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SPORTS

Manama rout Qatar's Al Shamal

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





Mazad signs deal to dismantle and sell Alba power stations



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

AFP | Washington

The White nouse and 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

Amagnitude 5.1 earth-quake 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 emergencies 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.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain sets stage for greener future

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

TDT | Manama

he 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 Dep-Prince Salman bin Hamad Al the next seven years. Khalifa, the Cabinet highlighted action plan to achieve carbon tional climate action.

The Cabinet praised the ini- Congratulations tiatives announced by the President of the UAE, His Highness



HRH the Deputy King chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

the importance of the speech Mohamed bin Zayed on suc-fields. In this regard, the Cabinet given by His Majesty King cessfully hosting this important wished Saudi Arabia continued Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, at the global event, wishing that the success and prosperity. event, wherein he announced summit would bring qualitative the Blueprint Bahrain national results in mobilising internatits sincere wishes for success in the "World's Leading New Extended the treatment of patients with

Nahyan, in his speech at COP28, Mosques, King Salman bin Abwhich includes the establish- dulaziz Al Saud, and HRH Prince

renewable and clean energy, as on winning the bid to host the tablish transparency in governwell as its commitment to invest World Expo 2030, which reuty King, His Royal Highness an additional \$130 billion over flects Saudi Arabia's prestigious international status and its con-It congratulated HH Shaikh tinuous achievements across all

> The Cabinet then expressed be hosted by the State of Qatar, World Travel Awards. following a report submitted by for the meeting.

ment work, noting in particular the efforts of the Ministry of Interior.

Boost for tourism

bition World Bahrain winning (exagamglogene autotemcel) for the 44th session of the Supreme hibition and Convention Centre sickle cell disease and transfu-Council of the GCC, which will 2023" award at the esteemed sion-dependent beta-thalassem-

The Cabinet congratulated the Minister of Foreign Affairs tinued implementation of plans to pioneering healthcare solu-Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al the Custodian of the Two Holy regarding topics of discussion and programmes to enhance tions and enhancing its people's Bahrain's position in organising health and well-being to provide On the occasion of the Inter- international tourist exhibitions the best healthcare possible. ment of a \$30 billion fund for Mohammed bin Salman bin national Anti-Corruption Day, and conferences. It commended climate solutions worldwide, Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown the Cabinet affirmed the import he role of the Ministry of Tourproved several memorandums the UAE's investment of \$100 bil- Prince and Prime Minister of tance of accountability and the ism and all relevant parties in during the meeting. lion in financing climate action, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, adoption of initiatives that es- 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 author-The Cabinet welcomed Exhi- isation of the use of CASGEVY ia. In this regard, the Cabinet re-The Cabinet affirmed the con- affirmed Bahrain's commitment

The Cabinet discussed and ap-

(Continued on Page 2)

'Aggressive' action

Israeli ground forces move into southern Gaza

AFP | Jerusalem

srael's army yesterday sent I sraers army yesser and 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 the south, telling Palestinians to Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. (AFP)



air-dropping leaflets in parts of Palestinians wounded during Israeli bombardment arrive at Nasser hospital in

flee to other areas.

Israel has vowed to crush cording to Israeli authorities.

mass demonstrations.

Tanks, armoured personnel Hamas in retaliation for the carriers and bulldozers were group's unprecedented October seen yesteray near the south-7 attacks that killed about 1,200 ern city of Khan Yunis, which people, mostly civilians, and saw is crowded with internally disaround 240 hostages taken, ac-placed Palestinians, witnesses told AFP.

Hamas' health ministry says The Israeli military was trying nearly 15,900 people have been to cut the road between Deir killed in the Palestinian terri- al-Balah in central Gaza and tory, about 70 percent of them Khan Yunis, firing bullets and women and children - a toll that tank shells at cars and people has sparked global alarm and trying to move through the area.

news of bahrai

Oil Minister takes part in COP28 key ministerial round table talks

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Dr. Mo-hammed 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 cooperation and support to achieve the Paris Agreement in a fair manner for

Developing tourism sector 'key priority'

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

TDT | Manama

he 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

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. HRH Prince Salman with Ms. Al Sairafi and Dr. Oaidi Nasser Qaidi, at Gudaibiya Pal-

The meeting took place



Awards.

The Deputy King noted the Convention Centre 2023" award its contributions to the national to the Ministry of Tourism and tourism sector.

at the esteemed World Travel economy, in line with the King- BTEA, and their personnel, dom's development plans.

HRH the Crown Prince and following Exhibition World importance of adopting initia- Prime Minister commended pressed their gratitude for HRH Bahrain winning the "World's tives to enhance the Kingdom's Team Bahrain's accomplish- Prince Salman's commitment Leading New Exhibition and exhibition-hosting sector and ments, expressing his gratitude to further developing the vital

"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

wishing them further success.

Al Sairafi and Dr. Qaidi ex-

Bahrain greets Thai Monarch

TDT | Manama

Tis Majesty King Hamad His Majesty King..... 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

¬he 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)

proving the following:

1. A memorandum submitted

Follow-Up Report to provide participation. progress updates on the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment $\mathbf{T}^{ ext{he Cabinet yesterday dis-}}_{ ext{cussed several memoran-}}$ to international standards and recommendations contained dums during the meeting, ap- in the 2018 mutual evaluation

2. A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Interior re- by the Ministerial Committee by the Minister of Municipalities vate sectors, which will be im- reach carbon neutrality by 2060. garding procedures to follow for Legal and Legislative Affairs up on Bahrain's commitment regarding a draft decision on oversight and mechanisms of to the Financial Action Task regulating navigation permits communal housing, which aims Force's (FATF) recommenda- for visiting ships in Bahraini to control the process of using tions in preparation for the sub- waters for excursions, maintemission of the Fifth Enhanced nance, refuelling, or exhibition ing in a way that ensures safety

3. A memorandum submitted by the Ministerial Committee by the Minister of Electricity for Legal and Legislative Affairs and Water Affairs on the "Kadecision to reconstitute the National Committee for Childhood.

Affairs and Agriculture on the real estate for communal housand health for its users.

5. A memorandum submitted to reduce electricity consumption and carbon emissions in plemented on 20 government buildings.

The Cabinet reviewed the following:

1. A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Municipali-

on a proposal to amend the draft faa" programme, which aims with Bahrain's commitments to riculture and food security at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 4. A memorandum submitted buildings in the public and pri- to reduce carbon emissions and 2. A memorandum submitted

in Bahrain's 2023 National Af-

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

In addition, the Cabinet not- at COP28

ties Affairs and Agriculture re- ed the following ministerial regarding the latest developments ports:

1. Bahrain's participation in forestation Plan, which is in line the ministerial session on ag-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

Thailand's annual National Day celebrated in grand ceremony



Cake-cutting ceremony

Highlighting strong **Bahraini-Thai relations** and tourism potential

Ashen Tharaka TDT | Manama

commemorated with a vibrant ceremony at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Manama yesterday.

tween the two nations.

Thailand's Ambassador to Bah- connections." rain, addressed the gathering,

"Tourism plays a crucial role in Thailand's economy," Am- traditional Thai cultural per-The event brought together "We see immense potential in country's rich artistic heritage. Thai and Bahraini dignitaries, welcoming more Bahraini vis- Guests savored authentic Thai diplomats, and members of the itors to experience the unique cuisine and engaged in lively local community to celebrate beauty, culture, and hospitality conversations, solidifying the the long-standing friendship of our kingdom. This would not bonds of friendship and culturand growing cooperation be- only generate revenue but also al appreciation.

foster deeper cultural under-H.E. Mr. Piyapak Sricharoen, standing and people-to-people

The Undersecretary of the emphasising the significance Ministry of Foreign Affairs for of the relationship between the Political Affairs, Dr. Shaikh two countries. He commended Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalthe existing collaboration in ifa, graced the occasion as the various sectors and expressed chief guest. His presence una strong desire to further derscored the Bahraini govern-The National Day of the strengthen ties, particularly in Ment's commitment to nurtur-lingdom of Thailand was the realm of tourism.

ment's commitment to nurturing the bilateral relationship.

The evening unfolded with bassador Sricharoen stated. formances, showcasing the

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 Shaikh Salman speaks at the event technologies.

Shaikh Salman was speak- Conference of the Parties to ble energy.



incentives to encourage pri- ing as he atteded a high-level vate sector investment in green ministerial roundtable meeting initiatives and investments in

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 held at the 28th session of the climate solutions and renewa-

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

man, His Excellency Ali bin mental security. Saleh Al Saleh, and Council of Meeting, set to take place tomorrow at Expo City Dubai.

ter-Parliamentary Union (IPA) tainability of the comprehenand the UAE National Federal Council, the meeting will be by His Majesty King Hamad held on the sidelines of the bin Isa Al Khalifa, and backed 28th Conference of the Parties by His Royal Highness Prince of the United Nations Frame- Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, work Convention on Climate the Crown Prince and Prime Change (COP28).

The Kingdom is participating in the international paring of speakers, in addition to liamentary meeting to consol- plenary sessions, including idate the role of its parliamen- "Parliamentary Oversight of tary diplomacy in highlighting the Paris Agreement Implethe national and legislative ef-mentation Post-COP28.



Speaker Al Musallam

forts, as well as programmes, projects and initiatives to Bahrain delegation, led confront climate change chal-Aby Shura Council Chair-lenges and strengthen environ-

The delegation's participa-Representatives Speaker, H.E. tion in the high-level parlia-Ahmed bin Salman Al Mus- mentary meeting confirms the allam, will participate in the kingdom's commitment to the international Parliamentary international agreements and resolutions related to addressing climate change effects, in Co-organised by the In- a way that enhances the sussive development process, led Minister.

The event features a meet-

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 Bahraini citizens deserve a better quality of life solutions to improve the overall well-being of the population.

on the declining living standards of Bahraini citizens. The reing of the population. port, previously postponed for a month to allow for comprehensive analysis, will be reviewed by the parliament members.

and inclusive discussions.



The session will provide an opportunity for parliament operational efficiency, maxim-At the center of the session's members to voice citizens' agenda is the parliamentary in- concerns, as well as to propose attract visitors to Bahrain. Furvestigation committee's report reforms and policies that can positively impact the well-be-

Legislative reforms

The findings of the report citizens' concerns, the session will be discussed, and parlia- will also consider legislative mentarians will propose poten- reforms aimed at fostering ecotial measures to address the un-nomic growth and creating a faderlying causes of the decline in vorable business environment. be the government's plans to quality of life. Recognising the Proposed amendments to laws importance of transparency and governing key sectors, such as accountability, the parliament the Bahrain Petroleum Comaims to engage in open dialogue pany and the tourism industry, tify strategies to mitigate losses

The objective is to enhance ise economic contributions, and thermore, 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 In addition to addressing the Northern Governorate, with a focus on ensuring equal access to government services and addressing any existing disparities. Another topic of discussion will address financial losses incurred by subsidiaries of the Mumtalakat Company, aiming to idenand safeguard financial stability.

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

TDT | Manama

ember of Parliament Member of Land 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 Buaing 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

Adv. BINU MANNIL

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

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.





Biju George, Chairman Candidate, **United Parents Panel** Campaigning



Binu Mannil, Chairman Candidate, **Progressive Parents Alliance**

sified in recent weeks, with voters. Allegations and coun-certainty.



Vani Chandran, Chairperson Candidate, **Indian School Parents Forum**

both sides resorting to family ter-accusations have become visits, parent-corner gatherings, commonplace, creating an at-The campaigning has inten- and press conferences to sway mosphere of tension and un-

Vote for a change Vote for development **IVANIOS JOSEPH** SHAREEN SHOUKATH ALI Dr. VISHAL SHAH For More Info : 38363333 | 34679339 | 33571636

INDIAN SCHOOL PARENTS FORUM (ISPF)

PPA's candidates are Binu Mannil, Mohammed Faizal, V Raja Pandian, Ranjini M Menon, Mirza Aamir Baig, Bonny Joseph, and Mithun Mohan. the corner, all eyes are on the They have promised academic outcome. The results will not excellence, financial discipline, only determine the school's leadcomplete transparency, and re- ership for the next three years sponsible development.

The UPP panel includes Abdul Mansheer, Biju George, Hareesh Nair, Javed TCA, Sreedevi, slogan is 'We promise, we deliver'.

and Vishal Shah.

Outcome

With the election just around but also reflect the deep-rooted divisions within the parent community.

The voting will take place on Suresh Subramanian, and Tresa December 8 from 9 a.m. to 7 Antony alias Sini Antony. Their p.m., with the counting scheduled for the same day. Seven parents' representatives and ISPF is fielding David Pera- one staff representative will be mangalath Vincent, Ivanios Jo- elected, who will then nomiseph, Jayafar Maidaneentavida, nate three ministry observers. Poornima Jagadeesha, Shareen The newly elected members will Shoukath Ali, Vani Chandran, 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

His Highness Shaikh forum. Nasser bin Hamad Al ti" (My Story), at The Art Hotel grammes. in Amwaj.

spiring life experiences from community members and spe- addressed the ceremony, com-"Hekayati" competition, were RHF's programmes. present.

from government and private number of people with inspiring Shaikh Nasser for his patronage state institutions and secondary life stories in the competition of the RHF's annual forum. 'nder the patronage of school students attended the confirms their desire to docu-

Khalifa, HM the King's Rep- Nasser extended utmost thanks,

An elite group of speakers, the RHF's annual forums, at- Al Qattan, Deputy Chairman rum to showcase its prestigious

Bahrain and the Gulf Cooper- cialists from Bahrain and abroad mending the constant support ation Council (GCC) countries, reflect the keenness to enable of HM the King and His Royal in addition to the winners of the everybody to contribute to the Highness Prince Salman bin

As many as 450 participants that the participation of a large the RHF, paying tribute to HH ment their real-life experiences On the occasion, HH Shaikh for the upcoming generations.

He expressed pride in the resentative for Humanitarian appreciation and gratitude to participating stories that show Work and Youth Affairs, the His Majesty King Hamad bin everyone's impact on life, and Royal Humanitarian Founda- Isa Al Khalifa, the RHF Honor- their services to the nation, valtion (RHF) organised its seventh ary President, for HM's constant uing highly the rich experiences annual forum, themed "Hekaya- support for various RHF's pro- of the participants from Kuwait Secretary-General, in his stateand the UAE.

specialists, and people with in- tended by a large number of of the RHF Board of Trustees, status and noble mission.

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown HH Shaikh Nasser asserted Prince and Prime Minister, for

> 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 ment, underlined the RHF's His Highness stressed that Shaikh Adnan bin Abdulla keenness to hold its annual fo-

LMRA carries out 1,496 campaigns and inspection visits



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

TDT | Manama

ber 2, 2023.

arrest of 121 violating and ir- ern Governorate. regular workers, with 115 deportations taking place during cies collaborated in these efthis period.

tion visits have also revealed ports and Residence Affairs, several violations related to the General Administration of the regulations outlined in Criminal Investigations and the LMRA Law and the Resi- Evidence, the General Admindence Law in the Kingdom of istration for Implementation Bahrain. Consequently, legal of Judgments, and the security measures have been taken to directorates in the governoaddress these observed vio- rates. The Ministry of Labor

In total, the LMRA conducted these campaigns.

1,474 inspection visits across various commercial stores in all governorates. Additionally, The Labour Market Regu- 22 joint inspection campaigns were carried out, including has announced the successful eight campaigns in the Capital implementation of 1,496 cam- Governorate, three campaigns paigns and inspection visits in the Muharraq Governofrom November 26 to Decem-rate, seven campaigns in the Northern Governorate, and These efforts have led to the four campaigns in the South-

Multiple government agenforts, including the Ministry The campaigns and inspec- of Interior's Nationality, Passalso played an active role in

State Bank of India is licensed as a Conventiona	al Retail Bank by the C	entral Bank of Bahrain	
INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
At 30 September 2023		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 Interest receivable and other assets		44,932 1,014	39,571 711
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 Lease obligations		4,209 339	4,238 131
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		30-Sep-23 (Reviewed)	(Reviewed)
Interest and similar income		2624	1673
Interest and similar expense NET INTEREST INCOME		(769) 1855	(393) 1,280
NET INTEREST INCOME			1,200
Fees and commission income		165 274	187
Other operating income TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		2294	203 1,670
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Staff expenses		(313)	(336)
Depreciation Other engeting expenses		(101)	(123)
Other operating expenses TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		(368) (782)	(321)
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 OFFI Six-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)	CE FUNDS		
Car monar ponda onada do copromiso. 2020 (noncinca)	Head Office	Unremitted	Total
	account		
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 Balance at 30 September 2022	10,655	(2.119)	640
Daiance at 30 September 2022	10,000	(2,118)	8,537

NTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	Bahraini D	inars 000's
Six-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)	30-Sep-23 (Reviewed)	30-Sep-22 (Reviewed)
DPERATING 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
nterest expense on lease obligations	2	2
Operating profit before changes in operating assets & liabilities	1,615	1,065
hanges in operating assets and liabilities		
Mandatory reserve deposit with CBB	(64)	(741
oans and advances	(5,361)	2,136
ue from other branches	7,539	(9,425
nterest receivable and other assets	(303)	428
Due to other branches	(29)	(13,072
Customer deposits	409	843
nterest payable and other liabilities	321	154
et cash (used in) operating activities	4,127	(18,612
NVESTING ACTIVITY		
Proceeds from maturity of investments	-	14778
urchase of furniture and equipment	(1)	(20
cash used in investing activities	(1)	14,758
INANCING ACTIVITY		
ayment of lease obligations	(46)	(85
ash used in financing activity	(46)	(85
IET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,080	(3,939
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	24,182	26,079
ASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	28,262	22,140
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period		
	29,889	22,695
cash and balances with banks and Central Bank of Bahrain	29,889 (2,532)	22,695 (2,372
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period Cash and balances with banks and Central Bank of Bahrain Cash and balances with banks and the CBB	.,	
eash and balances with banks and Central Bank of Bahrain Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(2,532)	(2,372

Interim Condesned 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

TDT | Manama

azad, a local portfolio



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

The agreement stipulates the company of Bahrain dismantlement of the power sta-Mumtalakat Holding tions, in addition to the removal stations will create a competitive to promote a circular econo-Company mandated with over- of structures and equipment, environment for investors, and my in line with our Environseeing public and electronic including turbines, generators, we strive to reach the highest mental, Social and Governance auctions, has signed a cooper- spare parts and other fixtures; number of buyers through this Roadmap as well as contribute ation agreement with Alumini- in order to auction the items sale," said Talal Al Araifi, Chief to reducing waste through the um Bahrain (Alba) to launch a through Mazad's digital auction Executive Officer of Mazad.



platform enabling clients to purlined and transparent process.

"The auction of Alba's power

Adding further, Ali Al Baqali, chase assets through a stream- Chief Executive Officer of Alba, commented: "This cooperation also comes as part of our efforts repurposing of assets."

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 AbdulKhaliq, has been honoured with The Global Economics Award for "Best Emerging powering women in tradition-Export Industry"

In addition, Export Bahrain ability & ESG Awards.

been from businesses owned women within our workforce." by female entrepreneurs, em- she remarked.



Safa Sharif AbdulKhaliq

Women CEO Of the Year in ally male-dominated indus-

Expressing her gratitude, has received the "Best Gov- Abdulkhaliq emphasized that ernment Agency for Women the percentage of Bahraini Empowerment" award from women employed at Export the European Global Sustain- Bahrain has far exceeded an impressive 90%. "We are Through Export Bahrain's proud to have achieved such support, 30% of the products a high level of representation and services exported have and recognition for Bahraini

Gold hits record high as equities weaken

London, United Kingdom

▼ old 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, ac-

cording to analysts. "Concerns about the shaky global economic backdrop and fuelled investor demand for ing of the world's biggest cryp- a two-decade high. safe-haven assets like gold," said Victoria Scholar, head of invest-

ment at Interactive Investor. "Plus, expectations for Fed three-month lows, adding to 2024. 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 Inc	dex: ▼ 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 harrel

tocurrency.

fell, while oil prices dropped.

Traders are shrugging off Fed surging inflation. rate cuts next year have put boss Jerome Powell's attempts

Bets on an easing of monetary

above \$40,000 for the first time Powell said Friday that it was since May last year, boosted by "well into restrictive territory" hopes that the United States after more than a year of hikes ed the Israel-Hamas conflict have would soon allow broader trad- that have put borrowing costs at

> Major stock markets mostly globe have sent interest rates soaring, helping to bring down next month.

downward pressure on the US to temper expectations of US traders expect a 60% chance of briefly surged more than 13% in dollar which is trading around rate cuts in the first quarter of a US rate cut, while they have Hong Kong after a court in the fully priced in one in May.

policy were ramped up when rate cut bets," said Kyle Rodda avoiding liquidation.

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

"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 add-

Bloomberg said a batch of the products are thought to be given Central banks around the the go-ahead by the Securities and Exchange Commission by

In equities trading, troubled Bloomberg reported that developer China Evergrande city allowed extra time to form "Markets are piling in on the a restructuring plan aimed at

NBB delegation attends COP28



NBB delegates at COP28 **TDT** | Manama

delegation from the Na-Ational Bank of Bahrain (NBB) attended the 2023 Unit- related to sustainability as ed Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) at Expo banking sector. Abdulrahim

in talks and panel discussions achievements and milestones.

well as its integration in the Abdulhameed, Senior Associ-The NBB delegation, led ate & Sustainability Officer at by NBB Group CEO, Usman NBB, presented 'NBB's Sustain-Ahmed, will be taking this ability Journey' at the Bahrain opportunity to network with Pavilion during the "Finance/ industry colleagues, climate Trade/Gender Equality/Acchange experts and diplomats countability" day where he from around the world to dis-showcased NBB's accomplishcuss pressing issues related to ments over the years, its susthe reduction of carbon emis- tainability strategy and framesions. Members of the NBB work as well as NBB's market delegation are participating position, tangible impacts,

Spotify cuts around 1,500 jobs as growth slows

Stockholm, Sweden

would reduce its number of 574 million. employees by around 17 pernomic growth.

October, compared to a loss of pandemic lockdowns.

166 million for the same period a year earlier, and following Music streaming giant 26 percent growth in active Spotify said Monday it users for the third quarter to

Around 1,500 people will cent in a bid to cut costs amid leave the company, Spotify "dramatically" slower eco- said. It was the latest in a series of layoffs announced in the The announcement comes tech industry which is cutting on the heels of a rare quarterly tens of thousands of jobs folnet profit of 65 million euros in lowing a boom during Covid

TDT | Manama

 $B^{
m BK}$ 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 **Power of Pearls** Kingdom forward but have also been instrumental in shaping future generations."

Najwa Al Ahmed, Assistant







BBK celebrates Woman's Day with groundbreaking initiatives





Najwa Al Ahmed Mindful Moments



progress and prosperity of the ership and management roles. Kingdom across all sectors.

ing them to contribute to the various departments for lead-

Coinciding with the Bahraini full-day workshop, "Power of number of focus group sessions General Manager of Human Re- Woman's Day, the Bank intro- Pearls," for female employees. encouraging women employees sources and Administration and duced the "Women on The Lad- Another initiative included an to speak up their challenges and Chairperson of the BBK Wom- der" program. This web-based honoring ceremony whereby participate in addressing their en Empowerment Committee initiative, conducted in collab- several women employees of issues to create positive change highlighted the encouraging oration with Cambridge univer- the Bank were honored by the that support the Bank's strategic environment the Bank offers to sity, aims to groom a number of Group Chief Executive, Dr. Ab- objectives toward equal opporits women employees, inspir- talented female employees from dulRahman Saif. Furthermore, tunities.

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 Empow-The Bank also organized a erment Committee arranged a

NOTICE

With regard to the license cancellation

of "Ernst & Young Corporate Finance W.L.L."

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.

PAIN IS TEMPORARY. IT MAY LAST A MINUTE, OR AN HOUR, OR A DAY, OR A YEAR, BUT EVENTUALLY IT WILL SUBSIDE AND SOMETHING ELSE WILL TAKE ITS PLACE. IF I **QUIT, HOWEVER, IT LASTS FOREVER** LANCE ARMSTRONG

TODAY

manitarian respite, a positive

glimpse of humanity that raised

hopes around the world that a

path to reduced suffering could

now be found," Spoljaric said in

"As a neutral actor, the ICRC

stands ready to support fur-

ther humanitarian agreements

hat reduce suffering and

She said the purpose of her visit

was "to advance efforts that alle-

viate the desperate humanitarian

situation". "I will convey my deep

concern for the plight of civilians

and underline the ICRC's utmost

commitment to doing everything

The ICRC said that during her

visit to Gaza, Spoljaric would

we can to ease their suffering,"

Charlemagne becomes the sole King of the Franks after the death of his brother Carloman



strikes Naples, Nuremberg massacred during killing an estimat-**Black Death riots** ed 35,000 people

US President James K. Polk triggers gold rush of 1849 by confirming a gold discovery in

In a world defined b

justices, early warning

systems are the most ba-

sic tool for saving lives &

ivelihoods. We need all

hands-on deck to make

the Early Warnings for

All initiative a reality &

provide protection from

hazardous weather & cli-

Dromoting and pro-

of the most compelling

reasons for climate ac-

tion. I thank all the min-

isters who joined today's

#COP28 special sessions

on the Alliance for Trans-

formative Action on Cli-

mate and Health, aiming

to build low-carbon and

climate-resilient health

tecting health is one

@antonioguterres

mate. #COP28

News in brief

Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial resumed vesterday, despite the country's continuing war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The trial was suspended after the Palestinian militant group's bloody October 7 attack on southern Israel in which 1,200 people were killed and 240 more kidnapped according to Israeli officials Netanyahu, leader of Israel's right-wing Likud party, is accused of bribery, fraud and breach of trust, allegations he denies. Minister David Amsalem of Likud called the

Bissau dissolves



decree on Monday dissolving the parliament after an attempted coup in the West African nation. Violence had erupted between members of the national guard and special forces of the presidential guard

◆ The president of Guinea-Bissau issued a

on Thursday night in the capital Bissau, leaving two people dead before the army ordered its forces back to barracks. President Umaro Sissoco Embalo, who was in Dubai attending the COP28 climate conference, arrived back in Bissau on Saturday and announced that an "attempted coup d'etat" had prevented him from

congresswoman accuses Duterte of second death Castro and Duterte had been subpoenaed to appear witnesses and supporting documents relating to the



CURIOSER & CURIOSER



Pandas are found in the wild in southwest China, along the Tibetan Plateau.

cubless years in the Scottish a sanctuary in Chengdu, the capital of southwestern Chi-It was hoped that female na's Sichuan province.

and red tartan created in their extended by two years. honour, never succeeded in During their stay in Edin-

them really well."

burgh, the popular pair even conceiving.

of veterinary services at the The zoo and veterinarians Royal Zoological Society of from China made eight at-Scotland (RZSS). tempts at artificial insemina-"I think we're all quite sad tion between the pair.

to see them go, they are two There was also a failed atlovely individuals, lovely chartempt to artificially insemiacters, and we've got to know nate Tian Tian in 2013.

The giant panda breeding The pandas were trans- programme was stopped in ported to the airport in metal 2021 after Yang Guang was crates and loaded into a cargo castrated after being treated plane with a pallet of bamboo for testicular cancer.

Gaza suffering 'intolerable', Red Cross president says

Israeli tanks entered southern Gaza near the territory's secondlargest city of Khan **Yunis on Monday**

Military spokesman Jonathan Conricus said Israel was "not trying to displace anyone, we are not trying to move anybody from anywhere permanently."

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

arrived in war-torn Gaza areas in the city



he Red Cross president Palestinians flee from Khan Yunis to Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, after the Israeli army called on people to leave certain

yesterday, calling for the "It is unacceptable that civil- ly". warned that human suffering was in place there is also no adequate safely visit them," she said.

dent Mirjana Spoljaric's travel to Spoljaric, whose organisation truce brokered by Qatar, the Unit- The Hamas-run health minis- for civilian life to be protected the region would happen in sev- has faced criticism from both ed States and Egypt, during which try says more than 15,500 people and respected on all sides, in line eral stages with "a visit to Israel sides in the conflict for not pro- Israel and Hamas exchanged have been killed in Gaza, about with international humanitarian expected over the coming weeks". viding adequate help to Israeli scores of hostages and prisoners. 70 percent of them women and law, and I reiterate that appeal "I have arrived in Gaza, where hostages held by Hamas and Pal- Israel has vowed to crush Ha- children -- a death toll that has today," Spoljaric said, insisting people's suffering is intolerable," estinian prisoners held by Israel, mas in retaliation for the Islamist sparked global alarm and mass that "an unimpeded and regular

protection of civilians in the ians have no safe place to go in "The hostages must be released, tages taken, according to Israeli "visit the European Hospital, Palestinian territory, where she Gaza, and with a military siege and the ICRC must be allowed to authorities.

ing the collapse of a week-long started.

liberty must be treated humane- that killed about 1,200 people, provided a small degree of hu- enter Gaza".

zen originally from Colombia

Israel's military said Sun- been conducting life-saving surhumanitarian response currently Her visit comes after full-scale day it had carried out around gery alongside local healthcare The International Committee possible," she added in an ICRC fighting resumed Friday follow- 10,000 air strikes since the war workers".

also spend time with the organmostly civilians, and saw 240 hos- isation's team on the ground and

where ICRC medical teams have

"We have urgently appealed Spoljaric said on X, formerly insisted that "all those deprived of militant group's October 7 attacks demonstrations. "The last week flow of aid must be allowed to

Five bodies found after crash of Osprey off Japan: US military

T TS and Japanese rescuers U found five bodies yesterday following the crash of an Osprey military aircraft last week off Japan with eight crew on board, the US military said.

"Today (Monday), the combined Japanese and United States teams... had a breakthrough when their surface ships and dive teams were able to locate remains along with the main fuselage of the aircraft wreckage," the US Air Force said in a statement.

"The dive teams were able to confirm five additional crew members from the original team of eight that were in- known casualty from the crash volved with the crash," it said. of the CV-22 aircraft.

"Currently two crew memhave been successfully recov-search operation that has lasted ing crew members from the ed for.

AFP | Marawi, Philippines

Recovered debris, believed to be part of wreckage from a crashed US Air

Force CV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, is seen after it was brought ashore at Yakushima-cho in Kagoshima prefecture

The latest discovery, which wing turboprop plane, has suf-

The Osprey, which can operate like a helicopter or a fixed-

bers of the five located today follows a large-scale joint fered a string of fatal accidents. ered by the attending teams. since the incident, meant that killed three US Marines in Au-There is an ongoing combined two crew members from the gust, while four more died in effort to recover the remain- aircraft remained unaccount- another crash in Norway dur-Japan's public broadcaster year. Three Marines were also

Philippines launches 'massive' manhunt

A crash in northern Australia

ing NATO training exercises last Hours after the aircraft dis- NHK, citing unidentified sourc- killed in 2017 when another appeared on November 29 es, said earlier on Monday what Osprey crashed off Australia's near the island of Yakushima, appeared to be the front part of north coast and 19 Marines died Japanese first responders had the aircraft, possibly including when their Osprey crashed durlocated and recovered the first the cockpit, had been found. ing drills in Arizona in 2000.

Six Nepalis killed fighting for Russia, one captured in Ukraine

AFP |Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal said Monday that six citizens had been killed while serving as mercenaries in the Russian army and another had been captured in Ukraine, confirming that Nepalis are fighting for Moscow.

Kathmandu urged Moscow to stop the use of Nepali mercenaries and send any men serving back

Nepal's foreign ministry said it had received information on the death of the "six Nepali citizens while serving in the Russian army", and named another citizen "being held in Ukraine after being recruited into the Russian army". It did not specify where, how or when the six were

The statement follows a warning in August urging citizens not to engage in security-related work in wartorn countries.

Libya mining network

 ${m A}$ network, comprised of Chinese, Chadian, and Nigerien nationals, has been dismantled in southern Libya, local authorities have

yan man, was mining four large sites in the southern desert, said the Tripoli attorney general, which posted photos of the mines and seized gold ingots on its Facebook page on Sunday.

This summer, the author-

the fall of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, Libya is split between a United Nations-supported government in the west and a rival administration in the east.



n illegal gold mining

The network, led by a Lib-

rich country is desert and difficult to monitor, though gold mining is not thought to be widespread.

The foreign nationals who carried out the mining were staying illegally in Libya, the attorney general said, without clarifying when they were arrested.

in western Libya, arresting dozens of Chinese nation-

Thrown into chaos since

AFP |Tripoli, Libya

said in a statement.

Two-thirds of the vast oil-

ities dismantled an illegal cryptocurrency mining network on several sites

nation. In every circumstance, their spirit and resolve remain unshak-@narendramodi



have a free and fair choice to join a union.

by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

Former US ambassador charged with spying for Cuba

AFP | Miami, United States

former US ambassador to ABolivia and member of the National Security Council has been charged with spying for Cuba for 40 years, the Justice Department announced yes-

The charges against Victor Manuel Rocha, 73, "exposes one of the highest-reaching and longest-lasting infiltrations of the United States government by a foreign agent," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement explaining the

Rocha, a naturalized US citi- Rocha



allegedly began aiding Havana as a "covert agent of Cuba's General Directorate of Intelligence" in 1981, and his espionage activities continued to the present, the statement said. Those who have the privilege of serving in the government of the United States are

trust by the public we serve," Garland said. "To betray that trust by falsepledging loyalty to the United States while serving a foreign power is a crime that will be met with the full force of the

Justice Department."

'I did not kill Narumi:' Chilean appeals against murder conviction

AFP | Vesoul, France

nese ex-girlfriend Narumi Kurosa- French in prison. ki in 2016, at the start of his appeal "It has been a real nightmare," against his murder conviction in a he said in front of a packed court-

French court. aged 21, in December 2016.

Her body was never found.

ing in court in the eastern town of Vesoul."I contest with all my A Chilean man insisted on Monday he did not kill his Japa- of," said Zepeda, who has learnt

room, which included the vic-Nicolas Zepeda was sentenced tim's mother and two sisters. "I in April last year to 28 years in jail think of her family's enormous for the murder of Kurosaki, then grief, which I carry with me all the time," he added, visibly moved. Sylvie Galley, who represents

The appeal trial opened exactly Kurosaki's family, told reporters:

ple fighters.

"Rest assured the military

On Sunday, President Ferdi-

Before Islamic State claimed

mitment."

General Romeo Brawner had cent days.

University in Marawi

said the bombing may have Pro-Islamic State Maute and claimed more than 1,000 lives. been a revenge attack for gov- Abu Sayyaf militants -- includ- Militant attacks on buses, ernment operations against ing foreign and local fighters Catholic churches and public three Islamist militant groups -- held Marawi under siege in markets have been a feature -- Dawlah Islamiyah-Philip- 2017. pines, Abu Sayyaf and Maute The Philippine military region.

responsibility, military chief -- in western Mindanao in re- wrested back the ruined city

French police arrest teen suspected of killing parents parents," Grenoble public prose- "This is a horrible tragedy. I'm

A teenager suspected of killing his parents and setting their home on fire was arrested at the weekend, plunging a village in southeastern France into a state of shock.

A 15-year-old, named only as Valentin, was arrested on Saturday after two bodies were discovered in the family's burnt-out house in Chateauvilain, a village of nearly 800 people between Lyon and Grenoble.

The teenager has admitted to killing his parents, according to the public prosecutor's office.

"I can confirm that young



cutor Eric Vaillant said on Sunday. stunned," local mayor Daniel The old farmhouse where Gaude told AFP. the family had lived was set The teenager, like his mother,

taken into custody. Investigators said that two "al- the time of the tragedy. most entirely charred" bodies had "It's just awful. There are no been found in the remains of the words," said Bruno Oliva, 60.

vounds to the skull" and one also nad chest wounds.

"Everyone in the village is talk-

"They were discreet people. The young man didn't go to school Forensic tests were still being anymore. He was isolated", Oliva

$A^{\tiny \text{Philippine military com-}}_{\tiny \text{mander said yesterday that}}$ a "massive" manhunt was underway for the assailants who bombed a Catholic mass in the country's restive south, killing

after Catholic mass bombing

ing dozens. The blast, claimed by the Islamic State group, happened Sunday at Mindanao State University's gymnasium in Marawi, the country's largest Muslim city, which was besieged by Is-

four worshippers and wound

lamist militant groups in 2017. Policemen and soldiers from the military arrive at Mindanao State University Security officials have said in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur province the bombing, which wounded around 50 people, may have been a retaliatory attack for a series of military operations against Islamist militant groups

in recent days that killed multi-"There's an ongoing massive operation to hunt the terrorist groups or the suspected perpetrators of the bombing," Western Mindanao Command chief Lieutenant General William Gonzales told a press confer-

here will go after the perpetrators. We will see to it that the people here will be secured and safe, that will be our com-

nand Marcos blamed "foreign terrorists" for the attack and his defence chief Gilbert Teodoro said there were "strong indications of a foreign element".

armed rebellion. But smaller bands of Muslim fighters opposed to the peace deal remain. including militants professing allegiance to the Islamic State group. Communist rebels also operate in the region.

police and the provincial governor Mamintal Adiong Jr. (back C with cap) inspecting the site of a bomb attack inside a gymnasium at Mindanao State

after a five-month battle that of decades-long unrest in the

Manila signed a peace pact with the nation's

Liberation Front, in 2014, ending their deadly

largest rebel group, the Moro Islamic

Navy. Their commitment to safeguarding our seas is a testament to their unwavering dedication to duty and love for our

⊥ican worker should

Disclaimer: (Views expressed

Minister's corruption trial

resumption of proceedings during the war "a disgrace". "War? Captives? ... No, no. The most important thing now is to renew Netanyahu's trial," said Amsalem on Sunday on social media platform X, formerly Twitter. Netanyahu and his allies have argued the accusations against him are politically motivated and had proposed a judicial overhaul that would have curbed some powers held by the courts. The high-profile trial is expected to last several more months. An appeal process, if necessary, could take years.

returning earlier. ◆ A Filipino congresswoman accused former president Rodrigo Duterte on Monday of threatening to kill her for a second time. House of Representatives Deputy Minority Leader France Castro made the allegation in a "supplemental" criminal complaint filed with prosecutors in Manila. at the prosecutor's office on Monday to present

24. Castro has alleged Duterte made "grave threats" against her during an October 10 interview with local broadcaster SMNI, violating the Cybercrime Prevention Act. She alleged on Monday Duterte had threatened her life again in an interview with the same broadcaster on November 16. In

communist rebels who are fighting a decades-old insurgency.

UK's only pandas return to China

ahead of their flight back to China. The UK's only giant pandas They will spend time in Left Edinburgh for China quarantine on arrival in Chion Monday after spending 12 na before being re-homed at

Tian Tian ("Sweetie") and The pandas arrived at Edinmale Yang Guang ("Sunshine") burgh Zoo in December 2011 would produce a cub during as part of a 10-year agreement their stay at Edinburgh Zoo. between the RZSS and the But the bears, who even had China Wildlife Conservation a special black, white, grey Association, which was later

"It's sad that Tian Tian had a special tartan created in hasn't bred here, we would their honour, in black, white obviously really have liked and grey representing their her to have done so, but this fur, and red to symbolise Chiis not unusual with giant pan- na. But it was soon clear the das," said Simon Girling, head two were not eager to breed.



Valentin has confessed to the A barn and a house where two bodies were found, after a fire broke out during the gendarmes that he had killed his night of November 26 and 27 in Chateauvilain, south-eastern France.

seven years after Kurosaki was "If the family is here today, it's last seen."I did not kill Narumi," for one and only one reason -- to Zepeda, 32, said in French, speak- honour Narumi's memory".

The corpses bore "gunshot ing about it."

carried out to identify the victims. told AFP.

on fire in late November. had health problems linked to The adolescent disappeared Lyme disease, according to the

He was tracked down and ar- Valentin's engineer father rested in the southern French city was 58. His 52-year-old mother of Montpellier on Saturday and worked from home. His 17-yearold brother was not at home at

Will Smith: 'I started making my own problems'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

making my own problems" because life was going too well.

The 55-year-old actor - who re- me as a human, not just as an artist. ceived a 10-year ban in 2022 from the Academy Awards for slapping Chris can't get too excited when people to The Hol-Rock on stage - admitted he has made say good things about you. Because lywood Reof Quincy Jones, he is trying to "win about you, you struggle and suffer said he is alas a human".

he said: "I love puzzles, I love prob- to applaud for me to stay focused a steadier. The imlems. Yeah, so I started making my on my mission. ... I want you to feel portant thing in life

own problems. Life is going too well. good. And at the same

I have made tons of mistakes. time, I am deeply Will Smith joked he "started Quincy has always made himself human. And I am available," Smith said. "He wants me in the process to win as a human. He is devoted to of perfecting

"Fame is a unique monster. You 'tons of mistakes", but with the help then when people say bad things porter, Will more. "I have to be clear about who ways open to Speaking at the Red Sea Interna- I am and what I am attempting to do learning. tional Film Festival in Saudi Arabia, in the world. And I can't need others

According

He said: "I am

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 con- a call with tinuously learn. Michael B. I have studied Jordan tothe stories morrow. I that last for can't tell

> And, Will also revealed that he is working on a sequel to 'I Am Legend' with Michael B Jor-

of years."

dan, saying: "I have Will Smith

Selena Gomez 'not feeling any pressure'

to be in a relationship', but is casually dating



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 Boy, does she ride me roughshod. I'll 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 criticism for making light of you. Anything you want. Thing is, it's OK if every- a COVID-19 conspiracy theory body tells you you're great. The problem is when when he guest-hosted 'Satyou start believing it ... I certainly did. When urday Night Live' in Febru-I was younger, my ego ran away from me. Or ary. During his monologue, with me. It's almost inevitable. Either you catch Wood said he had received yourself and realise what's happening, or you're the "craziest script he's

[messed up] as a human. Now I've ever read" that endgot a good handle on it. I feel an ed with the masses ppropriate level of humility." Woody added: "I mean, to take drugs we're not surgeons. We're in order to not saving Mother Earth leave their

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. 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 "being forced" homes.

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

C elena Gomez is "cas-Oually dating" but be happy." doesn't want a relationship. had relationships with the was thought to have struck likes of pop star Justin Bie- up a relationship with singer ber and The Weeknd over Andrew Taggart, 33, but she is "doing well" dating on a the rumours. laid-back basis but doesn't things to escalate.

A source told 'Enter- ingle" (sic) tainment Tonight': "Sefocusing on what's best

taining her own boundaries. members only clubs." Her friends and family sup-

Earlier this year, the for-The 31-year-old actress has mer Disney Channel actress the years and an insider took to social media in an has now claimed that she apparent attempt to quash

In a now-deleted post, she feel any "pressure" for wrote on Instagram: "I like being alone too much #iams-

pressure to be in a re- romance is "very casual and lationship. She is just low-key" for the time being. I never let that happen

An insider said: "They because I still believe for her right now and has aren't trying to hide their ro- and I still hope.'

been very in tune with main- mance by sneaking around at

Sources claimed that the port her and just want her to 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 was reported that the giving myself completely to lena is casually dating 'Only Murders in the Build- something is the best way I and doing well. She is ing' actress and Drew had can love. But I never wanted doing her own thing and recently started seeing each the pain that I endured to put doesn't feel any sort of other, and their burgeoning some sort of guard on myself - an armour if you will - and



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-yearold 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."

Michael B. Jordan smashes his Ferrari into parked car

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

ichael B Jordan's M\$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 Michael B. Jordan's Ferrari after the crash night, with pictures taken at the showing the right side of the ployed and a wheel with gold pened?' but the star didn't offer Sunset Gower Studios.



scene that are being run by TMZ rims rolling away from the car. an explanation." TMZ reported: "Our law enelectric blue vehicle severely forcement say police on the to police officers on the sidesmashed - with its airbags de- scene asked Jordan, 'What hap- walk after the accident outside

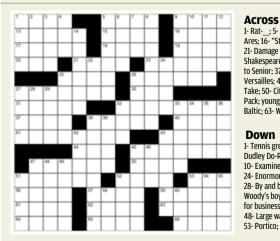
The actor was seen speaking

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esterday's solution

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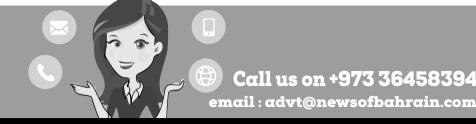
CROSSWORD

1- Rat-_; 5- Crack; 9- Soviet news service; 13- Hawkins of Dogpatch; 15- Mother of Ares; 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, ir 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;

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- Beatty 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

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

PAREESA INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36340255 or MALIK.ALI947S@GMAIL.COM

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GULF HOTELS GROUP - GULF HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17713000 or hussain.almajed@gulfhotelsgroup.com

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PLANNING CONSTRUCTION EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36555228 or anish6722@gmail.com

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GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact

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ECOSIS CONTRACTING has a vacancy for

the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified

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applicants can contact 37766100 or ECOSIS. CONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM SYME MECHANICAL CONTRACTING W.I.I has a vacancy for the occupation of ERECTOR -STEEL - (CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17456311 or

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Bavuma to miss white-ball matches against India



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

AFP | Johannesburg

World Cup captain Temba white-ball series against India, Cricket South Africa announced yesterday in naming squads for the multi-format

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 together with coach Shukri as on December 26.

Fast bowlers Gerald Coet-Jansen will only play in the first two T20 inter-nationals before returning to their four-day cricket ahead of the Test series.

said the decision was made in ensure we make a strong start consultation with Test coach Shukri Con-rad.

'We have a busy summer ahead starting with the T20Is the decision to omit several of our senior players," said

"This decision was taken Stubbs.



We have a busy Bavuma will miss two 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

we place emphasis on the redball leg of the tour, meaning zee, Lungi Ngidi and Marco they will instead be preparing for the Test series by playing domestic cricket."

Conrad said: "It is the start franchises to play in domestic of a new ICC World Test Championship cycle and that itself is a huge in-centive for One-day coach Rob Walter everyone. We want to try and to this sequence here at home against one of the best teams in the world."

The Test squad includes and then ODIs against India three uncapped players in and we have therefore taken Durham and Western Province batsman David Bedingham, left-arm fast bowler Nandre Burger and batsman Tristan

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

 ${f B}$ razil'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.

Brazilian rapper NOG and Lucas Martins They're famous for their trilogies Vicious Cycle, including all the Brazilian fans and fight er out of Kyrgyzstan, introduc- fended during the event, with 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 twotime world champions in the same weight class.

my countryman Lucas and his whole nation of Brazil behind championship title to Brazil.



EPs including Domino Effect, fans to join me at the Khalifa ing himself, and his country's the main event featuring the Sports City to support Lucas MMA scene to millions of people Martins.", said NOG.

> The fight between Lucas weight world championship.

As Martins carries with him the rich Brazilian fighting tivating mix of established su-"I am in Bahrain to support tradition that shaped Chute perstars and rising prospects, Boxe Muay Thai and Brazilian will show-case athletes from 10 team. I am certain with the jiu-jitsu sharpened with Team nations, including Kyrgyzstan, Lucas Mineiro, Kubanychbek Brazil, Poland, Russia, Kazakhdomitable fighting spirit of his Tajikistan, and Slovenia. On 5th December, I welcome people, as the number one fight-

through BRAVE CF.

Martins and Abdisalam Uulu 2023, happening at BRAVE CF 77 Kubanychbek showcases con- will witness the national hero trasting styles and fight tra- of Kyrgyzstan facing the legditions clashing for the light- end from Brazil in a world-class wrestler vs. striker showdown.

BRAVE CF 77, featuring a cap-

Two world titles will be de- globe.

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

lightweight championship clash and the super welterweight The highest profile fight of 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, featurhim, he will bring the world introduces to the world the in- stan, Egypt, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, ing nearly 800 athletes from over 80 countries across the



Dani Carvajal in action

Real Madrid lose defender Carvajal to calf injury

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid right-back surprise challengers G Dani Carvajal is ex- na on goal difference. pected to miss the rest Granada.

Spain international Car- lined for a month. vajal was replaced at half-

victory which kept Madrid top of La Liga above surprise challengers Giro-

The club said tests reof the year after the club vealed an injury to his announced yesterday he left calf but did not give suffered a calf injury in a timeline for his return. the weekend win over Spanish media suggested Carvajal could be side-

time during Saturday's 2-0 been a regular for Carlo 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, captain-The 31-year-old has ing the team on a number

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

in Non-Qualifying Practice er of a 57.570s lap time. (NQP) one for Evens in the Junior MAX class yesterday, as saw Team UK lead the way the 2023 Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals (RMCGF) got un- BIKC's 1.414km circuit, with derway with on-track action at Oliver Spencer one minute Bahrain International Karting 01.936 seconds and Emerson Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

Luca had a best lap of 55.141 fastest out on track. 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 Lithuania's Majus Mazinas the chequered flag, with Japan and France represented by the final two drivers that rounded out the top five.

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 Bahrain's Luca Houghton of the field in their opening was top of the timesheets session, putting down a mark-

> The Micro MAX contingent in the opening venture onto Macandrew Uren (1:02.157)

> 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

In the Senior MAX, Belgium's Kai Rillaerts led the way in the first NQP session of the day, Timo Jungling was fastest posting a 53.859s fastest lap, in the opening Junior MAX followed by Japan's Kenta Kusession for Odds, being one of magai (53.912s) and France's a handful of drivers to initial- Adam Rahali. Kuwait's Fahad ly break under the 55-second Alkhaled secured third spot on barrier with a 54.860s, leading the times with a 54.193.

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

he region's leading drag Bahrain International world-renowned Bahrain Drag mission. 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 worldclass quarter-mile drag strip at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

a member of the prestigious NHRA Worldwide Network, and participants in the BDRC go awarded only to NHRA champions around the world.

organised and run by BIC in Index 8.5 Bike, Outlaw Bike and cooperation with the Bahrain Street Fight. Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission and drag racers and teams are slat-



racing series returns to A drag racer in action at BIC (file photo)

This week's opening events kick off today and tomorrow outfit Bahrain1Racing, owned with back-to-back nights of Test by His Majesty the King's Perand Tune, scheduled from 6pm sonal Representative His High- ary, and then round four will be to 12 midnight.

Qualifying will then be held Al Khalifa. on Thursday, setting up the ladders for the eliminations on BDRC calendar continues un-Race Day Friday.

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

All are welcome to attend and BIC's drag racing facility is enjoy the multiple nights of topclass drag racing.

Racing this season will be held in 14 categories for both head-to-head for the right to cars and motorbikes. The cars claim a coveted "Wally" trophy classes include the Index 7.5, at the end of this campaign's Pro 29.5 V8, Outlaw 4 Cylinfive-meeting calendar. The der, Outlaw 6 Cylinder, Index "Wally" is an exclusive accolade 10.00, Index 9.00, Index 8.50, Competition 4.5 and Pro Mod; while the motorbike classes are The BDRC season is being Pro Street Bike, Street Fight 9.5,

Many of the region's leading

season. Among them are the round two is scheduled for 9 to Kingdom's multi-titled NHRA

This season's five-round finale will then take place 19 to



12 January.

 \odot l

The NHRA "Wally" tro-

phy, exclusive to NHRA

champions worldwide,

adds prestige to BDRC

victories, attracting

Round three will then be held from 30 January to 2 Februness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad the following week from 6 to 9 February. The championship



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

B ahraini-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 a pair of Mercedes AMG-GT3 success to the region. 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 the Middle East's premier GT endurance race.

Cars from Audi, BMW, Ferrari, official entry list. 2 Seas have will be hoping to carry over that



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

grid by the #3 Am car, which ing race of 2023. features 2 Seas co-owner His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla the final round of the Intercon- AF Corse, GruppeM Racing, Car of top drivers, will take part in bin Hamad Al Khalifa alongside tinental GT Challenge season, Collection Motorsport, Grove Ian Loggie and Al Faisal Al Zu- and three championships are up Racing, Garage 59, Sky Tempesbair of Oman.

McLaren, Mercedes-AMG and Teams' Champions of the Brit-balance, as well as Independent RacingOne, Sun Energy 1, 7Tsix, Porsche are represented on the ish GT Championship, and they Cup honours.

2 Seas have won two of the 2 Seas' #14 Pro entry will see last three editions of the Gulf Jules Gounon team up with 12 Hours, and are once again Maximilian Gotz and Fabian amongst the favourites to chal-Schiller to fight for overall vic- lenge for the victory. The event tory. They will be joined on the will be the team's curtain-clos-

The Gulf 12 Hours is again for grabs, with overall drivers' ta, Herberth Motorsport, Kessel 2 Seas are the reigning GT3 and manufacturers' titles in the Racing, Optimum Motorsport,

Also competing in this year's Racing and Tsunami RT.



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

Other teams taking part are Baron Motorsport, HaasRT, MP

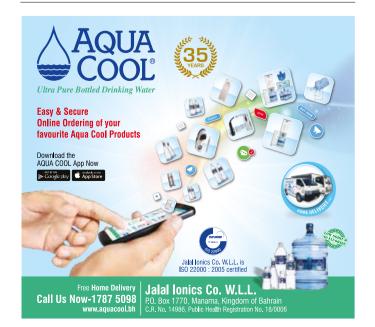
Hope guides West Indies past England in 1st ODI

AFP | North Sound

at the Sir Vivian Richards Sta- unbeaten 109.

dium in Antigua on Sunday.

Set a daunting target of Chai Hope's 16th hundred 326 by the visitors, the home and the rampaging support captain anchored the effort of all-rounder Romario Shep- through an unsteady period herd lifted the West Indies to and then exploded with an ara record-breaking four-wicket ray of mighty strokes, finishing victory in a high-scoring open- the match with three sixes off ing duel of the three-match Sam Curran in the penultimate One-Day International series over to seal the result with an



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

TDT | Manama

ahrain's Manama Club Qatar 108-71 last night in out the big win. the 2023/2024 FIBA West Asian Super League (WASL).

The game was played at Zain of Dubai and Kazma of Kuwait. Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam and it was Manama's second pions return to action in two fixture in Group B of the Gulf weeks' time when they face sub-zone in the WASL prelimi- Shabab Al Ahli on 18 Decemnary round.

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

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 romped past Al Shamal of cruised in the final canto to close

Manama and Shamal are in the same pool as Shabab Al Ahli

The Bahraini national chamber in the UAE, and then take The defending champions on Kazma in Kuwait City on 15 start and took leads as big as 38 face off once again with Shamal of Qatar yesterday



were in control from the very January next year. They then Manama's Ahmed Salman goes for a lay-up during their game against Al Shamal



Manama are joined in this year's FIBA WASL by fellow-Bahraini outfit Muharrag. Manama are the competition's defending champions. having clinched the historic first-ever title las 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.

are competing alongside Ku- for the other final four berths, wait Sporting Club of Kuwait, also in a best-of-three.

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 Manama are joined in this the top seeds by the end of the year's FIBA WASL competition by round-robin opening phase difellow-Bahraini outfit Muhar- rectly qualifying to the best-ofrag, who are in Group A of the three semi-finals. The second preliminary round. Muharraq and third-ranked teams will play

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

TDT | Manama

 $B^{\hbox{\scriptsize ahrain's senior men's national handball}}_{\hbox{\scriptsize team will take on their counterparts}}$ from Brazil and Tunisia in an international friendly tournament in France early next

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 qual- home. ifier 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.

a pair of international friendly games at South Korea, China and New Zealand; and the bronze medal once.



Bahrain national team players in a scrimmage during training

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

UAE, Hong Kong and Kazakhstan for the 2014 and 1993. preliminary round. Group A features de-Prior to their French trip, the Bahrainis fending champions Qatar, Kuwait, Oman men's title, but have claimed the silver are also set to play Iraq and Morocco in and Chinese Taipei. Group B includes Iran, medals five times in the past and also won

Group C is composed of Saudi Arabia, Iraq,

Bahrain is hosting the continental competition for the fourth time in its history. Bahrain are in Group D along with the It previously also staged the event in 2016,

The Bahrainis have never won the Asian

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

AFP | London

other level up" from last season until Wednesday. as Arsenal seek to open up a

points clear of second-placed side.

Liverpool and three ahead of champions Manchester City ikel Arteta said the Pre- after the weekend games, with Miler League has "gone anneither of those teams in action

Arteta's men topped the five-point lead at the top of the table for much of last season table at lowly Luton on Tuesday. but faltered down the home The Gunners, who beat stretch and were overtaken by Wolves 2-1 on Saturday, are two Pep Guardiola's relentless City



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

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

New Zealand eye comeback final Test win in Bangladesh



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

AFP | Dhaka

hoped to finish their long seatreats here before we leave, son away from home on a high and then we can go and smell by beating Bangladesh in the that beer. It's going to be beauupcoming second Test.

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

long season with a tour to Paki- use in the final match. stan in April, have also played and the United Arab Emirates, before playing in the World scribed 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 New Zealand leg spinner the boys are super motivat-Ish Sodhi said his side ed. Hopefully, we'll get some tiful New Zealand air pretty

> New Zealand's defeat in Sylin Bangladesh and only second against the side.

But Sodhi said they had The Kiwis, who started their learned lessons they would

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

"But, upon reflection, I think Cup in India, a time Sodhi de- they gave us a blueprint on what is successful in these conditions, and hopefully we can apply that to this next Test

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