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HM the King

## HM King praises historical Bahrain and Egypt ties

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa expressed pride in the historical Bahrain-Egypt relations and their ongoing development, with the support and joint will of the leaderships in both countries.

HM the King was speaking as he received Major General Mahmoud Tawfiq, the Minister of Interior of Egypt.

The meeting reviewed the latest regional and international developments.

HM King Hamad emphasised the importance of these visits in strengthening cooperation in various fields, including security.

HM King Hamad praised the Egyptian community's contribution to Bahrain's comprehensive development process, highlighting the similarity in the attributes of the two nations' rich history and civilisations.

The minister conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El Sisi of Egypt to HM the King.

# Halal Handshake

Brazil connects with Bahrain at Halal Expo, Eyes Halal Food & Tourism Boom

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Halal Expo wrapped up yesterday, leaving a fruitful trail of connections and exciting prospects. Among the noteworthy attendees were delegates from Brazil, eager to explore the local culture, people, and the potential for partnerships.

Rafael Solimeo, Director and Head of the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, shed light on Brazil's position as a major exporter of halal food to Arab nations, including Bahrain. He emphasized the vast range of food products Brazil offers and recognized the immense potential in the Bahraini market.

But Brazil's ambitions extend beyond food. Solimeo highlighted the country's strong presence in Islamic finance, tourism, and even cosmetics,



Rafael Solimeo

with Brazil being a major supplier for Arab nations.

Fuelled by the booming halal market, projected to reach a staggering \$7.7 trillion by 2025, Brazil is actively seizing opportunities, particularly during Ramadan by exporting halal food to Arab countries.

Beyond exports, Brazil is also welcoming Arab tourists with open arms. Solimeo shared efforts underway to educate the Brazilian hospitality industry about Arab culture, ensuring prayer facilities, dress code awareness, and more. This initiative aims to position Brazil as



Delegates from Brazil with H.E. Adriano Silva Pucci, Ambassador of Brazil to Bahrain (third from left).

a preferred tourist destination for Arab travellers.

While trade figures between Bahrain and Brazil saw a slight decrease in 2023, the potential for growth remains evident. Solimeo pointed out significant opportunities in diverse sectors beyond iron ore, which currently dominates exports.

Furthermore, the "Halal do Brazil" project, a joint initiative promoting halal products globally, is actively building bridges between Brazil and the Arab world. With successful campaigns already conducted in various countries, the project aims to amplify its reach throughout 2024.

The Bahrain Halal Expo served as a springboard for fruitful connections, showcasing Brazil's potential as a key partner in the halal ecosystem. From halal food exports to welcoming Arab tourists, the future seems bright for collaboration and mutual growth between these two nations.

## Zain Fintech company, 'Bede' App launched

# Bahrain supports technological, digital sector progress

TDT | Manama

Finance and National Economy Minister, His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, affirmed Bahrain's commitment to supporting priority sectors through a range of initiatives, notably those focused on technological and digital progress. This commitment is aimed at boosting Bahrain's Economic Recovery Plan to foster investment and strengthen ties with



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa with Zain Bahrain officials

the private sector, he said.

Key initiatives include launching strategies for the development of the financial services, ICT, and digital economy sectors, alongside efforts to improve digital infrastructure and encourage innovative financial technology to grow the economy.

Shaikh Salman attended the launch ceremony of Zain Bahrain's new Fintech company and "Bede" App.

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## HM King Hamad praises growing Bahrain and Russian ties

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa commended the historical and deep-rooted Bahraini-Russian ties and their keenness to enhance them.

HM the King received Olga Lyubimova, the Russian Minister of Culture and Head of the Russian side of the Intergovernmental Committee, on the sidelines of the thir.

# Own Your Home with NBB

Special offers unveiled at Housing Finance Exhibition

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) is set to empower Bahraini citizens in their pursuit of homeownership at the upcoming 3rd Housing Finance Exhibition.

Held at the Bahrain City Centre's Main Galleria from February 8th to 17th, 2024, NBB will showcase its diverse suite of social housing financing programs, including Mazaya, Mazaya 2.0,

Joint Housing, and Tas'heel Finances.

Visitors to the NBB booth will be welcomed by an exclusive offer designed to make homeownership more accessible and rewarding. This limited-time package includes a special gift for the first 30 applicants, a grace period of up to 6 months, exclusive pricing, waived processing and property evaluation fees, and complimentary fire insurance



coverage.

"We are committed to facilitating sustainable social housing programs, enabling us to provide financing solutions to a wider client base," emphasized Subah

Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive - Retail Banking at NBB. "Our participation in this impactful initiative reflects our support for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in achieving their ambitious goals for housing

applications."

Prospective property buyers are invited to explore NBB's comprehensive portfolio of home financing options at the exhibition, officials said.

The bank's team of experts will be available to answer questions, provide guidance, and assist individuals in selecting the most suitable solution for their homeownership aspirations, NBB said.

## Ditch Cash, Go Card: Faster Transactions at Indian Embassy

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of India has set up a digital fee collection kiosk at its premise in Kingdom of Bahrain in collaboration with ICICI Bank and SADAD Electronic Payment System BSC.

The self-service touch-screen kiosk enables approximately 340,000 Indians residing in Bahrain and other service seekers to conveniently pay through debit and credit cards for various services including passport renewal, attestation, marriage registration and birth registration.

ICICI Bank, as the banker in the arrangement, ensures seamless transfer of collected funds from SADAD to the Embassy digitally

while SADAD is responsible for functioning of the kiosk.

H.E. Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, inaugurated the kiosk, in the presence of Mr. Anil Dabke, Regional Head - West Asia and Africa, ICICI Bank and Dr. Rifat Mohamed Kashif, CEO, SADAD Electronic Payment System BSC. Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Mr. Jacob said, "It gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of our new digital fee collection kiosk here at the Indian Embassy. This enhances the convenience of those visiting our Embassy for various services significantly. The introduction of this kiosk will not only streamline the fee collection process but also



H.E. Indian Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob with Mr. Anil Dabke and Dr. Rifat Mohamed Kashif, along with ICICI Bank and SADAD Electronic Payment System BSC representatives

pave the way for a digital-centric approach towards all transactions.

"I would like to extend our appreciation to ICICI Bank for their unwavering support and collaboration in making this initiative a reality. Additionally, our appreciation goes to SADAD for their dedication in developing this innovative solution. We are confident that this endeavor will prove to be greatly beneficial for everyone involved, and we look forward to continued cooperation in advancing our digital capabilities." Mr. Dabke stated, "We are delighted to be a part of the innovative initiative of installing a digital fee collection kiosk at the Embassy."



### ANTENATAL PACKAGES

1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester	BD 80	} Consultation (12) Ultrasound (7) Lab Tests (25)
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## A touching tribute

Al Rashid Group, Ministry of Social Development celebrate World Cancer Day with young heroes and fighters

TDT | Manama



In a heartwarming display of community spirit and support, Al Rashid Group and the Ministry of Social Development joined forces to celebrate World Cancer Day with a special event for young heroes and fighters - children battling cancer between the ages of 6 and 14.

On 27 January 2024, 40 children were treated to a day of joy and unforgettable memories at Oasis Mall Juffair. The day began with an exciting shopping spree at Centrepoint, where the children had the chance to choose their favorite clothes, toys, and games. The smiles on their faces were truly heartwarming as they picked out treasures that brought them pure delight. After their shop-

ping spree, the children were whisked away to Funcity, a vibrant entertainment center brimming with exhilarating rides, games, and activities. The sound of laughter filled the air as the children enjoyed the rides and reveled in the pure joy of play. For these young warriors, it was a chance to forget their struggles and simply be kids having fun.

To complete the perfect day, each child received a delicious snack box from Food Station,

providing them with a sweet treat to cap off their adventure.

"Seeing the joy on these children's faces was truly inspiring," said Mr. Sandeep Narain, Territory Head of Al Rashid Group. "We are honored to partner with the Ministry of Social Development in bringing a little bit of happiness to these young heroes and fighters. We believe that even in the face of adversity, moments of joy and laughter can make a world of difference."

The event at Oasis Mall Juffair was a resounding success, reminding everyone that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a profound impact. It was a day of celebration, not just for the children, but for the entire community that came together to show their support and love.

## Sri Lanka Independence Day celebration



The Sri Lanka Club in the Kingdom of Bahrain celebrated the 76th Independence Day of Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka on 4 February at its new club premises in Adliya. The current Executive Committee, past presidents and few other leaders of community participated in this event.



# Bahrain and Saudi seal major projects and partnerships

Riyadh

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the depth of the longstanding Bahrain-Saudi partnership, which continues to receive the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

HRH Prince Salman yesterday co-chaired a meeting of the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended HRH Prince Mohammed's unwavering support of various initiatives and projects spearheaded by the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council and its subcommittees, which will reinforce integration and joint development for both countries in coordination with their shared values and aspirations.

He underscored the importance of the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council in bolstering strategic cooperation across multiple arenas, benefiting both countries and their peoples.



HRH Prince Salman holds a meeting with HRH Prince Mohammed

Public Investment Fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the sovereign wealth fund of Bahrain, Mumtalakat, with an investment of \$5 billion.

The Council also announced the completion of the construction of King Abdullah Medical City Hospital in Bahrain, which is scheduled to open in the second quarter of 2024.

## First Saudi-Bahraini Company

In the presence of HRH Prince Mohammed and HRH Prince Salman, the Council announced the opening of the first Saudi-Bahraini Company, established in November 2022 between the

The Council announced several projects to launch training opportunities and incubate private sector institutions on artificial intelligence.

# Unite for Food

Bahrain's food security gets centre stage at Halal Expo



Dr. Abdul Hassan Al-Dairi



From left, Abdulrahim Naqi, Coordinator of Bahrain Halal Expo, Dr. Abdul Hassan Al-Dairi, Osama Al Khajah, Shaikh Dr. Abdulatif Al-Mahmood, member of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Annamaria Aisha Tiozzo, Elvina A. Rahayu and Dr. Irwandi Jaswir

By Ashen Tharaka

At a bustling session at the 2024 Bahrain Halal Expo yesterday, the spotlight shifted to Bahrain's food security, prompting a chorus of calls for proactive measures and collaborative strategies.

Dr. Abdulhasan Al-Dairi, Chairman of Bahrain SMEs and The United International SMEs Organization (UNISMO), delivered a sobering assessment, remarking, "Bahrain's food security remains precarious, lacking the necessary safeguards against heavy reliance on food imports."

Urging for immediate action, Dr. Al-Dairi emphasized the urgency for a comprehensive roadmap and strategy to navigate these challenges. "The alarm has been sounded for quite some time, yet we've yet to see decisive steps," he remarked.

The discussion shed light on the pivotal role of Islamic financing in bolstering the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and micro-businesses,

critical components in the quest for food security and economic resilience.

Revelations during the discourse showcased the outsized contribution of SMEs to Bahrain's economic tapestry, standing at an impressive 98.8%. Notably, micro-businesses constitute a significant 77% within this dynamic sector.

Expressing surprise at the disproportionately low financing directed towards SMEs and micro-businesses, Dr. Al-Dairi urged financial institutions and the Central Bank of Bahrain to ramp up funding avenues.

## Full potential

In a concerted effort to nurture the vital SME ecosystem, leaders advocate for a substantial 20% increase in financing facilities over the forthcoming years, aimed at unlocking their full potential.

Turning attention to the imperative of a national halal system, Dr. Fajur Sabah Al Saloom, Animal Health Director at the Ministry of Municipalities Af-



Dr. Fajur Sabah Al Saloom receiving token appreciation

fairs and Agriculture, stressed the importance of robust legislative frameworks and infrastructure enhancements. Aligning regional and national halal certification standards emerged as a key priority to bolster consumer confidence and facilitate market access.

The riveting panel discussion, "Bridging the Gap between Halal Industry and Islamic Finance," united leading luminaries whose collective expertise illuminated a deeper understanding of both sectors.

Esteemed panelists including Dr. Irwandi Jaswir, a recipient of the King Faizal Foundation Award and Professor at IUM, Malaysia; Ms. Annamaria Aisha Tiozzo, the Founder & President of World Halal Development; and Elvina A. Rahayu, Director of Assessment and Domestic & Foreign Affairs at KHT Muhammadiyah from Malaysia, enriched the discourse with invaluable insights and perspectives.

# Government urged to support local companies facing bankruptcy

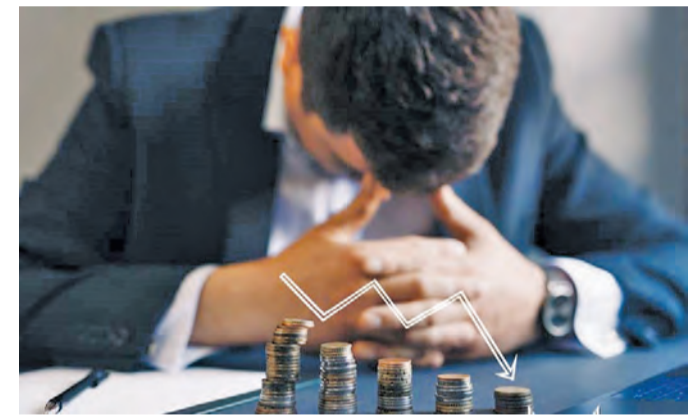


Image used for illustrative purposes only

TDI | Manama

The Council of Representatives passed on Tuesday an urgent proposal urging the government to support local commercial companies and factories that are at risk of bankruptcy to protect the economy and Bahraini employees from layoffs.

Member of Parliament Mohammed Al Ma'arifi, one of the leading proponents of the proposal, stated that the difficulties faced by prominent companies, which were once success stories, necessitate reducing fees for traders and assisting them in overcoming the challenges they currently face.

He also emphasised the need for a greater role for the Bahrain Chamber, which is responsible for supporting traders and standing by them during difficult times.

Al Ma'arifi recalled the recent announcement by Awal Gulf, the renowned producer of Pearl air conditioners, which has found itself on the verge of bankruptcy due to financial difficulties.

He pointed out that the

company, which employs 220 Bahrainis and sources some of its components from other Bahraini industrial companies and suppliers, requires urgent attention and measures to protect Bahrainis involved in its operations.

The proposal highlights the importance of safeguarding local businesses and industries, as their success is closely linked to the well-being of the Bahraini economy and its workforce. By extending support to struggling companies, the government can help prevent bankruptcies and subsequent job losses, thereby ensuring the livelihoods of Bahraini employees.

The Parliament emphasised the need for the government to act swiftly and decisively, providing financial assistance, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and offering necessary incentives to help businesses overcome their financial challenges. By doing so, the government can create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive and contribute to the growth and stability of the national economy.

# Participate, Inform, Improve: Household Survey Calling

iGA conducts awareness sessions at weekly public majlises on 2024 Household Income and Expenditure Survey

● In collaboration with Governorates

TDI | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), in coordination with the General Coordination of Governorates and the Kingdom's four governorates, is conducting a series of weekly majlis visits nationwide as part of a campaign to raise awareness about the 2024 Household Income and Expend-

iture Survey.

The initiative, which started at the beginning of year and is set to run until the end of December 2024, aims to foster community partnerships and provide answers to citizens and residents' inquiries.

During these visits the Authority (iGA) aims to communicate the importance of participating in the survey addressing any enquiries they may have encouraging the majlis guests to actively cooperate with the field survey team.

This involves providing com-



The Information & eGovernment Authority Awareness visits to majlises

prehensive information about their income and spending patterns, which is crucial in helping the government make informed decisions. This data will aid in the development of plans and programs across economic, social, and environmental sectors, and support the achievement of key indicators of decision and

policy makers.

The awareness majlis visits include a presentation on the Household Income & Expenditure survey detailing its primary goals and the iGA's experience in conducting the first survey starting 1974-1975, as well as a summary to the Authority business lines, highlighting the eServices and mobile apps available to citizens and residents.

Involving about 35 field researchers, the national Household and Income Expenditure survey aims to gather data from a random sample of approxi-

mately 6,000 households across the Kingdom's governorates. They will be contacted by from the survey call center number, 17878070 to schedule an appointment to fill out the survey forms, which are based on internationally recognized standards.

Selected based on a rigorous set of criteria, the researchers have also undergone several training courses to enhance their skills. All collected data will be treated with the highest standards of confidentiality, in line with personal data protection laws and principles.



# Full of remorse

Teacher confesses to sexually assaulting students, apologises to community

## ● Court sets date for next hearing

TDI | Manama

A teacher faced the High Criminal Court, admitting to sexually assaulting his students.

Expressing remorse for his actions, the teacher sought to apologise to the entire community.

During the hearing, an experienced lawyer representing the defendant attended, while two other lawyers appointed by the Ministry of Justice declined to represent the accused.

The court scheduled the next hearing for February 19, allowing further examination and responses, while the teacher remains in custody.

According to the Deputy Chief of the Family and Child Prosecution, the case unfolded after the Public Prosecution received a report from the Police Directorate of the Northern Governorate, detailing a sexual assault by a Bahraini public school teacher on one of his seven-year-old students outside

the school campus.

Promptly launching an investigation, the Public Prosecution heard from the victim's father, who confirmed the defendant's sexual assault on his son through physical contact. Subsequently, the victim himself corroborated the incident during questioning, recounting that he had accompanied his teacher to a shopping mall with parental consent, where he was molested in the parking lot.

During interrogation, the defendant admitted to the allegations and was detained for further investigation.

The forensic report provided additional support, confirming the presence of traces from the defendant on the victim's genitals and clothing. This evidence aligned with the victim's statements and the defendant's confession.

### Custody

However, there was no evidence of full sexual intercourse, leading to the defendant's continued custody and referral to the Supreme Criminal Court for



committing the crime of sexual assault against the victim, with aggravated circumstances that carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

In parallel to these events, the Public Prosecution received another complaint implicating the defendant in the sexual assault of another student. The parent of the child was questioned, and the victim verified the defendant's assault in various locations, detailing inappropriate touching and molestation. These details were corroborated by the defendant's confession and the examination conducted by the Public Prosecution.

### Investigations

Further investigations revealed that the defendant had

committed additional instances of sexual abuse against four other children from the same school. Shockingly, these incidents had not been reported to any authorities or parents. Subsequent questioning of these children confirmed that the defendant had assaulted them in a similar manner, aligning with the reports of the forensic team and the defendant's confession.

As the legal proceedings continue, the community remains deeply disturbed by the heinous crimes committed by the teacher. The case serves as a dire reminder of the importance of protecting vulnerable individuals, and the court's decision will play a pivotal role in ensuring justice for the victims and their families.



The crime of sexual assault carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

## 'Equal Opportunity'

MP lauds role of universities in women empowerment



MP Maryam Al-Dhaen with attendees

TDI | Manama

Higher education institutions like the national university are playing a crucial role in advancing equal opportunities for women, according to MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen. She commended the university's recent conference, held under the patronage of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for shedding light on this important issue.

Talking at the 7th Equal Opportunities Conference held in Manama, Dr. Al-Dhaen emphasized the need for collaboration between various stakeholders, including the Supreme Council for Women, to raise awareness and achieve true equality. She praised the conference's diverse participation, ranging from academics and specialists to representatives from government, businesses, and civil society organizations. The event was held in collaboration with Brunel University London, Ahliya University, and Tamkeen.

With high-quality research papers and renowned experts in attendance, the conference promises to be a valuable resource for advancing women's empowerment in

Bahrain. Dr. Al-Dhaen highlighted the importance of implementing the conference's recommendations to ensure tangible progress towards equality and sustainable development. This, she believes, will pave the way for further advancement of Bahraini women in all spheres of life.

Minister of Tourism, Her Excellency Fatima Al Sairafi, visited the Reef Island, alongside Sarah Buhijji, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), as she explored the array of facilities on the strategically positioned island, which serves as a significant residential and commercial hub. Featuring various housing options like villas, chalets, and buildings with breathtaking views of the Arabian Gulf, Reef Island was highlighted as a crucial asset. Al Sairafi, expressed the ministry's commitment to providing comprehensive support and resources for the private tourism sector. This includes backing integrated real estate ventures featuring tourist and recreational amenities like restaurants, hotels, resorts, and coastal areas.

## Reef Island visit



Minister of Tourism, Her Excellency Fatima Al Sairafi, visited the Reef Island, alongside Sarah Buhijji, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), as she explored the array of facilities on the strategically positioned island, which serves as a significant residential and commercial hub. Featuring various housing options like villas, chalets, and buildings with breathtaking views of the Arabian Gulf, Reef Island was highlighted as a crucial asset. Al Sairafi, expressed the ministry's commitment to providing comprehensive support and resources for the private tourism sector. This includes backing integrated real estate ventures featuring tourist and recreational amenities like restaurants, hotels, resorts, and coastal areas.

## NIAD launches eco-friendly 'Forever Green' platform

TDI | Manama

The National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) launched "Forever Green" platform to display sites available for the third phase of the National Campaign for Afforestation, Forever Green, aimed at facilitating the support of the private sector and civil society institutions to contribute in implementing afforestation projects for the public and increase green area in the kingdom.

The platform provides a service for categorising sites available for afforestation, in

terms of the number of trees, implementation cost, maintenance period, a recent picture of the site and other information.

Her Excellency Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa, NIAD Secretary-General, said that the launch of the platform aimed at assisting those wishing to contribute to the campaign to choose the appropriate site and communicate with NIAD to reserve the site.

She confirmed that making this information available online would facilitate communication and enhance partnerships between the public and private sectors.

## Lanes set for closure

TDI | Manama

The Ministry of Works announced that the resurfacing works on King Faisal Highway at its junction with Al Fardah Avenue necessitates closure of two lanes in stages for westbound traffic and two lanes will be provided for traffic movement.

The closure will be effective from tomorrow, at 1am to Sunday, February 11, at 5am.

## Private university ordered to pay lawyer BD15,000 in outstanding fees

TDI | Manama

The High Civil Court has obligated a private university to pay BD15,000 to a lawyer as the remaining amount of her estimated fees.

The court found that the university had contracted with the lawyer to represent them in various cases, including the collection of late rents amounting to over half a million dinars.

The lawyer successfully collected arrears exceeding one million dinars. However, a disagreement arose between the two parties regarding the estimation of the fees, which the court ultimately determined to be BD40,000. The lawyer initiated legal proceedings, stating that representatives of the university had requested her services to legally collect

rent owed by a company, which amounted to more than half a million dinars. The agreed-upon fee was BD25,000, with the understanding that it could be increased as the case progressed.

The lawyer was granted an official power of attorney and had the authority to receive the deposited amounts in favor of the university from all courts.

She emphasised that no formal fee agreement was made regarding the amounts owed to her, as there was a mutual trust between the parties involved.

After more than two years of effort, final rulings were issued in favour of the university, entitling them to an amount exceeding one million dinars. The lawyer and the university's representatives agreed to

deduct her new fees from the amounts paid by the company.

However, the university, through its legal representative, later demanded the return of all sums received by the lawyer from the execution file. Consequently, she refunded the fees she had received and discovered that the power of attorney granted to her had been canceled.



**EU court backs Ryanair in KLM Dutch aid case**



Ryanair aircraft lined up at the Charleroi Airport  
AFP | Brussels

A top EU court on Wednesday annulled again the approval of a pandemic state aid programme for Dutch airline KLM, giving Irish rival Ryanair another victory.

The General Court ruled that the European Commission "erred" in approving the Dutch government's financial aid for the Netherlands' flag-carrier KLM, which forms an alliance with Air France.

The group received 3.4 billion euros (\$3.7 billion) from the Dutch state after the coronavirus pandemic grounded the aviation sector in 2020.

# Palantir to support Bapco Energies to enhance Bahrain's energy production

Palantir's AI technology to boost Bapco Upstream's energy production in Bahrain

● Three-year agreement to deploy Palantir's Foundry and AIP platforms

● Aim to maximize ROI on energy production and support Bahrain's emission reduction goals

TDT | Manama



Palantir's Foundry Platform and Artificial Intelligence Platform (AIP) will be deployed in a three-year agreement to help Bapco Upstream maximize its return on investment on energy production in the country and support its mission to connect the energy infrastructure of the Kingdom of Bahrain in an unprecedented way.

Palantir Technologies, a leading provider of AI systems to the energy sector, and Bapco Upstream, a 100% owned subsidiary of Bapco Energies, yesterday announced a strategic, multi-year partnership to deploy Palantir's software to support and accelerate Bapco Upstream's ability to power the next generation of energy in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Using data and artificial intelligence in a first-class way are key to supporting the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to reducing carbon emissions, as pledged at COP26 by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to reduce emissions by 30 percent through decarbonization and efficiency initiatives by 2035, and



double the Kingdom's deployment of renewables, to achieve Net-Zero by 2060.

**Experienced**

Palantir has worked in the energy sector for more than a decade, helping customers from small operators to supermajors and national oil companies meet challenges and capture opportunities throughout the value chain, from production to distribution, to supporting the reduction of carbon emissions.

Palantir's newest platform, AIP, enables organisations to

bring the power of large-language models, and other cutting-edge AI, to their enterprise networks, private data, and core operations - with maximum security and trust. The platform is designed to bring in siloed and disconnected data sources, logic assets, and systems of action into a single common operating picture, enabling users to optimize their decision-making.

**'Commitment to innovation'**

Johann Pleininger, CEO of Bapco Upstream said, "We are thrilled to announce our strategic partnership with Palantir. This collaboration marks a pivotal moment for Bapco Upstream as it aligns seamlessly with our commitment to innovation and business excellence. We are poised to unlock new possibilities in our upstream operations by delivering value and driving efficiency throughout the organization."



**Deal showcases potential of AI for cleaner, more efficient energy production in the Middle East**

Alex Karp, co-founder and chief executive officer of Palantir Technologies said, "Bapco Energies is positioning itself at the forefront of the AI revolution in energy production. We are proud of this partnership, which will enable Bapco Upstream to boost output, improve efficiency, and meet Bahrain's energy goals."



Scripting history as the first Indian international jewellery brand to begin operations in Australia, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally, has launched their new showroom in Australia at Sydney. The showroom marks Malabar Gold & Diamonds' expansion into the 13th country of operations. The new showroom was inaugurated by renowned Australian Cricketer Brett Lee in the presence of Shamal Ahamed, MD - International Operations, Asher O, MD-India Operations, Ajith M, Regional Head - Far East & Australasia, Ameer CMC, Head of Finance & Admin, Faisal A.K. Head of Manufacturing, Shaji Kakkodi, Chief Digital Officer, representatives from the Sydney government, other senior management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, customers and well-wishers



Diyar Al Muharraq has announced its participation in the third edition of the Housing Finance Exhibition organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. The exhibition is taking place in City Centre Bahrain from the 8th to the 17th of February 2024, with the involvement of several real estate development companies and banks. The 'Baity' platform was launched during the event, in which Diyar Al Muharraq is showcasing its master plan and its most prominent residential projects through this new real estate application

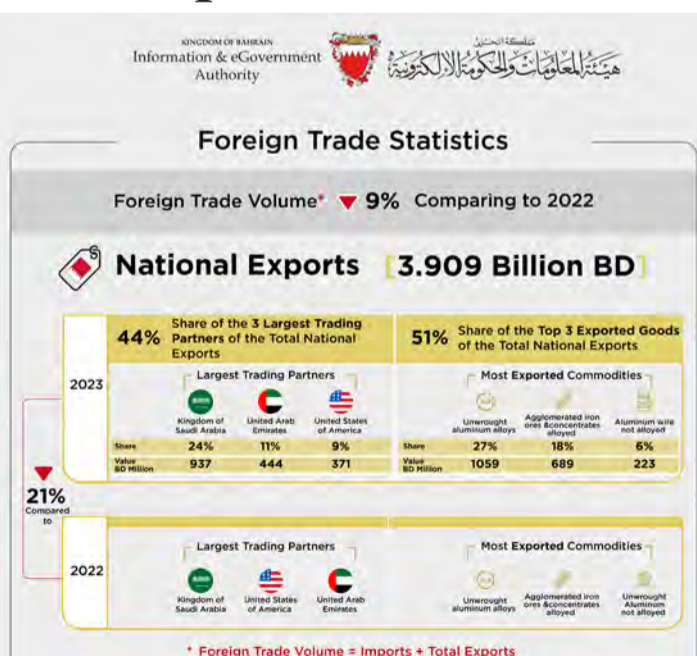
## Bahrain exports for products of national origins reach BD3.9 bln during 2023

TDT | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA) has released its Foreign Trade report of 2023, which encompasses data on Trade Balance, Imports, Exports of products with national origin, and Re-exports.

As per the report, the value of imports has decreased by 1%, reaching to BD5.778 billion during 2023 in comparison with BD5.842 billion for 2022. The top 10 countries for imports marked with 69% of the total value of imports.

According to the report, China ranked first for imports to Bahrain, with a total of BD808 million (14%), followed by The United Arab Emirate being the second with BD547 million



(9.5%), and Brazil as a third with BD523 million (9%).

Non-Agglomerated Iron Ores and Concentrates Alloyed marked as the top product imported to Bahrain with a total value of BD602 million (10%), while Other Aluminum Oxide was second with BD448 million (8%), followed by Gold Ingots being the third with BD221 million (4%).

On the other hand, the value of Exports of Products with National Origin marked a decrease by 21% with a value of BD3.909 billion during 2023, compared to BD4.967 billion for 2022. The top 10 countries accounted for 70% of the total export value.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ranked first among countries for the exports of Products with Na-

tional Origin with BD937 million (24%). The United Arab Emirate was second with BD444 million (11%) and the United States of America was third with BD371 million (9%).

**Top products exported**

Unwrought Aluminum Alloys marked as the top products exported during 2023 with BD1.059 billion (27%), followed by Agglomerated Iron Ores and Concentrates Alloyed being the second with a value of BD689 million (18%) and Aluminum Wire Not Alloyed third with BD223 million (6%).

The total value of Re-exports increases by 5% to reach BD756 million during 2023, compared to BD720 million for 2022. The top 10 countries in Re-exports

accounted for 79% of the re-exported value. The United Arab Emirate ranked first with BD222 million (29%), followed by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as second with BD159 million (21%), and Singapore third with BD53 million (4%).

As per the report, Turbo-Jets was the top product re-exported from Bahrain with a value of BD73 million(10%), followed by Four Wheel Drive BD47 million(6%), and Parts For Aircraft Engines came third with BD31 million(4%).

As for the Trade Balance, which represents the difference between exports and imports, the deficit amounted to BD1.113 billion dinars in 2022. Compared to a deficit of 155 million dinars in 2022.

## TotalEnergies reports record annual profit at \$21.4 bn

AFP | Paris

French group TotalEnergies reported yesterday the highest profit of its histo-

ry for 2023, underpinned by performances in its liquefied natural gas and electricity divisions.

Net profit came in at \$21.4

billion, an increase of four percent over 2022, with the energy giant proposing a 7.1 percent increase in its annual dividend.

## Norway oil giant Equinor's profit falls on lower energy prices

AFP | Oslo

Norwegian energy giant Equinor announced that its net profit fell 59% last year to

\$11.9 billion, dragged down by a decline in energy prices.

The group was hit by lower oil and gas prices following a spike after Russia invaded

Ukraine in 2022.

Adjusted earnings, which excludes certain exceptional elements, stood at \$36.2 billion -- half of what it was in 2022.





News in brief

**Two young parents among three killed in Spain apartment collapse**

The bodies of three people, two of them parents of young children, were found after the internal collapse of a block of flats near Barcelona, officials said yesterday following an all-night search of the rubble. "We have located three lifeless bodies in the collapsed building in Badalona, which are awaiting identification," the regional fire service wrote on X, almost 24 hours after the inner section of the five-storey block collapsed. Xavier Garcia Albiol, mayor of Badalona, a seaside town just north of Barcelona, said the bodies were a man and two women, one of whom was a single mother of young children.

**Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Manet today thanked Thailand for stopping "interference" in his country's politics, days after three Cambodian activists were held by Thai police.** Rights groups have long accused Cambodia's government of waging a relentless campaign of persecution against political opponents, and criticised Thailand for arresting dissidents on its soil. Hun Manet held talks with his Thai counterpart Srettha Thavasin in Bangkok yesterday and thanked him for "not allowing Thai territory to be used for any activities for interference in Cambodian internal politics."

**China slams 'groundless' Dutch hacking claims**

Beijing yesterday condemned "groundless accusations" after the Dutch government accused Chinese hackers of conducting a spying campaign against the Netherlands. In a statement Tuesday, the Dutch Military Intelligence and Security Service said it had discovered malware installed in a computer network being used by its military, blaming a Chinese state actor. In response, China's embassy in The Hague insisted Beijing "always firmly opposes and cracks down on cyber attacks in all forms in accordance with the law." "We will not allow any country or individual using Chinese infrastructure to engage in such illegal activities," it said in a statement on its website.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Archeologists probe mysterious Canadian shipwreck



An aerial view of an old shipwreck on the shore of Cape Ray  
AFP | London

A shipwreck believed to date from the 19th century was washed up on the snow-covered shores of Canada's Atlantic island province of Newfoundland, attracting a bevy of looky-loos and archaeologists probing its mysterious past.

**Some believe that Hurricane Fiona, which in September 2022 hit Canada's Atlantic coast hard, may have dislodged the ship from the ocean floor**

Over the past weekend, a team of archaeologists and volunteers rushed to recover parts of the 30-meter (100 feet) long ship before tides take it back to the ocean depths whence it came.

They managed to extract wooden planks, metal sheathing from the keel and other bits which have been sent to a laboratory for analysis.

"We're hoping to identify the wood species and age of the wood and to identify the make-up of the metal. Those things will give us clues as to its age and origin," archaeologist Jamie Brake told a news conference on Tuesday.

"It's in a dangerous spot. It's being pummeled by the ocean and so on. It's not ideal conditions to try to learn more from it" at the site itself, he said,

adding that it will probably take months for any results from the laboratory tests.

Located on the shores of J. T. Cheeseman Provincial Park on the southwest tip of Newfoundland, the wreck was discovered in late January in an area known for its numerous shallow rocks on which many ships have run aground over the centuries.

According to Newfoundland's Archaeology Office, old shipwrecks are commonplace in this region, numbering in the thousands.

Brake noted European ships navigated these waters for hundreds of years.

Some believe that Hurricane Fiona, which in September 2022 hit Canada's Atlantic coast hard, may have dislodged the ship from the ocean floor.

# Blinken in Israel voices hope for Gaza truce deal to free hostages

US Secretary of State advocates for peace talks while addressing ongoing conflict



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (C) speaks with Israel's President Isaac Herzog (R) ahead of their meeting  
AFP | Jerusalem

**New round of negotiations set to start in Cairo aimed at achieving calm**

**Blinken pleads for more aid to besieged Gaza, facing critical shortages**

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on a visit to Israel yesterday voiced hope for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal but cautioned that more negotiations were needed. "There's a lot of work to be done, but we are very much focused on doing that work and hopefully being able to resume the release of hostages that was interrupted" after a week-long truce in November, he said.

As Blinken met Israeli leaders in Jerusalem, an Egyptian official

said that "a new round of negotiations" would start on Thursday in Cairo aimed at achieving "calm in the Gaza Strip", now in its fifth month of war. A Hamas source with knowledge of the matter said the Palestinian group had agreed to the end of a week-long truce in November, he said. As Blinken met Israeli leaders in Jerusalem, an Egyptian official

the proposed new truce calls for a six-week pause to fighting and a hostage-prisoner exchange, as well as more aid for Gaza, but negotiations have continued since. The US top envoy, on his fifth Middle East tour since the October 7 attack, met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other leaders of his war cabinet. On the eve of their talks, Netan-

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
We all have an obligation to do everything possible to get the necessary assistance to those who so desperately need it and the steps that are being taken -- additional steps that need to be taken -- are the focus of my own meetings here  
ANTONY BLINKEN

yahu had said that Israel's overall war aim remained unchanged: "We are on the way to the total victory and we will not stop."

Blinken also made a new plea for more aid into Gaza, whose 2.4 million people have endured a crippling siege and severe shortages of clean water, food, fuel and medical supplies. "We all have an obligation to do everything possible to get the necessary assistance to those who

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
Antony Blinken is on his fifth Middle East tour since the October 7 attack

so desperately need it." Blinken said, "and the steps that are being taken -- additional steps that need to be taken -- are the focus of my own meetings here." Blinken later travelled to the occupied West Bank where he met Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas. For now, the war raged on unabated in Hamas-ruled Gaza, where the health ministry said at least 123 people were killed in the past 24 hours and AFP journalists reported more heavy bombing of southern cities.

Humanitarian nightmare

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that if Israel presses into Gaza's far-southern Rafah, it "would exponentially increase what is already a humanitarian nightmare with untold regional consequences".

"It is time for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages", he added in a speech to the General Assembly.

AFP TV footage showed frantic scenes of Palestinians running for their lives, many screaming, as gunfire rang out from advancing Israeli forces in a Gaza City neighbourhood.

Fear has grown among the more than one million Palestinians now crowded into Gaza's far south, around the city of Rafah on the Egyptian border, as the battlefield has crept ever closer.

"I am terrified that Israel will begin a ground operation in Rafah," said Dana Ahmed, 40, who was displaced from Gaza City with her three children and now lives in a tent in Rafah.

# 22 killed in twin blasts on eve of Pakistan election

AFP | Quetta

At least 22 people were killed yesterday in two separate bomb blasts outside the offices of election candidates in southwestern Pakistan, on the eve of a national vote marred by violence and allegations of poll-rigging.

More than half a million security officers were deploying ahead of Thursday's election, with authorities distributing ballot papers to more than 90,000 polling stations.

There have been multiple security incidents in the run-in to the vote, with at least two candidates shot dead and dozens more targeted in attacks across the country.

Yesterday, a first improvised explosive device (IED) blast killed 12 people near the office of an independent candidate in Pishin district, around 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the city of Quetta and 100 kilometres from the Afghan border.

Caretaker information minister for Balochistan province Jan Achakzai and Quetta police said 25 people were also wounded.

A second IED detonated near the election office of a candidate for the Islamist Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) party in the city of Killa Saifullah -- about 120 kilometres (75 miles) east -- according to Achakzai.



Returning officers wait to collect sacks of voting materials to polling stations from a distribution centre in Lahore  
@DRTedros

**Nearly 18,000 candidates are standing for seats in the national and four provincial assemblies, with 266 seats directly contested in the former -- an additional 70 reserved for women and minorities -- and 749 places in the regional parliaments**

"At least 10 people were killed and 12 others injured," he said. "The incident took place in the main bazaar of the city area, where the election office of the

JUI-F was targeted," a senior police official told AFP.

In July last year, 44 people were killed by a suicide bomber at a political gathering of the party in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Rise in attacks

The election has been marred by allegations of pre-poll rigging following a crackdown on the party of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, winner of the 2018 poll, but booted out of power by a national assembly vote of no-confidence four years later.

Campaigning officially ended on Tuesday night and voting is due to begin at 8:00 am local time (0300 GMT) Thursday, closing at 5:00 pm.

## At least four dead in Georgia landslide



Search and rescue operations after the landslide  
AFP | Tbilisi

At least four people were killed and five were missing after a landslide in western Georgia, officials said yesterday.

The landslide happened in the early hours of the morning in the village of Nergeti, some 170 kilometres from the Black Sea nation's capital Tbilisi.

"Rescuers found four bodies and a search operation is underway to find five missing people," the head of Georgia's emergency situations service, Temur Mgebrishvili, told journalists.

President Salome Zorabishvili expressed "deep sorrow over the tragic loss of life in the natural calamity".

"I offer my condolences to the families of victims and hope that those missing will soon be found," she said.

Heavy rains and flooding are fairly common in Georgia, where steep slopes pose a regular risk of landslides.

In August last year, a landslide at a resort town in northwestern Georgia killed 26 people.

In 2008, six people died in a landslide in the southern Black Sea region of Adjara.

## Ukraine-born Miss Japan gives up crown amid affair scandal



Karolina Shiino  
AFP | Tokyo

The Ukraine-born winner of the Miss Japan pageant has relinquished her crown after a report emerged of an affair she had with a married doctor.

Karolina Shiino's nomination in January first sparked debate after some right-wingers questioned the title being awarded to a naturalised Japanese citizen.

A scandal then erupted over her private life when weekly magazine Shukan Bunshun reported on her extra-marital relationship -- taboo for beauty pageant contestants, who are held to squeaky-clean moral standards.

Japanese entertainment personalities who have affairs, dabble in drugs or suffer other scandals also often find themselves shunned by their fans and employers.

The Miss Japan Association said Monday that it had accepted a request from Shiino to return the crown for "personal reasons", adding there would be no Miss Japan for 2024.

## William fills royal void during King Charles cancer treatment

AFP | Quetta

With his father King Charles III undergoing cancer treatment and his wife recovering from surgery, Britain's Prince William found himself thrust back to the frontline of royal duties yesterday.

The king's shock cancer diagnosis, announced on Monday, and Catherine's abdominal operation have left William, 41, shouldering a heavy royal burden.

Charles's eldest son and heir to the throne, William postponed public engagements to care for his wife, the Princess of Wales, and their three children after she was admitted to hospital on January 16.

But yesterday he was back on duty, hosted an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle,



Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales (L) drives himself away from the London Clinic in London where his wife Catherine, Princess of Wales, underwent surgery (file photo)

west of London, handing out honours for citizens recognised for their community work and

other good deeds. It had been three weeks since he last appeared at a major royal event.

Later, he will attend a London Air Ambulance fundraising gala. Charles, who left London on Tuesday for his Sandringham residence in eastern England, will meanwhile hold his weekly meeting with Prime Minister Sunak by telephone for a change.

"We have agreed with the palace in this specific instance to confirm that they will be speaking on the phone later," Sunak's spokesman said.

Sunak made a brief reference to the king's cancer diagnosis in parliament.

## Landslide at Philippine gold-mining village kills six

AFP | Manila

At least six people were killed and 31 injured when a rain-induced landslide hit a gold-mining village in a mountainous region of the southern Philippines, officials said yesterday.

The landslide Tuesday night struck Masara in Davao de Oro province on Mindanao island, provincial disaster official Edward Macapili told AFP, destroying houses and engulfing two buses used to transport mine workers.

Rescuers were digging through mud to reach at least 20 people trapped inside the buses, Macapili said.



Responders conduct rescue operations at the site of a landslide in Davao de Oro province on Mindanao island in the southern Philippines

At least 28 people were on board the buses when the landslide hit, but eight managed to escape unhurt through the windows before the mud engulfed them, he said. The buses had been outside a gold mine operated by the Philippine company Apex Mining in Masara village where buses

drop off and pick up workers. Aerial video showed a deep, brown gouge down the side of a forested mountain that reaches the village below where a number of houses had been destroyed.

Land above the landslide appears to have been cleared for crops.

Rescue teams from across the region have been deployed to help search the large area under mud, Macapili said.

"We have equipment but we're mostly doing it manually because digging with backhoes is dangerous as you don't know if there are people trapped beneath the debris," Macapili said.

X  
TOP 4 TWEETS  
01  
  
My deepest condolences to the family and all Chileans for the passing of the former President Sebastian Piñera.  
@DRTedros

02  
  
I was back in Georgia today for the third stop on my Fight For Reproductive Freedoms Tour. To the women of this state and all those across our nation: We see your incredible strength. We listen to your stories. And we are here with you.  
@VP

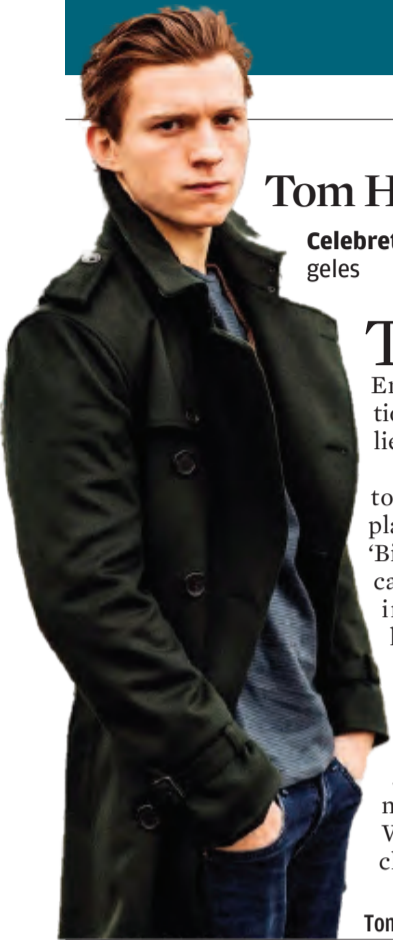
03  
  
I'm incredibly shocked and saddened by the news from Chile. Whenever President Piñera and I spoke, his pride in his country -- and its people -- always shone through. My condolences to the Chilean people, to his family and friends, and to all who are mourning his sudden passing.  
@JustinTrudeau

04  
  
Deeply saddened to learn about the sudden passing of the former President of Chile @sebastianpinera in a tragic accident yesterday. My most sincere condolences to his family and to all the Chilean people.  
@CharlesMichel

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



# celebs



## Tom Holland returning to the West End in Romeo and Juliet

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Tom Holland is to return to the West End in a new production of 'Romeo and Juliet'. The 27-year-old actor started his career playing the title role in 'Billy Elliot: The Musical' but went on to star in Hollywood films like 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' and is set to make his return to the stage as the male lead in The Jamie Lloyd Company's new version of the William Shakespeare classic.

Director Jamie Lloyd  
Tom Holland



Although the casting of Juliet alongside Holland is still unknown, the actor's presence guarantees that this will be a hot ticket

said: "Tom Holland is one of the greatest, most exciting young actors in the world. It is an honour to welcome him back to the West End."

The stage play - which tells the tragic tale of star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet in fourteenth-century Verona - will run at the Duke of York's

Theatre from Saturday 11 May until Saturday 3 August 2024, with further casting to be announced at a later date.

The play features text editing by Nima Taleghani, set and costume design by Soutra Gilmour, lighting design by Jon Clark, sound design by Ben and Max Ringham, video design and cinematography by Nathan Amzi and Joe Ransom, composition by Michael 'Mikey J' Asante, casting by Stuart Burt CDG, movement direction by Sarah Golding and Yukiko Masui (SAY), intimacy coordination by Ingrid Mackinnon, associate direction by Jonathan Glew, and associate design by Rachel Wingate.

The Jamie Lloyd Company is also committed to accessibility and is offering 10,000 tickets priced at £25 and under, with 5,000 of these exclusively reserved for under 30s, key workers, and those receiving government benefits.

## 'I'm gonna be strong enough': Jeremy Renner determined to make Marvel return

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jeremy Renner will be "strong enough" to return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).

The 53-year-old actor suffered serious injuries after being run over by his own snowplow at his Nevada home in January 2023 but is determined to honour those who supported him during the horrific ordeal by reprising his role as Clint Barton/Hawkeye.

Asked about a return to the part, Jeremy told Entertainment Tonight: "I'm always game. I'm gonna be strong enough, that's for sure. I'll be ready."

"All those guys come to my bedside and they've been with me all along through this recovery, so... if they want me, they could have me. It would be something."

Jeremy spent more than two weeks in hospital after breaking more than 30 bones in the accident and is going to prioritise "health and wellness" for the rest of his life.

The 'Mayor of Kingstown' star said: "(I'm doing) probably 90 per cent of all the things I needed to be doing... I

think another six months will be hopefully running (more)... I got to set goals for myself. I'll do whatever I can... whatever it takes to get better, to get stronger.

"It's a one-way street, this recovery. The rest of my life is about health and wellness. Recovery will be part of the rest of my life, so I look forward to it, man. There's always something to do to get better, be stronger, be happier, be healthier, and that's what I look forward to."

Jeremy recently explained that the incident has altered his view on the cycle of life and has left him "kind of excited" about dying.

Speaking on SiriusXM's 'This Life of Mine with James Cordery', he said: "I was never afraid, mind you, of death prior. Now, I'm really not afraid of it. Now, I'm double downing. Yes, certainly not afraid of it. "Now, I'm kind of excited for it. To be honest, it's what life really is."

"This rock that we're spinning on and this body and this language that we're speaking and all these feelings and emotions and conflict is all... meaningless in the scheme of things." Jeremy Renner



## James Cameron has ideas for sixth and seventh Avatar films

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

James Cameron has already made plans for the sixth and seventh 'Avatar' films.

The 69-year-old director has the future of the epic sci-franchise mapped out until the release of 'Avatar 5' in 2031 and revealed that he has ideas beyond that - even though he is likely to have stepped away from directorial duties by then.

James told People magazine at the Saturn Awards on Sunday (04.02.24): "We're fully written through movie five, and I've got ideas for six and seven, although I'll probably be handing the baton on at that point."

"I mean, mortality catches up. But I mean, we're enjoying what we're doing. We're loving it. We get to work with great people."

Cameron - whose flick 'Ava-



James Cameron

tar: The Way of Water' picked up four awards at the ceremony in Los Angeles - explained that he wants the 'Avatar' franchise to match the popularity of sci-fi behemoths 'Star Wars' and 'Star Trek'.

The 'Titanic' filmmaker said:

"'Star Trek', 'Star Wars', the world-building franchises that have been around since I was a kid, those were my inspirations."

"And as I was saying out there, we're still a young universe. We're only two movies in, we're halfway through our third

right now. To have that kind of cultural impact over time, you got to pour all your heart and energy into it."

Cameron added: "People are always asking us, 'So why did you just keep working in the same...?' Why did (George) Lucas keep working in the same thing? Why did (Gene) Roddenberry keep working in the same thing? "Because when you connect with people, why would you squander that? Why would you start over with something else that might not connect?"

'Avatar' producer Jon Landau added that there are "more stories to tell" in the record-breaking franchise.

He said: "I mean, it's not like we're trying to come up with stories. He's (Cameron) got the stories and we took the time to lay it out across all four sequels."

## Penélope Cruz declares it's up to her kids if they want to be famous

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Penélope Cruz says it is up to her children if they want to become famous.

The Oscar winner, 49, is fiercely private about and protective of the two children she has with her 54-year-old actor husband Javier Bardem - Luna, 10, and 12-year-old Leo - and said it is not her place to talk about what their career ambitions may turn out to be.

She told Elle magazine about her kids: "It's for them to decide if they are going to have a job that is more

exposed to the public or not. They can talk about that when they're ready."

The actress' Elle profile said her children do not have social media accounts, and also "don't even have phones" according to Penélope.

She added to the publication about her hatred of the devices being given to children: "It's so easy to be manipulated, especially if you have

a brain that is still forming. And who pays the price?"

"Not us, not our generation, who, maybe at 25, learned how a BlackBerry worked."

"It's a cruel experiment on children, on teenagers."

Penélope added she thinks her husband is an amusing enough alternative to phones, saying: "He sings and he's a great dancer. And he

does this amazing impression of Mick Jagger."

"He'll imitate Al Pacino and De Niro talking to each other. It's incredible."

Penélope also said her regular director collaborator Pedro Almodóvar, 74, has always viewed her as a mother on screen.

She added: "At my age, 80 per cent of the characters that I play will be about motherhood or divorce or abandonment or characters who didn't want to have children or couldn't or who lost children."

"I've played mothers since I was

very young. Pedro always saw me as a mother."

"We have known each other since I was 17. He would watch me going to talk to strangers just to see their babies."

"He always saw that strong, inevitable instinct in me, and I saw him see it."

The actress added "ever since I was a little girl I knew I wanted kids", and said: "But I knew I wanted them older. I wanted to wait until I felt I was ready."

"I was sure it would be the most important thing I would do in my life."

It's for them to decide if they are going to have a job that is more exposed to the public or not. They can talk about that when they're ready

PENÉLOPE CRUZ



Penelope Cruz

### SUDOKU

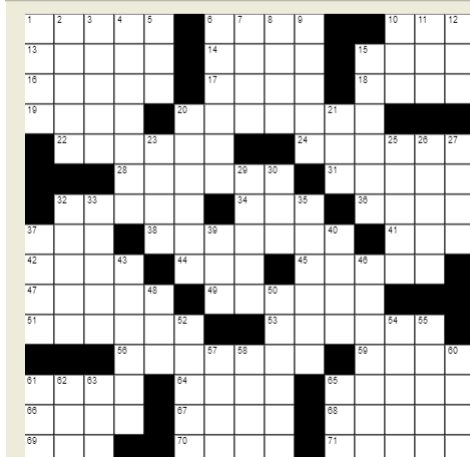
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#### Yesterday's solution

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

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

### CROSSWORD



#### Across

1-...nova; 6- Hey, over here!; 10- First name in Notre Dame football; 13- Body of values; 14- In...land; 15- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 16- The Pentateuch; 17- Like the Sahara; 18- Captives; 19- Appear; 20- Creatures; 22- Veer; 24- Declared; 28- Boil; 31- More urgent; 32- Lend...; 34- Polo Grounds legend; 36- Desperately urgent; 37- Attorney's org.; 38- Mental; 41- It may be flipped; 42- Seethe; 44- Australian bird; 45- Sap tree; 47- Continental cash; 49- Quaking trees; 51- Phases; 53- Picks; 56- First month; 59- Hula hoop parts; 61- Ike's ex; 64- Collective word for intellectual pursuits; 65- Pardon; 66- Madam, I'm...; 67- The Green Hornet's sidekick; 68- Diciembre follower; 69- -like; 70- Enthusiastic vigor and liveliness; 71- Sprinkle;

#### Down

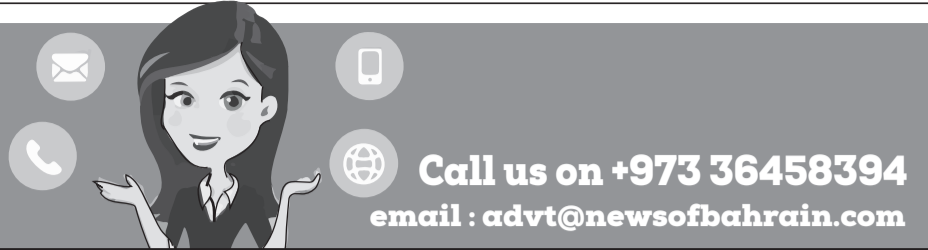
1- Wagers; 2- Siouan speakers; 3- Termagant; 4- Like some cats; 5- Rhine whine; 6- Heavenly body; 7- Delhi wrap; 8- Meager; 9- Verbal flourishes; 10- Loss leader?; 11- Graycoat; 12- Pack animal; 15- Unstated; 20- Disinclined; 21- Old Ford; 23- Get as a result; 25- Run of bird-song; 26- Uncanny; 27- Historic Scott; 29- Hoax; 30- Old verb ending; 32- Concerning; 33- Currency unit in Nigeria; 35- Opportune; 37- Burrows and Vigoda; 39- Peruvian singer Sumac; 40- Sugar source; 43- Bottleneck; 46- Crown of ancient Egypt; 48- Neptune's realm; 50- Individual; 52- Plumber's tool; 54- Stopwatch-holder; 55- Steeple; 57- Orenburg's river; 58- Kofi...Annan; 60- Pack away; 61- Mal...; 62- Bartender's requests; 63- Slang negative; 65- Legal matter;

#### Yesterday's solution

O	V	A	L	P	E	A	L	S	A	M	O	S									
R	A	N	I	R	A	V	E	L	S	D	I	S									
A	L	T	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	L	Y									
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G	R	A	Z	E	S	S	I	E	T	O	N										
L	I	F	E	T	A	P	E	R	R	E	P	O									
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# Classifieds



## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

**SWATCH** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39604736 or BABU.RAJ@RIVOLIGROUP.COM

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

**ALYAMAMA HOUSE FOR CLEANING CONTRACTING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345569 or YAMAMAHOUSE1@GMAIL.COM

**Manar Alomran Scaffolding Contracting W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36992388 or bahrain@manar.com.sa

**ELLEDOR BEAUTY LOUNGE** has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17600696 or LADUREE.BH@GMAIL.COM

**GIR LINING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33054436 or FATIMA@GIR-GROUP.COM

**GIFT PALACE W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227206 or GEEPASBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

**SALEM HASAN BUILDING COMPLETION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34128810 or SALEMHASANBH1@GMAIL.COM

**HUSAIN JAAFAR BUILDING COMPLETION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33051349 or DARWISHBH4@GMAIL.COM

**CINE CAFE W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36662332 or BASTAKI\_88@HOTMAIL.COM

**ALBARAKA BAKERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36664415 or basl.daqraq@gmail.com

**HABIB IDREES FOR REFRIGRATION AND AC REPAIRS SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39911003 or EBRAHIM.Q1@GMAIL.COM

**AL NESR ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39179077 or adraj1@gmail.com

**NEW GOLDEN DIYAR CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33448080 or BURASHEDDOCUMENT@YAHOO.COM

**QATAR AIRWAYS** has a vacancy for the occupation of AIRPORT AFFAIRS FOLLOW-UP OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17505151 or Z.SAFA@BH-QATARAIRWAYS.COM

**MAJELAN BUILDING CONTRACTS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39662961 or Majelanc@gmail.com

**ALMOAYYED INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888838 or alihassan@almoyayedintl.com.bh

**AHLI UNITED BANK B.S.C.(C)** has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17585778 or girish.menon@ahliunited.com

**ORANGE CONTRACTING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39145155 or CARGO.DOLPHIN@YAHOO.COM

**KRONOS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17564981 or ashokra@gmail.com

**AL MONASEQ PAINTING & CYPSON** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39425256 or RABAB.ABDULLA@ALFUUTAIM.COM

**KINGDOM BUILDING PAINTING CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39471323 or KBPC2004@GMAIL.COM

**REEM ALMAKAAHEEL SALON** has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33334047 or HISSA93HH@HOTMAIL.COM

**ALFAROOQ ALUMINUM** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39053163 or Ashfoqrazza29@gmail.COM

**AL WAFER HAIRDRESSING SALOON** has a

vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38396868 or WEABSHER4YOU@GMAIL.COM

**BOSS SALON** has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66681666 or M.66661666@GMAIL.COM

**YOKOGAWA ENGINEERING SAUDI W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66726158 or sumedha.munasinghe@bh.yokogawa.com

**Reliable furnishing co wll** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17741567 or VIVEK@BATELCO.COM.BH

**HIDD POWER CO. B.S.C. (CLOSED)** has a vacancy for the occupation of ENGINEER-ELECTRICAL-(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17679487 or HR@hpc.com.bh

**Fahed auto services garage** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38922332 or FAAZ76@HOTMAIL.COM

**ALBARZAKH CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33173399 or haifa@alrowishgroup.com

**AL MAWATEEN GARAGE AND SPARE PARTS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39248620 or EVERGREENDOCUMENT@GMAIL.COM

**GOLDEN STAR CAFETERIA - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33000041 or HASH2H2@GMAIL.COM

**MOHAMMED EMAM TRADING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39273173 or WANA\_FRIENDSHIP2008@YAHOO.COM

**BANK ALFALAH LIMITED** has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (RISK CONTROL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17203111 or MUSTAFASUBHANI@BANKALFALAH.COM

**ALNAIZAK TOWERS CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66673333 or ALNAIZK@HOTMAIL.COM

**ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

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

**KAINAT CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39660750 or KHADIJASUF157@GMAIL.COM

**RAMSIS 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

**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

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

**SEVEN HILLS SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697979 or HASSAN800@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

**Daniel Construction** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35681056 or CHBAHOO14@GMAIL.COM

**FORCE POINT SECURITY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact

66767587 or Forceps17@gmail.com

**MUHAMMAD NADEEM INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33451945 or RANANADEEM2001@GMAIL.COM

**HADI TOWER CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37216006 or HADITOWER@YAHOO.COM

**ALRIFFA SMART ELECTRONICS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35581214 or NASEERSIDDIQ@YAHOO.COM

**RUFU AUTO SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36531739 or AHMERSARWAR399@GMAIL.COM

**LAMINAR TRADING CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36002404 or INFO@LAMINARBH.COM

**SUPER NEEDS REAL ESTATE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33515042 or WADOCUMENTS.BH@GMAIL.COM

**MUHAMMAD BILAL CARGO HANDLING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35448795 or RANAGULFAM118@GMAIL.COM

**G E W GENERAL TRADE W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33112033 or NOUFAL@GELCARGO.COM

**ABU USAMA GENTS SALOON W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34569303 or CRWORKSBH@GMAIL.COM

**USAMA NAWAZ INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37512889 or HAFIZSAHIB1Y@GMAIL.COM

**QUICKERZ CARGO SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33172539 or ggs\_clearance@hotmail.com

**CHICOSKIE CONSULTING SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38120232 or CHICOSKIESERVICES.BH@GMAIL.COM

**SAFE FAST MOVERS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32102392 or SOHAILBUBAK529@GMAIL.COM

**M Z K H INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37132645 or SUFYANMAHER842@GMAIL.COM

**ALIF RESTAURANT W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37270239 or ZALLAQ213@GMAIL.COM

**BALA KOT COMPUTER SERVICES CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747288 or NOORAMINBH@GMAIL.COM

**WOODPECKER JOINERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33509911 or woodpeckbh@gmail.com

**R R R EXPORTS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36063760 or ROYVICTOR92@YAHOO.COM

**SUKHCHAIN CLEANING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33353070 or CHAINAPUNJABI2013@GMAIL.COM

**S G CLICK SERVICES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33418254 or SOHAIL68644@GMAIL.COM

**IQBAL GREEN FACILITIES SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33942095 or AKHTARANAS@GMAIL.COM

**MORGA HEAD OFFICES & MANAGEMENT OFFICES SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13112757 or ABIDOWAIS110@GMAIL.COM

**GOLD WING GARAGE** has a vacancy for the occupation of VEHICLE ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39999622 or OKAZIZ143@GMAIL.COM

**ROGER REAL ESTATE SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32277752 or REALSTATEROGER3@GMAIL.COM

**CENTRIQ MARKETING W.L.L** has a vacancy

for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35978672 or RANAJUTT41@GMAIL.COM

**HASFA CARGO HANDLING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33176614 or MIFTAHURREHMAN305@GMAIL.COM

**EBRAHIM SAMI ISA JASIM** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33242444 or ESLB26@GMAIL.COM

**ABDULREDDHA JAAFAR ALI HUSAIN ALMUABBAD** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37388869 or malmabad@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

**RAMSIS 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

**MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magishinebh.com

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

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

**JASMI'S CORPORATION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17588787 or lmra@jasmis.com

**QUEBEC BUILDING CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39755200 or Quebecgroup9@gmail.com

**MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or HRD1@macbh.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 RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66316666 or mohammed@panoramabh.com

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

**SAYACORP HOSPITALITY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of HOUSEKEEPER, 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 munirkhan.khan206@gmail.com

**KANOO VEHICLE LEASING (TOYOTA Rent-A-Car & Leasing) B.S.C. Closed** has a vacancy for the occupation of ADVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANOO.COM.BH

**MANSOURI MANSIONS HOTEL W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17728144 or Employment@hasanmansouri.com

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

**SONI DULABHJI SAVJI** has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38405878 or Djpr@yahoo.com

**Basma Security** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

**GULF MARKETS INTERNATIONAL W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17490040 or MISHAL@ALFANARINVESTMENT.COM

**BAHRAIN PRECAST CONCRETE CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17875600 or JSA@BPC.BH

**GULF AIR B.S.C. (C)** has a vacancy for the occupation of CABIN CREW / FLIGHT STEWARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@ulfair.com

**NADER GAS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can

contact 17401862 or talal.abdulaal@gmail.com

**SKENAR ELECTRIC WORKSHOP** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17294340 or SARBUJET2003@YAHOO.COM

**GALALI SUPER MARKET BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39620055 or ISAAI1956@GMAIL.COM

**NOOH GENTS SALON** has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39458577 or noohgroup58@gmail.com

**ALMESHARI FOODSTUFF** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256707 or BUJASSIM398@YAHOO.COM

**ALSIBINSA REFRIGERATION & A/C SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17677786 or ALSIBINSA@GMAIL.COM

**AL MAHROOF LAUNDRY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39279888 or AHMEDASHEER\_64@HOTMAIL.COM

**SPARKLE CARPET LAUNDRY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39875402 or AHMEDASHEER\_64@HOTMAIL.COM

**MOHAMMED ALI MOHAMMED AMIN** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33313114 or MOHAMED436@GMAIL.COM

**JAFFAL COMPUTR MAINTENACE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39412355 or ALJAFAL@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

**KOOKITE BOUTIQUE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66311010 or KOOKITOCLOUD@GMAIL.COM

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

**CEBARCO BAHRAIN W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17823236 or KHALIDAR@KAR-GROUP.COM

**TOP TURBO GARAGE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39606066 or LAWYERALAA8@GMAIL.COM

**Cocos car care** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39651772 or ar.guloom@gmail.com

**MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magishinebh.com

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

**AL MESAYEL TAILORING** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17870207 or KINGDOMPACK@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@ELITEFPMC.COM

**SHAZIB HABIB VISITOR ASSISTANCE SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39296297 or SHM.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

**INSHARAH BAKERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33846661 or DELMONPALACECONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM

**FRESH TOUCH MANPOWER SUPPLY** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38880304 or MOHD.POLLUX@OUTLOOK.COM

**BFC Bank Limited** has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39600903 or TAHER.HUSSAIN@BFC.COM.BH

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

**FAWZEYA ALDOSERI TRADING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39045992 or M.ALDOSARI82@GMAIL.COM

**ALMANARTAIN CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, 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

**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

**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

**IMDAD ZONE CARGO HANDLING COMPANY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33059022 or IMDADZONE.BH@GMAIL.COM

**PERFECT SHAVE SALON** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36669292 or oldmaaan@hotmail.com

**TEXAN BURGERS** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33171722 or QAMARMOHAMMAD84@GMAIL.COM

**UM MAJEED AC SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36364269 or khurram\_leo82@yahoo.com

**SKY LINE MECANICAL AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS MAINTENANCE** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39674559 or isa@bahraintsc.com

**Indian Delights Restaurant Co. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250300 or deepa161@yahoo.com

**DAILY FRESH CAFETERIA** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33194444 or fgrouphb@gmail.com

**NIZO GENTS HAIRDRESSING SALON** has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33335536 or BAHRAINPIONEER@GMAIL.COM

**ASPIRSTAR** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33371719 or ASPIRELAUNDRY@HOTMAIL.COM

**Bu rahma contracting** has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17413882 or AMIAN.WORK88@GMAIL.COM

**MAHAR AL PANJAB CARPENTRY WORKSHOP W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34002445 or TAHIR\_MAHAR03@YAHOO.COM

**UNITED SHARP TOWER CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39553866 or BOLANBH@GMAIL.COM

**Almeger Construction Company WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33131917 or ishaq.dispatchglobal@gmail.com

**KHAIR DIN CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33446399 or ch.kashifgorsi@gmail.com

**KEETHY BOUTIQUE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34339370 or ADILLINE00@GMAIL.COM

**THOIBA CAFETERIA** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77998636 or PDC434@GMAIL.COM

**SM Electronics- Heat & Cold W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33248193 or SHAHIDARSH786@GMAIL.COM

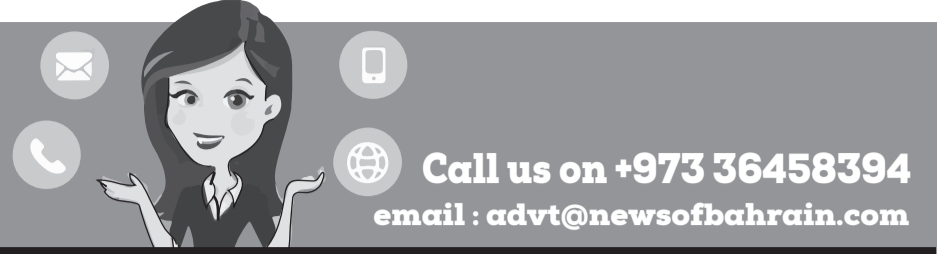
**GUARDUS SECURITY CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or HRD@ALMOAYYEDCG.COM

**HIGH CLEAN LAUNDRY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39909951 or M.BUCHEERY@HOTMAIL.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



# Classifieds



**VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED**

**Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, 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 FITTER, 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

**GOLDEN GROUP CONTRACTORS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533125 or GOLDENGROUPBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

**AMAANI GLOBAL SERVICES WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36836629 or QASIMKHAN44566@GMAIL.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

**NEW MIND MARKETING AND PROMOTION CO BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3602696 or BABARSAGAR2023@GMAIL.COM

**Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

**LULU BAHRAIN HYPER MARKET W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or CAREERS@BH.LULU.MEA.COM

**PERMANENT SHINE CAR SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33177776 or YASSERSAMIR44@OUTLOO.COM

**COOL KIT CENTRAL AIRCONDITIONING PLANT REPAIR** has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact

77088800 or SERVICE@COOLKITSERVICE.COM

**JAHANIAN SERVICES CO W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35609260 or SHSHKHAN31@GMAIL.COM

**ARAD CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256338 or ACE.5391@GMAIL.COM

**ALMAHMOOD COMPANY LTD.W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400484 or AHMED@ALMAHMOOD.CO

**AL REEM GATE CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39771192 or inter.island.bh@gmail.com

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

**SANAR SAMBOOSA & FALAFEL W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39869577 or BUTALAL1953@YAHOO.COM

**NAYA DELIGHTS W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17433343 or HFNEICHE@GMAIL.COM

**Al Saib Landscape - Bahraini Partnership Company** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33032373 or SAIB.EQUIPMENT@GMAIL.COM

**Advance delmon Cargo handling** has a vacancy for the occupation of ENGINEER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36721996 or KAMRAN.KHAN@DELMON.COM.SA

**SHERRY MEDICAL CENTER W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SPECIALISED DOCTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17824070 or SHEREENABUL@GMAIL.COM

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## Al Ahli to face Oman's Seeb in West Asian volleyball quarters

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Al Ahli Club will face Seeb Club of Oman in the quarter-finals tomorrow of the second West Asian Men's Clubs Volleyball Championship, currently being held in Muscat.

The Bahrainis came away with their knockout pairing following the completion last night of the final day of preliminary round games.

Ahli completed their campaign in Group B with three wins in their four matches. Their victories came against Kuwait SC of Kuwait, Shabab Al Hussain of Jordan and home side Sohar SC of Oman. Their only loss, from their first game of the competition, was against Al Arabi of Qatar.

The other match-ups in the last eight pit Al Rayyan of Qatar against Sohar, Arabi against Baniyas of the UAE, and an all-Kuwaiti clash between Kuwait SC and Al Qadsia.

Two teams have already been eliminated from further title contention, namely Shabab Al Hussain and Al Ibtisam of Saudi Arabia.

Only the top four teams from each of the two preliminary pools advanced to the quarters.

Ahli will be relying heavily



Al Ahli's Nasser Anan in action against Kuwait SC

on their top talents tomorrow against Seeb, including Bahrain national team stars Ali Ebrahim and Nasser Anan, along with Montenegro professional Marko Vukasinovic. Also hopeful of making key contributions are Sayed Mohammed Al Abrar, Mahmoud Abdulhussain, Mohammed Habib and Hassan Shakhouri, among others.

Today is a rest day. Following tomorrow's quarter-finals, the semi-finals will be held on Saturday, and then the final and bronze medal game are slated for Sunday, the tournament's concluding day.

## BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid teases new events in Europe, plans for New Era of MMA in the continent

● Executive spoke of his excitement in bringing BRAVE CF back to Slovenia and to Europe, as well as the partnership with international and national federations to bring new times for MMA in the continent

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation president Mohammed Shahid was on the ground in Ljubljana, Slovenia, to help launch the first BRAVE CF event of the year, which will take place at the Hala Tivoli Arena, on April 20.

The press conference that officially kicked off BRAVE CF 81, in association with leading regional organization WFC, also featured Zlatko Mahic, president of WFC; Kerrith Brown, president of the IMMAF (International MMA Federation); and Serbian MMA Federation president Luka Nikolic.

### Excitement

In his opening remarks, Shahid explained his excitement at the return of the most global MMA organization in the world to Slovenia, following the suc-

cess of last year's BRAVE CF 70, which also took place in April.

The president of BRAVE CF was also keen to stress that the collaboration between the national and international federations was key to building a new age for MMA in Europe and said that 2024 is the year the continent will be introduced to the new era for the sport.

### 'Impact'

"Today, we are here in Slovenia to announce our upcoming event here. But this time is different from the other times we've been here in beautiful Ljubljana. We come here today as the fastest growing and most global MMA organization in the world, the only one to be hosted in 30 countries and five continents. And what we're doing in 2024 is showing the impact that we've had and will have in European MMA," said Mohammed Shahid without specifying the new locations in 2024.

"In total, BRAVE CF has hosted 22 events in 13 European countries thus far. No organization is close to matching these numbers. We have the largest market share in Europe and through our close relationship with the IMMAF, and the national federations, represented here by the president of the Serbia Federation, as well as WFC, we will be bringing a new era of MMA in



BRAVE Combat Federation president Mohammed Shahid

Europe. From the amateur level to the continental expertise and to a global organization, we will be bringing BRAVE CF to Slovenia on two occasions in 2024 and to many more countries in the continent this year," he added

### Common goal

Shahid also explained why it is key for MMA to have these different levels of organizational bodies sharing the common goal of elevating the sport to new heights and said that BRAVE CF's fight is in making sure MMA can be talked about in the same conversation as the likes of football, basketball and other mainstream sports. For that,

said Shahid, there needs to be the introduction of a new business model and the creation of a new sports economy for mixed martial arts.

"Our relationship with the IMMAF has been perfect because we share the same goal. Our goal is not just to host events and that's it. Other promotions are fighting for that spot, of being the number one or number two organization in the world. Our competition is different, it's with the rest of the world. Football, cricket, tennis, basketball, why can't MMA be up there with these other top sports? To be there, we need a proper grassroots development program, we need a global organization like ours to work together to get MMA to the Olympics, but at the same time, create a new model, a model that is sustainable for athletes, for media, for everyone involved in the industry, and to create a new sports economy for mixed martial arts".

Aside from BRAVE CF 81, the organization will also partner up with WFC for another show in 2024, which will take place on October 19. BRAVE Combat Federation will soon release its calendar for the year, which is expected to feature return to previous hosting nations around the world, as well as debuts in new European countries, as president Shahid teased.



## HH Shaikh Khalid awards champions of schools football event



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and other officials with the winning team members

TDI | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), deputised His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, SCYS First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority (GSA) Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President,

to attend the final match of the Nasser bin Hamad Football Tournament for Secondary Schools 2023-2024.

The tournament was organised by the Education Ministry, SCYS, GSA and the Bahraini Football Association.

Also present were His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the GSA Deputy Chairman, Education Minister Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, GSA CEO Dr Abdulrahman Askar, and other officials.

The match was won by Nasser Vocational Training Centre (NVTC) with a result of 2-0 against East Riffa Secondary School for Boys.

HH Shaikh Khalid presented the tournament trophy to the NVTC team and honoured the East Riffa Secondary School for Boys for winning second place. Al Hidayah Al Khalifa Secondary School for Boys won third place. The British School team were also recognised with the ideal team trophy.

## Manama book FIBA WASL semi-final berth

● Bahraini club secure place following Kazma of Kuwait's win over Shabab Al Ahli Dubai of the UAE

● Game result ensures Manama to finish in first place of Group B, earning direct place in Gulf semis

TDI | Manama

Bahrain champions and reigning FIBA WASL title-holders Manama have booked their direct berth to the Gulf sub-zone semi-finals of the 2023/2024 FIBA West Asia Super League (WASL).

This was confirmed after Kazma of Kuwait claimed a 91-83 victory over Shabab Al Ahli Dubai of the UAE on Tuesday night in the Emirate. The result secured first place for Manama on the Group B standings with one fixture still to play—a home clash against Shabab Al Ahli on Tuesday next week.



Manama's Cameron Clark scores with a slam dunk during their game against Al Shamal in Doha

Regardless of the result of that outing, Manama are through to the Gulf final four, as they are undefeated in their five games so far. Their last win earlier this week was a resounding 130-83 rout of Al Shamal of Qatar in Doha.

Head coach Linos Gavriel said after the win: "It is very important always to get a win on the road. We prepare ourselves every game because we don't like to underestimate nobody."

"We want to be humble and keep on improving and devel-

oping our identity. The guys did a good job sharing the ball with 41 assists...We will keep growing."

Only the top seeds from each of the two pools in this preliminary round qualify directly to the best-of-three semi-finals. The second and third-ranked teams will play for the other berths, also in a best-of-three clash. Manama thus have to wait to learn of their rivals.

The top three in the Gulf sub-zone will then make it to the FIBA WASL Final Eight along with the best trio from the WASL West Asia sub-zone and the champion teams from South Asia and Central Asia.

Manama are one of two Bahraini sides in this year's FIBA WASL. Muharraq are the other, and they are currently tied on points on the table with Kuwait SC of Kuwait, but with an inferior points differential. The winners of that pool, who will earn the other outright semis berth, will be determined on Monday next week, when Kuwait host Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia in Kuwait City and Muharraq take on Al Rayyan of Qatar at Khalifa Sports City Arena.

## Children of HH Shaikh Nasser complete 80 km qualifying endurance race



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and his children participate in the event

TDI | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, along with his children, Her Highness Shaikha Sheema bint Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Highness Hamad bin Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and His Highness Mohammed bin Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa participated in the 80 kilometers qualifying endurance race.

The race was held at the Dubai International Endurance City (DIEC), with the participation of 353 riders.

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of Dubai attended the race in support of his grandchildren.

HH Shaikh Nasser's children completed the two stages of the race, which covered a distance of 40 kilo-meters each.

Shaikh Rashid bin Dalmouk Bin Juma Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Dubai Rac-ing Club (DRC), awarded first place to HH Shaikha Sheema bint Nasser, second place to HH Shaikh Hamad bin Nasser, and third place to HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Nasser.

The organising committee of the qualifying race honoured His Highness Shaikh Nasser in appreciation for his participation.



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa's sons ride their horses

HH Shaikh Nasser expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by DRC in organising the race. HH expressed his gratitude to the club's management for the recognition, expressing his interest and full support for horse racing, which is strongly associated with Arab traditions.

HH expressed his pride in his children's achievements in the race. HH noted that the ongoing support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and active participation of youth in have significantly driven the development and outcomes of the horse endurance sport in Bahrain.

# Al Khaldiya, Muharraq eke out wins

Zouhair El Moutaraji scores late winner for defending champions against East Riffa in Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

● Thiago Augusto Fernandes scores twice for East Riffa in tight loss to Al Khaldiya

● Felipe Saraiva De Souza Silva scores decisive goal for Muharraq against Sitra

TDI | Manama

Defending champions Al Khaldiya and title challengers Muharraq both came away with hard-earned victories last night in the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Khaldiya overcame a tough fight from East Riffa, giving up a single-goal advantage twice before coming away with a 3-2



Al Khaldiya's Dominique Mendy battles with East Riffa's Jassim Khelaif for possession during their match last night

win. Muharraq, on the other hand, held on for a tough 3-2 win against Sitra.

Both games wrapped up the league's 11th week of action, and both winners moved into the top three of the table.

In Khaldiya's win, goals from Gleison Wilson Da Silva Moreira

and Zouhair El Moutaraji were cancelled out by East Riffa's Thiago Augusto Fernandes. But El Moutaraji ended up providing the late-game heroics with a stunning winning strike four minutes from full time.

Khaldiya took the lead in 28th minute with a left-footed effort

from Moreira from the right of the box. He sent the curving shot into the top-left corner of goal in brilliant fashion.

East Riffa came back on level terms 10 minutes on after Fernandes took advantage of a mistake by Khaldiya's Ahmed Bughammar. The Bahrain national team defender sent a weak back-pass towards goalkeeper Mohammed Algharabli, which was within the reach of Fernandes. He intercepted the ball and fired away, sending the contest into the interval deadlocked at 1-1.

Khaldiya got back in front in the 51st minute when El Moutaraji slotted home from close range from an acute angle, taking advantage of some porous defending from their opponents.

But Fernandes was once again heroic for East Riffa, equalizing for the second time in the 66th minute with an acrobatic volley in the box. His shot came after Algharabli punched away a

cross, but the ball went directly into Fernandes's path, and he converted with a single touch.

**Rocket**

El Moutaraji then decided the contest in the 86th minute. He connected on a powerful rocket from a metre outside the area that flew into the right of the net, past a frustrated East Riffa goalkeeper Eyad Nasser Salem.

Khaldiya came away with all three points and improved to 20—just two behind solo leaders Riffa—following their fifth win in 11 tries. East Riffa suffered their fourth loss and stayed on 15 markers.

Meanwhile, Muharraq needed only six minutes to open the scoring against Sitra, as Abdulwahab Al Malood converted from the face of goal after some sublime passing from his teammates. Just two minutes later,

Muharraq doubled their lead with a goal from Zahir Alaghabari, who scored with a crafty back heel off a corner-kick, surprising the opposing goalkeeper and squeezing the ball into the net.

Sitra were then able to get one back in the 39th minute through Hamza Abdulla Attar, but Muharraq restored their two-goal advantage just five minutes into the second-half when Felipe Saraiva De Souza Silva fired in from the inside edge of the box into the top-right corner.

Sitra reduced the deficit once more from the penalty spot after a handball infraction in the six-yard box. Amir Rostai stepped forward to send in the penalty, but it was a consolation in defeat.

Muharraq claimed their fifth win and went to 19 points for third place, while Sitra suffered their third loss and stayed on 13 markers.



# BIC set for F2, F3 testing

Three days of pre-season tests to be held in Bahrain for Formula 1's chief feeder series

● Formula 2, Formula 3 to test in Sakhir from Sunday to Tuesday next week

● Both series to support Formula 1 at F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix weekend

● F2, F3 testing to be followed by F1 pre-season tests from February 21 to 23



Action from last year's F3 pre-season tests in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is just under a month away from hosting the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024, but the action kicks off next week leading up to this year's highly anticipated F1 extravaganza.

"The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" is set to host pre-season testing from next

Sunday to Tuesday for both the FIA Formula 2 Championship and FIA Formula 3 Championship—both of which will be supporting the top flight as the Kingdom celebrates "20 Years of a Modern Classic", showcasing Bahrain's 20th anniversary in F1.

The tests will give the F2 and F3 runners much-needed track time ahead of the start of their 2024 campaigns in Bahrain.

Their season-openers will be part of the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix weekend, set for 29 February to 2 March in Sakhir.

The two F1 feeder series feature some of the sport's future stars and current test and reserve drivers.

F2 is the last rung on the ladder to F1, with many of the championship's graduates starting in the pinnacle of motor-

sport today, including Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, George Russell of Mercedes, Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri of McLaren, Alexander Albon and Logan Sargeant of Williams, Yuki Tsunoda of RB and Zhou Guanyu of Kick Sauber.

All 11 F2 teams, each fielding two cars, will be at the tests, including defending champions ART Grand Prix, Prema Racing, Rodin Motorsport, DAMS Lucas Oil, Invicta Racing, MP Motorsport, Van Amersfoort Racing, Hitech Pulse-Eight, Campos Racing, Trident and PHM AIX Racing.

Meanwhile, F3 has 10 teams and a 30-car grid, and they will all be at BIC looking to get the most from their 2024 contenders.



Formula 2 and Formula 3 feature some of the sport's future stars and current test and reserve drivers. F2 is the last rung on the ladder to F1, with many of the championship's graduates starting in the pinnacle of motorsport today

### Champions

The competing outfits this season include defending champions Prema Racing, Trident, MP Motorsport, Campos Racing, Hitech Pulse-Eight, Jenzer Motorsport, Van Amersfoort Racing, ART Grand Prix, PHM AIX Racing and Rodin Motorsport. They will each be at the pre-season tests at BIC.

F2 and F3 will each be holding two races during the Bahrain Grand Prix weekend, along with practices and qualifying. Both series' Sprint Races will take place on the Friday of the race weekend, with the Feature Races to follow on Saturday. Practices and qualifying are scheduled for

Thursday.

The 2024 F2 season is set to feature 14 rounds, flagging off in Bahrain and concluding in Abu Dhabi in December, while the 2024 F3 championship consists of 10 rounds, beginning at BIC and ending in September in Monza, Italy.

Following the F2 and F3 tests, BIC will also be hosting three days of Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing from 21 to 23 February.

F1 fans who had purchased their tickets to the grand prix before 1 February will get free access to the two open days of F1 tests on 22 and 23 February. The tests will offer fans a sneak preview of what's to come in the new campaign, and it will be the F1 teams' only chance to get crucial information on their cars' performance on track ahead of the first race of the championship in Bahrain.

F2 and F3 are to be joined on the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 support programme by the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East—the region's leading one-make series which will be holding the fifth and penultimate round of its 2023/2024 season in the Kingdom.

Fans who have not yet secured their tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 are advised to do so at the earliest to avoid missing out on the landmark occasion.

F2 and F3 also held pre-season testing at BIC last year.

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## New online store launched by BIC

● Wide variety of circuit, Formula 1 merchandise available for purchase from anywhere in the world

● Miniature Bahrain Grand Prix license plates from last 20 years on offer in impressive display box

TDT | Manama



The miniature Bahrain Grand Prix license plates

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", announced yesterday the launch of its new online store, where fans can make purchases from anywhere in the world of a wide variety of products.

The store, operational now at [shop.bahraingp.com](https://shop.bahraingp.com), offers all kinds of BIC, Formula 1, and F1 team merchandise, including shirts, sweaters, jackets, caps, backpacks, and other apparel.

Many of the new products showcase the circuit's landmark 20th anniversary and 20th year in F1, which is being celebrated at the fast-approaching F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 from 29 February to 2 March.

This includes a souvenir collection of every Bahrain Grand Prix license plate of the last 20 years, in miniature version, in an impressive display box.

There is also a vast range of other BIC and F1 souvenirs to choose from, such as miniature F1 cars, fridge magnets, key chains, tumblers, mugs, card holders, and many other items.

Fans' favourite F1 and the F1 team merchandise are also available, featuring F1 teams including Ferrari, McLaren, Mercedes and Red Bull. These make for fantastic additions to any fan's collection or a perfect gift for friends and family for

whatever the occasion.

For buyers inside the Kingdom of Bahrain, there is the option to have one's purchases delivered to their doorstep as well as a click-and-collect option for same-day pick-up at the BIC Welcome Centre, located at the circuit's entrance.

For buyers outside Bahrain, they can avail of international delivery so as not to miss out on the very best of BIC and F1 merchandise at the most competitive prices.

The new website features a user-friendly, easy-to-navigate interface and buyers will be able to pay online through the site's secure payment portal.