

BD250,000 lost in rental scam

TDT | Manama

Three Asian employees at a car dealership have been sentenced to one year in prison and deportation for embezzling BD253,631 by turning company cars into a covert rental scheme.

The trio, aided by two accomplices, used forged invoices and erased company records to siphon the proceeds, which they split among themselves. Vehicles were discreetly rented out near Andalus Park, with accomplices advertising and delivering them to renters.

The dealership's lawyer, Issa Al Wadaei, revealed how the employees abused their roles and falsified records to mask the theft. The court ordered the stolen amount to be repaid, with a related civil claim for additional damages referred to the Civil Court.

Hamas open to 'all ideas' ahead of ceasefire talks

AFP | Gaza City

Hamas is open to discussing "all ideas and proposals", a senior official of the Palestinian militant group told AFP, as representatives arrived in Cairo yesterday for talks on a possible ceasefire in Gaza.

The group has "not received any new offer or proposal so far", the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic.

But Hamas "is open to discussing all ideas and proposals that lead to the end of the war, Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the return of the displaced, the entry of humanitarian and relief aid, and a serious deal to exchange prisoners," he said.

Syria rebels strike

TDT | Beirut

Rebels seized Aleppo airport and dozens of nearby towns yesterday after overrunning most of Syria's second city of Aleppo, a war monitor said.

Summit for Gulf unity and action

GCC leaders gather in Kuwait today to tackle pressing regional and global issues head-on

Bahrain to take part in 45th edition

TDT | Manama

The 45th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit will convene today in Kuwait, bringing together the leaders of GCC member states, to address pressing regional and global challenges.

The summit underscores the importance of collective action in strengthening Gulf cooperation, building on more than four decades of progress and positioning the GCC as one of the most successful regional organizations globally.

Since its establishment 43 years ago, the GCC has been guided by its charter principles, advancing prosperity and stability across member states under the leadership of their rulers.

The bloc's achievements span economic development, security, and cultural integration, with a commitment to unified policies and mutual progress.

Dedicated contributor

The Kingdom of Bahrain, under the leadership of His



HM the King with other GCC leaders during previous editions of the event

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, remains a dedicated contributor to Gulf initiatives.

His Majesty's vision, reinforced by the efforts of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, reflects Bahrain's unwavering support for shared goals and regional cooperation.

Bahrain has played a pivotal role in enhancing joint Gulf initiatives through agreements, memorandums of understanding, and collaborative protocols,

solidifying its contributions to regional security, stability, and sustainable development.

Gulf unity

Its balanced foreign policy and proactive diplomacy have further strengthened Gulf unity, ensuring alignment in shared positions and decisions across critical issues.

Leaders of GCC member states have consistently advanced cooperation across multiple sectors, including finance, trade, investment, energy, environment,



education, technology, youth, and sports.

Enhanced collaboration in security, defence, and counter-terrorism has also reinforced the region's stability and resilience against global threats.

Political crises

In addressing escalating political crises in the Middle East, GCC nations have intensified efforts to de-escalate conflicts and foster regional stability.

Their initiatives include political, security, and humanitarian

measures to mitigate violence, reduce economic and human losses, and contribute to international peace and security efforts.

Strategic partnerships with key nations and international organisations have elevated the GCC's role on the global stage.

Model of cooperation

Adherence to international laws, respect for sovereignty, and a focus on shared prosperity have made the bloc a model of effective regional cooperation.

A 31-Year Journey

Nine-Row Pearl Necklace That Captures Bahrain's Legacy

TDT | Manama

At Jewellery Arabia, a dazzling nine-row pearl necklace displayed by Al Mahmood Pearls isn't just a showpiece - it's a story of perseverance, heritage, and craftsmanship spanning nearly 31 years. This exquisite creation, a highlight of Bahrain's rich pearl legacy, embodies the dedication of generations who have kept the Kingdom's traditions alive.

Decades of Dedication

What began as a seven-row necklace took 27 years to complete, a labour of love rooted in precision and patience. Yet the dream didn't end there. Mohamed Abdulrazzaq Al Mahmood, CEO of Al Mahmood Pearls, explained how his father's vision transformed it

into a nine-row masterpiece. "Just three weeks before the exhibition, we reviewed our collection and, by God's grace, found matching pearls to add two more rows. In total, this necklace took nearly 31 years to finish," he shared.

Creating such a piece is an intricate process. Each pearl must be sourced, evaluated, and matched for lustre and quality - a task demanding extraordinary skill. Unlike many necklaces on the global market, Bahraini pearl jewellery maintains unparalleled consistency and craftsmanship, a hallmark recognised by luxury brands like Cartier.

Legacy of Pearls

Bahrain's pearl heritage stretches back 7,000 years, establishing the Kingdom as a



Mohamed Abdulrazzaq Al Mahmood

global leader in pearl diving and trading. Bahraini 'Tawash', or pearl merchants, supplied treasures that adorned royalty worldwide, including the late Queen Elizabeth II, who famously cherished her Bahraini pearl necklace.

Preserving Tradition

Today, families like the Al Mahmood dynasty continue to preserve this legacy. "There's an old Arabic saying, 'Al-Ghaniyya Al-Faqeer,' meaning 'the richest but the poorest,'" Al Mahmood explained. "It reflects the devotion of pearl merchants who reinvest everything into their craft."

The nine-row necklace isn't just jewellery, but a symbol of Bahrain's history, artistry, and enduring mastery in natural pearls.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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A December to remember

Public and private sectors collaborate to enhance Bahrain's 2024 Festive Season

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Fireworks, concerts, and a historic stroll along Bahrain's Pearling Path are set to make December a month to remember, as the Kingdom marks its 2024 Festive Season.

These celebrations coincide with Bahrain's national holidays, commemorating its establishment in 1783 under Ahmed Al Fateh and honouring His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's reign.

Sara Ahmed Buhejji, Chief Executive of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), spoke warmly of the private sector's involvement.

Sponsors

She extended her thanks to sponsors, such as GFH Financial Group, BBK, NBB, Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), Infracorp, NBK, Marassi Bahrain, Beyon, GPIC, Cebarco, and Urbaser, whose contributions have added depth to this year's celebrations.

According to Buhejji, such partnerships showcase Bahrain's ability to host events of regional and global appeal, blending local heritage with modern attrac-



The grand celebrations coincide with Bahrain's national holidays, commemorating its establishment in 1783 under Ahmed Al Fateh and honouring His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's reign.



artefacts.

History

Spanning from Bu Maher Fort to the Visitors' Centre, this unique experience promises to immerse guests in Bahrain's rich history.

Sports are also set to feature prominently this season. The World Weightlifting

Championship, held near the Bahrain National Theatre from 4 to 15 December, will welcome leading athletes from around the world.

On 13 December, the National Day Equestrian Cup at the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club will combine exciting races with family-friendly entertainment.



“Such partnerships showcase Bahrain's ability to host events of regional and global appeal, blending local heritage with modern attractions.”

- SARA AHMED BUHEJJI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE BAHRAIN TOURISM AND EXHIBITIONS AUTHORITY (BTEA)

Music performance

For music enthusiasts, the season brings performances by international and regional artists at the Beyon Al Dana Amphitheatre.

Eminem, a global rap sensation, and Arab star Majid Al Mohandis will each perform during the festival.

On 15 December, local artists Khalid Al Shaikh, Hind, Mohammed Al Bakri, and Samawah Al Shaikh will perform in a special concert showcasing Bahrain's musical heritage.

Farmers' Market

The festive season will also see the return of the Farmers' Market at the Botanical Garden in Budaiya, featuring local produce, crafts, and handmade goods.

Visitors can enjoy water-based activities such as pearl diving excursions and beach outings, providing a closer look at Bahrain's natural beauty.

Shoppers will find appealing offers at Moda Mall, The Avenues, and City Centre Bahrain, while luxury hotels across the Kingdom are presenting exclusive packages to mark the season.

New Year

Fireworks displays on 16 December will illuminate Bahrain's skies in celebration of National Day, with a final display at Bahrain Bay on 31 December to ring in the New Year.

To explore the full calendar of events, visit www.celebrate.bh.

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Stage set for ICRF's Faber Castell Spectra



ICRF Spectra organisers
TDT | Manama

Registration is in progress for ICRF's 16th year of Faber Castell Spectra, one of the largest art competitions for students in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) is organizing this year's art carnival titled 'Faber Castell Spectra 2024' in the first week of December 2024.

The art and painting competition serves as a platform to build bridges between cultures through art and encourages young artistic talent in Bahrain.

Students from renowned Bahrain curriculum schools and various Indian and other curriculum institutions participate, making this a truly diverse and inclusive event.

Its goal is to foster creativity and celebrate artistic skills in a friendly and supportive environment.

ronment.

This is the 16th year of successfully conducting Faber Castell Spectra, an annual art carnival which is the largest art competition for students in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Eversince its beginning in 2009, Faber Castell has been the Title Supporter of the event, and this year Malabar Gold will be the Presenter of the event.

Carnival

The 'Faber Castell Spectra 2024' carnival will be held at the Indian School - Isa Town premises on Friday, 6th December 2024.

In preparation, ICRF Spectra team held a meeting with the School Coordinators recently.

Nearly 40 coordinators from around 25 schools joined the first meeting and all are excited to organize this year's Spectra event.

Groups

As usual participants will be divided into four age groups - five to eight years, eight to 11 years, 11 to 14 years and 14 to 18 years.

Participation will be allowed only through Schools/Institutions.

All participants will receive free drawing materials, courtesy of Faber Castell.

Winners

The top five winners in each category will be awarded trophies and certificates and top 50 from each group will receive Medals, while every participant will be presented with a certificate of participation.

The winning artworks, along with outstanding creations, will be featured in the 2025 ICRF Wall and Desk Calendars, to be launched this month.

Cooperation agreement

H.E. Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, Public Affairs Minister at the Royal Court, and Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani, Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church, signed a cooperation agreement between the King Hamad Digital Library and Royal Archive Centre of Bahrain and the Vatican Apostolic Library. The agreement aims to provide the King Hamad Digital Library and the Royal Archive Centre access to the Vatican Apostolic Library's digital platform, manuscripts, and archival documents. It also includes collaboration in archival preservation, digitisation, and documentation.



Former MP fined for concealing assets

TDT | Manama

A former parliamentarian and current lawyer has been fined BD2,000 by the Lower Criminal Court for concealing assets during the enforcement of a court judgment.

The case involved a popular restaurant in which the defendant is a part-owner.

A court order had been issued against the restaurant, prompting enforcement proceedings.

When asked to disclose his assets, the defendant submitted a declaration omitting two vehicles.

The prosecution argued that this omission was deliberate, intended to hinder the enforcement process and conceal assets to avoid fulfilling the judgment.

The prosecution charged the defendant with obstructing enforcement proceedings and intentionally concealing assets to avoid fulfilling the judgment.

They also alleged that he failed to disclose all his assets from the date the case was filed.

Liability makeover

Proposed law to provide Bahrain doctors with insurance against claims of medical errors

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Doctors in Bahrain are likely to be required to hold insurance to protect against claims of medical errors, under a proposed law that seeks to replace outdated liability regulations with a single, straightforward framework.

The draft, submitted by Shura Council members, will be reviewed today and aims to provide clearer protections for both healthcare providers and patients.

Currently, medical liability rules are scattered across a collection of older laws, some dating back decades.

This fragmented approach has created confusion for healthcare professionals and patients alike.

The proposal would consolidate these provisions into one law, incorporating updates from more recent developments, such as the establishment of the Supreme Council for Health in 2013 and the introduction of the



Dr Ebtisam Al Dallal

Health Insurance Law in 2018.

“This draft sets out clear rules to ensure fairness for patients and medical staff, strengthening trust and transparency in Bahrain’s healthcare system,” states the explanatory memorandum.

It highlights the need for legislation that aligns with advances in medical practices and technologies.

A central feature of the draft is mandatory insurance for healthcare providers, designed to shield them from financial risks while reassuring patients that their rights are safeguarded.



Dr Jameela Al Salman



Dalal Al Zayed

Advocates believe this measure will allow doctors to focus on providing better care without the constant fear of lawsuits.

The draft also includes plans to establish a Supreme Committee for Medical Liability.

This body, made up of experts and representatives from the medical field, would handle disputes, ensure accountability, and provide a structured process for claims.

According to the memorandum, similar models abroad have shown success in resolving medical disagreements fairly.

The proposal also ties into

“This draft sets out clear rules to ensure fairness for patients and medical staff, strengthening trust and transparency in Bahrain’s healthcare system.”

- SHURA COUNCIL EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Bahrain’s push to attract more medical tourism.

Supporters argue that clear and consistent rules will help build trust in Bahrain’s healthcare sector, drawing patients from across the region.

“This is a step towards establishing Bahrain as a trusted destination for medical care,” the memorandum states.

The bill has been tabled by Dr Jameela Mohammed Reza Al Salman, Dr Jehad Abdulla Al Fadhel, Dalal Jassim Al Zayed, Dr Ebtisam Mohammed Saleh Al Dallal, and Dr Hani Ali Al Saati.



Supporters are optimistic that the law will improve patient protections, and provide reassurance to healthcare providers.

Government rejects proposed national skills programme

H Naser
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Labour and Tamkeen, the Labour Fund, have jointly rejected a parliamentary proposal for a national skills development programme aimed at preparing secondary and university graduates for the workforce.

The proposal, put forward by MPs Muneer Suroor, Ahmed Al Saloum, Bader Al Tamimi, Mohammed Al Ahmed, and Lulwa Al Rumaihi, sought to enhance graduates’ skills and place them in higher-level jobs.

The MPs argued the programme was in the public interest, aiming to empower young people and equip them



Image used for illustrative purposes only for the demands of the job market.

The proposal also included suggestions for modernising government systems and creating new professional platforms to attract young talent.

However, the Ministry of Labour countered that the propos-

al’s objectives are already being addressed through existing initiatives.

These include the “Opportunities” on-the-job training program, support programs for lawyers, training programs with guaranteed employment, and retraining programs for job

seekers in collaboration with training institutes.

Tamkeen echoed this sentiment, highlighting its own programmes designed to achieve similar goals.

These include apprenticeship programmes, on-the-job training, train and place programme, jobseeker training programme, professional certification programmes, and global ready talent programme.

Despite the government’s rejection, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) voiced support for the proposal, emphasising its importance in preparing national cadres for the job market and filling roles requiring skills aligned with business needs.

Doctor acquitted in patient’s death case



● Appeals Court reduces sentence for female senior doctor at SMC

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has delivered a significant verdict in the case of a patient’s death at Salmaniya Medical Complex, acquitting one female junior doctor and reducing the sentence of another, a female senior doctor.

The incident occurred in March 2023, involving an inmate at the Reform and Rehabilitation Directorate who complained of abdominal pain. The patient underwent an appendectomy at Salmaniya Medical Complex. Post-surgery, he experi-

enced chest pains.

A nurse contacted the senior resident doctor on duty, informing her of the patient’s condition.

Instead of personally examining the patient or sending another senior doctor, the senior resident instructed the nurse to conduct an electrocardiogram (ECG) and promised to examine him later.

Following the ECG, the nurse again contacted the senior resident, who was reportedly busy with other patients.

Examination

She delegated the examination to a junior resident doctor.

The junior doctor examined the patient and reported back to the senior resident, who prescribed a sedative.

The patient subsequently died.

BD5,000 for man injured in traffic accident

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini man has been awarded BD5,000 in compensation following a traffic accident caused by a driver’s negligence.

The High Civil Court held both the driver and his insurance company jointly liable for the payment.

The incident occurred on December 18, 2023, on Zaid bin Omer Highway.

The driver failed to exercise due care and attention, resulting in a collision with the plaintiff’s hand as he was walking. The plaintiff suffered soft tissue injuries to his right arm, neck, and shoulder.

Exhibition tour



His Excellency Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture, visited the Bahrain International Exhibition for Agricultural and Animal Production - Marai 2024 yesterday. The event is held under the gracious patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. During his visit, Eng. Al Mubarak toured various sections of the exhibition, meeting participating farmers, breeders, and representatives from companies and organizations. He also visited the Date Pavilion, which features significant participation from Gulf countries. The Minister reviewed the pavilion’s offerings and engaged with participants to hear their feedback and insights.

Debate set for CSB and Labour Ministry ‘merger’

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament will debate on Tuesday whether to merge the Civil Service Bureau with the Ministry of Labour — a proposal aiming to cut inef-

iciencies and unify human resource policies across the Bahrain’s workforce.

Proponents argue the plan will bring much-needed efficiency to the kingdom’s employment system, aligning it with global trends and regional practices.

Bahraini women 'at the heart' of health sector

From early nurses to leadership roles: A glowing legacy of progress in Kingdom's medical field

● Bahraini Women's Day celebration

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahraini women are making remarkable strides in the health sector, now forming a growing majority of doctors in both public and private fields.

They are also stepping into leadership roles at an increasing rate — a journey that began with the appointment of the first qualified Bahraini nurse in 1941.

Dr Amer Al Durazi, President of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Medical Society, praised these advances, emphasising that women have become a core part of healthcare.

"Their presence has grown steadily, and they're not just participants — they're shaping how



"Their presence has grown steadily, and they're not just participants — they're shaping how healthcare operates."

- DR AMER AL DURAZI, BAHRAIN MEDICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT



"The Supreme Council for Women has advanced equal opportunities and bolstered women's involvement in society, paving the way for lasting progress."

- MP DR MARYAM AL DHAEN

She credited this backing with enabling Bahraini women to thrive in healthcare and other fields.

The lawmaker also celebrated the role of the Supreme Council for Women, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa.

The council, she said, has advanced equal opportunities and bolstered women's involvement in society, paving the way for lasting progress.

Pride

Both Dr Al Durazi and Dr Al Dhaen expressed their pride in Bahraini women's accomplishments.

They emphasised that women have proven themselves not only capable but indispensable in the country's development.

"We're heading towards an even brighter future," they said, "and Bahraini women will continue to be at the heart of it all."

Shura Council lauds leadership on glorious occasion

TDT | Manama

Shura Council members extended heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, HM the King's Consort and President of the Supreme Council for Women, on the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day.

Key drivers of progress



Sabah Al Zayani, Chairman of the Future Society for Youth, extended his warmest congratulations to Bahraini women on the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day, celebrated annually on December 1. Al Zayani underscored the importance of this national occasion, which coincides this year with the Kingdom of Bahrain's silver jubilee, marking 25 years since His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa assumed leadership.

Bapco CEOs celebrate Bahraini women's contributions

TDT | Manama

Bahraini Women's Day, established by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, celebrates the contributions of Bahraini women to the country's development.

Mark Thomas, CEO of Bapco Energies, and Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery, CEO of Bapco Refining, praised the achievements of women in the energy sector and beyond.

Thomas congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and HRH Princess Sabeeka.

He highlighted Bahrain's reform project and the National Action Charter of 2001, which gave Bahraini women full legal and political rights and strengthened their role as equal partners in national development.

"Bahrain has led the way in introducing laws that protect women's rights and creating opportunities for them to excel,"



Thomas said.

He commended the Supreme Council for Women, led by HRH Princess Sabeeka, for advancing women's progress through the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women.

Dr Jawahery added, "Bahraini Women's Day is a valued occasion, observed across the country to honour women's efforts and their role in driving prosperity."

He praised HRH Princess Sabeeka's dedication to ensuring equal opportunities and enabling women to take leading

"Bahraini women are a source of pride, representing our country in every sphere. Their contributions are felt in workplaces and across society."

- DR ABDULRAHMAN JAWAHERY, CEO OF BAPCO REFINING



"Bahrain has led the way in introducing laws that protect women's rights and creating opportunities for them to excel."

- MARK THOMAS, CEO OF BAPCO ENERGIES

roles in Bahrain's future.

Leadership roles

Thomas noted that women now make up 42 per cent of Bapco Energies' workforce, with 21 per cent in leadership roles — a notable rise from the previous year and above the global average of 16 per cent for women in the energy sector.

"This year's theme — 'Women, worthy partner in nation building' — aligns with our ongoing efforts to support women in the workplace and celebrate their achievements,' he said.

Thomas also pointed to flexible workplace policies introduced by Bapco Energies to help women balance professional and personal responsibilities.

Diverse perspectives

"We aim to create a workplace where women's skills are valued across all roles and specialisations, strengthening our workforce with diverse perspectives," he added. Dr Jawahery praised the contributions of Bahraini women in industry, particularly in oil and gas.

"Our female engineers are

now operating advanced refinery units with exceptional skill. We are proud of the talented women whose leadership continues to inspire us all," he said.

Climate objectives

Thomas also recognised Bahraini women's efforts in advancing clean energy and environmental protection, aligning with Bahrain's climate objectives.

He extended his congratulations to all female employees at Bapco Energies and its subsidiaries, wishing them ongoing success.

RHF hails royal support



The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) marked Bahraini Women's Day, coinciding with Bahrain's silver jubilee celebrations of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's reign. This year's theme, "A Worthy Partner in State-Building," highlights the integral role of women in national progress. On this occasion, Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Secretary-General of RHF, extended congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women, and His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs. Shaikh Ali praised the leadership's vision for women's empowerment through the National Strategy for Bahraini Women's Advancement, fostering their leadership roles and contributions to nation-building.



Khalid Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), welcomed the new Board of Directors of the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) at the CBB headquarters on Thursday, November 28, 2024. He praised BAB's role in advancing the financial sector and emphasized the need for a unified approach to foster modern banking services, fintech solutions, and improved SME financing conditions in line with CBB priorities. Key topics included regional and global financial developments, regulatory updates to enhance sector efficiency and competitiveness, and progress on the Financial Services Sector Development Strategy 2022-2026. Yaser Alsharifi, BAB Chairman, highlighted the association's alignment with the CBB's vision, focusing on innovation, contributions to the strategy, and workforce development through targeted training programs.

Trailblazing leadership: Seven Bahraini women lead committees at BAB



Layla Alqassab
TDT | Manama

Afnan Saleh

Amal Saif Ahmed

Deena Alhilli

Abeer Al Shehabi

Noora Al Nusuf

Huda Janahi

The Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) has highlighted the vital contributions of Bahraini women to the banking and financial sector, showcasing their leadership in executive, supervisory, and specialized roles.

Their impact is particularly evident in driving technological and digital transformation, where their innovation and expertise continue to shape the industry's progress and underscore their indispensable role in its growth.

As part of the celebrations for Bahraini Women's Day, BAB emphasized the vital presence of women in its Board of Direc-

tors, executive management, and permanent committees. Seven women currently chair BAB's permanent committees, a testament to the association's confidence in their expertise and commitment to fostering inclusive leadership.

This approach aligns with a broader strategy to empower women, enhance their contribution to the financial sector, and highlight their prominent roles within Bahrain's banking landscape.

The distinguished leaders include:

- Mrs. Abeer Al Shehabi: Head of the AML and Compliance Committee.

- Mrs. Huda Faisal Janahi: Acting Deputy of the Credit

Risk Management Committee.

- Mrs. Afnan Ahmed Saleh: Head of the Human Resources Committee.

- Mrs. Layla Alqassab: Acting Head of the International Standards Committee.

- Mrs. Amal Saif Ahmed: Head of the Islamic Banking Committee.

- Mrs. Deena Alhilli: Head of the Legal Framework Committee.

- Mrs. Noora Al Nusuf: Head of the Sustainable Finance Committee.

BAB reiterated its commitment to supporting the Supreme Council for Women under HRH Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa and advancing women's roles in national develop-

ment. Committee leaders shared their perspectives:

- Mrs. Abeer Al Shehabi: Highlighted women's role in strengthening financial stability, calling their leadership a testament to resilience.

- Mrs. Noora Al Nusuf: Emphasized sustainable finance as key to building a brighter future and women's central role in its development.

- Mrs. Huda Janahi: Praised women's professionalism and creativity in addressing challenges and contributing to decision-making in banking.

- Mrs. Afnan Saleh: Discussed the innovation of Bahraini women in aligning Islamic banking with modern demands.

- Mrs. Layla Alqassab: Celebrated the diversity and innovation women bring to fintech, bolstering Bahrain's position as a hub for financial solutions.

- Mrs. Amal Saif Ahmed: Described Bahraini women as exemplary leaders in Islamic banking, aligning their efforts with Vision 2030.

- Mrs. Deena Alhilli: Acknowledged women's influence in shaping banking regulations, enhancing both integrity and sustainability.

This recognition underscores Bahraini women's growing influence in the financial sector and their contributions to the Kingdom's progress as a global banking leader.



Inflation-wary US consumers flock to 'Black Friday' deals

New York, United States

US shoppers were out in force for "Black Friday," with preliminary data showing strong online sales despite inflation nerves prompting retailers in the world's biggest economy to come up with ever more deals.

As markets and consumers eye possible turbulence during the transition from President Joe Biden to Donald Trump, there are hopes that the year's biggest shopping season -- stretching from Thanksgiving to Christmas -- will be a bonanza.

The National Retail Federation (NRF) said a record 183.4 million people are planning to shop over the weekend, ticking up from 182 million last year and 18.1 million higher than 2019, before the Covid pandemic derailed the global economy.

Adobe Analytics said US consumers had spent \$7.9 billion online as of Friday afternoon, an increase of 8.2 percent over last year, with a projected final tally between \$10.7 and \$11 billion -- an e-commerce record for Black Friday.

The so-called "Black Friday" discounts day originated as a single day when shoppers poured -- sometimes stampeded -- into malls in search of incredible deals, but is now accompanied by "Small Business Saturday" and "Cyber Monday." While inflation has been largely tamed from its post-Covid spike, Americans remain wary, with consumer prices still significantly elevated above their pre-pandemic levels.



BisB launches "On Her Path" initiative to empower Bahraini women

TDT | Manama

In celebration of Bahraini Women's Day on December 1, 2024, Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the launch of the "On Her Path" initiative, in collaboration with Bahrain Investment Professionals Society (CFA Society Bahrain).

This initiative aims to empower Bahraini women by building their professional capacities across various fields, particularly in Islamic banking. Through mentorship and guidance, 13 female mentors from BisB will provide professional support and expertise to Bahraini women, equipping them with knowledge and skills in specialized departments.



The deal signing

The programme is part of BisB's ongoing commitment to promoting equal opportunities, encouraging Bahraini women to achieve their professional and personal aspirations, and fostering the exchange of experiences with female leaders at the bank.

Participants in the initiative will engage in a 10-month training programme, running from January 2025 to October 2025, with a graduation ceremony scheduled for November 2025. This initiative will establish a platform for effective commu-

nication and knowledge-sharing between mentors and trainees, creating opportunities for professional growth and contributing to Bahrain's vision of an inclusive society built on equality and excellence.

Commenting on the initia-

tive, Ms. Fatema AlAlawi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Islamic Bank, stated: "Our goal is to build the professional capacities of Bahraini women by providing them with new knowledge and expertise, enabling them to enhance the Kingdom's position as a leading financial center."

Ms. Zeeba Askar, President of the CFA Society Bahrain, added: "This programme reflects our shared vision of enhancing the capabilities of Bahraini talent, particularly ambitious women, in alignment with the financial sector's evolving needs. Together, we aim to elevate the professionalism of Bahraini women and support their vital role in national economic growth."

Interested Bahraini women are invited to apply for this program through BisB Website at www.bisb.com.

celebs



Jennifer Garner

Jennifer Garner declares women should never marry a man 'thinking you can change him'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Jennifer Garner says women should never marry a man "thinking you can change him". The actress, 52, was hitched to actor Scott Foley, 52, from 2000 to 2004 and Ben Affleck, also 52, from 2005 to 2018, and the two-time divorcee has now opened up about what she thinks the biggest mistake is females can make when it comes to settling down.

She said on the 'Lipstick on the Rim' podcast when asked to detail her "favourite quote or mantra": "Never expect a man... don't marry a man thinking you can change him." Jennifer added the advice came from her mother Patricia Garner. She also shared more "vintage Pat Garner" sayings on the podcast, but said "they all come from Mrs Ingalls from 'Little House on the Prairie' or 'Anne of Green Gables' or all of the above".

Jennifer added two of her favourite bits of other advice from her mum included: "Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning", and "Happiness is your own responsibility." Jennifer, who has had an on-off relationship with businessman John Miller since 2018, did not speak about either of her marriages during the podcast.

She has said her relationship with Scott failed due to Hollywood, saying they "would probably still be together" if it hadn't been for their "fast-lane life". Jennifer opened up about 'Good Will Hunting' star Ben to Vanity Fair in 2016, saying he was a "complicated guy". She added: "I always say, 'When his sun shines on you, you feel it'. But when the sun is shining elsewhere, it's cold. He can cast quite a shadow."

Even though she didn't open up about her and Ben on the podcast, she did agree with co-hosts Molly Sims and Emese Gormley when they praised her and the actor's three children Violet, 18, Seraphina, 15, and Samuel, 12, as "resilient" and "amazing" kids.

Margot Robbie doesn't understand why Babylon was a box-office flop

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Margot Robbie can't understand why 'Babylon' didn't do well at the box office. The 34-year-old actress starred as Nellie LaRoy alongside Brad Pitt in the comedy drama film - which was released in 2022 - and Margot still can't understand why it wasn't a big hit with cine-magoers.

During an appearance on the 'Talking Pictures' podcast, Margot shared: "I am still saying [why didn't it prove popular]. I love it." Margot ultimately hopes that the movie will develop cult-classic status.

She said: "I know I am biased because I am very close to the project and I obviously believe in it, but I still can't figure out why people hated it."

"I know I am biased because I am very close to the project and I obviously believe in it, but I still can't figure out why people hated it"

MARGOT ROBBIE

"Wait, 'Babylon' didn't do well at the time?" Like when you hear that 'Shawshank Redemption' was a failure at the time and you're like, "How is that possible?"

Meanwhile, Margot is currently "enjoying" the challenges of motherhood

The movie star and her husband Tom Ackerley recently welcomed their first child - a baby boy whose name and birth date have yet to be revealed - and the loved-up couple are relishing the challenges of parenthood.

A source recently told PEOPLE: "They have been hanging out in [Los Angeles] as a family. Tom's mom has been visiting from England."

Margot plans to return to work in 2025 - but, for the time being, the actress is keen to spend some quality time with her baby boy and her husband.

The insider shared: "Margot has several projects lined up next year. She wants to rest now and spend time with the baby. She's enjoying motherhood."

Margot Robbie



Angelina Jolie 'doesn't know how to relax'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Angelina Jolie doesn't "know how to relax". The Hollywood actress has admitted she's happiest when she's working because she likes being "challenged" but she's also used to being busy because she worked from the age of 14 to help her mother Marcheline Bertrand pay the bills.

Angelina, 49, told Vogue Mexico: "I think a creative person always wants to be growing, and I always want to be challenged, I want to feel that. I think it's also about the relationship I have with myself and feeling like I'm not growing."

"So if I'm working, I'm doing something that's not easy, something I don't understand. I always put myself in situations where I'm not the smartest person in the room, or I don't understand everything that's going on, but I know that so much creativity and human growth comes from being completely uncomfortable, but working hard. So I think that's where I'm happy ..."

She went on to add: "I can also blame myself for not knowing how to relax. I can't always take a vacation ... I remember that I worked from the age of 14 to help my mother pay the bills ... I don't ever remember not working or doing something."

Angelina Jolie

Aside from her work in the entertainment industry, Angelina has also been busy raising her six kids - Maddox, 23, Pax, 20, Zahara, 19, Shiloh, 18, and 16-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne - with her ex-husband Brad Pitt and she recently insisted looking after her children is way more important than anything else in her life.

During an appearance on 'Good Morning America', Angelina spoke about playing opera star Maria Callas in new movie 'Maria' and was asked if there's anything in her life that compares to the late star's love of singing and the actress replied: "My motherhood ... It's my happiness. You can take everything else away from me ... Nothing else matters."

Dwayne Johnson reveals how he deals with 'screwy or wobbly' moments

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has revealed his tactic for dealing with "screwy or wobbly" moments in life.

The 'Moana 2' actor has revealed the similarities he shares with his demigod character Maui in the new Disney movie, particular when it comes to how the WWE legend tries to focus on the positive.

He told 'Extra': "I think, trying to find joy around every corner, even if things are a little screwy or wobbly, maybe in real life."

"So, I've had a tendency over the years to not sweep it under the carpet but just, I know funky s*** is going on and I'm dealing with it, but let me try and find a place over here where I can be happy or smile or try and access some happy and joy."

"I find myself doing that. It helps me deal with the not-joyous stuff."

Dwayne also quipped that he and Maui are both "egotistical, loud, big mouth".

He has been in Oahu, Hawaii, to promote 'Moana 2', which brought his life full circle with

his daughters - Jasmine, eight, and Tiana, six, with wife Lauren Hashian, and 23-year-old WWE star Simone (AKA Ava) with ex Dany Garcia - joining him for the premiere.

The Rock reflected on how much it meant to share that moment with his family.

He added: "My daughters, all three of my daughters were there. That was the first time we'd all been together in a public place before. That was beautiful."

Dwayne Johnson



SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution

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

CROSSWORD

Across

- Raccoon relative; 6- Of Thee ...; 11- Non-Rx; 14- Like some vbs.; 15- Less common or less cooked; 16- That woman; 17- Devoured; 18- Angry; 19- Copy; 20- Fertile area in a desert; 22- Go along (with); 24- Dig up; 28- Sharon's land; 29- Tidy up; 30- Color anew; 32- Mature male European red deer; 33- ... a customer; 35- Highlands tongue; 39- Sock ... me; 40- Conductor ... Pekka Salonen; 41- Prefix with conference; 42- Impoverished; 43- Spring up; 45- Romance lang.; 46- ... your life; 48- Congenitally attached; 50- Maintain; 53- Part of a gun; 54- Country singer Tucker; 55- Hotelier Helmsley; 57- U-turn from WSW; 58- Nonsense; 60- Flower segment; 65- Consumed; 66- Swiss mathematician; 67- Delete; 68- Impair; 69- Discourage; 70- Rough files;

Down

- Ltd., in Paris; 2- Man-mouse connector; 3- Singer Garfunkel; 4- Golf prop; 5- Refrain from noticing; 6- Notre Dame's Fighting ...; 7- Rani's garb; 8- Nest eggs, briefly; 9- Hockey goal part; 10- Oily; 11- Scarlett of fiction; 12- Native American tent; 13- Angler's basket; 21- ... extra cost; 23- Salutation; 24- Square; 25- Cool!; 26- Keep an ... the ground; 27- A lawyer; 28- Altar vow; 30- Gum; 31- JFK postings; 34- Roman tyrant; 36- Put a new price on; 37- List of candidates; 38- Sniggler; 43- Court fig.; 44- Work for; 47- Gave a speech; 49- Baby's napkin; 50- First-stringers; 51- Vixen's master; 52- Look of contempt; 53- ... is human...; 55- Rhythmic swing; 56- Sporting blade; 59- Feel sorry about; 61- Period; 62- Univ. aides; 63- Snake; 64- Guitarist Paul;

Yesterday's solution

E	M	I	T	S		N	O	A	H	S	M	T	A
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E	D	E	M	A		I	N	A	N	E		L	E
S	L	A	V	E	R		Y	E	S	E	S	E	D
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I	V	A	N		S	I	R	E	N		M	A	N
F	E	N	D		T	E	L	L		A	M	I	A
I	R	A	E		A	R	E	S	O		T	I	C
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Classifieds

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Ali Alaradi shines in Royal Rumble

Bahrain's Royal Guard boxing team dominates charity event

Royal Guard wins six out of eight bouts at Royal Rumble III

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

In a night filled with adrenaline, Bahrain's Royal Guard boxing team put on a dominant performance at Royal Rumble III last Friday, continuing their winning streak in the Kingdom's largest charity boxing event. The event, held at the Crowne Plaza Bahrain, was not just about boxing—it was a celebration of community spirit and the power of giving back, raising a remarkable BD60,000 for the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF).

Under the patronage of Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the event brought together a host of boxing icons, including Amir 'King' Khan and Michael 'Rocky' Fielding, who were in attendance to support the fighters. Alongside these legends were British Ambassador Alastair Long and other dignitaries, all witnessing an unforgettable night of sport and charity.

The Royal Guard's boxers claimed six wins out of eight bouts, putting on a show for the large crowd. Among them was Ali Alaradi, a fighter whose victory in the ring was matched by the powerful personal story he shared after the fight. Speaking exclusively to TDT, Alaradi opened up about his preparation, mindset, and what this win meant to him—both as a boxer and as a person.



Ali Alaradi with the trophy

Fighting for a Purpose

Alaradi, who balances his boxing career with his role as a sustainability officer, emphasized the importance of community and purpose behind his participation. "For me, community investment is the best strategy to improve social welfare. It's one of Bahrain's sustainability pillars," he said. "Giving back always has a long-term positive effect—it comes back to you in ways you can't always predict, both tangibly and intangibly. I'm proud to be a part of an event that supports such a noble cause."

Intense Preparation and Relentless Focus

When it came to his fight, Alaradi revealed that the road to victory was paved with hard work and sacrifice. "It wasn't

easy," he admitted. "It was an intensive series of training camps, first in the UK and then in Riyadh. Both were necessary steps to get to where I am now. Teamwork and discipline were the pillars that made the training, traveling, and fighting all the more fruitful."

As he prepared for his bout, Alaradi approached it with a focused mindset. "I made sure to cut off all distractions. I took my time to warm up, connected to my purpose, and reminded myself why I was fighting," he explained. "Once I stepped into the ring, I had zero fear. I felt confident, and that made all the difference."

"Push On, No Matter What"

Alaradi's fight was a tactical display of patience and aggression. "In the first round, I was feeling out my opponent. I studied his style and under-

stood how he was moving," he said. "I decided to charge forward and keep the pressure on him. My approach was simple: move forward, no matter what. Alhamdulillah, I came out victorious after having one 8-second count against my opponent, and by winning most of the rounds."

Faith and Gratitude

Reflecting on the significance of the night, Alaradi noted that his success was rooted in his faith. "One thing I took away from the night is that you must take a leap of faith in your actions in life, and put Allah first in everything you do," he said. "When you do that, He will be on your side in your biggest battles. I'm grateful for that."

It wasn't just about the fight, though. Alaradi shared a special moment with Amir Khan, who handed him the Winner's Trophy after his fight. "Having Amir Khan hand me the trophy was such a sensational moment. And having Rocky Fielding there, too, was an honor," Alaradi said. "I don't know how this will influence my career yet, but I'm optimistic for the best."

"I made sure to cut off all distractions. I took my time to warm up, connected to my purpose, and reminded myself why I was fighting. Once I stepped into the ring, I had zero fear. I felt confident, and that made all the difference"

ALI ALARADI

A Tradition of Excellence Continues

The Royal Guard's victory at Royal Rumble III adds to a growing tradition of success for the team. In the inaugural edition of the event in 2022, the Royal Guard defeated the British Army's Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in eight out of nine bouts. Last year, they defeated the Parachute Regiment in six out of nine contests.

This year's victory further solidified the Royal Guard's reputation as a force to be reckoned with, but for Alaradi, his success was about more than just the win. It was about purpose, faith, and the chance to make a difference.

As he put it, "I'm happy to have contributed to this cause through my involvement in the sport. Boxing isn't just about fighting—it's about fighting for something bigger than yourself."



Philippines Northern Mariana Islands qualify for Billie Jean King Cup Group II playoffs

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

In the final round of the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Group III qualifiers, the Philippines secured

their spot in the Group II playoffs for next year after a commanding 2-0 win over Laos. The match saw a large turnout from the Filipino community in Bahrain, who turned out in full force to cheer on their team, which didn't disappoint, de-

living a performance worthy of their supporters.

Filipina player Kapadokia was quick to dominate her match against Macao's Fonisami, winning effortlessly 6-0, 6-0 to give the Philippines an early advan-

tage. In the second singles match, 158th-ranked Alexandra Eala solidified her team's position with a decisive 6-1, 6-1 win over Macao's Malailak Delilah, securing the Philippines' passage into the Group II qualifiers.

Boxing legend Amir Khan inspires young athletes at BSB



Students and staff of BSB with Amir Khan

TDT | Manama

British boxing legend Amir Khan visited the British School of Bahrain (BSB) recently, captivating students with stories of perseverance, dedication, and the mindset required to achieve success. His visit left an indelible mark on the young audience, encouraging them to strive for excellence in every facet of life.

The day began with Khan meeting BSB's practising boxers,

sharing candid insights into the challenges and triumphs of his career. He highlighted the importance of discipline, focus, and resilience – qualities he credited with helping him reach the pinnacle of his sport. His words inspired students to adopt these values not just in their athletic pursuits but in academics and other ambitions.

Later, over 150 students, including performance athletes and team captains, gathered in

the multi-purpose hall for an engaging Q&A session. Khan spoke openly about the obstacles he faced during his career, from rigorous training regimes to mental setbacks, offering advice on overcoming adversity and staying committed to one's goals. His stories resonated deeply, giving students a rare glimpse into the life of an elite athlete.

The visit concluded with a sparring masterclass on the school's astro pitch, where Khan

demonstrated the precision and technique that have defined his career. Students watched in awe, gaining a deeper understanding of the dedication required to compete at the highest level.

Khan's visit wasn't just about showcasing his boxing talent. It was a reminder of the core values that lead to success. "It's not just about being strong or fast," he told the students. "It's about staying disciplined and pushing through challenges, no matter

how tough it gets." The event reflected BSB's commitment to holistic education, blending academic achievement with personal growth. By hosting figures like Amir Khan, the school continues to inspire students to excel in all areas of life, officials said. As part of the Inspired Education Group, BSB's approach ensures students develop the traits necessary for lifelong success, preparing them to thrive in a competitive world.



Students and staff of BSB with Amir Khan

HH Khalid's sons participate in IRONKIDS race



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and his sons during the event

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Khalid Al Khalifa and His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa, sons of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), participated in the IRONKIDS race.

The event was held as part of the IRONMAN 70.3 Middle East Championship, hosted in Bahrain under the patronage of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad attended the IRONKIDS race, which saw broad participation from children and was commended for its organisation.

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad commended the efforts of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the

King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the SCYS, in advancing the triathlon. He highlighted that the IRONMAN Middle East Championship has become one of the most prominent events, attracting enthusiasts of all ages and genders.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad added that the annual IRONKIDS race provides an ideal opportunity for children to discover the joy of sports and competition in a safe and encouraging environment. He emphasised

the race's importance in fostering teamwork, discipline, and self-confidence while promoting sportsmanship. He added that the race is also an educational and recreational experience that lays a strong foundation for a healthy and active lifestyle.

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Khalid also noted that IRONKIDS exemplifies Bahrain's efforts to encourage children to engage in sports from an early age, preparing them for a bright future.



HRH Crown Prince, Prime Minister deposes HH Shaikh Nasser to attend Ironman closing ceremony



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa attends the event
TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, deputed His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), to attend the closing ceremony of the Middle East Ironman 70.3 Bahrain.

The ceremony, held at Reef Island, was attended by His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE); His High-

ness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club (REHC) High Committee, and member of SCYS, alongside senior officials.

On the occasion, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad highlighted that the event aligns with Bahrain's continued progress and achievements under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. His Highness underscored the Kingdom's position as a hub for regional and global sporting events and its ongoing development in sports.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad expressed appreciation to HRH

the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for his support for the sports sector and thanked him for his patronage of the Middle East Ironman Championship. His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad underscored the government's prioritisation of sports as part of its agenda.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad awarded the champions. Vincent Luis of Bahrain Victorious claimed the men's professional title, while his teammate Georgia Taylor Brown secured the women's title.

The ceremony included the recognition of cooperating entities, sponsors, and the organising committee for their contributions.

Bahrain bodybuilders win four medals at Gulf Championship

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's bodybuilding team won four medals, including two golds, at the second Gulf Bodybuilding Championship held in Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

New Zealand were 155-6 at the close, ahead by just four runs and with only four wickets remaining. Daryl Mitchell was



not out 31 with Nathan Smith on one.

Khalid Jassim won gold in the 75kg category, while Saad

Al-Din Tariq took gold in the junior category. Hamad Kaldari and Jaafar Al-Maghni won silver medals in the 85kg and masters categories respectively.

The championship was attended by top officials from the International Bodybuilding Federation, who praised Bahrain's growing reputation in the sport.

McLaren dominate Qatar Sprint

Oscar Piastri wins Qatar GP sprint, aided by teammate Lando Norris to boost McLaren's constructors' title hopes

● McLaren's strategic 1-2 finish extends lead over Ferrari in title race

● George Russell finishes third for Mercedes

AFP | Doha

Oscar Piastri was gifted victory by his McLaren team-mate Lando Norris in yesterday's sprint at the Qatar Grand Prix as the British team consolidated their bid for the constructors' title for the first time since 1998 with a 1-2 triumph.

In an example of perfect teamwork, Norris led from pole to flag before slowing to allow Piastri to win by 0.136 seconds ahead of Mercedes' George Russell in third.

The result secured 15 points for McLaren in their bid to re-



McLaren's British driver Lando Norris steps out of his car near McLaren's Australian driver Oscar Piastri (L) at parc ferme

sist Ferrari, extending their advantage to 34 points with two

Grands Prix remaining. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz fin-

ished fourth ahead of team-mate Charles Leclerc, seven-time

Lando Norris' selfless gesture to gift Piastri the win was a calculated act of gratitude, planned since his teammate's support at the Brazilian GP sprint

champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes and Haas' Nico Hulkenberg, Max Verstappen, Pierre Gasly of Alpine and Kevin Magnussen in the second Haas.

Norris said he had disobeyed the team to give Piastri his victory as his payback for the Australian's assistance at the Brazilian Grand Prix sprint when he was hoping to keep alive his bid for the drivers' title and Piastri gave

him the victory. "We scored the 1-2 we were aiming for and we have maximum points so I am happy for the team... Perfectly-executed! We did our job. It ended a bit closer than I wanted, but I had this planned since Brazil and it's what I wanted. The team told me not to do it, but I did it the best way I could."

Russell said: "We were very close in T1 a couple of times, but Lando backing up to help Oscar with DRS... It was pretty infuriating to be honest, but I understand why."

The race was preceded by much paddock discussion of Hamilton's speed, or apparent lack of it in Friday's qualifying, the Briton claiming he was "definitely not fast anymore" after being outqualified again by Russell.

His former McLaren team-mate Jenson Button, the 2009 world champion, reacted by saying: "it's getting to him a little bit... But, that's the thing with Lewis."