

## Stage is set for Bahrain tropical almond festival

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's second loz (tropical almond) festival will take place from tomorrow to July 7 at Budaiya Botanical Garden's Farmers Market, organised by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

The festival aims to promote locally-produced fruits and provide a platform for Bahraini farmers and producers to showcase their loz-based products, as well as attract citizens, residents, and visitors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Thirteen local farmers will participate in the festival, alongside four productive farming families, and five plant nurseries.

It will include a display of loz seedlings and fruit varieties, a showcase of loz-related manufacturing industries, and activities for children.

## Over 2kgs of drugs seized

TDT | Manama

The Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Forensic Evidence has arrested several individuals of different nationalities in separate incidents, seizing over 2 kilograms of narcotics valued at over BD24,000.

The Directorate revealed that following intelligence reports, thorough investigations led to the identification and arrest of the suspects.

Upon apprehension, they were found in possession of the seized drugs and various currencies believed to be proceeds from illicit sales.

The seized items have been documented and secured, with legal proceedings initiated for referral to the Public Prosecution.

220 fils (includes VAT)



# Bahrain greets US on Independence Day

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to the US President Joe Biden, on his country's Independence Day.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to Vice President Kamala Harris.

A telephone call was also held yesterday between HRH Prince



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



US President Joe Biden

Salman, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and the US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III.

They discussed the longstanding relationship and collaboration between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the US.

His Royal Highness highlighted the importance of bolstering joint cooperation and coordination, as per the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (CSIPA), to benefit both countries.

# GCC Rail Link Gathers Steam

## Land acquired for Bahrain link to King Hamad Causeway

**Mohammed Darwish**  
 TDT | Manama

The ambitious plan to connect the Gulf with a high-speed railway network took a major step forward this week with Bahrain announcing the acquisition of land in Janabiya, a key area for the project's link to the King Hamad Causeway.

This follows the launch of a tender by the GCC Secretariat General, seeking specialists to develop an operational plan for the entire railway network.

The 137 land acquisition decisions, the largest this year for Bahrain, pave the way for detailed development plans in Ramli, Nuwaidrat, and Muharraq. This comprehensive approach signifies the project's momentum and its potential to transform the region's economic landscape.

The GCC railway, with a planned length of 2,177 kilometres, will connect all six Gulf states. Companies with expertise in railway operations, logistics, and data analysis are invited to



An artist's impression of the railway network project

**The GCC railway project aims to enhance connectivity across Bahrain and neighboring Gulf states, fostering regional economic integration and transportation efficiency.**

submit proposals in Riyadh. The project holds immense promise for boosting regional trade, travel, and joint investments.

Citizens and residents across the Gulf are excited about the project's potential to usher in a new era of cooperation and

connectivity. With an estimated passenger capacity of 8 million annually by 2050, the railway is poised to revolutionize travel within the region.

### Four-lane road

The project also includes a new four-lane road alongside the King Hamad Causeway, easing traffic congestion and facilitating smoother movement

of goods. The dedicated freight yard, capable of handling a significant volume of containers and bulk cargo, is expected to make Bahrain a major logistics hub.

The GCC railway project is a significant undertaking, and the recent developments signal a collective commitment towards a more integrated and prosperous future for the Gulf region.

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# 'Better, stronger and deeper'

H.E. Ambassador Steven C. Bondy highlights growing US-Bahrain relations

**Americans and their friends in Kingdom celebrate 248th Independence Day**

**Ashen Tharaka**  
TDT | Manama

As the United States celebrates its 248th Independence Day, US Ambassador to Bahrain, His Excellency Steven C. Bondy, extended warm wishes to Americans in the Kingdom and the Bahraini people.

"Happy 248th anniversary of the independence of the United States from me and the team here at the American Embassy to all Americans in Bahrain and all of our friends here in this beautiful country," said Ambassador Bondy in an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune.

Ambassador Bondy emphasised the enduring strength of the US-Bahrain relationship, built on shared values and mutual respect.

"The relationship between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America just keeps getting better, strong-



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during the CSIPA-signing ceremony in Washington on September 13, 2023

er, and deeper," he stated. "We share similar values and objectives as we navigate a challenging global environment."

### Solidifying bond

The long history of American presence in Bahrain, dating back over 130 years, has played a key role in solidifying this bond.

Ambassador Bondy highlighted the lasting contributions of American missionaries who

arrived in the 1890s, establishing healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and religious centers that continue to serve the community today.

"These institutions are a testament to the strong foundation on which the US-Bahrain relationship is built," he remarked.

A significant recent development was the signing of the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agree-

ment (CSIPA) last September.

### Strategic agreement

"This agreement, the most advanced written strategic agreement we have with any country in the region, rests on three pillars," Ambassador Bondy explained.

The first pillar is defense and security, where both nations share an assessment of regional threats and work together to ad-



**"The relationship between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America just keeps getting better, stronger, and deeper. We share similar values and objectives as we navigate a challenging global environment."**

- HIS EXCELLENCY STEVEN C. BONDY,  
US AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF  
BAHRAIN

dress them; the second is commercial affairs, including trade, investment, supply chains, and logistics, where they collaborate to establish conditions for

increased private sector relationships; and the third pillar focuses on emerging technology, network security, and scientific cooperation.

This agreement underlines the comprehensive collaboration between governments, private sectors, and research institutions from both nations.

The CSIPA underscores the multifaceted partnership between the US and Bahrain, encompassing government collaboration, private sector engagement, and research institutions from both nations. "We anticipate universities and R&D centers will expand their work in these critical areas," Ambassador Bondy concluded.

### Unity and cooperation

As the US celebrates its 248th Independence Day, Ambassador Bondy's message resonates with the spirit of unity and cooperation that defines US-Bahrain relations. This enduring partnership, built on a foundation of shared values and historical ties, continues to thrive and evolve.

With milestones like the CSIPA, both nations are poised to tackle future challenges together, fostering innovation and growth.

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## Importance of sunscreen use during summer

TDT | Manama

As summer approaches and beach outings become more frequent, it's vital to prioritize the protection of our skin against the sun's harmful rays. With the increased exposure to sunlight, the risk of sunburn rises significantly.

Sunburn, characterized by red, painful, and damaged skin resulting from prolonged sun exposure, can lead to discomfort and long-term skin damage. Hence, incorporating sunscreen into your daily skincare routine is essential.

Sunscreen serves as a protective shield, creating a barrier against both UVA and UVB rays.

These rays are known culprits in causing premature aging and escalating the risk of skin cancer. Utilizing a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher is crucial in effectively blocking out these harmful rays, thereby reducing the likelihood of sunburn and skin damage.

To ensure optimal protection, here are some key tips for applying sunscreen correctly:

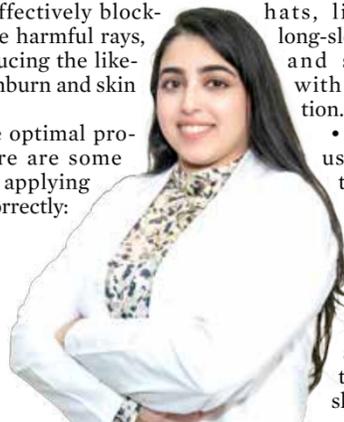
1. Opt for a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.
2. Choose a waterproof or water-resistant sunscreen for extended outdoor activities.
3. Apply sunscreen generously to all exposed areas of the skin, including the ears, lips, back of the neck, and tops of the feet.
4. Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before sun exposure to allow for proper absorption.
5. Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or more frequently if swimming, exercising, or sweating profusely.

In addition to sunscreen, it's important to adopt other sun safety measures:

- Seek shade during peak sun hours, typically between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's rays are the strongest.
- Wear protective clothing, including wide-brimmed hats, lightweight long-sleeved shirts, and sunglasses with UV protection.

Avoid the use of indoor tanningbeds, as they emit harmful UV radiation that can damage the skin and increase the risk of skin cancer.

**Dr. Aysha Salah Ahmed Saleh Almedfaa,**  
Specialist Dermatologist,  
Middle East Hospital



## Shura Council shines in diplomacy

TDT | Manama

The Shura Council has markedly enhanced its efforts in parliamentary diplomacy during the 2nd Convening Period of the 6th legislative term.

By actively engaging in various international forums, conferences, seminars, and meetings, the Council has participated in 63 external events, both in-person and virtual.

These engagements spanned a broad spectrum of topics, reflecting the Council's attention to significant global issues.

Discussions covered vital areas such as human rights, sustainable development, defence, national security, diplomatic affairs, family care, health services, economic and financial matters, technological advancement, energy investment, environmental preservation, and tourism.

Through these interactions, the Shura Council has sought to enhance its international standing and influence within the legislative realm.

This focus has produced notable outcomes, with several members attaining leadership roles in regional and international parliamentary bodies.

Among the achievements is the appointment of Mr. Jamal Fakhro, First Deputy Chairman of the Shura Council, as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM PN).

# NBB **بنك البحرين الوطني**



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## Doctor accused of drug trafficking

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has ordered the release of security camera footage from a private hospital in connection with a drug trafficking case involving a doctor.

The court responded to a request by the defendant's lawyer, Abdulrahman Ghanim, who argued that the footage would be crucial in proving his client's innocence.

The case involves three defendants: a 29-year-old doctor, a 24-year-old man, and a 34-year-old man.

The doctor and the second defendant are accused of possessing and selling cannabis with intent to traffic, as well as possessing and using controlled substances.

The third defendant is accused of possessing and using the stimulant shabu.

The incident occurred when police received a report about a car being used to dispose of items in a sewage pipe in Riffa.

## Three Africans face trial for drug trafficking

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court in Bahrain has commenced the trial of three African nationals accused of importing and trafficking drugs.

The defendants are alleged to have smuggled narcotics into the country concealed within food tins.

The prosecution charged two of the defendants, both in their 30s, with importing and possessing marijuana with intent to traffic. The first defendant is accused of possessing and selling marijuana and the stimulant methamphetamine.

The second defendant, in his 20s, is charged with possessing marijuana with intent to use.

The third defendant is charged with possessing methamphetamine with intent to use.

The case stems from a tip received by the Anti-Narcotics Directorate from Bahrain Airport customs officials.

# Road Deaths Rise in 2023

TDT | Manama

The number of fatalities from traffic accidents in the Kingdom of Bahrain last year was slightly higher than in 2022, according to a new report released by the Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA).

Thirty-three people lost their lives in traffic accidents last year, compared to 27 fatalities the previous year, which included 24 men and three women.

The report also provides a breakdown of injuries sustained by drivers, categorized by severity and gender.

The statistics reveal a significant disparity in the number of male and female fatalities. While 30 men died in traffic accidents last year, only three women lost their lives.

The report highlights the number of serious and minor injuries as well.

### Serious injuries

In 2023, 236 men sustained serious injuries in traffic accidents, compared to 45 women. Minor injuries were reported

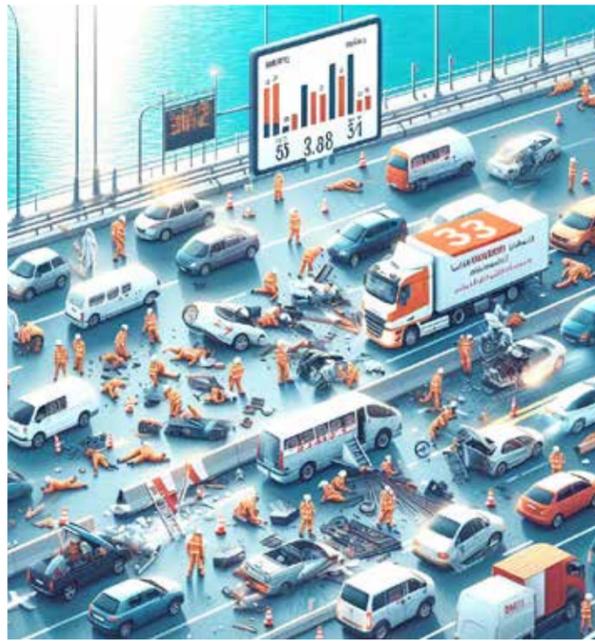


Image used for illustrative purposes only

for 199 men and 86 women.

When compared to 2022, the number of serious injuries for men increased slightly from 228 to 236. However, the number of serious injuries for women rose

from 37 to 45.

Minor injuries for men saw a slight decrease from 213 to 199, while minor injuries for women remained relatively consistent at 88 and 86.

## MP hails Interior Ministry success in rehabilitation

TDT | Manama

MP Mohammed Al-Maarafi praised Bahrain's Ministry of Interior for significant advancements in reformation and rehabilitation, both locally and globally.

He credited these achievements to His Excellency Lt-General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior.

In a recent statement, Al-Maarafi highlighted impactful directives issued by the Minister, emphasizing his commitment to improving the reformation and rehabilitation environment across affiliated centers.

One notable directive ensures inmates receive a minimum of two hours daily for sports activities, supported by appropriate facilities, equipment, and resources. Additionally, inmates now have access to specialized dietary guidance from the center's medical clinic.

"These measures, alongside initiatives like alternative punishments and open prisons, position Bahrain at the forefront of human rights advancement," noted Al-Maarafi. He underscored the positive impact on inmates, their families,



MP Mohammed Al-Maarafi



This milestone underscores Bahrain's commitment to safeguarding human rights.

and society at large.

Al-Maarafi also disclosed that the General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation is pursuing international accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA).



Bahrain Financing Company (BFC) is delighted to announce Mr. Ali Idrees Sher Mohammad Qambir Ibrahim as the grand prize winner of the BFC Gold Festival. Mr. Ibrahim received his prize, a half kilo gold bar, presented by BFC's CEO, Mr. Deepak Nair. BFC extended its gratitude to all participants who made the BFC Gold Festival Campaign a success.

## Vehicle inspections shift to private centres

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Vehicle inspection in Bahrain will be progressively handed over to private centers from 1 August 2024.

This was announced yesterday by Brigadier Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Abdul Wahhab Al Khalifa, Director General of the General Directorate of Traffic (GDT).

The transition, set to be fully implemented by July 2025, will see private centres progressively take on the responsibility for inspecting all vehicle categories, including light vehicles, motorcycles, heavy vehicles, and public transportation.

The transition will be rolled

out in three stages:

Phase 1 (1 August 2024): Private centres will start inspections of light vehicles and motorcycles not exceeding 10 years old, allowing the GDT to concentrate on more specialised inspections.

Phase 2 (Early 2025): The range of private centre services will expand to include all light vehicles and motorcycles, regardless of age, further simplifying the process for vehicle owners.

Phase 3 (1 July 2025): In the final stage, private centres will take over inspections for all vehicle categories, including heavy vehicles and public transportation, completing the transfer of this responsibility to the private sector.

# Workshop on protecting IP in interior design

## Middle East Traders, Bahraini Intellectual Property Society collaborate to host important event

TDT | Manama

Middle East Traders, the trusted source for flooring, sanitary ware, healthcare products, wall covering, and building materials, recently collaborated with the Bahraini Intellectual Property Society to host a workshop titled "Preserving Intellectual

Property Rights Within the Interior Design Industry."

The workshop took place at Middle East Traders' showroom near Al Khamis Mosque and was conducted by Dr. Nehal Al Merbati, a member of the Bahraini Intellectual Property Society.

Over 30 participants, including industry professionals and enthusiasts, attended the event to deepen their understanding of Intellectual Property in interior design.

They gained insights into its concepts, importance, and methods to safeguard the creative works of designers and clients alike.



Mr. Salman Al Khan

Mr. Salman Al Khan, Business Development Manager, expressed his satisfaction with the collaboration, stating, "We are delighted to collaborate with the



Ms. Omaima Al Sayed

Bahraini Intellectual Property Society, which has a prominent role in the Kingdom. We also extend our thanks to Dr. Nehal Al Merbati, the member of the

society, for holding this workshop and sharing valuable information, insights and expertise from the interior design industry with the audience."

Ms. Omaima Al Sayed, Deputy Chairman of the Bahraini Intellectual Property Society, emphasised the society's commitment to raising awareness about intellectual property's significance in Bahrain's economic development.

She appreciated Middle East Traders' initiative in addressing this fundamental issue, noting its impact on service quality and business standards.

"We believe that the insights

shared in this workshop will greatly benefit the attendees and participants," Ms. Omaima added.

Established in 1951, Middle East Traders is recognised as a leading supplier of finishing building materials.

Their comprehensive range includes flooring solutions, sanitary ware, porcelain tiles, wall coverings, HD Smart Glass, shelving, and racking solutions.

They provide top-quality products tailored for residential, healthcare, educational, industrial, and commercial projects, ensuring exceptional standards across sectors.

# NBB named Middle East's Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility 2024

TDI | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has established itself as a regional leader in corporate responsibility by winning its third prestigious award for 'Middle East's Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility' at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2024. This win builds on the consecutive awards received by the Bank this year for 'Bahrain's Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility' and 'Bahrain's Best Bank for ESG.'

Speaking on the occasion, NBB Chairperson Mrs. Hala Yateem said, "This recognition reflects the Bank's achievements in setting new precedents for corporate responsibility in the wider industry and its aim to lead by example. We look forward to further strengthening our efforts in this regard and reaffirming our role as a pillar of the Bah-



The award ceremony

raini community."

For their part, the Euromoney Awards for Excellence team stated, "NBB has supported an impressive range of causes and initiatives with funding and other resources, to a total of 81

organisations. The Bank has also channelled 5% of its profits into the local community since the 1980s."

NBB has consistently contributed to a number of education and youth empowerment ini-

tiatives, including supporting the Crown Prince International Scholarship Programme and the Isa Bin Salman Education Charitable Trust's academic scholarships. Additionally, the Bank collaborated with Injaz Bahrain

on the 13th Young Entrepreneurs Competition for high schools, which aimed to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among youth.

NBB's ongoing ded-

ication to social inclusion has been evident through its support of community and sports programmes. The Bank partnered with the Bahrain Catalysts Disabled Association to celebrate the graduation of 200 outstanding students with disabilities. Furthermore, NBB cooperated with the Bahrain Paralympics Committee to enable the participation of seven athletes in the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, held during October 2023 in China. The Bank's sponsorship endeavours also extended to the Northern Governorate's Summer Camp for students and individuals with autism, which provided participants with a nurturing environment to develop skills through various engaging activities.



## BENEFIT wins prestigious fintech award

Honour at Bahrain Digital Content Awards 2023 for BenefitPay Application

TDI | Manama

BENEFIT, the Kingdom's innovator and leading company in Fintech and electronic financial transactions service, announced that its flagship mobile payment application, BenefitPay, has been honoured with the Fintech Award at the Bahrain Digital Content Awards 2023.

The ceremony, organized by the Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH), took place at the Gulf Convention Center and was held under the esteemed patronage of His Excellency Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council.

Abdulwahed AlJanahi, CEO of BENEFIT, accepted the award from Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, recognizing the innovation and excellence embodied by the Bene-



BenefitPay has been honoured with the Fintech Award at the Bahrain Digital Content Awards 2023.

fitPay application.

The widely adopted BenefitPay application stands out for its seamless payment solutions, providing users with a secure and easy way to make payments, transfer money and

settle bills directly from their smartphones.

"We are honoured to receive this award, which reflects our commitment to innovation and excellence in the fintech sector," said Abdulwahed AlJanahi.

"BenefitPay has transformed the way people in Bahrain handle their financial transactions, and this recognition motivates us to continue enhancing our services to meet the evolving needs of our users."



Zain Bahrain was named for the second consecutive year as one of the top 50 strongest companies in Bahrain by Albilad Press. The telco has made significant strides in maintaining a Bahrainization level of more than 93%, exceeding the national target by prioritizing recruiting and developing Bahraini talent. The event, held earlier this week, was attended by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, and the Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sameer Abdulla Nass.

## Germany blocks sale of gas turbine firm to China company

AFP | Frankfurt, Germany

The German government yesterday blocked the sale of a gas turbine unit belonging to a subsidiary of the Volkswagen group to a Chinese investor over security concerns.

Volkswagen's MAN Energy Solutions had been due to sell the unit to Chinese group GHGT and its subsidiary Guanghan Gas Turbine, but Chancellor Olaf Scholz's "cabinet had today prohibited" the move, said the economy ministry.

Germany has rules in place allowing the government to review or block foreign purchases of stakes as low as 10 percent in "critical technology" as well as "critical infrastructure" com-



Representative picture

panies.

The ministry added that it could not provide further details given security concerns as

well as the company's operational secrets.

According to business daily Handelsblatt, the Chinese company is believed to have close links to the Chinese armaments industry and experts have warned that it could use the gas turbine technology for military purposes including in war ships, drones or fighter jets.

Fears have been growing in Germany about an over-reliance on Beijing, and letting critical infrastructure fall into the hands of Chinese state-linked companies.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its subsequent dwindling of crucial gas supplies to Europe has further accentuated the concerns.

## Qatar Airways reports record \$1.7 bn annual profit

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Qatar Airways reported a record \$1.7 billion net profit following an annual increase of 39 percent on last year, the airline said in a statement on Tuesday.

The state-owned Qatari national carrier's revenue also increased by \$1.3 billion, up six percent on the previous year.

"The group reports the strongest financial performance in its 27-year history," Qatar Airways said.

The airline added that it had carried more than 40 million passengers -- an increase of 26 percent over the previous year -- which it attributed to a "rebound from the recent challenges facing the global travel industry".

After posting record profits

in 2022 despite the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, which devastated the industry, Qatar Airways last year reported an annual drop despite flying fans to the World Cup hosted in the Gulf emirate.

"These very strong financials are a testament to the ambition and clear direction that has informed the Qatar Airways Group's progress throughout the 2023/24 financial year," Chief Executive Badr Mohammed Al-Meer said in a statement.

"Our continued focus on profitability, efficiency and customer experience have been underpinned by a strategic programme of network growth and fleet expansion, resulting in the highest revenues and profit margins in the history of the airline," Al-Meer added.

News in brief

◆ **South Africa's new unity government** under President Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in on Wednesday, the first of its kind in the country after 30 years of rule by the ANC. Ahead of the 32 ministers -- from six parties -- making up the cabinet, Paul Mashatile, who has been re-appointed deputy president, was the first to take the oath during the televised ceremony in Cape Town. On Sunday, Ramaphosa, 71, unveiled his highly anticipated coalition government, which includes the leader of the former main opposition party and sees the number of ministries rise from 30 to 32. There are also 43 deputy ministers. His African National Congress (ANC), which has governed since the advent of democracy in 1994, sought to form a government of national unity after losing its outright parliamentary majority in May 29 elections. The storied party, which won just over 40 percent in the poll, keeps 20 cabinet positions, including foreign affairs, finance, defence, justice and police.



**S.Africa inaugurates unprecedented unity government**

◆ **Iran's Khamenei urges turnout after voters shun first presidential round**

round last week, in an election cycle brought forward by the death of president Ebrahim Raisi in a May helicopter crash. Only 40 percent of Iran's 61 million eligible voters cast their ballots in the first round, representing the lowest turnout in any presidential election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Khamenei, in a video published by state TV, said it was "completely wrong to think that those who did not vote in the first round are against the system".

◆ **Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** called Wednesday for voters to participate in Friday's presidential ballot, saying that historically low first-round turnout was not an act "against the system". Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian and ultraconservative Saeed Jalili will face off after leading the pack in the first

◆ **Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** swore in a new government on Wednesday, just months after starting his third six-year term. The 30-member cabinet, led by Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly, includes a new finance minister and fresh faces at the foreign and defence ministries. Four women are among the new ministers, sworn in during a ceremony broadcast live on state television. Ahmed Kouhouk, a former deputy finance minister, now heads the finance ministry, tasked with managing Egypt's struggle against the economic crisis and dire foreign currency shortages.

**Egypt new government sworn in**



**CURIOSER & CURIOSER**

**World's oldest artwork discovered in Indonesian cave**

AFP | Paris, France

It may not look like much -- just a flaking image of three people around a big red pig.

But the humble cave painting discovered in Indonesia is the oldest known narrative artwork ever made by human hands, dating back more than 51,000 years, new research said on Wednesday.

"This is the oldest evidence of storytelling," Maxime Aubert, an archaeologist at Australia's Griffith University, told AFP.

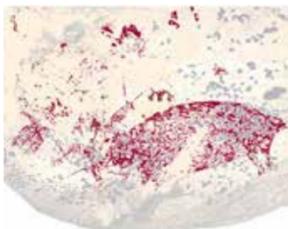
Aubert was part of the team that identified the previous record holder in 2019, a hunting scene found in a nearby Indonesian cave then estimated to be nearly 44,000 years old.

The latest discovery, which was dated using a new laser technique, marks "the first time we've passed the 50,000-year barrier," said Aubert, a co-author of a new study in Nature describing the find.

That early humans were able to tell such a "sophisticated" story through art could rewrite our understanding of human cognitive evolution, he added.

"Our discovery suggests that storytelling was a much older part of human history... than previously thought," study co-author archaeologist Adam Brumm told a press conference.

For the discovery, the researchers used a new method that uses lasers and computer software to create a "map" of rock samples.



This laser ablation technique is more precise, easier, quicker, cheaper, and requires much smaller rock samples than the previous uranium series method, Aubert said.

The team first tested the new technique on the previous record holder.

It determined that the hunting scene was actually at least 48,000 years old -- 4,000 years older than the uranium series method determined in 2019.

The team then tried the laser method out on a previously undated painting first spotted in a cave on Indonesia's Sulawesi island in 2017.

It was found to be at least 51,200 years old, smashing the previous record.

The painting, which is in poor condition, shows three people around a wild pig.

"We don't know exactly what they're doing," Aubert admitted.

He speculated that the paintings were likely made by the first group of humans who moved through Southeast Asia before arriving in Australia around 65,000 years ago.

"It's probably just a matter of time before we find samples that are older," Aubert added.

**China leading surge in generative AI patents: UN**

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The number of international patent filings for innovations using cutting-edge generative artificial intelligence have surged eightfold in six years, the UN said Wednesday, the majority from China-based innovators.

A total of 54,000 patents were filed for generative AI innovations in the decade leading to 2023, the United Nations' World Intellectual Property Organization said in a fresh report.

A full 25 percent of those were filed in the last year alone, WIPO said.

So-called GenAI, in which trained computer programmes create everything from text and videos to music and computer code in seconds on simple prompts, "has emerged as a game-changing technology", said WIPO chief Daren Tang.

GenAI patents still only represent six percent of all AI patents globally, but the number of filings is rising fast.

WIPO highlighted that GenAI patents had increased eightfold since 2017, when the deep neural network architecture behind large language models that have become synonymous with AI was first introduced.

**Putin arrives in Kazakhstan for Shanghai alliance summit**



**Putin meets with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan**  
AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin has arrived in Kazakhstan, the Kremlin said yesterday, where he will attend a meeting of Shanghai alliance nations in the capital Astana.

The nine-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which encompasses a vast stretch of the globe from Moscow to Beijing, includes around half the world's population.

Its permanent members are this year's host Kazakhstan, India, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and, as of last year, Iran.

**Labour predicted to edge**

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's political leaders made a final push for votes yesterday on the last day of an election campaign expected to return a Labour government after 14 years of Conservative rule.

Ex-premier Boris Johnson staged an 11th-hour rallying call for the flagging Tories but an ally of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak conceded their party was staring at an "extraordinary landslide" defeat.

Voters will cast lots from 7:00 a.m.



**Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Rishi Sunak delivers a speech**

(0600 GMT) today, with polls predicting that Labour will win its first general election since 2005 -- making its leader Keir Starmer prime minister.

That outcome would see Britain swing leftwards back to the centre ground after almost a decade and a half of right-wing Conservative governments.

Starmer was criss-crossing the UK on Wednesday with visits in England, Scotland and Wales in a bid to shore up Labour support and warn against complacency in the campaign's final hours.

"If you want change, you have to vote for it," the 61-year-old told reporters, adding that he was "not taking anything for granted".

The Tories have been going all out to play upon people's fears, warning of tax rises and weaker national security if they are voted out, in what Labour sees as a desperate last stand to cling on to power.

They have also increasingly urged voters in recent weeks to

stop the prospect of Labour winning a "supermajority" -- a claim Labour fears is intended to hit turnout.

Work and Pensions Secretary Mel Stride, one of Sunak's closest allies, said Wednesday the electorate would "regret" handing Labour "untrammelled" power without an effective Tory opposition.

**Bigger than Blair?**

"If you look at the polls, it is pretty clear that Labour at this stage are heading for an extraordinary landslide on a scale that has probably never, ever been seen in this country before," he told right-wing broadcaster GB News.

Labour has enjoyed a consistent 20-point lead in the polls over the past two years with many voters dissatisfied at the Conservatives' handling of a range of issues including the cost of living, public services, immigration and the economy.

**Dubai rowers to brave Arctic to highlight plastic**

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

At an indoor pool in Dubai, three rowers battle artificial rain and simulated waves as they train for an Arctic voyage intended to highlight the perils of marine pollution.

Their quest will take the team from one extreme to the next.

Home base is the United Arab Emirates, notorious for its sweltering heat, especially in summer.

And their destination is one of the world's coldest regions -- although because of climate change it is warming three times faster than the global average.

For leader Toby Gregory, it is a chance to sound the alarm about the scourge of plastic waste in the world's oceans, a mission he took on after a 2023 Atlantic Ocean rowing trip during which he saw "a lot more plastic than I ever imagined".

Last year Gregory founded The Plastic Pledge, which tries to educate students about plastic disposal.

**'Arctic Challenge'**

The "Arctic Challenge" will see 46-year-old Gregory, his fellow



**Members of the The Arctic Challenge Expedition Team rowers based in the UAE practice in simulated circumstances at an aviation training center in Dubai**

Briton Andrew Savill, 39, and 30-year-old Irishwoman Orlagh Dempsey embark late this month on a 1,500-kilometre voyage.

They will set off from the city Tromsø in northern Norway and head for Longyearbyen, capital of the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard.

They plan to row for roughly three weeks aboard an eight-metre (26-foot) boat flying the UAE flag, and with no sail or engine.

During a recent session at Dynamic Advanced Training, a centre that focuses on aviation, they

tried to board a vessel in choppy waves as artificial rain, thunder and lightning produced storm-like conditions.

But with temperatures in Dubai these days topping 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), Arctic weather has become "very hard to replicate", Savill said.

Once at sea in the Arctic, the mercury is expected to hover between zero and 10 degrees Celsius, Savill said, so to prepare they hope to take advantage of whatever climate-controlled spaces they can find.

1776

US Congress proclaims the Declaration of Independence and independence from Great Britain



1785

James Hutton, geologist, publicly reads an abstract of his theory of uniformitarianism for the first time at the meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

1803

The Louisiana Purchase is announced to the American people by President Thomas Jefferson

2017

North Korea tests first successful intercontinental ballistic missile into Sea of Japan

# Labour Tories in UK election



at the National Army Museum in London

But Johnson -- ousted by his own colleagues, including Sunak, in 2022 after a string of scandals, and who has been notably absent from the campaign -- urged supporters not to see the result as a "foregone conclusion".

The Brexit stalwart told a rally late Tuesday that Starmer would try to "usher in the most left-wing Labour government" since World War II.

Earlier, Survation pollsters predicted Labour was on track to win more than the 418 seats it won when Tony Blair ended 18 years of Conservative rule in 1997.

Labour requires at least 326 seats to secure a majority.

"There is more chance of lightning striking twice in the same place... than Rishi Sunak remaining as prime minister," Britain's pre-eminent political polling expert John Curtice said this week.

Attention in the British media is turning to what a Starmer government would look like when the results for the 650-seat

## Labour set to surpass 1997 landslide in election: poll

London, United Kingdom

The UK Labour party is 99 percent "certain" to secure more seats in Thursday's general election than when it won a landslide victory in 1997, a major new poll said on Tuesday.

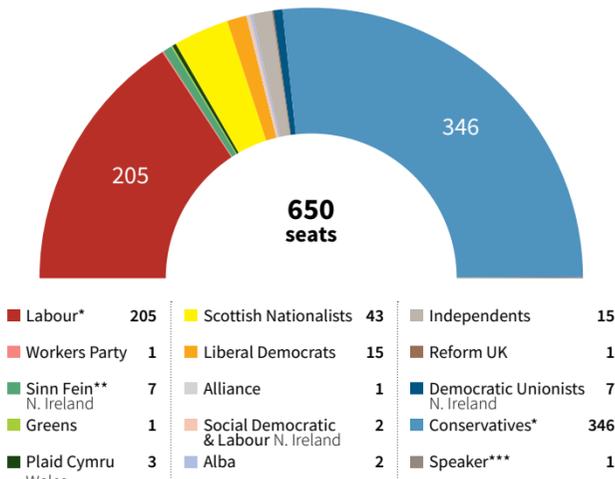
The centre-left opposition party -- out of power since 2010 -- is predicted to claim 484 out of a total of 650 seats in what would be an unprecedented victory in modern British history, pollster Survation said.

Meanwhile, the right-wing ruling Conservatives and the centrist Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) are in a close race to come a distant second and form the country's official opposition, it added.

The prediction is the latest in a series of so-called MRP polls -- which use large national samples to forecast results for every UK constituency -- that estimate Labour will win emphatically on July 4.

## UK state of the parties

before the July 4 general election



\*Including non-voting deputy speakers (Labour 1, Conservatives 2)  
\*\*Does not take its seats in parliament  
\*\*\*Does not vote in parliament

Source: UK Parliament, as at dissolution of parliament on May 30



## Plastics pollution

One option is Ski Dubai, an indoor resort where temperatures drop to minus 2 degrees Celsius (28.4 degrees Fahrenheit).

"Hopefully we can get in there and do a little bit of training for a few hours. Just to give us the real kind of cold temperature," Savill said.

Dempsey is counting on her chilly Irish upbringing to see her through.

"I had the first 20 years of my life in cold conditions," she said with a laugh.

"I think it's just something that mentally and physically we'll adapt to when we get there, and I don't think it's going to be a problem for any of us."

## Hezbollah says Israeli strike kills senior commander

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah said an Israeli strike yesterday killed a senior commander from the group in south Lebanon, the Iran-backed movement's second such casualty in recent weeks.

Hezbollah has traded near daily cross-border fire with the Israeli army since its Palestinian ally Hamas attacked southern Israel on October 7, triggering war in Gaza.

"A Hezbollah commander responsible for one of three sectors in south Lebanon was killed" in an "Israeli strike on a

car in Tyre", a source told AFP, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Hezbollah said later in a statement that "commander Mohammed Naameh Nasser", also known as "Hajj Abu Naameh" had been killed, while another source close to the group confirmed he was killed in the strike in Tyre.

That source, also requesting anonymity, said he was the third senior Hezbollah commander to be killed in almost nine months of hostilities.

## Canada names first woman to lead military

Ottawa, Canada

Canada's prime minister announced Wednesday the appointment of Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan as the first woman to lead the G7 and NATO member nation's military.

A highly decorated soldier and mother of four children, two of whom serve in the Canadian Armed Forces, Carignan will be promoted to the rank of general and take over from retiring General Wayne Eyre as chief of the Defense Staff at a ceremony on July 18.

## Woman found dead swallowed by python in Indonesia

Makassar, Indonesia

A woman was found dead inside the belly of a snake after it swallowed her whole in central Indonesia, police said Wednesday, the second python killing in the province in a month.

Siriati, 36, had gone missing after she left her house Tuesday morning to buy medicine for her sick child, police said, prompting relatives to launch a search.

Her husband Adiansa, 30, found her slippers and pants

on the ground about 500 metres (yards) from their house in Siteba village, South Sulawesi province.

"Shortly after that, he spotted a snake, about 10 metres from the path. The snake was still alive," local police chief Idul, who like many Indonesians has one name, told AFP.

Village secretary Iyang told AFP that Adiansa became suspicious after he noticed the python's "very large" belly. He called the villagers to help cut open its stomach, where they found her body.

## Most patients have fled European Gaza Hospital: WHO

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Almost all the patients in the European Gaza Hospital and the Red Cross field hospital decided to flee following Israeli military evacuation orders for the surrounding area in southern Gaza, the WHO said Wednesday.

On Monday, 270 patients reportedly self-evacuated along with medical staff, and on Tuesday, the Gaza health ministry evacuated more patients, the World Health Organization said.

"Now only three patients remain at the European Gaza Hospital and three at the ICRC field hospital. Most patients have been referred to Nasser Medical Complex," the WHO said, citing figures from Tuesday. The Israeli army on Monday ordered the evacuation for most areas east of Khan Yunis and Rafah along the Egyptian border. It did not explicitly announce a military operation, but such orders have typically preceded major offensives.

## 240,000 people evacuated in China rainstorms

AFP | Beijing, China

Nearly a quarter of a million people were evacuated in eastern China as rainstorms lashed swathes of the country and caused the Yangtze and other rivers to swell, state media reported Wednesday.

China has been enduring extreme weather conditions in recent months, from torrential rainfall to searing heat waves.

The country is the leading emitter of greenhouse gases, which scientists say drive

climate change and make extreme weather events more frequent and intense.

State news agency Xinhua said the storms had affected 991,000 residents in Anhui province and forced the evacuation of 242,000 people by Tuesday afternoon.

"As of 4 pm Tuesday, rainstorms had wreaked havoc in 36 counties and districts in seven prefecture-level cities in Anhui," Xinhua reported, citing the provincial emergency-management department.

## Judge postpones Trump's New York sentencing to September 18

AFP | New York, United States

A judge postponed Tuesday Donald Trump's sentencing for covering up hush money payments until September 18, the first fallout of a Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity, pushing it to after the Republican convention.

The United States' top court ruled Monday that Trump enjoys some immunity from

prosecution as a former president, a decision also set to delay his trial for conspiring to overturn the 2020 election.

Hours after the ruling was announced, Trump's legal team said in a letter to the New York court that the immunity ruling vindicated Trump's position that he should not be judged for his "official acts," and reiterated his call for the conviction to be set aside.

## Nepal PM loses majority

Kathmandu, Nepal

Embattled Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal lost his government's majority yesterday after his key coalition partner withdrew support, triggering fresh political uncertainty in Kathmandu's volatile parliament.

Dahal is expected to face a vote of confidence in parliament within 30 days.

Dahal, a 69-year-old ex-Maoist guerrilla better known by his nom de guerre Prachanda, or "the fierce one", has held the prime minister's position since December 2022 through fragile alliances.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I thank Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for his warm welcome to his country. During our meeting, we discussed the world's most dramatic conflicts, the regional situation in Central Asia, and the strong collaboration between the @UN and Kazakhstan

@antonioгутерres

02



Each of us is equal before the law. No one is above it -- not even a president. With today's Supreme Court decision on Presidential immunity, there are now virtually no limits on what a president can do. That is a new, dangerous precedent.

@POTUS

03



The European #Gaza Hospital is now completely empty -- all 320 patients and all the medical personnel have evacuated, following the evacuation orders in Khan Yunis, in close proximity to the hospital.

@DrTedros

04



Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell were trailblazers. Their legacy continues to guide me, the Department they led, and so many others around the world. Alongside their families, we are proud to dedicate two rooms in the State Department to them.

@SecBlinken

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



The United Nations says plastics account for 85 percent of all marine trash.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

# Full Plate, Empty World

Imagine a day of ours with the amount of food produce that is simply thrown away while millions around the world don't even have one meal a day. From unfinished water bottles to uneaten food at home and for banquets, spoilage is clearly seen. In this fast-moving era of technological advances, it is heart breaking that hunger is still a critical issue for millions around the world. According to UNEP's Food Waste Index Report 2024, "1.05 billion tonnes of food went to waste" as per their data from 2022.



**In this fast-moving era of technological advances, it is heart breaking that hunger is still a critical issue for millions around the world.**

Food produce involves water, land, energy and resources. All these resources get negatively impacted when wastage occurs. It's a shame to throw away food when millions face hunger. Some might call it an unequal distribution of our food system, but its human callousness that has to be looked into.

So where should the change start? Let's start this initiative from home and extend it to educational institutions and workplaces. This will help individuals to value the entire chain from production to consumption through out their life. By creating lists while you go for shopping, planning meals, storing properly, encouraging children not to waste from a young age all these and more will help to instil the importance of responsible practices.

Encouraging sustainable practices and having a comprehensive approach with the help of strict government policies towards food wastage will definitely discourage food wastage.

A society that values food and ensures about the next generation regarding this basic necessity will definitely not waste food. For a better sustainable and fair future, let's not waste food. Instead, let's seize the moment for decisive action.

Thara Mathai  
Lecturer, English Language Centre  
University of Bahrain

# Break Down Data Walls

The current state of government data management is frustratingly outdated. In an age of technological advancement, it's baffling that each ministry operates in a data silo. Imagine needing a passport renewal – you have to present your passport photo and CPR copy, documents likely already on file with another ministry.

This inefficiency is not just inconvenient, it's a waste of time and resources. Citizens shouldn't be forced to repeatedly submit the same documents. We deserve a centralized database system that securely stores and shares relevant information across government ministries.

This isn't some futuristic fantasy. Many countries have implemented such systems, streamlining bureaucratic processes and improving citizen experience.

It's 2024, and it's high time our government embraced the digital age. A centralized database would not only benefit citizens, but also enhance government efficiency and data-driven decision making.

Let's break down these data walls and enter the era of streamlined government services.

Sincerely,  
Jamal Mohammed  
Manama

**PICTURE OF THE DAY**



Photo : Ashen Tharaka

**Sudoku Puzzles**

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

Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9.

Solution to Sudoku ▶

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



**WHAT'S IN SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Labour Advocates call to include Delivery Riders in Mid-day summer work ban**



With the implementation of the mid-day work ban during July and August approaching, labour advocates have urged construction companies to implement rest schedules for workers, particularly those operating in roads and streets, during the summer months. The advocates emphasised the risk of heatstroke for workers exposed to direct sunlight.

**TOP COMMENTS**

**taniainthekitchen**  
Just don't order lunches. That will solve the issue?

**syedthahir74**  
Yes please have mercy on them...

**hajerayahiya**  
Still will see labourers working in some areas..

**muhammad.farooque**  
Yes Agreed should Be banned



**We would love to hear from you.**

If you have anything you'd like to say or share with us, please feel free to write to us at [online@newsfbahrain.com](mailto:online@newsfbahrain.com)

**VIRAL NEWS ONLINE**



# Dutch Team Builds World's Longest Bicycle At 180 Feet, 11 Inches



The world's longest bicycle, measuring 180 feet 11 inches, was built by eight Dutch engineers led by Ivan Schalk. The longest bicycle in the world now measures an astonishing 180 feet, 11 inches. Eight Dutch engineering enthusiasts came together to create this

incredible machine, which beat the previous record set in 2020 by Australian Bernie Ryan, whose bicycle was 155 feet 8 inches. This brand-new record-breaking bicycle is remarkably entirely rideable, though it probably wouldn't be very useful for daily use in cities. According to Guinness World Records,

the team was led by 39-year-old Ivan Schalk, who's been planning this since he was a child.

He said, "I've been thinking about the idea for years. I once received a Guinness World Records book in which I came across this record."

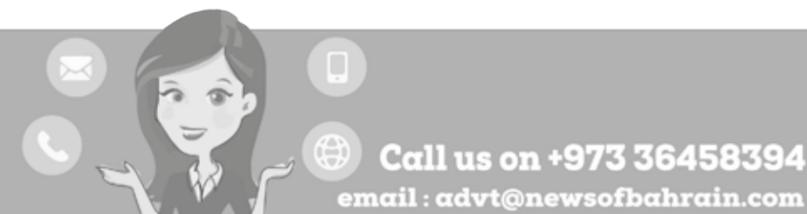
As per the reference book, this record has been broken numerous times over the past 60 years. It was first set in 1965 by a bicycle built in Cologne, Germany, measuring 8 m (26 ft 3 in). Past record holders have included people from various countries, including New Zealand, Italy, Belgium, Australia, and two teams from the Netherlands.

With a history of building carnival floats, Ivan embarked on this project in 2018 to fill his spare time.

Needing help to build the behemoth bicycle, he sought out team members at the local carnival in his home village of Prinsenbeek.

"Prinsenbeek is known for its volunteers and high technical employability," Ivan said.

# Classifieds



## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

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BIN RASHEED SERVICES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000624 or SIDCOSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

CHIKEX FRIED CHICKEN RESTAURANT. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227206 or GEEPASBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN BEE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331457 or FIAZ.FIZZY@GMAIL.COM

JADS GENTS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36663334 or MAADH-SALEH87@GMAIL.COM

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ALALEEM INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35624515 or AM969903@GMAIL.COM

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ALI COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32337777 or Ali.alqattan@aqattan.com

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TRISONS FOR

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KHALED THANI H. MOHAMED / KAIR BUTHANI - 15209 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39695963 or MARYAM-MURAD@HOTMAIL.COM

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MUHAMMAD ASIF PUBLIC RELATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PUBLIC RELATIONS CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36375589 or ASIFPEHALWAN58@GMAIL.COM

IFRAHIM HEALTHY BURGER has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36097789 or IFRAHIMYOUSAF854@GMAIL.COM

SHINE LIFE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33639582 or AL-EEMASGHAR577@HOTMAIL.COM

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JASMI'S CORPORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17588787 or lmra@jasmis.com

ALKOOHEJI TECHNICAL SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17369993 or ABDULLA@KOOHEJITECHNICAL.COM

RIO CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK (ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17340405 or ok101010@gmail.com

ABU ZAYED FOR CURTAIN & ARAB SITTING TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33222263 or omaraaljhami@gmail.com

BASMAH SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33900911 or SULTANA-HOME@GMAIL.COM

KATANA BEACH JAPANESE CUISINE has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38080801 or INFO@KATANATORII.COM

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Golden Motor Mobile has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32216565 or golden.internet78@gmail.com

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or ebrahim@macbh.com

Sunrise Marketing & Promotion Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36878445 or HKBCLEARANCE@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN TRUCK RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622757 or ISAJANAHI1936@GMAIL.COM

A.AHMED NASS CONTRACTING CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

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BREEZEE SECRET SANDWICHES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33189963 or NASSERBREEZEE@GMAIL.COM

ALMAJALIS ALSHARQIYA BANQUETS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39401478 or NOORA\_ALTHAWADI@HOTMAIL.COM

ably qualified applicants can contact 39401478 or NOORA\_ALTHAWADI@HOTMAIL.COM

Hertel W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLASTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633899 or MOHAMMED.QAS-SIM@HERTEL.COM

M I CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66600200 or M.I.75@HOTMAIL.COM

SAHARA MOTOR GARAGE - Bahraini PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33490411 or Rajaarif9123@GMAIL.COM

CHICKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35114403 or DPASIF@LIVE.COM

Spanish Pools & Trading Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66341342 or SPAN-IAPOOLS@GMAIL.COM

AHMED ALENAZI FURNITURE COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33639941 or ALSQAFMSHTAQ@GMAIL.COM

Mohammed AL Shughul Cleaning Houses has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33332411 or mohmda2010@gmail.com

WISHBONE CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36616510 or RAHMANKHALEEL64@YAHOO.COM

Surya Furnitures has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36008676 or FARHANJAVED920@GMAIL.COM

KARAVALI RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (FISH CUTTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33711488 or FAYAZ@SMARTPACKTRADING.COM

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GOLDEN ERA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38843999 or GOLDEN-ERA.S.BH@GMAIL.COM

Pisgah Cleaning Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33797932 or GEORGE2099@GMAIL.COM

UNIVERSAL ALUMINIUM CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39939885 or hrd@arcal.biz

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

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

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of GUARD (ESTABLISHMENT SECURITY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or prof-ice@almoayyedcg.com

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Secure Me W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

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444 CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811323 or MNASIR5659@GMAIL.COM

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GREEN TECH W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33388357 or ALAA\_GOMAA2010@HOTMAIL.COM

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# Mostafa Nada aims to dominate PFL fight

Hussain Almaskati TDT | Manama

Saudi MMA fighter Mostafa Rashed Nada is set to impress his fans during the PFL MENA's debut season on July 12 in Riyadh.

Nada spoke about the added pressure of performing in front of his home crowd, saying, "People may think competing in your own country is easy. But actually, I feel less pressure when I fight abroad".

On a 4-fight win streak, Nada will face Algerian fighter Abdel Rahmane Driai. Training twice a day at his Jeddah club, Al Mokatil, Nada focuses on preparation and faith.

"I train hard and depend on God. This is my opportunity to show the world what I've got," he said.

PFL MENA 2 in Riyadh is part of a series that brings top fighters in the region together in hopes of changing perceptions of MMA in Saudi Arabia.



ers in the region together in hopes of changing perceptions of MMA in Saudi Arabia.

"People in the Kingdom see MMA differently now. The sport has become more professional," Nada explained.

Nada hopes MMA will be integrated into school curriculums. With over 20 years of experience and his own academy, he aims to inspire young fighters to focus on their goals and

never give up. "Combat sports changes a child's personality completely. It gives him confidence and discipline", Nada said.

"My advice to young fighters is to always focus on their goals and keep going. Never give up on your dreams; no matter how many times you fail, you must get up. I failed multiple times and I still got up and pursued my dreams", said Nada.



Japan's Naomi Osaka Spain's Carlos Alcaraz

AFP | London, United Kingdom

# Alcaraz moves on at Wimbledon as Osaka slumps on Centre Court return

Carlos Alcaraz raced into the Wimbledon third round on Wednesday as Japanese superstar Naomi Osaka was demolished on her return to Centre Court after a five-year absence.

Alcaraz defeated Australia's world number 69 Aleksandar Vukic 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 6-2 on the back of 42 winners.

The third-seeded Spaniard's only moments of concern came in the first set when he let slip a 5-2 lead and found himself 5-6 down with Vukic serving for the opener.

However, the three-time major winner steadied the ship to race away to victory against a player who got the better of him in qualifying at the 2020 French Open.

Alcaraz next faces fellow crowd-pleaser Frances Tiafoe, the American player he defeated in five sets in the semi-finals of the 2022 US Open on his way to his first Grand Slam triumph.

"I'm going for him," said Alcaraz, who is bidding to become just the sixth man after Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic to win the French Open and Wimbledon titles back to back.

"I'm ready to play a really high level of tennis and hopefully take him."

Tiafoe made the third round by seeing off Borna Coric in straight sets.

Four-time major winner Osaka, playing on Centre Court

for the first time since 2019, went down 6-4, 6-1 to America's Emma Navarro in just 59 minutes.

The 26-year-old former world number one is now ranked at 113 having only returned to the tour in January after giving birth to daughter Shai last year.

'Love and hate' Eccentric Fabio Fognini of Italy needed a clutch of match points to knock out eighth-seeded Casper Ruud 6-4, 7-5, 6-7 (1/7), 6-3.

The 37-year-old Fognini, sporting bleach-blond hair, twice served for the match from 5-2 up in the third set before sealing victory over the three-time Grand Slam runner-up in the fourth set.

"It just shows why I love and hate this sport," said Fognini. Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 US Open champion, came back from dropping the first set and facing two set points in the second to see off Alexandre Muller of France 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 7-5.

Tomás Machac, who had been scheduled to face Andy Murray before the two-time champion withdrew, came back from 0-5 down in the final set to beat lucky loser David Goffin in a tie-break.

World number two and US Open champion Coco Gauff cruised into the third round with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Romanian qualifier Anca Todoni.

"I'm happy with the way I

played, could have been cleaner on some points," said Gauff, who broke her 19-year-old opponent five times.

The American, who made her career breakthrough at Wimbledon as a 15-year-old qualifier in 2019, goes on to face British qualifier Sonay Kartal, the world number 298.

All-Italian fight World number one Jan-nik Sinner, who reached the semi-finals last year, is in evening action against Italian compatriot and former runner-up Matteo Berrettini.

Italian men's tennis has rarely been stronger, with the country boasting five players in the top 50 while the nation swept to Davis Cup glory last season.

Ten Italian men started the singles tournament this year at Wimbledon.

Sinner was the first Italian man to capture a Grand Slam title with his victory at the Australian Open in January and was also the first from his country to become world number one.

Berrettini can boast his own breakthrough Italian moment when he was the first to make a Wimbledon men's final in 2021.

It could be a memorable day for Chinese tennis with teenager Shang Juncheng taking on 10th-seeded Grigor Dimitrov and 32nd seed Zhang Zhizhen facing Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff.

Until Monday, no Chinese man had won a match at Wimbledon in the Open era.



Germany's midfielder #08 Toni Kroos Portugal's forward #07 Cristiano Ronaldo (R) and defender #03 Pepe Spain's defender #24 Marc Cucurella Former German player and manager Bernard Dietz brings the Henri Delaunay Cup

# Get ready for blockbuster

Showdowns, young guns and own goals as Euro 2024 heads into quarter-finals

AFP | Stuttgart, Germany

Euro 2024's quarter-finals kick-off on Friday with a blockbuster match between hosts Germany and Spain as the tournament heads towards its decisive final week. Here let us look at the state of play with some of the Euro's heavy hitters facing off in the least eight:

### Big boys clash

Germany's clash with Spain in Stuttgart pits the Euros' two best performing sides against one another at least one round earlier than fans would have liked, due to an unbalanced knockout bracket which has four serious candidates for overall victory



on one side.

The winner of Friday's tie will face either Portugal or France, both former European champions and teams packed with players from the continent's biggest clubs, in the semi-finals.

Meanwhile England face Switzerland on Saturday after having scraped past Slovakia -- ranked 45th in the world -- in the last 16 and find themselves in the last eight having played way below expectations in each of their four matches.

### Big name flops

The Euros has brought together some of the best footballers on the planet but none of the biggest stars have shone so far as the big teams -- Spain and

Germany apart -- have mostly been below-par.

Cristiano Ronaldo looks like he's gone one tournament too far while Kylian Mbappe has just a group stage penalty to his name and is a long way from the phenomenal form which won him the golden boot at the last World Cup.

England pair Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane, respectively La Liga player of the year and the Bundesliga top scorer, have played way below expectations despite scoring all four of England's goals.

### Young guns & ageing icons

Records have fallen in Germany at both ends of the age spectrum. Spain winger Lamine

## Confident Kroos says Germany-Spain clash 'won't be my last game'

Herzogenaurach, Germany

Retiring Germany veteran Toni Kroos said he was confident Friday's blockbuster Euro 2024 quarter-final against Spain would not be the last game of his career.

Kroos announced in May he would hang up his boots after the Euros on home soil, meaning this week's match in Stuttgart could be his final game.

Real Madrid teammate Jose-

lu said this week he wanted to "send Kroos into retirement" but the 34-year-old midfielder had his sights set on the July 14 Euros final in Berlin.

"We will still be in the tournament for a while," Kroos told reporters on Wednesday at Germany's base camp in the Bavarian village of Herzogenaurach.

"I don't think tomorrow will be my last game. I think we'll see each other again -- and I look forward to it," he added.

Yamal, 16, is dazzling in Germany having become the youngest player ever to feature at a European Championship. Should he strike in the quarter-finals or beyond, he will become the youngest scorer in the tournament's history.

By contrast Croatia's Luka Modric set a new record for the oldest at 38 by netting against Italy and Portugal duo Ronaldo, 39, and Pepe, 41, could yet surpass the Real Madrid midfield maestro.

Pepe is now the oldest-ever Euros player and Portugal are among 12 of the 24 teams whose record for oldest Euros player record was set at this tournament.

### Own goals on fire

While the continent's star strikers have failed to fire, there

have been nine own goals at this Euros and the record of 11 set at the last championships three years ago looks sure to be broken.

Prior to Euro 2020 there had just been 11 in the tournament's history. UEFA's looser application of what constitutes an own goal has played its part but there have been some spectacular efforts in Germany.

The most comical came in Turkey's 3-0 thumping at the hands of Portugal, when Samet Akaydin unwittingly doubled the deficit by playing a sloppy back pass which ended with Zeki Celik and goalkeeper Altay Bayindir bundling into the net in a vain attempt to keep the ball out.

The majority, though, have come from dangerous crosses, like Riccardo Calafiori handing

Spain a 1-0 win over Spain in one of the most-anticipated games of the group stage.

Spain's Robin Le Normand, Czech defender Robin Hranac and Austria's Maximilian Woeber all found their own net in similar fashion as attempted clearances to low crosses have gone wrong.

### Underdogs light up Euro 2024

The plodding, static performances of France, Belgium, England and Portugal -- FIFA's four highest ranked sides before the tournament -- have been offset by some brilliant underdog showings.

Despite being the lowest-ranked team Georgia's run to the last 16 lit up the tournament, particularly their 2-0 victory over Euro 2016 winners Portugal.

Romania had won just one of their 16 games at the championships heading into Euro 2024 but topped a group featuring Belgium, Ukraine and Slovakia, before going down to the Netherlands in the last 16.

Turkey have however emerged as the tournament's true dark horses, booking a spot in the quarter finals with a brilliant 2-1 win over fellow upstarts Austria on Tuesday.

Vincenzo Montella's Turkey and Georgia also played the best game of the group stage, a 3-1 win for the Turks in front of a pulsating crowd in Dortmund.

## GCC States underline spreading Rights values in sports

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states emphasized the critical role of spreading human rights values through sports, advocating for the practice of sports free from discrimination and as a means to promote principles such as freedom, tolerance, mutual respect, and peace.

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva, Dr. Hind Abdulrahman Al Muftah, delivered a statement on behalf of the GCC States during a panel discussion on promoting human rights



through sport and the Olympic ideal at the 56th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. In her capacity as Chair of the Gulf Group, Dr. Al Muftah highlighted the collective belief in the power of sports as a universal language that promotes respect, dignity, diversity, and equality. She not-

ed that sports can bridge differences, overcome prejudices and stereotypes, and support the integration and empowerment of marginalized groups.

The GCC States have undertaken various measures to support human rights through sports. They have focused on advancing the sports sector by developing strategies that promote Olympic principles, sportsmanship, and preserving sports identity within the region. Efforts include encouraging the principle of citizenship through sports and collaborating with media and educational institutions to achieve these goals.

## Italy makes history in FIBA Olympic Qualifier

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Italy etched its name in the records of FIBA history with a resounding victory over Bahrain, marking the largest margin of victory in the modern era of Olympic Qualifying Tournaments.

Led by Danilo Gallinari and Nicolo Melli, who each contributed 14 points, Italy dominated from the start, achieving an impressive 61-point lead (114-53). The team showed impeccable shooting, hitting 60% from the field and sinking 11 three-pointers out of 27 attempts.



Italian team celebrate

Their performance was evident by 39 assists, demonstrating a cohesive and relentless offensive strategy.

This win places Italy third in the record books for sin-

gle-game scoring in Olympic Qualifying history, trailing only Greece and Slovenia. Bahrain, ranked 71st in the FIBA World Rankings, faced a tough challenge in their debut at this level of competition.

# Mark Cavendish pedals to history



Takes Tour de France 35th stage win

Astana Qazaqstan Team's British rider Mark Cavendish celebrates as he cycles past the finish line to win the 5th stage of the 111th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 177.5 km between Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne and Saint-Vulbas, his 35th Tour de France stage victory beating the previous record held by Belgian rider Eddy Merckx,

AFP | Saint-Vulbas, France

Mark Cavendish made Tour de France history yesterday winning a record 35th stage at the age of 39.

Briton Cavendish beat Eddy Merckx's mark, which had stood since 1975, on the fifth stage of this year's Tour near the Alps having equalled it in 2021.

"It's my 15th Tour de France and it takes a lot to get here, getting in shape every year," Cavendish said at the line.

"I'm surrounded by incredible people and I owe a lot to them" added Cavendish who made his Tour debut in 2008 before becoming world road race champion three years later.

As the peloton swept through the lush Rhone valley with vine-

yards and pretty villages skirting the river his Astana team hogged the front right of the peloton as light rain fell.

A long home straight in the tiny village of Saint-Vulbas helped them form a lead out train the 'Manx Missile' mastered as he powered across the finish line well ahead of Belgian Jasper Philipsen, last year's sprint points green jersey winner.

Race leader and two-time former winner Tadej Pogacar almost hit a traffic island causing a wave of movement and a pile up of bikes and bodies behind him.

But the Slovenian preferred to focus on Cavendish after the race.

"I used to watch him on television and we loved him," Pogacar said. "Just back there I saw him and he said hey, don't you go breaking my record," he jokingly

added.

Pogacar is 25-years-old and has 12 stage wins already.

He still leads the overall standings which he enjoyed with a full yellow kit while Belgian Remco Evenepoel remains second at 45sec with defending champion Jonas Vingegaard third at 50sec.

Biniyam Girmay, who became the first black African to win a Tour stage in Turin on Sunday took the sprint points green jersey on Wednesday after coming ninth in Saint-Vulbas.

Cavendish took a moment to congratulate the Eritrean sprinter. "Biniyam set a record in Turin and now I've set one here," he said.

"So much goes into this and even one stage can make your career," he added.

In 2023 Cavendish left the Tour in an ambulance after a banal crash bamboozled his plans.

Two seasons previously when Cavendish equalled Merckx's stage haul in Carcassonne, it was his fourth win on that edition racing for Quick Step after years in the wilderness suffering from Epstein Barr virus.

He missed out on a 35th stage on the Champs Elysees coming second and then missed the cut for the 2022 Tour as Quick Step picked Fabio Jakobsen 10 years his junior.

Cavendish joined Astana in 2023 before being persuaded to sign a one-year contract extension for this season having considered retiring.



One interesting fact about the Tour de France is that the winner of the overall classification, who wears the iconic yellow jersey, is determined by the cumulative time across all stages. This means that consistency and strategic racing are crucial, as the overall winner may not necessarily win the most individual stages but rather maintains the best overall time throughout the race.

## Schumacher blackmail suspects had 'family photos'

AFP | Berlin, Germany

Two men accused of trying to blackmail relatives of Formula One legend Michael Schumacher had access to private family photos, German prosecutors said yesterday.

Data records combed by investigators included "photo files relating to the Schumacher family's private life", the prosecutors in the western city of Wuppertal said in a statement.

German authorities announced in June they had arrested a father and son on suspicion of trying to blackmail the Schumacher family.

The suspects contacted family representatives claiming to have access to files which the Schumachers "would not want to have published", prosecutors said.

"To stop the files being pub-



Schumacher (L) poses in Madonna di Campiglio with his wife Corinna 16 January 2003

lished online, the perpetrators demanded a payment in the millions," they said.

The suspects allegedly transferred "individual files" to the

family in a bid to show they were not bluffing.

Michael Schumacher, a seven-time Formula One world champion, has not been seen in

public since he suffered a serious brain injury in a 2013 skiing accident in the French Alps.

The two suspects, who were on probation in another case,

were arrested by police on June 19 in a supermarket car park in Gross-Gerau, south of Frankfurt. Prosecutors on Wednesday said "intensive investigations" were being carried out into the case but no further details could be given "for reasons of investigative tactics". Schumacher's family in May won a legal action against a German tabloid magazine which printed a fake AI interview with the 55-year-old German former race driver.

Magazine Die Aktuelle had in April 2023 claimed it had an interview with the motorsport legend but the article in fact contained quotes which had been computer-generated.

German tabloid Bild reported that Schumacher's family was awarded 200,000 euros (\$220,000) in compensation for the claim.

## Japanese climber dies in Pakistan mountain fall

AFP | Gilgit, Pakistan

A Japanese climber fell to his death while descending a mountain in Pakistan, a local official told AFP Wednesday, weeks after two compatriots were declared dead on the same peak.

Onishi Hiroshi, 64, was returning from an expedition up the 7,027-metre (23,054-foot) Spantik mountain when the incident happened on Tuesday.

"While descending, he fell into a crevasse near Camp 2," Ataur Rehman Kakar, the Nagar district deputy commissioner, told AFP on Wednesday.

"The other climber and porters recovered the dead body and brought it to Camp 1 safely," he added.

Hiroshi was one of four Japanese mountaineers who began their climb on June 10, supported by Pakistani porters.

Two Japanese climbers died during a separate expedition last month.

## Indian World Cup winners head home after hurricane delay

New Delhi, India

India's T20 Cricket World Cup winners were finally heading home yesterday, officials said, after a hurricane in the West Indies delayed their departure.

Favourites India won the title on Saturday after defeating South Africa in a thrilling final, but their travel plans were disrupted by Hurricane Beryl.

"The team has left from Barbados on a special Air India flight," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vice-president Rajeev Shukla told the Press Trust of India.

Rohit Sharma's men were scheduled to reach the Indian capital New Delhi on Thursday morning, where they will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The special flight was arranged after the players were stranded in a hotel for three days after the victory.

Rohit, who announced his T20 international retirement alongside fellow star Virat Kohli after the final, posted a picture of him holding the T20 trophy with teammate Suryakumar Yadav aboard the flight, with a caption "Coming home".

After their meeting with Modi, the team will fly to Mumbai for a victory parade in the heart of India's financial capital, Shukla said.



India's Virat Kohli (L) and captain Rohit Sharma celebrate