

Team Bahrain hailed for Celebrate Bahrain success

Public-private sector partnership key to Kingdom's comprehensive development: HRH the CP, PM

TDI | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is witnessing unprecedented development across numerous sectors, thanks to the effort and determination of Team Bahrain. This was highlighted yesterday by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as he met with sponsors of the Celebrate Bah-



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister with HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa during yesterday's meeting

rain events at Riffa Palace.

HRH Prince Salman also highlighted the importance of partnership between the public and private sectors to further the

Kingdom's comprehensive development, in line with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HM the King's humanitarian

works and youth affairs representative His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and several other senior officials also attended the meeting.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to Bapco Energies, GFH Financial Group, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, Kuwait Fi-

nance House, Eagle Hills, and Batelco for their efforts in supporting the Kingdom's celebrations on its national days.

HRH attributed the success of the events to the cooperation and coordination between the various parties involved, all of which carried out their roles perfectly.

HRH Prince Salman affirmed the role of private sector partners in making the celebrations a success and emphasised their contribution to developing tourism as one of the Kingdom's priority sectors.

HRH noted that with the start of the new year, it is important to further strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors to build a bright future for Bahrain and its people.

Hamas deputy killed in Israeli strike on Beirut suburb: security officials

AFP | Beirut

An Israeli strike yesterday killed Saleh al-Aruri, deputy head of the Hamas movement, in a southern Beirut stronghold of Hamas ally Hezbollah, two security officials told AFP.

Hamas later confirmed Aruri's death, which Lebanese state media said came in an Israeli drone strike that killed a total of six people.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said late last night following Aruri's killing that the group "will never be defeated".

The attack marked an escalation of the nearly three-month war in Gaza between Hamas and Israel. Aruri, one of Hamas's principal military strategists, is the first senior official of the movement killed during the war, and his death came in the first strike on the Lebanese capital since hostilities began.

There have been regular cross-border exchanges of fire over Lebanon's southern border between Israeli forces and Hezbollah.

Asked about the Beirut strike, the Israeli military said it "does not comment on foreign media reports".

A high-level security official in Lebanon told AFP that Aruri was killed along with his bodyguards.

Remittance rumble

Can Bahrain's new tax diversify or dry up?

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Forget camel caravans, the hottest topic in Bahrain right now is foreign cash. Parliament's surprise move to tax money sent overseas has ignited a fiery debate, with supporters hailing it as economic diversification and critics warning it could turn the Kingdom into a financial mirage.

The newly passed "Foreign Financial Transfers Tax" levies a two per cent charge on remittances, injecting a potent cocktail of hope and trepidation into the Bahraini economy.

Proponents hail the tax as a lifeline, weaning the Kingdom off oil's fickle teat and diversifying its income.

"The country needs more than oil!" bellowed MP Mohammed



Parliament in session yesterday

Al Alaiwi, his voice echoing the sentiment of many. But sceptics fear it might turn Bahrain into a financial oasis turned mirage, scaring away foreign investors and crippling its competitive edge.

The Central Bank, Bahrain's financial guardian, had issued a chilling prophecy. This tax, they warned, could be the exodus of international institutions, leaving behind a ghost town devoid of foreign capital and skilled

labour.

It might even drive funds underground, creating a shadow economy that benefits no one.

But amidst the economic maelstrom, whispers of another storm brew. Should Bahraini

workers truly fear the foreign hand taking their jobs?

Data paints a surprising picture, revealing Bahraini salaries often dwarfing those of their foreign counterparts. So, is the real foe a blanket tax, or should the focus be on specific sectors where foreign expertise displaces local talent?

As Bahrain teeters on this economic precipice, one thing is clear - generalisations are a mirage in this financial desert.

Nuanced policies, tailored to empower locals through training and opportunity, are the compass needed to navigate this crossroads. Only then can Bahrain forge a path towards a future where both foreign investment and local prosperity flourish, hand in hand, under the Bahraini sun.

Airport disaster



A Japan Airlines plane in flames on the runway of Tokyo's Haneda Airport yesterday, after colliding with a coast guard aircraft, killing five.

Five dead in Japan plane collision at Tokyo airport

AFP | Tokyo

A fiery collision at Tokyo's Haneda airport resulted in the death of five people yesterday.

The deceased were aboard a Japan coast guard aircraft, which hit a Japan Airlines passenger plane on the ground along the runway.

All 379 passengers and crew on board the passenger plane which burst into flames were safely evacuated, Japanese transport minister Tetsuo Saito told reporters. But five of the six crew members from the smaller plane -- bound for cen-

tral Japan after Monday's huge earthquake -- died, Saito said.

The 367 passengers and 12 crew on the passenger craft were swiftly taken off the plane, reportedly an Airbus A350, before dozens of fire engines sprayed the fuselage.

The coast guard plane was preparing to fly to Ishikawa prefecture to deliver supplies after the devastating New Year's Day quake, which killed at least 48 people.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida praised the deceased crew members on their way to help the earthquake victims.

Full report Pages 6 and 7

HM the King thanked



HM the King



King Salman

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of thanks from King

Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, in response to HM's cable of condolences following the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Mamdouh bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

National Guard president opens new Military Judiciary building



HH General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa at the opening

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A new Military Judiciary building was opened yesterday under the patronage of National Guard President His Highness General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The opening coincides with celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the National Guard.

National Guard staff director Lt-General Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Saud Al Khalifa was also present.

HH General Shaikh Mohammed toured the building and its facilities, which reflected the National Guard's development and achievements in all its administrative and military

sectors.

HH General Shaikh Mohammed affirmed that the National Guard's development stems from the support and guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

The National Guard chief emphasised the importance of the Military Judiciary in Bahrain as it is an integral part of the judicial authority and the adjudication of disputes. HH General Shaikh Mohammed also highlighted the importance of developing the legal system within the judicial system in the Kingdom.

Strengthening relations



Industry and Commerce Minister Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro received Pakistani Ambassador to Bahrain Saqib Rauf. The meeting reviewed Bahraini-Pakistani relations and ways to enhance cooperation in all fields, especially in industry, trade, and investment. The ambassador highlighted the growing relations between the two countries. Above, Minister Fakhro, right, with Ambassador Rauf.

Coast Guard rescues missing pair

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The Coast Guard rescued two citizens late Monday night after going missing in the maritime area east of Fasht Al Jarim.

Coast Guard patrols, in cooperation with Police Aviation, launched an immediate search

for the pair, whose boat had reportedly broken down, it later emerged.

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) announced on social media that the citizens had been found just over an hour after reporting the search. The MOI added that the pair were in good health.

Major Muharraq facelift commences

Development project to transform city's landscape, preserve cultural heritage

TDT | Manama

A major Muharraq facelift that will transform the city's landscape and preserve its cultural heritage has gotten underway.

Work began two days ago, following a plan outlined at the end of last year. The development project is scheduled to conclude by the end of 2026 and it consists of five phases with detailed pathways.

It is being carried out in collaboration between various government service entities and includes a development area spanning 1.4 million square metres. This area includes 16 listed houses along the Pearl Path, which are used for tourism and cultural activities, as well as 72 green spaces covering 12,000 square metres, with the planting of 100,000 trees.

The plan also encompasses a 48-kilometre road and pedestrian network connecting what is called Al Furjan (neighbourhoods) and Al Bayouat (ancient houses), as well as the construction of seven multi-storey buildings for parking and 1,000 square metres of ground-level parking spaces throughout the city.

The project will follow five main tracks: updating building regulations, housing projects, landscaping and beautification, the Pearl Path, and parking and roads. The project's operational plan was initiated near Grand Isa Palace, where several sites in the area were fenced off.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa Primary School for Boys has been demolished, and the land is expected to be repurposed for parking.

MP Hamad Al Doy, the representative of the second constituency in the Muharraq Governorate, confirmed the start of actual work involving the cooperation of various relevant entities, including the Ministry



A location that is part of the development project



A building being bulldozed

of Works, Municipalities, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Survey and Land Registration Bureau, and other related bodies.

Old Muharraq

The entire Old Muharraq area has been surveyed, including population counts, the number of Bahraini residents, the number of foreigners and their residences, as well as bachelor accommodations.

Detailed information about various buildings in the area has been collected. It is expected that a significant number of buildings will be vacated to make way for the project, while many others will be acquired.

Joint campaigns will also be conducted specifically target-

ing bachelor accommodations to relocate all foreigners residing in Muharraq's houses, followed by the renovation and construction of 2,000 residential buildings to facilitate the return of Muharraq's residents, in line with the directives of His Majesty the King.

Al Doy revealed that more than 20 houses in several Old Muharraq neighbourhoods have been fenced off in preparation for their maintenance and acquisition for the project's purposes.

He also disclosed plans to acquire several houses near the Grand Isa Palace, as well as plans to open new streets, particularly in Block 209.

Regarding the current scope of work, Al Doy stated that it is currently focused on three



The project includes a development area spanning 1.4 million square metres. This area includes 16 listed houses along the Pearl Path, which are used for tourism and cultural activities, as well as 72 green spaces covering 12,000 square metres, with the planting of 100,000 trees

residential blocks in Old Muharraq, including 203, 205, and 209. Additionally, work is being carried out in seven old neighbourhoods, namely Al Shuyoukh, Al Sayadi, Al Station, Ben Hindi, Al Qamra, Al Amamra, and Al Hayak.

Al Doy emphasised that the Casino Garden will be developed into a traditional-style park that aligns with the project's goals.

Housing distribution procedures continue

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The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning continued procedures yesterday to distribute housing in Salman City, East Hidd City, and East Sitra City projects.

This is in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and under the order of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on the distribution of 6,800 housing services to citizens.

Electronic draws for the housing units will continue until the end of February, following the schedule to ensure a rapid and continuous process.

Citizens have commended the seamless flow of procedures. They were given detailed explanations by specialised staff about the housing units, re-



Ministry officials assist a citizen in the housing distribution process

quirements, and guarantees provided by the ministry, as well as the electronic withdrawal mechanism, types of housing units, and contract details provided by the ministry.

The Housing and Urban Planning Ministry continues its procedures for housing financing solutions through "Tas'heel Aqari", "Tas'heel Al Bait Al

Oud" and "Tas'heel Ta'awon", or the newly launched category "Mazaya".

The ministry offers advisory services via its website housing.gov.bh and the eGovernment portal to citizens wishing to receive housing financing services through its Customer Support Centre.

Financial service applications



Homes distributed in Salman City, East Hidd City, and East Sitra City projects

are submitted online. Advisors are also available at the Customer Support Centre to assist citizens and calculate the value of financing before the formal process begins. It offers electronic services, including a video call service.

Law approved to increase benefits for elderly card holders



Khalid Bu Anq
TDT | Manama

Mohammed Al Hussein
TDT | Manama

Parliament passed yesterday a bill that aims to increase the benefits received by senior citizens holding the Elderly Discount Card.

The bill grants them a minimum reduction of 50 per cent on all fees imposed by the state, in addition to the possibility of exemption from certain other fees. Moreover, they will be eligible for discounts on essential living supplies from entities and companies willing to provide such discounts.

MP Khalid Bu Anq, one of the main proponents of the proposal, affirmed that it aims to amend Article 9 of the Elderly Law issued in 2009.

The amendment aims to provide greater privileges to seniors, encompassing all government services and fees, rather than just some of them. It seeks to maximise their benefits from this specific law and not limit it to ministerial decisions.

The law has been in place for over 10 years without legislative development, and Bu Anq emphasised that the current discounts are still limited and fall short of expectations, with some of them not yet activated.

He pointed out that retirees need such privileges to ensure the rights of those who have



Bill grants seniors a minimum reduction of 50 per cent on all fees imposed by state, possible exemption from certain other fees, and discounts on essential supplies from establishments willing to provide these

contributed significantly to the nation over the years. He called for the inclusion of all registered senior individuals under state agencies in this matter.

In response, MP Mohammed Al Hussein stated that the elderly have been suffering greatly and expressed hope that they would find some relief after years of service and work, especially considering the significant living difficulties they all face. He emphasised that they deserve recognition after years of hard work.

Wheels of change

'Cycle Baba' calls for safer cycling in Bahrain

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Renowned environmental activist Raj Phanden, aka "Cycle Baba", currently on a global cycling expedition to promote sustainability, has urged authorities in Bahrain to prioritise the development of dedicated cycling infrastructure for the safety of cyclists.

Phanden's call to action comes after his six-year journey spanning 102 countries, with Bahrain being his 103rd stop. Along the way, he has collaborated with NGOs and embassies worldwide, conducted 1,100 seminars, planted 100,000 trees, and covered an impressive 96,000 kilometres.

While expressing admiration for the hospitality in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, including Bahrain, Phanden highlighted the need for improved cycling infrastructure in the region.

He stated, "From a safety perspective, I have observed that numerous regions in Africa lack proper road infrastructure, whereas in Bahrain, although my personal experience with cycling there is limited, I have noticed a lack of dedicated bicycle routes."

Phanden pointed to the cyclist-friendly environments in European countries like the Netherlands and Denmark as models for Bahrain to emulate.

"When it comes to bicycle safety, it is worth mentioning that certain European countries are renowned for providing a cyclist-friendly environment, often considered paradises for those who enjoy cycling," he added.

Phanden's call for improved cycling infrastructure aligns



Raj Phanden during his travels



Raj Phanden's makeshift home during his worldwide journey

with his mission to promote a carbon-free world and a safe environment. He offered valuable advice to aspiring adventurers, urging them to "keep riding and always be mindful of the environment and your surroundings".

As Phanden continues his journey with plans to visit Kuwait and Iraq, his dedication to sustainability and a greener world serves as an inspiration. With a goal to complete his

global journey by 2030, he remains a symbol of commitment to environmental consciousness.

Authorities in Bahrain are now faced with the call to enhance cycling infrastructure, ensuring a safer environment for cyclists in the country.

The need for action

Phanden's call for action highlights the importance of



'Cycle Baba' with his bicycle



Bahrain is the 103rd stop on Raj Phanden's six-year journey so far. Along the way, he has collaborated with NGOs and embassies worldwide, conducted 1,100 seminars, planted 100,000 trees, and covered an impressive 96,000 kilometres

prioritising cycling safety in Bahrain.

With the growing popularity of cycling as a means of transportation and recreation, ensuring the safety of cyclists is crucial.

Dedicated cycling lanes would not only protect cyclists from traffic but also encourage more people to take up cycling, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable environment.

LMRA deports 139 for labour and residency violations

● **Authority conducts 1,436 inspection visits in various shops across all of the Kingdom's governorates**

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announced yesterday that 139 individuals have been deported for violating the Kingdom's residency laws.

The LMRA said that it conducted 1,467 inspection campaigns and visits during the week of 24

to 30 December last year, which resulted in the detention of 38 violating and irregular workers and 139 violators being deported.

The inspection campaigns and visits also resulted in the monitoring of a number of violations related to the provisions of a number of regulating laws, noting that legal measures were taken regarding these violations.

The authority explained that 1,436 of the inspection visits were carried out on various shops in all governorates, while the other 31 were joint-inspection campaigns that included 16 in the Capital Governorate, four in the Muharraq Governorate,



seven in the Northern Governorate and four in the Southern Governorate.

The government entities that participated in the campaigns were the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs; the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Evidence; the Sentence Enforcement Directorate; and the governorates' respective Police Directorate; as well as the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the Capital Municipality.

The LMRA affirmed the continuation of joint-coordination with government agencies to in-

tensify inspection campaigns in all governorates, and to address any violations or practices that negatively affect the stability and competitiveness of the labour market or harm economic and social security of the Kingdom.

The LMRA renewed its call on all members of society to support the efforts of government agencies in addressing illegal labour practices, by reporting violations via the electronic form on the authority's website lmra.gov.bh, or by calling the LMRA call centre on 17506055 or via the government's Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul).



Officials at the signing

Property and facilities management agreement signed

● **FGF Council inks deal with CBRE Group**

TDT | Manama

Future Generations Reserve Fund (FGF) Council and CBRE Group signed a property and facilities management agreement for the Future Generations Tow-

er project.

The agreement was signed by FGF board deputy chairman and Finance and National Economy Ministry financial affairs undersecretary Yousef Abdullah Humood and CBRE Bahrain general manager Richard Botham.

It is a result of the keenness to strengthen partnership with the private sector and to employ the expertise and best practices

in various fields to achieve economic growth and sustainability.

Future Generations Tower is a 38-storey building, with a total area of 63,000 square metres on a location of 12,000 square metres in Bahrain Bay. CBRE Group is a leading global company in the field of property management that specialises in commercial real estate services and investments.

Mind Matters

Nurturing the healers



ANEESA MOIDOO, PSYCHOLOGIST

In the world of caregiving, where the heart is big and the empathy boundless, there exists a silent challenge known as “caregiver compassion fatigue”. As a psychologist, it is crucial to recognise this common struggle among those who give so much of themselves to others.

Imagine a well that never runs dry. Caregivers often have hearts like that—overflowing with love and kindness. However, over time, the continuous pouring out of care and support can lead to a quiet exhaustion, where caregivers find it hard to replenish their own emotional well-being. This is compassion fatigue.

Recognising the signs is the first step. Feeling extra tired and drained, finding it harder to be patient, and sometimes feeling isolated are all signals that compassion fatigue may be taking its toll.

So, how can caregivers overcome this challenge?

Taking short breaks is essential. Stepping back for a moment, even briefly, can do wonders to recharge emotional batteries. Talking to someone, be it a friend, family member, or fellow caregiver, can provide a sense of relief. Sharing feelings is a powerful way to lighten the emotional load.

Celebrating small wins matters. Acknowledging and rejoicing in the small victories in the caregiving journey is crucial. It is not just about big achievements; the small steps matter too. Learning to say no is okay. Setting limits doesn't mean caring any less; it means taking care of oneself too.

Discovering relaxation techniques is valuable. Simple activities like deep breathing, meditation, or a short walk can calm the mind and ease emotional tension. And, if feelings of fatigue persist, seeking professional help from a psychologist or counselor can provide valuable support and coping strategies.

Why does this matter? Because taking care of oneself isn't selfish; it's a vital part of being an effective caregiver. When emotionally well, caregivers can provide better care for others. It is like putting on your own oxygen mask before assisting others on a plane—you need to be okay to help others be okay.

In conclusion, as a psychologist, understanding the importance of mental well-being is paramount. Caregivers, the unsung heroes, often forget to care for themselves. By recognising the signs of compassion fatigue and adopting simple self-care practices, caregivers can continue to provide the love and support they are so known for, ensuring their own well-being along the way. After all, a well-nurtured caregiver is the best caregiver.

(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)

Taking care of oneself isn't selfish; it's a vital part of being an effective caregiver. When emotionally well, caregivers can provide better care for others.

Jail term for assault

High Appeals Court overturns acquittal of man who had sex with mentally disabled woman

● Victim's mental age determined to be that of eight-to-10-year-old child

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court overturned a verdict of acquittal for a 50-year-old man accused of assaulting a mentally disabled woman in her 40s, and has thus sentenced him to three years in prison.

The court rejected the defendant's argument that the incident was consensual, emphasising that consent, even if present, could not be taken into account if the victim is mentally under the age of 14. The court affirmed that the determining factor is not the actual age but rather the mental age, which can be determined through professional assessment.

The prosecution charged the defendant with assaulting the victim, who was determined to be, mentally, under 14 years old.

This came after a report was filed by the victim and her representative, stating that she had known the defendant for some time and that he had assaulted her multiple times. The defendant admitted to having a relationship with the victim, but claimed he was unaware of her mental condition, as she had



not disclosed it or displayed any signs of her mental impairment.

Reviewed

Initially, the lower court had acquitted the defendant. But after reviewing the medical reports concerning the victim's condition, the court concluded that her condition is difficult for an average person to discern, as it is a medical condition known only by experts in the field.

The court also heard testimony from a psychiatrist and reviewed supplementary medical reports, which confirmed that the victim had a permanent mental impairment, rendering her cognitive abilities equivalent to that of an eight-to-10-year-old child. This medical condition is challenging for a layperson to recognise and can only be identified by specialists.

The Public Prosecution thus challenged the verdict before the Appeals Court, which

heard a member of a medical committee at the Ministry of Health. The member stated that through an examination of the victim, it became clear that she suffers from a disability that is mild to moderate, with her mental capacity being lower than the normal level.

Easily influenced

It was confirmed that her mental age is lower than her actual age, and that she is easily influenced, unlike ordinary individuals.

As a result, the court rejected the defence of the accused, who claimed that he was unaware of the victim's condition and that the incident occurred with her consent.

The court emphasised that it would not accept the accused's denial of knowing about her mental age and viewed it as an attempt to escape punishment for what he had committed. The

Lower court originally acquitted 50-year-old defendant, but after re-viewing medical reports concerning victim's condition, it was concluded that an average person would be unable to recognise her disability, being a medical condition known only by experts in the field

court stated that even if consent existed, it would not be considered valid if the victim's age, mentally, did not exceed fourteen years old.

“The crucial factor here is not the actual age, but rather the mental age, which has been established through the medical examination,” the court ruling stated. “For these reasons, the Appeals Court overturned the previous verdict and unanimously ruled to sentence the accused to three years in prison for the charges against him.”

BD61,000 unsettled wages payout!

● Court orders company owner to compensate employee with BD61,000 for two years' unpaid salary

TDT | Manama

A company has been ordered to pay over BD61,000 to a disgruntled employee for unsettled wages spanning two years.

The company had faced financial difficulties and incurred substantial losses, thus ceased to pay its staff's salaries for the 24-month period.

One employee, aggrieved by the situation, took legal action to seek the payment of their overdue wages. The court has now ruled in favour of the employee,

ordering the company owner to pay a sum of BD61,198.632.

According to the plaintiff's lawyer, Sadeeqa Al Mawali, the company in which her client was employed in 2016 failed to fulfill its financial obligations.

The company lacked the necessary funds or assets that could be liquidated for payment. Additionally, it changed its legal status from a sole proprietorship to a limited liability company and rebranded. However, despite having three major projects that generated income, the company refused to settle the outstanding salaries, prompting many employees to leave.

Losses

Al Mawali stated that witness testimonies highlighted the mismanagement by the defendant, which resulted in the company's



Sadeeqa Al Mawali

losses and deterioration. As a further consequence, the company lost a government project due to the inability to provide the required bank guarantee and allocate the necessary resources for its execution.

Despite receiving an advanced payment for the project, the company deliberately neglected to pay the employees' salaries, despite having the fi-

nanial means to do so. This further established the defendant's responsibility for settling the plaintiff's outstanding dues, Al Mawali stressed.

She concluded her statement by requesting the court to hold the second and third defendants jointly liable and obligate them to pay the plaintiff the total sum, representing the accrued employee dues owed by the first defendant (the company owner). The second defendant is legally responsible for the company's debts to third parties.

The High Civil Court has ruled in favour of the plaintiff, ordering the first defendant to pay the plaintiff the total of BD61,198.632. The court also held the third defendant jointly liable and imposed banking fees and legal costs on the second defendant.



Winter drive

The Pakistani Women's Association (PWA) marked the New Year and its 25th anniversary yesterday with a positive contribution to the hard-working labourers who form the foundation of Bahrain's infrastructure. In a winter drive, members of PWA and Youth Ambassadors team handed out sweaters, socks and beanies to over 100 men in a camp in Tubli. Present were PWA president Shahmeen Islam, PWA vice-president Wajeeha Zarrar and Youth Ambassadors members. Left, PWA officials and Youth Ambassadors members during their winter drive with workers.

Ahli United Bank welcomes Emirates Skywards as a Pearl Reward partner

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank credit card customers can now enjoy Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, which has joined the fold of AUB's Pearl Rewards partners.

This partnership is a key milestone for AUB Credit cardholders who can now enjoy the opportunity to avail themselves of all the great benefits Emirates Skywards boasts by simply transferring their Pearl Points to Skywards Miles.

The new partnership is effective today, and AUB Credit cardholders can start jet-setting around the world with their pre-existing Pearl Rewards Points.

Earning Pearl Points is easy, as every spend using their cards earns them Pearl Points, and every Pearl Point can be redeemed digitally over Mobile and Internet Banking into 1 Skywards Mile. The new partnership is effective today, and AUB

Credit cardholders can start jet-setting around the world with their pre-existing Pearl Rewards Points.

Emirates Skywards is one of the most recognised loyalty programmes in the world, with more than 30 million members worldwide. The loyalty programme currently has more than 150 brand partnerships including airline partners, financial, retail and leisure, car rentals, and hotel partners. Members can earn and redeem Miles for an extensive range of rewards, including flight tick-

ets on partner airlines, flight upgrades, hotel stays, tickets, hospitality at sporting and cultural events, tours, money-can't-buy experiences and more.

Customers must sign up to Emirates Skywards to take advantage of the new partnership, while Pearl Rewards enrolment is automatic for AUB Credit cardholders. Every dinar spent on an AUB Credit Card is a step closer to unlocking fantastic rewards with one of the most valued loyalty programmes in the world.

BNET conducts emergency simulation exercise

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Network (BNET), the national company responsible for providing the fibre-based broadband network in Bahrain, announced the completion of an emergency simulation exercise.

The primary objective of the exercise was to ensure the resilience and continuity of the network operations and assess the organisation's preparedness and response capabilities.

The simulation replicated an emergency scenario, resulting in the identification of both successful outcomes and areas that require improvement. This comes as part of the company's commitment to enhancing the availability and resilience of its broadband services, which is in line with its vision of "a prosperous community where everyone is connected", as well as the Kingdom's endeavours to build a solid communications infrastructure that supports local economic growth.

BNET Chief Operating Officer Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohamed Al Khalifa said that the completion of this exercise enabled BNET to identify areas of improvement and development to ensure the prepared-



Eman Hafedh



Shaikh Ebrahim

ness in handling any potential business disruptions.

"Our ongoing commitment to launching exercises and tests reflects our tireless efforts to enhance the efficiency of our network and offer elevated services that aim to develop the experience of both individual and enterprise customers," he added.

BNET Risk Management and Business Continuity head Eman Hafedh expressed her pleasure in the successful completion of the emergency simulation exercise. "This demonstrates the prompt and effective responses by our employees and partners, emphasising our commitment to strengthening the resilience of our network across the Kingdom," she added.

"By conducting this exercise, we aimed to gauge our team's emergency response capabilities, cultivate awareness in handling major incidents, and ultimately provide our customers with reliable connectivity."

NBB receives two prestigious awards

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) recently received two prestigious awards by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development at the 38th Annual Appreciation Ceremony for Distinguished Employees and Outstanding Entities of the Private Sector.

NBB was honoured for its eagerness and highest commitment towards its promise of nurturing Bahraini talent as well as enabling their learning, development, and career growth in addition to boosting their opportunities within the banking industry.

The Group Chief Human Resources Officer, Sarah Abdulaziz Jamal, and other members of NBB's Human Resources & Talent Development team represented the Bank at the ceremony, alongside NBB employees Yousif Rashed AlQooti and Zuhair Mahmood Yousif, who were each honoured at the event as 'Distinguished Employees in the Banking Sector.'

The award is a testament



The award ceremony

to their unwavering commitment to excellence, recognises their outstanding contribution to the banking industry, and their leadership qualities and exemplary commitment to fostering a positive collaborative work environment for over 20 years.

NBB was also recognised as a top-ranking organisation in the employment of young local talents and in enhancing national

competencies. The Bank proudly boasts a high Bahrainisation rate as a result of its efforts, which support establishing a highly skilled and capable workforce in line with the Kingdom's Economic Vision 2030.

Moreover, NBB was acknowledged for its impactful contribution to the Ministry of Labour and Social Development's training programme for job seekers, 'Foras', which aims to train fresh

graduates and drive the growth of the Kingdom's workforce. NBB's 'Thrive' programme reflects the Bank's role as a national enabler dedicated to elevating the potential of young Bahrainis to further increase the national employment rate.

The training programme ensures young talented individuals gain the necessary experience and skillsets through engaging with various industry experts.

China's Baidu cancels \$3.6 bn purchase of livestreaming site

Beijing, China

Chinese internet giant Baidu has said it was cancelling the planned multi-billion-dollar purchase of livestreaming platform YY Live, partly blaming its inability to get govern-

ment approval.

Baidu, the country's top search engine company, agreed in 2020 to buy JOYY Inc's Chinese live video business YY Live for \$3.6 billion.

Stocks stumble at start of new trading year

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Global stock markets mostly fell yesterday, the first trading day of the year, as a global equity rally stumbled.

Meanwhile, the dollar rose while oil prices jumped as tensions ratcheted higher in the Red Sea.

Despite the drop in stocks yesterday, investors are eyeing more gains in 2024 as central banks prepare a series of interest-rate cuts as inflation cools.

Stock market records tumbled in the final months of last year in New York, Frankfurt, Paris and Tokyo as investors piled into equities in anticipation of rate cuts.

"Notwithstanding the extended winning streak, we are not sure this negative disposition is all that surprising to market participants, who recognized that there was some performance chasing at the end of 2023 and that some profit taking was bound to happen in the wake of a parabolic advance," said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare.

Nevertheless, investors retain a positive outlook, according to analysts.

"There remains an increasing belief that Fed rate cuts, which have bullishly marked all capital market trends in the last eight

Key figures around 1430 GMT

New York - Dow:	▼ 0.4% at 37,522.35 points
London - FTSE 100:	▼N 0.3% at 7,706.78
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.4% at 7,515.78
Frankfurt - DAX:	■ at 16,750.36
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.3% at 4,506.10
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index:	▼ 1.5% at 16,788.55 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.4% at 2,962.28 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	Closed for a holiday
Dollar/yen:	▲ P at 141.82 yen from 141.01 yen
Euro/dollar:	▼N at \$1.0955 from \$1.1040
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2635 from \$1.2738
Euro/pound:	▲ at 86.68 pence from 86.63 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ P 0.9% at \$72.28 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 0.9% at \$77.76 per barrel

weeks, are still fully ingrained in stock market sentiment," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

He added that there was a question on how investors would reconcile the difference between market expectations of 150 basis points of cuts and the Fed's forecast of 75.

Despite the upbeat outlook on rates, Asian markets started the year with little fanfare. Hong Kong and Shanghai each extended last year's losses.

Traders were unmoved by a

speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping in which he said the economy had become "more resilient and dynamic".

Observers warned that while Beijing has pledged a series of measures to kickstart growth, much more was needed to instil confidence, particularly regarding the property sector.

Tokyo was closed for a holiday, though investors are keeping an eye on developments in Japan a day after a huge earthquake that Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said caused "extensive" damage

and numerous casualties.

All tsunami warnings from that quake were lifted on Tuesday.

Oil prices rallied more than 2 percent before paring gains on supply concerns after Iran dispatched a warship to the Red Sea in response to the US Navy's destruction of three Huthi boats.

Tehran's move comes as tensions still run high in the waterway, where the Yemeni rebels have launched attacks on several international container ships, causing some firms to stop using it.

However, a number of shipping companies have resumed transit following efforts by a US-led naval coalition to police the maritime route.

Bitcoin broke \$45,000 for the first time since April 2022 on optimism that the United States would allow wider trading of the world's biggest cryptocurrency.

"Crypto looks to be setting itself up for a big year ahead, with bitcoin rising into a fresh 21-month high on anticipation of the likely approval of the spot bitcoin ETF product that will see Wall Street finally gain a strong presence in the industry," noted Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets.

Google glitch undervalues Poland's zloty by a fifth

● The information set off a storm of speculation on X

Warsaw, Poland

Google provided information that incorrectly undervalued the Polish currency the zloty by over a fifth, prompting authorities on Tuesday to calm the public and demand the search engine giant provide an explanation.

On Monday evening, Google's currency converter showed a rate of up to 5.20 zloty per euro and 4.70 zloty per dollar, which represented a drop in value of more than a fifth from the rate on the previous trading day on Friday.

The information set off a storm of speculation on X, formerly Twitter, and although Poles did not rush to buy dollars on Tuesday, officials called for calm.

"Relax. This zloty rate that



Representative picture

is causing panic is a 'fake' (a data source error)," Poland's Finance Minister Andrzej Domanski said on X.

Poland's central bank on Tuesday said the exchange rate published by Google was "fictitious", adding the currency exchange rates and charts on the platform "are not always precise".

The finance ministry said it had officially asked Google Poland to explain how the incorrect exchange rate was published.

In a statement quoted by a Polish television TVN24, Google said its currency converter relied on data from "external sources".



News in brief

◆ **More than 2,000** residents have been evacuated to temporary shelters amid heightened volcanic activities in a volcano in eastern Indonesia, a local official said yesterday. Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki in East Nusa Tenggara province has erupted several times in recent weeks, including an eruption on Monday that spewed volcanic ash 1.5 kilometres (4,800 feet) above its peak, according to the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG). The agency recorded another eruption from Lewotobi Laki-Laki on Tuesday but ash clouds from the volcano were not observed, it said in a statement. Volcanic ashes from recent eruptions have affected two sub-districts near Lewotobi Laki-Laki mountain, prompting more than 2,200 residents to evacuate to temporary shelters set up by local governments. Benediktus Bolibapa Herin, an official for East Flores district, told AFP on Tuesday.

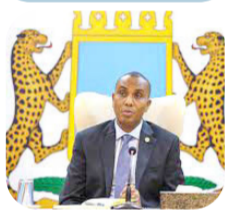


Thousands evacuated following Indonesia volcano eruption

◆ **Russia said it had** accidentally bombed a village in its southern Voronezh region near Ukraine yesterday but stressed there were no casualties. The accident occurred the same day as Russia hit Ukraine with a large-scale missile attack. It is not the first such incident during Moscow's almost two-year-long Ukraine offensive. "On January 2, 2024, at around 9am Moscow time (GMT), during a flight of the Aerospace Forces, an abnormal discharge of aircraft ammunition occurred over the village of Petropavlovka in the Voronezh region," the Russian army said in a statement quoted by Russian news agencies.



◆ **Somalia said yesterday** it was recalling its ambassador to Ethiopia, declaring that a controversial port deal Addas Ababa signed with the breakaway region of Somaliland was a violation of its sovereignty. Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre also vowed that Somalia would defend its territory by "all legal means possible" following Monday's agreement that gives landlocked Ethiopia long-sought-after access to the Red Sea. The government said it was appealing to international bodies including the United Nations and the African Union to stand with Somalia. "Somaliland is part of Somalia under the Somali constitution so Somalia finds this step to be a clear violation against its sovereignty and unity," the Somali cabinet said in a statement. It said the memorandum of understanding signed in Addis Ababa on Monday was "null and void with no legal basis and Somalia will not accept it". "In response to this, the Somali government has recalled its ambassador in Ethiopia for consultation."



Somalia recalls envoy to Ethiopia after Somaliland deal

Spanish star Hermoso testifies about Rubiales's World Cup kiss

Madrid, Spain

Spanish World Cup-winning star Jenni Hermoso told a judge on Tuesday that the kiss forced on her by disgraced former Spanish football chief Luis Rubiales was "at no point consensual" and that she had come under pressure to defend his actions. Arriving at the Audiencia Nacional in Madrid just before 10:00 am (0900 GMT), the 33-year-old went to testify before Judge Francisco de Jorge, the source said, quoting Hermoso's testimony.

Under Spanish law, a non-consensual kiss can be considered sexual assault -- a criminal category that groups all types of sexual violence. Penalties for such a kiss range from a fine to four years in prison.

A judicial source told AFP that she had "ratified the statement made at the public prosecutor's office that the kiss was completely unexpected and at no point was it consensual".

During the incident on August 20, the then head of Spain's RFEF football federation held her head in both hands and forcibly kissed her on the lips after Spain won the World Cup in Australia. He has said the act was "a consensual peck" but Hermoso has insisted it was not.

She filed a lawsuit against him in September and told the judge she had come under



Jennifer Hermoso leaves after an audience at the Audiencia Nacional court in Madrid on Jan

Turkey detains 33 accused of spying for Mossad

◆ **13 additional suspects remained at large**

◆ **It was not immediately clear if they were Israeli nationals**

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (2ndL) chairs a Cabinet meeting, attended by National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir (2ndR), at the Kirya, which houses the Israeli Ministry of Defence, in Tel Aviv

Turkey announced yesterday it had detained 33 people suspected of planning abductions and spying on behalf of Israel's Mossad intelligence service. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya

said the suspects were rounded up in raids across Istanbul and seven other provinces. It was not immediately clear if they were Israeli nationals or

locals allegedly working with Mossad. Yerlikaya's office released video footage showing armed security service agents breaking down

doors and handcuffing suspects in their homes.

The Istanbul public prosecutor's office said 13 additional suspects remained at large.

The raids came weeks after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned of "serious consequences" should Israel attempt to target figures from Palestinian militant group Hamas living or working in Turkey.

"There is an insidious operation and sabotage attempts being made against Turkey and its interests," Erdogan said after the raids were announced.

"We will definitely destroy this

game," he said in televised remarks.

Relations between Turkey and Israel imploded following the outbreak of the war in Gaza nearly three months ago.

Erdogan has turned into one of the world's harshest critics of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Turkish leader last week compared Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler and demanded that Israel's Western allies drop their support for the "terrorism" being conducted by Israeli troops in Gaza.

Erdogan has also recalled Ankara's envoy to Tel Aviv, and

pushed for the trial of Israeli commanders and political leaders at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

The president's ruling Islamic conservative AKP party also led tens of thousands of protesters out on the streets of Istanbul on Monday for one of Turkey's biggest anti-Israel rallies of the entire war.

UN agencies have voiced alarm over a spiralling humanitarian crisis facing Gaza's 2.4 million people, who remain under siege and bombardment, most of them displaced and huddling in shelters and tents, amid dire food shortages.

Israel army says investigating soldier over killing of detained Gazan

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military said yesterday it is investigating a soldier suspected of shooting dead a Palestinian who had been captured and detained by troops in the Gaza Strip.

"The terrorist was handed over to the supervision of a soldier, who, under suspicion, allegedly shot him, resulting in his death," the army said of the Sunday incident.

"In light of the preliminary information, a military police investigation has been initiated to examine the circumstances of the shooting," it added in a statement sent to AFP.

Hundreds of Palestinians have been detained since war broke out in October between Israel and Hamas.

The push for a probe followed the announcement by



An Israeli soldier gestures for a battle tank to approach

the United Nations human rights office that it had received "disturbing" reports that Israeli troops had "summarily killed" at least 11 unarmed Palestinians in a possible war crime in Gaza.

Israeli troops also mistakenly shot dead three Israeli hostages in Gaza, while at least 18 soldiers have been killed in friendly fire incidents, according to military figures.

UK's Blair denies link to role in 'resettlement' of Gazans

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's former prime minister Tony Blair has strongly denied an Israeli media report linking him to talks last week about the resettlement of Palestinians from Gaza in other countries.

Channel 12 claimed on Sunday that Blair, who left office in 2007 and served as a Middle East envoy charged with building up Palestinian institutions, was in Israel last week. The news channel said he held meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and war cabinet member Benny Gantz about a mediation role after the war with Hamas.

He could also act as a go-between with moderate Arab states about the "voluntary resettlement" of Gazans, it added.

Expelling civilians during a conflict or creating unlivable conditions which force them to leave



A child holds a plate while sitting between rubble in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

is a war crime. The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, a non-profit organisation he set up in 2016, said the report was "a lie".

"The story was published without any contact with Tony Blair or his team. No such discussion has taken place," it said in a statement on Monday night. "Nor would Tony Blair have such a discussion. The idea is wrong in principle. Gazans should be able to stay and live in Gaza." The Palestinian presidency in Ramallah lashed out at the report. The presidency said it would

BETTER YOU KNOW
The Channel 12 report came after two far-right Israeli government ministers called for Jewish settlers to return to the Gaza Strip after the war with Hamas, and said Palestinians should be encouraged to emigrate.

demand that the British government "not allow this meddling with the fate and future of the Palestinian people".

"We also consider Tony Blair to be an unwelcome person in the Palestinian territories," it said, according to official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Guest injured after Italian MP takes gun to NYE party

AFP | Rome, Italy

An MP from Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's party was at the centre of a political storm yesterday after taking a gun to a New Year's Eve party where someone was shot with it.

Emanuele Pozzolo, a lawmaker for Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy party, has admitted owning the mini revolver -- reported to be a 22-calibre North American Arms revolver -- but says he did not fire it.

It was discharged by accident, he said, causing a light injury to the leg of a guest, the son-in-law of a bodyguard of junior justice minister Andrea Delmastro -- who was also in attendance.

"I confirm that the shot was accidentally fired from a pistol I legally held but it was not me that fired," Pozzolo, 38, said in a statement cited by the La Repubblica daily.

The incident at the party



Emanuele Pozzolo

in Rosazza near Turin, which about 30 guests attended, is under investigation, according to reports.

But the story drew astonishment and outrage among opposition politicians.

Possession of firearms in Italy is strictly regulated, although Meloni's party last month proposed to reduce to 16 the minimum age at which someone can obtain a permit for a hunting rifle.

"We could not have imagined that the passion for weapons of Giorgia Meloni's party was such

that MPs would take them loaded to New Year's Eve parties," said Elly Schlein, leader of the centre-left Democratic Party.

Former centrist prime minister Matteo Renzi added: "Why bring guns to a New Year's Eve party in the presence of MPs and members of the government?"

"Meloni's (party) are not a ruling class. They are inadequate, incapable, unrepresentable. And dangerous, first and foremost for themselves."

Neither Meloni or her party has yet to react officially.

S. Korean opposition leader recovering in intensive care after stabbing

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

South Korean opposition leader Lee Jae-myung was recovering in intensive care after he was stabbed in the neck yesterday by a man who pushed through a crowd pretending to be his supporter, his party said.

Lee was surrounded by journalists when a man lunged and struck him on the left side of his neck, Busan police official Son Je-han said at a press briefing.

Lee was first taken to hospital in Busan, then flown to the capital Seoul where he underwent a two-hour surgery. Kwon Chil-seung of Lee's Democratic Party told reporters. "Damage to the internal jugular vein was confirmed," Kwon said.

Lee was conscious after the



South Korean opposition party leader Lee Jae-myung is attended to after being attacked

surgery and is "currently admitted to the intensive care unit and is recovering", Kwon added.

The attacker was arrested at the scene.

Police official Son told reporters that he was a man in his 60s who "used an 18-centimetre knife -- its blade is 13 centimetres long -- which he purchased online".

Ukraine says downed all Russian Kinzhal missiles with Patriots

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukraine said that US-supplied Patriot surface-to-air missile systems downed all 10 Kinzhal ballistic missiles Russia fired at the country in its large-scale attack yesterday.

Kyiv earlier said Russia fired 99 missiles of different types on Ukraine -- aimed at the capital Kyiv and north-eastern Kharkiv -- and that its air force shot down 72 of them.

Kinzhal missiles make up part of an arsenal of weapons that Putin has claimed were indestructible because of the speed at which they travel.

Five dead in Japan plane collision at Tokyo airport

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Five people aboard a Japan coast guard aircraft died yesterday when it hit a Japan Airlines passenger plane on the ground in a fiery collision at Tokyo's Haneda airport.

All 379 passengers and crew on board the passenger plane which burst into flames were safely evacuated, Japanese transport minister Tetsuo Saito told reporters.

But five of the six crew members from the smaller plane -- bound for central Japan after Monday's huge earthquake -- died, Saito said.

The captain escaped and survived but was injured, he said, cautioning that "we're not at the stage to explain the cause" of the accident.

Television and unverified footage shared on social media showed the Japan Airlines (JAL)



A Japan Airlines plane on fire on a runway of Tokyo's Haneda Airport

airliner moving along the runway before a large eruption of orange flames and black smoke burst from beneath and behind it.

Video posted to social media platform X showed people sliding down an inflatable emergency slide from the side of the passenger plane while flames shot out from the rear of the aircraft.

All 367 passengers plus 12 crew onboard were swiftly taken off the plane before dozens of fire engines with flashing blue lights sprayed the fuselage.

They however failed to put out the flames coming out of windows near the wings and the blaze soon engulfed the entire aircraft.

The plane, reportedly an Airbus 350, had arrived from New Chitose Airport serving Sapporo on the northern island of Hokkaido. Those on board included eight children.

"Smoke began to fill the plane,

and I thought, 'this could be really bad'", an adult male passenger told reporters at the airport.

"An announcement said doors in the back and middle could not be opened. So everyone disembarked from the front," he said.

A female passenger said it had been dark on board as the fire intensified after landing.

"It was getting hot inside the plane, and I thought, to be honest, I would not survive," she said in comments shown on broadcaster NHK.

The coast guard plane had been preparing to fly to Ishikawa prefecture to deliver supplies after the devastating New Year's Day earthquake which killed at least 48 people.

Haneda suspended domestic flights, according to its website, but most international takeoffs and landings were still operating.

At least 50 dead after monster Japan quake

AFP | Wajima, Japan

Japanese rescuers battled the clock and powerful aftershocks Tuesday to find survivors of a New Year's Day earthquake that killed at least 50 people and caused widespread destruction.

The 7.5 magnitude quake that rattled Ishikawa prefecture on the main island of Honshu triggered tsunami waves more than a metre high, sparked a major fire and tore apart roads.

On the Noto Peninsula, the destruction included buildings damaged by fire, houses flattened, fishing boats sunk or washed ashore, and highways hit by landslides.

"I'm amazed the house is this broken and everyone in my family managed to come out of it unscathed," said Akiko, standing outside her parents' tilting home in the badly hit city of Wajima.

The way 2024 started "will



damage in the city of Suzu, Ishikawa prefecture

be etched into my memory forever", she told AFP after what she called the long and violent earthquake on Monday.

"It was such a powerful jolt," Tsugumasa Mihara, 73, said as he quered with hundreds of others for water in the nearby town of Shika.

Japanese news agency Kyodo put the death toll to 57, citing

local officials, as rescuers comb through the rubble.

"Very extensive damage has been confirmed, including numerous casualties, building collapses and fires," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said after a disaster response meeting.

"We have to race against time to search for and rescue victims of the disaster."

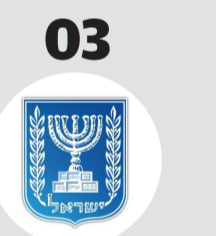
TOP 4 TWEETS



01
Delighted to inaugurate the state-of-the-art terminal building at Tiruchirappalli Airport. This modern facility symbolizes our commitment to enhancing connectivity and boosting economic growth in Tamil Nadu.
@narendramodi



02
I said that this government would clear the backlog of asylum decisions by the end of 2023. That's exactly what we've done. Over 112,000 cases are now cleared with a lower grant rate than last year, a key part of our plan to stop the boats.
@RishiSunak



03
We give full backing to our forces. They are doing amazing work in a difficult war. Last week they eliminated over 100 r*****s; this happens almost daily.
@IsraeliPM



04
Over 120 people were injured in today's attack by Russian terrorists, and five people have been reported killed as of now. My condolences go out to everyone who has lost a loved one.
@ZelenskyyUa

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

celebs

Jeremy Renner hints at return to acting nearly 1 year after near-fatal snowplow accident

Jeremy Renner is apparently ready to return to the acting spotlight one year after he nearly died in a traumatic snowplow accident.

The 52-year-old actor took to his social media to repost a photo of him and "Mayor of Kingstown" co-star Emma Laird on set.

"Back with my favourite guy next week," Laird shared on her Instagram Story. Renner additionally posted the photo with text that read "It's happening."

The "Hawkeye" actor additionally showed his gratitude to the Renown hospital that saved his life after his near-fatal accident last year.

"Rollin through Reno, NV with joy, blessing..." he began his Instagram post. "Stopped by to see kids/superheroes, first responders, and doctors, nurses and staff at Renown hospital. Paying my respects and celebrating love, life and the blessings it brings to us all. Thank you and this community for keeping me here. I'm forever in your debt with gratitude." Renner appeared to be in good spirits as he was all smiles while riding in the passenger seat of a truck that represented his organization, the RennerVation Foundation.

The Marvel actor's shared photos come nearly one year since he was hospitalized after being nearly crushed by a Snowcat.

At the time, he attempted to tow a vehicle stuck in the snow at his home in Nevada. The actor suffered severe injuries in the snowplow accident and was airlifted to the hospital, where he underwent surgery.

Jeremy Renner



Taylor Swift breaks Elvis Presley's record for most weeks at No. 1 on Billboard 200 chart

Fox | Los Angeles

Taylor Swift is all shook up. The singer/songwriter has surpassed Elvis Presley as the soloist with the most weeks at No.1 on the Billboard 200 with the release of her latest album, "1989 (Taylor's Version)," Billboard revealed on Sunday.

According to the outlet, the 34-year-old has spent 68 weeks atop the Billboard 200, beating the King of Rock 'n' Roll, who recorded 67 weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 across his 10 albums between

Taylor Swift



1956 and 2022.

The outlet noted that the "Anti-Hero" star first made it to the top of the Billboard chart with the release of her 2008 album "Fearless," which spent 11 weeks at No. 1 between 2008 and 2009. Swift then followed that achievement with her albums "Speak Now" (2010), "Red" (2012), "1989" (2014), "Reputation" (2017), "Lover" (2019),

"Folklore" (2020), "Evermore" (2020) and "Midnights" (2022). Those releases added 47 weeks at the top.

Swift's rerecorded albums went on to cement the star's place in music history. According to the outlet, "Fearless (Taylor's Version)" (2021), "Red (Taylor's Version)" (2021), "Speak Now (Taylor's Version)" (2023) and "1989 (Taylor's Version)" (2023) added 10 more No. 1's for Swift atop the Billboard 200.

Swift may have surpassed the "Jailhouse Rock" icon, but she still hasn't conquered the

Fab Four. The Beatles spent 132 weeks in the No. 1 spot across their 19 albums between

1964 and 2001.

The "Karma" singer has already been savoring sweet success thanks to her Eras Tour, which she kicked off in Arizona in March. Swift then embarked on a 35-show run that concluded in August in Los Angeles.

She also performed in Mexico City, which marked her first time headlining shows in the country. She finally wrapped the 2023 tour in Argentina and Brazil in November.

Swift may have surpassed the "Jailhouse Rock" icon, but she still hasn't conquered the Fab Four. The Beatles spent 132 weeks in the No. 1 spot across their 19 albums between 1964 and 2001.

Rebel Wilson found writing her memoir to be 'gut-wrenching'

Celebreintainment | Los Angeles

Rebel Wilson has found writing her memoir to be a "gut-wrenching" experience.

The 43-year-old actress has revealed via social media that she's currently putting the finishing touches to her memoir, admitting that it's been an "emotional" experience.

In a post on her Instagram Story, Rebel explained: "This is how I'm spending my nights of my holidays. Just another few thousand to go for the first people that buy the book."

"You guys, I mean, I can't wait for you to read this. You're going to see a whole new side of me. Lots of funny stuff, and serious stuff ... And hopefully you guys will love the book as much as I've loved writing it - although sometimes its been gut-wrenching and emotional."

In October, Rebel described writing the memoir as a "scary" experience.

Speaking to PEOPLE, the actress shared: "I've been writing the book for the past 18 months because

when I write, I have to be totally by myself and isolated. It's just been this secret thing I've been doing by myself for 18 months. It's so exciting now that it's done."

The Hollywood star also revealed that she struggled to find her own distinctive style as a writer.

Rebel admitted that the "first few chapters" of the book were really bad, and she was encouraged by her editor to go back and re-write the opening.

Rebel Wilson



Hugh Jackman got told off by security for going too close to a Christmas tree!

Celebreintainment | Los Angeles

Hugh Jackman got told off by security for going too close to the Christmas tree at New York's Rockefeller Center.

The 'Wolverine' actor, 55, who recently announced his separation from his wife, broke the rule during a festive outing in the city over the holidays when he went to see the huge tree on the morning of 25 December.

He told fans in an Instagram post alongside a series of images of him visiting the Christmas landmark: "I highly recommend getting up really early on Christmas morning and taking a walk

to see the Rockefeller Christmas tree.

"It's so beautiful and not crowded at all. I did get in trouble for going beyond the barrier but the security guard was nice and let me go with just a warning."

Fans flooded the comments section of his post with remarks including: "Does the security guard not know you are Wolverine?"

This year marked Hugh's first Christmas for years as a single man following his split from his 68-year-old actress wife Deborra-lee Furness.

His jokey Christmas post was



Hugh Jackman

a change from a recent post that sparked concern among fans

after the actor shared pictures of himself appearing dejected.

Hugh and Deborra-lee shocked fans when they announced they were divorcing in September as their marriage was thought to be one of the most solid in Hollywood.

The couple announced their break-up in a statement to People that said: "We have been blessed to share almost three decades together in a wonderful, loving marriage. Our journey now is shifting and we have decided to separate to pursue our individual growth."

Megan Thee Stallion seeks to 'preserve her mental health'

Celebreintainment | Los Angeles

Megan Thee Stallion is determined to "preserve" her mental health.

The 28-year-old rap star has enjoyed a meteoric rise over recent years, and Megan has developed a routine to help her to "avoid burnout".

The 'Hot Girl Summer' hitmaker told PEOPLE: "I'm always working or traveling, so I'm a big believer in setting boundaries and carving out rest days to preserve my mental health and avoid burnout."

"During my days off, I love to

binge my favorite shows, spend time with my dogs and hang out with my friends. It's just so relaxing and therapeutic to give your body a break, have some balance and allow yourself the space to reset and recharge."

Megan is also a big believer in having a "healthy and balanced diet".

The chart-topping star admitted that she's "extra health-con-

scious" about everything she eats.

She said: "Having a healthy and balanced diet is a huge part of my process. I've integrated a lot of fruit and vegetables into my meals - I love protein-rich meals and I drink lots of healthy smoothies - so I'm definitely proud of the adjustments I've made."

The chart-topping star admitted that she's "extra health-con-

scious" about everything she eats.

SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

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

Yesterday's solution

Across
1- Minor, in law; 6- Of first importance; 11- Not for a Scot; 14- Sports stadium; 15- Reddish dye; 16- IV sites; 17- Cry of a hen; 18- Bistro; 20- Asian holiday; 21- Icicle site; 23- In agreement; 24- Form of oxygen; 26- Aids; 28- Expired, as a subscription; 30- Off-track; 31- Spoil; 32- Alert; 33- It's not PC; 36- Scottish Gaelic; 37- Rub out or remove from memory; 38- Ill humor; 39- Religious sch.; 40- Long lock of hair; 41- Legendary Greek hero; 42- The Pentateuch; 43- Evening; 44- Austrian composer; 47- Cattle spot; 48- His and her; 49- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 50- Al Jolson's real first name; 53- Recumbent; 56- Scottish musician; 58- Lyricist Gershwin; 59- French composer Erik; 60- Blessed; 61- Vim; 62- Amore; 63- Tears;

Down
1- Treaty; 2- Author Stanley Gardner; 3- Germanism; 4- Co. name ender; 5- Food ordered to go; 6- Annoy; 7- Red flower; 8- Believer's suffix; 9- Actress Farrow; 10- All together; 11- Taboos; 12- we all; 13- Politico Kefauver; 19- Wife of Osiris; 22- Hill insect; 25- Sector; 26- Run up; 27- Kingly address; 28- Hwy; 29- River in central Switzerland; 30- Covered with water; 32- Fields; 33- Deformed; 34- Tropical plant; 35- 1/100 of a monetary unit; 37- Goes astray; 38- Judge's seat; 40- Traveler; 41- Cade; 42- Follow; 43- Mediterranean Isl.; 44- Divest; 45- Twice, a comforting comment; 46- Summarize; 47- Fads; 49- Irritated state; 51- Convey; 52- They may be fine; 54- Slang refusal; 55- Give _rest; 57- _ had it!;

Classifieds



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VACANCIES AVAILABLE

THE ART HOTEL & RESORT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16033100 or ABEER@AMWAJ.BH

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1726618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

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

YOKOGAWA MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of CUSTOMER SERVICES COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17358169 or sumedha.munasinghe@yokogawa.com

WESTMINSTER GULF CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39453805 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magicshinebh.com

Manar Alomran Scaffolding Contracting W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36992388 or bahrain@manar.com.sa

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCLOBE@BATELCO.COM.BH

ARAB Union Contracting Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533125 or GOLDENGROUPEBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1726618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

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

Barbeer Green Contracting - Bahraini Partnership Co. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34384278 or n123.nawaz@gmail.com

JASIM MOHAMED BUILDING COMPLETION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37090204 or JASIMBH72@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED ALI ALSHARIF COLD STORE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN (GROCERY OR COLDSTORE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39434444 or ADEL34444@HOTMAIL.COM

KHODARJI STORE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37222247 or KHODARJI.STORE@HOTMAIL.COM

AL-AWADI INTERIOR DESIGN AND CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33624451 or FAWAZ@ALAWADIDESIGN.COM

Capital Laundry W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464157 or hr.recruitment@deekobahrain.com

ABU SADIQ SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34173447 or AQEELAWAIS@GMAIL.COM

ALSATARUH GARAGE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38910107 or JINOJOSEANCHAL2@GMAIL.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1726618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

KRIYA PHARMACY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39663045 or BRSPHARMACY@GMAIL.COM

SHAN FOR REPAIR OF ELECTRIC BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34096813 or mushan102@gmail.com

KOHINOOR VALLEY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33933997 or [\[TODAY82@YAHOO.COM\]\(mailto:TODAY82@YAHOO.COM\)

THREE DROPS ADVERTISING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36789170 or \[THREEDROPSADVERTISINGWLL@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:THREEDROPSADVERTISINGWLL@GMAIL.COM\)

FAMOUS COLD STORE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33655884 or \[DANEZ1977@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:DANEZ1977@GMAIL.COM\)

LOPTIQUE SPECIALISTE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33092000 or \[MILAD.MOUSSA86@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:MILAD.MOUSSA86@GMAIL.COM\)

KHANPUR CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38957110 or \[BURJNAWAL00@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:BURJNAWAL00@GMAIL.COM\)

BHAMBRA AIR CONDITIONING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33746848 or \[BHAMBRA1969@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:BHAMBRA1969@GMAIL.COM\)

AL AHMAD MOBILE PHONE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36545992 or \[BAHRAINPK@HOTMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:BAHRAINPK@HOTMAIL.COM\)

ALRAWASY FURNITURE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36261044 or \[33KAWASARAHMED@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:33KAWASARAHMED@GMAIL.COM\)

NURA NUHA TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224944 or \[SHAFEERSMN@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:SHAFEERSMN@GMAIL.COM\)

ABO MAHMOUD REAL ESTATE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33454970 or \[ABOMAHMOUD.RE@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:ABOMAHMOUD.RE@GMAIL.COM\)

M A B INTERNATIONAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36846377 or \[mabinternationalbh@gmail.com\]\(mailto:mabinternationalbh@gmail.com\)

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or \[ACKR007@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:ACKR007@GMAIL.COM\)

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or \[hrd@dreamgroup.bh\]\(mailto:hrd@dreamgroup.bh\)

ALMOAYYED SECURITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or \[profice@almoayyedcg.com\]\(mailto:profice@almoayyedcg.com\)

Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or \[hr@delta-ss.me\]\(mailto:hr@delta-ss.me\)

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or \[hrd@dreamgroup.bh\]\(mailto:hrd@dreamgroup.bh\)

AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or \[AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET\]\(mailto:AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET\)

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552722 or \[SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH\]\(mailto:SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH\)

ALAZHAR CONTRACTING ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER \(GENERAL\), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17702454 or \[mohdnew28@gmail.com\]\(mailto:mohdnew28@gmail.com\)

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L. CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or \[HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM\)

YOKOGAWA MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA B.S.C. \(CLOSED\) has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17358169 or \[sumedha.munasinghe@yokogawa.com\]\(mailto:sumedha.munasinghe@yokogawa.com\)

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or \[hrd@dreamgroup.bh\]\(mailto:hrd@dreamgroup.bh\)

PLANNERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC \(MAINTENANCE\), GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or \[m.vishal@exibah.com\]\(mailto:m.vishal@exibah.com\)

Ser huwa trading est has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39345466 or \[BADERBH79@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:BADERBH79@GMAIL.COM\)

AL TARIQ LADIES TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35301525 or \[RMINHAS560@GMAIL.COM\]\(mailto:RMINHAS560@GMAIL.COM\)

AL SHAHLA OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably](mailto:WORLD_</p>
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qualified applicants can contact 36675632 or RUBELBH0808@GMAIL.COM

ALI HASAN MOHAMED BUILDING COMPLETION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37090204 or ALIHASANBH34@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

RIMON SHEIKH REAL ESTATE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34585636 or RIMONMIAH728@GMAIL.COM

PRINT WISE PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13609800 or RANARAMEEZ@AOL.COM

BANNU WAZIRISTAN CONSULTANCY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34540232 or SHEHARYARMNS123@GMAIL.COM

LE SARA GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39022204 or HIGHLIFEBAHRAINFK@GMAIL.COM

CAFETERIA VULCANO has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667958 or MARTO00018@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

KVMA PLASTIC PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39899257 or VARGHESE_5@HOTMAIL.COM

AL-HAQ TRADING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36292621 or TRUSTWORTHY1973@GMAIL.COM

FALCON EYE SOLUTION CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32161162 or HAMMADHAA@CLOUD.COM

GHULAM MUSTAFA CONSTRUCTION OF FLOATING STRUCTURES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35190462 or DAILYTASK999@GMAIL.COM

SHAZIB HABIB CONSULTANCY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37358571 or SHM.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

FLOURISH INTERIOR DECORATION CO BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66927651 or RJANI55555@GMAIL.COM

PREMSIS SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66924438 or M78489760@GMAIL.COM

ZUHAN ELECTRONICS REPAIRING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33221685 or MUHAMMADSALEEM0961@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD TALHA INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34489142 or MUHAMMEDTALH.2011@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

PATHOOS RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33954309 or TALIYAHLUKAH@GMAIL.COM

ARIN LIFE REAL ESTATE CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33070445 or lifearin2@gmail.com

BREEZEE VILLAGE CLEANING SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39445823 or NAHYANOOONASSER@GMAIL.COM

NUR ALAM UNIFORM W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33932427 or NOORALAM374@GMAIL.COM

ORHAN OCEAN COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (OPERATIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33966704 or ORHANBLUEOCEAN@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

ONE STEP BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36657757 or SERVICESBAHRAIN757@GMAIL.COM

LUCKY BHAI TOURISM SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37730087 or MH864001440@GMAIL.COM

FAIZAN GOLD DESIGN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39108829 or CREDBLEDOCUMENTS2@GMAIL.COM

JALAT SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33836783 or ADIZHERE86@GMAIL.COM

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

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCLOBE@BATELCO.COM.BH

ALYAMAMA HOUSE FOR CLEANING CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345569 or YAMAMAHOUSE1@GMAIL.COM

BAKER STREET has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39939974 or SAMIALMULLA15@GMAIL.COM

AL RAWNAQ PALACE TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33114441 or aidanwish1974@gmail.com

Janet Art Ladies Tailoring has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35301525 or janet.cuervo@traderabia.net

MARIYAM NISAR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33410786 or RAHEELFAIZ650@GMAIL.COM

ALNOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER (BUS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736773 or roonlasc@batalco.com.bh

MOHAMED EBRAHIM MOHAMED ISA / AFRAAHI / 10640 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39250059 or MOHAMEDBRAHIM083@GMAIL.COM

NUR ALAM UNIFORM W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICER (ADMINISTRATIVE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33932427 or NOORALAM374@GMAIL.COM

RASHID ABDULQADER ALROWAIE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456786 or ROWAIE2@GMAIL.COM

HN HN ALTURAS SPARE PARTS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (PROJECT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66911118 or HMARHOON8@GMAIL.COM

NOOR ASPIRE FOR WASHING AND POLISHING CARS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17342401 or MOHAMMEDYUSUALSHAIKH1967@GMAIL.COM

SIRAJ POWER W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33301113 or FALLAKSHER96@GMAIL.COM

HAMZA RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35071575 or HSS26064@GMAIL.COM

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

SIMPLE CRUNCH W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17229342 or ALJAMRISALEH53@GMAIL.COM

SMART TOP TECHNOLOGY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35918740 or MHMWDLAHLAWY@GMAIL.COM

ISMAEEL IDREES BUILDING COMPLETION has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33880076 or ISMAILIDRESS16@GMAIL.COM

NOLA MANAGEMENT COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33399580 or AHMED.OSILAN@TANMIAH.COM

MOHASIN MONIR OFFICE MANAGEMENT BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33173321 or MONNI112233@GMAIL.COM

CHHOTA LORI SALOON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34109265 or MASOODGEE@GMAIL.COM

SHAZIB HABIB CONSULTANCY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37358571 or SHM.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

YUSUF AHMED ISA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137132 or YUSUFTAMMIBH@GMAIL.COM

MADEWELL SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33022605 or MADEWELLSERVICE@GMAIL.COM

MEHAR FACILITIES SUPPORT BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39960100 or OLIVERLEA.100@GMAIL.COM

SALEH JASIM CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137132 or JASIMMOHAMEDBH18@GMAIL.COM

LIKE LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39900171 or ABHAWADI_S@HOTMAIL.COM

AHMED ALI YAQOUB ALHAMAR (BAHAR ALGHAZAN 1 / 11720) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675135 or HLA-SHABAB@HOTMAIL.COM

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCLOBE@BATELCO.COM.BH

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

LULU BAHRAIN HYPER MARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17585558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCLOBE@BATELCO.COM.BH

YATEEM OPTICIAN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OPTOMETRIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33399223 or HISHAM.YATEEM@YATEEMOPTICIAN.NET

AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

Alnosaf Contracting & Excavation Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37111743 or JAFFAR.ALNOSAIF@GMAIL.COM

HOUSE OF UNIFORMS FACTORY has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36660577 or UNIFORMS@BATELCO.COM.BH

I WOOD WORKS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330082 or ALWASEEMGROUP@GMAIL.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magicshinebh.com

Markwell International W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (MARKETING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39449580 or MARKWELLBH@LIVE.COM

INTEGRATED FACILITY MANAGEMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of

CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

High Building Gate for Construction W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39679240 or hbgscsp@gmail.com

FEDORA CONTRACTING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33871955 or maheshyogidas@gmail.com

BESTOW SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34485519 or BESTOWSERVICESCO@GMAIL.COM

SHAMSAL NAHAR DECORATION & TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38321065 or MATCS5987901@GMAIL.COM

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17585558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

FAKHRO INSURANCE SERVICES WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR TECHNICIAN (ACCOUNTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39468818 or HR@FAKHRO.COM

MEGGER LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES ENGINEER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17740620 or MOHAMMAD.TARIQ@MEGGER.COM

CALIFORNIA GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552555 or MAHMOOD.HILAL@GMAIL.COM

ZALI TRADING COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66338266 or YUNES.MOHAMED@AZADEA.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

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

LOTUS HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

ABEDI GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39281282 or MAHMOOD_ASRY@HOTMAIL.COM

ALAAALI CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17566444 or alaalico@batalco.com.bh

Westin Hotel Bahrain City Centre has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38858574 or Ali.alqattan@maf.ae

PRIME LINE SHIPPING has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245552 or Y3MK22@GMAIL.COM

FAROOQE UPHOSTERY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39166656 or UMERFAROOQ3@GMAIL.COM

DALA SUPERMARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33885177 or HASSANF55F@HOTMAIL.COM

JABERI WOODEN FACTORIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39452896 or hr.jw@jaberigroup.com

Sharaf dg co. w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17172621 or mubeen.musthafa@bh.sharafdg.com

NAZ ALKHALEEJ TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35101737 or muhammadashfaq976@gmail.com

ATELAL FOR REF AND AC WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39815388 or NKALARAD@GMAIL.COM

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCLOBE@BATELCO.COM.BH

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17585558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

Classifieds



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email : advt@newsofbahrain.com

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

JUTT CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33232632 or RAED9119@GMAIL.COM

MAQ Marine Services has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36266658 or MAQMARINE@GMAIL.COM

TRUE PHONE COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33002530 or najmaali7066@gmail.com

ZOOM LIONE CONTRACTING & BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33922067 or sa8847558@GMAIL.COM

SONA COLD STORE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34402882 or SONACOLDSTORE@GMAIL.COM

CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822218 or INFO@CIRCLE.BH

YOUNG JIN ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700711 or JEONG.DONGJIN.0102@GMAIL.COM

ESMAELY LENZOHM ELECTRICAL CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830330 or info@esmaelylenzohm.com

GOLD GULF CONTACTING company partnership owned by hasan abdure has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33100058 or BOB_200420@HOTMAIL.COM

ABU SAAD AUTO CARE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33771964 or ZULFIQARSAD3@YAHOO.COM

RAJPOT BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39888023 or CHSHAFIQ581@GMAIL.COM

PEARL PRESTIGE POOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000198 or PPCBAH@GMAIL.COM

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Britain's Anunoby helps new NBA club beat West-best T-Wolves



Cameroonian playmaker Pascal Siakam of the Toronto Raptors dunks against the Cleveland Cavaliers

AFP | Los Angeles

British forward O.G. Anunoby sparked in his first NBA game for the New York Knicks, helping his new club upset Western Conference leader Minnesota 112-106 on Monday.

New York's Julius Randle scored a game-high 39 points while Anunoby added 17 points and six rebounds only hours after arriving from Toronto in a Saturday trade.

The 26-year-old London-born defensive standout, who won an NBA crown with the Raptors in 2019 and led the league in steals last season, was learning about his new team on the fly after more than six seasons in Toronto.

"Even during the game, they were telling me, 'Go here. Do this,'" Anunoby said. "They were helping me out for sure, a lot of them, and I'm thankful for it."

"Everything really. New terminology. Just trying to figure everything out best I can, so a lot of read and react today."

"Each day I'm going to get better at everything, learning the plays, learning the terminology, learning the steps. I'll learn every day."

Anunoby's strong showing after arriving at a hotel and getting his physical Sunday night impressed Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau.

"I thought, first game, impressive, just to be ready and kind of figure it out on the fly," Thibodeau said. "Played smart, played off people well, played great defense, hustled, moved without the ball, shot good shots, made good plays, so very good start."

Thibodeau tried his best to keep things simple on the veteran playmaker, who has career averages of 11.8 points, 4.3 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.2 steals a game.

Australia unchanged for Warner's farewell Test against Pakistan

AFP | Sydney

Australia opted yesterday against playing a second spinner in the final Test against Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground, naming an unchanged line-up for David Warner's farewell match.

Skipper Pat Cummins confirmed Australia's fast-bowling trio had all recovered well from the second Test in Melbourne four days ago after clinching the three-match series with a tense 79-run win.

The SCG has a reputation for taking turn, but the hosts did not consider bringing a second spinner into the team to partner Nathan Lyon, he said.

The pitch looked well-grassed on the eve of Pakistan's final match of their Australia tour, which will also be opener Warner's 112th and final Test.

"The weather looks pretty good this week and that's not always the case in Sydney," Cummins said ahead of the Test, starting Wednesday.

"The groundsman seems hap-



Australia's Pat Cummins (R) celebrates with teammates Steve Smith (L) and David Warner (C) after dismissing Pakistan's batsman Barbar Azam (file photo)

py with where it's at. It looks like decent coverage of grass, so it should be a good week ahead."

The Sydney Test has a history of being rain-affected with 26 washed out days, the most of the Australian Test venues. But there is only a medium chance of showers this week.

Meanwhile, Warner made a public plea for the return of his baggy green caps after they went missing from his bag while

being transported from Melbourne.

In a post on Instagram, the veteran said some of his possessions got lost in transit.

"Someone has taken my backpack out of my luggage from Melbourne to Sydney ...inside this backpack was my Baggy Green cap," Warner said.

"It's something that I would love to have back in my hands walking out there this week."

After months of speculation

"The weather looks pretty good this week and that's not always the case in Sydney. The groundsman seems happy with where it's at. It looks like decent coverage of grass, so it should be a good week ahead"

PAT CUMMINS

about his place in the team, Warner will get the send-off he desired in his home city after scores of 164, 0, 38 and six in the Pakistan series so far.

"Best-case scenario is a (Warner) hundred and maybe a leg-spinner to take the last wicket of the game out of the rough," Cummins said.

"If he could score some runs and go off in style with a few fours and sixes, I think that'd be a pretty fitting end. 'Warner Week' has started."

Former US Open champion Cilic loses on comeback from knee surgery

AFP | Hong Kong

A rusty former US Open champion Marin Cilic yesterday squandered nine match points on his return to tennis after an injury-ravaged year, losing a thriller to Jan-Lennard Struff 3-6, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (9/7) at the Hong Kong Open.

The Croatian former world number three Cilic looked to be cruising to victory in a tricky first-round test against the grit-



Marin Cilic in action (file photo)

ty big-serving German at Victoria Park after racing to a set

and 5-2 up.

But world number 25 Struff showed huge determination to drag himself back from the brink, saving five match points in the second set to level the match in a tiebreak.

Struff then withstood four more match points in the deciding set before eventually prevailing after a marathon 3hr 6min on Victoria Park's centre court.

Cilic was pleased that his

troublesome right knee had shown no ill-effects from the meniscus surgery and cartilage damage that kept him out for almost all of 2023.

"After coming back from such an injury, I'd have to say it was really positive feedback during the match," said Cilic, who won his lone major at Flushing Meadows in 2014 and has also reached Grand Slam finals at Wimbledon and the Australian Open.

Bahrainis kick off Dubai camp

Kingdom's senior men's national team get right to work ahead of friendly matches in UAE

● **Bahrainis hold training session under head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi at Dubai's JA Sports Centre**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team arrived yesterday in Dubai to conduct a final training camp ahead of the fast-approaching AFC Asian Cup.

The continental championship is scheduled to kick off on 12 January and continue until 10 February. It will be played in Doha, with the Bahrainis being one of 24 national teams from across Asia taking part.

The Bahrain delegation that travelled to the Emirates included 26 players who were named



Head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi speaks with players before the start of last night's training

on the final list for the AFC Asian Cup.

The nationals went right to work as they are set to play an international friendly match against continental powerhouses Australia on Saturday. They

then face African side Angola in an informal training game on 10 January, after which they depart



Bahrain head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi is making his second appearance in the AFC Asian Cup. Pizzi previously managed Saudi Arabia in the tournament's 2019 edition, when they were eliminated by Japan in the Round of 16



Bahrain's players participate in warm-up drills

HH Shaikh Khalid meets with team

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority (GSA) president and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa stressed the importance of the honourable representation of the Kingdom at the upcoming AFC Asian Cup.

HH Shaikh Khalid met with the senior men's national team ahead of their departure for Dubai.

Also present were GSA deputy chairman His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Cabinet Affairs Ministry undersecretary and BOC vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Bahrain Football Association (BFA) president Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, BFA vice-president His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, GSA CEO Dr Abdulrahman Askar, BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, and Bahrain Athletics Association president and BFA national teams committee member

for Doha the following day.

The nationals held their first on-pitch session under the supervision of head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi last night at Dubai's JA Sports Centre.

Bahrain are in Group E for the AFC Asian Cup's preliminary



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa during their meeting with the national team

Mohammed Abdullatif bin Jalal.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and HM the King's humanitarian work and youth affairs representative His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa to the

players. HH Shaikh Khalid affirmed the full support of the GSA and BOC for the national team, and commitment to providing all its needs.

HH Shaikh Khalid stressed for the players to be the best ambassadors of the Kingdom during the tournament, through consolidating sports principles and values, as well as showing good sportsmanship.

round along with South Korea, Malaysia and Jordan. The nationals kick off their campaign against the South Koreans on 15 January at 2.30pm, and then take on their Malaysian counterparts on 20 January at 5.30pm. They complete the preliminaries

against Jordan on 25 January at 2.30pm. All times are Bahrain. Bahrain need to finish amongst the top two in their group to automatically advance to the knockout stage, or be one of four of the best-ranked third-placed teams from the six pools.

Muharraq defeat Nabih Saleh for crucial victory

● **Hard-earned result earns Muharraq a winning record to end the first round of volleyball league's Top Six**

TDI | Manama

Muharraq battled past Nabih Saleh in four sets last night as the fifth and last week of round one in the Top Six got underway in the 2023/2024 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

Muharraq needed to dig deep to overcome a spirited challenge from their opponents and claim a 3-1 (25-21, 21-25, 25-16, 25-21) final score line.

The victors came away with an all-important result to improve their chances of making it to the Golden Square semi-finals.

Muharraq closed out the first set with a spike from Italian-Argentinian professional Tomas Gallo, but Nabih Saleh fought



Muharraq players celebrate after scoring a point against Nabih Saleh

back in the second and tied the proceedings following a service error.

Muharraq did well to regain their momentum in the third and then in the fourth, started well but Nabih Saleh roared back. A triple block then gave Muharraq match point, and they took advantage of it to seal the win with a double block by Ab-

bas Al Khabbaz and Sayed Ali Mohammed on Nabih Saleh's Sayed Hashem Isa.

Also playing key roles for Muharraq in the contest were Mahmood Al Afia, Ali Al Sairafi, Hussain Ehsan, Majeed Mohammed and Ahmed Issa. For Nabih Saleh, they also relied on the play of Mohammed Jassim, Hussain Ashoor and Nigerian

professional Oyewale Oyedepo.

Muharraq claimed their third win in five games to complete the first round of the Top Six with a winning record. Nabih Saleh dropped their third match to go with two wins.

Action in the Top Six continues tonight with a hugely exciting clash between defending champions Dar Kulaib and undefeated league leaders Al Ahli, scheduled to begin at 6.30pm. Dar Kulaib will be looking to bounce back from their first loss all season last week but will be facing a tough challenge from Ahli, who are hoping to dethrone their opponents.

Dar Kulaib currently have a 3-1 win-loss record while Ahli have won all four of their matches so far. Ahli will be looking to complete a clean sweep of the first round in this Top Six phase.

The Top Six is being played in a double round-robin. Following the end of the first round tonight, the second round will follow from Sunday next week onwards. That will then set the stage for the Golden Square.

Sharma expects 'challenging' Newlands as India look to level series



India's Virat Kohli (R) speaks to India's Shubman Gill (L)

AFP | Cape Town

India's young batsmen will simply have to find a way to cope with South Africa's "challenging" conditions, India captain Rohit Sharma said yesterday.

Sharma said he did not expect conditions for the second Test, starting at Newlands on Wednesday, to be much different from those at Centurion, where India were beaten by an innings in the first Test last week.

"The pitch looks pretty similar to Centurion," he said. "Maybe not full of grass but there is enough covering of grass on the pitch."

Sharma missed his team's tour two seasons ago because of injury but said teammates who were in Cape Town said conditions appeared to be much as they were then,

when the highest team total in a tightly-contested match, won by South Africa, was 223.

Three of India's top six batsmen are on their first tour of South Africa and they all struggled at Centurion. Sharma, who only made give and nought, said they would have benefitted from the first game.

"At some stage we all have to be exposed to conditions like this," he said.

"I am sure they will have learned a lot from the first game and tomorrow is another opportunity for them to understand what is required.

"It is challenging but that's what Test cricket is about," he said.

Sharma said inexperience had also affected India's bowling in Centurion.

"That can happen, it's understandable, but it's about putting your faith and trust in them to get the job done."

Elgar saddened by decline of Test cricket in South Africa

AFP | Cape Town

On the eve of his 86th and final Test match, Dean Elgar said he was "sad" South Africa would be sending a weakened team to play two Test matches

in New Zealand in March.

"The situation we've been put in is not ideal," Elgar said yesterday, on the eve of the second Test against India at Newlands, where he will captain South Africa in his last match before

retiring from international cricket.

Only two of the players who won the first Test by an innings last week will be travelling to New Zealand -- the result of a decision by Cricket South Africa

to prioritise the SA20 franchise competition.

"Irrespective of what has happened behind the scenes there is still a lot of hunger (for Test cricket) from the guys who are playing," he said.

F1 Bahrain GP 2024 launch set

Bahrain International Circuit invites Formula 1 fans to attend public launch tomorrow at The Avenues Bahrain

● Tomorrow's launch to kick off exciting Bahrain GP Live Weekend

● Fan-engagement activities to continue throughout Friday, Saturday

● Winner of first-ever Bahrain GP Superfan title to be unveiled

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", will be holding the official public launch of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 tomorrow.

BIC is inviting all F1 fans in the Kingdom to attend the event, scheduled to take place at The Harbour at The Avenues Bahrain from 5pm.

The launch will be the first of a series of exciting fan-engagement activities held as part of Bahrain GP Live Weekend, which continues on Friday and



David Croft



Legendary Formula 1 and Sky commentator David Croft to be guest host as details on Bahrain's landmark 20th anniversary F1 race to be announced

search of the first-ever Bahrain GP Superfan. BIC and Gulf Air have called on F1 enthusiasts to enter this competition and submit a short video explaining why they should claim the celebrated tag.

The top finalists will be attending the launch event as VIP guests and are set to come away with special prizes, including Gulf Air flights, Bahrain GP number plates signed by an F1 driver, and many other valuable gifts.

Ultimate winner

The ultimate winner, meanwhile, will receive a money-



Action at the start of last year's Bahrain Grand Prix at BIC (File photo)

can't-buy grand prize and the title of Bahrain GP Superfan.

A wide variety of attractions will also be on hand at The Avenues Bahrain as part of Bahrain GP Live Weekend. These include F1 race simulators, a soft games area, a balloon twister performer, a henna artist, face painting for kids, and much more.

The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 will be the sixth time the Kingdom will have the honour of hosting the opening round of the new F1 season. It will also be the 11th time the grand

prix will be taking place under lights.

Interest from F1 fans all over the world remains at an all-time high following the complete sell-out of Bahrain's historic 2023 race. This is even more so for the 2024 event, which promises to be an extra-memorable occasion with a special celebration lined up for all.

Aside from the racing action in F1 and its international support series line-up, there will also be plenty of off-the-track entertainment for the whole family.

Al Ahli cruise past Isa Town

● Unique McLean scores 33 points to lead Ahli, who also get 17 points apiece from Maitham Jameel, Ahmed Aldurazi and Hesham Sarhan

TDI | Manama

Al Ahli rolled past struggling Isa Town 112-86 last night to get week 10 underway in the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ahli raced out to a 32-21 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back, enjoying leads as big as 31 points en route to the final buzzer.

American professional Unique McLean scored 33 points for the winners and also took down eight rebounds. Maitham Jameel, Ahmed Aldurazi and Hesham Sarhan all finished with 17 points apiece. Jameel and Aldurazi each fired in five three-point-



Al Ahli's Unique McLean goes for a lay-up uncontested against Isa Town

ers, with Jameel also registering a double-double with 10 boards.

Adrian Uter chipped in with nine points and seven rebounds in just 13 minutes of work.

For overmatched Isa Town, who were playing without a foreign professional, Jihad Ahmed

and Hussain Mahdi both had two points in the loss. Nooh Qaedi added 18.

Ahli posted their sixth win in nine tries and improved to 15 points on the league standings, placing them third, just behind defending champions and undefeated leaders Mana-

Standings					
	P	W	L	+/-	Pts
Manama	8	8	0	301	16
Al Najma	9	6	3	96	15
Al Ahli	9	6	3	92	15
Al Ettihad	8	6	2	159	14
Al Hala	8	6	2	50	14
Nuwaidrat	8	5	3	48	13
Muharraq	8	4	4	71	12
Samaheej	8	3	5	-77	11
Bahrain Club*8	2	6	-191	9	
Isa Town	9	0	9	-233	9
Sitra	9	0	9	-319	9

*One of Bahrain Club's losses was a forfeit due to a no-show

ma and current second-placers Al Najma. Isa Town, on the other hand, suffered their ninth straight defeat and are still one of just two teams who have yet to taste a win this season. Sitra are the other.

League action continues tonight and tomorrow. This evening, Muharraq square off with Samaheej at 5.30pm, to be followed by an exciting clash between Al Ettihad and Nuwaidrat. Tomorrow, Manama go up against Najma at 7.30pm.

Nadal roars back with 'emotional and important' win over Thiem



Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after he got hit in the head by the ball

AFP | Brisbane

Rafael Nadal won his first match back from a year-long injury layoff when he beat former US Open champion Dominic Thiem at the Brisbane International yesterday, calling it an "emotional and important day".

The 22-time Grand Slam winner looked in superb touch with a clinical 7-5, 6-1 victory over the Austrian in front of a full house at Pat Rafter Arena.

He will now play Jason Kubler in the second round after the Australian wildcard progressed when Aslan Karatsev was forced to withdraw injured with the scores locked at one set apiece.

The 37-year-old Spaniard had not played singles since a second-round loss at the Australian Open last year, undergoing two rounds of hip surgery.

"Today, honestly, is an emotional and important day for me after probably one of the toughest years of my tennis career, without a doubt," he said. "To have the chance to come

back after a year and play in front of an amazing crowd, and play I think at a very positive level for the first day is something that makes us feel proud."

The former world number one did concede the result could have been very different.

"I know I have been practising okay in the last week, practising I think at a positive level," Nadal said. "I'm talking with my hand on my heart and being very honest with all of you."

"You really at the end hope that you're going to play at this level, but inside yourself you know that it can be a disaster, and that, of course, worried me."

The long layoff raised fears that his career could be over, but Nadal said this week he was always determined to make it back for the 2024 season.

He conceded before the match there was "a high percentage" that it would be his last season, but left the door open to play on should his body hold up.

Rooney hit hard by 'setback' after Birmingham City sacking

AFP | London

Wayne Rooney said it would "take some time to get over this setback" after he was sacked as manager of Championship side Birmingham City yesterday following a disastrous spell in charge.

The 38-year-old former Manchester United and England



Wayne Rooney

star was appointed in October but oversaw just two wins in 15 matches with Monday's 3-0 thumping by Leeds, their ninth defeat under him, proving the final straw.

Birmingham -- who have NFL legend Tom Brady as a minority shareholder -- are embroiled in a battle against relegation, slumping to 20th

from sixth since Rooney took over.

"Despite their best efforts, results have not met the expectations that were made clear at the outset," read a statement from the club.

"Therefore, the board feels that a change in management is in the best interests of the football club."