

Siem and Cabrera-Bello add their star power to Bahrain Championship

Marcel Siem seeks another title after his 2023 Hero Indian Open victory | P12

THE DAILY tribune

'Oppenheimer' tops Golden Globes on bittersweet night for 'Barbie'

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BUSINESS 5 Lexus on Your Menu? Feast & Win with Jahez!

WHO aid access to struggling Gaza hospitals 'shrinking'
Geneva

The World Health Organization warned yesterday its ability to provide aid and support struggling hospitals in war-ravaged Gaza was "shrinking," despite international demands for more aid to be allowed in.

WHO staff described desperate scenes of seriously injured patients, including young children, begging for food in hospitals — which have seen most of their health workers flee for their own safety.

"We're seeing this humanitarian catastrophe unfold before our eyes," Sean Casey, a WHO emergency medical teams coordinator, told reporters in Geneva via videolink from the Gaza Strip.

"We're seeing the health system collapse at a very rapid pace," he warned.

14 Syrian soldiers killed by IS group
AFP | Beirut

An Islamic State group attack killed at least 14 soldiers aboard a military bus in the Syrian desert yesterday, a war monitor said, in the second such attack this year.

"At least 14 members of the regime forces were killed" and several others wounded "in a bloody IS attack on a military bus" in the desert near the ancient city of Palmyra, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Syria's defence ministry confirmed the attack in a statement issued later, but gave a lower death toll.

Kabul minivan blast
Islamabad

A bomb stuck to a minivan exploded in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul yesterday, killing at least three civilians and wounding four others, a Taliban official said.

Police spokesman Khalid Zadran said the explosion occurred in the eastern part of the city, in Alokhal area.

Investigation is underway, and one suspect has been detained, he said.

The IS affiliate has been a major rival of the Taliban since the latter seized control of Afghanistan in August 2021.

HM King receives legislative leaders



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received, at Al-Safriya Palace yesterday, His Excellency Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, and HE Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Shura Council Chairman, along with their deputies and the members of the Reply to the Royal Speech committees at the two chambers of the bicameral National Assembly. They submitted to HM King Hamad the two councils' replies to the keynote speech delivered by HM the King while opening the second session of the Sixth Legislative Term. (Full report on Page 2)

Broken fund, broken lives

'90,000 Bahraini families in limbo', as MPs blast GOSI over mismanaged funds

TDI | Manama

Outraged Bahraini lawmakers yesterday demanded immediate action over the General Organisation for Social Insurance's (GOSI) alleged mismanagement of funds, accusing the body of plunging 90,000 families into suffering.

The fiery accusations erupted during a parliamentary session focused on the plight of retirees, whose annual increments were abruptly suspended due to GOSI's disastrous investments. The move, MPs argued, has left countless families struggling to make ends meet, forcing some retirees back into the workforce simply to survive.

"GOSI's incompetence has thrown 90,000 families into turmoil," declared MP Hassan bu Khamas. "With the cost of living skyrocketing, denying retirees their rightful 3% raise is nothing short of cruel. We



Image used for illustrative purposes only

demand a concrete plan from GOSI to rectify their disastrous investments and safeguard the future of our retirees."

MP Maryam Al Sayegh echoed the sentiment, urging GOSI to find sustainable solutions to secure the retirement funds and prevent future bankruptcies.

"These retirees are the backbone of our society," she asserted. "Many come from underprivileged backgrounds and simply cannot afford to bear the brunt of GOSI's mismanagement. Their well-being cannot be sacrificed on the altar of bad investments."

Chorus of disapproval

MP Muneer Suroor joined the chorus of disapproval, pointing fingers at previous decisions that contributed to the current financial imbalance.

Chorus of disapproval

"GOSI needs to take responsibility for its mistakes," he stated. "The government must step in and formulate a clear strategy to minimize losses and restore stability to the retirement funds."

The heated debate underscored the gravity of the situation, casting a spotlight on GOSI's alleged failures and the devastating impact on thousands of Bahraini families. With public anger mounting, pressure is intensifying on GOSI to address the crisis without delay and ensure the financial security of those who dedicated their lives to building the nation.

Anticipated announcements include new agreements reinforcing the partnership, empowering the industrial sector in the five countries, increasing its contribution to the gross domestic product, supporting supply chains, and reducing costs.

For sustainable growth

Supreme Committee for Integrated Industrial Partnership meeting set

TDI | Manama

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the nation is set to host the fourth meeting of the Supreme Committee for Integrative Industrial Partnership for Sustainable Economic Development.

The event, scheduled for to-

day and tomorrow, will convene member states, including the United Arab Emirates, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Kingdom of Morocco, to discuss the latest developments and industrial projects within the framework of sustainable industrial partnership.

His Excellency Mr. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, welcomed this significant gathering, emphasizing the ambitious goals it aims to achieve. He highlighted the importance of the distinguished partnership between member states and the positive results expected in aligning with the visions and aspirations of their leaders amidst global de-

velopments. The overarching objective of the member states is to attain qualitative and sustainable growth in the industrial sector. This involves resource and industry integration, leveraging competitive advantages in each country through collaborative efforts to reduce costs, secure supply chains, create more qualitative opportunities, and

contribute to economic development, self-sufficiency, growth, and industrial competitiveness.

Anticipated announcements include new agreements reinforcing the partnership, empowering the industrial sector in the five countries, increasing its contribution to the gross domestic product, supporting supply chains, and reducing costs.



Key partners in progress

HM King hails Shura and Representatives councils' dedication and efforts to serve nation and citizens

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa expressed thanks and appreciation to the Shura and Representatives councils for their dedicated and commendable efforts in serving the nation and citizens.

HM the King lauded the innumerable important and continuous achievements of the legislative branch in supporting the kingdom's development process, as well as in undertaking their oversight and legislative role, within its constant endeavours to strengthen the pillars of the national democratic march.

This came as His Majesty received, at Al-Safriya Palace yesterday, His Excellency Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, and HE Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Shura Council Chairman, along with their deputies and the members of the Reply to the Royal Speech committees at the two chambers of the bicameral National Assembly.

They submitted to HM King Hamad the two councils' replies to the keynote speech delivered by HM the King while opening the second session of the Sixth Legislative Term.

HM the King lauded the con-



HM the King receives from Speaker Al Musallam and Chairman Al Saleh the two councils' replies to his keynote speech



structive initiatives and proposals included in the two councils' replies to the royal speech regarding ways to enhance performance, praising the ongoing consensus and coordination between the executive and legislative branches, and emphasising that the constructive executive-legislature is one of the pillars of the development and modernisation process in Bahrain.

HM the King congratulated the two councils on the kingdom's national days, wishing Bahrain and its people many

happy returns.

"We seek the best and well-being for the people of Bahrain. We can fulfil their aspirations by joining hands," HM the King said, highlighting keenness to achieve everything positive that would serve Bahrain and its people.

HM King Hamad affirmed the citizens' constant desire to achieve success, reflecting the true nature of Bahrainis, who are ambitious and always seek to reach excellence in all field and at various gatherings.

He expressed pride in the

Bahraini citizens' dedication to serving their homeland in all fields, noting that the Bahraini society has always been known for its authentic values of tolerance, coexistence and pluralism, which strengthened their strength and solidarity, and enhanced Bahrain's status as a distinguished global civilisational role model.

Unwavering support

The Shura Chairman, Speaker and those present extended deepest thanks and gratitude to HM the King for his unwaver-

"We seek the best and well-being for the people of Bahrain. We can fulfil their aspirations by joining hands"

HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

ing support for the legislative branch, as well as commendation of its achievements and gains for the sake of serving Bahrain and its citizens.

Speaker Al Musallam affirmed that the royal directives are the basis for national action in order to increase national achievements through fruitful legislature-executive cooperation aiming to serve the citizens, voicing pride in HM the King's constant interest in parliamentary work and praise of the achievements of the Council of Representatives, whose members are directly elected by the Bahraini citizens.

Al Musallam commended the unwavering interest of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in strengthening the ongoing fruitful cooperation and communica-

tion with the two chambers of the National Assembly.

He highlighted the government work system's distinguished successes and advanced initiatives at all levels, citing the positive results achieved in reaching balance between revenues and expenses, supporting economic diversity, improving the Bahrain families' livelihoods, ensuring continuous support for the social welfare system, providing decent job and training opportunities for Bahraini youth, and providing adequate housing for the citizens.

Roadmaps

Chairman Al Saleh asserted that HM the King's speeches are roadmaps for national action, as they contribute to optimising the kingdom's landmark achievements towards a brighter future for Bahrain and its people.

He expressed deep pride in HM the King's unwavering support for legislative work, as well as in the role played by lawmakers in activating and implementing the royal directives by enacting laws that ensure the steady growth and progress of the kingdom in all fields.

Al Saleh paid tribute to HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for supporting the legislative branch.

Parliament upholds end-of-service benefits for foreign workers

TDT | Manama

The Parliament rejected yesterday an urgent proposal to postpone the collection of end-of-service benefits for foreign workers and apply it immediately to various institutions, especially small and medium-sized enterprises in the private sector, until the end of the current year.

The proposal was submitted by Members of Parliament Ahmed Al Saloom, Ahmed Qaratah, Mohammed Al Ma'arifi, Khaled Bu Anq, and Jalal Kadhem. Abdullah Mohammed Turki Al Mahmoud, CEO of Subscriber Services at the GOSI, had confirmed last year



that the Cabinet approved the regulation of registration and calculation procedures for end-of-service benefits for non-Bahrainis in the private sector. This comes under Article 10 of Law No. 14 of 2022, where non-Bahraini workers are subject to the end-of-service benefits system.

The approval will specify the subscription rates, conditions, and procedures for calculating

end-of-service benefits, taking into account the provisions of the Labour Law in the private sector, as stipulated in Law No. 36 of 2012.

It is part of the provisions of the end-of-service benefits law in the private sector, where the employer bears a monthly contribution, calculated based on the basic salary and social allowance (if applicable).

Nesto Group unveils new hypermarket in Muharraq grand opening today



Nesto Group is set to unveil its newest hypermarket in the heart of Muharraq, located specifically in Halat Bu Maher. The inauguration of the 3000-square-foot branch is scheduled for today, at 10 am. Boasting ample car parking facilities, the hypermarket aims to offer a wide range of products at attractive prices, complemented by special inaugural offers and deals. Starting from 11 am on January 10, the hypermarket will open its doors to the public. Nesto Group's management extends a warm invitation to everyone to partake in the celebration of the grand opening of Nesto Hypermarket in Muharraq. This expansion marks another milestone for the renowned Nesto Group, known for providing quality products and services to its customers.




Unveiling The New Address Of
Muharraq

We, the nesto team, take great pride in inviting you to the

GRAND OPENING
OF OUR 121ST OUTLET

NESTO HYPERMARKET
HALAT BU MAHER, MUHARRAQ
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 11AM



Draft law on elderly rights amendment discussed



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TDT | Manama

The Services Committee of the Shura Council discussed in its meeting yesterday, chaired by Dr. Ibtesam Mohammed Saleh Al Dallal, a draft law amending Article (9) of Law No. (58) of 2009 concerning elderly rights.

During the meeting, the committee examined the draft law, which aims to increase the benefits received by the senior citizens holding the Elderly Services Card which provides a reduction of no less than 50% in the fees imposed by the state, in addition to exemptions from some fees and obtaining discounts on essential living supplies from relevant entities.

The committee reviewed the opinions of the House of Representatives and the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of the Shura Council regarding the draft law. They also reviewed the legal memorandum prepared by the

committee's legal advisor, as well as relevant comparative legislation.

Social security

The draft law is in line with the provisions of the Constitution, which guarantee the state's commitment to achieving necessary social security for citizens in old age. This is to ensure a dignified life, preserve the social status of older adults, provide them with psychological and social security, and assist them in accessing the services provided by the state.

In the same meeting, the committee also discussed a proposal for a law on vocational training. The proposal aims to train new Bahraini university graduates in private sector companies with a minimum of 50 employees, in order to enhance the awareness of university graduates regarding the work environment and the importance of gaining initial experience in the private sector.

Nine on trial for 'smuggling' drugs

Over 33 kilograms of drugs concealed in shipment of potatoes

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has commenced the trial of nine defendants accused of attempting to smuggle 33 kilograms of drugs concealed within a shipment of potatoes imported from an Asian country.

The defendants attended the trial session, and the court decided to adjourn the proceedings until Monday for further examination and response.

During his duty as a customs officer at the maritime ports, an officer passed the shipments through the X-ray scanner for inspection. He noticed and became suspicious of a container carrying a consignment of potatoes from an Asian country due to discrepancies in the shipment information, the company, and the importer.

Consequently, the shipment was opened and inspected. It was discovered that the 6,200 bags of potatoes contained wrapped packages with traces of digging, which were found to contain over 33 kilograms of drugs.

The incident was reported to the Anti-Narcotics Department, and based on the recorded information regarding the shipment, several defendants were apprehended while they

were present to receive the consignment.

One of the defendants admitted that the shipment belonged to another implicated defendant. Intensive investigations were conducted, utilising confidential sources, which confirmed the involvement of the implicated defendant in the import and smuggling of drugs into the country.

Consequently, the Anti-Narcotics Department obtained a warrant from the Public Prosecution for his arrest.

Network

Further investigations revealed that all nine defendants were operating within a network that imported significant quantities of drugs into the country through sophisticated and professional smuggling techniques for the purpose of distribution. The first defendant headed the network and coordinated with the second defendant to arrange the process of concealing the drugs.

The third defendant (his brother) was responsible for receiving and distributing them with the assistance of others. Additionally, one of the network's employees exploited his position as a customs clearance officer.

The two defendants who attended to receive the shipment were aware of its drug contents and were responsible for its delivery and concealment. Previous investigations indicated that the network had successfully smuggled drugs into the country using the same method.

Art for a cause

Bahraini calligrapher Miss Ness demonstrates unwavering support for Palestine

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini calligrapher has taken to social media to express her unwavering support for Palestine through her creative artwork.

Miss Ness, a full-time calligrapher who turned to the craft as a hobby after struggling to find employment, has gained attention for her unique pieces advocating for the Palestinian cause.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Miss Ness shared her inspiring journey into the world of calligraphy. She explained that she turned to the craft as a hobby after struggling to find employment, and it quickly became a passion.

"I vividly remember stumbling upon a quote that captivated my attention with its elegant script," she said. "From that moment, I applied the principle of



Since I was already creating art, I decided to dedicate a collection specifically to the Palestinian cause and donate all the proceeds from my 'Palestine Collection 23' to support them

MISS NESS, FULL-TIME CALLIGRAPHER



"Start Where You Are. Use What You Have. Do What You Can."

When asked about her motivation to create designs in support of Palestine, Miss Ness spoke passionately about witnessing numerous

restaurants and cafes donating their earnings to aid Palestine. This inspired her to think about what she could do to contribute.

"Since I was already creating art, I decided to dedicate a collection specifically to the Palestinian cause and donate all the proceeds from my 'Palestine Collection 23' to support them," she explained. Driven by a clear vision, Miss Ness managed to complete her



Miss Ness with her creative artwork

'Palestine Collection 23' in just one week. She generously shared advice for aspiring calligraphers, suggesting that beginners start with a hard brush pen and either transparent or tracing paper.

Path

However, she emphasised that even a simple pencil and paper would suffice. "That's how I started too," she recalled.

"At the time, I had no mentor to guide me. But through research, asking questions, and engaging with experienced calligraphers, I found my path."

Regarding her preferred calligraphy style, Miss Ness expressed a fondness for free-style Arabic, stating, "Above all, I aim to create art that resonates with the heart more than the eye."

Through her remarkable artwork, Miss Ness stands as a shining example of Bahrainis who have rallied behind Palestine, underscoring the power of art to convey solidarity and support for those in need.

North Area Municipal Council members in heated debate

Issues related to cement chairs, heritage houses, and mosquito control

TDT | Manama

A fiery debate took place during Monday's session of the North Area Municipal Council between the council president and several members.

Council President Shuber Al Wada'i adjourned the session while member Mohammed Saad Al Dooseri still sought to speak.

Additionally, council members requested the postponement of the building regulations bill, referring it back to the Financial and Legal Committee to provide a more detailed explanation of the law to the members.

During the session, Al Dooseri emphasised that since 2018, council members have been demanding the provision of cement chairs in designated areas.

He pointed out that although the municipality has allocated the required sites, the chairs have not been provided. Al Dooseri added that the provision of cement chairs is a popular demand. The members requested clarification and disclosure of the municipality's plan and timeline for providing



The session in progress

these cement chairs.

Director General of the Northern Municipality Lameya Al Fadala stated that 90 cement chairs would be provided in the province and distributed according to priority during the current year.

She confirmed that the distribution and provision of chairs would begin once the allocated budget for this matter is finalised. She further mentioned that the cost of each chair is BD100.

Proposal On the other hand, the council unanimously approved the proposal put forth by the Vice President of the council Zeina Jassem, regarding the heritage houses project. The project aims to preserve and restore archaeological houses, taking care of them as witnesses to the

authenticity and heritage of the Kingdom, and utilising them as a tourist attraction that benefits the national economy.

Additionally, the council approved the allocation of a property for public parking in Block 1044 in the Shaharkan area, and the allocation of a property for the construction of an events hall and parking spaces for the Sunni Endowments under the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs in Block 1016 in the Loozi area. They also proposed a change in the allocation of a property previously designated for a parking lot on Street 34 in Block 736 in the A'ali Housing area.

Members also discussed several questions, including finding comprehensive and integrated solutions to the mosquito prob-

lem, implementing requests for cement chairs, and amending the mechanism for distributing and delivering garbage bags.

They called for revising the distribution and delivery mechanism and the timing of bag collection. They argued that closing the delivery doors at 1 PM is impractical and causes congestion due to the limited time.

They demanded that requests for garbage bags be accepted at the office from 7 AM to 2 PM. They also requested a return to the previous allocation of three attendants, especially since there is a ministerial decision requiring the retroactive distribution of rations. They referred to the numerous complaints received from citizens regarding this matter.

MIND MATTERS



ANEESA MOIDOO, PSYCHOLOGIST

Understanding ADHD

“How can I navigate and support my child’s behavior, characterized by challenges such as difficulty focusing, impulsivity, and restlessness, without a clear understanding of the underlying factors, and what strategies can help both the child and myself cope more effectively?”

Impulse control is like a vital life skill that unfolds at its own pace, often posing developmental challenges for many children. It’s the art of hitting pause before those instinctive actions take over. It might be a bit tricky, particularly with our younger ones, but here’s the beauty: it’s a skill we can refine at any stage of their growth. And without a bit of guidance, those impulsive actions can become like stubborn habits that stick around.

Imagine a little five-year-old throwing a mini tantrum or hitting when things don’t go their way. Now fast forward to a 14-year-old maybe being a bit too bold on social media without fully thinking about it. That’s where we step in as the wise guides.

You can help your child get better at this impulse control thing as they grow. Studies show that with some nudges in the right direction, kids can get the hang of it. It’s worth the effort because the impulse control is linked to making smart choices and having a good handle on their feelings.

Now, when it comes to ADHD, a little attention issue that affects about 11% of kids, it can make impulse control a bit trickier. But getting a professional opinion can open doors to different ways to support the kids, like through talk therapy, maybe some tools, or even a bit of extra help.

Diving into the emotional side of things. Ever notice how some kids struggle to put their feelings into words? That’s where the impulsive actions come in – like hitting or throwing a mini fit. Teaching them to talk about their feelings is like giving them a right tool to communicate better.

Now, for the practical stuff. Kids sometimes act without fully listening, especially those with ADHD. So, a little trick is to ask them to repeat what you said before they jump into action. It’s like a quick double-check to make sure they got it.

Problem-solving is a cool trick too. Instead of rushing into things, we’re teaching our little problem-solvers to think first. Whether it’s fixing a bike or tackling a math problem, encouraging them to think about a few solutions before picking one is like training their brain muscles.

Anger management is the hidden gem. If your kid has a low tolerance for frustration, it might lead to those impulsive outbursts. So, let’s teach them some cool tricks – deep breaths or maybe having a little kit of calm-down tools. It’s like giving them a superhero toolkit for handling emotions.

Household rules might sound a bit boring, but they’re like the guidebook to the home adventure. Clear rules with reasons behind them help your child know what’s expected. It’s like giving them a roadmap to navigate different situations.

Keeping things consistent is the key. Consistent rules and routines make life a bit more predictable for your kid, and less chaos means fewer impulsive moves. Reminders and practice turn those rules into habits.

Delayed gratification is a bit like playing the waiting game. Creating a reward system adds a dash of fun. It’s like saying, “Hey, good job on waiting – here’s a little treat!” Small wins get small rewards, and big wins? Well, they get something bigger.

Be a role model for your child. They’re watching and learning from you. So, if you show them how to wait patiently or make smart choices, they’ll pick up on those moves. It’s like being their guide in this big, exciting game of life.

Encouraging some good old physical activity is a win-win. Less screen time, more running around – it’s like magic for self-discipline. Outdoor games aren’t just for fun; they’re like little training sessions for impulse control.

In a nutshell, it’s totally normal for our little ones to be all over the place with their actions. Hitting, jumping around, or causing a bit of chaos, classic impulse moves. But with some gentle guidance and your steady hand, things get smoother over time.

If ever you feel like your child might need a bit more help or if something seems off, having a chat with their pediatrician is a smart move. They can check for things like ADHD and guide you on the best way to support your unique little human. So, here’s to guiding our little ones as they master the art of impulse control!

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

A fragrant affair: Al Hawaj unveils ‘Bois Bølize Intense’ in star-studded ceremony

TDT| Manama

Amidst the opulent ambience of Seef Mall’s “Niche Garden,” Al Hawaj Group unveiled a fragrant jewel that promises to enthrall perfume enthusiasts in the region.

In a ceremony graced by ambassadors, dignitaries, and the renowned perfumer himself, Axel de Nicolai, the launch of “Bois Bølize Intense” marked a new chapter in the exquisite collaboration between Al Hawaj and Nicolai Parfums.

The air buzzed with anticipation as ambassadors from South Korea, Egypt, and Tunisia, along with representatives from France and Palestine, mingled with journalists and distinguished guests. The aroma of anticipation, already piqued by the elegant setting, intensified as Jawad Al Hawaj, President and Chairman of Alhawaj Group of Companies, with characteristic warmth, welcomed the esteemed gathering. His gratitude for their presence resonated through the room, setting the stage for a truly special evening.

Then, taking centre stage, was the perfume maestro himself, Axel de Nicolai. His words echoed with appreciation for Al Hawaj Group’s dedication to promoting French perfumery, particularly Nicolai Parfums. He eloquently spoke of the deep-rooted connection between French scents and the discerning preferences of the Middle East, especially the Arab world, where a subtle infusion of Arabic characteristics adds an alluring twist.

To delve deeper into the world of Nicolai Parfums, Shyam Narayanan, Operations



Al Hawaj Group officials with renowned perfumer himself, Axel de Nicolai, along with ambassadors and dignitaries at the opening ceremony

Manager at Al Hawaj Group, embarked on a captivating journey through the brand’s history. He unveiled the stories behind their internationally acclaimed fragrances, each a testament to de Nicolai’s olfactory artistry.

Gratitude

As the evening reached its crescendo, Abdulwahab Al Hawaj expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the ambassadors and guests for their presence. He reaffirmed the commitment of “Niche Garden” stores to

providing a haven for unique aromatic collections, exclusively curated by Al Hawaj Group.

And finally, the moment everyone awaited arrived. The unveiling of “Bois Bølize Intense” – a name that itself evokes whispers of exotic woods and sun-kissed beaches. This latest creation represents the harmonious convergence of French refinement and the captivating allure of Arabic scents. It promises to be an olfactory masterpiece, a fragrant bridge

between two cultures, ready to leave an indelible mark on the world of perfumery.

With the launch of “Bois Bølize Intense,” Al Hawaj Group and Nicolai Parfums have once again proven their prowess in crafting olfactory experiences that transcend borders and captivate the senses. As the final notes of the evening mingled with the lingering aroma of the new fragrance, one thing was certain – the world of perfumery had just gotten a whole lot more captivating.

Camping in Bahrain just got a whole lot more exciting!



TDT| Manama

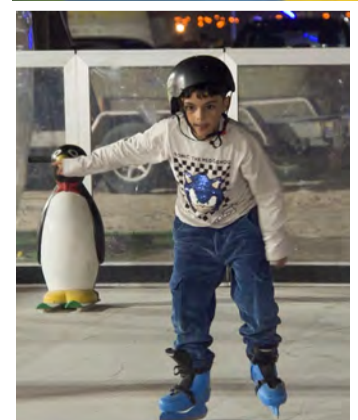
Seef Entertainment is spicing up the annual winter camping season in Sakhir with a thrilling lineup of activities. From December to February, nature enthusiasts can immerse themselves in an exceptional outdoor experience filled with skating, trampoline, ziplining, wall-climbing, and more – all within a safe and comfortable environment.

The camping season is a beloved Bahraini tradition, offering a chance to escape the routine, unwind, and revel in the country’s breathtaking beauty. Seef Entertainment’s

innovative games, priced from BD1.1 to BD2.2, cater to all ages and interests, ensuring there’s something for everyone.

Mr. Ahmed Yusuf, CEO of Seef Entertainment W.L.L, emphasized the company’s commitment to delivering exceptional and diverse entertainment experiences. He stated that their participation aligns with Seef Entertainment’s vision of driving innovation and excellence in the sector. Visitors can rest assured that qualified teams will be present throughout the operation to ensure everyone’s safety and security.

So, get ready for an unforgettable winter camping season in



Children will surely enjoy camping season activities

Sakhir! With Seef Entertainment’s exciting additions, the Kingdom’s picturesque nature is set to become the backdrop for countless fun-filled mo-

ments. Whether you’re seeking thrills, relaxation, or simply a chance to connect with loved ones, this camping season has something for everyone.

Lexus on Your Menu? Feast & Win with Jahez!

TDT | Manama

Craving delicious food and a chance to win a luxurious Lexus RX 350? Look no further than Jahez, the leading online food delivery platform, as they launch their sizzling "Order & Win" promotion.

This New Year, Jahez isn't just delivering mouthwatering meals, they're dishing out weekly cash prizes of thousands of Bahraini Dinars and the grand prize of a gleaming Lexus!

"We're thrilled to kick off 2024 with 'Order & Win,'" proclaims Haleema Abdulkareem, Jahez's Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications. "Every Jahez order becomes a ticket to win BD2,000 in weekly draws, and you'll automatically be entered for the chance to drive away in a brand-new Lexus RX 350!"



Winner with shayma

Abdulkareem's excitement echoes the success of Jahez's recent "Jahez Prime" campaign. Offering unlimited free deliv-



Haleema Abdulkareem

eries from over 500 restaurants and stores for a pocket-friendly monthly fee, "Jahez Prime" was met with an overwhelming

response. The campaign showed customers with 21 weekly cash prizes of BD1,000 each, culminating in a grand prize of BD10,000 awarded to the lucky Mr. Faisal Al Zayed.

"These initiatives are our way of thanking our loyal customers," beams Abdulkareem. "Their trust and engagement fuel our success, and we strive to reward them with exceptional service and delightful experiences."

"Order & Win" isn't just about prizes; it's about amplifying your Jahez experience. Every order adds a dash of excitement, a sprinkle of anticipation, and a generous dollop of potential luxury to your meals. So, get ready to savour delicious food, cheer for weekly windfalls, and dream of cruising in a Lexus - Jahez has got you covered, from appetizers to aspirations!

Inspired launches scholars' initiative

To provide 50 children at any one time with a fully funded, exceptional secondary education

● 2,200 Inspired students already benefiting from scholarships and bursaries

TDT | Manama

Inspired Education Group, the leading global group of premium schools, has unveiled a global initiative that at any one time will provide 50 exceptional individuals a full scholarship for the duration of their education at any of Inspired's prestigious schools worldwide.

The initiative aims at providing hundreds of children with

an opportunity to receive exceptional, transformative education.

Nsouli Scholars will be extraordinary individuals who, without this award, would not be able to access exceptional educational opportunities. This scholarship enables talented individuals to attend any Inspired Education school, including prestigious Boarding schools, for the entirety of their senior school education.

Nadim Nsouli, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Inspired, said, "Already, we support 2,200 students with scholarships and

bursaries annually across our 111 schools. The Nsouli Scholars initiative goes beyond anything we've done before, reaching out to an even broader community of exceptional students who would simply not be able to access a premium Inspired education without full financial support. My ambition is that this programme will help provide hundreds of children around the world with a life changing opportunity."

Together, the Inspired existing scholarship and bursary programmes and the Nsouli Scholars initiative will result in an annual Euro 56 million of community giving by Inspired.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible students for the 'Nsouli Scholars' Full Scholarship must showcase excellence in academic performance and excel in at least one of the other two pillars defining an Inspired education: Sports, and Performing & Creative Arts. Additionally, applicants must be 13 years of age or above, and demonstrate strong personal qualities for future success, including integrity, leadership, ambition, boldness of vision, exceptional drive, and a capacity for hard work.

In honour and recognition of Inspired Founder Nadim M Nsouli's Lebanese heritage, a portion of these prestigious scholarships will be awarded to individuals of Lebanese origin.

EU examines Microsoft investment in OpenAI

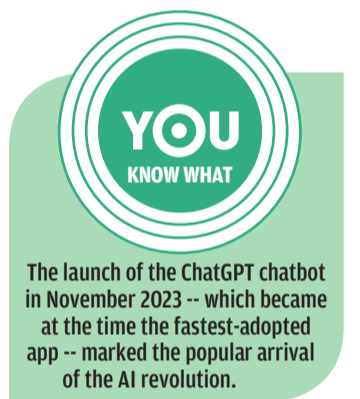
Brussels, Belgium

The European Union's competition regulator said yesterday it was looking into Microsoft's investment into ChatGPT developer OpenAI to see if it merits further investigation under the bloc's merger rules.

The European Commission said in a statement it was "checking whether Microsoft's investment in OpenAI might be reviewable under the EU Merger Regulation".

The move is part of efforts by Brussels to make sure its oversight can catch up with the fast-moving world of artificial intelligence and stop major players shutting out competitors.

EU competition chief Margrethe Vestager, who will meet top tech bosses California this week, said "it is fundamental that these new markets stay competitive".



The launch of the ChatGPT chatbot in November 2023 -- which became at the time the fastest-adopted app -- marked the popular arrival of the AI revolution.

"We are inviting businesses and experts to tell us about any competition issues that they may perceive in these industries, whilst also closely monitoring AI partnerships to ensure they do not unduly distort market dynamics," she said. Alongside meetings with Apple boss Tim Cook and Google chief Sundar Pichai, Vestager is also set to hold talks with two top executives from OpenAI.

Stocks retreat as rebound loses legs

London, United Kingdom

US and European stocks markets pulled back yesterday as a rebound at the start of the week lost steam amid investor worries about the outlook for companies and economies.

Asian equities however enjoyed a much-needed bounce Tuesday, with Tokyo scoring a three-decade high after a rally on Wall Street on Monday.

But US stocks could not keep the momentum going, with sentiment dampened by earnings warnings from tech sector firms including Samsung.

Eurozone stock markets slid as news of a shock contraction in German industrial output fanned fears over the health of Europe's top economy.

Crude futures also rebounded, one day after slumping following a sharp price cut by Saudi Aramco -- which fuelled concerns that supply was outstripping demand.

'Economic underperformance'

Germany's industrial production unexpectedly fell 0.7% in November, the sixth straight monthly drop, official data showed.

Analysts surveyed by financial data firm FactSet had forecast

Key figures around 1430 GMT

New York - Dow:	▼ 0.5% at 37,485.33 points
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 0.5% at 4,737.99
New York - Nasdaq:	▼ 0.7% at 14,741.76
London - FTSE 100:	▼ less than 0.1% at 7,688.67
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 0.4% at 16,642.92
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.5% at 7,413.18
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.7% at 4,454.07
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 1.2% at 33,763.18 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.2% at 16,190.02 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.3% at 2,897.34 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.0947 from \$1.0950 on Monday
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 143.78 yen from 144.23 yen
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2728 from \$1.2748
Euro/pound:	▲ at 86.00 pence from 85.89 pence
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 2.0% at \$77.62 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 2.0% at \$72.21 per barrel

stagnation.

"German industrial production data serves to highlight the ongoing battle underway in Europe, with the region's reliance on manufacturing playing a key role in driving economic underperformance," said Scope Markets analyst Joshua Mahony.

"Long-term deterioration (is) evident from the fact that manufacturing production in Germany now stands 13% below its 2017 peak," he added.

The rebound on Wall Street on Monday was due in large part to tech stocks, with the Nasdaq climbing more than two%.

But sentiment in the sector was dampened after Samsung Electronics said it expected fourth-quarter operating profit to drop by more than a third, as the company struggles with weak demand for consumer electronics.

The Nasdaq dropped 0.7% at the start of trading on Tuesday.

Asian indices shot higher Tuesday, with Tokyo hitting its highest level since 1990 as traders mulled the Federal Reserve's interest-rates plans.

The outlook was given a partial boost by Monday's short-lived plunge in oil prices -- a key driver of inflation -- after Aramco announced a cut of \$2 a barrel as it looks to regain lost market share.

Global equities have stumbled into the new year as a rally at the end of 2023 came to an end on worries that investors may have been too optimistic that the Fed will start cutting interest rates as soon as March.

Confidence was given a jolt last week when minutes from the bank's December policy meeting showed decision-makers were happy to keep rates at two-decade highs for some time to make sure they defeat inflation.

That was followed by a forecast-busting jobs report that showed the labour market remained in rude health, reinforcing the Fed view that there was still much work to do before officials could call mission accomplished on reducing inflation.

Investors are now looking ahead to Thursday's key US inflation data.

Eurofins completes acquisition of Manara Medical Laboratories

TDT | Manama

The Eurofins network of companies, a global leader in food, environment, pharmaceutical and cosmetic Eurofins, a global leader in food, environment, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic product testing, as well as discovery pharmacology, forensics, advanced material sciences, and agrosience contract research services, has successfully acquired Manara Medical Laboratories. This state-of-the-art clinical diagnostics laboratory, now known as 'Eurofins Manara Medical Laboratories WLL', is located in Bahrain.

Moving forward, the laboratory will provide specialized and innovative clinical diagnostic testing solutions

to meet the growing healthcare needs of Bahrain's population. It aims to cater to the Kingdom's local clinical diagnostic testing requirements, contributing to every aspect of patient care—from genetic predisposition to prevention, diagnostics, treatment monitoring, and prognosis.

Spanning approximately 3000 square feet, the facility is equipped with cutting-edge technology to conduct efficient, high-quality testing. This includes STAT testing, expediting results for high-priority and time-critical tests. Eurofins Manara Medical Laboratories WLL is poised to play a crucial role in enhancing healthcare services in Bahrain.

Bahrain All Share Index closes higher

TDT | Manama

Bahrain All Share Index has closed at 1,987.49 points, marking an increase of 3.79

points above the previous closing. This increase was due to the rise in the Consumer Discretionary Sector and Financial Sector.

QUOTE OF THE DAY THE SUCCESSFUL WARRIOR IS THE AVERAGE MAN, WITH LASER-LIKE FOCUS BRUCE LEE

TODAY IN HISTORY

49BC

Julius Caesar defies the Roman Senate and crosses the Rubicon, uttering "alea iacta est" (the die is cast), signaling the start of civil war which would lead to his appointment as Roman dictator for life



Catholic Order of the Golden Fleece founded in Bruges in celebration of the prosperous and wealthy domains of Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy

1430

1776

1946

"Common Sense" Pamphlet by Thomas Paine published, advocating American independence

UN General Assembly meets for the first time in London

News in brief

Bhutanese election officials counted votes yesterday after polls dominated by serious economic challenges that call into question the Himalayan kingdom's long-standing policy of prioritising "Gross National Happiness" over growth. Both parties contesting the vote are committed to a constitutionally enshrined philosophy of a government that measures its success by the "happiness and well-being of the people". Some voters had to trek for days to cast their ballots in the landlocked mountain nation of about 800,000 people, similar in area to Switzerland. Provisional results for individual constituencies are expected to begin to be released late Tuesday but, with many remote polling stations, full official results will be announced on Wednesday. Bhutan held elections for the first time in 2008 after political reforms established a bicameral parliament soon after the start of the reign of the present king, who remains hugely popular.



Bhutan counts votes as economic strife hits 'national happiness'

The Philippines renewed yesterday its appeal for clemency for a Filipino woman on death row in Indonesia, hours before the country's president was scheduled to arrive in Manila for an official visit. It was the latest high-level attempt to save the life of Mary Jane Veloso, who was arrested in Indonesia in 2010 carrying a suitcase lined with 2.6 kilograms (5.7 pounds) of heroin and was later sentenced to death. She won a last-minute reprieve from the firing squad in 2015 after a woman suspected of recruiting her was arrested in the Philippines. "We're working to see whether we can find a way towards resolving the case soon, and clemency," Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo told reporters after meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi in Manila.

The Kremlin said yesterday the Russian military would do everything in its power to tackle an increase in Ukrainian shelling of the border city of Belgorod. The city has suffered an uptick in fatal shelling attacks in recent weeks that prompted city officials to evacuate hundreds and extend a closure of schools. "Of course, our military will continue to do everything in order to minimise the danger at first and then eliminate it entirely," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. He accused the Ukrainian military of firing on civilian targets in the centre of the urban hub of some 340,000 people with weapons supplied by European countries. Separately, Ukrainian authorities said the death toll from a Russian strike in Ukraine one day earlier grew to three.

SPOTLIGHT

S. Korea parliament to vote on banning dog meat trade

South Korea's parliament is expected to vote yesterday to ban eating dog meat and its trade, a traditional practice that activists have long called an international embarrassment for the country. Dog meat has long been a part of South Korean cuisine, and at one point up to a million dogs were believed to be killed for the trade every year, but consumption has sharply declined recently, as Koreans embrace pet ownership in droves. Eating dog meat is now something of a taboo among younger, urban South Koreans, and pressure from animal rights activists has also been mounting on the government to outlaw the practice. Official support for a ban has grown under President Yoon Suk Yeol, a self-professed animal lover who has adopted several stray dogs and cats with First Lady Kim Keon Hee -- who is herself a vocal critic of dog meat consumption. If the bill is passed, breeding, selling and slaughtering dogs for their meat will become punishable by up to three years in prison or 30 million won (\$23,000) in fines. The legislation will come into effect after a three-year grace period. In a new survey released on Monday by Seoul-based think tank Animal Welfare Awareness, Research and Education, nine out of 10 people in South Korea said they would not eat dog meat in the future.



South Korean first lady Kim Keon Hee posing with puppies at the Samsung Guide Dog School in Yongin.

Palestinians say Israeli forces drove over lifeless body

AFP | Tulkarem, Palestinian Territories

Palestinian officials accused Israel of a "brutal crime" yesterday after footage shared on social media appeared to show a military vehicle running over a dead man in the occupied West Bank.

The foreign ministry of the Palestinian Authority, which governs the West Bank, said the footage was from a military operation in the city of Tulkarem. Israel's military confirmed they had killed three on Monday night and engaged in gun battles around Tulkarem, but they have not yet responded to AFP requests for comment on the footage.

The Palestinian ministry said the incident summed up the "culture of hatred" fostered by Israeli forces.

"This complex and brutal crime is not the first and will not be the last in the series of crimes of the occupation and terrorist settler militia members," the ministry said in a statement.

Violence in the West Bank has surged to levels unseen in nearly two decades since October 7, when attacks on Israel by Palestinian armed group Hamas



Members of Israel's security forces take positions during an Israeli raid at the Nur Shams camp for Palestinian refugees near the occupied West Bank city of Tulkarem

sparked all-out war, still raging in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Israeli forces carry out regular raids in the West Bank, often triggering gun battles with Palestinian militants.

An Israeli police spokesman said their forces had carried out an operation with other agencies in Tulkarem on Monday to arrest a "wanted terrorist".

"Forces arrested the wanted man after he was hit by fire from our forces," the spokesman said,

Hezbollah targets Israel base to avenge killings in Lebanon

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah said it targeted an Israeli command base yesterday in retaliation for the killings of one of its commanders and the Hamas deputy leader.

Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging near-daily fire across the border since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7. The Hamas ally, said it had targeted the "enemy's north-eastern command centre" in the city

of Safed with "several suicide drones".

It said the attack was part of its response to the killings of Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-Aruri on January 2 and of Hezbollah field commander Wissam Tawil on Monday. The Israeli army confirmed that a "hostile aircraft" had come down at one of its bases in the north and said that "no injuries or damage were reported".

On Saturday, Hezbollah said it had fired more than 60 rockets

at an Israeli military base, also in response to Aruri's killing in Beirut which was widely blamed on Israel.

Hezbollah number two Naim Qassem in a speech Tuesday warned that Israel's wave of targeted killings "cannot lead to a phase of retreat but rather to a push forward for the resistance".

He described Tawil as a member of Hezbollah's elite al-Radwan Brigade who had fought on several fronts.

Hamas chief urges Muslim states to support 'resistance with weapons'

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh called on Muslim states yesterday to provide the Palestinian group with weapons, as the group's war with Israel rages in the Gaza Strip.

"We see countries of the world pouring weapons into the occupation (Israel)... The time

has come (for Muslim states) to support the resistance with weapons, because this... not the battle of the Palestinian people alone," Haniyeh said in a speech in Doha, according to a transcript shared by the group with journalists.

Israel has occupied the West Bank, home to about three million Palestinians, since 1967. Some

490,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements deemed illegal under international law.

Driver arrested after crashing into White House gate: Secret Service



The exterior of the White House is seen from outside the security fencing

AFP | Washington, United States

US authorities detained a person near the White House on Monday who crashed a vehicle into an exterior gate of the presidential mansion complex, the Secret Service said.

President Joe Biden was out of town at the time of the incident, and security officials did not say whether it was a traffic accident or intended as an attack. "Shortly before 6:00 pm (2300 GMT), a vehicle collided with an exterior gate on the White House complex. The driver has been taken into custody & we are investigating the cause & manner of the collision," US Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said on X, formerly Twitter.

The crash is believed to have occurred on the northeast side of the complex, given that

Guglielmi said to expect "traffic implications" at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

While the vehicle was later cleared by Washington police, the "driver remains in custody and our investigation continues," Guglielmi said.

The White House has seen a string of high-profile trespassing incidents in recent years, causing sufficient concern to build a higher, tougher metal fence around the iconic mansion's perimeter in 2020.

In 2017 a man who scaled a White House fence traipsed the grounds for more than 16 minutes before he was arrested -- while then-president Donald Trump was inside.

In 2014 while Barack Obama was president, a disturbed US Army veteran jumped the White House fence, sprinted across the lawn and entered the building with a knife in his pocket.

Gabriel Attal picked as France's youngest PM

AFP | Paris, France

French leader Emmanuel Macron yesterday picked Gabriel Attal as prime minister in a bid to give new momentum to his presidency, with the 34-year-old becoming France's youngest and first openly gay head of government.

Following days of speculation, Macron late Monday accepted the resignation of Elisabeth Borne, 62, who stepped down along with the rest of the government after serving less than two years in office.

The overhaul comes ahead of the Olympic Games in Paris and European parliament elections this summer, where Macron's centrist forces risk defeat at the hands of the far-right under Marine Le Pen.

A wider cabinet reshuffle is expected this week as Macron seeks to sharpen his team for the final three years of his presidency.

"The president of the republic appointed Mr Gabriel Attal prime minister, and tasked him with forming a government," a presidential statement said.

Attal is set to bring a major change of style to the office of the prime minister following Borne, only the second woman to lead the French government. Her austere and no-nonsense demeanour won respect from colleagues but not necessarily popularity from the public, whereas Attal is the most popular figure in government after his stint at the politically crucial education ministry.

Confirming the move on X, the president said he wanted the new premier to bring back the spirit of bold change from when Macron first won office on wave of hope for radical reform in 2017.

"I know I can count on your energy and your commitment," said Macron, adding that the new premier would act in line with the spirit of "excellence and audacity" of 2017.

Borne's resignation letter to Macron, a copy of which was seen by AFP, hinted that she would have preferred to stay in her job. "While I must present the

resignation of my government, I wanted to tell you how passionate I was about this mission," she wrote.



US man held in Moscow on drug charges

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia has detained and charged against US citizen Robert Woodland, who was apprehended by law enforcement earlier this month, a Moscow court said yesterday.

Moscow is holding several American nationals on espionage and other charges, as tensions between Russia and the United States balloon over the conflict in Ukraine.

"On January 6, the Oostankinsky District Court of Moscow ordered Robert Romanov Woodland to be placed in detention for a period of two months, until March 5, 2024," the court said on social media.

He is accused of the "illegal acquisition, storage, transportation, manufacture, processing" of drugs and faces up to 20 years in prison.

Russian authorities have arrested several US citizens in recent years, with critics accusing Moscow of using detainees as bargaining chips to exchange Russians jailed in the



Robert Woodland

United States. Paul Whelan, an ex-US marine was sentenced in 2020 to 16 years in jail on spying charges that he denies.

In late March 2023, Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich became the first Western journalist to be held on espionage charges in Russia since the Soviet era.

US-Russian dual citizen, journalist Alsu Kurmasheva, was arrested in October. She has been charged with failing to register as a "foreign agent" and spreading misinformation.

In December 2022, Russia released basketball superstar Brittney Griner in exchange for notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout -- known as the "Merchant of Death" -- who had been jailed in the United States.

US sailor who spied for China sentenced to 27 months

AFP | Los Angeles, United States

A US Navy petty officer who pleaded guilty to providing sensitive military information to a Chinese intelligence officer was sentenced to more than two years in prison on Monday, the US Justice Department said.

Wenheng Zhao, 26, and another US sailor, Jinchao Wei, were arrested in August on suspicion of spying for China.

Zhao pleaded guilty in a federal court in California in October to charges of conspiring with a foreign intelligence officer and accepting a bribe.

He was sentenced on Monday to 27 months in prison and a \$5,500 fine.

According to US officials, Zhao, who was stationed at a naval base north of Los Angeles, received nearly \$15,000 from the Chinese intelligence officer between August 2021 and May 2023.

In exchange, he handed over sensitive information regarding US Navy operational security, exercises and critical in-



US Navy Petty Officer Wenheng Zhao

frastructure. Zhao specifically provided information about a large-scale maritime training exercise in the Pacific and electrical diagrams and blueprints for a radar system located in Okinawa, Japan.

"Mr. Zhao betrayed his solemn oath to defend his country and endangered those who serve in the US military," Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen said in a statement.

"The Justice Department is committed to combatting the Chinese government's efforts to undermine our nation's security and holding accountable those who violate our laws as part of those efforts."

Wei, who served on the amphibious assault ship the USS Essex, is accused of handing over to China dozens of documents, photos and videos detailing the operation of ships and their systems.

TOP 4 TWEETS

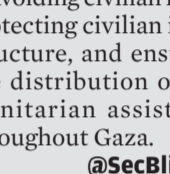
01



@SecBlinken

Met with @IsraeliPM and reaffirmed our support for Israel's right to prevent another October 7 from occurring. I also stressed the importance of avoiding civilian harm, protecting civilian infrastructure, and ensuring the distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

02



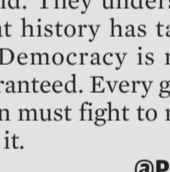
@POTUS

I met with a group of scholars and historians in the Oval to get their viewpoints on ongoing threats to democracy -- at home and around the world. They understand what history has taught us: Democracy is never guaranteed. Every generation must fight to maintain it.



@narendramod

Welcome to India my brother, HH @MohamedBinZayed. It's an honour to have you visit us.



@EmmanuelMacron

Cher @GabrielAttal, I know I can count on your energy and your commitment to implement the rearmament and regeneration project that I announced. In fidelity to the spirit of 2017: surpassing and audacity. In the service of the Nation and the French.



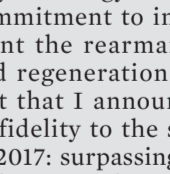
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04

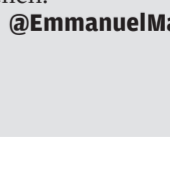


@EmmanuelMacron

03



@EmmanuelMacron



@EmmanuelMacron

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

Classifieds



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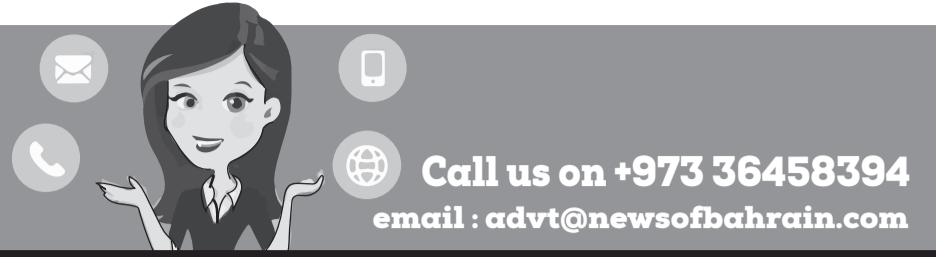
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Bahrain face Angola in Dubai tune-up



Ali Madan participates in their training session yesterday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team take on their counterparts from Angola this evening in an informal training match in the UAE. The game is scheduled for a 5pm kick-off, Bahrain time, and it will be played at Dubai Police Club Stadium. The tune-up will mark the end of the Bahrainis' training camp in the Emirates, where they have been preparing for the highly anticipated AFC Asian Cup, which kicks off in Doha on Friday and continues until 10 February. Angola, meanwhile, are gearing up for the CAF Africa Cup of Nations, set to be held in Ivory Coast from Saturday to 11 February.

Both competitions feature 24 teams from across their respective continents. The Bahrainis are scheduled to fly to the Qatari capital tomorrow ahead of the start of the AFC Asian Cup. The nationals held their final training session last night in Dubai under the supervision of head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi. Bahrain are in Group E for the competition's preliminary round along with South Korea, Malaysia and Jordan. The nationals kick off their campaign against the South Koreans on 15 January at 2.30pm, and then take on their Malaysian counterparts on 20 January at 5.30pm. They complete the preliminaries against Jordan on 25 January at 2.30pm. All times are Bahrain.



Jassim Al Shaikh leads a group of players in drills last night

Positive results for Bahraini showjumpers in Dubai



Action from the event

TDT | Manama

Bahraini athletes Ahmed Al Jahromi, Ahmed Akbar, Iyad Fareed, and Tareq Jabri achieved good results in the international Showjumping Championship's two-star category, held at the Sustainable City Equestrian Club in Dubai from January 5th to 7th, 2024. Al Jahromi secured second place on the first day of the championship following a flawless performance, clocking 61.80 seconds on his horse Vivario in the against-the-clock class. He

also finished 14th place with four faults on his horse Espoir, with a time of 66.26 seconds, in the 125cm class. Meanwhile, Akbar finished seventeenth in the same category with four faults, posting a time of 77.17 seconds. In addition, Jabri completed the accumulator class on his horse Enjoy with a score of 61 points, securing the 20th place with a time of 61.76 seconds in the 110cm class. Meanwhile, Al Jahromi completed the two-phase class in the 130cm height category, securing the thirteenth place. He



Bahraini athlete celebrates after the event

also finished the speed class on the third day in 4th place with no faults and a time of 60.31 seconds on his horse Vivario, jumping at a height of 140cm. Furthermore, Akbar completed the speed class in the 130cm category, finishing 14th on his horse Ola de Fronti with eight faults and a time of 68.16 seconds. It's worth noting that 50 participants took part in these competitions.

Ancelotti unhappy to face Atletico in trio of Madrid derbies

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said yesterday he was unhappy to be pitted against fierce city rivals Atletico Madrid three times in under a month. Los Blancos take on Diego Simeone's Atletico on Wednesday in Riyadh in the Spanish Super Cup semi-final, again next week in the Copa del Rey last 16, and also in La Liga in early February. Atletico are the only team to beat Real Madrid this season in all competitions, with the Rojiblancos earning a 3-1 league win in September in the derby at their Metropolitano stadium. "The calendar is what it is, we have to face Atletico Madrid again, we have to play this game," Ancelotti told a news conference. "I don't like facing Atletico because they are one of the best teams, it's always tough to play them -- but Atletico will be thinking the same thing.



Real Madrid's English midfielder #5 Jude Bellingham (C-L) and Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti (C-R) attend a training session

"We are two strong teams and it will be complicated, but I think the fans will enjoy these fixtures, both Real Madrid and Atletico fans." Ancelotti said Atletico's victory over Madrid this season damaged his side, although they have since gone on a 19-match unbeaten run. "The truth is the last game we played (against Atletico) did us a lot of damage," continued

Ancelotti. "I think tomorrow we can put a better version of ourselves out there than in our first match against Atletico Madrid." Atletico had won just one of their previous 14 La Liga matches against Real Madrid before this season's victory. Real Madrid also beat Atletico in the 2020 Spanish Super Cup final, the first to be played in Saudi Arabia.



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CARLO ANCELOTTI

Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde was dismissed for hacking down Atletico striker Alvaro Morata as he ran through on goal deep in extra-time, allowing his team to get to penalties, where they triumphed. "I'd do it (again), if it's for the team," Valverde told reporters. "If we're losing 3-0 then there's no sense in it, in that final we were battling it out, it was hard-fought... if that was the scoreline again, I'd do it again."

Loeb fights back with superb Dakar stage win for BRX

Bahrain Raid Xtreme star climbs standings after winning dramatic battle with rally leader Al Rajhi and Al Attiyah

● Despite earlier setbacks, Loeb climbs three places to sixth position overall

TDT | Manama

Sebastien Loeb recorded a brilliant stage victory in the Dakar Rally today to revive the fortunes of Bahrain Raid Xtreme on another dramatic day in Saudi Arabia.

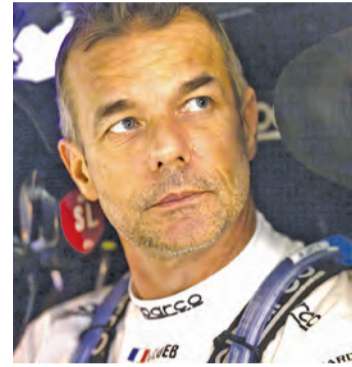
Partnered by Fabian Lurquin in the BRX Prodrive Hunter, Loeb won the 299km Stage 4 from Al Salamiya to Al-Hofuf following a breathtaking battle with Saudi Arabia's outright rally leader, Yazeed Al Rajhi, and Qatar's five-time champion, Nasser Al Attiyah.

It was a typically bold recovery by the nine-time World Rally Champion after a succession of punctures and enforced repair work had dropped him from contention on the previous stage.



Sebastien Loeb and Fabian Lurquin powering the Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter

Climbing three places on the day, Loeb is in sixth position overall, still 23mins 50 secs off the lead, but back in the hunt with eight more tough desert changes remaining in a rally where fortunes can swing dramatically. It was at the same point in last



Sebastien Loeb

year's Dakar that Loeb took the first of six successive stage wins for BRX to ultimately eclipse the previous best of five achieved by Ari Vatanen in 1989.

As three of the world's top drivers fought for the lead today, the stage result was in doubt up to the final kilometres, Loeb eventually edging out Al Rajhi by 1 min 8 secs, with Al Attiyah just 14 seconds further away.

The result left the Saudi's Toyota leading by 4 min 29 secs from the Audi of Carlos Sainz, with Al Attiyah in third, 11 mins 3 secs from Al Rajhi in his Prodrive



Hunter.

After clinching his 24th stage win on the Dakar, Loeb said: "It was a very good day for us - a clean stage. Yes we started in the dust from 20th, but we overtook many cars. We missed a waypoint so we had to turn around, but that was only for 30 seconds."

He will now look to make up more of the earlier lost ground in tomorrow's much shorter 118km Stage 5 from Al-Hofuf to Shubaytah, although a road section of 527 km means another long journey on the day.

Bahrain Drag Racing Championship returns for action-packed second round at BIC

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", hosts this week the second round of the 2023/2024 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship (BDRC).

The region's leading drag racing series returns for another action-packed meeting of high-octane, head-to-head battles along BIC's world-class quarter-mile strip in Sakhir.

The BDRC is a National Hot Rod Association (NHRA)-sanctioned competition, organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

Close to 250 competitors from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and the US took part in the season-opening event last month. The participants' fight for glory will once again light up the BIC strip, which is part of the prestigious NHRA Worldwide Network.

The round's programme kicked off yesterday and today with back-to-back nights of Test and Tune, scheduled from 6pm to 12midnight.

Qualifying will be held tomorrow from 3pm onwards, setting up the pairings for the eliminations on Race Day Friday from 2pm onwards.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy the multiple nights of thrilling drag racing.

Tickets to Test and Tune cost BD2 per person for each night along BIC's Beyon Grandstand. Tickets for Qualifying and Race



Action from a previous event at BIC (file photo)



A car in action at BIC (file photo)

Day are BD5 apiece for the Start Line Grandstand and BD3 each for the Beyon Grandstand.

Racing this season is being held in 14 categories for both cars and motorbikes. The car classes include the Index 7.5, Pro 29.5 V8, Outlaw 4 Cylind-

er, Outlaw 6 Cylinder, Index 10.00, Index 9.00, Index 8.50, Competition 4.5 and Pro Mod; while the motorbike classes are Pro Street Bike, Street Fight 9.5, Index 8.5 Bike, Outlaw Bike and Street Fight.

Also available to fans attend-



ing on each night of the round from Tuesday to Friday is BIC's most adrenaline-pumping passenger ride: the Dragster Experience.

Popularly known as "the Fastest Ride on Earth", fans will have a chance to get a taste of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while in the cockpit of a 10,500cc Top Dragster.

The Dragster Experience is available at BD44 for a first passenger while a second passenger can get 50 per cent off.

The BDRC features five rounds in all in its 2023/2024 season. Following this week's second meeting, round three will be held from 30 January to 2 February, and then round four will be the following week from 6 to 9 February. The championship finale will then take place 19 to 22 March at BIC.

Pacers battle through Haliburton injury to sink Celtics



Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton grimaces after injuring his hamstring

AFP | Los Angeles

The Indiana Pacers overcame a scary injury to star point guard Tyrese Haliburton before beating the in-form Boston Celtics 133-131 on Monday in the NBA.

Haliburton, one of the brightest stars in the league, was carried off the court by teammates after a painful tumble near the end of the second quarter at Indiana's Gainbridge Fieldhouse Arena. The 23-year-old grimaced after inadvertently doing the splits as he attempted to change direction while driving towards the basket.

The Pacers later said Haliburton, who did not return to the game, had suffered a left hamstring strain.

With Haliburton out of action, Bennedict Mathurin stepped up with 26 points off the bench to lead the second-half fightback after Indiana trailed 68-59 at the break.

A frantic finale looked to have tilted Boston's way after

the Pacers were adjudged to have fouled Jaylen Brown in the closing seconds with the score locked at 131-131.

But Indiana challenged the call and the foul was overturned to leave the score level and give the Pacers one last chance to snatch the win.

Boston's Kristaps Porzingis then fouled Mathurin with one second on the clock and the Pacers shooting guard promptly sank two free throws to secure the victory.

"We lost the best player on the team, so my role was to step up and help the team win the game," Mathurin said afterwards.

"Ty (Haliburton) was down but it felt like the team pretty much knew what to do. Everyone had to step up. If your name gets called, be ready to play," the Canadian added.

"We have a lot of depth on this team. We have a lot of players who can play and perform and have an impact on the game. It was a great win for us."

Siem and Cabrera-Bello add their star power to Bahrain Championship

● Marcel Siem seeks another title after his 2023 Hero Indian Open victory

● Siem finished 24th on the Race to Dubai Rankings, eager for Bahrain return

● Rafa Cabrera-Bello, a consistent performer, has won four times since 2009

TDT | Manama

Marcel Siem and Rafa Cabrera-Bello will be hoping to add another title to their collections after the DP World Tour stars confirmed their attendance at the Bahrain Championship at the Royal Golf Club from February 1-4.

The DP World Tour is returning to Bahrain for the first time since 2011 in what is set to be a spectacular week of entertainment both on and off the course, with a plethora of activities to be enjoyed for the whole family alongside the thrilling golf action.

Siem made a memorable return to the DP World Tour winner's circle last season after more than eight years away as he fought off the challenge of fellow German Yannik Paul to claim a one-shot victory at the 2023 Hero Indian Open.



Marcel Siem

The five-time DP World Tour winner went on to finish 24th on the season-long Race to Dubai Rankings in Partnership with Rolex and is now relishing the opportunity to play in the Kingdom of Bahrain for the second time in his career.

"It's great that we're heading back to Bahrain," said Siem.

"I love to travel the world and return to places I haven't been to

for a long time, especially when you're on Tour for how many years now? 22 years! So, it's nice to go to places like the Belfry, and Wentworth is awesome, but I always look forward to visiting venues that we don't play as much. It's really cool."

Cabrera-Bello, who formed part of Team Europe in the 2016 Ryder Cup, has been a model of consistency since joining the



Rafa Cabrera-Bello

DP World Tour, winning four times and retaining his playing privileges every year since 2009.

The 39-year-old is no stranger to tasting success in the Middle East having won the 2012 Dubai Desert Classic, a year after competing at the 2011 Volvo Golf Champions – the last time Bahrain hosted a DP World Tour event.

"I'm really looking forward to

returning to the Kingdom and seeing what has changed in the last 13 years," said the Spaniard, who won a maiden Rolex Series title at the 2017 Scottish Open.

"I always look forward to starting the season in the Middle East, so when the Bahrain Championship was added to the schedule it was a no-brainer for me to add my name to the entry list.



Rafa Cabrera-Bello last competed in Bahrain during the 2011 Volvo Golf Champions, making his return after 13 years

"The golf facilities, weather, condition of courses and hospitality in this part of the world are up there with the very best. I'm excited to tee it up and play my part in helping to grow the game in Bahrain."

General admission to the tournament is free of charge for spectators while there will also be a host of premium experiences available.

Tickets will include access to the tournament's Village Square, which will boast a wealth of activities for the whole family to enjoy. Little ones will be entertained in the Kids Zone with face painting, glitter stations and roaming entertainers, while live music from local bands, free golf lessons, delicious F&B options and an activation dedicated to Bahraini culture will ensure fans enjoy the off-course action just as much as the thrilling golf on offer at Royal Golf Club.

General admission is free of charge but all spectators must register in order to gain entry

Bahrain roster set for Asian handball

● Inspirational skipper Hussain Al Sayyad returns from injury, to lead national team in 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship

● Action gets underway tomorrow at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town, with four matches a day in preliminaries from 1pm

TDT | Manama

A full-strength Bahrain squad that will be flying the Kingdom's flag at home in the 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship was named yesterday.

The Bahrain Handball Association (BHA) announced the 20-player roster that will be guided by head coach Aron Kristjansson.

The continental competition, which gets underway tomorrow at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town, also acts as a qualifier for 2025 IHF World Men's Handball Championship. The top five on the final ranking secure berths in next year's worlds, to be held in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway.



Hussain Al Sayyad...back to spearhead Bahrain

The Bahrainis are set to be spearheaded by inspirational captain and international handball star Hussain Al Sayyad, who is back from an injury. He sat out the team's recent trip to France where they took part in a friendly competition with Brazil and Tunisia.

The roster also features top veterans including goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain, Mohammed Mirza, Ali Mirza, Mohammed Habib Ahmed,

Ali Eid, Hassan Shehab, Ahmed Al-maqabi, Ahmed Jalal, and Hassan Al Samaheji, along with the Kingdom's young talents such as Mohammed Habib Nasser, Mujtaba Al Zaimour, Mohammed Hameed, Qassim Qambar, Ahmed Redha, Abdulla Al Zaimour, Hassan Madan, Jassim Khamis, Ali Al Ashiri and goalkeeper Hesham Issa.

Excluded

Three players were excluded from

the team that competed in Nantes. They were Mohammed Abdulredha, Adel Mohammed and Hassan Mirza.

Sixteen of the continent's top handball nations are in the Kingdom for the 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship, which is being held in Bahrain for the fourth time, following the 2016, 2014 and 1993 editions.

The participating national teams have already arrived on the island ahead of tomorrow's start. The championship's preliminary round will be held until Tuesday next week.

The field has been divided into four groups for this stage, at the end of which the top two from each move on to the main round and stay in contention for the coveted title. The bottom two squads will compete for the Martyr Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah Cup.

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

Four matches are set to be held every day in the preliminary round. The first game on each day is scheduled for a 1pm start, with the last fixture beginning at 7pm.

Ancelotti unhappy to face Atletico in trio of Madrid derbies



Carlo Ancelotti
AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Tuesday he was unhappy to be pitted against fierce city rivals Atletico Madrid three times in under a month.

Los Blancos take on Diego Simeone's Atletico on Wednesday in Riyadh in the Spanish Super Cup semi-final, again next week in the Copa del Rey last 16, and also in La Liga in early February.

Atletico are the only team to beat Real Madrid this season in all competitions, with the Rojiblancos earning a 3-1 league win in September in the derby at their Metropolitan stadium.

"The calendar is what it is, we have to face Atletico Madrid again, we have to play this game," Ancelotti told a news conference.

"I don't like facing Atletico because they are one of the best teams, it's always tough to play them -- but Atletico will be thinking the same thing.