

**Gauff inspires USA to United Cup title**

Coco Gauff beats Iga Swiatek before Taylor Fritz seals victory for USA over Poland | P 12

**Gaza rescuers say 23 killed in Israeli strikes**



**Tom Holland plans to quit acting**

**Yellow Door Energy: Illuminating Bahrain's Renewable Energy Future**

# Moment of pride

Bahrain's national football team 'heroes' return home victorious with Gulf Cup trophy



His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with the Gulf Cup trophy (Pictures courtesy of Al Ayam)

TDT | Manama



Members of the Bahrain team wave triumphantly to cheering fans during open-top bus parade



The players arrive at Bahrain National Stadium for a ceremonial honoring mittee.



The streets of Bahrain were filled with excitement and celebration as the national football team heroes, crowned champions of the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup, made their triumphant return from Kuwait yesterday.

Their journey from Bahrain International Airport was met with an overwhelming outpouring of national pride, as thousands of loyal fans, both Bahrainis and expats, lined the parade route to welcome their heroes home.

It all began at the airport, where the victorious team was received by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Com-

mittee. HH Shaikh Khalid accepted the coveted Gulf Cup trophy on behalf of the Kingdom, a symbol of the team's resilience, skill, and unyielding spirit.

**Parade**

As the parade moved along the designated route, from Airport Road to Shaikh Isa bin Salman

Bridge and onward to Crown Prince Street, the air was electric with cheers and chants.

Young and old alike, draped in the red and white of the Bahraini flag, waved banners and sang songs of victory. Families gathered along the streets, with children perched on their parents' shoulders, clapping and cheering as the team passed by.

The General Traffic Directorate ensured the safety of the celebratory crowds, reminding road users to adhere to traffic rules.

The carefully planned route culminated at Bahrain National Stadium, where even more festivities awaited to honor the team's achievement.

The victory is etched in the memories of fans, as Bahrain

defeated Oman 2-1 in a thrilling final match in Kuwait.

Oman struck first in the 17th minute with a goal by Abdulrahman Al-Mushafri, but Bahrain's spirited comeback in the second half turned the tide.

**Equalizer**

Mohammed Marhoon equalized with a penalty in the 79th

minute and clinched the victory moments later when his shot, deflected by an Omani defender, found the net.

The celebration is not just for the players but for the entire nation, as Bahrain unites in joy and pride, celebrating the team's remarkable triumph and the glory they brought to the Kingdom.



Fans line the parade route to welcome their heroes home



**Relief in sight**

## MP proposes BD70 pension increase for retirees to ease financial burdens

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Retirees in Bahrain may see an extra BD70 added to their

pensions, as MP Mohammed Al Marifi calls for action to ease the strain of rising living costs and the freeze on annual pension increases.

The proposal aims to address the financial pressures faced by retirees, many of whom are finding it harder to meet basic expenses.

Al Marifi described the increase as a necessary step to en-

sure retirees, who played a key role in the country's progress, can maintain a decent standard of living.

**Backbone**

"Retirees have been the backbone of our development, and it's our duty to support them in their later years," said Al Marifi.

He stressed that the state has a responsibility to provide social



MP Mohammed Al Marifi

security, particularly in cases of old age, illness, disability, bereavement, or unemployment.

This includes ensuring access to healthcare and financial support to shield them from poverty and insecurity.

Al Marifi tied the proposal to Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, which aims to improve living standards and strengthen social well-being.

He argued that the BD70 increase would ease financial burdens and promote family stability, ensuring retirees can live with dignity.

With living costs climbing and pension adjustments halted, Al Marifi urged Parliament to act without delay, ensuring that retirees, who have long contributed to the country's development, are not left behind.

220 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >

# Flood of congratulations

His Majesty King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman hailed for Bahrain's well-deserved Gulf Cup triumph



HM the King  
TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received cables of congratulations from Arab leaders and local officials on Bahrain's victory in the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup, hosted by Kuwait from December 21, 2024, to January 4, 2025.



HRH Prince Salman  
Stadium.

HM King Hamad was greeted by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the Sultan of Oman; and the Amir



King Salman



HH Sheikh Tamim



HRH Prince Mohammed



HM Sultan Haitham



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed

of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. His Majesty also received a cable of congratulations from His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Amir of Qatar, and His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. HM the King received telephone calls from His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, Governor of the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, and Prince Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Governor of



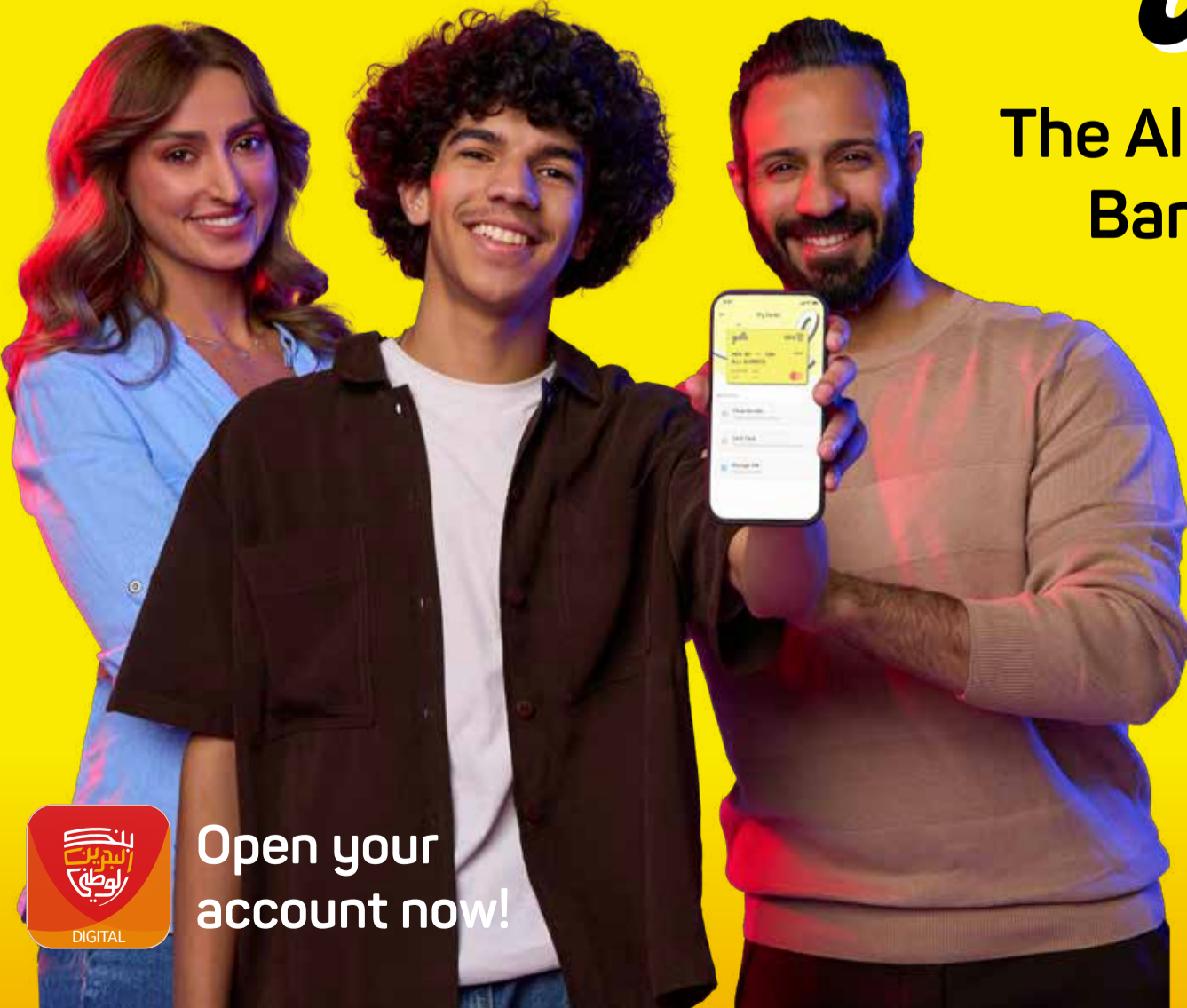
HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid  
Tabuk Region.

The Arab leaders commended the outstanding performance of the Bahrain national football team and praised the high sportsmanship displayed by all participating teams, as well as the large attendance of spectators, which reflected the strong bonds among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. At home, HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman received cables of congratulations from senior members of the royal family, heads of Representatives and Shura councils, ministers, senior officials, and dignitaries.



# yalla

## The All New Digital Family Banking Experience



Open your account now!

Licensed by CBB as a conventional Retail Bank. Terms and Conditions apply.

## Public Security Forces member sent to prison

● SIU logs 12 cases

TDI | Manama

A social media complaint led to the conviction of a Public Security Forces member, with the Minor Criminal Court sentencing him to six months in prison.

The case was one of 12 complaints investigated by the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) during the final third of last year, according to Mohammed Khalid Al Hazza, Acting Attorney-General and Chief of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU).

During the same period, the SIU recorded statements from 25 complainants and witnesses and interrogated 20 suspects and accused individuals from the Public Security Forces.

Additionally, seven complainants were referred to the Forensic Medicine and Psychological Support Division.

The SIU completed investigations into the social media complaint, taking immediate action that led to the referral of a Public Security Forces member to the Minor Criminal Court. On 13 November 2024, the court sentenced the individual to six months in prison, a verdict later upheld by the Appeals Court.

In two separate complaints, the SIU referred two members of the Public Security Forces to the Military Courts Administration at the Ministry of Interior for disciplinary action.

# Positive forecast

Bahrain's 2025 economic growth to be driven by tourism, finance and manufacturing

● Future faces test of resilience amid global challenges

Mohammed Darwish  
TDI | Manama

Tourism, finance, and manufacturing are shaping Bahrain's economic outlook for 2025, though rising global interest rates and unpredictable oil prices pose challenges for decision-makers.

The Kingdom's efforts to move away from reliance on oil have paid off, with solid performance in non-oil sectors like tourism, financial services, and manufacturing driving recent growth.

Economic forecasts suggest Bahrain's economy will continue expanding next year, albeit at a more measured pace, as external pressures such as inflation and oil price swings linger.

Despite having smaller oil reserves compared to its GCC neighbours, Bahrain remains tied to oil price trends due to their impact on government revenue and the energy sector.

If oil prices rise, this could improve public finances and encourage further investments.

### Inflation

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) has been steering monetary policy with a steady hand,



The Kingdom's economic outlook this year is bright

aiming to keep inflation under control while supporting economic growth.

Interest rates are expected to play a key role in shaping investment flows, both from abroad and locally.

Should rates rise further, in line with the US Federal Reserve's decisions, borrowing costs for businesses and consumers could increase, potentially dampening economic activity.

### Financial hub

Nonetheless, Bahrain's reputation as a financial hub continues to attract considerable investment, particularly as regional ties with countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE strengthen, boosting confidence in the Bahrain Bourse.

The local market is anchored by heavyweight players such as National Bank of Bahrain, BBK, Al Baraka Group, Ahli United Bank, and Bahrain National Holding Company.

These firms, particularly in banking and real estate, are likely to drive market momentum in the coming year.

### Fortunes

The Bahrain Bourse's fortunes will hinge on interest rate movements, oil price trends, and the health of the regional economy.

While investors remain cautious given global economic uncertainties, profitable companies offering attractive dividends could lure more investment.

Bahrain's market enjoys a reputation for stability compared

to some of its regional counterparts.

### Pool of investors

With the rise of digital trading platforms and technologies like blockchain, the country is well-placed to attract a broader pool of investors, potentially improving liquidity and market performance.

However, challenges remain. Inflation, higher interest rates, and currency fluctuations could pose hurdles in 2025.

The Bahraini dinar, pegged to the US dollar, is exposed to shifts in the greenback's strength, which could complicate investment planning.

### Oil prices

Furthermore, while Bahrain is less oil-dependent than some



Bahrain's efforts to diversify its economy and embrace new technologies suggest a steady path forward.

Gulf nations, fluctuations in oil prices still ripple through its economy.

Despite these pressures, Bahrain remains a magnet for investors, particularly in banking and financial services.

Government initiatives to modernise regulations and streamline business operations have made the Kingdom increasingly appealing.

### New opportunities

Collaboration with Gulf neighbours on infrastructure and renewable energy projects is also expected to bring new opportunities.

Bahrain's financial market is likely to experience ups and downs in 2025, shaped by global developments and local policies.

Yet, the Kingdom's efforts to diversify its economy and embrace new technologies suggest a steady path forward.

## Bahraini woman granted divorce on grounds of harm

H Naser  
TDI | Manama

A Bahraini woman has been granted a divorce from her husband by the High Shari'a Court on grounds of harm.

The court cited the husband's actions, including accusations of infidelity against his wife in court, his expulsion of her from their marital home, and his denial of her access to their child.

The husband has also been ordered to pay court costs and legal fees.

According to the wife's lawyer, Dr Mohammed Al Kooheji, the couple married in January 2021 and had a child together.

However, on January 14, 2024, the husband expelled his wife from the marital home and prevented her from seeing their child.

### Care

This action, Dr Al Kooheji argued, was intended to harm his client and deprive the child of his mother's care.

The lawyer further stated that the wife's objections to the husband's mother's excessive interference in their lives, including matters of food, clothing, and other household issues, led to the husband's accusations of infidelity and his refusal to provide adequate housing and



“The wife's objections to the husband's mother's excessive interference in their lives, including matters of food, clothing, and other household issues, led to the husband's accusations of infidelity and his refusal to provide adequate housing and financial support.”

- DR MOHAMMED AL KOOHEJI, WIFE'S LAWYER

financial support.

The husband's actions included scheduling sporadic

and irregular visits for the wife to see her child at his family's home, consistently refusing to allow her to live with him.

These circumstances prompted the wife to file for divorce on grounds of harm.

The court investigated the case, hearing testimony from both the wife and husband's witnesses.

Its judgment highlighted the wife's witnesses' testimony, which corroborated her claims of abandonment, expulsion from the marital home, and accusations of infidelity.

### Trestimony

The court found this testimony credible, particularly given the husband's failure to provide any evidence to support his claims of infidelity, or any final criminal judgment to that effect.

It dismissed the husband's witnesses' testimony as general and lacking specific details.

The court noted the husband's statement in a court session on January 31, 2024, where he indicated a willingness to reconcile if the wife ended her alleged relationships with foreign men.

The court considered this statement as an implicit accusation against the wife's honour, lacking any substantiating evidence.

## Father turns to Interpol in custody battle

TDI | Manama

A Bahraini father has taken the fight to international authorities, involving Interpol after his Latin American wife fled abroad with their five-year-old son, ignoring court orders to return to Bahrain.

A Sharia court ruled that custody of the child must remain in Bahrain, warning that the mother would lose custody if she failed to comply.

The couple married in 2014 and have a son who holds Bahraini citizenship.

According to the father's lawyer, Taqi Hussain, the wife, a national of a Latin American country, regularly travelled back to her homeland with her family.

However, during her most recent trip, she refused to return,



Taqi Hussain, lawyer

instead demanding a divorce and asking her husband to disown their son.

The mother further requested the renewal of her Bahraini driving licence, claiming she needed it to stay abroad, and asked for a divorce certificate so she could remarry.

In her home country, she remains legally registered as married, which prevents her from entering into a new marriage.

The court backed the father's case, stating that custody is intended to ensure a child's upbringing in their home environment and cannot be exercised abroad without the father's approval.

The judge ruled that the mother must return to Bahrain with the child.

Should she refuse, custody will be transferred to the father.

The court also noted that the mother's decision to cut ties and stay abroad made it nearly impossible for the father to monitor his son's wellbeing.

Lawyer Taqi Hussain confirmed that his client had sought help from the authorities to secure the child's return.

## 12 Asians jailed for fake call scam

TDI | Manama

Twelve Asians have been jailed after a scam involving fake phone calls tricked victims into handing over their banking details.

The High Criminal Court sentenced four of the gang members to five years in prison and fined them BD1,000 each.

The remaining eight received three-year sentences. All 12 will be deported after completing their prison terms.

The group, described as a criminal network, targeted citizens with calls pretending to be from financial institutions.

They claimed to be updating personal information and persuaded victims to share

confidential banking codes, allowing the gang to drain funds from their accounts.

Authorities were tipped off by the Anti-Economic Crimes Directorate at the Ministry of Interior.

The investigation revealed the gang had randomly collected phone numbers using an electronic payment app.

The scammers then impersonated employees of the app.

# A wave of hope

Parliament approves return of traditional haddoor fishing traps

● **Bahraini fishermen one step closer to reclaiming heritage and livelihoods**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Fishermen and their families are one step closer to regaining their livelihoods after Parliament gave the green light to an urgent proposal to bring back haddoor — traditional fishing traps removed in recent years.

The plan, driven by MP Khalid Buanaq and supported by four other colleagues, calls on the government to act without delay, recognising the traps' dual importance as a source of income and a pillar of Bahraini heritage.

For generations, haddoor have provided sustenance and stability for families along Bahrain's shores. But their removal left

“This proposal aligns with the Kingdom of Bahrain's approach to preserving its heritage and safeguarding its historical identity.”

- PROPOSAL'S EXPLANATORY NOTE

many struggling to make ends meet, cutting off what is often their only source of income.

## Damage

“The harm inflicted upon them should not be prolonged,” the proposal's explanatory note warns, urging the government to step in with “suitable and reasonable solutions” to repair the damage.

Supporters of the proposal argue that restoring the traps isn't just about economics — it's about preserving Bahrain's



MP Khalid Buanaq

distinct identity.

The traps are a living link to the island's fishing traditions, a craft that has set Bahrain apart from its Gulf neighbours.

## Cultural significance

“This proposal aligns with the Kingdom of Bahrain's approach to preserving its heritage and safeguarding its historical identity,” the document adds, underscoring the cultural significance of the haddoor.

The financial strain on affected families is real.

Without haddoor, many have found themselves in dire straits, unable to support their households.

Advocates stress that restoring the traps could bring much-needed relief while honouring a tradition that has long defined Bahrain's coastal communities.

## First step

The proposal's approval by Parliament is a crucial first step, but the MPs behind it — led by Buanaq — are pushing for immediate government action.

They argue that reinstating the traps would be a straightforward yet meaningful way to help struggling families while ensuring that a treasured piece of Bahraini heritage isn't lost to time.

For now, fishermen and their families await action, hopeful that the government will take this opportunity to right a wrong and restore not just their livelihoods, but a piece of Bahrain's soul.

## New officers of Filipino caregivers' group sworn in

● **146 attend event**

TDT | Manama

Philippine Bahrain Caregiver Society Welcomes New Officers in Oath-Taking Ceremony

The Philippine Bahrain Caregiver Society (PBCS) recently held a special ceremony at The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel in Manama to induct its newly elected officers.

The event marked a significant transition in leadership while paying tribute to the remarkable contributions of Filipino caregivers in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Maria F. Perez was sworn in as President, with Mary Rose Rodriguez assuming the role of Vice President. Joy Sacabon took her oath as Secretary, while Fleur Dubouzet was appointed Treasurer and Mary Joy Remoroza as Assistant Treasurer. Jacqueline Natinga and Jessie John C. Roscain were named Public Relations Officers (PRO), while Rachele

Ann Villanueva and Jaslene Anne Saraos were introduced as Business Managers.

The Auditors for this term are Lorna Arenas and Marijoy de Vera. Completing the team, Ma. Yvonne Villamor serves as the group's advisor, and Mari-beth F. Perez takes on the role of moderator.

## Guest of honor

Her Excellency Anne Jalandon-Louis, the Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, graced the occasion as the guest of honor.

In her address to the 146 attendees, Ambassador Jalandon-Louis commended Filipino caregivers for their exceptional empathy and unwavering dedication, qualities that distinguish them globally.

The Ambassador also praised the visibility and enthusiasm of the PBCS in promoting volunteerism and community service. She highlighted the organization as a shining example of how collective effort and passion can create a meaningful impact in the community.

## Proposed labour law changes could burden SMEs, says MP

TDT | Manama

Changes to Bahrain's labour laws may leave small and medium-sized businesses struggling to stay afloat, MP Hassan Ibrahim has warned, as he urged the government to step up support for traders amid mounting economic pressures.

The amendments to Decree-Law No. 12 of 2024, which update Article 40 of Law No. 19 of 2006 regulating the labour market, come at a time when businesses are grappling with dwindling purchasing power and cash flow challenges.

MP Hassan argued that the current economic environment requires greater flexibility in the enforcement of penalties on traders, particularly as some delays in meeting financial obligations stem from auditing firms prioritising larger companies.

## Sufficient time

“Limited liability businesses need sufficient time to submit their accounts. It's unfair to penalise them for delays often caused by auditors focusing on big players,” he said.

He stressed the need to simplify processes for traders, ensuring fair competition in the market while offering consumers more affordable choices.

The MP also welcomed the amendments designed to reduce legal disputes against small businesses, saying these enterprises should be given the chance to adjust their affairs and remain operational.

## Micro-businesses

According to MP Hassan, the proposed changes could help sustain micro-businesses and encourage more Bahrainis to start their own ventures.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

He called for additional measures to support these efforts and ensure their success.

Statistics from the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) show 1,538 cases of foreign workers operating without

permits and 973 incidents of labour being employed without proper authorisation or breaching permit terms.

MP Hassan said these figures underscore the importance of tightening oversight while pro-



MP Hassan Ibrahim

tecting legitimate businesses.

He praised the efforts of Tamkeen in subsidising Bahraini wages in the private sector, describing these programmes as key to making Bahrainis the first choice for employers.

Ther lawmaker urged further investment in such schemes to attract more job seekers. MP Hassan also called for better cooperation between government bodies to tackle labour violations efficiently without placing undue strain on small firms.

## Amendments

The recent amendments, he said, demonstrate the need for a business-friendly environment that balances the rights of all parties.

He concluded by expressing optimism that these changes could strengthen Bahrain's economy while encouraging more Bahrainis to invest.

“Backing entrepreneurs and creating space for their growth will help build a more resilient economic foundation for the future,” he said.

## Shura reviews permit reconciliation for expats

TDT | Manama

Expats could soon have a pathway to resolve permit issues, as a key labour decree has been cleared by the Shura Council's legal experts.

The proposed law introduces first-time reconciliation for foreign workers caught without permits, along with stricter measures for employers who breach regulations.

Part of Decree Law No. (12) of 2024, the changes include graduated penalties, extended reconciliation periods, and provisions to address unauthorised employment.

Committee chair lawyer Dalal Jassim Al Zayed confirmed the decree's legal soundness, stating that the measures aim

to hold employers accountable while providing workers an opportunity to resolve breaches in a fair manner.

Separately, the committee approved tougher penalties under the Anti-Smoking Law, tied to Decree No. (49) of 2024.

The proposed amendment targets the sale and trade of alternative smoking products, including herbal substitutes.

If approved, penalties could rise to fines of up to BD100,000 and prison sentences of up to a year, replacing the current fine range of BD1,000 to BD3,000.

The committee's recommendations have been sent to other Shura Council committees, including those overseeing defence, public services, and utilities.

## Christmas celebration



Dr. Varghese Kurian welcomed Bahraini business leaders, partners, and associates to his annual Christmas celebration at his residence. The festive evening was filled with warmth, joy, and the spirit of togetherness, reflecting the values of the season.



## Gesture of support

The Embassy of Bangladesh Charge d'Affaires, Mr. A.K.M. Mohiuddin Kayes, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the national football team of the Kingdom of Bahrain and to the Government of Bahrain on their victory in the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup. As a friendly gesture of support and appreciation of the national football team of Bahrain, the Embassy hosted a free screening of the live final match between Bahrain and Oman at the Mukta A2 Cinema Hall.

# Yellow Door Energy: Illuminating Bahrain's Renewable Energy Future

TDT | Manama

Yellow Door Energy, the leading sustainable energy partner for businesses in the Middle East and Africa, is at the forefront of Bahrain's renewable energy transformation, empowering businesses to embrace sustainability through impactful solar energy solutions. With a global portfolio covering 100 projects across six countries, Yellow Door Energy's dedication to clean energy has positioned it as a vital contributor to the Kingdom's sustainability ambitions.

In the last two years, Yellow Door Energy has more than doubled its portfolio of operating projects in Bahrain, from 8.6 MWP in 2023 to 19 MWP by the end of 2024. In addition, it has achieved an additional 12.4 MWP of signed projects with The Avenues and Seef Properties, expanding its total portfolio



in Bahrain to 31.4 MWP. These projects, achieved through Yellow Door Energy's innovative Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) model, enable businesses to lower their energy costs with no upfront investment while reducing carbon emissions and supporting Bahrain's Net Zero by 2060 target.

"Yellow Door Energy is honored to play a pivotal role in helping businesses in Bahrain significantly reduce their en-

ergy costs and decarbonize their operations. With our extensive experience and renewable energy expertise, we are humbled to be a preferred solar developer in the Kingdom," said Jeremy Crane, Group CEO of Yellow Door Energy. "Bahrain's participation at COP29 further demonstrated the Kingdom's growing influence in climate finance and sustainability. We are committed to making long-term investments in the Kingdom,

contributing to a prosperous and sustainable future."

Yellow Door Energy's competitive edge lies in its robust financial backing, economies of scale, and technical expertise. By utilizing cutting-edge technologies such as bifacial solar panels, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and AI-driven operations and maintenance services, the company ensures its projects meet or even exceed performance targets and max-

imize clean energy generation. This strong foundation is further enhanced by its cost-effective PPA model, which simplifies the adoption of solar energy for businesses.

Beyond its technical capabilities, Yellow Door Energy is deeply committed to community engagement. With 45% of its Bahrain workforce being Bahraini, the company highly values local expertise. A recent collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain

educated secondary students about solar energy through an interactive tour at the Bahrain City Centre solar carport. Such initiatives have earned the company the prestigious Al Bilad Award for Social Responsibility in the Environment Category, demonstrating its commitment to both raising awareness about environmental sustainability and providing sustainable energy solutions.

Yellow Door Energy's efforts are transforming Bahrain's energy landscape, generating 39.7 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy from operating projects and mitigating 18,000 metric tons of carbon emissions as of November 30, 2024. The company exemplifies how renewable energy drives economic resilience and environmental stewardship, remaining a trusted partner in the Kingdom's journey toward a greener, more sustainable future.

Yellow Door Energy is honored to play a pivotal role in helping businesses in Bahrain significantly reduce their energy costs and decarbonize their operations. With our extensive experience and renewable energy expertise, we are humbled to be a preferred solar developer in the Kingdom

JEREMY CRANE, GROUP CEO OF YELLOW DOOR ENERGY

## BenneFin and Muthoothu Mini Forge Strategic Partnership

To Expand Gold Loan Services in GCC

TDT | Manama

BenneFin, a leading debt crowdfunding platform headquartered in Bahrain, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Muthoothu Mini, a renowned gold loan company based in India.

The strategic partnership aims to enhance financial offerings in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) markets by combining BenneFin's crowdfunding expertise with Muthoothu Mini's market leadership in gold-backed financing.

The MOU, signed on December 7, 2024, marks a significant step in BenneFin's efforts to expand its reach in the region. The collaboration will focus on providing gold-backed loans tailored to the needs of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), a key segment of BenneFin's product portfolio.

Muthoothu Mini, which operates over 900 branches across India, is widely regarded as a



Mrs. Nizzy Mathew, Chairperson, Mr. Mathew Muthoothu, Managing director and Mrs Babita George, Founder and CEO of BenneFin at the signing ceremony.

trusted name in the gold loan

BenneFin to leverage Muthoothu Mini's deep expertise

and established reputation in gold-backed financing, enabling

both companies to address the growing demand for innova-

tive financial solutions in the GCC.

The agreement paves the way for joint initiatives aimed at creating accessible, secure, and customer-friendly financial products. With a strong presence in Bahrain, BenneFin is poised to use this partnership to expand its footprint and offer SMEs reliable funding options for working capital needs.

"This collaboration represents a unique opportunity to unlock new growth avenues in the GCC markets," said a spokesperson for BenneFin. "By combining our strengths with Muthoothu Mini's expertise, we are committed to meeting the evolving financial needs of SMEs in the region."

The partnership underscores a shared vision of fostering innovation and growth in the financial sector, further enhancing the availability of critical funding solutions for businesses in Bahrain and the broader GCC region.

## Buyer splashes out \$1.3m for Tokyo new year tuna

Tokyo, Japan

The top bidder at a Tokyo fish market said they paid \$1.3 million for a tuna on Sunday, the second highest price ever paid at an annual prestigious new year auction.

Michelin-starred sushi restaurateurs the Onodera Group said they paid 207 million yen for the 276 kilogram (608 pound) bluefin tuna, roughly the



size and weight of a motorbike.

It is the second highest price paid at the opening auction of the year in Tokyo's main fish market since comparable data started being collected in 1999.

The powerful buyers have now paid the top price for five years straight -- winning bragging rights and a lucrative frenzy of media attention in Japan.

"The first tuna is something meant to

bring in good fortune," Onodera official Shinji Nagao told reporters after the auction. "Our wish is that people will eat this and have a wonderful year."

The Onodera Group paid 114 million yen for the top tuna last year.

But the highest ever auction price was 333.6 million yen for a 278 kilogram bluefin in 2019, as the fish market was moved from its traditional Tsukiji area

to a modern facility in nearby Toyosu.

The record bid was made by self-proclaimed "Tuna King" Kiyoshi Kimura, who operates the Sushi Zanmai national restaurant chain. During the Covid-19 pandemic the new year tunas commanded only a fraction of their usual top prices, as the public were discouraged from dining out and restaurants had limited operations.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

ALWAYS FORGIVE YOUR ENEMIES; NOTHING ANNOYS THEM SO MUCH OSCAR WILDE

TODAY IN HISTORY

1649

The English Rump Parliament votes to put Charles I on trial for treason and other "high crimes"

1838

Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail demonstrate their telegraph machine in New Jersey



Geophysicist and meteorologist Alfred Wegener presents his controversial theory of continental drift in a lecture at the Geological Association at the Senckenberg-Museum, Frankfurt

1912

2021

Supporters of US President Donald Trump storm the Capitol in Washington

News in brief

Russia said yesterday that Ukraine had launched a "counterattack" in the western border region of Kursk...



Russia says Ukraine launches 'counterattack' in Kursk region

Ministers from Syria's transitional government urged the United States to lift its sanctions on Damascus during their first visit to Qatar since overthrowing president Bashar al-Assad...

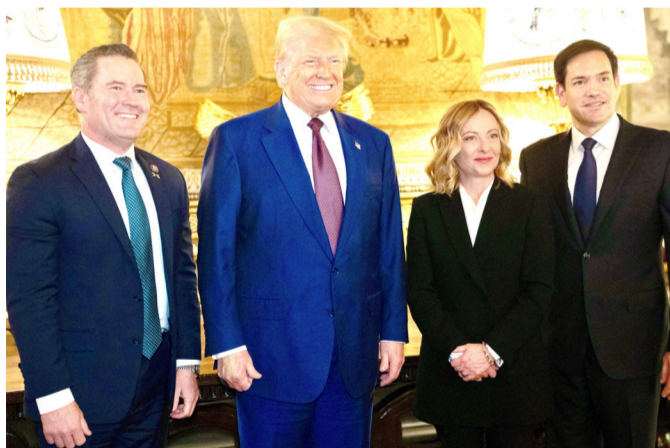
Syrian ministers urge lifting of US sanctions in first visit to Doha

Sudan's army chief has welcomed a Turkish offer to resolve the brutal 20-month conflict between his forces and their paramilitary rivals...

Sudan's army chief welcomes Turkish offer to resolve conflict: FM



SPOTLIGHT Italy's Meloni visits Trump in Florida



Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (2ndR) and US President-elect Donald Trump (2ndL) posing with Senator Marco Rubio (R) and US incoming national security advisor Mike Waltz (L) at Trump's Mar-A-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida

According to US media, the two dined and watched the film "The Eastman Dilemma: Lawfare or Justice..."

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni paid an official visit to Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago residence on Saturday...

Gaza rescuers say 23 killed in Israeli strikes



People and first responders inspect the rubble of a collapsed residential building that was hit by Israeli bombardment in the Saraya area in al-Rimal in central Gaza City

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Gaza's civil defence agency reported that Israeli strikes in the Palestinian territory had killed at least 23 people yesterday...

At least 11 people were killed in an air strike on a house in northern Gaza's Sheikh Radwan area early on Sunday...

Basal accused Israeli forces of "directing violent air strikes on homes where displaced people were sheltering..."

Israel says Hezbollah not meeting ceasefire terms

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz accused Lebanese group Hezbollah yesterday of not meeting the terms of a ceasefire...

The renewed fire from Gaza has triggered air raid sirens in Israeli communities that were largely destroyed during Hamas's October 2023 attack...

over the past two days.

Several of the strikes targeted sites from which Palestinian militants had been firing projectiles into Israel in recent days...

The IAF (air force) struck over 100 terror targets throughout the Gaza Strip, and eliminated dozens of Hamas terrorists...

Last week, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz warned of intensified Israeli strikes if the incoming rocket fire continued.

The renewed fire from Gaza has triggered air raid sirens in Israeli communities that were largely destroyed during Hamas's October 2023 attack.

More records found linking Credit Suisse, Nazi accounts: US panel

AFP | Washington, United States

An investigation by a US Senate panel has found that troubled investment bank Credit Suisse concealed information during previous inquiries into Nazi-controlled bank accounts during World War II...



Credit Suisse has faced scrutiny over its historical links to Nazi accounts. In the late 1990s, the bank was part of investigations into dormant accounts belonging to Holocaust victims...

Tens of thousands of documents discovered during an ongoing examination have provided new proof of the existence of account holders linked to the Nazis...

in the 1990s, the committee said. Credit Suisse, now a subsidiary of investment bank UBS, agreed in 1998 to take part in a \$1.25 billion settlement of lawsuits brought by Holocaust survivors...

Saturday that one set of newly discovered files, including 3,600 physical documents and 40,000 microfilms, was found to have a "high relevance rate" of Nazi connections.

In a letter to the panel released Saturday, Barofsky noted the "extraordinary level of cooperation that Credit Suisse, under the leadership of UBS, has provided" since he rejoined the company.

But he said Credit Suisse had yet to share all the information it held. The Barofsky team has discovered, among other things, accounts controlled by high-ranking SS officers...



ing SS officers, the Wall Street Journal reported. In his letter, Barofsky highlighted "especially noteworthy" discoveries from a Credit Suisse research department.

List' -- a list maintained by the Allies of individuals and companies that were directly financed by, or were known to regularly trade with, Axis powers," he wrote.

It said it would provide Barofsky with all necessary assistance in his work to shed light "on this tragic period."

Massive storm slams US with snow, ice, bitter cold



A man crosses a street of the Manhattan borough of New York City

AFP | Washington, United States

A powerful winter storm hammered the United States yesterday, with meteorologists warning millions in the east faced blizzard conditions...

More than 60 million people are in the path of the dangerous storm, set to plunge the eastern half of the United States into a deep freeze of Arctic air...

The National Weather Service (NWS) warned of ice, snow and gale-force winds in states from the Central Plains to the Mid-Atlantic.

Winter storm warnings have been issued from western Kansas clear across to the coastal states of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia...

Airports in England reopened yesterday after heavy snow across large parts of England forced runway closures.

The snowfall amounts will exceed 15 inches (38 centimeters) "the heaviest in a decade",

UK airports reopen runways after snow disruption



A snow cleaner, clears the streets of Marsden, northern England

AFP | London, United Kingdom

But northern Leeds Bradford airport said its runway would be closed until further notice.

Airport chiefs warned of delays due to planes being out of place. The Met Office said Bingley in northern England had seen 12 centimetres (4.7 inches) of snow overnight.

Higher ground in Wales and northern England was forecast to see up to 30 cm of snow.

the agency said. Scientists say extreme weather is becoming more common and more severe as a result of manmade climate change.

X

TOP 4 TWEETS

01



Kamal Adwan Hospital in North #Gaza remains completely out of function and we have received no updates on the safety and wellbeing of its director Dr Hussam Abu Safiya...

@DrTedros

02



TRUMP WAS RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING! @realDonaldTrump

03



Over the last decade, extensive work has been done in boosting metro connectivity, thus strengthening urban transport and enhancing 'Ease of Living.'

04



For anyone doubting the severity and depravity of the mass gang rapes of little girls in Britain, go to the source material and read the court transcripts. I did. It is worse than you could possibly imagine.

@elonmusk

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

Quantum of damages / compensation

awarsama@warsamalc.com

DR. ABDELGADIR WARSAMA GHALIB



Aggrieved parties seek justice and rule of law by resorting to submitting their claims to judicial Courts, wherein there is a ruling as proved before Courts.

The object of an award of damages, by Courts, is to give the plaintiff some compensation for the damages, loss or injury he has suffered.

The pecuniary loss is the one that comprises all financial and material loss incurred, such as loss of business profits or expenses of medical treatment or breach of contract, etc.

The non-pecuniary loss, on the other hand, is not so calculable. Money is not awarded as a replacement for other money, but as a substitute for that which is generally more important than money.

Lord Blackburn in a famous precedent defined the measure of damages as "that sum of money which will put the party who has been injured or that who has suffered, in the same position as he would have been in if he had not sustained the wrong for which he is now getting his compensation or repatriation".

The above general rule is however only a starting point, for upon it a number of important limits are to be considered which may result in the plaintiff recovering less than the amount which would put him in the position he would have been had the contract, for example, been performed.

The object of an award of damages, by Courts, is to give the plaintiff some compensation for the damages, loss or injury he has suffered.

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

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

celebs

Brad Pitt's girlfriend 'pushed him to finalise bitter divorce from Angelina Jolie'



Brad Pitt with girlfriend Ines de Ramon

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Brad Pitt's girlfriend Ines de Ramon is said to have pushed him to finalise his bitter divorce from Angelina Jolie.

The 'Fight Club' actor, 61, has been dating his 32-year-old jewellery executive girlfriend since at least 2022 after he and Angelina were declared legally single as of 2019 - before they finally settled their marathon eight-year battle over the terms of their split at the end of December.

A source has now told Page Six it was Ines who "influenced" Brad to "settle" with Angelina so their lives could make "progress in the right direction".

The insider added: "He was influenced by Ines to finally settle. Ines wants to have a life together - with possibly children in the future - without the albatross that was the eight-year War of the Roses."

"(Ines) has made (it known that) her opinion is that life would be much more enjoyable with this settled."

A separate source told the Mail Ines is a "positive influence" on Brad as she "has a really good perspective on things".

They added: "It's sad how this whole thing has played out, but at least this is progress in the right direction."

Angelina filed for divorce from Brad in September 2016 after they were married for only two years.

It was days after they took a no infamous trip on a private jet, during which the actress said Brad was abusive to her and their six children - though authorities later did not charge him after investigating.

Angelina and Brad later released a joint statement declaring that they would keep all divorce proceedings private for the sake of their kids - Maddox, 23, Pax, 21, Zahara, 19, Shiloh, 18, and 16-year-old twins Vivienne and Knox.

They said: "The parties and

their counsel have signed agreements to preserve the privacy rights of their children and family by keeping all court documents confidential and engaging a private judge to make any necessary legal decisions and to facilitate the expeditious resolution of any remaining issues.

"The parents are committed to act as a united front to effectuate recovery and reunification."

Even though the pair have legally been single in 2019 they have been mired in labyrinthine legal battles over the custody of their children and ownership of their French estate and winery Château Miraval.

Ariana Grande 'used to study Judy Garland'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Ariana Grande used to impersonate Judy Garland.

The 31-year-old beauty was obsessed with 'The Wizard of Oz' - the 1939 musical-fantasy film - during her younger years, and Ariana has recalled impersonating the legendary actress, who played Dorothy in the movie.

Ariana - who plays Glinda in the new 'Wicked' film - told W Magazine: "I used to sit in front of the TV in my little gingham dress and study Judy Garland's body movements, how she held herself and Toto. My first impersonation may have been Judy Garland.

"I've always had a fascination with sounds and tones and different accents - my first memory is singing with my mom in the car to Barbra Streisand or \*NSYNC or 'Over the Rainbow'. I don't remember a time when singing wasn't a part of my life.

Strangely, I remember watching 'The Wizard of Oz' in the gingham dress paired with a 'Scream' mask."

Ariana previously admitted that she's always

found an "escape" in musical theatre.

The actress revealed that she's always loved the "storytelling" element of theatre shows.

She told Variety: "I mean, it was just something that spoke to me."

"I was a child, and I would sit there watching 'The Wizard of Oz' and study Judy Garland, and I just remember it being such an escape. I loved the storytelling and seeing my first Broadway show."

Ariana fulfilled a long-held ambition by starring in the 'Wicked' film, and she's recalled "hunting" down an opportunity to audition for the movie.

She said: "As soon as I found out that it might be happening, I told my team, 'Be on high alert, please. And I know this has to be earned. So when they start seeing people, can I please go in? I'll do anything.'"

worked really hard with a vocal coach and an acting coach to get ready, because Glinda's vocal track is very different than what I usually sing."

Ariana Grande

SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers 8, 6, 9, 4, 5, 7, 2, 8, 9, 2, 4, 8, 7, 4, 3, 9, 5, 8, 2, 6, 4, 1, 7, 2, 6, 8, 5, 3, 9, 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 2, 9, 8, 6, 8, 6, 5, 4, 1, 9, 2, 7, 3, 7, 2, 9, 6, 8, 3, 1, 5, 4, 2, 4, 3, 1, 9, 7, 8, 6, 5, 9, 5, 8, 3, 2, 6, 4, 1, 7, 6, 7, 1, 8, 5, 4, 3, 9, 2

Yesterday's solution

Yesterday's solution Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 8, 6, 9, 4, 5, 7, 2, 1, 5, 9, 2, 7, 3, 1, 6, 4, 8, 4, 1, 7, 2, 6, 8, 5, 3, 9, 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 2, 9, 8, 6, 8, 6, 5, 4, 1, 9, 2, 7, 3, 7, 2, 9, 6, 8, 3, 1, 5, 4, 2, 4, 3, 1, 9, 7, 8, 6, 5, 9, 5, 8, 3, 2, 6, 4, 1, 7, 6, 7, 1, 8, 5, 4, 3, 9, 2

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

Tom Holland plans to quit acting

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Tom Holland plans to quit acting when he has children.

The 28-year-old actor - who is in a relationship with his 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' co-star Zendaya - has vowed to "disappear" from the spotlight once he has a family of his own as he'll be content with be-



Tom Holland

ing around his kids and playing the occasional round of golf.

He told Men's Health magazine: "When I have kids, you will not see me in movies anymore."

"Golf and dad. And I will just disappear off the face of the earth."

The 'Crowded Room' actor has just been through a year-long sabbatical as he "needed

a break from work.

He said: "It was just something I needed to do. I had been acting flat out since I was 11."

And one highlight of Tom's sabbatical was joining his two brothers in a golf tournament with English professional Tommy Fleetwood - and winning.

He quipped: "It was the best day of my life. I called my lady and was like, 'Listen, I'm thinking of turning pro.'"

Despite wowing fans with his acrobatics as Spider-Man, Tom admitted he is unsure if he'll be able to keep doing flips forever as he recalled recently being challenged to do so by one of his young cousins.

He said: "So I went outside and I was getting ready, and I was thinking, I can do this. I

can totally do this. I've done this thousands of times. And Z was there, and she was like, 'Are you sure you can still do this?'

"I actually did land it, but I pulled every muscle in my stomach, because when you do a backflip, it's all about extending up as much as you can and then tucking. For weeks, I could not laugh because my stomach was so sore."

And the 'Uncharted' star doesn't think he'll ever be as fit as he was when playing the title role in stage show 'Billy Elliot' when he was 11.

He said: "The show was incredibly taxing on the body. I couldn't do it now. 11-year-old me would annihilate me now in a fitness race."

Celine Dion thanks fans for 'unwavering support'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Celine Dion has thanked fans for their "unwavering support".

The 56-year-old singer - who returned to live performance at the Paris Olympics in July amid her battle with neurological condition stiff person syndrome - praised her supporters for inspiring her with their "love and energy" as she wished them all the best for 2025.

She wrote in a reflective post on Instagram: "As we wrap up another year together, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support.

"Your love and energy inspire me every day. I wish you all a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones.

"Here's to endless possibilities in the coming year. Wishing you a safe holiday and a fabulous New Year!"

The 'Think Twice' singer - who has Rene-Charles, 23, and 14-year-old twins Eddy and Nelson from her marriage to the late Rene Angelil - recently spoke about the importance of "hope".

Celine attended the 2024 Spirit of Life Gala staged by the City of Hope - a cancer research and treatment programme - to



Celine Dion

present the Spirit of Life Award to Jay Marciano, Chairman and CEO of AEG Presents, and reflected on how hard it can be to overcome "tremendous challenges" in life.

After receiving a standing ovation, People magazine reports she told the audience at Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium: "This is the first time I've been on a stage since I was up on that tower. And I kind of miss it."

"This City of Hope is so well-named. It does so much more than the important research leading to new treatments. It provides care to people in their greatest time of need at the most difficult and challenging moment of their lives. That is so important.

"It provides the most precious ingredient, it provides hope. And I know how important that is."

CROSSWORD

Crossword grid with numbers 1-60 and letters A-Z.

Across

1-...car; 6- Flightless bird; 9- Wharves; 14- Constellation containing Rigel; 15- Assembled; 16- Cop; 17- Tropical fruit; 19- Mikhail's wife; 20- Bambi's aunt; 21- Ed and Mel of baseball; 22- Late bloomer; 23- Promising; 25- It can be used for collateral; 26- Island greetings; 29- Dynamic beginning; 31- Previous to; 32- Railroad; 36- Novelist Bagnold; 37- That girl; 38- Dutch cheese; 40- Suffered humiliation; 43- Slowpokes; 45- Russo of 'Ransom'; 46- Bizet's opera; 47- Rare delight; 50- Atlas pages; 51- Atari founder Bushnell; 52- Christmas song; 54- Small batteries; 57- Cheri of 'Saturday Night Live'; 58- Institute; 61- Physicist Nikola; 62-...kwon do; 63- Hawk's home; 64- Ford flop; 65- Isr. neighbor; 66- Twangy, as speech;

Down

1- Thick cord; 2-... Brockovich; 3- 1492 vessel; 4- Water tester; 5- Santa... Calif.; 6- Vacant; 7- Dissolve; 8- Salt Lake City students; 9- Umbrella; 10- "No bid," in bridge; 11- Cream of the crop; 12- Bowling lane button; 13- German river; 18- Sheriff's band; 23- Island Red; 24- Paddle; 25- Jackie's second; 26- Jurist Fortas; 27- Musical Home; 28- Think nothing...; 29-...there yet?; 30- Corn serving; 33- Has on; 34- Take...view of; 35- Bush alma mater; 37- Sweeties; 39- AOL alternative; 41- Pertaining to the skull; 42- On Soc. Sec.; 43- Milan's La...; 44- Short snooze; 47- Lugged; 48- Like non-oyster months; 49- Steve of country music; 50- Taxi's ticker; 51- Short letter; 52- Trawler equipment; 53- Anthem opener; 54- Televisions; 55- Bhutan's continent; 56- Cartoonist Silverstein; 59- Prohibition; 60- Meadow;

Yesterday's solution

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with letters E, T, E, S, T, U, N, A, N, O, M, E, S, A, S, H, I, N, A, N, E, M, U, S, S, R, T, A, E, D, E, N, S, A, I, L, S, O, P, A, L, R, E, S, C, A, T, T, L, E, L, L, O, Y, D, T, A, P, E, S, T, R, Y, L, O, E, W, E, I, A, R, N, E, T, R, E, E, A, T, A, O, B, E, S, E, T, A, S, A, I, S, N, T, N, Y, S, E, W, I, D, T, H, R, A, S, H, N, E, S, S, N, O, T, E, S, I, A, M, S, T, L, E, N, A, E, M, B, R, Y, O, T, O, A, L, A, N, E, L, E, E, S, R, O, B, O, T, I, C, E, S, B, A, T, T, E, R, A, S, E, A, T, I, T, A, D, A, Y, B, R, E, R, N, I, L, E





# Classifieds

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

VAYU PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION has a vacancy for the occupation of SIGN MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39612227 or hbveda@gmail.com

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

ARCAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701900 or hrd@arcald.biz

CUCINA ITALIAN RESTAURANT B.S.C has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292973 or hussain.almajed@gulfhotelsgroup.com

DEEP WAY SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37539255 or USMAN.NEWNADIR@GMAIL.COM

FORCE POINT SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66767587 or Forceps17@gmail.com

AHLI UNITED BANK B.S.C.(C) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAD / CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT / DEVISION, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17585778 or girish.menon@ahliunited.com

DAR MASAA SALON AND SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37371334 or BATOOL313@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

BAHRAIN INDUSTRIAL FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17104894 or SALES@GIRGROUP.COM

SIGNATURE HOTEL (FOUR SEASONS BAHRAIN BAY) COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17546000 or KBEDRI@PGC.COM.BH

AMMOW WAHEED PASTRIES AND GRILLS has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39335858 or TALALALNOAIMI@GMAIL.COM

DREAM HEAVENS SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39259693 or DREAMHEAVEN.BH@GMAIL.COM

Al Amal Services Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38108800 or PINTO@ALAMALSERVICES.COM

DREAM HEAVENS SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39259693 or DREAMHEAVEN.BH@GMAIL.COM

EAGLE FOR SAFE AND SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270140 or alialtmimi@yahoo.com

Nine Digital Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAMERAMAN(VIDEO), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39998016 or ADSVINE@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN COFFEE BREWERS COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17111722 or ANEESH@FOODVESTHOLDING.COM

synergic facility services has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FOOD DISTRIBUTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66637663 or HESSAHESSAHESSA@YAHOO.COM

BAKHTI GUL SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37565454 or BAKHTIGULSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

BALDEV TECHNICAL CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact

39940212 or BALDEVTECHNICAL@GMAIL.COM

SEA VIEW INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66609107 or RBH0666@GMAIL.COM

ASAD SCRAP has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33268625 or MUHAMMADJAHANGIR206@GMAIL.COM

ZIMA BEAUTY SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANICURIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34340924 or vashetkova.ka@gmail.com

AL MEETHAQ CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33668558 or HAJI@INFOSTREAMADV.COM

HIGH GROW FOOD TRANSPORTATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FOOD DISTRIBUTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020034 or HAFIZSADDAMCA@GMAIL.COM

AL WAJAH TRANSPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39661808 or SSMALK@OUTLOOK.COM

DYNAMOS DELIVERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33154386 or IJAZ.MOHD25@YAHOO.COM

NMG CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39454342 or MARKHORMOONCO@YAHOO.COM

RAY WAY BUSINESS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39313140 or JAHIDBH@HOTMAIL.COM

MODERN KNOWLEDGE SCHOOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727712 or hr@mkschoolsbh.com

SAYED MOOSA ADNAN ALI / ALJAWADIN 6771 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17340010 or MFISHING@HOTMAIL.COM

megna construction has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39998223 or HUSSAIN.ALMAHMEED@GMAIL.COM

ABU NAJMAL GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33252311 or ALIVIRK111@GMAIL.COM

FAHEEN FOODSTUFF TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33240566 or

Seven Energy W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500791 or hr@seven-energy.com

ADNAN HOLIDAYS TRAVEL AND TOURISM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36881283 or BAHGOOD@YAHOO.COM

SAYACORP HOSPITALITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER/ BARTENDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17170000 or kathrina.nisnisan@conradhotels.com

DIPA FOR OFFICE MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34618196 or DIPAFOROFFICEMANAGEMENTWLL@GMAIL.COM

KHAJULA SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37350823 or HAIRABADSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

SHARUF MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35661516 or ARBAZRAJPOOT777@GMAIL.COM

LEE JAN CARGO HANDLING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34557624 or MF74940@GMAIL.COM

BROWAN SHINE SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66631834 or SAIM2424786@GMAIL.COM

ALZAHIRAH GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(CARS ENGINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697876 or ABOZAINAB78@GMAIL.COM

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

A.AHMED NASS CONTRACTING CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

ALJUNAID FISHES TOOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39606062 or ALJUNAID.FISHING.EQ@HOTMAIL.COM

NEW MIRAAAYA LADIES SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484627 or RINCHUP02@GMAIL.COM

MANASALU FOR CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484627 or info.manasalugroup@gmail.com

BE SPORT SWEAR has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39886050 or MOHAMMED\_13\_17@HOTMAIL.COM

DREAM HEAVENS SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39259693 or DREAMHEAVEN.BH@GMAIL.COM

GHAZALI USED TOOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36505588 or REMO01221REMO@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD ZAKIR FOR CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36981584 or MZ4502794@GMAIL.COM

ALBARZAKH CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17592120 or haifa@alrowishgroup.com

ALGHANIM INTERNATIONAL GENERAL TRADING AND CONTRACTING CO. - For has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17300616 or karim.eissa@falghanim.com

SMART SKYLINE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17291655 or PURU\_JENINA@BATELCO.COM.BH

ALGHANIM INTERNATIONAL GENERAL TRADING AND CONTRACTING CO. - For has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17300616 or karim.eissa@falghanim.com

SUN FLOWER MASSAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33247474 or ALIALARAIBI.5@GMAIL.COM

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

NEW ROHA PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRINTING PRESSMEN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66601433 or HITECH1358@GMAIL.COM

ABU MISHAL SCRAB has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33259987 or Usmanmalik1989@yahoo.COM

ORIAN CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77901714 or ORIANCONTRACTING88@GMAIL.COM

BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.alnohkedha@bas.com.bh

MANAMA STEEL INDUSTRIES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500266 or m.marhoon@manamasteel.com

LAL SUHAARA SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33108293 or LAALSUHARABH@GMAIL.COM

COM

MINDS UNITED RESOURCE HUB W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SYSTEM ANALYST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35524114 or tom.shain@minds-united.com

MANDALI KABAB RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34413413 or mandali.1930@gmail.com

ATMOC OXYGEN CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GAS FILLING & TRANSFERTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33999792 or INFO@ATMOCOXYGEN.COM

Gulf Route Transport has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34344537 or gulfroutrtetrans@gmail.com

I 1 MART GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17259458 or ADELABDULLA23@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN DEBATES N.P.C has a vacancy for the occupation of EDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66373677 or ACCOUNT@AHLALKHAYL.CO

EMILS MINI MART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33923307 or MAHMOOD.ALSAMMAKO@GMAIL.COM

FANTASTIC FIXERS REAL ESTATE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33368677 or GANESH.SHIKARL@GMAIL.COM

AYAN MAZHAR CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33929446 or MZ479272@GMAIL.COM

WOOD ORBIT DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33416791 or MOSTAFAELSAVEDO89@GMAIL.COM

LELISU INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34551036 or MUSAMIKZA45678@GMAIL.COM

B A A M SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33206212 or NOMI.67.BH@GMAIL.COM

NASEER AHMED INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33006141 or RAJANASEER7500@GMAIL.COM

GREAT DAWOOD 03 INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38011687 or MINSAREALESTATE@GMAIL.COM

BUILDSTRONG CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38790515 or UM\_ABDULLAH57@HOTMAIL.COM

EDGE TO EDGE INTERIOR DECORATIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330719 or SAJIDUAF1@GMAIL.COM

ORIEN STAR CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (CONTRACTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33186857 or Osc.contracting@gmail.com

DESHLIAR WORLD FOR GENERAL TRADING AND CATTLE CO.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66993322 or deshliarworld@batelco.com.bh

BAREAQ ALLAMAAN MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33030276 or M2\_0@HOTMAIL.COM

JUST IN TIME TECHNICAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33296096 or JITTECHBH@GMAIL.COM

DRIVE DOCTOR COMPUTER REPAIR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38202577 or SHAHZAD.NASEEM99@GMAIL.COM

AJMAL ANWAR INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39001533 or AJMAL.AL18598@GMAIL.COM

## Osaka retires with abdominal injury from Australian Open warm-up



Clara Tauson of Denmark (L) celebrates with the trophy after her win over Naomi Osaka of Japan (R)

AFP | Auckland

Naomi Osaka retired from the final of the Auckland Classic with an abdominal injury yesterday, a blow to the Japanese star just a week before the start of the Australian Open.

Playing in her first WTA final for three years, against Denmark's Clara Tauson, the four-time Grand Slam champion called for the physio after taking the opening set 6-4 and pulled out shortly afterwards.

Osaka's sudden withdrawal from the Australian Open warm-up event came as a shock after playing with no apparent problem in the 35-minute opening set, unleashing some powerful groundstrokes to break her opponent in the third and fifth games.

At the changeover, the 27-year-old stood and performed a series of stretches during a medical timeout.

After consulting with the trainer she shook the hand of Tauson, who picked up a third career title and her first since 2021.

Osaka didn't divulge details of what forced her withdrawal

**“I just want to thank everyone for welcoming me to such a beautiful city and I had a lot of fun playing here and I'm really sorry about how it ended. I hope you did enjoy the tennis that we did play and I'm just really grateful to be here**

NAOMI OSAKA

in a short courtside interview.

However, in a statement, the WTA said she retired “due to an abdominal injury”.

“I just want to thank everyone for welcoming me to such a beautiful city and I had a lot of fun playing here and I'm really sorry about how it ended,” Osaka said.

“I hope you did enjoy the tennis that we did play and I'm just really grateful to be here.”

It was an anti-climactic finish to the week for Osaka, who was chasing her first title in four years since winning the 2021 Australian Open.

## Comeback king Muller wins Hong Kong Open to end Nishikori fairytale



France's Alexandre Muller hits a return to Japan's Kei Nishikori

AFP | Hong Kong

France's Alexandre Muller lifted his first ATP Tour title by beating Kei Nishikori 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the final of the Hong Kong Open yesterday.

Muller won in 1hr 43min to end the Japanese player's bid for a first ATP Tour title in six years.

Comeback king Muller became just the third man to win a tour-level title having lost the opening set in every match he played during the tournament.

“Thank you everyone for the support tonight,” said the Frenchman, who is projected to rise 11 places in the world rankings to a career-high 56th on Monday.

“It's been an amazing week for me, losing the first set in all the matches,” he added.

“I have no words, I'm sorry, I just won the match, but thank you everyone.”

Nishikori, 35, who reached the US Open final in 2014, raced through the first set at Victoria Park in just 33 minutes but ran out of steam to lose in 1hr 43min.

It was the injury-plagued Nishikori's 27th tour-level final and his first since winning in Brisbane in 2019.

The former world number four Nishikori has emerged from years of injuries, including major hip surgery, to roll back the years in a fairytale run to the Hong Kong final.

A wildcard at the tournament, he beat third-seeded Karen Khachanov, former top 10 player Cameron Norrie and Denis Shapovalov on the way to the last four.

# Australia win gripping fifth India Test

Australia defeats India by six wickets to win the series 3-1, secures World Test Championship final spot

● **Australia clinch Border-Gavaskar Trophy**

● **Scott Boland shines with 10 wickets in the match, including 6-45 in the second innings**

AFP | Sydney

Australia clinched a knife-edge fifth Test against India in Sydney by six wickets to seal a riveting series 3-1 yesterday and book their place in the World Test Championship final.

India were dismissed 45 minutes into the morning session of day three for 157, adding just 16 to their overnight 141-6 with the irrepressible Scott Boland ending with 6-45 and 10 wickets for the match.

Set 162 to win, the hosts reached the target before tea against an attack missing injured strike bowler Jasprit Bumrah to regain the Border-Gavaskar trophy for the first time since 2014-15.

Australia lost three wickets before lunch to leave the Test finely poised, including Steve Smith who agonisingly fell just one short of becoming only the 15th player and fourth Australian to reach 10,000 Test runs.

But Usman Khawaja hit a composed 41 before Travis Head (34 not out) and debutant Beau



Steve Smith fell just one run short of reaching 10,000 Test runs during Australia's run chase

Webster (39 not out) steered them home.

"This is unreal, this (a series win against India) is one that a few of us didn't have. It's been an amazing series ... it's really lived up to all the hype," said Australia skipper Pat Cummins.

"I'm immensely proud. I love playing with these guys, they are such a special group. I feel privileged to have this job and what we have been able to achieve together."

"Pretty satisfied at the moment."

## Thrilling tour

Victory was enough to ensure Australia will defend their World Test Championship in the June final at Lord's against South Africa.

It culminated a thrilling tour full of twists and turns that saw record crowds and some spectacular individual performances.

The five-Test series witnessed



Australia's Scott Boland (C) celebrates his wicket of India's Mohammed Siraj (R) with teammates

the emergence of exciting young talents in the form of Australian opener Sam Konstas and Indian all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy.

At the same time, ageing veterans, notably Rohit Sharma, showed that the clock is ticking on their careers.

India won the first match in Perth convincingly before Australia bounced back in the day-night affair at Adelaide.

The rain-hit Brisbane clash ended in a draw before the hosts took all the momentum into Sydney with a pulsating day-five win in Melbourne.

Indian pace spearhead and skipper Bumrah, who has been

dealing with a back issue, batted briefly when his team resumed after bowling just one over and leaving the field on Saturday.

But in a huge setback the 31-year-old did not appear again, leaving Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna to lead the bowling attack, with Virat Kohli in charge.

"A little frustrating but sometimes you have to respect your body, and you can't fight your body," said Bumrah.

"The whole series was well fought," he added.

"Younger players have come in, and the learnings will help us in future. They have gained a

lot of experience and they will go from strength to strength.

"It is all about adapting and learning."

## Rapid-fire Konstas

It appeared to be a difficult run chase on a deteriorating surface offering plenty for the bowlers, but Konstas and Khawaja had other ideas.

They raced to 35 off the first three overs, with teenager Konstas hitting out.

It proved his downfall when on 22, unnecessarily lashing at a good length ball from Prasidh only to sky it to Washington Sundar at mid-off.

"I'm immensely proud. I love playing with these guys, they are such a special group. I feel privileged to have this job and what we have been able to achieve together"

PAT CUMMINS

Prasidh then knocked over Marnus Labuschagne for six, caught by Yashasvi Jaiswal at slip, with the same pair removing Smith on four, fending off a rising ball.

Veteran Khawaja, who had a poor series, produced some cracking boundaries on his way to 41, but he mistimed a pull shot off Siraj with wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant collecting the edge.

It gave India a glimmer of hope before Head and Webster took the game away.

India resumed after a counter-attacking 61 from Pant helped build their second-innings lead.

Ravindra Jadeja began on eight and Sundar on six after they dismissed Australia for 181 in reply to their first-innings 185.

Jadeja crunched an early boundary off Pat Cummins, but he was out two balls later, getting a faint nick to wicketkeeper Alex Carey, adding just five to his overnight score.

## Cummins lauds 'special' Australia team after India series win

AFP | Sydney

Australia skipper Pat Cummins lauded his "special" tight-knit team yesterday after they snapped a decade-long drought to win a series against India and make back-to-back World Test Championship finals.

The bulk of the Australian side has been together for years and beating India remained an elusive goal for many of them.

Only Steve Smith, Nathan Lyon and Mitchell Starc were part of the squad that played in the last series win over their arch-rivals a decade ago.

Cummins said he was "immensely proud" of what his side had achieved.

"Obviously in the context of



Australia's captain Pat Cummins (C) poses with the trophy and teammates

this series, it's been a massive series," he said after his 20th win as captain.

"It is one that a few of us

didn't have. The boys had their eye on it and it has lived up to the hype.

"We've spent a lot of time to-

gether as a group over the years, so we knew we weren't at our best at Perth.

"But it was never as bad as it seems. So you stick tight and double down on what makes us a really good side."

The victory ensured Australia will be at Lord's to defend the World Test Championship against South Africa in June.

"It's such a special group, we have so much fun," added Cummins of the squad.

"I feel so privileged to first of all have this job.

"But what we've been able to achieve together alongside the support staff as well, it's such a group effort, families as well. They give up so much. So yeah, really proud."

## Frustrated Bumrah says India will benefit from Australia defeat

AFP | Sydney



Jasprit Bumrah receives the Player of the Series award from Allan Border

AFP | Sydney

Stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah said it was frustrating that he missed the crunch finale to their Test series against Australia yesterday, but said he was buoyed by what he saw from India.

The star quick bowler suffered a back niggle during the fifth Test in Sydney on Saturday and went for scans, ultimately forced to watch from the sidelines as Australia chased 162 to win.

He was the standout bowler, taking 32 wickets at 13.02 to be named player-of-the-series, and his absence was a major blow to the team's hopes of retaining the Border-Gavaskar trophy.

"A little frustrating but sometimes you have to respect your body. You can't fight your body," he said after the six-wicket loss and 3-1 series defeat.

"A little disappointing that

"A little frustrating but sometimes you have to respect your body. You can't fight your body"

JASPRIT BUMRAH

I probably missed out on the spiciest wicket of the series but that's the way it is.

"I felt a bit of discomfort during my second spell in the first innings."

India coach Gautam Gambhir said it was too early to assess the extent of the injury.

"Not at the moment, the medical team is working on it," he said, while praising his strike bowler.

"Absolutely outstanding," he said of Bumrah. "I can't say more than that. He led the attack really well, bowled a lot of overs and whenever he went out to bowl he did a fabulous job."

## India cricket loss to Australia sparks questions back home

AFP | New Delhi

Indian cricket fans and pundits heaped praise on stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah yesterday, but questioned the future of several veteran players after their team lost 3-1 to Australia in a gripping five-Test series.

Star quick bowler Bumrah offered something for India to celebrate in an otherwise gloomy assessment of the team's performance following their six-wicket defeat in the final Test in Sydney.

"Trophy lost, questions aplenty, uncertain future," a Times of India headline read.

"Questions were continuous-



India's players look on during the trophy ceremony

ly raised on the future of ageing superstars in that dressing room, which doesn't look happy anymore," the paper wrote.

The Indian Express gloomily

noted that "the big two were poor", referring to captain Rohit Sharma and batting superstar Virat Kohli.

Sharma, who has averaged

just 10.9 runs in his last eight Tests, stood down -- or was dropped -- for the final match because of his form.

For Kohli, apart from an unbeaten century in Perth, he was out every other time caught after edging to the wicketkeeper or slips.

Bumrah, however, was a revelation.

Standing in as skipper in the final Test, he finished the tour with 32 wickets at an average of 13.06, and was named Man of the Series.

"Superhuman Jasprit Bumrah was let down by colossal batting failures and dubious selections," said the Times of India.

# Gauff inspires USA to United Cup title

Coco Gauff beats Iga Swiatek before Taylor Fritz seals victory for USA over Poland

● **Coco Gauff beats Iga Swiatek 6-4, 6-4 in a powerful opener**

● **Taylor Fritz edges Hubert Hurkacz 6-4, 5-7, 7-6(7/4) to secure the title**

AFP | Sydney

Coco Gauff roared past Iga Swiatek to inspire team USA yesterday before Taylor Fritz sealed the United Cup title with victory over Poland's Hubert Hurkacz in Sydney.

Gauff opened with a statement 6-4, 6-4 win over Swiatek in 1hr 51min of hard-hitting tennis to fire a warning shot ahead of the Australian Open.

Big-serving Fritz then battled through against Hubert Hurkacz 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7/4) to spark wild celebrations as the Americans



**Coco Gauff, 20, is unbeaten in singles since October and goes into the Australian Open as world number three, having not dropped a set in five United Cup singles matches**

won the mixed-teams cup for the second time in three years after winning the inaugural event in 2023.

For Poland it meant falling at the final hurdle again after losing to Germany 12 months ago.

Gauff set the ball rolling with a second victory in a row over Swiatek after beating the former

world number one at the WTA Finals in Riyadh on her way to the title.

Gauff had won all six of her previous singles and doubles matches this week and continued her streak when Swiatek double-faulted on match point at 4-5, 30-40 in the second set.

"I think I have the belief that I am one of the best players in the world, and when I play good tennis, it's hard for me to be beaten," said Gauff, who won the award as player of the tournament.

**'Tough today'**

The 20-year-old will go into the first Grand Slam of the year next Sunday unbeaten in singles since losing to world number one

Aryna Sabalenka in the Wuhan semi-finals in October, and brimming

with confidence.

"Today I think I played great tennis, and I'm happy to get a point," she said. "It was tough today. I'm not gonna lie."

Gauff's victory left the United States one win away from lifting the title for the second time, and Fritz delivered after edging a third-set tiebreak to seal a tense encounter.

"It's been a great week," said Fritz.

"They're an incredibly tough team and the margins are very small," he added after a serve-dominated match that featured 30 aces and just three break points.

"I feel like it could have always gone either way. Just want to say thanks to my whole team."

Earlier, Swiatek took a medical timeout at 5-4 down in the second set to have strapping put on her niggling left thigh which has bothered her all week in Sydney.

**"I think I have the belief that I am one of the best players in the world, and when I play good tennis, it's hard for me to be beaten"**

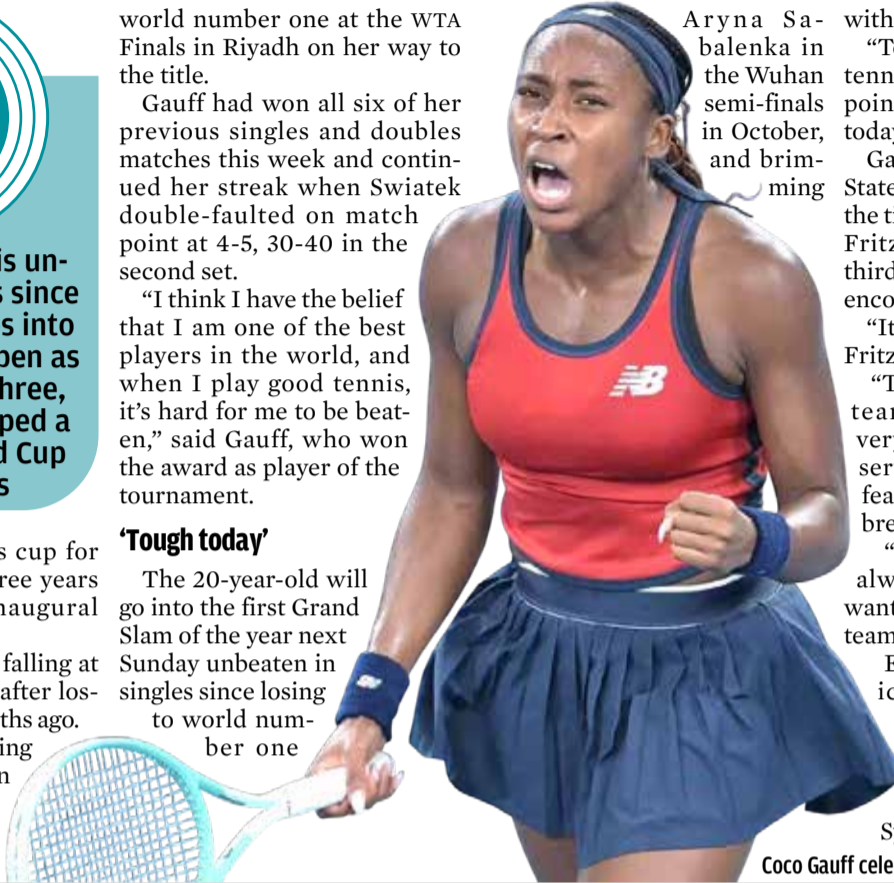
COCO GAUFF

After losing to Gauff, Swiatek left the court in tears, walking gingerly, but returned laughing and joking during the trophy presentations.

Red-hot Gauff, who did not drop a set in five singles matches, goes into the Australian Open as world number three.

She enjoyed United Cup singles wins over Leylah Fernandez, Donna Vekic, Zhang Shuai, Karolina Muchova and Swiatek.

Fritz, who is at career-best number four in the rankings, dropped his opening United Cup match to Felix Auger-Aliassime but then won four straight.



Coco Gauff celebrates her win

## Sabalenka warms up for Australian Open with Brisbane win

AFP | Brisbane

World number one Aryna Sabalenka enjoyed the perfect warm-up for next week's Australian Open when she downed Russian qualifier Polina Kudermetova to win the Brisbane International yesterday.

After finishing runner-up in Brisbane in 2024, Sabalenka won the 18th title of her career with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over a gallant Kudermetova in 1hr 47min.

In the men's final, 21-year-old Czech Jiri Lehecka claimed his second ATP title when US opponent Reilly Opelka pulled out with a wrist injury while trailing 1-4.

It was an ideal start to the season for Sabalenka, who will be aiming for her third straight Australian Open crown in Melbourne.

"I definitely can take a lot of things from this week heading into the Australian Open," Sabalenka said.

"I definitely feel my game is pretty well. Mentally, physically I'll be ready to go at the Australian Open.

"Having this trophy going to the major, it's really important."

Australia has become a happy hunting ground for the 26-year-

old, who has also won in Adelaide along with her two Australian Open crowns.

"I'm just excited -- I love playing here," she said.

"That's the conditions where I feel really comfortable in."

The 21-year-old Kudermetova was playing her eighth match of the tournament after having to win two rounds of qualifying just to make the main draw.

And it initially looked

like a match too far as Sabalenka broke her serve in the third game of the first set.

But Kudermetova lifted, matching Sabalenka from the back of the court and becoming confident on serve.



ARYNA SABALENKA

She broke Sabalenka's serve for a second time at 5-4 to take the first set in 40 minutes and stun a packed Pat Rafter Arena.

Kudermetova started the second set just as she had finished the first, serving well and putting her more illustrious opponent under even more pressure.

She had a break point in the fourth game, but Sabalenka saved it, and that signalled a change in momentum as Kudermetova began to fall away.

She lost her serve twice in the second set to allow the world number one to level the match as fatigue from her busy week appeared to take hold.

Aryna Sabalenka

## 'Difficult' to be Vinicius: Real Madrid coach Ancelotti

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said yesterday it would be "difficult" to be Vinicius Junior after the player was sent off against Valencia.

The Brazilian winger pushed goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski in the back of the neck amid a spat between the two players and was dismissed.

Vinicius was mocked by Valencia fans at their Mestalla stadium during the game, having squared off with some who racially abused him in a match in 2022.

"I think it is difficult (to be Vinicius), I'm not in his skin, but I think it's difficult," Ancelotti told reporters, after Vinicius saw red in Madrid's 2-1 La Liga win on Friday.

"To bear everything that has happened, the insults, everything, it's not so simple.

"Obviously he's sad about the red card, he said sorry and we have to look forwards."

Vinicius, who has suffered racial abuse at numerous stadiums in Spain, is

**"I think it is difficult (to be Vinicius), I'm not in his skin, but I think it's difficult. To bear everything that has happened, the insults, everything, it's not so simple. Obviously he's sad about the red card, he said sorry and we have to look forwards"**

CARLO ANCELOTTI

also often targeted by fans for his behaviour on the pitch.

The 24-year-old often complains to officials after clashing with defenders and sometimes engages and responds to fans who jeer him.

"What happens in stadiums... I think he has improved his attitude a lot, he can keep improving but nobody is perfect," continued Ancelotti.

"I think he's done a lot of work on that, and he has improved so much that he is the best player in the world."

Vinicius may face a ban after his red card, which will be decided next week, meaning he is available for Madrid's Copa del Rey clash against Deportivo Minera on Monday.

"We're still convinced it was not worth a red card but a yellow, so we hope he is not banned," said Ancelotti.

League leaders and reigning champions Madrid then face Mallorca in the Spanish Super Cup semi-final on Thursday in Saudi Arabia.

Vinicius Junior



## Krejcikova pulls out of Australian Open over back injury

AFP | Melbourne

Reigning Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejcikova said yesterday she was pulling out of this month's Australian Open over a back injury.

"Unfortunately, my back injury, which troubled me at the end of last season, is still not fully healed," the world number ten said on X.



Barbora Krejcikova

"It's really disappointing because I love playing in Melbourne and have such great memories from reaching the quarter-finals last year."

"I'm working hard to get back to full health, and I can't wait to see you on the court soon," Krejcikova added.

The 29-year-old Czech will also sit out this week's Adelaide

International.

Krejcikova won the Wimbledon title last year, three years after lifting the French Open trophy.

She has also won seven Grand Slam doubles titles including two at the Australian Open, and three major mixed doubles titles, all at Melbourne.

The Australian Open begins on January 12.