

Godolphin bid for HM the King's Cup glory

Most prestigious race day in Bahrain horseracing season takes place today at REHC | P12

Russia pounds Ukraine with deadly 'retaliation' strikes

THE DAILY **tribune**



Millie Bobby Brown is 'ready to leave Stranger Things

Lexus reinvents the luxury crossover with all-new RX

Thunderstorms expected today

TDT | Manama

The Meteorological Department has warned about thunderstorms and gusts expected today, urging people to take caution.

According to the report, the weather will be cloudy with chances for sporadic rain, which may turn thundery, particularly in marine areas. The minimum temperature would reach 18 degrees.

The wind will be southeasterly, ranging from 5 to 10 knots and reaching up to 30 knots at times, before turning Northerly from 17 to 22 knots in the evening. The wave height could reach from 1 to 2 feet near the coasts and 3 to 7 feet during gusts offshore.

Another depression is expected to pass through the region next week, causing an unstable atmosphere with opportunities for thunder on Monday.

The Meteorological Department is calling on citizens to remain vigilant.

Abu Dhabi shakes up wealth funds

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Abu Dhabi announced a reshuffle at the top of its two biggest sovereign wealth funds yesterday, appointing senior members of the royal family as chairmen.

Shaikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan was named chair of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), among the world's largest sovereign wealth funds, the government's media office said.

Shaikh Tahnoun is the brother of United Arab Emirates President Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who took office last May after acting as the country's de facto ruler for years.

Abu Dhabi also changed the top team of its second biggest wealth fund, Mubadala Investment Company, with Shaikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, owner of Manchester City football club and also the president's brother, appointed chairman yesterday. Newcomers to ADIA's board announced on Thursday were Shaikh Khaled bin Mohammed bin Zayed, the president's son and chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Office, Jassem Mohammed Al Zaabi and Hamad Mohammed Al Suwaidi.

Inter-Parliamentary Union



The heads of delegations from the legislative councils of Jordan, Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria arrived in Bahrain yesterday for the 146th session of the General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its associated meetings. The Shura Council Chairman and Speaker of the Council of Representatives welcomed them at the airport. The meetings will be held from Saturday to Wednesday. Among the delegates who arrived were Jordan's Lower House Speaker Ahmad Safadi, Egypt's House of Representatives Speaker Dr Hanafi Jebali, Oman's Shura Council Chairman Shaikh Khalid Al-Mawali, Saudi Shura Council members Dr Abdullah Salama and Major General Abdulrahman Al-Harbi, as well as their accompanying members.

Saudi to allocate \$800 min loans to least developed countries

TDT | agencies

Saudi Arabia will allocate \$800 million through the Saudi Fund for Development to finance development projects for the Least Developed Countries in regions including Africa and Asia, a statement by the ministry of economy and planning said yesterday, reported Reuters.

Saudi posts budget surplus of \$27.68 bln in 2022



Head of the Saudi Investment Fund, Yasser al-Rumayyan

TDT | agencies

Saudi Arabia recorded a budget surplus of 103.9 billion riyals (\$27.68 bn) in 2022, beating its own estimates, as higher oil prices boosted government revenues by 31%, Reuters reported citing finance ministry data.

The world's top oil exporter recorded real GDP growth of 8.7% in 2022 leading to its first budget surplus in almost a decade.

It had previously estimated a budget surplus of 102 billion riyals, or about 2.6% of GDP, for 2022, but is projecting a narrower surplus for 2023.

Total revenues in 2022 hit nearly 1.27 trillion riyals, up 31% over 2021, and slightly higher than estimated. Oil revenues in 2022 totalled about 857.3 bn riyals, up 52% from the previous year.

However, non-oil revenue picked up in the fourth quarter, rising 19% from the prior-year period, outperforming oil revenue which increased 17% in the fourth quarter, according to a report from the finance ministry.

Total spending in 2022 rose 12% from the previous year to 1.16 trillion riyals.

The Gulf state recorded a fiscal surplus in the first three quarters of 2022, but reported a deficit of 45.7 billion riyals in the fourth quarter, when OPEC+ oil production cuts kicked in.

BIGS 2023 begins

Bahrain International Garden Show kicks off at Exhibition World

- 18,000 square meters, 176 exhibitors
- Theme "Water: Regenerating Life"
- Open to public from 10 am to 9pm at Exhibition World until Sunday

TDT | Manama

Shining a light on the flourishing agro-business industry in Bahrain and wider the Arab region, the Bahrain International Garden Show 2023 kicked off yesterday at Exhibition World Bahrain, in Sakhir.

Created in response to the increasing demand from local and international gardening and agriculture companies, BIGS, organisers said, offers a platform for international exporters and investors.

This year, the show focuses on the theme "Water: Regenerating Life," emphasising the need for strong water management policies and sustainable management practices.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust, inaugurated the show under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The expo will continue until Sunday at Exhibition World Bahrain.



His Highness Shaikh Isa opens Bahrain International Garden Show 2023



Botanical Atlas, Green Technology Lab

During the inauguration, Shaikh Isa stressed the importance of the show in promoting investment in the agricultural sector and introducing promising opportunities. He also highlighted the interest of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the great King of the country, and Chair of the Advisory Board of the National Initiative for the Development of the Agricultural Sector, in developing the agricultural sector. Shaikh Isa also highlighted

Bahrain's efforts to diversify its economy by promoting agriculture and honouring winners of the Bahrain Garden Club competition.

He also recognised the contributions of both official and private institutions towards making agriculture a vital com-

ponent of Bahrain's economic diversification efforts.

Two exhibition spaces have been allocated for the winners of the Best Bahraini Farmer in the King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development, in addition to other spaces which have been allocated for twelve Bahraini farmers to display local produce.



BIGS offer a perfect meeting place for international exporters and investors in the gardening, agriculture and related industries - introducing them to the thriving agro-business environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain and in the Arab region.



Lane closure on Wali AlAhed Highway to affect Riffa route



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The Ministry of Works has announced the closure of the fast and middle lanes on Wali AlAhed Highway for maintenance works.

The closure affects the eastbound traffic to Riffa, while one lane will remain open for vehicles at the junction with Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Hospital and Road 2819 (Wadi Alsail Junction).

The lane closure started at 11 pm yesterday and will last until Sunday, with the maintenance works expected to be ongoing during this period.

Long-term parking in public lots: Authorities vows action

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A viral video clip showing cars occupying public parking lots for long period caught the attention of authorities here.

The General Traffic Department has confirmed that they are currently monitoring the situation and will take action soon. The video, which was circulated on social media, showed several cars occupying public parking lots in a residential neighbourhood for extended periods.

Traffic officials have stated that they will take the necessary measures to ensure that all residents in the area have equal access to parking spaces.

Judicial cooperation between Bahrain and Singapore

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Bahrain and Singapore held discussions yesterday on enhancing cooperation in the field of arbitration to provide a favourable legal environment for resolving international commercial disputes.

The meeting was attended by Deputy President of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and President of the Court of Cassation Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Nawaf bin Mohammed Al-Maawda, and a delegation from Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) led by its CEO, Gloria Lim. Both sides expressed their commitment to furthering their collaboration, noting that Bahrain's specialised arbitration supervisory court handles cases in English if the language used in the arbitration proceedings is English and the award value is BD 500,000 or more.

Al Izdihar Primary Girls' School



Yesterday, Al Izdihar Primary Girls' School in Hamad Town was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa. The school, which cost BD4.550 million and was funded by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), includes thirty-three classrooms that can accommodate up to 1155 students and other amenities. The opening ceremony was attended by Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, the Minister of Education, Thamer Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti Ambassador, officials from the Ministry of Education, and representatives from the KFAED Technical Bureau.

National Security Advisor



National Security Advisor, Royal Guard Commander, Major General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday stressed the strategic partnership between Bahrain and the USA. His Highness was speaking during a visit to the USA where he met with a group of Congressmen at the Capitol Building in Washington. He affirmed keenness of Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the vision of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to boost bilateral cooperation and coordination mainly in the military and defence field.

Bahrain Defence Force



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday inspected a BDF unit and learned about the latest development and training programmes. Shaikh Khalifa stressed the importance of keeping pace with the latest development to face threats and challenges.

Kims Health Dialysis Centre



The Kims Health Dialysis Centre opened yesterday in Umm Al Hasam, under the patronage of Supreme Council for Health (SCH) President Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa. Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea inaugurated the medical facility. The centre on the second floor of KimsHealth Medical Centre consists of 10 dialysis units, 3 private rooms with 2 rooms with isolation facilities, and a comprehensive nephrology programme for patients. The centre is under the supervision of American Board-certified nephrologists, who work together under the umbrella of the Arab Kidney Care Group.



Bahraini and UAE officials at the ITB Berlin expo

Bahrain, UAE discuss tourism cooperation at ITB Berlin

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A ministerial-level meeting between Bahrain and UAE mulled ways of enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the tourism and hospitality industry.

The meeting at the International Tourism Exhibition "ITB Berlin" was between Bahraini Tourism Minister, Fatima bint Jaffer Al Sairafi and UAE Minister of Economy, Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri.

Al Sairafi expressed her pride in the strong relations between Bahrain and the UAE and their progress in the tourism sector. The two ministers exchanged experiences, especially in the field of business

and leisure tourism, and discussed ways to promote the two countries locally, regionally, and globally as a unified tourist destination.

Al Sairafi praised the progress made by the UAE in the tourism industry and its increasing contribution to the country's GDP, as well as the growth and prosperity achieved by this sector in both countries. She also emphasised the ministry's keenness to widen cooperation with the various authorities responsible for tourism in the UAE.

ITB Berlin exhibition brings together key players from the tourism industry to showcase the latest developments and trends in the field.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, accepted the credentials of Anne Gallandoan Lewis, who has been appointed as the new Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the meeting, the Minister praised the longstanding relationship between Bahrain and the Philippines and expressed his hopes for the Ambassador's success in her diplomatic endeavours. Ms. Lewis also reiterated her country's interest in strengthening friendships and broadening their scope. The Chief of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Salah Mohamed Shehab, was also present at the meeting.

US delegates hail public-private housing initiative



The meeting held at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

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Members of the United States House of Representatives and Senate praised Bahrain's successful partnership with the private sector in providing housing for its citizens.

During a meeting held at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the delegates also mulled ways to exchange expertise in successfully completing housing projects.

The delegation was briefed on Bahrain's latest urban development and housing achievements, highlighting the efforts led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Separately, Foreign Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani held talks with the US Congress, headed by Kate Bonner. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed historical strategic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America.



Botanical Atlas, Green Technology Lab, Newborn Alarm System shine as BIGS gains momentum

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

Over 1,000 people walked into the exhibition world yesterday to catch a glimpse of the Bahrain International Garden Show, which had on display several exciting techs and solutions.

The event, spans over 18,000 square meters, boasts 176 exhibitors showcasing their products, designs, technologies, and innovations.

Most of them told The Daily Tribune that they are excited about the new items and technology at BIGS.

Lina Kreida, an artist from Belarus, shared her experience with *The Daily Tribune* and stated that she found inspiration from nature at the exhibition.

"I came with my family to the exhibition for the first time, and we really enjoyed it," Kreida told *The Daily Tribune*.

"As an artist, I draw inspiration from nature, and this exhibition puts me in my element!" "I'm glad that this event is here every year, and I will definitely put it on my calendar!"

Botanical Atlas

Grabbing attention yesterday at BIGS 2023 was a Botanical Atlas of Bahrain in 2022, which, the creators said, took over a year to complete.

The map, developed by the Geographic Information System directorate at the Information and eGovernment authority, shows the vegetation height in Bahrain under three main categories: Trees, Shrubs and Herbaceous.

The western part of Bahrain is fully green on the map.

Fathi Al Burshaid, Chief of Spatial Information and Remote Sensing Information & eGovernment Authority, said this map would be available for public reference in near future.

The map includes various classifications of Bahrain's vegetation cover, such as agricultural



Ssatellite imagery of vegetation in Bahrain



Green Tech Lab



Raweya Al Mannaei



Bader Alnoaimi and Lina Kreida



Ebrahim Hameed with his team



A.Sayed Hasan Abdulla Alguraifi - President - Bahrain Deaf Society



Fathi Al Burshaid



Indonesian vendors at the exhibition

crops, their areas, and locations.

Green Technology Lab

Another highlight yesterday was the green technology laboratory created by a team of eight Bahrain Polytechnic students. The laboratory employs electronic equipment to provide comprehensive information about agricultural products.

Team leader, Mohammed Husain, told *The Daily Tribune*:

"This green tech lab can determine the water intake of plants and detect plant diseases at an early stage."

Newborn alarm system

A special booth from the Bahrain Deaf Society drew a large crowd, with people taking an interest in a unique newborn alarm system designed to alert deaf mothers through vibrations or lighting up.

The system is programmed to alert deaf mothers by vibrating or lighting up.

The Bahrain Mobility International stall showcased organic broccoli sprouts and coffee made from roasted date seeds, both produced by members of the disabled community.

Ebrahim Hameed, the founder, said: "They worked very hard as a team to develop these things, and we had a lot of favourable

feedback from the customers."

More for Green Bahrain

In an interview with the *Daily Tribune*, Raweya Al Mannaei, the technical advisor to the Minister of Municipality Affairs and Agriculture, expressed her commitment to introducing the latest green solutions in Bahrain.

"We are keen to introduce the latest solutions for green Bahrain."

She mentioned that preparations are underway to provide solutions for farming in desert areas, as well as address issues such as food security, water scarcity, and irrigation systems that use drain water.

180 exhibitors, 49,000 visitors

Last year, the show had 180 exhibitors from 25 countries and 49,000 visitors.

This year, the show features a pavilion dedicated to Bahraini farmers and a children's corner called "Khalasi Garden," offering daily workshops and electronic games on water conservation.

The expo also welcomes participants from various countries, including the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands, Russia, Greece, Japan, Italy, Turkey, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Morocco, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, and Syria.

Winners honoured

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Endowment, yesterday honoured the winners of the Bahrain Garden Club competition.

Jalila Sayed Mahdi received the Cup of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in the Residence Gardens category, and Dalal Sami won the Cup of His Majesty Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa in the category of flowers and vegetables.

Fawaz Hamdan won the Cup of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa in the professional photography category, Esmat Ahmed Abdulla in the Amateur Photography, and Eric Sony in the student category.

Bethan Robinson received the Cup of Her Highness Shaikha Haya bint Mohammed Al Khalifa for the best presentation of rare and exotic plants.

Cabin Crew member arrested for gold smuggling

● The cabin crew was of Bahrain-Kozhikode-Kochi flight

TDT | Manama

A cabin crew member of Bahrain-Kozhikode-Kochi services was apprehended by



customs officials at Cochin International Airport for carrying 1.487 grams of gold. The suspect, identified as Shafi, a native of Wayanad in the south Indian state of Kerala, was caught by the Air Intelligence Unit of the Customs department.

In response to the incident, the Customs Preventive Commissionerate issued a statement confirming the arrest. Mean-

The suspect, identified as Shafi, a native of Wayanad in the south Indian state of Kerala, was caught by the Air Intelligence Unit of the Customs department.

while, Air India Express, the air-

line that employed Shafi, also released a statement, announcing his suspension and condemning his actions. The airline reiterated its "zero tolerance" policy towards such behaviour and pledged to take "stern action," including termination of service, following receipt of the investigative report.

Further interrogation is underway.

SCW's digital art expo features works by HRH Princess Sabeeka

● Expo opens to public today and tomorrow from 05:00 pm to 10:00 pm

TDI | Manama

The digital expo, "Athar (Impact) Expo for Digital Arts," featuring paintings by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa and other Bahraini artists, is on display at the Bahraini Women's Monument, "Athar," at the Bahrain FinTech Bay.

The exhibition showcases a selected sample of paintings and selected works by HRH Princess Sabeeka, Wife of HM the King and SCW President, who is a keen supporter of Bahrain's artistic movement and its talented artists.

Organised by the Supreme



Officials during a photocall at the expo

Council for Women (SCW) in cooperation with the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS) and ROAS' office

in Bahrain, the three-day event marks International Women's Day and runs alongside the 67th session of the Commis-

sion on the Status of Women (CSW67).

SCW Secretary-General, Hala Al-Ansari, UN Resident Coor-

dinator in Bahrain, Khaled El Mekwad, Bahraini artist Leena Al Ayoobi, UN Women officials, and President of the National

Council for Arts, Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and artists and specialists were present at the event.

The digital exhibition sheds light on Bahrain's efforts in promoting equal opportunities and gender balance, which are among the main themes of CSW67.

Josephine Moss, of UN Women's ROAS, emphasised the significance of the expo, which showcases the ability of art to keep pace with modern technologies, promote innovation and creativity, and advance gender equality.

The exhibition, which is open to the public on Friday and Saturday from 05:00 pm to 10:00 pm, highlights the role of digital arts in advancing the Kingdom's artistic and cultural scene, including the use of NFT applications, which enables the possession of artworks digitally.

Police bust criminal gang running bank account scam

TDI | Manama

A criminal gang involved in stealing money from unsuspecting individuals' bank accounts has been apprehended by the police.

According to the Chief of the Cybercrime Prosecution, the matter was brought to their attention after a victim reported that funds had been withdrawn from their account without their knowledge.

Acting on intelligence received from the Anti-Economic Crimes Department of the General Directorate for Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, law enforcement officials initiated an investigation that led to the arrest of four suspects.


These individuals, all of whom are Asian nationals, admitted to running a scam in which they contacted victims and unlawfully obtained personal and banking information. The suspects then used the ac-



Acting on intelligence received from the Anti-Economic Crimes Department of the General Directorate for Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, law enforcement officials initiated an investigation that led to the arrest of four suspects.

quired data to take control of the bank accounts.

The Public Prosecution ordered that the suspects be held



With the correct information, scammers can access almost every aspect of your life. This includes financial and other accounts, as well as stealing your identity. Never share account numbers, Social Security numbers, credit card numbers or passwords with anyone—unless you know the person or know it's a legitimate request.

in custody for seven days as investigations continue. The case is set to be transferred to a competent court once all necessary procedures have been completed.

New Chinese envoy presents credentials to Foreign Minister



New Chinese envoy presents credential to minister
TDI | Manama

Ni Ruchi, who has been appointed as the new Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Bahrain, presented his credentials to Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry's headquarters yesterday.

During the meeting, Mr. Ruchi highlighted the extensive friendship and cooperation between the two nations

and expressed China's eagerness to bolster the bilateral relationship and expand its scope. The Minister also reiterated the strong bonds that exist between Bahrain and China and extended his best wishes to the Ambassador for his diplomatic responsibilities.

The Chief of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Salah Mohamed Shehab, was also present at the meeting.

They called her a 'bad role model', but she stood up and now inspires other women

TDI | agencies

Sajida Saeed Tabbara, a retired linguistics professor from Bahrain, faced criticism when she first started riding a motorbike in 2008.

Some said she was a bad role model for girls.

However, her children and students stood up for her, inspiring her to continue pursuing her passion for biking.

"It was very difficult for me as a woman, it was tough because people passed a lot of judgments," she was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Standing next to her red Softail Deluxe Harley Davidson, she said, "But the most wonderful thing was that my kids, my own students, stood up for me and said 'how dare you say something like this about her!'"

The retired linguistics professor, who was dressed in leathers,



displaying her biking badges, believes that change is difficult for

any society, particularly when it comes to women.

"Change is difficult for everybody, change is difficult for any

"I remember riding as a pillion when I was just eight-years-old. My father, who was a school headmaster at the time was so angry with the person who gave me a ride he nearly dismissed him from school!"

SAJIDA SAEED TABBARA

society and in any community, particularly when it comes to women," she said.

"I remember riding as a pillion when I was just eight years old. My father, who was a school headmaster at the time was so angry with the person who gave me a ride he nearly dismissed him from school!"

"During my career as a Professor, I decided one day that I had to go after my dreams."

"I actually talked a number of my female students into becoming bikers and they did. Yeah, that was quite something."

Tabbara's story shows that breaking stereotypes and challenging societal norms can be difficult but also rewarding. She serves as a role model for women who want to pursue their passions, regardless of what others may think.

Her determination and commitment to her love for biking prove that anyone can achieve their dreams with hard work and perseverance.

Lexus reinvents the luxury crossover with all-new RX

TDT | Manama

The all-new Lexus RX has been introduced by Ebrahim K. Kanoo, the sole distributor of Lexus vehicles in Bahrain.

This luxury crossover utility vehicle, first launched in 1998, has been completely reimagined for its fifth generation to offer greater style, comfort, and performance.

It comes with a choice of three powertrains, two of which are electrified, in line with the company's aim to have a full lineup of electrified vehicles in all categories by 2030 and sell 100% BEVs globally by 2035.

Takaaki Ohno, Chief Engineer in charge of the vehicle's development, said: "Created without compromise through the combined efforts of development and production, the all-new RX will become a companion that enriches your life. We hope customers in the Middle East will look forward to it."

Complementing the all-new RX's distinctive design is a thrilling drive personality imbued by three powertrain options. A newly developed inline 4-cylinder, 2.4-litre turbocharged engine that produces 275 hp and 430 nm of torque is mated to a new 8-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission (8AT). Meanwhile, the new hybrid-electric system combines a 2.5-litre petrol engine and electric motor to produce a total of 247 hp, which is mated to an electronically-controlled continuously variable transmission (E-CVT) to provide



The launch of all-new Lexus RX

a fuel consumption value of 20.7 km/L. A hybrid-electric system pairing a 2.4-litre turbocharged engine with an electric motor is also available, which provides

a combined power of 366 hp mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission that offers fuel consumption of 15.5 km/L while delivering a new level of driving

pleasure.

The RX's design has been improved with a sleeker silhouette, including a coupé-like feel, triple LED headlights, and wide-

er track. The interior of the RX features Lexus' Tazuna concept for the driver's cockpit, and the spacious cabin offers ample luggage space, five luxury seats, and

several intelligent features.

The RX features Lexus Safety System+, an advanced safety and driver assistance system with new features such as Safe Exit Assist. The system detects traffic or cyclists approaching from the rear and automatically cancels door opening if an occupant tries to open the door to avoid a collision.

The 2023 RX also includes comprehensive safety features designed to protect its occupants, including seven SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), Parking Assist Monitor (PAM), Rear Cross-Traffic Alert (RCTA), Active Cornering Assist (ACA), Drive-Start Control (DSC), Panoramic View Monitor (PVM), and Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), among many others.

Customers can choose from nine distinctive exterior colours, including the newly developed Sonic Copper. Meanwhile, the interior comes in a choice of four elegant colours, including the newly developed DK.

The RX 500h F SPORT Performance's new hybrid electric system comes with a front unit that integrates a high-torque 2.4-litre turbo engine, six-speed automatic transmission, and an electric motor. It also features a new hybrid electric system comes with a front unit that integrates a high-torque 2.4-litre turbo engine, six-speed automatic transmission, and an electric motor.



Al Baraka Islamic Bank, RAM Medical Clinics sign Medical Service Finance Agreement

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank recently signed a medical service financing agreement with RAM Dental Clinics.

The signing ceremony was attended by high-level representatives from both parties, including Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, and Dr Mohammed Al-Omari, Chief Executive Officer of RAM Medical Clinics, in addition to other officials.

Commenting on this occasion, AlAlawi stated: "This collaboration with RAM Dental Clinics is part of our obligation to allowing our valued customers to obtain funding for any medical procedure in the best medical facilities in the Kingdom".

Dr Al-Omari said this part-



The deal signing

nership will contribute to providing easy payment solutions to "our valued patients to ensure that their treatment and

cosmetic requirements are easily met, which will reflect positively on the customer experience at RAM Medical Centre".

UK unveils US-style digital border permit

London, United Kingdom

The United Kingdom yesterday announced the rollout of an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme, with visitors from Qatar the first to use it from October.

Qataris will apply in advance for an ETA, which authorises an individual to travel to the UK and which the government says will make border crossings more efficient and secure.

By the end of 2024, ETAs will be required for all foreign visitors who are eligible to come visa-free for short stays, including from Europe.

Currently, travellers from the continent and countries such as the United States and Australia do not need to make any form of application to visit to the UK.

"Strengthening our border remains one of the government's top priorities," British Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick said.

"ETAs will enhance our border security by increasing our knowledge about those seeking to come to the UK and prevent-

Who will need an ETA

From 15 November 2023, you'll need an ETA if you're travelling to the UK and you're a national of Qatar.

From 22 February 2024, you'll need an ETA if you're travelling to the UK and you're a national of:

- Bahrain
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates

More countries will be added to the scheme later.

ing the arrival of those who pose a threat.

"It will also improve travel for legitimate visitors, with those visiting from Gulf Cooperation Council states being among the first to benefit," he added.

The United States has a similar scheme, the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

As with the ESTA, the UK government said the application process would be online. Most visitors will apply via a mobile app and receive a "swift decision", it said.

Once granted an ETA, individuals will be able to make multiple visits to the UK over a two-year period, but the government did not specify how much applications will cost.

After the initial launch for Qatar, the scheme will be open to visitors from the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Jordan from February 2024.

The European Union has plans to launch a similar electronic permit next year which, following Brexit, will include Britons.

While Britain has left the EU, Ireland remains in the bloc. But Irish nationals will be exempt from the new UK scheme, as the two countries continue to share a "Common Travel Area".

News in brief

Malaysia ex-premier Muhyiddin questioned by anti-graft body

Malaysian anti-graft authorities



yesterday questioned former prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin following allegations that his party misused public funds meant to fight Covid-19. Muhyiddin was prime minister for 17 months between 2020 and 2021, at the height of Malaysia's battle against the coronavirus, and now leads an opposition coalition. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has not commented on why they are questioning Muhyiddin, but it came weeks after it launched the probe into the alleged misuse of pandemic funds by Bersatu, his political party. The 75-year-old said in a Facebook post on Wednesday that he had been asked to appear before MACC, but did not say why.

The US State Department signalled Wednesday it would let

US ready to let Taiwan leader visit to see top Republican

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen visit California to meet with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, downplaying the significance of the event in the face of protests by China. McCarthy confirmed Tuesday that he would see Tsai in his home state, sidestepping a potential visit by the top Republican to Taiwan that policymakers there feared could provoke a military response from Beijing. State Department spokesman Ned Price described Tsai's expected travel as "transit" rather than a "visit" to the United States, which supports but does not recognize the self-ruling democracy claimed by Beijing.



US Republican Senator McConnell hospitalized after fall

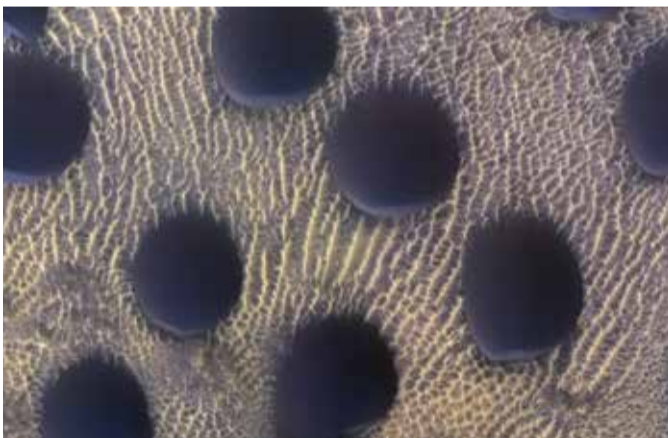
Top United States Senate Republican Mitch McConnell was hospitalized



after he tripped and fell during a private dinner, his spokesperson said. The 81-year-old from Kentucky has been the Republican Senate leader since 2007, and a major opponent of President Joe Biden on several legislative issues. "This evening, Leader McConnell tripped at a local hotel during a private dinner. He has been admitted to the hospital where he is receiving treatment," his spokesperson said in a statement sent to media.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

NASA spacecraft captures images of circular sand dunes on Mars



Circular sand dunes on the surface of Mars

TDT | Agencies

NASA recently reported an unusual discovery made by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) spacecraft while orbiting the red planet.

The MRO captured images of sand dunes that appear to be circular in shape, leaving officials stunned.

The MRO's High-Resolution Imaging Experiment (HiRISE) spacecraft's colour camera had previously taken stunning images of crescent-shaped dunes and other circular objects on Mars.

However, the latest batch of images has revealed something never seen before on the planet.

The pictures of the dunes were taken in late November of last year using the HiRISE camera, which is operated by the University of Arizona.

The MRO has been orbiting Mars since 2006 and is equipped with high-resolution sensors to study the atmosphere and topography of the planet.

YOU KNOW WHAT

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phere and topography of the planet.

In addition to its scientific duties, the MRO also serves as an essential relay station for several Martian missions. With the latest discovery of the strange circular sand dunes, the MRO's ongoing mission to explore and study the red planet has yielded yet another exciting development.

North Korea fires ballistic missile ahead of US-South Korea drills

AFP | Seoul

North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile yesterday, Seoul's military said, Pyongyang's latest show of force just days before South Korea and the United States kick off major joint military exercises.

Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their worst points in decades, with the nuclear-armed North conducting ever more provocative banned weapons tests as Seoul moved to ramp up security cooperation with Washington in response.

Last year, Kim Jong Un's regime declared North Korea an "irreversible" nuclear power and vowed to exponentially increase weapons production, including tactical nuclear weapons, as the US looks to move more assets to the region to defend ally Seoul.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said that it "detected the launch of one short-range ballistic missile from the North's western port city of Nampo at 6:20 pm (0920 GMT)".

It added it was analysing "the possibility that North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles from the same region simultaneously".

"Our military maintains a full readiness posture while closely cooperating with the US as we



Strategic cruise missile Hwasal-2 launching from a platform during a drill in the area of Kim Chaek City in North Hamgyong Province

YOU KNOW WHAT

North Korea has long claimed its nuclear weapons and missile programmes are for self-defence, and has bristled over US-South Korea military exercises, describing them as rehearsals for an invasion

and vigilance," it said.

North Korea has long claimed its nuclear weapons and missile programmes are for self-defence, and has bristled over US-South Korea military exercises, describing them as rehearsals for an invasion.

Earlier this week, North Korea accused the US of "intentionally" ramping up tensions, and Kim's powerful sister warned that if the US were to intercept one of Pyongyang's missile tests, it would be seen as a "clear declaration of war".

After talks between Kim and then-US president Donald Trump collapsed in 2019, diplomacy has stalled and the North has doubled down on military development.

have strengthened surveillance

Indonesia landslide death toll rises to 30

AFP | Jakarta

The death toll from a landslide on a remote Indonesian island rose to 30 after rescuers found more bodies yesterday, an official said.

The landslide struck Monday on Serasan Island, located in the Natuna region between Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia.

"As of 11:50 am (0450 GMT) today, nine bodies have been found," local government spokesperson Patli Muhamad said.

The bodies were found buried under the rubble and landslide debris at Pangkalan village, Muhamad said, adding that 24 people are still missing.



Rescue team evacuate the body of a victim that was found buried by a landslide at Pangkalan village, in Natuna Islands

Muhamad said the poor weather that had previously hampered search and rescue efforts had improved and communication lines were also being gradually restored.

Three arrested in Japan for 'sushi terrorism' pranks

AFP | Tokyo

Three people have been arrested in Japan over unhygienic pranks at a conveyor-belt sushi restaurant after footage of their antics -- dubbed "sushi terrorism" -- sparked outrage online.

Police accused the young trio of seeking to obstruct business at major restaurant chain Kura Sushi, which was bombarded with customer complaints after the video went viral.

The clip shows one member of the group grabbing a piece of sushi from a plate as it passes, shoving the whole morsel into their mouth and then drinking soy sauce directly from a communal bottle.



Plates of sushi on a conveyor belt at a sushi chain restaurant in Tokyo

Similar videos filmed at different chains surfaced last month on platforms including Twitter and TikTok, with some apparently weeks or even years old.

Other unsavoury pranks including customers touching moving pieces of sushi with a freshly licked finger, or sucking the rim of a teacup before placing it back on a shelf.

Russia deadly

Barrage of Russian missiles

Russia says the wave of attacks were in retaliation for a border incursion last week

AFP | Kyiv

Russia hit Ukraine with a barrage of missiles yesterday, killing nine people and triggering a wave of power cuts, including at Europe's biggest nuclear power plant.

The UN nuclear agency's chief warned next time "luck will run out" in reference to the danger of repeated electricity outages at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia facility.

Russia said the strikes were a response to a border incursion earlier this month and cast doubt over the extension of a vital UN-brokered grain deal, saying it would discuss its renewal with the UN on Monday.

The missiles fell across the country, causing the first civilian deaths in the western Lviv region, considered relatively safe and far from the front lines, in a long time as fighting raged in town of Bakhmut in the east.

In Velyka Vilshanytsia, a small village outside the city of Lviv, shocked villagers searched through the rubble where Ukrainian officials said a Russian missile killed five people around 120 kilometres (75 miles) from the Polish

Taliban government

AFP | Kabul

The Taliban governor of Afghanistan's Balkh province, known for fighting against Islamic State jihadists, was killed in a suicide attack at his office yesterday, officials said.

The killing, a day after he met top government officials visiting from Kabul, makes Mohammad Dawood Muzammil one of the highest-ranking figures slain since the Taliban stormed back to power in 2021.

Violence across Afghanistan has dramatically dropped since the Taliban seized control, but the security situation has again deteriorated with IS claiming several deadly attacks.

"Two people, including Mohammad Dawood Muzammil, the governor of Balkh, have been killed in an explosion this morning," local police spokesman Asif Waziri said, adding that the blast happened on the second floor of his office, in the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif.

"It was a suicide attack. We don't have information as to how the suicide bomber reached the office of the governor," he said, adding that two people were also wounded.

The explosion happened moments after the governor arrived

241 BC

First Punic War: Battle of the Aegates Islands - The Romans sink the Carthaginian fleet bringing the First Punic War to an end

1783

USS Alliance under Captain Barry fights and wins last naval battle of US Revolutionary War off Cape Canaveral

1952

Military coup led by General Fulgencio Batista in Cuba



2000

The NASDAQ Composite stock market index peaks at 5132.52, signalling the beginning of the end of the dot-com boom

Russia pounds Ukraine with 'retaliation' strikes

Missiles strike cities across Ukraine killing at least nine



Emergency service workers search through the rubble for injured civilians in Ukraine's western Lviv Oblast

border. "We thought we were safe here," said Oksana Ostapenko, who lost her sister and two brothers-in-law when the missile struck.

For months Russia has pummeled key infrastructure in Ukraine with missiles and drones -- disrupting water, heating and electricity supplies for millions of people.

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko said two people were wounded yesterday and 40 percent of the population had been left without power for several hours.

On Prospekt Peremogy, in the west of Kyiv, three cars parked near a high-rise apartment building were charred and the ground was littered with shattered glass

from windows, an AFP reporter said.

'Very scary'

"I'd seen (the missile) flying towards my block of flats and when I got there I saw a big fire," said resident Igor Yezhov, 60, a car dealer.

"I was very scared."

A 34-year-old man died in the eastern city of Dnipro, local authorities said.

At least three others were killed when shelling hit a bus stop in the southern city of Kherson, said Andriy Yermak, Ukraine's presidential chief of staff.

The Russian missile strikes also left the country's second city of Kharkiv in the northeast without power, water or heating, the re-

Each day of the defense of the town (Bakhmut) allows us to gain time to prepare reserves and prepare for future offensive operations. The enemy loses the most prepared and combat-capable part of his army

OLEKSANDR SIRSKIY, COMMANDER OF UKRAINE'S GROUND FORCES

gional governor said.

Ukraine said the strikes cut off electricity supplies to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant -- in Russian occupied territory -- forcing it to operate on diesel generators before power was restored later yesterday.

Ukraine said it was the sixth time that the facility had been disconnected from the electricity grid since Russian forces captured the plant last year.

The UN nuclear agency chief Rafael Grossi warned of the danger of the outages, saying "each time we are rolling a dice".

"If we allow this to continue time after time then one day our luck will run out," he warned.

The Russian army called the strikes "massive retaliation" in response to "terrorist actions organised by the Kyiv regime in the Bryansk region" and said that

it had used Kinzhal hypersonic missiles.

Transnistria claims

It referred to claims that Ukrainian nationalists had crossed into the southern Bryansk region and killed two civilians, which Kyiv dismissed as a provocation.

Russia also called a vital UN-brokered grain deal -- that ensures supplies to large parts of the developing world -- "complicated" and not properly implemented.

It said it would discuss the renewal of the deal -- which expires on March 18 -- with the UN on Monday in Geneva.

The year-long Russian invasion of Ukraine has revived tensions in the pro-Russian separatist region of Transnistria in Moldova, where Moscow-backed authorities accused Ukraine of plotting a "terror attack".

Local authorities said the plot was "directed by Ukrainian security services, being prepared against a number of officials."

Ukraine denied the claims as a "provocation orchestrated by the Kremlin" while Moldova's government said it was investigating the claim but could not yet confirm it.

On the ground, Russia reported gains in the battle for the industrial city of Bakhmut, which has been the focus of months of fierce combat.

Georgia drops 'foreign agent' bill but faces more protests



A protesters wave the Georgian, Ukrainian and European flags during a demonstration
AFP | Tbilisi

Georgia was gearing up for fresh anti-government protests on Thursday as popular anger showed no signs of cooling in the pro-Western Black Sea nation, despite the ruling party's promise to drop a "foreign agent" law reminiscent of Russian legislation.

Concerns have been mounting that the mountainous ex-Soviet country, which aspires to join the EU and NATO, is taking an authoritarian turn and maintaining links with Moscow.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Georgia has hosted an influx of anti-war Russians. But in recent weeks authorities have barred some Kremlin critics from entering the country, with observers warning of a drift towards Moscow.

The ruling Georgian Dream party has insisted it remains committed to Georgia's EU and NATO membership bid enshrined in the constitution and supported -- according to opinion polls -- by at least 80 percent of the population.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



We are living in a period of great uncertainty and the risks that we face are growing and becoming more complex. Enhanced international cooperation is the only way we can adequately respond to complex global shocks.

@antoniogetterres

02



Financing is the lifeblood of our EU businesses. It will power forward our green & digital transitions, create jobs, and make us more sovereign. We need to speed up progress on the Capital Markets Union. We are up to the challenge.

@eucopresident

03



Together, #C5plusUS promotes a more prosperous and peaceful Central Asia and beyond. Thankful to my Central Asian counterparts for a great Ministerial in Astana to advance our work together on economic, energy, environment, and security cooperation.

@SecBlinken

04



International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements, and also a time to remember the women and girls of Afghanistan who have lost access to schooling. Education is a universal human right.

@GitaGopinath

Gov of Afghan province killed in suicide attack



Men shift a wounded man inside a hospital in Mazar-i-Sharif

YOU KNOW WHAT

IS has emerged as the biggest security challenge to the Taliban government since last year, carrying out attacks against Afghan civilians as well as foreigners and foreign interests

forbade journalists from taking photos.

Muzammil was "martyred in an explosion by the enemies of Islam", tweeted government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

Muzammil was initially appointed governor of the eastern province of Nangarhar, where he led the fight against IS jihadists, before being moved to Balkh last year.

On Wednesday, he met two deputy prime ministers and other senior officials visiting Balkh to review a major irrigation project in northern Afghanistan, according to a government statement.

IS has emerged as the biggest security challenge to the Taliban

government since last year, carrying out attacks against Afghan civilians as well as foreigners and foreign interests.

Several attacks have rocked Balkh, including in Mazar-i-Sharif last year, some claimed by IS.

In January, a suicide bomber killed at least 10 people when he blew himself up near the foreign ministry in Kabul, in an attack claimed by IS.

The Taliban and IS share an austere Sunni Islamist ideology, but the latter are fighting to establish a global "caliphate" instead of the Taliban's more inward-looking goal of ruling an independent Afghanistan.

Health warnings as Bangkok chokes on pollution



The 69-meter tall giant Buddha statue of Wat Paknam Phasi Charoen temple is seen amid smoggy conditions due to air pollution in Bangkok

AFP | Bangkok

Nearly 200,000 people in Thailand have been admitted to hospital because of air pollution this week, officials have said, with Bangkok shrouded in a harmful haze.

The Thai capital, home to an estimated 11 million people and one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, has been blanketed for days by an unpleasant yellow-grey mix of vehicle fumes, industrial emissions and smoke from agricultural burning.

More than 1.3 million people have fallen sick in the kingdom

since the start of the year as a result of air pollution, with nearly 200,000 admitted to hospital this week alone, according to the public health ministry.

Kriangkrai Namthaisong, a doctor at the ministry, on Wednesday urged children and pregnant women to stay indoors.

Anyone going outside should wear a high-quality N95 anti-pollution mask, he added.

During another pollution peak in late January and early February, city authorities urged people to work from home.

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

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ADMECCO MECHANICAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262256 or ALDALEEM@HOTMAIL.COM

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ABACUS BUILDERS COLLAGE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17789689 or GOLDNEON@BATELCO.COM.BH

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ARSHAD BASHIR BASHIR AIRCONDITIONERS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33058503 or abufaizanac@gmail.com

DERAMS SCISSORS MAN SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33133188 or KINDNESS-H@HOTMAIL.COM

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AAROM CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34477650 or HASAN.ALJAD@HOTMAIL.COM

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MENMA FOR PACKING FOOD STUFF has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33366652

MAJESTIC ARJAAN BY ROTANA has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38899899 or HEOFFICE@BATELCO.COM.BH

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SALON SUSANA DY FARHAN has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697339 or red462368@gmail.com

SEVEN HILLS FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39976476 or SRIRAO@7HILLS-GROUP.COM

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

Texas Chicken has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33629071 or HUMAN.RESOURCES@BINRAJAB.CO

AMERICAN MISSION HOSPITAL has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17177711 or CATHERINE@AMH.ORG.BH

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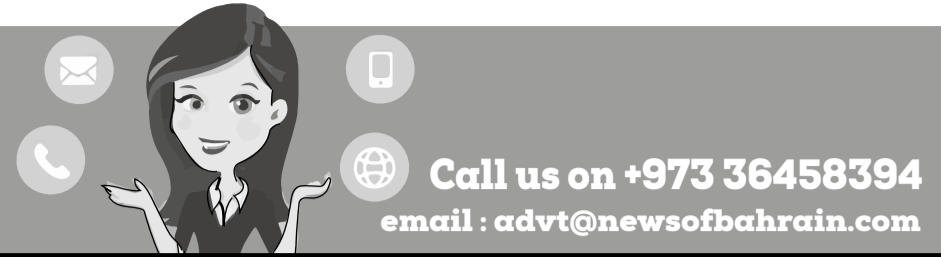
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Oasis gents salon has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33694867 or WALEEDBANGASHI1967@GMAIL.COM

Rose Bely International United Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37700067 or SALMAN3ALI.66@GMAIL.COM

RESTAURANT BAIT ALKEBDA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262444 or BAITALKEBDA@GMAIL.COM

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

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BU Jazi Garage has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39622651 or A.YOUSIF1928@GMAIL.COM

Tamween Trading Establishment has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN (GROCERY OR COLDSTORE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 65008833 or MAKTAB@HOTMAIL.COM

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Li Da Fashion Station W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33170959 or ZGZ520ZGZ778899@GMAIL.COM

Danway Electrical & Mechanical Engineering L.L.C has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17297600 or danbahrain@danwayem.com

SAJID CARGO HANDLING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39419391 or RAJA133SAJID@GMAIL.COM

NOOR ALKHAYR SALE OF FISH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33057576 or SALMANZOHAIR61@GMAIL.COM

PETROJANA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34688884 or LOAI@PETROJANA.COM

Area car services has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39665776 or althuraiya-143@hotmail.com

STAR MAX DOCUMENT CLEARANCE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 33610310 or STARMAXDOCUMENT@GMAIL.COM

GARAGE ONE STOP SMART has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36668020 or YK4ME@WINDOWS.LIVE.COM

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SIKANDRABAD FRUITS AND VEGETABLE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36902060 or MESHMESHDON@GMAIL.COM

Al hallaq gate for Construction of buildings company bahraini pa has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17555536 or INFO@ALHALLAQ.COM

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KRIZEMA BEAUTY SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33322207 or AHMED@BTSBAH.COM

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17674319 or DUJALMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

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MUHAMMAD HANIF CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33440122

SAIF AND HARJIT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33621007 or BHARJIT64@GMAIL.COM

INFORAD TECHNOLOGIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HUMAN RESOURCES CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39693569 or waleed.alsaiif@inforadtech.com

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MASALA DARBAR RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39259304 or MASALADARBAR786.BH@GMAIL.COM

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for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33379322 or SKMGROUP.BAH@GMAIL.COM

ANFAL MODERN COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33404315 or ANFALMODERN@GMAIL.COM

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GURU NANAQ INTERIOR DECORATION BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39960975 or OLIVERLEA.100@GMAIL.COM

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AWESOME CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33101063 or AWESOMECARGOHANDLING@

GMAIL.COM

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DHAFER TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39132678 or DHAFERTRADING@GMAIL.COM

BANOQ WORLD FOR CLEARING AND REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34181985 or BANOQ.CLEARING.REALESTATE@GMAIL.COM

MAR KHOR FOR INTERIOR DECORATION BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33240774 or BLBILALA112233@GMAIL.COM

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Bahrain win GCC golf silver medals

Kingdom's senior team finish as runners-up in 25th GCC Men Golf Championship, Ahmed Mohammed Al Zayed wins individual bronze



Bahrain's junior national team players with their awards at the prize-giving ceremony alongside officials



Bahrain's senior team on the podium with officials at the awards ceremony

● **Bahraini men five go strokes behind champions Qatar in final seniors' teams ranking**

● **Ahmed Mohammed Al Zayed goes nine shots behind gold-medallist in individual play**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national golf team won the silver medals yesterday in the 25th GCC Men Golf Championship, which came to a close

at The Royal Golf Club at Rifa Views following 72 holes of play.

Team member Ahmed Mohammed Al Zayed came away with a bronze medal in individual play.

The Bahraini men finished five strokes behind tournament champions Qatar on the teams' classification. The nationals were 50 over par after playing 17-over in yesterday's fourth and final round. The Qataris were 52 shots over and were 24-over-par on the last day.

At the end of yesterday's round, the awards presentation and closing ceremony took place, attended by General Sports Authority CEO Dr Abdulrahman



Bahrain have come away with four awards over the week, winning team silver and individual bronze in the 25th GCC Men Golf Championship, as well as team gold and individual bronze in the 14th GCC Juniors U18 Golf Championship

Askar and Bahrain Golf Association president Brig Col Ali bin Saqer Al Nuaimi.

The Bahraini seniors team featured Khalifa Duaij Alkaabi, Fahad Al Hakam, Al Zayed and Khalifa Mohammed Khalifa. Only the top three scores are counted on each day and

yesterday it was the totals of Alkaabi (+4), Al Hakam (+6) and Al Zayed (+7) that made it onto the score card, with the +11 of Khalifa disregarded.

The UAE finished as bronze-medallists 65 shots over par, while Saudi Arabia (+98) were fourth and Oman (+128)

fifth, while Kuwait did not finish.

Meanwhile, Al Zayed claimed his individual bronze medal after posting an 11-over-par 299 gross score after completing four rounds. He had a 79 yesterday to add to his previous outings of 69, 81 and 70.

Al Zayed finished nine strokes behind Qatar's Saleh Ali Alkaabi, who won the individual gold medal with a two-over-par 290 total. Ahmad Akram Skaik of the UAE was the silver-medallist with a 10-over-par 298 score.

Bahrain's Alkaabi narrowly missed out on a podium after finishing fourth overall with a 19-over-par total of 307.

Al Hakam (+30, 318) followed in ninth place while Khalifa (+36, 324) was 13th individually for Bahrain.

Bahrain's senior men's silver medals added to the gold of the junior national golf team, which they won in the 14th GCC Juniors U18 Golf Championship, held simultaneously.

The young Bahrainis clinched the coveted title after finishing their competition, held over just 54 holes, with a total team score of 44 over par.

The team featured Abdulrahman Hasan Mehaizea, Abdulrahman Ebrahim Alseedi and Abdulla Rashid Saed. Mehaizea also claimed the individual juniors bronze medal.

Bahrain's Ahli bow to Kuwait SC in Gulf handball



Action from Al Ahli's loss to Kuwait SC last night

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Al Ahli Club were dealt a tough start to their campaign in the 39th Gulf Clubs Men's Handball Championship, being hosted by the Kingdom.

The Bahraini representatives lost to their rivals from Kuwait SC of Kuwait 20-27 in their opening fixture in Group B of the preliminary round.

Ahli trailed 10-13 at the half and could not close the gap over the final 30 minutes.

In yesterday's other Group B game, Sharjah of the UAE and Al Safa of Saudi Arabia played to a 24-all stalemate.

Bahrain's Ahli are now at the bottom of their division table, with Kuwait on top followed by Sharjah and Safa.

Ahli will be looking to bounce back when they return to the playing court at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town tomorrow against Safa at 7pm, while Sharjah and

Kuwait lock horns at 5pm.

Group A is comprised of defending champions Al Najma Club, who are Bahrain's other representatives in the tournament, along with Al Salmiya of Kuwait, Al Arabi of Qatar and Al Ahli Sidab of Oman.

In today's fixtures, Salmiya and Arabi face off in the early game at 5pm, followed by Najma looking for their second straight win when they play against Ahli Sidab.

The preliminaries continue until Monday next week, after which the semi-finals will take place with the top two clubs from each of the two groups advancing.

Najma won last year's Gulf handball title after defeating Saudi outfit Mudhar in the tournament final in Kuwait City. It was the sixth time the Bahraini side claimed the coveted championship. Their triumph also ended a two-decade title drought, as their previous victories came in 2001, 1998, 1990, 1985 and 1984.

Dar Kulaib dominant in West Asian volleyball

Bahraini giants register three-set sweep of Shabab Nabi Ilyas from Palestine in opener

● Nasser Anan, signed from Al Ahli, top scores for Dar Kulaib with 14 points

● Bahrainis set to return to playing court today against Al Rayyan of Qatar

TDT | Manama

Bahrain volleyball giants Dar Kulaib yesterday made a dominant start to their title bid in the first West Asia Men's Club Championship, currently being played in Amman, Jordan.

The Kingdom's representatives posted a clean 3-0 (25-5, 25-14, 25-8) sweep of Shabab Nabi Ilyas from Palestine in their opening fixture in Group B of the tournament's preliminary round.

The competition is being organised and run by the West Asia Volleyball Association and it is scheduled to take place until March 18.

Dar Kulaib are the lone Bahraini side competing.

Nasser Anan was their top scorer in the contest with 14 points. Anan was signed specifically for this event from fellow-Bahraini volleyball juggernauts Al Ahli.

Also playing key roles for their team were Mohammed Yaqoob, Ali Habib, Mahmoud Abdulwahed, Ayman Isa, Hasan Alaiwi, libero Hussain Sultan, and Argentinian professional Juan Barrera.

Dar Kulaib are coached by Brazilian Leandro Kakaroto.

They and Shabab Nabi Ilyas are in the same pool as Al



Dar Kulaib's Juan Barrera attacks the opposition's double block

Rayyan of Qatar, South Gas SC of Iraq and Shabab Al Hussein of Jordan.

Dar Kulaib return to the playing court today in a crucial contest against Rayyan. The game is scheduled to get underway at 5pm, Bahrain time. They are then set to play South Gas on

Sunday before facing Shabab Al Hussein in their final group fixture on Monday.

Meanwhile, Group A in the tournament features Kuwait SC of Kuwait, Police SC of Qatar, Almeena VC of Yemen, Oman SC of Oman and home team Al Wehdat.



Dar Kulaib players and team officials prior to yesterday's game



Dar Kulaib are in Group B of the tournament's preliminary round along with Shabab Nabi Ilyas of Palestine, Al Rayyan of Qatar, South Gas SC of Iraq and Shabab Al Hussein of Jordan. They need to finish in the top four to advance to the quarter-finals

Following a single round-robin, the top four teams in each group march through to the tournament's quarter-finals, which will be held in the knock-out system.

Aside from the West Asia men's tournament, Dar Kulaib are also set to compete in the Golden Square semi-finals of the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

Khawaja's 'very special' ton stamps Australia's day one dominance

AFP | Ahmedabad

Australia opener Usman Khawaja yesterday said emotions took over after he struck his first Test century in India as the tourists dominated the opening day of the fourth match.

Australia reached 255-4 at stumps after they won the toss and elected to bat in their bid to square the four-match series at the world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad.

After a long grind, Khawaja was batting on 104 alongside Cameron Green, on 49, at close of play as the pair put together an attacking stand of 85.

The left-handed Khawaja put on key stands including a 79-run third-wicket partnership with skipper Steve Smith, who made 38, to hand Australia a strong start.

The Pakistan-born Khawaja jumped up in joy after he raised the second hundred of



Australia's Usman Khawaja plays a shot

Throughout the middle of my career I got told I couldn't play spin and that's why I never got an opportunity to play in India

USMAN KHAWAJA

a low-scoring series with a boundary in the final over of the day.

"A lot of emotion in that. I have been to India two tours before this and carried the drinks for eight Test matches, so it was a long journey to finally hit a hundred in India," Khawaja told broadcaster Star Sports.

Najma power into volleyball league finals

TDT | Manama

Al Najma last night barged into the championship series of the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

Najma secured their berth after sweeping past Muharraq 3-0 (25-21, 25-20, 25-18) in their Golden Square semi-final match, played at the Isa bin Rashid Arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The victors had a twice-to-beat advantage in the contest, and with the result, earned their direct place in the finals, which will be played in best-of-three format for the title.

With their two-set lead last night, Najma headed into the third determined to close things out. They were up 20-15 and then went in for the kill.

Najma were spearheaded by their key players including Estonian professional Kevin Saar and Bahraini stars Ali Ebrahim, Fadhel Abbas, Hassan Dhahi and Mohammed Habib, to



Al Najma's Ali Ebrahim looks to attack Muharraq's double block

name a few.

For Muharraq, putting in a valiant effort were Nigerian Samuel Anthony Ogwuche, Abbas Ehsan, Hussain Khalifa, Hassan Al Haddad and Sayed Ali Mohammed, among others. Najma are now set to take on

the winners of the other final four match-up between Dar Kulaib and Al Ahli. They play a best-of-three series following Dar Kulaib's participation in the ongoing first West Asia Men's Club Championship in Amman.

Muharraq, Sitra stay in contention in tight title battle



Muharraq's Muhammad Sulumba tries to dribble past the defence of their Budaiya opposition

● **Muharraq claim resounding 5-1 win over Budaiya, Sitra outclass East Riffa 2-0**

● **Only one point separates top four teams in league standings after week 16 play**

TD | Manama

Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Manama	16	9	4	3	15	31
Muharraq	16	8	6	2	15	30
Al Khaldiya	16	9	3	4	14	30
Sitra	16	8	6	2	10	30
Riffa	16	7	5	4	7	26
Al Ahli	16	5	6	5	-3	21
Al Shabab	16	6	2	8	0	20
Hidd	16	5	4	7	-10	19
Al Hala	16	4	6	6	-3	18
East Riffa	16	4	6	6	-4	18
Bahrain Club	16	3	4	9	-8	13
Budaiya	16	1	2	13	-33	5

Muharraq and Sitra stayed in the ultra-tight title race in the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League last night with big wins in their respective games, which wrapped up the 16th week of action.

Muharraq registered a resounding 5-1 victory over bottom-of-the-table Budaiya, while Sitra outclassed East Riffa 2-0.

Their wins helped both sides improve to 30 points on the league table, just one behind solo leaders Manama and tied with Al Khaldiya, while only four points ahead of defending champions Riffa.

In Muharraq's win, four of their goals were scored in the first half. Muhammad Sulumba opened the scoring for the winners in fifth minute with a header from close range, and then Victor Manuel Arboleda Murillo doubled their advantage just seven minutes later with a shot from an acute angle in the box.

Abdulwahab Ali then made it 3-0 in the 22nd minute with a header off a long cross from the right, then Budaiya got their lone consolation in the

29th minute from Seydou Barry.

But Muharraq restored their three-goal advantage on the stroke of half-time with a rocket from distance by Hassan Uqabi Haddush. Then, in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time, Abdulwahab Al Malood applied the final nail in the coffin with Muharraq's fifth from inside the six-yard box.

Muharraq claimed their eighth win while Budaiya suffered their league-worst 13th loss.

Meanwhile, in Sitra's triumph, skipper Barfo Ernest hit a brilliant goal from around a quarter-of-the-pitch's distance in 12th minute. His rocket flew into the net, with East Riffa goalkeeper Eyad Nasser Salem powerless to make the stop.

Moatasem Iskandar then supplied their second goal from edge of the box, with an attempt that should have been controlled by the goalkeeper, but he instead fumbled the ball.

Sitra also claimed their eighth win while handing East Riffa their sixth loss.

Godolphin bid for HM the King's Cup glory

Most prestigious race day in Bahrain horseracing season takes place today at REHC

● **Star-studded field of 14 horses go to post in HM the King's Cup**

● **Godolphin to race with Passion And Glory (IRE) and First Ruler (GB)**

TD | Manama



HM the King's personal representative His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa and REHC High Committee chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa present last year's HM the King's Cup to the winning connections (File photo)

The most prestigious race day in the Bahrain horseracing season takes place today at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Sakhir.

The day boasts a strong card with two Listed contests: the feature race, His Majesty The King's Cup (sponsored by Bapco), and the Al Methaq Mile.

A star-studded field of 14 horses go to post in HM The King's Cup. Godolphin have two representatives in the race with Passion And Glory (IRE) lining up for trainer Saeed bin Suroor. The seven-year-old son of Cape Cross has shown good form in Bahrain already this season when finishing second behind stablemate Dubai Future in the Group 3 Bahrain International Trophy in November. Daniel Tudhope, who won the Bahrain International Trophy aboard Dubai Future, will take the ride.

Godolphin's other runner in the race is the Charlie Appleby-trained First Ruler (GB) who will be ridden by British Champion Jockey William Buick. Appleby is no stranger to big

“It's a massive day's racing and it's the last big, prestigious race of the season in Bahrain. It would be nice to go out on a high with a winner”

NEIL CALLAN

race wins in Bahrain following a double at The Crown Prince's Cup meeting in February and he will be looking to continue his winning ways this Friday.

First Ruler was last seen when winning in good style at Meydan last month and his trainer hopes he can back that up with another victory on Friday. On his chances, Appleby said: "First Ruler has got a progressive profile. This is his first test at Listed level so we will learn a bit more about him. His profile is going the right way that he doesn't look out of place at this level, but we will be wiser afterwards."

“This is the raceday of our season. It always has been The King's Cup. It's the equivalent to Royal Ascot; it's the pinnacle of racing in Bahrain”

ALLAN SMITH

The track and conditions should suit him."

Appleby also sends over Modern News (GB) who takes his chances in Al Methaq Mile. On Modern News Appleby added: "Modern News is a solid campaigner; I was delighted with his last start at Meydan and stepping back up to a mile will suit him. With a nice draw, I think he is the one they've got to beat. He has got a penalty, but I think he can overcome that, and conditions will suit him."

A host of top-quality horses trained in Bahrain feature in The King's Cup. Leading jockey Neil Callan, who has enjoyed much success during his time in Bahrain, teams up with last year's winner Zagato (GB) for trainer Fawzi Nass. Nass saddles eight of the 14 runners with Callan able to take his pick of the Al Mohamediya Racing runners.

On his decision to ride Zagato, Callan said: "Zagato won this race last year. I feel he's at the same level this time round. He has been primed for this race. He didn't start until a bit later this season, and I feel as though he is peaking at the right time."

"It's always a very difficult decision when you have the likes of The Covex Kid (IRE) and Encourage (GB) who I've won multiple races on both. It's a massive day's racing and it's the last big, prestigious race of the season in Bahrain. It would be nice to go out on a high with a winner."

The King's Cup is a race that has gone from strength to strength and the quality of horse required to be competitive has increased over the last few years. Callan added: "It's now internationally recognised as a Listed race which is good for Bahrain racing. You're looking at horses who are rated 100 or above, so it just goes to show the level of horse you need to have."

Of the other Bahrain-trained horses, Allan Smith has two in the race for Al Adiyat Racing: Rayounpour (IRE) and Recovery Run (GB).

On their chances Smith said: "Recovery Run and Rayounpour have both been in and out of form this season, but they're both working well so we're hopeful. It's a tough old race! The competition is getting much better in Bahrain and the strength of the horses is amazing in the last three years. We love the competition that's what it's all about, it makes everyone get better horses and improve their stable."

Smith added: "This is the raceday of our season. It always has been The King's Cup. It's the equivalent to Royal Ascot; it's the pinnacle of racing in Bahrain."



Action at REHC

Najma power past Isa Town in basketball league

TD | Manama

Al Najma posted a 96-86 victory over Isa Town last night in their week 21 game of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Najma used a 33-20 second-quarter to turn away a 21-25 deficit at the end of the first to take control of the contest. They maintained their strong play in the second half and led by as many as 16 points the rest of the way.

Ali Jaber came off the bench to contribute a team-high 28 points while also grabbing 13 rebounds and dishing out five assists. Mohammed Hussain added 24 while American Nick Ward had 15 points and Mohammed Buallay 10 with seven assists.

For Isa Town, Oumar Barry scored 33 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in the loss. Hussain Mahdi and Mohamed Nabeel each chipped in with 14.

With the result, Najma claimed

their 12th win in 18 games and improved to 30 points on the league standings. Isa Town suffered their 17th loss and went to 21 points in second-to-last place.

League action continues tonight with a mammoth match-up between bitter rivals Manama and Al Ahli at 7.30pm. At 5.30pm, Nuwaidrat take on Samaheej. Tomorrow, Sitra and Al Ettihad face off in the early game followed by Al Hala taking on Muharraq.

Standings

	P	W	L	Pts
Manama	18	15	3	33
Muharraq	18	14	4	32
Al Ahli	17	13	4	30
Al Ettihad	18	12	6	30
Al Najma	18	12	6	30
Bahrain Club	19	9	10	28
Al Hala	18	9	9	27
Nuwaidrat	18	7	11	25
Sitra	17	4	13	21
Isa Town	19	2	17	21
Samaheej	18	2	16	20



Al Najma's Ali Jaber looks to make a pass during their game against Isa Town