

**Russell triumphs in Austrian drama**  
 Mercedes driver gifted Austrian victory after late collision between Verstappen and Norris shakes up race. | P12



Taylor Swift reveals she's a Hugh Grant 'stan' **8 CELEBS**

**BUSINESS 5** BAB hosts 'Annual reception for Bahrain Banks' in Washington



July 01 – Aug 03, 2024  
 1 يوليو – 3 أغسطس 2024



مركز البحرين العالمي للمعارض  
 Exhibition World Bahrain

**Two-month midday outdoor work ban set to begin today**  
 TDT | Manama

Bahrain's two-month midday ban on outdoor work during the afternoon will begin today.

According to the Resolution (3) of 2013, the ban on work under direct sunlight and in open places will run from 12noon until 4pm, during July and August.

His Excellency Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, the Minister of Labour, called on employers to maintain their commitment to implementing the decision to ensure the safety and health of workers and to take all regulatory measures, including rescheduling working hours in a way that does not affect the progress of work.

*(Detailed report on Page 3)*

**BFMC postpones price hike decision for three months**  
 TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Flour Mills Company (BFMC) has decided to postpone the implementation of its planned price increases for a three-month period.

This decision follows a joint meeting involving legislative and government officials, alongside company representatives including Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam and Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh.

The decision comes amidst discussions on pricing policies affecting BFMC products. The move aims to provide major food companies, food manufacturers, and food service providers with ample time to diversify their supply sources and maintain operational stability.

BFMC said prices for subsidised products will remain unchanged.

# Royal Inspiration, Regal Momentum

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa inspires Bahrain's young CEOs at demo day of 9th Young Entrepreneur (Mashroo3i) programme

TDT | Manama

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, emphasised the importance of creativity, innovation, and the adoption of new technologies to meet labour market requirements.

He also highlighted the need to enhance the role of the private sector in the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman spoke while attending the demo day for the ninth edition of the Young Entrepreneur (Mashroo3i) program, where finalists are set to receive grants to fund their projects.

He highlighted various programs contributing to the development of the entrepreneurship sector and providing an environment that fosters creativity to support Bahrain's economic growth and create promising opportunities for Bahraini citizens.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman expressed his pride in the innovative ideas and projects presented, which are in line with the kingdom's far-reaching development aspirations and wished the qualifiers good luck and success in the next stages of the program.

His Highness also affirmed the commitment of the people of Bahrain to utilising innovation and new technologies in entrepreneurship to raise the level of efficiency and quality of several services and improve productivity and broaden developmental goals toward achieving excellence and success.

The Young Entrepreneur



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa receives a warm welcome upon arrival at the event



(Mashroo3i) program was introduced by Tamkeen to cater to Bahraini youth aged between 18 and 35 who have entrepreneurial ideas or already run a startup.

The program offers training

and advisory support that includes bootcamps and guidance from mentors and entrepreneurship experts.

**Financial grants**

The finalists receive financial grants to help the launch of their business ventures and enable them to succeed through the early stages of their projects.

Since the launch of its first

edition, Mashroo3i has greatly contributed to enhancing and developing many startups in Bahrain, providing entrepreneurs with the knowledge and expertise required to expand their business across a wide range of sectors and in alignment with the market requirements.

Startup projects in the program include businesses in the healthcare, creative and technology sectors.

**Productivity**

This program is part of Tamkeen's ongoing efforts to develop the private sector by supporting enterprises and boosting productivity through the adoption of technology.

These initiatives then drive economic impact and sustainable growth, which are both central to Tamkeen's strategic priorities for 2024.

This is in addition to increasing economic participation through employment opportunities for new market entrants and expanding career development opportunities available to the Bahraini workforce.

*(More pictures on Page 2)*



**Mashroo3i program to boost enterprises**



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), yesterday attended the demo day for the ninth edition of the Young Entrepreneur (Mashroo3i) program, through which finalists of the program are set to receive grants to fund their projects. This program is part of Tamkeen's ongoing efforts to develop the private sector by supporting enterprises and boosting productivity through the adoption of technology. These initiatives then drive economic impact and sustainable growth, which are both central to Tamkeen's strategic priorities for 2024.

**BASREC's 60th Anniversary**



Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Bahrain Ship Repairing & Engineering Company (BASREC) yesterday celebrated its 60th Anniversary at the Gulf Hotel Convention Center. The event was attended by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman highlighted the unwavering support provided by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman to the Kingdom's industrial sector.

**KHK Media Group launches 'The Martial Artist' film project**



Shaz Khan with president of BRAVE CF, Mohammad Shahid, and Hamza Kooheji, Bahrain's biggest international athlete

Shaz Khan



Mohammad Shahid with other attendees at the premiere

**Ashen Tharaka**  
TDT | Manama

KHK Media Group, the Middle East's leading sports media powerhouse, is taking a giant leap into the global film industry.

Their journey begins with the premiere of their debut project, "The Martial Artist," launched yesterday at Mukta Cinemas in Juffair.

The exclusive, VIP-only red carpet event saw the presence of lead actor and director Shaz Khan.

This premiere marks the beginning of a much larger plan for KHK Media Group. Partnering with Odyssey Entertainment and BRAVE Films, they aim to produce a slate of international movies that tell

captivating stories.

Shaz Khan, Lead Actor and Director, expressed his excitement to The Daily Tribune; "I'm thrilled to be partnered with BRAVET to tell this global story, which allows us to showcase the talent of so many on the international stage."

Khan's enthusiasm reflects the collaborative spirit of this project, bringing together a team passionate about sharing inspiring stories with the world.

KHK Media Group's focus is twofold. They want to inspire the next generation with compelling narratives while shedding light on the often-overlooked triumphs of the sporting world.

"The Martial Artist" embodies this vision.

**Medical minds to gather in Bahrain**

Stage set for prestigious Manama Health Congress and Expo 2024 in December

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will be hosting one of the most important and biggest medical exhibition and conference in the GCC, titled the Manama Health Congress and Expo 2024, the government announced yesterday.

The event will be held from December 12th to 14th at the Exhibition World Bahrain.

Addressing a press conference to announce the upcoming expo, Mariam Al Jalahma, CEO of the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), said it is being conducted in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Health and with the participation of Government Hospitals, Primary Health Care Centers, the Ministry of Health, and the NHRA.

Dr. Husain Alharmi, who is heading the Scientific Committee of the expo, said his team has been diligently preparing for four months, focusing on integrating underrepresented medical specialties such as anesthesia, ICU, and geriatrics into the conference.

This year's event will also include a panel discussion on sustainability in the healthcare



Dr Mariam Al Jalahma speaks at the event



Attendees at the press conference

sector featuring the World Economic Forum, alongside partners such as the Bahrain Economic Development Board and Tamkeen.

Delving into the details of the conference, Al Jalahma said the second day will have a scientific programme intended doctors and nurses as well as a special

panel discussion on antimicrobial resistance featuring experts from the government, the military, and the World Economic Forum.

**Importance**

Manama Health 2024 will be the largest healthcare congress and trade show in the GCC and Middle East.

It will serve as a central meeting place for the world of medicine, attracting representatives from North Africa, the Middle East, and European countries

The event will provide a platform for displaying the latest medical equipment, products, and healthcare technology from around the world.

**Medical technology**

Bahrain is set to remain one of the fastest-growing markets for medical technology globally.

Planned investments in hospital expansion and state health insurance for lower-income groups are expected to boost demand for medical products.

Industry experts predict an average annual growth of 20%, driven by the population size and high dependency on imports.

**First four months of 2024**

**India-Bahrain trade surges to \$706.68 million**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

The governments of India and Bahrain have announced that trade between the two nations reached a total of \$706.68 million from January to April this year.

India's exports to Bahrain amounted to \$352.11 million, while imports from Bahrain stood at \$354.57 million for the first quarter of 2023.

Rice imports from India to Bahrain were valued at \$68 million in 2023, marking a 33% increase from \$51 million in 2022.

Semi-milled or fully milled rice, whether coated or un-



Trade between India and Bahrain is growing from strength to strength

coated, represented 83% of the top 10 commodities imported by Bahrain from India, with a valuation of \$67.68 million for 67,000 tonnes.

Gold jewelry constituted 11% of Bahrain's imports from India, with a value of \$26.07 million for 157 kilograms. Smartphones accounted for 8%, amounting to \$26.85 million for 97,000 devices.

Bahrain imported 2,000 private cars in the 1001-1500cc category, at \$23 million, and 5.5 million kilograms of beef worth \$22 million. From Bahrain to India, the principal imports included bars and other forms of iron or non-alloy steel.

# BTEA unveils fun-filled Bahrain Toy Festival

A unique five-week family experience starting today at Exhibition World Bahrain



H.E. Sarah Buhijji with event organisers and guests at the launch of the toy festival (Pictures by Ashen Tharaka)

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has announced the launch of the Bahrain Toy Festival, in strategic partnership with Al Dana Amphitheatre and collaboration with Spacetoon. The event will be held at Exhibition World Bahrain.

As the first and largest festival of its kind, the Bahrain Toy Festival will be part of the Bahrain Summer Festival 2024. It is scheduled to run from today lasting for five weeks, featuring top international toys brands and a variety of activities and entertainment events.

Her Excellency Sarah Buhijji, CEO of the BTEA, emphasized that the festival aligns with the Authority's commitment to diversifying the tourism offerings.

This initiative is part of the broader effort to position the Kingdom of Bahrain as a leading tourist destination, consistent with the objectives of Bahrain's Tourism Strategy for 2022-2026.

## Experience

H.E. Buhijji mentioned that BTEA team, in collaboration with Spacetoon, is dedicated

“The festival is anticipated to attract a large public turnout, offering attendees the chance to explore a wide range of toys and iconic characters from over 20 leading international brands. Each brand brings its unique appeal, catering to diverse tastes and interests. In addition to these offerings, the festival will feature exciting activities, shows, and interactive games.”

- H.E. SARAH BUHIJJI, CEO OF BAHRAIN TOURISM AND EXHIBITIONS AUTHORITY (BTEA)

to providing an integrated and unprecedented experience for festival visitors.

In addition to the huge toys collection, the festival will feature numerous events, entertainment programs, and musical performances, ensuring that



A merry mix of activities will surely entertain both children and adults alike

families and children can enjoy a variety of summer activities within the Kingdom of Bahrain.

“The festival is anticipated to attract a large public turnout, offering attendees the chance to explore a wide range of toys and iconic characters from

over 20 leading international brands. Each brand brings its unique appeal, catering to diverse tastes and interests. In addition to these offerings, the festival will feature exciting activities, shows, and interactive games,” H.E. Buhijji

## CPISP launches Candidacy Programme for shortlisting



The scholarship candidates attend an orientation on the programme's training courses  
TDT | Manama

The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme (CPISP) has launched its Candidacy Programme, for its 2025 scholarship selection process.

The CPISP held an orientation at the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) to brief the scholarship candidates, from both public and

private schools, on the training they will receive during the programme.

Ava Garbutt, Director of CPISP, commended the vision of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to invest and enhance the skills of Bahraini youth. She congratulated the candidates for being short-listed.

## Midday work ban to take effect today

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain will enforce starting today its annual two-month midday ban on outdoor work to protect workers from the harsh effects of the sun and extreme heat.

Resolution No. (3) of 2013 mandates a prohibition on outdoor labour under direct sunlight from noon to 4pm during the months of July and August.

This annual measure aims to shield workers from the perils associated with the extreme heat and humidity prevalent during this period.

His Excellency Jameel Humaidan, Minister of Labour, urged employers to fulfil their responsibility to implement the midday work ban.

He emphasised the importance of prioritising worker safety and health, suggesting



Outdoor work under direct sunlight is banned from noon to 4pm in July and August. The penalty of violating the work ban is a jail sentence not exceeding three months, and/or a BD500-BD1,000 fine.

adjustments to work schedules to minimise disruption to productivity.

He pointed out the resolution's dual benefits, promoting both humanitarian and economic well-being.

The Minister further stressed the importance of adhering to occupational safety principles to foster a secure and efficient working environment, free from accidents.

### Site visits

He announced that Ministry inspection teams will begin site visits to workplaces subject to the midday work ban.

According to Mr. Humaidan, the midday work ban has consistently yielded positive outcomes in preserving the health and safety of workers, whilst also enhancing productivity.

He added that this annual

## Labour unions demand expanded work ban

TDT | Manama

Labour unions in Bahrain are calling for the inclusion of certain professions in the annual midday work ban, which is set to come into effect today.

The ban, which runs from July 1st to August 31st, aims to protect workers from extreme heat.

Union leaders have argued that professions like food delivery riders and gas station workers, who spend extended periods outdoors under the sun, should be included in the ban.

They point to similar measures taken in other regional countries, where motorcycle delivery riders are prohibited from working during midday hours.

## Man arrested for home and mosque thefts

TDT | Manama

A man involved in a series of burglaries has been arrested following meticulous investigations and the deployment of specialized security teams who identified commonalities and specific markers linking the crimes, revealed the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Forensics.

The Directorate announced on Saturday the arrest of the 38-year-old man for his involvement in a series of home thefts.

According to newly released information, the suspect is accused of not only stealing from homes and vehicles but also from a mosque, where he allegedly stole a light fixture.

The suspect is also believed to have broken into an apartment.

### Safer working environment

The ban aims to provide a safer working environment, shielding workers from heat-induced health risks and occupational accidents during the peak of summer.

The Ministry of Labour has taken proactive steps to prepare for the resolution's enforcement.

They have organised a series of educational workshops and distributed informative materials in multiple languages, thereby raising awareness among workers about the dangers of heat stress and exposure to the midday sun.

### Medical director cleared of wage withholding charges by staff

TDT | Manama

A medical centre director has been cleared of charges of withholding a former employee's salary, following a ruling by the Lower Criminal Court.

The court found that the complainant, who had filed a labour lawsuit to claim her dues, had not proven that the director, responsible for salary disbursement, had withheld her wages.

The court subsequently overturned a previous criminal order that had fined the director BD50, effectively dismissing the charges.

The case, as presented by the defendant's lawyer, Sarah Ali, involved a former employee of the medical centre who was terminated and offered her due wages. However, the employee refused to sign and receive the payment, demanding a larger sum than what she was entitled to.

She subsequently filed a labour lawsuit against the centre, which is still pending before the competent court. She also filed a complaint against the director, accusing him of withholding her wages, resulting in a criminal order fining him BD50.

# Modernising roads

Vital Budaiya Highway to undergo major expansion and facelift

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Budaiya Highway, a crucial artery in Bahrain's transportation network, is poised for a significant expansion and renovation, according to documents released by the Ministry of Works.

This ambitious project aims to improve traffic flow, enhance safety, and boost connectivity along this vital corridor.

The project will involve constructing approximately 6.5 kilometres of new three-lane dual carriageways along Budaiya Highway, extending from the Al Qadam Roundabout to the Janabiya Highway intersection.

#### Traffic signals

Four new traffic signals will be installed to replace existing roundabouts, and changes will be made to the current traffic signal at the Janabiya Highway intersection.

The upgrades will also include the installation of new street lighting and the diversion and protection of existing utility infrastructure along the highway.

In particular, the project



The major project aims to alleviate traffic congestion on Budaiya Highway

The aim of this infrastructure project is to facilitate the smooth flow of traffic and enhance the overall functionality of this important transportation corridor in Bahrain.

plans include constructing footbridges at various points along Budaiya Highway to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity.

Work on the project is expected to begin in the next few months after a contractor

is selected through the tender process.

Two prominent construction firms, Haji Hassan Group with a bid value of BD29,936,870.990 and Nass Contracting with a bid value of BD31,435,270.000, are competing for the tender.

The Ministry of Works has stated that the primary aim of this major infrastructure project is to facilitate the smooth flow of traffic and enhance the overall functionality of this important transportation corridor in Bahrain.

### Giant screen at Abu Subh Beach gets green light

TDT | Manama

The Northern Municipal Council approved the installation of a giant screen at Abu Subh Beach during its weekly meeting yesterday.

This project aims to enhance physical fitness and public health by broadcasting sports training exercises for residents of the Northern Governorate.

The screen will present a range of scheduled exercises and sports activities managed by Bahraini sports experts and trainers.

This initiative provides an accessible way for individuals of all ages and fitness levels to engage in physical activity.

Council member Bassem Abu Idris, who proposed the project, believes it will boost the area's reputation as a healthy destination.

He expressed his hope that this initiative will inspire residents to adopt healthier lifestyles, thereby improving both physical and mental well-being.

The project addresses social issues among the youth. By providing space for physical activity, the organisers hope to deter them from engaging in harmful behaviours such as substance abuse and theft.

## SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Branch Bahrain

State Bank of India is licensed as a Conventional Retail Bank by the Central Bank of Bahrain

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 March 2024

	Bahraini Dinars 000's	
	31-Mar-24 (Audited)	31-Mar-23 (Audited)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and balances with banks and the Central Bank	53,722	25,954
Due from other branches	4,107	21,025
Loans and advances	42,312	39,571
Interest receivable and other assets	459	711
Right-of-use assets	257	149
Furniture and equipment	67	114
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>100,924</b>	<b>87,524</b>
<b>HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>		
Head Office funds		
Head Office account	10,655	10,655
Unremitted profits (losses)	929	-1,794
<b>TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS</b>	<b>11,584</b>	<b>8,861</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Customer Deposits	79,402	72,924
Interest payable and other liabilities	1,713	1,370
Due to other Branches	7,956	4,238
Lease obligations	269	131
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>89,340</b>	<b>78,663</b>
<b>TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>100,924</b>	<b>87,524</b>

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 (Audited)	2023 (Audited)
Interest and similar income	5800	3828
Interest and similar expense	(1,859)	(1,030)
<b>NET INTEREST INCOME</b>	<b>3,941</b>	<b>2,798</b>
Fees and commission income	375	423
Other operating income	426	355
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>4,742</b>	<b>3,576</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Staff expenses	(634)	(743)
Depreciation	(191)	(243)
Other operating expenses	(841)	(747)
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>(1,666)</b>	<b>(1,733)</b>
Profit before expected credit loss allowance	3,076	1,843
Expected Credit loss allowance	(353)	(879)
<b>Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>964</b>

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Head Office account (Audited) BHD 000's	Unremitted profits (losses) (Audited) BHD 000's	Total (Audited) BHD 000's
Balance at 1 April 2023	10,655	(1,794)	8,861
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	2,723	2,723
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>10,655</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>11,584</b>
Balance at 1 April 2022	10,655	(2,758)	7,897
Net loss and total comprehensive income for the year	-	964	964
<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>10,655</b>	<b>(1,794)</b>	<b>8,861</b>

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Bahraini Dinars 000's	
	2024 (Audited)	2023 (Audited)
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net profit for the year	2,723	964
<b>Adjustments for non-cash and non-operating items:</b>		
Depreciation	191	243
Expected credit loss allowance	353	879
Amortisation of premium on investments at amortised cost	-	50
Interest expense on lease obligations	4	4
<b>Operating profit before changes in operating assets &amp; liabilities</b>	<b>3,271</b>	<b>2,140</b>
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>		
Mandatory reserve deposits with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(126)	(837)
Loans and advances	(3,094)	13,450
Due from other branches	16,560	(20,329)
Interest receivable and other assets	252	250
Due to other branches	3,718	(8,834)
Customer deposits	6,478	(2,632)
Interest payable and other liabilities	342	387
<b>Net cash from (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>27,401</b>	<b>(16,405)</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(1)	(106)
Proceeds from maturity of investments	-	14,778
<b>Net cash (used in) from investing activities</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>14,672</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITY</b>		
Payment of lease obligations	(117)	(164)
<b>Net cash used in financing activity</b>	<b>(117)</b>	<b>(164)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>27,283</b>	<b>(1,897)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	24,182	26,079
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>51,465</b>	<b>24,182</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at year end comprise</b>		
Cash and balances with banks and the Central bank	53,722	25,954
Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(2,594)	(2,468)
	<b>51,128</b>	<b>23,486</b>
Add: Due from other branches with an original maturity of less than ninety days	337	696
	<b>51,465</b>	<b>24,182</b>

The statement of financial position, statement of comprehensive income, statement of cash flows and statement of changes in Head Office Funds have been extracted from the financial statements of State Bank of India - Retail Branch, Bahrain for the year ended 31 March 2024 which were approved for issue by the management and on which an unmodified opinion was issued by Ernst & Young - Middle East, Bahrain on 23 June 2024

Chief Executive Officer

# BAB hosts 'Annual reception for Bahrain Banks' in Washington

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) has announced plans to host the "Bahrain Banks Annual Reception" from October 25 to 27 in Washington, DC.

The event will feature a distinguished Bahraini delegation comprising leaders from the government and private financial and banking sectors, central bank governors, ministers of finance and development, senior private sector officials, academics, sovereign wealth fund managers, asset managers, hedge funds, insurance companies, and multinational corporations.

Mr. Adnan Yousef, Chairman of BAB, affirmed that the "Annual Reception for Bahrain's Banks" coincides with the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. The reception aims to highlight Bahrain's financial services sector and showcase the investment opportunities available in the market.



Adnan Yousef, Chairman of BAB

Dr. Waheed Al Qassim, CEO of the Bahrain Association of Banks

The goal is to attract international institutions to establish their regional headquarters in Bahrain, supporting BAB's ambitious vision to strengthen international ties and promote economic cooperation for sustainable development in the financial sector.

"This event is a significant occasion for bank leaders and influential figures in the financial services sector from Bahrain and the world to meet, in addition to identifying the advantages that Bahrain can offer

Dr. Waheed Al Qassim, CEO of the Bahrain Association of Banks, pointed out that the main objective of this event is to highlight the leading role played by banks in the renaissance of the financial and banking services sector, and to discuss the latest developments in the financial services industry, as well as the importance of cooperation and knowledge exchange to achieve development and innovation in the financial sector.

Dr. Al Qassim emphasized the significance of the annual World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund meetings, highlighting their role in fostering dialogue among member country officials through various formal and informal consultations. Additionally, several seminars are held in parallel with the meetings, including those organized by media personnel, as the Annual Meetings Seminar Program aims to encourage creative dialogue between delegates from the private sector, governments, and senior IMF and Bank staff.

as a gateway to the GCC countries and the region," Mr. Adnan said. "It also comes within the framework of efforts to promote investment advantages in the Kingdom in line with the government's policy of attracting more regional and global investments, I also express my appreciation for the great support received by the association from its active members, enabling it to move forward with the implementation of the strategy set by its board of directors."

# BisB launches new personal finance campaign

● Offering customers chance to win back their first year's financing profits

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the, has launched its latest Personal Finance campaign running from 9th June to 31st July 2024.

Customers who apply for new Personal Finance or top up their existing finance will be eligible to enter a draw for the chance to win back their first year's profit. This amount, constituting a maximum rebate of up to BD1,000, will be deposited directly into their Tejoori Al Islami accounts. Five winners will be selected each month.

Ms. Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB said, "Through this campaign,



Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB

we give our new and existing customers the chance to further benefit from our personal finance offering by winning back the profit amount on their first year's financing. BisB remains committed to creating opportunities and exciting campaigns that incentivise and reward the loyalty of our clientele."

BisB's Personal Finance enables applicants to receive Sharia'a Compliant financing from the Bank with competitive profit rates, swift approval processes, and flexible repayment options.



Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), one of the world's largest aluminium smelters, and Bahrain Polytechnic, marked the near completion of a unique Top-Up in the Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering programme. This programme enables diploma holders (or equivalent qualifications) to upgrade their diploma to a degree in two years while accommodating their schedules. This collaborative effort empowered 24 national employees at Alba to enhance their knowledge and skillset, fostering a future generation of industry experts. A ceremony was held on 30 June 2024 at Alba's Oasis Hall to recognise the significant progress made by these dedicated employees enrolled in the Bachelor programme launched in May 2022 at Bahrain Polytechnic. The ceremony featured speeches by Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Ali Al Baqali, and Bahrain Polytechnic's Chief Executive Officer, Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin. In addition to senior Alba officials, the ceremony was also attended by several officials from Bahrain Polytechnic including the Dean of EDICT, Prof. Christina Georgantopoulou. As of the end of 2023, Alba had supported a total of 96 employees in their academic pursuits, sponsoring enrolments in various Diploma, Bachelor's, MBA, and even PhD programs at prestigious local and international universities.



# Malabar Gold & Diamonds enhances international operations with supply chain office in DAFZ

TDT | Manama

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the sixth-largest jewellery retailer, has opened its new state-of-the-art supply chain office in Dubai Airport Free Zone (DAFZ). Ms. Amna Lootah, Director General, Dubai Airport Free Zone (DAFZ) inaugurated the new office in the presence of Mr. M P Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group; Mr. K P Abdul Salam, Vice Chairman, Malabar Group; Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International Operations; Mr. Asher O, Managing Director - India Operations; Mr. Mayinkutty C, Senior Director, Malabar Group; Mr. Faisal A K, Head of Manufacturing, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Aparesh Chatterjee, Head - Merchandising & SCM (Diamond & Studded); Mr. Arif Abdulhamid AlKhoori, Senior Vice President - Customer Care, DAFZ; other key of-



The new studded supply chain office of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Dubai Airport Free Zone (DAFZ) was inaugurated by Ms. Amna Lootah, Director General, Dubai Airport Free Zone (DAFZ)

officials from DAFZ, Malabar Gold & Diamonds' management team members and well-wishers. The new office will serve as the cornerstone of the brand's international studded supply chain operations.

"We've successfully operated out of DAFZ since 2020, benefitting from its numerous strategic advantages, including access to world-class infrastructure, unparalleled convenience, and seamless connectivity to both GCC and global markets. Additionally, the tax incentives offered by DAFZ significantly enhance our financial and operational efficiency. Moreover, our commitment to responsibility and sustainability aligns well with DAFZ's eco-friendly initiatives and support for sustainable business practices," said Mr MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group.

Spanning 6,000 square feet,

the new office will bolster DAFZ's pivotal role in supporting Malabar Gold & Diamonds' current and future international operations.

DAFZ's state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities enable streamlined logistics operations for the brand, improving its overall supply chain efficiency.

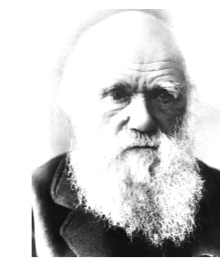
The new office will house approximately 80 management team members and will also include a product development centre with a state-of-the-art design studio, emphasizing the brand's focus on innovation in its designs.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has over 350 showrooms in 13 countries, as well as multiple offices, design centres, wholesale units, and factories in India, the Middle East, the Far East, the USA, the UK, Canada, and Australia.

QUOTE OF THE DAY  
THE ONLY TRUE WISDOM IS IN KNOWING YOU KNOW NOTHING  
SOCRATES

TODAY IN HISTORY

1858  
Joint reading of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace's papers on evolution to the Linnean Society renders audience awestruck and silent



1863  
Battle of Gettysburg begins in Pennsylvania. Union forces halt Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia

1916  
First day of the Battle of the Somme in World War I: The British Army suffers its worst day, losing 19,240 men

1997  
United Kingdom returns Hong Kong and the New Territories to the People's Republic of China

News in brief

Russia yesterday claimed two more east Ukrainian villages as its forces have had the upper hand over Kyiv on the battlefield for months. Moscow has claimed new villages in the east of Ukraine regularly for weeks, as outgunned and outmanned Ukrainian forces struggle to hold them back. Russia's defence ministry said its forces had "liberated the settlement" of Novooleksandrivka as the Russian army pushes further westwards into the Donetsk region. The village -- which lies north-west of occupied Ocheretyne -- is now the most western part of the region that Moscow holds. Moscow also said its forces captured the small village of Spirne, further north in the Donetsk region near the border with the neighbouring Lugansk region.



Russia claims two more east Ukrainian villages

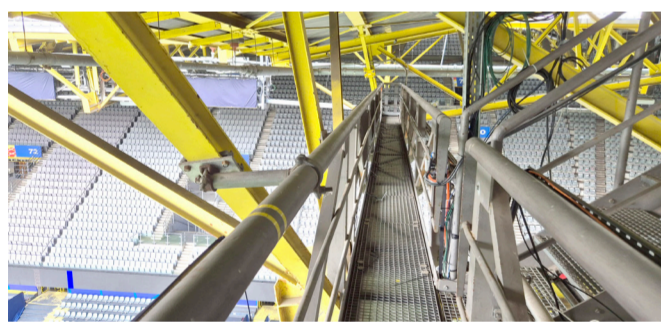
Five people, including a four-year-old child, were killed in a massive explosion at a pyrotechnics warehouse in the southern Philippines, emergency services said yesterday. The Saturday afternoon blast at the Zamboanga City site tore a large hole in the ground, sent debris careening into nearby buildings and houses and ignited a blaze, fire investigator Luigi Chan told AFP. Four warehouse workers and the four-year-old son of one of the staffers were killed, Chan said. The city disaster office confirmed the death toll and said another 38 people had been injured in the incident, eight of them seriously.

US rapper Kanye West was in Moscow, Russian media reported yesterday quoting a well-known Russian producer. Western artists have mostly not performed in Russia during its Ukraine offensive, which led to massive US and European sanctions on Moscow, as well as travel restrictions to the country. Kanye West, who has stirred controversy with his political statements in the United States and was recently accused of praising Adolf Hitler, has expressed admiration for President Vladimir Putin in the past. "Kanye West is already in Moscow! This is great news, he is staying in the heart of the capital," the state TASS news agency quoted producer Yana Rudkovskaya as saying on social media. Her announcement followed rumours last month that West will perform a concert in Moscow.

US rapper Kanye West visits Moscow: Russian media



SPOTLIGHT  
Roof intruder at Germany Euros game wanted to take 'good photos'



The BVB Stadion Dortmund's catwalk

German police said yesterday a 21-year-old man who climbed onto the roof of the stadium during Germany's Euro 2024 clash against Denmark wanted to document the stunt. The intruder at the Westfalen stadium in Dortmund told law enforcement after his arrest he only wanted to take "good photos"; local police said in a statement. The man was spotted in the rafters of the stadium on Saturday at 10:11 pm (20:11 GMT) during the last-16 match, police said. Authorities "observed the 21-year-old continuously", using police drones and a helicopter to illuminate the roof and track the situation, they said. "At no point was there any danger to other people in the stadium," police said. "The man finally followed the police's instructions and returned to a walkway under the roof at 11:44 pm," and was arrested. Play in the match was interrupted in the first half due to intense thunderstorms around the stadium and rainwater pouring onto the pitch from the roof. A search revealed the man on the roof was from Osnabrueck in northeast Germany and was "carrying camera equipment" in his backpack, police said. Investigators have established that he has previously climbed other tall buildings in Germany on at least two occasions, they said. According to German daily Bild, the man was following an online trend, in which people climb tall buildings unsecured and film themselves in the process to later post the images on social media. Criminal proceedings had been opened against the climber on suspicion of trespassing, police said. He was released from custody while the investigation continued. Germany progressed to the quarter-finals of Euro 2024 with a 2-0 win against the Danes at the home of Borussia Dortmund.

# Fighting rages in Gaza City's Shujaiya for fourth day

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Heavy battles and bombardment hit Gaza City's Shujaiya district for a fourth day yesterday, months after the Israeli army declared Hamas's command structure dismantled in the northern area. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have fled the devastated neighbourhood, where the army said it has fought Hamas and Islamic Jihad both "above and below ground" in tunnels. The military said troops had



A Palestinian boy hugs a woman as she speaks to a girl while sitting on the balcony of a home damaged in previous Israeli bombardment

"eliminated several, located weapons and conducted targeted raids on booby-trapped combat compounds" over the past 24 hours while the air force had "struck dozens" of the militants' infrastructure sites. It also reported clashes in central Gaza and the southern Rafah area, a week after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that the "intense phase" of the war raging since October 7 was nearing an end. The United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA estimated that "60,000 to 80,000 people were displaced" from Shujaiya since new fighting broke out there on Thursday and the army issued evacuation orders. Months of on-and-off talks towards a Gaza truce and hostage release deal have meanwhile made little progress, with Hamas saying Saturday there was "nothing new" in a revised plan presented by US mediators. United States President Joe Biden late last month outlined



A Palestinian woman bakes unleavened bread in a makeshift oven while sitting on the rubble of buildings destroyed in the Israeli bombardment

what he called an Israeli plan for a six-week truce and exchange of some hostages for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. Washington last week presented "new language" for parts of the proposed deal, according to US news site Axios. A Hamas official in Lebanon, Osama Hamdan, confirmed that the Islamist movement had received the latest proposal but said it presented "no real progress in the negotiations to stop the aggression". Hamdan labelled the proposals "a waste of time" that aimed to give "additional time for the occupation (Israel) to practise genocide".

## Two detained after attack outside Israeli embassy in Belgrade

AFP | Belgrade, Serbia

Two men were remanded in custody yesterday in connection with an attack outside the Israeli embassy in Belgrade that Serbian authorities called a "targeted terrorist act", a minister said.

The assailant, whom the police identified as being a "convert" to Islam, shot a Serbian police officer in the neck with a crossbow while he was on duty in front of the embassy early Saturday. The attacker was shot and killed by the officer. The assailant, from Mladenovac, near Belgrade, lived in Novi Pazar, a historical and political centre of Serbia's Bosniak Muslim minority, police said. Early indications connected the attack with people suspected of being linked to the ultra-conservative Wahhabist branch of Islam that dominates in Saudi Arabia, the authorities said. They added that a number of people known to the security services were suspected of being linked to the attack. "Searches were conducted at several locations in Serbia, dozens of people were questioned", Interior Minister Ivica Dacic told the state-run RTS broadcaster on Sunday. The prosecutors will establish whether they were linked with the "targeted terrorist attack", he added. "What is indisputable about all those people is that they belong to the Wahhabi extremist movement."



## UK gov't warns of Russian interference in general election

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's deputy prime minister warned yesterday that the country's upcoming general election faces threats from hostile actors such as Russia seeking to influence the UK's democratic process.

The country will go to the polls on Thursday, in an election expected to oust the governing right-wing Conservatives and put the opposition Labour party in power. His comments came after the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that it had uncovered five Facebook pages spreading the same pro-Kremlin talking points. "Some of them encouraged support for the hard-right Reform UK party led by Brexititeer Nigel Farage -- a big challenger to the ruling Conservatives in Thursday's vote. "There is a threat in all elections, and indeed we see it in this election from hostile state actors seeking to influence the outcome of the election campaign," Oliver Dowden told Sky News. "Russia is a prime example of this, and this is a classic example from the Russian playbook," he added, noting however that the examples were "relatively typical, low-level stuff".



Oliver Dowden

## Taliban gov't representatives meet UN, Afghanistan envoys in Doha

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Representatives of Afghanistan's Taliban government began meetings yesterday with UN officials as they attended talks in Doha with special envoys to the Central Asian country for the first time, a UN spokesperson said. The two-day, UN-hosted meeting in Qatar is the third of its kind in the gas-rich emirate in just over a year but the first to include Taliban authorities who seized power in Afghanistan in 2021. "Preparatory discussions have



A Taliban spokesman addresses a press conference in Kabul

ordinating response to the country, including economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts. In the aftermath of the Taliban's return to power, the international community has grappled with its approach to Afghanistan's new rulers. The Taliban government in Kabul has not been officially recognised by any other government since it took power and the administration has imposed a strict interpretation of Islam, with women subjected to laws characterised by the UN as "gender apartheid".

## 20 inmates stage Pakistan jailbreak, 1 killed: officials

AFP | Muzaffarabad, Pakistan

Twenty detainees, some accused of terrorism, staged a prison break in Pakistan-administered Kashmir yesterday, officials told AFP, adding that one was "killed in the crossfire" during the escape.

"The inmates had a revolver that they used to hold a sentry hostage," said Badar Munir, an official with the regional ministry of interior. "It is unclear whether they seized it (the weapon) from jail officials or if it was brought in from outside," Munir added. The incident took place at the Poonch district jail in Rawalakot city, about 110 kilometres (68 miles) south of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir. "In total, 20 people escaped from the prison. One was killed in the crossfire, while 19 others remain at large," the inspector general of Kashmir prisons, Waheed Ali Gillani, told AFP. A senior local police official, Riaz Mughal, told AFP that police had blocked the entry and exit points of Rawalakot, and a search operation was currently underway to locate the escapees. Prisons in Pakistan are notorious for overcrowding, poor conditions, corruption and human rights violations. Additionally, slow judicial processes contribute to prolonged stays for prisoners. Militant groups have organised several mass jailbreaks in Pakistan in the past, including one in the northwestern town of Bannu in 2012 that sprung 400 prisoners.



Policemen stand after the detainees' prison break in Poonch district jail in Rawalakot city

## Seven dead after storms lash France, Switzerland

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Ferocious storms and torrential rains that lashed France, Switzerland and Italy this weekend have left seven people dead, local authorities said yesterday. Three people in their 70s and 80s died in France's northeastern Aube region on Saturday when a tree crushed the car they were travelling in during fierce winds, the local authority told AFP. A fourth passenger was in critical care, it added. In neighbouring Switzerland, four people have died and another is missing, according to local



A road flooded near Sierre, western Switzerland

adding that he was probably taken by surprise by a sudden rapid rise in floodwater. Another man is also missing in Valais, police said. The civil security services said "several hundred" people were evacuated in Valais and roads closed after the Rhone and its tributaries overflowed in different locations. Emergency services were assessing the best way to evacuate 300 people who had arrived for a football tournament in Peccia, while almost 70 more were being evacuated from a holiday camp in the village of Mogno.

### LEGAL VIEWPOINT

## Basics of GDPR

awarsama@warsamalc.com

DR. ABDELGADIR WARSAMA GHALIB



TOP 4 TWEETS

01  
  
Everyone should be able to express themselves without fear of attack. Everyone should be able to access a range of views & sources. No one should be at the mercy of an algorithm they don't control. Demand accountability. Demand control.  
@antonio gutierrez

02  
  
Dear @imjadeja. You have performed exceptionally as an all-rounder. Cricket lovers admire your stylish stroke play, spin and superb fielding. Thank you for the enthralling T20 performances over the years. My best wishes for your endeavours ahead.  
@narendramodi

03  
  
Technology is at the forefront of our foreign policy. Today I spoke about how we're using AI at @StateDept to free up staff to focus on what's essential, as well as improving our analysis to unearth new insights.  
@SecBlinken

04  
  
No matter how many times Republican elected officials try to block me, my Administration isn't backing down. Higher education is a ticket to a brighter future. I'm fighting to ensure every American can finally afford that ticket.  
@POTUS

In a conference covering Personal Data we mentioned, among other participants that this issue is one of the most crucial sensitive issues for all. Moreover, it is important in this "data" era, to give enough protection to the personal data of all, everywhere. Mostly, a friend may ask about the no or other details of another friend and a volunteer automatically give the reply. This could lead to unpleasant situation. On the face of it, to protect the personal data indicated a high good respect to any person and to all his personal belongings and this is a good initiative to protect personal rights. To fulfill this good stand the European Union (EU) took major steps and issued an important regulation (GDPR). The General Data Protection Regulation, applies to different types of data processing to be carried by organizations operating within or without the EU. It applies on entities outside EU, offering goods or services to individuals in EU. Good, also, Bahrain issued its law to govern personal data protection. More important to say, Bahrain legislation in this issue is well advanced and in line with the global standards. Your personal data protection is well protected in Bahrain. This is an advantage and privilege to all in Bahrain.

GDPR is mainly for protection of personal data, however, there is an exemption as GDPR does not apply to certain activities including certain instances of data processing if they are covered by the law enforcement directives, processing for national security purposes and processing carried out by individuals purely for personal activities.

The regulation for more clarity, specifies types of exemptions for application whenever required. To streamline the process, GDPR applies to controllers and processors. Controller is the authorized body to say how and why personal data is processed, whereas, the processor is the body that acts on the controller's behalf and control.

If you happened to be a processor, GDPR places specific legal obligations on you. For example, you are required to maintain records of personal data and the processing activities undertaken. As a processor, you have more legal liability if responsible for any breach. Obligations for processors are new requirements under GDPR and they confirm the firm strategy towards stringent rules to regulate the personal data to curb the huge destructive misuse we are facing. However, controllers are not relieved of their obligations where a processor is involved. GDPR places further obligations on the controllers to ensure that contracts with processors comply with the provisions of the GDPR. As a general rule, GDPR applies to 'personal data'. However, the GDPR's definition is more detailed. The definition provides for wide range of personal identifiers as personal data, reflecting changes in technology and the way organizations collect info about persons. I believe, the justification behind covering automated and manual filling systems, is to cover all data processing, otherwise there could be escape room by manual data processing.

It is necessary to say, GDPR is giving great boost to protect personal data everywhere in our world and it is good that it has been taken by countries in the region, including Bahrain. Needless to say, that all are required to comply with the personal data protection regulations, otherwise will be ready for heavy fines and other legal actions. Everyone shall give full care for the personal data of others to the same degree he expects form others when dealing with his personal data. Doing this, will automatically help in good protection for the personal data of all.

(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)

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

# celebs

## Blake Lively bonded Deadpool and Wolverine set with special gift



Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Blake Lively set a ping-pong table to the 'Deadpool and Wolverine' set.

The former 'Gossip Girl' actress was inspired by some vintage Hollywood prints she and husband Ryan Reynolds have at home, and her gift offered hours of entertainment for her spouse, his co-star Hugh Jackman, and director Shawn Levy.

Ryan told Vanity Fair magazine: "Speaking of Blake, that's the real reason these ping-pong photos came about. She and I have a bunch of these prints of actors playing it on their sets.

"We've got Newman and Redford in Durango, Mexico, during the shooting of 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid'. We've got Jimmy Stewart and Henry Fonda, I think in the '30s. We have Olivia de Havilland playing ping-pong, Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman playing. Joan Crawford.

"So Blake sent the ping-pong table to Pinewood Studios."

And the trio will treasure their own ping-pong photos forever.

Ryan said: "Boy, did we play some ping-pong.

Hugh added: "It gets you out of your head, it wakes you up..."

"The three of us together are like the Three Amigos.

"There was not a day where I wasn't in tears laughing. I felt so rejuvenated playing the part. I mean, I'm 25 years in, man, and it feels better than ever."

Shawn added: "It's why those ping-pong photos are our personal favourites. For the three of us, those photos are treasures.

## Taylor Swift reveals she's a Hugh Grant 'stan'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Taylor Swift is a Hugh Grant "stan".

The 34-year-old 'Bad Blood' singer revealed she was a long-standing fanatic of the 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' actor, 63, after he posted a message on X on Monday thanking her for an "incredible show" after he was among the celebrities who watched her perform at Wembley Stadium, London, on Saturday.

Taylor has now responded online, saying on X: "As a long time Hugh Grant stan this tweet is very important to my culture."

Hugh had written: "Dear @taylorswift13, You have an incredible show, an amazing and hospitable team and excellent if gigantic boyfriend (#tequilashots).

"Thanks so much from one ageing London boy, wife and thrilled 8 year old #halfgirlhalf-bracelet."

Father-of-five Hugh was referring to the friendship

bracelets handed out at Taylor's shows and his second child with his 41-year-old TV producer wife Anna Eberstein.

Taylor's Saturday night show at Wembley was her second sold-out gig at the arena, with around 90,000 flocking to see her each of her three nights at the stadium.

Along with Hugh, famous faces who turned up to see the spectacle included Sir Paul McCartney, Tom Cruise, Liam Hemsworth, Rachel Zegler, Ashton Kutcher, Mila Kunis and Greta Gerwig.

Fans went wild at the closing Wembley show on Sunday

Taylor Swift



when Taylor's Super Bowl-winning NFL star boyfriend Travis Kelce, 34, made a cameo appearance on stage, dressed in a tuxedo like the entertainer's other backing dancers for a skit in between songs that saw him carry her onto a sofa after she pretended to faint while wearing a huge white gown.

Taylor said online in a tribute after the gig to Travis and her fans: "I'm still cracking up/swooning over @killatrav's Eras Tour debut (kissy face emoji.)"

"Never going to forget these shows. Can't wait to do it 5 more times in August."

## Sharon Stone calls her fame 'Barney' the purple elephant

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Sharon Stone has nicknamed her fame "Barney" the purple elephant.

The 'Basic Instinct' actress, 66, recently told how she feels like she lost her career after she was almost killed by a brain haemorrhage in 2001 - and has now said she uses the term to describe her celebrity as it feels like a huge animal she has to drag around with her in public.

She said at the Hollywood Unlocked Impact Awards at the Beverly

Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California, on Friday (21.06.24), where the 'Casino' star accepted the Icon Award: "I call my fame Barney, the purple elephant, and that sometimes I don't want to go out because I have to take Barney with me, and it can be embarrassing for other people and uncomfortable for me, and make it hard for me to have normal relationships with people in the world."

Sharon added about being shot into the global spotlight in the 1980s and '90s: "I became so famous so fast, and I became so famous in a way that people wanted to diminish me for my accomplishment."

Sharon Stone



But she said people didn't want her to be famous as she "was a woman", adding: "They didn't want to give it to me because I was a woman who took a position of power, and then I decided to use fame in a way that I felt had meaning and value.

"And I feel that if you don't use your fame in an effort to help change the world into a better place, that it's a wasted thing."

Sharon tied up her award acceptance speech by thanking people in the audience including the event's host Tiffany Haddish, as well as Cardi B and Raven-Symoné.

She added: "I just want to say thank you to you, because so many of you in this room have allowed me to feel safe and normal and loved and that I have a place to be.

## Selena Gomez confirms she'll be in Wizards Beyond Waverly Place

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Selena Gomez will star in the first episode of 'Wizards Beyond Waverly Place'.

The 31-year-old actress landed her first leading Disney Channel role when she played Alex Russo in 'Wizards of Waverly Place' - which aired for four seasons from 2007 and 2012 and sparked two spin-off movies - and not only is she moved to be executive producing the upcoming sequel series, she's thrilled to be returning to her alter ego too.

Appearing on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live' - which was guest hosted by her 'Only Murders in the Building' co-star Martin Short - she said: "I'm so excited.

"It's basically something you know I don't know about your life, you don't know about my life. It's a show that means a lot to me."

The 74-year-old presenter replied: "I know it does. Because you started out in that show. And also you're appearing on it, too?"

Selena confirmed: "Yes. I will be in the first episode. I'm ex-

ecutive producing it. It brings me to tears because that is the beginning of where I started. And to honour it in this way has truly been a blast, and I can't wait for people to see it."

The pair then joked about rebooting 'Only Murders in the Building' in years to come. Yelling with just half his mouth, Martin - who plays Oliver Putnam - exclaimed: "Let's solve the crime!"

Laughing, Selena - who portrays Mabel Mara - said: "Let's do it however long you can make it."

Martin said: "I don't think I'd be in every episode, what do you think? Just occasionally. What does Oliver think?"

He then slumped back in his chair and silence before he added: "That's it."

Selena said: "This is my life every day."

Earlier in the interview, Martin had asked his guest who was his favourite between her and their 78-year-old co-star Steve Martin, who plays Charles Hayden-Savage.

She quipped: "I don't believe there are favourite olds."

Selena Gomez



## Mindy Kaling secretly had third child in February

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Mindy Kaling secretly had her third child in February.

The 'Mindy Project' actress, who previously had her son Spencer, three, without telling fans she was pregnant, chose her 45th birthday on Monday (24.06.24) to announce she was a mother again.

She captioned an Instagram post that featured photos of her new arrival - a girl called Anne - with her siblings Katherine, six, and Mindy Kaling

Spencer: "She's the best birthday present I could've ever imagined.

"When things are hard, whenever I veer towards cynicism, my three kids are such a great reminder of the pure joy in my life."

"I'm so lucky I live in a place where I could do this by myself, on my own timeline. Thanks for all the birthday wishes!"

Mindy included a throwback snap of her baby bump with the post.

In 2020, the comic and actress announced on 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert' she had given birth to Spencer without ever letting the public know she had been pregnant.

She said: "I'm telling it for the first time now... I gave birth to a baby boy on 3 September."

### SUDOKU

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

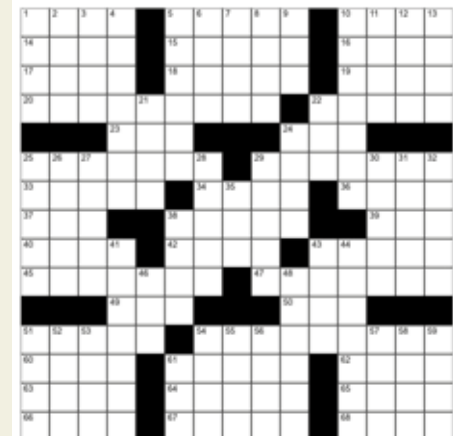
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

### CROSSWORD



Across

1- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 5- Committee type; 10- Hats; 14- Org. co-founded by Helen Keller; 15- Ragu competitor; 16- Like the Sabin vaccine; 17- Give \_\_\_ for one's money; 18- Trimmed; 19- Fiddling emperor; 20- Striped buzzer; 22- Frighten; 23- Motorists' org.; 24- Enemy; 25- Make good as new; 29- Residence of the popes; 33- Vows; 34- Farrow and Hamm; 36- Tropical tuber; 37- It's a free country; 38- With \_\_\_ of thousands; 39- L.A. clock setting; 40- Eye problem; 42- Russo of 'The Thomas Crown Affair'; 43- Cream-filled cookies; 45- Spirit; 47- Italian seaport; 49- \_\_\_ Grande; 50- VCR button; 51- Thin as \_\_\_; 54- Interpret; 60- \_\_\_-majest0; 61- Not tied down; 62- Anatomical passage; 63- Consumes; 64- Cafeteria items; 65- Bar \_\_\_; 66- Revise; 67- Small change; 68- Winds up;

Down

1- Swedish auto; 2- Beige; 3- Reunion attendee; 4- Tanning session; 5- Become visible; 6- Dull; 7- Roll call call; 8- Type of arch; 9- Atlantic food fish; 10- Vanity; 11- Length x width, for a rectangle; 12- Henry VIII's last wife; 13- Gin flavor; 21- Neighbor of Cambodia; 22- Drunkard; 24- Swift; 25- Shake awake; 26- Bridge positions; 27- Remains; 28- Host; 29- Urns; 30- Escapade; 31- Favored crime of pyromaniacs; 32- Au contraire; 35- McKellen or Holm; 38- Sacramento's \_\_\_ Arena; 41- Most strange; 43- Bullfight cheers; 44- Lean back; 46- It's nothing; 48- "Gunsmoke" star; 51- Nautical heading; 52- Went through, as the paper; 53- Spumante; 54- Singer Amos; 55- Wander; 56- \_\_\_ sow, so shall...; 57- Like \_\_\_ of bricks; 58- Take care of; 59- \_\_\_ Tu" (70s hit); 61- Old Ford;

Yesterday's solution

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







## 2 Seas Motorsport competes in Spa 24 Hours

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahraini-British team 2 Seas Motorsport placed fifth in their class and 30th overall after the first three hours of the CrowdStrike 24 Hours of Spa at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium. This event marks the second round of the 2024 GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup.

The 2 Seas team features co-owner Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, along with Lewis Williamson, Martin Kodric, and Frank Bird, driving the #60 Mercedes-AMG GT3.



Action from the race

Competing against 66 cars, they held a strong position in the Gold Cup category.

After a rolling start, the team initially ranked sixth in class and 26th overall. The race, known for its grueling nature, continued through the night, with the finish line anticipated at 5:30 PM Bahrain time.

Following Spa, the team heads to the Nürburgring in Germany for round three from July 26 to 28. The season continues in Monza, Italy, from September 20 to 22, concluding with the final race in Jeddah from November 21 to 23.

## Bahrain basketball team heads to San Juan for Olympic qualifiers



Bahrain players in action

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) has revealed an 11-player squad for the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament (OQT) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Led by head coach Jad El Hajj, the team aims to secure a spot in the Paris Olympics 2024.

Bahrain, ranked 67th globally, will compete in Group B against formidable opponents: world number 13 Italy and world number 16 Puerto Rico. The games are scheduled for this week, with Bahrain facing Italy early Wednesday and Puerto Rico the next day. To advance to the semi-finals on July 6, Bahrain must rank among the top two in their group. The final match is set for July 7.

Group A includes Mexico, Ivory Coast, and Lithuania. Only the group winner will qualify for the Paris Olympics.

The team features big men Wayne Chism, Muzamil Ameer Hamoda, and Mohammed Ameer Hamoda, along with guards Maitham Jameel, Ahmed Salman, and Ali Aqeel. Other players include Ali Shukrallah, Sadeq Shukrallah, Hussain Ali, Mohammed Buallay, and Subah Hussain. Notably absent is prolific scorer Mustafa Hussain.

Originally scheduled to train in the US, the team faced visa issues and trained locally instead. The Bahrain squad has already departed and will arrive in San Juan tonight.

The team will face NBA stars Danilo Gallinari from Italy and Jose Alvarado from Puerto Rico during the tournament.

## MENA teams eye global exposure at revamped Club World Cup

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Football clubs from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia are set to compete in FIFA's revamped Club World Cup next summer. This tournament promises unparalleled global exposure, with teams like Real Madrid and Bayern Munich also in the mix.

The 32-team tournament will be hosted by the United States in June and July 2025. Despite its potential, broadcast and sponsorship deals remain unconfirmed, raising questions about the competition's commercial and popular appeal.

Previous iterations of the Club World Championship struggled to gain traction. The rebranded event, now set to take place every 4 years, aims to highlight the growing prominence of



Fans light flares during a match

Arab football, coinciding with Morocco's historic World Cup semi-final appearance in 2022 and Al Ain's recent Asian club championship win.

Teams like Al Hilal, Al Ain, Al

Ahly FC, Wydad, and Espérance Sportive de Tunis will participate, demonstrating the talent of MENA clubs. Ricardo Fort, founder of Sport by Fort Consulting, notes, "For non-Euro-

### Challenges and Opportunities

Despite the enthusiasm, challenges remain. European dominance is likely to continue, with the 20 richest clubs by annual revenue all based in Europe. Simon Chadwick of Skema Business School highlights the untested nature of the new format and unresolved sponsorship issues as significant concerns.

FIFA remains confident in the commercial and sporting success of the new competition, though broadcast rights negotiations are ongoing. Future editions of the tournament may also be hosted in the US, emphasizing its appeal as a major sports market.

# Argentina advances without Messi

Martinez's brace secures 2-0 win over Peru, ensuring Argentina tops Group A at Copa America

● **Martinez scores twice, continuing his scoring streak**

● **Peru manages only one shot on goal**

● **Canada draws with Chile, advancing to quarter-finals**

AFP | Miami

Argentina shrugged off the injury absence of Lionel Messi to maintain their perfect start at the Copa America on Saturday with a 2-0 victory over Peru in Miami.

Lautaro Martinez scored twice at the Hard Rock Stadium to seal a win that ensured Argentina advance to the quarter-finals as Group A winners.

With Messi sidelined after complaining of a sore right hamstring, and coach Li Lautaro Martinez scores the Argentina second goal

onel Scaloni serving a one-game suspension, Argentina made nine changes to their starting XI at the Hard Rock Stadium.

But despite the make-shift-looking line-up, Argentina were always in control against a disappointing Peru side who managed just one



**It was tough in the first half because they were defending deep, but the first goal opened up the game. There's a lot more to come from us**

LAUTARO MARTINEZ

shot on goal during a one-sided encounter.

Martinez's first goal came just after half-time. A sublime through ball from Angel Di Maria released the Inter Milan forward, who calmly lifted a deft finish over advancing Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

Argentina had a



**Lautaro Martinez has now scored in four consecutive appearances for Argentina**

chance to double their lead in the 72nd minute after Jesus Castillo handled in the area to concede a penalty.

But Leandro Paredes crashed his ensuing spot-kick against the woodwork to leave the score at 1-0.

Martinez then grabbed a second in the 86th minute, latching on to a long pass forward before finishing past Gallese.

Replays indicated Martinez appeared to shove defender Aldo Corzo in the build-up but referee Cesar Ramos waved Peru's protest and the goal stood.

"It was tough in the first half because they were defending deep, but the first goal opened up the game," Martinez said afterwards. "There's a lot more to come from us."

Martinez has now scored in four

consecutive appearances for Argentina and is relishing his hot streak.

"Every time I put on this shirt, every training session, every meal, every team talk, I enjoy it," Martinez said.

Argentina will now face the runner-up from Group B in the quarter-finals in Houston next Thursday, most likely either Ecuador or Mexico.

In Saturday's other Group A game, Canada held 2015 and 2016 Copa America champions Chile to a 0-0 draw in Orlando, which was enough to see the Canadians into the last eight.

Chile needed a victory to leapfrog the Canadians into the knockout rounds but were left with a mountain to climb early in the game when Gabriel Suazo was dismissed for a second yellow card after only 27 minutes.

"It took a lot of hard work -- it's our first time in this competition and it's not easy," Canada captain Alphonso Davies said about his team's advance to the last eight.

"There's a lot of good teams in this competition and a lot of good players. But we stuck to our plan and we played well. We showed a lot of fight. We had to show our teeth at times, but overall we did well."

Canada will play the winners of Group B in the quarter-finals.



# Russell triumphs in Austrian drama

Mercedes driver gifted Austrian victory after late collision between Verstappen and Norris shakes up race

● **Russell secures second career win for Mercedes**

● **Piastrri takes second place for McLaren**

● **Sainz finishes third for Ferrari**

● **Verstappen receives 10-second penalty for causing crash**

AFP | Spielberg

George Russell claimed a dramatic victory for Mercedes yesterday after a sensational late collision between series leader Max Verstappen of Red Bull and his nearest rival Lando Norris of McLaren in the closing laps of an action-packed Austrian Grand Prix.

It was the British driver's second career victory, endorsing the improved form of the Mercedes team

in recent races, as he made the most of Verstappen's impulsive and aggressive move against Norris, to finish 1.9 seconds clear of Oscar Piastrri in the second McLaren.

"Incredible!" said Russell, who had registered Mercedes' last win in Brazil in 2022.



George Russell celebrates on the podium

"I think it was a tough fight out there at the beginning of the race just to hold on to that third place and I saw on the TV that Max and Lando were getting pretty

close -- and I knew Lando would want to try to get that race win.

"The team has done an amazing job to put us in this fight and you've got to be there in the end to pick up the pieces."

Carlos Sainz finished third for Ferrari ahead of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes and Verstappen, who was fifth, despite collecting a 10-second penalty for causing the crash with Norris, who was forced to retire his damaged car.

On a hot day in the Styrian Alps, with air temperatures touching 29 degrees and the track at 49, Verstappen made his now customary flawless start from pole.

Russell also made a good start from third and fought Norris for second on the opening lap.

Verstappen pitted on lap 23, followed by Norris and the rest, passing the race lead to Piastrri until he pitted on lap 25. Piastrri rejoined sixth and order was restored with everyone on hards, except Russell who took a second set of mediums.

"He launched straight into me -- I couldn't turn right into the box," said Norris, complaining about Verstappen's alleged unsafe release by Red Bull.

"Yeah, we're on it," came the reply.

By lap 41 Verstappen was grumbling about his tyres.

"I don't know what's happening," said the champion who had only a fresh set of hards or used mediums left to run.

### 10 second penalty

By lap 44, Verstappen's lead was down to 6.4 seconds before Russell, also struggling, pitted for fresh hards, re-joining sixth. He swiftly set a fastest lap and passed Sainz for fifth behind Hamilton, who was behind the two McLarens.

With the leaders extending their stints to make a two-stop strategy work, back-markers like Leclerc in 12th on three stops were faster on track, but stuck behind Verstappen until he pitted again with Norris on lap 51.

**”** I think it was a tough fight out there at the beginning of the race just to hold on to that third place and I saw on the TV that Max and Lando were getting pretty close -- and I knew Lando would want to try to get that race win

GEORGE RUSSELL

The Dutchman suffered a slow stop due to a 'sticky' left rear and Norris on fresh mediums was only 2.2 behind as they rejoined in P1 and P2. Verstappen was on used mediums, delivering the prospect of a thrilling duel to the flag.

Norris was three-tenths adrift before passing him on lap 59, but ran wide and off-track. He gave the position back and received a warning for exceeding track limits before attacking again only for Verstappen to run wide and rejoin.

The battling pair eventually collided on lap 63 at Turn Three where Verstappen moved across to hit Norris's car and both suffered punctures, gifting the lead to Russell as they limped back to the pits.

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The race was held in hot conditions in the Styrian Alps, with air temperatures reaching 29 degrees Celsius and track temperatures hitting 49 degrees, adding an extra challenge for drivers and teams

Verstappen's front left was damaged and Norris's right rear, with sufficient damage for the McLaren to retire as Verstappen rejoined in fifth, only to receive a 10-second penalty for causing the crash which led to a brief Virtual Safety Car.

Nico Hulkenberg came home sixth for Haas ahead of Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull, Kevin Magnussen in the second Haas, Daniel Ricciardo of RB and Pierre Gasly of Alpine.

Leclerc finished 11th in the second Ferrari after a race of four pit-stops following a first lap incident.

## India's Jadeja retires from T20 after World Cup win

AFP | New Delhi

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja yesterday announced his retirement from T20 internationals, a day after he lifted the World Cup in Barbados.

The left-handed Jadeja follows skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in quitting the shortest format soon after the seven-run win over South Africa in a thrilling final on Saturday.

"With a heart full of gratitude, I bid farewell to T20 internationals," Jadeja wrote in a social media post. "Like a steadfast horse galloping with pride, I've always given my best for my country and will continue to do so in other formats."

**”**

With a heart full of gratitude, I bid farewell to T20 internationals. Like a steadfast horse galloping with pride, I've always given my best for my country and will continue to do so in other formats

RAVINDRA JADEJA

He added, "Winning the T20 World Cup was a dream come true, a pinnacle of my T20 international career. Thank you for the memories, the cheers, and the unwavering support."

Jadeja, 35, played 74 T20 matches for India.

He



Ravindra Jadeja

**74**

T20 matches have been played by Jadeja for India in which he took 54 wickets and scored 515 runs since his debut in 2009

took 54 wickets with his left-arm spin and scored 515 runs as a lower middle-order batsman since his debut in 2009.

Jadeja featured in all the matches for unbeaten India in the ninth edition of the T20 World Cup, which ended India's global trophy drought since the 2013 Champions Trophy.

Both Rohit and Kohli announced their T20 retirements in press interactions after the title win.

## India announces \$15 million World Cup team prize

AFP | New Delhi

India's World Cup-winning cricket team will share prize money of nearly \$15 million, the national cricket board said yesterday, as a reward for their "talent, determination, and sportsmanship".

India won a thrilling final by seven runs in Barbados on Saturday to clinch their first major title since the 2013 Champions Trophy.

Jay Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), announced the hefty reward, which will be shared between around 25 people -- the entire team including coaches and support staff.

support staff.

"I am pleased to announce prize money of 125 crores rupees (\$14.9 million) for Team India for winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024," Shah said in a statement.

If split equally, that works out to roughly \$600,000 each.

"The team has showcased exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament," Shah added.

"Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and support staff for this outstanding achievement".

The title victory comes after over a decade of heartbreaks

in knockout matches of International Cricket Council (ICC) tournaments.

The cash prize is in addition to the International Cricket Council record prize pool of \$11.25 million for the tournament.

India, as winner of the competition, will share a pot from that of \$2.45 million along with bonuses, which the ICC said is "the highest amount in the tournament's history". South Africa will share \$1.28 million for finishing as the runner-up.

After India's win, the cricket-crazy country erupted with midnight celebrations as fans in blue Indian shirts on cars and bikes took to the streets across cities including the capital New Delhi.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on social media yesterday that he had spoken to the team, congratulating them on their "excellent skill and spirit".



Virat Kohli (L) and Rohit Sharma