



NEW iPhone RINGS UP A BIG PREMIUM

All iPhone 14 Pro series devices reserved or sold in 45 minutes at Dubai Mall branch

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Resellers are looking to cash in on the iPhone 14 craze — with some units being sold on classifieds websites for a whopping Dh10,500, just hours after the series' release in the UAE.

One seller has posted a gold iPhone 14 Pro Max 1 TB for this price on the popular platform Dubizzle. It retails at only Dh6,799 on the official Apple website.

A brand-new iPhone 14 Pro Max 256GB — originally priced at Dh5,099 — was also being resold for Dh6,500. Advertised as "Bought directly from Apple Store, with receipt and full warranty", the phone is purportedly available only for "today".

Since the first ad popped up, at least three dozen more have been placed on Dubizzle for various iterations of the phone.

Currently, all iPhone 14 Pro and Pro

Max phones at The Dubai Mall branch of Apple have either been sold or reserved.

One resident bought as many as 10 devices for his whole family, and it wasn't even the first time he made such a purchase. Osama Azhar said his family would usually upgrade their phones every year and, this time, they splurged on brand-new iPhones.

Abdul Rafeeqe, an IT manager at a media company, was the first person to buy the brand-new device after securing a reservation for 8am.

What resellers say

A reseller who did not wish to be identified said that he had posted his device for a premium of Dh1,000 and had received a lot of interest. "Some people just want to get their hands on the item first, so they are ready to pay whatever premium is required," he said. "I have received a lot of calls. I am now waiting to finalise the deal with whoever is ready to pay me first."

Another one said that he had already sold his but refused to disclose how much he had sold it for. "The buyer was eager to get his hands on the product," he said. "So, he met me as soon as I posted and bought it from me."

Earlier on Friday, hundreds of people



(Top) Abdul Rafeeqe was the first person to buy the brand-new device at The Dubai Mall. (Above) Osama Azhar bought as many as 10 devices for his whole family.

— PHOTOS BY SHIHAB

stood in queues for over four hours at the flagship store to get their hands on the newly launched iPhone 14 and its iterations. Dr Mohannad, who arrived with a bag of cash, went to the mall as early as 4am and was waiting to buy four devices for himself and his family.

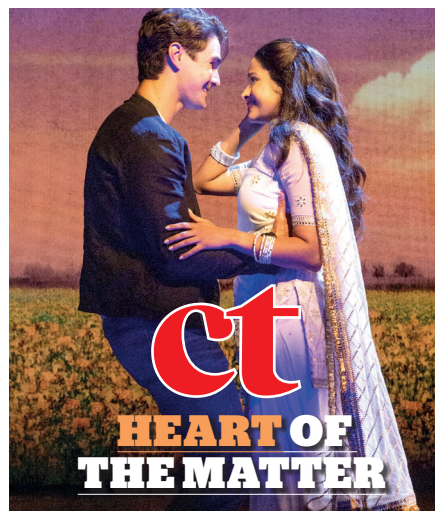
The UAE is among the first countries where the US technology major has rolled out its latest smartphones that were unveiled on September 7. Apple has priced iPhone 14 at Dh3,399; iPhone 14 Plus at Dh3,799; iPhone 14 Pro at Dh4,299; and iPhone 14 ProMax at Dh4,699 in the UAE.

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TikTok Now users under 16 will get private account by default

Nation + Page 4



Salik ups IPO size to 24.9% on demand



Dubai's road-toll operator Salik on Friday announced that it has increased the number of shares offered in its IPO from 1.5 billion ordinary shares to 1.86 billion (1,867,500,000).

This move — which comes as a response to strong investor demand — increases the IPO size from 20 to 24.9 per cent of Salik's share capital, with the Government of Dubai continuing to own 75.1 per cent.

Salik has also received an approval from the Securities and Commodities Authority to allocate the increase to respective tranches. The first and third tranches (in aggregate) will increase from 120 million to 145 million (145,725,000) ordinary shares.

The second tranche (for qualified inves-

tors) will increase from 1.38 billion to 1.72 billion (1,721,775,000) ordinary shares.

The larger IPO size follows Salik's decision to set the offer price at Dh2 per share on September 13.

This provides investors with a highly attractive value proposition, and also reflects Salik's prioritisation of supporting after-market trading performance, post-listing.

The subscription period for the Salik IPO remains unchanged — it will close on September 20 for individuals and September 21 for qualified investors.

Investors who participated in the UAE retail offer will be notified of their allocation of shares via SMS on September 26. — WAM

Hundreds of bodies found in mass grave, says Ukraine

Ukrainian officials said they had found a mass burial site with hundreds of bodies in territory recaptured from Russian forces, in what President Volodymyr Zelensky called proof of war crimes by the enemies.

Zelensky said many Ukrainians were also buried in other sites in the northeast and appealed for foreign powers to step up weapons supplies, saying the outcome of the war hinged on their swift delivery.

"As of today, there are 450 dead people, buried. But there are others, separate burials of many people. Tortured people. Entire families in certain territories," Zelensky said in his presidential office on Friday.

The head of the pro-Russian administration which abandoned the area last week dismissed the accounts of the burials outside the city of Izium and accused Ukrainians of stage-managing atrocities.

"I have not heard anything about burials in Izium," Vitaly Ganchev told Rossiya-24 state television.

Outside the city on Friday, men in white overalls were digging out bodies at the site in a forest where around 200 makeshift wooden crosses were scattered among trees. Some 20 white body bags could be seen.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Friday. — AFP

NOW IS NOT A TIME FOR WAR, MODI TELLS PUTIN

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday that now was "not a time for war" on the sidelines of a regional summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. New Delhi and Moscow have longstanding ties dating back to the Cold War, and Russia remains by far India's biggest arms supplier. But in their first face-to-face meeting since Moscow's forces attacked Ukraine in February, Modi told Putin: "Excellency, I know today's time is not a time for war."

India has shied away from explicitly condemning Russia for the attack, which sent the price of oil and other commodities soaring. But he stressed the importance of "democracy and diplomacy and dialogue" in the meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit. They would discuss "how to move forward on the path of peace", Modi added. The comments from the Indian leader came just a day after Putin acknowledged that China — Russia's key ally — had "concerns" over the conflict in Ukraine. — AFP

Beckham lines up overnight as wait to view queen's coffin hits 24 hours

The tens of thousands of people queuing to file past the coffin of Queen Elizabeth were warned on Friday that it would now take up to 24 hours to reach the building, and that temperatures overnight were expected to be cold.

People of all ages and from all walks of life have paid their respects to the late queen, joining a well-organised line that stretches along the south bank of the Thames then over the river to parliament's Westminster Hall.

Such has been the demand that by mid-morning organisers decid-



ed the line was too long and urged people to stay away — a testimony to the respect and affection for the queen, who died in Scotland at the age of 96 after a 70-year reign.

Despite the warning — repeated

across local rail stations — people continued to flood into Southwark Park to join the back of the queue, many in high spirits.

Former England football captain David Beckham said it was "very emotional" to pay his last respects to Queen Elizabeth on Friday after he queued for hours through the night. "We're all there to say thanks to Her Majesty for being kind, for being caring, for being reassuring throughout the years," he said. — REUTERS

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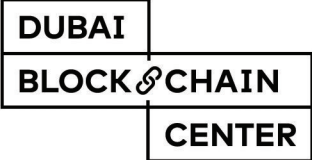
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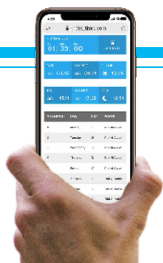




Prayer Timings

FAJR	SHURUQ	ZUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:48	06:02	12:16	15:42	18:24	19:38

Add four minutes for Abu Dhabi / Deduct four minutes for Ras Al Khaimah and six minutes for Fujairah.



Check on the go

Log on to khaleejtimes.com to know the latest prayer timings from around the world. bit.ly/UAEPrayerTime

Hamdan shares images showing close bond between UAE leaders

Staff Report
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Truly 'united', the leaders of UAE share a strong bond, and this was recently highlighted through pictures shared by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, on his social media channel.

Sheikh Hamdan, who is fondly known as 'Fazza', shared these images on his Instagram stories.

The series of images features the UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President of the UAE and Ruler

of Dubai, along with Sheikh Hamdan. Displaying warm camaraderie, the President is seen sitting between the Dubai Ruler and Dubai Crown Prince. The leaders seem to be engaged in an important discussion.

Another photograph shows Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Sheikh Hamdan seated together closely, listening to someone speak with intent. The speaker isn't present in the frame but their words put a smile on Sheikh Mohamed's face.

In another picture, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Sheikh Hamdan are seen in a warm embrace. The President is seen greeting Sheikh Hamdan, both wearing a soft smile on their faces.



Sheikh Hamdan shared this heart-warming picture on his Instagram page of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid engrossed in a discussion. — INSTAGRAM

Apple mania grips UAE as iPhone 14s fly off shelves

Some customers queued up outside The Dubai Mall from 4AM on Friday to get their hands on latest iPhone



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Hundreds of Appleheads lined up outside The Dubai Mall — some as early as 4am — to get their hands on the brand-new iPhone 14 that went on sale in the UAE on Friday.

Apple Store has a branch at the mall, and employees lined up at the entrance and counted down to 8am to welcome the first buyers inside the store.

Abdul Rafeeqe, an IT manager at a media company was the first customer to buy the device after securing a reservation for 8am.

"I bought six iPhone 14 Pro 256GB," said the beaming Indian expat. "I had reservations for two iPhones in the morning and four for the evening. But when I asked the staff if I could pick up everything now, they agreed." He said he was buying multiple devices for his friends and family.

"Although I have been at every launch event since the [iPhone] 4S, this is the first time that I am first in line," he said. He shared images of launch events he had attended in the past.

Rafeeqe had logged on to several devices to secure the earliest appointment when the reservations started.

Some people had been waiting since 4am to get into the mall, despite having reservations. Dr Mohamad was one of them, buying four devices. "I came at 4am and waited until the mall opened at 7am," he said. "I am buying three iPhone Pro Max and one iPhone Pro for myself and my family."

The Dubai resident had arrived with a bagful of cash for his purchase. "I wanted to pay in cash," he said. "So I brought enough with me."

Osama Azhar was in the store to buy

Abdul Rafeeqe, an IT manager at a media company, was the first customer to buy the device after securing a reservation for 8am. He brought six iPhone 14 Pros — PHOTOS BY SHIHAB



Hundreds of Appleheads lined up outside The Dubai Mall long before the Apple Store opening to be the first few to get their hands on the iPhone 14 that went on sale in the UAE on Friday.

ten devices for everyone in his family (see box). Friends Mohammed Mehzin and Has- eeb Abdul Lateef had also waited on their respective devices to get the first reservations. "I was the one who got it," said Meh- zin.

The businessman will be replacing his iPhone X that he has had for the last five years. "I think I will give the old phone to my younger brother," he said.

Another man shopping for his younger brother was Kaja Mohamed. He bought two iPhone 14 Pro Max's and two Series 8 Apple Watches.

"I am going to India today and I wanted to buy my brother a gift," he said. "So, I de-

cided to get a new phone and watch for him and myself."

All iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max devices at The Dubai Mall store were either reserved or sold just 45 minutes after sales began. Those wishing to buy the new phone can expect to wait several weeks or choose to buy from resellers at a premium.

Apple has priced iPhone 14 at Dh3,399, iPhone 14 Plus at Dh3,799, iPhone 14 Pro at Dh4,299 and iPhone 14 ProMax at Dh4,699 in the UAE.

The UAE is amongst the first countries where the US technology major has rolled out its latest smartphones that was unveiled on September 7.



THE APPLEHEAD WHO BOUGHT 10 NEW PHONES!

Appleheads in the UAE rushed to buy the latest iPhone14 and its variations as the devices hit the shelves on Friday.

One guy, Osama Azhar, went all out and bought 10 phones.

"My whole family, we are loyal fans of Apple," said Azhar, who was among the hundreds who went to the Apple store at The Dubai Mall during the launch.

"We find iPhones very easy to use compared to all the other phones," he added.

The Dubai resident said his family buys new phones every year and, this time, they decided to splurge on iPhone 14.

Despite his big order, he didn't encounter any glitch with Apple's reservation system, he said.

"As soon as the process began, I signed up for the de- vices. It was fairly easy and straightforward, and I was able to book the number of devices I wanted."

Unlike many others who waited hours outside the store, Azhar said he had only waited 15 to 20 minutes.

Several people waited for over four hours outside the Dubai Mall store to reserve and get their hands on the new de- vices. However, those who had paid and reserved online earli- er had a separate queue that al- lowed them to enter the store according to the timeslot that was available.

Azhar said he was a com- plete Applehead who owned every device that the compa- ny had launched.

His family, though, is yet to switch completely. "They own some non-Apple prod- ucts," he said. "But that should gradually change."



Dubai AG appeals ruling refusing Shah's extradition

The Attorney-General of Dubai, Essam Issa Al Humaidan, has ap- pealed a court ruling that refused Denmark's request to extradite San- jay Shah, a British national wanted by Danish authorities for alleged tax fraud and money laundering.

The Dubai Police had earlier ar- rested Sanjay Shah following Den- mark's extradition request. Al Hu- maidan then referred the request to the Dubai Courts.

When the case reached the Dubai Court of Appeal, a decision was issued refusing the request. The latest appeal will be heard in the Dubai Court of Cassation.

Sanjay Shah is the alleged mas- termind behind a scam known as 'cum-ex trading'. He had been wanted in Denmark for the past seven years, *Khaleej Times* reported previously.

Shah's fraud scheme involved submitting thousands of applica- tions to the Danish Treasury on behalf of investors and companies from several countries around the world in order to receive dividend tax refunds,' the Dubai Police ear- lier said in a statement.

The alleged scam, which ran for three years since 2012, has been described as one of the largest fraud cases in Denmark's history.

Programme for people of determination

Abu Dhabi has launched a fam- ily stability support programme *Mabrook Madabart*, Arabic for 'Congratulations on your Mar- riage' for people of determination.

The initiative was launched by Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Min- ister of Interior, in the presence of Sheikh Khalid bin Zayed Al Na- hyan, Chairman of Zayed Higher Organisation for People of Deter- mination (ZHO).

The programme features special- ised training courses for would-be couples from different categories of people of determination, provided that they attend at least one course each day. It also includes courses of- fered by the ZHO, including intro- ducing the couple to each other and partner selection, dealing with the needs of the partner who is a person of determination, external relations maintained by the person of deter- mination's family, having children and parenting.

The Family Development Founda- tion also offers courses within the preparation service for would- be couples, including, marital compatibility, understanding the partner, effective communication, emotional gratification, conflict management, and financial plan- ning for spouses. — WAM

Sheikh Abdullah visits Holocaust memorial in Israel

The UAE Foreign Minister visited Yad Vashem, the world Holocaust re- memberance centre in Israel, on Friday.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Na- hyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, along with a number of ministers and officials, vis- ited the centre which is considered the greatest source for information, docu- mentation and research on the Holo- caust.

He offered a tribute to the Holocaust victims, praising the Yad Vashem me- morial for perpetuating their memory.

The centre, which was established in 1953 as a research and educational centre to remember the Holocaust, in- cludes museums, exhibitions, memori- als, research and educational centres, in addition to libraries and archives.

Sheikh Abdullah praised the role of the historical complex, which reflects the importance of working to promote and spread the values of tolerance and coexistence among peoples, establish- ing peace, and supporting peoples' aspi- rations for a decent life and prosperity.

UAE's values

He stressed that the UAE, under the leadership of the President, His High- ness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Na- hyan, is keen to play its role as a global beacon for spreading the values of tol- erance, coexistence and human broth- erhood, as they constitute the essential pillars for achieving sustainable de- velopment and prosperity in societies.

Sheikh Abdullah was accompanied by Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy,

Minister of State for International Co- operation; Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Youth; Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State; Omar Ghobash, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Coop- eration for Cultural Affairs and Public Diplomacy; and Mohamed Al Khaja, UAE Ambassador to Israel.

Upon their arrival, the chairman of Yad Vashem Dani Dayan welcomed Sheikh Abdullah and the delegation.

During his visit to Israel, Sheikh Abdul- lah also met a number of Israeli ministers including Avigdor Lieberman, Minister of Finance; Benjamin Netanyahu, Opposi- tion Leader and former prime minister of Israel; Merav Michaeli, Minister of Trans- port and Road Safety; and Ayelet Shaked, Minister of the Interior. — WAM



Sheikh Abdullah offers a tribute to Holocaust victims at the Yad Vashem memorial. — WAM

TikTok Now users under 16 will get private account by default

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If someone under the age of 16 creates an account to use the TikTok Now app, just like TikTok, their account will be made private by default, the company said recently. TikTok announced it has expanded its suite of creation tools with a new feature — TikTok Now — on Thursday.

TikTok Now is a daily photo and video experience for users to share their authentic moments with friends and family. Along with the product launch, TikTok also reinstated several safety rules, espe-

cially for its younger users.

“Creators are in control of deciding who can view or engage with their content. They can block others and choose which comments appear on their content. And if someone comes across behaviour they believe may violate the Community Guidelines, they can report it for review,” said the company.

Those under the age of 18 will not be able to share their content to the Explore feed and users between 13 and 15 will have commenting options limited to Friends only to help protect against unwanted interactions, the company added.

What is TikTok Now?

TikTok Now invites users and their friends to capture what they’re doing in the moment using their device’s front and back camera, making possible connections and entertainment in a fun format.

Users will receive a daily prompt to capture a 10-second video or a static photo to quickly and easily share what they’re up to.

“In the Mena region, TikTok Now can be accessed from both TikTok and the new TikTok Now app,” said the company in a press release.

In some countries, TikTok Now may be available within TikTok,

TikTok safety measures

Those 18 and over have additional sharing settings.

In addition to sharing with mutual friends, they can opt to share their posts with the broader TikTok Now community based on the privacy settings they have chosen.

To change privacy settings for TikTok Now: In the Post screen, tap ‘Friends can View’ or ‘Everyone’.

If you choose everyone, anyone in your area can view your TikTok Now posts. Those who don’t follow you or you don’t follow can’t comment or interact with your TikTok Now posts.



Resident told to pay Dh25k for defrauding pupil’s father

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An Abu Dhabi resident, who took Dh25,000 from a man after promising to obtain a scholarship for his daughter to study at a university in the UAE for free, which never happened, has been ordered to pay back the man’s money.

The Abu Dhabi Court of Appeal for Family and Civil Administrative Claims overturned an earlier ruling by the Court of First Instance which had dismissed the lawsuit filed by the father.

The father had accused the defendant of defrauding him and taking Dh25,420 from him after promising to provide a scholarship for his daughter at a university in the country.

In his lawsuit, the father had requested the court to oblige the man pay back his cash in addition to another Dh25,000 in material and moral damages.

He said that the defendant deceived him by saying that he would obtain a scholarship for his daughter in a university in the UAE. The father said the man had asked him for Dh25,420 claiming that it was the fee for applying for the scholarship and that his daughter will study for free. He later realised that it was a scam as the defendant didn’t obtain the scholarship for his daughter despite taking the money.

The court of first instance had earlier dismissed the case on grounds that the father didn’t present sufficient evidence to prove that the man took money. The father went to the appeal court which cancelled the first verdict and instead ordered the defendant to pay back the cash he took from the father after he was found guilty of defrauding him and taking his cash on false pretences.

The father had presented WhatsApp messages they exchanged with the defendant where it clearly showed that he handed the cash to the defendant to obtain for him a university scholarship for his daughter.

DH25,420
The accused took from the victim promising a scholarship for the latter’s daughter

Physical bank cards long way from being obsolete: Expert

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Physical bank and identity cards, using micro-chip technology, are a long way from becoming obsolete, a top expert in the payment card manufacturing sector has said.

Physical bank cards, including debit, pre-paid, and credit payment cards — in some rare cases, identity cards are also used as payment.

Despite the boom in mobile banking, digital payments, and wearable technology in the UAE, physical cards will continue to remain an essential tool for payment of goods and services, Michael Hraschan, the director of product management payment at Toppan Gravity, told *Khaleej Times*.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the *Khaleej Times* DigiBank 2022 — a banking transformation forum that took place recently.

Toppan Gravity is a global solutions provider primarily focused on the payment and identity industries. Hraschan said: “People would use physical cards for the foreseeable future as a safety measure, and as a back-up, in case they lose the device they are using for their banking purposes.

“People like the safety of knowing they have a physical copy of a bank card with them, especially when travelling,” he stated.

“Moreover, we are trying to optimise card production and issuance process and set up kiosks where providers can print cards on the spot.”

Hraschan also suggested that bank cards are a lifestyle or status symbol in some cases. “Having a premium metal card from a certain bank, for example, is a status symbol for many people,” he stated. Moreover, Hraschan said providers could customise cards even for Gen Z users that live and breathe mobile technology. “They would also usher in the era of wearing wearables,” he stated.

Last year, Mastercard announced that from 2024, its credit and debit cards will not be required to have a strip ‘in most markets and will be completely phased out by 2033. It claims to be the first payment network to ditch the magnetic strip. 86 per cent of card transactions globally rely on chip technology, Mastercard said.

Companies such as Toppan Gravity have also said it manufactures sustainable business and eco-friendly cards at their production unit in Sharjah.

“Since the supply and production are largely local, we have a lower carbon footprint. Moreover, we are trying to partner with local companies who can collect old bank and identity cards on our behalf so we can re-

Despite boom in mobile banking, digital payments and wearable technology, physical cards will remain a tool for payment of goods and services: Expert



Michael Hraschan says people like the safety of knowing they have a physical copy of a bank card with them. — PHOTO BY SHIHAB

Digital Banking and Finance Excellence Awards

The keynote sessions and panel discussions at DigiBank 2022 were followed by the Digital Banking and Finance Excellence Awards. In this glittering event, top banks, financial institutions and technology providers were awarded for their contributions to the financial sector.

Ajman Bank took home the best bank for wealth management award, Policybazaar UAE was awarded the Best Insurance Brand title, and Century Financial won the title of non-Bank Online Trading Broker. Speaking to *Khaleej Times* after receiving the top honours, Shaheen Akbari, the executive director for Century Financial, said, “It feels very gratifying for a brand like *Khaleej Times* to recognise our work.”

“We are optimistic about what’s to come, especially in the UAE. There is room for digital

and conventional banking to go hand in hand, which may happen in the future. Digital banking has made many strides and credit goes to many FinTech companies for coming up with solutions,” said Akbari.

Karthik Ananda Rao, regional technical head of ManageEngine, a division of Zoho Corp, said, “The significant increase in demand for cloud computing has now led to edge computing.

He added: “The banking industry heavily depends on such cloud computing solutions to improve the services. The need for high availability of services is more pronounced in the banking industry. Intelligent service rendition, automation, one-touch service management, and so on heavily depend on cloud computing solutions for the banking industry.”

cycle them,” said Hraschan. Jamal Saleh, the director-general of UAE Banks Federation, said that the UAE has gone up from 63 per cent trust in the banking system to 87 per cent in two years, according to recent surveys. “A big part of it was the digital transformation that has happened in the UAE over the last two years since the pandemic,” said Saleh.

— TODAY’S BRIEFING —

3,000 new parking spaces for motorcycles Abu Dhabi

More than 3,000 new parking spaces for motorcycles have been introduced in Abu Dhabi to ease parking woes for residents. The Integrated Transport Centre said: “These parking lots also contribute to reducing the random parking of motorcycles and enhance the safety of the community, as 3,025 parking spaces have been completed in Abu Dhabi, designated for motorcycles, until the end of last month.”. ITC officials have also called on motorcyclists to abide by the regulations and instructions for using public



parking. They said that motorcycles in a wrong parking will be subject to legal action. There has been a significant increase in the number of motorcycles in the capital over the recent years, especially for the delivery services and the riders find it hard to find parking spaces for the bikes especially in the city centre.

— ISMAIL SEBUGWAAWO

Man gets 11-yr jail for assaulting, filming minor girl Crime

The Ajman Criminal Court sentenced a 51-year-old man to 11 years in prison followed by deportation, for sexually assaulting a 5-year-old girl in his car. The convict lured the little girl and her brother near her residence in Ajman to his vehicle. Once inside, he began indulging in indecent acts with the girl and also filming the acts. The mother of the two kids told Public Prosecution investigators that when she came looking for her kids, some people informed her that the children were inside a stranger’s car. When she rushed to the car, the convict fled the scene. Her children told her that

the man told them that he would take them for a ride in his car, and he put the 8-year-old boy in the front seat and the 5-year-old girl in the back seat. He then asked her to remove her undergarments and began filming her with his phone and sexually harassing her. After the man was arrested, he was found to be wanted for 37 criminal counts of sexual harassment, indecent assault, public indecency, and theft. The man had been deported before, but had returned to the country. The police found pictures of six naked children in the deleted folder on his mobile phone.

—AFKAR ALI AHMED

Man stabs relative to death Murder

A man has been referred to a psychiatric hospital after killing his relative. According to files from the Ajman Criminal Court, the 26-year-old Asian, identified as RAM, stabbed his relative in front of several witnesses in a room they shared. One witness said the incident happened after Friday prayers, when he and another witness were in the room with the accused and the victim. He and the victim were preparing lunch when a fourth person entered the room to ask them for help moving some items from the apartment into a car. The victim then asked the accused to go and help



the friend while he stayed behind. After returning, the accused stood by the room’s door on his return. When the victim entered the room, he attacked the man with a vegetable knife, stabbing him in the chest. A specialised medical committee substantiated the accused’s mental illness to the Court and recommended he be admitted to a psychiatric facility for treatment.

—AFKAR ALI AHMED

Expat sheds tears of joy on being reunited with mother after 4-yr

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A Filipino expat had his ardent wish granted when he was reunited with his mother after four long years.

"I'm so happy," said Cris Gudia, who has lived in Dubai for seven years, in a touching video documenting the reunion. "I can't wait for the moment I see my mom."

City Centre Deira mall in Dubai has earlier launched a campaign called 'Closer than Ever' to help people who could not travel to their home countries during the summer send e-cards to their loved ones. Cris was one of 1,500 people who participated — and the only one who won this lovely surprise.

Cris's mother was flown to Dubai as a part of the campaign. "It's been my dream to come



Gudia's mother was flown to Dubai as part of a Deira City Centre campaign.

here," she said, beaming and holding flowers in the car on the way to see her son.

"I really really appreciate the effort and this gift," said Cris, before embracing his mother.

Global Village's VIP packages open for pre-booking from today

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Global Village has announced that pre-booking for Season 27's VIP Packs will start at 10am from today, with a limited number available to reserve before the official VIP Pack sale starts on September 24.

Reservations are available exclusively online from the Virgin Megastore Tickets website.

Guests can choose between Diamond, Platinum, Gold and Silver VIP Packs.

All packs include VIP entry tickets, VIP parking privileges and VIP Wonder Passes which give access to Global Village attractions, including Ripley's Believe it or Not!, the Aqua Action stunt show, and the ever-popular Carnival funfair.



Additional benefits this season include complimentary or discounted access to a range of new premium experiences as well as vouchers for table reservations at the Ramadan favourite, Majlis of the World. Diamond Pack holders will also receive vouchers for in-

park taxi transportation, car wash and porter services.

The opening of the newest season on October 25, will also be celebrated with a Gold Coin hidden inside a VIP Pack.

The recipient of this coin will win a cash prize of Dh27,000.

The Diamond VIP Packs will be available on sale at Dh6,000 with benefits worth over Dh8,000. Platinum Packs can be purchased for Dh2,500 with benefits worth almost Dh15,000.

The Gold Packs will cost Dh1,950, with benefits valued at Dh13,000.

Lastly, Silver Packs are priced at Dh1,600 for benefits worth Dh10,000.

Individuals over 18 with a valid Emirates ID may buy up to eight VIP packs per person.

Doctors hail UAE leadership for proactive pandemic response

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With the World Health Organisation (WHO) announcing that the end of the Covid-19 pandemic is in sight, doctors in the UAE are hailing the country's response in these unprecedented times.

According to the Global Response to Infectious Diseases Index, the UAE ranks among the top 10 countries worldwide for its proactive approach during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Rakesh Gupta, deputy medical director and specialist pulmonologist at Lifecare Hospital Mussafah, credits the country's leadership for this.

Leadership role

"The UAE's crisis management team, efficient governance and most importantly the integrated utilisation of public-private partnerships, has helped bring down the Covid-19 cases," he said.

On Wednesday, with the number of newly reported Covid-19 cases dropping dramatically, WHO urged the world to seize the opportunity to end the pandemic. Last week, the number of cases fell to the lowest level since March 2020, said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The falling numbers have also been reflected in the UAE with the country posting less than 500 cases a day for several days now.

Dr Haider Ali, consultant family medicine at Medcare Medical Centre, lists out the measures that helped the UAE deal with the pandemic. "Availability of mass testing, contact tracing via MoHaP, strict measures of mask wearing, which continues, closing down the borders, and setting up field hospitals are some of the factors that helped the UAE bring down its number of Covid cases," he said.

"The UAE's efforts in safeguarding our population were evident in how we reached 5th worldwide and 1st in the Arab world in terms of testing which has no doubt had a significant role in bringing numbers down.

WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus told reporters that the world has never been in a better position to end the pandemic. "We are not there yet, but the end is in sight," he said. "If we don't take this opportunity now, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, more disruption, and more uncertainty."

According to experts, the UAE's

With the number of new Covid-19 cases dropping dramatically across the world, WHO has urged the global community to seize the opportunity and end the pandemic



According to experts, the UAE's proactive approach, and timely vaccination drive implemented by selfless frontline workers contributed in helping the country deal with the pandemic. — FILE PHOTO

timely vaccination drive contributed significantly in helping the country deal with the pandemic.

"The UAE was one of the first countries that started vaccinating its populations at a time when several other countries were just thinking about it," said Dr Babu Rafeeq, specialist paediatrician and medical director of HealthHub Clinic Al Qusais.



The UAE's crisis management team, efficient governance and most importantly the integrated utilisation of public-private partnerships, has helped bring down the Covid-19 cases. Everyone should get vaccinated with a boosters.

Dr Rakesh Gupta, deputy medical director and specialist pulmonologist at Lifecare Hospital Mussafah

warned that the falling number of reported cases is deceptive, since many countries have cut back on testing and may not be detecting



Availability of mass testing, contact tracing via MoHaP, strict measures of mask wearing, which continues, closing down the borders, and setting up field hospitals are some of the factors that helped the UAE in bringing down its number of Covid cases.

Dr Haider Ali, consultant family medicine at Medcare Medical Centre

the less serious cases.

Dr Gupta cautioned residents not to get complacent just because the number of cases has



The UAE was one of the first countries that started vaccinating its populations at a time when several other countries were just thinking about it. The government made several world class vaccines available for free for residents.

Dr Babu Rafeeq, specialist paediatrician and medical director of HealthHub Clinic Al Qusais

gone down. "Everyone should get vaccinated with a booster as per recommendations," he said. "People should also follow

Covid-appropriate behaviour, including wearing masks in public places, following social distancing, and hand sanitisation."

Since being recognised in 2019, the WHO has estimated more than 605 million cases of Covid-19, with over 6.4 million people dying. However, both numbers are believed to be under-reported, and a study in late May revealed that as many as 17 million people may have died due to the pandemic.

Strict measures

Dr Ali commended the UAE for continuing to enforce Covid-19 protocols. "Unlike other countries worldwide, we in the country have maintained relatively strict measures, particularly in areas such as schools and government buildings," he said.

"The UAE leadership has recognised that Covid is, frustratingly, here to stay for the foreseeable future, and has ensured that the availability for testing remains in place for any potential spike in cases."

Should sponsors provide health insurance to dependents and domestic workers?

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The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) on Friday clarified the insurance requirements that the emirate's residents must fulfil, particularly if they are sponsoring a number of dependents.

These dependents may include, spouses, children, parents, as well as household workers, nannies and drivers.

As part of its #BeInformed campaign, the authority on Friday

responded to a question: Should sponsors provide health insurance to their dependents and domestic workers?

Here's what the DHA said:

All residents in the UAE — both Emiratis and expats — are mandated to have medical insurance coverage.

While nationals will be able to have access to a government-funded insurance programme, expats have to be given one by their sponsors.

"The extent of coverage for em-

ployers and their dependents is determined by the employee's salary, designation etc," according to the UAE Government's official website.

There could be slight differences in implementation from one emirate to another.

In Abu Dhabi, employers and sponsors should provide coverage for their employees and their families (one spouse and three children under 18 years), according to the government site.

In Dubai, a minimum standard

of coverage has been established by the DHA for all employers, as well as residents who are sponsoring their families and household workers.

The DHA encourages employers to provide medical insurance for the spouse or dependents of its employees.

However, if an employer does not provide this coverage for its staff's family members, then the sponsor will need to arrange cover for them, the authority said on its website specifically about insurance.



Kids invited to share stories about Expo 2020 in new competition

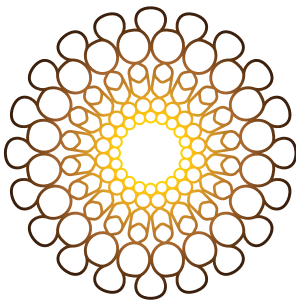
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A new writing competition has opened in Abu Dhabi, inviting UAE children to submit their stories about Expo 2020 Dubai.

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT)’s Maktaba on Friday launched the 10th edition of its ‘Little Writer in the Big Book’ competition.

This year’s event will see children document their experience at the world’s greatest show, the six-month mega fair that drew in millions of visitors from all over the world.

The winning stories will be published in a book titled *The Little Writer in the Big Book Competition*,



which is printed by DCT Abu Dhabi.

Copies of the publication will be distributed to all school libraries as well as Maktaba library branches.

Novel idea

Each year, Maktaba’s ‘Little Writer in the Big Book’ competition presents a novel idea for children to consider and then write

about in their own words.

The competition’s goal is to encourage children to write creative Arabic stories that are inspired by Emirati heritage.

Shaikha Almehairi, Library Management Department Director at DCT Abu Dhabi, said: “Since 1851, World Expos have provided a platform to showcase the greatest innovations that have shaped the world we live in today.

This year, the ‘Little Writer in the Big Book’ competition aims to bolster children’s analytical and critical thinking skills, helping them to envision pioneering future projects. We are eager to see how they will craft stories that convey their personal experiences and perspectives on this ground-breaking global event.”



The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi on Friday launched the 10th edition of its ‘Little Writer in the Big Book’ competition. The winning stories will be published in a book printed by DCT Abu Dhabi. — SUPPLIED PHOTO



Raja Al Mazrouei: A role model for Emirati women

OUR WEEKLY FEATURE UNRAVELS THE FASCINATING EMIRATI WAY OF LIFE, WHERE NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, AS DISPLAYED TIME AND AGAIN BY THIS YOUNG NATION

The mother of two is powering Dubai’s cutting-edge innovation with DIFC Fintech Hive, which has accelerated more than 200 startups since its inception

Joydeep Sen Gupta
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Raja Al Mazrouei, executive vice-president, DIFC Fintech Hive, is a role model for Emirati women empowerment in the 21st century as the young nation leapfrogs towards the Next 50.

The unassuming Al Mazrouei, a doting mother of two young boys, Ali and Omar, has consistently figured among the 100 Power Businesswomen in The Middle East according to *Forbes*, is one of the top 50 Most Influential Women in the Middle East Finance according to Dow Jones, and has even been named Mena Fintech Leader of the Year by *Entrepreneur* magazine.

She reflected on her formative years at Al Karamah in Abu Dhabi city. “It’s a blessing to be born in the UAE and grow up in a country that has been evolving every single day,” she said.

“Our nation is an inspiration for the rest of the world because the UAE is a young country that has achieved so much in such a short span of time — and the same applies to us Emiratis. We were born in a culture and in a community that supports creativity, innovation, progress and quick development.

Though we faced several challenges, we’ve always overcome them with our sheer grit, determination and dedication because of the great leadership. Our visionary leaders have enabled us to understand how to make the best use of infinite opportunities to hone our skills and develop as a community, and build a strong and resilient nation in a fast-changing world,” she said.

Her brush with technology in the 1990s — fuelled by her “curious mind about this new science” — set her a class apart among her peers. “I was one of the first Emirati women to specialise in technology in the 1990s”, she said.

Technology wasn’t the in-thing those days as many of my peers were involved either in the field of education or business management. Initially, I started my career as a computer programmer. I started taking on more complex roles in technology and infrastructure management, and the implementation of network systems after I moved to Dubai from my native Abu Dhabi,” she said.

In retrospect, 2014 was a watershed year.

“That year, I got the opportunity to join Harvard Business School in an advanced management executive education programme, and there I was exposed to more advanced options,” she added.

Fortunately, she was exposed to infinite possibilities and probabilities for leveraging her education, and launched DIFC Fintech Hive three years later in 2017.



“We launched DIFC FinTech Hive to enable financial institutions to tap into technology, and co-create opportunities with entrepreneurs and fintech startups that were interested in coming to the region from all over the world. I leveraged my relationships and networks to promote the entity,” she said.

The figures speak for themselves about the coming-of-age of the fledgling entity under her able leadership. “So far, we’ve accelerated more than 200 startups through our different programmes. Our startups raised more than \$500 (Dh1,836.50) million in funding; we’ve launched more than 100 products in the MENA region through these startups.

In 2019, we launched AccelerateHer, a female-focused career mentorship accelerator that aims to equip young aspiring executives with the necessary tools and experience to broaden their knowledge and reach in the industry, and play a more active role in shaping the future of the financial landscape.”

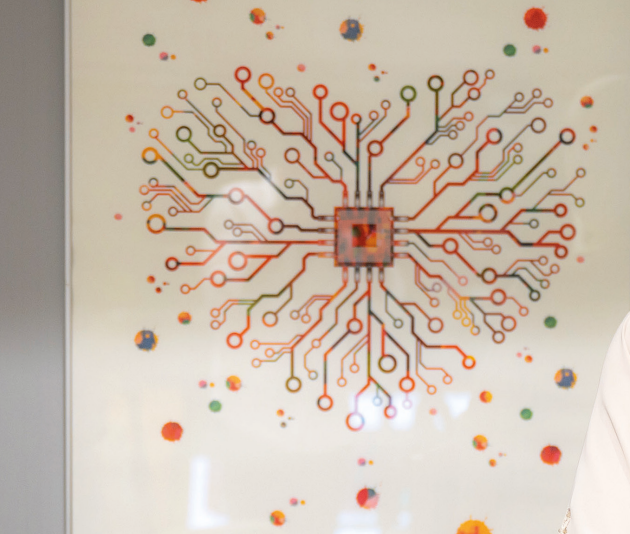
Numbers say it all

Data showed that more than 80 women were accelerated through this programme, of which around 20 per cent are Emiratis.

Al Mazrouei, who loves travelling around the world and imbibing global cultural traditions and social mores, attributed her stellar career path to her “supportive family”, who encouraged her to persist with academics to quench her thirst for knowledge.

However, she chooses not to single out her own family, but “the Emirati culture at large”.

She said: “We are by and large caring and supportive of each other. Inclusiveness is a hallmark, which is evident from the fact that the UAE is a home-away-from-home from over 200



Al Mazrouei has been instrumental in bringing together leading financial institutions, government entities, technology partners, venture capitals, and entrepreneurs to realise the common goal of driving the UAE’s innovation agenda and shaping the future of financial services. — PHOTOS BY SHIHAB



Our nation is an inspiration for the rest of the world because the UAE is a young country that has achieved so much in such a short span of time — and the same applies to us Emiratis. We were born in a culture and in a community that supports creativity, innovation, progress and quick development.

Raja Al Mazrouei,
executive vice-president, DIFC Fintech Hive

diverse nationalities.” Travelling has widened Al Mazrouei’s horizons, and her learning experience is being constantly enriched through people, books, videos and films.

“Critical thinking is the key. Perhaps the only way to hone this skill is by exploring new topics and seizing opportunities in a brave new world driven by robotics, artificial intelligence, Web 3.0 and innovation,” she said.

Al Mazrouei is optimistic about the next generation of Emiratis. “I’m hopeful for the next generation, who will remain connected to our glorious culture. I encourage my young sons — Ali and Omar — to learn technology, which has changed the world.

They remain open to other options of learning, and I’m not pushing them towards one or the other. But I can see that the future holds tremendous opportunities for the youth in technology as well as financial services and econom-

ics, because that’s what contributes to the overall GDP (Gross Domestic Product), and will shape unique opportunities for the next generation,” she signed off.

Al Mazrouei encapsulates the breakneck growth and development of her eponymous ethnic Arab origin — the main Bedouin section of the Bani Yas, who lived in the settlements of Liwa in the UAE’s largest emirate, Abu Dhabi.

Till the first half of the 20th century, the Bedouin livelihood largely depended on camels and pearling boats amid the decline of the breeding of camels and date plantations.

In less than half a century, Al Mazrouei showcased her entrepreneurial spirit and passion for progression, which have been the driving force behind her achievements and continue to fuel her ambition to further the UAE’s position as an innovation destination on the global stage.

She has held senior positions

in the information technology sector, operations, and marketing teams at various organisations, including Dubai Holding, the National Bonds Corporation, and the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

Her marketing and communications expertise has enabled her to bring brands to life and foster communities to create business opportunities, and societal impact for the growing fintech sector.

Al Mazrouei has more than a decade of experience in the financial services sector; she has developed the FinTech Hive, an ecosystem for fintech entrepreneurs and stakeholders in Dubai. It is the primary contributor in the Emirates and has ranked amongst the Top 10 global FinTech hubs.

Key role

She has been instrumental in bringing together leading financial institutions, government entities, technology partners, venture capitals, and entrepreneurs to realise the common goal of driving the UAE’s innovation agenda and shaping the future of financial services. Al Mazrouei has contributed significantly in building a vibrant and dynamic community of over 350 startups operating in DIFC.

She is an executive graduate of the Harvard Business School (HBS), serves as a member of the Harvard Business School MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Advisory Board, and is Vice President of the HBS Club for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

She also holds positions on the boards of Dubai FinTech Ventures and Al Masraf Arab Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade. Lastly, she is a member of the Board of Trustees at Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government.

IN BRIEF

Egypt orders release of 46 detainees in latest pardons
Rights lawyer freed
Egyptian authorities announced on Thursday the release of 46 detainees, including a prominent human rights lawyer. Tarik El Awady, a member of Egypt’s presidential pardon committee, confirmed the release of the lawyer, Haitham Mohamadein, and the other 45 detainees, all of whom are awaiting trial. Several pictures of the freed lawyer alongside friends and family were later shared by activists on social media. It remained unclear if other detainees had walked free yet. In April, Egypt released more than three dozen detainees before the end of the holy month of Ramadan, typically a time when prisoners are released on presidential pardons. — AP



Bloc of Arab parties splits ahead of Israeli elections
5th polls in 4 years
A bloc of Arab parties has split ahead of Israel’s fifth elections in less than four years, a move that could dilute the minority’s political influence and aid former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s return to power. Israeli media reported late Thursday that the nationalist Balad party will run separately from the other two parties in the Joint List. If it does not meet the minimum threshold, Balad would not enter the next parliament and its votes would essentially be wasted. The disunity could also dampen overall turnout among Israel’s Arab minority. Arab parties have helped block Netanyahu from returning to power in recent elections. A fourth Arab party, the Islamist Ra’am, also broke from the Joint List and made history last year by joining the governing coalition, a first for any Arab faction. — AP

Iranian prez orders probe into woman’s death in custody
Held over hijab violation
Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi has ordered a probe in the case of a young woman who slipped into a coma while in custody in Tehran and died, state media reported on Friday. The police have said she suffered a heart attack. Raisi asked Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi to “investigate the cause of the incident with urgency and special attention”. According to reports on social media, Mahsa Amini, 22, was detained earlier this week by the so-called “morality police” after officers apparently found fault with her headscarf, or hijab. Police said on Thursday that Amini was taken to a hospital after she allegedly had a heart attack while in custody. Pro-reform news websites quoted an uncle of Amini as saying she had no history of heart disease. Police said she was arrested on Tuesday. — AP

Pope studying possible visit to Bahrain in November
Three-day trip
Pope Francis is studying a possible visit to Bahrain in November and said on Thursday he is looking to reschedule his trip to South Sudan and Congo for February. Francis told reporters en route home from Kazakhstan that his strained knee ligaments still hadn’t healed and that travelling was “difficult”. But the 85-year-old pontiff said he would undertake a next trip — a reference to a three-day visit to Bahrain in early November that is currently under study by the Vatican, spokesman Matteo Bruni said. Francis had to cancel a planned July trip to South Sudan and Congo after his doctors said he needed more time to undergo therapy on his right knee. Francis has been using a wheelchair and cane for months since he strained the ligaments, and he was in visible pain during the three-day trip to Kazakhstan. — AP

Five bank ‘heists’ in a day as Lebanon cash crisis worsens



Abed Soubra, a depositor who stormed a bank demanding to withdraw his frozen savings, speaks from the window of the Blom Bank branch in Beirut’s Tariq Al Jdideh neighbourhood on Friday. — AFP

Five Lebanese banks were stormed on Friday by depositors seeking to unlock frozen savings, the latest in a string of “heists” in the crisis-hit country that have garnered wide public support. Lebanon has been mired in an economic crisis for more than two years, since the value of its currency began plummeting and banks started imposing draconian restrictions on withdrawals.

In the past week, seven bank branches have been targeted by “depositor heists”, prompting lenders to announce a three-day closure starting Monday, according to the Association of Banks in Lebanon. As the “heists” snowballed on Friday, Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi called for an emergency meeting in the afternoon. The holdup of a Beirut bank on Wednesday by an activist who filmed herself using a toy gun appears to have sparked a series of copycat raids by people fed up at being unable to withdraw their savings. On Friday there were another three such incidents in Beirut and two in south Lebanon, AFP correspondents and a security source said. In one case, a man carrying a gun and jerrycan of fuel demanded staff at a branch of the Byblos bank in the southern town of Ghaziyeh hand over his deposit. Accompanied by his son, the man in his 50s threatened bank staff with the gun, which a Lebanese television channel said may have been a toy, before making



Bassam Al Sheikh Hussein, who stormed a Federal Bank branch in Beirut with a rifle in August, joins the crowd outside the Blom Bank branch. (Right) Lebanese army soldiers stand guard outside a Blom Bank branch which was held up by a depositor seeking access to his own savings. — AFP, REUTERS



his demand. “He emptied a jerrycan of fuel on the floor,” a bank security guard told an AFP correspondent. The man walked away with about \$19,000 in cash but turned himself in to police moments later as a crowd formed in front of the bank to support him. A few hours later in the Beirut neighbourhood of Tariq al-Jdideh, a tense security situation developed around a branch of Blom Bank, although details were unclear. Witnesses outside the bank said an indebted shop-owner had demanded access to his trapped savings. He was locked inside the bank together with police officers, the witnesses told the news agency at the scene, but was thought to be unarmed.

Another man armed with a hunting rifle stormed a bank in Beirut’s Ramlet el-Baida neighbourhood on Friday, witnesses told an AFP photographer at the scene. The spate of heists comes two days after a young activist stormed a central Beirut bank with fuel and plastic gun to demand the deposits of her sister, who needed to pay for cancer treatment. The woman identified as Sali Hafiz made off with around \$13,000 and became an instant hero on social media with a picture of her standing on a desk inside the bank during the raid going viral on social media. “She had every right to do this. I would do the same if I was as brave as her,” said Carla Chehab, a 28-year-old Beirut resident. “And don’t let anyone call her a

bank robber. The thieves are the banks, the government and all rich people protecting them,” she added. Also on Wednesday, a man held up a bank in the city of Alep northeast of Beirut, the official National News Agency reported. The raids are seen as mostly acts of desperation by Lebanese depositors who do not have criminal records and are trying to settle bills, drawing broad support from the general public. Last month, a man drew widespread sympathy after he stormed a Beirut bank with a rifle and held employees and customers hostage for hours, to demand some of his \$200,000 in frozen savings to pay hospital bills for his sick father. He was detained but swiftly released and was present Friday

outside the bank in Tariq al-Jdideh to express his support. Lebanon has been battered by one of its worst-ever economic crises. Its currency has lost more than 90 percent of its value on the black market, while poverty and unemployment have soared. Banks have been widely accused of operating like a cartel and of spiriting large amounts out of the country for senior Lebanese officials at a time when foreign transfers were already blocked for ordinary citizens. The country’s main depositors’ association voiced its support for desperate bank clients. “We call on every depositor who refuses injustice, oppression and theft to support any depositor who asks for what is rightfully theirs,” association member Tala Khalil said. — AFP

Palestinian farmer discovers rare ancient treasure in Gaza

Last spring, a Palestinian farmer was planting a new olive tree when his shovel hit a hard object. He called his son, and for three months, the pair slowly excavated an ornate Byzantine-era mosaic that experts say is one of the greatest archaeological treasures ever found in Gaza. The discovery has set off excitement among archaeologists, and the territory’s Hamas rulers are planning a major announcement in the coming days. But it is also drawing calls for better protection of Gaza’s antiquities, a fragile collection of sites threatened by a lack of awareness and resources as well as the constant risk of conflict between Israel and local Palestinian militants. The mosaic was uncovered just a kilometre from the Israeli border. The floor, boasting 17 ico-

nographies of beasts and birds, is well-preserved and its colours are bright. “These are the most beautiful mosaic floors discovered in Gaza, both in terms of the quality of the graphic representation and the complexity of the geometry,” said René Elter, an archaeologist from the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem. “Never have mosaic floors of this finesse, this precision in the graphics and richness of the colors been discovered in the Gaza Strip,” he said. Elter says the mosaic pavement dates back to a time between the 5th and the 7th centuries. But he said a proper excavation must be conducted to determine when exactly it was built and whether it was part of a religious or secular complex. Elter, who has conducted research in Gaza in the

past, has not been able to visit the site but viewed a series of photos and videos taken by local research partners. The Gaza Strip, a Palestinian coastal enclave sandwiched between Israel and Egypt, was a bustling trade route between Egypt and the Levant in ancient times. The coastal strip is full of remains of ancient civilisations, from the Bronze Age to the Islamic and Ottoman eras. However, the treasures are rarely protected. In the past, they were looted. In recent years, some were damaged or destroyed by development projects or fighting with Israel. Hamas itself pays little attention to preserving the sites as it struggles to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. More than 2.3 million people are squeezed in the strip’s just 300 square kilometres. In 2017, — AP



Palestinians clean around a Byzantine-era mosaic floor that was uncovered recently by a farmer in Bureij in central Gaza Strip. — AP



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FEDERER THE GOAT

TENNIS WILL MISS HIS BEAUTIFUL GAME

Just as Pelé popularised football as the beautiful game, the Swiss champion brought unmatched grace to the tennis court

It's fitting that 41-year-old Roger Federer's announcement of his retirement from competitive tennis coincides with 19-year-old Carlos Alcaraz's anointment as the youngest No. 1 after winning the US Open earlier this month. It symbolises a passing of the baton, although it's way too early to say if anybody in the new generation will have the longevity to amass 20 Grand Slam titles or more as the Big Three have done.

Rafael Nadal leads the triumvirate with 22 Slam titles, followed by Novak Djokovic with 21 and Federer with 20. Pete Sampras is a distant fourth on the list with 14 titles, showing how the Big Three's domination of men's tennis over the last two decades is unsurpassed in the game's history.

But numbers tell only one part of the story. To many, Federer's flowing backhand, his skip to the left to hit an inside-out forehand, and his glide to the net behind smooth and accurate serves are matchless in their beauty. Just as Pelé and his Ginga band from Brazil held sway over us as exponents of the Beautiful Game in football, Swiss maestro Federer's satin grace was a foil to the grunts and exertions of his peers in tennis.

Perhaps, it explains why Alcaraz, touted as a natural successor to fellow Spaniard Nadal, has a photo of Federer and not Nadal on the mantelpiece in his bedroom. Leaving aside who is his role model, the 19-year-old sensation in fact bridges the playing styles of the two greats. While Alcaraz's power, athleticism, and speed bring Nadal to mind, his game strategy of creating opportunities to go to the net in a flash is more akin to the Federer way.

DIFFERENT STYLES

Comparisons may be odious between three all-time greats like Federer, Nadal, and Djokovic. But it's the difference in their styles that made their rivalry mesmerising.

Federer's serve-and-volley prowess and skiddy backhand chips to advance to the net, a vestige

from an earlier era, made him the dominant force at Wimbledon. Djokovic is now catching up fast, winning four out of the last five titles to be just one short of Federer's record eight. Slower courts and heavier balls make extended baseline rallies more advantageous than net play, which is becoming a variation more than the go-to method on grass.

Djokovic's economy of movement and his fitness and flexibility to retrieve awkward serves and ground shots, often turning the tables by converting them into winning returns, were ideally suited to the synthetic hard court of the Australian Open, where the bounce is consistent and speed is slower than grass. There the Serb surpassed Federer's six titles by winning three in a row from 2019 to take his tally to nine.

Nadal is the king of clay at the French Open, which has the slowest of the Grand Slam surfaces. His heavy forehand top-spin and sharply angled backhand flicks are made for this surface. The Spaniard has won a mind-boggling 14 out of the last 18 titles at Roland-Garros, starting with his first Grand Slam title as a 19-year-old in 2005.

Federer and Djokovic won the titles in 2009 and 2016 when Nadal failed to reach the final. Then Djokovic went one better by beating Nadal in the semi-finals in 2021 before going on to win his second title. He's the only man to have beaten Nadal twice at the French Open.

The honours were about even between the Big Three at the US Open in New York where the acrylic hard court is slower than grass but a tad faster with higher bounce than the synthetic surface of the Australian Open. Federer won a record five consecutive US Open titles from 2004, overcoming the stalwart American Andre Agassi as well as holding off upstarts like Andy Roddick, Lleyton Hewitt, Andy Murray, and Djokovic. He finally lost in the 2009 final to Juan Martin del Potro in a five-set epic marked by the 6-foot-6-inch tall Argentinian's flawed brilliance and that upset Federer's rhythm.

Federer did not win another US Open title after

that. The closest he got was being in the 2015 final that he lost in four sets to Djokovic. The other two members of the triumvirate won seven titles from 2010 to 2019 and we've had new winners the last three times, including Alcaraz's triumph this year.

BREAKOUT MOMENT

Federer first arrived on the Grand Slam scene as a 16-year-old when he won both the boy's singles and doubles titles at Wimbledon in 1998. His volatile temperament got in his way at the start of his run as a senior pro on the ATP circuit. The maturing of his talent began in 2001 when he won the Hopman Cup, a mixed gender team event, representing Switzerland along with Martina Hingis, who was the world No. 1 in women's tennis at the time.

Unlike others of the era coached in their formative years in academies in the US and Spain, Federer learnt tennis in a club in his home town of Basel. An Australian ATP tour player, Peter Carter, who coached at the club, moulded his precocious talent. But he was naive in tactics and self-control until his stint at the Hopman Cup tournament in 2001 with Hingis, whom Federer later credited for helping him become "the player I am today".

The rising Swiss star's breakout moment came the same year when he reached the quarter-finals of the French Open and then ended the run of seven-time title-holder Pete Sampras in the fourth round

at Wimbledon. Federer lost in the quarter-finals to Tim Henman and it took two more years for him to start winning Grand Slam titles.

A defining moment in his transformation was the death of Carter in a car crash in 2002. The Basel club coach had become a close family friend and the tragedy affected Federer deeply. It seemed to concentrate his mind on living up to Carter's vision for him.

DOMINANT PERIOD

The breakthrough came on his favourite surface at Wimbledon in 2003 when he beat Roddick in the semi-final and big-serving Australian Mark Philippoussis in the final.

With his first Grand Slam trophy in the bag, Federer rapidly climbed up the ranks to end the year narrowly behind Roddick at No. 2. It was a precursor to the most dominating period of his career. He was the holder of three Grand Slam titles in a calendar year thrice in 2004, 2006, and 2007.

Each time, the clay of the French Open stopped him from getting the calendar Grand Slam, which no man has done since Rod Laver in 1969. Brazilian baseline specialist and three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, who had an unusual backhand grip for topspin from both flanks, stopped him in 2004. Thereafter, he lost to Nadal four times in a row in the 2005 semi-finals and three consecutive finals from 2006.

He finally managed to win the French Open in 2009 when Robin Söderling of Sweden became the first man to beat Nadal at Roland-Garros and lost to Federer in the final. Federer suffered six defeats in all to Nadal in Paris and never beat him there. If you're hypercritical, you would say the Swiss maestro didn't do enough to change things up and take more risks to try and alter one or two of those outcomes, which had an air of inevitability.

Nadal's dominance over Federer at the French Open carried over psychologically to Wimbledon where the Spaniard won an epic five-set battle in the 2008 final. The Span-

iard prevailed over another five-setter over his Swiss rival in the 2009 Australian Open final.

Apart from those setbacks, Federer's dominance was clear in that decade, with five consecutive titles at Wimbledon from 2003 running almost concurrently with five consecutive titles at the US Open from 2004. It reprised Björn Borg's feat from an earlier era of winning back-to-back Grand Slams four times consecutively on different surfaces when the Swede lifted the French Open and Wimbledon trophies from 1978 to 1981.

BIG THREE RIVALRY

In the six-year period between 2009 and 2015, Federer won four Grand Slam titles, including two at Wimbledon, one in Australia, and one at the French Open. It was Djokovic's turn to dominate the circuit, while Nadal continued to rule the roost in Paris. But the Swiss star was still always a contender in the last stages of any Grand Slam event.

It was at the start of 2016 in his mid-thirties that he began to deal with a knee injury that would eventually end his career. He had the first of his three surgeries that year, which was the first time since 2004 that he dropped out of the top 10 in the ATP men's singles ranking.

Many felt the great man should bow out gracefully rather than continue to play below par, hampered by injury. But Federer wasn't done. He had parted ways with coach Stefan Edberg, but had taken to heart the suggestions of the Swedish serve-and-volley specialist who twice beat Boris Becker in Wimbledon finals.

Federer switched to a broader, more powerful racquet and adopted a more aggressive style of taking the ball early, rushing the net, and going for winners, minimising long-drawn rallies. This tapped his tennis skills and acumen while reducing the effect of his physical constraints.

Defying the naysayers, Federer beat his old nemesis Nadal in a five-set classic to win the Australian Open at the start of 2017, ending his Grand Slam title drought since winning Wimbledon in 2012. The rejuvenated maestro waltzed through Wimbledon in 2017, winning his record eighth title without dropping a single set in his seven matches, becoming only the second man to do so in the Open era after Borg in 1976. Then he defended his Australia-

lian Open title in 2018 to become the first man to win 20 Grand Slam titles, a record he held briefly before Djokovic and Nadal caught up and overtook him.

SWANSONG

Longevity in a sport is a mark of greatness as much as talent and tactics, fitness and strength. Unlike Borg and Sampras who quit early in their careers, no longer willing to suffer for the grind and pressure of the tour, the Big Three took the Shakespearean option "to take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them".

Federer's swan song came in the 2019 Wimbledon final against Djokovic. He had two match points on his own service but couldn't convert either of them. He finally lost 13-12 in the final set tiebreaker. It was a remarkable final in which Djokovic won three sets in tiebreakers.

Compounding the heartbreak was a recurrence of the knee problem, which forced Federer to have another surgery and go into a long hiatus. He made an attempt to come back one more time, playing a few tournaments before entering Wimbledon in 2021. He got through to the quarter-finals but lost in straight sets to Hubert Hurkacz of Poland.

A third knee surgery followed, and despite working hard to make a final stand, he had to give in. "I am 41 years old. I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years. Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognise when it is time to end my competitive career," he said in a farewell note on Twitter.

The Big Three will come together one final time at the Laver Cup in London for three days from September 23. It's an annual event pitting a team from Europe against a team from the rest of the world. Federer, Nadal, Djokovic, and Andy Murray are on the European team.

And then there will be the Big Two left, although the writing is on the wall for Nadal, battling multiple injuries as he turns 37 next year. A year younger than Nadal and still fit as a fiddle, Djokovic will carry on longer, although his appearances will be curtailed by his refusal to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

But with the likes of Alcaraz, Frances Tiafoe, Jannik Sinner, Nick Kyrgios, Alexander Zverev, and Daniil Medvedev battling it out to be the next Big Three, there are interesting times ahead for tennis. As for the mantle of GOAT (greatest of all time), it depends on what you measure. For many, it will be Federer the GOAT for the sheer joy of watching him play.



Design by Raja Choudhury

IN BRIEF

Three arrested for ‘maligning’ Pak army on social media

Cyber crime

Pakistan’s investigative agency has arrested three individuals for “maligning” the army and its senior officers through their social media accounts, media reports said. The Federal Investigation Agency’s cybercrime wing on Wednesday arrested the trio for using maligning remarks against the military and its leadership for the last six months, *Dawn* reported quoting the FIA Abbottabad circle. The accused were identified as Naveed Shah, Waqas Khan and Mohammed Nawaz. As they were resorting to social media to ‘malign’ the military, cases against them are registered under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Act, *Dawn* added. — AGENCIES



Ex-PM Khan reiterates demand for early election

Warns of crisis

Former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday reiterated his demand for early “free, fair and transparent” election to steer the country out of economic crisis and rising inflation. Elections should be announced immediately, as otherwise the crisis would continue, he said in a televised address. Khan said economic stability was directly linked to the political stability. Only elections were a way out to deal with the crises being faced by the country, he added. Khan said the government should devise a plan to control inflation that was causing unemployment and distress among the masses. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief claimed that his government had provided relief to the people in fuel and electricity prices owing to a record tax collection. The national economic had touched 6 per cent during his government, he added. — APP

Pakistan raises issue of wanted man in Afghanistan

FO clarifies

Pakistan on Thursday said that it has formally raised the issue of the presence of a UN-designated terrorist in Afghanistan with the Afghan officials, a day after the Taliban government firmly rejected reports about the presence of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar in the war-torn country. Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmed said this at a weekly briefing after he was asked about reports that Azhar was in Afghanistan but an Afghan spokesperson officially denied it. “The person is a proclaimed offender and wanted in numerous terrorism-related cases in Pakistan,” he said, adding that Pakistani authorities have formally raised the issue of the presence of the UN-designated individual with the relevant Afghan interlocutors on multiple occasions. — PTI

Six members of minority family killed by Taliban: Amnesty

Hazara community

A leading international rights group released a report on Friday about six members of an extended minority family in Afghanistan who were brutally killed by the Taliban earlier this summer. It accused Afghanistan’s new rulers of blatant disregard of human rights and abuse of minorities. Amnesty International said the slain Hazaras included a 12-year-old child in what the rights group said was a deliberate attack on the ethnic minority. The killings took place in Ghor province on June 26. According to Amnesty, Taliban forces raided the home of Mohamad Muradi, a Hazara and a former security official in Ghor. Muradi had also led a local militia that fought the Taliban in 2020 and 2021. — AP

Warming, other factors worsen Pak floods: Study

Human-caused climate change also plays a key role in the disaster, says climate scientist

Climate change likely juiced rainfall by up to 50 per cent late last month in two southern Pakistan provinces, but global warming wasn’t the biggest cause of the country’s catastrophic flooding that has killed more than 1,500 people, a new scientific analysis finds.

Pakistan’s overall vulnerability, including people living in harm’s way, is the chief factor in the disaster that at one point submerged one-third of the country under water, but human-caused “climate change also plays a really important role here,” said study senior author Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College of London.

There are many ingredients to the still ongoing humanitarian crisis — some meteorological, some economic, some societal, some historic and construction oriented. Add to that weather records that don’t go back far enough in time.

With such complications and limitations, the team of international scientists looking at the disaster couldn’t quantify how much climate change had increased the likelihood and frequency of the flooding, said authors of the study. It was released on Thursday but not yet peer reviewed.

What happened “would have been a disastrously high rainfall event without climate change, but it’s worse because of climate change,” Otto said. “And especially in this highly vulnerable region, small changes matter a lot.”

But other human factors that put people in harm’s way and weren’t adequate to control the water were even bigger influences. “This disaster was the result of vulnerability that was constructed over many, many years,” said study team member Ayesha Siddiqi of the University of Cambridge.

August rainfall in the Sindh and Balochistan provinces — together nearly the size of Spain — was eight and nearly seven times normal amounts, while the country as a whole had three-and-a-half times its normal rainfall, according to the report by World Weather Attribution, a collection of mostly volunteer scientists from around the world who do real-time studies of extreme weather to look for the fingerprints of climate change.

The team looked at just the two provinces over five days and saw an increase of up to 50 per cent



Displaced families who fled their flood-hit homes take refuge along a roadside in Jamshoro, southern Sindh province, on Friday. — AP

in the intensity of rainfall that was likely due to climate change. They also looked at the entire Indus region over two months and saw up to a 30 per cent increase in rainfall there.

The scientists not only examined records of past rains, which only go back to 1961, but they used computer simulations to compare what happened last month to what would have happened in a world without heat-trapping gases from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas — and that difference is what they could attribute to climate change. This is a scientifically valid technique, according to the US National Academy of Sciences.

Study co-author Fahad Saeed, a climate scientist at Climate Analytics and the Centre for Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Islamabad, Pakistan, said numerous factors made this monsoon season much wetter than normal, including a La Nina, the natural cooling of part of the Pacific that alters weather worldwide.

“What happened would have been a disastrously high rainfall event without climate change, but it’s worse because of climate change. And especially in this highly vulnerable region, small changes matter a lot.”

Friederike Otto, Climate scientist at Imperial College of London

But other factors had the signature of climate change, Saeed said. A nasty heat wave in the region earlier in the summer — which was made 30 times more likely because of climate change — increased the differential between land and water temperatures. That differential determines how much moisture goes from the ocean to the monsoon and means more of it drops. — AP



A woman looks after her baby while taking refuge in a camp in Sehwan city of Sindh. — REUTERS

Children, women suffer from water-borne diseases



A man suffering from dengue fever, a mosquito-borne disease, is treated at a hospital in Peshawar on Friday. — AP

Children and women are becoming more vulnerable as tens of thousands of people suffer from infectious and water-borne diseases in flood-hit Pakistan, government data showed and Unicef said on Friday, as the total death toll from the inundation surpassed 1,500.

As flood waters begin to drain away, which officials say may take two to six months in different areas, the flooded regions have become infested with diseases including malaria, dengue fever, diarrhoea and skin problems, the Sindh provincial government said in a report issued on Friday.

It said more than 90,000 people were treated on Thursday alone in the province, which has been the hardest hit by the cataclysmic floods. The report confirmed 588 malaria cases with another 10,604 suspected cases, in addition to the 17,977 diarrhoea and 20,064 skin disease

“I have been in flood-affected areas for the past two days. The situation for families is beyond bleak ... all of us on the ground see malnourished children battling diarrhoea and malaria, dengue fever, and many with painful skin conditions.”

Abdullah Fadil, Unicef Representative in Pakistan

cases reported on Thursday. A total of 2.3 million patients have been treated since July 1 in the field and mobile hospitals set up in the flooded region.

Hundreds of thousands of people who have been displaced are in dire need of support in term of

food, shelter, clean drinking water, toilets, and medicines. Many have been sleeping in the open by the side of elevated highways.

“I have been in flood-affected areas for the past two days. The situation for families is beyond bleak, and the stories I heard paint a desperate picture,” said Abdullah Fadil, Unicef Representative in Pakistan.

“All of us on the ground see malnourished children battling diarrhoea and malaria, dengue fever, and many with painful skin conditions,” he said in a statement. He said a lot of the mothers were anaemic and malnourished themselves, and with very low-weight babies, being exhausted or ill and unable to breastfeed.

Millions of families are now living with little more than rags to protect themselves from the scorching sun as temperatures in some areas pass 40 degrees Celsius, Fadil said. — REUTERS

SCO leaders back PM’s call for climate change plan

The presidents of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and Mongolia on Friday seconded the proposal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for an action plan by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for Pakistan to overcome the impact of climate change.

Sharif in his address at the Heads of State meeting of SCO in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, had drawn the attention of the member states to the disaster Pakistan was facing as a result of climate change despite the country’s less than one per cent contribution to carbon emissions.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev stressed that the proposal of Prime Minister Sharif needed to be taken up at the level of the organisation.

Mirziyoyev, who hosted the SCO summit, urged the member states to help Pakistan overcome the catastrophic damage caused

by flash floods. Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, and President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh also fully endorsed the suggestion made by Prime Minister Sharif.

In his address, Prime Minister Sharif called upon the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to come up with Pakistan-specific programmes on climate change as the country faced the devastating impact of the global natural phenomenon.

“This climatic injustice has befallen us despite the fact that our carbon emission is less than one per cent,” the prime minister said.

The prime minister’s call to the SCO members came in the wake of the recent flash floods, in Pakistan that wreaked havoc with the livelihood and infra-

structure across the country.

He mentioned that Pakistan was braving the disaster of floods, where hill torrents and massive rains killed more than 1,400 people including 400 children, while millions of houses were damaged partially or completely.

“I earnestly appeal to all of you that let the SCO stand up and take steps against this devastation through sustainable programmes,” he said.

Sharif said the country never faced such level of climate-induced catastrophe in its history that inflicted disaster upon human lives, infrastructure, livestock, and crops.

He stressed the dire need for assistance from the international community to help Pakistan overcome the problems in the wake of floods, including relief, rehabilitation, and control of water-borne diseases. — APP



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the council of Heads of States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Uzbekistan’s historic city of Samarkand. — APP

India’s Adani briefly becomes the world’s second-richest person

Indian industrialist Gautam Adani briefly became the world's second-richest person on the Forbes real-time billionaire tracker on Friday, weeks after becoming the first Asian to break into the top three.

The self-made billionaire's net worth surged \$4 billion overnight to \$154 billion, according to Forbes, ranking him ahead of LVMH's Bernard Arnault and Amazon's Jeff Bezos.

Tesla founder Elon Musk remained well out in front with a for-

tune of more than \$270 billion.

Arnault — who at times held the top spot in May 2021 — and Adani traded the number two position during the day as the share prices of their companies fluctuated.

Adani, 60, made his fortune in ports and commodities trading and now operates India's second-largest conglomerate with interests ranging from coal mining and edible oils to airports and news media. His ballooning net worth reflects a stratospheric rise in the market

capitalisation of his publicly listed companies, as investors back the Adani Group's aggressive expansion of old and new businesses.

Shares in the flagship Adani Enterprises — of which the billionaire owns 75 per cent — have soared more than 2,700 per cent since March 2020, and doubled in value in the past six months.

Stock price surges in other group companies, including Adani Transmission, Adani Power, Adani Ports and Adani Green Energy,

catapulted Adani past fellow Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani this year.

Analyst estimates indicated the market capitalisation of Adani's seven listed companies also briefly overtook those of the Tata group on Friday morning, making the Adani Group India's largest conglomerate.

Born in the city of Ahmedabad in the western state of Gujarat to a middle-class family, Adani dropped out of college to work in the diamond industry before starting his export business in 1988.

In 1995, he won a contract to build and operate a commercial shipping port at Mundra in Gujarat, which has since grown to become India's largest port. At the same time, Adani expanded into



Gautam Adani. — AFP FILE

thermal power generation and coal mining in India and overseas.

In recent years, the conglomerate has forayed into petrochemicals, cement, data centres and copper refining, in addition to establishing a renewable energy business with ambitious targets.

Recent investments in Indian news media and a bid for 5G airwaves this year have raised speculation that the billionaire's empire could soon impinge on sectors dominated by Ambani's Reliance Industries.

But Adani's rapid expansion into capital-intensive businesses has also raised financial alarms, with Fitch Group's CreditSights last week reiterating that they "remain concerned over the Adani Group's leverage". — AFP

AYODHYA, INDIA: THIS 40-FEET-LONG VEENA WEIGHS 14 TONNES



A 40-foot-long veena, an Indian classical music instrument weighing 14 tonnes, reaches Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. It will be installed at the Lata Mangeskar Smriti Chowk. — ANI

12 die under collapsed structures amid heavy rains in north India

Heavy rains flooded hundreds of homes, knocked out power and collapsed structures in northern India, causing 12 deaths and more injuries, officials said on Friday.

Schools were closed for the day in Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh state capital, where the meteorological office recorded 35 millimetres (1.4 inches) of torrential rain in the past 24 hours, said Brijesh Pathak, the state's deputy chief minister.

A wall collapsed on a slum dwelling made of polyethylene sheets and mud early on Friday in the Hazratganj area of the state capital where labourers were sleeping. Nine died on the spot and another three were hospitalised with injuries, Pathak said. In Unnao, a town 40km southwest of Lucknow, another three people were killed in a house collapse following torrential rains, Pathak said.

Earlier this month, life was dis-

rupted in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru after two days of torrential rains set off long traffic snarls, widespread power cuts and heavy floods that swept into homes and submerged roads.

People hopped onto tractors to get to work. Boats were deployed to rescue people submerged in floodwaters in Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka state. The two zones that make up the city, Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural, saw 141 per cent and 114 per cent excess rainfall, making it the wettest September day in the past eight years.

Monsoon rains in South Asia typically begin in June. But this year, heavy downpours lashed north-eastern India and Bangladesh beginning in March, triggering floods as early as April in Bangladesh.

The monsoon season that ends in October leaves hundreds of people dead and tens of thousands homeless every year. The weather system for the Indian subconti-



Locals wade through a waterlogged street after heavy rainfall at Fazullaganj area in Lucknow on Friday. — PTI

Schools were closed for the day in Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh state capital, where the meteorological office recorded 35 millimetres (1.4 inches) of torrential rain in the past 24 hours

Brijesh Pathak
Uttar Pradesh's Deputy CM

ment is being altered due to climate change. Scientists say this is making extreme events such as excess rainfall the new normal.

With rising global temperatures due to climate change, experts say the monsoon is becoming more variable. Much of the rain that would typically fall in a season is arriving in a shorter period of time. — AP

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Punjab's former CM Capt Amarinder Singh to join BJP on Monday

PLC, BJP set to merge

Former Punjab chief minister **Captain Amarinder Singh** will join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday. According to Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) spokesperson Pritpal Singh Baliawal, Capt Amarinder Singh is also likely to merge his party PLC with the BJP in the national capital on September 19. The development comes days after Capt Amarinder met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. "Had a very productive meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah Ji.



Discussed various issues pertaining to national security, the rising cases of narco-terrorism in Punjab and the future roadmap for the overall holistic development of Punjab," Capt Amarinder had tweeted. Capt Amarinder who broke ties with Congress ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections had fought the elections in alliance with the BJP. — ANI

Gujarat Congress leader Mevani sentenced to six months in jail

2016 rioting case

A court in Ahmedabad on Friday sentenced Gujarat Congress's working president and member of the legislative assembly Jignesh Mevani and 18 others to six months' simple imprisonment in a 2016 case of rioting. The case was related to a road blockade agitation staged by Mevani and his associates. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate P N Goswami, who also imposed a fine on Mevani and others, suspended their sentence until October 17 to enable them file appeals. — PTI

Praful Patel elevated as Nationalist Congress Party vice-president

New office-bearers

Former Union minister **Praful Patel** has been elevated as vice-president of Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), a party statement said on Friday. Pawar, 81, was re-elected as president of the NCP at its national convention held at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday. Pawar was then authorised to name the national office-bearers and working committee of the party. Patel was earlier a general secretary of the NCP. Lok Sabha members Sunil Tatkar and P P Mohammad Faizal, senior leaders



Yoganand Shastri, K K Sharma, Narendra Verma and Jitendra Awhad have been appointed as national general secretaries of the party. Clyde Crasto has been appointed national spokesperson of the NCP. Besides Pawar and Patel, the 12-member NCP working committee includes Supriya Sule, Ajit Pawar, Tatkar, Chhagan Bhujbal, Fouzia Khan, P C Chacko, among others. — PTI

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Domestic air travel

67%

Year-on-year growth in the number of passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-August 2022 period as per the official data released on Friday. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation data showed that the number of travellers surged to 77 million as against 46 million recorded during the corresponding period of the last year. — ANI

Mourners brave 24-hour wait in chilly London to see the queen’s coffin

The entry to an already miles-long queue to see Queen Elizabeth lying in state in London resumed after a pause on Friday, with the government saying the current wait-time is over 24 hours, in temperatures set to plummet to 7 degrees Celsius. Elizabeth died in Scotland aged 96 last week, prompting an outpouring of emotion that drew tens of thousands out to see her coffin on its journey to London, and that has now led many more to join the long line to pay their final respects during a four-day lying-in-state ceremony. “Expected queuing time is over 24 hours and overnight temperatures will be cold,” Britain’s culture department warned on Twitter at 1614 GMT, having paused the entry to the queue around 0900 GMT when it

reached a designated end-point in Southwark Park. But people still waited. Neither the hours-long wait nor the weather deterred mourners, who were pouring in from both within the country and across the world to pay their respects to Britain’s longest reigning monarch. Reuben Fevrier, an accountant from London who was in the line, spoke of the queen’s “stoicism, her deep commitment to the country, a remarkable life”. “I think this is the least I can do.” The constantly-moving queue is snaking its way from Southwark Park to parliament’s Westminster Hall, where the queen’s coffin is lying in state. Some 750,000 people in total are expected to file past before Monday’s funeral. “I’ve no sensation in my knees

at all or my legs,” said Hyacinth Appah, a mourner from London in the queue. “But it’s been fine. Most of the people have been lovely and we’ve had quite a nice time.” Temporary toilets have been installed along the route of the queue, and mourners have been asked not to bring camping equipment, sleeping bags or folding chairs. “She was everything. She was here the whole of my life. You couldn’t ask for a more regal, dignified person. She represents a country — she is the country,” said Susan Green, a retired NHS worker. Former England soccer captain David Beckham and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern were also spotted paying their respects to the queen. — REUTERS



King Charles III meets members of the public as he leaves Cardiff Castle, Wales, on Friday. — AP

BBC: China banned from viewing Queen lying-in-state

The Chinese delegation visiting London to attend Queen Elizabeth’s funeral on Monday will not be allowed to view her coffin at the lying-in-state vigil inside parliament, the BBC reported on Friday. Some parliamentarians had raised concerns about inviting representatives from China after several British lawmakers were sanctioned by Beijing for criticising alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang. The BBC said that it understood the Chinese government delegation had been banned after the speaker of the lower house of parliament had refused access to Westminster Hall on the parliamentary estate due to the Chinese sanctions. — REUTERS

IN BRIEF



Floods in Italy’s hilly region kill at least 10; four missing

Heavy rain Floodwaters triggered by heavy rainfall swept through several towns in a hilly region of central Italy early on Friday, leaving 10 people dead and at least four missing, authorities said. Dozens of survivors scrambled onto rooftops or up trees to await rescue. “It wasn’t a water bomb, it was a tsunami,” Riccardo Pasqualini, the mayor of Barbara, told Italian state radio of the sudden downpour on Thursday evening that devastated his town in the Marche region, near the Adriatic Sea. He said the flooding left the 1,300 residents of Barbara without drinking water and with spotty telephone service. — AP



Two London police officers injured in stabbing attack

Suspect arrested Two London police officers were hospitalised after being stabbed in the city’s busy West End on Friday, the Metropolitan Police force said. The attack is not being treated as terrorism. The force said officers patrolling near Leicester Square encountered a man with a knife early Friday morning and were stabbed while trying to detain him. The officers — a man and a woman — were taken to hospital with injuries that are not life-threatening. A man believed to be in his 20s was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm and assaulting an emergency worker. — AP

Flights cancelled as French air traffic controllers on strike

80k travellers affected Airlines cancelled half of flights scheduled for Paris on Friday and many others that would have flown over France, as a strike by air traffic controllers imposed the latest round of disruption on European travel. “It is inexplicable that thousands of European citizens/visitors will have their travel plans unfairly disrupted by yet another French ATC (air traffic control) strike,” Ryanair said in a statement. The travel plans of 80,000 passengers had been affected when it had cancelled 420 flights, mainly intended to fly over France, the airline added. Strikes and staff shortages in the past few months have forced airlines to cancel thousands of flights, with disruption continuing into the autumn. Air France said on Wednesday due to the then impending strike it would operate only 45 per cent of its short and medium-range flights and 90 per cent of its long-haul flights. — Reuters



(L-R) Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, Turkmen President Serdar Berdimukhamedov, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev pose for a family photo before the meeting in an expanded format at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) leaders’ summit in Samarkand on Friday. — AFP

Xi, Putin look to challenge world order at SCO summit

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping looked to rally Asian leaders behind a new “international order” as they met on Friday for a summit aimed at challenging Western influence. But cracks in summit solidarity quickly appeared, with India’s prime minister telling Putin it was “not the time” for the conflict in Ukraine and the forces of two countries — Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan — engaged in fierce border clashes while their leaders were in attendance. The meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in ex-Soviet Uzbekistan brought Putin and Xi together with the leaders of SCO members India, Pakistan, and four Central Asian nations, as well as the presidents of Iran and Turkey. Putin and Xi met on Thurs-

day for their first face-to-face talks since Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February, and on the Chinese leader’s first trip abroad since the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. The summit was put forward by the Kremlin as an alternative to “Western-centric organisations”, at a time of increasing pressure on Moscow over Ukraine and growing anger in Beijing over US support for Taiwan. Xi told the gathered leaders it was time to reshape the international system and “abandon zero-sum games and bloc politics”. They should “work together to promote the development of the international order in a more just and rational direction”, Xi told a joint session. Putin hailed the increasing influence of countries outside the West, slamming what he

called “instruments of protectionism, illegal sanctions and economic selfishness”. “The growing role of new centres of power who cooperate with each other... is becoming more and more clear,” Putin said. The summit has been Putin’s first major international outing since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February, sparking a conflict that has left thousands dead and seen Russia hit with waves of economic sanctions. All did not go perfectly for the Russian leader. In their talks, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Putin: “Excellency, I know today’s time is not a time for war.” Putin told Modi he knew of India’s “concerns” about the conflict, echoing language he had used with Xi the day before. “We will do our best to end this as soon as possible,” Putin

said, while accusing Kyiv of rejecting negotiations and wanting to achieve its goals “on the battlefield”. The SCO — which also includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — was set up in 2001 as a political, economic and security organisation to rival Western institutions. The group is far from fully united. The leaders of the Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were forced to meet at the summit to order their forces to withdraw after deadly clashes along their disputed border raised fears of all-out conflict. Some 19,000 people had to be evacuated on the Kyrgyz side of the border and sporadic clashes were continuing despite the ceasefire order. Putin and Xi both also met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who told the

assembled leaders that efforts were being made “to finalise the conflict in Ukraine through diplomacy as soon as possible”. Putin told Erdogan, who has been a key broker in limited deals between Russia and Ukraine, that Moscow was keen to build closer ties with Turkey and was ready to “significantly increase” all exports to the country. For Putin, the summit was a chance to show that he is not fully isolated on the global scene, at a time when his forces in Ukraine are facing major battlefield setbacks. For Xi, it was an opportunity to shore up his credentials as a global statesman ahead of a pivotal congress of the ruling Communist Party in October, where he is widely expected to secure an unprecedented third term as president. — AFP

Hundreds of bodies found in mass grave, says Ukraine

From page 1

“We are at the site of the mass burial of people, civilians who were buried here, and now according to our information they all have the signs of violent death,” Kharkiv Governor Oleh Synehubov said at the site. “There are bodies with hands tied behind (their backs). Each fact will be investigated and will be properly and legally evaluated,” Synehubov said. If the numbers of bodies are confirmed, the site in Izium, a former Russian frontline stronghold, would be the biggest mass burial found in Europe since the aftermath of the 1990s Balkan wars.

Russian President Vladimir Putin did not immediately respond to the accusations. Ukrainian officials say 9,000sqkm have been retaken, about the size of the island of Cyprus. But Putin defended his operations in Ukraine, saying on Friday he had sent his troops into Ukraine to prevent Western plans to break up Russia. Speaking at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and discussing the war publicly for the first time since Ukraine routed Russian troops in the Kharkiv region last week, Putin threatened strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure, and said: “We will see how (Ukraine’s

counteroffensive) ends.” Russia regularly denies targeting civilians during what it calls its “special military operation” in Ukraine and has said in the past that accusations of human rights abuses are a smear campaign. In Kupiansk, a northeastern railway junction city whose partial capture by Kyiv’s forces on Saturday cut Russia’s supply lines and led to the swift collapse at the front, small units of Ukrainian troops were securing a nearly deserted ghost town. A formerly Russian-occupied police station had been hastily abandoned. Russian flags and a portrait of Putin lay on the floor amid broken glass. — REUTERS



Forensic technicians dig a grave in a forest on the outskirts of Izium, eastern Ukraine, on Friday. — AFP

Opec+ leaders like \$100 oil, won't necessarily defend it

Saudi Arabia and Russia, the de facto leaders of the Opec+ oil producer group, see \$100 a barrel as a fair price that the global economy can absorb, sources familiar with government thinking in the two countries told Reuters.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Russia and other allies, known as Opec+, pumps more than 40 per cent of the 100 million barrels per day of global output. The group has a powerful influence on global fuel prices through its supply policy.

Opec+ does not explicitly state its preferred price level. Top officials in both Saudi Arabia and Russia have said in recent weeks that the group's policy focus is to ensure that global oil supply matches demand, not defend a certain price.

"Our focus is straightforward - looking at supplies and demand balances over a period of no less than a year and most often a year and a half," a senior Opec+ source with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

"There are too many variables outside of human control, case in point Covid in 2020 and the financial crisis of 2008, so we need to be humble."

One of the key measures of supply-demand balance, however, is price. When demand threatens to outstrip supply, prices rise, and vice versa. The statements of group members and whether they increase or reduce supply give a sense of what producers see as a reasonable return for their oil.

Recent signals suggest a preferred price level of around \$90 to \$100 a barrel for Brent crude, the three government sources and analysts told Reuters.

That's higher than the previous-



» Analysts, Opec+ watchers, see \$90 as price floor

» \$100 oil helps industry investment, won't hurt economy

» Russia favours \$100 as it is forced to sell at discount

» Opec+ policy is not driven by defending a certain price

ly perceived level of around \$75 that Opec+ watchers pegged as the price the group wanted to see

Oil traded at \$100-\$120 for most of the second quarter which alarmed governments in many countries that were already dealing with runaway inflation.

The United States has led countries in pushing Saudi Arabia and other producers to pump more to cool rising prices for over a year.

But top oil producers including Saudi Arabia have made public statements in recent weeks to support prices which had fallen towards \$90 amid weakening outlooks for the global economy and demand.

Those statements culminated

in Opec+ making a symbolic cut in its oil output target of 100,000 barrels per day (bpd), which many analysts interpreted as a signal the group would defend prices above \$90.

The price corridor has risen with rising material costs and inflation, said a separate source briefed on Saudi government debates and another industry source, factors which mean producers need to generate higher revenue from oil to balance their budgets.

"An oil price at \$120-130 is risky and Saudi will prevent that, but at \$100 it won't have a huge impact on the global economy - Saudi would be comfortable with that price," one of the three sources

said. While most Opec+ producers rely on oil revenue and have different oil price requirements to balance their budgets, Saudi Arabia and Russia have no official price target. Saudi officials have not talked openly about a price target or a price aspiration for years.

Oil nations' coffers, including of Saudi Arabia, were depleted by the pandemic-induced price collapse in 2020. High prices are helping them refill their coffers.

The International Monetary Fund in April projected Saudi Arabia's breakeven oil price - the oil price at which it would balance its budget - at \$79.20 a barrel. The Saudi government does not disclose its assumed breakeven oil

price. "Over \$100 is a windfall for the state," said Karen Young, senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington. "I think the comfortable level is anything above \$80, but fiscal policy is flexible."

Oil at \$100 is also needed for companies around the world to maintain healthy investment levels to ensure supply keeps up with demand, said the source familiar with Saudi government thinking.

Even after falling to \$90 per barrel, oil remains relatively expensive.

Brent only went back above \$90 in February after trading below that level since 2014.

Russia has different motives

to Saudi Arabia for its price comfort zone. This year, Moscow has had to sell its crude at a discount to benchmark prices to buyers in Asia, because Europe and the United States have banned or discouraged Russian oil imports in retaliation for the war in Ukraine.

Russia wants oil at not less than \$100 to compensate for the discounts, two industry sources familiar with Russian thinking said. Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak rejected the idea that there was any price collusion.

"We are not talking about price formation, but about the adequacy of supply on the market, so that on the one hand there is no excess, and on the other there is no shortage," Novak said this month.

Opec has made sporadic attempts to keep prices at a certain level in the past. In 2000, the group came up with a price band mechanism to keep oil between \$22 and \$28. When prices surged well above \$28 a few years later, the band was suspended.

Saudi Arabia and Opec have also favoured oil at \$100 at various times. Saudi Arabia first endorsed \$100 oil in 2012 and in 2018 Saudi officials were saying in private meetings that \$80 to \$100 oil was desirable, sources said at the time.

Such high aspirations took a backseat after developments including the U.S. shale oil boom and a resulting global oversupply and price collapse made them unrealistic, as did the price slide during the COVID pandemic.

Now, tight supply is supporting prices again. Shale growth has dropped down Opec's list of concerns and forecasters still expect solid growth in oil demand in 2023 despite weaker economic growth and fears of recession. — REUTERS

Dubai's real estate market records Dh8.9 billion in weeklong transactions

A total of 2,317 real estate transactions worth Dh8.9 billion were conducted during the week ending 16th September, 2022, according to figures released by the Dubai Land Department.

A total of 227 plots were sold for Dh4.35 billion, and 1,560 apartments and villas were purchased for Dh3.44 billion.

The top three transactions were a land in Madinat Al Matar sold for Dh988 million, a land sold for Dh259.24 million in Al Yufrah 1, and a land sold for Dh988 million in Madinat Al Matar.

Al Hebiah Fifth recorded the most transactions for this week with 66 sales transactions worth Dh221.48 million, followed by Nad Al Shiba First with 39 sales transactions worth Dh183.93 million, and Jabal Ali First with 33 sales transactions worth Dh136 million. The sum of the amount of mortgaged properties for the week reached 930.7 million, while 145 properties were granted between first-degree relatives worth Dh205 million. — WAM



UAE startup MetaEssence world's first specialised G2B2C provider

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The UAE startup, MetaEssence is set to launch world's first specialised G2B2C (Government to Business to Consumer) utility-based Web3.0 and metaverse solutions provider.

The metaverse is considered the next evolution of the internet where people collaborate digitally, perform secure, authenticated digital transactions, and use cryptocurrencies for payments through Web3.0 applications.

MetaEssence focuses on Web3.0 and Metaverse enablement through three main business domains: digital health, digital economy, and sustainability. Introducing innovative solutions to accelerate the government agencies and organisations' digital transformation, and contributing to the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai to cement the emirate's position as a global capital for the digital economy.

"Our vision is to enable a simplified, secure, and reliable access to a wide range of Web3.0 & Metaverse solutions where our customers find synergies between their services and securely execute transactions with a business value add," said Fatma ElSafty, Founder and CEO of MetaEssence. ElSafty, 37-years old Egyptian, has registered her ven-



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Founder and CEO of MetaEssence

ture with Meydaan Freezone and has been the UAE resident since 13 years.

Before MetaEssence, Fatma was successfully leading the blockchain technology products, innovations, and government initiatives at du, and managed to transform du into the most trusted and reliable blockchain technology provider in the UAE, providing the most innovative solutions in the blockchain space with multi-million recurring revenues, having a robust partners ecosystem, and the most satisfied customers.

Fatma has 15+ years of experience in the enterprise architecture domain and expert blockchain



solutions visionary with a track record in many business domains including fintech, insurance, government and teleco.

"At MetaEssence We emphasise our products value and end results. All our products are blockchain agnostic and we are very keen on building long-term partnerships through a well-established transaction-based model," Elsafty added.

MetaEssence's solutions for digital health and specifically medical tourism will introduce a better patient experience using smart contracts, where patients will have secure access to quality healthcare

providers anywhere in the world.

Patients can simulate via Metaverse and mixed reality their experience while the advantageous environment for smart contracts between patients, providers, and payers in the overall system will eliminate many touch points through a more simplified, secure, and patient-centric solution.

There are many challenges for any organisation when it comes to realising the real opportunities in Web3.0, metaverse and data security at scale but the first and most important is to distinguish the hype from the real, this will

enable organisations to benefit from their presence in the metaverse and be able to integrate the metaverse into their day to day business operations in the most secure way.

"MetaEssence is planning to launch this year "MetaEssence Heroes Programme" to leverage MetaEssence Superheroes group of Worldwide experts in Web3, NFTs, Crypto Risks, regulation, data security, blockchain, mixed reality, and metaverse to train the new heroes on the "why" and "how" to use these technologies in their organisations," concluded ElSafty.

International Green Dot Expo coming to Mumbai in Nov

Aftab H. Kola

Mumbai is preparing to host the second edition of the International Green Dot Expo, an exhibition aimed at promoting the culture of healthy, pure and organic consumption among the general public.

Blossom Media Pvt. Ltd., a Mumbai-based media and marketing firm, has conceptualised the idea of promoting vegetarian and vegan products through this expo in collaboration with the UK-based International Vegetarian and Vegan

Foundation Ltd. The first edition of the expo saw the participation of around 100 brands and over 20,000 people. In terms of scale and promotion, the much-anticipated second edition of the Green Dot Expo will be much larger.

Ubaidur Rehman Khan, managing director, Blossom Media said: "The expo provides the manufacturers of vegetarian and vegan products (including food and beverages, cosmetics and personal care, herbal and healthcare products, home care and so on) with a

platform to directly connect with consumers, distributors, stockists and retailers." Consumers will be able to directly experience and learn more about the authenticity, purity, nutritional value, eco-friendliness and other attributes of vegetarian and vegan products. The expo will last three days, starting November 11, and the venue is Islam Gymkhana, which had hosted Mumbai's inaugural Hunar Haat expo, an initiative of the Government of India.

Concurrent with the expo, the

“The expo provides a platform to directly connect with consumers, distributors, stockists and retailers”

Ubaidur Rehman Khan,
managing director, Blossom Media

'Best Veg. Brand of India' awards will be conferred on brands that have played a significant role in vegetarian and vegan industries.

The International Centre for Research and Promotion will conduct research on various parameters to identify the 'Best Veg Brands of India.' Ziaulla Nomani, director, marketing and PR, at Blossom Media, said: "Along with the show, the Best Veg. Brand of India award winners will be promoted to general consumers through media coverage and video bytes on social media platforms so that they gain exposure and leverage in their respective categories."

India is the world's largest con-

sumer of vegetarian and vegan food products. Following the pandemic, the Indian market has seen an increase in consumption and demand for vegetarian, vegan and organic products with compound growth year on year. Such exhibitions and commemoration programmes benefit both manufacturers and consumers. The healthy and environment-friendly product industry will receive the much-needed boost, and consumers will learn about the best available options.

Arjan Dubai welcomes new project — Welcome Residency

Welcome Residency is a new project by Al Seeb Real Estate Development LLC located in Arjan Dubai and near Miracle Garden. Arjan is situated in a primary location between Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Al-Khail Road, within a short distance to Dubai's most famous attractions like Global Village, Dubai Miracle Garden, Dubai Autodrome, and much more. Comprising two- and three-bedroom apartments providing luxurious finishing and

amenities (pool, panoramic gym, spacious/cozy lobby area, four elevators connecting to all floors) and spacious balconies facing the skyline, Welcome Residency is an excellent choice for those who are looking for a home that combines luxury and comfort with an affordable price tag. The new project comes with a five-year payment plan and monthly instalments less than one per cent. The project is about 50 per cent complete, with a ready mock

up apartment and will be launching very soon. The neighbourhood is also packed with several real estate projects, providing villas and apartments for sale, especially off-plan residential projects. The community borders Al Barsha South towards the north and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road towards the south. Further down, there's Dubai Autodrome — home to a motor racing track that hosts Formula One races every year.



Prithviraj Sukumaran to unveil new Kalyan Silks' showroom

Kalyan Silks is all set to add another showroom to its ever-growing network. The new showroom will be inaugurated on September 23 by Prithviraj Sukumaran, brand ambassador of Kalyan Silks. Located in Muweilah, Sharjah, the showroom will showcase the finest and the latest in silk, ladieswear, menswear, teenswear and kidswear. The new store will be Kalyan Silks' second outlet in Sharjah and sixth in the UAE.

T S Pattabhiraman, chairman and managing director at Kalyan Silks, said: "No matter how fast or how big we grow, we will continue to deliver the best quality at the lowest prices. With the launch of Muweilah showroom, we have crossed another milestone in taking our promise of fair price and fair practices to more people."



Kalyan Silks has also optimised its production facilities, which includes over 1,000 looms, more than 100 production units and innumerable fashion salons. Kalyan Silks has accelerated its expansion drive by opening a chain of showrooms in India and abroad.

The next international showroom will be opened in Qatar, in line with the FIFA World Cup 2022. To further strengthen its presence across South India, Kalyan Silks will also launch various showrooms in the cities of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, new showrooms will come up in Kozhikode, Palakkad, Kollam and Alappuzha while Coimbatore and Madurai will be the new destinations in Tamil Nadu.

With showrooms in Karama, Meena Bazaar, Qusais, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Muscat, the brand already has a strong presence in the Middle East region.

A bright future

Dr Dhananjay (Jay) Datar



Friends, this is the concluding article of the series. For the last two years, I have had the opportunity to interact with enthusiastic readers to whom I express my sincere gratitude. I am utterly thankful to the editorial and managerial teams of *Khaleej Times* for giving me the chance to write for their esteemed readership. Through previous articles, I have covered various aspects of entrepreneurship, along with my journey in the business field. I am writing this last article as a summary of all the success tips mentioned till now, but with a futuristic perspective.

Let me welcome all those young aspirants who have a passion for business. It is a competitive and challenging world, full of risks, but at the same time, it is highly rewarding. The only qualification and eligibility requirement to succeed in this world is a mind full of determination. Business is not risky at all as it is thought to be, if you take calculated risks. Don't chase instant fortune or fame. Instead, always stay cool, patient and studious and let fortune follow you. If you have a novel idea, product or service, do not discuss it with others until you implement it. Remember, in today's world, ideas are money, so save and use it wisely to your profit.

When you step into business, don't make the mistake of making enemies or competitors from day one. You should not open your shop or office at a place where similar service providers are already established. Instead, find new localities, new market places where you will be an early bird. The two important lessons I got at the start of my career, from ordinary traders are — no work is too high or too low. It should be done with equal commitment. Secondly, hard work, creativity and skill never go to waste. At a certain point in time, these qualities reward you enormously. The future will have a lot of opportunities in the entrepreneurial field. Smart entrepreneurs are the need of the hour. And finally, always enjoy this beautiful life.

— Dr Dhananjay (Jay) Datar
is the chairman and managing director of Al Adil Trading



Mahzooz draw rewards 1,150 participants

Live draw and raffle

At the 93rd Mahzooz weekly draw, which took place on September 10, the fortunes of 1,150 participants changed for the better as they took home Dh2,695,500 in prize money. As many as 18 participants matched four out of five numbers and shared the second prize of Dh2,000,000, securing Dh111,111.11 each. A further 1,130 other winners matched three out of five numbers and received the third prize of Dh350 each. Participating in Mahzooz is simple, entrants need to register via www.mahzooz.ae and purchase a bottle of water for Dh35. For each bottle purchased, participants are eligible for a one-line entry into the Mahzooz grand draw for a chance to win Dh10,000,000, the second prize of Dh1,000,000 or the third prize of Dh350. The participants are also automatically entered into the weekly raffle draw, where three lucky winners are guaranteed to take home Dh100,000 each. The top prize of Dh10,000,000 is yet to be won and will once again be up for grab in the grand draw on September 17.

Freshcraft launches gadget for safer indoors

Eco-friendly choices

Amid a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that cites atmospheric pollution among the greatest health hazards, a Kochi-based startup launched an intelligent safety device that guarantees quality indoor air and surface. Freshcraft Technologies unveiled 'Tenshield' at a function in Dubai, where the year-old company also released the logo and a video of the innovative product in the presence of senior industrialists and officials in the UAE. The event also saw Freshcraft handing over its three versions of Tenshield to some of the startup's first associated clients. Tenshield disperses plasma-mediated ions into the surroundings, thus creating a shield against various air and surface-borne illnesses. The product substantially neutralises all pathogens in real-time, thereby improving indoor safety by significantly reducing particulate matter and other harmful organic compounds in the air. Tenshield's performance has been tested at various international labs, including Dubai Central Laboratory Department under Dubai Municipality; CB and CE Testing by Intertek Group, Hong Kong; CSIR- NPL, Delhi; and CSIR-NIPER (biocompatibility study).



Hadi Ebrahim Al Abbas, chief communications officer at Al Abbas Group; and Mohamed Ismail Al Abbas, chief people officer at Al Abbas Group, jointly inaugurate the latest showroom of Hadi Enterprises at Al Barsha.

Hadi Enterprises opens retail store in Al Barsha

Household and novelty products

Hadi Enterprises recently inaugurated its second retail showroom in Al Barsha 2, Umm Suqeim Street. The new showroom was jointly inaugurated by Hadi Ebrahim Al Abbas, chief communications officer, Al Abbas Group and Mohamed Ismail Al Abbas, chief people officer, Al Abbas Group. Conceived as a full-fledged retail store, the newly inaugurated Hadi showroom offers a wide collection of glassware, tableware, cookware, oven ware, crystal ware, dinner ware, bed linen, crockery, cutlery, luggage and much more. Al Abbas said: "Hadi has been the preferred choice for a wide range of locals and expatriates ever since its inception in 1979. Over the past four decades, the customer base of Hadi Enterprises has widely grown and today we have many exclusive customers who visit our showrooms for the range that we offer. We will continue to bring our valued customers the best of top-quality brands that will enhance their lifestyle."



Malabar Gold and Diamonds new showroom was inaugurated by MP Ahammed, chairman, Malabar Group, via a virtual platform. The store was opened to the customers by Asaduddin Owaisi, member of parliament, Lok Sabha, and Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, MLA, Charminar constituency, in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

Malabar Gold and Diamonds launches new showroom in Charminar

Malabar Gold and Diamonds recently launched its new showroom in Charminar, Hyderabad. The inauguration of the new outlet was done by MP Ahammed, chairman at Malabar Group, via a virtual platform. Asaduddin Owaisi, member of parliament, Lok Sabha, and Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, MLA of Charminar constituency, opened the store for customers in the presence of other Malabar Gold and Diamonds management team members. The new store provides an array of designs across gold and diamond jewellery in addition to a range of bridal, traditional and daily wear jewellery in gold, diamond, platinum and precious gemstones. Ahammed said: "It gives us great honour to establish our presence at Charminar. With every new store launch, we aim to be more accessible to our customers and cater to their every need."

Canon launches three vlogging kits

Canon Middle East has announced three 'vlogging kits' for creative storytelling, influencers and content creators. The EOS M50 Mark II has an impressive 24.1-megapixel image quality, 4k video quality, dual pixel autofocus and wireless connectivity that comes with a tripod and external microphone. The second, Powershot G7x MK III offers an incredible 4.2x optical zoom and a lens aperture of f/1.8 to f/2.8. The accompanying tripod makes it convenient to film for longer and the detachable wireless remote control allows for easy camera control, even from across the room. The third, EOS RP with 24-105mm lens boasts the uber versatile EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM lens which spans a useful wide-angle to short-telephoto range and is the perfect companion for the EOS RP camera, which features fast and accurate autofocus, 4K video and a powerful DIGIC 8 processor. The new kits are available for purchase at Canon e-stores and official retailers.



Being Muskaan presents 'Gulf Achievers': Awards and Magazine

The 'Gulf Achievers' Awards celebrate those individuals who are doing extraordinary things in respective fields. The name Gulf Achievers was chosen because it embodies what they stand for i.e. helping you achieve your dreams. The magazine will talk about the latest trends, successful people and best practices. After working for over five years in the fashion industry as an actor and model, bagging various titles like 'Mrs India Universe Popular' in 2018, 'Mrs India Universe Dubai', 'Pageant Guru', 'International Groomer', 'Winner of Unity Award', 'Best Pageant Organiser', Meena Asrani realised that she wanted to promote confidence, leadership skills, responsibility, respectfulness and intelligence. And, that's when Being Muskaan was born. The launch of 'Gulf Achievers' magazine cover took place at Hotel Radisson Red in June in the presence of Laila Rahhal, founder and president at Business Gate; Asrani and Tanvi Deshpande, team member.

A travel into the world of G Force Cricket Academy makes for an inspiring read

Team KT

‘A travel into the world of G Force Cricket Academy’ — a book that will take you on a trip highlighting G Force Cricket Academy’s 20 years of sustained efforts to spread the game among youngsters in the UAE, along with a detailed coverage of their summer tour to Mumbai, was released by cricket enthusiast and business-

man Shyam Bhatia in the presence of Dinesh Kothari, Chairman, Delhi Private Schools group. Written by renowned cricket writer K.R. Nayar, this book is aimed at spreading the message that success comes through passion, dedication, discipline, and hard work. Gopal Jasapara, who launched the G Force Cricket Academy and has groomed many youngsters, narrates how the

academy has gone about serving the game. The book starts off with a detailed coverage of the recent tour of Mumbai, India, by G Force Cricket Academy, which was the 39th tour of this academy to a foreign country. There are inspiring interviews with Karsan Ghavri, TA Sekar, Ian Trott (father of former England player Jonathan Trott) Jimmy Adams, Jhulan Goswami.

Additionally, there are stories of G Force’s triumphs in top tournaments and old newspaper clippings on the exploits of some of the cricketers from this academy dating back to two decades. Interesting anecdotes and interviews with legends of the game who have conducted coaching camps for G Force Academy over the years, make it an inspiring read for cricket enthusiasts.



Gopal Jasapara (right) with Shyam Bhatia. — SUPPLIED PHOTO



Chaya Mughal’s team will be battling it out with other contenders for a berth in the ICC T20 World Cup

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As the race for the two remaining spots inches closer, UAE captain Chaya Mughal hoped that they can win all their matches and make the cut for the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup. The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in South Africa in February and March 2023 and eight teams — including hosts UAE, Ireland, Scotland, Thailand, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, USA and Papua New Guinea will battle it out for the two remaining berths in the ICC Women’s T20 Qualifier that gets underway in Abu Dhabi from Sunday. The qualification tournament runs until September 25 and the top two teams will seal their berth in the main event, which has heavy-

weights India, Australia, England, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the West Indies. The tournament will be played at the Zayed Cricket Stadium and the Tolerance Oval, which recently became the UAE’s fourth international venue after Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, after being granted full ICC accreditation. “The only objective right now is to win all the matches and qualify for the World Cup,” Chaya told the ICC on Friday. And Chaya believed that their mix of young and experienced players will hold them in good stead. “The unique thing about our team is our team composition with a mixed blend of experienced and young players. It helps to absorb the pressure easily. We have a lot of potential and talented players on board and on a given day anyone could be a match winner for us,” she felt.

GROUPINGS & FIXTURES	
GROUP A Ireland, Scotland, Bangladesh and USA.	UAE vs Papua New Guinea; Bangladesh vs Scotland; Ireland vs USA.
GROUP B UAE, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe.	September 21 Bangladesh vs USA; Scotland vs Ireland; Thailand vs Papua New Guinea; UAE vs Zimbabwe.
FIXTURES	September 23 B1 v A2; A3 v B4; A1 v B2; B3 v A4.
September 18 UAE vs Thailand; Zimbabwe vs Papua New Guinea; Bangladesh vs Ireland; Scotland vs USA.	September 25 3/4 Playoff; 7/8 Playoff; 5/6 Playoff. Final.
September 19 Thailand vs Zimbabwe;	

The eight teams have been into two groups with UAE placed in Group B along with Thailand, Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe. Group A consists of Ireland, Scotland, Bangladesh and USA. The top two

teams from each group will make it to the semifinals while the finalists will book their places in the T20 World Cup. And Chaya said that their preparations have been going on well.

“We have been preparing and working really hard despite the weather being extremely hot, our outdoor centre wicket practice and match stimulation is something that is really helping us at present. Clearing the boundary ropes is something that we have been focusing on and we will be utilizing that in the coming games,” said Chaya. “Playing at this level itself is a challenge considering the teams that we are going to face have already played the World Cup and we are very much prepared for this. We are not taking any pressure on us and just playing one game at a time,” she added. Thailand and Bangladesh will be strong contenders after they had featured in the previous edition of the T20 World Cup in Australia in 2020. Meanwhile, Thailand have prepped for the tournament and

possibly the T20 World Cup by playing matches against state and academy teams in India. “Our team’s objective is to win the tournament. We are a strong unit and have great teamwork and everyone will contribute to our success,” said Thailand skipper Naruemon Chaiwai. “In the last three months we travelled to India to train. We had a chance to play games with state teams and academy teams. We faced a variety of bowlers and played on different type of pitches that will help us adjust quickly and figure out our options,” she revealed. “Covid-19 has kept us away from International competition. To come back and play in this tournament, it is quite exciting for me. This qualifier is also a challenge for me as a captain to lead the team to another World Cup,” added Chaiwai. Matches will be played at 3 pm and 7 pm.

Dubai to host IPL-style Women’s Kabaddi League next year

Team KT

Dubai will host the IPL-style Women’s Kabaddi League next year, a press release said on Friday. The Women’s Kabaddi League will be staged at the Al Wasl Stadium, Jaddaf, Dubai, in January, 2023. In a groundbreaking initiative to promote women’s kabaddi by APS Sports and Training Pvt. Ltd, some of the best female kabaddi stars will enthrall fans with their skills and strength. Inspired by the rousing success of the men’s Pro-League Kabaddi in India, APS Sports and Training Pvt. Ltd decided to launch a league for women. “We are organizing this league under the patronage of Dr Kirit Solanki, the honourable Member of Parliament from Gujarat,” said Sunil Kumar, the chairman and founder of the league. “Subhajit Rakshit is our vice president. Devender Singh is the Director (International Wings) and Geeta Chandola, is our director (CSR). Kumar was the secretary of Student Games Federation of India. Taking his experience forward, he wished to organise Women’s Kabaddi League under his company



APS Sports & Training Pvt. Ltd. “A lot of people are working tirelessly to launch this event and one of our main goals is to promote women empowerment with our new Women’s Kabbadi League,” Kumar added. Gujarat Lions, Great Maratha, Haryana Fighter, Rajasthan Tigers, Punjab Kings, Dubai Hawks, Tamil Legends and Delhi Kingdom are the eight teams that will go toe-to-toe for the big trophy in Dubai next year. The eight teams in the first edition will make Women Kabaddi League India’s biggest women sports league in terms of geographical representation and number of teams. Kabaddi is the most popular contact sport in the Indian sub-continent. The popularity of the sports soared even higher after the launch of the men’s Pro-League Kabaddi in 2014. The inaugural men’s season attracted 435 million viewers on television.

Abu Dhabi all set to host Jiu-Jitsu World Championship next month

Team KT

For a third successive year, Abu Dhabi will become the centre of the jiu-jitsu world next month when it welcomes an estimated 2,000 male and female competitors from more than 70 countries for the 27th edition of the Jiu-Jitsu World Championship. Organised by the Jiu-Jitsu International Federation (JJIF), the global body for the sport, and hosted by the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation (UAE-JJF), the event will run from October 29 to November 8 at the Jiu-Jitsu Arena in Zayed Sports City. Drawing the world’s best competitors across various age groups, the 11-day event is expected to attract both male and female talents of all ages, competing across four categories: Adult, Under 21, Under 18, and Under 16. “The decision of the JJIF to entrust us once more with this prestigious global event demonstrates their unwavering faith in Abu Dhabi’s capabilities to successfully host sports events,” said Mohamed Salem Al Dhaheri, Vice Chairman of the UAEJJF. “It sees the emirate as a model platform for planning and holding the most important tournaments.



The UAE won 53 medals overall, including 18 gold, 16 silver and 19 bronze at last year’s championship. — SUPPLIED PHOTO

The fact that the city will host the Jiu-Jitsu World Championship for a third consecutive edition demonstrates not only this trust, but also the success of previous iterations. “The UAE and Abu Dhabi continue to be crucial to the growth of jiu-jitsu on a global scale and we are working constantly to encourage international organisations to

further promote the sport. As the home city of both the Asian and International Jiu-Jitsu Federation headquarters, we strive to improve cooperation with other federations too.” While participants are expected to fly into Abu Dhabi from over 70 countries, Al Dhaheri said the UAE national team has already started its preparations.

Sri Lanka retain Asia Cup winners

T20 World Cup squad
Sri Lanka's Dushmantha Chameera and **Lahiru Kumara** will travel to Australia for the T20 World Cup in a squad largely unchanged from the surprise Asia Cup win. Matheesha Pathirana, who debuted last month at the Dubai competition, and Asitha Fernando were dropped from the squad to make room for the duo. **Squad:** Dasun Shanaka (C), Dhanushka Gunathilaka, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Charith



Asananka, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Dhananjaya de Silva, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Jeffrey Vandersay, Chamika Karunaratne, Dushmantha Chameera, Lahiru Kumara, Dilshan Madushanka, Pramod Madushan. — AFP

Klusener to coach SAMP Army

Abu Dhabi T10
The SAMP Army, the new team in the sixth season's Abu Dhabi T10, will be coached by the legendary South African all-rounder Lance Klusener, with Trevor Penney joining him as the assistant coach. The two of them will be joined by James Foster, one of the most recognised cricketers in the county circles, as the batting and wicket-keeping coach. The tournament takes place from November 23 to December 4. — TEAM KT

Boucher, Bayliss take IPL coaching jobs

Cricket
Outgoing South Africa coach **Mark Boucher** will lead the Mumbai Indians and Australia's Trevor Bayliss will take charge of the Punjab Kings in the next Indian Premier League season, the franchises said Friday. Boucher, 45, will leave his current role once the Twenty20 World Cup wraps up in November, despite having a year left on his contract. He will replace Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene as coach of Mumbai,



the IPL's most successful franchise, when the cash-rich league resumes next year. Punjab are the third IPL team to be coached by Bayliss. He guided the Kolkata Knight Riders to two IPL titles before a two-season stint at Sunrisers Hyderabad. — AFP



Novak Djokovic pays tribute to long-time rival, hails 'incredible moments and battles' with Roger Federer

Novak Djokovic paid tribute to his long-time rival Roger Federer on Friday, hailing the "incredible moments and battles" the pair shared on court. Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam champion, announced on Thursday that he would retire after next week's Laver Cup. "Roger, it's hard to see this day and put into words all that we've shared in this sport together," Djokovic wrote on Instagram, saying they had "over a decade of incredible moments and battles to think back on". Djokovic and Federer played each other 50 times, with the Serb holding a 27-23 winning record. The duo played 17 matches at Grand Slam tournaments, including five finals, with Djokovic lead-

ing that head-to-head 11-6. "Your career has set the tone for what it means to achieve excellence and lead with integrity and poise," added the 35-year-old. "It's an honour to know you on and off court, and for many more years to come." Federer's last major final was the epic Wimbledon showpiece in 2019 which Djokovic won in a final-set tie-break after the Swiss had earlier missed two championship points. The 41-year-old Federer trails only his 'Big Three' rivals Djokovic (21) and Rafael Nadal (22) on the all-time list of most men's Slam titles. The trio will play together in London next week at the Laver Cup as part of Team Europe in the last event of Federer's career. "Looking forward to celebrating

your achievements and seeing you in London," said Djokovic. **'Big Four' farewell**
The Laver Cup promises to be an emotional final meeting of the "Big Four" who dominated men's tennis over the past two decades. Nadal, Djokovic and two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will all play together in Team Europe. "I was lucky enough to play so many epic matches that I will never forget," Federer said, giving his own nod to his rivals. "We pushed each other, and together we took tennis to new levels." Federer, who won 103 ATP titles, had said in July he hoped to play one more Wimbledon. He departs with regrets but added he had lived a life that many would envy. — AFP

Serena welcomes Roger to 'retirement club'

Serena Williams welcomed Roger Federer to the tennis "retirement club," saying she has always admired and looked up to the Swiss legend. "I wanted to find the perfect way to say this, as you so eloquently put this game to rest — perfectly done, just like your career," Williams said in an Instagram post. "I have always looked up to you and admired you. Our paths were always so similar, so much the same. You inspired countless millions and millions of people — including me — and we will never forget." Williams came as close as she has come to firmly saying her own career is complete by welcoming Federer into "the retirement club." "I applaud you and look forward to all that you do in the future," Williams wrote. "Welcome to the retirement club. And thank you for being you @rogerfederer." — AFP



Serena Williams (left) and Roger Federer. — AFP

A tale of two strikers

Doubts over Benzema, Griezmann ahead of Madrid derby

Atletico Madrid are determined to put a dent in reigning champions Real Madrid's 100 percent record when the teams meet on Sunday in the derby at the Wanda Metropolitano in La Liga. Carlo Ancelotti may be without last season's top scorer Karim Benzema, who is racing against time to recover from a thigh injury, but that hasn't stopped his team continuing their perfect start. "We'll see if he can train or not, we won't take risks," said the Italian coach. "If he trains well, then he will play." Last weekend, Real Madrid thrashed Real Mallorca 4-1 with Eden Hazard as a false nine. On Wednesday night they fought their way to a 2-0 win over RB Leipzig with Rodrygo operating in the middle. Madrid lifted the European Super Cup against Eintracht Frankfurt and have eight wins from eight games across all competitions. Although they are not dominating games, there is a certain inevitability about Ancelotti's side so far. "I haven't asked the team to play fantastic football," said Ancelotti after the scrappy win over Leipzig. "I asked them to play a simple game, to win." Benzema's return would improve the

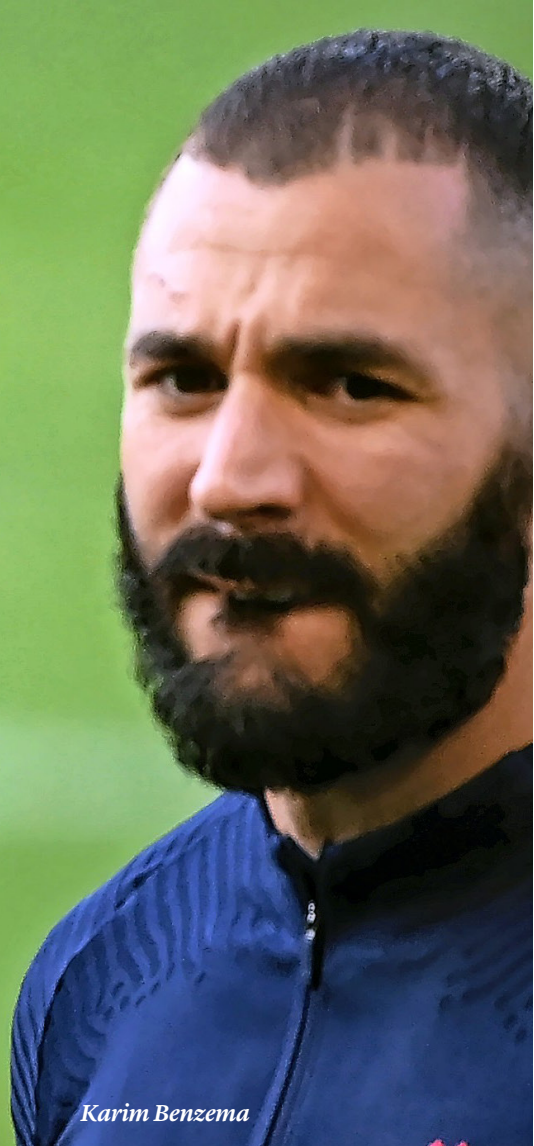
FIXTURES (UAE Time)

LALIGA TODAY		
Mallorca vs Almeria	4 pm	
Barcelona vs Elche	6.15 pm	
Valencia vs Celta Vigo	8.30 pm	
Athletic Club vs Rayo Vallecano	11 pm	
SUNDAY		
Osasuna vs Getafe	4 pm	
Villarreal vs Sevilla	6.15 pm	
Real Sociedad vs Espanyol	8.30 pm	
Real Betis vs Girona	8.30 pm	
Atletico Madrid vs Real Madrid	11 pm	
EPFL TODAY		
Wolves vs Manchester City	3.30 pm	
Newcastle vs Bournemouth	6 pm	
Tottenham vs Leicester City	8.30 pm	
SUNDAY		
Brentford vs Arsenal	3 pm	
Everton vs West Ham	5.15 pm	

fluidity of Madrid's attack, while there are question marks over a French striker across town for Atletico too. Antoine Griezmann has only been used off the bench so far in this campaign, despite coach Diego Simeone admitting the team is at their best when the forward plays. "When Griezmann is on the pitch, the team plays better," said a frustrated Simeone. "He links well when it comes to building the play with Joao (Felix)." With Atletico involved in a transfer wrangle with Barcelona over Griezmann and trying to avoid paying a 40 million euro clause to make his loan deal permanent if he plays over 50 percent of the time, it has been a frustrating start to the season for the forward. Atletico improved after Griezmann came on against Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League on Tuesday, but they lost 2-0 in Germany. Simeone and his team earned a 1-0 home win over Real Madrid in May, but it was after Ancelotti's side had wrapped up the title. Although Atletico are aiming to prove otherwise on Sunday, it seems the greatest threat to Madrid's title defence are their eternal rivals, Barcelona. Xavi's side have only dropped two points domestically and are looking to get back on their feet after Champions League loss to Bayern Munich on Tuesday. Barca host Elche on Saturday. The visitors have shipped eight goals in their last two games and are without a win this season. — AFP



Antoine Griezmann



Karim Benzema

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Korean dance and music event in Abu Dhabi /2

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HEART OF THE MATTER

The stage adaptation of SRK-Kajol's iconic
DDLJ is met with mixed reactions **6+7**

Korean concert to be held in Abu Dhabi



The Korean Cultural Center of UAE is hosting a traditional Korean music and dance performance titled The Sound of Harmony with Ensemble SU with quintet Ensemble SU on Sunday, September 18. Directed by Nam Chan-woo, the

event will be held at the Korean Cultural Center in Yas Creative Hub. Ensemble SU is a quintet, that includes Korean traditional instruments like gayageum, haegeum, and Western instruments such as drums, cello and piano.

“The musical storytellers bring you on a journey through time and space as they entertain you with a classical and modern collage of music,” the quintet Ensemble SU said. Visitors can expect Ensemble SU’s popular songs

Bulnoha, *Pansori* and *PungryuSalong* at the Korean concert. During the event, visitors can also expect traditional Korean music and dance performances. Entry to the show is free, however, reservations are required.



Festive Souk to be held in Dubai

Ensemble Dubai, a multi-brand store for leading Pakistani and Indian designers like Sania Maskatiya, Elan, Sabyasachi, Sonia Mahajan, Maria B., Rizwan Beg, Faiza Saqlain, Rabhas by Ekta and Haris Shakeel, is holding a Festive Souk on Saturday, September 24 at the Address Hotel - Dubai Mall (Diamond Ballroom), from 11am to 8pm. Forty designers will be participating, including several of those listed above. Bridal and occasion wear as well as casual wear and accessories are part of the store’s collection. Ensemble Dubai is located at 259, Al Wasl Road, Jumeirah.

Divya Chakra 2022 a grand celebration of the spirit of India in the UAE

The Consulate General of India, Dubai celebrated Divya Chakra 2022 as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav marking 75 years of Independence.

It was presented by the Consulate General of India, Dubai, and the Private Office of Sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al Qassimi, organised by Artoze Gallery and Exhibitions.

The event featured an exhibit of 75 selected artworks by artists of multiple nationalities. The celebration also featured live art performances by artists including Dr. Ajit Gadekar, Amal Mirajkar, Raisa Mariam Rajan, and Dr. Devisree. The live rangoli made by Jyoti Manish Rajyaguru was a treat to the eyes under the theme ‘Ek Rangoli Desh ke Naam’.

“This is a beautiful year where India celebrates 75 years of Independence and the UAE celebrates 50 glorious years, and we are truly delighted to be joined by all our Emirati brothers and sisters in this very special celebration. Here in the Consulate General of India, Dubai, we are extremely proud and privileged to be hosting these celebrations, bringing artists from different genres together and celebrating art in its various forms. A very special vote of thanks to all the artists and presenters for choosing Divya Chakra 2022 to present their art forms, because it is really their participation that makes this event come alive for all of us,”



said Aman Puri, The Consul General of India in Dubai.

“It was an amazing experience to be a part of Divya Chakra 2022 and it gives us immense pride in supporting the celebration. We

look forward to many such collaborations and initiatives in the future,” said Dr. Thomasz Zaleski, Chairman of the Board of The Private Office of Sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al Qassimi.

“I was mesmerised to see people from so many different nationalities coming together and celebrating this special moment for each Indian. This itself suggests a lot about the harmony that

all the residents of the UAE share,” said Sarah Ahchouch, a participating artist.

“Despite being far away from my homeland, I felt at home while being a part of Divya Chakra 2022. The ambiance and the audience were both amazing. I met some really nice people and am honoured to have had the opportunity to display my artwork at the event,” added Dr. Ajit Gadekar, a participating artist.

Divya Chakra 2022 also included a dance performance by NKD Dance Studio led by Dubai-based dancer, actor, and influencer, Nidhi Kumar, and a musical tribute by Antara Institutions led by Bagavad Eeswar.




<div><div>44mm</div><div><div>BLUETOOTH CALL</div><div>HEART RATE MONITOR</div><div>EXERCISE MODES</div><div>WATCH FACE</div></div></div> <div><div>SW10</div><div>TRANDS Smart Watch</div><div><div>AED 159</div><div>AED 109</div></div></div>	<div><div>FM RADIO</div><div>USB INPUT</div><div>MICRO SD CARD</div><div>3.5MM JACK</div><div>15H</div></div>  <div><div>IE-SP333</div><div>IENDS Shoulder Hanging Wireless Speaker</div><div><div>AED 89</div><div>AED 59</div></div></div>	<div><div>TF CARD SLOT</div><div>12H</div></div>  <div><div>B77</div><div>IENDS Wireless Bluetooth Headphone</div><div><div>AED 129</div><div>AED 69</div></div></div> <div><div>AVAILABLE COLORS</div></div>
<div><div>36H</div><div><div>Never Ever Miss a Call</div><div>Call Vibration Alert</div><div>MICRO SD CARD SLOT</div></div></div> <div><div>TR-BT806</div><div>TRANDS Wireless Neckband Earphone</div><div><div>AED 89</div><div>AED 59</div></div></div>	<div><div>24H</div><div>WIRELESS CHARGING</div><div>TOUCH FUNCTION</div></div>  <div><div>IE-TWS34</div><div>IENDS Wireless Earbuds</div><div><div>AED 149</div><div>AED 89</div></div></div>	<div><div>24H</div><div>Playing Time</div><div>HD</div><div>ULTIMATE SOUND</div></div>  <div><div>TWS-F12</div><div>TRANDS Wireless EarBuds</div><div><div>AED 99</div><div>AED 49</div></div></div>
<div><div>10000mAh</div><div><div>DUAL INPUT</div><div>SINGLE USB OUTPUT</div></div></div> <div><div>TR-PB1662</div><div>Power Bank</div><div><div>AED 79</div><div>AED 55</div></div></div>	<div><div>30W PD</div><div>MAXIMUM OUTPUT</div><div>Power Delivery</div></div>  <div><div>TR-PC946</div><div>TRANDS Travel Charger with Type-C to Lightning Cable</div><div><div>AED 89</div><div>AED 49</div></div></div>	<div><div>ANTI-SHAKE & ANTI-SLIP</div><div>ADJUSTMENT ANGLE</div><div>UP TO 11 INCHES</div><div>360° 360 DEGREE ROTATION</div></div>  <div><div>TR-ST714</div><div>TRANDS Phone/ Tablets Stand</div><div><div>AED 69</div><div>AED 45</div></div></div>

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Ammy Virk promises “101 per cent” entertainment at Dubai show



Event Details

What: Ammy Virk concert

Where: Dubai World Trade Centre

When: Saturday, September 17 From 9pm onwards

Tickets: From Dh125, available on Platinum List

The Punjabi music sensation visited the *Khaleej Times* office ahead of concert

Husain Rizvi
husain@khaleejtimes.com

Ammy Virk has got the ‘Bring It On’ attitude in place ahead of his show in Dubai tonight. But he’s slightly nervous and that’s because it’s his first show in the last few years.

“I performed one or two shows in India in 2019, then Covid happened and I didn’t get a chance to perform anywhere,” he says during his visit to the *Khaleej Times* office on Friday.

After a pandemic-induced break from live shows, Ammy is back on stage and will be joined by his sister Noor Chahal at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

He isn’t a stranger to the crowd in Dubai. While Ammy’s last visit only saw him perform for 15-20 minutes, this time, the singer has over two hours on stage. “They’ll be entertained 101 per cent,” he assures, “because there’s going to be all kinds of songs from me, from dance beats to romantic as well as sad numbers.”

Ammy wants all music lovers to experience his concert which he promises will be historic. “Keep the shoe laces tight for the biggest musical night,” he says.

Excerpts from the interview (answers have been edited for clarity and brevity):

You’ve performed in Dubai before. How was your experience?

Although there are not many Punjabi communities here (in Dubai) like the UK, US, or India, Dubai has a substantial fan base which loves Punjabi music even if they are not Punjabi. And that gives me more kick to perform here.

What’s your mantra before getting on stage?

To make every single second memorable. If you enjoy on stage, your fans will enjoy it double.

Your lyrics often hit hard. What inspires you to sing such tales through your songs?

Songs are a beautiful way to express your emotions. It’s all about picking the right words and relatable stories to sail through. If a song can touch your heart, it has a long shelf life. And the vibe of the music is the icing on the cake.

Where do you see Punjabi music in the next few years?

I feel the game has already begun, we have touched Bollywood movies and reached fans globally. I feel there’s no looking back now.

When making music, how do you decide your target audience?

Music has no age bar, so we try to cater to all our audiences by creating a variety of songs. Youth has a different choice all together whereas the romantic classics have a different fanbase. So we keep that in mind before coming up with any song.

Was there, at any point in your life, a time when music was your only resort?

Music and films were always in my mind and roster. It may have been executed at different intervals, but planning has always been on.

***Qismat* is one of your most popular songs till date. When you made the song years ago, did you think it would be a massive hit?**

I didn’t think that much. But it is a good song, and now I think it is coming in a Bollywood movie as well.

What did you like the most about your song *Qismat*?

The most important thing in the whole song for me is the video. Sargun (Mehta) portrayed her character really well. So I like its video the most.

You’ve done a mix of singing and acting. Tell us about your future projects in both.

We have one song with Divine releasing most probably next month. There are films as well, one with Dharma and Vicky (Kaushal) Paaji, and two or three Punjabi films. I’m also going to London from here to do a film, which will release next April. So we’ll see you guys next year as well.

What is success to you?

Success is nothing but a celebration of your good deeds. I feel I have definitely done something really good in my past life. It is karma that I am getting so much love from fans in every project we do and everywhere we go.

Who is your inspiration? What keeps you going?

Gururanak ji is my inspiration and it’s his blessings and guidance which takes us onwards and upwards in life.

Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively expecting fourth child

Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively, who are doting parents to three daughters, are all set to embrace parenthood for the fourth time.

On September 15, Blake debuted her baby bump during an appearance at the Forbes Power Women's Summit, *E! News* reported. "I just like to create. Whether that's baking or storytelling or businesses or humans, I just really like creating," Blake quipped at the event.

The *Gossip Girl* actress arrived dressed in a golden sequin dress and proudly flaunted her baby bump.

Ryan and Blake tied the knot in 2012. The couple keep their daughters out of the public eye, but that hasn't stopped them from gushing over their family life together.

"Having children for me made me feel so much more in my skin," Blake told *Forbes*.



"I never felt more myself or at ease in my own body or more confident—not to say that there aren't a bevy of insecurities coming at me a million times a day, but I just feel incredibly settled."

Blake and Ryan's eldest daughter James was born in 2014 followed in 2016 by a second daughter Inez, and Betty, in 2019. *ANI*

Johnny Depp, Amber Heard's defamation trial to be adapted into a film

Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's highly-publicised defamation trial is being adapted into a film.

Titled *Hot Take: The Depp/Heard Trial*, the film is set to debut on the free Tubi streaming service.

The film stars Mark Hapka (*Parallels, Days of Our Lives*) as Depp and Megan Davis (*Alone in the Dark*) as Heard, *Variety* reported.

Melissa Marty (*Station 19*) will join Hapka and Davis as Depp's lawyer Camille Vasquez and Mary Carrig (*Law & Order True Crime*) will portray as Heard's lawyer, Elaine Bredehoft.

Hot Take follows the tumultuous relationship of Depp and Heard, dramatising the two-month defamation trial that concluded June 1, with the jury finding that Heard had defamed Depp by alluding to domestic violence allegations against him in a December 2018 op-



ed piece. The jury also held Depp liable for a defamatory statement made about Heard by his lawyer.

The movie was fast-tracked into production "to capture a timely take on a story that became part of the cultural zeitgeist, painting a unique picture of what millions watched play out in the headlines over the summer," Adam Lewinson, Tubi's chief content officer, said.

Hannah Pillemer, EVP creative of affairs for MarVista, said, "Connecting viewers to stories with this kind of social currency and topicality make watching them a must for any fan of pop culture or celebrity drama." *ANI*

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Come Fall in Love — The DDLJ Musical raises eyebrows

Sadly for SRK fans, the lead role of Raj from *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* has been taken over by a white character in the stage adaptation of the iconic Bollywood movie

It is one of the most successful Bollywood movies of all time. Though released in 1995, it still plays daily at a movie theater in Mumbai, India. Its songs are a mainstay at weddings. Its lead actors became Bollywood superstars. And now *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, or *DDLJ*, has hit the stage.

Come Fall in Love — The DDLJ Musical is in previews at the Old Globe before a planned Broadway run. Fans of the film had been abuzz after producers announced the stage adaptation last fall, but when the show's cast was revealed this summer, social media lit up with criticism. The news that a white actor, Austin Colby, would play the role of Rog — known as Raj in the film and played by Indian star Shah Rukh Khan — led many fans of the movie to accuse the show of whitewashing.

The show's creators say they want to tell the story of two cultures coming together. But those critical of the casting decision see a missed opportunity. Amid increasing demands for more inclusive hiring and storytelling in the entertainment industry, South Asians are still underrepresented onstage and on screen.

"Just when you think we are moving on wards and upwards we are right back to square one," Andy Kumar, an India-based performer known as VJ Andy, wrote in a tweet. "Why can't our stories be told as they are? Without a white wash??"

On Instagram, negative comments were sprinkled among the responses to Colby's excited post about his casting. "Haven't y'all colonized enough," one user wrote. Another commented: "It is embarrassing that as a white man you are willingly stealing opportunities from men of color. This isn't something to be proud of."

Chef and restaurateur Vikas Khanna, who was born in India and lives in New York, has also expressed his disapproval on social media. "They took away a star from us," Khanna said during a video call. "All these guys would have gone in for auditions and the parents would have been: 'My God, my boy is going to be Raj!'"



“The most powerful way to depict a country's culture and values is to see it from the perspective of someone who does not belong to the same culture.”

Aditya Chopra

"Doing this, you're making our kids feel less-than," he added. "Let's not move back. We've worked really hard to be on the stage."

DDLJ was one of the first Indian films to center on a love story between nonresident Indians (known as NRIs), a reflection of the large numbers who were emigrating. It focuses on two young NRIs living in London. The party boy Raj (Khan) is rich, entitled and Western, quite the opposite of the old-fashioned Simran (Kajol) and her hardworking traditional father, who

says to Raj in the film: "You call yourself an Indian? You give India a bad name." But when Simran returns to India for her arranged marriage, Raj and Simran try to persuade her father to let their love conquer all.

Beyond the central love story, the movie also resonates because of its focus on love of country and family.

The film "touched a nerve" with NRIs who were "navigating between two or three cultures," Rajinder Dudrah, a professor at the Birmingham Institute of Media and English, explained in an interview. "Individuals were having to grapple with the tension between Indian tradition and Western ideas just as this movie was highlighting them. 'The idea of 'dil hai Hindustani' the heart is Indian,' was also conveyed in the film, Dudrah added, "meaning that no matter where in the world you were, if you were of Indian descent, you had an attachment to India."

Although the show includes nods to the film — pigeons, fields of mustard flowers, a mandolin cameo — and the film's narrative arc remains, this *DDLJ* is decidedly American. Raj has been transformed into Roger (or Rog), and the leads now live in Massachusetts, meeting as Harvard students in Cambridge. Aditya Chopra, who directed the movie, is also directing the stage show; the book and lyrics are by Nell Benjamin, who wrote the screen-to-stage adaptations of *Legally Blonde* and *Mean Girls*.

In August, Chopra posted a statement on Instagram saying that his original vision for the film involved a white male lead. (His first choice at the time was Tom Cruise.) "The most powerful way to depict a country's culture and values is to see it from the perspective of someone who does not belong to the same culture," Chopra wrote, saying his goal was to showcase Indian culture for a global audience. "That is the starting point of *Come Fall in Love*, the story of Indian Simran, her culture and heritage through the eyes of American Roger."

This month, Benjamin said she was not



Shoba Narayan, with ensemble members, in 'Come Fall in Love — The DDLJ Musical.'

surprised by the reaction, "given the lack of representation" in the theater, but the uproar was still unsettling. "I was distressed that people thought that Adi or me or anyone would want to whitewash this movie," she said, referring to Chopra. "That would suggest that, 'Oh, well, when we do it, she's going to fall in love with this guy because he's better than the options.' That's not the story. I believe people who come to see the show will get that."

The show's writers stressed that the production still featured a predominantly South Asian cast, including Shoba Narayan, who plays Simran, and a production spokesperson said South Asians represented more than 50% of cast members.

Benjamin said the creators had considered writing the male lead as an Indian American or a half-Indian man but believed it would have been an "easy

choice" that wouldn't have worked as well. "If you don't excavate it, you don't add value to it," she said, adding that Chopra "is perfectly capable of doing the exact movie as a musical, developing it in Mumbai and then renting a theater in New York, but that's not what we wanted to do together."

Not everyone was critical of the direction the stage musical has taken. Bollywood screenwriter Shibani Bathija (*My Name Is Khan*, *Fanaa*) saw the advantages in changing the lead's ethnicity to make the story work for a general audience. "I think having him be South Asian would be more problematic, because where is all this objection coming from," she said, referring to the family's disapproval of the central couple's relationship. The United States focuses less on caste and class differences than India or Britain, she said, so the possible

differences between two South Asians would not be as apparent to an American audience.

"If you hadn't watched the film, you wouldn't get it," she said. "There would need to be another level of explanation that maybe wouldn't serve the creative."

The show's composers, Vishal Dadlani and Shekhar Ravjiani, known as Vishal & Shekhar, also disagreed with the criticism. Ravjiani said they were proud to represent India through the musical, for which they created an 18-song score. (The two did not write the film's original songs, which have become classics, and only a few melodies from the movie are heard in the musical.) Dadlani said that Chopra wanted to tell this specific story and that it was "ridiculous" to say that "just because you're an Indian filmmaker, you should write the story differently."



Austin Colby and Shoba Narayan in 'Come Fall in Love — The DDLJ Musical.'

"It's not about color, it's not about white or brown," Dadlani added. "It's about a boy who's in love with a girl and whose family is different than the girl's family."

However, Benjamin, interviewed

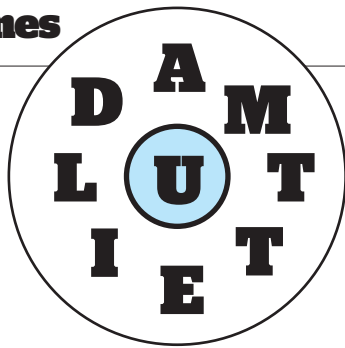
separately, thought of color as a storytelling tool. She explained that in her view, "with the change to Rog, you're talking about color" and discussed how Roger's "whiteness" gave him privilege, making things easy for him, until he faced Simran's father.

Despite the criticism of the show, among the three dozen or so audience members interviewed in San Diego, the response was mostly positive — from those familiar with the film and those who weren't.

One of the few dissenting voices was Shebani Patel, who flew in from San Francisco to see the show: "I was not pleased with the casting. I don't hate the show, but it's not our show."

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(This article originally appeared in The New York Times)



Target

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must include the centre letter, and there must be at least one nine letter word in the list. no foreign words; no words with the initial capital; no hyphenated words. Every word's root is in chambers dictionary 1991. Solution tomorrow.

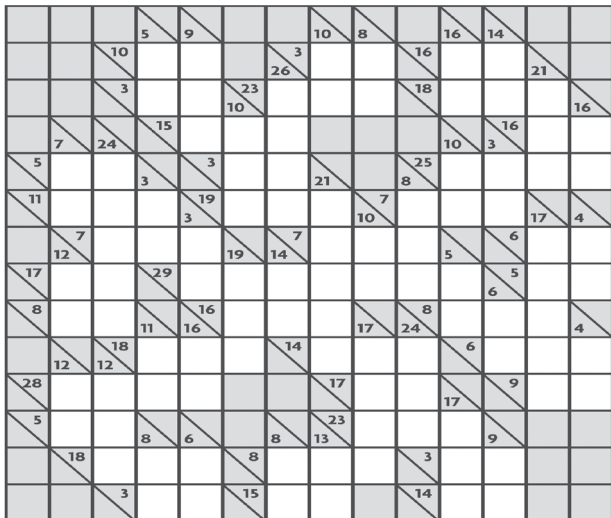
Today's Target

Good	16 Words
Very good	24 Words
Excellent	32 (or more) Words

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

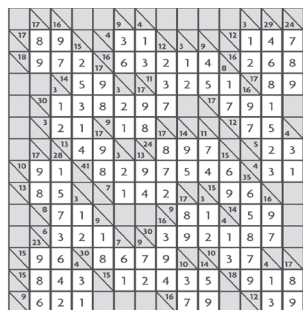
HARPOONED adore adorn aeon anode aped apron daphne dare darn dean dear drape earn hadron hand hard harden hare hared harp harped harpoon head heap hear heard hoar hoard nape nard neap near oared opah opera operand orphan orphaned padre pander pane pardon pare pared pear radon rand rape raped read reap rhea road roan

Kakuro Puzzle



THE NUMBERS:

In the black cells are clues. Numbers above the slash are across clues, numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot enter any digit more than once when adding up a clue.



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

The letters have a distinct value from 1 to 9. Two of these values and the totals horizontally and vertically have been given.

Solvit No. 8527© IMEJIN

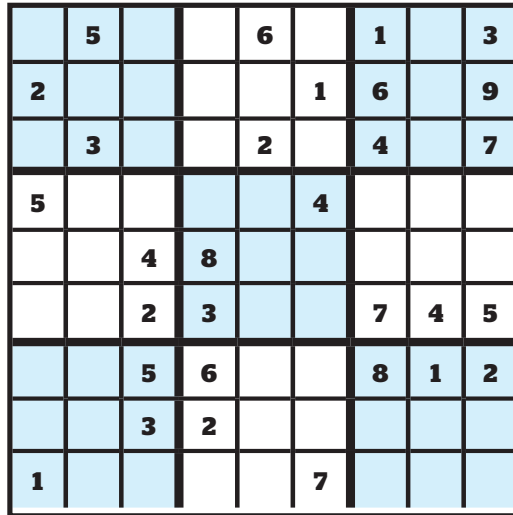
J	E	F	J	21	A
C	D	A	E	15	B
B	B	F	G	26	C
D	A	G	H	24	D
22	20	23	21		E
					F
					G
					H
					J

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J
9	7	6	5	1	2	8	3	4

Sudoku

5466



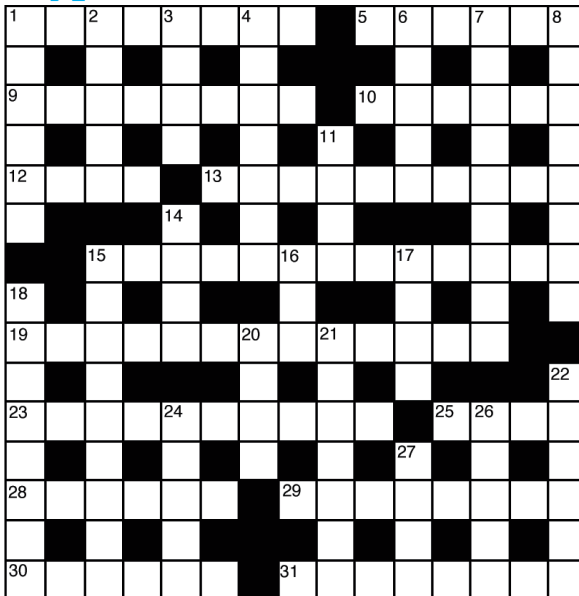
Challenge

All rows and columns and 3 by 3 grids (highlighted in bold lines) have the numbers 1 to 9 appearing only once. Some numbers have been shown. Fill in all the values. Solution tomorrow.

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

SOLUTION

Cryptic Crossword

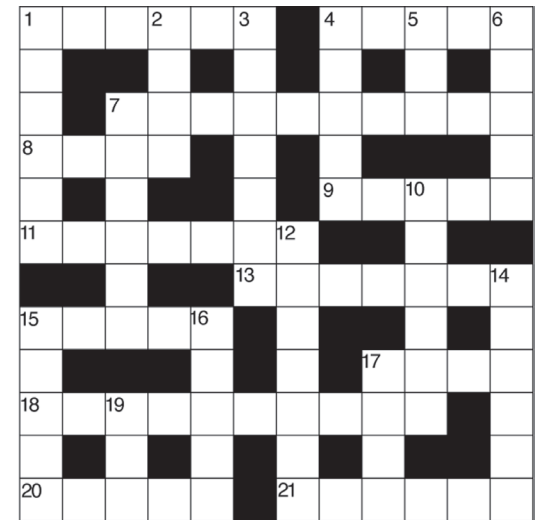


SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Uninterested. 8 Recipes. 9 Pompeii. 11 Sweetheart. 12 Tuft. 14 Runner-up. 16 Genera. 17 Dad. 19 Legacy. 21 Ribcages. 24 Arum. 25 Ingredient. 27 Ebb tide. 28 Tel Aviv. 29 Semiprecious.

DOWN: 1 Unclean. 2 Impatience. 3 Taste bud. 4 Report. 5 Sump. 6 Execute. 7 Press release. 10 Intransitive. 13 Peccadillo. 15 Par. 18 Diuretic. 20 Grumble. 22 Greaves. 23 Endear. 26 Kiwi.

Quick Crossword



ACROSS:

- Clear liquid part of blood (6)
- Yellowish-pink colour (5)
- Weapon type (7,3)
- Water jug (4)
- Citrus fruit (5)
- Musician who performs alone (7)
- Photograph of a criminal (7)
- Underground drain (5)
- Code word for the letter L (4)
- Island in the Indian Ocean (10)
- Scope or extent (5)
- Middle Eastern language (6)

DOWN:

- Gripping tool (6)
- Fly high (4)
- Belief that there is no God (7)
- Artificial waterway (5)
- Floor covering (3)
- Cloth made of flax (5)
- Pleasantly smooth or soft (6)
- Angora (6)
- North African country (7)
- Mournful or pitiable (6)
- Brazilian dance (5)
- Correct (5)
- Molten rock from a volcano (4)
- Give a title to (3)

SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Alcopop. 5 Rise. 7 Baa. 8 Toboggan. 9 Event. 10 Loaf. 13 Erne. 14 Call. 18 Yawn. 19 Admit. 21 Culottes. 22 Tag. 23 Tame. 24 Horizon.

DOWN: 1 Ambience. 2 Crane fly. 3 Potato. 4 Pebble. 5 Reggae. 6 Soap. 11 From A to Z. 12 Pentagon. 15 Lahore. 16 Snatch. 17 Kaiser. 20 Puma.

ACROSS:

- Country remains in control of bar (8)
- Erica inspiring student's fitness (6)
- A boat's wrecked, say, on way back — due to this? (8)
- Puzzle's meaning distorted not having name (6)
- Former partner in theatre's succeeding (4)
- Leery class misbehaved, paying little attention (10)
- Unrestrained mentors replaced in case (13)
- I'm right about separating cool surfaces and blends (13)
- Complicated ornate item that has strings attached (10)
- See about acquiring popular covering for floor (4)
- Worked hard to bring back food outlet (6)
- Big kangaroos eat first of lush flowering plants (8)
- Bray bloke primarily enjoys wild fruit (3-3)
- Ride north to collect a minute example of 29 (8)

DOWN:

- Feel bitter about gift beginning to go off (6)
- Lead round old steer to find post-holder (2,3)
- Flycatchers try soaring (4)
- Firmly establish contents of vanishing rainforest (7)
- English sailors regularly like Morecambe's mate (5)
- Records idiosyncrasies restraining one transporting goods (9)
- They save fizzy stout (8)
- Chap supplies information on time (4)
- European border upset Middle Eastern ruler (4)
- Resolve to put off coal supplier (9)
- Big shot at Lord's is heading up Number 10 (3)
- A western line's crooked (4)
- Incompatible pair almost fail to catch game (8)
- Couple I came across, heading north (4)
- Utterly unlikely model boxes (7)
- Northerner set up modern alarm bell (6)
- Ring a theatre up to produce musical work (5)
- IT company secures each type of girder (1-4)
- Ring up Kitty (4)

BLONDIE



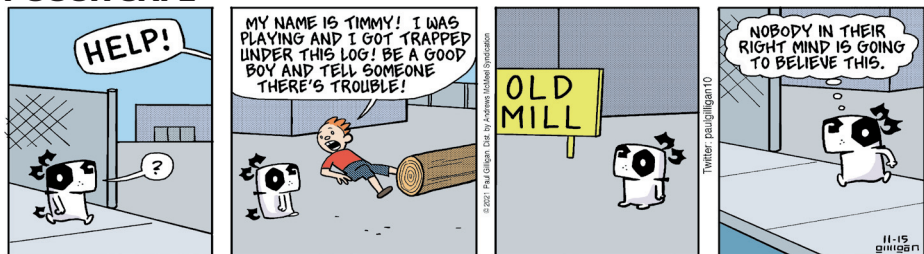
BORN LOSER



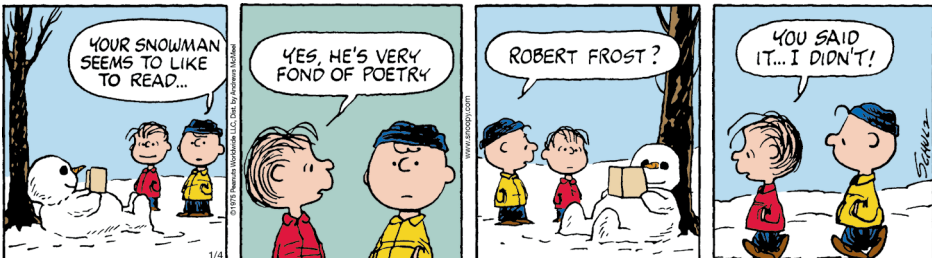
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



TIGER



IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Your friendliness may attract a posse of new acquaintances and happy memories as the next five to six weeks unfold. Your romantic side might be at a high point so you may also enjoy an inspiring vacation to an exotic location. Your daydreams and imaginative ideas could well be worth noting because by late October, you could find a practical use for them. In November, you are wise about the ways of the world, so you can make smart decisions that favorably affect your financial security. November is also an especially good time to begin healthy new habits and to make lasting friendships. You may receive offers that might not meet your expectations or people who do not live up to their promise in the second half of December. Put major decisions and changes on the back-burner in the first half of January when you might need to work hard to keep your head above water.

YOUR STARS TODAY BY MAGI HELENA

- ARIES** [March 21-April 19]: When you lead, others might well follow. You can set a good example of wise business expertise now. Romance could be ready to blossom in a most unexpected way. This is a good time to kiss and make up.
- TAURUS** [April 20-May 20]: Exercise and physical activity can bring you down to earth and back on your game. Understand your limitations but explore all the possibilities. A partner might share some fascinating subjects that trigger your interest.
- GEMINI** [May 21-June 20]: The fuzziest logic might make sense to you now. An array of interesting information and ideas could send you in a totally different direction. Watch out for mix-ups with messages and offer sincere apologies when needed.
- CANCER** [June 21-July 22]: Think green and protect the planet. You'll find serious satisfaction by finding new and more powerful ways to become part of the solution. You may develop or share a passion for a study of life's mysteries.
- LEO** [July 23-Aug. 22]: Your job or career may come first. For you, it is not business before pleasure, but perhaps business being a pleasure. You will get the most satisfaction by concentrating on your financial security and material success.
- VIRGO** [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]: Budding ambitions may occupy your mind and take up your time. You may have an incentive to follow through on a creative idea. This is a good time to initiate new projects and follow through with them.
- LIBRA** [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: Follow friendly advice. A casual suggestion from a trusted friend might help you get ahead or avoid a potential pitfall. This could be a good time to make major changes or start something new within your home.
- SCORPIO** [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: Take the first step. You should be able to achieve your goals and find more stability by putting your most ambitious ideas into motion this weekend. Once you get the ball rolling, a project can gain momentum.
- SAGITTARIUS** [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: Fill your head with facts rather than fantasies. You may find it difficult to come to a conclusion, but discussions can be interesting. Focus on making your bank account and financial security grow.
- CAPRICORN** [Dec. 22-Jan. 19]: You may enjoy self-imposed pressure to excel. This might be an excellent time to launch a new business idea or to focus on a new project. Draw on reserves of stamina to relentlessly push things into being.
- AQUARIUS** [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: Guard your privacy and look for new solutions. If you feel that you're stuck on a treadmill, you can't move in a new direction until you quit running in the same direction. A partner can show you how to make positive change.
- PISCES** [Feb. 19-March 20]: There is time to waste and more time to wonder. A new relationship could be a lot of fun, but you may feel that nothing is accomplished and there's no clear direction. Avoid the temptation to be overly sympathetic.

JUMBLE THE SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
UNSCRAMBLE THESE FOUR Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. Solution tomorrow

MMMOY SIJTO
JCOTBE BSEUUD

NOW unscramble the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the cartoon (right) and the clue.

ANSWER:

Jumbles: FRAUD TRACT PARLOR AUTHOR
Answer: Her sombrero blew off onto the beach but was picked up — AT THE DROP OF A HAT



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