

Manama rout Qatar's Al Shamal

Defending champions claim impressive home victory in 2023/2024 FIBA West Asia Super League | P12

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THE DAILY **tribune**



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'US aid for Ukraine will run out by end of the year'

AFP | Washington

The White House issued a stark warning yesterday that US aid for Ukraine will run out by the end of the year, saying that if Congress fails to agree funding, it will "kneecap" Kyiv's fight against the Russian invasion.

"We are out of money - and nearly out of time," White House budget director Shalanda Young said in a blunt letter to Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, reflecting President Joe Biden's growing frustration with a congressional stalemate.

Quake hits sea south of Istanbul

AFP | Istanbul

A magnitude 5.1 earthquake struck just south of Istanbul yesterday, rattling parts of Turkey's largest city but causing no immediate injuries or damage.

The earthquake's epicentre was in the Marmara Sea's Gemlik Bay, which lies about 60 kilometres (35 miles) south of Istanbul, near the city of Bursa, according to the AFAD emergency service.

AFP reporters felt walls shake on both the Asian and European sides of Istanbul, with television images showing people walking out on the street for safety.

11 hikers die after volcano eruption

AFP | Agam, Indonesia

Eleven hikers were found dead yesterday and another 12 were missing after a volcano erupted in Indonesia, with rescuers racing to carry injured and burned survivors down the mountain on foot.

Bahrain sets stage for greener future

Cabinet hails Kingdom's launch of National Energy Strategy and carbon emissions offset platform

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet commended the launch of Bahrain's National Energy Strategy, the \$750 million climate technology fund, as well as the establishment of the "Safaa" platform to offset carbon emissions, as part of the Kingdom's participation at the 28th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), held in Dubai.

Chaired yesterday by the Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Cabinet highlighted the importance of the speech given by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, at the event, wherein he announced the Blueprint Bahrain national action plan to achieve carbon neutrality.

The Cabinet praised the initiatives announced by the President of the UAE, His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in his speech at COP28, which includes the establishment of a \$30 billion fund for climate solutions worldwide, the UAE's investment of \$100 billion in financing climate action,



HRH the Deputy King chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

renewable and clean energy, as well as its commitment to invest an additional \$130 billion over the next seven years.

It congratulated HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed on successfully hosting this important global event, wishing that the summit would bring qualitative results in mobilising international climate action.

Congratulations

The Cabinet congratulated the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

on winning the bid to host the World Expo 2030, which reflects Saudi Arabia's prestigious international status and its continuous achievements across all fields. In this regard, the Cabinet wished Saudi Arabia continued success and prosperity.

The Cabinet then expressed its sincere wishes for success in the 44th session of the Supreme Council of the GCC, which will be hosted by the State of Qatar, following a report submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding topics of discussion for the meeting.

On the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day, the Cabinet affirmed the importance of accountability and the adoption of initiatives that es-

tablish transparency in government work, noting in particular the efforts of the Ministry of Interior.

Boost for tourism

The Cabinet welcomed Exhibition World Bahrain winning the "World's Leading New Exhibition and Convention Centre 2023" award at the esteemed World Travel Awards.

The Cabinet affirmed the continued implementation of plans and programmes to enhance Bahrain's position in organising international tourist exhibitions and conferences. It commended the role of the Ministry of Tourism and all relevant parties in the accomplishments and excel-

lence achieved by the Exhibition World Bahrain.

The Cabinet then followed up on the procedures implemented as part of the National Health Regulatory Authority's authorisation of the use of CASGEVY (exagamglogene autotemcel) for the treatment of patients with sickle cell disease and transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia. In this regard, the Cabinet reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to pioneering healthcare solutions and enhancing its people's health and well-being to provide the best healthcare possible.

The Cabinet discussed and approved several memorandums during the meeting.

(Continued on Page 2)

'Aggressive' action

Israeli ground forces move into southern Gaza

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel's army yesterday sent dozens of tanks into southern Gaza as part of "aggressive" action against Hamas and its allies in the besieged territory, despite global concern over mounting civilian deaths.

Weeks after Israel deployed ground forces in the north of the Gaza Strip, the army has been air-dropping leaflets in parts of the south, telling Palestinians to



Palestinians wounded during Israeli bombardment arrive at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. (AFP)

flee to other areas.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas in retaliation for the group's unprecedented October 7 attacks that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and saw around 240 hostages taken, according to Israeli authorities.

Hamas' health ministry says nearly 15,900 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory, about 70 percent of them women and children - a toll that has sparked global alarm and

mass demonstrations.

Tanks, armoured personnel carriers and bulldozers were seen yesterday near the southern city of Khan Yunis, which is crowded with internally displaced Palestinians, witnesses told AFP.

The Israeli military was trying to cut the road between Deir al-Balah in central Gaza and Khan Yunis, firing bullets and tank shells at cars and people trying to move through the area.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Oil Minister takes part in COP28 key ministerial round table talks

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, participated in the first annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition, held as part of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Dr. Bin Daina affirmed the importance of this session, which is one of the recommendations of the COP27 conference held in Sharm El Sheikh, as well as the importance of discussing a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

He noted that the session reviewed the necessity of finding solutions to mitigate the negative effects of climate change on societies, ensure social justice and inclusiveness, establish the necessary political frameworks, and enhance international co-operation and support to achieve the Paris Agreement in a fair manner for all.

Developing tourism sector 'key priority'

HRH Prince Salman emphasises growing industry's importance in comprehensive development plan

TDT | Manama

The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, emphasised the importance of continuing efforts to develop the tourism sector, which is one of the priorities in the Kingdom's comprehensive development plan, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with the Minister of Tourism, HE Fatima bint Jaffer Al Sairafi, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA), Dr. Nasser Qaidi, at Gudaibiya Palace.

The meeting took place following Exhibition World Bahrain winning the "World's Leading New Exhibition and Convention Centre 2023" award



HRH Prince Salman with Ms. Al Sairafi and Dr. Qaidi

at the esteemed World Travel Awards.

The Deputy King noted the importance of adopting initiatives to enhance the Kingdom's exhibition-hosting sector and its contributions to the national

economy, in line with the Kingdom's development plans.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended Team Bahrain's accomplishments, expressing his gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism and

BTEA, and their personnel, wishing them further success.

Al Sairafi and Dr. Qaidi expressed their gratitude for HRH Prince Salman's commitment to further developing the vital tourism sector.

“It is important to adopt initiatives to enhance the Kingdom's exhibition-hosting sector and its contributions to the national economy, in line with the Kingdom's development plans.”

- THE DEPUTY KING, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

Bahrain greets Thai Monarch

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 HM King Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand, on his country's National Day.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman wished Thailand and its people further progress and prosperity.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to the Prime Minister, HE Srettha Thavisin.

Derasat 'Think Talks' lectures

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), organised its lecture series titled, "Think Talks" throughout the year in 2023.

The series discussed a wide range of important topics, including international relations.

Cabinet discusses and approves important memorandums

(Continuation from Page 1)
TDT | Manama

The Cabinet yesterday discussed several memorandums during the meeting, approving the following:

1. A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Interior regarding procedures to follow up on Bahrain's commitment to the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) recommendations in preparation for the submission of the Fifth Enhanced

Follow-Up Report to provide progress updates on the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to international standards and recommendations contained in the 2018 mutual evaluation report.

2. A memorandum submitted by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding a draft decision on regulating navigation permits for visiting ships in Bahraini waters for excursions, maintenance, refuelling, or exhibition

participation.

3. A memorandum submitted by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on a proposal to amend the draft decision to reconstitute the National Committee for Childhood.

4. A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture on the oversight and mechanisms of communal housing, which aims to control the process of using real estate for communal housing in a way that ensures safety

and health for its users.

5. A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs on the "Kafaa" programme, which aims to reduce electricity consumption and carbon emissions in buildings in the public and private sectors, which will be implemented on 20 government buildings.

The Cabinet reviewed the following:

1. A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Municipalities

Affairs and Agriculture regarding the latest developments in Bahrain's 2023 National Afforestation Plan, which is in line with Bahrain's commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce carbon emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2060.

2. A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs on the latest developments in renewable energy projects.

In addition, the Cabinet not-

ed the following ministerial reports:

1. Bahrain's participation in the ministerial session on agriculture and food security at COP28

2. Outcomes of Bahrain's participation in the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) General Assembly meeting in the United Kingdom

3. Outcomes of Bahrain's participation in Health Day and the first climate-health ministerial at COP28

Thailand's annual National Day celebrated in grand ceremony



Cake-cutting ceremony

● Highlighting strong Bahraini-Thai relations and tourism potential

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand was commemorated with a vibrant ceremony at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Manama yesterday.

The event brought together Thai and Bahraini dignitaries, diplomats, and members of the local community to celebrate the long-standing friendship and growing cooperation be-

tween the two nations.

H.E. Mr. Piyapak Sricharoen, Thailand's Ambassador to Bahrain, addressed the gathering, emphasising the significance of the relationship between the two countries. He commended the existing collaboration in various sectors and expressed a strong desire to further strengthen ties, particularly in the realm of tourism.

"Tourism plays a crucial role in Thailand's economy," Ambassador Sricharoen stated. "We see immense potential in welcoming more Bahraini visitors to experience the unique beauty, culture, and hospitality of our kingdom. This would not only generate revenue but also

foster deeper cultural understanding and people-to-people connections."

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, graced the occasion as the chief guest. His presence underscored the Bahraini government's commitment to nurturing the bilateral relationship.

The evening unfolded with traditional Thai cultural performances, showcasing the country's rich artistic heritage. Guests savored authentic Thai cuisine and engaged in lively conversations, solidifying the bonds of friendship and cultural appreciation.

Private sector role vital in green investment for economic growth

TDT | Manama

Minister of Finance and National Economy of Bahrain, His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, highlighted the crucial role of the private sector in promoting green investment and achieving economic growth.

He emphasised the significance of developing innovative solutions to tackle climate challenges and creating financial incentives to encourage private sector investment in green technologies.

Shaikh Salman was speak-



Shaikh Salman speaks at the event as he attended a high-level ministerial roundtable meeting held at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai.

The Minister also mentioned the national action plan, "Blueprint Bahrain," announced by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during his speech at COP28. The plan aims to achieve carbon neutrality and address climate change issues.

He expressed gratitude to the UAE for hosting the global conference and praised the UAE's initiatives and investments in climate solutions and renewable energy.

Bahrain-UK relations

His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, yesterday received Alastair Long, UK Ambassador to Bahrain. They discussed the long-standing cooperation and friendship relations between Bahrain and the UK, praising their steady progress at all levels. The meeting also focused on ways to broaden cooperation and coordination between the two kingdoms to achieve their common interests, in addition to topics and issues of mutual concern.



Bahrain delegation to attend COP28 parliamentary meeting



Chairman Al Saleh
TDT | Manama



Speaker Al Musallam

A Bahrain delegation, led by Shura Council Chairman, His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, and Council of Representatives Speaker, H.E. Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, will participate in the international Parliamentary Meeting, set to take place tomorrow at Expo City Dubai.

Co-organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPA) and the UAE National Federal Council, the meeting will be held on the sidelines of the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).

The Kingdom is participating in the international parliamentary meeting to consolidate the role of its parliamentary diplomacy in highlighting the national and legislative ef-

orts, as well as programmes, projects and initiatives to confront climate change challenges and strengthen environmental security.

The delegation's participation in the high-level parliamentary meeting confirms the kingdom's commitment to the international agreements and resolutions related to addressing climate change effects, in a way that enhances the sustainability of the comprehensive development process, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and backed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The event features a meeting of speakers, in addition to plenary sessions, including "Parliamentary Oversight of the Paris Agreement Implementation Post-COP28.

Quality of Life on Debate

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Parliament is set to convene its tenth regular meeting today, focusing on the pressing issue of the declining quality of life experienced by Bahraini citizens.

The session aims to address the concerns raised by the public and explore potential solutions to improve the overall well-being of the population.

At the center of the session's agenda is the parliamentary investigation committee's report on the declining living standards of Bahraini citizens. The report, previously postponed for a month to allow for comprehensive analysis, will be reviewed by the parliament members.

The findings of the report will be discussed, and parliamentarians will propose potential measures to address the underlying causes of the decline in quality of life. Recognising the importance of transparency and accountability, the parliament aims to engage in open dialogue and inclusive discussions.



Bahraini citizens deserve a better quality of life

The session will provide an opportunity for parliament members to voice citizens' concerns, as well as to propose reforms and policies that can positively impact the well-being of the population.

Legislative reforms

In addition to addressing citizens' concerns, the session will also consider legislative reforms aimed at fostering economic growth and creating a favorable business environment. Proposed amendments to laws governing key sectors, such as the Bahrain Petroleum Company and the tourism industry, will be reviewed.

The objective is to enhance operational efficiency, maximise economic contributions, and attract visitors to Bahrain. Furthermore, general discussions on crucial topics will take place during the session.

These discussions will cover the government's policy regarding the provision of services in the Northern Governorate, with a focus on ensuring equal access to government services and addressing any existing disparities. Another topic of discussion will be the government's plans to address financial losses incurred by subsidiaries of the Mumtalahat Company, aiming to identify strategies to mitigate losses and safeguard financial stability.

MP inquires about Information Ministry's role in boosting artistic scene in Kingdom

TDT | Manama

Member of Parliament Khalid Buanq has directed a parliamentary question to the Minister of Information, H.E. Ramzan Al Nuaimi, about the Ministry's role in bolstering the artistic landscape in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Specifically, MP Buanq seeks clarification regarding the support provided for local TV series, films, and the allocated budgets dedicated to this purpose.

In the submitted question, Buanq asks, "What is the role of the Ministry of Information in supporting the artistic scene in the Kingdom of Bahrain, particularly in the realm of local TV series and films? How much budget is allocated for this purpose, and what kind of support and resources are extended to Bahraini producers, directors, writers, actors, and artists? What media, cultural, and artistic programmes, films, TV series, and audio materials have been produced by the Ministry of Information during the current legislative session?"

Rift among parents' factions intensifies ahead of Indian School Bahrain election on December 8

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Indian School in Bahrain (ISB), with its two campuses in Isa Town and Riffa, is gearing up for its much-anticipated election for the governing body on December 8.

Boasting the highest number of students among Gulf nations with over 11,900 students, the school is witnessing a growing rift between three prominent parent factions: the Progressive Parents Alliance (PPA), the United Parents Panel (UPP), and the Indian School Parents Forum (ISPF).

The PPA has held power since 2014, winning consecutive elections in 2017 and overseeing the school's administration during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this year, the group, led by Binu Mannil, face a formidable challenge from the UPP, led by Biju Thomas, and the Indian School Parents Forum (ISPF), headed by Vani Chandran.

Seeking a return to power, the UPP has been campaigning vigorously, accusing the PPA of mismanagement and lack of transparency. The PPA, in turn, has defended its record, highlighting its achievements in maintaining the school's academic excellence and infrastructure development.

A relatively new entrant, the Indian School Parents Forum (ISPF) is giving a tough competition to the two traditional groups through their novel strategy and is vying for a place in the governing body. Under Vani's leadership, the ISPF promises to bring fresh perspectives and a more inclusive approach to the school's administration.

UPP UNITED PARENTS PANEL
PLEASE VOTE FOR THESE 7 NUMBERS

1	ABDUL MANSHEER BA ENGLISH LITERATURE, BEd.	1
2	BIJU GEORGE TEAM LEADER MBA, COMMERCE GRADUATE WITH PMP	2
6	HAREESH NAIR BBA, MBA	6
8	JAVED T.C.A MBA (BA) KERALA STATE CRICKET PLAYER	8
18	SREEDEVI BFL, MFL, MAF, HCF	18
19	DR. SURESH SUBRAMANIAN MCA, M.Phil, Ph.D, MEd	19
20	TRESA ANTONY (SINI ANTONY) B.COM, BCh	20

We promise... We deliver....

PPA PROGRESSIVE PARENTS ALLIANCE
Yes, we have proven it.
Indian School Bahrain Soars to greater heights under PPA

Team Leader: Adv. BINU MANNIL
BSc, LLB, MPM-HR

ALL CANDIDATES OF PPA PANEL WILL BE PARENTS FOR THE FULL TERM OF THE EXECUTIVE COMM.

3	Dr. MOHAMMED FAIZAL MEd, MEd (Specialized) Health & Wellness Counselor	12	V. RAJA PANDIAN BA, MEd MANAGEMENT EXPERT
4	BONNY JOSEPH B.Com, M.Phil (Health Admin) BSc (Ed) Trng Specialist in Health & Safety	10	Dr. MITHUN MOHAN B.Ed., MEd Specialist in Health & Safety
11	Dr. MITHUN MOHAN B.Ed., MEd Specialist in Health & Safety	16	Dr. RANJINI M MENON MEd, MEd (Specialized), MEd (Ed) Health & Wellness Counselor
14	Dr. MITHUN MOHAN B.Ed., MEd Specialist in Health & Safety	17	Dr. MITHUN MOHAN B.Ed., MEd Specialist in Health & Safety

PLEASE ELECT THE FULL PANEL PLEASE ELECT THE FULL PANEL

INDIAN SCHOOL PARENTS FORUM (ISPF)
Vote for a change
Vote for development

5	DAVID PERAMANGALATH VINCENT MBA - International Business
7	IVANIOS JOSEPH Bachelor of Engineering
9	JAYAFAR MAIDANEENTAVIDA MSc, PGDCA
13	POORNIMA JAGADEESHA M.Com.
17	SHAREEN SHOUKATH ALI BBA
21	VANI CHANDRAN B.COM, PGDCA
22	Dr. VISHAL SHAH MBBS, MD, DESA

Please Elect the entire panel

For More Info: 38363333 | 34679339 | 33571636



Biju George, Chairman Candidate, United Parents Panel



Binu Mannil, Chairman Candidate, Progressive Parents Alliance



Vani Chandran, Chairperson Candidate, Indian School Parents Forum

The campaigning has intensified in recent weeks, with

both sides resorting to family visits, parent-corner gatherings, and press conferences to sway voters. Allegations and coun-

ter-accusations have become commonplace, creating an atmosphere of tension and uncertainty.

PPA's candidates are Binu Mannil, Mohammed Faizal, V Raja Pandian, Ranjini M Menon, Mirza Aamir Baig, Bonny Joseph, and Mithun Mohan. They have promised academic excellence, financial discipline, complete transparency, and responsible development.

The UPP panel includes Abdul Mansheer, Biju George, Hareesh Nair, Javed TCA, Sreedevi, Suresh Subramanian, and Tresa Antony alias Sini Antony. Their slogan is 'We promise, we deliver'.

ISPF is fielding David Peramangalath Vincent, Ivanios Joseph, Jayafar Maidaneentavida, Poornima Jagadeesha, Shareen Shoukath Ali, Vani Chandran, and Vishal Shah.

Outcome

With the election just around the corner, all eyes are on the outcome. The results will not only determine the school's leadership for the next three years but also reflect the deep-rooted divisions within the parent community.

The voting will take place on December 8 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., with the counting scheduled for the same day. Seven parents' representatives and one staff representative will be elected, who will then nominate three ministry observers. The newly elected members will lead the administration until 2027.

People with inspiring life stories honoured



RHF officials with the winners of the "Hekayati" competition

RHF holds annual forum 'Hekayati' at Art Hotel in Amwaj

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) organised its seventh annual forum, themed "Hekayati" (My Story), at The Art Hotel in Amwaj.

An elite group of speakers, specialists, and people with in-

spiring life experiences from Bahrain and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, in addition to the winners of the "Hekayati" competition, were present.

As many as 450 participants from government and private state institutions and secondary school students attended the forum.

On the occasion, HH Shaikh Nasser extended utmost thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the RHF Honorary President, for HM's constant support for various RHF's programmes.

His Highness stressed that the RHF's annual forums, attended by a large number of

community members and specialists from Bahrain and abroad reflect the keenness to enable everybody to contribute to the RHF's programmes.

HH Shaikh Nasser asserted that the participation of a large number of people with inspiring life stories in the competition confirms their desire to document their real-life experiences for the upcoming generations.

He expressed pride in the participating stories that show everyone's impact on life, and their services to the nation, valuing highly the rich experiences of the participants from Kuwait and the UAE.

Shaikh Adnan bin Abdulla Al Qattan, Deputy Chairman of the RHF Board of Trustees,

addressed the ceremony, commending the constant support of HM the King and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for the RHF, paying tribute to HH Shaikh Nasser for his patronage of the RHF's annual forum.

He highlighted the RHF's keenness to hold social events to promote effective community partnership with community institutions and involve everyone in its programmes and initiatives.

Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed, RHF Secretary-General, in his statement, underlined the RHF's keenness to hold its annual forum to showcase its prestigious status and noble mission.

LMRA carries out 1,496 campaigns and inspection visits



An expat's status is being checked by an LMRA inspection team

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has announced the successful implementation of 1,496 campaigns and inspection visits from November 26 to December 2, 2023.

These efforts have led to the arrest of 121 violating and irregular workers, with 115 deportations taking place during this period.

The campaigns and inspection visits have also revealed several violations related to the regulations outlined in the LMRA Law and the Residence Law in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Consequently, legal measures have been taken to address these observed violations.

In total, the LMRA conducted

1,474 inspection visits across various commercial stores in all governorates. Additionally, 22 joint inspection campaigns were carried out, including eight campaigns in the Capital Governorate, three campaigns in the Muharraq Governorate, seven campaigns in the Northern Governorate, and four campaigns in the Southern Governorate.

Multiple government agencies collaborated in these efforts, including the Ministry of Interior's Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs, the General Administration of Criminal Investigations and Evidence, the General Administration for Implementation of Judgments, and the security directorates in the governorates. The Ministry of Labor also played an active role in these campaigns.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Branch Bahrain

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

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 30 September 2023

Bahraini Dinars 000's

	30-Sep-23 (Reviewed)	31-Mar-23 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks and the CBB	29,889	25,954
Due from other branches	13,695	21,025
Loans and advances	44,932	39,571
Interest receivable and other assets	1,014	711
Right-of-use assets	328	149
Furniture and equipment	87	114
TOTAL ASSETS	89,945	87,524
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office funds		
Head Office account	10,655	10,655
Unremitted losses	(282)	(1,794)
TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS	10,373	8,861
LIABILITIES		
Customer deposits	73,333	72,924
Interest payable and other liabilities	1,691	1,370
Due to other Branches	4,209	4,238
Lease obligations	339	131
TOTAL LIABILITIES	79,572	78,663
TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	89,945	87,524

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Six-month period ended 30 September 2023

Bahraini Dinars 000's

	30-Sep-23 (Reviewed)	2022 (Reviewed)
Interest and similar income	2624	1673
Interest and similar expense	(769)	(393)
NET INTEREST INCOME	1855	1,280
Fees and commission income	165	187
Other operating income	274	203
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	2294	1,670
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Staff expenses	(313)	(336)
Depreciation	(101)	(123)
Other operating expenses	(368)	(321)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	(782)	(780)
Profit before expected credit loss allowance	1,512	890
Expected Credit loss allowance	-	(250)
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	1,512	640

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS Six-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	Head Office account	Unremitted	Total
Balance at 1 April 2023	10,655	(1,794)	8,861
Net Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	-	1,512	1,512
Balance at 30 September 2023	10,655	(282)	10,373
Balance at 1 April 2022	10,655	(2,758)	7,897
Net Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	-	640	640
Balance at 30 September 2022	10,655	(2,118)	8,537

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS Six-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

Bahraini Dinars 000's

	30-Sep-23 (Reviewed)	30-Sep-22 (Reviewed)
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit for the period	1,512	640
Adjustments for non-cash and non-operating items:		
Depreciation	101	123
Expected Credit loss allowance	-	250
Amortisation of premium on investments at amortised cost	-	50
Interest expense on lease obligations	2	2
Operating profit before changes in operating assets & liabilities	1,615	1,065
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Mandatory reserve deposit with CBB	(64)	(741)
Loans and advances	(5,361)	2,136
Due from other branches	7,539	(9,425)
Interest receivable and other assets	(303)	428
Due to other branches	(29)	(13,072)
Customer deposits	409	843
Interest payable and other liabilities	321	154
Net cash (used in) operating activities	4,127	(18,612)
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Proceeds from maturity of investments	-	14778
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(1)	(20)
Cash used in investing activities	(1)	14,758
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Payment of lease obligations	(46)	(85)
Cash used in financing activity	(46)	(85)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,080	(3,939)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	24,182	26,079
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	28,262	22,140
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period		
Cash and balances with banks and Central Bank of Bahrain	29,889	22,695
Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(2,532)	(2,372)
Cash and balances with banks and the CBB	27,357	20,323
Add: Due from other branches with an original maturity of less than ninety days	905	1,817
	28,262	22,140

Interim Condensed Statement of Financial Position, Interim Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other comprehensive Income, Interim Condensed Statement of Cash Flows, Interim Condensed Statement of Changes in Head Office funds of State Bank of India - Retail Branch, Bahrain for the six-month period ended 30 September 2023 which were approved for issue by the management and on which an unmodified review conclusion was issued by Ernst & Young - Middle East, Bahrain on 29 November 2023.

Chief Executive Officer

Mazad signs deal to dismantle and sell Alba power stations



Ali Al Baqali



Ali Al Baqali



TDT | Manama

Mazad, a local portfolio company of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company mandated with overseeing public and electronic auctions, has signed a cooperation agreement with Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) to launch a

project to dismantle and sell two of Alba's power stations through Mazad's digital platform.

The agreement stipulates the dismantlement of the power stations, in addition to the removal of structures and equipment, including turbines, generators, spare parts and other fixtures; in order to auction the items through Mazad's digital auction

platform enabling clients to purchase assets through a streamlined and transparent process.

"The auction of Alba's power stations will create a competitive environment for investors, and we strive to reach the highest number of buyers through this sale," said Talal Al Araifi, Chief Executive Officer of Mazad.

Adding further, Ali Al Baqali, Chief Executive Officer of Alba, commented: "This cooperation also comes as part of our efforts to promote a circular economy in line with our Environmental, Social and Governance Roadmap as well as contribute to reducing waste through the repurposing of assets."

Gold hits record high as equities weaken

London, United Kingdom

Gold hit a record high yesterday as growing optimism that the Federal Reserve will cut US interest rates in the new year has dented the dollar in recent weeks.

The precious metal, seen as a haven investment, reached an all-time pinnacle at \$2,135.39 an ounce. Profit-taking later set in, leaving it to trade at \$2,048.08.

The dollar was also firmer Monday. Gold is benefitting also from the Israel-Hamas war, according to analysts.

"Concerns about the shaky global economic backdrop and the Israel-Hamas conflict have fuelled investor demand for safe-haven assets like gold," said Victoria Scholar, head of investment at Interactive Investor.

"Plus, expectations for Fed rate cuts next year have put downward pressure on the US dollar which is trading around three-month lows, adding to gold's attractiveness."

Elsewhere, bitcoin traded

Key figures around 1430 GMT

New York - Dow: ▼ 0.5% at 36,056.04 points

London - FTSE 100: ▼ 0.3% 7,509.75

Paris - CAC 40: ▼ 0.3% at 7,325.13

Frankfurt - DAX: ▲ less than 0.1% at 16,407.74

EURO STOXX 50: ▼ 0.1% at 4,414.13

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: ▼ 0.6% at 33,231.27 (close)

Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index: ▼ 1.1% at 16,646.05 (close)

Shanghai - Composite: ▼ 0.3% at 3,022.91 (close)

West Texas Intermediate: ▼ 0.7% at \$73.55 per barrel

Brent North Sea crude: ▼ 0.7% at \$78.36 per barrel

above \$40,000 for the first time since May last year, boosted by hopes that the United States would soon allow broader trading of the world's biggest cryptocurrency.

Major stock markets mostly fell, while oil prices dropped.

Traders are shrugging off Fed boss Jerome Powell's attempts to temper expectations of US rate cuts in the first quarter of 2024.

Bets on an easing of monetary policy were ramped up when

Powell said Friday that it was "well into restrictive territory" after more than a year of hikes that have put borrowing costs at a two-decade high.

Central banks around the globe have sent interest rates soaring, helping to bring down surging inflation.

Bloomberg reported that traders expect a 60% chance of a US rate cut, while they have fully priced in one in May.

"Markets are piling in on the rate cut bets," said Kyle Rodda

at Capital.com.

He added that recession risks added to gold's appeal.

Bitcoin broke back above \$40,000 on hopes that firms including BlackRock would be given US approval to sell the first spot Bitcoin exchange-traded funds.

"A 19-month high and backed by excitement over an ETF approval, which has been a long time coming," said Craig Erlam at the trading platform OANDA.

"And we still don't quite know when it will but there's a strong belief it will and soon," he added.

Bloomberg said a batch of the products are thought to be given the go-ahead by the Securities and Exchange Commission by next month.

In equities trading, troubled developer China Evergrande briefly surged more than 13% in Hong Kong after a court in the city allowed extra time to form a restructuring plan aimed at avoiding liquidation.

Export Bahrain celebrates Women's Day with Global Awards

TDT | Manama

Export Bahrain recognised the remarkable achievements of Bahraini women and their significant contributions to the Kingdom's prosperity, on the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day.

Marking the day, Chief Executive Officer, Safa Sharif AbdulKhalik, has been honoured with The Global Economics Award for "Best Emerging Women CEO Of the Year in Export Industry"

In addition, Export Bahrain has received the "Best Government Agency for Women Empowerment" award from the European Global Sustainability & ESG Awards.

Through Export Bahrain's support, 30% of the products and services exported have been from businesses owned by female entrepreneurs, em-



Safa Sharif AbdulKhalik

powering women in traditionally male-dominated industries.

Expressing her gratitude, AbdulKhalik emphasized that the percentage of Bahraini women employed at Export Bahrain has far exceeded an impressive 90%. "We are proud to have achieved such a high level of representation and recognition for Bahraini women within our workforce," she remarked.

NBB delegation attends COP28



NBB delegates at COP28

TDT | Manama

A delegation from the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) attended the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) at Expo City Dubai.

The NBB delegation, led by NBB Group CEO, Usman Ahmed, will be taking this opportunity to network with industry colleagues, climate change experts and diplomats from around the world to discuss pressing issues related to the reduction of carbon emissions. Members of the NBB delegation are participating in talks and panel discussions

related to sustainability as well as its integration in the banking sector. Abdulrahim Abdulhameed, Senior Associate & Sustainability Officer at NBB, presented 'NBB's Sustainability Journey' at the Bahrain Pavilion during the "Finance/Trade/Gender Equality/Accountability" day where he showcased NBB's accomplishments over the years, its sustainability strategy and framework as well as NBB's market position, tangible impacts, achievements and milestones.

BBK celebrates Woman's Day with groundbreaking initiatives

TDT | Manama

BBK unveiled a series of learning and growth initiatives and programmes aimed at empowering the women employees at the Bank on the occasion of Bahraini Woman's Day.

Dr. AbdulRahman Saif, Group Chief Executive, stated "Through these programs, we are paying tribute to the relentless efforts of women, celebrating their valuable contributions to diverse fields, and acknowledging their dedication, and outstanding achievements that have not only propelled the Kingdom forward but have also been instrumental in shaping future generations."

Najwa Al Ahmed, Assistant General Manager of Human Resources and Administration and Chairperson of the BBK Women Empowerment Committee highlighted the encouraging environment the Bank offers to its women employees, inspir-



Dr. AbdulRahman Saif

Najwa Al Ahmed



Mindful Moments



Power of Pearls

ing them to contribute to the progress and prosperity of the Kingdom across all sectors.

Coinciding with the Bahraini Woman's Day, the Bank introduced the "Women on The Ladder" program. This web-based initiative, conducted in collaboration with Cambridge university, aims to groom a number of talented female employees from

various departments for leadership and management roles.

The Bank also organized a full-day workshop, "Power of Pearls," for female employees. Another initiative included an honoring ceremony whereby several women employees of the Bank were honored by the Group Chief Executive, Dr. AbdulRahman Saif. Furthermore,

an empowering event designed exclusively for BBK female employees from the branches took place next to Athar monument in collaboration with "Calm. Mess", known for their expertise in creating impactful and inspiring experiences.

Finally, and in an effort to promote a culture of diversity and inclusion, the Women Empowerment Committee arranged a number of focus group sessions encouraging women employees to speak up their challenges and participate in addressing their issues to create positive change that support the Bank's strategic objectives toward equal opportunities.

Spotify cuts around 1,500 jobs as growth slows

Stockholm, Sweden

Music streaming giant Spotify said Monday it would reduce its number of employees by around 17 percent in a bid to cut costs amid "dramatically" slower economic growth.

The announcement comes on the heels of a rare quarterly net profit of 65 million euros in October, compared to a loss of

166 million for the same period a year earlier, and following 26 percent growth in active users for the third quarter to 574 million.

Around 1,500 people will leave the company, Spotify said. It was the latest in a series of layoffs announced in the tech industry which is cutting tens of thousands of jobs following a boom during Covid pandemic lockdowns.

NOTICE	With regard to the license cancellation
of "Ernst & Young Corporate Finance W.L.L."	
<p>With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (57) of 2023 pertaining to the cancellation of the Investment Business Firm - Category 3 license of "Ernst & Young Corporate Finance W.L.L." issued on 13 Jumada al-Awwal 1445H, corresponding to 27th November 2023, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the Investment Business Firm - Category 3 license of "Ernst & Young Corporate Finance W.L.L." issued on 4th February 2007, registered under commercial registration No. 64000 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of issuing and publication of the above resolution in the Official Gazette.</p>	

CELEBS celebs

Will Smith: 'I started making my own problems'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Will Smith joked he "started making my own problems" because life was going too well.

The 55-year-old actor - who received a 10-year ban in 2022 from the Academy Awards for slapping Chris Rock on stage - admitted he has made "tons of mistakes", but with the help of Quincy Jones, he is trying to "win as a human".

Speaking at the Red Sea International Film Festival in Saudi Arabia, he said: "I love puzzles, I love problems. Yeah, so I started making my

own problems. Life is going too well.

I have made tons of mistakes. Quincy has always made himself available," Smith said. "He wants me to win as a human. He is devoted to me as a human, not just as an artist.

"Fame is a unique monster. You can't get too excited when people say good things about you. Because then when people say bad things about you, you struggle and suffer more. "I have to be clear about who I am and what I am attempting to do in the world. And I can't need others to applaud for me to stay focused on my mission. ... I want you to feel

good. And at the same time, I am deeply human. And I am in the process of perfecting my virtue."

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Will said he is always open to learning.

He said: "I am a steadier. The important thing in life



I love puzzles, I love problems. Yeah, so I started making my own problems. Life is going too well I have made tons of mistakes. Quincy has always made himself available. He wants me to win as a human. He is devoted to me as a human, not just as an artist

WILL SMITH

for me is that I continuously learn. I have studied the stories that last for thousands of years."

And, Will also revealed that he is working on a sequel to 'I Am Legend' with

Michael B Jordan, saying: "I have

a call with Michael B. Jordan tomorrow. I can't tell you any more."

Will Smith



Woody Harrelson's ego ran wild during early years in Hollywood

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Woody Harrelson's ego ran wild during his early years in Hollywood.

The former 'Cheers' star has admitted he became quit unpleasant after shooting to fame but he was able to "catch" himself and change his ways so the 62-year-old actor now believes he is able to move through life with the "appropriate level of humility".

Speaking to the Guardian newspaper, he explained: "People are constantly taking care of you. Anything you want. Thing is, it's OK if everybody tells you you're great. The problem is when you start believing it ... I certainly did. When I was younger, my ego ran away from me. Or with me. It's almost inevitable. Either you catch yourself and realise what's happening, or you're [messed up] as a human. Now I've got a good handle on it. I feel an appropriate level of humility."

Woody added: "I mean, we're not surgeons. We're not saving Mother Earth here."

The actor also revealed

he's often kept in check by his teenage daughter Makani, who regularly tells him off if he comes out with an inappropriate joke.

He said: "I can be a provocateur. My youngest daughter is extremely woke. Boy, does she ride me roughshod. I'll be like, 'It's a joke! I know you're woke, but can you take a little nap?'"

Woody's jokes recently came under the spotlight publicly when he faced a barrage of criticism for making light of a COVID-19 conspiracy theory when he guest-hosted 'Saturday Night Live' in February. During his monologue, Wood said he had received the "craziest script he's ever read" that ended with the masses "being forced" to take drugs in order to leave their homes.

Woody Harrelson



Dua Lipa and Romain Gavras split

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Dua Lipa has split from filmmaker Romain Gavras.

The 28-year-old popstar and the 42-year-old director were first linked together in February but just months later, they have called time on their romance.

A source told the Sun on Sunday's Bizarre column: "Dua and Romain have gone their separate ways after a summer of love.



Romain Gavras and Dua Lipa

"She has blinkers on when it comes to her career and the pair ended the relationship before things turned sour.

"Romain considered Dua to be a workaholic but she doesn't plan on slowing down for anything or anyone."

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Selena Gomez is "casually dating" but doesn't want a relationship.

The 31-year-old actress has had relationships with the likes of pop star Justin Bieber and The Weeknd over the years and an insider has now claimed that she is "doing well" dating on a laid-back basis but doesn't feel any "pressure" for things to escalate.

A source told 'Entertainment Tonight': "Selena is casually dating and doing well. She is doing her own thing and doesn't feel any sort of pressure to be in a relationship. She is just focusing on what's best for her right now and has

Selena Gomez

Selena Gomez 'not feeling any pressure' to be in a relationship', but is casually dating

been very in tune with maintaining her own boundaries. Her friends and family support her and just want her to be happy."

Earlier this year, the former Disney Channel actress was thought to have struck up a relationship with singer Andrew Taggart, 33, but she took to social media in an apparent attempt to quash the rumours.

In a now-deleted post, she wrote on Instagram: "I like being alone too much #iamsingle"(sic)

was reported that the 'Only Murders in the Building' actress and Drew had recently started seeing each other, and their burgeoning romance is "very casual and low-key" for the time being.

An insider said: "They aren't trying to hide their ro-

mance by sneaking around at members only clubs."

Sources claimed that the brunette beauty and the Chainsmokers star "go bowling and to the movies" when they go on dates together.

Selena revealed she was prepared to risk heartbreak in the pursuit of love.

Just prior to that, the 'Lose You To Love Me' hitmaker explained that she remains determined to find love, despite her previous relationship struggles.

She shared: "I feel like giving myself completely to something is the best way I can love. But I never wanted the pain that I endured to put some sort of guard on myself - an armour if you will - and I never let that happen because I still believe and I still hope."

Michael B. Jordan smashes his Ferrari into parked car

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Michael B Jordan's \$429,000 Ferrari was left a mangled wreck after he smashed it into a parked car.

The 'Creed' actor, 36, ploughed the supercar into a Kia in Hollywood, California, around 11.30pm on Saturday night, with pictures taken at the scene that are being run by TMZ showing the right side of the electric blue vehicle severely smashed - with its airbags deployed and a wheel with gold



Michael B. Jordan's Ferrari after the crash

rims rolling away from the car.

TMZ reported: "Our law enforcement say police on the scene asked Jordan, 'What happened?' but the star didn't offer

an explanation."

The actor was seen speaking to police officers on the sidewalk after the accident outside Sunset Gower Studios.

SUDOKU

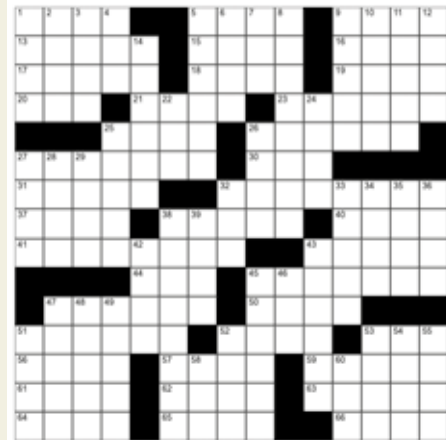
3	7							
5	1		3				4	6
9			7			3		2
	4		1					
		1	6		5			
			7			9		
4	2		7					8
7	9			8		3	4	
					2		9	

Yesterday's solution

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

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

CROSSWORD



Across
1- Rat; 5- Crack; 9- Soviet news service; 13- Hawkins of Dogpatch; 15- Mother of Aes; 16- 'Star Trek' role; 17- Piles; 18- Sorts; 19- Hebrew month; 20- 'Slippery' tree; 21- Damage done; 23- Flourish; 25- Dynamic beginning; 26- Pie coverings; 27- Tragedy by Shakespeare; 30- Piece of cloth, tabloid newspaper; 31- Render weaponless; 32- Junior, to senior; 37- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 38- Varnish resin; 40- Very, in Versailles; 41- Captivated; 43- Sublease; 44- Bit of wordplay; 45- Gastropod mollusk; 47- Take; 50- City on Norton Sound; 51- Unmitigated; 52- Food thickener; 53- Big; 56- ___ Pack; young 1980s actors; 57- Othello villain; 59- Money spent; 61- Ruin; 62- River to the Baltic; 63- Waggish; 64- Sight organs; 65- 'A Doll's House' heroine; 66- Arrest;

Down
1- Tennis great Arthur; 2- Chinese weight; 3- First man; 4- Apex; 5- Civil War battle site; 6- Dudley Do-Right's love; 7- Raiders of the Lost; 8- Deli meat; 9- Former Russian rulers; 10- Examine account books; 11- Poles, e.g.; 12- Free from doubt; 14- Prize; 22- Meal crumb; 24- Enormous; 25- Garfield's middle name; 26- Pull an all-nighter; 27- Trumpet accessory; 28- By and by; 29- Irene of 'Fame'; 32- Beauty of 'Deliverance'; 33- Inscribed pillar; 34- Woody's boy; 35- Sharp; 36- Ferrara family; 38- Outburst; 39- Time to give up?; 42- Ready for business; 43- Strict disciplinarian; 45- Goat hair fabric; 46- Anaconda; 47- Marshal; 48- Large wading bird; 49- Actress Phoebe; 51- French clergyman; 52- Antiquing agent; 53- Portico; 54- Wrinkly fruit; 55- Drum sound; 58- Ruckus; 60- Samovar;

Yesterday's solution

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

Classifieds



Call us on +973 36458394
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Bavuma to miss white-ball matches against India



South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma (C) walks back to the pavilion after his dismissal during the World Cup match against India (file photo)

AFP | Johannesburg

World Cup captain Temba Bavuma will miss two white-ball series against India, Cricket South Africa announced yesterday in naming squads for the multi-format tour.

Bavuma as well as fast bowler Kagiso Rabada will play no part in the limited overs series in order to prepare for two World Test Championship matches, starting in Centurion on December 26.

Fast bowlers Gerald Coetzee, Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen will only play in the first two T20 international matches before returning to their franchises to play in domestic four-day cricket ahead of the Test series.

One-day coach Rob Walter said the decision was made in consultation with Test coach Shukri Con-rad.

"We have a busy summer ahead starting with the T20Is and then ODIs against India and we have therefore taken the decision to omit several of our senior players," said Walter.

"This decision was taken

We have a busy summer ahead starting with the T20Is and then ODIs against India and we have therefore taken the decision to omit several of our senior players

ONE-DAY COACH ROB WALTER

together with coach Shukri as we place emphasis on the red-ball leg of the tour, meaning they will instead be preparing for the Test series by playing domestic cricket."

Conrad said: "It is the start of a new ICC World Test Championship cycle and that itself is a huge incentive for everyone. We want to try and ensure we make a strong start to this sequence here at home against one of the best teams in the world."

The Test squad includes three uncapped players in Durham and Western Province batsman David Bedingham, left-arm fast bowler Nandre Burger and batsman Tristan Stubbs.

Brazil's richest rap star NOG jets to Bahrain to witness epic lightweight title clash at BRAVE CF 77 on 5th December

TDT | Manama

Brazil's most popular and richest rapper, NOG has landed in the Kingdom of Bahrain to attend BRAVE CF 77 on December 5, 2023, at Khalifa Sports City in Isa Town.

He will attend to support his countryman, Lucas Martins (22-6-0) who will face Abdisalam Uulu Kubanychbek in the main event for the lightweight world championship.

NOG is one of the most famous names among youth in Brazil with over 1.3M followers on Instagram.

Brazilian rapper and part of Sao Paulo rap group Costa Gold. They're famous for their trilogies Vicious Cycle, including EPs including Domino Effect, Epifania, and Posfacio.

Martins, who is associated with some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry including Wiz Khalifa, aims to take the title back to Brazil while joining Jarrah Al-Silawi as the only two men to be two-time world champions in the same weight class.

"I am in Bahrain to support my countryman Lucas and his team. I am certain with the whole nation of Brazil behind him, he will bring the world championship title to Brazil.

On 5th December, I welcome



Brazilian rapper NOG and Lucas Martins

all the Brazilian fans and fight fans to join me at the Khalifa Sports City to support Lucas Martins", said NOG.

The fight between Lucas Martins and Abdisalam Uulu Kubanychbek showcases contrasting styles and fight traditions clashing for the lightweight world championship.

As Martins carries with him the rich Brazilian fighting tradition that shaped Chute Boxe Muay Thai and Brazilian jiu-jitsu sharpened with Team Lucas Mineiro, Kubanychbek introduces to the world the indomitable fighting spirit of his people, as the number one fight-

er out of Kyrgyzstan, introducing himself, and his country's MMA scene to millions of people through BRAVE CF.

The highest profile fight of 2023, happening at BRAVE CF 77 will witness the national hero of Kyrgyzstan facing the legend from Brazil in a world-class wrestler vs. striker showdown.

BRAVE CF 77, featuring a captivating mix of established superstars and rising prospects, will show-case athletes from 10 nations, including Kyrgyzstan, Brazil, Poland, Russia, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Tajikistan, and Slovenia.

Two world titles will be de-

I am in Bahrain to support my countryman Lucas and his team. I am certain with the whole nation of Brazil behind him, he will bring the world championship title to Brazil. On 5th December, I welcome all the Brazilian fans and fight fans to join me at the Khalifa Sports City to support Lucas Martins

NOG

fended during the event, with the main event featuring the lightweight championship clash and the super welterweight world championship fight between the reigning champion Marcin Bandel and Kamal Magomedov.

With 70% of the fighters on impressive win streaks, BRAVE CF 77 marks the 8th time in the promotion's history that two or more world titles will be on the line during the same event.

BRAVE CF has organized 80 events in 30 nations, featuring nearly 800 athletes from over 80 countries across the globe.



Dani Carvajal in action

Real Madrid lose defender Carvajal to calf injury

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid right-back Dani Carvajal is expected to miss the rest of the year after the club announced yesterday he suffered a calf injury in the weekend win over Granada.

Spain international Carvajal was replaced at half-time during Saturday's 2-0

victory which kept Madrid top of La Liga above surprise challengers Girona on goal difference.

The club said tests revealed an injury to his left calf but did not give a timeline for his return. Spanish media suggested Carvajal could be sidelined for a month.

The 31-year-old has been a regular for Carlo Ancelotti's side, captaining the team on a number of occasions this season.

Dani Carvajal has been a regular for Carlo Ancelotti's side, captaining the team on a number of occasions this season

Ancelotti's side, captaining the team on a number of occasions this season.

Bahrain's Luca sets early Junior MAX pace in Rotax karting



Karters in action yesterday at BIKC

● **Luca Houghton tops timesheet in first Non-Qualifying Practice for Evens in Junior MAX class**

● **Lewis Smith finishes in top six in opening Non-Qualifying Practice session of E20 Senior category**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Luca Houghton was top of the timesheets in Non-Qualifying Practice (NQP) one for Evens in the Junior MAX class yesterday, as the 2023 Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals (RMCGF) got underway with on-track action at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

Luca had a best lap of 55.141 seconds, fractionally edging out France's Tom Dussol by 0.008 seconds, followed by Mika Van De Pavert.

Thirty-two drivers were separated by 0.864 seconds after the chequered flag, with Japan and France represented by the final two drivers that rounded out the top five.

Timo Jungling was fastest in the opening Junior MAX session for Odds, being one of a handful of drivers to initially break under the 55-second barrier with a 54.860s, leading

a British one-two in front of Kenzo Craigie, who was only 0.071s slower.

Meanwhile, Denmark's Knud Nielsen was fastest in the opening NQP for the E20 Senior category. Nielsen had a best lap of 55.970 seconds—0.399 seconds in front of Germany's Mats Johan Overhoff, whilst Marius Lyager Rose completed the top three, a further 0.007 seconds adrift. It saw a close top six, who were covered by 0.540 seconds and completed by Bahrain's Lewis Smith.

In the E20 Masters, Brazil's Joao Goncalves was quickest of the field in their opening session, putting down a marker of a 57.570s lap time.

The Micro MAX contingent saw Team UK lead the way in the opening venture onto BIKC's 1.414km circuit, with Oliver Spencer one minute 01.936 seconds and Emerson Macandrew Uren (1:02.157) fastest out on track.

In the Mini MAX's first Odds NQP, Canada's Ilie Tristan Crisan topped the timesheets with a best effort of a 59.359s lap time, closely followed by Lithuania's Majus Mazinas (59.439s).

In the Senior MAX, Belgium's Kai Rillaerts led the way in the first NQP session of the day, posting a 53.859s fastest lap, followed by Japan's Kenta Kumagai (53.912s) and France's Adam Rahali. Kuwait's Fahad Alkhaled secured third spot on the times with a 54.193s.

Head-to-head battles set to light up BIC strip

Bahrain Drag Racing Championship launches 2023/2024 season

● **World-class drag racers gather at BIC for the first round of BDRC's exciting campaign**

● **Five-round season starts with Test & Tune, followed by qualifying and eliminations**

TDT | Manama

The region's leading drag racing series returns to Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) this week with the world-renowned Bahrain Drag Racing Championship (BDRC) staging the first round of its 2023/2024 campaign in Sakhir.

The BDRC is a National Hot Rod Association (NHRA)-sanctioned competition, with drag racers flocking into the Kingdom from all over the Gulf and beyond to compete at the world-class quarter-mile drag strip at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

BIC's drag racing facility is a member of the prestigious NHRA Worldwide Network, and participants in the BDRC go head-to-head for the right to claim a coveted "Wally" trophy at the end of this campaign's five-meeting calendar. The "Wally" is an exclusive accolade awarded only to NHRA champions around the world.

The BDRC season is being organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission and



A drag racer in action at BIC (file photo)

the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

This week's opening events kick off today and tomorrow with back-to-back nights of Test and Tune, scheduled from 6pm to 12 midnight.

Qualifying will then be held on Thursday, setting up the ladders for the eliminations on Race Day Friday.

Action on both evenings will take place from 4pm onwards.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy the multiple nights of top-class drag racing.

Racing this season will be held in 14 categories for both cars and motorbikes. The cars classes include the Index 7.5, Pro 29.5 V8, Outlaw 4 Cylinder, Outlaw 6 Cylinder, Index 10.00, Index 9.00, Index 8.50, Competition 4.5 and Pro Mod; while the motorbike classes are Pro Street Bike, Street Fight 9.5, Index 8.5 Bike, Outlaw Bike and Street Fight.

Many of the region's leading drag racers and teams are slated

to compete in the BDRC this season. Among them are the Kingdom's multi-titled NHRA outfit Bahrain1Racing, owned by His Majesty the King's Personal Representative His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

This season's five-round BDRC calendar continues un-

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The NHRA "Wally" trophy, exclusive to NHRA champions worldwide, adds prestige to BDRC victories, attracting top drag racing talent to the Kingdom

til March of next year. Following this week's season-opener, round two is scheduled for 9 to 12 January.

Round three will then be held from 30 January to 2 February, and then round four will be the following week from 6 to 9 February. The championship finale will then take place 19 to 22 March at BIC.



Action from a previous event at BIC (file photo)

2 Seas in packed grid for Gulf 12 Hours

● **Bahraini-British motor racing team's two contenders part of 28-car field in endurance racing event in Abu Dhabi**

TDT | Manama

Bahraini-British motor racing team 2 Seas Motorsport will be amongst a packed grid of 28 GT3 cars that will be competing in this year's Gulf 12 Hours endurance race, scheduled to take place on Sunday at Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi.

The official entry list for the event was released yesterday by organisers. Just two weeks after Max Verstappen won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix to end the 2023 Formula 1 season, teams representing six legendary marques, driven by a host of top drivers, will take part in the Middle East's premier GT endurance race.

Cars from Audi, BMW, Ferrari, McLaren, Mercedes-AMG and Porsche are represented on the official entry list. 2 Seas have



2 Seas' #14 Mercedes AMG-GT3 challenger to compete in the race's Pro class

a pair of Mercedes AMG-GT3 entrants.

2 Seas' #14 Pro entry will see Jules Gounon team up with Maximilian Gotz and Fabian Schiller to fight for overall victory. They will be joined on the grid by the #3 Am car, which features 2 Seas co-owner His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa alongside Ian Loggie and Al Faisal Al Zubair of Oman.

2 Seas are the reigning GT3 Teams' Champions of the British GT Championship, and they will be hoping to carry over that

success to the region.

2 Seas have won two of the last three editions of the Gulf 12 Hours, and are once again amongst the favourites to challenge for the victory. The event will be the team's curtain-closing race of 2023.

The Gulf 12 Hours is again the final round of the Intercontinental GT Challenge season, and three championships are up for grabs, with overall drivers' and manufacturers' titles in the balance, as well as Independent Cup honours.

Also competing in this year's

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2 Seas have won two of the last three Gulf 12 Hours, making them favorites for the win again this year

race are many other headline-grabbing crews of famous names from GT racing and beyond.

MotoGP legend Valentino Rossi participates for the third time in the Gulf 12 Hours, alongside GT racing stars Dries Vanthoor and Nick Yelloly in the #46 BMW M4 GT3 of Team WRT.

Other teams taking part are AF Corse, GruppeM Racing, Car Collection Motorsport, Grove Racing, Garage 59, Sky Tempesta, Herberth Motorsport, Kessel Racing, Optimum Motorsport, RacingOne, Sun Energy 1, 7Tsix, Baron Motorsport, HaasRT, MP Racing and Tsunami RT.

Hope guides West Indies past England in 1st ODI

AFP | North Sound

Shai Hope's 16th hundred and the rampaging support of all-rounder Romario Shepherd lifted the West Indies to a record-breaking four-wicket victory in a high-scoring opening duel of the three-match One-Day International series at the Sir Vivian Richards Sta-

dium in Antigua on Sunday.

Set a daunting target of 326 by the visitors, the home captain anchored the effort through an unsteady period and then exploded with an array of mighty strokes, finishing the match with three sixes off Sam Curran in the penultimate over to seal the result with an unbeaten 109.

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Manama rout Qatar's Al Shamal

Defending champions claim impressive home victory in 2023/2024 FIBA West Asia Super League

● **Ahmed Salman leads Manama with 24 points, buries red-hot six three-pointers**

● **Manama race out to commanding early lead, go up by as many as 38 points**

● **WASL title-holders return to action 18 December against Shabab Al Ahli in Dubai**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's Manama Club romped past Al Shamal of Qatar 108-71 last night in the 2023/2024 FIBA West Asian Super League (WASL).

The game was played at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hasam and it was Manama's second fixture in Group B of the Gulf sub-zone in the WASL preliminary round.

The defending champions were in control from the very start and took leads as big as 38

points. They thus stayed undefeated so far as they continue their quest to repeat as WASL title-winners.

Ahmed Salman top scored for Manama with 24 points, including a red-hot six three-pointers. Travin Thibodeaux added 20 and nine rebounds, while Mustafa Hussain had 19 and five triples. Tony Farmer chipped in with 17 in the win, and Sir'Dominic Pointer had 11.

Tyler James Lee Haris was Shamal's leading scorer with 20, while Uche Iroegbu added 18 in the loss.

Manama raced out to a 26-10 lead at the end of the first quarter, and then stayed ahead 44-30 at the break. After three, the Bahrainis had extended their advantage to 71-44, and then they cruised in the final canto to close out the big win.

Manama and Shamal are in the same pool as Shabab Al Ahli of Dubai and Kazma of Kuwait.

The Bahraini national champions return to action in two weeks' time when they face Shabab Al Ahli on 18 December in the UAE, and then take on Kazma in Kuwait City on 15 January next year. They then face off once again with Shamal



Manama's Ahmed Salman goes for a lay-up during their game against Al Shamal of Qatar yesterday



Manama are joined in this year's FIBA WASL by fellow-Bahraini outfit Muharraq. Manama are the competition's defending champions, having clinched the historic first-ever title last season, while Muharraq are making their tournament debut

in Doha on 5 February, and then complete this phase of the tournament against Shabab Al Ahli at home on 13 February.

Manama are joined in this year's FIBA WASL competition by fellow-Bahraini outfit Muharraq, who are in Group A of the preliminary round. Muharraq are competing alongside Kuwait Sporting Club of Kuwait,

Al Rayyan of Qatar and Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia.

Muharraq have won one of their first two games and are back in action on Tuesday next week when they take on Rayyan in Doha. That is their third group game. They then play Kuwait in Kuwait City on 8 January next year, face Ahli in Jeddah on 30 January and then complete this stage at home against Rayyan on 12 February.

The competition format for the second season of the FIBA WASL remains the same. The three best teams at the end of the WASL Gulf sub-zone and the WASL West Asia sub-zone leagues earn their tickets to the Final Eight. There, they will be joined by the champion teams from South Asia and Central Asia, and they will all vie for the right to become cage kings of the region.

Prior to the Final Eight, each sub-zone league will feature two groups of four teams, with the top seeds by the end of the round-robin opening phase directly qualifying to the best-of-three semi-finals. The second and third-ranked teams will play for the other final four berths, also in a best-of-three.

Bahrainis set for France handball event

● **Kingdom's senior men's handball national team to take on counterparts from Brazil and Tunisia in Nantes friendlies from 4 to 6 January**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national handball team will take on their counterparts from Brazil and Tunisia in an international friendly tournament in France early next year.

The tune-up competition, to be held in Nantes, is scheduled for 4 to 6 January, and the Bahrainis will be playing as part of their preparations for the 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship.

The tournament is set to be hosted by the Kingdom from 11 to 25 January next year. Organised in cooperation with the Asian Handball Federation, it also acts as a qualifier for 2025 IHF World Men's Handball Championship.

Head coach Aron Kristjansson arrived in Bahrain on Sunday and went straight to work with the national team in their training sessions.

Prior to their French trip, the Bahrainis are also set to play Iraq and Morocco in a pair of international friendly games at



Bahrain national team players in a scrimmage during training

home.

A total of 16 nations are competing in the Asian championship, with the top five securing places at the worlds.

Bahrain are in Group D along with the UAE, Hong Kong and Kazakhstan for the preliminary round. Group A features defending champions Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Chinese Taipei. Group B includes Iran, South Korea, China and New Zealand; and

Group C is composed of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, India and Japan.

Bahrain is hosting the continental competition for the fourth time in its history. It previously also staged the event in 2016, 2014 and 1993.

The Bahrainis have never won the Asian men's title, but have claimed the silver medals five times in the past and also won the bronze medal once.

New Zealand eye comeback final Test win in Bangladesh



New Zealand's Ish Sodhi (C) celebrates with teammates after taking a wicket (file photo)

AFP | Dhaka

New Zealand leg spinner Ish Sodhi said his side hoped to finish their long season away from home on a high by beating Bangladesh in the upcoming second Test.

"It's been a really, really long time away," Sodhi told reporters in Dhaka. "It's been a really successful last six or so months for the team, but it can come with a lot of emotions".

The Kiwis, who started their long season with a tour to Pakistan in April, have also played series in Britain, Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates, before playing in the World Cup in India, a time Sodhi described as emotional "rollercoasters".

The Kiwis are trailing Bangladesh 0-1 in the two-Test series after their 150-run defeat in the opening Test in Sylhet.

The second Test in Dhaka begins on Wednesday.

"It'll be really nice to finish on a high," he said. "I think the boys are super motivated. Hopefully, we'll get some treats here before we leave, and then we can go and smell that beer. It's going to be beautiful New Zealand air pretty soon."

New Zealand's defeat in Sylhet was their first Test defeat in Bangladesh and only second against the side.

But Sodhi said they had learned lessons they would use in the final match.

"I think the way Bangladesh played, they certainly outplayed us," he said.

"But, upon reflection, I think they gave us a blueprint on what is successful in these conditions, and hopefully we can apply that to this next Test match."

The Kiwis have not won a Test in Bangladesh since their three-wicket win in Chittagong in 2008.

Arsenal's Arteta says Premier League has 'gone up a level'

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta said the Premier League has "gone another level up" from last season as Arsenal seek to open up a five-point lead at the top of the table at Luton on Tuesday.

The Gunners, who beat Wolves 2-1 on Saturday, are two points clear of second-placed

Liverpool and three ahead of champions Manchester City after the weekend games, with neither of those teams in action until Wednesday.

Arteta's men topped the table for much of last season but faltered down the home stretch and were overtaken by Pep Guardiola's relentless City side.



Mikel Arteta

The Spaniard, bidding to win Arsenal's first Premier League

title since 2004, said the league was even tougher this year.

"The level has gone another level up and you can see it," he said at his pre-match press conference yesterday.

"I was watching a lot of games yesterday afternoon and it's incredible how game state changes and momentum changes in games.