rainfall rates by approximately 10% to 30% per year... According

to our calculations, cloud seeding operations cost much less than the desalination process," Hammadi said.

Other countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia and Iran,

US announces \$30 m in support for Pakistan flood response

Reuters | Islamabad

The United States will provide \$30 million in support for Pakistan following severe rains and flooding, the US embassy in Islamabad announced yesterday.

"The United States, through

the US Agency for International Development (USAID), today announced an additional \$30 m in life-saving humanitarian assistance to support people and communities affected by severe flooding in Pakistan," the statement said.

Former Israeli PM Netanyahu warned over festival disaster

Reuters | Jerusalem

A state commission of inquiry into one of Israel's worst civil disasters issued a warning to former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a senior police official yesterday that they may share responsibility for an accident that killed 45 people.

The committee investigated the circumstances of the disaster in which a crowd of thousands of pilgrims at a religious festival in northern Israel last year created a deadly stampede and crush in a narrow passageway.

As well as the 45 dead, at least 100 people were injured at the festival on the slopes of Mount Meron, which was



Former Israeli Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu

packed with an estimated 100,000 worshippers.

The letter to Netanyahu, who leads Israel's right wing opposition Likud party, said he "did not act as expected of a prime minister" to correct longstanding safety concerns at the site even though "he knew or should have known" of the concerns.

Iran reopens Iraq border after violence prompts closure

Reuters | Dubai

Iran reopened its border with Iraq to travellers yesterday shortly after Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called on his supporters to withdraw from the streets, state media reported.

Tehran had closed its borders and halted flights to Iraq amid an eruption of violence in the neighbouring country following Sadr's announcement on Monday that he would quit politics.

Millions of Iranians travel to the Iraqi city of Kerbala every year for the ritual of Arbaeen, which marks the end of a 40-day mourning period for the grandson of the Prophet



Pilgrims take part in a mourning ceremony, ahead of the holy Shi'ite ritual of Arbaeen, in Kerbala, Iraq



An explanatory hologram of the cloud seeding process is seen inside the control room

celebs

Still 'healing'



Yahoo! life

Meghan Markle continues to open up about her life with Prince Harry after formally leaving the royal family, sharing that she's purposefully keeping details of their previous life to herself. "It's interesting, I've never had to sign anything that restricts me from talking. I can talk about my whole experience and make a choice not to," she told The Cut, noting that the reason she's stayed quiet is that she is "still healing."

Meghan Markle says she's still 'healing' after royal family exit

exit

Mental health has been at the forefront of the couple's journey since Markle revealed in a sit down interview with Oprah Winfrey just how much she had been struggling. During the March 2021 special, she and Harry said that the Firm's reluctance to get Markle the help she needed was one of many reasons that they took a step away.

During a recent trip to London for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Markle said she went back to Frogmore Cottage, which she and Harry previously called home. While packing up she reflected on some of those difficult

moments.

"You go back and you open drawers and you're like, 'Oh my gosh. This is what I was writing in my journal there?'" she said, adding that it felt "surreal" to be back. "It was bitter-sweet, you know? Knowing none of it had to be this way."

Both Markle and Harry have revealed some of their causes for what was deemed their "Megxit" by British tabloids.

"I think forgiveness is really important. It takes a lot more energy to not forgive. But it takes a lot of effort to

forgive. I've really made an active effort, especially knowing that I can say anything," she said.

"I have a lot to say until I don't. Do you like that? Sometimes, as they say, the silent part is still part of the song." In the meantime, she's most focused on building a joyful life for her children, Archie, 3, and Lilibet, 1, with her partner in all things, Harry. "We're like salt and pepper," she of their relationship. "We always move together."

Yahoo!entertainment

Natalie Portman's upcoming limited series *Lady in the Lake* was forced to halt production due to a group in Baltimore threatening the production.

A group of locals confronted a driver for the production on Friday and said they would only "allow" filming to continue if they were paid \$50,000, as first

reported by the Baltimore Banner over the weekend. The driver refused to pay and the group threatened to "come back later this evening [and] shoot someone" if production continued, according to the Baltimore Police Department.

"The leaders of the production decided to err on the side of caution and reschedule the shoot after they found another location," a department spokesperson said.

Natalie Portman series forced to shut down



JLo slams wedding attendee who 'old' private video

IAN S | Los Angeles

Singer Jennifer Lopez has spoken out against a wedding attendee whom she says "took advantage" and "sold" a video of her serenading husband Ben Affleck last weekend at their wedding celebration in Georgia. "This was taken without permission. Period. And whoever did it took advantage of our private moment," she wrote in an Instagram comment.

"I don't know where you all are getting it from bc we had NDAs and asked everyone to not share anything from our wedding. That is our choice to share.

"Anything I put out private is OnTheJLO and it's to share w my fans. Which I will do when I am ready to. This was stolen without our consent and sold for money. Thank you for caring I love you guys," Lopez added.



IAN S

Actor Matthew Lewis, known for playing the lovable Neville Longbottom in the 'Harry Potter' series, expressed his anger at an airline, saying that he was moved to economy from first class with little explanation and no apology.

Actor Matthew Lewis, known for playing the lovable Neville Longbottom in the 'Harry Potter' series, expressed his anger

at an airline, saying that he was moved to economy from first class with little explanation and no apology.

He was on a flight to a fan convention in Canada.

The star, who played cardigan-wearing hero Neville Longbottom in the franchise, told his Twitter followers that

he first class ticket was torn up when he approached the gate at Orlando International Airport, and he was bumped down to economy, reports [mirror.co.uk](https://www.mirror.co.uk). The 33-year-old took to Twitter on Friday to vent his frustration, writing: "Confirmed. @AirCanada is the worst airline in North America. And that's saying something."

'Harry Potter' actor fumes after airline downgrades him from first class to economy



Amber Heard's sister calls MTV disgusting

IAN S

Hollywood actress Amber Heard's sister has slammed MTV for featuring Johnny Depp in its 2022 Video Music Awards. In a social media post, Whitney

Heard called MTV 'desperate and disgusting'. She also shared another post on her Instagram stories to show her support for her sister.

"@MTV you're disgusting and clearly desperate! I really hope that none of the people that made this call have daughters," Whitney Heard wrote.

In an Instagram Story, Whitney wrote, "I stand with Amber Heard", alongside an image that referred to the prestigious award ceremony as "DVMA's", where DV stands for domestic violence.

In the pre-recorded skit, Johnny is seen dressed as MTV's iconic Moonman logo. "I just want you guys to know that I'm available for birthdays, bar mitzvahs, but mitzvahs, weddings, wakes, any old thing you need. And you know what? I needed the work," the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor said at MTV VMAS 2022.



IAN S

Chris Rock hints Will Smith's slap trauma behind him opting out of 2023 Oscars

Comedian Chris Rock has hinted at how Will Smith's Oscar slap has possibly left him traumatized as he explained why he refused an offer to host next year's award ceremony.

During his stand-up comedy show in Phoenix, Arizona, the 57-year-old addressed the slap again, reports [aceshowbiz.com](https://www.aceshowbiz.com).

The 'Saturday Night Live' alum said he had been asked to host the upcoming Academy Awards ceremony, but he turned down the offer, comparing returning to the event to returning to a crime scene.

Rock allegedly ref-



erenced the murder trial of O.J. Simpson, who was accused of killing his former wife Nicole Brown Simpson but later acquitted. During the trial, it was argued

that her murder began with Nicole leaving a pair of glasses at an Italian restaurant. Chris said returning to the award ceremony would be like asking Nicole "to go

back to the restaurant". He also said he received an offer to do a Super Bowl commercial following the incident, but he "profanely" refused as well.

SUDOKU

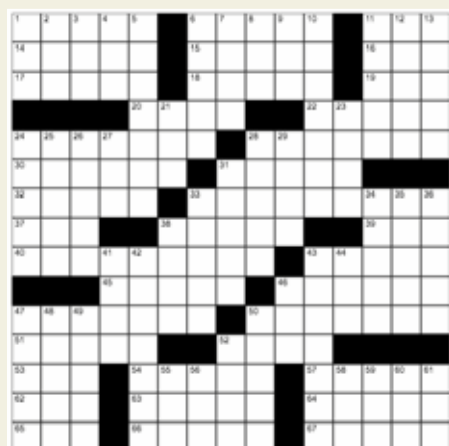
5	4		7	8				
8			6					9
		6	5		9		7	8
				5	1			3
3			4		2			7
7			3	9				
6	7		8		4	9		
4				3				2
			6	1			4	5

Yesterday's solution

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

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Mocks; 6- Iota preceder; 11- Wire measure; 14- Matriculate; 15- Herbert Hoover, for one; 16- Point of no return?; 17- We're Off... the Wizard; 18- Give a seat?; 19- Filled pastry crust; 20- Bronte heroine; 22- Conger catcher; 24- Indigenous inhabitants; 28- Place where books are assembled; 30- Out of bed; 31- 1985 Kate Nelligan film; 32- Considers; 33- Worship; 37- Believer's suffix; 38- Wonderland girl; 39- Never, in Nuremberg; 40- Rhizome; 43- Designer Simpson; 45- Graduated glass tube; 46- Starred fiercely; 47- To the extent that; 50- Nation; 51- Pipsqueak; 52- Unskilled laborer; 53- Honshu honorific; 54- Sports venue; 57- You... mouthful!; 62- Swan song; 63- Penultimate round; 64- World-weariness; 65- Dunderhead; 66- Rock; 67- U-Haul competitor;

Down

1- Modern fier; 2- Brian of rock; 3- Hesitant sounds; 4- Caviar; 5- Arm coverings; 6- Layers; 7- Gop; 8- Ram's mate; 9- Tic... Dough; 10- Roof item; 11- Sap tree; 12- Less friendly; 13- Guarded; 21- Hanking; 23- Prepare a book or film for release; 24- Lowest point; 25- You... right; 26- Connect with; 27- Doctrine; 28- Child's building cube; 29- Able was...; 31- Decree; 33- Healing plants; 34- Lifeless; 35- Fuel transport; 36- Wanting; 38- Gillette brand; 41- Ski lift; 42- Exceed; 43- Four-time Indy 500 winner; 44- Rockers Steely...; 46- Sticky substance; 47- Lost; 48- Graceful birds; 49- Wards (off); 50-... and desist; 52- Nabokov novel; 55- Emeritus; 56- Comedian Phillips; 58-... day now...; 59- Neither Rep. nor Dem.; 60- Expected; 61- Life support?;

Yesterday's solution

A	D	O	G	C	R	A	M	H	A	L	E					
P	U	R	R	H	E	M	I	N	U	S	E					
E	R	N	O	A	M	I	G	O	S	T	A					
R	O	O	M	N	I	E	U	R	B	A	N					
				M	I	T	T	S	R	T	A					
				S	P	E	C	S	A	L	I	E	N	A	T	E
				T	A	S	T	E	U	R	I	S	D	E	A	R
				E	T	H	E	N	O	C	H	R	N	S		
				R	I	A	S	N	D	A	K	A	N	I	S	E
				N	E	W	C	O	M	E	R	G	O	E	Y	
				A	L	A	R	B	A	L	I					
				B	O	A	R	D	S	N	O	L	S	H	I	P
				L	U	L	L	S	C	O	W	L	I	O	N	E
				I	R	A	E	S	T	E	E	L	P	G	A	
				P	S	S	T	A	E	R	Y					

Bournemouth sack manager Parker after Liverpool thrashing

● Parker fired after three successive losses

● Bournemouth fourth-bottom with three points

● First team coach O'Neil in interim charge

Reuters

Bournemouth manager Scott Parker was sacked by the newly-promoted Premier League club on Tuesday, three days after they were thumped 9-0 at Liverpool for their third straight defeat.

The struggling south-coast club are fourth from bottom of the standings with three points from four games.

"I would like to place on record my gratitude to Scott and his team for their efforts during

their time with us," the club's owner, Maxim Demin, said in a statement.

"However, in order for us to keep progressing as a team and a club as a whole, it is unconditional that we are aligned in our strategy to run the club sustainably."

Bournemouth said their search for a new manager would begin immediately and first team coach Gary O'Neil would take over in the interim. They host Wolverhampton Wanderers today.

Demin's comments appear to be a response to Parker's post-match interview at Anfield after their Premier League record-equalling defeat. Parker said he was "not surprised" at the result and that he needed some new signings to strengthen his side, who finished runners-up in the second-tier Championship last season.

"It doesn't surprise me. This is currently where it is at this moment in time. The players need help. Today proved too big a challenge. The levels were far too big," the 41-year-old said after Saturday's defeat.

"We've got a decision to make as a club. There will be days like this. Time will tell. It's a huge disappointment, a real humbling experience.

"We have some days where hopefully we can get some help in and support and help the current team, who came up from the Championship," he added.

KLOPP SYMPATHETIC

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said he felt sympathy for Parker.

"When I heard the news, I realised how important it is in this moment to have the right owners at the club," Klopp said.

Gopichand's academy expands to Bahrain

TDT | Dubai

Gulf Badminton Academy is expanding to Bahrain through a strategic partnership with the Indian club Bahrain.

The move forms part of a plan by GBA, under the mentorship of former All England Champion Pullela Gopichand, to open multiple academies in and around their Dubai hub and the Gulf countries.

The Academy comes to Bahrain after testing its success in five centres for the past eight months with around 100 kids and adults in Dubai.

Founder of the world's no 1 Badminton League - Premier Badminton League- Prasad Mangipudi is a co-founder of GBA.

"We are committed to providing extensive in-person



Pullela Gopichand

training, online resources, and ongoing support to help launch and grow the Badminton sport in the Arab world," said Gopichand, Chairman of Gulf Badminton Academy, UAE.

"The main engine behind the concept of GBA is Gopichand,

who has incredible credentials not only as a great sportsman but also as a great coach, spending every moment of his career promoting the sport of badminton through his academy, which has produced world-class talent," said Thoffik Valiyakath, Managing Director of GBA.

The coaches of GBA Bahrain will get trained under Gopichand at his academy in Hyderabad.

Senior coaches from Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy (PGBA) will regularly visit to provide advanced skills.

Students of GBA, Bahrain, will have the opportunity to train at GBA centre of Excellence in Dubai as well as Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad. Students with champion potential could move to PGBA, Hyderabad.

Manchester United agree deal to sign winger Antony from Ajax

Reuters

Manchester United have reached an agreement to sign Brazil winger Antony from Ajax Amsterdam, the Premier League club said in a statement yesterday.

Antony, who played under United manager Erik ten Hag at Ajax, registered 12 goals and 10 assists in 33 games in all competitions as the Dutch club won a third straight Eredivisie title and made the last 16 in the Champions League last term.

Financial details of the deal were not disclosed but British media reported that it would be worth an initial 80.75 million pounds (\$94.63 million), with a further 4.25 million pounds in add-ons for the 22-year-old.

Antony joined Amsterdam from Sao Paulo in February 2020 and played more than 80 times for Ajax, scoring 25 goals in total. He has also been capped nine times by Brazil since his debut in 2021, scoring twice.

He will become United's fifth close-season signing following the arrivals of Lisandro Martinez, Tyrell Malacia, Christian Eriksen and Casemiro.

Belarusian defector Tsimanouskaya says she has taken Polish citizenship

Reuters

Athlete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, who defected from Belarus during the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo, has said in an Instagram post that she had been awarded Polish citizenship.

"Today I give you my word that I will try 100% to show my full potential, and even if I stand on the podium as a Pole, know that this medal will be for all Belarusians and for our freedom. Long live Belarus! Thank you Poland," she wrote.

Tsimanouskaya took refuge in Poland when she was kicked out of the Olympics a year ago after a dispute with her coaches.

Najibullah, Ibrahim stun Bangladesh

Sportstar

Afghanistan beats Bangladesh by seven wickets in Sharjah yesterday to advance to the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup as the topper of Group B. It's now a virtual knockout for second place as Bangladesh takes on Sri Lanka in Dubai today.

Chasing 128, Afghanistan trudged to 48 for the loss of two wickets in 10 overs. Openers Hazratullah Zazai and Rahmanullah Gurbaz fell for 23 and 11, respectively, as Bangladesh applied the squeeze in the first half. Mohammad Saifuddin trapped Mohammad Nabi leg before shortly after.

But with Afghanistan needing 66 from 42 balls, Ibrahim Zadran (42, 41b, 4x4) and Najibullah Zadran (43, 17b, 1x4, 6x6) brought out the big hits in an enterprising 69-run stand.



Najibullah Zadran and Ibrahim Zadran produced a stunning display with the bat and helped Afghanistan beat Bangladesh in the Asia Cup 2022 Group B match in Sharjah.

The two blasted 39 in the 17th and 18th over combined, with a flurry of boundaries, eventually getting over the line with nine balls to spare.

Batting first on a slowish surface, Bangladesh lost Mohammad Naim to Mujeeb in the second over, clean bowled off a

carram ball. Mujeeb then had Anamul Haque out lbw in his second over before clean bowling skipper Shakib Al Hasan, playing his 100th T20I, in his third consecutive over. Bangladesh was 3 for 28 after the PowerPlay, with Mujeeb's first spell reading 3-0-9-3.

Shock from Spain: "Rafael Nadal was secretly dating Shakira!"

TDT | agencies

From Spain comes an indiscretion that has real hype: Rafael Nadal and Shakira have had a secret relationship. As reported by the Spanish paparazzo, Jordi Martin, the singer and the tennis player began their clandestine dating back in 2009, when the two met for the Gypsy video clip. The video for one of Shakira's best-known songs involved exchanging sensual looks and laughter, but it seems like it was

more than just script requirements. As reported by Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, the paparazzo explained that the two had an intense love affair when the video of the song was shot.

At the time, rumors reported that Shakira was dating Alejandro Sanz, a well-known Spanish singer. On the other hand, the tennis player was in a difficult situation: at the time, Nadal was already romantically linked to Mary Perellò, whom he met in 2005 at school.

The news is simply incredible, but the rumors of a possible betrayal come at a time not favorable to Rafael Nadal: the Spaniard is focused on the US Open.

Nadal is competing at the US Open for the first time since winning his fourth title at Flushing Meadows in 2019.

First round · Arthur Ashe Stadium

🇺🇸 R. Hijikata

🇪🇸 2 R. Nadal

With the victory of the first two Grand Slam titles of the year, the world number three is looking for title number 23, which would make him the player with the most Grand Slam titles in history, on a par with Serena Williams.

To reach the final victory, Nadal has a series of obstacles to overcome: after the first round against the Australian Hijikata, the Italian Fabio Fognini could await him in the second match at Flushing Meadows. The Italian is one of the few players to have reassembled the Iberian champion in a best-of-five match, after falling behind by two sets.

If he overcomes the danger of the quarter-finals, where Rublev and Norrie orbit, there could be the all-Spanish semifinal: Carlos Alcaraz could be waiting for him. In a hypothetical final, however, the card says that Daniil Medvedev could be back, as in the last act of the last edition of the Australian Open.



Bahrain qualify for youth handball worlds

Bahrainis defeat Kuwait to take fifth place in ninth Asian Men's Youth (U19) Handball Championship, book tickets to 2023 Men's Youth World Handball Championship

● Bahrainis become fifth and final Asian team to qualify for youth handball worlds, to be held in Croatia in 2023

● Final between South Korea and Iran to be held tonight, with Japan playing Saudi Arabia for third place

TDT | Manama

Bahrain closed out their campaign in the ninth Asian Men's Youth (U19) Handball Championship last night in style.

The home team clinched fifth place overall on the tournament's final classification and thus also claimed the last continental berth for the 2023 Men's Youth World Handball Championship.

The Bahrainis secured their ranking after defeating Kuwait



Bahrain's Mohamed Ali tries to go for goal against Kuwait during their match last night

27-21 in the match for fifth place, which took place at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Only the top five teams from this competition being hosted by the Kingdom book their tickets to the worlds. The Bah-

rainis are joining fellow-Asian sides South Korea, Iran, Japan and Saudi Arabia at next year's global showcase.

Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa was on hand,



In tonight's final, South Korea will be hoping to claim their third title in the history of the competition, while Iran will be aiming for their second crown

along with Bahrain Handball Association (BHA) president Ali Issa.

Also yesterday, Qatar claimed seventh place on the competition's final ranking after edging past Uzbekistan 29-28 on penalty throws.

Today is the final day of the tournament, which was organised by the BHA in cooperation with the Asian Handball Fed-

eration.

The gold and bronze medal games will be held this evening, beginning with the match for third place between Japan and Saudi Arabia at 4pm, to be followed by the final between South Korea and Iran at 6pm. All are welcome to attend. Entrance is free of charge.

In Bahrain's victory last night, the hosts pulled away from their rivals late in the first half, turning a slim 7-6 lead to a 14-10 advantage heading into the locker rooms. Jaffar Farsan was in impressive form in the opening period, already scoring seven of his team-high nine goals in the match.

After the break, Kuwait tried to get back into the contest but got no closer than three goals the rest of the way. An Alrashi Ebraheem goal got Kuwait to within 21-24 with just over five minutes to play, but that was the last time they would find the net and Bahrain fired in three unanswered goals in the closing moments.

Mohammed Abdulla chipped in with seven goals in the win, while Ali Mohamed scored four and Ahmed Fardan had three. For Kuwait, Almutawa Husain was their leading scorer with six goals, while Ebraheem and Abdullah Ahmad both contributed three goals.

Farsan was later named the player of the match.

In Qatar's win, they led 13-11 at the half but the Uzbeks were able to tie the match at 26-all at the end of regulation. The contest went directly into penalties and Qatar's Osama Mousa, Muhammad Raza and Malak Soussou were all on target, whereas Uzbekistan could only manage to score twice through Davron Bozorboev and Razhab Sharibov.

In tonight's final, South Korea will be hoping to claim their third title in the history of the competition, while Iran will be aiming for their second crown. The South Koreans previously won in 2005 and 2014, while the Iranians clinched their title in 2006.

Teasing Hamilton puts a cap on Alonso spat

Reuters | London

Lewis Hamilton literally put a cap on a verbal spat with Formula One rival Fernando Alonso in a teasing social media post on Tuesday.

Alonso, a former team mate and fellow world champion, had branded the Briton an idiot after a first-lap collision at last Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix. Mercedes' seven-times world champion Hamilton accepted blame for the incident that ended



his race but told reporters he would not talk to Alpine's Alonso after what the Spaniard had said about him.

Alonso had also declared over team radio, in a message broadcast to a worldwide television audience, that the winner of a record 103 races "only knows how to drive and start in first (place)". Hamilton posted in an Instagram story a clip of double world champion Alonso calling for respect for the "F1 family" and followed it up on Tuesday with a message to his 29 million followers.

"Even though the weekend didn't go the way we wanted,

after an amazing break it was so good to be back at work. I love my job, my team, and I loved the energy at Spa," he said on Instagram. "Thank you to the team for all the hard work and thank you to the fans that came out to show love, I appreciate you."

The words were accompanied by a photo of a signed cap with "To Fernando" on it.

Hamilton and Alonso were McLaren team mates in a stormy 2007 season, the Briton's debut year, where both ended up level on points and missed out on the title by a single point to Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen.

Hamilton then won his first title with McLaren in 2008, with Alonso back at Renault.



Alonso, a former team mate and fellow world champion, had branded the Briton an idiot after a first-lap collision at last Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.



Swiatek cruises into US Open second round

● Iga Swiatek won 6-3 and 6-0

● Swiatek will face either Belgium's Greet Minnen or 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens in the second round

New York

Iga Swiatek, the number one player in the world, had no trouble advancing to the second round of the US Open on Tuesday by cruising to a victory against Jasmine Paolini of Italy in straight sets.

The top-seeded Polish player, who has never advanced past the fourth round in New York, finished the match on the Louis Armstrong Stadium in 1 hour and 7 minutes, winning 6-3 and 6-0.

The defending champion of the French Open, Swiatek, will enter the second round against either

Greet Minnen of Belgium or Sloane Stephens of the United States, who won the US Open in 2017.

Swiatek assumed command of the match on Tuesday quite early in the opening set. He did this by securing service breaks in the third and fifth games, which allowed him to rush to a 4-1 lead.

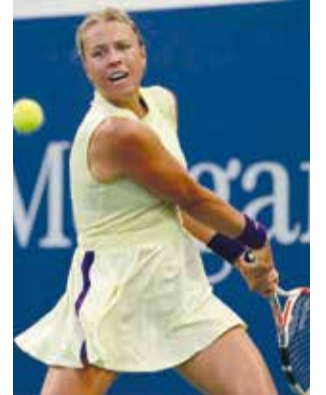
Despite Paolini's heroic comeback, in which he broke back to even the score at 4-2 against Swiatek's, the Italian was eventually defeated and fell behind 5-2.

When Swiatek was serving for the set, she went ahead and gave up another break, but she quickly recovered and won the first set with a score of 6-3.

Swiatek dominated her opponent in the second set, and the result was that she was able to score three breaks and win the match. Paolini was unable to maintain her fight.



Kontaveit can't wait for Serena showdown



Anett Kontaveit of Estonia
Reuters | New York

Anett Kontaveit is guaranteed a frenzied atmosphere in her next outing at Flushing Meadows against Serena Williams but rather than being nervous about it, the second-seeded Estonian said she cannot wait for the "unique experience".

With the 40-year-old Williams indicating the U.S. Open could be the final event of her storied career, the hardcourt Grand Slam set an all-time night-session attendance record on Monday with 29,402 flocking to the sprawling site.

The 23-time major winner ensured that the celebrations will continue at least for some more time, defeating Dank Kovinic 6-3 6-3 in front of a raucous Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd, teaming with celebrities and her fellow players.

Flushing Meadows is expected to be similarly boisterous today with the same level of energy in the stands when Williams meets Kontaveit.