

**Bahraini athletes excel in global meets**

Birhanu Balew, Violah Jepchumba triumph in European road races, Layla Kamal captures girls' 200m bronze | P12

**HRH Prince Salman sends congratulations**



HRH Prince Salman  
 TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to the National Security Advisor, Secretary-General of the Supreme Defence Council, and Commander of the Royal Guard, His Highness Lieutenant-General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, on the promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-General, following a Royal Order by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH Prince Salman highlighted the vital role of HH Shaikh Nasser in achieving military successes and developing military capabilities.

**Sudan forces extend truce for 72 hours**

Khartoum

Sudan's rival military forces accused each other of fresh violations of a ceasefire yesterday as their deadly conflict rumbled on for a third week despite warnings of a slide towards civil war.

Both sides said a formal ceasefire agreement which was due to expire at midnight would be extended for a further 72 hours, in a move the RSF said was "in response to international, regional and local calls."

**Captive freed**

Al Mukalla

Yemeni army commander Faisal Rajab was released by the Houthis yesterday after eight years in captivity.

In a ceremony attended by its leader and other senior officials in Sanaa, the Houthis released Maj. Gen. Rajab to Yemeni tribal elders.



His Majesty meets BDF senior officials

# Royal honours for serving homeland

His Majesty King Hamad promotes His Highness Shaikh Nasser to the rank of Lieutenant-General

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, promoted Major-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to the rank of Lieutenant-General.

The promotion of HH Shaikh Nasser, who is also National Security Advisor, Secretary-General of the Supreme Defence Council and Commander of the Royal Guard, was made through HM the King's Royal Order (21) of 2023.

His Majesty yesterday visited the General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force, in the presence of BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, was also present.

HM King Hamad was also accompanied by HM King's Personal Representative, His High-



**HM the King promoted HH Shaikh Nasser to the rank of Lieutenant-General in recognition of the tremendous efforts he is making to serve the homeland in the military field, including his distinguished military achievements, as a Supreme Defence Council Secretary-General, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander.**

ness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and Royal Guard Spe-



HM the King with HH Shaikh Nasser

cial Force Commander, Colonel His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces promoted HH Shaikh Nasser to the rank

Defence Council Secretary-General, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander.

In addition, it was a recognition of HH Shaikh Nasser's efforts to enhance the Kingdom's defence and military capabilities, contributions, along with his BDF brethren, to delivering humanitarian relief aid to stricken people in brotherly and friendly countries, unwavering interest in helping orphans, and keenness to support Bahraini youth and athletes, as well as HH's success in winning international and regional championships, the latest of which was the World Endurance Championship in Abu Dhabi.

HM the King commended the efforts made by Lieutenant-General HH Shaikh Nasser in serving the Kingdom in the economic security field and as Deputy Chairman of the Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen.

He expressed sincere appreciation to HH Shaikh Nasser as one of the loyal Bahraini citizens, wishing HH continued success.

Kingdom's 'heroes'

## Workers hailed for 'enormous contributions' to progress

TDT | Manama

Labour Minister Jameel Mohammed Ali Humaidan paid tribute to the workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain for their enormous contributions in the work and production field, in particular, and to progress, in general.

Humaidan was speaking as he attended an event organised yesterday by the Bahrain Free Labor Unions Federation (Al Hurr) to mark the International Workers' Day (Labour Day),

which is observed annually on May 1.

It was held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Addressing the ceremony, the Minister stressed the significance of the occasion as a tribute to the workers, wishing them more success in setting an inspirational model for future generations.

He conveyed the greetings and best wishes of HM the King and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,



Labour Minister speaks at the event

the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to all workers in Bahrain, for their pivotal role in achieving sustainable growth.

He affirmed the leadership's

keenness on continuing the efforts to ensure a stable and productive work environment and preserve the labour gains.

Humaidan said that the International Workers' Day this year is commemorated in a climate of optimism and hope after the great success of the Kingdom in carrying out the economic recovery plan and transitioning to the sustainable development phase.

He pointed out the growth rates achieved by the economic, commercial and industrial

sectors thanks to the government's supportive policies and facilities.

The minister commended Bahrain's vibrant economy and stability of the labour market, stressing the key and influential role of Bahraini workers in the development march.

He underlined the kingdom's diverse and competitive economy that meets the national aspirations for a more developed labour market and a bigger role for the private sector as the catalyst of production.

# Bahrain boosting UN cooperation

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa stressed Bahrain's keenness to enhance cooperation with the United Nations and its various agencies, entities, and programmes, especially in the development, health, educational and environmental fields.

This came as HM the King yesterday received the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President, Csaba Korosi, who is currently on a visit to the Kingdom.

The meeting reviewed aspects of cooperation at various levels.

His Majesty praised the advanced level of the ongoing cooperation between Bahrain and the UNCPGA aimed at serving sustainable development goals.

He affirmed Bahrain's support for the UN's efforts in achieving its humanitarian goals.

HM King Hamad highlighted the meeting of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, hosted by the Kingdom last March, and its outcome in terms of consolidating the UN's principles to achieve global progress and



HM King receives the 77th UNGA President



**“The Kingdom always seeks to promote peace, stability, and prosperity while strengthening rapprochement among peoples of different cultures through tolerance, coexistence, and harmony, out of its belief in the values of love, tolerance, coexistence and harmony among all, to which it is committed.”**

- HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

prosperity.

The meeting also dealt with several issues and the most prominent regional and international developments.

## Important role

HM King commended the UN's important role in promoting in-

ternational peace and security and finding solutions to various global issues and problems, in addition to its efforts to confront environmental and natural disasters and climate change.

HM King Hamad affirmed the Kingdom always seeks to promote peace, stability, and prosperity while strengthening

rapprochement among peoples of different cultures through tolerance, coexistence, and harmony, out of its belief in the values of love, tolerance, coexistence and harmony among all, to which it is committed.

Korosi thanked HM the King for the warm welcome and hospitality, praising the vital role played by the kingdom, under His Majesty's leadership, in supporting the UN's goals to serve security and stability, and promote peace regionally and globally.

He also lauded the development strides achieved by Bahrain, under the leadership of HM the King, stressing that the Kingdom is a role model for coexistence and tolerance among various social segments.

## Bahrain-US relations



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received the US Ambassador to Bahrain, Steven Bondy. HM the King reviewed the Bahrain-US relations, and aspects of cooperation between the two countries. HM King Hamad expressed his pride in the long-standing Bahrain-US relations, as well as their solid partnership of understanding, close coordination and joint action in various fields. HM the King praised the pivotal role played by the US Administration in the international arena and its active efforts in promoting regional and global peace and security.

## HM King Hamad appoints officials

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Royal Decree (41) of 2023, appointing a director-general at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, based on a proposal by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and following the approval of the Cabinet.

Under the decree, Dr Yusuf AbdulKarim Bucheeri was appointed as Director-General for Legal Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs shall implement the provisions of this decree, which takes effect upon its issuance

and will be published in the Official Gazette.

HM the King also issued Royal Decree (42) of 2023, appointing an assistant under-secretary, based on a proposal by the Minister of Sustainable Development and following the approval of the Cabinet.

According to the decree, Dana Emad Hamza was appointed as Assistant Under-secretary for Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Sustainable Development.

The Minister of Sustainable Development shall implement the provisions of this decree, which takes effect upon its issuance and will be published in the Official Gazette.

## Bahrain second in Arab World on logistics sector growth ranking

TDT | Manama

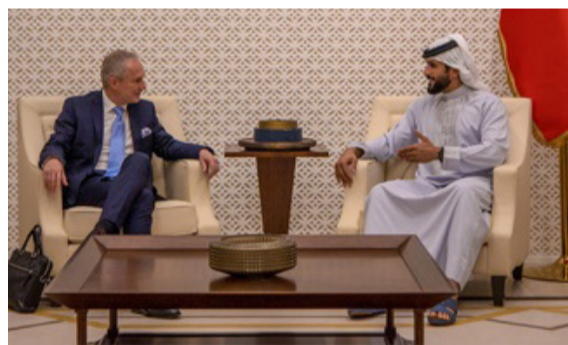
The Kingdom of Bahrain ranked second in the Arab World and 34th globally in the World Bank's 2023 Logistics Performance Index.

The index provides a benchmarking tool to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics.

These results affirm Bahrain's commitment to solidify the growth of the logistical sector through the implementation of robust strategies and initiatives.

The Kingdom launched the Logistics Services Sector Strategy, as part of its wide-ranging Economic Recovery Plan, which is designed to capitalise on Bahrain's strategic geographic location, while uplifting logistical capacity across several services and expanding offerings to position the Kingdom as one of the top global destinations for logistic services.

The index recorded the Kingdom's improved results across all six indicators. The most notable improvement was in the 'Timeliness' indicator which saw the Kingdom advance 58 spots to rank 10th globally out of 139 countries, despite global supply chain disruptions.



## Pivotal role

His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday received President of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Csaba Korosi. Present were UNGA President's Office Director Laszlo Zuki, Head of Political Affairs Yanina Has Mohsen, and Fahad Al Ajmi, Advisor to the UNGA President on Political Affairs and Security and Peace Issues. HH Shaikh Nasser stressed the UNGA's pivotal role in tackling Arab, regional and global issues.

## Talks on gender balance and equality progress

TDT | Manama

A meeting was held yesterday to discuss Bahrain's progress in implementing gender balance and equality by establishing cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

This came as the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Secretary General, Hala Al Ansari, received Csaba Korosi, the President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

They reviewed ways to promote Bahrain's plans, initiatives and programmes through the SCW to ensure the active participation of women in achieving sustainable development.

Al Ansari affirmed the keenness of the SCW, led by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King, to strengthen cooperation with the UN in various women-related developmental fields.



Al Ansari and Csaba Korosi hold talks



**The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) enhanced cooperation.**

She emphasised the SCW's readiness to provide the knowledge and tools needed to achieve gender balance and equality at a national level.

The resulting performance measurement indicators and qualitative recommendations will perform as a guidance to authorities and national institutions, she added.

Korosi stressed that these meetings are within the UN's framework to pursue cooperation with SCW and serve all women related issues.

## Bahrain markets free of 'contaminated' cough syrup: NHRA

TDT | Manama

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) has affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain's markets are free of 'contaminated' cough syrup made in India, from which the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned due to the unsafe materials it contains.

In a statement, the NHRA indicated that the aforementioned cough syrup is not registered in the Kingdom, and therefore it has not been imported to the Bahraini market, stressing that it does not allow the entry of any products that are not manufactured in approved and registered factories in the Kingdom.

The NHRA also confirmed its keenness on the safety of medicines and pharmaceuticals circulating in the Kingdom, as Bahrain adopts strict measures to ensure the health, safety and efficiency of all medicines, in a manner that guarantees the preservation of the health and safety of the citizens and residents.

In this context, the NHRA said that it is following up on the latest developments in this regard, noting that it is in constant contact with the pharmaceutical authorities and health services in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries regarding medicines and their safety.

## Health cooperation



Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received the newly appointed King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH) Acting Commander Colonel Dr Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa. The BDF Commander-in-Chief welcomed the Acting Commander of KHUH and wished him success in his endeavor. He commended the efforts of the hospital administrators, medical personnel and their efforts to provide health and treatment services.

# Muraleedharan to visit Bahrain and Saudi Arabia

TDT | Manama

Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, will be paying official visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kingdom of Bahrain on 1-3 May and 4-5 May, respectively.

During the visit, Muraleedharan will meet his counterpart

Ministers in both countries and interact with the Indian community.

Muraleedharan's visit to Bahrain will be his second visit to the country. He last visited Bahrain in August 2021. The Minister will hold discussions with various Bahraini dignitaries and meet Indian community organisations as well as Indians working in different sectors.



Shri V. Muraleedharan

Muraleedharan will also inaugurate the Indo-Bahrain Dance and Music Festival being organised by Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam and Embassy of India, with support of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM).

His visit to Saudi Arabia comes very close to his visit from 25-28 April 2023 to Jeddah to over-

see Operation Kaveri for evacuation of Indian citizens from Sudan.

Muraleedharan will meet Saudi Vice Foreign Minister Eng. Waleed Elkhareiji and other dignitaries in Riyadh today and tomorrow. He will have an interactive session with the Indian community in Riyadh, and also have separate engagements with various Indian diaspora organi-

sations.

On 3 May, Muraleedharan will visit the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia and meet the top leadership of the province. He will also interact with the Indian community in Dammam and Jubail and meet different business groups, including Indian companies. His visit will further deepen India-Saudi strategic partnership.

# 'Eco-warriors' promote peace and harmony across Kingdom

Earth Day Bahrain-Health & Wellness event kicks off at Water Garden City Beach

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

More than a thousand took part in the very first Earth Day Bahrain-Health & Wellness event last Saturday at the Water Garden City Beach, Seef district Manama.

The event was organised by Meditation Bahrain, Good Cause Bahrain and Brand Synchb.

It was held under the patronage of the Capital Governorate, H.E. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, who presided over the lighting ceremony of 2,100 lights that lit up a perfectly laid out layout of the Bahrain map symbolising the country's commitment to promoting peace and harmony to all its residents.

Around 150 volunteers from different countries took part in creating the map that in the end was well received by everyone who attended the event.

In an interview with The Daily Tribune, organising committee members Wasuntara Pitakworachai and Antonette Avila, said: "When the idea was born, we never imagined it to be this big. The act of volunteerism was really amazing, and it took all the efforts and cooperation from the kind-hearted individuals, government organisations, sponsors, bazaar vendors, performers, friends, and families that made all of this possible.

"We hope that through this event, we were able to provide a conscious space in taking care of



Panel discussion at the event



Opening ceremony



Volunteers planting trees at the event

our planet and ourselves."

The day was kicked off with a special planting activity, led by Mr Yusuf Lori, director of Information and Follow-up of the Capital Governorate, along-

side ambassadors from Turkey, the Philippines, Brunei, and representative from the Indian Embassy, members of the Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain, Tri-Step Lodge 99, as well as other

government entities and community organisations.

Mr Lori said: "Recognised as 'a Healthy City' by the World Health Organization, the Capital Governorate expands the implementation of this program through environmental awareness and protection, health and wellness promotion, and restoration through consciously connecting our inner peace, and understanding the essential role it plays in mental health individually and collectively.

"Today is a meaningful day. Organising this event alongside

the many groups and organisations who took part is really special. We look forward to creating more purposeful experiences for everyone and further promoting the Kingdom of Bahrain to the world," said Cristina Fulgencio, CEO BrandSynchb.

The festive bazaar market offered eco-friendly products and services, health-conscious food and beverages. Al Malaki specialist hospital was the exclusive health partner of the event.

The event was featured with special talks about the occasion, environment, and health and wellness-conscious products and services, ambient music, and meditations that will culminate in a grand lighting ceremony laid out in the shape of a Bahrain map highlighting the Kingdom's commitment in promoting and preserving peace and harmony across the nation.

With the perfect set-up at the beach, the attendees were also

“Recognised as ‘a Healthy City’ by the World Health Organization, the Capital Governorate expands the implementation of this program through environmental awareness and protection, health and wellness promotion, and restoration through consciously connecting our inner peace, and understanding the essential role it plays in mental health individually and collectively.”

- YUSUF LORI, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE CAPITAL GOVERNORATE

treated with introductions to yoga stretching and a mindfulness practice filling the venue with tranquility and refreshed individuals.

In line with the celebration of Earth Day 2023, the "Health & Wellness event" is a community partnership led by the Capital Governorate in alignment with its initiatives and projects aimed at preserving and improving health, wellbeing, and the environment.

## Oil Engineer case closing arguments set for May 4

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court adjourned hearing the case of an oil engineer accused of disclosing confidential information belonging to the company in which he is serving, as well as laundering almost half a million Bahraini dinars, to May 4 to hear the closing arguments.

According to court files, the defendant is registered in the payroll of a public company, and due to his authority, he managed to access the ware-

house of the company and noted down the things that were missing and that the company would need.

As a result, he established a private company and registered it under the name of one of his relatives. He started supplying the material to the contractors assigned to provide maintenance services to the public company as per the information that was in his possession. This information was vital to allow the private company understands the needs of the contractors.

## Four Asians face investigation for drug smuggling

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

The Narcotics Department, in cooperation with customs, tracked down four Asians in yet another case of drug smuggling into the Kingdom and halted the shipment of drugs through postal parcels.

The narcotics unit managed to thwart the smuggling of drugs with an estimated market value of about BD100,000.

The four Asians, aged 30 to 33, are currently being investigated for their possible involvement in the crime.

The administration stated

that the Anti-Narcotics police moved right away to start searching for and gathering evidence after getting a notification from the Air Ports Customs about the mail item.

As a result, the four Asians who were described earlier were caught red-handed. To prepare for referring the case to the Public prosecution, the seized materials were retained, and the requisite legal actions were taken.

The Daily Tribune recently reported a case where six Asians were held for trafficking narcotics inside potatoes.

The shipment contained over



The seized drug

33kg of Hashish and another type of narcotics locally known as 'Shabu' worth BD700,000.

Customs Affairs last year registered 830 trafficking operations of narcotics, pills and substances through the customs ports in 2022, up by 48 per cent

compared with 2021. A total of 560 smuggling cases were registered in 2021.

They stated that the seizures include about 478 kilograms of various narcotics substances and about 241000 pills.

Brig-Gen Abdulaziz Mayouf said the goal is to provide a secure and simple means to report cases of narcotics while preventing the maximum secrecy and security.

"The departments always work to improve the community and are crucial in spreading awareness through lecturers and exhibitions in various governorates," he said.

# Summer electricity, water bill 'shocker' is coming!

Expatriates 'suffering in silence' during summer months beginning in May until October

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

Summer is just around the corner, which means cranking up those air conditioning units again.

Definitely, cooling down the house in the midst of sweltering summer heat is going to cost more than usual.

As every hot summer begins in May and lasts through October, it is expected that power expenses will increase beginning in the month of May.

The problem has raised serious concerns among expatriates, which account for 52.6% of the total population and crucial to the growth of the country's economy.

Every household's monthly budget includes a significant amount for utility costs. Additionally, as always the summer months see the highest utility bills due to the increased use of air conditioners and water, which is very difficult for expats.

The burden on expats has increased due to the addition of the 5 per cent VAT on utility bills. Many expats living in the Kingdom are middle-class or have lower incomes.

Sara Fahim, an East Riffa resident, told The Daily Tribune that her area's power bills are



**"Last year, we went back to India for two months for summer vacation. We left the fridge on and turned off the rest of the appliances, but when we got home, the power bill was more than BD70 for the entire month. I was astonished, which is why we will exercise greater caution this year."**

- SARA FAHIM, AN EAST RIFFA RESIDENT

ident, told The Daily Tribune that her area's power bills are



The cost of electricity and water is rising during summer months

particularly high when compared to those in other places.

"Last year, we went back to India for two months for summer vacation. We left the fridge on and turned off the rest of the appliances, but when we got home, the power bill was more than BD70 for the entire month. I was astonished, which is why we will exercise greater caution this year," she said.

"We already feel the heat, and this is just the beginning. Without turning on the air conditioner, we won't be able to sleep. Currently, our power and water bills are above BD100."

Sara added: "For example, a

two-bedroom spacious apartment in Riffa might cost you no more than BD230 or less, but the power bill would be significantly higher, so even with the low rent, it would still be an expense for a middle-class family."

Many are forced to move into shared accommodation because they are struggling to meet the rising expense. In some cases, expats are paying utility bills that are even higher than their monthly rent.

However, the majority of expatriates who receive high electricity and water bills remain silent and don't voice their concerns, instead they try to re-



**Bahrainis qualify for a basic electricity rate of just 3 fils per unit (for the first 3,000 units of electricity consumed), but that only applies at one property. If they have a second home, they pay the same rate as expatriates for the additional property, which is 29 fils per unit. Bahrainis with one property also pay a basic water rate of 25 fils per unit, but those with a second home and expats pay 750 fils per unit.**

duce their expenses or move to smaller, easier-to-maintain apartments.

## Medical camp for Filipinos successful

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Bahrain Specialist Hospitals and Clinics in Juffair, successfully organised a Multi-Specialty Medical Camp for members of the Filipino Community aged 40 years and above on 28 April.

The medical camp offered the following free health services: Primary Heart Screening (ECG), Gynecological Screening (Abdominal ultrasound), Vision Screening (Eye Pressure and Glaucoma Check-up), Diabetes Screening, Hypertension Screening, and Physical Examination.

A total of 475 Filipinos availed of the free screenings.

During the medical camp, the Bahrain Specialist Hospital also launched its "Good Health Club" cards, which provides special packages, including consultation and various medical services, at discounted rates.

Ambassador-designate Anne Jalando-on Louis conveyed the Embassy's gratitude to the management, panel of doctors, nurses, and staff of the BSH for working with the Embassy in providing free health screenings to the members of the Filipino community who are 40 years of age and above, for early detection and treatment of illnesses.

## NSSA reviews upcoming strategy with stakeholders



Dr Al Asiri  
TDT | Manama



Al Amad

National Space Science Agency (NSSA) CEO Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Al Asiri stressed the importance of cooperation with the 85 stakeholders in designing its strategy.

Dr Al Asiri said the NSSA and stakeholders will continue to focus on supporting the development of skills of Bahrainis in the space sector, develop scientific research programs, provide space data and analytical studies, and build regional and international partnerships to enhance the national space sector's sustainability.

The strategy enables NSSA to make contributions to sustainable development and economic growth, he added.

Dr Al Asiri was speaking as the NSSA held a series of consultative meetings with national stakeholders, in preparation for its 2024-2028 strategy.

NSSA Strategic Planning Chief Rasha Al Amad noted that the upcoming strategic

plan builds on achievements made over the previous years and the results of information and data analysis.

She explained that the second draft of the strategy, which is expected to be completed by the second quarter of this year, will include feedback from stakeholders and resources required for projects and programmes.

Al Amad said that the strategy will be approved before the end of year following final review.

The strategic plan focuses on objectives, initiatives, programs, and performance indicators, in line with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the Government Action Plan.

The 2024-2028 strategic plan is also aligned with the space policy, NSSA's establishment decree, the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), competitor analysis, and previous evaluation reports, SWOT analysis and PESTLE analysis.

# Arab honours for King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence

Cairo

Arab Parliament Speaker Adel bin Abdulrahman Al Asoumi commended the efforts of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence to promote the culture of tolerance.

He stressed the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and keenness to foster religious freedom, inter-faith dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

The Arab Parliament Speaker was speaking during the Arab Parliament's 4th general session of the third legislative term, which convened at the Arab League's headquarters, in Cairo.

The King Hamad Global Cen-



Al Asoumi receives the Arab Parliament Shield from Al Hawaj

tre for Peaceful Coexistence was honoured with the Arab Parliament Shield in tribute for its efforts. The shield was handed over to the centre's Deputy Chairman, Abdulwahab bin Yousef Al Hawaj.

Al Asoumi emphasised the significant role of the King

Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence in promoting tolerance and peace and renouncing hatred, violence and extremism.

He lauded the government's support under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The centre's Deputy Chairman affirmed the role of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence in fostering peaceful coexistence at the international level through many initiatives.

## Investment projects, international factories growth hailed

TDT | Manama

Minister of Industry and Commerce, Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, hailed the growth of investment projects and international factories based in Bahrain, pointing out that the facilities and advantages provided by the government to ensure their smooth work have contributed to attracting major international projects in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

This came during the visit of the Minister to the Universal Rollings Rebar Factory in



Fakhro with Abu-Ghazaleh and senior officials

Salman Industrial City, where he was received by Chairman and CEO of the Factory, Maher Abu-Ghazaleh, and a number of senior officials.

The minister toured the factory and was briefed on all stages of manufacturing and production.

UNIROL is one of the largest steel factories in Bahrain. It is

located in Salman Industrial city and operates according to the highest local and international environmentally friendly quality standards.

# Arab Bank Group Q1 profits up 30%

● Loans grew to \$35.4 billion and deposits reached \$47.7bn

TDI | Manama

Arab Bank Group yesterday reported a first quarter net income after tax that rose 30% to \$216 million from \$166 m in the year-ago quarter.

Sabih Masri, Chairman of the Board of Directors, stated that Arab Bank's first quarter 2023 performance was strong despite the challenging environment for banks globally and regionally.

Loans grew to \$35.4 billion and deposits reached \$47.7bn.



Excluding the impact of devaluation of several currencies against the US dollar, loans and deposits grew by 3% & 4%, respectively.

Randa Sadik, Chief Executive

Officer, said the bank's net operating profit grew by 50% driven by the growth in revenues from its core banking business as well as disciplined control of operating costs, where provisions held during the period reflect the bank's prudent strategy against the increased economic uncertainty witnessed globally and regionally.

Sadik added that the Group's liquidity and asset quality remains solid where loan-to-deposit ratio stood at 74.1% and credit provisions held against non-performing loans continue to exceed 100%. Arab Bank Group maintains a strong capital base that is predominantly composed of common equity with a capital adequacy ratio of 16.8%.

# In Brazil, judge ends suspension of Telegram app

AFP | Rio de Janeiro

A Brazilian judge reversed the suspension of the Telegram messaging app, imposed by a court after its parent company failed to provide data sought by authorities on neo-Nazis operating on the network.

That court had fined Telegram a million reais (about \$198,000) per day and ordered the temporary suspension of its activities for failing to assist in a probe into neo-Nazi activity on social networks related to violence in schools.

But Judge Flavio Lucas ruled that the suspension of the app throughout the country was



“not reasonable”, since it affects “the freedom of communication of thousands of people absolutely unrelated to the facts being investigated”, the Federal Regional Court-2 (TRF-2), based in Rio de Janeiro, said in a statement.

But the judge upheld the daily fine of one million reais (USD 198,000) imposed on the company originally.

Justice Minister Flavio Dino said last week that groups with anti-Semitic names were “acting in those networks, and we know that this is at the core of violence against our children,” he added, in reference to a recent spate of attacks in schools.

# US Fed expected to hike rates again despite signs of slowing economy

Analysts and traders expect the Fed to hike interest rates by 25 basis points

AFP | Washington

The US Federal Reserve is widely expected to raise its benchmark lending rate for a tenth -- and possibly final -- time on Wednesday, as it continues its fight against high inflation.

The US central bank is likely to take this decision despite growing signs that the American economy is slowing down, with many economists predicting the US will enter a mild recession later this year.

Analysts and traders expect the Fed to hike interest rates by 25 basis points and then hold them high in a bid to bring infla-



Fed Chair Jerome Powell

tion back towards its long-term target of two percent without spurring a deeper, more painful recession.

“We expect the Fed to hike by 25bp next week and signal

a pause in June, with a weak upward bias for rates going forward,” Bank of America economists wrote in a note to clients on Friday.

A further rate hike Wednesday would mark the Fed's tenth rate hike in a row, bringing the benchmark to between 5 and 5.25 percent -- its highest level since 2007.

More than 80% of futures traders also expect the Fed to raise interest rates by another 25 basis points, according to data from CME Group.

- Banking turbulence -

The meeting of the rate-setting Federal Open Markets Com-

mittee (FOMC) on May 2 and 3 will be held under very different circumstances than its previous one in March, which took place amid a short, sharp, banking crisis unleashed by the rapid collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) a few days earlier.

SVB's swift demise after it took on excessive interest-rate risk raised concerns of banking contagion, which were amplified by the collapse of New York-based Signature Bank a few days later.

Against the backdrop of ongoing turbulence in the banking sector, the Fed held off a larger rate hike on March 22, instead opting for a quarter-point rise.

Concerted efforts by US and European regulators in the aftermath of SVB's collapse helped calm financial markets and appear to have prevented further high-profile casualties in the banking sector.

“With stress in credit markets easing, Fed officials look set to push ahead with a 25bp rate hike at the early-May meeting,” Oxford Economics' lead US economist Michael Pearce wrote in a recent note to clients.

But despite calmer financial markets, SVB's collapse has nevertheless had a lasting impact on the banking sector, with banks tightening lending conditions in

the weeks since.

Fed officials have noted that the tighter lending conditions could act like an additional rate hike, possibly reducing the number of hikes necessary to bring inflation back down to two percent.

Fed governor Christopher Waller said in mid-April that “a significant tightening of credit conditions could obviate the need for some additional monetary policy tightening.”

But he cautioned against “making such a judgment” before good data on the effect of the financial turmoil and bank lending was published.

# Investments, inheritance leave Charles III sitting on a fortune

● Taken all together, Charles' fortune is estimated at £1.8 billion

AFP | London

Through inheritance, royal estates and shrewd investing while a prince, Charles III will be crowned on May 6 with a considerable fortune to his name.

Queen Elizabeth II bequeathed her son an estimated £360 million (\$448 m) upon her death in September last year, boosting Charles's fortune to £600 million, according to an estimate by The Times.

The former prince of Wales built up his coffers by an ambitious investment programme following his £17 m divorce from wife Princess Diana in 1996, according to a royal aide quoted by the newspaper.

When his mother became queen in 1952, Charles also received an income from the Duchy of Cornwall, an estate established in the 14th century



Royal souvenirs are seen for sale on a street in central London, on April 28, 2023 ahead of the coronation ceremony of Charles III and his wife, Camilla, as King and Queen of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Realm nations

to give the heir to the throne apparent financial independence.

For Charles, the duchy “encompasses everything he is passionate about”, his second wife Camilla told an ITV documentary aired in 2019.

In addition to 260 farms, the duchy, which has now passed to his heir Prince William, owns 52,450 hectares (nearly 130,000 acres) of land and leases £345 m of commercial property.

Charles even created a com-

munity, Poundbury, on duchy land close to Dorchester on England's south coast, where he put his architectural ideas into action.

Under his leadership, the duchy amassed assets worth more than a billion pounds, generating the then heir an income of around £23 m per year, an increase of more than 40% over 15 years.

## Billionaire king?

Because of a centuries-old tradition, confirmed by a 1993 clause agreed by the then prime minister John Major, monarchs do not have to pay any tax on assets left by their predecessor, to guard against the royal estate being broken up.

The monarch's will is not made public in the UK, meaning the content of Queen Elizabeth II's will remains private.

We do, however, know that Balmoral Castle in northeast Scotland, where the royal family spends its summers and where the queen died last September, and the Sandringham estate in eastern England were left to Charles.



**Buckingham Palace in central London and Windsor Castle, west of the capital, belong to the state.**

Both are privately owned.

By contrast, Buckingham Palace in central London and Windsor Castle, west of the capital, belong to the state.

Another historical symbol of the British monarchy, the Crown Jewels, are also the property of the nation and are therefore excluded from the evaluation of the royal fortune.

They are estimated to be worth several billion pounds. As sovereign, Charles receives

the annual “sovereign grant” -- an endowment of one quarter of the profits on the income generated by the Crown Estate, a vast collection of lands and holdings.

The rest goes to the Treasury. The sovereign grant hit £86.3 million in 2021-22.

A final fund completes the royal fortune: the Duchy of Lancaster, which is controlled by the sovereign and which generated £24 m for the queen in 2022.

When it comes to estimating the totality of the Crown Estate, “I don't think anyone knows what it is”, Geoff Kertesz, a trust and probate lawyer at law firm Stewarts in London, told AFP.

In a series of articles titled “The Cost of the Crown”, The Guardian newspaper attempted to put a figure on it.

It included the Duchy of Lancaster, which is legally defined as state-controlled but whose entire profits accrue to the monarch, and luxury vehicles, technically owned by the state but exclusively used by the royal family, as well as works of art and jewellery.

Taken all together, it estimates Charles' fortune at £1.8 billion.

News in brief

◆ **Iran's parliament voted** in an impeachment session yesterday to remove the industry minister amid soaring prices as the Islamic republic's economy reels under the pressure of international sanctions. Reza Fates Amin failed to garner enough support in a vote of confidence that saw 162 MPs vote in favour of his removal and 102 against. It was the second time he had faced such a vote in parliament over the same issues, after securing 182 votes in a November majority vote that meant he stayed in the post. A major factor in the new impeachment was the rising price of domestically manufactured vehicles after foreign imports dried up because of sanctions over Iran's nuclear ambitions. Last year the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in major policies, criticised the high prices and low quality of home-made products including cars.



**Iran MPs remove minister over rising prices**

◆ **The Russian army** yesterday replaced its highest ranking general in charge of logistics ahead of an expected counter-offensive by Kyiv. The announcement followed days of rumours about the sacking of Colonel General Mikhail Mizintsev, under British sanctions for his role in the siege of the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, which Russian troops captured a year ago. In a statement, the Russian defence ministry said Alexei Kuzmenkov -- a former official from the National Guard -- had replaced Mizintsev. "Kuzmenkov was appointed to the position of deputy defence minister of the Russian Federation, responsible for the logistical support of the Armed Forces," the ministry said. Nicknamed "the Butcher of Mariupol" by some Western media, Mizintsev was appointed to the logistics post days after President Vladimir Putin announced a mobilisation drive last September.

**Russian army replaces logistics commander**



◆ **Turkey on Saturday** closed its airspace to low-cost Armenian airline FlyOne Armenia without warning, the domestic Armenpress news agency cited the carrier's board chairman as saying. "For reasons incomprehensible to us and without any visible grounds, Turkish aviation authorities cancelled the permission previously granted to the FlyOne Armenia airline to operate flights to Europe through Turkish airspace," said Aram Ananyan, FlyOne's chairman. "Turkish aviation authorities implemented the cancellation without prior notification, putting our airline and our passengers in an uncomfortable situation." FlyOne Armenia, a subsidiary of Moldovan airline FlyOne, began operations in December 2021. In February 2023, Ananyan told Armenpress that the carrier had five Airbus aircraft and offered flights to 14 destinations in eight European and Middle Eastern nations.

**Turkey closes airspace to Armenian airline without warning, Armenpress reports**

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

'Britain's real monarch' gets coronation invitation



Simon Abney-Hastings  
AFP | London

As the son of a farmhand from the Australian outback, Simon Abney-Hastings might be an unlikely choice to receive an invitation to King Charles III's coronation. But when he takes his seat in Westminster Abbey next week, he will be the one person other than those in the line of succession who could actually have a claim on the throne. Unlikely though it might seem, the scenario is based on research by British medieval historian Michael Jones. Two decades ago he uncovered a document in Rouen cathedral in France which he says is proof King Edward IV was illegitimate. During the five weeks when Edward might have been conceived, according to Jones, his father Richard of York was in fact 160 kilometres (100 miles) from his wife Cecily Neville, the Duchess of York. As a result, Jones has argued, Edward was not the rightful heir to the throne and the line

of succession should instead have gone through Edward's younger brother George, Duke of Clarence, who is a direct ancestor of Abney-Hastings. Although the family does not possess any lands or stately homes in the UK, by virtue of their lineage they inherited the ancient Scottish title of Earl of Loudoun. Abney-Hastings' father Michael emigrated from the UK to Australia in 1960. Michael inherited the title from his mother, the 13th Countess of Loudoun, in 2002 and it passed on his death in 2012 to Simon, who is the 15th earl. In recognition of the family's heritage, Simon Abney-Hastings, 48, is one of just 13 individuals carrying out ceremonial roles largely because they successfully proved that their forebears played a particular role at previous coronations. The current earl said on Twitter he was "delighted and sincerely honoured" to be asked to perform the same role as his ancestors on May 6.

Gas leak kills 11 in India

AFP | Amritsar

A gas leak killed 11 people in India yesterday in Giaspura, an industrial area of Ludhiana in the northern state of Punjab.

"Eleven deaths are confirmed," Mandeep Singh Sidhu, police commissioner of Ludhiana, told reporters, adding that four people were hospitalised.

The cause of the leak was yet to be ascertained, Sidhu added.

"When the blood sample is matched with the sample that the NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) team takes, only then will we be able to tell you the exact cause, which kind of gas," the police commissioner said.

Five women were among those who died, broadcaster NDTV reported. The six other victims included two boys aged 10 and 13, the report added.

Iran's Raisi to visit Damascus on Wednesday

Tehran, Iran

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi will travel to Damascus on Wednesday, Iranian state media reported, touting a "very important" two-day visit against the backdrop of increased regional engagement with the Syrian regime.

"Dr Raisi's trip to Damascus next Wednesday is a very important trip due to the changes and developments that are taking place in the region," IRNA state news agency on Sunday quoted Iran's ambassador to Syria, Hossein Akbari, as saying.

Jordan to host regional meeting on Syria on Monday

Amman, Jordan

Arab foreign ministers will gather in Jordan today to discuss Syria's long-running conflict and ending Damascus's diplomatic isolation in the region, the foreign ministry in Amman said.

The meeting in Amman will bring together foreign ministers from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria. The talks will "take stock of the contacts of these countries with the Syrian government to reach a political solution to the Syrian crisis", a foreign ministry statement said Sunday.

It called the gathering "a continuation of the consultative meeting of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, which was hosted by Saudi Arabia" in mid-April. That meeting discussed ending Syria's long spell in the diplomatic wilderness.

UN chief, envoys in key talks on Afghanistan

AFP | Doha

UN chief Antonio Guterres will gather international envoys at a secret location in Doha today in an increasingly desperate bid to find ways to influence Afghanistan's Taliban rulers.

Considered the world's biggest humanitarian crisis by the United Nations, Guterres's quandary has been deepened by the Taliban administration's move to stop girls going



The United Nations assistant secretary-general and assistant high commissioner for protection (UNHCR) Gillian Triggs (C) speaks to the media upon her arrival at the airport in Kabul

to school and most from working, even agencies.

The Taliban government, which took power in August 2021, be absent from the talks with representatives of about 25 countries and international organisations, according to diplomats.

Ahead of the talks, a small group of women staged a protest in Kabul on Saturday to oppose international recognition of the Taliban government.

Ukrainian strike on Russian village kills four: government

● The strike was on the village of Suzemka

● Shelling hit the village twice overnight

AFP | Moscow

A pre-dawn Ukrainian strike on a Russian border village killed four people and wounded two others, the governor of Russia's western Bryansk region said yesterday.

The strike on the village of Suzemka, which lies a dozen kilometres (seven miles) from the Ukrainian border, came the night after a suspected drone hit a fuel depot in Moscow-annexed Crimea.



Ukrainian soldiers inspect a new Sirko reconnaissance drone outside Kharkiv

"Two more civilians have been found and removed from the rubble. Unfortunately, both of them died," Alexander Bogomaz, the local governor, said on Telegram. Bogomaz initially said two people were killed when "the Ukrainian army shelled Suzemka." Two

First Red Cross aid flight lands in Sudan as fighting

Khartoum

A first Red Cross plane laden with humanitarian aid yesterday landed in Sudan, where deadly clashes between rival generals' forces have entered their third week. "The eight tonnes

of humanitarian cargo includes surgical material to support Sudanese hospitals and volunteers from the Sudan Red Crescent Society," the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Fighting erupted on April 15 between forces loyal to two rival generals, leaving over 500 people killed and thousands wounded while uprooting tens of thousands more from their homes. Bodies have remained in the streets in the capital since the conflict began, and the ICRC's Africa regional director, Patrick

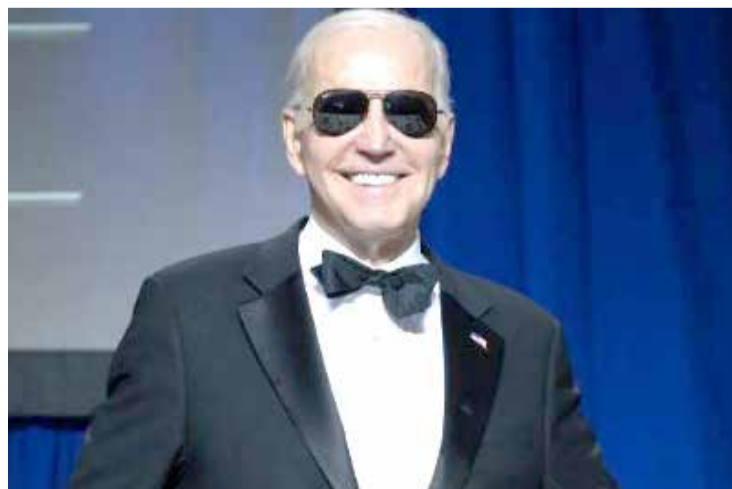
'I call it being seasoned': Biden laughs

AFP | Washington

US President Joe Biden took it on the chin Saturday at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner as he laughed gamely through sharp jokes about his age, and hit back with a few of his own.

Washington's political and media elites gathered for their annual big-night-out in the US capital for an event that ranged from the traditional comedy gags to somber calls to free reporters imprisoned abroad.

Headlining the after-dinner entertainment was "Daily Show" correspondent Roy Wood Jr., who gleefully mocked Biden, 80, for running for a second term in the White House that could mean he is still president at age 86. Wood noted recent angry pro-



US President Joe Biden smiles during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton in Washington

tests in France against raising the retirement age. "They rioted because they didn't want to work until 64. Meanwhile, in America, we have an 80-year-old man begging us

1707

Acts of Union comes into force, uniting England and Scotland to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain

1753

Publication of "Species Plantarum" by Carl Linnaeus - the formal start date of plant taxonomy adopted by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature



1924

German automobile manufacturers Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft and Benz & Cie begin their first joint venture (later merge into Mercedes-Benz)

1931

Empire State Building opens in New York City

## Afghanistan crisis

But the UN and Western powers are adamant this will not be discussed.

"Any kind of recognition of the Taliban is completely off the table," said US State Department spokesman Vedant Patel.

Apart from confirming that the Taliban leadership is not on the list of participants, the UN has refused to provide any specifics including the location in Qatar's capital or who will join Guterres.

## Russian terror

Other villagers were taken to hospital with injuries, the official said.

Bogomaz said Ukrainian shelling hit the village twice overnight and that Russian air defence had "shot down several shells."

He said one shell hit a residential house, sparking a fire, and that two more houses were damaged.

The village has declared a state of emergency, Bogomaz said. "Work is continuing on the removal of rubble," he said.

"In the areas where operational measures have been completed, a damage assessment commission has begun working."

Russian villages in the Bryansk and Belgorod regions bordering Ukraine have been hit by a number of strikes since Moscow began an offensive into the neighbouring country.

## Fighting rages

Youssef, told journalists the Sudanese Red Crescent is "trying to get to the bodies in the streets".

Only 16% of hospitals are functioning in the capital Khartoum, according to the World Health Organization, with many facilities shelled in the fighting.

## Pope appeals to Hungarians to be 'open' to migrants

Budapest

Pope Francis yesterday called on Hungarians to be "open" toward migrants, as he wrapped up a three-day visit to the central European country whose nationalist premier has taken a staunch anti-immigration stance.

Tens of thousands thronged a central Budapest square to hear the pope lead an open-air mass during which he urged all, including "those with political and social responsibilities", to be more open.

"Let us encourage one another to be increasingly open doors," the 86-year-old Argentine pontiff said, adding it was "sad and painful... to see closed doors".

"The closed doors of our selfishness with regard to others... the doors we close towards those who are foreign or unlike us, towards migrants or the poor," he said.

Throughout his visit to Budapest -- his second since a brief 2021 stopover -- Francis



Pope Francis waves as he celebrates a holy mass at Kossuth Lajos' Square during his visit in Budapest

has emphasised a welcoming stance towards those fleeing poverty or conflict zones.

The comments have stood in stark contrast to those of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban who has regularly espoused anti-migration rhetoric to defend a "Christian Europe" since coming to power in 2010.

## Four missing after dive boat sinks at Philippine reef

Manila

Rescuers were searching for four people yesterday after a boat carrying more than a dozen scuba divers sank at a World Heritage-listed marine sanctuary in the Philippines, authorities said.

The Philippine Coast Guard said 28 people were rescued after "Dream Keeper" went down on Sunday morning in the pristine waters at Tubbat-aha Reef off the western province of Palawan.

Four Chinese nationals were among those on board the dive boat.

The owner of the vessel, a dive master and two guests were still missing, coast guard



Representative picture

spokesman Rear Admiral Armando Balilo said.

A coast guard vessel and about 10 dive boats were searching the waters.

"It's full of diving enthusiasts now and it's on their bucket list. It's a dream dive," said Balilo, referring to Tubbat-aha.



The 97,000-hectare (240,000-acre) Tubbat-aha Reef is one of the country's largest marine protected areas and was listed as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations in 1993. Despite its protected status, the marine sanctuary is under constant threat from illegal fishing and poaching, according to authorities.

## Laughs off age gags at comedy roast

for four more years of work," he dead-panned, drawing a broad smile from Biden, sitting only yards away.

"Let me finish the job" -- That's not a campaign slogan, that's a plea," Wood added. "Say what you want about our president, but when he wakes up from that nap, work gets done."

Biden aimed one of his barbs at media mogul Rupert Murdoch, the 92-year-old owner of conservative TV network Fox News.

"You might think I don't like Rupert Murdoch, that's simply not true. How can I dislike a guy who makes me look like (29-year-old pop star) Harry Styles?" Biden joked.

He also targeted CNN presenter Don Lemon who was sacked allegedly after sexist and ageist

on-air remarks. "Call me old -- I call it being seasoned. You say I am ancient -- I say I'm wise. You say I'm over the hill -- Don Lemon would say that's a man in his prime."

### Press freedom

The dinner institution had started to wither -- first boycotted by Donald Trump, then shut down altogether to fend off Covid-19.

Even last year, strict Covid testing, frequent use of masks and diminished attendance resulted in a low-key affair.

But this year's event for 2,600 guests was sold out, and attended by both Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Having the president and vice president in attendance restored

a tradition last observed in 2016, the final dinner before Trump entered the White House.

"Folks, it is wonderful to be back here again, proving I haven't learned a damn thing," said Biden.

The occasion is meant to celebrate the constitution's First Amendment guarantees of free speech and to advocate for a free press worldwide.

Before the dinner, Biden met with the family of Evan Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal reporter arrested and imprisoned in Russia last month on espionage charges.

Also among the dinner's star guests was basketball player Brittney Griner, who was released by Russia as part of a prisoner swap last year and who has vowed to fight for other detainees.

TOP 4 TWEETS

01

Conflict in Sudan is set to trigger further displacement both within and outside the country. The @UN is scaling up efforts to help people seeking safety in neighbouring countries. We will always stand with refugees

@antonioguterres

02

Proud of @satwiksairaj and @Shettychirag04 for scripting history by becoming the first Indian Men's Doubles pair to win the Badminton Asia Championships Title. Congratulations to them and wishing them the very best for their future endeavours.

@narendramodi

03

Rolling out next month, this platform will allow media publishers to charge users on a per article basis with one click. This enables users who would not sign up for a monthly subscription to pay a higher per article price for when they want to read an occasional article

@elonmusk

04

Roy, that was one hell of a job hosting last night's White House Correspondents' Dinner.

@POTUS

### LEGAL VIEWPOINT

## Shell / Shelf-Companies



DR. ABDELGADIR WARSAMA

awarsama@warsamalc.com

Banks and financial institutions are taking very tough strategy to curb and firmly control money laundering through banking and other avenues. Many steps were taken by banks to achieve this, including know your customer (KYC) policy. As consequence to this bold stand in the face of money laundering, the launderers initiated other alternatives to pursue their criminal activities. Incorporating shell companies is one of their lucrative alternatives to penetrate the system.

The use of shell and shelf companies to facilitate money laundering is an active method. Many definitions are given for self-company, a corporation that has no activity and has been created and put on the "shelf". This corporation is later sold to someone who would prefer to have an existing than a new one. Shell company, is a company that is incorporated at time it has no significant assets or operations.

The easy way in which corporate vehicles can be created and dissolved in some jurisdictions, allows these vehicles to be used for legitimate purposes and also to be misused by those involved in financial crime to conceal the sources of funds. Shell companies can be set up in onshore as well as offshore locations and their ownership structures can take several forms. Shares can be issued to a natural or legal person or in registered or bearer form. Some companies can be created for a single purpose or to hold a single asset. Others can be established as multipurpose entities.

The ability for competent authorities to obtain and share information regarding the identification of companies and their beneficial owners is essential for the authorities responsible for preventing money laundering. The reasons to establish or control a company for money laundering purposes include, companies with the objective of converting cash proceeds of crime into alternative assets, through shell companies, the launderer can create the perception that illicit funds have been generated from a legitimate source. Once a company is established, commercial accounts can be created at banks or other financial institutions. Especially attractive to money launderers are businesses that customarily handle a high volume of cash transactions. Illicit revenues can then be deposited into bank accounts as legitimate bearer, or "bearer shares," are prime money laundering vehicles because they belong, on the surface, to the "bearer." The dirty money is laundered by pretending it is revenue earned by these front companies.

Generally, front companies also have legitimate revenue, but sometimes their total revenue comes from money generated by crime. Then there is no real business going on anymore. In these cases, criminals may have the whole vertical business column in his power, from production to wholesale to retail.

Once a company is established, a wide range of legitimate and/or bogus business transactions can be used to further the laundering process. These include lending money between criminally-controlled firms, paying out fictitious expenses or salaries, disguising the transfer of illicit funds under the guise of payment for goods or services, offering public shares in the company, or purchasing real estate with proceeds of crime disguised as mortgages issued by a shell company. As a medium between criminal organizations and other laundering vehicles, companies are flexible and can be tailored to a launderer's specific needs.

To distance a company from its criminal connections, nominees will be used as company owners, officers and directors. Nominees will often, but not necessarily, have no criminal record. Criminal proceeds from offshore are used to buy a company that is already owned by the criminal enterprise. In this way, the launderer successfully returns a large sum of money. Often, the business will be purchased at an artificially inflated price. The difference between the artificial and the real market value is deposited in a bank account. A reverse situation may occur where a company is sold at an artificially low price and so on there are unlimited ways to achieve the bad purpose. This is how, dirty money will be laundered through using certain dirty techniques and, therefore, tough measures are required otherwise criminal minds will be able to manage the whole economy through illegitimate means.

The use of shell and shelf companies to facilitate money laundering is an active method. Many definitions are given for self-company, a corporation that has no activity and has been created and put on the "shelf".

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

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

# CAMPUS

## NMS commemorates labour day



New Millennium School, Bahrain celebrated International Worker's Day or Labour Day yesterday to show appreciation for the hard work and dedication shown by the labour force. Students participated in a special assembly and an array of fun-filled activities like card making, poster designing, delivering speeches dressed up as community helpers. Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geetha Pillai and Principal, Arun Kumar Sharma applauded the students' efforts in making the day so special for all the staff and sub-staff of the school

## Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School celebrates labour day



A special assembly was conducted by Students of Bhavans - Bahrain Indian School (BIS) to mark the International Labour Day. Principal Saji Jacob addressed the students and appreciated the ceaseless toil of the workforce. BIS Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma guided all to treat people with dignity and stressed on the need for the student's community to realise the importance of dignity of labour

## English fiesta at NMS Bahrain



The New Millennium School, Bahrain celebrated 'English Week' on the theme: 'Collaborate, Create and Communicate' from 16th to 20th April. The event was aimed at promoting healthy reading habits, along with linguistic competence and effective communication skills. The creativity of the students was unveiled through a plethora of fun-filled and guided activities. Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geetha Pillai and Principal Arun Kumar Sharma complimented the students for their excellent feat in the English week and adored the efforts of all the students, parents and teachers for the successful completion of this special week.

## ISB Riffa campus students celebrate Health and Safety Week



The Indian School Riffa campus students celebrated 'Health, Safety, Security and Environmental protection week' from April 16 to 20. Students and teachers across the school participated in the awareness week celebrations aimed to rekindle the minds of young learners to adopt a sensitive approach towards HSSE aspects and to educate students how small changes can contribute positively to the overall wellbeing. Earth Day celebrations were also held during the week, where students deliberated on the importance of planting trees and had a motivational session with colouring tasks based on the Earth Day theme 'Save Water Save Earth'. ISB Chairman Prince Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony and EC Members congratulated Team Riffa for organizing the awareness week with a sensible approach to health and safety in the school

## Bhavans- Bahrain Indian School celebrates Eid



Students of Bhavans-Bahrain Indian school (BIS) celebrated Eid with a special assembly organized by school's Islamic Committee of Cultural and Islamic Activities and Events. The students designed beautiful posters and through a power point presentation the values of sacrifice, self-discipline, self-control and charity was reinforced. Students created exquisite drawings and paintings depicting Eid in its true sense. Students also contributed generously to the charity organised by the school to support the underprivileged. Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma conveyed Eid greetings to the students, staff and the parents and wished every one happiness and peace on this auspicious occasion

## NMS heralds solidarity Ramadan charity campaign



Believing in its culture of love and give and heralding its solidarity to the "Ramadan Charity Drive" in the Kingdom initiated by the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, New Millennium School, Bahrain, donated generous supplies of baby food packets and blankets. The charity drive was initiated by the School's Students' Council. In the form of donation, the students distributed their warmth of love to the victims of the recent earthquakes that destroyed parts of Syria and Türkiye. Dr. Ravi Pillai, Chairman, Geetha Pillai, Managing Director and Principal, Arun Kumar Sharma applauded and appreciated the staff and students for this noble gesture



# Classifieds



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

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**SHAGER COMBINED FACILITIES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36841778 or MEKY.M9@GMAIL.COM

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## Bayern sink Hertha to move top of Bundesliga

AFF | Berlin

Bayern Munich moved top of the Bundesliga and ahead of Borussia Dortmund yesterday as second-half goals from Serge Gnabry and Kingsley Coman gave the reigning champions a 2-0 home win over rock-bottom Hertha Berlin.

Bayern are now one point clear of Dortmund, who drew 1-1 at Bochum on Friday, and back on course for a record-extending 11th straight Bundesliga title with four matches remaining.

Lowly Hertha defended well for long periods against a Bayern side still struggling to find the fluency they displayed earlier in the season.

Gnabry broke the deadlock, heading in a Joshua Kimmich chip in the 69th minute, his first league goal since early February.

The goal broke Hertha's stubborn resistance, Coman scoring 10 minutes later, again assisted by Kimmich.

"(We) need to keep believing in ourselves," Coman told DAZN. "We can be champions. We will



Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry scores the opening goal with his head

try everything."

Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said: "(The win) will do us good, it'll give us a bit more self-confidence and trust."

Hertha coach Pal Dardai was coaching just his second match since returning for a third stint in charge of the club who are six points from safety and facing relegation.

"The team fought hard. I saw a team today," he said.

Bayern started brightly, Man-

chester City loanee Joao Cancelo forcing a save from Hertha goalkeeper Oliver Christensen after just 90 seconds.

France centre-back Benjamin Pavard blasted a powerful, lifting drive inches over the bar from well outside the box but Bayern struggled to create clear chances. Gnabry forced another stop from Christensen on the stroke of half-time.

Hertha went on a rare incursion into Bayern territory but

the hosts won the ball back and launched a counter-attack.

Kimmich dinked a wonderful pass over the retreating visitors' defence, finding Gnabry who headed past Christensen.

The goal was just the second strike from a Bayern forward in the club's past six matches.

Coman, arguably Bayern's form attacker during their recent lean run, followed Gnabry's initiative, calmly slotting a ball from Kimmich between Christensen's legs.

BETTER  
**YOU**  
KNOW

The win puts Bayern one point clear of Dortmund and on course for a record 11th straight Bundesliga title

## Master Jun's Angel bags Filipino basketball crown



Master Jun's Angels celebrate with the trophy

TDT | Manama

Master Jun's Angels ignited an impressive 114-82 victory over Ramenara to grab the championship trophy of FCBG 2023 Inter-Restaurant Ramadan League.

The winners started strong with Bautista, Ricafranca and Mateo doing the damage for runner-up Ramenara to etch a 10-point lead in the first quarter.

Ramenara's Ballesteros and Bantino's sub par performances were evident as Master Jun's continue their onslaught in the

first half to take a 56-41 lead. Santosidad and Agbulos fueled a comeback effort to chip down Master Angel's lead to six in the final quarter. The eventual champs managed to keep their composure intact down the stretch as they halted Ramenara's comeback scare.

Jordan Mateo top scored the game with 34 points, 19 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 block shots and was also named MVP of the tournament.

Santosidad scores 21 points and Agbulos contributed 11 points for the Ramenara Team.

# Man City back at the summit

Man City go top as Erling Haaland breaks 92-year goal landmark

● Newcastle, Man Utd press top-four claims

● Jota ruins Spurs fightback as Liverpool win seven-goal thriller

AFP | London

**E**rling Haaland scored his 50th goal of the season yesterday as Manchester City beat Fulham to return to the Premier League summit, with Newcastle and Man-

**”** The game was so tight until the end. We knew after we beat Arsenal that winning these types of games is really important. The players behaved amazingly. The Alvarez goal was extraordinary. We have incredible strikers

CITY BOSS PEP GUARDIOLA

chester United winning to close in on a top-four finish. Liverpool maintained their unlikely pursuit of a Champions League place by beating Tottenham 4-3 in a thriller but Southampton and Leeds

**34**

Premier League goals have been scored by Erling Haaland in just 30 appearances in the competition

are staring into the abyss.

City's 2-1 win at Craven Cottage left Pep Guardiola's men a point clear of long-time leaders Arsenal, with a game in hand.

The defending champions, chasing their fifth Premier League title in six seasons, were ahead in the third minute when Haaland scored from the penalty spot after Julian Alvarez was fouled.

Haaland's 34th Premier League goal of the season equals the competition record held by Andy Cole and Alan Shearer -- set in the days of 42-game campaigns.

The Norwegian is the first player to reach a half-century of goals across all competitions in a single English top-flight season since 1931.

"Before Winston Churchill was Prime Minister? Wow. Sounds a long time ago. Congratulations to Erling," said City boss Pep Guardiola.

Fulham equalised in the 15th minute through Carlos Vinicius but Alvarez restored City's lead nine minutes before half-time.

Treble-chasing City, on top for the first time in 10 weeks, have won their past eight league games and are unbeaten in their last 18 matches in all competitions.

They are red-hot favourites to retain their title, taking full advantage of Arsenal's stumbles -- the Gunners are winless in their past four matches.

Arsenal host struggling Chelsea on Tuesday, with City at home to West Ham on Wednesday.



Liverpool's Portuguese striker Diogo Jota (2R) shoots to score their second goal

day.

"It's important but on Tuesday Arsenal will play," said Guardiola. "Important is the West Ham game, it's a game in hand. After that we'll be top of the table and it will be more real."

Callum Wilson came off the bench to score twice as third-placed Newcastle fought back to beat Southampton 3-1 and edge their opponents towards relegation.

The England forward was left out of Eddie Howe's starting line-up despite scoring twice at Everton in midweek but produced the perfect response.

He cancelled out Stuart Armstrong's first-half opener and then helped himself to a second after Theo Walcott's own goal had given the Magpies the lead.

The win keeps Newcastle two points ahead of Manchester United but Southampton are

anchored at the foot of the table, six points from safety with just four games to play.

Erik ten Hag's Manchester United edged in-form Aston Villa 1-0, courtesy of a first-half goal from Bruno Fernandes.

"We look from game to game and next we have Brighton so we need to work hard again," Ten Hag told the BBC.

"We need to show passion again and not worry about the table. We are totally in control (in the race for the top four). It's all about us and it's in our hands."

The match came just two days after Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani and Jim Ratcliffe submitted their third, and what is expected to be final, offers to buy United from unpopular American owners the Glazers.

Other parties are interested in minority investment, and it was

While Tottenham's top four hopes are in tatters, Liverpool are unbeaten in their last six games and have won four in a row to climb to fifth place. Sixth placed Tottenham are without a win in four games and sit nine points adrift of the top four with four matches left

reported that Joel and Avram Glazer could remain stakeholders under one deal being proposed by British billionaire Ratcliffe.

A group of United fans marched to Old Trafford yesterday in protest against the Glazers, with a giant banner reading "Full Sale Only".

Liverpool hit managerless Tottenham with a three-goal blitz in the first 15 minutes but Richarlison scored an improbable equaliser in the 93rd minute.

Just when it seemed that Spurs had grabbed a dramatic point Diogo Jota won the game, leaving the Reds seven points behind fourth-placed Manchester United having played a game more.

Colombia midfielder Jefferson Lerma scored twice in four first-half minutes as Bournemouth moved 10 points clear of the relegation zone with a 4-1 home win over Leeds who remain in deep trouble.

## Raza helps Punjab down Chennai in last-ball IPL thriller



Sikandar Raza of Punjab Kings celebrates after the win

AFP | Chennai

Zimbabwe batsman Sikandar Raza helped Punjab Kings pull off a stunning chase to edge out Chennai Super Kings by four wickets in a last-ball Indian Premier League thriller yesterday.

Chasing 201 for victory, Liam Livingstone (40), Sam Curran (29) and Jitesh Sharma (21) played attacking cameos before Pakistan-born Raza sealed the win with his unbeaten 13 in Chennai.

Sri Lanka fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana was tasked with bowling the final over, with Punjab needing nine to win. Raza got three runs off the final ball, his arms outstretched in celebration.

Punjab moved to fifth in the 10-team table, one below Chennai. Holders Gujarat Titans top the standings.

### Scorecard

**Punjab Kings** 201 for 6 (Prabhsimran 42, Livingstone 40, Deshpande 3-49, Jadeja 2-32) beat **Chennai Super Kings** 200 for 4 (Conway 92\*, Gaikwad 37) by four wickets

Devon Conway's 92 off 52 balls proved to be in vain after the left-handed New Zealand opener steered Chennai to 200-4, having elected to bat first.

Livingstone and the left-handed Curran, who became the most expensive player in the tournament's history at \$2.23 million, revived the chase after Punjab fell to 94-3.

They put on 57 off 33 balls before Livingstone departed and Curran was bowled by Pathirana, called "Baby Malin-ga" for a slinging action similar to that of Lasith Malinga.

## Nuggets thrash Suns in NBA Western Conference semi-final opener

AFP | Los Angeles

**T**he Denver Nuggets, fueled by 34 points from Jamal Murray, dominated Kevin Durant and the Phoenix Suns 125-107 Saturday in game one of their NBA Western Conference semi-final series.

Denver's two-time reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Nikola Jokic scored 24 points and grabbed 19 rebounds as six Nuggets players scored in double-digits to give the top seeds a convincing victory against the potentially explosive Suns.

Jokic had gone so far as to say the Suns could be consid-



Jamal Murray #27 of the Denver Nuggets outlets the ball while being guarded by Kevin Durant #35 of the Phoenix Suns

ered favorites in the series, and Phoenix looked dangerous as they connected on 66.7 percent of their shots from the field in a nip-and-tuck first quarter that featured 14 lead changes.

But they led by just one heading into the second period, and

the Nuggets inexorably took control to lead 68-51 at halftime.

The Nuggets responded to every run the Suns produced and Phoenix -- led by 29 points from two-time NBA champion Durant and with 27 from Devin Booker -- didn't get the deficit

**”** Just some big, big shots when they were trying to go on runs -- Jamal seemed to stop it almost every time

NUGGETS COACH MIKE MALONE

**YOU**  
KNOW WHAT

Murray drained back-to-back three-pointers to launch a 14-0 fourth quarter run that carried the Nuggets to a 120-95 lead

below 10 points in the second half.

With five minutes remaining, Phoenix waved the white flag and pulled their stars.

Deandre Ayton scored 14 points and Chris Paul had 11 for the Suns, but Denver had 16 three-pointers to Phoenix's seven and scored 18 points off 16 Suns turnovers.

## Mumbai beat Rajasthan in last-over thriller

News18 | Mumbai

**M**umbai Indians (MI) defeated Rajasthan Royals (RR) by 6 wickets in match number 42 of the 2023 Indian Premier League (IPL) and the 1000th match of the tournament's history at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

Suryakumar Yadav smashed 55 runs from just 29 balls and

was aided by Camron Green, who hit a 26-ball 44, and a 14-ball unbeaten 45 from Tim David, in their highest-ever chase at home.

Earlier, Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed the highest score by an uncapped Indian batter in the IPL, a stunning 124 off 62 balls that propelled Rajasthan Royals to a massive 212/7 against Mum-

bai Indians.

In the 1000th IPL game, Jaiswal shined the brightest by mixing solidity in technique and power in shots which were conventional and innovative while using the crease well in hitting 16 fours and eight sixes at a strike-rate of 200 in an innings where the next best score was just 18.



Tim David

# 'King of the streets' Perez leads Red Bull 1-2 in Baku

Sergio Perez holds off Max Verstappen to win Azerbaijan Grand Prix

## Esteban Ocon's last-lap pitstop causes chaos

AFP | Baku

Sergio Perez won Sunday's Azerbaijan Grand Prix with teammate Max Verstappen in second to ram home Red Bull's supremacy over the rest of the Formula One grid.

Ferrari's pole-sitter Charles Leclerc completed the podium, a respectable third.

"Vamos!" exclaimed the Mexican on the team radio after making it a hugely profitable weekend in Baku where he also claimed Saturday's sprint race.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner acknowledged Perez's "sensational weekend".

He added: "He's always been outstanding on this track, I don't know what it is about Azerbaijan, but he absolutely excels here."

Red Bull's roll through 2023 after four races now reads four wins plus Saturday's sprint, three poles, and three 1-2s.

Verstappen leads the drivers' championship by just six points ahead of the fifth round of the record 23-race season in Miami.

Perez' engineer told him on the team radio he was the "king of the streets" and with justification as five of his six F1 wins - not counting Saturday's sprint - have come on street circuits, twice in Baku alongside victories in Saudi Arabia, Monaco and Singapore.

The popular Perez, who believes he can really challenge Verstappen for the title, said: "It really worked out today for us (me), we managed to keep the pressure on Max. I think it was very close between us, we pushed to the maximum, we both hit the wall a

few times but we (I) managed to keep him under control."

Leclerc conceded that for the time being at any rate Red Bull were in "another league once it comes to the race".

"Over 51 laps it was not possible, they have so much more pace than we do. Everyone is working flat out to understand what we can do in the races to close the gap."

### Safety car

The warmest day of a frenetic sprint weekend had the drivers arriving onto the grid, umbrellas perched on their cars.

After a resounding rendition of the national anthem the covers came off the tyres and the lights went out with pole-sitter Leclerc holding off Verstappen to the 90 degree turn one.

The Dutch ace had the Ferrari in his cross hairs though, waiting to pounce. The inevitable

He's always been outstanding on this track, I don't know what it is about Azerbaijan, but he absolutely excels here

RED BULL BOSS CHRISTIAN HORNER

table happened on lap four as the Red Bull star nipped past, leaving Leclerc sandwiching the Red Bulls.

Perez inched closer to the slower red rival and duly coasted past on lap six.

Verstappen pitted on lap 10 leaving Perez in control but then the safety car intervened to clear Nyck De Vries's stricken Alpha Tauri after hitting a wall.

All the leaders used the safety interlude to take a free pit stop with racing resuming under a safety car restart on lap 13.

Perez managed that slickly as Verstappen got the better of Leclerc to leave the Red Bulls in front.

At the midway point Perez led from Verstappen with Leclerc a forlorn 13sec behind, and that's as it ended up in a race that will not figure on most fans top five of the season.

## Ocon involved in dangerous 300kph pitlane incident



Esteban Ocon drives into the pitlane

AFP | Baku

Esteban Ocon was involved in a dangerous pitlane incident right at the end of the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Alpine driver pitted for tyres on the last lap at 300kph only to find people milling about the pitlane as he made his way to his garage.

It appeared an error by FI's governing body the FIA had allowed personnel into the pit lane area too early.

"It was a good race until I had to box on the last lap," he said.

"Not something we want to see. I don't understand why the people are prepping the podium while we are still racing in the pitlane.

The French driver added: "It was a very, very close moment, I'm arriving at 300kph, braking at the last moment, and I'm seeing people around. It's definitely something that needs to be changed."

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner called for action to avoid a repeat of what had the potential to be a horrendous incident.

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Sergio Perez took advantage of a safety-car entry that kept him in front of a pitting Max Verstappen to win the race and cut his teammate's lead in the driver standings to six points

## Napoli's title party put on hold after Salernitana draw

AFP | Naples

Napoli will have to wait a little longer to seal their first Serie A title in 33 years after being held to a 1-1 draw by Salernitana on Sunday.

Runaway league leaders Napoli needed to win to secure their third league crown with six games remaining in the season after Inter Milan beat closest challengers Lazio 3-1 earlier in the day.

And Naples thought a generation of frustration was set to come to an end when Mathias Olivera headed the hosts into the lead just after the hour mark.

But the long-awaited Scudetto party will have to be put on hold for at least a few more days after Boulaye Dia's stunning strike six minutes from time ensured Salernitana escaped with a point.

"The players are obviously



Napoli's Giacomo Raspadori (2ndL) congratulates Mathias Olivera (3rdL) after Olivera opened the scoring

ly disappointed at not having made our brilliant fans happy tonight. But you've seen for a while that these points are the hardest ones to get," coach Luciano Spalletti told DAZN.

"We represent their dreams

and that means it's right that their dreams are realised by us."

The coming midweek round of matches could still finally end Napoli's long wait for glory.

Spalletti's team are 18 points ahead of Lazio but Juve can

close that gap to 17 by winning at Bologna in Sunday's late match and moving into second place.

Depending how that match and Juve and Lazio's games on Wednesday go Napoli could be crowned champions before they take the field at Udinese on Thursday night.

The players are obviously disappointed at not having made our brilliant fans happy tonight. But you've seen for a while that these points are the hardest ones to get. We represent their dreams and that means it's right that their dreams are realised by us

NAPOLI'S COACH LUCIANO SPALLETTI

## Ginting wins Asian badminton title, India end 58-year wait

AFP | Dubai

World number two Anthony Sinisuka Ginting was crowned the new men's champion at the Badminton Asia Championships when he ended the run of Singapore's Loh Kean Yew in the final on Sunday.

Ginting packed off the 2021 world champion in just 28 minutes, winning 21-12, 21-8 in a



Anthony Sinisuka Ginting

lopsided title decider.

All the finals except for the men's doubles were decided in straight games, with Taiwan's fourth seed and former world number one Tai Tzu Ying beating the second seed An Se Young 21-10, 21-14.

In the men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought back brilliantly against Malaysians Ong Yew Sin

and Teo Ee Yi to secure a historic first-ever title for India and the first title in any category in 58 years (since Dinesh Khanna's individual men's title in 1965).

Rankireddy and Shetty lost the first game 16-21 and were 5-10 down in the second before battling back to win it 21-17, and topping a hard-fought third game 21-19. The Indian duo won in 67 minutes.

## Bagnaia wins last-lap scrap to take Spanish MotoGP



Ducati Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia (L) rides ahead of KTM South African rider Brad Binder

AFP | Madrid

Reigning world champion Francesco Bagnaia held off a frantic late counter-attack by Brad Binder in Jerez on Sunday to win the Spanish Grand Prix and take the lead in the MotoGP standings.

Italian Bagnaia, on a factory Ducati, overtook South African Binder, on a KTM, with four laps to go and resisted a fightback.

Australian Jack Miller, who led for the first half of the race, was third on another KTM.

Bagnaia struggled in practice on Friday and had to go through the qualifying re-charge to earn a chance to compete for a place on the first four rows on the starting grid.

"Very long weekend," he said. "I was a bit in trouble Friday. I needed time to be used to this bike on this track."

The race was quickly halted after Fabio Quartararo, Miguel Oliveira and pre-race championship leader Marco Bezzecchi all crashed on the opening lap

The race was quickly halted on Sunday after Fabio Quartararo, Miguel Oliveira and pre-race championship leader Marco Bezzecchi all crashed on the opening lap.

It was also punctuated by penalties with both Bagnaia and Miller among those forced to give up a place mid-race.

Binder and Bagnaia were both attempting to bounce back after two bad results on the Americas and the South African edged the sprint the evening before.

# Bahraini athletes excel in global meets

Birhanu Balew, Violah Jepchumba triumph in European road races, Layla Kamal captures girls' 200m bronze

● **Birhanu Balew powers to superb win in the men's five-kilometre road race at the adizero Road to Records**

● **Violah Jepchumba claims brilliant triumph in Marathon International de Rabat 2023 in Morocco**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's top international athletes had plenty of reasons to celebrate in their respective events held around the world.

Bahrainis Birhanu Balew and Violah Jepchumba were both triumphant in their senior-level road races in Europe

while youngster Layla Kamal captured a bronze medal in the girls' 200 metres at the fifth Asian U18 Athletics Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Balew powered to a superb win in the men's five-kilometre road race at the adizero Road to Records event, held in Herzogenaurach, Germany, on Saturday.

To add to his victory, Balew also came close to setting a personal best in the distance. Balew took first place after storming past Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha in a stunning finish to win in 13 minutes 06 seconds—not far behind his previous record mark of 13:02.

Kejelcha had the same finishing time as the runner-up, while Rodrigue Kwizera of Burundi finished third in 13:11.

Meanwhile, Violah had a brilliant triumph in the Marathon

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

With her girls 200 metres bronze medal, Layla Kamal won her second accolade of the Asian U18 championships after also coming away with the girls' 100m gold

International de Rabat 2023 yesterday in Morocco.

Violah sprinted to a finishing time of one hour 08 minutes 44 seconds. The current Asian half-marathon record holder was well of her fastest mark of

1:05:22 for the 21.1-kilometre race, but it was enough for her win.

Rachael Zena Chebet of Uganda finished in second place in 1:08:46 while her compatriot Rispa Cherop came third in 1:08:53.

In the Uzbek capital, Layla clinched third place in her 200m race after finishing the sprint in 24.48 seconds.

It was her second medal of the competition after also coming away with the girls' 100m gold medal on Saturday.

The Bahrainis thus wrapped up their participation in the Asian youth event with two medals, both won by Layla.

The event came to an end last night with a closing ceremony. Bahrain's athletes were amongst 524 boys and girls, representing 40 countries, who took part in the event.



Bahrain's Birhanu Balew crosses the finish line ahead of Yomif Kejelcha in Germany

## Manama draw first blood against Ahli

● **Lamont Jones scores 26 points to pace Manama against Ahli in slim 90-88 win in game one of best-of-three semi-final**

TDT | Manama

Manama drew first blood last night in their best-of-three Golden Square semi-final series in the 2022/2023 Khalifa bin Salman Cup basketball tournament.

Manama came up with the big plays late in the contest to come away with the hard-earned 90-88 victory in the first game of the highly anticipated match-up.

Lamont Jones buried a jumper with 22 seconds to go to put Manama ahead by four, but then Dakari Johnson brought Ahli back to within two. Ahmed Salman then had two charity shots



Al Ahli's Dakari Johnson tries to penetrate during their game against Manama last night

and Ali Hussain one other to put Manama up by five, 90-85, and virtually seal the victory.

Maitham Jameel pegged the final score with a triple right before the buzzer.

Jones finished with 26 points while Travin Thibodeaux added 23, including four three-pointers. Mohammed Ameer chipped in with 13 and Hasan Nowrooz 11.

Taylor Rochestie paced Ahli with 27 points, including five triples, while Johnson had 22.

Ahli will now be looking to close out their series in game two, scheduled for Wednesday. Game three, if needed, will be on May 12.

The other Golden Square match-up is between Muharraq and Sitra. Muharraq won the opening contest by a massive margin and are now favoured to close out the series and advance to the final with a win in game two on Friday. If needed, a third game will be held on May 10.

The other Gold Square match-up between Manama and Al Ahli gets underway tomorrow night. Game two will be on May 4 and game three, if needed on May 12.

## PSG slump to new defeat after Hakimi red card



Achraf Hakimi trudges past Lionel Messi and off the pitch after being shown a red card

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain's poor second half of the season continued yesterday as the Ligue 1 leaders slumped to a 3-1 defeat at home to mid-table Lorient after having Achraf Hakimi sent off in the first half.

Lorient were already ahead through Enzo Le Fee's early goal at the Parc des Princes before Hakimi was dismissed for a second yellow card inside the opening 20 minutes.

Kylian Mbappe equalised for the home side in opportunistic fashion, pouncing to score after Lorient goalkeeper Yvon Mvogo had thrown the ball to the ground wrongly thinking the referee had blown for a free-kick.

Yet Lorient deservedly retook the lead before half-time when Darlin Yongwa converted from close range, and they made sure of the win late on.

Bamba Dieng had a goal disallowed for offside moments before he ran half the length of the pitch unchallenged to score at the second attempt after Gianluigi Donnarumma had stopped his shot.

The final whistle was met

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Despite their sixth Ligue 1 loss of 2023, PSG remain eight points clear at the top of the table from Marseille and on course to seal a French record 11th league title

with loud jeers from the home fans in a stadium where one end was closed as a punishment after fans let off flares during a defeat by Lyon earlier in April.

Despite their sixth Ligue 1 loss of 2023, PSG remain eight points clear at the top of the table from Marseille and on course to seal a French record 11th league title.

However, Marseille can cut that gap to five points with a win at home to Auxerre later and Lens will be six points off the top if they beat Toulouse away in midweek.

## Swiatek into Madrid last 16 after 'tricky' clash

AFP | Madrid

World number one Iga Swiatek claimed she had endured a "tricky" afternoon despite easing to a straight-sets win over American left-hander Bernarda Pera to reach the Madrid Open last 16 yesterday.

Swiatek, warming up for the defence of her French Open title, claimed a 6-3, 6-2 win over 29th seed Pera for a sixth consecutive victory on clay this season.

"I wouldn't say it was easy. Every match is tricky here," Swiatek said after her 75-minute outing.

"I'm happy that I'm getting my rhythm. Playing against a



Iga Swiatek

lefty is never easy ... but I'm pretty happy that I was disciplined and focused."

Swiatek next faces either Chinese 22nd seed Zheng Qinwen, who was the only player to take a set off her at Roland Garros

**“I wouldn't say it was easy. Every match is tricky here. I'm happy that I'm getting my rhythm. Playing against a lefty is never easy ... but I'm pretty happy that I was disciplined and focused**

IGA SWIATEK

last year, or 16th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Also progressing to the fourth round yesterday was world number three Jessica Pegula, who clinched a gruelling 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) victory over Marie Bouzk-

ova of the Czech Republic.

Pegula, 29, made the final in Madrid in 2022 where she lost to Ons Jabeur. She will now tackle Italy's Martina Trevisan on Monday for a quarter-final spot.

Two-time champion Alexander Zverev of Germany needed just 56 minutes to dispose of France's Hugo Grenier 6-1, 6-0 on the back of six breaks of serve and 26 winners.

He will face either Alcaraz or Dimitrov for a quarter-final place.

"Both are great players," said Zverev. "It's going to be difficult no matter who it is against. Of course with Carlos that would be a matchup people would look forward to."