

**Eats and Treats**



P08-09

**Azerbaijan elections set for today**

**TDT | Manama**

Presidential elections in Azerbaijan are scheduled to be held today. While the election was originally scheduled for October next year, President Ilham Aliyev called for a snap election in December last year. The present President had won the 2018 elections and had secured a fourth consecutive term in office after obtaining 86 percent of the votes. The President of Azerbaijan is elected for a seven-year term.

**P7**

**Houthis claim fresh Red Sea ship attacks**

**AFP | Dubai**

Yemen's Houthi rebels said yesterday they had struck US and British ships in two attacks in the Red Sea, the latest among dozens of incidents that have disrupted global shipping. The Iran-backed rebels, who control much of the war-torn country, have been harassing shipping in a campaign they say is in solidarity with Palestinians in the Israel-Hamas war.

**Trump wants to 'weaponise' US border issue**

**AFP | Washington**

US President Joe Biden accused Donald Trump of seeking to "weaponise" border security as he urged lawmakers yesterday to pass a \$118 billion package of immigration curbs and Ukraine aid that Republicans have threatened to block. "He'd rather weaponise

220 fils (includes VAT)



## HM King commends Bahrain's strong bilateral ties



**TDT | Manama**

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa welcomed the three new ambassadors to the Kingdom, praising the strong relations between Bahrain and their countries in all domains. HM the King received their credentials in a ceremony held at Al Sakhir Palace.



The ambassadors are H.E. Okai Asako, Ambassador of Japan; H.E. Dr. Andreas Eliades, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus; and H.E. Fahad Mohammed Salem Bin Kardous Alameri, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates. HM King Hamad wished the ambassadors success in their diplomatic duties. His Majesty affirmed the

Kingdom's keenness to build bridges of cooperation with different countries worldwide. The ambassadors conveyed the greetings of the heads of states of their countries, who wished HM King Hamad abundant health and happiness and Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity. The ceremony was attended by His Highness Shaikh Nasser



**HM the King receives the new ambassadors' credentials**

bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs; Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court; H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Major General Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Fadhal, Royal Protocols Chief. The ambassadors arrived at Al Sakhir Palace separately, and were each welcomed by the Royal Protocols chief.

# Morality Mandate

## Council of Representatives passes law criminalizing sexual deviance

**TDT | Manama**

In a move sparking debate, the Council of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a law criminalizing acts deemed "sexual deviance" and prohibiting their promotion.

The legislation, with the stated aim to shield society and families, has ignited discussions on social media and within the halls of power.

The law's primary advocate, MP Mohammed Al Ma'arifi, implored fellow Arab nations to adopt similar measures, calling "sexual deviance" an "intellectual invasion" contradicting Islamic principles and human nature. He urged protection of children from its "perpetuation."

Criticism arose from MP Jameel Mulla Hassan Mala, who challenged the National Institution for Human Rights' stance that individuals might unintentionally commit such acts. Mala deemed such behaviour a "social ill" deserving criminalization.

MP Ali Al Dosari voiced concerns about attracting "deviant"



**MP Mohammed Al Ma'arifi**



**MP Jameel Mulla Hassan Mala**



**MP Ali Al Dosari**



**MP Hassan Ibrahim**

foreign workers, advocating for broader criminalization measures against practices deemed unacceptable by society.

Meanwhile, MP Hassan Ibrahim emphasized parental responsibility in monitoring children's activities, especially in the digital age. He called for vigilance against "intellectual infiltration" and lauded the law's aim to protect communities.

MP Hisham Al Ashiri acknowledged the challenges posed by online campaigns and platforms in containing the phenomenon.

MP Mahmoud Al Fardan drew comparisons to the biblical "people of Lot," decrying the spread of "deviant behaviours" through social media.

MP Najib Al Kuwari urged the Ministry of Information to ramp up awareness campaigns targeting children, students, and the broader community.

With Council of Representatives' approval secured, the law now awaits review and a vote by the Shura Council, sparking anticipation of further debate and potential amendments.



**MP Hisham Al Ashiri**



**MP Najib Al Kuwari**

## Pollution risks worsening global water scarcity: study

**AFP | Paris**

Water scarcity could affect three billion more people than previously expected by mid-century, with increased pollution rendering river sources "unsafe" for humans and wildlife, researchers warned yesterday.

The UN's climate science panel has said that around half the world's population currently faces severe water scarcity for at least a month a year and warned that global warming impacts and rising demand are

key risks to global supply.

But new research by scientists in Germany and the Netherlands has found that if harmful nitrogen pollution is factored in the number of areas considered water scarce increases dramatically.

"In general, people worry more about water scarcity - whether you have enough water," lead author Mengru Wang, of Wageningen University & Research, said. "Water pollution is becoming a more and more important issue that makes water unsafe to be used by nature and humans."

**Just for fun**



A carnival float depicting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz wearing an eyepatch and trying to look from a platform is pictured ahead a press conference on the shrove Monday procession of the carnival season in Mainz. (AFP)



# Guardian of the sea

On behalf of HM King, HRH Prince Salman inaugurates naval ship RBNS Khalid bin Ali

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, yesterday inaugurated the Kingdom of Bahrain's naval ship, the RBNS Khalid bin Ali, marking its entry to the Royal Bahrain Naval Force, at the Salman Naval Base.

This follows the celebrations commemorating the 56th anniversary of the establishment of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF).

HRH Prince Salman attended the event on behalf of His Majes-

ty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

His Royal Highness affirmed that the RBNS Khalid bin Ali is a crucial addition to the Royal Bahrain Naval Force that will further improve the BDF's combat readiness and capabilities to carry out its national duties. He commended the efforts of the naval ship's crew and their success in their missions.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the Royal Bahrain Naval Force's efforts and their active participation in several humanitarian and defence missions to safeguard international maritime naviga-



HRH Prince Salman with senior BDF and government officials at the event

tion and protect the free flow of international trade in partnership with allied countries.

The Commander of the Royal Bahrain Naval Force, Rear Admiral Ahmed Mohammed Al Binalli, then delivered an address. A souvenir was then presented to HRH Prince Salman by Rear Admiral Al Binalli.

HRH Prince Salman was given a tour on board the RBNS Khalid bin Ali, where HRH inaugurated the vessel, marking its entry into the Royal Bahrain Navy.

His Royal Highness was briefed on the RBNS Khalid bin Ali's advanced facilities, including operations and command rooms and equipment. His Royal Highness was also given a summary of the naval ship's defence capabilities and its advanced systems.



Warm welcome

Upon arrival, HRH Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces was welcomed by Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

The event was attended by the Commander of the National Guard, His Highness General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, the National Security Advisor, Royal Guard Commander, Lieutenant-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and Royal Guard Special Force Commander Staff Colonel His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HRH Prince Salman was accompanied by His Highness Staff Commander Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and His Highness Lieutenant Commander Shaikh Mohammed Bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Several senior officers also attended the event.

## Ongoing development

Commenting on the occasion, His Royal Highness highlighted the BDF's ongoing development

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**The RBNS Khalid bin Ali is a crucial addition to the Royal Bahrain Naval Force that will further improve the BDF's combat readiness and capabilities to carry out its national duties**

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND PRIME MINISTER

and thanked HM King Hamad for his unwavering support of the BDF.

HRH Prince Salman noted the BDF's pivotal role, alongside allied countries, in safeguarding and upholding regional security and development.

He expressed his congratulations to Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed, and the BDF's personnel, on the 56th anniversary of the establishment of the BDF.

# Lulu Group sends new relief aid to Gaza

Second batch of 50 tons of food and essential products handed over to Egyptian Red Crescent



Cairo

Abu Dhabi-based Lulu Group has again lent a compassionate hand to the people of Gaza with much-needed aid and relief materials.

The second batch of aid, consisting of 50 tons of food products, hygiene products and

other essentials were handed over to the Egypt Red Crescent authorities in Cairo on Monday.

The relief materials were received by Dr. Rami El-Nasser, Chief Executive Officer of the Egypt Red Crescent, from Lulu Egypt Marketing Manager Hatim Said along with Juzer

Rupawala, Lulu Egypt & Bah-

rain Director, Huzefa Qureshi, Regional Director and other officials.

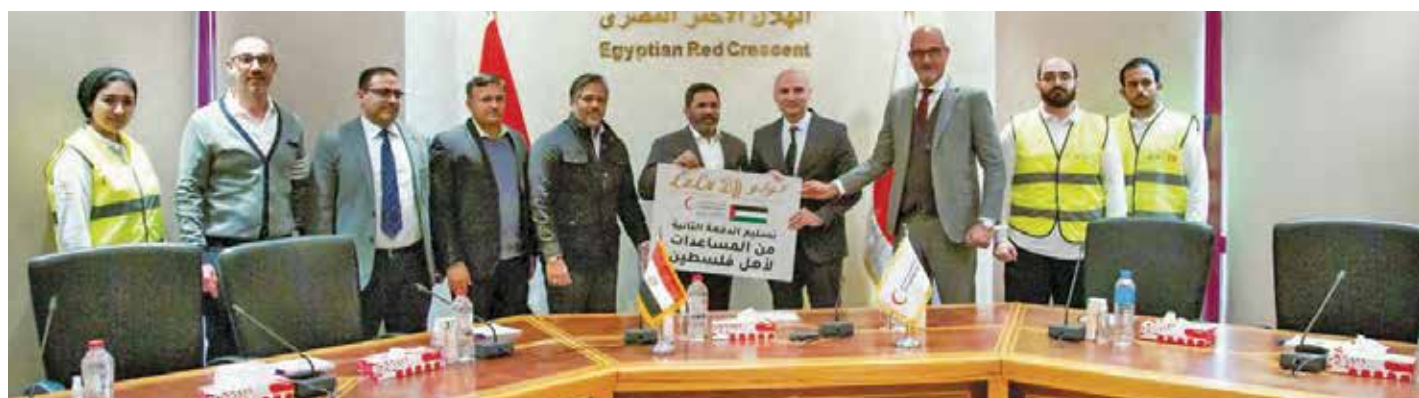
Red Crescent aims to deliver the relief materials to the people of Gaza at the earliest, said Dr. El-Nasser.

He welcomed Lulu's helping hand and expressed gratitude to Yusuff Ali MA and the Lulu

Group for the continued support to the people of Palestine.

This is the second time Lulu is providing much needed help to the Palestine People undergoing hardship in current situation.

In December, it provided 50 tons of relief materials to Gaza through Egypt Red Crescent.



Dr. Rami El-Nasser receives the relief materials from Mr. Hatim Said along with Mr. Juzer Rupawala, Huzefa Qureshi and other officials

# MP proposal allowing citizens to expand housing units

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives passed yesterday a proposal urging municipalities and housing authorities to amend the regulatory requirements for urban development related to building ratios, and housing regulations.

The aim of the proposal is to allow citizens to expand their residential units, considering the growing need for such expansions.

The proposal was put forward by the following members of parliament Khalid Bu Anq, Zainab Abdulameer, and Badr Al Tamimi. Recognising the demand for additional living space among citizens, the proposal highlights the importance of revisiting and modifying the existing regulations to provide greater flexibility for

homeowners.

By allowing for expansions within the housing units, citizens would be able to accommodate the changing needs of their families without having to relocate or build entirely new structures. The proposal encourages municipalities and housing authorities to review and revise these regulations, taking into account the unique circumstances and needs of citizens.

Expanding housing units would provide citizens with the flexibility to accommodate growing families, changes in living arrangements, or the need for additional space for various purposes. It would also contribute to the sustainability of urban areas by maximizing land utilisation and minimizing the need for new construction projects.

## Bahrain Halal Expo inaugurated



His Excellency Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, inaugurated Bahrain's First Halal Expo. During his speech, the minister affirmed the importance of the halal industry in Bahrain, in light of the rapid growth of the global halal market, which reflects the increasing demand for halal goods and services. This event is the first of its kind in the kingdom, and it bridges the gap between the halal industry and the Islamic finance sector through various methods, exploring investment opportunities in the halal sector and expanding horizons for entrepreneurs and SMEs.



## Court annuls divorce deal, clears husband's liability in alimony case

TDI | Manama

A Gulf national's attempt to obtain alimony for herself and her daughter through an old execution file has been denied by the court. The agreement, obtained through a short-lived divorce agreement more than six years ago, was ruled to be annulled and the husband cleared of any payment obligations.

The court decision came after the wife failed to obtain a divorce ruling and subsequently resurrected the execution file in an effort to pressure her husband for divorce.

The court determined that the wife did not submit a demand for the implementation of the agreement until her claim for fault divorce was rejected.

The husband's representative, lawyer Aisha Flamarzi, revealed that the couple got married in 2013 in the husband's home country, with the marriage contract notarized in Bahrain.

They subsequently divorced in 2016, but reconciled within a month. For the past few years, their marital life continued without the need to enforce the original divorce agreement.

Disputes resurfaced in 2022 when the wife filed a divorce lawsuit, which was ultimately rejected by the courts at both the First Instance and Appeal levels. Subsequently, her attempt to file a new alimony claim was also rejected.

At this point, the wife decided to revive the previously unused execution file to pressurize her husband for a di-



The court ruled to annul the agreement, absolve the husband of payment, and prohibit the daughter from travelling without written permission from the husband.



orce. However, the husband responded by filing a lawsuit before the Sharia Court to request the nullification of the agreement and exemption from expenses in the execution file.

### Evidence

Flamarzi presented a copy of the agreement and marriage contract as evidence. The court heard witness accounts from the husband's brother and friend, testifying to his provision for the family. In contrast, the wife failed to present any defense witnesses.

The court ruled that the wife's return to her husband effectively annulled the terms of the agreement. It also highlighted the wife's silence regarding alimony until 2019, which reinforced the husband's role as the sole provider, particularly since the wife is a foreigner.

Additionally, the court noted that the wife only sought the implementation of the agreement after her fault divorce lawsuit was rejected.

## From Crime to Cuffs CID Nabs Robber in 9 Hours!

TDI | Manama

In a display of swift action, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has apprehended a 29-year-old Asian national within nine hours of robbing a store in Arad.

Demonstrating their commitment to curbing crime and upholding security, authorities promptly launched an investigation upon receiving the report.

Their meticulous efforts led to the successful identification and arrest of the suspect, recovering the stolen money in his possession.

Confirming their commitment to due process, the General Department of Criminal Investigation and Evidence assured that necessary legal



The suspect with the evidence

measures have been taken. The apprehended individual awaits referral to the Public Prosecution for further proceedings.

## Anti-Narcotics arrests drug dealers

TDI | Manama

The Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science has arrested, in separate cases, drug dealers aged 31-39 of different nationalities.

Narcotics and psychotropic substances worth around

BD47,000 were confiscated from the suspects.

Investigation into the received information led to the identifying and arresting of the suspects, along with the confiscation of the illicit drug. Legal proceedings are being taken to refer them to the Public Prosecution.

# From ban to boom

Aquaculture expert reveals secrets of thriving shrimp farming as alternative source of seafood

● Mr. Varghese Ittan outlines key steps, emphasises market opportunities

Zahra Ayaz

TDI | Manama

Aquaculture specialist Mr. Varghese Ittan sheds light on the thriving business of farmed shrimp, which has gained significant traction after a six-month ban on fishing, trade, and sale of fresh shrimp.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Mr. Ittan explains the meticulous process involved in shrimp farming, outlining key steps and emphasising the market opportunities generated by this alternative source of seafood.

"The initial stages of shrimp farming involve meticulous pond preparation, wherein seawater is directly pumped into a reservoir tank. To ensure the purity of the water, an inbuilt gravel filter is employed, which effectively prevents the entry of live animals such as small fishes, algae, and invertebrates," Mr. Ittan said.

He highlights the crucial role of nitrification bacteria colonies present in the gravel bed, which aid in converting ammonia into nitrite and subsequently nitrate, thereby maintaining water quality.

"Once the secondary tank is filled with water, aeration is carried out for a period of 2 to 3 days to allow the water to season. After this period, the water parameters, including pH, ammonia levels, water hardness, turbidity, alkalinity, and dissolved oxygen, are carefully monitored.

"If necessary, natural minerals such as dolomites, zeolite, or carbohydrate mineral mixtures are added to rectify any imbalances. After one week, the pond is deemed ready for stocking fingerlings, marking the commencement of the approximately 120-day cultivation period."

### Essential requirement

He said, throughout the cultivation period, the health of the shrimps is closely monitored



Throughout the cultivation period, the health of the shrimps is closely monitored through regular liver tests and other assessments

MR. VARGHESE ITTAN, AQUACULTURE SPECIALIST

through regular liver tests and other assessments. An essential requirement for each farm is the presence of a minimum of one technician with a Bachelor of Fisheries Science (BFSC) qualification, responsible for managing the operations.

"Water exchange, involving approximately 1,000 liters of water per day, is carried out, with the used wastewater filtered through a gravel media system. The resulting clean water can then be returned to the breakwater lake," he explained. "Additionally, probiotic minerals, including dates syrup, herbal extracts, garlic, and small onions, are incorporated into the shrimp feed, further enhancing the quality of the produce."

### Selling price

Speaking on the prices, Mr. Ittan reveals that the selling price of farmed shrimp depends on their sizes.

Shrimps have been sold at prices ranging from BD2.5 to BD3, with local sales taking place directly at the farm and through major supermarkets such as Carrefour and Lulu. Live shrimp are also procured by retailers from the farms and sold in the fish market.

Addressing concerns about weather impact on the farming process, Mr. Ittan notes that the use of nanotechnology in modern farming has rendered rain unnecessary.

He points out his observations during the peak temperatures of July in Bahrain, where water temperatures reached an average of 34 to 34.5 degrees Celsius within a one-meter depth of the sea.

He mentions the challenges faced by farmers operating older farms and emphasises the



Mr. Varghese Ittan shows the meticulous pond preparation of this lucrative shrimp farming business

significance of pond design in fish farming.

### Risk of fatalities

Lastly, Mr. Ittan further explains that in Gulf countries, as the heat intensifies, the capacity of oxygen to dissolve in water diminishes. This, in turn, leads to higher ammonia levels, posing a risk of fatalities among fishes.

"However, for shrimp culti-

vation, the utilisation of seawater has proven successful. The cultivation of L-Vannamei, commonly known as the Pacific White Shrimp, has been carried out in Bahrain, with the seeds imported from India.

Mr. Ittan expresses the need for a local hatchery in Bahrain to enable easier access for farmers, emphasising the favorable conditions offered by the country's seawater.

## MPs propose opening field training programs for students

● Enriching practical experience and hands-on training

TDI | Manama

Several members of parliament have submitted an urgent proposal to the government, urging the establishment of field training programs during the summer period for middle and high school students.

The objective behind this proposal is to equip students with the necessary technical and administrative skills required by the job market.

Parliamentarians Muneer

Suroor, Mohammed Al Ahmad, Waleed Al Doseri, Mohammed Al Ma'arifi, and Hassan Ibrahim jointly put forward the proposal, citing the importance of practical experience and hands-on training for students.

They stressed the need for proactive measures by the government to facilitate field training opportunities and bridge the gap between theoretical education and practical work.

The proposed training programs would be conducted in various ministries and government entities, offering students the chance to acquire firsthand experience in their respective fields of interest. By exposing them to real-world scenarios and the inner workings of gov-

ernmental bodies, these programs would provide valuable insights and enhance their future career prospects.

To cater to diverse student interests, the training programs would cover a wide range of disciplines, including technical and administrative fields. The ultimate goal is to ensure that students are well-prepared for the demands of the job market and possess the necessary skills and competencies for their chosen career paths.

### Ideal time

Members of parliament highlighted the summer period as an ideal time for students to engage in these training

programs, as they would have ample time available for learning and practical application.

They also emphasized the importance of collaboration between educational institutions and government agencies to ensure the successful implementation of these programs.

Currently, the government is reviewing the proposal, carefully assessing its feasibility and potential impact. If approved, the establishment of field training programs would serve as a valuable addition to the educational landscape, empowering students with practical skills and enhancing their readiness for future endeavors.



## MIND MATTERS

Independent vs.  
Hyper-independent

Independence means being able to take care of yourself and handle tasks on your own. It's an important skill for adults to have, like managing appointments, work assignments, and maintaining a safe living space. However, being overly independent, or hyper-independent, can be problematic.

Hyper-independence is when someone insists on being completely independent, even when it's not helpful or when they genuinely need support. This behavior can be a response to trauma, where individuals avoid asking for help. Signs of hyper-independence include overcommitting to tasks, reluctance to delegate or ask for help, guardedness in relationships, secretiveness, mistrust of others, few close relationships, and experiencing stress or burnout.

Trauma responses, like hyper-independence, can stem from distressing events that the brain processes as threats. People may develop hyper-independence due to feelings of undeserving social support, past neglect, mistrust of others, or as a coping mechanism to regain control in uncertain situations.

Children raised to believe that independence is superior or those who experienced role reversal in the family may also develop hyper-independence. Treatment involves recognizing and addressing these underlying issues through therapy, focusing on building healthy relationships, trust, and understanding personal limitations.

Healing work for hyper-independence in-

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)



ANEESA MOIDOO, PSYCHOLOGIST

cludes letting go of perfectionism, exploring identity beyond doing things for others, understanding the cost of not asking for help, realizing that help is available, normalizing asking for help, and learning how to delegate.

It's essential to remember that hyper-independence served as a survival mechanism during a challenging time. Moving past this response takes time, involves small steps, and might include setbacks. Seeking support through therapy is encouraged, allowing individuals to let go of maladaptive coping patterns and work towards a healthier mindset.

Healing from hyper-independence involves acknowledging and addressing the root causes that drive extreme self-reliance. This process encourages individuals to embrace imperfections in themselves and others while exploring a sense of identity beyond fulfilling roles for others.

Recognizing the negative impact of avoiding help, there's a shift towards viewing seeking assistance as a healthy and necessary aspect of life, particularly in adulthood where support is available. Normalizing the act of asking for help is emphasized, challenging the misconception that it denotes weakness.

Through self-assessment, individuals understand the personal costs of avoiding help in terms of well-being and relationships. Learning to delegate tasks becomes crucial, promoting the acceptance of collaboration and reliance on others.

This healing journey, often facilitated through therapy, aims to cultivate self-awareness, self-compassion, and a more balanced approach to independence by gradually challenging and transforming deep-seated beliefs and behaviors.

**Through self-assessment, individuals understand the personal costs of avoiding help in terms of well-being and relationships. Learning to delegate tasks becomes crucial, promoting the acceptance of collaboration and reliance on others**

Another stray dog bite  
attack, but who's at fault?

Pregnant woman wounded by aggressive animal sparks 'urgent' debate and concern

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

A 30-year-old pregnant woman was attacked by stray dogs while making her way to the Hamad Town bus stop.

The incident has sparked a crucial debate about responsibility and the urgent need for government intervention.

The victim, who preferred to remain anonymous, recounted her terrifying encounter with the stray dogs.

"I saw one dog opposite the Hamad Town pharmacy and tried to avoid it by crossing the road," she said. "To my horror,



Painful dog bite marks on victim's leg

as I passed by, I felt a sudden sharp pain as the dog sank its teeth into my leg. Startled, I turned around only to be attacked from behind by another dog of the same color."

In a state of panic, the woman quickly grabbed a stone to scare away the aggressive dogs.

This incident sheds light on the growing concern of dog attacks in the area, with reports of similar incidents published previously in The Daily Tribune.

**Shelter, immediate government action**

Animal rights activists, such as Fathiya Al Bastaki and Vanja Hathcock, have earlier emphasised the importance of providing shelter for stray dogs and called on the government to take immediate action.

They have urged citizens not to provoke or display fear towards these animals, as they are often acting in self-defense.

The incident raises ques-

tions about responsibility and accountability. While the woman was attacked by stray dogs, some argue that the owners and breeders who abandon their pets bear a level of responsibility for the increased population of strays.

**Proactive role**

Others argue that the government should take a proactive role in addressing the issue by implementing measures to control stray dog populations and providing them with appropriate shelter.

As this incident highlights the potential dangers faced by residents, it is essential for the relevant authorities to address the matter promptly and develop comprehensive strategies to protect both citizens and animals.

The safety and well-being of the community, including pregnant women, should remain a top priority.

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

**The incident prompts discussions and debates on responsibility and accountability. Some hold owners and breeders accountable for abandoning pets, contributing to the rise in strays. Others advocate for government intervention to control stray populations and offer shelter.**

Tamcon appoints new board of directors  
headed by Mohammed Al Hammadi

TDT | Manama

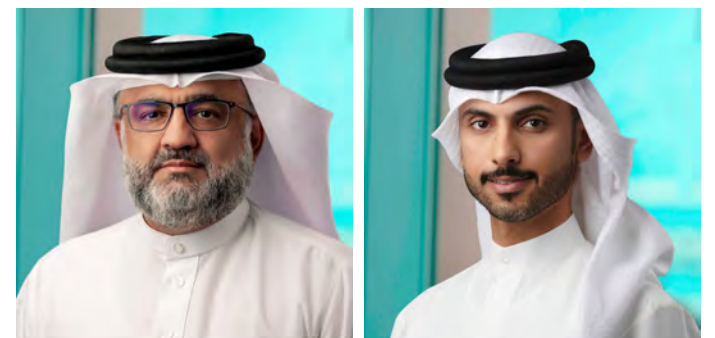
Tamcon Contracting Co., a prominent Bahraini AA grade contracting company and subsidiary of AL KHALEEJ DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (TAMEER) W.L.L., has recently announced the appointment of its new Board of Directors. The board will be led by Mr. Mohammed Ebrahim Al Hammadi, who has been appointed as the Chairman.

The other members of the board are Mr. Hamza Reda Ahmadani, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Talal Abdulaziz Al Mulla, Mr. Fathi Faraj Al-Mohammad, and Engineer Abdulla Alabbasi.

In light of this appointment, Mr. Mohammed Ebrahim Al Hammadi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tamcon Contracting Co., expressed his congratulations to the newly appointed members. He expressed his confidence in their abilities to successfully implement plans and projects that will contribute to the company's success.

Mr. Mohammed Ebrahim Al Hammadi emphasized the company's commitment to improving the quality of work and meeting all requirements across various fields.

He also highlighted the com-



Mr. Mohammed Al Hammadi

Engineer Abdulla Alabbasi

pany's focus on expanding its operations in Contracting, real estate and infrastructure projects at both local and international levels.

Furthermore, Engineer Abdulla Alabbasi, the CEO of Tamcon, extended his congratulations to the new board members.

He emphasized that their appointment further strengthens the company's vision and mission in the construction of buildings, Infrastructure and Development.

Alabbasi also underscored the significance of fostering collaboration with major international companies in various projects, aiming to advance economic development in the Kingdom of Bahrain and achieve mutual investment and development gains.

Tamcon Contracting Co. has

established itself as a promising and continuously evolving contracting company in Bahrain. It was founded in 2007 as part of the AL KHALEEJ DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (TAMEER) W.L.L group's strategic approach to prioritizing the construction and real estate development sector.

Tamcon's primary objective is to enhance the execution of local and regional projects, adhering to the highest international standards.

Over the years, Tamcon has successfully executed numerous government housing, infrastructure, and residential development projects in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The company's dedication to excellence has contributed significantly to the advancement of the construction and real estate sectors in the region.



Zain Bahrain B.S.C.

## Recommendation of Declaration of Dividends

The Board of Directors of Zain Bahrain B.S.C. resolved, at its meeting held on 6 February 2024, to recommend the distribution of dividend for the year ended 31 December 2023 to the shareholders whose names are registered on the company's register on the Record Date. This is subject to the approval of the company's shareholders at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

The proposed distribution is as follows:

**Cash Dividend:** 9% of share nominal value, equivalent to 9 fils per share amounting to BD3.27m.

**Below are the key dates to be taken note of:**

Event	Date
<b>General Meeting Date</b> (Shareholders' approval date)	25 March 2024
<b>Cum-Dividend Date</b> (Last day of trading with entitlement to dividends)	26 March 2024
<b>Ex-Dividend Date</b> (First day of trading without entitlement to dividends)	27 March 2024
<b>Record Date</b> (The Day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends)	28 March 2024
<b>Payment Date</b> (The Day on which the dividends will be paid to the entitled shareholders)	10 April 2024

**Sh. Ahmed Bin Ali Al Khalifa**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
6 February 2024



# Zain Bahrain 2023 profit grows 2% to BD 5.8m

Recommends annual dividends representing 9% of paid-up capital, equivalent to 9 fils per share

● Q4 2023 revenue increased to BD 18.45m representing a 9.8% growth

● Telco played a significant role in positioning the Kingdom among the top 10 countries in Ookla's Speedtest Global Index

TDT | Manama

Zain Bahrain, (ZAINBH), a leading telecommunications provider in the Kingdom, announced its financial results for the fourth quarter (Q4 2023) and full year ended 31 December 2023.

For Q4 2023, Zain Bahrain reported a total profit for the year attributable to the shareholders of BD 1.45 million representing a 13% increase compared to BD 1.28m for the same period in the

“We are proud to announce that our commitment towards Bahrainization has maintained an impressive level of 95%. This achievement reflects our commitment to empowering local talent and contributing to the growth of the Bahraini economy.”

ZAIN BAHRAIN CHAIRMAN



previous year. Basic and Diluted earnings per share remained at 4 fils. Revenue, meanwhile, increased to BD 18.45m, representing a growth of 9.8% compared to BD 16.81m for the same period in the previous year. EBITDA reached BD 5.76m, up by 9.3% from BD 5.27m in Q4 2022.

The company reported a 2% increase in total profit for the

year attributable to the shareholders amounting to BD 5.81m for the year ended 31 December 2023, compared to BD 5.71m in the previous year. Basic and Diluted earnings per share stood at 16 fils for the year ended 31 December 2023. Revenue generated in 2023 accumulated to BD 72.32m, a 7.4% jump from BD 67.36m in 2022. EBITDA in-

creased to BD 22.45m for the year ended 31 December 2023, from BD 21.97m in the previous year.

Zain Bahrain's total equity as of 31 December 2023 accumulated to BD 85.66m, up by 3% from BD 83.18m at the end of 2022. The Company's asset base stood at BD 137.63m, a 1.4% decrease from BD 139.63m in 2022.

Zain Bahrain's Board of Di-

rectors recommended annual dividends representing 9% of the company's paid-up capital, equivalent to 9 fils per share, which totals a dividend amount of BD 3.28m, reflecting a 56% payout ratio, subject to the Annual General Meeting approval.

Zain Bahrain Chairman, Shaikh Ahmed bin Ali Al Khalifa, said, "Zain Bahrain has consistently strived to provide exceptional digital lifestyle communication services to its customers, and these financial results reflect the company's dedication and commitment. During the fourth quarter and throughout 2023, Zain Bahrain has made solid progress in numerous areas, showcasing its commitment to innovation and growth.

"We are also proud to announce that our commitment towards Bahrainization has maintained an impressive level of 95%.

"We are also delighted to report that our efforts towards gender diversity have resulted in 48% of new hires being fe-



Zain Bahrain's Board of Directors recommended annual dividends representing 9% of the company's paid-up capital, equivalent to 9 fils per share, which totals a dividend amount of BD 3.28m, reflecting a 56% payout ratio, subject to the Annual General Meeting approval.

males, and we have increased the presence of females in management positions," added Shaikh Ahmed.

Zain Bahrain Chairman concluded, "As we look ahead, we remain focused on delivering exceptional services, investing in cutting-edge technologies, and contributing to the development of the Kingdom."

## Celebrate this Season of love with the 'Heart to Heart' jewellery collection from Malabar Gold & Diamonds

TDT | Manama

Welcoming the season of love, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally has launched the 'Heart to Heart' jewellery collection in their over 340 showrooms across 13 countries. The elegant array of adornments from the world-renowned jeweller comprises of over 200 heart-shaped designs with prices starting from just BHD 90/ that makes a perfect gifting option. Furthermore, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is also giving away branded Coach & Anne Klein watches with every purchase of diamond jewellery from the Heart-to-Heart collections. The



limited-edition collection and offers can be availed across all showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds until the 15th of February. Giving customers a wide range of options to choose from, the brand has incorporated nu-

merous light weight & elegant designs in necklaces, pendants, bangles, bracelets, earrings & rings into the 'Heart to Heart' collection. With options available in both 18K Gold & Diamonds, the brand has gone out of

its way to ensure that the gifting needs of the entirety of its customer base are met.

"It is a well-accepted fact that the gift of jewellery is one among the most pristine and thoughtful gifts that one can present. Mala-

bar Gold & Diamonds has always strived to be the perfect gifting partner for jewellery lovers and as we step into the season of love, customers need not look further than our new Heart-to-Heart collection to find a gift

that manages to express all your emotions. With a low starting price point and a free branded watch with every diamond jewellery purchase from the limited-edition collection, we have made it easier and more lucrative than ever to convey your love this season", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

In addition to the elegant array of jewellery, Malabar Gold & Diamonds also has a wide range of collections in gold, diamond & precious gem jewellery for those suited for the varied preferences of its multi-ethnic customer base.



Jalil J. Zabar, Managing Director of Gulf Fencing & Specialist Surfacing Est, received recertification audit Certifications for ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 in "Design, Construction & Maintenance of Soft Landscaping & Irrigation system, Construction of Shade structures, Sports Surfacing, Hard Landscaping, Safety Perimeter Fencing, Road Marking and Kerb Painting." Zabar stated that since establishment in 1979 "It is our aim to lead in the Design and Construction of Projects in Kingdom of Bahrain continuously. As a part of this goal, the company is actively and continuously working to maintain the International Standards, as per the requirement of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and committing to the highest level of standards in the application of Policies and Procedures".

## RCSI Medical University of Bahrain announces New Head of Quality and Academic Development

TDT | Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Medical University of Bahrain named Dr Nichola McLarnon as Head of Quality and Academic Development, effective immediately. Dr McLarnon brings a distinguished career in higher education, armed with expertise in quality assurance, student-centered initiatives and innovative learning and teaching methods.

Dr McLarnon is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow), the Royal College of Podiatry and the Higher Education Academy and also holds a PhD from Glasgow Caledonian University. Thanks to her health background, experience as a faculty member and most recently her role as Associate Dean Learning Teaching and Quality at the School of Health and Life Sciences at



Dr Nichola McLarnon, Head of Quality and Academic Development

Glasgow Caledonian University, Dr McLarnon is bringing a wealth of experience to her new role.

Responsible for leading the University's efforts to enhance quality processes and outcome, Dr McLarnon will spearhead the institutional, external and internal quality assurance reviews and programme accreditations. She will work closely with faculty, staff and students to

develop and implement improvements to the student experience, quality assurance and enhancement initiatives, and promote continuous improvement across the School of Medicine, School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Postgraduate Studies and Research.

Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, commented, "We are delighted to

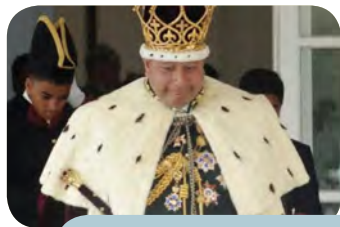
welcome Dr Nichola McLarnon to the University. Her extensive experience and expertise in quality assurance and academic development will be invaluable and her appointment reinforces the University's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student professional development, solidifying the University's position as a leading centre for healthcare higher education in the region."

Dr McLarnon commented, "RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has grown from strength to strength in its capacity to deliver globally recognised medical education and research over the years. I look forward to working with my colleagues to bring new insights across the University and make a positive contribution to the delivery and advancement of health sciences higher education in Bahrain and beyond."



News in brief

◆ **Tonga's government** has rejected an attempt by the king to revoke key ministerial appointments, it said yesterday, describing the move as unconstitutional. A country of about 100,000 people spread across some 170 islands, Tonga was settled around 1,500 BC and claims to be the only remaining indigenous monarchy in the Pacific islands. The government said in a statement that it had received a letter Friday conveying King Tupou VI's decision. The letter said the king was revoking Prime Minister Hu'akavameiliku's appointment as armed forces minister, as well as the appointment of Fekitamoeola 'Utoikamanu as foreign affairs and tourism minister. The Tongan government said it had received legal advice from the attorney general that the move was unconstitutional. It cited a clause in the constitution that ministers' appointments can only be revoked by the king "on the recommendation of the prime minister" or by a vote of no confidence in the legislative assembly.



Tonga's government faces off with king

Kenya cult leader charged with murdering nearly 200 children



◆ **A Kenyan court** yesterday charged the leader of a starvation cult and dozens of suspected accomplices with murdering nearly 200 children in a forest near the Indian Ocean. Self-proclaimed pastor Paul Nthenge Mackenzie, who has already been charged with terrorism, manslaughter as well as child torture and cruelty, is alleged to have incited hundreds of his acolytes to starve to death in order to "meet Jesus". On Tuesday, Mackenzie and 29 other suspects pleaded not guilty to 191 counts of murder, including of three infants, according to court documents seen by AFP. A 31st suspect was deemed to lack the mental fitness to stand trial and ordered to return

to the Malindi High Court in a month's time.

◆ **Argentina's President** Javier Milei delighted his Israeli hosts on Tuesday by announcing moves to shift his country's embassy to Jerusalem, almost as soon as he touched down. The 53-year-old economist, who upended traditional politics to win election last year, was greeted warmly off his plane by Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv. Milei, on his first official visit since taking office barring a brief swing through the Davos economic forum in Switzerland, said: "My plan is to move the embassy to west Jerusalem". Confirmation of the widely expected announcement found favour with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose office said he "warmly welcomes" the move.

Argentina plans to move embassy to Jerusalem: Milei



SPOTLIGHT

Israel minister sorry after son implies Biden has Alzheimer's



National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir apologised yesterday after his son implied in an online post that US President Joe Biden had Alzheimer's disease.

Shuvael Ben-Gvir wrote that it was "important to raise awareness" about the degenerative brain condition "which is the most common cause of cognitive decline and dementia in older people".

The post on X, formerly Twitter, was written above a photograph of Biden, who is 81 and seeking re-election, with renewed focus from political rivals on his age.

Shuvael Ben-Gvir's post was later deleted but his father wrote on the same platform that his "beloved son" had committed a "serious error" and that he "deeply disappointed" of it.

"The United States of America is our great friend and President Biden is a friend of

Israel," he wrote in Hebrew. There was no place for such "derogatory" comments, he said, adding: "I apologise for my son's words."

In recent days, Ben-Gvir has himself criticised Biden after Washington took the rare move of imposing sanctions on four Israeli settlers following rising violence against Palestinian civilians in the occupied West Bank.

Ben-Gvir himself lives in a settlement.

He also lashed out at Washington last month after being criticised for his push for the transfer of Gazans out of the Palestinian territory.

"The United States is our best friend, but first of all we will do what is best for the State of Israel: the migration of hundreds of thousands from Gaza will allow the (Israeli) residents of the (Gaza) envelope to return home and live in security and will protect the IDF (Israeli) soldiers," the extreme-right minister posted on X.

Houthis claim fresh Red Sea ship attacks

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Yemen's Houthi rebels said yesterday they had struck US and British ships in two attacks in the Red Sea, the latest among dozens of incidents that have disrupted global shipping.

The Iran-backed rebels, who control much of the war-torn country, have been harassing shipping in a campaign they say is in solidarity with Palestinians in the Israel-Hamas war.

Their attacks have triggered reprisals by US and British forces, including a wave of air strikes that hit dozens of targets late on Saturday.

Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree said the first attack yesterday "targeted the American ship Star Nasia, while the other targeted the British ship Morning Tide". The Houthis "will carry out more military operations against all hostile American-British targets" in self-defence, Saree warned on X, formerly Twitter.

Security firm Ambrey had initially reported a drone attack on a British-owned cargo ship off Yemen but later said a projectile had targeted the Barbados-flagged vessel. It was launched from a small boat sighted near the ship, Ambrey said, adding that the projectile did not impact the ship but exploded nearby, causing minor

Cargo ship crew seized by Yemen's Houthis 'safe': Bulgaria

AFP | Sofia, Bulgaria

The crew of the Galaxy Leader cargo ship, captured by Yemen's Houthi rebels in November, are "safe and sound" and will return to Bulgaria soon, authorities in Sofia announced yesterday.

The Houthis seized the Galaxy Leader on November 19.

"The information we have ... on the sailors of the Galaxy Leader captured in the Red Sea is that they are well, safe and sound," Transport Minister Georgy Gvozdeykov told private Bulgarian television station bTV.

The crew is staying at a hotel and their return to Bulgaria is being organised, Gvozdeykov added without providing further details.

The Galaxy Leader is owned by a British company, itself owned by an Israeli businessman.

It had been chartered by a Japanese company when it was seized by the Houthis, who said



The Galaxy Leader cargo ship (R), seized by Houthi fighters

they were acting in "solidarity" with Palestinians trapped in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The fate of the 25 crew members -- who are Bulgarian, Filipino, Ukrainian and Mexican -- had not been made public until now.

In January, Bulgarian Prime

Minister Nikolay Denkov said their release was the subject of discussions with the Houthis.

Negotiations are also underway over the bulk carrier MV Ruena, a Bulgarian ship sailing under Maltese flag which Somali pirates hijacked in December.



According to the International Monetary Fund's PortWatch platform, total transit volume through the Suez Canal was down 37 percent this year by January 16 compared with the same period a year earlier.

damage. There were no casualties among the crew, the British firm said. British maritime security agency UKMTO said it had received a report of an incident off the rebel-held port city of Hodeida.

"The master stated that a projectile was fired at his vessel on the port side which passed over the deck, causing slight damage to the bridge windows," United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said, without identifying the vessel or the flag it was flying. "The vessel and crew are safe," it added, saying the ship was proceeding on its voyage as planned.

Trade disruption

The Greek merchant marine ministry said the Star Nasia sus-

tained material damage but that the hull did not appear to have been breached and no injuries were reported among the Filipino crew.

Ambrey, in a report on the incident, said a Marshall Islands-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier was targeted while transiting southwest of Aden.

The vessel, en route from the United States to India, reported an explosion 50 metres off its starboard side, Ambrey said, also adding that no injuries were reported.

"The vessel's owner was listed on the US stock market," the firm said. "Ambrey assessed it likely the vessel was assessed to be US-affiliated due to the vessel owner and US port call."

UKMTO also said it had re-

ceived a report of an explosion in close proximity to a merchant vessel transiting southwest of Aden. It said the vessel and crew were safe, without providing additional details.

The Houthis have launched more than 30 attacks on commercial shipping and naval vessels since November 19, according to the Pentagon.

The Houthi attacks have prompted some shipping companies to detour around southern Africa to avoid the Red Sea, a vital route that normally carries about 12 percent of global maritime trade.

Most trade between Asia and Europe usually passes through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal that leads to the Mediterranean Sea.

Three die in 'terrorist' attack outside Istanbul court

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Turkish police yesterday shot dead two assailants from a leftist organisation, branded "terrorists" by authorities, who attacked a security checkpoint outside Istanbul's main court, killing one person and injuring five, officials said.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said the assailants were members of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) -- a fringe leftist group that has staged periodic attacks in Turkey since the 1980s.

The DHKP-C issued no initial claim of responsibility.

The group, which is considered a terrorist organisation



Police forensic experts examine the area after a shooting outside the Caglayan courthouse, in Istanbul

by the United States, has been fighting US influence in the Middle East and across the world.

In 2014, Washington offered a \$3 million reward for the capture of the group's leaders.

"I congratulate our security forces, who eliminated the

treacherous attack with timely intervention," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in televised remarks.

"Two terrorists, one a woman and the other a man, were neutralised."

Erdogan said the attack in-

jured three police and three civilians, one of whom died later.

A witness told AFP the assailants opened fire on police after a brief altercation at a checkpoint leading to a main entrance to the sprawling building, which has been used for some of Turkey's biggest trials.

"A conflict broke out at the exit gate. I saw two people, a man and a woman, shooting at the police. The male was shot first. Then the woman fired a few more shots. They shot her," said 25-year-old Mahir Yildiz.

"I heard 20-25 gunshots. There was great panic and fear at that moment. We didn't know which way to go. The police blocked the entrance and exit and gathered everyone inside".



Edward of Caernarfon (later Edward II) becomes the first English Prince of Wales



Battle of Debre Tabor: Ras Ali Alula, Regent of the Emperor of Ethiopia defeats warlord Wube Haile Maryam of Semien

Colonial Tasmanian Parliament passes the 1st piece of legislation (the Electoral Act of 1856) anywhere in the world providing for elections by way of a secret ballot

The Maastricht Treaty is signed by 12 countries from the European Community (EC) to create the European Union (EU)

# Biden confuses Macron with dead French president

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Joe Biden confused his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron with France's long-dead former leader Francois Mitterrand, in a speech that went viral in video footage yesterday.

Addressing a campaign event in Las Vegas on Sunday, the 81-year-old US leader described Macron's reaction to a speech at a G7 meeting in 2020.

As well as getting Macron's name wrong, he misstated the country he leads.

"And Mitterrand -- Macron, from Germany -- I mean, from France looked at me and said, said 'You know, what -- why -- how long you back for?'" Biden said, according to a White House transcript.

Mitterrand was French president from 1981 to 1995, and died in 1996.

Video of Biden's mix-up has been viewed thousands of times on X, formerly Twitter, and



Biden, Macron

shared hundreds of times.

Biden has made similar public mistakes in the past, notably in September 2022 when he called on a deceased congresswoman at a conference she helped organize.

"Jackie, are you here? Where's Jackie? I think she was going to be here," he said, referring to Indiana representative Jackie Walorski, who had died a month earlier.

And in April last year, a White House transcript corrected Biden when he confused New Zealand's All Blacks rugby team with the Black and Tans, a British military force notorious for

its involvement in the Irish War of Independence.

The transcript of his speech, given in a pub in Ireland, crossed out "Black and Tans" and inserted "All Blacks".

Biden's predecessor and probable opponent in the November presidential election, Donald Trump, made a similar gaffe last month, confusing his party rival Nikki Haley with former House speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Trump, 77, had falsely said Haley was in charge of security during the violent assault on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, prompting her to question his mental fitness during a campaign speech.

Following Trump's gaffe, Biden also took the opportunity to make a dig at his potential presidential rival.

"I don't agree with Nikki Haley on everything, but we agree on this much: She is not Nancy Pelosi," he had written in a post on X.

# Kyiv says dismantled Russian spy ring

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukraine yesterday said it had arrested five former and current intelligence officers it said were secretly working for Russia as part of a powerful spy ring.

Kyiv said the suspects were caught passing information to Russia's FSB security service about Ukrainian military sites, its defensive fortifications, personal data and strategic energy facilities.



Representative picture

"The security service of Ukraine neutralised a powerful agent network run by the FSB's military counterintelligence which was operating in Ukraine," Kyiv's SBU security service said in a statement

Tuesday.

The general prosecutor said the five -- former employees of Ukraine's defence intelligence and its foreign intelligence units as well as a current SBU regional agent -- were arrested on suspicion of treason.

"The suspects passed on intelligence about the Defence Forces and strategically important energy facilities to representatives of the aggressor state's special services," the general prosecutor said.

# Eight dead, 80 injured in India firework factory explosion

AFP | New Delhi, India

At least eight people died and 80 were injured Tuesday in a giant explosion at a firework factory in India that saw balls of flames soar into the sky, officials said.

Footage on Indian television showed a tower of flame after the explosion at the firecracker plant, with dozens of ambulances sent and army helicopters called in to evacuate the wounded.

Senior district police official Rajeshwari Mahobia told AFP there were "eight deaths so far and around 80 injured", at the factory in Harda in Madhya Pradesh state, adding that "the death toll is likely to go up".

Images from the factory site showed a wasteland of blackened and smoking rubble.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said reports of the explosion were "very sad news" and said medics at burn units in nearby major hospitals were called to make "necessary preparations".

"Ambulances are being



Rescue personnel and local residents gather near a firecracker plant following an explosion at Harda district in India's Madhya Pradesh state

rushed to Harda from the surrounding areas, and the army has been contacted to arrange for helicopters," Yadav said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

At least 20 ambulances were at the site, with 50 more being sent to help those injured, he added.

Manish Sharma, a surgeon at the Harda district hospital, said the centre had been flooded with a stream of casualties.

"We have eight deaths at our

hospital, a total of 90 people were admitted here so far and we have referred 15 of them to a bigger hospital," Sharma told AFP. "As more people are being rescued from the site, they are being brought here."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "distressed by the loss of lives", saying the government would give the families of those killed \$2,400 each in compensation, and \$600 to those injured.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Female genital mutilation is a horrific & harmful practice, and an abhorrent human rights violation. Let's redouble efforts & investments to uphold the rights of women & girls everywhere.

@antoniogetterres

02



At the @IndiaEnergyWeek, interacted with top energy sector CEOs. Highlighted the wide range of opportunities India offers in the sector and reiterated our commitment to boosting reforms which will further growth.

@narendramodi

03



Met with Egyptian President El-Sisi in Cairo to discuss our efforts to increase life-saving aid into Gaza and secure the release of all hostages. We also discussed shared regional stability objectives, including halting threats to Red Sea security by the Houthis.

@SecBlinken

04



200 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation. 4 million girls are at risk of this harmful practice each year. On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, we stand with survivors to hear their voices, to ensure they have the care they need, and to support their efforts to #EndFGM.

@DrTedros

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

# Azerbaijan Prepares for Historic Presidential Elections Covering Entire Territory, Including Karabakh Region

P.Unnikrishnan

TDI | Baku, Azerbaijan

In a significant milestone marking the aftermath of the conflict, Azerbaijan is gearing up for its first-ever presidential elections covering the entire territory, including the strategically vital Karabakh region. Farid Shafiyev, the chairman of Analysis of International Relations in Azerbaijan, highlighted the historic nature of this electoral process during a press briefing held in Baku.

"This election holds international importance," Shafiyev emphasised. "For the first time in modern history since 1981, Azerbaijan has regained full control over its entire territory, including areas previously held by separatists. The upcoming presidential elections signify our nation's symbolic and legal milestone."

Two years after restoring control over the entire region, the decision to hold elections stems from Azerbaijan's commitment to stability and development. Shafiyev explained, "During the conflict, we focused on reclaiming control and ensuring security. Now, we are transitioning towards socio-cultural and economic development. Rebuilding the infrastructure and communities devastated by the war is our priority."

While progress has been made in the peace agreement with Armenia, specific points still need to be solved, including amendments to Armenia's constitution regarding residents' rights from the Karabakh region. Shafiyev highlighted discrepancies in Armenia's electoral laws, which permit Karabakh residents to con-



Farid Shafiyev, Chairman of Centre of Analysis of International Relations, in Azerbaijan

test elections without meeting residency requirements, a clause needs rectification for the peace agreement to be fulfilled.

Addressing concerns about international involvement in the peace process, Shafiyev expressed Azerbaijan's preference for direct negotiations with Armenia without third-party intervention. He criticised Western media for alleged double standards and emphasised the need for Armenia to focus on domestic development rather than lobbying efforts.

"We have good relations with neighbouring countries like Georgia, and Armenia enjoys strong ties with nations like Iran," Shafiyev noted, dispelling notions of religious conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. He cautioned against attempts to portray the conflict along religious lines and called for a nuanced understanding of the geopolitical dynamics.

Journalists from more than thirty countries are in Azerbaijan to witness tomorrow's election process.

# Myanmar's Suu Kyi in 'strong spirits', son tells

AFP | Bangkok, Thailand

Ousted Myanmar democracy figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi is in "strong spirits", her son told AFP yesterday after receiving a letter from her -- their first communication since she was detained in a coup three years ago.

Suu Kyi was detained on the morning of the February 2021 coup that ended a 10-year experiment with democracy and plunged the Southeast Asian nation into bloody turmoil.

The Nobel laureate, 78, has since been jailed for more than 20 years by a junta court following what rights groups say was a sham trial designed to remove her from politics.

"She is in strong spirits as al-

ways," Kim Aris said of the letter he received from his mother thanking him for a care package he had sent to her late last year.

The letter received in early January was "the first real indication I've had... that she's actually alive", he told AFP by phone from London.

"She was sending her love to all the family."

Suu Kyi, who remains hugely popular in Myanmar, has been largely hidden from view since the coup, appearing only in grainy state media photos taken during court proceedings.

Local media reported during her months-long trial that Suu Kyi had suffered dizzy spells, vomiting and at times had been unable to eat because of a tooth infection.





Tania Rebello

# Eats & Treats

BAHRAIN

to your heart's content



## A Slice Of The World's Most Popular Food

**Pizza- Saucy, cheesy, chewy and loved!**

A work of art, where golden dough meets the warmth of an Italian oven. Upon it, a melody of vibrant colours dances in unison- the rich red of ripe tomatoes, luscious green of fresh basil and the velvety white of melted mozzarella. Each bite takes you on a journey of flavours that unite to hypnotize the senses and ignite the soul with passion for more. Pizza is a culinary love affair that transcends time and place, demanding love with its tantalizing aroma and promises of shared joy.

The origin of the word 'pizza' could be derived from the Latin word 'pinza', meaning to pound or stamp. Oxford suggests the word means pie and they all seem correct. Although the origin of the name 'pizza' is uncertain, one thing we are certain about is the fact that this humble dish that originated in Naples in the 18th century tops the list as the world's favourite food.

Flat breads with toppings



existed in the Middle East and pizza seems to have originated from that concept.

The base of an original Neapolitan Italian pizza is usually thinner and toppings include mozzarella and tomatoes. Italians take extra care and time

to create their pizza dough. They allow the dough to rest and rise for three days to make it light and fluffy. This process of resting the dough reduces the production of gas in the stomach, making it easier to digest. The pie traditionally contained San Marzano tomatoes, basil, olive oil, and mozzarella- a simple but winning combination.

Immigrants from Naples arrived in America in search of job opportunities. Millions of European immigrants took up employment at factories, and with them came their ideal dish, pizza! As the Neapolitans were cooking up pizzas for themselves, the taste of pizza spread and soon more pizzarias began sprouting up, to the delight of everyone around!



Due Mari, Jumeirah Gulf of Bahrain Resort &amp; Spa

Pizza is versatile and customizable, therefore, never boring. With hundreds of topping combinations to choose from, pizza remains one of those meals that scores of people love to eat. Pizza is a go-to party food as it is shareable, easy to handle, portion out and serve. Savoury flavours from cheese, the sweet and tangy tomato

sauce, the aroma of basil and the satisfying crunch and chew of the crust makes pizza highly desirable.

Spread joy by celebrating with this shareable treat on 9 February - World Pizza Day.

How many slices can you eat at a time? What are your favourite toppings?

### Perfect Pizza Sauce Recipe:

#### Ingredients:

- 1 (28-ounce) can whole tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ¼ cup grated onions (or finely minced)
- ½ - ¾ teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- ¼ - ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes (depending on heat preference)
- 3 cloves garlic, pressed
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt



#### Instructions:

- Pour the tomatoes into a large bowl and using your hands, kitchen shears, or an immersion blender, break the tomatoes down so that they are chunky.
- In a medium saucepan placed over medium heat, heat the olive oil, grated onions, and oregano, basil, and red pepper flakes. Allow them to cook for 3-4 minutes, stirring frequently so nothing sticks or burns. Add garlic and continue to cook for another 30 seconds to a minute.
- Add the prepared tomatoes along with the sugar and salt. Let the sauce reach a simmer, then lower the heat to medium-low and allow the sauce to simmer for 30 minutes. Taste and adjust with additional seasonings as desired. If you prefer a more concentrated tomato flavour, you can continue to simmer the sauce for up to 15 more minutes.

### Are you a true pizza enthusiast? Let us find out.

1. Which city is the birthplace of pizza?
2. What is the name for a restaurant where pizza is made and enjoyed?
3. How many types of cheeses are on a Quattro Formaggi?
4. Which fruit would you find on a Hawaiian pizza?
5. What dish, with a name literally meaning trouser or stocking, is often thought of as a folded over pizza?
6. From which country does Margherita pizza originate? What do the colours of its toppings represent?



Answers:  
1. Naples 2. Pizzeria 3. Four 4. Pineapple 5. Calzone 6. Italy, The flag of Italy- Green, red and white



FOUR SEASONS  
HOTEL  
BAHRAIN BAY

### A NEW GASTRONOMY JOURNEY STARTS WITH *BYBLOS*

Bahrain's new beachfront restaurant Byblos opens its doors for the best Lebanese Cuisine.

Indulge in Chef Tony El Khoury's savoury dishes, reflecting his modern take on the recipes of his hometown in Lebanon.

Indoor and terrace seating options, décor influenced by the Mediterranean Sea, and enchanting views of the Bahrain Bay skyline add to the feast.

Tuesday to Sunday, 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.  
Reservations: (973) 1711 5500 or  
diningreservations.bahrain@fourseasons.com

BYBLOS



# Celebrate Valentine's Day In Style

Valentine's Day is one week away and preparations for this occasion, which celebrates love, is in full swing. Fancy dinners and gifts are great, and when combined with selfless affectionate care; it defines love that is long-lasting. Transport your loved one into a wonderland of love and luxury with one of these breathtaking five-star dinners.



## Valentine's Romance at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain



### Sogno d'Amore Veneziano at Primavera

Embark on a romantic Valentine's Day celebration at Primavera, where love intertwines with every exquisite Italian dish on their special set menu. Cherish a night of passion, enchanting ambiance, and shared dreams. Reserve your table for an unforgettable amore.

**Set menu experience:** BHD 90 per couple  
BHD 15 supplement charge per person for champagne package.  
**Timing:** Wednesday, February 14 | 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

#### Pricing info:

**Sea breeze** BHD 80 per couple, 5-course menu, includes 1 bottle of Prosecco

**Cabana** BHD 150 per couple, 5-course menu, includes 1 bottle of Champagne

**Timing:** Wednesday, February 14 | 8:00 pm – 12:00 midnight



### Cupid's Soirée at La Plage

Elevate romance with an enchanting al fresco dinner at La Plage. Surrounded by the serene beauty of the lagoon and the distant sounds of the ocean, indulge in a culinary journey that will ignite your senses and deepen your connection with your loved one.

#### Pricing info:

**Sea breeze** BHD 80 per couple, 5-course menu, includes 1 bottle of Prosecco

**Cabana** BHD 150 per couple, 5-course menu, includes 1 bottle of Champagne

**Timing:** Wednesday, February 14 | 8:00 pm – 12:00 midnight

#### Contact details for more options and further information:

+973 17586499 or email

rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com



## Love is in the Air at Byblos, Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay



Elevate Valentine's Day romance with beachfront dining at Byblos. Relish a sumptuous set menu with specialty chef Tony El Khoury's Lebanese delights. Let the mesmerizing views of the moonlight-kissed waters capture your senses as the luxuriously delicious meal melts your heart. Artisan canapes such as muhammara sphere with lobster, seabass tagine on crackers, labneh tart with salmon caviar, along with the main course featuring roasted Norwegian salmon harra, shrimp and scallops in labneh and yoghurt sauce, and beef tikka tenderloin with ouzi rice will give you a taste of extravagance with every bite. Cinnamon tarte tatin with mastic orange blossom is the perfect grand finale for a special evening with your special person.

#### Pricing info:

- 130 BHD net per couple, 6 course set menu including non-alcoholic beverages (water, soft drinks, tea and coffee)
- 180 BHD net per couple, 6 course set menu including pairing wines (up to 3)
- 250 BHD net per couple, 6 course set menu including BTL of Veuve Cliquot Champagne
- 400 BHD net per couple, for the only table on the sand, 100 % of privacy, 6 course set menu and choice of drinks between selected beverages.

**Contact details for further information and reservations:** +973 17115000



## Dreamy Romance at Due Mari, Jumeirah Gulf of Bahrain

Fall head over heels in love with a delightful Sicilian dinner at Due Mari. A lovely long drive with your beloved on a cool winter evening, with anticipation of a truly enchanting dining experience is all you need to make Valentine's Day extra special. The evening turns magical with the beautiful melodies of live violin performance.

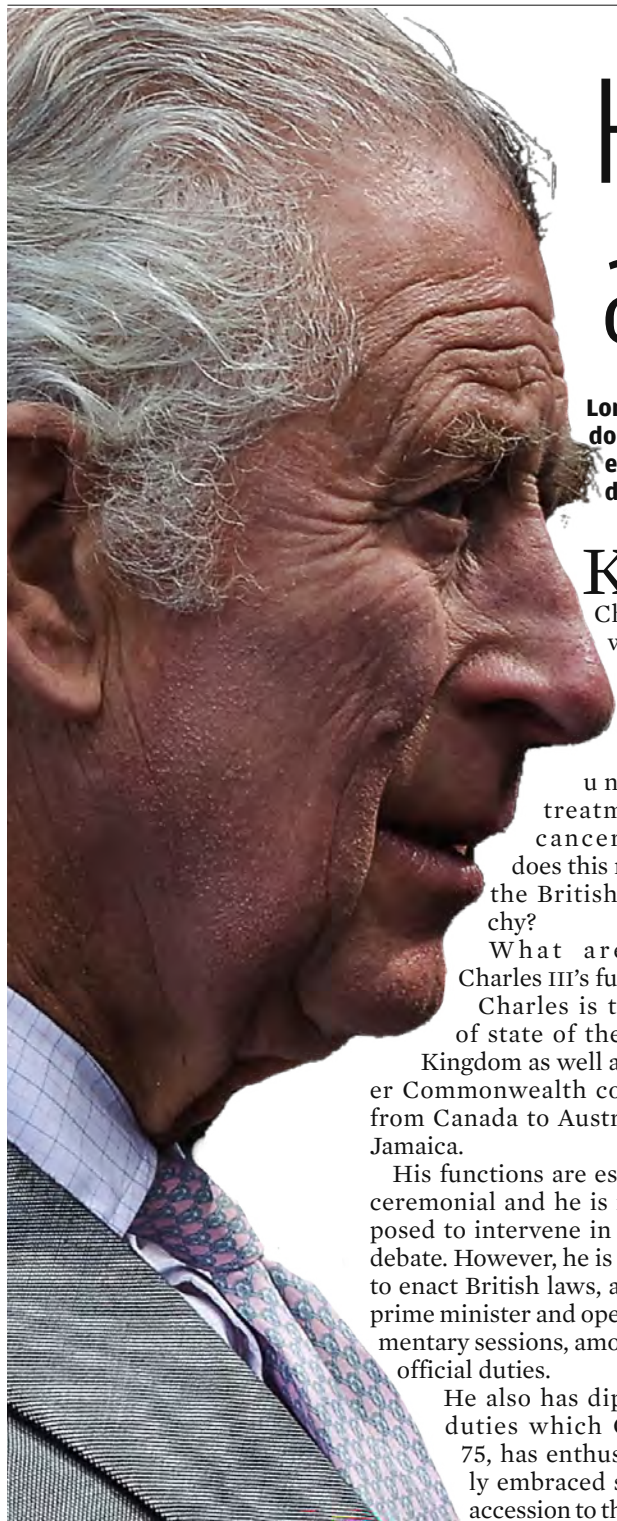
Savour a specially designed five-course dinner with a bottle of sparkling wine or mocktails. Imagine refreshing flavours of choux filled with burrata and basil pesto and a cherry tomato concasse, elegant citrus herbs breaded tiger prawns with clam broth and sage oil as gorgeous starters. Enjoy a scrumptious main course of Omani lobster paired with risotto, laced with luscious saffron butter and caviar and a choice of Angus beef tenderloin or baked red snapper. For a sweet finish, the raspberry mousse with berry compote and chocolate crunch is simply perfect.

BD 88 net set menu per couple  
From 6pm onwards  
14 February

**Contact details for more information and reservations:** +973 33663462







# How British monarchy will adapt after king's cancer diagnosis

London, United Kingdom

King

Charles III will withdraw from public life to undergo treatment for cancer. What does this mean for the British monarchy?

What are King Charles III's functions? Charles is the head of state of the United Kingdom as well as 14 other Commonwealth countries, from Canada to Australia and Jamaica.

His functions are essentially ceremonial and he is not supposed to intervene in political debate. However, he is required to enact British laws, appoint a prime minister and open parliamentary sessions, among other official duties.

He also has diplomatic duties which Charles, 75, has enthusiastically embraced since his accession to the throne

17 months ago.

He has hosted visiting heads of state, travelled to Germany, France and Kenya and delivered a speech at the COP28 climate conference.

**William, Camilla take the lead**

The British public mostly sees the royal family travelling across the country for hundreds of visits each year to associations, public services or for inaugurations. They also support initiatives for the homeless and encourage reading and nature conservation.

Charles has been particularly active since becoming monarch -- and even before as heir to Queen Elizabeth II, as her health faltered in the final years before her death in September 2022.

His absence, while he rested after a prostate operation in January, has brought his wife, Queen Camilla, increasingly into the spotlight.

At 76, Camilla has maintained an active schedule, even in recent days, when the king's cancer had already been diagnosed.

As the heir, William, 41, will find himself at the forefront of royal duties.

However, his widely popular wife Kate is out of action until at least the end of March, after abdominal surgery in mid-January.

William had stepped back to

stay by Kate's side and take care of their three children.

His return is scheduled for Wednesday with award ceremonies and a charity gala.

According to the British press, he will take over some of his father's responsibilities.

The simultaneous absence of two "royals" highlights the reduction in the number of active members of the monarchy after the withdrawal of the disgraced Prince Andrew.

The king's brother attracted damaging headlines over his friendship with the late US sex offender financier Jeffrey Epstein. Harry, Charles's younger son, meanwhile, is estranged from the family.

**Behind the scenes, Charles continues to manage 'state affairs'**

While undergoing treatment, Charles "will continue to take care of state affairs and administrative tasks as usual", Buckingham Palace said.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, with whom the monarch speaks once a week, has already said communication with him would continue

as usual.

According to the British media, the king continues to receive his famous "red boxes" of official documents every morning and will hold meetings with advisors.

He can also hold video conferences, as the queen did during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Royal family biographer Robert Hardman told the BBC that "the day-to-day operation of the monarchy is not going to change", even though the king will stay away from the public to protect his health.

"It doesn't prevent doing things, there's no concern - still -

tutional concern," he said.

**And if the king is no longer able to work?**

The monarch can be replaced by two "Counsellors of State" drawn from a list that includes the queen, the heir, and certain family members like his sister Anne or his brother Edward.

The royal family specified to Parliament at the end of 2022 that "only its active members" could "in practice" act as Counsellors of State, effectively excluding Harry and Andrew.



## Iran suspected in plot to kill Swedish Jews: report

Stockholm, Sweden

Swedish radio reported yesterday that an Iranian couple, believed to be working for Iranian intelligence, were deported after being suspected in a plot to kill Swedish Jews.

According to an investigative report by Swedish Radio (SR), the couple, Mahdi Ramezani and Fereshteh Sanaeifarid, had applied for and been granted asylum in Sweden posing as Afghans.

Suspected of plotting to kill Swedish Jews, the couple were

arrested in April 2021 on suspicion of conspiracy to commit a terrorist crime, SR reported.

Due to a lack of evidence, the two were never charged but they were reportedly deported in 2022 for posing a security risk.

"We have strong belief that they were here on a mission on behalf of Iran. They were seen here in Sweden as a very severe security threat. And that's the reason why they were expelled, even if we couldn't prosecute them," deputy chief prosecutor Hans Ihrman told the broadcaster.

## US House Republicans hold vote to impeach homeland security chief

Washington, United States

US lawmakers will vote Tuesday on impeaching Joe Biden's immigration chief over the border crisis, a hugely unusual maneuver seen by Democrats as a political provocation ahead of November's presidential election.

The move has been led by hardline Republicans in the House of Representatives who have been targeting Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for months over a surge in illegal entries across

the southern border.

Republicans are sweating on what is expected to be a close vote, and even if Mayorkas is impeached -- the political equivalent of an indictment -- he is certain to be acquitted at his trial in the Democratic-led Senate. The House -- which has only impeached one other cabinet official, Secretary of War William Belknap in 1876 -- will take one vote on two articles accusing Mayorkas of failure to enforce the law and of lying to Congress. If all 431 House members are present and voting, Republicans -- who command a narrow majority in the lower chamber -- can afford to lose just three votes and two figures on the right of the party are already rebelling.



## Appeals court rejects Trump claim of immunity from prosecution

● The ruling is a major legal setback for Trump

● A spokesman said the former president would appeal

Washington, United States

Donald Trump has no immunity from prosecution as a former president and can be tried on charges of conspiring to overturn the 2020 election, a federal appeals court ruled yesterday.

A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said Trump's claim that he is immune from criminal liability for actions he took while in the White House is "unsupported by precedent, history or the text and structure of the Constitution."

The ruling is a major legal setback for Trump, 77, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, and he is expected to appeal it to the full DC appeals court and potentially the US Supreme Court.

A spokesman for Trump said the former president would appeal.

Trump had been scheduled to go on trial on March 4 on charges of conspiring to overturn the results of the 2020 election won by Democrat Joe Biden but the district judge overseeing the



Former US President and 2024 presidential hopeful Donald Trump speaks at a Commit to Caucus Rally in Las Vegas, Nevada

case was forced to postpone the start of the trial pending a ruling on the immunity issue by the appeals court.

District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who is to preside over Trump's election interference trial, rejected Trump's immunity claim in December and the three judges who heard his appeal last month were also unconvinced by his arguments.

"For the purpose of this criminal case, former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant," the judges said in a unanimous ruling.

"But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as President no longer protects him against this prosecution," they said.

Special Counsel Jack Smith, who brought the election conspiracy case against Trump, had

been trying to keep the March start date for Trump's trial on track while lawyers for the former president have sought repeatedly to delay it until after the November presidential election.

Trump also faces election interference charges in the state of Georgia and has been indicted in Florida on charges of illegally taking large numbers of top secret documents with him on leaving the White House.

Trump was impeached twice by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives while in office but acquitted both times.

During arguments last month before the appeals court all three justices appeared skeptical of the immunity arguments put forward by Trump's lawyer.

"I think it's paradoxical to say that his constitutional duty 'to take care that the laws be faith-

fully executed' allows him to violate criminal laws," said Judge Karen Henderson, an appointee of former Republican president George H.W. Bush.

Trump's attorney John Sauer told the judges that a president can only be prosecuted for actions taken while in the White House if first impeached and convicted by Congress.

"To authorize the prosecution of a president for his official acts would open a Pandora's Box from which this nation may never recover," Sauer said.

James Pearce, a Justice Department attorney, called that an "extraordinarily frightening" prospect and said it would allow a president to resign before being impeached and escape punishment.



**Trump also faces election interference charges in the state of Georgia and has been indicted in Florida on charges of illegally taking large numbers of top secret documents with him on leaving the White House.**



# West Bank Palestinians 'exhausted' by omnipresent Israeli surveillance

Hebron, Palestinian Territories

Rotating cameras planted on a rooftop terrace "follow our every move", said Hebron resident Umm Nasser, protesting intensified Israeli surveillance of her occupied West Bank city since the start of the Gaza war.

"Psychologically, I'm exhausted," admitted the 55-year-old Palestinian woman.

She lives above the Abu al-Rish checkpoint, the site of frequent violence at the heart of historical Hebron.

It is one of numerous sentry boxes manned by Israeli forces separating Palestinian streets from Jewish settler enclaves in the old town, which hosts a disputed holy site. Known to Muslims as the Ibrahim mosque and to Jews as the Cave of the Patriarchs, it is revered by both faiths.

Dozens of heavily armed Israeli soldiers guard the site, assisted by security cameras.

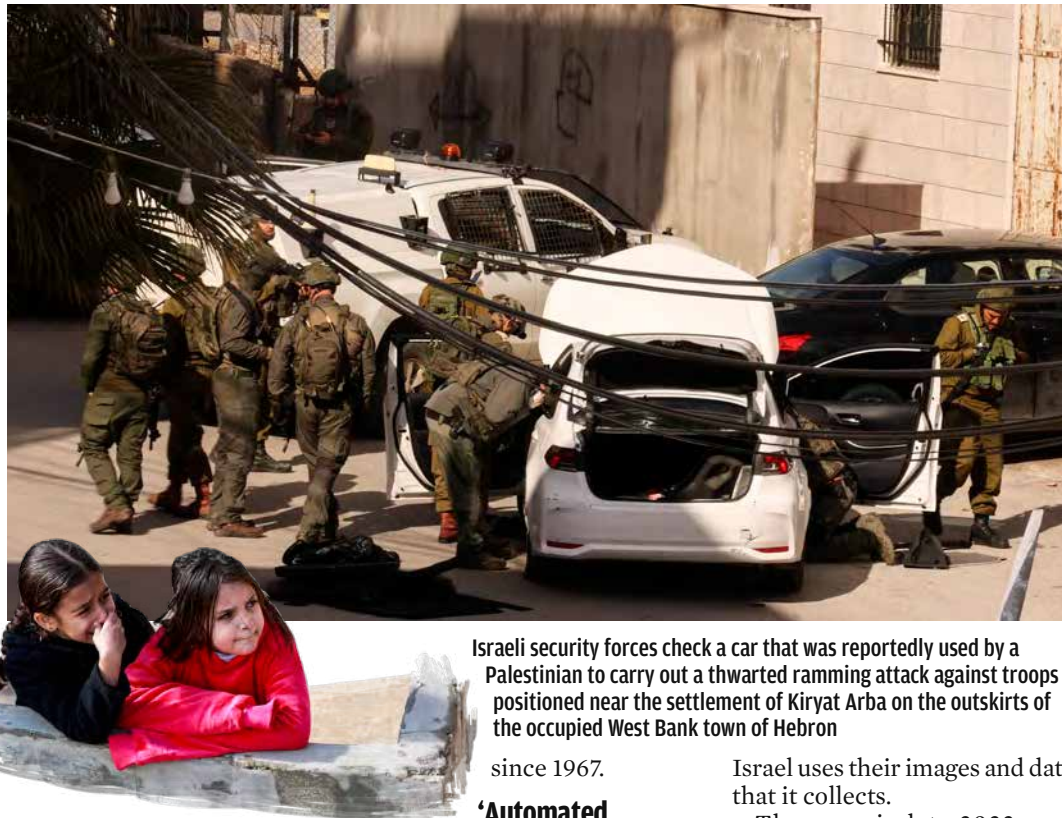
Umm Nasser said that surveillance enhanced by artificial intelligence tools has become "especially difficult during the war" between Israel and Palestinian group Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

To Umm Nasser, the use of technology is stifling.

"We've tried putting pieces of wood or fabric over the cameras to maintain our privacy, but every time, the army removes them," she said.

"One day, soldiers took our identity cards and told us they were going to use them for a facial recognition system."

She said she hadn't heard about it since.



Israeli security forces check a car that was reportedly used by a Palestinian to carry out a thwarted ramming attack against troops positioned near the settlement of Kiryat Arba on the outskirts of the occupied West Bank town of Hebron

since 1967.

## 'Automated surveillance'

"Blue Wolf", for example, is an app soldiers use on their mobile phone. They take face pictures of Palestinians, which are then checked against a database.

Once matched, the system indicates whether the person photographed is wanted for arrest.

This system is part of the Israeli army's "frictionless occupation strategy", said Sophia Goodfriend, a doctoral student specialising in artificial intelligence and human rights.

The app "relies on automated surveillance technology, often based on artificial intelligence and designed to reduce interaction" between soldiers and Palestinians, Goodfriend told AFP.

Another system, "Red Wolf", has been deployed at Israeli checkpoints in Hebron since at least 2022, according to an investigation by human rights group Amnesty International.

Soldiers know "before I approach the checkpoint that I'm 'red' in the system. It means I'm 'a threat'", said Hebron activist Issa Amro, lamenting yet "another layer of humiliation".

He said residents had their photos taken without their consent, and they do not know how

Israel uses their images and data that it collects.

The army in late 2022 confirmed it was testing a surveillance system with riot control tools, developed by a private firm, Smart Shooter.

The remote-controlled system can fire shots which, according to the army, are not lethal.

Asked by AFP about the system and the "Wolf" software, the Israeli military did not comment.

## 'Anxiety and fear'

The automated tools make for "more and more efficient" control over the lives of Palestinians who are further "dehumanised" in the process, according to Israeli anti-occupation group Breaking the Silence.

"The very purpose and essence of the system is to create anxiety and fear," said Adel, a rights defender living in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem who asked to use a pseudonym because of security concerns.

"Our behaviour and movements are scrutinised."

In east Jerusalem, he said, facial recognition technology is regularly used by Israeli forces during demonstrations.

Adel recalled an inspection at a checkpoint when "many pages of data appeared on the tablet" used by the soldiers.

"They mentioned an arrest that occurred several years earlier and for which I had been cleared by the courts," he said.

Tensions have soared since October 7, when Hamas militants breached the Gaza border and attacked southern Israel, triggering a devastating war.

Hamas fighters began their attack

by targeting remote-controlled surveillance and defence systems on the border.

The unprecedented attack resulted in more than 1,160 deaths in Israel, mostly of civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official data.

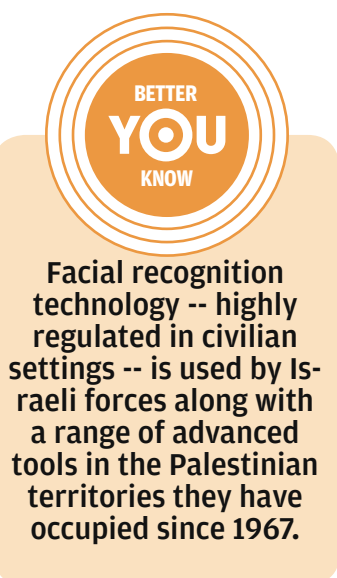
Israel retaliated with a massive military offensive that has killed more than 27,500 people in the besieged Gaza Strip, also mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

Footage and media reports from Gaza have raised concerns over the use of facial recognition technology by Israeli forces there, too.

The army said that as part of the war it was conducting "security and intelligence operations".

Online videos from mid-November showed Gazans, fleeing south for safety, passing through gates allegedly equipped with surveillance tech.

And official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported "smart" cameras had been installed at Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital during a raid by Israeli troops.



**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Facial recognition technology -- highly regulated in civilian settings -- is used by Israeli forces along with a range of advanced tools in the Palestinian territories they have occupied since 1967.



## Blinken in Qatar on tour to seek 'enduring end' to Gaza war

Palestinian Territories

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Qatar yesterday on his latest Middle East crisis tour, seeking a new ceasefire and "an enduring end" to the Israel-Hamas war.

The US top envoy was later bound for Israel, hoping to shore up support for a truce deal that was hashed out in Paris in January but has not yet been signed off on by either Hamas or Israel.

Heavy strikes and fighting in Gaza killed at least 107 people in 24 hours, said the health ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory that has been under almost four months of bombardment.

Fears grew for more than a



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (L) meets with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at Lusail Palace, in Doha

million Palestinians crowded as the battlefield draws ever closer in Israel's campaign to

eradicate Hamas over the October 7 attack.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant warned on Monday that the military "will reach places where we have not yet fought... right up to the last Hamas bastion, which is Rafah", on the Egyptian border.

Palestinian Raed al-Bardani, 32, who has been displaced multiple times and now lives in Rafah with his wife and four children, charged that "the goal is to destroy Rafah because it is the only area that the occupation has not yet destroyed".

"Where will we go if they storm Rafah?" he asked.

Blinken -- on his fifth region-

al tour since the bloodiest ever Gaza war broke out -- earlier met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo, a day after he held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh.

Blinken and Sisi "discussed ongoing efforts to secure the release of all hostages held by Hamas," said State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller.

The US envoy also "expressed appreciation for Egypt's leadership role in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in Gaza".

And Blinken emphasised Washington's "rejection of any

forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza and commitment to establishing a Palestinian state that provides peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike", Miller said.

Israeli troops, with air and naval support, have been engaged in heavy combat centred on Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis, the hometown of Hamas's Gaza chief, Yahya Sinwar, much of which has been reduced to rubble.

Israel accuses Sinwar of masterminding the October 7 attack, which resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.



# CAMPUS

## NMS-Bahrain holds farewell ceremony for grade XII students

TDT | Manama

To bid adieu to the outgoing grade XII students, a farewell ceremony themed 'The Renaissance Era', was organised by grade-XI batch of 2023-24, at New Millennium School, Bahrain on the eve of 1st February.

The event aimed to bid a fond farewell to the graduating class,

leaving them with cherished memories as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.

The program commenced with a vibrant display of talent, featuring performances by the students of the 11th grade.

A significant highlight of the evening was the title ceremony, during which various titles were bestowed upon the outgoing students. Fayiz Rahman

of grade 12 B and Hetvi Shah of grade 12 F bagged the NMS Prince and NMS Princess titles respectively.

A poignant moment was the screening of a special video presentation, featuring a medley of photographs capturing the journey of the outgoing class throughout the years.

The Chief Guest for the evening Ganesh Pillai, Director,

Knowledge Management Group extended his good wishes to the outgoing batch of Grade 12 for their upcoming board examinations and brighter future prospects as well.

Principal Arun Kuumar Sharma addressed the gathering, expressing his best wishes for the outgoing batch in their upcoming exams and the endeavours that lie ahead.



## Kindergarteners of BIS celebrate "Creative Hat Day"

TDT | Manama

Kindergarteners at Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) celebrated Creative Hat Day with the theme "Reduce, Rethink, Recycle, Reuse."

The students made hats out of various disposables, promoting the message of environmental sustainability. Their creative hats were showcased as they had come vibrantly dressed wearing their hats.

The students paraded and presented a lively dance performance at the event attended by BIS Management, parents and teachers.

Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob applauded the performance of the students and appreciated the efforts of the Pre-Primary Teachers.



## Bhavans- Bahrain Indian School conducts 10th annual sports meet

TDT | Manama

Bhavans- Bahrain Indian School (BIS) organised its 10th Annual Sports Day at Bahrain Rugby Football Club recently.

The morning kicks off with an energetic Bahrain National Anthem followed by felicitation of the Chief Guest of the day Prachur Kumar Shukla, Director High Performance and Cricket Education for Bahrain Cricket Federation.

Principal Saji Jacob addressed the gathering and welcomed the Chief Guest and the School Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma.

Further, the torch was lit to commemorate the event wherein the outstanding sports achievers of the school relayed the torch.

After the customary March Past of the four houses, the Chief Guest addressed the students and the Sports Meet was declared open.

A peppy and an energizing exercise callisthenic drill set the tone for the rest of the event which involved the participation of the students of Grades I-V. Kindergarteners performed perfect exercises while dancing on the beats of the music.

The day concluded with an award ceremony, where cheers and applause fill the air as the winners step forward to receive their accolades from BIS Management.

Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma congratulated the winners and addressed the students to keep up the sportsmanship.



## ISB teacher donates hair to cancer patients

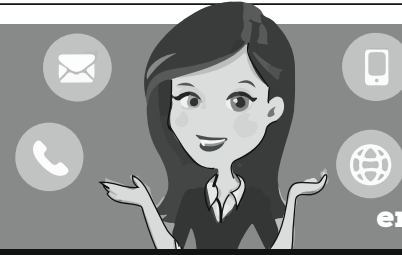


Indian School Teacher Girija MK has been appreciated by Cancer Care Group (CCG) for donating her hair for cancer patients. She participated in the Hair Donation Camp and Oncology Seminar organised by CCG in association with Bahrain Parthibha, Royal Bahrain Hospital and KIMS HEALTH Medical Center. She received the certificate of appreciation from MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen on the occasion of World Cancer Day on February 4, 2024. Girija is a teacher in the Hindi department of the ISB. ISB Chairman Binu Mannil Varughese, Secretary V Rajapandian, EC members and Principal VR Palaniswamy appreciated the teacher for her noble gesture. The hair will be utilized by Bahrain Cancer Society for making wigs for cancer patients





# Classifieds



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**ALZARKI STORES** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33339666 or maryamalzurki@gmail.com

**BLUE WAVE TRADING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39748999 or ABDULLAALHAIKI@HOTMAIL.COM

**ALI FASHIONS FOR GENTS TAILORING AND TEXTILES** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39335513 or ALIFASHIONSBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

**HANAN CONTRACTING CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666322 or THEFISHGARDEN@BATELCO.COM.BH

**Abdul rasool ahmad abdulla office printing services** has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210365 or SAMV.DESILVA@GMAIL.COM

**BAHRAIN BUSINESS MACHINES W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR PROGRAMMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17584333 or feras@gbmne.com

**CHICKI CHICKEN BROASTED** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39757571 or MANNAIREALESTATE@GMAIL.COM

**MULTI TURBO SPARE PARTS AIRCONDITIONERS AND REFRIGERATORS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38889558 or REEF.1970@HOTMAIL.COM

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

**THE RITZ - CARLTON BAHRAIN HOTEL W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17580000 or rc.bahrz.hr@ritzcarlton.com

**ALZAHIRI RESTAURANT** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39626855 or ebrahim\_dhaif@hotmail.com

**MAGNUM INDUSTRIAL LABORATORIES W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or TAKA@BATELCO.COM.BH

**JAFFAR MANSOOR SALMAN ALI** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39453537 or JAFFARMA666@GMAIL.COM

**AL JASSRAH BAKERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39891620 or CAT.VIP.2@HOTMAIL.COM

**Al Ameen Transport** has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ANALYST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722778 or ALAMEEN1@BATELCO.COM.BH

**AL NOOH INTERIORS COMPANY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39040555 or khadija@alnoohwd.com

**OKAL LAUNDRY & PRESSING** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34101709 or ABDALI.ALJAZIRI@HOTMAIL.COM

**ATHWAB ALJALSAH** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39752066 or WAFASA@GMAIL.COM

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

**NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED)** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or NASSERAB@BATELCO.COM.BH

**RAMSI ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or ADMIN@ENERSERV.COM.BH

**ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE**

W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39770606 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

**AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or ALANSARI@AREENAGROUP.COM

**ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

**SABAR AYOOB ZADAH REASTURANT AND GRILLS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33112527 or HUSSAINZADAH7@GMAIL.COM

**GREEN CITY SERVICES W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36022682 or info@gcs.bh

**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

**BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

**Arabian International Contracting CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPE-FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39677780 or AWALSERV@BATELCO.COM.BH

**SALOMY CLEANING CONTRACTING CO WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77908555 or SALOMYCC@GMAIL.COM

**MUHAMMAD NADEEM INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33451945 or RANANADEEM20001@GMAIL.COM

**ALTASAHUL FACTORY FOR GOLD & JEWELLERY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666191 or tasahulhb@gmail.com

**EBRAHIM KHALIL KANOO CO. B.S.C.CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or hr.s@ekkanoo.com.bh

**EBRAHIM KHALIL KANOO COMPANY B.S.C.CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANOO.COM.BH

**ABDULRAHMAN EBRAHIM ALMOOSA CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531235 or GALIBALMOOSA@YAHOO.COM

**GULF PHARMACIES W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17239393 or HR@GCTBAHRAIN.COM

**S Hotel** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17380380 or RADHI.ALMISHAL@GMAIL.COM

**ELAMES MARBLE FACTORY B.S.C. (CLOSED)** has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER(INTERIORS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636633 or HAMAD@BEHZAD-GROUP.COM

**DAR AKHBAR ALKHALEEJ PRESS & PUBLISHING** has a vacancy for the occupation of PAPER BAG & ENVELOPE MAKER(MACHINE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17620111 or SAM.GDN.AK@GMAIL.COM

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

**MUNACO RESTAURANT** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66774444 or AL-ABDULZAZIZ@HOTMAIL.COM

**THE NATIONAL TRADING HOUSE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39452129 or thakerb@natrad.com

**ALKOMED ENGINEERING SERVICES CO.** has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17698500 or ALKOMED@BATELCO.COM.BH

**BABEL STAR FASHION** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39687688 or ALKHALAF\_55@LIVE.COM

**ADISON AUTO ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact

39475757 or bu-khalid@hotmail.com

**SHATILA CLEANING & PAINTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33869293 or GAMBHIRANDANIEL62@GMAIL.COM

**Optica W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36026121 or ahmed.director@optica.net

**Bahrain Steel BSCC E.C.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17464274 or JOBS@FOULATH.COM.BH

**YATHRIB UPHOLSTERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323888 or M3293@LIVE.COM

**YATHREB FURNITURE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39660500 or M3293@LIVE.COM

**ALHAJJAN CONTRACTING EST.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39479980 or ASHFQQRAZA29@GMAIL.COM

**ALTALIAH AUTO SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36791200 or mohd.derazi@gmail.com

**ALMAJED CONTRACTORS AND CONSTRUCTION EST.** has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233313 or WW999999@HOTMAIL.COM

**WEEKEND CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39696731 or SSHAKKEB@BATELCO.COM.BH

**GHUSUN ALRUMAN FASHIONS** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33256669 or BORJ-ALASAD@HOTMAIL.COM

**THE RITZ - CARLTON BAHRAIN HOTEL W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17580000 or rc.bahrz.hr@ritzcarlton.com

**DHUFAR ELECTRICAL WORKSH** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39194705 or DHUFARACWORKSHOP@GMAIL.COM

**ALSHABAKA GATE CLEANING OF BUILDINGS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39841310 or ZUHAIR\_MAJEED@HOTMAIL.COM

**EZAT BODY WORKING AND PAINTING GARAGE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17642292 or ALIAZET7@HOTMAIL.COM

**QABEEL SALOON** has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33338917 or M@GMAIL.COMAKKIALAE

**Manama Packaging Industry W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675246 or MFIKRAM@GMAIL.COM

**ALUNS RESTAURANT** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39458577 or DIMYATGROUP@GMAIL.COM

**NOFA TAILORING** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39432202 or KBURSHAD171@GMAIL.COM

**ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

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

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

**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

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

**MONA TRADING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39670999 or MONA.TRADING@LIVE.COM

**HEJAIR GROUP CO.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39955591 or KHEJAIR@GMAIL.COM

**MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or HRD1@

mactb.com

**Bright Future Contracting** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33681568 or brightfuturecont@gmail.com

**Wyndham Garden W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66316666 or mohammed@panoramabh.com

**ISA AND AMEEN AUTO SPARE PARTS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36352227 or MARIAM.ICICI@GMAIL.COM

**SAYACORP HOSPITALITY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL SUPERVISOR(HOTEL SERVICES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33637004 or kathrina.nisnisan@conradhotels.com

**CARLOS ELEVATOR W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33129012 or munir.khan.khan206@gmail.com

**ALMONTAZAH FURNITURE W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785050 or ALQABAS@BATELCO.COM.BH

**AZMIR TAILORING AND EMBROIDERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39683992 or KAREEMAHAYKI@GMAIL.COM

**7 HILLS POWER SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17430570 or NABEEL.FAQIHI@GMAIL.COM

**Mulberry telephone** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39833499 or FADHEELAJAFAAR123@GMAIL.COM

**AL - KARAMA SANDWICHES CO WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39929669 or AHMEDY.1@HOTMAIL.CO

**SARA STONIC FACTORY W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17581287 or SARMAT@BATELCO.COM.BH

**KOKBANI FOOD STUFF** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33080006 or JASSIMAL65@GMAIL.COM

**DAR ALHEKMA PAHRMACY** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17550056 or HR@HTP.COM.BH

**OYSHO** has a vacancy for the occupation of SHOP MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17507979 or YUNES.MOHAMED@AZADEA.COM

**KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W L L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

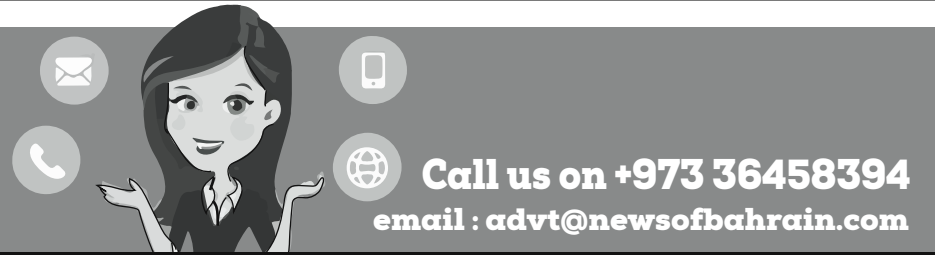
**RAMEZ TRADING AND MARKETING CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17243331 or moh.ramez@ramez.net

**MARWA DOCUMENT CLEARANCE AND CONSULTANCY** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36461232 or KARENCAYECANDELARIACRUZ1988@GMAIL.COM

**MAIMOOM TRADING COMPANY WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation



# Classifieds



### VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

AL KALLYAN JEWELLERY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39873123 or ASHFAQHAMAD1973@HOTMAIL.COM  
Le Meridien Hotel Bahrain City Center has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38885874 or ALI.ALQATTAN@MAF.AE  
KENZ PALCE DECOR CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39330710 or sameer@kenzfurnishing.com  
Kenz manufacture of wooden furniture umbrella and curtains W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39330700 or sameer@kenzfurnishing.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  
PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh  
GANCHA AND MALLAS RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747080 or EBRAHIMSANAD2174@GMAIL.COM  
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  
ABUBAKER AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33026227 or Shakil.afzal@hotmail.com  
668 cafe has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33113352 or 668.BHR@GMAIL.COM  
PALACE OF DATES has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33313251 or MMJEMMJ@GMAIL.COM  
NEW EVEREST CAFETERIA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34100500 or NURALAMINDESIGNS@GMAIL.COM  
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

SANAD SULTAN JOWHER CONTRACTING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33889949 or SANAD.SULTAN.JOHAR@OUTLOOK.FR  
ALMANARTAIN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36055333 or ALSHAAB@BATELCO.COMM.BH  
SOUTH GATE CONSTRUCTION AND CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77061717 or YKHALFAN@GMAIL.COM  
ABNALNAFIS GENTS TALLORING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39819189 or HUDAALSHENOO@GMAIL.COM  
Mahboob Workshop for Refrigerator and Airconditioner Repair. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39217931 or AZAMZAKARIA@HOTMAIL.COM  
GUARDUS SECURITY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or HRD@ALMOAYYEDCG.COM  
SAAJ TECHNICAL MECHANICAL CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39735389 or INFO@SAAJTECH.COM  
KEEP COOL FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33433238 or HARDEEPSARA1980@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  
S N COATING WORKSHOP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39580019 or SHARJACOATING@GMAIL.COM  
FAVORITE RESTAU RENT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39887345 or FLAVOUROFININDIA151@GMAIL.COM  
Charcoal Gourmet Burger Snack has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020031 or PRINCEBURGER@GMAIL.COM  
Mooj Restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33339047 or HUSAIN-AZIZ@HOTMAIL.COM

ABDUL KHALIK FASHION DESIGN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36956409 or ABDULKHALIKBH@GMAIL.COM  
ARTWISH DECOR W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36819555 or ALBIEXPERTISE@GMAIL.COM  
R H BUSINESS MODULE SOLUTIONS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34310480 or MISMAIL.809@YAHOO.COM  
NARJES TOWER CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39909084 or NQAMBER96@GMAIL.COM  
FAST TRACK LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36524249 or BAHRAINTRADING1@GMAIL.COM  
TEDO MINI MART W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17296001 or AKZGREAT@YAHOO.COM  
SPEEDY ADVICE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330719 or AWAISCH3333@HOTMAIL.COM  
ABN AL NAFIS PALACE TAILORING - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36148198 or DEEPUMLAN4123@GMAIL.COM  
PAK ELEGANT INTERNATIONAL BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77082332 or malikasilawa05@gmail.com  
MARBL ARCH CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32226699 or S.ALANAIISI@GMAIL.COM  
GUARDUS SECURITY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or HRD@ALMOAYYEDCG.COM  
LULU CONTRACTING CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720648 or INFO@LCMWLL.COM  
Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH  
ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM  
RAHEEQ FLOWER CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17686404 or RAHEEQFLOWER@HOTMAIL.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  
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  
RADHWAN GRILLS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17644345 or RADHWANBAKERY@GMAIL.COM  
COOL KIT CENTRAL AIRCONDITIONING PLANT REPAIRE has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77088800 or SERVICE@COOLKITSERVICE.COM  
GOLDEN GROUP CONTRACTORS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533125 or GOLDENGROUPBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM  
Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH  
Seven Energy W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500791 or hr@seven-energy.com  
AL ROBA FOR CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33529523 or BHINDERG052@GMAIL.COM  
ALJAMARAT TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39000637 or ALJAMARATC@GMAIL.COM  
YUSUF MAMDOOH CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37565454 or DARWISHBH4@GMAIL.COM  
AL REEM GATE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39771192 or inter.island.bh@gmail.com  
KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH  
Uco Engineering W.L.L. has a vacancy for the

occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36216664 or hr@bakgroup.net  
SAYYAR TRADING AGENCIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290111 or OFFICE@SAYYAR.BH  
R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36379946 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM  
ALKOMED ENGINEERING SERVICES CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17698500 or ALKOMED@BATELCO.COM.BH  
EMPEROR AUTO SERVICES WOR has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32199330 or AL\_MEHZAA@YAHOO.COM  
ADEL & SADIQ SONS OF JAFFAR STORES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17232646 or admin@adelsadiq.com  
BOORI LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39466771 or HMK.ALBOURI@GMAIL.COM  
HALAWEYATI CAKE AND BAKE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39686111 or ASHRAF.HASAN1983@GMAIL.COM  
Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH  
ALTAWFEEK MAINTENANCE SERVICES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786828 or YASMEEN@ALTAWFEEK.NET  
ALNEMRAN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456488 or info@alnemranbh.com  
AVRAN PHONE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660037 or alashraf46@gmail.com  
MASSAGE BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36366606 or najma\*star@gmail.com  
AL ZAIN MANPOWER SUPPLY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17246665 or ALJEDDAR@GMAIL.COM  
ALTAAMUL AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy

for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33040704 or zuhairsroor@icloud.com  
The Convo Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33933779 or CONVOYCONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM  
ALGHAZALLA GOLD SMITH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39686334 or BAQER\_777@YAHOO.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  
MAIS FASHION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888455 or UMNADERCONSTRUCTION@GMAIL.COM  
G4S GENERAL CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714409 or SUMAIRA.YASMIN@G4S.COM  
VRINDAVAN GARDEN RESTAURANT COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17234454 or asoom8@gmail.com  
ALKOOHEJI TECHNICAL SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66332100 or ABDULLA@KOOHEJITECHNICAL.COM  
ABU MAHMOOD ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39248626 or futuredocument@gmail.com  
SAYEDATY KITCHENS WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33301918 or gm@skkitchens.com  
WALL WOOD CARPENTRY AND TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39772226 or JAFFARRADHI73@GMAIL.COM  
Aamora Resturant has a vacancy for the occupation of SHAWARMA WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700177 or KHADIJA.DERBAS@GMAIL.COM  
BADER MODELS COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WOOD CARVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39603370 or BADER@BADERMODELS.COM  
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## Ahli power past Kuwaitis in West Asian volleyball

Kingdom's representatives claim resounding victory in four sets against Kuwait SC

Ahli wrap up group stage with third straight win, await quarter-final opponents

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Al Ahli Club powered to a resounding victory in four sets over Kuwait SC of Kuwait yesterday in the second West Asian Men's Clubs Volleyball Championship, currently being held in Muscat.

The Bahrainis were playing in their concluding fixture in Group B of the tournament's preliminary round. It was their second straight appearance on the playing court in less than 24 hours, as they were in action the previous night against Shabab Al Hussain of Jordan.

Despite their minimal recovery time, Ahli showed no signs of fatigue as they overcame a second-set setback to win 3-1 (25-23, 18-25, 25-14, 25-12).

Bahrain national team star Ali Ebrahim and Montenegro professional Marko Vukasinovic were the joint-leading scorers



Al Ahli players Nasser Anan and Marko Vukasinovic, front, lead celebrations after scoring a point against Kuwait SC yesterday

for Ahli with 16 points apiece. Another top Bahraini international, Nasser Anan, added 15 points in the win.

Also contributing for Ahli yesterday were Sayed Mohammed Al Abrar, Mahmoud Abdulhussain, Mohammed Habib and Hassan Shakhouri, among others.

It was Ahli's third consecutive victory in the competition after

opening with a loss. That defeat was against Al Arabi SC of Qatar, but they quickly responded with back-to-back straight-set wins against home side Sohar SC of Oman and Shabab Al Hussain, before their triumph against Kuwait yesterday.

The Kingdom's representatives have already secured a place in the tournament's quarter-finals. Their seeding will be

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determined along with their match-up in the last eight following the completion of the preliminary round's fixtures, which will be tomorrow, when Ahli have a rest day.

The top four teams after a single round-robin from each of the two groups in this stage advance to the quarters. Group A features Al Rayyan SC of Qatar, Al Ibtisam of Saudi Arabia, Seeb Club of Oman, Baniyas SC of the UAE and Qadsia SC of Kuwait.

The last eight is scheduled for Friday, and then the semi-finals will be held the next day. The final and match for third place are slated for Sunday, the tournament's concluding day.

## SCYS, BREEF discuss sports cooperation



Aymen bin Tawfiq Al Moayyed, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), received His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF). The meeting discussed topics of common interest. Al Moayyed affirmed the efforts of BREEF, led by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Honorary President of BREEF. HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah emphasised SCYS's role in supporting the youth and sports movements in the kingdom

## Davis triple double sparks Lakers to third NBA win in a row

AFP | Los Angeles

Anthony Davis delivered his third career triple double on Monday to support big nights from LeBron James and D'Angelo Russell as the Los Angeles Lakers won 124-118 at Charlotte.

Russell scored 28 points, James added 26 and Davis dominated with 26 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists as the Lakers finished an NBA road trip 4-2 with the other wins at

Boston, New York and Golden State.

"We've been doing a good job at playing complete team basketball," Davis said. "It was a great road trip for us even though we dropped some we thought we should have won."

"We'll try and take this energy and carry it over from the road trip back home." The Lakers play host to reigning NBA champion Denver on Thursday.



# Riffa capture last-gasp win

Ali Hassan Saeed scores in 87th minute in victory over Manama in 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

● **Ebrahim Al Khattal misses first-half penalty for Manama**

● **Busaiteen and Al Shabab play to a 1-1 stalemate**

TDT | Manama

Leaders Riffa escaped with a last-gasp 1-0 victory over Manama last night in the 11th week of action in the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Bahrain national team player Ebrahim Al Khattal missed an opportunity to give Manama the lead in the first half after they were awarded a penalty kick. But Al Khattal misfired on his shot and hit the crossbar. The match thus headed into the interval goalless, setting the stage for Saeed's late heroics.

Earlier in the contest, Ebrahim Al Khattal missed an opportunity to give Manama the lead in the first half after they were awarded a penalty kick. But Al Khattal misfired on his shot and hit the crossbar. The match thus headed into the interval goalless, setting the stage for Saeed's late heroics.



Jassim Al Shaikh of Riffa, left, defends fellow-Bahrain national team player Ebrahim Al Khattal of Manama during their match last night

the bottom three clubs on the table.

The two matches were played at separate venues.

In Riffa's win, Saeed saved his team from losing out on crucial points and took all three from their rivals with his late decider.

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The 11th week of league action concludes tonight with two more matches on schedule. Defending champions Al Khaldiya take on East Riffa while Muharraq face off with Sitra. Both matches games are scheduled for simultaneous 7pm kick-offs at separate venues

Riffa extended their lead atop the standings as they improved to 22 points following their seventh win in 10 matches. Manama, on the other hand, suffered

## Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Riffa	10	7	1	2	8	22
Al Ahli	11	5	3	3	-1	18
Al Khaldiya	10	4	5	1	10	17
Muharraq	10	4	4	2	3	16
Al Najma	11	4	3	4	4	15
East Riffa	10	4	3	3	1	15
Al Hala	11	5	0	6	-7	15
Manama	11	4	2	5	1	14
Sitra	9	3	4	2	0	13
Al Shabab	11	2	4	5	-5	10
Busaiteen	11	1	5	5	-6	8
Hidd	11	2	2	7	-8	8

their fifth loss in 11 games and remained on 14 points in the bottom half of the table.

Meanwhile, in last night's other fixture, Busaiteen took the lead against Shabab four minutes from the break when Abdulmalek Bendalal tapped the ball in from the face of goal.

His effort came following a corner-kick and Shabab failed to clear. Bendalal was in the right place at the right time as the ball

fall to his path and he needed only to guide it in to give Busaiteen the advantage at the half.

After the re-start, Shabab drew level in the 65th minute through Alyson Romeu Dantas De Andrade, who scored with a deflected shot from inside the box. Busaiteen had given the ball away too easily, which led to the Shabab equaliser.

Following the result, Shabab salvaged a point and improved to 10 following their fourth draw in 11 matches. Previously bottom-of-the table Busaiteen registered their fifth draw and went to eight points, level with Hidd but they were able to move up a spot on the standings with a better goal difference.

League action continues tonight with the final two games of week 11. Defending champions Al Khaldiya take on East Riffa while Muharraq face off with Sitra. Both matches games are scheduled for simultaneous 7pm kick-offs at separate venues.

## Australia take just 6.5 overs to destroy woeful West Indies in 3rd ODI

AFP | Canberra

Australia needed just 6.5 overs to thrash a woeful West Indies by eight wickets in an embarrassing end to their one-day international series in Canberra yesterday, with Jake Fraser-McGurk slamming 41 off 18 balls.

The hosts won the first game in Melbourne by eight wickets and the second in Sydney by 83 runs to clinch the series, with the West Indies playing for pride.

But after Australia skipper Steve Smith won the toss and sent them in on a humid day, they crumbled to 86 all out in the 25th over against an attack missing Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc.

In reply, Australia recorded their shortest successful run chase in the format with 259 balls remaining to cap a stunning capitulation by the Caribbean side.

"It was a good performance, the bowlers put it in the right areas and everything seemed



Australia's Xavier Bartlett (C) appeals successfully for a leg-before-wicket decision against West Indies' batsman Kjorn Ottley

### Scorecard

**Australia 87 for 2 (Fraser-McGurk 41, Inglis 35\*) beat West Indies 86 (Bartlett 4-21) by eight wickets**

to work out. One of those days where everything came off," said Smith.

"It's been good opportunity to expose a few players to interna-

tional cricket and they've shown that they can play at this level."

Explosive 21-year-old opener Fraser-McGurk showed his immense talent in only his second match with five fours and three sixes in an electric 41 before he was caught going for another big hit off Alzarri Joseph.

Aaron Hardie was the only other wicket to fall, caught be-

hind for two off Oshane Thomas. Josh Inglis blasted an unbeaten 35 while Smith was not out six. Earlier, paceman Xavier Bartlett took 4-21 to go with the 4-17 he bagged on his debut in Melbourne. Fellow fast bowler Lance Morris grabbed 2-13 before leaving the field with a side strain.

STEVE SMITH

## Foden praises Man City resilience as Premier League race heats up



Manchester City's Phil Foden scores the team's third goal

AFP | London

Manchester City hat-trick hero Phil Foden praised the team's resilience after they moved just two points behind Premier League leaders Liverpool with a 3-1 win at Brentford.

City fell behind against the run of play when Neal Maupay fired the London side into the lead on Monday but Foden levelled just before the interval.

The 23-year-old England international headed City in front early in the second half from Kevin De Bruyne's cross, and then completed a stylish treble.

The English champions have made a habit of coming back to win games after falling behind.

"Resilience -- we keep proving it season after season," Foden told the City website.

"We keep surprising everyone by keeping our standards high and it's down to the manager and this fantastic group of players."

**Manchester City became the first Premier League side to win four consecutive away games despite falling behind in all of them**

**Resilience -- we keep proving it season after season. We keep surprising everyone by keeping our standards high and it's down to the manager and this fantastic group of players. It's the togetherness, when things aren't going right, to bounce back**

PHIL FODEN

"It's the togetherness, when things aren't going right, to bounce back."

City's victory lifted Pep Guardiola's men above Arsenal into second place on goal difference, two points behind leaders Liverpool with a game in hand.

They have now won nine consecutive games in all competitions but Foden believes the Premier League title race will go to the wire.

"It's going to be a tight one. Liverpool and Arsenal are two top teams doing really well," he said.

"They are going to push us until the end so we have to try and not drop points and try to win all of our games really."

## Second century for Williamson as New Zealand extend lead past 500

AFP | Mount Maunganui

Kane Williamson crafted his second century of the match yesterday as New Zealand took complete command of the first Test on day three against understrength South Africa.

Run machine Williamson was out for a rapid 109 as the home side reached 179-4 in their second innings at Mount Maunganui, extending their overall lead to 528 runs by stumps.

Daryl Mitchell was at the crease on 11 and Tom Blundell on five, with the Black Caps looking to declare early on Wednesday with South Africa facing a mammoth target on a deteriorating Bay Oval pitch.

The depleted Proteas were dismissed for 162 soon before tea in response to New Zea-



New Zealand's Mitchell Santner takes a catch to dismiss South Africa's David Bedingham

land's first innings 511.

The follow-on wasn't enforced, allowing the world's top-ranked batsman Williamson to craft another big score to follow

his 118 in the first innings.

It was the former skipper's 31st Test century but the first time he has reached three figures twice in the same match.

The 34-year-old played with aggression from the outset, striking 12 fours and a six in a 132-ball stay that signalled New Zealand's intent before he was stumped off the bowling of Proteas captain Neil Brand.

As was the case in the first innings, Williamson survived a dropped catch in the outfield, with Edward Moore again the culprit when he was on 61.

Moore responded in the following over by catching Devon Conway for 29 off captain Neil Brand's bowling, ending a partnership of 92 with Williamson after opener Tom Latham fell cheaply.

First innings double-century Rachin Ravindra departed soon afterwards for 12, caught off the spin bowling of Brand, who took six wickets in the first innings.



# Tennis stars to shine in Kingdom

Former US Open champion Marin Cilic headlines impressive field in Bahrain Ministry of Interior Tennis Challenger

● **ATP Challenger Tour event set to take place from Sunday**

● **Matches set for Public Security Officers Club in Gudaibiya**

● **Total US\$164,000 on offer in prize money for ATP players**

TDT | Manama

**Eight world-ranked star players will be taking part in the tournament, including Christopher O'Connell of Australia, Arthur Cazaux and Richard Gasquet of France, Fabio Fognini of Italy, Vit Kopriva and Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic, Filip Misolic of Austria, and Abdullah Shelbayh of Jordan**

Former US Open champion Marin Cilic of Croatia is set to headline a star-studded field of competitors in the Bahrain Ministry of Interior Tennis Challenger 2024, scheduled to get underway next week. The tournament's organising committee has announced a final list of 130 players who will participate in the tournament, which is a part of the ATP Challenger Tour, under the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

The ATP Challenger Tour is the second-highest tier of tennis competition, behind only the ATP Tour. The Kingdom's event, which offers US\$164,000 in prize money, has attracted a host of prominent tennis players, most notably eight world-ranked stars. Cilic, considered one of the greatest Croatian tennis players in history, is another top name, who had achieved a career-high singles ranking of world number three in 2018.

The 2014 US Open winner, who was also an Australian Open and Wimbledon finalist, expressed his excitement in competing in the Kingdom. "I'm really looking forward to my first visit to Bahrain and connecting with tennis fans there," Cilic, who is an Olympic silver-medallist, was quoted as saying. "This tournament will be an excellent challenge to showcase my game and the work I have been putting in since my injury last year."

**Return**  
Australian Christopher O'Connell, currently ranked 64th in

**"I'm really looking forward to my first visit to Bahrain and connecting with tennis fans there. This tournament will be an excellent challenge to showcase my game"**

MARIN CILIC



Fabio Fognini...Italian star

and Czech player Vit Kopriva, currently 116th in the world.

World number 130 Jakub Mensik will also participate, as will Austrian Filip Misolic and Jordanian player Abdullah Shelbayh, who are both amongst the world's top 200. Shelbayh was the 2023 runner-up in Bahrain.

The tournament will be organised from Sunday to February 17 by the Public Security Sports Association at the Public Security Officers Club in Gudaibiya.

In last year's tournament, Thanasi Kokkinakis of Australia,



Christopher O'Connell...returning talent

then ranked 141st in the world, was crowned singles champion after defeating Shelbayh 6-1, 6-4 in the final.

Kokkinakis joined India's Ramkumar Ramanathan as the tournament's singles title winners in the competition's two editions.

The doubles champions were Patrik Niklas-Salminen of Finland and Bart Stevens of the Netherlands in 2023, and the Portuguese duo of Nuno Borges and Francisco Cabral in 2022.

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