

**Dar Kulaib claim stunning victory over Al Ahli**

Dominant performance gives winners three-set sweep of fellow-title contenders in battle of titans in 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League | P12

WORLD 6 Russia claims village on outskirts of Bakhmut in big push in east

Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra debut daughter Malti at Walk of Fame ceremony 10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 National Bank of Bahrain finances first plot in Al Msayyan Project under 'Mazaya 2.0'

**Iran court jails couple in viral dancing video**  
 Parise

An Iranian court has handed jail sentences of over 10 years each to a young couple who danced in front of one of Tehran's main landmarks in a video seen as a symbol of defiance against the regime, activists said yesterday.

Astiyazh Haghighi and her fiancé Amir Mohammad Ahmadi, both in their early 20s, had been arrested in early November after a video went viral of them dancing romantically in front of the Azadi Tower in Tehran.

Haghighi did not wear a headscarf in defiance of the Islamic republic's strict rules for women, while women are also not allowed to dance in public in Iran, let alone with a man.

**Pope condemns 'poison of greed'**  
 Kinshasa

Pope Francis denounced the "poison of greed" for mineral resources driving conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo as he began a visit there yesterday, saying the rich world could no longer ignore the tragic plight of many African nations.

The 86-year-old Francis is the first pontiff to visit Congo since John Paul II in 1985, when it was still known as Zaire. About half of Congo's population of 90 million are Roman Catholics.

**Biden to meet King Abdullah**  
 Washington

US President Joe Biden will receive and hold talks with Jordan's King Abdullah at the White House tomorrow, the Jordanian embassy in Washington said yesterday.

"Talks will cover means to bolster the strategic partnership and ties of friendship between Jordan and the US through expanding cooperation across various sectors," Jordan's royal court said.

# Praise for ensuring Kingdom's 'safety'

HRH Prince Salman commends Bahrain Defence Force's efficiency and military capabilities

● His Royal Highness briefed on BDF's development plans and programmes

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, commended the Bahrain Defence Force's efficiency and military capabilities, which reflect their dedication and role in safeguarding regional security alongside the Kingdom's allies.

HRH Prince Salman expressed pride in the officers of the BDF who continue to safeguard the Kingdom.

The Deputy Supreme Com-



HRH Prince Salman holds talks with Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed

mander of the Armed Forces was speaking as he visited yesterday the BDF General Command.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised the BDF's important role in advanc-

ing the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

His Royal Highness was briefed on the BDF's develop-

ment plans and programmes on combat and administrative readiness.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was received by the BDF Commander-in-Chief, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin

“The BDF plays an important role in advancing the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.”

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PRIME MINISTER

Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Defence, HE Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, the BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, and a number of senior BDF officers.



A warm welcome for His Royal Highness upon arrival at the BDF General Command

Blinken wraps up Mideast visit

## No breakthrough in bid to end Israel-Palestine clash

Ramallah

As he completed a two-day visit to Israel and the occupied West Bank yesterday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah and called for a de-escalation of tensions, but offered no new US initiative to help achieve this.

There were no signs he was making progress on even the modest goal of halting the latest wave of violence, much

less of addressing the broader issues surrounding potential peace talks.

Abbas placed all of the blame for the spike in violence on Israel and berated the international community for not doing more to put pressure on Israeli authorities.

Both Blinken and William Burns, the head of the CIA who met Abbas on Jan. 29, urged him to take action against Palestinian military groups and reduce the levels of violence against Israel.

Blinken called for calm on both sides



Palestinian President Abbas with US Secretary of State Blinken

following the incident last week when a Palestinian gunman killed seven people outside a synagogue in Jerusalem, and amid anger among Palestinians over the actions of Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank.

The US Secretary of State took that message into the meeting with Abbas and warned all parties against taking any action that could threaten a two-state solution that results in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.





# HM King issues decree to restructure LMRA

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Decree (13) of 2023, on restructuring the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), based on the proposal of the Prime Minister, and following the approval of the Cabinet.

According to the decree, LMRA shall be restructured as follows:

Chief Executive Officer, who is responsible for:

First: The Directorate of Communication

Second: The Directorate of Project Management

Third: The Directorate of Awareness and Partnerships

Fourth: Deputy CEO for Policies and Market Information (with the rank of Assistant Undersecretary), who oversees:

1. The Directorate of Policies and Research

2. The Directorate of Studies and Market Information

3. The Directorate of Wages Protection

Fifth: Deputy CEO for Resources and Information (with the rank of Assistant Undersecretary), who oversees:

1. The Directorate of Human Resources

2. The Directorate of Financial Resources

3. The Directorate of Information Technology

Sixth: Deputy CEO for Services and Business (with the rank of Assistant Undersecretary), who oversees:

1. The Directorate of Business Owners Services

2. The Directorate of Workers' Services

3. The Directorate of Business Development

4. The Directorate of Labour Systems Development

Seventh: Deputy CEO for En-



HM the King

forcement and Protection (with the rank of Assistant Undersecretary), who oversees:

1. The Directorate of Legal Affairs

2. The Directorate of Labour Inspection

3. The Directorate of Preventive Monitoring

4. The Protection and Grievances Centre

Decree (39) of 2019 on organising the Labour Market Regulatory Authority shall be repealed.

The Prime Minister shall implement the provisions of this decree, which comes into force immediately, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

## Foreign Affairs Ministry

His Majesty issued Decree (7) of 2023, restructuring the Foreign Affairs Ministry, based on the proposal of the Foreign Affairs Minister, and following the approval of the Cabinet.

According to the decree, the Foreign Affairs Ministry was restructured as follows:

## Foreign Minister oversees:

First: Director -General of Legal Affairs and Human Rights

(with the rank of Assistant Undersecretary), who is responsible for:

1. Head of the Legal Affairs Sector.

2. Head of the Human Rights Affairs Sector.

Second: Head of the Strategic Affairs Sector

Third: Director-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (with the rank of Assistant Undersecretary), who is responsible for:

1. Chief of Protocol

2. Head of the Coordination and Follow-up Sector

Fourth: Head of the Communication Sector

Fifth: Director of the Institutional Development Directorate.

Sixth: Director-General of the Mohamed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies, who is responsible:

1. The Directorate of Training and Languages

2. The Directorate of Academic Affairs

3. The Directorate of Studies and Evaluation

Seventh: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, who is responsible for:

1. Head of the Asian and Pacific Affairs Sector

2. Head of the Arab and African Affairs Sector

3. Head of the Gulf Cooperation Council Affairs Sector

4. Head of the Al Madar Centre

5. Head of the European Affairs Sector

6. Head of the Americas' Affairs Sector

7. Head of the Organisations Sector

Eighth: Undersecretary for Consular and Administrative Affairs, who is responsible for:

1. The Directorate of Administrative Affairs

2. The Directorate of the Consular Services Sector

3. The Directorate of Planning and Projects

4. The Directorate of Financial Resources

5. The Directorate of Human Resources

6. The Directorate of Information Systems

Decree (23) of 2021 on restructuring the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be rescinded.

## Ministry of Parliament Affairs

His Majesty issued Decree (6) of 2023, restructuring the Ministry of Parliament Affairs, based on the proposal of the Parliament Affairs Minister, and following the approval of the Cabinet.

According to the decree, the Parliament Affairs Ministry was restructured as follows:

## Parliament Affairs Minister oversees:

First: Coordinator-General of Shura and Representative Councils' Affairs (with the rank of Undersecretary), who is responsible for:

1. The Directorate of the Follow-up of Monitoring and Financial Affairs

2. The Directorate of the Follow-up of Legislative Affairs

Second: Undersecretary of the Parliament Affairs Ministry, who is responsible for:

1. The Directorate of Human and Financial Resources

2. The Directorate of Legal Research and Studies

Decree (37) of 2020 on restructuring the Parliament Affairs Ministry was abrogated.

# Ministry bid to resume Bahrain-Qatar flights

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has made a move in an effort to resume flights to and from Qatar soon.

During yesterday's weekly meeting of Parliament, Transportation and Telecommuni-

cations Minister Mohammed Al Kaabi informed MPs that a deal had been struck as a result of correspondence between the civil aviation authorities of both countries.

It raised hope that the two countries would resolve outstanding issues.

# SCIA heaps praise on Kingdom of Bahrain Declaration in Rome

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA) praised the Kingdom of Bahrain Declaration in Rome that expressed the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to various religious and humanitarian issues.

The Council said that the document is an added achievement to the series of global and humanitarian accomplishments of HM the King in the fields of coexistence, tolerance and peace.

This came as His Majesty received SCIA Chairman Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa.

The meeting affirmed HM King Hamad's support to the Council's efforts in serving Islam and highlighting its tolerance and raising awareness based on Islamic moderation, while joining religions and cultures to achieve peace and coexistence.

Shaikh Abdulrahman confirmed HM's support as a key success in serving Islam religion and pledged to HM to carry out the SCIA religious and national duties and responsibilities.

## Congratulations

It congratulated the 55 anniversary of the Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) and the 26th anniversary of the National Guard, and praised the national achievements in highlighting the country's security and stability.

The Council condemned the extremists' burning of the Holy Qur'an, and stressed the heinous act was a serious violation and offensive to Muslims around the world and hinders efforts to promote peace between the East and West.

The Council called on the international community to take a strong stand against religious abuse.



Shaikh Abdulrahman confirmed His Majesty's support as a key success in serving Islam religion.

## Supporting youth movement



Minister of Youth Affairs Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfeeqi received member of the Council of Representatives Khalid Saleh Bu Onq. She stressed the key role played by the Council of Representatives in serving the youth movement in the Kingdom of Bahrain. She affirmed the significance of continuous communication between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the members of the Council of Representatives to support the youth movement. She praised the efforts of MP Khalid in raising issues related to the youth sector.

## Oil and gas cooperation



Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani yesterday met Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer of MOL Hungarian Oil Gas Plc. Company Zsolt Hernad, on the sidelines of his visit to Budapest. During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of economic and trade relations and ways of boosting joint cooperation in the oil and gas fields. They also discussed current oil supplies in the world.

## Book on Bahraini proverbs



presented a copy of her book. Al Hamar noted the content of latest edition of this book considering it one of the heritage artworks of Bahraini proverbs. He praised the writer's efforts to transform popular proverbs into a cartoon artistic template that children and young adults benefit from. HM the King advisor noted that the writer's efforts help to preserve of this authentic Bahraini folk heritage, wishing her continued success.

## Retirees contributions hailed



Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received several senior officers who retired this month. Interior Ministry Undersecretary and Inspector-General attended the event. The minister welcomed the retirees, hailing their contributions throughout their years of service in enhancing work and performance, as well as providing high-security services for citizens and residents. He appreciated their dedication to serving the nation and wished them all the best.



# Bahrain climbs to 61st position on 2023 passport index ranking

Five places better than first quarter of 2022, according to Henley Passport Index rating

Julia Cassano  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has moved up five places on the global passport rankings for the first quarter of 2023, according to the latest Henley Passport Index rating.

The Kingdom now ranks 61st on the list of the strongest passports in the world, improving the 66th position it held last year.

In 2021, Bahrain ranked 69th, which means that the country has now climbed eight positions since then. Currently, the Bahrainis have visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to 87 destinations around the world.

The Henley Passport Index is the original and most authoritative passport index, with historical data spanning 18 years. The index and its contests are based on data provided by the International Air Transport Authority (IATA), supplemented, enhanced, and updated using extensive in-house research and open-source online data.

It ranks the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The index consists of 199 different passports, as well as 227 different travel



COUNTRY	RANK	ACCESS
Japan	1	193
Singapore	1	193
South Korea	2	192
Germany	3	191
Spain	3	191
Finland	4	190
Italy	4	190
Luxembourg	4	190
Austria	5	189
Denmark	5	189

Bahrain	61	87
Fiji	61	87
Guyana	61	87
Botswana	62	86
Jamaica	62	86
Oman	63	82
Papua New Guinea	63	82
Saudi Arabia	63	82
United Arab Emirates	16	178
Romania	17	176
Bulgaria	18	175
Chile	18	175

destinations. Saudi Arabia takes the 63rd rank on the index with Oman and Papua New Guinea. Saudi, Oman, and Papua New Guinea passport holders have visa-free access to 82 destinations around the

world.

According to the Henley Passport Index rating, the UAE fell one spot in the rankings after holding the 15th position last year. It currently holds the 16th position, having visa-free access to 178 destinations globally.

Reported previously by The Daily Tribune, the 15th position held previously by the UAE was the highest position yet achieved for the Arab nation throughout the index's history.

### Who ranks at the top?

Japan and Singapore remarkably topped the index, allowing both Japanese and Singaporeans to visit 193 destinations out of 227 around the world without a prior visa.

This allows them to access 85 percent of the world without a prior visa, according to data from the International Air Transport Association and Henley & Partners.

### Best passports

What are the best passports to hold in 2023, according to the Henley Passport Index?

According to the Henley & Partners,

Global Ranking Index, Japan and Singapore tie in 1st (193 destinations), South Korea places 2nd (192 destinations), and Germany and Spain place 3rd (191 destinations).

Finland, Italy, and Luxembourg place 4th (190 destinations), Austria, Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands place 5th (189 destinations), and France, Ireland, Portugal, and the UK place 6th (188 destinations).

Belgium, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, and the US place 7th (187 destinations), Australia, Canada, Greece, and Malta place 8th (186 destinations), Hungary and Poland place 9th (185 destinations), and Lithuania and Slovakia place 10th (184 destinations).

Analysts anticipate that Kuwait and Qatar will sign a visa-free deal with the EU this year, a move that could dramatically enhance both countries' Henley Passport Index scores, as Kuwait scores a 57 (97 destinations) and Qatar scores a 56 (100 destinations).

Henley & Partners also reported that whilst Asian countries continue to dominate the very top of the index, the growing strength of Gulf countries passports has been identified as a key trend in the coming year.

## Over 200 government workers complete Cloud Training Program

### iGA-Microsoft partnership

TDT | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), in partnership with Microsoft, has conducted a capacity-building training program to train employees from the governmental entities on Microsoft cloud computing services launched in February 2022.

This came as part of the agreement between iGA and Microsoft as one of the cloud-technology leaders.

The training program aims at improving the efficiency of the national ICT skills in cloud services in line with the national strategic directions.

iGA Operations and Governance Deputy CE Dr Khalid Ahmed Al Mutawa praised the cooperation with Microsoft in completing the training of more than 200 governmental employees during the year 2022.

He stressed that investing in the development of Kingdom national competencies is one of the most important priorities at this stage.

He reaffirmed that the ultimate benefit is to upscale the employees skills with knowledge and professional certificates that will be reflected on the quality of public service delivery.

# Drug smuggler death sentence is commuted to life in prison

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has commuted a Bahraini man's death sentence to life in prison for his role in smuggling 50kg of hashish into Bahrain.

The defendant brought the drugs from Iran intending to peddle them in Bahrain.

The case involves five defendants. A woman in her fifties was first arrested for attempting to bring drugs into the Kingdom. Two other women and two men were also implicated in the case.

After discovering that a shipment included drugs, the anti-drugs department of the Ministry of Interior assigned an undercover agent, posing as a delivery man, to hand the shipment to the woman. She was then arrested as part of a sting operation. The shipment

arrived in the Kingdom from a country in South America.

The drugs were concealed inside plates in an attempt to avoid detection.

They were discovered after being scanned by an X-ray machine by a customs official. They turned out to be cocaine. The woman was detained as a result.

Investigations led to the arrest of the second suspect, a man, who was found to have helped the woman in distributing the drugs.

He was arrested in a sting operation involving the first woman who called him and requested him to hand her BD400 for selling drugs to him earlier. They agreed to meet at her

house, and he was arrested upon his arrival.

He told prosecutors he was receiving the drugs from the third defendant, a woman, and he offered to help police arrest her red-handed. He called her to buy a half kilogram of hashish for BD1,300.

They agreed to meet at her house. She told him that her friend, the fourth defendant, would come and bring the drugs with him. Both were busted, and the fourth defendant told police he was getting the drugs from the fifth defendant.

The latter raised many suspicions after he was arrested in a sting operation with the help of the fourth defendant, as he managed to meet the fourth

defendant's request for one kilogram of hashish at a value of BD3,000.

He admitted to receiving the drugs from an Iranian man who was planning to bring to Bahrain 50 kilograms of hashish. He informed the police that the Iranian man would leave the drugs in the sea.

Police headed to the coordinates the fifth defendant provided and seized the drugs.

As a result, he was handed down the capital penalty. At the same time, the second, third and fourth defendants were acquitted for their role in arresting the fifth defendant, who was the mastermind of bringing the drugs into the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the first defendant was sentenced to six months in prison and was fined BD100.



## Bahrain-US security cooperation



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, received yesterday Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command, US 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces, Vice-Admiral Brad Cooper. Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs attended the meeting. The Interior Minister welcomed the US official, hailing security cooperation and exchange of expertise within the strategic and strong ties between the two countries. Security cooperation to promote joint operations was reviewed during the meeting.

## Pinoy Market' hailed as a big success

### Various Philippine food products on display

TDT | Manama

The Philippine Embassy has hailed the success of "Pinoy Market", which featured various Philippine food products from 25 to 28 January 2023.

The event, held in collaboration with Carrefour and the Oasis Mall in Juffair, is part of the Embassy's efforts to promote Filipino products to consumers in Bahrain.

It was officially opened on 25 January 2023 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony officiated by Honorable Anne Jalando-on Louis, Charge d'Affaires, a.i., and Mr Mohammad Ismail Khatib, General Manager of Carrefour Bahrain City Center.

Louis thanked Mr Khatib for collaborating with the Embassy on the Pinoy Market and invited the Carrefour team to expand their list of Filipino products by sourcing additional items from Philippine suppliers.

The Carrefour Pinoy Market is one of the promotional activities held at the Oasis Mall. The Philippine Festival is organised by the Embassy, in cooperation with the Mall and Brand Sync, a Filipino-owned events company.



# Indian expats are visiting Bahrain in a large number

The kingdom is fast becoming a favourite tourist destination for affluent Indians

● A boost for Bahrain tourism industry

● BTEA has put India on the priority list

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

Indians come to the Kingdom for greener pastures, seeking jobs to support their families back home. But now, they are embracing the Kingdom in the form of tourism.

Increasing Indian arrivals can boost the Kingdom's tourism sector as they add thousands of high-net-worth individuals and potential tourists despite



“More Indian weddings are taking place nowadays, and Bahrain has grown to become a popular tourist destination for Indians, giving us the opportunity to offer visas and tickets, and expand our business.”

- HARIS PT, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TRAVEL KNITS

slowdown trends in Europe and West Asia.

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) has also put India on the priority list

by maintaining an office in the country to collaborate with travel agents and tourism players.

The outstanding relations between Bahrain and India will also be an impetus to this tourism upswing drive.

Haris PT, Managing Director of Travel Knits, told The Daily Tribune: “More Indian weddings are taking place nowadays, and Bahrain has become a popular tourist destination for Indians, allowing us to offer visas and tickets and expand our business.

“To develop Bahrain as a tourist destination, the tourism sector should work with GCC nations.

“A single visit visa for the Gulf countries can attract more tourists to Bahrain. This can help tourism to the entire GCC like most tourists visit many European countries when allowed to

travel with one single Schengen visa. Right now, Saudi Arabia is also promoting tourism in a big way. If a tourist can get a single visa to travel to different GCC Countries will be a game changer.”

Shailesh Kumar, another agent, said that business is booming and that many Indian tourists are travelling to Bahrain.

“It also depends on when the holiday begins, especially since many want to bring their families to Bahrain during Ramadan. I've seen more individuals travelling to Bahrain than returning to India,” Kumar said.

Recently, the BTEA has promoted Bahrain as a unique destination. The Kingdom will welcome 14 weddings in the first quarter of this year.

Stage set for Portuguese artist exhibition starting today



Baroque-inspired sculptures at BACA exhibition

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) will launch today at 7 pm the exhibition of the Portuguese artist and sculptor Miguel Rodrigues at the Art Center.

The exhibition, under the patronage of Chairman of the National Council for the Arts Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and in cooperation with Bahrain Gallery, is about the Portuguese Baroque era and its history as a subject of reflection.

Miguel created pieces of art characterised by the baroque style by adding modern touches.

## Expired food destroyed by Inspection Directorate



The seized materials end up at dump sites

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has destroyed expired foodstuffs.

Assistant Undersecretary for Control and Resources Abdulaziz Al Ashraf said that following a complaint that a company was selling foodstuffs after altering their expiration dates.

Following an investigation,

3,704 boxes of expired dates and date molasses were seized in five different locations.

The case was referred to the Public Prosecution, and judicial rulings were issued against the violator to confiscate and destroy the seized materials.

The ministry has a zero-tolerance policy regarding commercial frauds that affect people's wellbeing, safety and health, Al Ashraf said.

## LMRA inspection campaigns in full swing

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted three inspection campaigns in the Capital Governorate on a number of shops and work sites.

The campaigns resulted in reporting violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The cases were referred for legal action.

LMRA noted that the first campaign was in coordination with the Nationality, Passports



An expat's status is being checked by LMRA personnel

and Residence Affairs (NPRA) and the Governorate's respective Police Directorate.

The other campaign was conducted in coordination with the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence of the Ministry of Interior.

The Authority also conducted an inspection campaign by the LMRA Enforcement sector.

The LMRA renewed its call on the society to support the government efforts in addressing illegal labour practices.



## Book on Bahraini heritage

National Archives Centre Chairman Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi yesterday received researchers Bashar Al Hadi and Rashid Al Jasim. They presented to Dr Al Nuaimi a copy of their book “Bahraini Noukhadas” in which they cite the names of divers, featuring photos and documents. Dr Al Nuaimi praised the researchers' efforts in compiling their valuable book which aims to conserve an aspect of Bahraini heritage.

## Fil-Am Fontanilla a witness to growing Bahrain-Philippines ties

TDT | Manama

Orlando Fontanilla, the Public Officer of Filipino American Association of Bahrain, came to the Kingdom in 2001 when he was deployed as a US military serviceman at the US Naval Base in Juffair.

He shared his views as he looked back on significant experiences how their organisation observed the growing partnership between the two countries.

It was in 2002 when Fontanilla, together with eight other colleagues in the Navy, realised the need to establish an organisation.

“I was elected as president of Fil Am Bahrain. It was during that time when members were exclusively military personnel and their dependents who were working in the base, until



Fontanilla with fellow US military servicemen and the Filipino community

the membership was opened to Filipino nationals outside the camp,” said Fontanilla, who works as Mobilization & Personnel Readiness Officer at the US Naval Base.

Fil Am Bahrain initiated the line of communication to the Philippine Embassy, coordinat-

ing all their activities of community charities and outreach programs to then Philippine Ambassador Eduardo Maglaya.

“As the president of the organisation I represented the group in various meetings and gatherings including invitations to grace many occasions



Orlando Fontanilla with Philippine Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Anne Jalando-on Louis

and formal gatherings with the Bahrain government,” Fontanilla narrated.

“I observed the strong ties between the leaders of both countries, on one occasion on the celebration of Philippine Independence Day wherein the

leaders turned to be very appreciative of the presentation on Philippine cultural numbers in the program, including the Filipino food served.”

Cultural presentations have, indeed, broadened the connections and created common understanding and mutual appreciation.

When he returned to Bahrain for another assignment, Fontanilla observed that the relationship became stronger as work opportunities for Filipinos in Bahrain had tremendously expanded. Juffair was a boomtown, buildings were being built here and there, the confidence and growth were captivating.

Engrossed with the Philippines' economic partnership with Bahrain, it grows with the fact that the Filipino work force

are well-loved by the employers because they are hardworking and their dedication for work are incomparable.

On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Philippines and Bahrain diplomatic relations, Fontanilla congratulated both countries for the milestones they have achieved.

An officer of Filipino American who has been very proud of his motherland, the Philippines, Fontanilla claimed, “I am a US national now, there is a part of me being a full-blooded Filipino, I am always proud to be called Filipino-American.”

Fil Am Bahrain works on the preservation and promotion of Filipino heritage aside from holding events for fundraising, as well as participating in year-round activities for charities.



## National Bank of Bahrain finances first plot in Al Msayyan Project under 'Mazaya 2.0'

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced financing the first plot in Al Msayyan Project, under the social housing financing product, Mazaya 2.0 Finance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Planning and Eskan Bank.

Dr Khalid Abdulla, General Manager of Eskan Bank, said: "Our continued partnership with banks has enabled us to fulfil the diverse housing requirements of our citizens through the variety of social housing products offered."

He added: "The 'AlMsayyan' project is located in the heart of Diyar Al Muharraq and it considered as one of the distinguished projects that were



Subah Abdullatif AlZayani



Dr Khalid Abdulla

launched in the real estate exhibition that took place in Bahrain City Centre, the project was offered exclusively to the new so-

cial housing products, Tas'heel and Mazaya 2.0 Finance. Beneficiaries can opt for the new social housing products either

from Eskan Bank or from one of the participating banks."

Subah Abdullatif AlZayani, Chief Executive Retail Banking on NBB, said: "Our longstanding partnership with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Planning, as well as Eskan Bank, has ensured future homeowners benefit from easy processing and facilitated access to affordable housing projects in modern cities."

Customers wishing to benefit from the Mazaya 2.0 Finance product, NBB said will benefit from attractive interest rates, smooth approval process with flexible finance repayment terms for up to 300 months. Future beneficiaries will enjoy free fire insurance as well as borrowing 100% of the total property value.

## Al Baraka Islamic Bank alBarakat scheme with BD100,000 Monthly Grand Prize



Mohammed Hassan Al Tamimi is the first monthly winner of alBarakat account with a cash prize of BD50,000

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank has recently announced Mohammed Hassan Al Tamimi as the first monthly winner of alBarakat account for the year 2023 with a cash prize of BD50,000. Al Baraka Islamic Bank also unveiled the new scheme of alBarakat account, launched in January 2023 with prizes amounting to more than BD1,000,000 for more than 330 winners.

The new scheme of alBarakat account will include weekly prizes of BD250 and BD500 for 12 weekly winners, in addition to monthly grand prizes of BD50,000 and BD100,000.

Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank said: "our congratulations go out to Mohammed Al Tamimi for winning January's Grand Prize of alBarakat. Also, it is with our great pleasure to announce the new alBarakat scheme, which offers bigger



Fatema AlAlawi

cash prizes on a monthly basis."

Al Barakat account offers customers many opportunities to win cash prizes throughout their investment period, by depositing a minimum of BD50 or USD135. Individuals of all nationalities over the age of 18 are eligible to open alBarakat Savings Account. The account can also be opened on behalf of minors by their guardians, as well as by institutions, companies and CR holders.

## Bank ABC closes US\$75 million term loan facility for the Industrial Bank of Kuwait

TDT | Manama

Bank ABC, one of MENA's leading international banks, announced closing a 3-year US\$ 75 million Term Loan Facility for Industrial Bank of Kuwait (IBK). The Facility, which was finalised in December 2022, was arranged by Bank ABC, acting as sole Arranger. The Bank also acted as the agent bank on this facility.

Bank ABC hosted a signing ceremony at its Head Office in Bahrain on Sunday. In attendance were Bank ABC's Acting Group CEO, Sael Al Waary and IBK's CEO, Ali A. Khajah along with other senior officials from both banks.

Al Waary said: "We look forward to serving IBK in our full



Bank ABC's Acting Group CEO, Sael Al Waary and IBK's CEO, Ali A. Khajah along with other senior officials from both banks during the signing ceremony.

capacity and further deepening our long-term relationship with them." Ali Khajah said

"We believe IBK will continue to strengthen its relationship with Bank ABC across all financial

services while promoting both organisations' mutual interests in the near future."

## BBK: We are continuously developing our insurance products to meet customers' needs

TDT | Manama

BBK, Bahrain's pioneer in retail and commercial banking, said it will continue to develop its motor, home and other insurance products to fulfil the needs of its existing and potential customers.

BBK said its insurance products have competitive advantages in terms of the coverage and price. Additionally, customers with a BBK credit card can pay for any insurance products they take up through an equal payment plan, consisting of monthly installments paid over the course of a year.



Dr Adel Salem

The bank said it also offers comprehensive and Takaful insurance, providing customers with multiple options to suit their specific needs. "Moreover, we have developed a system at

all its branches that issues insurance policies instantly, ensuring that customers are provided with a user-friendly, hassle-free experience."

BBK has been offering Secura-branded third-party insurance products for nearly 23 years, providing exclusive car insurance services to customers. These products are inclusive of benefits such as; 24-hour roadside assistance in Bahrain and the GCC, windshield cover, a replacement car in case of repairs in addition to agency maintenance for up to five years.

Dr Adel Salem, General Manager of Retail Banking at BBK,

said; "We are pleased to announce that BBK is diversifying its insurance portfolio with its highly competitive automotive, home and travel insurance products. We want to ensure that existing and future customers will be able to purchase the insurance product that provides them with the necessary security and protection should they need it."

Dr Salem explained that BBK's insurance products are always in demand which reflects the bank's stature and indicates the quality of BBK's insurance products within the Kingdom of Bahrain.

## Al Baqali named in NSC's 'CEOs Who Get It' list



Alba CEO is the only Arab on the list

This annual recognition highlights leaders who have built their organisations' Safety strategy

NSC is America's leading non-profit safety advocate

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), one of the world's largest aluminium smelters, announced yesterday that its Chief Executive Officer Ali Al Baqali, the only Arab in the list, has been named in National Safety Council (NSC)'s 'CEOs Who Get It' list for 2023, in recognition of his commitment to protect and elevate the Safety culture for Alba employees and Contractors' workers

across the Company.

This annual recognition by NSC highlights leaders who have built their organisations' Safety strategy using four key components: risk reduction, performance measurement, safety management solutions as well as leadership and employee engagement.

Alba's CEO Ali Al Baqali said: "We are Safety-minded as we have established the right balance between our top-down and the bottom-up management and the key to a strong Safety culture is in our hands."

"I set the tone and expectations for Safety; however, each one of our employees and contractors' personnel should act on them and prioritise Safety on the job and off the job."

The National Safety Council is America's leading non-profit safety advocate with the mission to save lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road through leadership, research, education and advocacy.

## India's Adani says to keep investing in Israel after Haifa port takeover

Reuters | Haifa, Israel

Indian magnate Gautam Adani said yesterday he would keep investing in Israel after his group took over one of the country's main ports.

The entrance of Adani has spurred Israel's leaders to revive hopes of creating a trade gateway connecting the Mediterranean port of Haifa and the

broader Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, which does not have ties with Israel.

Adani spoke at a ceremony in Haifa welcoming Adani Ports (APSE.NS) and local chemicals and logistics group Gadot - the partners who purchased the port for 4 billion shekels (\$1.15 billion).

The Indian billionaire did not speak about his group's re-

cent share sale or a scathing short-seller's report that has pummeled his stocks.

"We will transform the entire port landscape," Adani said. "Our intention is to make the right set of investments that will not just make the Adani-Gadot partnership proud, but will make the whole of Israel proud."

Adani joins China's Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG),

which opened in 2021 new piers across the bay in Haifa. The entry of major operators from Asia promises to boost Israel's standing as a regional trade hub.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the ceremony he was working to leverage the investments in Haifa to establish a trade route connecting the Mediterranean and the Gulf, bypassing the Suez Canal.



News in brief

◆ **The United States**

yesterday added seven Iranian entities to its trade blacklist for producing drones that Russia has used to attack Ukraine, according to a posting by the US Department of Commerce. The Iranian entities added to the blacklist are Design and Manufacturing of Aircraft Engines, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Aerospace Force, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization, Oje Parvaz Mado Nafar Company, Paravar Pars Company, Qods Aviation Industry, and Shahed Aviation Industries. The Commerce Department posting said the Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) produced are being transferred to Russia for use in Ukraine, activity that is contrary to US national security and foreign policy interests.



**US curbs exports to Iranian firms for producing drones for Russia**

◆ **China's new foreign**

minister Qin Gang wants to build stronger ties with Saudi Arabia and set up a China-Gulf free trade zone "as soon as possible", according to a ministry statement published late on Monday. Qin, who was just recently named to the position, made the suggestion in a telephone conversation with his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, adding that China highly appreciates Saudi Arabia's consistent firm support on issues involving China's core interests. He said the sides should further expand cooperation on economy, trade, energy, infrastructure, investment, finance, and high technology. In addition, Qin pressed for continuously strengthening the China-Gulf strategic partnership and building "the China-Gulf Free Trade Zone as soon as possible".

◆ **President Joe Biden's**

administration yesterday said it will end COVID-19 emergency declarations on May 11, nearly three years after the United States imposed sweeping pandemic measures to curb the spread of the illness. The COVID-19 national emergency and public health emergency (PHE) were put in place in 2020 by then-President Donald Trump. Biden has repeatedly extended the measures, which allow millions of Americans to receive free tests, vaccines and treatments. The White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) said in a statement the declarations, which were set to expire in the coming months, would be extended again until May 11 and then terminated.



**US to end COVID-19 emergency declarations on May 11**

◆ **The United States**

and its allies imposed further sanctions on Myanmar yesterday, marking the two-year anniversary of the coup with curbs on energy officials and members of the junta, among others. Washington imposed sanctions on the Union Election Commission, mining enterprises, energy officials and current and former military officials, according to a Treasury Department statement. Details of the U.S. move were first reported by Reuters. It marks the first time the United States has targeted Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) officials under the current Myanmar sanctions program, a Treasury spokesperson said. Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom also announced sanctions on Tuesday. Tuesday's U.S. move targets the managing director and deputy managing director of the state-owned MOGE, which is the junta's single largest revenue generating state-owned enterprise, according to the Treasury statement.

**CURIOSER & CURIOSER**

**Hunter Biden threatened to withhold cash-strapped assistant's pay if she didn't FaceTime him naked**

Daily Mail

Hunter Biden threatened one of his cash-strapped young female staffers with withholding her pay if she didn't FaceTime him for sex.

Shocking texts between the President's son, 52, and his young assistant, who was 29 at the time, show Hunter asking for video sex sessions and sending her cash via Apple Pay after she pleaded that she was struggling to make rent.

The woman, who DailyMail.com has chosen not to identify, worked as an assistant at Hunter's law firm, Owasco, in 2018 and 2019. She is the fourth employee he is known to have had a sexual relationship with.

Documents on his abandoned laptop show Hunter put his lover and brother's widow Hallie Biden on his company payroll, as well as her sister Liz Secundy, with whom he also had an affair, texts reveal.

He also hired his daughter's basketball coach, according to former stripper Lunden Rob-



Hunter had also put his one-time lover and brother's widow Hallie Biden (left) on his company payroll, as well as her sister Liz Secundy (right) with whom he had an affair, texts reveal



Lunden Roberts eventually had to sue Hunter for child support

erts, but ended her employment and stopped responding to her messages after she told him she was pregnant with his child. Roberts eventually had to sue him for child support.

Messages and emails involving his now 33-year-old assistant first appear on Hunter's laptop in June 2018, when he flew her from Los Angeles to Washington DC.

# Russia claims village of Bakhmut in big push

● **Russia says captures Bakhmut, days after Wagner claimed it**

● **Biden says 'no' when asked about F-16s for Ukraine**

● **Zelenskiy says Moscow seeks 'revenge'**

● **UK says Russia assaults Vuhledar with at least a brigade**

● **Russia's gains this month biggest since mid-2022**

Reuters | Kyiv

Russia claimed yesterday to have captured a village on the northern outskirts of the city of Bakhmut, which it is attempting to surround in a big push for what would be its biggest prize in Ukraine since last summer.

There was no immediate response from Kyiv to Moscow's claim about the village of Blahodatne, and Reuters was not immediately able to verify the



A convoy of Ukraine-bound Bradley Fighting Vehicles load onto the carrier ARC Integrity at the Transportation Core Dock in North Charleston, South Carolina



Ukrainian servicemen set up a mortar for troops, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in the region, Ukraine



**Military experts say Moscow appears determined to push forward in the coming months before Kyiv receives hundreds of newly pledged Western tanks and armoured vehicles for a counter-attack to recapture occupied territory this year.**

situation there. It came three days after the head of Russia's Wagner Group said the mercenary force had seized the village in an attack Kyiv said it had repelled.

The village, which sits on one of the main roads into Bakhmut, about 5 km (3 miles) north, was captured with the help of aerial support, Moscow's defence ministry said in a statement.

Moscow has made clear, if gradual, advances in the area in recent weeks, notably capturing the salt-mining town of Soledar to Bakhmut's north.

Were it to force Ukraine to withdraw from the city that once

held 75,000 people, it would be Moscow's first big prize since it took the similarly-sized cities of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk in July.

During the fighting for Bakhmut, two civilians, a boy and a 70 year-old-man, were killed in a Russian artillery attack on Tuesday, regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said. Four others were wounded in the attack, he said.

Separately, a large Russian force has launched an assault against the Ukrainian-held bastion of Vuhledar this week, further south along the same eastern front. Russian officials have claimed to have

# Families seek loved ones after Pakistan mosque blast

● **All but three of 100 dead are police**

● **At least 170 people were wounded**

● **Rescue work continues to clear mosque rubble**

● **No group has officially owned the attack**

● **Peshawar sits on the edge of the Pashtun tribal lands, a region mired in violence for the past two decades**

● **Attack happens amid political, economic crisis**

Reuters | Peshawar, Pakistan

Distraught relatives thronged hospitals in Pakistan's Peshawar yesterday to look for their kin a day after a suicide bombing ripped through a crowded mosque in a heavily fortified area of the city, killing 100 people, all but three of them police.

The attack, in the Police Lines district, was the deadliest in a decade to hit this restive, north-western city near the Afghan border and comes amid a surge in violence against the police.



Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan Asim Munir and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visit an injured, after a suicide blast in a mosque, at a hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan



People and rescue workers gather amid the aftermath of the mosque blast

"My son, my child," cried an elderly woman walking alongside an ambulance carrying coffins, as rescue workers stretched wounded people to a hospital emergency unit.

At least 170 people were wounded in the blast, which demolished the upper storey of the mosque as hundreds of worshippers performed noon prayers.

Riaz Mahsud, a senior local government official, said the casualty toll was likely to rise as workers searched through the debris.

"So far, 100 bodies have been brought to Lady Reading Hospital," a spokesman for the largest medical facility in the city, Mo-

hammad Asim, said in a statement.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah told parliament that 97 of the 100 were police officials.

Authorities say they do not know how the bomber managed to breach the military and police checkpoints leading into the Police Lines district, a colonial-era, self-contained encampment in the city centre that is home to middle- and lower-ranking police personnel and their families.

Given the security concerns in Peshawar, the mosque was built to allow police to pray without leaving the area. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said the bomber was in the first row in the prayer

hall when he struck.

The attack is the deadliest in Peshawar since twin suicide bombings at All Saints Church killed scores of worshippers in September 2013, in what is the deadliest attack on Pakistan's Christian minority.

Peshawar sits on the edge of the Pashtun tribal lands, a region mired in violence for the past two decades. The most active militant group in the area is the Pakistani Taliban, also called Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella group for Sunni and sectarian Islamist factions opposed to the government in Islamabad.

No group has officially owned



1587

Queen Elizabeth I of England signs death warrant for her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots

1979

Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran after 15 years in exile

2003

Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrates during reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts aboard.



2021  
Military stage a coup in Myanmar, detaining civilian leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi and declare a one-year state of emergency

# in outskirts in east



firing it towards positions of Russian in the outskirts of Bakhmut, Donetsk

gained a foothold there, while Kyiv says it has largely repelled that attack so far.

Britain's Ministry of Defence said the Russian force in the new Vuhledar assault was at least the size of a brigade, a unit typically comprising several thousand troops. The Russians had advanced hundreds of metres across a river toward Vuhledar and could make more localised gains there, the ministry said in an unusually detailed daily intelligence update. It said the assault on Vuhledar was unlikely to lead to a significant breakthrough, but could be intended to draw Ukrainian effort

away from defending Bakhmut.

**F-16: BIDEN SAYS NO**  
The West has so far refused to send weapons that could be used to attack deep inside Russia, a line countries still seem unwilling to cross. US President Joe Biden responded with a flat "No" when asked by reporters at the White House on Monday if Washington would send F-16s.

Macron said any move to send jets would depend on factors including the need to avoid escalation and assurances the aircraft would not "touch Russian soil".

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki also did not rule out a possible supply of F-16s to neighbouring Ukraine, in response to a question from a reporter before Biden spoke.

Morawiecki said in remarks posted on his website that any such transfer would take place "in complete coordination" with NATO. Poland has long pushed for more aggressive military support for Ukraine.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesperson said on Tuesday London did not believe its own jets would be useful.

"The UK's ... fighter jets are extremely sophisticated and take months to learn how to fly. Given that, we believe it is not practical to send those jets into Ukraine," the spokesperson told reporters.

# ast kills 100



the damages

the attack, but Sanaullah said a breakaway faction of the TTP called Khurasani had claimed responsibility.

The TTP denied responsibility, though it has stepped up attacks since withdrawing from a peace deal with the government last year.

The policy to release militants under an amnesty as part of the deal has resulted in the bombing, Sanaullah said, adding that some of the militants who were set free also included some on death row.

The bombing took place a day before an IMF mission arrived in Islamabad for talks on a stalled \$7 billion bailout.

## Airbus and Qatar edge towards agreement in A350 dispute

Reuters | Paris

Airbus (AIR.PA) and Qatar Airways are edging towards an agreement to settle a bitter dispute over grounded A350 jets, two people familiar with the matter said yesterday.

After months of public feuding, there is no guarantee that an agreement can be reached, after previous attempts to avoid a high-profile trial in London this year were abandoned.

But two of the sources said the tone appeared more encouraging and negotiations had accelerated after some political activity and an uneventful four-way meeting between the two sides and their respective regulators in Doha last week.

"There will be an agreement," one of the sources said, while another cautioned that the talks were still ongoing.

Diplomatic sources told Reuters this month that French President Emmanuel Macron and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani had spoken again about the dispute in recent weeks.

## Abbas blames Israel for violence

Reuters | Jerusalem

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas blamed Israel yesterday for a sharp escalation of violence in the West Bank as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged calm on both sides and reaffirmed Washington's commitment to a two state solution.

Calling for "the complete cessation of unilateral Israeli actions, which violate the signed agreements and international law", Abbas reiterated the Palestinians' longstanding demand for Israel to end its occupation.

"We are now ready to work



Blinken meets with Abbas in Ramallah

with the US administration and the international community to restore political dialogue in order to end the Israeli occu-

pation of the land of the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital," he said in a statement.

## France hit by new wave of strikes against Macron's pension reform

● Reform would raise retirement age to 64 from 62

● Schools, transport networks, refinery deliveries affected

● Macron: Reform vital to ensure pension system's viability

Reuters | Paris

Striking workers disrupted French refinery deliveries, public transport and schools yesterday in a second day of nationwide protests over President Emmanuel Macron's plan to make people work longer before retirement.

Huge crowds marched through cities across France to denounce a reform that raises the retirement age by two years to 64 and poses a test of Macron's ability to push through change now that he has lost his working majority in parliament.

On the rail networks, only one in three high-speed TGV trains were operating and even fewer local and regional trains. Services on the Paris metro were thrown into disarray.

Marching behind banners



Passengers stand on a platform during a strike by Paris transport network (RATP) workers at Saint-Lazare metro station in Paris

reading "No to the reform" or "We won't give up," many said they would take to the streets as often as needed for the government to back down.

"We won't drive until we're 64!" bus driver Isabelle Texier said at a protest in Saint-Nazaire on the Atlantic coast.

"For the president, it's easy. He sits in a chair ..., he can work until he's 70, even," she said. "We can't ask roof layers to work until 64, it's not possible."

After Jan. 19, when more than a million people took to the streets on the first nationwide strike day, unions said initial data from protests across the country showed a bigger turnout.

"It's better than on the 19th ... It's a real message sent to

the government, saying we don't want the 64 years," Laurent Berger, who leads CFDT, France's largest union, said ahead of the Paris march.

Opinion polls show a substantial majority of the French oppose the reform, but Macron intends to stand his ground. The reform is "vital" to ensuring the viability of the pension system, he said on Monday.

Some felt resigned amid bargaining between Macron's ruling alliance and conservative opponents who are more open to pension reform than the left.

"There's no point in going on strike. This bill will be adopted in any case," said 34-year-old Matthieu Jacquot, who works in the luxury sector.

## Huge crowds welcome pope to Congo for start of Africa trip

Reuters | Kinshasa

Huge crowds cheered for Pope Francis as he travelled into the Democratic Republic of Congo capital Kinshasa in his popemobile yesterday, beginning a visit that will highlight the human cost of decades of conflict in the vast central African country.

Francis is the first pope to visit Congo since John Paul II in 1985, when it was still known as Zaire. About half of Congo's population of 90 million are Roman Catholics.

Tens of thousands of people lined the route from Kinshasa airport into town, with some breaking away to chase the pope's convoy while others



Pope Francis waves as he is welcomed by residents of Kinshasa

chanted and waved Congolese and Vatican flags in one of the most vibrant welcomes of his foreign trips.

At the airport earlier, the 86-year-old pope, who struggles to walk due to a chron-



Residents of Kinshasa celebrate

ic knee ailment, was lowered from his plane, then pushed in a wheelchair onto a red carpet leading to the terminal. Congolese Prime Minister Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde greeted him, then accompanied him inside.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Two-thirds of the population of Yemen - 21.6 million people - will need humanitarian assistance & protection services this year. While Yemen is no longer in a state of full-scale war, this is not the time to step back from its people.  
[@antonioguterres](#)

02



The Economic Survey presents a comprehensive analysis of India's growth trajectory including the global optimism towards our nation, focus on infra, growth in agriculture, industries and emphasis on futuristic sectors.  
[@narendramodi](#)

03



Starlink is now available in Nigeria - the first African country to receive service! <http://starlink.com/map>  
[@elonmusk](#)

04



Hard work never stops  
[@Cristiano](#)



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



# CAMPUS

## Schools send warm messages on International Education Day

● **The Education Ministry's efforts have resulted in reducing the illiteracy rate to less than 2.4 per cent**

**Zahra Ayaz**  
TDT | Manama

On International Education Day which is held every year on 24th January, the Kingdom's private schools

had warm messages to remind citizens of the importance of education.

The future of the Kingdom and the well-being of its citizens are directly related to the quality of education it provides to its children and adolescents.

Vice Principal of the Indian School, Anand Nair said, "The International Education Day is a testimony of our trust with Educational excellence. Galloping on the path, we together embark on a journey of knowledge and learning."



**K Gopinath Menon, Principal of The New Indian School**

"Tamoso ma Jyotirgama which means lead me from darkness to light has been the value which The Indian School Bahrain stood for and we resolve to fortify our commitment with every student; with every learner. We are committed to excellence in Education. Best wishes on the occasion of The International Education Day."

K Gopinath Menon, Principal of The New Indian School told, "The International Education Day, this year is dedicated to

the Afghan women and girls, as we all know education must be priorities so that there is no inequality and right to education is of the universal declaration of human rights.

"Education offers children a ladder to a promising future so on behalf of the New Indian School management, let me extend the wishes to everyone on account of The International Education Day.

"Education provides a lifelong opportunity to everyone and the youth should be empowered by

education."

Meanwhile on this occasion, in recognition of the joint educational cooperation between the two sister countries, the Ministry of Education met his Emirati counterpart.

A meeting was held between the two ministries of education where important academic and educational concerns were discussed as well as perspectives on various fields, particularly in the sphere of higher education, according to the Ministry of Education.



**Indian School celebrates Punjabi Divas:** The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated Punjabi Divas with the zeal and energy of Punjab, its rich culture and literature on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at the school's Jashanmal auditorium. The programme was organised by the Department of Punjabi in vibrant colours. Chief Guest Businessperson Harinder Bir Singh Lamba and Guest of Honour Tilak Dua (Managing Director, ABIC Group of Companies) inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. School Executive Committee member Mohammad Khurshed Alam, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Vice-Principals, Head Teachers and Heads of Departments attended. In his speech the chief guest Harinder Bir Singh Lamba highlighted the contribution of the state of Punjab in different fields of the country. He appreciated the efforts put in by the students and the teachers to make the Punjabi Day celebrations a grand success. Guest of Honour Tilak Dua congratulated the students, staff and management for the exemplary celebrations. EC member Mohammad Khurshed Alam in his speech said Punjabi language is a very important and vibrant language in the world today. Principal VR Palaniswamy presented mementos to the guests.

### Bhavans - BIS celebrates Indian Republic Day



Bahrain Indian School (BIS) celebrated Indian Republic Day with a special assembly. Children recalled the sacrifices of freedom fighters and how Constitution of India came in to existence. Students provided the information on why do we celebrate Republic Day and presented a dance on the tunes of patriotic songs. Students of Kindergarten, dressed in tricolour, made crafts based on republic day and was followed by sharing the significance behind the celebration. Principal Saji Jacob applauded the students for their tremendous effort and spoke about the glory of the nation. Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma wished everyone Happy Republic Day

### Indian School celebrates Republic Day

TDT | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated the 74th Republic Day with patriotic fervour on Thursday.

The students took pride in glorifying and celebrating the spirit of unity and brotherhood.

The school echoed with patriotic songs as children danced to the tunes of patriotic songs, sang patriotic songs, and were dressed up in tri-coloured costumes to mark the occasion. ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan launched the celebrations by unfurling the national flag on the school premises in Isa Town.

Secretary Saji Antony, Vice-Chairman Jayafar Maidani, Executive Committee Members Binu Mannil Varughese, Mohammad Khurshed Alam, Premalatha NS, Rajesh MN, Ajayakrishnan V, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Riffa campus Principal Pamela Xavier, Staff Representative Johnson K Devassy, Vice-Principals, staff and students attended the ceremony.

National salute and national anthem were followed by the pa-

triotic song by the school band. Grade V students presented the invocation dance. Principal VR Palaniswamy welcomed the gathering.

On this occasion, Prince S Natarajan who presided the function enlightened the students of the importance of Republic Day and implementation of the Constitution.

Natarajan highlighted the significance of the Republic Day which is celebrated to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution, which came into effect on this day in 1950.

Bahrain Under 19 cricket team members and ISB band members were presented certificates for their excellence and meritorious service for the school.

Patriotic songs, dance and Punjabi dance reflected the cultural variety of incredible India. Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, Principals VR Palaniswamy and Pamela Xavier congratulated the students and teachers for their active participation in organizing the Republic Day in a grand style.





# Classifieds



Call us on +973 36458394  
email: advt@newsfbahrain.com

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**HAJI HASSAN READYMIX B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785353 or VIJESH.NAIR@HAJIHASSAN.COM

**Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me

**Eastern Asphalt & Mixed Concrete Co. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252078 or S.RADHI@EAMCO.BH

**EAST ARAB CONTRACTING ESTABLISHMENT** has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17713731 or EASTARABCON@GMAIL.COM

**MACDONALD** has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39468818 or amal.almousawi@fakro.com

**NASEEF W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000201 or FALDOSERY@GMAIL.COM

**NASEEF W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000201 or FALDOSERY@GMAIL.COM

**NASEEF W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000201 or FALDOSERY@GMAIL.COM

**AL BAZ INDUSTRIAL WORKS MAINTENANCE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66380032 or ALBAZ.BH@GMAIL.COM

**MYZ Facilities Management** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66908895 or shaadmankhaan@gmail.com

**Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me

**TWO CORNERS CLEANING CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33939913 or ATTOOLY@HOTMAIL.COM

**Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

**Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

**AL GANNAS CONTRACTING & TRADING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39988578 or AL.GANAS2003@HOTMAIL.COM

**La vierge beauty lounge** has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36993636 or FATIAL3LVAN@GMAIL.COM

**DREAM HOME FOR AIR CONDITIONING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39963495 or SUBAIRMANCHERI@GMAIL.COM

**FAROOQ AHMED SAIN Contracting Co W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33165228 or F33165228@GMAIL.COM

**CATEGNA TOURIST RESTAURANT COMPANY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17710123 or YONASZEWDI07@GMAIL.COM

**FIVE LOOK ONE W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33440122 or JALI82912@GMAIL.COM

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**RAHEELA CARGO HANDLING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33163858

**MACDONALDS** has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or HR@FAKHRO.COM

**SHAHID ALI INTERIOR W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38354637 or SHAHIDALI.BH.PK@GMAIL.COM

**AMAL PALACE 74 OTHER BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32001672 or AMELESHEIKH74@GMAIL.COM

**SUPERIOR LINKS TRAVELS CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34569303 or SUPERIORLINKSBH@OUTLOOK.COM

**BUPAK MANAGEMENT COMPANY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38398065 or JEHLUM.CONTRACTING94@GMAIL.COM

**ATMR PROPERTY AND MANAGEMENT W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34305662 or MOHAMMAD.AZSCW@GMAIL.COM

**DURAT SAR CARGO HANDLING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34113333 or BU.CASH.CASH@GMAIL.COM

**IBN SHAH CONSTRUCTION OF FLOATING STRUCTURES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33240566 or ASUSE3324@GMAIL.COM

**LAHORE QALANDAR BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35954866 or ZAIWAZIRBH@GMAIL.COM

**SALMAN HAMAD ISMAIL CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33495428 or SALMANHAMADBH1@GMAIL.COM

**SADQO MERZA AHMED ABDULLA** has a vacancy for the occupation of FARMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33007765 or SADIQMERZA7@GMAIL.COM

**FAREEDA MOHAMED EBRAHIM ALHUSAINI** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17440032 or ABDULLA.KAZIM1@GMAIL.COM

**FAREEDA MOHAMED EBRAHIM ALHUSAINI** has a vacancy for the occupation of WATCHMAN / GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17440032 or ABDULLA.KAZIM1@GMAIL.COM

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**DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

**BRIGHT CASTLES CONTRACTING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001335 or BRIGHT-CASTLES@HOTMAIL.COM

**VIBRANT SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17615858 or JALALEBRAHIM@GMAIL.COM

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**BEST MUGHAL SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36130533 or TAHIRMUGHAL325@GMAIL.COM

**A.HADI JAFFAR ALI A.ALI / ALTAIR ALMUHAJER-7621** has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39833841 or AH5894791@GMAIL.COM

**ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or VIJESH.NAIR@HAJIHASSAN.COM

**HAJI HASSAN READYMIX B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785353 or VIJESH.NAIR@HAJIHASSAN.COM

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contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

**AWAL WORKSHOP A/C & REFRIGERATION REPAIRS** has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17293388 or hr1@gulfstarbh.com

**AWAL WORKSHOP A/C & REFRIGERATION REPAIRS** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17293388 or hr1@gulfstarbh.com

**YOUSIF KHALIL ALMOAYED & SONS CO.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211211 or AQEEL@ALMOAYYED.COM.BH

**NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED)** has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or NASSERAB@BATELCO.COM.BH

**ALMOAYYED ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION SYSTEMS** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES ENGINEER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888838 or ALIHASSAN@ALMOAYYEDINTL.COM.BH

**SHUTDOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742961 or SMSWLL@BATELCO.COM.BH

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**BNP PARIBAS** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(CUSTOMER SERVICES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17866188 or MEA.RECRUITMENT@BNPPARIBAS.COM

**ALMOAYED WILHELMSEN (LTD.) W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (FREIGHT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17813000 or hussein.a.redha@wilhelmsen.com

**ARAB POULTRY & LIVE- STOCK CO.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39691654 or arabpoultry@hotmail.com

**ABUOBAID CONTRACTING & TRADING GROUP** has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36552200 or abuobaidgroup@gmail.com

**NATIONAL EXCAVATING EST. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39455537 or NEEWLL@BATELCO.COM.BH

**AHMED QAED CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826260 or info@CIHBAHRAIN.COM

**Awai ready mix concrete company** has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700077 or m\_jaffar@BUREAU VERITAS has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877574 or BVBRN@BATELCO.COM.BH

**NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L)** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

**ABDULHAMEED ALKHAWAJA STORES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39731885 or RHOUCEL22@YAHOO.COM

**ALSHAKER SALON** has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39777065 or Abed.16@hotmail.com

**MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE** has a vacancy for the occupation of INSULATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39667181 or mjmh69@hotmail.com

**MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39667181 or mjmh69@hotmail.com

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**Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can

contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me

**ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY TRUCK), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

**ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

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**AL KOBRA CLEANING EST** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17232500 or HR@ALKOBRAGROUP.COM

**ALMOAYYED SECURITY** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

**C.N. OVERSEAS SERVICES WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17590191 or seema.sajeev@cityneongroup.com

**Dolphin Technical Services** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39145155 or Admin@DOLPHINCARGO-BH.COM

**ABU ADNAN GARAGE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17280720 or AKRAMHUSAINI22@HOTMAIL.COM

**ATLAS COPCO SERVICES -MIDDLE EAST** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33533315 or MOHAMED.REDA@ATLASCOPCO.COM

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**NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L)** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

**JAWHARAT AL ZAIN ABAYAS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 11807101 or ZZAM8285@GMAIL.COM

**AL AMJAD CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36609992 or alamjadhb@gmail.com

**FANCY GOLDSMITH WORKSHOP BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39665061 or HNIN.ALRO7@HOTMAIL.COM

**HORTI LANDSCAPE W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36383555 or hassan@emaar.bh

**NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L)** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

**CLASSICO AL EMARAT CAR SEAT UPHOLSTERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39966665 or ALAMEEDMOTORS@GMAIL.COM

**ARMAN HOTEL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (HOTEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39655474 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

**ALSHAIKH YOUSIF CLEANING** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17879868 or HUSSAIBSHK@GMAIL.COM

**MOTOR CITY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANOO.COM.BH

**ARSLAN CARGO SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39092475 or ASMABIBI641@GMAIL.COM

**NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L)** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

**AL AREEN LEISURE AND TOURISM CO THE LOST PARADISE OF DILMUN W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAD OF COOK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17845151 or ADNAN.ASLAM@LPODWATERPARK.COM

**AIDA GARDENS W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17695267 or JINESH71@GMAIL.COM

**TAMCON CONTRACTING CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636624 or h.bukhamas@tamcon.bh

vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33317040 or YR728@LIVE.COM

**NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L)** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

**ASSET HOMES CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17490065 or ASSETHOMECEO@GMAIL.COM

**KOTTAKKAL AYURVEDIC CENTRE W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17813150 or Kmrkbh@gmail.com

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**NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L)** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

**AL SHOMOOS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39606407 or ALWESAM71@HOTMAIL.COM

**AL SHOMOOS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39606407 or ALWESAM71@HOTMAIL.COM

**AL SHOMOOS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 396



# Classifieds



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**KADER MOLLA CONTRACTING AND SUPPLY CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **WORKER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35611928 or ALABER1@HOTMAIL.COM  
**SPRING FIELDS LIVESTOCK W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **SALES AGENT**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33189888 or WASEEMWALID@GMAIL.COM  
**PROSPECT WOOD INDUSTRIES FACTORY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **CARPENTER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39981991 or KHALIDFARGHLI@YAHOO.COM  
**Le soir beauty salon** has a vacancy for the occupation of **BEAUTICIAN**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34108673 or NAWALALTAITOOON@YAHOO.COM  
**BALJIT SERVICES AND AC REPAIRING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of

**WORKER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35101234 or SINGH72045@GMAIL.COM  
**TRADERS VICS CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **ARTIST(DISPLAY)**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17586906 or TARIQ.SHARIF@RITZCARLTON.COM  
**COIN Systems Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **TECHNICIAN**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34234066 or AKPRABHURAJ@YAHOO.COM  
**SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL GROUP W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **PAINTER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17703242 or SUNDAY@BATELCO.COM.BH  
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**AL AREEN LEISURE AND TOURISM BALJIT SERVICES AND AC REPAIRING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of

**ARTIST(DISPLAY)**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17845151 or ADNAN.ASLAM@LPODWATERPARK.COM  
**Secure Me W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **SECURITY GUARD**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com  
**URBASER BHRAIN CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **CLEANER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajjinath@urbaser.com  
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**THASHAKEEL BABY BOUTIQUE W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **SALESMAN**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17413894 or HIJAZTK@GMAIL.COM  
**WINNERS PACK TRADING CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **WORKER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39475757 or BU-KHALID@HOTMAIL.COM

**KAFED** has a vacancy for the occupation of **COFFEE SERVER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888060 or KAFFEINATED@HOTMAIL.COM  
**Last Mile Logistics W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **DRIVER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or government@mre.co  
**BHAJA INDIAN RESTAURANTS CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **WAITER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717555 or INFO@ZAYYANI.COM  
**MYLA Contracting W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **STEEL FABRICATOR**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38413331 or srinivas@mylacontracting.com  
**AL FOUZAN TRADING AND GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CO. -BRANCH OF FOREIG** has a vacancy for the occupation of **PLUMBER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32322748 or Bahrain.project@alfouzan.com  
**S and H FOR Electronic Devices Trading W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **FINANCIAL ANALYST**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33377179 or AMERHEGAB2025@GMAIL.COM

**CANOLLY SPA Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **MASSEUR**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33000558 or CANOLLYSPA@GMAIL.COM  
**CLARA BOUTIQUE** has a vacancy for the occupation of **TAILOR**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34348656 or CLARAOUTLET@GMAIL.COM  
**TECHNO ARTS W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **WORKER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36776979 or NIJU.TECHNOFAB@GMAIL.COM  
**ERAJ CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **OFFICE ASSISTANT**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35947209 or ASMA.MINHAS005@GMAIL.COM  
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**AADS ARTISTIC PRODUCTIONS W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **MESSENGER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39748041 or SREEJA@COLOURSBHRAIN.COM

**AL HARMI GROUP CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **LABOURER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33367000 or WADYALSAIL1@GMAIL.COM  
**NEST TECH TECHNOLOGY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **WORKER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35330746 or BUTTDAUDALAM@GMAIL.COM  
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**FAHEH CONSULTANCY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **SALES MANAGER**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33205666 or ASMA.CHALLAL94@GMAIL.COM  
**CAZA DINE RESTAURANT W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of **KITCHEN AIDE**, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34309191 or ASR2TT@GMAIL.COM

## Alec Baldwin, armorer to be charged over 'Rust' shooting

Reuters | Los Angeles



Alec Baldwin

Actor Alec Baldwin and armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed will be charged on Tuesday with involuntary manslaughter for the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of Western "Rust" in 2021, a New Mexico prosecutor said.

The charges follow 15 months of speculation whether District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altewies would find evidence Baldwin showed criminal disregard for safety when a revolver he was rehearsing with fired a live round that killed Hutchins.

The "30 Rock" actor has denied responsibility for the shooting, saying he cocked the revolver but never pulled the trigger and it was the job of Gutierrez-Reed and other weapons professionals to ensure it was unloaded.

The most serious charge - which carries five years in jail - would require prosecutors to convince a jury Baldwin was not just negligent but reckless in his use of a firearm.

"The evidence and facts

speak for themselves," Heather Brewer, a spokeswoman for Carmack-Altewies' office, said in a statement.

A sheriff's office investigation has yet to reveal how live ammunition got onto the set outside Santa Fe.

Legal analysts have said prosecutors will struggle to win convictions without proof Baldwin and Gutierrez-Reed knew live ammunition was present but took no precautions.

Industry-wide firearms safety guidelines instruct actors to assume a firearm is loaded with blanks and rely on professional weapons handlers to ensure it is safe to use. Live ammunition is strictly forbidden on sets.

## Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra debut daughter Malti at Walk of Fame ceremony



Priyanka Chopra and Malti Marie Chopra Jonas attend the event  
Page Six | Los Angeles

Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra's daughter, Malti, made her adorable debut at the Jonas Brothers' Walk of Fame ceremony on Monday.

The actress carried the 1-year-old at the Los Angeles event, marking her first public appearance with the lit-



## Britney Spears returns to Instagram, declares she's 'not having a breakdown'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Britney Spears has returned to Instagram and declared she is "not having a breakdown".

The 41-year-old pop star has revived her page on the social media platform a week after taking it down

- which prompted worried fans to call in authorities to perform a welfare check on her - and she's now shared a lengthy post insisting she has "never felt better".

In a post, Britney wrote: "Since everyone thinks they know my story. Think again!! "A mere side of any given Sunday doesn't show worship placing someones story out there ... it's a day of welcom-



The Jonas Brothers attend the Hollywood Walk of Fame star ceremony

ing ... not a righteous reply!!! It is what it is ... nope I'm not having a breakdown ... I am who I am and moving forward in my life. I have never felt better!!!"

Britney went on to call herself "River Red" - a name she has previously used for herself on social media - and declared she's simply enjoying being able to speak freely after spending more than a

decade being controlled by a conservatorship. She also insisted she's actually "boring as hell" and doesn't drink alcohol because she's realised she doesn't like it.

The "Toxic" star added: "I'm not this girl or that girl ... I am River Red ... and being able to volumise my voice in a world where I lost my rights ... for 15 years ... gives me an opportunity to succeed !!! ...

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **SHABBIR** s/o Shafaqat holding **INDIAN PASSPORT NO. U0904549** dated 21.05.2020 issued at **MANAMA BAHRAIN**, having permanent residence at Shafaqat Husain, Bohra Gali, Mohiti Poul, Partapgharh, Pin 312605, Rajasthan presently residing at Apartment no. 31, Building 505, Road.1111, Tubli 711, Bahrain will henceforth be known as **SHABBIR SHAFQAT** (surname) **SHAFQAT**.  
Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to **EMBASSY OF INDIA**, P.O. Box 26106 Al Seef, **KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**.

**SUDOKU**

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104

**Across**

1- Ark passenger; 4- Burrowing animals; 9- Slip; 14- Modern art; 15- To talk, usually in a pompous manner; 16- Truman's birthplace; 17- Purity; 19- Suggest; 20- Ascends; 21- Beat; 23- Planetary revolution; 24- Hi hi; 27- Trick ending; 18- Done, to Done; 22- Organ of hearing; 24- Dynamic beginning; 25- Vichyssoise ingredient; 26- On in years; 28- Bridal path; 29- Lustful deity; 30- Plain writing; 31- Mead subject; 33- Milk container; 34- Model Campbell; 35- Onlooker; 36- Actor Vigoda; 38- Popular rental; 40- Cried; 41- Mayberry moppet; 43- Lobster eggs; 46- IV units; 47- Picks up the check; 49- Sudden forward thrust; 51- Sin; 52- Awkward boors; 53- Early Peruvians; 54- Cockeyed; 56- Hwy's; 57- -bits; 58- Summer hrs; 59- Second sequel tag; 61- Buddhist temple; 62- Comedian Phillips; 63- Sun. talk;

**Down**

1- Like a sasquatch; 2- Golfer with an army; 3- Brainy bunch; 4- Soft shoes; 5- Galena, e.g.; 6- PC linkup; 7- Catchall abbr.; 8- Do a slow burn; 9- Meager; 10- Lanterns; 11- Of great significance; 12- Indian dish; 13- Trick ending; 18- Done, to Done; 22- Organ of hearing; 24- Dynamic beginning; 25- Vichyssoise ingredient; 26- On in years; 28- Bridal path; 29- Lustful deity; 30- Plain writing; 31- Mead subject; 33- Milk container; 34- Model Campbell; 35- Onlooker; 36- Actor Vigoda; 38- Popular rental; 40- Cried; 41- Mayberry moppet; 43- Lobster eggs; 46- IV units; 47- Picks up the check; 49- Sudden forward thrust; 51- Sin; 52- Awkward boors; 53- Early Peruvians; 54- Cockeyed; 56- Hwy's; 57- -bits; 58- Summer hrs; 59- Second sequel tag; 61- Buddhist temple; 62- Comedian Phillips; 63- Sun. talk;

Yesterday's solution

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



# Bahrain gets massive boost for aquatic sports

World Aquatics and Bahrain Olympic Committee announce Centre of Excellence at University of Technology Bahrain

● Elite athletes to have access to the centre to enhance their training capabilities

● Development athletes to receive on-site coaching and educational support

TDI | Manama

World Aquatics and the Bahrain Olympic Committee have announced plans to create a centre of excellence and regional office for aquatic sports in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in partnership with GFH Financial Group and the Bahrain Swimming Federation.

This partnership will see World Aquatics establish its centre at The University of Technology Bahrain (UTB). World Aquatics' elite athletes will have access to the centre, enabling them to enhance their training capabilities.

Development athletes will also have access to the new facility, where they will receive on-site coaching and educational support through World Aquatics' Development programmes.

"World Aquatics could not have asked for better partners than in Bahrain, as demonstrated by our bold plans for a centre of excellence here that will serve as an example to the world," said World Aquatics President Husain Al-Musallam.



From left, Brent Nowicki, Faris Al Kooheji and Hisham Alrayes during the signing of the agreement. Picture by ASHEN THARAKA

"Our high-performance athletes are at their best when they can benefit from the right mix of facilities, coaching and sports science. World Aquatics is determined to ensure that this mix is available to athletes from all our national federations. And we are delighted to include an educational component with the help of the University of Technology Bahrain.

"Aquatic sports are universally important. Both the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and the World Aquatics Championships Budapest 2022 saw over 180 nations represented. We are grateful to Bahrain and to the hosts of our other development centres for their help in ensuring aquatic athletes everywhere have the chance to fulfil their true potential."

World Aquatics currently has operating development centres in Thanyapura (Thailand), Dakar (Senegal), Cape Town (South

Africa) and Davie (Florida, US).

The plans announced for Bahrain also include new pools capable of hosting events in five of the six World Aquatics sports: swimming, water polo, artistic swimming, diving, and high diving. The sixth sport, open water swimming, is already well-served from Bahrain's beaches.

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President, is a renowned open water swimmer, having completed the 31.5km swim linking the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with Bahrain, across the Gulf of Bahrain.

"Bahrain is a nation of islands, united by the water that surrounds us," HH Shaikh Khalid said. "With an ever increasing diversity of partnerships, Bahrain continues to be one of the



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, fourth from right, with other officials at the event

With an ever increasing diversity of partnerships, Bahrain continues to be one of the leading sports hubs in the world. We have a very clear understanding of the value of aquatic sports, and we are excited to contribute to the future of World Aquatics, not just for Bahrain but for our region and the world

HH SHAIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

leading sports hubs in the world. We have a very clear understanding of the value of aquatic sports, and we are excited to contribute to the future of World Aquatics, not just for Bahrain but for our region and the world.

"We look forward to hosting leading aquatic athletes from the different nations, and to help them achieve their sporting dreams, both as development athletes and as participants in World Aquatics competitions."

"Today we have witnessed a historic agreement where the private sector will fully align with the government's vision of promoting sports tourism in the Kingdom of Bahrain," stated Faris Al Kooheji, Secretary General of the BOC. "GFH could not be more excited to partner on this initiative, which has such importance for the Kingdom of Bahrain and for World Aquatics," said GFH's CEO and UTB Chairman Hisham Alrayes. "The project aligns with GFH and UTB's long-time commitment and ongoing support for the further development and promotion of Bahrain as a leading regional centre for education and sports tourism.

"We look forward to working with World Aquatics and the Bahrain Olympic Committee to create a unique platform to attract aquatic athletes from the region and around the world to gather, train and develop their skills in Bahrain and to support the realisation of their potential in sport alongside that of the Kingdom."

Also present at yesterday's signing ceremony were Secretary General and Deputy Chairman of the Higher Education Council Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa; World Aquatics executive director Brent Nowicki; Minister of Sport, Arts and Recreation of Zimbabwe Kirsty Coventry, who is an ex-international swimmer, a former Olympic and world champion as well as a world record holder; Greek artistic swimmer and Olympian Evangelia Platanioti; and other officials and guests.

## Bahrain Drag Racing Championship set for epic climax in season-finale this weekend at BIC

TDI | Manama

The 2022/2023 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship is set for an epic climax this weekend as Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts the season's fifth and final round from yesterday to Friday in Sakhir.

Intense title battles have been brewing across the series' 13 categories and they will all be settled at this upcoming meeting at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

BIC's quarter-mile drag strip, a member of the prestigious Worldwide Network of the US-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), will host all the heated head-to-head action.

Two nights of Test and Tune kick off the round on Tuesday and Wednesday night. Qualifying will then be held on Thursday, to be followed by Race Day on Friday.

The Bahrain Drag Racing Championship has attracted



A car in action at BIC

participants from all over the world, competing in classes for both cars and motorbikes. They will be going at it one last time this season for pride, bragging rights and for the prestigious "Wally" trophies—one of the sport's highest honours that are awarded exclusively to champions of NHRA-sanctioned events across the globe.

All are welcome to attend this week's racing and enjoy the region's biggest and best drag racing championship. Tickets are available at the gate or online at bahraingp.com.

Tickets cost BD3 for the Batelco Grandstand for Qualifying and Race Day. For the second night of Test and Tune, tickets are BD2 for the Batelco Grand-

stand.

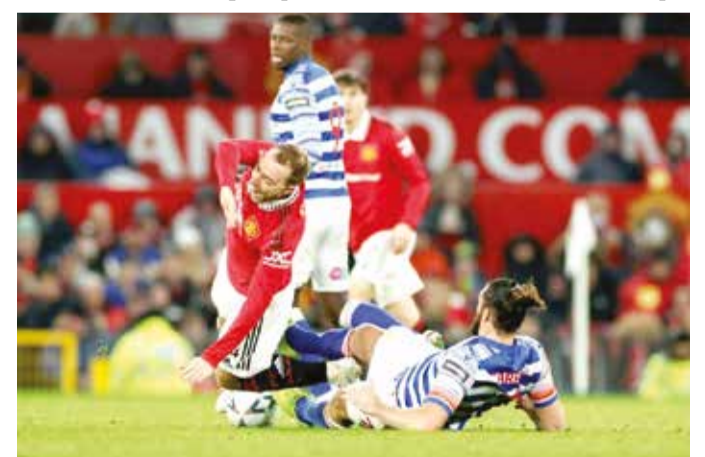
Test and Tune will be held between 6pm and midnight, while racing will begin from 4pm on Qualifying Day and from 1pm on Race Day.

For more information on the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.



Test and Tune will be held between 6pm and midnight, while racing will begin from 4pm on Qualifying Day and from 1pm on Race Day

## Man Utd lose playmaker Eriksen until May



Reading's Andy Carroll in action with Manchester United's Christian Eriksen

AFP | London

Manchester United midfielder Christian Eriksen is likely to be ruled out until early May by an ankle injury he suffered in the FA Cup win over Reading, the club said Tuesday.

Eriksen left Old Trafford on crutches on Saturday after being caught by Reading striker Andy Carroll in the fourth-round tie.

The loss of the 30-year-old

Danish playmaker is a blow for United who lie fourth in the Premier League and in the Champions League qualification places after a good run of form that only ended with the 3-2 defeat by leaders Arsenal on January 22.

United said in a statement: "Christian Eriksen is expected to be out of action for an extended period because of an ankle injury sustained in our FA Cup victory over Reading on Saturday.



## Bahrain set for 33rd AFC Congress



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa

● **Bahrain's Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa to run unopposed for third term as AFC president**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa is today set to run unopposed for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) presidency as the Kingdom hosts the 33rd AFC Congress.

The prestigious meeting will take place at the Gulf Convention Centre.

The congress' agenda includes recommending Shaikh Salman for a third term as the AFC head.

Also to be confirmed are the members of the AFC Executive Committee for the term 2023 to



Flags in Bahrain set up to mark the 33rd AFC Congress



**The AFC Congress will deliberate on the host of the AFC Asian Cup 2027, where the focus will be on the Saudi Arabian Football Federation who remain the sole bidder for the hosting rights of the 19th edition of Asia's crown jewel**

2027, as well as the AFC's representatives to the FIFA Council.

Furthermore, the AFC Congress will also deliberate on the host of the AFC Asian Cup 2027, where the focus will be on the Saudi Arabian Football Federation who remain the sole bidder for the hosting rights of the 19th edition of Asia's crown jewel.

Representatives from the AFC's member and regional associations will be in Bahrain.

It is the first time they will be gathering physically since the AFC Extraordinary Congress in Paris in June 2019, along with FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who is expected to address the Congress alongside the AFC President.

## Bahrain Victorious' Milan claims photo-finish win in Saudi Tour

● **Team Bahrain Victorious riders also set to begin 74th Volta a la Comunitat Valenciana today in Spain**

TDT | Manama

Team Bahrain Victorious rider Jonathan Milan powered to a spectacular victory yesterday in the 184-kilometre second stage of the Saudi Tour, part of this year's Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Asia circuit.

It took a photo-finish to determine the winner as the young Italian sprinter beat stage one winner Dylan Groenewegen to the line.

It was another windy stage in the open desert roads of AlUla, and the peloton remained intact for most of the day, navigating through the headwinds. But 30km from the finish line, the road turned left, and crosswinds split the peloton into three groups. Milan stayed in group one, with the rest of Bahrain Victorious' riders caught in the second group.

In the last km, Milan and Groenewegen dueled, and with a few hundred metres to go, Milan launched his sprint early catching Groenewegen off guard, and managed to hold his effort to the line.



Jonathan Milan, far left, competes in the final sprint to the finish



Jonathan Milan gives a thumbs-up after the race

Milan commented at the end of the stage: "I'm super happy about this win. It was a big goal of mine from the last year when I saw that this Tour can be important in the future for me."

"I want to say big thanks to my teammates, they did an amazing job today, and they helped me until the final, thanks to them."

"Again, I'm super happy with this result for me and for the team."

Bahrain Victorious are competing with seven riders in the Saudi Tour, which is set to feature five stages. Bahraini Ahmed Madan is a part of the squad, as are Santiago Buitrago, Filip Maciejuk, Rainer Kerpplinger, Andrea Pasqualoni and Dusan Rajovic, who claimed second place in the first stage.

Stage three is set today over 159.5km. It will begin at Al Manshiyah Train Station and end at Abu Rakah. The event is scheduled to continue until Friday.

Meanwhile, Bahrain Victorious are set to begin today their campaign in the 74th Volta a la Comunitat Valenciana, which gets the European stage racing season underway on the east coast of Spain. The team includes Pello Bilbao, Damiano Caruso, Mikel Landa, Gino Mader, Matej Mohoric, Wout Poels and Fred Wright.

## Bayern Munich sign Cancelo on loan from Man City



Joao Cancelo  
AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich have signed Portugal wing-back Joao Cancelo on loan until the end of the season from Manchester City, the German club confirmed yesterday.

Bayern have an option to buy the Portuguese defender for a reported 70 million euros (\$75 million) at the end of the season.

Cancelo, who has scored seven times in 41 appearances for Portugal, arrived in Munich on Monday and completed a medical yesterday for a move that could spell the end of France international Benjamin Pavard's time at Bayern.

The 28-year-old Portuguese defender joined City from Juventus for 65 million euros (\$70 million) in 2019 and has a contract with the English champions until 2027.

# Dar Kulaib claim stunning victory over Al Ahli

Dominant performance gives winners three-set sweep of fellow-title contenders in battle of titans in 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League

● **Mohammed Yaqoob scores 16 points to lead victors, Argentinian Juan Barrera adds 15**

● **Dar Kulaib go on decisive 9-0 rally in first set to take control of game and never look back**

TDT | Manama

Dar Kulaib powered to a stunning 3-0 (25-12, 25-21, 25-13) sweep against fellow-title hopefuls Al Ahli last night in their round-of-six match of the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

The game took place at a jam-packed Isa bin Rashid Arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa. It was part of the second phase of the league's round-of-six playoffs, which is being played in double round-robin format. The top four at the end of these fixtures move on to the league's semi-finals.

With the result, Dar Kulaib claimed their fifth win in seven outings while



Dar Kulaib's Juan Barrera attacks the triple block of Al Ahli during their match last night

handing Ahli only their second loss. Both sides now have identical 5-2 win-loss records in this stage.

They are ranked on the six-team table behind solo leaders Al Najma, who have a 6-1 mark, and are ahead of Muharraq with 3-4 record, Al Nasser with a 2-5 mark, and Nabih Saleh with a winless 0-7 standing.



**With the result, Dar Kulaib claim their fifth win while handing Ahli their second loss, as both sides are now on identical 5-2 win-loss records on the league's round-of-six standings**

In last nights' contest, both teams matched each other at the start and they were tied 4-4. But after Ahli took a narrow 5-4 edge, Dar Kulaib rallied to score nine unanswered points, and the game-changing run put them up 13-5.

They continued to dominate, moving ahead 21-10, and later star player Mohammed Yaqoob closed out the opening set with a powerful spike that beat an Ahli double block.

In the second set, Ahli were determined to stay in the fight but still trailed 7-9. Things remained close and Ahli con-

tinued to stay within striking distance at 18-19, but Dar Kulaib scored the next three points to make it 22-18, and Ahli could not recover.

A Mahmoud Abdulwahed spike gave Dar Kulaib the set point to go up 2-0 in the match.

The victors then didn't let up in the third set, going for the kill having smelled blood in the water. Dar Kulaib quickly raced ahead 12-4, and by the time they took a 20-8 lead, they had deflated their opponents' hopes and virtually sealed the win.

Yaqoob applied the final nail in the coffin, scoring the match's final point for the impressive three-set result.

Yaqoob finished as Dar Kulaib's leading scorer with 16 points, while Argentinian professional Juan Barrera added 15 and Abdulwahed had eight points. Also playing key roles for Dar Kulaib were Ali Habib, Ayman Isa, Hasan Alaiwi and libero Hussain Sultan.

For Ahli, who looked overmatched for the first time this season, Ali Alsairafi scored eight points to pace his team in the loss. Ahli also stayed in the game through Mohammed Anan, Naser Aman, Abbas Al Khabbaz, Sayed Mohammed Alabbar, Mahmood Abdullhussain and Canadian import Jerome Cross.