

Pizzi calls up full-strength Bahrain
 Kingdom's senior men's national football team features 26-player line-up named for Asian qualifiers of 2026 FIFA World Cup | P12

WORLD 6 Indonesia denies Israel claim over Gaza hospital

THE DAILY tribune



Megan Fox: Sometimes relationships are a 'war'

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BUSINESS 5 Stocks retreat as weak growth concerns weigh

Key development projects' progress reviewed



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chairs the 469th Government Executive Committee meeting. Developments on the distinguished government employees in customer service programme, development projects in the real estate sector, updates on priority competitiveness indicators, and a project to establish a College of Engineering at the University of Bahrain were reviewed.

Takaful International's profit rises 15% to BD1.149 million



P5

Portuguese prime minister resigns over corruption claims probe

AFP | Lisbon

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced his resignation yesterday after he was embroiled in a corruption investigation into the awarding of energy-related contracts.

The probe involving Costa and others covers alleged "misuse of funds, active and passive corruption by political figures, and influence peddling," according to a statement from public prosecutors.

Costa will also be investigated independently for allegedly intervening personally to speed up the awarding of licences for lithium exploration and hydrogen production, the statement said.

US base in Iraq hit by drones

AFP | Arbil, Iraq

Three drones yesterday targeted a military base at Arbil airport in Iraqi Kurdistan that plays host to troops from the US-led anti-jihadist coalition, local officials said.

On Tuesday morning, "at two different points, three drones attacked the international coalition", the anti-terrorism service of the autonomous region of Kurdistan said in a statement.

In the first attack "on the military base at Arbil airport, two drones were shot down", the service said.

Fuel for freedom

No ceasefire, no gasoline delivered to Gaza until hostages are freed: Netanyahu

● **Death toll rises to 10,328: Palestine health ministry**

● **Israeli troops are 'in the heart of Gaza City': Gallant**

● **US opposes Israel plan to eventually reoccupy Gaza**

AFP | Gaza, Tel Aviv

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday there will be no fuel delivered to Gaza and no ceasefire with Hamas unless hostages seized by the Palestinian fighters are freed.

Yesterday, the Palestine health ministry said that 10,328 people, adding more than 300 to the figure from Monday, have been killed by Israel's offensive in the month-long war.

The toll includes more than 4,200 children, according to the ministry.

Israeli troops are "in the heart of Gaza City", Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told a news conference yesterday.

The announcement comes as the US State Department spokesman Vedant Patel declared Washington's opposition to a new long-term occupation of the Gaza Strip by Israel, which



A Palestinian man carries a victim of an Israeli bombardment in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. (AFP)

vowed "overall security" of the territory following the war.

"We do not support the reoccupation of Gaza," Patel said.

Hezbollah warned

In a televised statement marking the first month of Israel's war with Hamas, Netanyahu also warned Iran-backed Hezbollah "it will be making the mistake of its life" if it opens a new front in the war from its base in Lebanon.

The Israel-Hamas war started on October 7 when fighters from Palestine burst out of the Gaza Strip and into southern Israel.

According to Israel, Hamas killed some 1,400 people - mostly civilians - and seized more than 240 hostages, in the worst attack on the nation since its founding in 1948.

In response Israel has launched a withering assault on Hamas in the Palestinian enclave it rules, home to some 2.4 million people.

'Overall responsibility'

In a television interview with ABC News broadcast on Monday, Netanyahu said that his country will take "overall responsibility" of Gaza's security for an indef-

inite period after its war with Hamas ends.

"Israel will, for an indefinite period, will have the overall security responsibility," he said.

"When we don't have that security responsibility, what we have is the eruption of conflict with Hamas on a scale that we couldn't imagine."

Ignoring support

Despite growing international calls for a ceasefire from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and other world leaders, Netanyahu said he did not support one.

"There will be no ceasefire - general ceasefire - in Gaza without the release of our hostages," he said.

"As far as tactical, little pauses - an hour here, an hour there - we've had them before."

Israel may agree to pauses to let humanitarian goods into Gaza, or to allow for hostages to leave the besieged Palestinian territory, he added.

But Netanyahu said there would be "no entry of gasoline... no ceasefire without the release of our hostages".

'Thousands' of casualties

Washington acknowledged on Monday there had been "thousands" of civilian casualties in Gaza, after President Joe Biden previously called into question the validity of numbers published by Hamas.

"As it relates to civilian casualties in Gaza... we know the numbers are in the thousands," Pentagon spokesman Brigadier General Pat Ryder told journalists.

160 children killed each day

The World Health Organization (WHO) said an average of 160 children are killed each day in Gaza as a result of the Israel-Hamas war.

"The level of death and suffering is hard to fathom," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva.



'Let's protect public funds'

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the Kingdom's commitment to adopting and implementing plans and programmes that ensure the effective and optimal management of public funds, in line with the aspirations and visions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he received the Auditor-General of the National Audit Office (NAO), HE Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, who presented the 20th NAO Annual Report 2022-2023, at Riffa Palace.

The Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of



HRH Prince Salman receives the 2022-2023 NAO Annual Report from HE Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed

Cabinet Affairs, HE Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, also attended the meeting.

His Royal Highness underlined the Kingdom's firm commitment to address all the NAO's observations, implement measures to enhance oversight and accountability and consolidate integrity, honesty, and profes-

sionalism across government workstreams.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised Team Bahrain's commitment to performing their responsibilities professionally and efficiently, and ensuring that public funds are managed according to national regulations.

He noted the NAO's dedication to their regulatory mandate, which is reflected in their reports issued annually.

Best practices

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended government agencies' commit-

"The Kingdom is firmly committed to addressing all the NAO's observations, implementing measures to enhance oversight and accountability and consolidating integrity, honesty, and professionalism across government workstreams."

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

ment to adopting the best practices across their administrative and financial procedures to ensure the optimal management of public funds.

HRH Prince Salman stressed the importance for government agencies to review, analyse, and

document all observations and ensure that the necessary legal measures are taken immediately.

His Royal Highness stressed the importance for government agencies that have observations of non-compliance in their finances and administration to correct these observations and ensure they are not repeated in future reports.

Unwavering support

HE Shaikh Ahmed highlighted that the NAO continues to develop, thanks to the unwavering support of HM the King, and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He noted that the report included findings from various economic, social, and service sectors, explaining that the fundamental observations and recommendations outlined within the report cover the team's findings for the 2022-2023 year.

HM King deputises BDF chief to visit Royal Artillery

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, yesterday deputised Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), to visit the Royal Artillery, marking the 47th anniversary of its establishment.

Upon arrival, the BDF chief was welcomed by Lieuten-

ant-General Abdulla bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, BDF Chief of Staff, Major-General Shaikh Khalifa bin Hassan Al Khalifa, Royal Artillery Commander, and senior officers.

On behalf of HM the King, the BDF chief presented the fallen servicemen's families and the wounded with medals bestowed upon them by HM the King. He also presented them with com-



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed with senior officials and BDF officers

memorative gifts.

The servicemen who were injured during the aggression

that had targeted them at a time of truce greeted the Commander-in-Chief, who conferred on

them the Wound Badge, in appreciation of the courage and valour they had shown while

performing their national duty.

A commemorative gift was also presented to HM the King, the Supreme Commander, by the Royal Artillery Commander.

Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed paid tribute to the late servicemen's families for their patience and fortitude, commending the courage showcased by the wounded while carrying out their sacred patriotic duties. He wished them a speedy recovery.

Private sector hailed for supporting school events



H.E. Dr. Juma with owners of institutions and companies in the private sector

TDI | Manama

His Excellency Dr. Muhammad bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, received a number of owners of institutions and companies in the private sector, who actively contributed to supporting school sports activities and competitions implemented by the Ministry of Education, including football, handball, chess and other sports competitions.

Dr. Juma extended his thanks and appreciation to all sponsors for their partnership with the Ministry and their support for these activities, which will have a major impact on raising the sports and mental levels of male and female students, appreciating the keenness of these institutions from the private sector to communicate with the Ministry and interact with its educational and student programs and projects.



Left, Rashid AlHamer, Editor of Al Ayam newspaper and Secretary to the Board and Head of International Relations at Bahrain Journalists Association (BJA), with dignitaries

The Minister also thanked the Educational Services Sector team, which carried out the promotion of school sports tournaments and activities, headed by Ms. Kifaya Habib Al-Anzour.

The institutions that received the platinum supporter rating for the Ministry of Education championships are the National Bank of Bahrain and Al Haqbaz Company, while the institutions that received the

gold supporter rating are the main company, GMI Company, Ahli United Bank, First Motors Company, and Sarah Group. While Engineer Transportation Company, Al Qasr Projects, Bahrain Cinema Company, Kuwait Finance House, Planera Holding Company, Maina Water Company, Marathon Sports Company, Al Ayyam Newspaper, and Bukari Sweet Company received the bronze supporter rating.

Bahrain-France cooperation



His Excellency Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, received the newly appointed French Ambassador to Bahrain, Eric Giraud-Telme, yesterday. He welcomed the envoy, hailing the distinguished ties, cooperation and coordination between Bahrain and France, especially in security. He wished the ambassador the best in his new assignments. The two sides reviewed security cooperation and topics of common interest.

Governors' meeting



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, yesterday held a meeting with governors, in the presence of the Chief of Public Security. The minister hailed the role of the governors in promoting interaction with citizens and residents, as well as meeting the needs of residents of the governorates in coordination with concerned authorities. He said that the active presence of the governorates on all occasions promotes cooperation and interaction with all segments of society. The meeting also discussed the governorates' topics and projects.

HRH Prince Salman hails growing Bahrain-US strategic ties

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the longstanding Bahrain-US relations, which have grown over the years through close strategic multisector collaboration and partnership.

HRH Prince Salman noted the importance of building on existing bilateral cooperation and collaboration in line with mutual aspirations.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he met yesterday with the Ambassador of the US

to the Kingdom of Bahrain, HE Steven C. Bondy, at Riffa Palace.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, also attended the meeting.

HRH Prince Salman highlighted the importance of furthering bilateral relations within the framework of historic relations and mutual agreements, including the recently signed Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA), which will further cooperation in security, military, advanced technology, trade, and investment to benefit all

HRH Prince Salman bin Ham-



HRH Prince Salman meets with HE Ambassador Bondy

ad outlined the importance of international efforts to safeguard regional security and stability, and support development, in line with the aspirations of the

people of the region and the world.

Regional and international issues, as well as developments in the Gaza Strip, were discussed.

Ceasefire

His Royal Highness stressed the importance of a ceasefire for a humanitarian truce, the

protection of innocent civilians' lives, the release of hostages and detainees, and the necessity of opening urgent, unhindered humanitarian corridors to deliver aid and assistance into the Gaza Strip.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister underlined the importance of reinforcing unified efforts to prevent the escalation of the situation and to halt violence that threatens security and stability.

He emphasised that a just and comprehensive peace is the only option to protect and realise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

New SCE directors named

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict (101) of 2023, appointing directors at the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), based on a proposal by the President of the SCE.

The edict stipulates the following:

The following directors shall be appointed at the executive apparatus of the SCE:

Article (I)

1. Shaikh Mishal bin Ibrahim bin Jaber Al Khalifa shall be appointed as Director of Al Areen Wildlife Directorate.

2. Nouf Ali Abdul Mohsen Al-Wasmi shall be appointed as Director of the Reserves Directorate.

3. Amna Hamad Ali Al Romaihi shall be appointed as Director of the Communication and Environmental Awareness Directorate.

4. Maryam Mohammed Abdulla Al Ansari shall be appointed as Director of the Environmental Evaluation and Licensing Directorate.

5. Lama Abbas Al Mahroos shall be appointed as Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Protection Directorate.

6. Ali Abdulla Ali Isa shall be appointed as Director of the Biodiversity Directorate.

Article (II)

The President of the SCE shall implement the provisions of this edict, which comes into effect upon its issuance and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Stage set for Jewellery Arabia

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's jewelry enthusiasts and industry professionals are eagerly anticipating the arrival of one of the most prestigious events in the Middle East's jewelry calendar, the Jewellery Arabia.

From November 14th to November 18th, the Exhibition World Bahrain in Zallaq will be transformed into a dazzling haven for jewelry lovers, offering an unparalleled shopping experience.

Renowned as one of the largest and most established jewelry exhibitions in the region, Jewellery Arabia brings together renowned manufacturers from across the globe



Jewelry lovers will flock to the event to showcase their latest creations.

The event promises to be a feast for the eyes, with an array of exquisitely crafted jewelry, luxurious watches, and gemstones of every imaginable size, shape, and cut.

On display are an impressive selection of watches, bracelets, earrings, and gold jewelry, and much more.

Winter season flight bookings plummet

Demand hits record low due to political scenario; hopes high for November increase

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

In the Kingdom, the winter season has always been synonymous with overseas travel to celebrate Christmas, New Year's, and relish in the joy of snowfall. However, travel agents are expressing worries due to an unusually low demand for flight bookings during this festive period.

Typically, travelers secure their flight tickets well in advance to avoid the steep prices often associated with December.

Furthermore, finding available seats becomes increasingly challenging due to high demand. Yet, this year, travel agents are noticing a significant decrease in bookings, leaving them searching for explanations.

Thaha Marzooque, the Director of Travel Knits & Vacanza, sheds light on the reasons behind the unexpected trend of low demand for winter holiday flight bookings in an interview with The Daily Tribune.

Marzooque expresses concerns regarding the lack of bookings and speculates on potential factors contributing to this decline.



Cost-friendly air travel packages await inbound and outbound tourists

Factor

One factor he highlights is the current political scenario and ongoing conflicts, which may be dissuading travelers from making holiday plans. The uncertainty surrounding these events could be a major deterrent. However, Marzooque acknowledges that the political situation alone may not provide a complete explanation, as ethnic traffic has consistently been low since September.

Marzooque further points out that popular winter holiday destinations like the UK and Turkey are also experiencing fewer bookings compared to last year. Nevertheless, he remains hopeful, stating, "We are optimistic and anticipate

an increase in bookings during the second week of November."

Despite the overall decrease in demand, specific holiday packages are being offered to take advantage of the upcoming Bahrain National Day holidays.

Packages

"Fixed departures to Azerbaijan and Turkey are available, and other travel agents are promoting packages to Georgia. Moreover, early bird discounts on National Day holiday packages to Azerbaijan are being offered, with a BD 52 discount in celebration of the 52nd Bahrain National Day," he added.

Marzooque pointed out the popularity of mini vacations during the National Day peri-



"We are optimistic and anticipate an increase in bookings during the second week of November."

- THAHA MARZOOQUE, THE DIRECTOR OF TRAVEL KNITS & VACANZA

od. With the three to four-day holiday provided, many people opt to extend their time off and embark on nearby country getaways.

As the travel industry grapples with the unexpected decline in winter holiday flight bookings, travel agencies and airlines are closely monitoring the situation.

There is hope that the second week of November will bring an upturn in bookings as travelers embrace the festive spirit and finally make their long-awaited travel plans.

IFAS platform to raise awareness for RHF's aid work

TDT | Manama

The Indian Fine Arts Society, a premier organisation promoting classical Indian arts, showcased the talent of over 40 local dancers in a production titled "Manifestations".

The show, at the Regency InterContinental on November 4, was held to help raise awareness about the work of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation. Indian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Vinod Jacob and the Secretary-General of the RHF, H.E. Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed presided over the evening. Also present was the Ambassador of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mrs. Wijeratne Mendis.



Dr. Al Sayed (sixth from left) receiving donation to RHF in the presence of diplomats and IFAS members

Choreographed by Bharatanatyam exponent Mrs. Hansul Gani with collaborative inputs from experts in the US and Kerala, India, the production explored the mystic connection between life on earth and the five

sacred elements: Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space. With stunning costumes, vivid backdrop and specially composed music score, the production was a treat for art lovers.

Commendation

In his address, Dr. Al Sayed commended the Indian community's response to the work of the RHF, saying that Indians

in Bahrain had time and again supported the RHF's aid drive for natural disasters.

"The Indians in Bahrain have always aligned their compassion with the example of His Majesty the King whose vision empow-

ers the RHF," Dr. Al Sayed said, "Today our timely and first-to-support response to any humanitarian crisis has brought admiration to the RHF and the organisation is ranked No. 11 in the Arab world for its effectiveness. With His Majesty's leadership as our guiding light, we have helped rebuild churches, schools and also helped support refugee camps all over the world, without discrimination and in keeping with the One-Family Spirit of Bahrain."

He added, "I am particularly happy that this program by IFAS to raise awareness for our work comes through art.

Takaful International Company B.S.C.

INTERIM CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2023



(Bahraini Dinars)

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As At 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	30 September	31 December	1 January
	2023	2022	2022
	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)
		<i>Restated</i>	<i>Restated</i>
ASSETS			
Statutory deposit	125,000	125,000	125,000
Cash and balances with banks	10,166,915	21,867,048	22,073,266
Investments	22,120,293	8,632,293	8,242,584
Investment in an Associate	224,202	190,145	184,856
Retakaful arrangement assets	2,468,874	1,666,714	1,038,481
Other receivables, accrued income and prepayments	4,705,501	5,507,953	3,621,865
Property and equipments	123,991	61,565	85,814
Intangible assets	503,729	-	-
Right of use asset	443,285	452,743	519,960
TOTAL ASSETS	40,881,790	38,503,461	35,891,826
LIABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
LIABILITIES			
Takaful arrangement liabilities	24,238,593	21,260,984	19,142,149
Retakaful arrangement liabilities	662,718	570,375	906,231
Payables and accrued liabilities	3,432,405	4,465,341	4,016,681
Ijara liabilities	478,797	477,515	529,525
TOTAL LIABILITIES	28,812,513	26,774,215	24,594,586
PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS			
Surplus / (deficit) in participants' funds	757,730	268,503	(126,495)
Investments fair value reserve	(232,054)	(86,733)	211,492
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS	525,676	181,770	84,997
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Share capital	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000
Treasury shares	(2,087)	(2,087)	-
Statutory reserve	963,869	963,869	863,664
General reserve	200,000	200,000	200,000
Retained earnings	2,162,260	1,884,720	1,552,060
Investments fair value reserve	(280,441)	974	96,519
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	11,543,601	11,547,476	11,212,243
TOTAL LIABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	40,881,790	38,503,461	35,891,826

INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the nine-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	nine month's ended 30 September 2023			nine month's ended 30 September 2022		
	(Reviewed)			(Reviewed) (Restated)		
	Shareholders	Participants'	Total	Shareholders	Participants'	Total
Net profit and surplus for the period	673,114	476,250	1,149,364	644,713	352,788	997,501
FAS 30 Transition impact	(5,503)	(3,155)	(8,658)	-	-	-
Other comprehensive loss						
<i>Investment at fair value through equity:</i>						
Fair value changes arising during the period	(258,507)	(144,107)	(402,614)	(209,050)	(242,155)	(451,205)
Recycled to interim condensed statement of profit or loss						
on disposal / impairment	11,940	14,918	26,858	38,256	(17,988)	20,268
Other comprehensive loss for the period	(246,567)	(129,189)	(375,756)	(170,794)	(260,143)	(430,937)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	421,044	343,906	764,950	473,919	92,645	566,564

INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the three-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	Three month's ended 30 September 2023			Three month's ended 30 September 2022		
	(Reviewed)			(Reviewed) (Restated)		
	Shareholders	Participants'	Total	Shareholders	Participants'	Total
Net profit and surplus / (deficit) for the period	244,684	253,645	498,329	320,139	(220,142)	99,997
FAS 30 Transition impact	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive (loss) / income						
<i>Investment at fair value through equity:</i>						
Fair value changes arising during the period	(142,805)	(86,078)	(228,883)	69,933	(22,718)	47,215
Recycled to interim condensed statement of profit or loss						
on disposal / impairment	16,210	20,130	36,340	60,620	(36,017)	24,603
Other comprehensive (loss) / income for the period	(126,595)	(65,948)	(192,543)	130,553	(58,735)	71,818
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	118,089	187,697	305,786	450,692	(278,877)	171,815

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the nine-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	nine months ended 30 September	
	2023	2022
	(Reviewed)	(Restated)
Net cash from operating activities	2,007,492	1,519,474
Net cash used in investing activities	(7,362,524)	(8,531,780)
Net cash used in financing activities	(465,101)	(494,613)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(5,820,133)	(7,506,919)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	8,087,048	17,331,265
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	2,266,915	9,824,346
COMPRISING:		
CASH AND BALANCES WITH BANKS		
Cash and balance in current accounts	2,266,915	5,844,346
Bank deposits with original maturities of three months or less	-	3,980,000
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,266,915	9,824,346
Bank deposits with original maturities of more than three months	7,900,000	12,217,056
Cash and balances with banks as per interim statement of financial position	10,166,915	22,041,402

INTERIM STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the nine month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	Shareholders'		Participants'		Total	
	30 September		30 September		30 September	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	(Reviewed)	(Restated)	(Reviewed)	(Restated)	(Reviewed)	(Restated)
Recognised takaful contributions	-	-	18,204,302	17,765,969	18,204,302	17,765,969
Recognised takaful costs	-	-	(14,061,392)	(13,843,333)	(14,061,392)	(13,843,333)
Retakaful net results	-	-	(3,353,431)	(3,605,546)	(3,353,431)	(3,605,546)
Takaful participants' gross margin	-	-	789,479	317,090	789,479	317,090
Net participants' investment income	-	-	405,513	303,270	405,513	303,270
Amortisation of deferred cost (related to provision of takaful arrangements)	-	-	(766,547)	(158,652)	(766,547)	(158,652)
Amortisation of deferred income (related to retakaful arrangements held)	-	-	109,064	64,598	109,064	64,598
Other participants' expenses	-	-	(61,259)	(173,518)	(61,259)	(173,518)
Net participants' surplus	-	-	476,250	352,788	476,250	352,788
Wakala fee income	2,929,978	3,165,534	-	-	2,929,978	3,165,534
Net shareholders' investment income	430,452	169,006	-	-	430,452	169,006
Mudarib share	138,450	101,090	-	-	138,450	101,090
Income from associate	33,021	13,510	-	-	33,021	13,510
Other shareholders' income	13,380	8,532	-	-	13,380	8,532
Total shareholders' income	3,545,281	3,457,672	-	-	3,545,281	3,457,672
General and administrative expenses	(1,533,057)	(1,629,429)	-	-	(1,533,057)	(1,629,429)
Other fees, commission and related expenses	(1,077,428)	(955,952)	-	-	(1,077,428)	(955,952)
Other shareholders' expenses	(261,682)	(227,578)	-	-	(261,682)	(227,578)
Total shareholders' expenses	(2,872,167)	(2,812,959)	-	-	(2,872,167)	(2,812,959)
Net profit for the period	673,114	644,713	476,250	352,788	1,149,364	997,501
Earnings per share	7.92 Fils	7.58 Fils				

INTERIM STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the three month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	Shareholders'		Participants'		Total	
	30 September		30 September		30 September	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	(Reviewed)	(Restated)	(Reviewed)	(Restated)	(Reviewed)	(Restated)
Recognised takaful contributions	-	-	5,921,904	5,570,935	5,921,904	5,570,935
Recognised takaful costs	-	-	(4,321,247)	(4,832,084)	(4,321,247)	(4,832,084)
Retakaful net results	-	-	(1,254,789)	(966,988)	(1,254,789)	(966,988)
Takaful participants' gross margin	-	-	345,868	(228,137)	345,868	(228,137)
Net participants' investment income	-	-	92,015	126,625	92,015	126,625
Amortisation of deferred cost (related to provision of takaful arrangements)	-	-	(207,254)	(119,397)	(207,254)	(119,397)
Amortisation of deferred income (related to retakaful arrangements held)	-	-	26,908	34,659	26,908	34,659
Other participants' expenses	-	-	(3,892)	(33,892)	(3,892)	(33,892)
Net participants' surplus / (deficit)	-	-	253,645	(220,142)	253,645	(220,142)
Wakala fee income	895,200	987,088	-	-	895,200	987,088
Net shareholders' investment income / (loss)	121,864	(31,375)	-	-	121,864	(31,375)
Mudarib share	44,881	42,094	-	-	44,881	42,094
Income from associate	12,621	4,109	-	-	12,621	4,109
Other shareholders' income	5	7,350	-	-	5	7,350
Total shareholders' income	1,074,571	1,009,266	-	-	1,074,571	1,009,266
General and administrative expenses	(476,401)	(335,188)	-	-	(476,401)	(335,188)
Other fees, commission and related expenses	(275,401)	(306,048)	-	-	(275,401)	(306,048)
Other shareholders' expenses	(78,085)	(47,891)	-	-	(78,085)	(47,891)
Total shareholders' expenses	(829,887)	(689,127)	-	-	(829,887)	(689,127)
Net profit / (loss) for the period	244,684	320,139	253,645	(220,142)	498,329	99,997
Earnings per share	2.88 fils	3.77 fils				

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PARTICIPANTS' FUND

For the nine-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	Surplus in participants' fund		Investments fair value reserve		Total
	General takaful	Family takaful	General takaful	Family takaful	
Balance at 1 January 2023	284,051	(15,548)	(84,210)	(2,523)	181,770
Impact of initial application of FAS 30	12,118	859	(15,011)	(1,121)	(3,155)
Restated balance as at 1 January 2023	296,169	(14,689)	(99,221)	(3,644)	178,615
Unrealised fair value (loss) / gains on investments	-	-	(134,283)	5,094	(129,189)
Surplus / (deficit) for the period	579,737	(103,487)	-	-	476,250
Balance as at 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)	875,906	(118,176)	(233,504)	1,450	525,676
Balance at 1 January 2022	564,910	79,990	98,499	112,993	856,392
Impact of initial application of FAS 43	(513,693)	(257,702)	-	-	(771,395)
Restated balance as at 1 January 2022	51,217	(177,712)	98,499	112,993	84,997
Realised fair value losses / (gains) on investments	-	-	25,710	(43,698)	(17,988)
Unrealised fair value loss on investments	-	-	(235,702)	(6,453)	(242,155)
Surplus for the period	266,709	86,079	-	-	352,788
Balance as at 30 September 2022 (Restated)	317,926	(91,633)	(111,493)	62,842	177,642

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

For the nine-month period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)

	Share capital	Statutory reserve	General reserve	Retained earnings	Investments fair value reserve	Treasury shares	Total equity
	Balance at 1 January 2023	8,500,000	963,869	200,000	1,884,720	974	(2,087)
Impact of initial application of FAS 30	-	-	-	29,345	(34,848)	-	(5,503)
Restated balance as at 1 January 2023	8,500,000	963,869	200,000	1,914,065	(33,874)	(2,087)	11,541,973
Profit for the period	-	-	-	673,114	-	-	673,114
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(246,567)	-	(246,567)
Total comprehensive income / (loss)	8,500,000	963,869	200,000	2,587,179	(280,441)	(2,087)	11,968,520
Dividend for the year 2022	-	-	-	(424,919)	-	-	(424,919)
Balance as at 30 September 2023	8,500,000	963,869	200,000	2,162,260	(280,441)	(2,087)	11,543,601
Balance at 1 January 2022	8,500,000	863,664	20				

Takaful International's profit rises 15% to BD1.149 million

● Q3 net profit attributable to the shareholders was BD 245K

● Nine-month net profit was BD 673K

TDT | Manama

Takaful International Company reported profits for the third quarter and nine-month 2023, which the company said achieved despite the continuous rise in loss ratios in the market, and the accounting impact resulting from the adoption of new accounting standards, which affected the approach used in determining allocations and technical reserves.

Q3 results

Quarterly net profit attributable to the shareholders was BD 245K compared to BD 320K for the same period last year, a decrease of 23%. Earnings per share was 2.88 Fils compared with 3.77 Fils in the year-ago quarter. Total comprehensive income stood at BD 118K com-



Ebrahim Al Rayes, Chairman



Essam Al Ansari, CEO

pared to BD 451k for the same period last year, a decrease of 74%.

Total net profit was BD 498K compared to BD 100K for the same period last year. The participants' Takaful funds achieved a surplus of BD 253k compared to a deficit of BD 220K for the same period last year.

The shareholders' fund achieved a net profit of BD 245K compared to a net profit of BD 320K for the same period last year, a decrease of 23%.

Recognized Takaful Contribu-

tions were BD 5.922m compared to BD 5.571m for the same period last year, an increase of 6%. Recognized Takaful Costs also decreased by 11% to BD 4.321m as compared to BD 4.832m for the same period last year.

Nine months results

Nine-month net profit attributable to the shareholders was BD 673K compared to BD 645K for the same period last year, an increase of 4%. Earnings per share was 7.92 Fils compared with 7.58 Fils for the same period last year. Total comprehen-

sive income stood at BD 421K compared to BD 473K for the same period last year, an increase of 11%.

Net profit was BD 1.149 million compared to BD 998k for the same period last year with an increase of 15%. The Participants' Takaful funds achieved a surplus of BD 476K compared to a surplus of BD 353K for the same period last year, an increase of 35%. The shareholders' fund achieved a net profit of BD 673K compared to a net profit of BD 645K for the same period last year with an increase of 4%.

Recognized Takaful Contributions increased by 2.4% to BD 18.204m compared to BD 17.766m in the same period last year. Recognized Takaful Costs slightly increased by 1.5% to BD 14.061m compared to BD 13.843m in the same period last year.

Ebrahim Al Rayes, Chairman of the Board of Directors, commented that the Board of Directors are satisfied with the financial performance results for the nine months ended 30 September 2023, that were in line with the budget approved by the Board of Directors at the end of last year.

Batelco first in MENA to launch mobile peering

TDT | Manama

Batelco, part of the Beyon Group, announces its latest service "Mobile Peering" which is available on Manama IX (MN-IX) for members of the platform. Batelco is the first in the MENA region to offer a Mobile Peering service, which is an open interconnecting solution, enabling mobile operators and Internet Packet Exchange (IPX) providers to securely exchange their global mobile roaming data.

The many benefits of this service include enhanced network efficiency and reduced latency by establishing direct connections between mobile providers on MN-IX. Exchanging mobile traffic directly with



other mobile networks results in a better roaming experience for the mobile operators' end users. Additionally, the mobile peering service eliminates the need to pay a third party to carry mobile data traffic, hence reducing overall costs, which can be passed on to the end-users, leading to more competitive mobile roaming data plans.

Bangladesh garment workers reject 56% pay rise

Dhaka, Bangladesh

8,300 taka (\$75).

Bangladesh raised the minimum monthly pay for the country's four million garment workers by 56.25% yesterday, a decision immediately rejected by unions seeking a near-tripling of the figure.

The South Asian country's 3,500 garment factories account for around 85% of its \$55 billion in annual exports, supplying many of the world's top fashion names including Levi's, Zara and H&M. But conditions are dire for many of the sector's four million workers, the vast majority of whom are women whose monthly pay starts at

Workers have gone on strike to demand a near-tripling of their wages, with violent scenes in recent days, while employers offered 25 percent.

The minimum wage is fixed by a state-appointed board that includes representatives from the manufacturers, unions and wage experts.

"The new minimum monthly wage for garment factory workers has been fixed at 12,500 taka (\$113)," Raisha Afroz, the board secretary, told AFP.

The figure was immediately rejected by unions, which have been demanding a 23,000 taka minimum.



Garment workers clash with police personnel during a rally, demanding a near-tripling of their wages in Ashulia. Police said at least 300 factories had been shut down in the weeklong protests, which have so far left two workers dead and dozens more injured

Stocks retreat as weak growth concerns weigh

● Oil prices slid by 2.5% on data showing China's exports fell

● United States trade deficit widened more than anticipated

● Asian equity markets were on the back foot

London, United Kingdom

Major stock markets mostly retreated yesterday as concerns about weak growth offset hopes of an end to global interest-rate hikes.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P500 opened lower as a huge rally that began last week appears to be fading but the tech-heavy Nasdaq bucked the trend as it rose.

European markets were down in afternoon trading while Asian indices mostly closed in the red.

Oil prices slid by 2.5% on data showing China's exports fell at a faster pace than predicted in October, as the world's second-largest economy is buffeted by faltering global demand and a sluggish domestic recovery.

At the same time, the International Monetary Fund raised its 2023 economic growth forecast for China, citing stronger consumption and recent policy measures announced by Beijing.

But official data showed German industrial output slumped more than expected in September, signalling that Europe's biggest economy was struggling to emerge from a slowdown.

In the United States, trade figures released by the US government showed that the trade

Bahrain All Share Index closes higher



TDT | Manama

an increase of 1.33 points above the previous closing.

Bahrain All Share Index closed at 1,923.95 points marking an increase of 3.20 points above the previous closing. This increase was due to the raise in the and material sector. Bahrain Islamic Index closed at 720.17 points marking

Results indicated that 90 equity transactions took place with a volume of 3,625,145 worth BD 2,799,453.

Investors traded mainly in the material sector representing 91.15% of the total value of securities traded.

deficit widened more than anticipated, with exports and imports both growing.

Investors also remain concerned about the potential im-

impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict on the world economy.

"Last week was all about dawning expectation that interest rates might not stay as high

Key figures around 1345 GMT

New York - Dow:	▼ 0.1% at 34,055.99 points
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.1% at 7,413.71
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 0.1% at 15,125.91
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.5% at 6,981.66
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.3% at 4,145.68
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 1.3% at 32,271.82 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index:	▼ 1.7% at 17,670.16 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	■ at 3,057.27 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.0670 from \$1.0723 on Monday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2291 from \$1.2342
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 150.60 yen from 150.00 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.80 pence from 86.85 pence
Brent North Sea crude:	▼ 2.5% at \$83.06 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 2.5% at \$78.81 per barrel

for as long as had been previously expected, and this week it's all about growth -- or the lack of it," noted Danni Hewson, AJ Bell head of financial analysis.

Investors were unable to maintain the momentum seen after US officials hinted that the era of rising borrowing costs was over, while a jump in Treasury yields Monday revived jitters that there could still be one more lift to come.

Patrick O'Hare, analyst at Briefing.com, said it looks "like there is a bid by the market to catch its breath coming off last week's huge gains".

Speeches by a number of decision-makers this week including Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell will be analysed for clues about the outlook, with some officials still reluctant to call an end to the tightening cycle.

"Fed officials remain extremely cautious, fearing stopping too soon and suffering another onslaught of criticism for underestimating the inflationary pressures," said Craig Erlam, analyst at OANDA trading platform.

Asian equity markets were on the back foot Tuesday, with Hong Kong among the biggest losers after a three-day rally that was worth more than four%.

Traders this week will be keeping tabs also on a meeting between US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese counterpart He Lifeng in San Francisco, hoping for a further thawing of long-chilled ties between the economic superpowers.

The two-day get-together comes ahead of an expected one-on-one between presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC summit later this month.

IMF raises China 2023 growth forecast to 5.4%

AFP | Beijing, China

The International Monetary Fund yesterday raised its 2023 economic growth forecast for China, citing stronger consumption and recent policy measures announced by Beijing.

After a tough year for the world's number-two economy, there have been flickers of life in recent weeks, with third-quarter expansion coming in more than expected.

The Fund said it saw gross domestic product expanding 5.4% this year, compared with a previous estimate of 5.0%, while it lifted its outlook 2024 to 4.6% from 4.2%.

Gita Gopinath, First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, told a news conference in Beijing on Tuesday that the upgrade reflected "a strong post-reopening rebound in domestic demand, particularly consumption".

The economy grew 4.9% in July-September, slower than

the previous quarter but a lot better than expected and a little shy of the government's goal of "around five%" for the year -- one of its lowest targets in years.

China's economy expanded just 3.0% last year -- well below the official target of 5.5% -- as it was choked by draconian Covid-19 measures.

A string of below-par economic data in the first half -- which came despite the lifting of zero-Covid curbs at the end of 2022 -- led the government to unveil a number of targeted stimulus measures aimed at supporting key sectors, particularly the troubled property industry.

And in October Beijing said it would issue one trillion yuan (\$137 billion) of sovereign bonds to boost infrastructure spending.

Gopinath said the new forecast were made "reflecting stronger than expected growth in the third quarter and the new policy support that was recently announced".

News in brief

◆ A luxury resort operator in Singapore said yesterday that the personal data of about 665,000 members of its shopping loyalty programme had been hacked. The breach of Marina Bay Sands was the latest in a string of major cybersecurity incidents reported in the city-state. Last week public healthcare institutions had their internet access disrupted by a flood of malicious traffic in a so-called distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack. Marina Bay Sands, which is owned by US casino giant Las Vegas Sands, said it became aware of the "data security incident" on October 20, according to an email sent to some customers on Tuesday and seen by AFP. "Investigations have since determined that an unknown third party accessed customer data of about 665,000 non-casino rewards programme members," the message from chief operating officer Paul Town said.



Singapore luxury resort says data of 665,000 customers hacked

◆ The trial of the man who allegedly attacked the husband of US politician Nancy Pelosi with a hammer in the couple's California home got under way

Trial over alleged hammer attack of Pelosi's husband opens

Monday. A jury was being selected in the federal trial of David DePape, who is charged with the assault of Paul Pelosi and the attempted kidnapping of the then-speaker of the US House of Representatives in October 2022. Prosecutors say DePape earlier admitted to breaking into the Pelosis' San Francisco residence with the intention of getting the senior Democrat to acknowledge her party's "lies" on pain of smashing her kneecaps. But finding only her then-82-year-old husband at home, he engaged in what he told officers was a "pretty amicable" exchange, during which Pelosi managed to call for help from law enforcement.



◆ President

Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that Ukraine had deployed more Western air defence systems, as it braces for a second full winter of Russian attacks on energy facilities. Kyiv has said it is bolstering defences to protect key infrastructure ahead of winter, fearing a renewed Russian aerial onslaught during the cold months. Systematic strikes by Moscow's forces last year targeted Ukraine's energy grid, leaving thousands without heating or electricity in freezing temperatures for long periods. "I received reports on the receipt of ammunition, hardware and equipment over the past day," Zelensky said on social media. "Additional NASAMS systems from partners have been put on combat duty. Timely reinforcement of our air defence before winter," he added. Zelensky has been calling on Western allies to provide additional arms ahead of winter to fend off feared Russian attacks.

Ukraine says bolstered air defence for winter attacks



CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Confiscated French love letters finally opened after 265 years

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Undelivered letters written to French sailors during an 18th century war between Britain and France have finally been opened and studied -- after more than 250 years gathering dust.

The unread letters have provided a rare insight into the lives of sailors and their families in the 1700s, from the wife of a senior naval officer to an elderly mother chastising her son for not writing.

The Royal Navy seized the messages during the Seven Years' War, a global conflict that ended in 1763 that saw Britain and France lead rival alliances.

"I could spend the night writing to you... I am your forever faithful wife," wrote Marie Dubosc to her husband Louis Chamberlain, the first lieutenant of a French warship in 1758.

"Good night, my dear friend. It is midnight. I think it is time for me to rest."

Unknown to Marie, her husband's ship, the Galatee, had

been captured by the British, researchers at the University of Cambridge found.

Louis never received the letter and his wife died the following year, almost certainly before he was released by the British.

In another missive dated January 27, 1758, the mother of young sailor Nicolas Quesnel from Normandy takes him to task about his lack of communication.

"I think more about you than you about me... In any case I wish you a happy new year filled with blessings of the Lord," 61-year-old Marguerite wrote in a letter probably dictated to someone else.

"I think I am for the tomb, I have been ill for three weeks. Give my compliments to Varin (a shipmate), it is only his wife who gives me your news," she added.

The Galatee was captured by the British en route from Bordeaux to Quebec in 1758.

British Admiralty officials at the time deemed the letters of no military significance and the vast majority languished in the archives, unopened, until they attracted the attention of Cambridge history professor Renaud Morieux.

"I only ordered the box out of curiosity," said Morieux, whose findings were published on Tuesday in the journal "Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales".



South African minister robbed at gunpoint

AFP | Johannesburg, South Africa

A South African minister said yesterday she had a gun pointed at her head before being robbed and her bodyguards' weapons stolen in what police called an "unprecedented incident"

Transport Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga said she was unhurt but traumatised by the ordeal in the early hours of Monday.

"I am in one piece," Chikunga told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday. "The whole experience was very traumatising and devastating."

Chikunga's car was forced to stop on a highway south of Johannesburg, after the tyres were punctured by spikes, the transport ministry said.

As her bodyguards got out of the vehicle to change the tyres, three "well-dressed" gunmen wearing balaclavas appeared and disarmed them, Chikunga said.

"They opened my door... pointed a gun to my head and ordered me to come out," she said.

Police said the robbers stole personal belongings and two South African Police Service (SAPS) pistols.

Chikunga said her laptop and phone were among the items stolen, adding the gunmen demanded money but she was carrying only 200 rand (\$10).

"A manhunt has since been launched following this unprecedented incident and to bring to book those responsible," said police spokeswoman Athlenda Mathe. Involving a high-profile official with an armed security detail, the incident is striking even in crime-ridden South Africa.

Indonesia denies Israel claim

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesia denied yesterday an Israeli claim that a hospital built in Gaza using Indonesian funding sits atop a network of Hamas tunnels and is located near a launchpad for rocket attacks.

The hospital, situated in the north of the Gaza Strip near the fortified border with Israel, was built using Indonesian charity funds.

"The Indonesian Hospital in Gaza is a facility built by the Indonesian people entirely for humanitarian purposes and to serve the medical needs of the Palestinian people in Gaza," Indonesia's foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The statement came a day after Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said the Indonesian Hospital had been built at a site that sat on top of a network of Hamas tunnels.

He also said Hamas was using a nearby area as a base to launch rockets into Israel.

"I will show you the reason

Gazans raise white flags to flee

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Clutching makeshift white flags, Gazans made their way in between dead bodies and Israeli troops yesterday as they followed Israel's orders to flee across the Palestinian territory.

"It was so scary," said Ola al-Ghul, one of the masses of Gazan civilians displaced in the month-old war between Israel and Hamas. "We held our hands up and we kept walking. There were so many of us, we were holding white flags," she said.

The majority of the Gaza Strip's 2.4 million residents have been displaced by the fighting,



A picture taken from southern Israel near Israeli army vehicles crossing back into Israel with around 1.5 million fleeing within the territory according to the United Nations.

Clutching one of her toddlers, Amira al-Sakani recalled Israel's repeated air drops of flyers, seen

why they built the hospital there. Unsurprisingly, Hamas built the hospital on top of their infrastructures," Hagari said in a video statement posted by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on YouTube. "Here, the IDF identified a

launch pad, meaning they launch rockets from here," he added, pointing to what he said was photographic evidence of his claim.

Iqbal refuted the claims about the hospital, which, like other medical centres in war-ravaged



Palestinians fleeing Gaza City towards the southern areas walk on a road



Palestinians pull a child from debris

UAE to set up 150-bed field hospital in Gaza: official media



Palestinians cry following the death of relatives

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates to set up a field hospital in the Gaza Strip, official media said after the death toll from the war between Israel and Hamas passed 10,000, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Five aircraft flew out of Abu Dhabi for Arish in northern Egypt carrying equipment and supplies for the 150-bed facility, WAM news agency said late Monday. An official contacted by AFP said there was no immediate information on how

the equipment will be transferred to Gaza, where there is only one operational border point, the Rafah crossing near Arish. The hospital's facilities will include anaesthetics and surgery, gynaecology and intensive care units "catering to both children and adults", WAM said.

Since the start of hostilities, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities have stopped functioning and 71 per cent of all primary care facilities across Gaza have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel, OCHA says.

Dead children in Gaza is world's 'moral failing'

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

A month after the war between Israel and Hamas erupted, the Red Cross demanded yesterday an end to the horrific suffering of civilians, and especially children, decrying a "moral failing".

"One month on, civilians in Gaza and Israel are being forced to endure tremendous suffering and loss. This needs to stop," the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement.

"Massive bombardments are gutting civilian infrastructure across Gaza, sowing seeds of hardship for generations to come," the ICRC statement said.

The organisation's president Mirjana Spoljaric said she had been particularly shocked to see the suffering that children have had to endure.

"Children have been ripped from their families and held hostage. In Gaza, ICRC surgeons treat toddlers whose skin is charred from widespread burns," she said in the statement. "The images of suffering, dead and wounded children will haunt us all. This is a moral failing," she added. Spoljaric also called for the im-



An aerial view shows the compound of AI-S... immediate release of hostages seized by Hamas. "They play no part in this conflict and we reiterate our offer as neutral actor to facilitate any future release operation," she said. "Until then we continue all our efforts to urge Hamas and all those with influence to allow ICRC personnel to visit the hostages," she added.

The organisation insisted that all parties to the conflict "must uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law and spare all civilians from the conduct of military operations." It pointed out that the military

Roman Emperor Theodosius declares Christian religion the state religion



1st meeting of Aztec Emperor Moctezuma II and Spanish Conquistador Hernán Cortés in Tenochtitlan, Mexico

William Penn presents Charter of Privileges, guaranteed religious freedom for the colony in Pennsylvania

German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen produces and detects electromagnetic radiation in a wavelength range today known as X-rays or Röntgen rays

Claim over Gaza hospital

See Israeli onslaught on foot



the border with the Gaza Strip shows Israel from Gaza

by AFP, telling civilians to flee to the south.

"We came by foot from the centre of Gaza to the south," she said. "I was not expecting the distance to be that long."

On the way, Sakani saw "bodies of martyrs, some in pieces".

"We want peace, enough is enough, we are tired, we want a happy future," she said.

Haitham Nouredine said he walked four kilometres (2.5 miles) with his mother and other relatives until they reached the southern Bureij refugee camp.

He told AFP the family left their Gaza City home near Al-Shifa hospital, due to the heavy bombardment in the area, and saw decomposing bodies en route. The Israeli military says its troops have encircled Gaza City but will allow civilians to leave the north.

condition to justify attacks against us, therefore we need to debunk it", Murad added.

Hamas has repeatedly denied Israeli accusations that hospitals and other civilian infrastructure are being used by its operatives.

Hundreds line up in Gaza to flee through Egypt crossing

Hundreds of Palestinian foreign passport holders waited on Tuesday inside the war-stricken and besieged Gaza Strip to escape through the Rafah crossing with Egypt.

While most still queued nervously, the first arrivals were seen on the Egyptian side where paramedics transferred an injured woman on a stretcher into an ambulance to rush her to a hospital.

Yesterday was set to mark the fifth day on which Gaza's sole land crossing not controlled by Israel has opened in the past week, to wounded Palestinians as well as foreigners and Palestinian dual nationals.

Gaza, is currently treating patients far beyond its capacity.

The Indonesian charity that operates the hospital, MER-C, also denied the facility was used by Hamas.

"What Israel accused us of

can be a precondition for them to launch an attack at the Indonesian hospital in Gaza," MER-C chief Sarbini Abdul Murad said in Jakarta on Monday.

The "IDF's accusation is a pre-



People flee following air strikes on a neighbourhood in the al-Maghazi refugee camp

'Failing': Red Cross



Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City

siege of Gaza had deprived people there of food, water and medicine, and warned that the "sparse aid" trickling in was not able to provide people with the essentials to survive.

"Safe and sustained humanitarian access across Gaza is urgently needed," it said, stressing that "critical services like health care, water, and electricity must be immediately restored in Gaza as a lifesaving priority."

It also decried attacks on health-care, emphasising that "scenes of damaged hospitals and ambulances are unacceptable".

Israeli strike kills Palestinian reporter in Gaza: news agency

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

A Palestinian journalist was killed in an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip and another was wounded, the official Palestinian news agency reported yesterday.

Mohammad Abu Hasira was the latest among dozens of journalists killed in the month-long conflict that began with Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel.

He "was killed in an Israeli bombing that targeted his house located near the fishermen's port west of Gaza City," said the WAFA news agency, where he worked.

WAFA reported that Abu Hasira "and 42 members of his family, including his sons and brothers" were killed in the strike. The Hamas-run news press service in the Gaza Strip said the bombardment that killed Abu Hasira took place overnight between Sunday and Monday, but that his body was only found in the rubble on Tuesday. On Thursday, the official Palestinian TV station



Israeli soldiers during operations in northern Gaza

said one of its correspondents in the Gaza Strip was killed in an Israeli air strike in the southern Gaza Strip.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said Monday that at least 37 journalists and media employees (32 Palestinians, four Israelis, one Lebanese citizen) had been killed since the start of the war.

In a separate incident, a journalist with Lebanese Al-Mayadeen television channel filed a police complaint against an Israeli journalist who she alleged had "intimidated" her.

Hana Mohamed said Israeli journalist Haim Etgar confronted her at a post office after allegedly impersonating a postal employee and "threatening" her.



A Thai student returning from Israel hugs family members during a meeting at Rajanagarindra University in Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat

EU boosts funds for Jordan as Mideast war rages

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU yesterday announced more than 900 million euros in aid for Jordan after European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen met King Abdullah II for talks amid fears that the conflict, which has left thousands dead, could spill over to other countries.

Von der Leyen thanked the Jordanian king for "his critical stabilising role in the region," amid fears that the conflict, which has left thousands dead, could spill over to other countries.

The two leaders did not hold a press conference after the meeting.

BETTER
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Israeli forces have encircled Gaza City where they say Hamas's main command and control facilities are located. The Israeli military has repeatedly called on Palestinian civilians to evacuate and move south.

On social media however, von der Leyen said the talks included Israel's military offensive against Gaza in response to the October 7 attacks by Hamas, which controls the Palestinian territory.

Jordan is among countries in the region that fears a mass exodus from Gaza.

"I reiterated my position on no forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza and the EU's support for a two-state solution," von der Leyen said.

A statement said "discussions focused on recent developments and the need to avoid a negative spill-over in the region, where Jordan plays a key stabilising role".

It said the EU support package was worth 902 million euros (\$963 million) -- 402 million euros in grants and 500 million euros in European Investment Bank loans.

Von der Leyen said the money was to bolster "Jordan's reform process and modernisation of its economy".

The bulk of it was to go to improving water supplies in the parched kingdom, while other funding would go to youth education and tourism schemes, and improving energy efficiency.

Israel falls silent to mark one month since Hamas attacks

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Quiet sobs pierced memorial speeches and mourning crowds lit candles as Israel briefly fell silent yesterday, marking one month since the deadly Hamas attacks of October 7 plunged it into war.

At Jerusalem's Hebrew University around 1,000 people observed a minute of silence and recited prayers for the 1,400 killed, mostly civilians,

in the worst attack on Israel since its founding in 1948.

"The atrocities left a horrible mark," said university president Asher Cohen. "But there is hope. There will be rebirth."

As they remembered the dead, the bloodiest Gaza war yet raged on in Israel's campaign to destroy Hamas and has claimed more than 10,300 lives according to the Hamas-run health ministry.



Displaced Palestinians prepare food in front of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA) school at the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



More @UN aid workers have been killed in recent weeks than in any comparable period in the history of our organization. I join in the mourning of 89 of our @UNRWA colleagues who have been killed in Gaza - many of them with members of their family.

@antonioguterres

02



Over 2,200 trains run on the Northeast Corridor every day serving 800,000 passengers. It's the busiest corridor in the United States - and one of the busiest in the world. Today, it gets the investment it deserves.

@POTUS

03



Pleasure to welcome His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk to India. We had very warm and positive discussions on various facets of the unique and exemplary India-Bhutan relationship. Deeply value His Majesty's vision for the development and well being of the friendly people of Bhutan.

@narendramodi

04



Thinking about the hostages seized from #Israel a month ago during the shocking attacks by Hamas. When I spoke with some of the families last month, their pain was palpable. @WHO reiterates its call for the immediate release of the hostages, many of whom are fragile, with medical conditions.

@DrTedros

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

celebs

Selena Gomez has learned to 'appreciate' her mental health struggles

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Selena Gomez has learned to "appreciate" her personal struggles.

The 31-year-old pop star revealed in 2020 that she had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder before she opened up about her mental health in the 2022 documentary 'My Mind and Me' and reflected that the older she gets, she no longer feels "held back" by anything.

She told People: "I have to say, turning 30 was a good moment for me. I'm 31 now, and I actually truly feel like the older I've gotten, the more I've re-

ally appreciated the struggles that I've had. And I don't necessarily feel like I'm held back by anything. I just feel like I've been honest with the world, I've been honest with myself, I've called myself out, and I just want to be the best version of myself."

The 'Single Soon' hitmaker - who shot to fame in her early teens when she was cast in the leading role of Alex Russo in Disney Channel sitcom 'Wizards of Waverly Place' - went on to assure fans that after all this time, she now feels "really happy" in herself, especially after retailer Sephora agreed to donate 100 per cent of the sales from her Rare Beauty brand to her Rare Impact fund in honour of World Mental Health Day.

She said: "I've done so many cool things in my life, but there's never been a moment quite like this. I'm so grateful. I actually feel that way about my gala that's coming up as well, and to know that my partner Sephora is actually supportive of [my mental health] mission is so incredible

Selena Gomez



Megan Fox: Sometimes relationships are a 'war'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Megan Fox believes relationships can be a "war".

The 'Transformers' actress - who has three sons with ex-husband Brian Austin Green and is engaged to Machine Gun Kelly - explored toxic bonds in her new poetry collection, 'Pretty Boys Are Poisonous', and despite the dark subject matter, she insisted "ugly" problems can be a way to grow and get stronger.

She told People magazine: "Relationships are complicated.

Megan Fox

ed. "For most of us it's not a fairy tale. Relationships are not pretty. They are ugly. Sometimes they are a war.

"But through a wound enters an opportunity to grow and become a stronger more whole version of yourself."

The 37-year-old beauty kept "the majority" of her work out of the book because she thought it would be too "unsettling" for readers.

She said: "I didn't even bother sending the majority of what I wrote to my editor because they were too graphic and unsettling for others to read."

But just writing the poems was more fulfilling than acting has ever been.

She explained: "Acting doesn't really

allow me to express myself fully in the way writing does because I'm reading someone else's words under someone else's direction.

"Poetry gives me a space to experience some catharsis through art."

The Jennifer's Body' actress didn't only use her own life for inspiration for her poems.

She said: "It comes from a lot of places. Some of it is literal, while other parts are allegorical. Some poems contain a Grimm's-fairy-tale-type element, and others serve the same purpose as memes in online culture.

"All of it "is something women can relate to."

And Megan isn't nervous about sending her personal writing into the public sphere.

Bradley Cooper 'crashed' Gigi Hadid's girls' night out

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Bradley Cooper reportedly "crashed" Gigi Hadid's girls' night out with Taylor Swift over the weekend.

The 48-year-old actor has been romantically linked to Gigi, 28, over recent months, and the celebrity duo were spotted leaving a nightclub in New York City at around 3am on Sunday.

A source told 'Entertainment Tonight': "After the ladies finished with their dinner, they went over to Zero Bond and some other friends joined - including Bradley Cooper.

"Bradley was there to meet up with Gigi. The two of them left the club together."

Gigi spent much of the night with some of her showbiz pals, before she was seen leaving the club with the award-winning actor.

In October, a source claimed that Bradley felt "excited" about getting to know the model.

The source told DailyMail.com: "Bradley is excited about getting to know Gigi.

"He hasn't felt this excitement about a woman in a very long time.

Bradley Cooper



Priyanka Chopra Jonas 'reintroduced' to abs after movie training

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has had a "reintroduction" to her abs.

The 'Baywatch' star, 41, says working out for a recent film left her torso so defined she is now back to wearing more crop tops to show off the results.

She told the PopSugar website: "I was training for a movie recently and I had a reintroduction with my abs after a long time. I hadn't been confident about

wearing crop tops and stuff like that.

"I was going to a public place and I remember I wore a crop top and skirt, and I was really nervous about it.

"I was like, 'Oh man, I'm not going to be comfortable sitting,' and all those things that you think about when you're wearing Priyanka Chopra

a crop top.

"But I felt good because I felt healthy, confident, and fit and I was really surprised. I wasn't sure when I was walking out the door but I was like, 'Alright, I'm going to push myself.'

"And then eventually, I turned around and added that into my wardrobe a lot more."

Priyanka, who has a nine-month-old daughter Malti with her Jonas Brothers star husband Nick Jonas, 31, believes getting dressed can be a "version" of "confidence" and its important to find your own path.



Priyanka Chopra

Austin Butler is selective about the roles he takes on

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Austin Butler has been inspired by other actors and directors to only take on "certain types of work".

The 32-year-old former Disney star - who shot to fame in teen shows such as 'Hannah Montana' and 'Zoey 101' and became a massive star after playing the late King of Rock and Roll in 2022's 'Elvis' biopic - thinks carefully before agreeing to work as he forms his own unique career trajectory.

Speaking to Total Film mag-

azine before the actors and writers' strikes, he said: "I've been working as an actor since I was 12 years old, and hoping to do certain types of work, and work with certain people.

"The thing that's been guiding me is directors and other actors that I would just adore working with."

The strikes have seen Austin Butler

his upcoming movies 'The Bikers' and 'Dune: Part Two' delayed.

The former was delayed after the interview was conducted.

The acclaimed drama, which also stars Jodie Comer and Tom Hardy, was due to hit cinemas on December 1, but it has now been left with a question mark over the release date, according to The Hollywood Reporter.



Austin Butler

SUDOKU

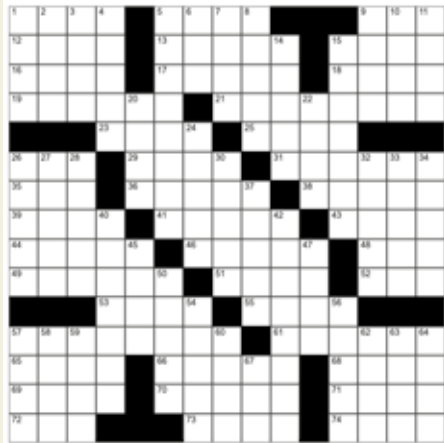
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9		2	8	3			5	
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Yesterday's solution

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

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Disrespectful back talk; 5- Tickle doll; 9- Skye cap; 12- Spillane's "... Jury"; 13- Scenes; 15- Commedia dell'...; 16- Bridle strap; 17- Mgmt.; 18- Fly catcher; 19- Infected; 21- Person-to-person; 23- Border on; 25- Basic unit of heredity; 26- Tie the knot; 29- Long objects used to row a boat; 31- Steal livestock; 35- Afore; 36- Meat; 38- Place; 39- Slender; 41- Ruhr city; 43- Longings; 44- Lager holder; 46- Luster; 48- Born, in France; 49- Informal chat; 51- Capital city of Western Samoa; 52- Fashion monogram; 53- Big bash; 55- Cpls' superiors; 57- God of dreams; 61- Owl, e.g.; 65- Not pro; 66- Improvise; 68- Like the White Rabbit; 69- Observed; 70- Connect with; 71- CPR experts; 72- Is afflicted with; 73- Redolence; 74- Show to a table;

Down

1- Letter opener; 2- To ... (perfectly); 3- Pack and send; 4- Actress Berger; 5- Leave empty; 6- Container cover; 7- Exec's note; 8- Due (to); 9- Dixie Chicks, e.g.; 10- Env. notation; 11- Allot; 14- Twisted expression; 15- Pardon; 20- Native Nigerians; 22- Responsibility; 24- Head lock; 26- From Cardiff; 27- One of the Muses; 28- Brightest star in Cygnus; 30- "Peter and the Wolf" bird; 32- Itty-bitty; 33- Ways to the pins; 34- Ford flop; 37- Hangs on to; 40- Boss; 42- Person who lives near another; 45- Flood survivor; 47- Defense grp. since 1949; 50- Sheep cry; 54- Recording of acoustic signals; 56- Mends a shoe; 57- Potato preparation; 58- Draft classification; 59- Hwy.; 60- Go downhill fast; 62- Domesticated; 63- Bluesy James; 64- Break; 67- How was ... know?;

Yesterday's solution

R	O	M	E	O	A	F	L	E	R	T	E	S
O	R	A	T	E	L	O	O	T	E	A	S	E
A	S	P	A	R	A	G	U	S	E	L	I	T
M	O	S	A	L	T	R	I	G	O	R		
G	E	M	I	N	I	A	N	N	A			
E	L	A	P	S	E	W	A	I	L	I	N	G
E	S	A	U	A	A	H	C	O	A	L		
T	E	M	P	E	R	O	T	E	L	L	O	
A	S	S	E	T	A	G	E	S				
A	S	T	E	R	E	U	R					
U	S	A	G	E	S	T	H	O	R	S	E	
T	O	R	U	S		T	A	B	E	N	D	I
O	C	T	E	T	A	H	A					

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Al Najma narrowly miss out on win

Bahrain and Asian clubs' champions fall to Barlinek Industria Kielce of Poland in IHF Men's Super Globe in Dammam

- Szymon Sicko scores in very last second to claim Group D win in preliminary round
- Mohammed Habib Ahmed scores eight goals to spearhead Al Najma in losing effort

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and Asian clubs' champions Al Najma Club suffered a last-second 26-27 defeat to Barlinek Industria Kielce of Poland yesterday in their opening match of the prestigious IHF Men's Super Globe in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

The global competition, organised by the International Handball Federation (IHF), is in its 16th edition, with 12 champion clubs from around the world taking part.

Szymon Sicko scored in the very last second of the match to claim the win in Group D of



Al Najma's Belal Basham goes for goal against Barlinek Industria Kielce

the tournament's preliminary round, where they are in the same pool as the San Francisco

Calheat from the US. A Mohammed Habib Ahmed effort with two minutes remain-



Al Najma held a 26-25 lead with two minutes left, but two unanswered goals from Szymon Sicko, including the winner in the last second, give Poles the victory

ing gave the Bahrainis a slim 26-25 edge after trailing by as many as five goals in the second half. But then, with seven seconds remaining, another Ahmed shot was saved.

That came in between two Sicko goals, which included the decisive throw, as Najma missed out on a golden opportunity to complete an impressive comeback.

Najma will be looking to bounce back when they return to

action today against the Calheat at 12.15pm, Bahrain time, at the same venue.

Ahmed finished as Najma's leading scorer in the game yesterday against Barlinek Industria Kielce with eight goals, while Mujtaba Al Zaimour added six goals. Hasan Mirza chipped in with four, while Mohammed Ali Abdulredha and Sayed Shubbar Ali had a goal each. Hasan Madan, Belal Basham, Komail Mahfouz and Abdulla Al Zaimour chipped in with a goal apiece.

For Barlinek Industria Kielce, Artem Karalek had five goals to pace the Poles, while Nicolas Tournat and Pawel Paczkowski finished with four each.

Group A in the preliminaries features Al Ahly of Egypt, Al Noor of Saudi and Barcelona from Spain; Group B includes Kuwait SC of Kuwait, San Fernando HB of Argentina and Fuchse Berlin of Germany; while Group C comprises defending champions SC Magdeburg of Germany, Khaleej from Saudi and University of Queensland from Australia.

At the end of a single round-robin, the top team in each group move on to the semi-finals, while the runners-up go to the fifth-to-eighth place bracket. The bottom club in each group will play in the ninth-to-12th placement games to determine their final ranking.

Najma have a 16-player squad for the competition, many of whom are players on the Kingdom's senior men's national team.

Najma are participating in the event for the second time, following the 2018 edition when they finished seventh.

Najma secured their place in this year's IHF Super Globe after being crowned champions of the 25th Asian Men's Club League Championship, held last June in Isfahan, Iran.

The Bahrain handball giants also recently secured the Bahrain Handball Super Cup, held just last Friday when they defeated Al Shabab 23-21. The match was a one-off contest that is the traditional opening fixture of the national handball season.

New Zealand name five spin bowlers for Bangladesh Tests

AFP | Wellington

New Zealand yesterday selected five spin bowlers to tackle the turning wickets expected in Bangladesh for the two-Test cricket series later this month following the 50-overs World Cup.

Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner returns to the Black Caps' Test squad for the first time since 2021 to join Ajaz Patel and Ish Sodhi as the main

spin bowlers.

New Zealand's options with the turning ball are boosted by all-rounders Rachin Ravindra, who has hit three centuries at the ODI World Cup, and Glenn Phillips.

Seamer Kyle Jamieson returns after back surgery to form a three-man pace attack with captain Tim Southee and Matt Henry, who is recovering from a hamstring injury.

Swiatek thrashes Pegula to win WTA Finals, reclaim No.1 ranking

AFP | Cancun

Poland's Iga Swiatek thrashed Jessica Pegula to win the WTA Finals on Monday, sealing her return to world number one.

Second seed Swiatek dominated Pegula from start to finish to clinch a 6-1, 6-0 victory in a 59-minute masterclass.

The 17th win of Swiatek's career ensures that the four-time major singles champion from Warsaw will finish the season as world number one for a second straight year.

"The team that's been with me the whole season, we had many ups and downs," a jubilant Swiatek said after her win.

"This is for sure an up. We will for sure have

many more if we keep working like that," added Swiatek, who lost just 20 games across the tournament -- a new record.

Pegula had few com-

plaints about her defeat after an error-strewn display.

"It just was one of those days where I felt like I was going for too much," Pegula said. "And she was just playing super solid."

Swiatek, 22, had beaten outgoing world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the semi-finals on Sunday. Sabalenka took over the number one ranking from Swiatek following the US Open in September.

Pegula defeated Swiatek in the two players' previous meeting in Montreal in August, and had impressed on her way to Monday's final, which had been shunted back 24 hours after wet weather washed out play on Saturday.

But the 29-year-old American from New York never



Iga's Swiatek with her trophy

"The team that's been with me the whole season, we had many ups and downs. This is for sure an up. We will for sure have many more if we keep working like that"

IGA SWIATEK

looked capable of pulling off a repeat of her Canadian victory against three-time French Open champion Swiatek, who was sharper in every facet of her game.

The Polish star dominated on serve, and pulled Pegula all over the court with whipped groundstrokes that left her opponent flailing.

Pegula also struggled on serve, being broken five times while coughing up 23 unforced errors compared to Swiatek's six.

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Double-ton Maxwell downs Afghanistan as Australia reach World Cup semis

Glenn Maxwell's record-breaking 201* rescues Australia from the brink to defeat Afghanistan

● **Australia snatch a dramatic three-wicket victory from Afghanistan in Mumbai**

AFP | Mumbai

Glenn Maxwell's stunning 201 not out guided Australia into the semi-finals of the World Cup as the five-time champions snatched a sensational three-wicket victory from the jaws of defeat against Afghanistan in Mumbai yesterday.

At 91-7, chasing 292, Australia were all set to join title-holders England, 1996 champions Pakistan and 1992 winners Sri Lanka as yet another notable Afghanistan scalp at this World Cup.

Crucially, however, recalled all-rounder Maxwell was dropped soon afterwards on 33 when Mujeeb Ur Rahman somehow floored a simple chance at short fine leg off fellow spinner Noor Ahmad.

"It would've been nice if it was chanceless, I've lived a very charmed life out there," said Maxwell, appropriately nicknamed 'The Big Show'.

He made Afghanistan pay with an astounding 128-ball innings featuring 21 fours and 10 sixes as he became just the third



Marnus Labuschagne of Australia reacts after being dismissed

batsman after New Zealand's Martin Guptill and West Indies' Chris Gayle to score a World Cup double century.

Maxwell ended the match in style with nearly three overs to spare when he slammed Mujeeb for another six.

The 35-year-old Maxwell's highest one-day international score was just his fourth century in 136 matches at this level, but second of the tournament after he scored the fastest hundred in men's World Cup history, off just 40 balls, against the Netherlands.

Australia captain Pat Cummins was 12 not out but played his part by holding firm in an unbroken eighth-wicket stand

of 202. There was one more twist late on in a dramatic encounter when Maxwell, on 146, suffered a violent attack of cramp as he hobbled through for a single.

But following on-field treatment a still-struggling Maxwell continued to pulverise Afghanistan's attack with a dazzling array of shots.

These included an extraordinary reverse hit for six off pacesman Azmatullah Omarzai -- earlier

YOU KNOW WHAT

Glenn Maxwell's incredible 201* is only the third double century ever scored in a Cricket World Cup, joining the ranks of Martin Guptill and Chris Gayle

denied a hat-trick by Maxwell. Afghanistan, despite this defeat, remain in last-four contention but they will need to beat second-placed South Africa and hope other results go their



Glenn Maxwell plays a hot

Scorecard

Australia 293 for 7 (Maxwell 201*, Rashid 2-44) beat Afghanistan 291 for 5 (Ibrahim 129*, Rashid 35*, Hazlewood 2-39) by three wickets

way to qualify for the knockout phase.

It had seemed the night would belong to Ibrahim Zadrán, whose 129 not out in a total of 291-5 was the first hundred by an Afghanistan batsman at a World Cup.

Thar left Australia needing to better their previous highest winning score to win a World Cup match of 287 against New Zealand in a 1996 quarter-final in Chennai

But opener Travis Head fell for a duck, caught behind off a superb Naveen-ul-Haq delivery that seamed away sharply, with the pacesman also having Mitchell Marsh lbw for 24.

Australia's 43-2 then became 49-4 as Omarzai struck with successive deliveries, clean bowling veteran opener David Warner following the left-hander's ugly heave across the line before Josh Inglis edged to first slip.

Maxwell survived the hat-trick, nicking short of wicket-keeper Ikram Alikhil.

Australia were 69-5 when a mix-up with Maxwell saw Marnus Labuschagne run out by Rahmat Shah's direct hit from midwicket before leg-spinner Rashid Khan removed

Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Starc as the crowd roared Afghanistan on.

But then came Maxwell's big reprieve, with Australia 112-7.

Earlier, opener Zadrán took Afghanistan to their highest World Cup total as they topped their 288 they made against the West Indies at Headingley in 2019.

Australia initially kept Afghanistan in check after losing the toss, albeit they struggled for wickets with Zadrán completing his fifth hundred in 27 ODIs, off 131 balls, including seven fours.

Zadrán, however, accelerated after going to three figures with Rashid making a dashing 35 not out during a quickfire unbroken stand of 58.

World Cup 'timed out' dismissal row divides cricket

AFP | New Delhi

Cricket's "timed out" controversy split the game yesterday as Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan headed for home nursing a broken finger and battered reputation.

Shakib was branded "disgraceful" by Sri Lanka batsman Angelo Mathews after he became the first player in the 146-year history of international cricket to be given timed out.

Mathews had exceeded the two minutes allowed for a batsman to take strike as he attempted to secure the strapping on his helmet.

Shakib, who on yesterday was ruled out of the rest of the tournament with a broken finger, refused to withdraw the appeal, explaining: "I had to take a decision to make sure that my team wins and whatever I had to do, I have to do it".

"I think Shakib will also be asked the question of whether a batsman like Mathews needed to be dismissed like this at that time," Bangladesh's former ODI captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain wrote in Dhaka's Prothom Alo daily yesterday.

However, India's veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle said the issue was not about cricket's rules.

"Let us leave the spirit of cricket out of this," Bhogle wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

'There are laws'

"It is a weak argument often used by those that are ignorant



Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews (R) watches as Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan takes a run

I had to take a decision to make sure that my team wins and whatever I had to do, I have to do it

SHAKIB AL HASAN

or at the wrong end of a mistake. There are laws and you play within them."

"Beyond that, how to play the game is an individual choice. Mathews and Sri Lankan fans can be disappointed and angry but, as per the laws of the game, he was out."

Ex-Bangladesh captain, turned match referee, Raqibul Hassan backed Shakib.

"Shakib made an appeal and the umpires gave their decision

-- as long as it is within the laws, I don't see any problem," Hassan said.

But former Bangladesh opener Javed Omar criticised Shakib for not withdrawing his appeal.

"The rule was set so that no one could take any unfair advantage," said Javed, who played 40 Tests and 59 one-day internationals for Bangladesh.

"Mathews was not taking any advantage here. Shakib should have avoided this controversy."

Many on social media reminded Mathews how he led his team during the controversial "Mankad" run-out of England's Jos Buttler in 2014 --- where a bowler runs out the non-striker in their delivery stride if the batsman is out of his crease.

Mathews defended his actions at the time, saying it had

been taken "after two warnings", adding that "even after the warnings it kept happening and clearly they were taking advantage."

But Bangladeshi cricket journalist Manjur Morshed from Jamuna TV, pointing to the 2014 "Mankading" incident, as well as Sri Lanka's refusal to shake hands after the match, said a sense of fair play was missing.

"Mathews is not the right person to give a lecture on sporting spirit," he said.

Chasing 280 for victory, Bangladesh rode on a 169-run stand between Najmul Hasan Shanto (90) and Shakib (82) to reach their target with three wickets and 53 balls to spare.

Ironically, Shakib was dismissed by Mathews who marked the breakthrough by pointing at an imaginary wristwatch on his arm.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Ironically, Shakib was dismissed by Mathews who marked the breakthrough by pointing at an imaginary wristwatch on his arm

Bahrain to field two teams for FIBA 3x3 World Tour

● **Al-Riffa men's team to consist of Mustafa Hussain and professionals Nemanja Draskovic, Milan Skundric and Anže Srebovt**

● **Al-Manama women's team to field Hessa Al Jaber, Marian Samir, and professionals Julia Jorritsma and Loyce Bettonvil**

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain will be represented by two teams in the FIBA 3x3 World Tour basketball tournament, which will take place on November 16 and 17 in Bahrain amidst significant participation from various countries around the world.

Bahrain will attract the attention of global basketball fans during these two days.

Bahrain will participate with a men's team named "Al-Riffa" and a women's team named "Al-Manama." The tournament rules dictate that participating teams should be named after cities from the same country.

Al-Riffa men's team will consist of national team



Mustafa Hussain...top local talent

professionals, namely Nemanja Draskovic, Milan Skundric, and Anže Srebovt.

Al-Manama women's team will be composed of players Hessa Al Jaber and Marian Samir, along with two professional players, Julia Jorritsma and Loyce Bettonvil.

Both teams will be coached by experienced coach Abdul Kareem Al-Anzoor, who has previously led our national teams in various international events of this nature.

The tournament will take place at the Harbour North Financial Harbour Square, where dedicated 3x3 basketball courts have been constructed along with grandstands and a series of facilities and tents that provide all logistical services, sales booths, and amenities. The event is open to all citizens, residents, and communities to attend.

Pizzi calls up full-strength Bahrain

Kingdom's senior men's national football team features 26-player line-up named for Asian qualifiers of 2026 FIFA World Cup

● **Juan Antonio Pizzi selects four overseas-based professionals, and from Al Khaldiya, Riffa, Muharraq, Manama, Al Ahli and Al Najma**

● **Bahrainis to play two Asian qualifiers this month for 2026 FIFA World Cup: 16 November against Yemen, 21 November against UAE**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi has named a full-strength, 26-player senior men's national football team for their two matches this month in continental qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The Bahrainis are set to play against Yemen on 16 November at Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Sports City in Abha, Saudi Arabia, and then go up against the UAE at the National Stadium in Riffa on 21 November.

Pizzi has capped up Bahrain's biggest names for the qualifiers.



Bahrain's Abdulla Yusuf in action against the Philippines in an international friendly held last month

Among them are the Kingdom's four overseas-based professionals in Ali Madan from Ajman Club in the UAE, Mohammed Marhoon from Kuwait SC in Kuwait, Abdulla Yusuf from FK Mlada Boleslav in the Czech Republic and Moses Ateade from Kedah Darul Aman FC in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, his local selections are from defending Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier League champions Al Khaldiya, Riffa, Muharraq, Manama, Al Ahli and Al Najma.

Mahdi Humaidan, Ahmed

Bughammar, Mohammed Adel and Mohammed Al Hardan have been chosen from Khaldiya. From Riffa are Abdulkarim Al Fardan, Ali Hassan, Sayed Mahdi Baqer, Hussain Al Aker, Komail Al Aswad, Jassim Al Shaikh, Mohammed Abdulqayoom, and Hazza Ali.

From Muharraq are Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Amine Hasan, Waleed Al Hayyam, Abdulla Al Khalasi and Mubarak Mohammed; while from Al Ahli are Ebrahim Luthfallah and Abdulla Al Hashash.

Ebrahim Al Khattal was se-

YOU
KNOW WHAT

There are five rounds in the FIFA World Cup qualification format for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), which will have eight teams book their tickets to the global showcase, plus potentially another following an inter-confederation play-off. Bahrain are directly in the second round of qualifiers

lected from Manama, while completing the roster from Najma are Mohammed Abdulwahab and Ebrahim Al Wali.

Kick off

The nationals are scheduled to kick off their training programme on Sunday.

Aside from FIFA World Cup qualification, Bahrain are also



Juan Antonio Pizzi supervises a training session

gearing up for the next edition of the AFC Asian Cup, to be held in Doha in January of next year. These are the national team's first official games under Pizzi.

There are five rounds in the FIFA World Cup qualification format for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), which will have eight teams book their tickets to the global showcase, plus potentially another following an inter-confederation play-off.

Bahrain are directly in the second round of qualifiers in Group H with the UAE, Yemen and Nepal.

After these two upcoming

matches, the qualifiers only resume next year. They take on Nepal on 21 March, and then face off with the Nepalese again on 26 March. They then face Yemen on 6 June, before completing this stage against the UAE on 11 June.

There are 36 nations in all in this phase, divided into nine groups of four. The teams will play against each other on a home-and-away basis. The nine group winners and group runners-up advance to the third round. In addition to this, they will also automatically qualify for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

Bahrain's Faris, Shadi advance in ITF boys' doubles play

TDT | Manama

The Bahraini tandem of Faris Al Toobli and Shadi Kallel advanced to the boys' doubles quarter-finals yesterday in the Bahrain ITF Juniors 2023 tournament, which is currently being played at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) hard courts in Isa Town.

The competition is a J30 event that is part of the 2023 International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Tennis Tour Juniors, which features the world's top tennis talents aged 13 to 18.

Faris and Shadi booked their place after beating Germany's Elias Kaan Held and Egypt's Ahmed Ibrahim 6-3, 7-5 in their first-round match.

They next face off with the second-seeded Indian pair of Samprit Sharma and Rushikesh

Sonawane, who were 6-2, 6-3 winners against Georgii Arakelian and Daniil Karpukhin in another encounter in the opening stage.

Other contests in the last eight pit top seeds Venkat Rishi Batlanki of the US and Dev Kanbargimath of Romania against Sacha Fontanges of France and Idhant Kastwar of India; Spaniards Andres Pereiro Lopez and Victor Velasco Caballer with Turks Ozan Avanoğlu and Mustafa Ege Topbas; and the Indian-Yemeni tandem of Kausshik Arunkumar and Ahmed Mohammed against third-seeded Turkish pair Bora Bakici and Cagan Efe Tufekci.

Elsewhere in the tournament yesterday, Shadi went down fighting to Turkish sixth seed Bora 1-6, 4-6 in the boys' singles first round. Others to win



Bahrain's Hajar Zaidan in action during her singles match last night

were fourth seed Rushikesh of India, fifth seed Josh Hinton of Great Britain, seventh seed Cagan, Mustafa, Andres and Nikita Gribyakin of Estonia.

In the girls' singles, seventh seed Alina Sogomonyan defeated Bahrain's Hajar Zaidan 6-0, 6-3; while in the girls' doubles, Hajar and partner Saiyette Varadkar of India lost to Arina Malygina and Anastasia Myachina 2-6, 6-7 (3).

Other winning tandems in the girls' doubles yesterday were Egyptian third seeds Sara Dessouky and Sosanne Malak, fourth seeds Ariana Gogulina and Adiya Omarbek of Kazakhstan; and Romania's Simona Cucu and Austria's Emily Lederer.

Tournament action continues today at the BTF. It is the second of three straight ITF events being hosted by the Kingdom in succession. The second is also a J30 event, while the third, a J60 competition, will begin on 13 November.

Riffa claim AFC Cup win over Kuwait's Arabi



Riffa's Komail Al Aswad dribbles past his Al Arabi defenders

● **Riffa claim third victory in four games to improve to 10 points**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Riffa Club were 2-1 winners over Al Arabi SC of Kuwait in their Group C match of the 2023 AFC Cup, held at Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Riffa.

Vinicius Vargas and Hashem Sayed Issa were both on target for the victors.

Vargas opened the Bahrainis' scoring in the 25th minute with a lobbed effort over an onrushing Arabi goalkeeper Sulaiman Abdulghafoor. That was enough to give them the single-goal lead at the break.

Just seven minutes after the re-start, Issa doubled Riffa's advantage with a shot from close range off an assist from Hazza Ali.

Riffa were well on their way to the full three points but

not without giving up a lone consolation to the Kuwaitis. Mamadou Thiam scored three minutes from full time for Arabi.

With the result, Riffa claimed their third win in four matches and improved to 10 points on the Group C table with two games remaining.

Riffa's next AFC Cup clash will be against Nejmeh SC of Lebanon on 27 November. They complete their group campaign on 12 December away at Al Zawra'a of Iraq.

The AFC Cup is the annual continental club competition of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for continent's top club teams not competing in the AFC Champions League. Riffa are the lone Bahraini outfit in this year's competition.

Standings	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Riffa (Bahrain)	4	3	1	0	6	10
Al Zawraa (Iraq)	4	2	1	1	3	7
Al Arabi SC (Kuwait)	4	1	1	2	-3	4
Nejmeh SC (Lebanon)	4	0	1	3	-6	1



Bahrain Bodybuilding Federation president Sami Al Haddad and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) sports federations director Hisham Al Balooshi received the Kingdom's national bodybuilding team upon their return from the IFBB World Bodybuilding Championships, held in Santa Susanna, Spain. There, they won four medals, including one gold, two silver and one bronze. The gold was claimed by Abdulla Farouk in the men's bodybuilding up-to-85kg class. A silver was won by Abdulla Isa Ahmed Ali in the master men's physique 45-49 years open, while the second silver was claimed by Khaled Alsaeedi in the men's physique up-to-176cm. Bahrain's bronze was claimed by Muslem Albanna in the men's bodybuilding up-to-90kg category. Bahrain finished an impressive 11th overall amongst 49 competing nations on the final teams' ranking, and were tied-24th from 50 countries in the men's masters final teams' classification. Above, the bodybuilders with officials upon their arrival