

**Bahrain set for WEC spectacle**

Stacked 36-car grid to line up at Bahrain International Circuit this weekend in the Bapco Energies 8H of Bahrain | **P12**

**WORLD 6** Gaza now a 'graveyard' for thousands of children: UN

Japan's first fully autonomous vehicle project suspended

**8 AUTOBUZZ**

**BUSINESS 5**


Al Baraka Group sponsor of 2nd Al Baraka Summit in London

**Beyon net profit rises 8% to BD17.6m**



**P5**

**AUB offers special financing facilities at Delmon Gate's Tayseer Exhibition**



**P5**

**HM King hails fallen BDF officer's 'courage and bravery'**

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, commended Bahrain Defence Force taskforce's fallen serviceman, Major Mohammed Salem Mohammed Anber, for setting the best examples of courage and bravery.

HM the King emphasised that their sacrifices will remain engraved in the national memory, as they represent a source of inspiration for their patriotism and valour.

His Majesty was speaking as he received, at the Safriya Palace yesterday, the family of fallen serviceman, Major Anber, who lost his life while undertaking his patriotic duties within the Arab Coalition forces stationed along the southern borders of Saudi Arabia, as part of the Operation Decisive Storm and Operation Restoring Hope.

"Interest in the families of



HM the King receives Major Anber's family

the late servicemen and care for their affairs will always top our priorities," HM the King said, affirming that Bahrain will remain strong and advanced, with its citizens' unity, cohesion and solidarity, as well as rallying behind their leadership. The Armed

Forces Supreme Commander offered deepest condolences to the late serviceman's family, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace, and to bless his relatives with patience and fortitude.

He also prayed to Allah the



Almighty to rest the souls of the other fallen servicemen in eternal peace and bless the wounded with speedy recovery, wishing the Kingdom further progress and glory. The relatives of Major Anber extended profound thanks and gratitude to HM King

hamad for his condolences and sympathy, wishing him abundant health, happiness and long life.

They renewed allegiance and loyalty to His Majesty, expressing their pride in their late son and in all Bahraini fallen servicemen.

**HM King to receive Jordanian Monarch**

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa will receive His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, upon his arrival to the Kingdom of Bahrain today, the Royal Court announced yesterday.

HM the King and King Abdullah II are scheduled to hold talks that will discuss the Bahraini-Jordanian bilateral ties and the latest regional and international developments.

The Royal Court welcomed the visit of His Majesty the Jordanian Monarch and his accompanying delegation.

**Saudi Arabia clear to host 2034 World Cup as Australia abandons bid**

AFP | Lausanne, Switzerland

Saudi Arabia is in line to host the 2034 World Cup after Fifa announced yesterday that the kingdom was the only bidder for the tournament.

Australia, which hosted the Women's World Cup this year, was also a contender but pulled out on Monday following the Asian Football Confederation's decision to back the Saudi bid.

(Full report on Page 11)

**Path to progress**

**HRH Prince Salman: Economic diversification creates jobs and advances Bahrain's competitiveness**

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised the importance of economic diversification efforts to provide quality job opportunities for citizens, support sustainable development, and advance the Kingdom's competitiveness, in line with the Economic Recovery Plan and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

HRH Prince Salman made the statement as he met yesterday with the Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Sameer Abdullah Nass, at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy,



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with Mr Nass

HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, HE Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, also attended the meeting.

His Royal Highness noted that the public-private partnerships have contributed to the success of national initiatives and programmes aimed at serving citizens, providing all with quality

job opportunities, and achieving economic development, in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's far-reaching visions.

**Private sector contributions**

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister affirmed the Kingdom's pride in the contributions of the private sector in

furthering Bahrain's wide-ranging development.

He commended the BCCI's prominent role in focusing the efforts of the private sector to advance Bahrain's development to meet the citizen's aspirations.

Mr Nass expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with HRH Prince Salman, noting HRH's commitment to support-

"The public-private partnerships have contributed to the success of national initiatives and programmes aimed at serving citizens, providing all with quality job opportunities, and achieving economic development, in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's far-reaching visions."

- HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

ing the BCCI's role to benefit the Kingdom and its citizens.

**Dozens buried under the rubble**

**50 killed, 150 hurt in Gaza refugee camp blast**

TDI | Manama

At least 50 people were killed, over 150 wounded, and dozens buried under the rubble yesterday as huge explosions ripped through a crowded Palestinian refugee camp in Jabalia, north of Gaza City. The interior ministry of Gaza said the deaths were from Israeli air attacks on resi-

dential blocks.

The explosions left two giant craters in the densely populated area, an AFP report said. Wails filled the dusty air as volunteers clawed through the concrete blocks and twisted metal in a desperate search for survivors and bodies, with AFP video footage showing at least 47 corpses being recovered.

Gaza's health ministry termed the incident "a heinous Israeli massacre". Israel did not immediately comment on the blasts, AFP said.

One refugee camp resident, Ragheb Aqal, 41, likened the explosion to "an earthquake" and spoke of his horror at seeing "homes buried under the rubble and body parts and martyrs and

wounded in huge numbers".

The carnage came amid international warnings about the spiralling bloodshed and mounting humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Attacking a refugee camp was condemned by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and the Security Council, with the UNGA condemning such attacks through a resolution passed as early as

December 4, 1984.

**'Stop these massacres'**

The humanitarian toll has sparked global concern, with aid groups and the United Nations warning time is running out for many of the territory's 2.4 million people denied access to food, water, fuel and medicine.



# Bahrain congratulates Algeria on Revolution Day

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to Algeria President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, on his country's anniversary of the November 1 Revolution Day.

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman hailed the Bahrain-Algeria relation, wishing



HM the King the president abundant health



HRH Prince Salman and the people of Algeria further



President Tebboune progress and prosperity.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to Prime Minister HE Ayman Benabderrahmane.

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam sent cables of congratulations to Ibrahim Bougali, President of the Algerian People's National Assembly, and Salah Goudjil, President of the Algerian Council of the Nation, on the anniversary of the November 1 Revolution

Day. Al Saleh wished Algeria and its people further progress and prosperity. He sent a similar cable to Dr. Mahmoud Braham, Algerian Ambassador to Bahrain.

Al Musallam praised the Bahrain-Algeria relations, supported by HM King Hamad and President Tebboune.

He affirmed the parliamentary support to enhance joint cooperation in various sectors, wishing Algeria and its people further progress and prosperity.

# Journey of discovery

'Explore Beyond' project launched to highlight Bahrain's 'hidden gems'

TDT | Manama

The Diplomatic Protocol Communications, in association with The Walt Disney Publishing and National Geographic, launched the "Explore Beyond" book and project on the Kingdom of Bahrain in the presence of high-level government officials and ambassadors in Manama.

The project aims to highlight the historical, cultural, geographical and environmental features that Bahrain has to offer, and present them to local and international audiences.

Speaking at the event, the founder of Diplomatic Protocol Communications, Janez Lotric, affirmed that the project is the culmination of seven years of work and collaboration between several bodies, noting the facilitations made by the relevant authorities to make this project possible.

He added that the project is meant to answer the questions of those who want to further explore the hidden gems of Bahrain, showcasing them to tourists and investors from across the globe.

During the event, a number of individuals and entities were awarded in appreciation of their efforts towards the completion of the project.



From left, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) President, H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Noaimi, Minister of Information, and Ahmed Khalid Al Araifi, Chief Executive Officer of the National Communication Centre (NCC)



Janez Lotric



Bahrain teams up with Walt Disney and National Geographic in historic 'Explore Beyond' project

## Two online scam suspects held

TDT | Manama

The Northern Governorate Police Directorate has arrested two individuals, 35 and 47, for scam cases, including pretending to invest money for double profits.

An investigation into the re-

ceived cases led to identifying and arresting the suspects.

The probe revealed that they reached out to their victims through social media. Legal proceedings were taken, and the case was referred to the Public Prosecution.

## Rain provides respite from scorching heat



Rain leaves roads wet and slippery

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

After enduring days of sweltering heat, Bahrain experienced a welcome change in weather as rain showers and a brisk breeze swept across the kingdom yesterday.

The much-awaited rainfall brought a sense of relief to the population, who eagerly took to social media to express their joy and appreciation for the respite. On platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat, Bahrainis shared their excitement and love for the weather, highlighting the relief they felt after days of scorching temperatures.

Many locals were seen ven-

turing outdoors, seizing the opportunity to enjoy the pleasant weather in parks and other open spaces.

According to the Meteorological Department, the maximum temperature recorded yesterday was 32 degrees Celsius, with a low temperature of 25 degrees Celsius.

In light of the rain showers, the General Directorate of Traffic has issued a cautionary advisory to drivers, urging them to exercise caution on the roads.

Motorists are advised to stay in their lanes, adhere to speed limits, maintain a safe distance between vehicles, and remain focused on the road for their own safety.

## Bahrain takes part in Korea National Day celebration



Cake-cutting ceremony

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

The Korean Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain organised a reception at the Diplomatic Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa yesterday to celebrate its National Day.

The event was attended by Supreme Council members, Korean dignitaries in the Kingdom, and ambassadors and dignities from other countries.



Korean Ambassador to Bahrain Heon Sang Koo speaks at the event

In his remarks at the reception, Korean Ambassador to Bahrain Heon Sang Koo highlighted the importance of the Kingdom to the Korean government in terms of trade and investment.

He also spoke about the various activities that the embassy had organised to celebrate its National Day, including a film festival and cultural performances.

Ambassador Koo expressed

his gratitude for the warm hospitality and support that the Korean community in Bahrain receives from the government and people. He also reaffirmed the Korean government's commitment to strengthening its ties with Bahrain in all areas.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the strong friendship and cooperation between Korea and Bahrain.


**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
**for the nine months ended 30 September 2023**

		2023	2022	Variation %
Gross revenue	BD million	315.4	298.3	5.8%
Expenses	BD million	235.9	228.6	3.2%
Profit attributable to Beyon shareholders	BD million	55.5	54.1	2.7%
Return on net worth (Annualized)	%	14.5	14.3*	1.4%
Weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period	Million	1,652	1,652*	0.0%
Basic and diluted earnings per share for the period	Fils	33.6	32.8	2.4%

\*Based on actual figures for the year ended 31 December 2022

**Condensed Consolidated Statement Of Financial Position**  
**as at 30 September 2023**
**BD'000**

	30 September 2023 (reviewed)	31 December 2022 (audited)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property and equipment	339,379	304,210
Right-of-use assets	55,328	56,845
Goodwill	134,956	134,738
Other intangible assets	156,913	147,646
Equity accounted investees	8,047	7,160
Deferred tax assets	7,034	6,671
Investments	29,718	17,063
Other non-current assets	7,621	5,076
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>738,996</b>	<b>679,409</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Inventories	8,431	5,582
Trade and other receivables	179,350	158,789
Investments	291	3,537
Cash and bank balances	215,114	253,844
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>403,186</b>	<b>421,752</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,142,182</b>	<b>1,101,161</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	62,074	45,051
Lease liabilities	45,796	47,815
Loans and borrowings	243,495	228,899
Deferred tax liabilities	5,542	6,141
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>356,907</b>	<b>327,906</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	210,548	218,272
Lease liabilities	9,610	8,066
Loans and borrowings	10,562	4,595
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>230,720</b>	<b>230,933</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>587,627</b>	<b>558,839</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>554,555</b>	<b>542,322</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Share capital	166,320	166,320
Statutory reserve	86,188	84,060
General reserve	44,000	44,000
Other reserves	(36,549)	(47,602)
Treasury shares	(4,346)	(4,932)
Retained earnings	251,791	254,521
<b>Total equity attributable to equity holders of the Company</b>	<b>507,404</b>	<b>496,367</b>
Non-controlling interest	47,151	45,955
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>554,555</b>	<b>542,322</b>

**Condensed Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the nine months ended 30 September 2023**
**Nine months ended 30 September**
**Three months ended 30 September**
**BD'000**

	2023 (reviewed)	2022 (reviewed)	2023 (reviewed)	2022 (reviewed)
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>315,424</b>	<b>298,257</b>	<b>106,504</b>	<b>100,595</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Network operating expenses	(108,330)	(95,660)	(36,999)	(34,296)
Staff costs	(41,341)	(39,837)	(14,234)	(12,946)
Depreciation, amortisation and tangible assets impairment	(51,139)	(53,907)	(17,168)	(17,249)
Impairment loss on trade receivables and contract assets	(1,190)	(1,857)	(872)	(455)
Other operating expenses	(33,860)	(37,357)	(11,219)	(12,848)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(235,860)</b>	<b>(228,618)</b>	<b>(80,492)</b>	<b>(77,794)</b>
<b>Results from operating activities</b>	<b>79,564</b>	<b>69,639</b>	<b>26,012</b>	<b>22,801</b>
Finance and related income	6,047	3,419	2,145	1,279
Finance and related expenses	(17,422)	(10,585)	(6,151)	(4,079)
Other income	898	4,780	225	296
Share of profit / (loss) from equity accounted investees (net)	888	(81)	280	51
<b>Profit before taxation</b>	<b>69,975</b>	<b>67,172</b>	<b>22,511</b>	<b>20,348</b>
Income tax expense	(7,148)	(5,826)	(2,391)	(1,887)
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>62,827</b>	<b>61,346</b>	<b>20,120</b>	<b>18,461</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>				
<i>Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>				
Foreign currency translation differences – foreign operations	587	(13,740)	(2,611)	(5,550)
Investment fair value changes (debt securities)	28	(155)	-	13
	<b>615</b>	<b>(13,895)</b>	<b>(2,611)</b>	<b>(5,537)</b>
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:</i>				
Investment fair value changes (equity securities)	10,658	(4,049)	6,161	(223)
	<b>10,658</b>	<b>(4,049)</b>	<b>6,161</b>	<b>(223)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income, net of tax</b>	<b>11,273</b>	<b>(17,944)</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>(5,760)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	<b>74,100</b>	<b>43,402</b>	<b>23,670</b>	<b>12,701</b>
<b>Profit for the period attributable to:</b>				
Equity holders of the Company	55,544	54,105	17,610	16,252
Non-controlling interest	7,283	7,241	2,510	2,209
	<b>62,827</b>	<b>61,346</b>	<b>20,120</b>	<b>18,461</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period attributable to:</b>				
Equity holders of the Company	66,817	36,161	21,160	10,492
Non-controlling interest	7,283	7,241	2,510	2,209
	<b>74,100</b>	<b>43,402</b>	<b>23,670</b>	<b>12,701</b>
<b>Basic and diluted earnings per share (Fils)</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>9.8</b>

**Condensed Consolidated Statement Of Cash Flows**  
**for the nine months ended 30 September 2023**
**BD'000**

	2023 (reviewed)	2022 (reviewed)
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Profit for the period	62,827	61,346
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Non-operating items, including tax	17,625	8,212
Share of (profit) / loss from equity accounted investees (net)	(888)	81
Depreciation, amortization and tangible assets impairment	51,139	53,907
Impairment loss on trade receivables and contract assets	1,190	1,857
	<b>131,893</b>	<b>125,403</b>
<b>Working capital changes:</b>		
Increase in trade and other receivables	(16,235)	(20,485)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	(2,835)	2,139
(Decrease) / increase in trade and other payables	(2,536)	1,954
<b>Cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>110,287</b>	<b>109,011</b>
Taxes paid	(8,117)	(6,900)
Payment to charities	(2,048)	(1,108)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>100,122</b>	<b>101,003</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Acquisition of property, equipment and intangibles, net of disposal	(90,248)	(40,423)
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired	(880)	-
Net cash from sale of other investments	8,270	12,224
Interest and investment income received	6,712	6,492
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(76,146)</b>	<b>(21,707)</b>
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
Dividend paid	(57,324)	(56,441)
Payment of lease liabilities	(9,165)	(8,981)
Interest paid	(13,183)	(6,778)
Borrowings drawn, net	20,903	499
Grant / (purchase) of share-based payment treasury shares, net	312	(280)
Sale of market making shares, net	274	114
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(58,183)</b>	<b>(71,867)</b>
<b>(Decrease)/ increase in cash and cash equivalents during the period</b>	<b>(34,207)</b>	<b>7,429</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	208,903	138,727
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 September</b>	<b>174,696</b>	<b>146,156</b>

**Condensed Consolidated Statement Of Changes In Equity**  
**for the nine months ended 30 September 2023**
**BD'000**

2023	Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company									Non-controlling interest	Total equity	
	Share capital	Statutory reserve	General reserve	Other Reserves			Treasury shares		Retained earnings			Total
				Foreign currency translation reserve	Investment fair value reserve	Share based payment reserve	Market making shares	Share based payment treasury shares				
At 1 January 2023	166,320	84,060	44,000	(23,636)	(24,670)	704	(3,791)	(1,141)	254,521	496,367	45,955	542,322
<b>Profit for the period</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,544	55,544	7,283	62,827
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>												
Foreign currency translation differences	-	-	-	587	-	-	-	-	-	587	-	587
Investment fair value changes	-	-	-	-	10,686	-	-	-	-	10,686	-	10,686
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	-	-	-	<b>587</b>	<b>10,686</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>11,273</b>	-	<b>11,273</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	-	-	-	<b>587</b>	<b>10,686</b>	-	-	-	<b>55,544</b>	<b>66,817</b>	<b>7,283</b>	<b>74,100</b>
<b>Contributions and distributions</b>												
Final dividends declared for 2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(31,447)	(31,447)	-	(31,447)
Interim dividend declared for 2023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(22,453)	(22,453)	-	(22,453)
Donations approved for 2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,246)	(2,246)	-	(2,246)
Sale of market making shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	274	-	-	274	-	274
Acquisition of treasury shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(453)	-	(453)	-	(453)
Equity-settled share-based payment	-	-	-	-	-	(220)	-	765	-	545	-	545
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	2,128	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,128)	-	-	-
Non-controlling interest recognised on acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	451	451
Dividends to non-controlling interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6,538)	(6,538)
<b>Total contributions and distributions</b>	-	<b>2,128</b>	-	-	-	<b>(220)</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>(58,274)</b>	<b>(55,780)</b>	<b>(6,087)</b>	<b>(61,867)</b>
At 30 September 2023 (reviewed)	166,320	86,188	44,000	(23,049)	(13,984)	484	(3,517)	(829)	251,791	507,404	47,151	554,555

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 31 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa  
Chairman

Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa  
Deputy Chairman

Mikkel Vinter  
Chief Executive Officer

## Mind Matters

## Ways to develop mechanisms to cope with irritation



ANEESA MOIDOO, PSYCHOLOGIST

How can I handle my frustration when plans change and avoid conflicts with others? I find it disturbing as plans are set to follow. Why do I feel this way, and how can I resolve this issue?

Feeling irritated when things don't go our way is a perfectly normal human emotion. However, if we find that our irritation is interfering with our lives or relationships, it's important to understand the underlying reasons for it and develop coping mechanisms.

There are a few common reasons why we might feel irritated when things don't go our way. One reason is that we have a strong need for control. When we feel like we're not in control of our lives, we are experiencing a feeling of loss.

Another reason we might feel irritated is that we have unrealistic expectations. If we expect things to be perfect all the time, we're setting ourselves up for disappointment. When reality doesn't meet our expectations, it can be difficult to cope.

Similarly, some are more comfortable with predictability and routine. When things don't go as planned, it can create a sense of uncertain and anxiety. This can lead to irritation and frustration. Additionally, when our strongly held beliefs or values are contradicted by the actions of others, it can trigger a strong emotional response.

Finally, the need to control also arises from not trusting others to do things the way we want it to be, which is also rooted in not trusting oneself.

The thumb rule is there is not just one way to do things. Therefore opening yourself to see more perspectives and angles to the situations helps you feel less stringent. Mentioning this, there are a few things we can do to cope with irritation when things don't go our way. First, it's important to identify our triggers.

Once we know what our triggers are, we can start to develop strategies for coping with them. Ask yourself, 'Why?' Why should I have to tell this person to do something? Why do I feel the need to exert control over this situation? After you've questioned why, you can begin talking to yourself. Rather than falling to your controlling tendencies, you might address the "why."

Second, it's important to challenge our expectations. Are our expectations realistic? If not, try to adjust them. It's important to remember that we can't control everything in life. Acknowledge that there are aspects beyond our control and not everything will go according to plans can alleviate distress. Learning to let go of our need for control can help us to be less irritated.

Finally, if we're struggling to cope with irritation, it's important to talk to someone. A friend, family member, therapist, or counselor can offer support and guidance. Last but not least self-reflection, introspection is essential.

*"The thumb rule is there is not just one way to do things. Therefore opening yourself to see more perspectives and angles to the situations helps you feel less stringent."*



(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)

# Insurance nightmare

Victim shares harrowing account of uninsured school van collision

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

A recent traffic accident involving an uninsured school van has left a 35-year-old man in a predicament, as the van's owner refuses to take responsibility for the damage caused.

The incident, which occurred on October 9, 2023, has raised concerns about the safety and accountability of vehicles operating without proper insurance coverage.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, the victim shared his account of the incident. He stated, "On the 9th of October 2023, at 6:20 am, I was exiting my apartment's parking lot when I saw a school van passing by."

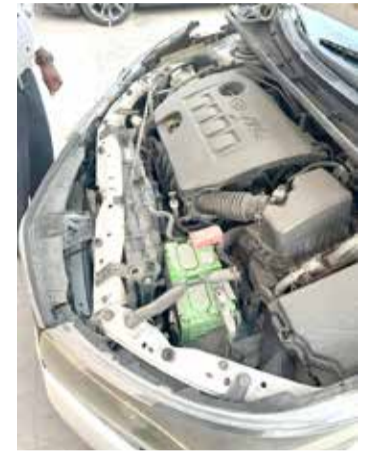
"After making sure no oncoming vehicles were to my left, I was about to merge onto the road. At that moment, the same school van unexpectedly reversed at high speed. I immediately honked in an attempt to alert the driver, but within a split second, the van collided with my car, causing damage and pushing it to the left."

The driver of the van quickly moved the vehicle away from the accident scene before the victim could capture photographic evidence. Engaging in a senseless argument, the driver claimed that the victim failed to notice his approach.

The victim considered contacting the authorities but was persuaded against it when the van



The victim is seeking justice and compensation for his damaged car



driver explained that he was in a rush to drop off children at school.

### Difficulties

Compounding the victim's difficulties, his insurance company informed him that his third-party insurance coverage did not extend to damages caused by other vehicles. Only with a full insurance policy would the repairs be covered.

The victim obtained repair quotations from local garages, opting for duplicate or second-hand parts, which amounted to approximately BD670.

However, due to the vehicle's age, only 50 per cent of the repair cost at an authorized Toyota agency would be covered under the Consumer Protection Board's rules.

In an effort to seek guidance and support, the victim shared his story online, where users offered

suggestions and empathy.

One user advised the victim to file a police report against the offending driver, highlighting the possibility of the driver facing jail time if he fails to pay for the damages.

Another user expressed concern over the school van's lack of insurance, emphasising the risk involved in transporting children without proper coverage.

### Complaint

Furthermore, a user suggested the victim include the school's name in the complaint, as schools can be held vicariously liable for the actions of their employees.

The victim expressed the difficulties faced by him and his family without a car, saying, "We are struggling a lot. We have to ask for lifts from friends

and rely on taxis. Our whole life is a mess now. No weekend outings, just trying to figure out what to do."

The victim has also consulted several law firms to explore legal options. While one firm requested an upfront payment of BD100 and a power of attorney, with further costs to be determined later.

Another firm advised the victim that legal fees, court fees, and expert fees could surpass the cost of repairing the car. Consequently, they recommended filing a police complaint and attempting to negotiate with the van owner once again.

The victim's plight has caught the attention of The Daily Tribune. As the story unfolds, it serves as a stark reminder of the importance of insurance coverage and the potential consequences of accidents involving uninsured vehicles.

## Capital Police arrests serial shoplifter



TDT | Manama

The Capital Governorate Police Directorate announced the arrest of a 29-year-old person after he broke into a number of restaurants and shops, stealing some of their contents, and damaged the security camera wires in these locations.

The estimated value of the stolen items was around BD4,000.

The directorate clarified that upon receiving reports of theft at these shops, search, investigation and inquiry operations were immediately initiated, including inspecting the sites and collecting necessary information.

This led to identifying the aforementioned person and arresting him. Initial information indicated that the person was wearing a face mask during the theft acts and that he had prior convictions in similar cases.

The Capital Governorate Police Directorate stated that legal procedures were taken and the arrested person has been referred to the Public Prosecution.

## BTEA plans underway to increase inbound tourism



Mr. Fakhro and Dr. Qaedi at the meeting  
TDT | Manama

The Board of Directors of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) held its regular meeting, chaired by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Acting Minister of Tourism, H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro.

The meeting was attended by the BTEA's CEO Dr. Nasser Qaedi.

The meeting discussed topics on its agenda regarding the latest achievements in the tourism sector, while reviewing efforts underway to implement current and future tourism-related projects and events.

The board reviewed the outcomes of the recent visit to the People's Republic of China, where an MoU between the Ministry of Tourism and the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism to enhance tour-



**The meeting reviewed efforts to implement current and future tourism-related projects and events.**

ism cooperation was signed. It also reviewed the outcomes of the meetings held by the Authority with several leading tourism companies and tour operators in the Chinese market.

During the meeting, Dr. Qa-

edi presented an overview of several key tourism indicators for the period from July to September 2023, as well as BTEA's plans regarding marketing and promotional activities for the tourism sector, in addition to updates on the business plans of several tourism facilities.

Dr. Qaedi also reviewed a series of initiatives launched by BTEA during the third quarter of this year, and the planned implementation of tourism and entertainment events and programs during the fourth quarter.

The board meeting also highlighted the progress of work in several prominent tourism projects in the Kingdom, including Exhibition World Bahrain and plans to further activate the role of Vatel Bahrain - International Hospitality School, in line with global developments and the needs of the labour market.

# Beyon net profit rises 8% to BD17.6m

TDT | Manama

Beyon yesterday reported profits for the third quarter and nine months that rose from a year ago as revenues increased helped by increases in mobile, wholesale and digital services. Beyon was able to grow its overall customer base by 5% YoY with increases in mobile customers of 16% in Batelco Bahrain and 6% in Umniah in Jordan.



Mikkel Vinter



Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa

## Q3 results

Third quarter net profit attributable to equity holders was BD17.6 million (US\$46.7m), an 8% increase from BD16.3M (US\$43.2m) for the corresponding quarter of 2022. Earnings per share (EPS) are 10.7 fils compared to 9.8 fils in Q3 2022.

Total comprehensive income attributable to equity holders was BD21.2m (US\$56.2m), a 102% increase from BD10.5m (US\$27.9m) in the prior-year quarter, due to investment fair value changes.

Operating profit rose 14% to BD26.0m (US\$69.0m) from



BD22.8m (US\$60.5m) in Q3 2022. Revenues increased 6% to BD106.5m (US\$282.5m) compared to BD100.6m (US\$266.8m) in Q3 2022.

## Nine-month results

For the first nine months of 2023, net profit attributable to equity holders of the company was BD55.5m (US\$147.2m), up 3% from BD54.1m (US\$143.5m) in 2022 despite the BD6.8m (US\$18.0m) increase in interest expense during the period. Earnings per share (EPS) are 33.6 fils compared to an EPS of 32.8 fils in the year-ago period.

Total comprehensive income attributable to equity holders of the company is up 85% from BD36.2m (US\$96.0m) in 2022 to BD66.8M (US\$177.2m) in 2023.

Operating profits increased by 14% from BD69.6m (US\$184.6M) during the period in 2022 to BD79.6m (US\$211.1m) in 2023. The company maintained a healthy EBITDA margin of 41% during the period in 2023.

Revenues were BD315.4m (US\$836.6m), up 6% from BD298.3m (US\$791.2m) in the corresponding period of 2022, mainly due to increases in mobile, wholesale and digital services. Beyon Chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said: "We are pleased to deliver improved earnings per share of 33.6 fils for the period, increased from 32.8 fils for the corresponding period in 2022, which supports our commitment to deliver good value for our shareholders."

Beyon CEO Mikkel Vinter said, "We have maintained the strong momentum set in the first half of 2023, and I'm pleased with the progress made over the recent busy months, with some excellent achievements by our digital and telecom businesses, helping to contribute to the improved financial performance."

# Al Baraka Group sponsor of 2nd Al Baraka Summit in London

TDT | Manama



Al Baraka Group was the Strategic Sponsor of the 2nd Al Baraka Summit held at JW Marriott Grosvenor House, in London from October 28 to 29, 2023. The event was held under the theme "Islamic Economy in The United Kingdom: Reality and Opportunities".

This year's edition brought together policymakers, industry leaders, specialists, and scholars who shared their valuable insights and innovative ideas, contributing to the shaping of the unprecedented future of the Islamic economy.

The purpose of the summit is to revive the understanding of the Islamic economy in the United Kingdom.

The first day covered diverse aspects of the Islamic economy and finance. These sessions included discussions on the Emergence of Islam-

ic Finance and Banking, The Legacy of Islamic Economy, Islamic Investment Solutions, Islamic Banking Sector's role in Sustainability and Fulfilling Societal Responsibility, and The Islamic Non-Profit Organisations in the UK.

On the second day, a professional workshop titled "The Executive Program for the Effective Regulation and Supervision of Takaful Institutions" was held in collaboration with the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB).

According to Saleh Kamel Islamic Economy Database, the UK is a leading centre for Islamic finance in the Western world. It has five Islamic banks, which account for about 30% of the total Islamic banks in Europe.

# A Milestone achievement for Al Malaki Specialist Hospital



50th Think Pink Event- Awareness Campaign held at Enma Mall in partnership with Southern Municipality & Southern Municipal Council

TDT | Manama

Al Malaki Specialist Hospital announced its milestone achievement of successfully completing more than 50 events as part of the Think Pink Awareness Campaigns in October 2023.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed management, dedicated marketing team, and all our trusted partners across all sectors who have supported

us on this incredible journey. Dr Mariam Al Ahmedi, the medical director of Al Malaki Specialist Hospital stated: "This achievement highlights our commitment to promoting healthcare education and empowering individuals to prioritize their health."

Rohit Srivastava, our CEO stated: "We believe in the importance of being a responsible healthcare provider and actively engaging in activities that benefit the community we serve."

# Tamkeen and Safaghat to support Bahraini Startups and mSMEs



Officials following the deal signing

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund Tamkeen has announced the signing of a partnership agreement with Safaghat, a pioneering crowdfunding investment platform licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain, to offer alternative financing support to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (mSMEs).

Tamkeen will extend its support for financing loans by covering a portion of the profits to eligible Bahraini mSMEs, helping them to raise funds from local and international consumers and in-

vestors. These funds will be facilitated through Safaghat's crowdfunding platform, ensuring compliance with Sharia principles.

Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), said, "This collaboration with Safaghat aligns perfectly with our mission to foster innovation and entrepreneurship and to stimulate high potential growth sectors such as ICT."

Safaghat CEO, Husain Ali Sayed, added "Our alignment and compliance with Sharia laws positions us as a trusted partner, for businesses seeking financing."

# Bapco Energies in deal with bnl to enhance employee benefits



Officials following the deal signing

TDT | Manama

Bapco Energies has signed a long-term agreement with Bahrain National Life Assurance Company (bnl). This strategic partnership, facilitated by Protection Insurance Services (PIS), will consolidate the Bapco Energies Group under a unified medical and life insurance policy.

This agreement, set to span four years, aligns with Bapco Energies' overarching strategic initiative to consolidate operations and drive efficiency across the Group.

Signing on behalf of Bapco Energies, Mark Thomas, Group Chief Executive, and on behalf of bnl, Enas Asiri, Chief Executive Officer, and Samy Aziz, Executive Director at PIS. The signing ceremony hosted by Bapco Energies, was also attended by other senior executives from each entity including Nouf Al Sowaidi,

Group Chief Human Resources Officer at Bapco Energies, Tareq Wafa, Chairman of PIS, alongside Raed Fakhri, Group CEO of Bahrain National Holding (BNH).

Mark Thomas, Group Chief Executive Officer of Bapco Energies, said at the signing of this strategic partnership: "By centralizing our medical and life insurance policy, we are streamlining our operations and ensuring that our employees receive the highest standard of care."

"This agreement marks an important step towards providing unrivalled life and health insurance services for Bapco Energies Group," said Enas Asiri, ellence."

Following the signing ceremony, Samy Aziz, Executive Director, PIS shared his thoughts on the partnership: "This collaboration with Bapco Energies is an exciting opportunity for us at PIS."

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has organized a breast cancer awareness event for its female employees in collaboration with Al Malaki Specialist Hospital, Bahrain Bankers Trade Union, and Bahrain Free Labour Unions Federation. The event included an awareness seminar about breast cancer presented by Dr Ghufuran Ahmed Jassim from Al Malaki Specialist Hospital. The event also included a medical screening for female employees.



# GPIC Breast Cancer Awareness

On the occasion of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which falls in October each year, and with the aim of spreading awareness of the importance of early screening, GPIC organized several activities for the company's employees within the complex. The company's CEO, Yasser Alabbasi, stressed that these events highlight the importance of regular examinations as breast cancer can be treated easily if detected in its early stages. The company regularly organizes events, including Awareness Lectures by specialists and consultants in health and nutrition, in addition to conducting periodic educational campaigns on various health issues for all employees and their families as well as organizing events such as large blood donation drives. The company also participates in public marathons and walkathons organized by external parties in the Kingdom to educate the community about the seriousness of this disease, and how it can be treated.

# AUB offers special financing facilities at Delmon Gate's Tayseer Exhibition

TDT | Manama



Ahli United Bank has announced its participation in the Tayseer Property Exhibition organised by Delmon Gate which is set to take place at Delmon Gate's head office in AlMusalla from 2nd to 5th November 2023, 10am - 5pm.

The Bank will be offering special Sharia compliant financing options to property buyers, including tenors extending up to 30 years, financing of up to 120% of property

value, competitive fees and profit rates, special waivers on charges, expedited processing, and flexible financing amounts according to the set terms and conditions. Representatives from AUB will be present at the exhibition to assist visitors in matching their selected properties with the best financing options available. The facilities will cover everything from construction to the purchasing of property or land, as well as properties classified as Social Housing

QUOTE OF THE DAY

GET BUSY LIVING OR GET BUSY DYING  
STEPHEN KING

News in brief

◆ King Charles III paid

a solemn visit yesterday to the birthplace of independent Kenya, at the start of a trip clouded by calls for an apology over Britain's bloody colonial past. Although the four-day state visit by Charles and Queen Camilla has been billed as an opportunity to look to the future and build on the cordial modern-day ties between London and Nairobi, Buckingham Palace has said the king will address historic "wrongs" during decades of colonial rule. It is the 74-year-old British head of state's first tour of an African and Commonwealth nation since becoming king last year and comes just weeks before Kenya celebrates the 60th anniversary of independence in December. Under rainy skies, Charles and Camilla were given a ceremonial red-carpet welcome by Kenyan President William Ruto, who said on X he was "honoured" to host the royal couple. Later, Charles and Ruto laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in the Uhuru Gardens memorial park.



King Charles visits Kenya as colonial abuses loom large

US, UK, Canada unveil new sanctions on supporters of Myanmar military

◆ The United States, Canada and Britain took aim yesterday at sources of support to Myanmar's military regime, building on earlier sanctions and targeting its ability to buy weapons. The fresh restrictions come more than two years after a military coup that also launched a violent campaign against democracy activists. "Burma's military regime has repeatedly harmed civilians in air strikes, suppressed pro-democracy movements, destroyed homes and infrastructure, and displaced millions of people" since the coup, said the US Treasury Department, using another name for Myanmar. It added that the latest sanctions target companies and individuals, including government officials, who perpetuate or facilitate violence in the Southeast Asian country.



◆ Russia yesterday condemned increased Israeli air strikes on Syria as "unacceptable," saying they risked triggering a spillover of the Israel-Hamas war into a wider regional conflict. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held a call with his Syrian counterpart Tuesday, in which he stressed Russia's opposition to Israel's strikes on Syria, and warned against any actions that could provoke an escalation in the "current explosive situation," Russia's foreign ministry said. Israel's army said it carried out a string of air strikes on military targets inside Syria in recent weeks. Concerns of a wider regional conflict are high after Hamas militants stormed over the Gaza border into southern Israel on October 7, killing some 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and seizing 240 hostages, according to Israeli officials.

Russia says Israeli air strikes on Syria 'unacceptable'



SPOTLIGHT

India police charge man over Jehovah's Witnesses bomb blast



Dominic Martin, blast scene  
New Delhi, India



Police in India say they have charged a man in connection with a bomb blast at a Jehovah's Witnesses prayer meeting that killed three people. Dozens were also injured in Sunday's explosion at a convention centre where more than 2,000 people had gathered for a three-day meeting. A. Akbar, the police commissioner in the port city of Kochi, told reporters late Monday that suspect Dominic Martin had been charged with several offences, including under India's anti-terror laws. Martin had turned himself in to police after releasing a video message on social media in which he claimed to be a disgruntled former member of the church. Local media reports said Martin, 48, had learned how to make explosives on the inter-

net. Broadcaster NDTV said he had spent around 3,000 rupees (\$36) to make the bombs. He returned to India about two months ago from Dubai, the website The News Minute reported. There are nearly 60,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in India, according to the church's website. Jehovah's Witnesses are members of a US-based Christian evangelical movement and are perhaps best known for knocking on doors around the world, Bible in hand, trying to convert people to their beliefs. The movement, which preaches non-violence and is politically neutral, has a history of persecution, with its activities banned or restricted in several countries. It is a millennial faith, meaning its members believe that the end of the world is near and that God's kingdom will soon rule over the Earth.

Iran says proxies won't 'remain silent' on Israel-Hamas war



A Palestinian man reacts while holding the body of a relative killed following Israeli bombardment

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Iran said yesterday it was "natural" for Tehran-backed groups to attack Israel in light of its war on Hamas, warning of a wider spillover if no ceasefire is reached.

The remarks were made by Iran's top diplomat Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Qatar's capital Doha where he met with Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and his Qatari counterpart to discuss a push for a diplomatic breakthrough.

"It is natural that the resistance groups and movements do not remain silent against all these crimes" committed by Israel, Amir-Abdollahian said in remarks relayed by Iran's foreign ministry.

"They will not wait for anyone's advice, therefore we need to use the last political opportunities to stop the war," he said after talks with Sheikh Tamim, warning the situation

could "get out of control".

Amir-Abdollahian's statement came hours after Tehran-backed Huthi rebels in Yemen claimed responsibility for a drone attack on southern Israel, with the group vowing to continue its attacks.

Shortly afterwards, the Israeli military said its forces intercepted a "surface-to-surface missile" fired towards Israeli territory from the area of the Red Sea, saying it was "successfully intercepted" by the 'Arrow' aerial defence system.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman said the pair had discussed "the dangerous escalation of confrontations in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and the importance of advancing immediate ceasefire efforts", in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

"We also stressed the need to intensify regional efforts to prevent the expansion of violence and conflict in the region," he said.

Suspected gunman takes hostages in Japan



Police officers guard the area around a post office where a suspected gunman has taken an unknown number of people hostage in Warabi city, Saitama prefecture

AFP | Saitama, Japan

Police were surrounding a post office in Japan late yesterday as a suspected gunman held at least one person hostage following an apparent shooting at a nearby hospital that wounded two people.

TV images showed the suspect, reported to possibly be in his 80s, inside the building with what looked like a gun attached to a cord around his neck in Warabi, outside Tokyo.

His motive was unclear but police believe he was also involved in the incident at the hospital and media reports said that a fire in an apartment block may also be linked.

"At approximately 2:15 pm today (0515 GMT), a person took hostages and holed up at a post office in Chuo 5-chome

area of Warabi city... The perpetrator is possessing what appears to be a gun," the city authorities said on their website. "Citizens near the scene are urged to follow police instructions and evacuate in accordance with police instructions."

Television footage showed a woman in her 20s, believed to have been a hostage, walking out of the post office shortly before 7:30 pm.

It was unclear how many people were still being held but earlier it was reported that a 30-year-old woman was inside.

Police were talking to the man by telephone, NTV reported.

The Yomiuri daily had reported earlier that around 10 post office staff may be inside the building and that the suspect may be carrying kerosene.

The grim accounting

AFP | Jerusalem

A pathologist checks a body in the morgue of the Gaza Strip's Nasser hospital, takes a photo and notes their name and the place where bombs killed the victim.

The doctor is adding another name to a long list of "martyrs" in the ongoing war between Hamas and Israel.

"Between midnight and noon, 17 martyrs, and five others who died of natural causes, came in," Dr Nahed Abu Taaema, director of the Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the south of the Palestinian territory, tells AFP.

On his computer, Taaema shows AFP a program in which "martyrs" -- the term Palestinians use to designate those killed in the war with Israel -- are listed under one tab, with other dead grouped separately.

"The forensic pathologist writes out a full report, seals it and sends it to the office of patient management, which is responsible for entering the information in a database linked to the ministry of health," he adds.

Using the information supplied, employees of the office of patient management fill out a file with



A Palestinian man reacts while holding the details of each "martyr" before adding the information to the computer database.

"People who die of natural causes are not taken to the morgue to be examined by pathologists, unless the death seems suspect," Dr Taaema says.

On October 26, the health ministry of the Hamas-run government in Gaza published the names of some 7,000 Palestinians killed since the outbreak of war with Israel on October 7.

The Palestinian death toll from

Gaza now a thousands

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The Gaza Strip has become a graveyard for thousands of children, the United Nations said yesterday, fearing more may die of dehydration.

Israel has heavily bombarded Gaza since Hamas gunmen stormed across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping at least 240 others, including children, according to Israeli officials.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said the strikes have killed 8,525 people, mainly civilians and including more than 3,500 children.

The UN children's agency UNICEF said there was a risk that the number of child deaths directly from bombardment could be eclipsed. "Our gravest fears about the reported numbers of children killed becoming dozens, then hundreds, and ultimately thousands were realised in just a fortnight," UNICEF spokesman James Elder said.

"The numbers are appalling; reportedly more than 3,450 children killed; staggeringly this rises significantly every day.

"Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children. It's a living hell for everyone else."

"There are certainly children who are dying who have been impacted by the bombardment but should have had their lives saved," Elder told reporters in Geneva, via video-link.

Without greater humanitarian



Palestinians dig out the body of a child from access into Gaza, "the deaths from the attacks, they could absolutely be the tip of the iceberg".

He said the more than one million children living in the Gaza Strip were also suffering from a lack of clean water.

"Gaza's water production capacity is a mere five percent of its usual daily output. Child deaths -- particularly infants -- to dehydration are a growing threat," he said. UNICEF is calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, with all access crossings into Gaza opened for the safe, sustained and unimpeded access of human-

1755

Lisbon earthquake kills more than 50,000 in Portugal



1814

Congress of Vienna opens to redraw the European political map after the defeat of France, in the Napoleonic Wars

1894

Vaccine for diphtheria announced by Dr Émile Roux of Paris

2012

Scientists detect evidence of light from the universe's first stars, predicted to have formed 500 million years after the big bang

# ing system of a Gaza hospital



body of a relative killed following Israeli

more than 1,400 people dead in Israel, mostly civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

Some victims of air strikes on Gaza are registered as "unknown", and their files are updated later when the bodies are identified by families.

For Rizk Abu Rok, a 24-year-old paramedic with the Palestinian Red Crescent, transporting those killed and wounded by Israeli bombardment to the hospital has become a daily routine.

But nothing could prepare him for the horror he experienced on October 22.

After receiving a report that the Rio Cafe in Khan Yunis had been hit, Abu Rok rushed to the scene in an ambulance, gripped with fear in the knowledge that his father and other relatives had been sheltering there.

"I was convinced that I was about to carry out the bodies of people I love very much," he said.

Arriving at the site of the bombing, he treated a seriously wounded person and gave him first aid before taking him back to the Nasser hospital.

"When I arrived, I rushed to the emergency room and found my father there. He had a head wound. I knew immediately that

he was dead.

"I collapsed and lost my nerve. The nurses brought me outside to calm me down."

When he came back to his senses, Abu Rok went back inside to the emergency room to see if any more of his relatives were there.

"I found them all, one after the other: Ajnad, Jamal and Talal Abu Rok, Mohammed Abu Rjeileh and Ahmad Qodeih. They were all killed in the cafe along with another 10 people."

The bodies were taken to the morgue to be examined by the pathologist, adding yet more numbers to the Nasser hospital's grim accounting system.



Some victims of air strikes on Gaza are registered as "unknown", and their files are updated later when the bodies are identified by families.

# Climate 'loss and damage' dominates UAE talks ahead of COP28



a driver charges his electric vehicle at Antuoshan charging station in Shenzhen, China's southern Guangdong province

AFP | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Setting up a "loss and damage" fund for poorer nations hit by climate change dominated preliminary talks yesterday one month before COP28 in Dubai, where delegates look set to tussle over the future of fossil fuels.

Around 70 ministers have gathered since Monday at the Emirates Palace, a luxurious resort in the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi, to hammer out details before next month's UN climate summit, the most important since the landmark Paris agreement in 2015.

"The main focus for the moment is clearly the loss and damage fund," said French Energy Minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher.

The agreement to set up a dedicated fund to help vulnerable countries cope with climate "loss and damage" was a flagship achievement of last year's COP27 talks in Egypt.

But countries left the details to be worked out later.

"We were one or two days away from an agreement" dur-

ing the last round, a European negotiator said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak on the issue.

But several disagreements, including on beneficiaries, delayed a breakthrough.

"The United States does not want to put in a penny if China is a potential beneficiary," the negotiator said.

Earlier in July, Jaber, who heads the UAE's oil giant ADNOC, said that "phasing down fossil fuels is inevitable" -- a statement he has not repeated this week.

"It's too early (for discussions), and would block negotiations even before the start of the COP," said a member of his entourage on condition of anonymity.

A fossil fuel phaseout is already implicit in other commitments, including one to triple renewable energy capacity to 11 terawatts by 2030.

"If you agree on the 11TW, you already agree on reducing fossil fuel emissions," said Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi-based International Renewable Energy Agency.

# a 'graveyard' for of children: UN



in the rubble of a building in the Nuseirat refugee camp

itarian aid, including water, food, medical supplies, and fuel.

"And if there is no ceasefire, no water, no medicine, and no release of abducted children? Then we hurtle towards even greater horrors afflicting innocent children," said Elder.

Israel's ambassador in Geneva, Meirav Eilon Shahar, told reporters on Monday that Hamas was holding 33 children hostage, the youngest nine months old.

## Infants on incubators

Elder said that according to figures from health faculties

in Gaza, 940 children were missing.

UN humanitarian agency spokesman Jens Laerke added: "It's almost unbearable to think about children buried under rubble, but (with) very little opportunity or possibility for getting them out." The World Health Organization said people in Gaza were dying not just from direct bombardment.

"We have 130 premature infants that are dependent on incubators, of which 61 percent approximately are in the north," said WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier.

## Hamas says it will free foreign hostages 'in the next few days'

AFP | Jerusalem

Hamas's armed wing said yesterday it would release in the coming days some of the foreign hostages in its captivity, as it vowed to turn Gaza into a graveyard for Israel's military.

"We have informed intermediaries that we will release a certain number of foreigners in the next few days," Abu Obeida, a spokesman for Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, said in a televised address. Around 240 hostages are believed to be held by Hamas at the moment in Gaza.

Five hostages have been released to date, including four after negotiations through a diplomatic backchannel and one following an operation by the Israeli army.

"It's an imminent public health catastrophe that looms with the mass displacement, the overcrowding, and the damage to water and sanitation infrastructure."

Israel laid a total siege on Gaza following October 7, cutting off food, fuel, water and power supplies to the territory.

From October 21-30 143 trucks carrying food, water and medicine entered the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing with Egypt, Laerke said.

"It remains a drop; it remains unacceptable," said Elder.

## Police open fire at Paris train station on woman making 'threats'



French police officers leave a metro station

AFP | Paris, France

French police yesterday shot and seriously wounded an unarmed woman who was making threats at a train station in Paris during morning rush hour, police and prosecutors told AFP.

According to witnesses the woman, who was completely veiled, shouted "Allahu akbar" ("God is Greatest") and "made threats", the a police source said, adding that "police fired because they feared for their safety".

After passengers on a suburban train alerted police, agents managed to "isolate" the woman at the Bibliotheque

Francois Mitterrand station on the capital's south bank which was evacuated, the source said.

She "refused to follow police orders" and threatened "to blow herself up", the Paris prosecutor's office said.

A police officer then fired a single shot, inflicting a life-threatening injury to her abdomen, it said.

No explosives or other arms were found on the woman, the police source said.

Police have launched two investigations, prosecutors said. One will probe the woman's actions, while another is to elucidate whether the police's use of a firearm was justified.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



With my entire @UN family, I grieve the loss of so many @UNRWA colleagues. Amid unimaginable suffering & pain, colleagues in Gaza continue to serve those in need despite serious risk to their own lives. They have my gratitude, solidarity, and full support

@antonioguterres

02



I spoke with Bulgarian Prime Minister Nikolai Denkov on ways to further strengthen Black Sea security in the face of Russian militarization and threats to freedom of navigation. Ukraine strengthens global food security with the alternative Black Sea export corridor. I appreciate the joint naval demining initiative by Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey. Ukraine is ready to take an active part in relevant efforts.

@ZelenskyyUa

03



Happy Halloween from Jill and me!

@POTUS

04



A reminder: the people in power don't need conferences, treaties or agreements to start taking real climate action. They can start today. When enough people come together then change will come and we can achieve almost anything. So instead of looking for hope - start creating it.

@GretaThunberg

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

# autobuzz

## Japan Mobility Show in Tokyo



Lexus's next-generation battery EV LF-ZC concept



Japanese automaker Daihatsu's concept car OSANPO



The AFEELA Prototype from Sony Honda Mobility

## Japan's first **fully autonomous** vehicle project suspended

AFP | Tokyo

Japan's first pilot project of a fully autonomous self-driving vehicle has been suspended after a minor accident with a parked bicycle, officials said.

It is the latest blow to efforts worldwide to promote driverless vehicles, a technology with particular potential benefits in ageing Japan.

The driverless bus-like vehicle, similar to an electric golf cart, started operations in Eihei-ji in Fukui prefecture in central Japan in May.

This was after Japan last year allowed Level 4 self-driving vehicles on public roads, meaning that they can operate only within a limited

area.

On Sunday it hit a bicycle that was parked on a roadside, said local official Norifumi Hiramoto.

None of the four passengers was injured and the vehicle developers are investigating the cause, he said.

"We are suspending the operation until the cause of the incident becomes clear," he said. A Fukui police spokesman confirmed the accident caused no injuries.

The vehicle, designed to avoid obstacles

with sensors and radars, has been driving at a maximum speed of 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) per hour.

The suspension comes just days after California authorities suspended testing of driverless cars as robotaxis by General Motors's Cruise subsidiary following a series of accidents and other problems.

Like other industrial countries, Japan has been exploring the

possibility of allowing self-driving technologies on public roads.

Japan, which is considering easing a ban on ride-hailing services to alleviate a shortage of taxi drivers, aims to allow Level 4 vehicles in 50 locations within three years.



## BYD posts record quarterly profit



Chinese automaker BYD's sports sedan BYD SEAL is displayed during the press day of the Japan Mobility Show in Tokyo

AFP | Beijing

China's top electric carmaker BYD announced a record quarterly profit Monday, underscoring the firm's growing dominance in a high-tech sector that is fiercely contested by both domestic and foreign competitors.

The Shenzhen-based firm posted a profit of 10.4 billion yuan (\$1.42 billion) for the July-September period, its highest-ever earnings during a single quarter and up 82 percent on-year, a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange showed.

The figure was in line with BYD's previous forecast of between 9.55 billion yuan and 11.55 billion yuan in quarterly earnings.

BYD's cumulative net profit for January-September reached 21.4 billion yuan, more than doubling on-year and sur-

passing last year's total annual earnings of 16.6 billion yuan.

Electric vehicle demand has soared in recent years in China, which is the world's biggest producer of greenhouse gases in absolute terms.

BYD, whose investors include US investment titan Warren Buffet, wants its sales to be dominated by electric and hybrid vehicles by 2035.



BYD ceased production of gasoline-powered cars last year, and is now focusing exclusively on hybrid and electric models.

## Car drivers torture NZ city with Celine Dion songs

AFP | Wellington, New Zealand

Car drivers armed with a playlist of Celine Dion songs have been plaguing residents of a small New Zealand city for months on end with loud, late-night "siren battles".

The beloved Canadian singer's melodies lose their charm when blared at high volume as late as 2 am, say the sleepless residents of Porirua, north of Wellington and home to 60,000 people.

"It's a headache," Porirua Mayor Anita Baker told AFP on Thursday.

Siren battles have erupted in parts of New Zealand for at least seven years.

Local media have reported on contestants -- often people with family links to Pacific Island nations -- using large siren-type



Canadian singer Celine Dion performs on the opening night of her new world tour "Courage" at the Videotron Centre in Quebec City

speakers on cars and even bicycles to drown each other out with their powerful systems.

They "love Celine Dion", the

mayor said. "They like anyone with a high pitch and great tone in their voice," she said.

In Porirua, people have had enough of hearing the power ballads, including "My Heart Will Go On" and "It's All Coming Back To Me Now".

The contests start as early as 7 pm and can go on until as late as 2 am, the mayor said.

"It's really loud music. They only play a quarter of the song, so it's like having a turntable and it comes screeching out."

Competing cars park with their engines running, blasting out music before moving to avoid police, Baker said.

### 'Not getting any sleep'

"It's happening down in our city centre, which is like a basin, so the noise just goes out like a drum to all the suburbs," she said.

"People are just not getting

any sleep, because it's all hours."

Nearly 300 disgruntled residents have so far signed a petition on the website change.org demanding Porirua City Council put a stop to it.

"There is a petition coming my way, but I have already had lots of emails and complaints through," Baker said.

One resident, Diana Paris, wrote on the petition she was "sick" of the noise.

"Although I enjoy Celine Dion in the comfort of my lounge and at my volume, I do not enjoy hearing fragments of it stopping and starting at any time between 7 pm and 2 am," she said.

Baker said the late-night music sessions started in November 2022 during the Rugby League World Cup when local fans celebrated Samoa's run to the final.

"We had a parade down here and they have just continued on. Summer is starting and they are back."

There are no set nights when the high-decibel music will start up, she said. "It's absolutely random now and it can be any day of the week."

Baker has attended organised siren battles.

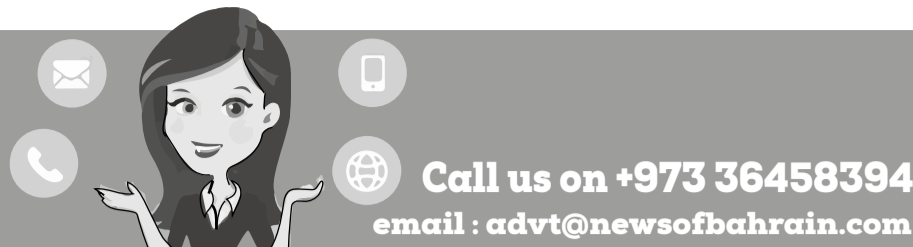
"I can see why they like them, they are a bit of fun. There were families watching and it finished at 10 pm, not one or two in the morning when people need to sleep."

The mayor said she would meet with police to find a resolution.

"We don't want people leaving the city because of the noise. That's unacceptable," she said. ryj/djw/lb



# Classifieds



## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

**ANTIBES SALON W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66900066 or faisal.antibes@gmail.com

**FRY AWAYS BROADCAST W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35690426 or MDS147956@GMAIL.COM

**COMSIP AL A ALI W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17773006 or AURELIEN.CHAUSSY@VINCI-ENERGIES.COM

**F.N.F CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38931414 or SARIFUDDIN9@GMAIL.COM

**PADEL KINGDOM W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39986899 or hyateem@thepadelkingdom.com

**ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

**CJT HEONE FASHION** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34404408 or CJ1THEONE@GMAIL.COM

**S M S OFFSHORE CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33721386 or EBRAHIMABOMALAK88@GMAIL.COM

**UBAIDA BABY SHOP W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39346954 or SIDDEEK.P@GMAIL.COM

**Konafa, pies & Sweets Abu Malek W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33644919 or KONAFAPIESSWEETS@GMAIL.COM

**FINE KARAK CAFETERIA W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34369200 or TALALMARKET.BAH@TALALGROUPINTL.COM

**DELIRIO FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENTS W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33610332 or DELIRIOTRADING@GMAIL.COM

**AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or ALANSARI@AREENAGROUP.COM

**ASKA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34203410 or mmcc.bh@gmail.com

**ALIF GLASS AND ALUMINIUM W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36137054 or ALIFGLASSALUMINIUM@GMAIL.COM

**FAHAD ALHAJRI EXPORT AND IMPORT ASPHALT W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33256402 or FAHAJRY@ICLOUD.COM

**KELI W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13666690 or MAAJLOUNI@YAHOO.COM

**KAYAN REHABILITATION CENTER W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77079889 or HAIFA.AL TAMAR@GMAIL.COM

**BREEZ JEWELLERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33266623 or MUTEEALYAFAY@GMAIL.COM

**PET FANTASY FOOD TRADING & CARING SERVICES CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33721626 or REBECCAPHILEMON15@GMAIL.COM

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**MOSA RESTAURANT W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39454342 or SHAKEELG88@YAHOO.COM

**ISMAEL IDREES BUILDING COMPLETION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33880076 or ISMAILIDRESS16@GMAIL.COM

**ABOOD PASHA RESTAURANT** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33156004 or ABUABOOD187@GMAIL.COM

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**CHILL SPOT MARKET W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39680137 or EBRAHIMR1958@GMAIL.COM

**ALSAFA AND ALMARWA BOUTIQUE** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34581125 or AAZZAAT54@GMAIL.COM

**MALEEHA MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY**

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**EMCE MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700047 or NOOR@EMCEBH.COM

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**MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17708888 or lmra@mmetc.com

**DELTA MECHANICAL SERVICES CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786444 or fatima@deltabahrain.com

**SAJ CLEANING SERVICE** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39883277 or AHMAD1001.JANAHI@GMAIL.COM

**SUPERSTAR GARAGE** has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36091800 or SALEH.596@HOTMAIL.COM

**YOUR PLACE TO TRADE AND SELL BEAUTY SUPPLIES** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33332561 or JENANALJUFAIRI@ICLOUD.COM

**MERIDIANS DECOR W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37386664 or VIJESHPRAPPURAM@GMAIL.COM

**AL NADEEM CARGO HANDLING COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32118571 or BRIGHTFUTURE9853@GMAIL.COM

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**SUBJECT LEO CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39199881 or LUCKYBSSA68338@GMAIL.COM

**JANAH SHAM FOR VEGETABLES AND FRUITS** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38224411 or GANAH.AL SHAM.BH@GMAIL.COM

**SEFTY CHEMICAL TRADING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331218 or DRONAIISI@GMAIL.COM

**STORE TO DOOR SUPERMARKET W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35358011 or SALMAN.MFD@GMAIL.COM

**AMD INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33361071 or BILALJANT722@GMAIL.COM

**NOMAN RASEED SUPPORT SEVICES CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37004299 or AGENTREAL28@GMAIL.COM

**Kingdom Security Protection Services W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39415444 or RASHEED@SECURICORE.BH

**NEON BURGER** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33733123 or AZIZ\_GH2011@HOTMAIL.COM

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**GEO STAR CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33375865 or sameritait@gmail.com

**HASZONE SUPPORT SERVICE W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66755077 or FAISAL\_NAEEM45@YAHOO.COM

**TECHNOMORE SERVICES CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33148839 or MIOZANASIR653@GMAIL.COM

**ON POINT TRADING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36390606 or SIRAJ@ONPOINTBH.COM

**JAISHNI KHUSHI DESIGN AND ADVERTISING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of GRAPHIC DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37139134 or DESIGNKHUSHI@GMAIL.COM

**HADDAR CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of TILES FIXER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39669875 or JOSEJOHANNAN@YAHOO.COM

**ARAB SHIPBUILDING & REPAIR YARD CO. JASRY** has a vacancy for the

occupation of PURCHASING AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37787773 or duajimalkhalifa@ASRY.NET

**PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERVI** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

**G4S SECURE SOLUTIONS BAHRAIN W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714409 or SUMAIRA.YASMIN@BH.G4S.COM

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**YOUSIF HASAN AHMED** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FALAFEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39711936 or YUSUFK1939@HOTMAIL.COM

**ARAB BANKING CORPORATION B S C** has a vacancy for the occupation of VICE PRESIDENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17543000 or HO.HR@bank-abc.com

**NASSER GOLDSMITH WORKSHOP** has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39883277 or ABDULNABIALSARRAJ@GMAIL.COM

**Al abbasi Restaurant and grill** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36668189 or jehad.anc@hotmail.com

**U MAHMOOD ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39248626 or futuredocument@gmail.com

**ALSAWARI CARPENTRY WORKSHOP W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17280050 or ALSAWARRY@HOTMAIL.COM

**QARAMZI REPAIR OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33356119 or NAZIR60MB@GMAIL.COM

**A S K LEGAL** has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000968 or INFO@ASKLEGAL.CO

**2010AUTO SPARE PARTS** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39041475 or MN.SAQR@YAHOO.COM

**SAHAM GENTS TAILORING** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR (GENTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39211212 or ALHARAN93@GMAIL.COM

**KAFLAN CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39871069 or ADEL.JABBER@WPHOME.COM

**NEW PATHAN COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66340632 or MEHRKHANDAN213@YAHOO.COM

**Al Sahel Resort B.S.C. (Closed)** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17561327 or hr@edamah.com

**JAHECON W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244111 or JAHECON@BATELCO.COM.BH

**NATIONAL PROPERTY INVESTMENTS CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17299511 or ahmed@jazayani.com

**WIN SQOT TAILORING** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39292738 or AFLAMOL786@GMAIL.COM

**FUNLAND CENTRE** has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292313 or FUNLAND@BATELCO.COM.BH

**ALHANADI CLEANING** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39458176 or ALHANADI8@GMAIL.COM

**ALHUDA SHAWRMA AND JUICE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33301221 or ZUHAIR\_MAJEED@HOTMAIL.COM

**CELEBRITY EMPIRE SALOON** has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39422733 or ABDULLAALJAWAD@HOTMAIL.COM

**CINDERELLA CLEANING AND CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33339696 or ATTAR88@HOTMAIL.COM

**Musawi Boat Maintenance** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39997650 or MAJEEED.MUSAWI@GMAIL.COM

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**HADDAR CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39669875 or JOSEJOHANNAN@YAHOO.COM

**CREATIVE CLOSETS** has a vacancy for the

occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17610612 or abdulazeem.ibrhim@aljasser.co

**POULLAIDES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39093137 or PCCBAH@BATELCO.COM.BH

**AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or ALANSARI@AREENAGROUP.COM

**MIND & METRICS W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35051958 or MUDD.BH@GMAIL.COM

**BLUE PLANET INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36408685 or ZEESHANSHANI6550@GMAIL.COM

**Saleh Al Abdullah Al Muhanna & Partners Trading & Contracting Co** has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39977021 or INFO@SMCOCONTRACTING.COM

**BU FAROOQ TRADING** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33879797 or FAKHIRBALUSHI@GMAIL.COM

**JASIM A.RAHMAN AHMED ALMUTAW ( BIN SALEM - 11207)** has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36433346 or JALMUTAWEH@GMAIL.COM

**URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajjinath@urbaser.com

**TASNEM CONSTRUCTIONS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39460816 or INFO@EAMCO.BH

**WADI ALSAIL GATE CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33367000 or info@wadialsailgate.com

**RAMSI ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or HR@RAMSIS.COM.BH

**AlFateh Group W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17222222 or Jasim@alfateh.bh

**AHMADI DAIRY B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17271333 or hr@ahmadipepsi.com

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**KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W L L** has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

**DOC & DINE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39874874

**BATSCO CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33644886 or hr@batSCO.net

**City way trading** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39164777 or ALZAEEM.Z@HOTMAIL.COM

**ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOFTEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ** THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of CAPTAIN(RESTAURANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631660 or ahmed@jazayani.com

**MAXEL INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39944412 or ABUTHAR1975@GMAIL.COM

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**SULTAN PALACE AUCTION BOUTIQUE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33284867 or WAJIDA.SPC@GMAIL.COM

**STAR RANA CAFETERIA** has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39025881 or HELPCLEARANCE2022@GMAIL.COM

**SPASH SWIMMING POOL Co. W.L.L.** has a

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**Safa Marwa Contracting** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36409792 or HA420145@GMAIL.COM

**ICONIC JEWELLERY DESIGN COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36234139 or AGENTREAL28@GMAIL.COM

**MAKKAH FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33826212 or SIKANDER6212@GMAIL.COM

**AL DAR ALFAKHER GENTS TAILORING** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39262426 or MOON5533320@GMAIL.COM

**ALLIED MIDDLE EAST W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534926 or METEIB.ALHAMMAM@YAHOO.COM

**Zoya Maintenance Company** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17673400 or aaagroupbh@gmail.com

**ALZAIN TRADING CO LTD WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212444 or hrd@alzainjewellery.com

**Majestic promotions co w l l** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36773310 or ACCOUNTSNAHAR@NISHATGROUPAE

**ASPENTECH LTD FOREIGN BRANCH** has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39644444 or SHAHNAZ.MOAMEN@ASPENTECH.COM

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**Almufed Electrical Services Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17677784 or almufedelectricalwll@gmail.com

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**AHMED ALJAHRAMI INTERIOR DECORATION AND CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39454450 or AHMED.ALJAHROMI@GMAIL.COM

**Infura Consulting W L L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36330690 or FAISAL@ARAMISSOLUTIONS.COM

**Algharafa Auto Garage** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456969 or BUZAAL1970@GMAIL.COM

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**TRIDENT CLEANING SOLUTION ESTABLISHMENT** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37707040 or MOHAMMEDMOBEE@GMAIL.COM

**Dream World Construction Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39252020 or sharef.works@gmail.com

**JAMEEL A. A. JAWAD / NIEMATUK - 8182** has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39955621 or SPIER2009@LIVE.COM

**PEBBLES GATE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330363 or MAHMOODESA151@YAHOO.COM

**HAMALA HILLS PROPERTIES W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17490737 or Management@hamalahills.com

**Tab Two Phones** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33336320 or MOHAMEDISA436@GMAIL.COM

**AL JAWAHER UPHOLSTERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667545 or RAZA4070@GMAIL.COM

**LAILAAK BOUTIQUE W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33425399 or LAILAKLADY42@GMAIL.COM

**HIRA BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICE W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35471565 or CHISMAILBH@GMAIL.COM

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

**INTERIOR SOLUTIONS COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of FABRICATOR(FIBERGLASS RODUCTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or hamida.alhubbail@havelockone.com

**MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or HRD1@MACBH.COM

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FC Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Aitana Bonmati and Messi with their awards

“  
This is a gift  
to the whole  
Argentina team  
for what we  
achieved  
MESSI

# Messi wins 8th Ballon d'Or

## Bonmati claims women's award



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi reacting as he receives the Ballon d'Or football award (from L to R) for the year 2009 in Boulogne-Billancourt, outside Paris, on December 6, 2009; for the year 2010 in Zurich, on January 10, 2011; for the year 2011 in Zurich on January 9, 2012; for the year 2012 in Zurich on January 7, 2013; for the year 2015 in Zurich on January 11, 2016; for the year 2019 in Paris on December 2, 2019; for the year 2021 in Paris on November 29, 2021; for the year 2023 in Paris on October 30, 2023.

AFP | Paris, France

Lionel Messi won the eighth Ballon d'Or of his remarkable career at a glittering ceremony in Paris on Monday, while Spain's World Cup-winning star Aitana Bonmati took the women's prize.

For Messi, the trophy rewards, above all else, his inspirational performances at last year's World Cup in Qatar, when he dragged Argentina to victory, scoring seven goals and being named the tournament's best player. It was the crowning moment of his astonishing career, and it allowed him to see off stiff competition, in particular from Erling Haaland and Kylian Mbappe, to take the award on the stage of the Chatelet Theatre in Paris. It was a return to the French capital after his departure from Paris Saint-Germain in June and his subsequent move to Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

"This is a gift to the whole Argentina team for what we achieved," said Messi on stage after receiving his award from

David Beckham, the co-owner of Inter Miami.

Messi dedicated the trophy to late Argentina legend Diego Maradona, who would have celebrated his 63rd birthday on Monday.

"Happy birthday Diego. This is for you too," he said.

Messi benefits from a recent change which means the award is based on a player's record over the last season, rather than over the calendar year.

He won despite an underwhelming final season at PSG, even if he was a Ligue 1 title winner.

### Mbappe, Haaland just miss out

Mbappe was the star player in that team, scoring 41 goals, and was also the World Cup's top scorer with eight goals, including a hat-trick in the final which France lost to Argentina on penalties.

Yet he fell just short for the Ballon d'Or, finishing third, while Norway striker Haaland came second after scoring 52 goals in 53 games for the Manchester City team that won

the treble of English Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League. Messi is 36 and won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009. With eight, he is now three ahead of his old rival Cristiano Ronaldo, the next most decorated player in the history of the award.

It remains to be seen if Messi will again feature in the running for the prize, which is voted for by one journalist in each of the top 100 nations in the FIFA ranking.

"I am not thinking about the long-term future. I am just enjoying the day to day at the moment," he said.

Messi will struggle to hold off the next wave of superstars, led by Mbappe, Haaland and Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham, but his World Cup performances made his victory this time feel inevitable.

The women's prize seemed even more clear cut, as Bonmati was rewarded for starring as Spain won the World Cup in Australia in August.

The 25-year-old midfielder was named the best player at the World Cup as the Spanish team overcame off-field turbulence, including protests against their national federation and coach Jorge Vilda, to lift the trophy.

Bonmati also starred as Barcelona won the Champions League last season and was recently named as the UEFA Women's Player of the Year.

"It is difficult to improve on this. It has been a unique year," she told various media including AFP. "If anyone said to me when I was little that I would play at the Camp Nou, win the World Cup, two Champions Leagues, a Ballon d'Or, a UEFA award, these are extraordinary things."



Messi is 36 and won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009. With eight, he is now three ahead of his old rival Cristiano Ronaldo, the next most decorated player in the history of the award.

## Saudi Arabia only bidder for 2034 World Cup

● The bid comes one year after neighbouring Qatar hosted the first World Cup in the Middle East

● Saudi Arabia announced its intention to bid for the 2034 event on October 4

● At one stage, Indonesia had considered a joint bid with Australia

AFP | Lausanne, Switzerland

Saudi Arabia is in line to host the 2034 World Cup after FIFA announced on Tuesday that the kingdom was the only bidder for the tournament.

The decision will be ratified officially at the end of next year, providing all of the technical criteria are met.

Saudi Arabia, which has invested heavily in football as well as Formula One and golf, is set to take over from an unprecedented tri-continental line-up for the 2030 event, which will be shared between Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with three matches in South America.

The bid comes one year after neighbouring Qatar hosted the first World Cup in the Middle East, where the Saudi national team scored a stunning group stage victory over eventual winners Argentina.

At this point, only "expressions of interest" have been submitted.

After the full bids for 2030

and 2034 are handed over, they will be evaluated by FIFA and put to a vote at two separate congress meetings at the end of 2024.

But the absence of any competition leaves little room for suspense, while also raising numerous questions about the environmental impact of the 2030 event and the compatibility of the 2034 tournament with FIFA's human rights commitments.

Saudi Arabia was initially interested in bidding for the 2030 World Cup alongside Egypt and Greece but that idea was abandoned in June, leaving the path open for the tri-continental bid.

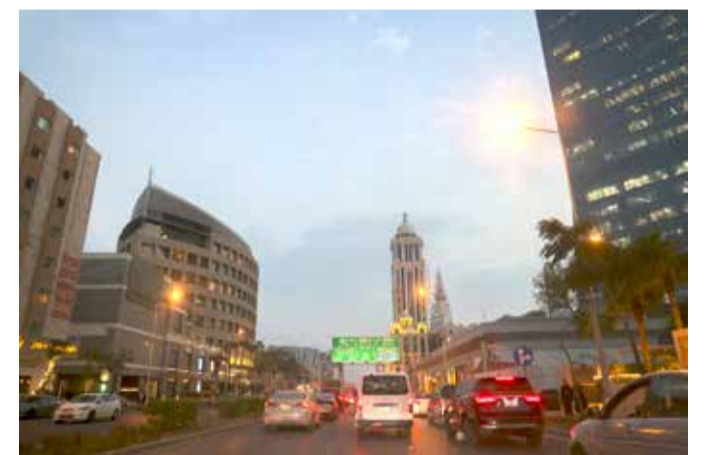
Saudi Arabia announced its intention to bid for the 2034 event on October 4, as soon as the procedure had been launched.

As a result of the continental rotation, FIFA had only "invited" member countries of the Asian and Oceanian confederations to apply -- thus ruling out the traditional footballing heartlands.

At one stage, Indonesia had considered a joint bid with Australia, or even other countries such as New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore, but on October 19 it agreed to support Saudi Arabia's bid.

Australia, which successfully hosted the Women's World Cup this year, was also a contender but withdrew its interest on Monday following the Asian Football Confederation's decision to back the Saudi bid.

"We have explored the opportunity to bid to host the FIFA World Cup and -- having taken all factors into consideration -- we have reached the conclusion not to do so for the 2034 competition," Football Australia said in a statement.



A general view of Saudi capital Riyadh

## Sri Lanka mourns 'Uncle Percy' - cricket's one-man cheer squad

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's cricket stars and newspapers yesterday mourned the death of a beloved "super fan" who had become a one-man cheer leader and a permanent presence at international games.

Percy Abeysekera, 87, died at a hospital outside the capital Colombo on Monday following a brief illness, according to his family. Former Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardena described Abeysekera as the "true 12th man for many generations of Sri Lankan cricketers". "He was there throughout my entire career, cheering us on, waving his flag and always, win or lose, making us laugh," Jayawardena said. "We will all



Percy Abeysekera miss you dearly 'Uncle Percy'."

Another ex-skipper, Kumar Sangakkara, said Abeysekera was as much a part of the Sri Lanka cricket set-up as the players.

"From my debut till my last game Uncle Percy was a constant. His contribution to the game in Sri Lanka stands equal to any of the players that have worn the shirt," said Sangakkara.

# Saudi's Al-Dawsari, Australia's Kerr named AFC players of the year

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Saudi Arabia winger Salem Al-Dawsari and Australia striker Samantha Kerr were named Asian Football Confederation (AFC) players of the year at a glitzy ceremony in Doha yesterday.

Al-Dawsari, who won the accolade of best men's player, thanked his teammates, fans and family at the annual awards held this year in the Qatari capital. "I thank my father, my mother and my teachers in life, and I also thank my wife and my sons and daughters," Al-Dawsari, who plays for Saudi Pro League Team Al Hilal said.

The player also thanked political leadership in the Gulf monarchy which is all but certain to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup following the withdrawal of Australia, the only other contender for the tournament, on Tuesday.

The Saudi player, who clinched the winning goal in his team's upset win against Argentina in the 2022 World Cup, fought off competition from Australia's Mathew Leckie and Qatar's Almoez Ali to win AFC male player of the year.



President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al-Khalifa (C) poses for a picture with the award winners during the AFC Annual Awards Doha 2022



The Saudi player, who clinched the winning goal in his team's upset win against Argentina in the 2022 World Cup, fought off competition from Australia's Mathew Leckie and Qatar's Almoez Ali to win AFC male player of the year.

Kerr, who also won the women's AFC player of the year award in 2017, had vied with nominees, China's Zhang Linyan and Japan's Saki Kumagai to win the women's accolade.

"It's been an amazing year for me and my team and I just want to thank all my teammates, my coaches, my family and friends. It's been amazing," the Chelsea player and all-time Australia top goal scorer said as she accepted the award in a video message.

The annual awards ceremony, which had been due to be held in Qatar in 2020, returned after a four-year hiatus because of the

coronavirus pandemic.

The gas-rich Gulf state, which hosted the 2022 World Cup, is to host the confederation's upcoming Asian Cup beginning in January.

The tiny emirate has said the Asian Cup will be held across nine stadiums including seven that are a legacy of the world cup held almost exactly one year ago.

"The AFC is delighted to be able to bring the Asian football family together in the stunning city of Doha," AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa said.

# Al Ahli rout Samaheej in basketball league



Al Ahli's Ali Aqeel looks to make a play against Samaheej last night

● Patrick McGlynn scores 21 points to spearhead victors in game

TDT | Manama

Al Ahli powered to a resounding 78-63 victory over Samaheej last night in the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ahli went ahead early and made the most of their talent and size advantage, with Samaheej playing without an overseas professional.

Ahli raced out to a quick 19-13 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back.

They enjoyed margins as big as 24 points but cruises in the last period en route to the final buzzer.

Patrick McGlynn top scored for Ahli with 21 points, while Hesham Sarhan added 17 and Ali Aqeel 11.

Feras Ali Abdulla came off the bench to pace Samaheej with 14, while Salman Alkaabi was their only other player in double figures with 11.

With the result, Ahli claimed their first win of the new season, having bounced back from a surprising loss to Nuwaidrat in their opener. Samaheej, on the other hand, suffered their second straight defeat, having previously bowed to defending champions Manama in their first game.

# Israel Euro 2024 qualifiers moved to Hungary

AFP | Paris, France

Two of Israel's home qualifying matches for the Euro 2024 finals have been moved to Hungary for security reasons due to the Israel-Hamas conflict, UEFA announced yesterday.

Sitting third in Group I, Israel had been due to play Switzerland on November 15 and Romania three days later in Israel. Both matches will now be played in Felcsut in Hungary.

The three teams are closely tied for the two automatic qualifying places. Romania have 16 points from eight games, the Swiss 15 from seven and Israel 11 from six.

Israel wrap up their qualifying campaign away to Andorra November 21.

# Zverev through in three, Fritz pulls out of Paris Masters

AFP | Paris, France

Alexander Zverev beat qualifier Marton Fucsovics in three sets yesterday at the Paris Masters as ninth seed Taylor Fritz pulled out through injury after earlier reaching the second round.

The German 10th seed came back from one set down to beat Hungarian Fucsovics 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the round of 64 at Bercy Arena.

Zverev is still seeking to secure his place among the top eight who will go on to the ATP Finals in Turin next month.

After this victory, the 2021 champion sits seventh just behind Stefanos Tsitsipas and 430 points ahead of ninth-placed Hubert Hurkacz.

American Taylor Fritz's chances of qualifying for the tour's showpiece event took a



Germany's Alexander Zverev celebrates after winning his men's singles match against Hungary's Marton Fucsovics

hit when he was forced to retire with an abdominal injury.

On Monday, the ninth seed had comfortably beaten Argentine Sebastian Baez 6-1, 6-4.

The 11th-seeded Hurkacz saw off Sebastian Korda 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 on Tuesday to book

his place in the second round alongside Felix Auger-Aliassime, who toppled Jan-Lennard Struff in two sets.

Later in the evening, world number two Carlos Alcaraz will take on Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin on centre court.

# Muharraq claim second win in volleyball league

TDT | Manama

Muharraq eased past Ma'ameer 3-0 (25-19, 25-15, 25-20) last night in their week two contest of the 2023/2024 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

Muharraq were the aggressors from the beginning as they secured their second straight win, while Ma'ameer suffered a second loss.

In another week two contest, Al Nasser claimed their second successive triumph after beating Bani Jamra 3-1 (25-23, 22-25, 25-21, 25-23) in Group B.

The 14 participating clubs this season have been divided into two groups for the league's preliminary stage. Group A also includes defend-

ing champions Dar Kulaib, Al Dair, Nabih Saleh, Busateen and A'ali, while Group B also features Al Najma, Al Ahli, Tadamun, Al Shabab and Etehad Al Reef.

League action continues tonight with Ahli facing Tadamun at 6pm in Group B and then Busateen playing Nabih Saleh at 7.30pm in Group A.

Following a single round-robin, the top three teams from each group qualify for the top six, while the remainder play in a bottom-tier league.

The top six will then play two rounds, with the top four making it through to the Golden Square semi-finals. There, the top seeds play the fourth and the second seeds take on the third.

# India's Rushikesh advances in ITF tennis

TDT | Manama

Second seed Rushikesh Sonawane of India barged into the second round of the boys' singles main draw yesterday in the third Bahrain ITF Juniors 2023 tournament, currently being played at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) hard courts in Isa Town.

The competition is a J30 event that is part of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Tennis Tour Juniors, which features the world's top tennis talents aged 13 to 18.

Rushikesh made it through



A player in action in the boys' singles yesterday

with a 6-2, 6-0 win against Satam Moafa of Saudi Arabia. He will next take on Nikita Gribyakin of Estonia, who was a victor on the opening day of the tournament on Monday.

Others to claim victories yesterday and move on to round two were third seed Georgii Arakelian, Ernest Yakubovskiy, Daniil Karpukhin, Fedor Sosedkin, Abdulmalik Alshamrani of Saudi Arabia, Akmal Abdullaev of Uzbekistan, Khaled Ibrahim of Egypt, and Sacha Fontanges of France.

Ernest claimed a tough 6-4, 5-7, 6-0 win over Bahrain's Shadi

Kallel, while Sacha upset boys' singles eighth seed Ahmed Ibrahim of Egypt 7-6 (10-8), 4-6, 6-4.

Meanwhile, action in both the girls' and boys' doubles got underway yesterday.

Taking wins amongst the girls were the pairing of Arina Malygina and Anastasia Myachina, the tandem of Katarina Curcic of Serbia and Saiyette Varadkar of India, the duo of Sara Desouky of Egypt and Asil Oktay of Turkey, and the Turkish pair of Yasemin Eiselmeier and Sude Ulueren.

Amongst the boys pairings, emerging triumphant were

fourth seeds Radu Cojocaru of Australia and Nikita, Emre Atlamis and Doruk Calikoglu of Turkey, Akmal and Sofyan El-naqa of Egypt, and the Mongolian tandem of Sonompuntsag Enkhjargal and Undrakh Purevdorj.

Tournament action continues today at the BTF.

The ongoing competition is the first of three straight ITF tournaments to be hosted by Bahrain in succession. The second, which begins on 6 November, is also a J30 event, while the third, a J60 competition, will begin on 13 November.

# Third Nasser bin Hamad Amateur Cycling Tour kicks off today

TDI | Manama

The 3rd edition of the Nasser bin Hamad Amateur Cycling Tour will be launched today under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs. Organised by the Bahrain Cycling Association (BCA) in cooperation with Faalyat Company, the four-day tour will take place from November 1 to 4.



Officials during a press conference

Speaking at a press conference ahead of the event, Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Cycling Association, expressed his gratitude to His Highness Shaikh Nasser Hamad Al Khalifa for his support of the tour, adding that His Highness is an inspiration and leader for all athletes.

He explained that the Nasser Hamad Amateur Cycling Tour is one of the events that the Association is honoured to organise, stressing that many targets have been reached in the first and second editions.

He pointed out that the third edition will be different from the previous two editions, given the participation of riders and is expected to witness stronger competition and higher levels.

Meanwhile, Shaikh Khalifa Al Khalifa, representing Batelco, spoke at the press conference, emphasising that the company is proud of its continuous support of the Tour. He pointed out that the event enhances sporting and social values among everyone, wishing the participants success. Furthermore, Major Ahmed Al Ahmed, representing the Ministry of Interior, confirmed during the press conference that the Traffic Directorate is ready to organise traffic flow for the tour. He noted that everyone will work hand in hand to achieve complete success.

It's worth noting that the Tour comes within the framework of His Highness's keenness to continue the journey of cycling sports by discovering new talents that can further elevate this sport, which has achieved multiple accomplishments in the past.

# Bahrain set for WEC spectacle

Stacked 36-car grid to line up at Bahrain International Circuit this weekend in the Bapco Energies 8H of Bahrain

● **Thirteen LMGTE Am teams racing in world's most iconic sportscars to hit tarmac, including an all-female squad**

TDI | Manama

A stacked field of 36 cars will be lining up on the grid at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) this weekend for this year's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain. The ultra-competitive entry list for the final round of the 2023 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) is set to be headlined by a record-breaking 12 Hypercars, along with 11 contenders in the Le Mans Prototype 2 (LMP2) class and another 13 in the Le Mans Grand Touring Endurance Am (LMGTE Am) category.



Pit crew members of LMGTE Am team D'Station Racing conduct a practice pit stop with their Aston Martin Vantage AMR.

The world-class competitors will be hitting the tarmac at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" as the Spirit of Le Mans makes its presence felt in Sakhir in a massive way. The action starts tomorrow with the WEC's first two 90-minute practice sessions to be held behind closed doors.

BIC will then open its gates to fans on Friday and Saturday for them to see endurance motorsport's best teams and drivers in action in their iconic and technologically superior Hypercars and sportscars. Gates are scheduled to be open from 11am to 6.30pm on Friday and from 10.30am to 10.30pm on Saturday.

This year's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain will yet again be a brilliant spectacle for all those attending and watching on television from across the globe. The race on Saturday will flag off under the afternoon sun and then wrap up beneath the stars while shining brightly under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights. With over a decade of racing history at BIC, the WEC has grown to become a landmark event in Bahrain. The 36-car field is one of the largest for the WEC race since it switched to an eight-hour format in 2019.

This year, the Hypercar category will be more hotly contested than ever. Toyota Gazoo Racing and Peugeot TotalEnergies will be making their return to Bahrain, and they will be joined in the Hypercar battles for the first time at BIC by Ferrari AF Corse, Porsche Penske Motorsport, Cadillac Racing, Floyd Vanwall Racing Team, Hertz Team JOTA, and Proton Competition. Toyota Gazoo Racing, Peugeot TotalEnergies, Ferrari AF Corse and Porsche Penske Motorsport will each have two cars taking to the track—all Hybrids. Hertz Team JOTA, Proton Competition and Cadillac Racing will be racing single Hybrid challengers, while Floyd Vanwall Racing Team will compete in their Vanwall Vandervell 680.

A star-studded cast of drivers across the board will be plotting their race strategies. They include former Formula 1 ace Sebastien Buemi, Brendon Hartley, Kamui Kobayashi, Paul Di Resta, Jean-Eric Verge and Antonio Giovinazzi in the Hypercar category; and Robert Kubica and Daniil Kvyat in the LMP2 class, among others. The LMP2 category will see plenty of heated action amongst the 11 Oreca 07-Gibsons. United Autosports, Alpine Elf Team, Prema Racing and Team WRT will each have two cars in contention, to be joined by Vector Sport, JOTA and Inter Europol Competition with one car each. The LMGTE Am category features the WEC's biggest line-up of entries, taking to the track in the most iconic sportscar machinery. Among the participants is the all-female crew of Sarah Bovy, Michelle Gattling and Rahel Frey, who are sharing the duties in their Porsche 911 RSR-19 as the Iron Dames team. The other squads competing in Porsches are Project 1-AO, Iron Lynx, Dempsey-Proton Racing and GR Racing. Taking to the track in Ferrari 488 GTE EVO cars are two AF Corse crews, Kessel Racing and Richard Mille AF Corse. ORT by TF, Northwest AMR and D'Station Racing will each be competing in Aston Martin Vantage AMR challengers; while Corvette Racing will be getting into the fight in their Chevrolet Corvette C8.R.



**Twelve Hypercars are set for a record-breaking fight in the World Endurance Championship's top-tier category at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" this weekend**

# Pakistan down Bangladesh to stay alive at World Cup

AFP | Kolkata, India

Shaheen Shah Afridi grabbed three wickets while openers Fakhar Zaman and Abdullah Shafique cracked half-centuries



Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi celebrates after taking the wicket of Bangladesh's Tanzid Hasan

as Pakistan stormed to a seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh on Tuesday to stay afloat in the race for a World Cup semi-final place. Shaheen's 3-23 helped Pakistan dismiss Bangladesh for just 204 in 45.1 overs before Zaman's 74-ball 81 and Shafique's 69-ball 68 guided Pakistan over the line for the loss of three wickets with 105 balls to spare. The victory revived Pakistan's outside hopes of reaching the semi-finals with six points from seven matches. They still need to win against New Zealand (November 4 in Bengaluru) and England (Kolkata on November 11) and also hope other results go their way if they are to stay in the tournament. In contrast, Bangladesh became the first side to crash out of the 10-team event with just one win from seven games.

Bangladesh Total: (all out; 45.1 overs) 204	
<b>Pakistan</b>	
Abdullah Shafique lbw b Miraz	68
Fakhar Zaman c Hridoy b Miraz	81
Babar Azam c Mahmudullah b Miraz	9
Mohammad Rizwan not out	26
Iftikhar Ahmed not out	17
Extras: (lb2, w2)	4
<b>Total: (for three wkts, 32.3 overs)</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Did not bat: Saud Shakeel, Agha Salman, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usama Mir, Mohammad Wasim, Haris Rauf</b>	
<b>Fall of wickets: 1-128 (Shafique), 2-160 (Azam), 3-169 (Zaman)</b>	
<b>Bowling: Taskin 6-1-36-0, Islam 4-1-25-0 (1w), Miraz 9-0-60-3, Rahman 7-0-47-0 (1w), Shakib 5.3-0-30-0, Shanto 1-0-5-0</b>	
<b>Result: Pakistan won by seven wickets</b>	

"We know when Fakhar plays the way he can for 20-30 overs it is a different ball game. So we let him play his natural game and it is good to see." Needing to improve their net run-rate, Zaman and Shafique cruised to 128 by the 22nd over. Shafique hit nine boundaries

and two sixes as he made his third half century in addition to a hundred in the tournament. He fell leg-before to spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz while Azam holed out to the same bowler for nine. Zaman, who recovered from a knee injury to replace Imrul-Hasan in one of three changes for Pakistan, smashed seven sixes and three boundaries, his 16th ODI fifty, but first after 11 innings. He holed out to Miraz in the 28th over but Moham-

mad Rizwan (26) and Iftikhar Ahmed (17) remained undefeated to complete the modest chase. Miraz finished with 3-60, the only bright spot in Bangladesh's bowling. "Two more matches hopefully we can bounce back. The fans supported us and are behind us whether we are doing well or not," said Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan.

