

Bahrain bow to Australia

Amine Benadi own goal, Mitchell Duke strike earn 'Socceroos' 2-0 win in international friendly in Abu Dhabi | P12

THE DAILY tribune



Margot Robbie pours cold water on Barbie sequel

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BUSINESS 5

Alaska Airlines grounds 737 MAX 9 planes after emergency landing



HM King, HRH CP, PM exchange congratulations with National Guard Commander

TDT | Manama

Yesterday, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, received congratulations from General His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, National Guard Commander, on the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the National Guard.

General HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, representing all National Guard affiliates, expressed profound gratitude and loyalty to HM the King on this significant occasion.

Shaikh Mohammed reaffirmed allegiance and loyalty to HM the King, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, assuring that the National Guard will persist in its sacred duties to protect the kingdom's sovereignty and stability.

In response, HM the King extended his thanks to General HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa and all National Guard affiliates for their unwavering dedication in fulfilling their responsibilities to defend the nation and its achievements. He acknowledged their collaboration with the BDF and public security units and wished them continued success.

Separately, HRH thanked HH General Shaikh Mohammed in response to HH's cable of congratulations, commending the crucial role of the National Guard, along with the Bahrain Defence Force and security personnel, in safeguarding the Kingdom.

CPISP's 25th anniversary: HRH CP, PM hails citizens' commitment to excellence



HRH CP, PM during a group photo session with CPISP graduates

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa acknowledged the unwavering commitment of Bahraini citizens to excellence as the driving force behind over-

coming national challenges and transforming them into success stories.

This statement was made during the reception yesterday of graduates from the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme (CPISP) in celebration of the programme's

25th anniversary since its establishment in 1999.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the evolution of the CPISP over its 25-year journey and expressed gratitude to the private sector organisations that have supported the programme.

HRH directed CPISP administrators to continue developing the programme to ensure sustained progress toward its goals. The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and several senior officials.

UAE orders trial of 84 on 'terrorism' charges: state media

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is to put 84 people on trial for terror-related offences, state media said Saturday.

The Gulf state's attorney general ordered the trial of "mostly members of the terrorist organisation of (the) Muslim Brotherhood", official news agency WAM said.

The defendants are accused of "establishing another clandestine organisation for the purpose of committing acts of violence and terrorism on UAE soil," the news agency said.

New GPA improvement system on way

TDT | Manama

The Education Minister, Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, announced that the correction of the first-term exams is currently in progress. Results will be disclosed prior to the commencement of the second term.

Additionally, Dr. Juma revealed that the Education Ministry is on the verge of completing the formulation of the Grade Point Average (GPA) improvement system. He further stated that the specifics of the system will be unveiled before the commencement of the second term.



Gaza 'uninhabitable'

Ongoing warfare renders Gaza 'Uninhabitable,' warns United Nations

AFP | undefined, undefined

Israel bombed southern Gaza yesterday as the UN warned the besieged Palestinian territory has been rendered "uninhabitable" by three months of war.

The fighting, triggered by the October 7 attacks on southern Israel by Hamas, has sent tensions soaring across the region, and shows no signs of abating with the conflict entering its fourth month on Sunday.

With swathes of the territory already reduced to rubble, UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said Friday that "Gaza has simply become uninhabitable".

On Israel's northern border, Lebanon's Hezbollah group said



Israel has launched a relentless bombardment and ground invasion that have killed at least 22,722 people, most of them women and children, according to the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry.

it launched on Saturday its "initial response" to the killing of Hamas's deputy chief in Beirut, which a US defence official has told AFP was carried out by Israel.

The Iran-backed group said it had targeted the Israeli military's Meron air control base with 62 missiles, while the Israeli army reported "approximately 40 launches from Lebanon" early Saturday, with sirens

blaring in the Galilee region.

Contacted by AFP, a military spokesperson confirmed the mountaintop base had been targeted but did not say whether it was damaged. No casualties were reported in Israel.

The Hamas-allied Lebanese movement has been trading near-daily fire with Israeli forces since early October and said the barrage was a response to Tuesday's killing of Saleh

al-Aruri in a strike on Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold.

The army said it had struck Hezbollah "military sites" in response.

Military spokesman Daniel Hagari said late Friday that Israeli forces were maintaining a "very high state of readiness" along the border with Lebanon following Aruri's killing, which Israel has not claimed.

Towering achievement

Bahraini Athlete Aziz Mattar conquers Mount Kilimanjaro

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Aziz Mattar, an accomplished Bahraini athlete, recently achieved a remarkable feat by conquering the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Mattar shed light on the significance of acclimatisation techniques and body awareness in overcoming the challenges presented by high altitudes and limited oxygen levels.

To prepare for his expedition, Mattar dedicated considerable time to both physical and mental training. He engaged in visualisation exercises and practiced



Mattar along with his other teammates Maryam and Ziyad, symbolised unity, resilience, and the indomitable spirit of the Bahraini people.

positive self-talk to bolster his mental resilience.

Recognising the unpredictable weather conditions on Kil-

imanjaro, including rain, wind, and extreme temperatures, he made constant adjustments to his clothing layers.

The journey to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro presented additional obstacles, such as symptoms of altitude sickness like headaches and nausea. To overcome these challenges, Mattar prioritised self-care, ensuring he stayed hydrated and took necessary breaks when required.

As he ascended to the peak, Mattar proudly raised the flag of Bahrain, symbolising his deep connection to his homeland. Reflecting on this emotional experience, he shared, "Raising the flag of Bahrain on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro evoked a powerful mix of emotions."

Reaching Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa at an

astounding elevation of 5,895 meters, proved to be an awe-inspiring test of Mattar's mental and physical limits. Navigating treacherous terrain and coping with the thinning air demanded unwavering determination.

His accomplishment serves as an inspiration to fellow Bahraini citizens and athletes worldwide.

Mattar expressed his heartfelt gratitude, stating, "I am deeply grateful to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Bahrain Youth Association for their unwavering support throughout my journey."

"Their invaluable assistance played a pivotal role in making this remarkable achievement possible."



Deadly drive-through!

Car crashes into Gudaibiya restaurant, no injuries



Screen grab from a CCTV footage shows pedestrian walk by the store front moments before the crash



The exact spot after the crash

TDT | Manama

A restaurant in Gudaibiya plunged into chaos as a car careened into its storefront, leaving behind a trail of shattered glass and a community of startled onlookers.

Fortunately, no injuries were reported in this bizarre incident, which took place during what seemed like an ordinary business night at the restaurant.

The scene was captured in chilling detail by the restaurant's CCTV cameras, revealing the

dramatic moment the vehicle ploughed into a parking space before nearly breaching the establishment.

The gravity of the incident becomes evident when reviewing the footage, revealing pedestrians casually walking past

the spot, where other parked vehicles were also seen, a few seconds before the crash.

The unsettling event unfolded at precisely 7:15 pm when a white car, driven by a yet-to-be-identified woman, rammed into the front of the restaurant.

Initial reports suggest that the female driver lost control of the vehicle, possibly during a routine parking attempt.

Another car parked next to the crash scene was left unscathed. Local law enforcement swiftly responded to the scene, cordoning

off the area and launching an investigation into the crash.

The incident has been officially registered as a case, with police delving into the details of the CCTV footage to ascertain the events leading up to the unexpected collision.

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General His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, National Guard Commander, yesterday welcomed General Asim Munir, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, upon arrival at the Bahrain International Airport. Lieutenant-General Abdulla bin Hassan Al Noaimi, Defence Affairs Minister, was present.



Dr Al-Dhaen hails National Guard's 27-year legacy as pillar of Bahrain's security and stability

TDT | Manama

MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen commended the National Guard as a trailblazing military institution dedicated to safeguarding Bahrain, emphasising its role in preserving the nation's security, stability, cultural heritage, and developmental accomplishments.

On the twenty-seventh anniversary of the National Guard's founding, Dr. Al-Dhaen underscored its pivotal significance as a cornerstone of the defence and security apparatus, attributing its success to the steadfast support and royal patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

Expressing admiration for the National Guard members' capabilities, combat readiness, and their efficiency in fulfilling national duties, Al-Dhaen hailed them as an impregnable defence force, safeguarding the nation's gains and ensuring the security of its citizens and residents.



Dr Al-Dhaen

She praised the National Guard's collaborative efforts with the Bahrain Defence Force and the Ministry of Interior, highlighting the effective role they play in enhancing the overall security system. Al-Dhaen acknowledged the support and attention from the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Under the leadership of Lieutenant General His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Isa Al

Khalifa, Chief of the National Guard, Al-Dhaen commended the National Guard for successfully confronting various challenges, defending the nation, and instilling a sense of reassurance in the hearts of citizens and residents.

Emphasising the importance of strengthening cooperation with brotherly and friendly countries, Al-Dhaen highlighted the need for security collaboration and strategic integration to fortify regional security and stability.

Healing addiction with innovation

Unleashing Artificial Intelligence to fight against drug addiction

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Traditional approaches to addiction recovery have shown varying degrees of success, but the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) holds immense promise in transforming treatment strategies, according to Dr Jassim Haji, an AI specialist and President of the international AI group.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Dr Haji highlighted the potential of AI in understanding the unique needs of each individual: "The potential of AI lies in its ability to process and connect information from vast amounts of data to understand the unique needs of each individual."

"It can draw recommendations from the latest advanced research and, by utilising complex neural networks, analyse past behaviour, physiology, medical history, and behavioural patterns of the patient to recommend a personalised treatment."

Dr Haji further explained the advancements in AI-driven addiction recovery: "With the rap-



“The potential of AI lies in its ability to process and connect information from vast amounts of data to understand the unique needs of each individual”

DR. JASSIM HAJI

id development of wearable biosensors, such as those in smart watches or fitness trackers, more dependable data has become available to train the model to detect early signs of drug cravings and withdrawal symptoms, contributing to a comprehensive AI-driven approach to addiction recovery.

He continued by saying that these sensor devices detect physiological indicators such as heart rate, stress levels, sleep patterns, and more to recognize subtle bodily changes and no-

tify patients, doctors, or family members when worrisome changes happen.

"Machine learning algorithms can be developed to interpret these incoming biometric data from the sensors to improve the accuracy of the alerts and make informed adjustments to treatment plans."

Lastly while acknowledging the potential benefits, Dr Haji also pointed out the importance of addressing certain disadvantages associated with AI integration: "Ensuring transparency

of the model, enabling privacy, and obtaining consent from individuals contributing data for personalized treatment plans and predictive analytics are necessary to maintain trust and avoid manipulation.

"Developers and healthcare professionals must strive to eliminate biases related to gender, race, and socioeconomic status, which could accidentally affect existing healthcare systems. Regular assessments and audits of AI systems are essential to identify and rectify biases, promoting fairness and equity in the application of AI for drug ad-



By using AI algorithms to analyze data from large populations, they can be used to identify trends and patterns that can help predict the effectiveness of potential drug candidates for specific patient populations, which can help tailor treatments to the needs of individual patients

dition recovery." He added.

Earlier The Daily Tribune reported that Bahrain has launched a national project to leverage AI in monitoring and boasting recovery rates from drug addiction.

This initiative demonstrates the Kingdom's commitment of combating the pervasive challenges of drug addiction and provides individuals with a better lifestyle.

Youth Ministry propels growth with 38 Youth Empowerment Centres

● Four centres in the Muharraq Governorate, ten centres in the capital, nine in the Southern Governorate, and 15 centres in the Northern Governorate.

TDT | Manama

Marking a new era of transformation and growth, the Ministry of Youth Affairs has expanded the network of youth empowerment centres in the Kingdom to 38, strategically dispersed across all four governorates.

This includes four centres in the Muharraq Governorate, ten centres in the capital, nine in the Southern Governorate, and 15 centres in the Northern Governorate.

Minister of Youth Affairs Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi shared this information in response to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Hassan Ebrahim. Tawfiqi affirmed the ministry's commitment to enhancing the youth empowerment centres, focusing on refining their administrative and technical systems to establish a more effective model.

The ministry showcased a spectrum of key programmes



Picture for representation only

such as the "Voice of Youth," "Bahraini Youth Ambassadors," "Bahraini Youth Day," "Gulf Youth Day," "Youth City 2030," "King Hamad Award for Youth Empowerment in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," "Nasser bin Hamad International Youth Creativity Award," "Bader Programme," "Our Heritage Project," "Masari Project," and "Awaidna Programme."

The ministry also revealed the allocation of a dedicated budget to fortify these centres and am-

plify their activities, events, and programs.

"The ministry is also working diligently to provide numerous training opportunities and community partnerships for the centres through programs and activities developed in cooperation with various entities such as government ministries, universities, embassies, specialized trainers, and influencers on social media networks," stated the minister, highlighting a holistic approach to empowerment.

North Sehla

Other developments include the imminent completion of the North Sehla Youth Empowerment centre, slated for the second quarter of 2024.

Salambad

Furthermore, the construction project for the Salambad Youth Empowerment centre is currently in the process of appointing a consulting office for planning and budget preparation.

Arab woman charged with human trafficking

Court sets trial date for alleged exploitation of victim

TDT | Manama

An Arab national woman has been referred by the Public Prosecution to the High Criminal Court for trial on charges related to human trafficking. The Attorney General, who heads the Prosecution against Trafficking in Persons, announced that the initial court hearing is scheduled for January 28, 2024.

The accused is alleged to have exploited her role as a guardian and caregiver, coercing the victim into engaging in prostitution. The victim's statements were obtained in collaboration with the Family and Child Prosecution.

The suspect is charged with transporting the victim to Bahrain to continue in the same illicit occupation. The



court ordered the suspect's detention pending further investigation, with appointed experts tasked to examine her electronic devices. The victim underwent a forensic examination, and police inquiries substantiated the occurrence of the incident.

In the interest of the victim's safety, the accused has been placed in a shelter under the supervision of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

CAPTAINS CORNER

No handouts,
only training

CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The big debate going on currently in Bahrain is about measures to make the Kingdom a welcoming place – for everybody and not just for Bahrainis. Parliament has passed a slew of laws making it possible to introduce taxes on expat remittances and limit driving license validity to the date of expiry of the residence permit.

Juxtapose this against efforts to make Bahrain an attractive retirement destination for all nationalities – we have the Golden Visa scheme and expats buying property can live in Bahrain and even participate in municipal affairs with voting rights. We also have a fiercely guarded reputation as one of the easiest environments in which to do business – and this generates millions of dinars in direct foreign investment and also jobs for Bahrainis. Why then are we tweaking a working model to gain whisker-thin advantages?

Make no mistake – as a Bahraini father with daughters and sons, I am keenly aware of the plight of our youth who are well-educated and qualified but struggling to find jobs.

Make no mistake – as a Bahraini father with daughters and sons, I am keenly aware of the plight of our youth who are well-educated and qualified but struggling to find jobs. Yes, high youth unemployment can

constrain long-term growth and reduce economic, social, and political stability. And with increasing education levels among women, the female youth unemployment rate in the GCC is more than quadruple the male youth unemployment rate compared to equal rates in high-income countries.

Despite crying “wolf” over perceived overpaid expat workers and how remittances are robbing our Kingdom of money and sending it abroad, the truth is very different. Look at what happened to the UK after Brexit – politicians built up a case that foreign workers (read EU migrants) were robbing Britons of jobs that were rightfully theirs and have overrun the welfare system. Now experts say the British economy is a patchwork of fix-it short-term solutions since Europe has closed ranks against easy access of their jobs market to the British!

What we should be doing is going back to our Bahraini roots for a solution. In our forefathers’ time, Bahrainis went wherever they found work. Why should our youth be stuck with the empty promise of handouts and jobs in Bahrain only? Let us be a training hub and train and equip them to work in a global economy, becoming globe-trotters who shine anywhere. That will be a great stride towards economic growth and financial independence for our youth.

(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)

Distribution of 6,800 housing units: Focus on seniority, clearing backlogs

Ministry offers alternative solutions

● Units available in Salman City, East Sitra, and East Al Hidd Cities

● Allocation will continue until February next year

● Move follows directives of HRH Prince Salman

TDT | Manama

Seniority of applicants will come into play in the allocation of housing units to beneficiaries, confirmed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in a statement emphasizing that clearing backlogs enjoys top priority.

In response to a query raised by Member of Parliament Mohammed Rafiq Al Hussein regarding the backlog from 2002, the ministry



Representative picture

affirmed that beneficiaries from that period have been included in the distribution list for 6,800 housing units. This initiative aligns with the directives of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

As reported earlier by The Daily Tribune, the ministry is actively progressing with the allocation of units in Salman City, East Sitra, and

East Al Hidd Cities to beneficiaries, with the process expected to continue until February 2024. The project also encompasses addressing over 5,000 housing finance requests.

Explaining the initiative, the ministry stated that it is focusing on implementing alternative solutions for applicants from 2004 and earlier, offering them three choices:

The first option involves the allocation of a real estate facilitation service valued at 70,000 dinars, coupled with a non-refundable grant of 10,000 dinars.

Another choice includes the allocation of a residential plot service, accompanied by a real estate facilitation financing of 40,000 dinars, while beneficiaries can also avail themselves of a housing allowance

for an additional two years. The third and final option encompasses the allocation of a residential apartment service, complemented by a non-refundable financial grant of 3,000 dinars for furnishing the apartment. Beneficiaries opting for this choice are also exempted from paying maintenance fees for shared areas in the designated buildings for citizens for a period of two years.

Highlighting a commitment to innovation and collaboration with the private sector, the ministry outlined various pathways to expedite citizens’ access to suitable housing. These initiatives include the housing finance program, providing facilitation financing services, “new category benefits” financing services, and the government land development rights program, which aims to deliver social housing units in partnership with the private sector at prices aligned with housing financing values.

Sitra Commercial Complex set for revitalization

Government’s Strategic Plan to Attract Investors and Enhance Competitiveness

TDT | Manama

Once a bustling destination for shoppers, Sitra Commercial Complex is poised for rejuvenation through the government land investment platform

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy is actively pursuing plans in association with relevant authorities to make the complex appealing to investors.

Managed by the Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture since its establishment in 2006, the complex has faced numerous challenges, resulting in a decline in tenant interest. Insufficient investment has worsened the situation, preventing the mall from competing effectively with the private sector.

Responding to a parliamentary question from MP Jalila Al Sayed concerning government-managed commercial complexes, the ministry said it is working on a project to provide tenants with greater flexibility.

To revive the complex, the ministry has studied best practices for



Representative picture



Sitra Mall had served as the primary site for the national Covid-19 vaccination drive, in cooperation with the National Taskforce and the Ministry of Health.

enhancing investment efficiency and operation.

In alignment with these efforts, the Ministry of Finance has allocated and

registered the Sitra Complex under the Bahrain Development Bank. An agreement has been signed with the bank for the management and operation of the complex.

The ministry emphasized that the agreement includes the bank’s commitment to allocate profits from the complex to support institutions contributing to investment projects, business incubators, and the development of emerging industries in Bahrain.

Additionally, the ministry highlighted that there are government-owned lands leased to investors who independently manage and operate commercial complexes.

As part of the economic recovery plan, the government has introduced the government land investment platform, aiming to streamline business procedures, enhance efficiency, and strengthen public-private partnerships. These initiatives are expected to foster competitiveness, transparency, and fairness in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Sharia Court rejects husband’s request for reconciliation, citing threat to wife’s safety

TDT | Manama

The Sharia Court has rejected a husband’s plea to have his wife return to their marital home, deeming it a threat to the woman’s safety.

The woman had disclosed to the court that the man was involved in an extramarital affair and had subjected her to physical abuse.

She also told the court that



Representative picture

the man’s true intent was not reconciliation but to inflict physical and mental harm.

In her testimony, the wife asserted that she had been

mistreated and subjected to offensive language, causing harm to her dignity and well-being.

Her accusations extended to the man’s use of offensive language, vulgar insults, and the expulsion of her and their disabled son from their shared residence.

Recognising the legitimacy of the woman’s claims based on evidence, the court determined that compelling her

to return to the man would jeopardise her safety.

Furthermore, the court found that the man’s actions did not align with the religious law and indicated a lack of trustworthiness.

The couple has two children.

The husband argued in court that he had provided a fully furnished residence and paid the agreed-upon dowry. However, despite his efforts,

the wife declined reconciliation and initiated legal proceedings.

After considering the evidence presented by both parties, the court concluded that it was unsafe for the woman to reside with the man in their marital home.

The ruling emphasised that the husband had not created a secure environment and had not demonstrated a sincere intention to reconcile.

Alaska Airlines grounds 737 MAX 9 planes after emergency landing

AFP | Washington, United States

US-based Alaska Airlines grounded all its Boeing 737 MAX 9 planes on Friday after a flight with 177 people onboard made an emergency landing in the state of Oregon, with passengers saying a window panel blew out after take-off.

Flight 1282 departed from Portland International Airport Friday evening before returning safely around 20 minutes later after cabin crew reported a "pressurization issue," according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Images posted on social media showed the window panel of a plane blown out, with emergency oxygen masks hanging from the ceiling.

"Following tonight's event on Flight 1282, we have decided to take the precautionary step of temporarily grounding our fleet of 65 Boeing 737-9 aircraft," Alaska Airlines CEO Ben Minicucci said in a statement.

"Each aircraft will be returned to service only after completion of full maintenance and safety inspections," he said, anticipating checks would be finished in a few days.

Kyle Rinker, a passenger on the flight, told CNN that a window popped off soon after take-off.



Images posted on social media showed the window panel of a plane blown out

"It was really abrupt. Just got to altitude, and the window/wall just popped off and didn't notice it until the oxygen masks came off," he told the broadcaster.

Another passenger, Vi Nguyen, told The New York Times that a loud noise during the flight had woken her.

"I open up my eyes and the first thing I see is the oxygen mask right in front of me," Nguyen told the newspaper. "And I look to the left and the wall on the side of the plane is gone."

"The first thing I thought was, 'I'm going to die,'" she added.

'Rare occurrence'

The National Transportation

Safety Board, FAA and Alaska Airlines each said they were investigating the incident.

"The aircraft landed safely back at Portland International Airport with 171 guests and 6 crew members," the airline said in an earlier statement.

"While this type of occurrence is rare, our flight crew was trained and prepared to safely manage the situation," it added.

The Boeing 737 Max 9 plane took off at 5:07 pm, heading to Ontario, California, before returning to the Portland airport, according to the flight tracking website FlightAware.

The plane was certified airworthy in October and was newly delivered to Alaska Airlines, according to the FAA reg-

istry website.

Boeing wrote on X that it was gathering more information and a technical team stood ready to support the investigation.

In his statement, Minicucci said Alaska Airlines was "working with Boeing and regulators to understand what occurred."

Boeing has struggled in recent years with technical and quality control issues related to its 737 MAX models.

In December, the US aviation giant told airlines that MAX aircraft should be inspected to check for loose hardware on plane rudder control systems after an international operator discovered a bolt with a missing nut while performing routine maintenance.



Boeing's 737 MAX planes were grounded worldwide following two MAX 8 crashes in 2018 and 2019 that killed 346 people in total.

NBB launches new 'Top-Up Your Personal Finance' Campaign

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) recently launched its 'Top-up Your Personal Finance' campaign for customers seeking to extend their existing personal financing from the Bank.

Customers can benefit from the campaign until the 31st of March 2024 and receive exclusive interest rates in addition to a grace period of up to 6 months.

Commenting on the occasion, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive- Retail Banking at NBB, said: "Experience the convenience of a six-month grace period on our personal finance repayments, alleviating financial burdens



Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani

and empowering you to pursue your aspirations."

UK police launch fraud inquiry over post office IT scandal

London, United Kingdom

UK police have announced they are investigating possible fraud offences committed during Britain's post office scandal, described as one of the worst miscarriages of justice in British legal history.

More than 700 people running small local post offices received criminal convictions between 1999 and 2005 after faulty accounting software made it appear that money had gone missing from their branches. The prosecutions for theft and false accounting have received new attention about one branch manager's fight for justice that was aired on British television this week.

London's Metropolitan Police said late Friday that officers are "investigating potential fraud offences arising out of these prosecutions".

The probe also includes money recovered from sub-postmasters as a result of civil actions, the force added in a statement.

The Met had already been investigating potential crimes

of perjury and perverting the course of justice relating to investigations and prosecutions carried out by the Post Office.

Two people have been interviewed under caution but nobody has been arrested since the investigation opened in January 2020.

The scandal has been described at an ongoing public inquiry as "the worst miscarriage of justice in recent British legal history".

The Horizon IT system had been developed by the Japanese technology giant Fujitsu.

The Post Office began installing the software in the late '90s, but flaws in its programming showed up deficits in branch accounts.

Postal service executives, refusing to acknowledge problems with the software, forced workers to repay the shortfall.

Some were imprisoned or left out of pocket, while others failed to find other jobs and lost their homes.

In December 2019, a High Court judge concluded that the system contained a number of "bugs, errors and defects".

China launches anti-dumping probe into imported EU brandy

Beijing, China

China said Friday it had launched an anti-dumping investigation into brandy imported from the European Union, as commercial tensions flare between the two trading superpowers.

The Ministry of Commerce said the probe followed a complaint filed in November by Chi-

na's liquor association on behalf of the domestic brandy industry.

It said the complaint included "the relevant evidence required for proceeding with an anti-dumping investigation as stipulated by... (national) regulations".

The probe will examine suspected dumping between October 2022 and September 2023,

as well as industrial damages incurred between 2019 and 2023, the statement said.

The investigation would likely conclude by January 5, 2025 but may be extended by six months under "special circumstances", it added.

China imported more brandy than any other spirit in 2022, with most of it coming from

France, according to a report by research group Daxue Consulting. Tensions between Beijing and the EU have simmered since the bloc signalled it was seeking to reduce its reliance on trade with China in technology and other areas. The bloc is also mulling a separate investigation into Chinese support for its manufacturers of wind turbines.

Global maritime trade sails into geopolitical storm

Paris, France

International maritime trade has hit stormy waters as attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on ships in the Red Sea has reduced the availability of ships, causing freight rates to surge.

Most large international shipping companies have decided to reroute trading to avoid the Red Sea and Suez Canal through which 12 percent of world trade usually passes.

The Houthis say the strikes are in solidarity with Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza, which Israel has bombarded relentlessly for three months, in what it says is a campaign to destroy militant group Hamas.

Danish shipping giant Maersk said Friday that it would divert all vessels around Africa instead of using the Red Sea and Suez Canal for the "foreseeable future" after Yemeni rebels attacked its merchant ships.

Vessels are circumnavigating Africa via the Cape of Good Hope, which extends the journey between Asia and Europe by 10 to 20 days on average, ac-



Members of the Yemeni Coast Guard affiliated with the Houthi group patrol the sea as demonstrators march through the Red Sea port city of Hodeida in solidarity with the people of Gaza

According to Arthur Barillas, general manager of Ovrsea, a freight organiser.

Shipping companies have already announced significant price increases to cover the costs associated with the detour.

French shipping group CMA CGM has doubled the price of a 40-foot container between

Asia and the Mediterranean to \$6,000.

Italian-Swiss peer and sector leader MSC has hiked its prices to \$5,900 from \$2,900 for the same offering.

The United States says there have been more than 20 Red Sea attacks by Houthi rebels since October 19.

Chinese New Year

The industry is suffering from a shortage of containers in Asia owing to longer journey times, causing a headache ahead of the Chinese New Year next month.

"There is a real influx (of goods) from Asia," said Barillas. In the runup to the Chinese

New Year on February 10, "all the ships are full", causing freight rates to rise, he added.

Customers are rushing to have their goods shipped before the celebrations bring China, the world's biggest exporter, to a week-long standstill.

A benchmark indicator for measuring the freight tariff rate of goods transported from China -- the Shanghai Containerized Freight Index -- has almost doubled in a few weeks.

Such a sudden increase is reminiscent of what occurred during the Covid pandemic, when freight rates reached unprecedented heights on disruptions to supply chains.

"Many people, they focus on the spot rate. And yes, it has doubled. And, of course, it speaks about how desperate the situation is," Niels Rasmussen, chief shipping analyst at BIMCO, told AFP. He added, however, that some shippers would have negotiated better deals.

"If you look at the average rate for everything out of China through most of Europe and the

Mediterranean, the increase is 15 percent to 20 percent," said Rasmussen.

Taiwan elections

Attacks in the Red Sea are not the only ones disrupting international trade. The worst drought in decades to hit the Panama Canal has forced authorities to slow transits.

A potential further hazard could be the outcome of presidential elections in Taiwan due January 13, should it lead to another crisis with China, according to analysts.

However, "even with the threat of some congestion and equipment shortages, carriers are much better-positioned to accommodate operationally for these diversions when compared to the disruptions seen during the pandemic", Israeli freight reservation and payment platform, Freightos, said in a weekly note to clients.

Shipping companies have used recent huge profits to order hundreds of new ships which are beginning to be delivered.



News in brief

UK police launch fraud inquiry over post office IT scandal ♦ UK police have announced they are investigating possible fraud offences committed during Britain's post office scandal, described as one of the worst miscarriages of justice in British legal history. More than 700 people running small local post offices received criminal convictions between 1999 and 2005 after faulty accounting software made it appear that money had gone missing from their branches. The prosecutions for theft and false accounting have received new attention following a television drama about one branch manager's fight for justice that was aired on British television this week.

♦ The Democratic Republic of Congo's election authority has annulled recent election results for three government ministers and four provincial governors, citing fraud and voter intimidation. The electoral commission Ceni stated late on Friday it had cancelled all ballots cast for 82 election candidates in the central African nation. Three sitting government ministers are on the list, as well as four provincial governors -- including the governor of the capital province Kinshasa.

DR Congo annuls vote results for three ministers over fraud

♦ Taiwan's defence ministry condemned Beijing yesterday for sending balloons across the median line that separates the self-ruled island and China, saying they pose a "serious threat" to aviation routes and are a form of harassment. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has in recent years stepped up military and political pressure -- sending in an unprecedented number of fighter jets and naval vessels around the island. In December, Taipei's defence ministry began reporting the appearance of Chinese balloons around Taiwan, noting at least four incidents in which they flew directly above the island.

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Taiwan slams aviation safety 'threat' from China balloons ♦ Taiwan's defence ministry condemned Beijing yesterday for sending balloons across the median line that separates the self-ruled island and China, saying they pose a "serious threat" to aviation routes and are a form of harassment. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has in recent years stepped up military and political pressure -- sending in an unprecedented number of fighter jets and naval vessels around the island. In December, Taipei's defence ministry began reporting the appearance of Chinese balloons around Taiwan, noting at least four incidents in which they flew directly above the island.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Calling all guitar heroes, The Smashing Pumpkins are hiring



Billy Corgan and James Iha of The Smashing Pumpkins perform at Irving Plaza
AFP | New York

Could you be the next member of The Smashing Pumpkins? The influential alt rockers who achieved 1990s fame with hits including "Cherub Rock" and "Tonight, Tonight" are seeking an additional guitarist -- and welcoming resumes. "The application process is open to anyone who might be interested," the band wrote on X Friday, inviting potential candidates to send their CVs and "related material."

Jeff Schroeder had played with the band's most recent iteration from 2007 until 2023, when he announced his departure.

Originally formed in the late 1980s in Chicago, The Smashing Pumpkins gained acclaim for their brand of metal fused with dreamier pop sounds, catapulting to commercial success and becoming a Gen X touchstone band until their breakup in 2000.

Founding member, primary songwriter and front man Billy Corgan rebooted the band in 2006.

Originally formed in the late 1980s in Chicago, The Smashing Pumpkins gained acclaim for their brand of metal fused with dreamier pop sounds, catapulting to commercial success and becoming a Gen X touchstone band until their breakup in 2000.

Along with Corgan two of the original members, guitarist James Iha and drummer Jimmy Chamberlin, rejoined over the past decade.

And now, with the departure of Schroeder, the rockers are looking to round out their sound with a fourth ahead of a European tour with Weezer set to launch June 7 in Birmingham, England.

Later in the summer they -- and you? -- will join the Savoyers stadium tour with Green Day, Rancid and Linda Lindas, which is slated to begin July 29.

India's Sun probe reaches solar orbit

Successful milestone for India's solar observation mission after a four-month journey

♦ Aditya-L1 mission launched in September enters Sun's orbit

♦ Instruments onboard to observe Sun's outermost layers and study coronal mass ejections

♦ India becomes the first Asian nation to achieve this solar orbit feat

AFP | New Delhi

India's solar observation mission yesterday entered the Sun's orbit after a four-month journey, the latest success for the space exploration ambitions of the world's most populous nation.

The Aditya-L1 mission was launched in September and is carrying an array of instruments to measure and observe the Sun's outermost layers.

India's science and technology minister Jitendra Singh said on social media that the probe had reached its final orbit "to discover the mysteries of Sun-Earth connection".

The United States and the European Space Agency have sent



People watch as the PSLV XL rocket carrying the Aditya-L1 spacecraft is launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota

numerous probes to the centre of the solar system, beginning with NASA's Pioneer programme in the 1960s.

Japan and China have both launched their own solar observatory missions into Earth's orbit. But the latest mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation is the first by any Asian nation to be placed in orbit around the Sun.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed it as yet another "landmark" in the country's space programme.

"It is a testament to the relentless dedication of our scientists," he said on social media.

"We will continue to pursue new frontiers of science for the

is a testament to the relentless dedication of our scientists. We will continue to pursue new frontiers of science for the benefit of humanity"

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

YOU KNOW WHAT

The Aditya-L1 orbiter is now in a stable halo orbit around the Sun, at a gravitational equilibrium point with Earth

benefit of humanity."

Aditya, named after a Hindu Sun deity, has travelled 1.5 million kilometres (932,000 miles) from the Earth -- still only one percent of the distance between humanity's home planet and the star at the centre of our solar system.

It is now at a point where the gravitational forces of both celestial bodies cancel out, allowing it to remain in a stable halo orbit around the Sun.

The orbiter, which reportedly cost \$48 million, will study coronal mass ejections, a periodic phenomenon that sees huge discharges of plasma and magnetic energy from the Sun's atmosphere.

These bursts are so powerful they can reach the Earth and potentially disrupt the operations of satellites.

The mission also aims to shed light on the dynamics of several other solar phenomena by imaging and measuring particles in the Sun's upper atmosphere.

India has a comparatively low-budget space programme, but one that has grown considerably in size and momentum since it first sent a probe to orbit the Moon in 2008.

In August last year, India became the first country to land an uncrewed craft near the largely unexplored lunar south pole, and just the fourth nation to land on the Moon.

India became the first Asian nation to put a craft into orbit around Mars in 2014, and it is slated to launch a three-day crewed mission into Earth's orbit later this year.

It also plans a joint mission with Japan to send another probe to the Moon by 2025 and an orbital mission to Venus within the next two years.

Russia says downed four Ukrainian missiles over Crimea overnight



A destroyed car is seen following a missile strike in Belgorod
AFP | Moscow

Russia yesterday announced its forces shot down four Ukrainian missiles over Moscow-annexed Crimea overnight.

The attack came a day after Russia said it repelled a Ukrainian drone attack on Crimea, downing 36 of them over the peninsula.

"Air defence on duty intercepted and destroyed four Ukrainian missiles over the Crimea peninsula," the Russian defence ministry said.

Kyiv said it had hit the Saki airbase in western Crimea.

"Saki airfield! All targets have been shot!" Mykola Oleschuk, the commander of Ukraine's air force, said on social media.

Ukraine has targeted Crimea, annexed by Russia in 2014, since the start of Moscow's full-scale offensive.

N. Korea fires 60 rounds of artillery near Yeonpyeong Island

AFP | Seoul



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (2nd R) inspecting an important military vehicle production plant with his daughter Ju Ae (C) at an undisclosed location in North Korea

North Korea's military fired over 60 artillery rounds near Yeonpyeong Island yesterday, Seoul's military said, a day after both sides staged live-fire drills in the same area near their contested maritime border.

"North Korean forces conducted artillery fire with over 60 rounds from the northwest area of Yeonpyeong Island today between approximately 16:00 and 17:00 (0700 to 0800 GMT)," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

On Friday, North Korea fired more than 200 rounds of artillery shells near Yeonpyeong and Baengnyeong, two sparsely populated islands situated just south of the defacto maritime border between the two sides.

Residents of the two islands were ordered to evacuate to shelters and ferries were suspended amid one of the most serious military escalations on the peninsula since Pyongyang fired shells at one of the islands in 2010.

Both Friday and yesterday, North Korea's shells landed in a buffer zone created under a 2018 tension-reducing deal, which fell apart in November after the North launched a spy satellite.

Seoul's military said yesterday that "the repeated artillery fire within the prohibited hos-

YOU KNOW WHAT

Yeonpyeong, which has around 2,000 residents, is about 115 kilometres (70 miles) west of Seoul. Baengnyeong, with a population of 4,900, is about 210 kilometres west of Seoul

tile act zone by North Korea poses a threat to the peace on the Korean Peninsula and escalates tensions".

They issued "a strong warning", and urged North Korea to immediately stop such actions.

"North Korea, following its claim of the complete nullification of the 'September 19 Military Agreement', continues to threaten our citizens with ongoing artillery fire within the prohibited hostile act zone," the JCS said.

"In response, our military will take appropriate measures to safeguard our nation," it said.

North Korea said Friday that its live-fire drills had not even had "an indirect effect" on the border islands.

Yeonpyeong, which has around 2,000 residents, is about 115 kilometres (70 miles) west of Seoul. Baengnyeong, with a population of 4,900, is about 210 kilometres west of Seoul.

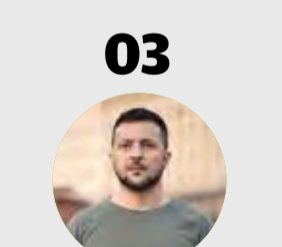
TOP 4 TWEETS



Was briefed by Lieutenant General @Arnoldo_Lazaro, @UNIFIL_Head of Mission on the current escalation risks along the Blue Line I reaffirmed EU's strong support to the UN mission, which plays a crucial role in preventing and mitigating escalation I commend @UNIFIL_commitment @JZepBorrellf



Today's Supreme Court order allows Idaho's abortion ban to go back into effect, denying women emergency abortion care required by law. These bans threaten women's health, force them to travel, and make it harder for doctors to provide care. This should never happen in America. @POTUS



Protection against aggression is always about rescuing lives that may be lost due to the enemy's destruction and cruelty. And we are saving lives. Thank you to everyone who cares about Ukraine and our people! @Zelenskyyua



From today, 27 million working people will pay less tax. It's taken tough decisions to get to a place where we can cut tax responsibly but as soon as we could, we have. Conservatives believe in low taxes. If we can go further this year, responsibly and sustainably, we will. @RishiSunak

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

Myanmar armed ethnic groups claim key northern town

AFP | Bangkok

An armed ethnic alliance in Myanmar claimed late Friday to have taken a northern town notorious for online scamming compounds in another blow to the embattled junta.

The military is facing its biggest threat to power since seizing power in a 2021 coup after three ethnic armed groups -- known as the Three Brotherhood Alliance -- launched a sweeping October offensive in northern Shan state.

For months, people have been fleeing Laukkai town, located in a district bordering China that is run by a military-aligned militia and notorious for gambling, prostitution and online scams.

The Three Brotherhood Alliance -- made up of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Arakan Army (AA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) -- said the town was now under their control.

"All members from the Myanmar Army's Military Operational Command in Laukkai were disarmed and Laukkai became a clean area where there are no more members of the Myanmar Army," the alliance said in a statement.

"Last 10 years have been transformational": S Jaishankar at his book launch

ANI | New Delhi

Calling his 10-year tenure under the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government "transformational", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that from a time when Indians had to face difficulties regarding visas, today many countries are themselves pursuing New Delhi to figure out workplace mobility.

He further emphasized that today, a big opportunity lies in the area of the global workplace besides supply chains and digital flows.

The EAM was speaking at the launch event of his book 'Why Bharat Matters' in the national capital on Wednesday.

Jaishankar opened up on the range of subjects he has dealt with in the book, ranging from Article 370 as well as India's border situation, especially along LAC with China.

Speaking at the event, Jaishankar said, "The last 10 years, where I have largely served in the government, have been transformational and I bring out in a descriptive account what those transformations have been. Within that transformation, some inflexion points...I would describe the Article 370 decision as one of them. What has changed on the border with China is another, the whole neighbourhood."

"I tried to explain is really a new construct of foreign policy that has come into the making. Of course, since I am in politics...we also are experiencing attacks from beyond our borders which are often ide-



EAM S Jaishankar presents his book to PM Narendra Modi

YOU KNOW WHAT

The last 10 years, where I have largely served in the government, have been transformational and I bring out in a descriptive account what those transformations have been. Within that transformation, some inflexion points...I would describe the Article 370 decision as one of them. What has changed on the border with China is another, the whole neighbourhood

S JAISHANKAR

ological and agenda-driven," he added.

Highlighting the multiple achievements of India in the last

Death toll hits 126 in Japan quake



Police officers check a collapsed building in the city of Wajima
AFP | Tokyo

Rescuers and residents sifted through rubble yesterday as their focus turned to recovering bodies and cleaning up rather than finding survivors, five days after a huge earthquake struck central Japan and killed at least 126 people.

The death toll from the New Year's Day 7.5 magnitude quake in the Ishikawa region of Japan's main Honshu island was certain to rise, with 210 people still unaccounted for, authorities said.

The work of thousands of rescue workers has been hampered by bad weather -- with snow forecast for Sunday -- and roads torn apart by gaping cracks and blocked by an estimated 1,000 landslides.

Two elderly women were pulled from the wreckage of their homes on Thursday in the badly hit city of Wajima on the Noto peninsula, but since there has been no reason for cheer.

Bangladesh police arrest opposition members over train fire

AFP | Dhaka

Bangladesh police yesterday arrested seven opposition party members blamed for an alleged pre-election arson attack on a packed commuter train that killed four people and injured another eight.

Friday night's blaze engulfed the intercity Benapole Express in central Dhaka, with hundreds scrambling to pull passengers from burning carriages.

It was the latest in a series of fires to hit railway services since late last year, blamed by police on "deadly acts of sabotage" by the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) ahead of Sunday's national election.

Police said Nabiullah Nabi, a senior BNP official in Dhaka, and six other party activists were



Rescue personnel remove a body bag from a burnt out carriage of the Benapole Express in Dhaka

arrested in the capital early yesterday.

"Nabi funded and masterminded the attack," Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Faruk Hossain told AFP by phone.

The BNP and dozens of other opposition parties are boycotting Sunday's vote, which they say is a "sham" designed to entrench the rule of longtime Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The party has vehemently rejected allegations of responsibility for the fires and demanded an international probe into the incidents.

"These are pre-planned acts of sabotage by government functionaries aimed at discrediting the non-violent movement of the BNP," party spokesman A.K.M Wahiduzzaman told AFP.

"Tarique Rahman, our party chief, had expressed his fear that government was hatching these conspiracy to divert people's attention away from the sham election."

Police had earlier lowered the fire's death toll from five to four.

Samanta Lal Sen, a senior official of the Dhaka hospital treating victims of the blaze, said eight people had been critically injured.

Blinken meets Greek PM Mitsotakis after an hour of talks with Erdogan

AFP | Chania



Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis (L) greets US Secretary of State Antony Blinken as he arrives on the island of Crete

Washington's top diplomat Antony Blinken arrived on the island of Crete yesterday to meet with the Greek prime minister and address Greece's concerns about the looming sale of US fighter jets to Ankara, after talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey.

Athens has fiercely contested the US jet sales because of long-standing territorial disputes with Turkey in the energy-rich eastern Mediterranean region.

Greece is seeking to purchase a batch of more advanced F-35 jets from the United States to

counter the perceived Turkish threat.

Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis said in an interview with Skai TV yesterday that it was only a matter of time before Greece joined the F-35 programme, saying that Greek-US relations "have reached their peak".

He said the talks between Blinken and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at his family home in Chania would focus on two issues: international developments regarding war in Gaza and Ukraine, and bilateral relations especially on energy and defence cooperation issues, including the supply of F-35s.

CELEBS

Zac Efron reveals story behind candlelit first kiss

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Zac Efron's first kiss was in a game of "spin the bottle".

The 36-year-old Hollywood star - who previously dated Vanessa Hudgens and Sami Miro - has reflected on his first smooch, and while he didn't name names, he remembered enjoying the whole experience.

Speaking to W magazine, he said: "In a tree house. We played spin the bottle."

"It was her birthday, and a bunch of us climbed up to the tree house. There were candles - it was pretty cool."

Zac was happy to reveal his first celebrity crush, and he quickly named Tia Carrere, who played Cassandra Wong - the singer of fictional band Crucial Taunt - 1992 comedy 'Wayne's World'.

He added: "Tia Carrere from 'Wayne's World'. I loved her. She just seemed like a rock star."

Speaking of firsts, the 'High School Musical' actor was also asked about his earliest acting job, and the role actually ties into his latest movie.

He explained: "I think it was an episode of 'ER'. Maura Tierney, who plays my mom in 'The Iron Claw', saved me."



Zac Efron

"My character had a bad gunshot wound and was tossed on the sidewalk in front of the hospital."

"Maura rescued me, and they pulled the bullet out. I'm pretty sure I died."

Poor Zac was previously named as someone's worst on screen kiss, as his 'High School Musical' co-star Ashley Tisdale doesn't have fond memories of an early smooch.

Back in 2022, she told the 'Not Skinny But Not Fast' podcast: "I'll tell you why it was the worst, okay? I had to kiss Zac Efron on 'The Suite Life of Zack and Cody', and it's the worst because I am so close to him and he's like my brother."

"At the time, he was used to acting on like, Warner Brothers, which is CW, and we were on Disney Channel. And so he like, he tried kissing me with his tongue, and I was like, 'Get away from me!' I closed my mouth so fast."

"I was like, 'This is Disney Channel, we don't kiss like that on Disney Channel!'"

"It's just weird when you're so close to somebody, and we'd already done the movie, I'd known him for years before. That is why it was the worst. It's just we're too close."

Margot Robbie pours cold water on Barbie sequel

Celebretainment | Los Angeles



Margot Robbie

Margot Robbie has played down the prospect of a 'Barbie' sequel.

The 33-year-old actress played the title role in last summer's hit blockbuster and explained that so much went into the pic-

ture that a follow-up isn't a priority for her or director Greta Gerwig at this moment in time.

Margot - who served as a producer on the film for her LuckyChap Entertainment banner - told Variety: "It's funny, that knee-jerk reaction in this day and age for everyone to immediately ask about a sequel. I don't think it was like that 20 years ago. This wasn't designed to be a trilogy."

"Everything went into 'Barbie' - and that's how Greta works. She finishes every movie on empty, feeling like she could never make another movie because she put everything she had into that one. So I don't know what it would take to fill that cup up again for her. Or for us."

The 'Babylon' actress explained that she would prefer to make other movies that replicate the impact that 'Barbie' has had on the film industry.

Margot said: "We want to make more films that have the effect that 'Barbie' has."

I don't know if it has to be 'Barbie 2'. Why can't it be another big, original, bold idea where we get an amazing filmmaker, a big budget to play with, and the trust of a huge conglomerate behind them to go and really play? I want to do that."

The Australian star has produced flicks including 'Promising Young Woman' and 'Saltburn' for LuckyChap and explained that she has a desire to get behind the camera and direct in the future.

Asked when she could helm a film, Margot said: "I don't know. The tricky thing is, as much as I say I'm strict about saying no as a producer, I also get so excited with all the things that I could produce that it ends up taking all my time."

"And as an actor, I get to work with so many brilliant directors and watch them do it - it's like having a front-row seat to the best master class in the world. So it's really tempting to keep doing that. But directing is a dear ambition of mine."

Kelly Clarkson felt 'very unhappy' in Los Angeles

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kelly Clarkson quit life in Los Angeles for the sake of her mental health.

The 41-year-old pop star has revealed that she felt "very unhappy" in the city, and therefore she decided to relocate to New York.

Kelly - who has River Rose, nine, and Remington Alexander, seven, with her ex-husband Brandon Blackstock - told PEOPLE: "I was very unhappy in Los Angeles and had been for several years. I needed a fresh start."

The 'Because of You' hitmaker also took the decision to relocate her TV talk-show to the Big Apple.

The singer - who has hosted 'The Kelly Clarkson Show' since 2019 - explained: "We told NBC, 'I'm not trying to sound ungrateful, I just can't stay

here anymore for my mental health; for me and my kids.' They weren't doing well either."

"For the past few years, I'd just been showing up and smiling and doing what I'm supposed to do, but you can only compartmentalise so long until you break."

Kelly previously revealed that she "loves" attending therapy sessions. The singer started attending therapy before her split from Brandon, and she thinks it's been really beneficial for her.



Kelly Clarkson

Rita Ora 'took a couple of months' to understand her air fryer

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Rita Ora has struggled to Ruse her new air fryer.

The 33-year-old pop star - who is married to movie-maker Taika Waititi - has revealed that it's taken her "a couple of months" to understand her new kitchen appliance, admitting that she's actually already wrecked three air fryers.

According to The Sun newspaper, Rita says on an upcoming episode of 'The Masked Singer': "I'm new to the air fryer community. It took me a couple of months to work it out."

The 'Hot Right Now' hitmaker has enjoyed success as a singer and as an actress over the last decade. But Rita concedes that she's not a natural in the kitchen.

The pop star shared: "I don't think I was made for the kitchen."

Meanwhile, Rita previously revealed that she would love to start a family with Taika.

Selena Gomez hints at retiring from music as she admits she has 'one more album in me'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Selena Gomez has confessed she might only have "one more album in me".

The 'Only Murders in the Building' star has admitted she would choose acting over music if she had to choose as she pondered retiring from the latter art form.

Speaking on the 'SmartLess' podcast, she began: "I started having a lot of fun with music and then touring was really fun."

But I was doing my TV show at the same time ['Wizards of Waverly Place'] and I just found it really fun so I just kept going but the older I get, the more I'm kind of like, I would like to find something to just settle on."

The former child star, 31, suffered burnout early on in her career.

She recalled: "I went to a mental institute and cancelled one of my tours."

"It just got to me because I love working and it distracts me

from bad things."

Suggesting she might quit music after one last record, she continued: "I do feel like I have one more album in me but I would probably choose acting."

When it was suggested that she could still do both careers, she replied: "You're right, but I am going to want to chill because I'm tired."

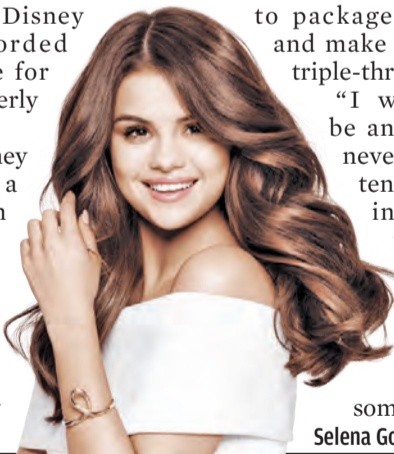
The Rare Beauty founder admitted she never actually intended to become a singer, until she was packaged as an

all-rounder by Disney after she recorded the theme tune for 'Wizards of Waverly Place'.

She said: "Disney is, it's safe to say, a machine and, in a way, forcefully requires that I know how to sing so I could sing the theme song [of a show]. They know how

to package someone and make it a whole triple-threat thing."

"I wanted to be an actress, I never really intended on being a singer full-time but apparently that hobby turned into something else."



Selena Gomez

SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD

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Across

1- Junk e-mail; 5- Cattle's locale; 10- Fall; 14- Dorothy's dog; 15- Musical drama; 16- Bern's river; 17- The doctor; 18- Author of fables; 19- High-ranking NCO; 20- Adjustable resistor; 22- Pass into disuse; 23- Assignment; 24- Wall St. debuts; 26- Biblical brother; 29- Contemptible; 33- Strong string; 34- Brandish; 35- Sailor; 36- Put aboard; 37- Style; 38- Poet Teasdale; 39- Just the Way You; 40- Chosen; 41- Governed; 42- Sing for; 44- " by any other name..."; 45- Agrees tacitly; 46- Faucet problem; 48- Eats to a plan; 51- Reverie; 55- Lab culture; 56- Facial hair; 58- Not many words; 59- Sped; 60- Up (trapped); 61- Hardens; 62- Sea-going eagle; 63- Abbreviated time off; 64- Quod demonstrandum;

Down

1- Arouse; 2- Luxurious; 3- End in (draw); 4- Sound of constant pitch; 5- Castle water pits; 6- More or less vertical; 7- Balance; 8- B'way hit sign; 9- Occurrence; 10- Napkin fabric; 11- Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 12- Assns; 13- Fountain of jazz; 21- All there; 22- Mutual fund fee; 24- Lifeless; 25- Soccer legend; 26- Collection of maps, Titan of Greek mythology; 27- Conscious; 28- Bill attachment; 29- From that time; 30- Novelist Calvino; 31- Nostrils; 32- Class; 34- Garden intruders; 37- Delighted; 38- Astonishment; 40- Seth begat him; 41- Incursion; 43- Dinner course; 46- Ventured; 47- U-Haul competitor; 48- Go out with; 49- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 50- Pull down; 51- Fix hose; 52- Cabinet dept.; 53- Nick and Nora's pooch; 54- The majority of; 56- Place for ordering alcoholic drinks; 57- Hellenic vowel;

Yesterday's solution

L	E	E	J	R	C	M	P	S	T	E	T	
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Classifieds



Call us on +973 36458394
email : advt@newsfbahrain.com

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

HORIZON INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742421 or INFO@HORIZONINTERIORS.NET

ALGASSAB CONSTRUCTION & TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39669917 or oommenzo@gmail.com

SECURI CORE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or RASHEED@SECURICORE.BH

TAHA Sale of second-hand goods has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33572848 or A.HAFEEZ62@YAHOO.COM

DAR ALKHAIR SECOND HAND GOOS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35471565 or CHISMAILBH@GMAIL.COM

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

AFAAQ ALKALIJ EXCAVATION & BUILDING EQUIPMENTS RENNTAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/ OPERATOR(EARTH MOVING MACHINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13644244 or afaaalkhalij@gmail.com

EDMA BAHRAIN INSULATION has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39420444 or hawra@edama.bh

N H S TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33721149 or abid@nhstrading.com

NUR BEAUTY HUB W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33379390 or FEL.AGUSTIN@YAHOO.COM

BROWN BOY HAIR SALON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39105631 or AHMEDCHAND775@GMAIL.COM

ANWAR PARIS RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39828050 or Kaattmajeed@gmail.com

FANNER WELDING & ALUMINIUM W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35581811 or CST280497@GMAIL.COM

G C B CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36071141 or JAMILA1931@HOTMAIL.COM

ALERT EVENT MANAGEMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATION MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33779041 or CHAMINDSILVA41@GMAIL.COM

RIGHT WAY COMBIND COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33589532 or gujranwala.contracting@gmail.com

GARAGE CLASSIC CAR ONE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38179997 or CLASSICAR1.GARAGE@GMAIL.COM

RE STRUCTURE WISE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LEGAL RESEARCHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37413377 or DUBAIAE2021@GMAIL.COM

MARHABA CONSULTANCY SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34501318 or KAZIBWEMOZE25@GMAIL.COM

SHAGGI FASHION HUB W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34151486 or JAHANGIRANDSONSRESTAURANT@GMAIL.COM

SHAMS AL ASKER GENERAL TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36177746 or ASIKAZEEZKK@GMAIL.COM

QURESHI SUPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39079094 or INFO@MSQ.COM.SA

MUHAMMAD ARSHAD MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37434348 or ARSHADBH84@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD MANSOOR ANSAR SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33923416 or MALIKSHEHROZ6050@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD KHALED IBRAHIM AL-KHALIFA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32057256 or HANOOO.KH@GMAIL.COM

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

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/OPERATOR(SHOVEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36881555 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

LAYALI ALJABRIYA CAFETERIA. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17342291 or alhadibh66@gmail.com

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

LUQMAN ALHADDAD CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730091 or SWEETLOQ@YAHOO.COM

Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

CREATIVE STYLE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17464443 or HR2@CREATIVESTYLE.COM.BH

Hertel W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633899 or MOHAMMED.QASSIM@HERTEL.COM

AL ASHBAL ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39130510 or ALASHBAL@HOTMAIL.COM

ALDALEEM MARINE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262256 or aldaleem@hotmail.com

ANSAR GALLERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17140001 or pr@ag-bh.com

Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

SAWARI AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39119184 or SAWARIAUTOSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

MODERN VILLAGE GATE ALUMINIUM has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39889586 or alqaryafurniture@gmail.com

RASHID KHAN INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66657049 or SHSHKHAN31@GMAIL.COM

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

MD OSMAN GONI REAL ESTATE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39251817 or RIDOYFASHIONS98@GMAIL.COM

INTERNATIONAL MARINE EQUIPMENT CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727662 or Personnel@intercool.com

Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

AHMED ALWAZZAN OPTICIANS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39698809 or ALWAZZANOPTICIAN@GMAIL.COM

ALI RASHID ALAMIN has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732220 or ARALAMIN@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

TECHNICAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BLACKSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730036 or TCCBN@BATELCO.COM.BH

ARAB SHIPBUILDING & REPAIR YARD CO. JASRY has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37787773 or duajimalkhalifa@ASRY.NET

Al Helli Supermarket B.S.C Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877209 or HANAN@ALHELLI.COM

ALAHLAM TECHNICAL & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785335 or HAMED.996@HOTMAIL.COM

GULF FENCING & SPECIALIST SURFACING EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17591197 or rasha@gfss.com.bh

ALI JUMA MULLA ABDULLA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33364343 or AJUMA42010@GMAIL.COM

China skyscrapers contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36966659 or CSC.2004@HOTMAIL.COM

GULF ALUMINIUM ROLLING MILL (AUTHENTICATION ON REORGANIZATION PLAN) B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17731000 or CAREER@GARMCO.COM

ALSAYED DHIYAA ALSAYED ABBAS has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39391910 or AHRASHARAF89@GMAIL.COM

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

RASHID ABDULKARIM MOHAMMED EBRAHIM BAKER has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17411584 or BURASHED1984@GMAIL.COM

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L. CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

ALI HASAN ALMALKI has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464384 or SHALIMARBH@GMAIL.COM

AL WAJIH TRANSPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39661808 or MK_ALKHALIFA36@HOTMAIL.COM

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

ADEL KHALAF JEWELLERS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39696373 or ADELKHALAF111@GMAIL.COM

LULU BAHRAIN HYPER MARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

Bu saif auto spare parts has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36664665 or ADIL_ALBALOOSHI@HOTMAIL.COM

First Choice Cleaning Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36491411 or MURTAZAWALI100@GMAIL.COM

LAHORE SUPER WELDING AND FABRICATION WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33968890 or SHAFQATNAZIR04@GMAIL.COM

BAJWA BUSINESS SERVICES CO.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37181192 or FZ.BAJWA786@GMAIL.COM

UNCLE SAM CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER/BARTENDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34444548 or BUOMAR177@GMAIL.COM

COMSIP AL A ALI W.L.L. has a vacancy for

the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17773006 or AURELIEN.CHAUSSY@VINCI-ENERGIES.COM

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

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. I. I has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552722 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

G4S Secure Solutions Bahrain W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714409 or SUMAIRA.YASMIN@BH.G4S.COM

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

ELITE FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382228 or MUSTAFA@ELITEFMC.COM

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

Burj Mushraf Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36167111 or bmc.bahrain111@gmail.com

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

Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOTIFEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(FINANCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631660 or ahmed@jazayani.com

Veronica garage has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33845350 or HALSEBEA971@GMAIL.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. I. I has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

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

MARWA GOLD SMITH has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36763529 or ik91367@gmail.com

BOUCHRA ALKHAIR SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33964777 or KARIMASALA18@GMAIL.COM

MOHSEN HASSAN CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33858115 or MOHSEN19999@HOTMAIL.COM

Spectrum Cleaning Co W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77122441 or MMKOEJI@YAHOO.COM

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

TOKYO CITY ELECTRONICS ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36699370 or ABDULLAALMANSY@YAHOO.COM

ALJAZI REF AND A C REPAIRAIR WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39812388 or ALENEZI_101@HOTMAIL.COM

SHAMS AL IRAQ BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39593981 or SHHATHHEMHAMZHI1977@GMAIL.COM

Dream World Construction Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39252020 or sharef.works@gmail.com

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

MODA BITAR WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39322274 or moda_bitar_bh@yahoo.com

ISSA ALZEERA EMPOWERMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17223323 or ORIENTAL@ORIENTAL-PRESS.COM

Naya beauty salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33005350 or nayasaloon04@gmail.com

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. I. I has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

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

FABA COMMERCIAL SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR FOR SERVICES, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39738876 or accounts@faba.com.bh

AL MUALLIM HIRING EQUIPMENTS has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39694643 or SADIQAHS@HOTMAIL.COM

Farsana Construction S P C has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39829689 or FARSANABAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

Crystal International Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17612293 or CRYSTAL_CIF@YAHOO.COM

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

WADY Golden Nuts has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36455939 or AMEEN.ALKAMEL@GMAIL.COM

BUKHOWA HOTEL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66709023 or pro@ramadamanama-citycentre.com

Burj mohammed contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34169404 or BURJMUHAMMAD786@GMAIL.COM

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

FUTURE RENT CARS has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36775566 or BUHAMAD171@GMAIL.COM

Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. I. I has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

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

ALMANHAL BAHRAIN WATER FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404435 or AMER.KHALID@BH.NESTLE-WATERS.COM

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

SITRA MEAT FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732252 or gm@sitractory.com

DAR ABU HUSSAIN BREAKFAST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39997757 or M.KHABBAZ92@GMAIL.COM

SHUTDOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742961 or SMSWLL@BATELCO.COM.BH

ALDALEEM MARINE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262256 or aldaleem@hotmail.com

ZAYANI POLYMER FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(MECHANICAL MACHINERY) GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17464043 or AHMED@JAZAYANI.COM

Clean and green services has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17792434 or cleangreenbh@gmail.com

JAVED & MALIK HOLDING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33305321 or DJAVID@HOTMAIL.COM

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

THREE BROTHERS GENERAL TRADE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66655327 or ARSHITEX@YAHOO.COM

A 4 Automation For Electrical Contracting w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17760191 or MANHATEN.BH@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or profitee@almoyyedco.com

Usmans tin fabricator has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33704554 or USMAN_DC@YAHOO.COM

AL TOOM FOR CAR ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17672697 or altoom6666@gmail.com

DOMESTONE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39335330 or DOMESTONE@GMAIL.COM

CAPSTONE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33777542 or CHITTARANJAN.GCCM@YAHOO.COM

ZENON CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33100058 or ZENONNAMAMA@GMAIL.COM

MOON STAR CLEANING CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16199376 or MOONSTAR.CB@GMAIL.COM

FEBYS GLOBAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33201025 or AHMADYOUSIF2219@GMAIL.COM

BE SPORT SWEAR has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39886050 or MOHAMMED_13_17@HOTMAIL.COM

ANADA BHAVAN INDIAN RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39971555 or ANAND@ALRIYADHGROUP.COM

Awael public accountants and management consultants has a vacancy for the occupation of AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17104666 or ABBAS@AWAEL.BH

Petroval Middle East W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17442575 or RELIANCE@BATELCO.COM.BH

CAFETERIA RAMSI has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33004461 or MOHDBALUCH58@GMAIL.COM

Burj Mushraf Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36167111 or bmc.bahrain111@gmail.com

EAST PLUM CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17601643 or PHAGAMAS.COURTS@EASTPLUM.COM

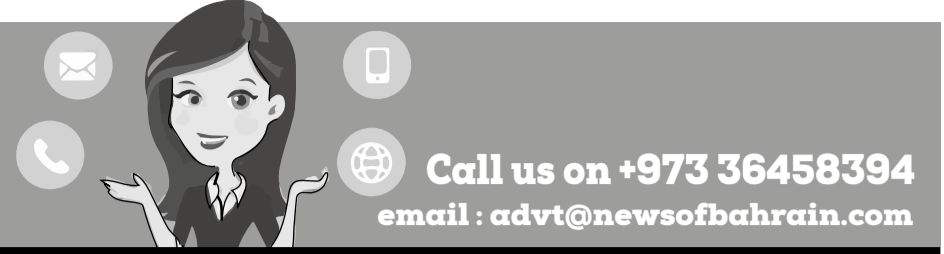
Rousie Gents Barber has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36765888 or khaliddd@gmail.com

FRESH TECH AIR CONDITIONING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36907579 or buttsam901@gmail.com

NOOR ALFONON FOR FURNITURE has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33569719 or nahrefounoun@gmail.com

Kevin Contracting Co. Bahraini Partnership Company has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38486463 or thomas@kevingroupco.com

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

SITRA MEAT FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732252 or gm@sitractory.com

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

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPEFITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

Reef Facilities Management Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TEAM LEADER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17564808 or shawqi.reef@hotmail.com

Hertel W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633899 or MOHAMMED.QASSIM@HERTEL.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magicshinebh.com

AL AHBAB TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17125204 or ALAHBAB.CO@HOTMAIL.COM

DAR ALNOOR SILK TAILORING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17340960 or Salim59@hotmail.COM

Burj Mushraf Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36167111 or bmc.bahrain111@gmail.com

AMMARI CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38191112 or ABDULLA@AMMARI.BH

NAROWAL PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35475276 or NEWARKSHAHISCO@GMAIL.COM

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has

a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552722 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

ALGHAWAS AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33399321 or ALGHAWASALI@HOTMAIL.COM

RAFFA GATE CARGO SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39055666 or ALIALFAN@GMAIL.COM

TAILOR TOUCH has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39133302 or SWAR889@YAHOO.COM

ALICE AND DUROJ SALON CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39836099 or yousif.rasool@hotmail.com

MULTI HOME CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33014089 or MULTIHOM111@GMAIL.COM

GULF TECHNICAL ZONE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34668999 or TUFAL@

TECHNOGROUP.CO

BLUE LAGON INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36725889 or UALI426@GMAIL.COM

MODERN CITY FOR FABRICATED METAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35467837 or ehtishamuhammadriz@gmail.com

LAJBAR KHAN INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33414286 or LAJBAR624@GMAIL.COM

BLUE SKY AVIATION SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FLIGHT OPERATIONS INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210225 or SHANAVAS.SOOPY@EXEC-LIFESTYLE.COM

MAZMIZ YASALAM W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38700027 or salwa@al-abraaj.com

BEHRAM SHAHZADA MARKETING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 36694562 or NAVEED@SHAHICO.NET

BABY LAND FOR TOYS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39584990 or MCSAJEER4@GMAIL.COM

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Grizzlies top slumping Lakers, Magic edge Nuggets



Anthony Davis of the Los Angeles Lakers reacts as he is stripped of the ball by Memphis star Ja Morant

AFP | Los Angeles

The Memphis Grizzlies surged past the floundering Los Angeles Lakers on Friday, drilling 23 three-pointers to hand LeBron James and company their fourth straight NBA defeat, 127-113.

Marcus Smart made a season-high eight three-pointers on the way to 29 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. connected on five from beyond the arc as he scored 31.

The Grizzlies, who entered the contest as the worst-shooting team in the league, notched only their second victory in six games.

Desmond Bane scored 24 points and handed out 13 assists, Ja Morant scored 21 and Ziaire Williams added 10 of his 15 in the fourth quarter, when the Grizzlies out-scored the Lakers 33-19 to pull away.

James scored 32 points and Anthony Davis added 31, but the Lakers suffered their 10th defeat in 13 games, unable to take advantage of 19 Grizzlies turnovers.

James started strong, making four of four three-point attempts in the first quarter on the way to 14 points. But he and the rest of the Lakers couldn't match the Grizzlies' energy in the second half.

Lakers coach Darvin Ham, who found himself fielding questions about his job security before the contest, said there was nothing for the Lakers to do but fight through it.

"It's a disappointing loss, but we can't get discouraged," he said. "I'm disappointed that we've lost multiple games now in a row, but it's only going to make that fire bigger in my chest to try to figure this thing out."

"That was my message to

Rybakina, Rune power into Brisbane International finals

AFP | Brisbane

World number four Elena Rybakina put on a serving masterclass as she stormed into the Brisbane International women's final yesterday, while top seed Holger Rune battled through to the men's decider.

Russian-born Kazakh Rybakina blasted eight aces past Czech teenager Linda Noskova on her way to a 6-3, 6-2 win, breaking her opponent once in the first set and twice in the

second.

Rybakina, who won Wimbledon in 2022, has only lost 12 games on the way to the final and is yet to drop serve in a perfect build up to the Australian Open, where was runner-up last year to Aryna Sabalenka.

"I didn't expect I would play that well this week," said the second seed, adding that she had been sick before arriving in Brisbane. "It's an amazing start to the year for me."



Bahrain volleyball champions Dar Kulaib announced yesterday that it has signed a two-year sponsorship deal with Bahrain Holidays, Plus Rental Group and Trans Auto Rental. The agreement was penned in a signing ceremony attended by Bahrain Volleyball Association president Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Dar Kulaib chief Mahfoudh Abdulrahim Thamer, and Bahrain Holidays, Plus Rental Group and Trans Auto Rental CEO Mahmoud Ebrahim Al Kazem, along with other officials and players. The agreement covers Dar Kulaib's volleyball teams in their various age categories for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 seasons. Above, officials with players at the signing ceremony

Warner goes out swinging as Australia sweep Pakistan series

AFP | Sydney

David Warner went out the way he began with a rumbustious innings to guide Australia to an eight-wicket victory and 3-0 Test series sweep over Pakistan in Sydney yesterday.

Playing in his 112th and final Test, Warner was dismissed for 57 -- just 11 runs from finishing off the job -- and left the Sydney Cricket Ground arena before an adoring home crowd.

Marnus Labuschagne with his 19th Test half-century on 62 and Steve Smith on four were there at the end as the Australians eased to the 130-run target for the loss of just two wickets.

"We are in the entertainment business, happy to come out here and showcase what I try to do all the time," said the 37-year-old Warner, who made his Test debut in 2011 and will go down as one of the finest openers in cricket.

"I started with Twenty20, tried to come here and emulate that, tried to play my shots and managed to get a win on the board."

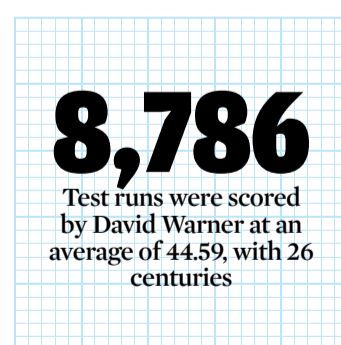
Asked how he wished to be remembered, Warner added: "Exciting, entertaining and, I hope, I put a smile on everyone's face the way I played."

It was something of an anti-climax when Warner, known as "The Bull", was out -- losing a review for lbw to spinner Sajid Khan.

Warner was congratulated by the Pakistan players, who had given him a guard of honour as he came out for his final innings, before he waved his



Australia's David Warner takes a successful catch in the third Test



Cummins hails resilience

The day was all about Warner, but this was Australia's 17th consecutive Test win against Pakistan, having secured the current series in Melbourne over Christmas.

The hosts had an early setback when Warner's childhood friend and fellow opener Usman Khawaja was out in the second over, lbw to Sajid for a duck.

But it set centre stage for Warner as he sought to put pressure on the bowlers and fielders with his intimidating gung-ho approach. His 37th Test half-century came off just 56 balls.

"I love the way the boys performed. It has been a great start to the (southern) summer for us," said Australia skipper Pat Cummins, who was named man of the series for his 19 wickets at an average of 12.

"The boys found a way to get

“
We are in the entertainment business, happy to come out here and showcase what I try to do all the time. I started with Twenty20, tried to come here and emulate that, tried to play my shots and managed to get a win on the board

DAVID WARNER

us back into the contest whenever we were on the back foot."

Pakistan go home on the end of yet another defeat in Australia, but there were some positives.

Newcomer Aamer Jamal was announced as player of the match for his all-round performance of 82 in the first innings and 6-69 in Australia's first innings.

"It's been so long to get here (his Test debut)," Jamal said.

"I was over the moon, performing in front of this great (Australian) side wasn't easy, but I stuck to my discipline and I loved every moment."

Mohammad Rizwan and Jamal defied the Australian attack for almost the first hour of the fourth day, adding 41 runs to the overnight score before Nathan Lyon struck.

Lyon switched to bowling around the wicket and Rizwan played across the line, edging a catch to Warner -- who else -- at leg slip for 28.

Shahad Al Ahmad triumphs in Khalid bin Hamad Endurance Race

Shahad Waleed Al Ahmad clinches first place with her horse Bejoux in the 120-km race



Winners celebrate on the podium along with HH Shaikh Faisal bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

● **BREEF acknowledges His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's pivotal role in supporting endurance sports**

TDT | Manama

Shahad Waleed Al Ahmad from Al Ajyal Stable claimed first place in the Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Endurance Race for Private Stables while Rashid Jameel Al Abbad from Al Safanat Stable clinched the second place, and Nasser Hamad Al Qahtani from RM Stable secured third spot.

The race was held in the presence and under the supervision of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Honourary President of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF), and under the patronage of 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 Committee (BOC).

His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid bin Hamad

Al Khalifa crowned the winners of the first positions in the race which covered a distance of 120 kilometres and organised by BREEF.

In a gesture of appreciation and gratitude, BREEF expressed its thanks to His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his sponsorship and support of endurance races. The federation acknowledged that this

support is highly valued and esteemed by the endurance sports community.

BREEF explained that the success achieved in the championship serves as a significant motivation to continue pursuing goals and making progress in the development of endurance sports, adding that His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Championship holds great importance for stables and riders, as it encompasses a series of international, local, and qualifying races, including the race for young riders. Moreover, BREEF commended the notable collaboration between stables and riders across various championship committees.

High speeds recorded

Throughout the four stages held at the Bahrain International Endurance Village, high speeds were recorded, with varying rankings during the first three rounds.

However, Shahad Waleed managed to finish first by crossing the finish line in the final stage and successfully passing



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the event

the veterinary examination with her horse Bejoux, claiming the first position.

Shahad secured the first position after successfully completing all four stages in a time of 4 hours, 41 minutes, and 8 seconds. Rashid Jameel Al Abbad finished the race with a time of 4 hours, 47 minutes, and 10 seconds, earning the second position.

Meanwhile, Nasser Hamad Al Qahtani completed the race in a time of 4 hours, 52 minutes, and 33 seconds, coming third.

Expressing her immense happiness at clinching the first-place title in the championship,

Shahad said, "This achievement did not come out of nowhere but through the collective efforts of the technical and administrative teams, led by the coach of Al Ajyal Stable. I am thrilled with this victory, and undoubtedly, it will serve as motivation for us to achieve more accomplishments in future races."

She added, "The race witnessed varying speeds and intense competition among riders, which confirms the remarkable capabilities possessed by stables and riders. I congratulate our team on this victory and wish them further success and achievements."



Action from the event

Bahrainis suffer double loss in France handball friendlies

● **Senior men's national team bow to Tunisia 23-32 last night after previously also losing to Brazil 28-30**

● **Bahrainis now all set for final lead-up to 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship, starting Thursday**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national handball team bowed to their counterparts from Tunisia and Brazil in their two matches in an international friendly tournament held in Nantes, France.

The Bahrainis lost to their Tunisian opponents 23-32 last night, after also having suffered a narrow 28-30 defeat against the Brazilians.

The nationals used those games as part of their preparations for the upcoming 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship, which is set to be hosted by the Kingdom from Thursday to 25 January.

The event also acts as a qualifier for 2025 IHF World Men's Handball Championship, with the top five securing berths in the



Action from yesterday's match

In last night's contest, Bahrain trailed 11-15 at the half and never recovered. In their earlier game against Brazil, the Bahrainis also faced a deficit at the break at 12-19, but they roared back in the final 30-minute period and were even able to tie the proceedings late on. But Brazil were able to come up with the key plays in the closing minutes to eke out the two-goal victory.

Brief

Following yesterday's encounter, the Bahrainis concluded their brief visit to France and are now scheduled to return to the Kingdom for the final lead-up to the continental competition.

Head coach Aron Kristjansson had a 22-player squad in Nantes that included Mohammed Abdullhussain, Mohammed Mirza, Ali Mirza, Mohammed Habib Ahmed, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Mujtaba Al Zaimour, Ali Eid, Hassan Shahab, Hassan Al Samaheji, Mohammed Hameed, Hesham Issa, Qassim Qambar, Mohammed Abdulredha, Ahmed Redha, Ahmed Jalal, Abdulla Al Zaimour, Hassan Madan, Ahmed Almaqabi, Adel Mohammed, Hassan Mirza, Jassim Khamis and Ali Al Ashiri.

Inspirational captain and international star Hussain Al Sayyad did not join the team in France due to injury, but is expected to be named onto Kristjansson's final squad for the Asian championship, in which a total of 16 nations are taking part.

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

Swiatek blasts Poland past France and into United Cup final

AFP | Sydney

Four-time Grand Slam winner Iga Swiatek and teammate Hubert Hurkacz swept top seeds Poland into the United Cup final yesterday with a hard-fought victory over France.

Hurkacz, at a career-high nine in the world, defeated left-hander Adrian Mannarino 6-3, 7-5 in Sydney before world number one Swiatek toppled Caroline Garcia 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

They will play either Alexander Zverev's Germany or hosts Australia in Sunday's mixed teams competition decider in the lead-up to the Australian Open.

It is the first final for Poland, who lost at the semi-final stage last year to eventual champions the United States.

"I'm happy that I came back and I didn't make so many mistakes as in the first set," Swiatek said. "For sure, Caro was putting pressure as usual, so I'm happy that we're through to the final."



Iga Swiatek reacts during her match

"Sometimes it's a bit hard to point (to) one thing that changed (after the first set). I just feel like I needed to calm down a little bit and not rush it," she added.

Garcia was France's saviour in their 2-1 win over Norway in the quarter-finals, coming through a titanic struggle against unheralded Malene Helgo, then backing up to win in mixed doubles.

She again displayed her fighting spirit in breaking Swiatek for a 4-3 lead and taking the first set in 43 minutes.

Bahrain bow to Australia

Amine Benadi own goal, Mitchell Duke strike earn 'Socceroos' 2-0 win in international friendly in Abu Dhabi

● Amine Benadi registers own goal in 35th minute, Mitchell Duke seals win in 61st

● Bahrain to return to pitch for informal training match against Angola Wednesday

TD | Manama

Bahrain suffered a tough 0-2 defeat to continental powerhouses Australia last night in an international friendly match played at Baniyas Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

Bahraini defender Amine Benadi sent the ball into his own net in the first half to gift their opponents the advantage. Mitchell Duke then sealed the win for the Australians, nicknamed the "Socceroos", in a contest they mostly controlled.

The tune-up was part of both teams' preparations for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup, which kicks off in Doha on Friday.

The Kingdom's senior men's national football team are currently in the UAE for their final training camp leading up to the continental showcase.

Yesterday's game was one of two tune-ups they are playing there. The Bahrainis are scheduled to return to the pitch for an informal friendly against African side Angola on Wednesday, after



Bahrain forward Abdulla Al Hashash makes an aerial challenge for the ball against Australia's Harry Souttar

which they depart for the Qatari capital the next day for the AFC Asian Cup.

Last night's fixture pitted Bahrain against one of the strongest teams in the world and in all of Asia. Australia are currently 25th on the FIFA World Ranking and fourth in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), while Bahrain are 86th in the world and 12th-best in the continent.

The nationals had lost their previous five meetings against the "Socceroos", and with last night's result the streak has been

extended to six.

Bahrain head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi fielded a starting 11 that included Ebrahim Luthfallah between the posts, to go with Benadi, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Waleed Al Hayyam, Mohammed Adel, Mohammed Al Hardan, Moses Atede, Jassim Khelaif, Komail Al Aswad, Ali Madan and Abdulla Al Hashash.

Volley

Lutfhallah made an impressive save in the 20th minute on a powerfully hit low volley by

Australia's Connor Metcalfe. Teammate Craig Goodwin then missed a golden opportunity in the 31st minute when his shot from close range, while unmarked, went well off target.

Australia took the lead in the 35th minute with Benadi's gaffe. Goodwin sent in a cross from the left wing, and Benadi inadvertently sent the ball the wrong way in an effort to clear. The error gave the Australians the lead heading into the half.

Close to a quarter-hour after the restart, Bahrain appealed



Komail Al Aswad dribbles looking to make a play as he is defended by Mitchell Duke



Bahrain's senior men's national football team had lost their previous five meetings against the "Socceroos" heading into last night's clash, and the result has extended the streak to six

Soon after, Australia doubled their advantage. Duke sent a header home into an empty net in the 61st minute off a headed pass from Goodwin across the face of goal. Goodwin had received a long cross from the right from O'Neill before supplying his assist.

Bahrain had only a handful of chances in the game. Substitute Mohammed Marhoon came on in the second half and had a free-kick fly over the crossbar.

In the highly anticipated AFC Asian Cup, the Bahrainis are in Group E along with South Korea, Malaysia and Jordan.

Bahrain kick off their campaign against the South Koreans on 15 January, and then take on their Malaysian counterparts on 20 January. They complete the preliminary stage against Jordan on 25 January.

for a penalty after the ball appeared to touch the arm of Aiden O'Neill, but the referee denied the Bahraini players' plea.

Loeb ready for big fightback after tough Dakar day for BRX

● Bahrain Raid Xtreme driver aims to get the best from Prodrive Hunter with long battle still ahead in Saudi

TD | Manama

Sebastien Loeb will summon his vast experience and legendary fighting spirit to overcome a difficult day for Bahrain Raid Xtreme in the Dakar Rally as his biggest rival also suffered in Saudi Arabia.

Loeb and Fabian Lurquin in the BRX Prodrive Hunter were looking to build on their third place finish on the Prologue, but found the rally's new first desert stage, a punishing 414km test from Alula to Al Henakiyah today, was as tough as had been predicted.

With Belgium's Guillaume de Mevius in a Toyota Hilux taking the stage to open up a 1min 44secs rally lead from the Audi of Spain's Carlos Sainz, Loeb finished the day in provisional 20th place, but unfazed with 12 demanding days remaining in which fortunes can alter dramatically.

The nine-time World Rally Champion wants to go one better than his second place finish



Sebastien Loeb powering his Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter

in each of the last two editions of the Dakar behind Nasser Al Attiyah, the five-time winner who had an even more challenging time today in his Prodrive Hunter, reaching the finish in 22nd position.

Sebastien Loeb said: "That was not an easy stage but they did tell us that before the start. We had a puncture after 70kms but after that we knew the rest of the stage would be very hard for the tyres and the car, with big stones everywhere, so we took it a little bit easily."

"Then I broke the steering arm so we had to change that in the stage and that's not so quick to swap over, so I think we lost 10 or 12 minutes. It was a long day that was not so interesting from the driving side but more a question of surviving, but in the end we did that."

With 11 more stages leading to the finish in Yanbu on January 19th, Loeb will be looking to produce more of his best performances at the wheel of the BRX Prodrive Hunter, which gave him a record six stage wins in a

row last year, and seven overall.

Over terrain never before seen in the Dakar, with a rocky route twisting around volcanoes towards the first bivouac near the town of Al Henakiyah, navigational difficulty and a high risk of punctures meant it was a stage always likely to cause problems.

As always, there will be no time to relax on the Dakar, with tomorrow sending the cars on another immensely demanding journey over a 463km stage to Al Duwadimi across dunes and rapid desert sections.



With 11 more stages leading to the finish in Yanbu on January 19th, Loeb will be looking to produce more of his best performances at the wheel of the BRX Prodrive Hunter, which gave him a record six stage wins in a row last year, and seven overall

Inter go five points clear after Frattesi late show



Davide Frattesi celebrates after scoring

AFP | Milan

Davide Frattesi put Inter Milan five points clear at the top of Serie A yesterday with a last-gasp winner which gave his team a thrilling, and controversial, 2-1 victory over Verona.

Italy midfielder Frattesi rammed home the decisive strike on the rebound in the third minute of stoppage time of an incredible match at the San Siro which was full of late drama.

Simone Inzaghi's side were fortunate not to throw away the win when Thomas Henry, who had netted Verona's equaliser, thumped a penalty home his 16th goal of the season in the 10th minute

of stoppage time.

A huge roar engulfed the stadium as Inter will be alone at the top of the table at the half-way mark of the season, with closest challengers Juventus at Salernitana on Sunday.

"It was a good shot and I followed the ball, I threw myself onto it and I was lucky it came to me," said Frattesi to DAZN. "The most important wins are the ugly ones, these are the ones which help you challenge right to the end."

The wild celebrations in the stands came after a match which initially had looked like being straightforward for Inter after Lautaro Martinez poked home his 16th goal of the season in the 13th minute.