

**'In nick of time' as  
 Pegula sets up US  
 Open title clash with  
 Sabalenka**

Pegula stages remarkable comeback to beat Muchova and reach first Grand Slam final at US Open | P12

**WORLD 6 Israeli troops leave Jenin as Gaza talks stall**

# THE DAILY tribune

**Argentina cruise past Chile, Bolivia thrash Venezuela in World Cup qualifiers**

**BUSINESS 5 Malaysia Airlines finds 'potential issue' on A350-900 engine**

**Indian airliner  
 lands in Turkey  
 after bomb  
 threat**



AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

A Vistara flight with 247 people aboard made an unscheduled landing in eastern Turkey on Friday following a bomb alert, the company said.

"Flight UK27 from Mumbai to Frankfurt has been diverted to Turkey (Erzurum airport) due to security reasons and has landed safely at 1905 hours," Vistara posted on X.

Mustafa Ciftci, the governor of Erzurum province, said 247 passengers and crew were on board, and all flights in and out of the airport had been suspended, Turkish media reported.

The passengers were taken off the plane and searched individually before being allowed into the airport terminal and a bomb detection squad inspected the plane and its luggage hold, the governor said.

During the flight, a tissue paper was discovered on the toilet with "bomb on airplane" scribbled on it, The Times of India reported.



Pause for polio

Children wait to receive polio vaccinations in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip amid the ongoing war in the Palestinian territory between Israel and Hamas. The World Health Organization said Israel had agreed to at least three days of "humanitarian pauses" in parts of Gaza, starting on August 31, to facilitate a vaccination drive after the territory recorded its first case of polio in a quarter of a century.

**American shot dead  
 at West Bank demo**

AFP | Nablus, Palestinian Territories

A Turkish-American woman was shot dead Friday while demonstrating against Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank town of Beita, where the army acknowledged opening fire.

Turkey identified the woman as Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, condemning her death, while the United States called it a "tragic" event, without immediately assigning responsibility.

The incident occurred as Israeli forces withdrew from a deadly 10-day raid in the West Bank city of Jenin, another flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, amid the ongoing Gaza war.

The Israeli army said it was investigating the incident.

# It's official

## Birth now a private affair for expats in Bahrain

● New referral guidelines for non-Bahrainis in labour at Government Hospitals

● Increase in maternity advertisements suggests private hospitals are preparing for a surge

TDT | Manama

**New policy will not affect quality of care, says Parliamentary source**



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

Private hospitals in the Kingdom are gearing up for a surge in maternity patients following a new directive from Government Hospitals, which mandates that all non-Bahraini women be referred to private facilities for delivery.

The circular issued to all government hospital staff stipulates that non-Bahraini patients should be referred to private hospitals or their primary healthcare facilities for delivery. Public data from 2020 reveals that public hospitals handled 13,292 deliveries compared to 4,000 at private hospitals.

Meanwhile, the recent increase in maternity advertisements in the media also indicates that private sector hospitals are preparing for this influx

residents receive nothing short of exceptional medical care."

The decision was made following extensive discussions with the Ministry of Health. "We held a meeting to address the issue of the increasing number of patients expected to deliver. To ensure proper medical attention for everyone, the decision to refer expatriate patients to private facilities was made," the source explained.

The source also noted that there was some consideration of simply raising prices as an alternative, but the decision ultimately focused on the referral policy to manage patient loads effectively.

The source further emphasized that the policy aims to ensure that "both citizens and

while maintaining high standards of care. Sources confirmed to *The Daily Tribune* that the new policy, effective from the start of this month, is in-

tended to enhance the quality of care and services for patients.

According to the advertisements reviewed by *The Daily Tribune*, private hospitals charge BD350 for a normal delivery and BD700 or more for a caesarean section.

In contrast, Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) charges BD150 for normal birth, despite BD574 being the actual expense for a normal birth and over BD747 for a caesarean section, as outlined in a parliamentary inquiry report presented by former MP Ali Eshaqi in 2020. The report notes that SMC's costs include accommodation, delivery room, operations, and medical staff.

**Referral criteria include:**

- Patients classified as low-risk with no underlying medical conditions.
- Those at 37 weeks gestation or full term (excluding preterm cases).
- Patients not booked with Primary Care facilities or not receiving follow-up care at SMC.
- Patients not in active labour, specifically with cervical dilation of 3 cm or less.

Hospital staff are urged to follow these criteria to ensure a smoother healthcare experience for all patients.

**SMC begins referring non-emergency patients**



TDT | Manama

In accordance with the new policy, doctors at Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) have begun referring non-emergency maternity patients to private hospitals.

A 32-year-old Asian woman, scheduled for delivery at SMC on the 31st of August, told the *Daily Tribune* that she was advised by doctors to seek care at a private facility unless her situation becomes an emergency.

The woman, who visited SMC due to slight discomfort, explained, "I was told by the doctor and officials to go to a private hospital if it's not an emergency."

She expressed concerns about the potential costs of private hospital care, noting that the unexpected shift has added financial stress. "We weren't prepared for this change, and now I'm trying to manage the expenses," she said.

The woman, who is likely to give birth within the next day or two, added, "I understand that stress is not ideal at this stage, but I'm struggling to find a solution."



# HH Shaikh Nasser leads Royal Endurance team in pre-championship inspection

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and captain of the Royal Endurance Team, attended the veterinary inspection for the World Endurance Championship.

Shaikh Nasser will helm the Royal Endurance Team in the upcoming championship, riding the horse Everest la Majorie. He will be joined by fellow jockeys



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa on Fizz Fageole, Jaafar Mirza on Bolt de Venelles, Othman Al

Awadhi on Ermine Dartagnan, and Salman Isa on Elmer de Bozouls.

Reserve jockeys include Sarhan Hameed on Be Goode and Hamad Isa on Deese la Majorie.

The inspection took place at the championship village in Monpazier, France, in preparation for the 160 km race scheduled for Saturday, which will feature 145 jockeys from 39 countries.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council

for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), along with HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice-President of the Supreme Council for Environment and Deputy Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) High Committee, were also present.

Shaikh Nasser led the final training session for the team before the championship, emphasizing the importance of ad-

hering to the technical plan. He highlighted the significance of the World Endurance Championship as a testament to the team's advanced skills and performance.

Shaikh Nasser expressed confidence in the team's prospects, noting the presence of highly skilled and experienced jockeys. He acknowledged the fierce competition at the World Championship and wished the Royal Endurance Team the best of luck in securing top ranks and retaining their title.

# Fast-Food boom hits Bahrain

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Bahraini youth are increasingly flocking to quick-service dining options, spurred by a surge in both local and international restaurant chains. According to a recent report by Mordor Intelligence, the fast-food and quick-service restaurant (QSR) sector is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.98% from 2017 to 2029. This growth highlights a rising preference among young-



Representative picture

er consumers for fast and convenient dining options. The report reveals that QSRs are leading Bahrain's food service industry, with full-service restaurants and cafés trailing behind. The king-

dom now hosts over a hundred American restaurant franchises, including popular names like Five Guys, Texas Roadhouse, Burger King, and Starbucks.

The rise of cloud kitchens, ex-

pected to see a CAGR of 4.91% during the forecast period, is driven by increased internet access and a growing demand for online food delivery. Advances in point-of-sale (POS) systems and kitchen display systems (KDS) are streamlining operations and reducing delays.

The café and beverage sector is also thriving, with cafés and juice bars representing 86.48% of outlets in 2022, and cafés alone making up 67.21%. The COVID-19 pandemic boosted demand for ready-to-eat meals, and leading chains like



Starbucks and Costa Coffee are capitalising on this trend.


From 2019 to 2022, the average number of orders from cafés in Bahrain rose by 11.24%, reflecting a surge in coffee consumption. Upscale cafés have responded with expanded menus, featuring specialty drinks and international pastries, which has increased the average order value. Meanwhile, cloud kitchens are offering competitively priced dishes like harees and kebabs.

Quick-service restaurants remain a favourite among Bahraini consumers, known for their

## Young diners drive growth in quick-service restaurants

convenience and value. Recent trends indicate a growing interest in mid-range quick-service options that offer a diverse range of dining experiences at reasonable prices.



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# Human Trafficking Horror

## Women tricked by fake job offer, forced into nightclub dancing

- The women were deceived by offers of high-paying waitress positions

- Victims were subjected to physical abuse and kept under constant surveillance

- Defendants were sentenced to five years in prison, fined 2,000 Bahraini dinars, and ordered to cover the victims' repatriation costs, but have now appealed the ruling

TD | Manama

Two Asian women, lured to Bahrain with promises of high-paying waitress jobs, were thrust into a nightmare of human trafficking, where they were forced to dance for strangers in nightclubs. Their harrowing experience, now in the spotlight, is set to be heard by the High Appeals Court after their captors challenged the initial verdict.



Picture for representation only

Police said desperate to escape their financial woes, the women responded to job offers boasting salaries of 160 to 330 Bahraini dinars. Court files reveal that the suspects behind the scheme, including a woman who maintained contact with the victims, paid for their travel and accommodation. Upon arriving at Bahrain International Airport, the victims were taken to an apartment, unaware of the horrors that awaited them.

### Nightclub horror

"The next day, they showed their true colours," one of the women testified in court, describing how they were ordered to work in a nightclub. When we refused, citing their agreement to work as waitresses, the threats began. "The woman started talking to us in a threatening tone, and they took our phones, blocking all contact," she said.

Forced into nightclubs, the women were made to dance for seven to eight hours a day, from morning until late afternoon.

"We had to work there from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This continued for several days, with them taking us to different hotels. We lost track of time and place," one victim shared. After each grueling shift, they were locked in an apartment under 24-hour surveillance. "There were zero chances to escape," she added.

### Punched me in face

Resistance was met with brutal violence. "Whenever we resisted, the men attacked us physically. They punched and

*Two women, lured to Bahrain with fake job offers, were forced into nightclub dancing, enduring days of violence and captivity before a daring escape attempt brought their ordeal to light.*

kicked me in the face, stomach, and back, and forcefully pulled my hair." The victims received no pay for their work, as all earnings were collected directly by the suspects from nightclub managers. "All we received were some biscuits, tea, and water,"

she said.

### lucky escape

The second victim recounted a similar experience, revealing that she too was trapped by the same false promises. "If not for her daring attempt to reach out to the police, the world would not have known about our fate," the first woman recalled. However, upon discovering their communication with authorities, the men violently assaulted them before fleeing the scene, just before police arrived.

A subsequent investigation by the Human Trafficking and Public Morality Protection department confirmed the suspects' involvement in exploiting the women. The initial court ruling handed the defendants a five-year prison sentence, a 2,000 Bahraini dinar fine, and ordered them to cover the cost of the victims' return to their home country. The court also imposed a permanent banishment from Bahrain after their sentence is served.

### Appeal

The defendants, however, have appealed the judgment, with the High Appeals Court set to hear the case at the end of the month.

# Brutal Hotel Attack

## Man escapes immediate jail after violent attack with broken glass

- Appeals Court confirmed the six-month jail sentence but granted a three-year deferral

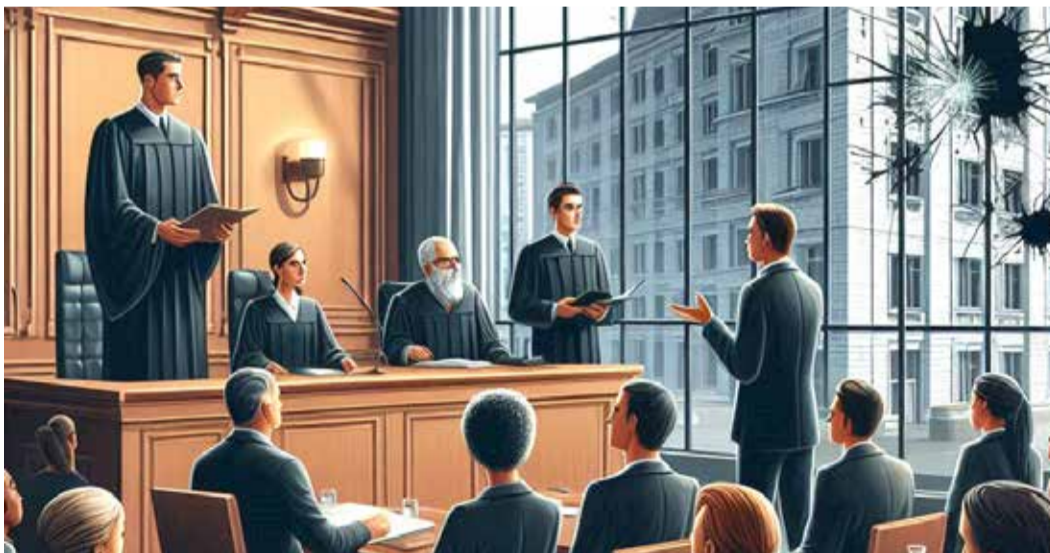
- The assault occurred after the Bahraini man forcibly dragged the victim's girlfriend

- victim sustained permanent injuries, with doctors assessing a 2% impairment

TD | Manama

A Bahraini man who violently assaulted an Arab national with a broken glass bottle, following an attack on his girlfriend, has had his six-month prison sentence upheld by the High Appeal Court. However, the court granted the 36-year-old a three-year suspension of the sentence, meaning the punishment will only be enforced if he reoffends during this period.

The incident occurred at a hotel where the Arab national was accompanying his girlfriend back to her residence. As they exited, the Bahraini man



Picture for representation only

*Bahraini man's six-month jail sentence suspended after a violent glass bottle attack on an Arab national, following a confrontation involving the victim's girlfriend.*

reportedly lunged at the couple, seizing the woman by the hand and forcefully dragging her, leaving her struggling desperately to break free.

The situation escalated when the Arab national intervened to rescue his girlfriend from the man's grip. Enraged, the defendant allegedly grabbed a glass

bottle and delivered a brutal blow to the victim's head. The attack left the victim bleeding heavily, with severe injuries.

Witnesses described the defendant continuing to punch the Arab national in the neck and face after the initial assault. A hotel security guard, who saw the fight unfold, stated that it

was sparked when the victim allegedly grabbed the defendant's shirt and punched him first.

During the investigation, the defendant confessed to the assault. Medical reports revealed the victim had suffered a permanent injury, with doctors estimating his impairment at 2%.

# Hospital closure sparks outrage

## MP blames investment mismanagement for financial crisis

Mohammed Darwish  
TD | Manama

Hundreds of patients and staff at a hospital caught in financial turmoil are still suffering, as a parliamentarian points fingers at the pension fund for the situation. MP Zainab Abdulameer has accused the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO) and its investment arm, Osool Asset Management, of mismanaging funds, contributing to the hospital's closure just five years after opening in 2019.

The hospital, which is 80% owned by Amanat Holdings and 20% by Osool, is the latest failed venture in a series of unprofitable investments, according to Abdulameer. She claims that the pension fund has repeatedly incurred losses, with the hospital's shutdown being a glaring example.

Following a recent inspection, the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) instructed the hospital to halt all promotional offers and advertisements last Wednesday, adding to the growing uncertainty.

MP Abdulameer, who chairs the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee in the Council of Representatives, revealed she is in ongoing discussions with the Ministry of



MP Zainab Abdulameer

Labour and the Labour Minister to find a resolution. "This closure, now extending over eight weeks, has left countless patients in pain and pushed over 200 employees into financial distress," she said.

Among the 200 staff members, 50 are Bahraini nationals, including 36 full-time and 14 part-time workers. "None of them have received payments for the last two and a half months," Abdulameer added.

Amid the financial chaos, the hospital is reportedly struggling to refund patients who paid in advance or to continue their treatments, leaving many in a desperate situation.

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Retail Branch  
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البنك العربي  
ARAB BANK



Condensed Interim Statement of Financial Position  
As at June 30, 2024

	(Unaudited) June 30, 2024	(Audited) December 31, 2023
	BD '000	BD '000
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and deposits with Central Bank of Bahrain	581,590	674,327
Balances with banks and financial institutions	153	18,912
Balances with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	54,766	57,352
Investment at fair value through other comprehensive income	2,546	2,546
Investments at amortised cost	92,594	104,882
Derivative assets	10,873	11,106
Loans and advances	219,411	230,991
Interest receivable	3,895	4,248
Other assets	6,166	6,181
Premises and equipment	888	590
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>972,882</b>	<b>1,111,135</b>
<b>Liabilities and Head Office Funds</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Due to banks and financial institutions	16,955	245
Due to the Head Office, other branches and affiliates	489,783	619,295
Customers' deposits	406,145	435,432
Derivative liabilities	9,289	9,676
Interest payable	5,498	6,623
Other liabilities	3,136	2,613
Employees' end-of-service benefits	269	273
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>931,075</b>	<b>1,074,157</b>
<b>Head Office Funds</b>		
Head Office capital	20,058	20,058
Fair value reserve	254	254
Unremitted profits to the Head Office	21,495	16,666
<b>Total Head Office funds</b>	<b>41,807</b>	<b>36,978</b>
<b>Total liabilities and Head Office funds</b>	<b>972,882</b>	<b>1,111,135</b>

The condensed interim financial statements and the notes to the financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 by Nadya Talhouni - Country Manager and Samer Haddad - Country Finance Head.

Condensed Interim Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income  
Six-month Period Ended June 30, 2024

	(Unaudited) June 30, 2024	(Unaudited) June 30, 2023
	BD '000	BD '000
Interest income	35,376	30,910
Interest expense	(30,487)	(25,916)
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>4,889</b>	<b>4,994</b>
Fees and commission income, net	3,590	3,369
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>8,479</b>	<b>8,363</b>
Staff expenses	(1,426)	(1,269)
Depreciation	(119)	(146)
Premises and equipment expenses	(427)	(379)
General and administrative expenses	(1,192)	(1,195)
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>(3,164)</b>	<b>(2,989)</b>
Operating profit	5,315	5,374
Other income, net	748	622
Allowance for expected credit losses, net	(1,234)	(1,027)
Profit for the period	4,829	4,969
<b>Other comprehensive income / (loss):</b>		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	(5)
Total other comprehensive loss for the period	-	(5)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	<b>4,829</b>	<b>4,964</b>

The aforementioned information was extracted from the financial statements reviewed by Deloitte & Touche - Middle East.

Condensed Interim Statement of Changes in Head Office Funds  
Six-month Period Ended June 30, 2024

	Head Office Capital	Fair Value Reserve	Unremitted Profits to the Head Office	Total
	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000
Balance at January 1, 2024 (Audited)	20,058	254	16,666	36,978
Profit for the period	-	-	4,829	4,829
<b>Balance at June 30, 2024 (Unaudited)</b>	<b>20,058</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>21,495</b>	<b>41,807</b>
Balance at January 1, 2023 (Audited)	20,058	202	8,797	29,057
Profit for the period	-	-	4,969	4,969
Other comprehensive loss for the period	-	(5)	-	(5)
<b>Balance at June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)</b>	<b>20,058</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>13,766</b>	<b>34,021</b>

Condensed Interim Statement of Cash Flows  
Six-month Period Ended June 30, 2024

	(Unaudited) June 30, 2024	(Unaudited) June 30, 2023
	BD '000	BD '000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Profit for the period	4,829	4,969
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of premises and equipment	31	51
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	88	95
Interest expense on lease liabilities	8	7
Allowance for expected credit losses, net	1,234	1,027
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	30	29
<b>Net cash generated before changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>	<b>6,220</b>	<b>6,178</b>
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>		
Statutory reserve deposits	(614)	(643)
Balances with Head office, other branches and affiliates – with maturity more than 3 months	(14,196)	(29)
Derivative assets	233	(3,190)
Loans and advances	10,398	(6,983)
Interest receivable	353	(1,362)
Other assets	15	(1,942)
Due to banks and financial institutions	16,710	488
Due to the Head Office, other branches and affiliates	(129,512)	80,086
Customers' deposits	(29,287)	17,074
Derivative liabilities	(387)	3,148
Interest payable	(1,125)	1,925
Other liabilities	555	677
	<b>(140,637)</b>	<b>95,427</b>
Interest paid on lease liabilities	(8)	(7)
Employees' end-of-service benefits paid	(34)	(3)
<b>Net cash flows (used in) / generated from operating activities</b>	<b>(140,679)</b>	<b>95,417</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Additions to premises and equipment	(408)	(10)
Purchase of investments at amortised cost	12,274	-
Proceeds from disposal of investments at amortised cost	-	37,697
<b>Net cash flows generated from investing activities</b>	<b>11,866</b>	<b>37,687</b>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>		
Repayment on principal portion of lease liabilities	(80)	(77)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>(77)</b>
<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(128,893)</b>	<b>133,027</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	715,145	527,293
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the closing of the period</b>	<b>586,252</b>	<b>660,320</b>

# Malaysia Airlines finds 'potential issue' on A350-900 engine

AFP | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysia Airlines said yesterday it had found a "potential issue" with the engine of an Airbus A350-900 aircraft in its fleet but added that it had been resolved.

The issue comes after the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) issued an emergency directive to airlines ordering mandated inspections on A350-1000s which are powered by XWB-97 engines made by Rolls-Royce.

The checks were prompted by an "in-flight engine fire" on one of Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific's Zurich-bound flights.

Malaysia Airlines' fleet of A350-900 planes "recently underwent a precautionary inspection, during which a potential issue with high-pressure fuel hoses on one aircraft was identified," the carrier said in a statement. "This finding was swiftly resolved, and the aircraft has been fully cleared for service in accordance with stringent maintenance protocols," it added.

On Friday, following the incident, EASA said extending its compulsory engine inspections to include the XWB-84 engines found on the Malaysia Airlines Airbus A350-900 is "not warranted at this stage".

The Cathay incident prompted other airlines in the region to carry out similar checks on their A350-900 and A350-1000



The new A350-900 Airbus long-haul carrier does a taxiing test at the a rodrone of Toulouse-Blagnac

models, which are powered by Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-84 and XWB-97 engines, respectively.

The EASA said Thursday that Cathay's A350-1000 aircraft suffered an engine failure due to a high-pressure fuel hose failing.

It added that there was an "in-flight engine fire shortly after take-off", which was "promptly detected and extinguished".

The EASA said the XWB-84

engines "are similar but differ in design and service history" to the XWB-97. Airbus on Friday said the EASA directive "clearly limits these (checks) to the Trent XWB-97 engine and says inspections on the Trent XWB-84 are not warranted based on current available information".

Contacted by AFP, the European regulator said there was no justification "at this stage"

for extending the inspections to the A350-900, which accounts for the vast majority of A350s in service: 530, according to Airbus figures published on Friday.

The Airbus issues come as its US rival Boeing has strived to overcome concerns about safety and quality control problems in recent years.

**'Precautionary inspection'**

A spokesperson for Malaysia Airlines told AFP that the carrier has seven A350-900s with Trent XWB-84 engines, all of which have been inspected.

"Safety and reliability are central to our operations, and we remain unwavering in our commitment to ensuring the highest standards of care for our passengers and crew," the airline said in its statement.

Rolls-Royce said Thursday it was launching "a one-time precautionary engine inspection programme" which may apply "to a portion of the A350 fleet".

The first A350 was delivered to Qatar Airways at the end of 2014. Since the end of the production of the jumbo A380, the A350 is Airbus's largest aircraft.

A competitor to the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, 1,330 A350s have been ordered, of which 617 have been delivered, according to data from the end of August.

The largest version, the 1000, can carry nearly 500 passengers and travel more than 16,000 kilometres (nearly 10,000 miles) in one hop.

That will be pushed to nearly 18,000 km in the "Sunrise" version ordered by Australian airline Qantas to fly directly between Sydney and London.



**A total of 87 A350-1000 aircraft are currently in service worldwide.**

## Grand opening for 7th Dermatology, Laser, and Aesthetics Conference; welcomes 350 participants

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Dermatology, Laser, and Aesthetics Conference, "BDLA7 2024," officially commenced on Thursday, at the Radisson Blu Diplomat Hotel in Manama. The conference has drawn a distinguished assembly of experts in dermatology and plastic surgery from both within the Kingdom and internationally.

Dr. Ameen Al-Awadhi, Consultant Dermatologist and Head of the Conference, commented, "The inauguration of BDLA7 2024 underscores Bahrain's commitment to elevating the standards of healthcare in dermatology and cosmetology. This esteemed event serves as a premier platform for the exchange of cutting-edge scientific knowledge and expertise, significantly contributing to the enhancement of healthcare quality both domestically and globally."

Dr. Hussain Juma, General Secretary of the Conference's Executive Committee, highlighted that the conference will feature a series of scientific sessions addressing the latest research, pharmaceutical advancements, and technological innovations in dermatology, laser treatments, and aesthetic procedures. Key discussion topics will include recent breakthroughs in the man-



agement of psoriasis, alopecia, eczema, and vitiligo, along with advanced laser techniques for the treatment of these conditions.

Dr. Ahmed Shahda, Head of

the Organizing Committee and Vice President of the Conference, stated, "The first day of the conference has been distinguished by the presentation of numerous advanced scientific

concepts, underscoring the ongoing advancements in cosmetology and dermatology. In the coming days, the conference will feature intensive training workshops on the use of new medical

devices and cosmetic injection techniques. These sessions are designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of doctors and specialists in dermatology and cosmetology, thereby advancing

their competencies and ensuring a brighter future for the healthcare sector in Bahrain."

The opening ceremony witnessed the honouring of the sponsors and supporters of this medical event, including the National Health Regulatory Authority, the Bahrain Dermatologists Association, the Bahrain Medical Society, and ISAPS - Member's Meeting Bahrain. Esteemed organizations joining from abroad include the Saudi Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, Dubai Derma, the Abu Dhabi International Conference in Dermatology and Aesthetics, the Emirates Dermatology Society, the Regional Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, the Oman Dermatology Society, the Jordanian Society of Dermatology and Venereologists, and the Kuwait Society of Dermatologists.

The conference's launch was further marked by an accompanying exhibition featuring 30 local, regional, and international companies. This exhibition showcased the latest scientific research, medications, dermatological treatments, and new devices, as well as updates and innovations in dermatology, beauty, and laser technologies. The exhibition aimed to enhance and elevate healthcare standards and to foster medical innovation within the field.

QUOTE OF THE DAY THE END OF LABOR IS TO GAIN LEISURE ARISTOTLE

TODAY IN HISTORY

70 Roman army under General Titus occupies and plunders Jerusalem

1714 Treaty of Baden signed by the Holy Roman Empire and France, ending the War of the Spanish Succession; French retain Alsace and Landau, Austria gets east bank of Rhine

1812 Battle of Borodino: Napoleon Bonaparte wins a pyrrhic victory against Russian General Mikhail Kutuzov in the most ferocious battle of the Napoleonic era, 70,000 are killed

1888 Edith Eleanor McLean is 1st baby to be placed in an incubator at State Emigrant Hospital on Ward's Island, New York

News in brief

Myanmar armed group says 11 civilians killed in junta air strikes... Myanmar military air strikes in northern Shan state killed 11 civilians and wounded 11 more...

Telegram founder and chief executive Pavel Durov hit out at France for arresting and charging him last month over the publication of extremist and illegal content on the popular messaging app...

Father charged along with son, 14, in US school shooting... A 14-year-old boy was charged with shooting four people dead at a US high school...

Israeli troops leave Jenin as Gaza talks stall

Israeli forces pull out of Jenin after 10-day raid, as Germany warns against Gaza-like approach

- Raid results in 36 Palestinian deaths, roads and homes heavily damaged
US, Qatar, Egypt push for Gaza truce; Netanyahu denies nearing agreement
 Hamas calls for full Israeli withdrawal; truce talks remain stalled

AFP | Jenin



A man sits in front of a damaged building following an Israeli military raid in the Jenin refugee camp with Fox News, saying: "It's not close." Washington and fellow mediators Qatar and Egypt have been pushing a proposal to bridge gaps between both sides.

When members of the Israeli government themselves call for the same approach in the West Bank as in Gaza, that is precisely what acutely endangers Israel's security

GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER ANNALENA BAERBOCK

proach in the West Bank as in Gaza, that is precisely what acutely endangers Israel's security... Her Israeli counterpart Israel Katz said Iran wanted to "arm" the West Bank "just like" Gaza.

Trump taps Musk to 'save trillions' in war on waste

AFP | Washington



US President Donald Trump greets Elon Musk, SpaceX and Tesla CEO, before a policy and strategy forum with executives (file photo)

Republican White House candidate Donald Trump unveiled a plan to install tech billionaire Elon Musk at the head of a government efficiency commission to eliminate "trillions" of dollars in wasteful spending... The Tesla and SpaceX CEO has emerged as a major voice in US politics but is accused of turning the social media platform Twitter, now known as X, into a megaphone for right-wing conspiracy theories since acquiring it in 2022.

As the first order of business, this commission will develop an action plan to totally eliminate fraud and improper payments within six months. This will save trillions of dollars

DONALD TRUMP

Trump -- whose administration oversaw an \$8.2 trillion rise in the national debt, almost twice as much as President Joe Biden's -- has not publicly identified any of the savings and experts are skeptical about the size of the savings.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Puffed up with pride: Japanese 10-year-old passes deadly fish test



A Japanese chef cuts and trims a pufferfish, known as fugu in Japan, to remove toxic internal organs AFP | Tokyo

A Japanese 10-year-old has become the youngest person authorised to prepare "fugu" pufferfish -- a delicacy that can kill if its poisonous parts are not properly removed... Fifth grader Karin Tabira passed a test this summer that means she is now certified to slice and gut the fish for consumption.

Kenya school dorm fire kills at least 17 children, 70 missing

Cause of fire unknown, but overcrowding suspected

AFP | Nairobi



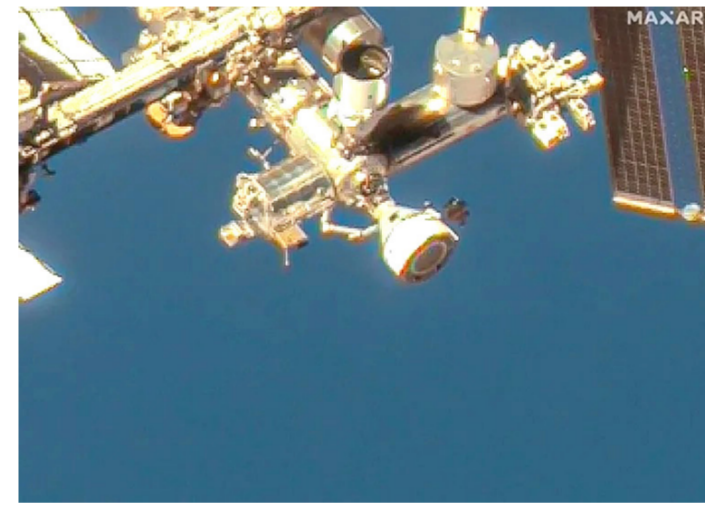
This aerial view shows the destruction left on the Nyeri county's Hillside Endarasha Academy dorm room

At least 17 young children were killed and 70 missing after a fire ripped through a primary school dormitory in central Kenya overnight, officials said yesterday, leaving relatives desperate for news... The blaze at the Hillside Endarasha Academy in Nyeri county began around midnight, engulfing rooms where more than 150 children were sleeping.

Boeing's troubled Starliner spaceship to return to Earth sans crew

AFP | London

Boeing's problem-plagued Starliner is set to finally depart the International Space Station (ISS) yesterday, returning to Earth without astronauts after NASA deemed the risk too great... The century-old aerospace giant's reputation has taken a hammering over thruster malfunctions and helium leaks its spaceship encountered on its way up to the orbital outpost in June, and the US space agency's subsequent decision to fly its crew back on a rival SpaceX Crew Dragon



The Boeing Starliner spacecraft docks with the ISS forward port (file photo)

next year. A smooth, uneventful ride home is critical not only for salvaging some pride but also for Boeing's prospects of securing certification to fly astronauts in the future... Starliner will autonomously undock from the space station around 6:04 pm Eastern Time (22:04 GMT), landing at White Sands Space Harbor in New Mexico at approximately 04:03 GMT.

World's largest indoor ski resort opens in Shanghai as China logs hottest month

AFP | Shanghai



Snowboarders and skiers enjoy a run at the Shanghai L'SNOW resort



People walk around the Shanghai L'SNOW Indoor Skiing Theme Resort

Shanghai opened the world's largest indoor ski resort yesterday, welcoming visitors in snowsuits to its pistes as China reported its hottest August in 60 years... This year's northern summer saw the highest global temperatures ever recorded, and in

ded overalls, some opting for designer goggles or flapping batwinged helmets... At the top of the piste, snowboarder Jessica Zhang was unfazed by the August heat record... "When it comes to climate I feel like you get ups and downs in temperature -- maybe every few years a hottest year comes along," she shrugged.

A second term? Blinken plans to be with kids



US President Joe Biden greets Secretary of State Antony Blinken, his wife Evan Ryan and their children during a Halloween event (file photo)

AFP | Port Au Prince

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he hoped to spend more time with his children next year, hinting he would not pursue another term as the top US diplomat... Blinken, who has two young kids, has pressed on with a punishing travel schedule that has only increased over the past year, with nine tours of the Middle East since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

It is highly unusual for a secretary of state to stay on past an election. The last to do so was George Shulz, who joined in 1982, halfway through Ronald Reagan's first term, and remained after the Republican's reelection

It is highly unusual for a secretary of state to stay on past an election. The last to do so was George Shulz, who joined in 1982, halfway through Ronald Reagan's first term, and remained after the Republican's reelection... Blinken is known as a highly trusted aide to Joe Biden, advising him as a senator, vice president and president.

TOP 4 TWEETS section with profile pictures and text for 01, 02, 03, and 04.

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

# CAMPUS

## campus

## Students of AUBH conclude summer internship programs

TDI | Manama

American University of Bahrain (AUBH) has successfully concluded its summer internship program, reinforcing the institution's dedication to fostering career-ready graduates.

The program immersed students in real work environments, allowing them to apply their academic knowledge and develop professional skills.

Seventy-three students across various colleges gained invaluable practical experience at leading companies in Bahrain, including Bahrain Airport Company, Tamkeen, BBK, STC Bahrain, Benefit, Radio Bahrain, Bahrain Bourse, Alsalam Bank, EDB, Arcapita, J.P. Morgan, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, ALBA, GPIC, BAPCO Refining, and Exhibition World Bahrain, as well as Investcorp, Edamah, BRINC, Beyon, Bnet, and ALEASTUR and many more...

"AUBH is committed to providing students with the best practical education and 21st-century skills," said AUBH Dean of Students Dr. Amal Al-

**“Our internship program is a cornerstone of this commitment, offering students the opportunity to connect with potential employers and refine their skills for the competitive job market”**

AUBH DEAN OF STUDENTS DR. AMAL ALAWADHI

Awadhi. "Our internship program is a cornerstone of this commitment, offering students the opportunity to connect with potential employers and refine their skills for the competitive job market."

Dr. Amal AlAwadhi, highlighted the program's aim to provide a comprehensive practical experience that aligns with AUBH's social responsibility and dedication to empowering the next generation of Bahraini professionals.

"We strive to bridge the gap between academic learning and

real-world application, ensuring our students are not only knowledgeable but also capable of thriving in their careers," said Dr. AlAwadhi.

"This internship program reflects our mission to prepare students for meaningful, impactful careers that contribute to the growth and development of Bahrain."

Dr. AlAwadhi also expressed her gratitude, stating, "We extend our sincere thanks to the participating companies for their invaluable support and partnership. Their collaboration is crucial in providing our students with the practical experience and opportunities they need to excel in their future careers."

Students were assigned to different companies locally and regionally based on their majors – Computer Science, Finance, Management, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Multimedia through cross-functional engagement, they were able to amplify their practical experience and expertise.

## NMS - Bahrain celebrates Teachers' Day



TDI | Manama

Teachers' Day was celebrated with great energetic dynamism at New Millennium School, Bahrain, on September 5, 2024. The students created an aura of love, appreciation and gratitude in a spectacular assembly put up by the junior and the senior Students' Council.

The special assembly commenced with a prayer recited by the students to glorify the paramount role of teachers in

the society, followed by a pledge taken up by the students on being respectful and obedient to the teachers. The foot tapping musical, dance and skit presentations, and the fun-filled activities organized for the teachers, created an enthralling atmosphere.

The staff members of the school were felicitated on this occasion. In his address, Principal Dr Arun Kuumar Sharma, appreciated the effort of the students in putting up such an entertaining programme and extolled them on their perfor-

mance. He conveyed his best wishes to all the teachers on behalf of the management and self and also expressed his gratitude to them for their selfless dedication and commitment through these years, which enabled the NMS students to emerge as bright shining stars around the world.

The Teachers' Day celebration at NMS was a reaffirmation of the enduring bond between the mentors and the mentees, united in their pursuit of knowledge and excellence.

## Bahrain Indian School Student Council hosts inspiring assembly celebrating teachers



TDI | Manama

The Student Council Of bhavans - Bahrain Indian School (BIS) proudly hosted a dynamic assembly dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions of teachers. The event commenced with the stirring Bahrain national anthem, followed by a heartfelt prayer and a thought-provoking reflection to set the tone for the day.

The assembly featured a variety of engaging segments, including the latest news up-

dates, an energetic dance performance, a touching poetry recitation dedicated to their teachers and a heartwarming video featuring interviews with students. These activities not only entertained the attendees but also added gleam to the celebration.

Principal Saji Jacob delivered a message emphasizing the importance of expressing gratitude towards teachers. "Today, we pay tribute to those who dedicate their lives to nurturing and educating us. Let us always

be thankful for their unwavering support and guidance."

Following this, the Director Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma addressed the assembly, extending warm wishes to all teachers and expressing deep appreciation for the Student Council's efforts in organizing the event. "Teachers add immeasurable value to our lives. They inspire us to dream, to learn, and to grow. Today, we celebrate their dedication and commitment," the Director Himanshu Verma stated.

## Applied Science University launches Master's in Computer Science

TDI | Manama

Applied Science University has launched a Master's Programme in Computer Science, designed to meet the growing demand for graduates with higher degrees in the field.

The programme focuses on integrating theoretical knowledge with practical experience, including data analysis and computer security.

University President Professor Hatem Masri emphasized the importance of keeping pace with global technological advancements and the labour market's growing demand for

**ASU's new Master's in Computer Science offers students comprehensive training in cutting-edge fields like AI and cybersecurity, preparing them for high-demand roles in a rapidly changing job market**



computer science specialists. The programme aims to equip students with systematic software development skills, network design and management capabilities, and cybersecurity knowledge.

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Omar Al-Zoubi, highlighted the pro-

gramme's comprehensive and applied nature, aligning with global standards and enhancing career prospects.

The programme covers a broad spectrum of computer science and related fields, preparing graduates for advanced studies and complex business-related problems.

## The Indian School commemorates Teachers' Day

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) marked Teachers' Day with a series of events on September 5 at the Isa Town campus to celebrate and honour teachers. Prefects council members presented greeting cards and distributed sweets to the teachers in appreciation of their service. Middle Section students participated in a special assembly and delivered speeches about the significance of Teachers' Day. Middle Section Vice-Principal Jose Thomas, Head Teacher Sreeja Pramod Das, and coordinators were present to honour the teachers. The ceremony featured a speech from student Prethika A. Thirukonda. Aakash Renju Nair and Niya Naveen were masters of ceremonies. All the grade 8 class teachers were honored on stage, with special recognition given to Senior Middle Section Teacher Leegy Kuruvachan for her remarkable 30 years of dedicated service. ISB Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, ISB Secretary V. Rajapandian, EC Members, and Principal VR Palaniswamy praised the remarkable dedication of teachers.









## Bauhaus to lead Bahrain Victorious at Bemer Cycclassics

TDT | Manama

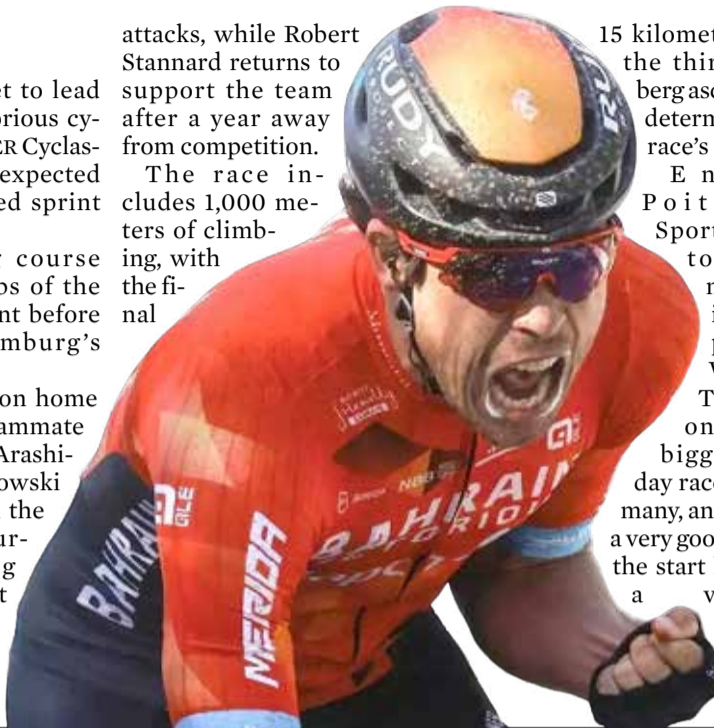
Phil Bauhaus is set to lead the Bahrain Victorious cycling team at the BEMER Cycclassics, a 197.9 km race expected to end in a fast-paced sprint finish.

The challenging course features three climbs of the steep Waseberg ascent before concluding on Hamburg's Mönckebergstrabe.

Bauhaus will race on home soil, supported by teammate Nikias Arndt. Yukiya Arashiro and Lukasz Wisniewski will work to position the team effectively during the demanding climbs. Fred Wright and debutant Alberto Bruttomesso will keep an eye on late

attacks, while Robert Stannard returns to support the team after a year away from competition.

The race includes 1,000 meters of climbing, with the final



Phil Bauhaus

15 kilometers after the third Waseberg ascent likely determining the race's outcome.

Enrico Poitschke, Sports Director, comments: "It is an important World-Tour race, one of the biggest one-day races in Germany, and we have a very good team on the start line. Phil, a very fast guy, and we have Nikias

[Arndt], a very good support for him. But we also have Fred [Wright], an option to follow attacks. And there are the guys like [Lukasz] Wisniewski, Yuki [Arashiro], and [Robert] Stannard for positioning. With young Italian talent Alberto Bruttomesso completing the 7-man lineup, hopefully they will be in the right place at the key moments and can do a good lead-out for the final sprint."

"The guys are very motivated. We hope for a good result. As Germans, Phil and Nikias always look forward to this event. Let's say the goal of the team is to finish on the first 5, which is definitely possible with this team we have there."

## Paris to honour murdered Ugandan Olympian Cheptegei

AFP | Paris

The city of Paris will honour slain Ugandan Olympic runner Rebecca Cheptegei by naming a sports venue after her, the French capital's mayor Anne Hidalgo announced yesterday.

Cheptegei, who competed in the women's marathon during the Paris Olympics last month, succumbed to severe burns on Thursday after being doused with petrol and set on fire by her boyfriend at her home in Kenya.

"She dazzled us here in Paris. We saw her. Her beauty, her strength, her freedom, and it was in all likelihood her beauty, strength and freedom which



Rebecca Cheptegei

were intolerable for the person who committed this murder," Hidalgo told reporters.

"Paris will not forget her. We'll dedicate a sports venue to her so that her memory and her story remains among us and helps carry the message of equality, which is a message carried by the Olympic and Paralympic Games," Hidalgo added.

# Argentina cruise past Chile, Bolivia thrash Venezuela in World Cup qualifiers

Mac Allister, Alvarez, and Dybala lead Argentina to dominant World Cup qualifier win in Buenos Aires

● **Mac Allister scores opener just after half-time**

● **Alvarez adds second with powerful long-range strike**

● **Dybala seals victory with stoppage-time goal**

AFP | Buenos Aires

Alexis Mac Allister, Julian Alvarez and Paulo Dybala were on target as Argentina tightened their grip on South America's 2026 World Cup qualifying tournament with a 3-0 win over Chile on Thursday.

Liverpool midfielder Mac Allister swept in a low finish three minutes after half-time to break the deadlock at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires against a defensive Chile side.

Former Manchester City striker Alvarez doubled the lead in the 84th minute with a thumping shot from outside the area before substitute Dybala put the seal on the victory with a late strike in stoppage time.

It was another clinical victory

for the reigning world champions, who are now cruising towards confirming their place at the 2026 finals being staged in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Lionel Scaloni's team lead South America's 10-team round-robin qualifying table by five points after seven games.

The top six teams in the final standings qualify automatically for the 2026 finals in North America with the seventh-placed team advancing to a playoff.

Argentina, who also beat Chile 1-0 on their way to clinching back-to-back Copa America titles earlier this year, went into Thursday's game missing injured captain Lionel Messi and veteran winger Angel Di Maria, who retired from international football after the Copa America triumph in July.

Di Maria was feted by his former teammates at a pre-game ceremony before taking his place in the stands to watch the world champions secure their sixth win from seven qualifying games.

Despite the absence of Messi and Di Maria, Argentina had plenty of creative guile in attack with Lautaro Martinez and Atletico Madrid's Alvarez causing problems for the Chile defense.

Argentina, meanwhile, con-



Argentina's midfielder Alexis Mac Allister celebrates scoring his team's opening goal

trolled midfield with Mac Allister lining up alongside Rodrigo De Paul and Enzo Fernandez.

After a cagey first-half, the breakthrough came in the 48th minute when Alvarez whipped in a low cross from the right.

Martinez dummed cleverly and allowed the ball to roll through to Mac Allister, who

guided an accurate shot into the bottom corner.

### Bolivia thrash Venezuela

In Thursday's other qualifier, Bolivia reignited their campaign with a 4-0 drubbing over Venezuela in a game played more than 4,000m (13,100 feet) above sea level.



**Argentina dominated despite missing star players Messi and Di Maria, showcasing their depth in securing their sixth win in seven qualifying games**

Goals from Ramiro Vaca, Carmelo Algaranaz, Miguel Terceros and Enzo Monteiro handed Bolivia only their second win of qualifying and lifted them into seventh place in the standings.

The result was a vindication of Bolivia's move to play Thursday's game in El Alto -- Spanish for "The Heights" -- rather than at their usual home venue in neighboring La Paz, which is 3,600m above sea level.

The thin air of El Alto clearly left Venezuela's players struggling for energy against a Bolivian team aiming to qualify for their first World Cup since reaching the 1994 finals in the United States.

Despite his team's heavy loss, Venezuela coach Fernando Batista refused to dwell on the altitude issue after the game.

"Out of 10 questions, eight are about altitude," Batista said. "You won't hear anything from me about it."

The pick of Bolivia's goals came from Vaca after just 13 minutes.

The 25-year-old midfielder gathered the ball around 30 yards from goal, cut in from the left and unleashed a ferocious shot which flew into the top corner.

Venezuela, the only team from South America never to have qualified for a World Cup, remain well-placed to reach the finals despite Thursday's loss.

The 'Vinotinto' are fourth in the standings with nine points from seven games, trailing Argentina, Uruguay and Colombia.

Venezuela host Uruguay next Tuesday in their eighth game of qualifying.

South America's qualifiers continued later yesterday with second-placed Uruguay hosting Paraguay in Montevideo while struggling Brazil, who are 11 points adrift of leaders Argentina in sixth, face Ecuador in Curitiba.

Third-placed Colombia, meanwhile, travel to Lima to face bottom-of-the-table Peru.

## Bearman to replace Magnussen for Haas at Azerbaijan GP

AFP | Baku

British teenager Oliver Bearman will replace suspended Dane Kevin Magnussen in the Haas lineup for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix next weekend, the US team announced yesterday.

Bearman will step in alongside Nico Hulkenberg after Magnussen was given a one-race suspension.

The 19-year-old previously stepped in for Carlos Sainz at Ferrari in Saudi Arabia this season, after the Spaniard was taken to hospital with appendicitis, and finished seventh.

"It's definitely more of a chal-



Oliver Bearman

lenge stepping in to race as a reserve driver, with limited prep time and so on, but I'm in the

**"It's definitely more of a challenge stepping in to race as a reserve driver, with limited prep time and so on, but I'm in the fortunate position of having done it earlier in the year with Scuderia Ferrari, so I can at least call on that experience"**

OLIVER BEARMAN

fortunate position of having done it earlier in the year with

Scuderia Ferrari, so I can at least call on that experience," said Bearman.

"I've also had four F1 sessions with... Haas F1 Team in the VF-24 already this season, so undoubtedly that will also prove to be valuable in tackling the full race weekend in Baku."

Magnussen reached 12 penalty points in a 12-month period after a collision with Alpine's Pierre Gasly during the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Magnussen is the first driver to receive this sanction since the penalty system was introduced ten years ago.

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# Bahrain roars into final after thrashing Kuwait

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain have earned a spot in the Gulf Basketball Championship final after their resounding 76-67 win over Kuwait.

Bahrain's control of the game was evident from the start. They surged ahead with a 23-16 first-quarter lead, setting the tone for the match. Despite a resilient push from Kuwait, who matched Bahrain in the second quarter, the Bahraini team's strong defense and strategic play ensured they maintained their advantage.

The pivotal moment came in the third quarter, where Bahrain outscored Kuwait 23-15. This burst of intensity created a gap that Kuwait struggled to close, despite a valiant effort in the final quarter. Bahrain's ability to execute critical plays under pressure proved instrumental in their qualification.

### Man of the moment

Clifton Alexander earned the Player of the Match honors with a double-double that awarded his exceptional all-around game. Alexander scored 19



Action from the match

points and grabbed 11 rebounds, showing his ability to dominate both ends of the court. His efficiency was evident, shooting 66% from the field and posting a remarkable efficiency rating of 25. His contributions also

included 2 assists, underlining his versatility and impact on the game.

### Eyes on the Prize

Bahrain now prepares to face Qatar in the championship final,

which is set to take place tonight at 7:30 PM.

Having defeated Qatar earlier in the tournament, Bahrain will aim to leverage their previous success and secure the title.

The final promises to be an exciting clash, with Bahrain seeking to capitalize on their strong form and Qatar aiming to avenge their earlier loss.

### A Championship on the Horizon

With an emphatic performance against Kuwait and a track record that includes a previous win over Qatar, Bahrain is well-positioned for the final.

This final will test Bahrain's resolve as they look to break Qatar's dominance, with the latter holding the record for the most Gulf Basketball Championship titles.

The final will take place at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town at 7:30 PM, with Kuwait facing Saudi Arabia at 5 PM for the third-place spot. Entry is free, and everyone is welcome to experience this blockbuster event.

# Qatar Eyes seventh title as Gulf Championship final beckons

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Qatar secured their place in yet another Gulf Basketball Championship final, beating Saudi Arabia 76-63 in the semi-final. Earlier in the tournament, Saudi Arabia pulled off a stunning 81-79 overtime win against Qatar, but Qatar avenged their defeat when it mattered most.

The game opened evenly, with both teams locked at 22-22 after the first quarter. Qatar's defense then tightened in the second quarter, limiting Saudi Arabia to just 9 points while adding 13 of their own. This defensive stand gave Qatar a narrow 4-point lead as they headed into halftime, shifting the momentum in their favor.

### Qatar's Dominant Finish Seals the Win

Saudi Arabia responded in the third quarter with a strong 21-point showing, but Qatar maintained its composure. In the critical fourth quarter, Qatar released an offensive surge,



Action from the match

outscored Saudi Arabia 23-11. Qatar's ability to execute under pressure, coupled with their disciplined defense, proved too much for Saudi Arabia to handle. This late-game push solidified their win and a spot in the championship final.

Michel Oneal Lewis was the standout player for Qatar, putting in a well-rounded performance with 16 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, and 1 steal while shooting 33% from the field. His leadership on both ends of the floor played a pivotal role in Qatar's win.

# 'In nick of time' as Pegula sets up US Open title clash with Sabalenka

Pegula stages remarkable comeback to beat Muchova and reach first Grand Slam final at US Open

● **Jessica Pegula comes back from set and break down to defeat Karolina Muchova**

● **Sabalenka defeats Navarro, reaches second consecutive US Open final**

AFP | New York

Jessica Pegula scripted an astonishing comeback "just in the nick of time" to defeat Karolina Muchova on Thursday at the US Open and reach her first Grand Slam final, where she will take on big-hitting Aryna Sabalenka for the title.

The American world number six Pegula battled back from a set and a break down to record a gutsy 1-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory

over her 52nd-ranked opponent from the Czech Republic.

Double Australian Open champion and world number two Sabalenka reached her second successive US Open final by seeing off another American, Emma Navarro, 6-3, 7-6 (7/2).

"I thought I was lucky to still be in it," admitted Pegula.

"She made me look like a beginner, she was destroying me and I was about to burst into tears, but it all came down to small



**I thought I was lucky to still be in it. She made me look like a beginner, she was destroying me and I was about to burst into tears, but it all came down to small moments. I don't know how I turned that around**

JESSICA PEGULA

moments. I don't know how I turned that around." Pegula has now won 15 of 16 matches on the US summer hardcourt swing, which saw a title in Toronto and defeat in the Cincinnati final to Sabalenka.

"It's a chance for revenge, but she'll be tough to beat," said Pegula, who has won just two of seven career meetings against the Belarusian.

Pegula, playing in her first Grand Slam semi-final after six painful quarter-final defeats, looked down and out at one stage on Thursday.

The 30-year-old lost the first set in just 28 minutes, was quickly 2-0 down in the second and had to save break point to avoid slipping 3-0 down.

That was the cue for many spectators to leave the Arthur Ashe Stadium, not wanting to witness a second American defeat in quick succession.

But Pegula dug deep to spark an incredible recovery during a rollercoaster conclusion to a thrilling semi-final as she raced away with eight of the last 10 games.

"I was super-flat, I felt loose but maybe a little too loose," added Pegula.

"But I was able to adapt just in the nick of time and to reach a final is a childhood dream.

"If you'd told me at the start of the year that I'd get to a Grand Slam final I would have laughed so hard at you."

Muchova, a semi-finalist also in 2023 before going on to miss 10 months due to a serious wrist injury, committed her 40th unforced error of the contest on match point, sealing her fate.

"I had a break point for 3-0 in the second set but I missed a volley and everything changed," said Muchova.

"She picked it up and played resolid. She was everywhere and

played great. All credit to her."

### 'Too late to cheer for me'

Sabalenka, the runner-up to America's Coco Gauff last year, went through to the final by seeing off Navarro as well as a partisan home crowd.

Navarro, playing in her first semi-final at the majors, went down fighting when she clawed her way back from 3-5 in the second set to force the tiebreak.

Sabalenka cracked 34 winners to the 13 of the 23-year-old American as she moved one win away from a third Grand Slam title.

"Guys, now you're cheering for me. Wow. It's a bit too late," Sabalenka, 26, told the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

"It

ally means a lot and even though you guys were supporting her still, I had the goose bumps for you cheering. It was an incredible atmosphere."

She added: "I don't really care who I face in the final because today was a good test of the crowd cheering for my opponent. I don't care. I'm ready to face whoever."

Navarro, who had lost in the first round on her two previous appearances at the US Open, admitted that the occasion may have caught her on the hop.

"Maybe I didn't deal with it 100 percent the way I wanted to throughout the match, but it's a feeling that I'll definitely be seeking again," she said.



**Jessica Pegula has won 15 of her last 16 US summer hardcourt matches, with only one loss in Cincinnati to Aryna Sabalenka**

Jessica Pegula

Aryna Sabalenka