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 Carlos Alcaraz overcomes slow start to defeat Tommy Paul in four sets in Wimbledon | P12

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HM King stresses safe navigation, trade in talks with US Ambassador

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued a strong call for ensuring safe navigation and trade in the region during his discussions yesterday with US Ambassador Steven Bondy.

The meeting, attended by Vice Admiral George Wikoff, Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command and Commander of the US Fifth Fleet, delved into the latest regional and international developments, particularly the escalating events in the region.

His Majesty the King under-



HM King holding talks with US Ambassador and Fifth fleet Commander

scored the strength of the long-standing Bahrain-US relations, highlighting their foundation of mutual trust, respect, and coordination. HM praised the progress of the robust bilateral ties with the United States, es-

pecially in military and defence cooperation.

"This is crucial to advancing the interests of both nations and safeguarding navigation and trade in the region," King Hamad stated.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, extended his congratulations to Bahraini pilgrims for performing a safe Hajj. The remarks came during a discussion yesterday at Gudaibiya Palace with Shaikh Adnan bin Abdulla Al Qattan, Undersecretary of the Court of Cassation and Chairman of the Bahrain Pilgrimage Mission, along with members of the High Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs. HRH commended the mission members for ensuring a safe pilgrimage for both citizens and residents. HRH Prince Salman also praised Saudi Arabia's dedication, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, in facilitating a peaceful and safe pilgrimage for Hajj pilgrims. His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf and Chairman of the High Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs, HE Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, were present.

Modi tells Putin war cannot solve problems
 P6



BDF invites volunteers
 TDI | Manama

Volunteering opportunities are now available for relatives of employees and retirees of the Bahrain Defence Force and the National Guard.

The General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force invites both male and female candidates to join.

Register your interest at <https://www.bdf.bh>.

Public institutions to close for Ashura holiday
 TDI | Manama

All public institutions, including ministries, will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday in observance of Ashura.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, announced this in a circular issued yesterday regarding the Ashura holiday for the year 1446 AH.

Remittance mystery

Bahrain sees surge in foreign workers amid decline in outbound money transfers

Mohammed Darwish
 TDI | Manama

An intriguing discrepancy in remittance and worker proportions is leaving financial experts here in a spin.

The issue: Foreign workers entering Bahrain are on the rise, according to the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA). However, for some reason, they are not sending money back home as expected or proportionately.

Newly released data from the Central Bank of Bahrain brings this puzzle to the fore.

The data says worker numbers have risen, but remittances have dropped.

Before delving deep into the reasons, let's first take a look at the figures.

According to the CBB, Bahrain's central bank, the Kingdom recorded a 2.1% decline in remittances in the first quarter of 2024.

Exact figures show expatriates sent only 230.7 million Bahraini dinars back home in Q1, compared to 235.6 million dinars in the same quarter the previous year.

Read this alongside the LMRA report, which recorded a 5.8% year-on-year increase in the number of foreign workers reaching Bahrain.

On a year-on-year basis, LMRA



According to the United Nations, in 2019, the United States, Germany, and Saudi Arabia had the largest number of immigrants of any country, while Tuvalu, Saint Helena, and Tokelau had the lowest.

says the number of foreign workers rose to 616.1 thousand by the end of December 2023.

In addition, LMRA says it issued 45,000 new work permits to foreign workers in Q4 2023, marking a 12.2% increase from the same period in 2022.

So, what factors could be causing this?

The rising number of foreign workers, experts say, indicates growing economic activity in the Kingdom.

This, as expected, should lead to an increase in remittances.

Unfortunately, that didn't happen. But why?

Experts suggest several factors could contribute to this decline in remittances.

Foremost could be the global economic slowdown.

Industry insiders suggest that workers may be sending less money back home due to economic uncertainty.

Yet another possibility is that the composition of the foreign worker population may have changed.

This means a higher proportion of workers may now come from countries with lower average remittance rates.

Last but not least, it could be due to Bahrain's rising living costs. Experts say the high cost of living here may be putting pressure on foreign workers' disposable income.

This means they have less money left to send back home after covering expenses here.

Currency outflow rising!

Despite this reduction in remittances, currency outflow continues to rise amid all this commotion.

This outflow of foreign currencies continues to exert pressure on Bahrain's balance of payments.

Nevertheless, the Kingdom has maintained positive surplus rates, strengthening its position against any increase in external financial obligations.

Construction sector key

The construction sector remains the largest employer of foreign workers in Bahrain, with nearly a quarter of new labor licenses issued in the last quarter of 2023 going to this sector.

This underscores the crucial role that foreign labor plays in supporting the Kingdom's economic development.

Government employees invited to apply for 10th Prime Minister's Fellowship



TDI | Manama

Applications are now open for the 10th intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme. Government employees below the managerial level can apply via the PMO's website at www.pmo.gov.bh.

The Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, Hamad Yaqoob Al Mahmeed, announced that the programme will accept applications from eligible candidates until August 8, 2024.

Successful candidates will participate in a 12-month training programme designed to upskill and reskill them.

The programme offers opportunities to learn about public sector decision-making mechanisms, develop plans for government programmes, and connect with current government officials to gain insight into public sector operations and accountability throughout the decision-making process.

Al Mahmeed praised the programme's outcomes over the years, highlighting that successful graduates have secured prestigious positions of responsibility across the public sector.



Illegal taxi at Bahrain International Airport: Two arrested, vehicles seized

TDT | Manama

Police have arrested two Asian nationals for transporting passengers from Bahrain International Airport without taxi permits, seizing the vehicles involved in the operation.

The Attorney General and Head of the Traffic Prosecution stated that the Public Prosecution received reports from the General Traffic Directorate about the illegal taxi drivers.

During interrogation, the suspects confessed to their crimes when confronted with evidence. Prosecutors have ordered their pre-trial detention pending in-



Representative picture

During interrogation, the suspects confessed to their crimes when confronted with evidence. Prosecutors have ordered their pre-trial detention pending investigation and their referral to criminal trial.

The Head of the Prosecution emphasized the importance of adhering to legislation regulating passenger transport activities, which mandates obtaining the necessary licenses from relevant authorities.

Lieutenant-General Adel bin Khalifa bin Hamad Al Fadhel Appointed Deputy Minister of Interior

TDT | Manama

Lieutenant-General Adel bin Khalifa bin Hamad Al Fadhel has been appointed Deputy Minister of Interior, effective August 1, 2024.

By Decree No. (64) of 2024, approved by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Council of Ministers, Lieutenant-General Al Fadhel assumes the rank of Minister.

Al Fadhel will serve as Deputy Minister of Interior, deputizing in the Minister's absence, with the Interior Minister specifying his responsibilities and authority.



Lieutenant-General Adel bin Khalifa bin Hamad Al Fadhel

Unemployment insurance not for legislators, Government clarifies

TDT | Manama

Unemployment insurance is not for members of the legislative authority, municipal councils, and the Capital Municipality Council, clarifies the government of Bahrain.

This assertion follows questioning of a proposal suggesting a 1% deduction from their salaries for such insurance.

According to official explanations, these members do not fall under work-related injury insurance or the Social Insurance Law, which are prerequisites for eligibility under Bahraini retirement systems. Therefore, they are deemed ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

The disagreement arose in response to a draft parliamentary law aimed at implementing the proposed deduction.

The government argues that this draft law contradicts the



Representative picture

According to official explanations, these members do not fall under work-related injury insurance or the Social Insurance Law, which are prerequisites for eligibility under Bahraini retirement systems.

fundamental principles and provisions of Decree Law No. 78 of 2006, which governs the unemployment insurance system.

This law defines beneficiaries as "insured or first-time job seekers" who are entitled to unemployment compensation under specific conditions. It also defines "insured" individuals as "workers covered by the provisions of this law, even if they were a vocational student, or under training."

Article 2 of the law further specifies the categories eligible for unemployment insurance,

including:

Civil employees working for the government and public legal persons covered by work-related injury insurance, as well as private sector workers covered by the Social Insurance Law.

Moreover, the government raises concerns about the draft law's alignment with the technical foundations of the unemployment insurance system.

Actuarial studies form the basis for assessing unemployment risks and determining funding sources and benefits. The proposed deduction, it argues, could

disrupt these calculations and potentially jeopardize the financial stability of the system.

Emphasizing the importance of preserving the integrity and coherence of the unemployment insurance system, the government underscores the need for each legislative text to uphold its specific role. Introducing the proposed deduction, it contends, would introduce unnecessary complications and deviate from the established framework, potentially compromising the system's effectiveness and sustainability.

4,000 scholarships and grants for top-scoring graduates

TDT | Manama

Bahraini graduates scoring over 90% during the 2023-2024 academic year can apply for 4,000 scholarships and grants, announced Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma.

Those with averages of 95% or higher qualify for 1,600 scholarships, while those scoring between 90% and 94.9% are eligible for approximately 2,400 grants, solely based on their cumulative GPA. Dr. Juma emphasized the ministry's commitment to awarding scholarships to students with a GPA of 95% or more if they choose to study at the University of Bahrain or Bahrain Polytechnic, provided they meet admission criteria.

This year, the ministry grant-



Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma

ed six scholarships for studies in the USA and UK, including two at Indiana University in Manufacturing, Automation, and Control Engineering.

In collaboration with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), nursing scholarships increased from 120 to 300 this year, covering fields like medicine, engineering, and others. Additionally,

Those with averages of 95% or higher qualify for 1,600 scholarships, while those scoring between 90% and 94.9% are eligible for approximately 2,400 grants, solely based on their cumulative GPA.

scholarships are now available for theatre and music studies in Kuwait for Arts and Literary track students, offering opportunities in prestigious artistic institutes.

Applications open today at 8:00 AM until Saturday on www.moe.gov.bh or www.bahrain.bh. For inquiries, contact the Information Systems Directorate - User Service at 17278236, 17278892, 17278269, or via

WhatsApp at 17278236 during working hours, or email isd.helpdesk@moe.bh.

Students seeking grants must submit completed forms to new_grants_2024@moe.bh immediately after university acceptance, within two months of acceptance. For more details, call 17873046, 17875177, 17896721, or 17875151 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on official working days.



His Majesty the King of Malaysia, Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, officially welcomed Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea as Bahrain's Ambassador to Malaysia during a ceremony at the Royal Palace (Istana Negara) in Kuala Lumpur. Dr Al Manea conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, emphasizing the significance of bolstering the longstanding bilateral relations and enhancing them further.

Allow internships in private hospitals for medicos

Parliamentary Bloc urges reforms to expedite medical internships

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Becoming a doctor is like a dream come true for many.

However, several here says it's not that easy especially if you had chosen to get the medical degree from a university abroad.

For the first step to obtaining a licence here is completing mandatory internship year.

Seems simple, but those who had gone through it says otherwise.

Several are still waiting, with not solution in sight and not job.

Now a Parliamentary Progressive Bloc (Taquadum) has come up with a solution.

They say the government



Include private sector hospitals. This should solve the crisis, they say.



Amendment aims to streamline the internship process for young doctors, saving them valuable time and enabling them to gain practical experience. This initiative also seeks to address shortages in specific medical specialties.



According to MoH statistics, Bahrain has a network of seven publicly run hospitals and 22 private hospitals.

should create additional opportunities for them to get their mandatory practical experience to licence.

Include private sector hospitals. This should solve the crisis, they say.

To translate this proposal into action, the block says, the Ministry of Health and government hospitals should revisit the current internship policy.

Graduates from local universities typically glide into the

workforce through internships in government hospitals.

A policy shift would help the Kingdom bring the talents of those studies abroad into the mix, making the health sector further strong.

Led by Deputy Speaker Abdulnabi Salman, Eman Showaiter, and Dr. Mahdi Al Showaikh, the parliamentary bloc's proposed amendment aims to streamline the internship process for young doctors, saving them valuable

time and enabling them to gain practical experience. This initiative also seeks to address shortages in specific medical specialties.

Additionally, the amendment aims to alleviate the financial burden on families who often bear the cost of sending their children abroad to fulfill internship requirements.

Many recent medical gradu-

ates from Arab and foreign universities are currently awaiting opportunities to complete their mandatory internship year in government hospitals.

Taqadum said it is committed to actively engaging with the Ministry of Health and government hospitals on this issue.

They are optimistic that collaboration with private sector hospitals can ensure all gradu-

ating doctors promptly complete their internships, facilitating a smoother transition into their medical careers.

High Appeals Court reviews case of man charged with severing fingers in brutal assault

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has opened hearings on the appeal of an Asian man convicted of a brutal assault that left a garage worker permanently disabled.

The man allegedly slammed an iron door shut on his hand during a fight, with the victim losing two of his fingers.

Judges will hear the case on the 14th of this month.

The chilling incident was reported from Salmabad on March 1st, 2024, where the victim recounted a sudden and vicious attack.

"I was just talking to him," the victim recalled, "when he struck me, driving me into a nearby garage in an attempt to flee. But he pulled me back, slamming the iron door on my hand, severing two of my fingers. He didn't stop there—he continued beating me until others intervened."

An eyewitness, an Arab worker, corroborated the victim's account, detailing how the assailant pursued the victim into the garage and ruthlessly assaulted him.

"The defendant grabbed him and slammed the iron door shut on his hand," the witness testified, "causing severe injuries. I saw the victim bleeding pro-



Representative picture

fusely, with two fingers severed, while the defendant continued to kick him."

During the investigation, the defendant admitted to the assault, confessing to forcefully closing the door on the victim's hand.

The Public Prosecution subsequently charged him with severe assault, resulting in a forensic report indicating a 13%

permanent disability for the victim. The motive behind the attack remains unclear, adding intrigue to the case.

As the High Appeals Court deliberates, the fate of the defendant hangs in the balance, with the court set to determine whether to uphold the initial verdict or issue a new ruling in this harrowing tale of violence and justice.



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Investigators uncover BD 54,000 embezzlement mystery at GAA

High Criminal Court adjourns case to July 22nd for cross-examination of accounting expert report

● The legal drama unfolding at the High Criminal Court has taken a short pause for hearing accounting expert.

TD | Manama

The Gulf Aviation Academy is pursuing legal action against one of its own — a Bahraini employee—accused of orchestrating a sophisticated financial heist amounting to BD54,000 from its trainee fund.

For now, the legal drama unfolding at the High Criminal Court has taken a short pause



As the trial progresses, the courtroom awaits the testimony of academy officials and financial specialists—key witnesses poised to shed light on this gripping tale of betrayal and financial intrigue that has shaken the Gulf Aviation Academy

for hearing accounting expert.

The judge adjourned proceedings, awaiting crucial insights from an accounting expert summoned to decipher the financial

discrepancies.

Scheduled for interrogation later this month, the expert's testimony promises to unravel the mysteries shrouding BD60,000

held in GAA's bank account.

Earlier, a damning report unveiled by the court-appointed accountant detailed a trail of fiscal deceit spanning from Jan-

uary 2021 to April 2022. Shockingly, BD52,714.811 of academy funds had vanished into thin air, absent from any bank deposit records.

The report revealed a surplus of BD 60,000 without a corresponding balance, BD 54,000 with a verified balance, and BD 54,000 that could not be accounted for.

The expert expressed a keen interest in addressing the status of the BD 60,000 held in the bank account.

Further revelations also brought to light manipulation within the academy's financial systems—balances deleted, replacements issued, and dates altered, with even a suspicious

tax entry vanishing without a trace.

The missing funds, crucially intended for GAA's trainee programmes, sparked outrage and led to a swift legal escalation. Triggered by a complaint to the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution, authorities swiftly moved to investigate, unearthing a web of deception meticulously woven by the defendant.

Prosecutors asserted their evidence pointed unequivocally to the defendant's guilt—embezzling BD54,000 from trainee funds, manipulating electronic records to mask the crime, and meticulously erasing all traces of wrongdoing.

Shaikh Khalid inaugurates Onyx Rotana Hotel



The inauguration

TD | Manama

Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, inaugurated the Onyx Rotana Hotel in Bahrain Bay yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by ministers, officials, and guests. Abdulghaffar Al Kooheji, Chairman of Kooheji Development, and Mohammed Al Kooheji, Chief Operating Officer, welcomed Shaikh Khalid

bin Abdullah.

Shaikh Khalid highlighted the inauguration as a significant milestone for Bahrain's hotel and real estate development sectors, enhancing family tourism facilities. He also toured the hotel and its amenities.

Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi emphasized the importance of private sector contributions in achieving Bahrain's tourism strategy goals (2022-2026).

BOC to launch online store, announces new initiatives

TD | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), chaired by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, is set to launch an online store soon, offering officially approved sports kits and equipment. His Highness Shaikh Khalid, who also serves as the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of BOC, made the announcement during the fifth board meeting held at Al Wadi Palace.

In addition, the BOC has approved Bahrain's hosting of the first-ever International Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Executive Committee meeting in 2025.

During the meeting, His Highness Shaikh Khalid praised the efforts of the board members and the executive body, led by BOC Secretary General Faris Mustafa Al Kooheji.



His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Key topics discussed included:

- Paris Olympics 2024: Updates on Bahrain's participation.
- ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain 2024: Preparations for the International School Games scheduled for October.
- Sixth Edition of the School Olympiad: Upcoming arrangements.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives

High Diving World Cup 2024:

Bahrain will host this qualifying event for the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. The board reviewed and approved preparations, including the organisational structure of the Supreme Organising Committee, headed by Faris Mustafa Al Kooheji. A cooperation agreement was also approved between the Olympic Committee and The Art Hotel and Resort to host the Olympic swimming pool for the event.

Asian Indoor and Martial Arts

Games 2024:

The BOC approved participation in the 6th edition of these games, to be held in Thailand in November 2024. Redha Manfredi was appointed as the Director of Bahrain's delegation.

Arab Women's Games 2025: The BOC approved Bahrain's participation and directed the Olympic Committee to assess the readiness of national federations for the event.

Other Approvals

National Centre for Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation: The BOC board approved the formation of a medical committee, headed by Fares Thulfiqar Noureddine, to manage treatment requests from athletes.

Olympic Academy:

Plans to coordinate with the International Olympic Academy to launch an accredited bachelor's programme in sports management were approved, aiming to graduate qualified personnel for sports clubs and federations.

Bahrain EDB embarks on strategic visit to UK to bolster economic ties

● The visit aims to highlight Bahrain's expanding investment opportunities and strengthen economic cooperation between the two nations

TD | Manama

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) has launched a five-day strategic visit to the United Kingdom, led by Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of Bahrain EDB, along with senior executives from the investment promotion agency.

The visit aims to highlight Bahrain's expanding investment opportunities and strengthen economic cooperation between



In pictures, EDB officials during their visit to UK

the two nations. The agenda includes high-profile events, strategic business meetings, and roundtable discussions with current and potential investors in key sectors such as financial services and manufacturing.

The meetings will feature leaders from Bahrain's public

and private sectors promoting business opportunities within the Kingdom. Representatives from prominent UK firms like PwC Middle East will also participate, showcasing successful expansions and emphasizing Bahrain's investor-friendly environment. "Through these cu-



rated events and strategic meetings, with the support of Team Bahrain, we aim to build lasting partnerships that will drive more investment in the country, leading to sustainable economic growth and job creation," stated Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif.

Bahrain EDB will host two

roundtable sessions during the visit. The first, in collaboration with Sovereign Strategy, a consulting and public relations firm with a global reach, and the second with TheCityUK, an industry-led body representing UK-based financial and related professional services. Both

sessions, held under Chatham House rules, provide a platform for discussions with C-level policymakers and industry leaders, highlighting Bahrain's ease of doing business, skilled talent pool, and business-friendly investment environment.

Additionally, in partnership with Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), Bahrain EDB will host key investors at the Newmarket July Festival. This event offers a unique networking opportunity with strategic partners, potential investors, and business affiliates.

Bahrain and the United Kingdom share a longstanding bilateral relationship spanning over two centuries, marked by continuous development and cooperation across various levels. This robust relationship is evidenced by their non-oil trade, which exceeded USD 443 million as of 2023.

Al Salam Bank opens “Digital Personal Finance” campaign on mobile application

TDI | Manama

Al Salam Bank has launched a campaign for clients looking to apply for a new digital personal finance through the mobile application. From 1 July to 31 August 2024, applicants will receive cash back worth BD 100 once their application is approved and implemented.

Powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Digital Personal Finance service focuses on enhancing the client's banking experience and enriching their lives. The product reiterates the Bank's strategy to create new opportunities to enhance profitability and develop services by launching innovative digital solutions.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Mohammed Buhijji, Head



Mohammed Buhijji, Head of Retail Banking at Al Salam Bank

of Retail Banking at Al Salam Bank, said: “The Digital Personal Finance service aims to provide clients with a variety of financing options through AI-powered offerings. In addition to facilitating the appli-

cation process anywhere any time without needing to visit the branch, underscoring our commitment to elevating our banking experience through digital empowerment. As such, we would like to encourage all those seeking personal financing to apply throughout the campaign period to receive BD 100 in cashback.”

“Digital Personal Finance” will simplify the application process through 24/7 availability, enabling applicants to submit their latest salary slip through the mobile application and complete the rest of the steps in a few minutes. Clients who have transferred their salaries to Al Salam Bank can skip this step and receive their financing directly.

NBB rewards cardholders with points campaign

● For Bahrain Summer Festival 2024

TDI | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) is rewarding its Cardholders with an exclusive Points raffle for their spending during Bahrain Summer Festival 2024, which is being sponsored by the Bank as part of its strategic partnership with the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

From 7th July to 31st August 2024, all NBB Cardholders at Bahrain Summer 2024 will earn 1 bonus raffle point for every BHD 1 spent locally. The accumulated points can

be redeemed via the Points by NBB App to unlock entry into the summer raffle, where two lucky winners will each receive a travel voucher worth BD 2,500.

Commenting on the occasion, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB said, “We are excited to strengthen our partnership with Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority through a campaign offering exclusive rewards for our cardholders in Summer 2024.” NBB's Points campaign for Bahrain Summer 2024 reiterates the Bank's ongoing dedication towards promoting the Kingdom's tourism sector by incentivising spending on local experiences.

Bahrain All Share Index marks 1,999.81 points

TDI | Manama

Bahrain All Share Index has closed at 1,999.81 points, marking a decrease of 5.36 points below the previous closing.

This decrease was due to the drop in the consumer discretionary sector, the financial sector, the materials sector and the real estate sector.

Bahrain Islamic Index closed at 808.73 points, marking a decrease of 5.85 points below the previous closing.

Results indicated that 85 equity transactions took place with a volume of 1,411,362 worth BD 263,754.

Methanol-powered ship to set sail for Europe's first 'green' route

AFP | Rotterdam, Netherlands

The first methanol-powered ship to ply routes between Europe's busy ports was unveiled yesterday in Rotterdam, with shipping owners hoping to spur efforts to bring down the industry's huge carbon footprint.

The Eco-Maestro, a 13,675-tonne container carrier

will head off to Antwerp in the next few days, before plotting a course for Klaipeda in Lithuania and Riga in Latvia, its owners said.

Capable of carrying more than 1,200 standard containers, the Eco-Maestro is one of a handful of ships globally that is capable of running on both “green” bio-methanol or normal fuel, which is far more polluting.

“We are providing the first feeder network in Europe running on methanol-powered ships,” said Francis Goh, X-Press Feeders chief operating officer.

Completed in China earlier this year, the Eco-Maestro is kitted out with the latest engines that can run on methanol -- a sustainable fuel made from decomposed organic matter.

“We estimate that the methanol we are using will emit some 65 percent less carbon” than normal fuel, Goh told AFP.

Global shipping -- which generally runs on diesel and other bunker fuels -- contributed around two percent of the world's carbon emissions in 2022, the International Energy Agency says.

Bahrain Bourse, Arab Federation of Capital Markets host TradingTech Summit MENA



Andrew Delaney

TDI | Manama



Rami El-Dokany



Sh. Khalifa bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

Bahrain Bourse (BHB) has announced hosting the TradingTech Summit MENA in collaboration with the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM) and A-Team Group on November 25th, 2024 to be held in Bahrain. The TradingTech Summit MENA will examine the latest developments and innovations in trading technology.

The conference is anticipated to attract over 200 attendees representing a spectrum of entities within trading technologies landscape including exchanges, regulatory bodies of the financial markets, brokerage firms, financial experts, and trading technology providers. Sh. Khalifa bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, CEO of Bahrain Bourse, commented on the occasion, “This summit will

provide a platform for knowledge-sharing and collaboration to enable the wider MENA region to transform its trading ecosystem and compete on a global scale.”

Rami El-Dokany, Secretary General of The Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM) stated, “We are bringing leading international technology brands shaping the future of global trading, alongside the brightest minds from the Arab world, to unveil their insights, offering unparalleled access to cutting-edge knowledge.”

Andrew Delaney, Chief Content Officer of A-Team Group said “TradingTech MENA is the first conference dedicated to discussion of high-performance trading technologies, making a must-attend event for practitioners across the region.”



Chairman Sameer Nass of the Bahrain Chamber underscored the vital role of enhancing ties with the ASEAN Bahrain Council to bolster the private sector and national economy. He made these remarks while hosting a delegation from the ASEAN Bahrain Council, led by Shaikh Duaij bin Isa Al Khalifa and accompanied by Vice Chairman Feryal Nass. Nass stressed the significance of forging active partnerships with global organizations to drive business sector growth and enhance current and future commercial, economic, and investment relations. Also in attendance at the meeting were Bahrain Chamber board members Basim AlSaie, Yousuf Salahuddin, and Abdulwahab Al Hawaj.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds broadens partnership with Brink's Inc.

TDI | Manama

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewelry retailer globally with over 350 showrooms across 13 countries, have extended their partnership with Brink's Inc., a leading provider of cash and valuables management, digital retail solutions, and ATM Managed Services, to utilize their cash management services in the UAE & precious metal storage facilities globally.

“Brink's Global Services has been Malabar Gold & Diamonds' exclusive logistics partner for several years, and we are very excited to expand our longstanding partnership with them. By broadening the scope of our partnership to cash management services across our retail stores in the UAE and precious metal storage facilities globally, we are further optimizing our efficiency in retail operations and driving Malabar Gold & Diamonds'



Officials during a group photo opportunity following the deal signing

global growth”, commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Through Brink's state-of-the-art cash management solutions,

Malabar Gold & Diamonds' retail stores in the UAE will optimize cash resources, improving liquidity and streamlining cash-related operations. By utilizing these solutions, Malabar

Gold & Diamonds can enhance their financial performance, minimize risk, and maintain better control over their cash reserves.

“The signing of this agreement

is a great example of the strong partnership between Brink's and Malabar Gold & Diamonds. We look forward to many more years of successful collaboration as we continue to grow our businesses

alongside each other,” commented Mark Eubanks, President and CEO of Brink's.

“Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always been a pioneer in the adaptation of technology and our latest venture with Brink's, a name that is synonymous with security, trust and excellence, is a testimony to our never ending strive for innovation. The advantages that the Brink's cash management services and precious metal storage facilities offers us will add another layer of efficiency to our global operations, aiding us on our path to become the world's no 1 jewelry retailer”, commented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group.

With access to Brink's sophisticated vaults, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will be able to access precious metals across key trading locations, boosting their global growth.

India's cricket board names Gautam Gambhir as head coach

AFP | London

India's cricket board named Gautam Gambhir as head coach on Tuesday, with the former opener taking over from Rahul Dravid, tasked with building on their recent World Cup triumph.

"It is with immense pleasure that I welcome Mr Gautam Gambhir as the new Head Coach of the Indian Cricket Team," Jay Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement.

The 42-year-old Gambhir takes over from batting great Dravid, who finished his stint with the T20 World Cup title in Barbados last month.

Gambhir scored over 10,000 international runs during his 13-year-long international career for India since his ODI debut in 2003.

He is the only Indian -- and one of four international cricketers including Don Bradman, Jacques Kallis and Mohammad Yousuf -- to have scored centuries in five successive Test matches.

"Modern-day cricket has evolved rapidly, and Gautam has witnessed this changing landscape up close," Shah added.

Gambhir, a talented left-handed batsman who played a key part in India's ODI World Cup



Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir (R) greet each other at the end of an IPL match (file photo)

win in 2011, recently coached Kolkata Knight Riders to an IPL crown.

"Having endured the grind and excelled in various roles throughout his career, I am confident that Gautam is the ideal person to steer Indian cricket forward," Shah added.

"His clear vision for Team India, coupled with his vast experience, positions him perfectly to take on this exciting and most sought-after coaching role."

After he retired from playing, the usually serious Gambhir took to commentary and then dabbled in politics, becoming

a lawmaker for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He quit politics in March to join IPL's Kolkata, a team he led to two titles in 2012 and 2014.

Gambhir now takes over a team with heightened expectations after their T20 triumph, their fourth World Cup title and first major crown since the 2013 Champions Trophy.

India's white-ball tour of Sri Lanka in late July will be Gambhir's first assignment as coach of the national team.

India also awaits a T20 captain after Rohit Sharma and Vi-

rat Kohli retired from the shortest format soon after a thrilling win over South Africa in the World Cup final in Barbados on June 29.

Shah also offered his "sincere thanks and gratitude" to Dravid, ending his coaching career on a high.

"Under his guidance, Team India emerged as a dominant force across formats, including being crowned ICC Men's T20 World Cup champions," Shah said.

"His strategic acumen, persistent efforts to nurture talent and exemplary leadership have instilled a culture of excellence within the team and that is also the legacy he leaves behind."



Gambhir scored over 10,000 international runs during his 13-year-long international career for India since his ODI debut in 2003

Gakpo shrugs off Liverpool struggles to spark Dutch run at Euro 2024



Netherlands' forward #11 Cody Gakpo (R) shoots to goal past Turkey's defender #20 Ferdi Kadoglu

AFP | Berlin

English fans are yet to see the best of Cody Gakpo in the Premier League, but it is the Liverpool forward they will fear as the Netherlands' biggest threat in Wednesday's Euro 2024 semi-final.

Gakpo has shrugged off an indifferent season at club level to shine once more for his country on the biggest stage of a major international tournament.

The 25-year-old earned his move to the English giants on the back of scoring three times in five appearances at the 2022 World Cup as the Dutch were knocked out by eventual winners Argentina in a quarter-final penalty shootout in Qatar.

Since then Gakpo has struggled to find his place among Liverpool's array of attacking talent.

Mohamed Salah remains the top dog at Anfield, while Luis Diaz, Darwin Nunez, Diogo Jota and Gakpo have all battled to earn their place in the side.

There have been flashes of the potential that pushed the Reds into beating a host of Premier League rivals to Gakpo's signature for a £35 million (\$45 million) fee.

He scored two brilliant goals in a historic 7-0 rout of Man-

"I play on the left wing. In Liverpool I played a lot as a striker, so I think that's the most different thing

CODY GAKPO

chester United in March 2023 and netted 16 times in total as Liverpool flirted with winning a quadruple in Jurgen Klopp's final season before falling away to be left with only League Cup success to show for the campaign.

However, he has often had to sacrifice showing his own biggest qualities for the good of the team.

Nunez's failure to deliver on his £85 million price tag forced Gakpo to operate more often as a central striker, or even at times in midfield.

Restored to his favoured role on the left side of the attack for his national team, Gakpo has arguably been the player of the tournament so far in Germany.

"I play on the left wing. In Liverpool I played a lot as a striker, so I think that's the most different thing," said Gakpo on the contrast between his form for club and country.

Ex-Liverpool striker Bellamy appointed Wales football coach

AFP | London

Craig Bellamy has been appointed as the new head coach of the Wales national football team on a contract until 2028, the Football Association of Wales (FAW) announced Tuesday.

Bellamy has replaced Rob Page, who was sacked following Wales' failure to qualify for Euro 2024.

The 44-year-old former Liv-



Craig Bellamy

erpool, Newcastle and Wales striker leaves Burnley, where he

was assistant to former manager Vincent Kompany last season as they were relegated from the Premier League.

"I will give my full commitment to develop this team and I am passionate to bring continued success into Welsh football," Bellamy told the FAW website.

"I can't wait to get started with our Nations League games in September."

The FAW's chief football of-

ficer, Dr David Adams, said: "I am absolutely delighted to announce Craig as our new head coach.

"We undertook a thorough recruitment process for the new men's national team head coach and Craig was identified as the standout candidate.

"We are all looking forward to the Nations League games and working with Craig to deliver success for Welsh Football."

Djokovic slams Wimbledon fan behaviour

Tennis star accuses spectators of disrespect after advancing to 60th Grand Slam quarter-final

● Djokovic defeats Holger Rune in straight sets

● Angry outburst at fans for perceived booing

● Rune explains fans were chanting his name, not booing

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic accused Wimbledon fans of "disrespect" in a withering on-court tirade after reaching a 60th Grand Slam quarter-final and 15th at the All England Club on Monday.

World number two Djokovic, the seven-time champion at Wimbledon and chasing a record-setting 25th major, defeated 15th-ranked Holger Rune 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Djokovic then launched an angry outburst at a section of Centre Court fans who constantly chanted "Rune" throughout the match and which the Serb

took to be booing.

"To all the fans that have had respect and stayed here tonight, I thank you from the bottom of my heart and I appreciate it," said an angry Djokovic.

"And to all those people that have chosen to disrespect the player -- in this case me -- have a gooooooood night," he added, mocking his tormentors' exaggerated "Ru u u u - u n e".

When told by the TV interviewer that some fans were shouting "Rune" rather than "boo" Djokovic hit back.

"They were (booing). They were. I am not accepting it. No, no, no. I know they were cheering for Rune but that's an ex-

cuse to also boo," he said.

"Listen, I have been on the tour for more than 20 years. I know all the tricks, I know how it works. I focus on the respectful people that pay for the ticket, and love tennis and appreciate the players.

"I have played in much more hostile environments, trust me -- you guys can't touch me."

Djokovic later told reporters that crowds have the "right to cheer who they want to cheer".

"I'm not sure what Wimbledon can do about it. You can't remove a whole section of the crowd if they are misbehaving," he said.

"I respect true fans but if someone steps over the line I will react."

The 37-year-old Serb, still sporting a knee support on his right leg after undergoing surgery last month, set the tone for Monday's fourth-round tie when Rune failed to win a sin-



Djokovic, aiming for a record-setting 25th major, expressed his frustration with the crowd, emphasizing his experience in handling hostile environments

"Listen, I have been on the tour for more than 20 years. I know all the tricks, I know how it works. I focus on the respectful people that pay for the ticket, and love tennis and appreciate the players. I have played in much more hostile environments, trust me -- you guys can't touch me

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

gle point in the opening three games.

Djokovic saved a break point in the 10th game of the second set before carving out another key break in the first game of the third.

Rune said his fans started chanting his name in their distinctive, bellowing manner when the two men met for the first time at the US Open in 2021.

"It sounded a little bit like 'boo'. We played each other

many more times, but more in Italy and France, where they don't pronounce my name the same way," he said.

"Now we're in England. If you don't know what was happening, probably it sounded like 'boo'. If he didn't remember, it could probably sound different for him."

Djokovic goes on to face Australian ninth seed Alex de Minaur for a place in the semi-finals.



Alcaraz sets up Medvedev semi-final

Carlos Alcaraz overcomes slow start to defeat Tommy Paul in four sets in Wimbledon

● **Medvedev stuns top-ranked Sinner to advance**

AFP | London

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz shrugged off the loss of the first set to beat Tommy Paul yesterday and set up a repeat Wimbledon semi-final with Daniil Medvedev.

The Spanish world number three, seeking a fourth Grand Slam title, beat his 12th-seeded opponent 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 under the No. 1 Court roof.

Alcaraz was slow out of the blocks, broken twice by the in-form American in a 72-minute first set.

Paul raced into a two-game lead in the second set as Alcaraz again faltered on serve but the Spaniard got back on level terms and broke again to level the match.

Three breaks in the third set



Daniil Medvedev

“If I’m struggling a little bit to find the solutions, if the opponent is playing great tennis and I don’t get him in trouble, I believe at the end that I’ll be able to come back and be able to find solutions”

CARLOS ALCARAZ

put the world number three in charge and he stepped up another gear in the fourth set, winning 92 percent of first-serve points and making just four unforced errors.

Alcaraz, seeking to become just the sixth man to capture the French

Open and Wimbledon titles back to back, said it had been a tough start to his quarter-final against the recent champion at Queen’s.

“If I’m struggling a little bit to find the solutions, if the opponent is playing great tennis and I don’t get him in trouble, I believe at the end that I’ll be able to come back and be able to find solutions,” he said.

Looking forward to his match against Russian fifth-seed Medvedev, whom he beat

last year on his way to winning his first Wimbledon title, he said: “Hopefully I’m going to get the same result.”

“He just won against Jannik Sinner, the best player right now, so I know that he’s in really good shape so

I have to play my best, I have to believe in myself and try to keep going if I want to beat him.”

Carlos Alcaraz

Quickfire Paolini sets up last four clash with Vekic

Jasmine Paolini swept aside Emma Navarro in straight sets yesterday to reach her first Wimbledon semi-final where she will face Donna Vekic.

Italian seventh seed Paolini, the runner-up at the French Open last month, triumphed 6-2, 6-1 over 19th seed Navarro in just 57 minutes.

The 28-year-old fired 19 winners to her opponent’s six as she celebrated a first win over the American, having

lost three times this year. Paolini had not won a tour-level main draw match on grass before this year.

“It’s unbelievable, it’s amazing to get the win in this special court,” said Paolini, the first Italian woman in the Open era to make the last four at Wimbledon.

“I’m so happy to be in the



Jasmine Paolini

semi-final, I don’t know what to say in this moment.

“It’s a dream to be here in this position, to be in the semi-final. I was watching finals when I was a kid, on this court.”

Paolini recovered from 1-2 down in the opening set and never looked back as Navarro was unable to repeat the form that accounted for Grand Slam title winners Naomi Osaka and Coco Gauff in the previous rounds.

Philipsen bosses sprint on Tour de France ‘mental rest day’

● **Team-mate Van der Poel guides Philipsen to victory**

● **Philipsen hits 75km/h in final sprint**

● **Pogacar holds 33-second overall lead**

AFP | Saint-Amand-Montrond

Belgian Jasper Philipsen won a mass sprint ahead of Eritrean Biniam Girmay on a flat 10th stage he described as a “mental rest day” in the Tour de France = yesterday.

Tellingly there was no escape from the peloton after riders had their first actual rest day on Monday, and while the pace was slow the final sprint on the 187.3km ride south from Orleans was explosive.

Last year’s green jersey winner Philipsen won by a clear margin to close the gap on current occupant Girmay, who has 267 points to the Alpecin rider’s 193.

Philipsen, 26, was guided to



Alpecin-Deceuninck team’s Belgian rider Jasper Philipsen (C) cycles past the finish line

victory by team-mate and world road race champion Mathieu van der Poel.

“When you have a world champion to lead you out in your Tour de France sprint it is magnificent,” said Philipsen after hitting a speed of 75km/h (46.6 mph).

“He managed to do exactly what we wanted. It’s something special, all credit to him,” he said of Van der Poel, who will be one of the favourites for the Olympic road race in Paris next month.

After Monday’s day without racing, the 172 remaining riders embarked from the city of Orleans past the statue of Jeanne d’Arc and the historic city’s giant cathedral.

“It was maybe a mental rest day,” Philipsen said apologetically.

“There was a bit of joking and riders chatting with friends,” he added.

Low balmy skies and a temperature of 28 degrees Celsius (82 degrees Fahrenheit) persuaded the bunch to pace them-



selves across the vast wheat plains to the south of Orleans.

It was slow enough for Briton Tom Pidcock to unwrap a sandwich from silver foil, while beside him Pavel Sivakov spotted the open door of a camping car and gracefully launched his water bottle through it.

Before Wednesday’s potentially explosive stage, man-to-beat Tadej Pogacar protected his 33-second overall lead over Remco Evenepoel with defending champion Jonas Vingegaard at 1min 15sec in third.

“Tomorrow will be full gas (very fast),” predicted yesterday’s winner.

England skipper Stokes says Ashes countdown behind Anderson axe



James Anderson in action (file photo)

AFP | London

England captain Ben Stokes said yesterday the need to build a side capable of winning an Ashes series in Australia lay behind the decision to call time on James Anderson’s extraordinary Test career.

The 2025/26 Ashes may still be some 18 months away but England are determined to field a pace attack both experienced and fit enough to withstand the strain of a five-match series in Australia.

As a result, the first Test between England and the West Indies at Lord’s starting on Wednesday, will mark 41-year-old paceman Anderson’s 188th and final appearance in the five-day game after a record-breaking career spanning two decades.

No fast bowler has taken more than Anderson’s 700 Test wickets and only India batting hero Sachin Tendulkar has played more matches at this level.

England have also dropped

“Look at where we’ve got to go in 18 months’ time, to Australia. We want to win that urn back. We don’t want to be standing still. I want to keep making this team push themselves as hard as they possibly can”

BEN STOKES

Jonny Bairstow after exactly 100 caps and left out Ben Foakes as well, with debutant Jamie Smith now installed as wicketkeeper.

Fast bowler Gus Atkinson, a Surrey team-mate of Smith, will also be making his Test debut this week, with rising star Shoaib Bashir chosen as England’s first-choice spinner instead of the more experienced Jack Leach.

England last won the Ashes in 2015 and haven’t triumphed in Australia since 2010/11.

West Indies captain Brathwaite urges debutant Louis to ‘think big’ against England

AFP | London

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite has encouraged debutant Mikyle Louis to put no limits on his ambitions ahead of facing England at Lord’s.

Louis, a 23-year-old batsman, will become the first cricketer from his home island of St Kitts



Kraigg Brathwaite in action (file photo)

to represent the West Indies in their 96 years in Test cricket when the series opener at Lord’s starts on Wednesday.

He joins a largely novice top order where Kirk McKenzie, Alick Athanaze and Kavem Hodge have just nine caps between them.

But Brathwaite, very much the senior player in the side

ahead of his 90th Test, urged his team-mates to avoid being overawed at the ‘Home of Cricket’.

“Mikyle is a nice guy, a very joyful spirit. I know he’ll do extremely well, playing international cricket for many years,” Brathwaite, 31, told a pre-match press conference at Lord’s yesterday as he announced his side.