

Bahrain book qualification berth

Kingdom's senior national futsal team beat Brunei to secure place in AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 | P12

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THE DAILY **tribune**



Gwyneth Paltrow still processing 'weird' ski trial

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US-China ties would impact 'destiny of mankind', says Xi

AFP | Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping said yesterday that China-US ties would impact the "destiny of mankind", as he met with a group of American senators in Beijing.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is the latest high-level US official to go to China as Washington seeks to ease tensions with Beijing, leading a six-person delegation.

"How China and the United States get along with each other in the face of a world of change and turmoil will determine the future and destiny of mankind," Xi said as he met with Schumer at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

Vietnam linked to 'spy campaign' around the world

AFP | Paris

Vietnamese agents may be behind a global spyware campaign targeting officials, civil society and journalists around the world using EU-made malware, Amnesty International said yesterday.

The NGO detailed in a report how a Vietnam-linked account on Twitter, now X, tried to infect the phones of dozens of people and institutions - including overseas Vietnamese journalists, EU and US officials and Taiwanese President Tsai Ingwen - with malware called Predator.

Amnesty has worked with media outlets and cybersecurity experts to investigate the Predator software, which is marketed by an alliance of companies with French and Israeli connections and bases across Europe.

Elephant killed, eaten in Congo

AFP | Goma, DR Congo

An elephant that escaped Virunga National Park in volatile eastern DR Congo was slaughtered and eaten yesterday, the conservation authority and a local resident said.

Two elephants escaped yesterday, the ICCN explained, and unidentified armed men killed one.

HRH Prince Salman visits BDF General Command



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, yesterday visited the General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF). HRH Prince Salman was received by the Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Defence, HE Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, the BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, and other senior officers. (Full report on Page 2)

King's Visionary Plans Praised

Cabinet urges protection of civilians and de-escalation in Gaza conflict



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet emphasised the significance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's address during the opening ceremony of the second session of the sixth legislative term of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives.

The address outlines HM the King's visionary plans for the next phase of development and the national contributions expected.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet affirmed that the King's Royal Orders are the foundation for government work and it is honoured to implement them.

It affirmed that the plan to preserve the historical and cultural identity of Bahrain's buildings and cities and to launch the Muharraq City Development Plan will be implemented immediately, as per the Royal Order.

diately, as per the Royal Order.

Top priority

The Cabinet noted that civilians' protection should be a top priority in light of the current developments in the Gaza Strip between Palestinian factions and Israeli forces, calling for de-escalation and adherence to

international humanitarian law.

The Cabinet emphasised the international community's responsibility in ending the armed conflict and protecting civilian lives.

It stressed the importance of supporting the peace process and reaching a diplomatic solution through negotiations to bring forth a two-state solution.

Death toll hits 560

Bahrain calls for end to Israel-Palestine fighting

TDT | Manama

Death toll in Gaza climbed to 560 yesterday as Israel pounded the Palestinian enclave for the third consecutive day, even as leaders of Western and Arab nations announced separate meetings to discuss the crisis.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday called for the protection of civilians and the immediate cessation of fighting between Hamas and Israeli forces.

Highlighting that the attacks

by Hamas constitute a dangerous escalation that threatens the lives of civilians, the Ministry expressed regret for the loss of life and destruction of property and offered condolences to the families of the victims and wished a swift recovery for the injured.

Through the statement, the Ministry affirmed the Kingdom's denunciation of the reported kidnappings of civilians from their homes to be taken as hostages and called calling for the de-escalation of the violence that threatens regional security



A fireball erupts during Israeli bombardment of Gaza City yesterday. (AFP)

ty and stability, noting the dire consequences this conflict will

Further, the Ministry called

upon the international community to fulfil its responsibilities by intervening to stop the armed conflict, to protect civilians under international humanitarian laws, and to make further efforts to achieve peace, stability and security for all the peoples of the region.

The Ministry affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain supports the peace process and advocates for reaching a diplomatic solution through negotiations to bring forth a two-state solution in alignment with other international legitimacy resolutions.

HRH Prince Salman hails BDF for protecting Kingdom

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, lauded the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) personnel's pivotal role in protecting the Kingdom's and citizens' interests and in safeguarding the comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

HRH Prince Salman also commended the BDF personnel's courage, bravery, and steadfast determination to uphold the Kingdom's honourable values,



adding that the sacrifices of fallen servicemen will remain etched in the country's history.

This came as His Royal Highness visited yesterday the General Command of the BDF.



HRH Prince Salman holds talks with senior BDF officials during his visit to the General Command

He was received by the Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Defence, HE Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, the BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, and other senior officers.

His Royal Highness highlighted that the efforts of the BDF's loyal personnel, as part of Team Bahrain, are appreciated by all, and have, alongside various allies, contributed to the region's security and stability.

The Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces was briefed on the BDF's current and

future development plans and programmes that further combat readiness efficiency.

HRH Prince Salman extended his gratitude to the members of the BDF, for their sacrifices and loyal service, which has safeguarded the Kingdom's sovereignty, development, and wide-ranging achievements.

Royal call for cooperation

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlights executive and legislative authorities' key role in supporting development

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has emphasised the need to strengthen cooperation between the ex-

ecutive and legislative authorities to fulfill the Kingdom of Bahrain's goals and aspirations.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, HE Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, and the

Chairman of the Shura Council, HE Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, at Gudaibiya Palace.

His Royal Highness highlighted the importance of the address given by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during the opening ceremony of the second



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with Speaker Al Musallam and Chairman Al Saleh

session of the sixth legislative term of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, which was held under HM the King's patronage. The address outlined His Majesty's visions for the next phase of the Kingdom's development and national contributions.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the efforts of the legislative authority in supporting the Kingdom's development.

He wished success for the

legislative authority, expressing his aspirations that the second session of the sixth legislative term of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives will add to the Kingdom's development achievements.

His Royal Highness noted the role of Team Bahrain in supporting the visions of HM the King and in furthering accomplishments that will benefit all.

Commitment

Speaker Al Musallam and

Chairman Al Saleh expressed their appreciation for His Royal Highness's commitment to strengthening cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities.

They affirmed their commitment to serving the Kingdom and its citizens.

The Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, HE General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, along with other senior officials, also attended the meeting.

Turkey and Bahrain aim to strengthen business relations with trade mission

Ashen Tharaka
TDI | Manama

The Turkish Embassy in Manama has announced a series of programs to strengthen business partnerships with Bahrain, including the Turkish Trade Mission to Manama program, which was officially announced at a press conference held at the Turkish Embassy in Manama in the presence of the Turkish Ambassador and the Bahraini business community.

As part of this trade mission, the embassy has organised a B2B meeting tomorrow 11 at the InterContinental Hotel in Bahrain, which will be headed by a special delegation from Turkey.

The main agenda of this one-to-one meeting is to explore business opportunities, collaboration, and joint venture possibilities to fulfill these demands and further develop trade relations between Turkey and Bahrain.

A delegation of over 15 Turk-



From left, Ahlam Yusuf Janahi, President of Bahrain Businesswomen's Society, H.E. Esen Cakil, Turkish Ambassador to Bahrain, Ahmed Abdulla Binhindi, Chairman of Bahrain Businessmen's Association, Seyma Demirhan, Embassy's Commercial Counsellor

ish companies will be in Manama to meet and establish ties with interested companies in Bahrain.

H.E. Esen Cakil, Turkish Ambassador to Bahrain, said that "the meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for Bahraini companies interested in trading with Turkey and this will strengthen the economic ties between the two countries."

Construction, iron and steel products, furniture and carpets, household goods, ceramics and porcelain products, food, dry

food, fresh food and vegetables, personal care, insurance and cleaning products, packaging, machinery and spare parts, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, textile, equipment, garments and raw materials, information, communication and cloud computing services will be discussed at the meetings.

In addition, education consultancy, investment consultancy, foreign trade, tax and finance consultancy, and generous payments will also be highlighted in these meetings.

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Unlocking potential of technology and profound impact on society

Bahrain International e-Government Forum explores AI's role in shaping social network

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

The 10th edition of the Bahrain International e-Government Forum, a significant gathering focused on technology and innovation, commenced yesterday at the Bahrain Exhibition World, Shakhir.

This year's forum, themed around the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping our social network, promises to delve into the dynamic world of technology and its profound impact on society.

Renowned speakers and experts from various fields have come together to share their insights, experiences, and visions regarding the transformative power of AI.

Among them, Ms. Nina Schick, an author, entrepreneur, and specialised advisor in Generative AI, shed light on the intriguing concept of intelligent meets social ethicist. She emphasised the growing attention AI and generative AI have been receiving recently.

Novel approach

Ms. Schick delineated the distinction between traditional AI and generative AI, explaining

that while traditional AI is primarily concerned with labeling or characterising existing data, generative AI is focused on creating new data. This novel approach to AI can be applied to any human creator or intelligent endeavor, opening up a world of possibilities.

"To give a quick example of the fast-moving AI landscape, foundational models have emerged. These models, trained on massive datasets encompassing the entirety of the internet, possess general-purpose capabilities and can be fine-tuned for multiple tasks. Humans are now their new programming language, meaning we can ask them to do anything, and they will deliver," Ms. Schick explained.

She further pointed out the transformative potential of AI in the realm of social media, stating that AI-generated content is poised to revolutionize our online experiences. However, this also poses a challenge when it comes to information integrity. With the increasing prevalence of AI-generated content, it becomes difficult to discern what is real and what is AI-generated.

Emotional content

Another distinguished pan-



"To give a quick example of the fast-moving AI landscape, foundational models have emerged. These models, trained on massive datasets encompassing the entirety of the internet, possess general-purpose capabilities and can be fine-tuned for multiple tasks."

- MS. NINA SCHICK, SPECIALISED ADVISOR IN GENERATIVE AI



"While having powerful technology is undoubtedly a great advantage, it also comes with great responsibility. With AI, we can comprehend societal expectations and address them effectively."

- MR. PAUL KELLY, CEO OF SILA INSIGHTS BASED IN DUBAI



"To keep up with the ever-evolving trends in social media, companies must hire younger individuals who are well-versed in the latest advancements. By embracing this approach, organisations can effectively navigate the landscape of social media and connect with their audiences more efficiently."

- MR. ALI SABKAR, GLOBAL CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA CLUB INC.

abilities, organisations can gain valuable insights into individual preferences and backgrounds, enabling them to deliver tailored services.

"While having powerful technology is undoubtedly a great advantage, it also comes with great responsibility. With AI, we can comprehend societal expectations and address them effectively.

"It's not just about delivering content on social media or running campaigns; it's about understanding and serving the needs of residents. By analysing trends, identifying driving forces, and assessing the perception of daily life, we can adapt to changing labour forces and create meaningful change," Mr. Kelly stated.

Enhancing communication

Lastly, Mr. Ali Sabkar, Global Chairman of the Social Media Club Inc., emphasised that AI has the potential to enhance communication not only for governments but also for all organisations seeking to engage with their target audiences.

He highlighted the fact that around 60 to 70 percent of social media users belong to the younger generation.

eGovernment Excellence Award honors public, private and citizen sector leaders



All awardees with H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa

Outstanding achievements in digital transformation

Bahrain's commitment to inclusive AI development

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain government has identified more than a hundred fields in which to extend artificial intelligence (AI) for the digital transformation in the future, in preparation for new technologies.

This was stated by H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Information and Communication Technology (MCICT), at the eGovernment

Excellence Award ceremony 2023.

The 12th Edition of the eGovernment Excellence Award ceremony kicked off yesterday at the Exhibition World Bahrain, awarding public and private sectors for their unwavering commitment to the Kingdom.

In his opening remarks, the Minister of Interior emphasised the importance of preparing for the future and embracing new technologies.

He said that "the government has built a strong infrastructure, with 100% internet coverage. This reflects the country's commitment to digital transformation, which includes improving the performance of various entities to increase productivity."

eGovernment Excellence Award

The eGovernment Excellence Award is an annual event that

The winners - public and private sector categories

Best Website

Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning
BENEFIT (Benefit website)
Ministry of Industry and Commerce (Sijilat - The Commercial Registration Portal)
Aluminium Bahrain (Alba Website)

Best Integrated eServices Award

University of Bahrain (eAdmission - online student admission)
Bahrain Airport Services (SAWAED project)

Best Project for Digital Transformation

Ministry of Interior (Police wallet app)
Kalaam Telecom (Enabling

Digital Transformation)

Best Practice in eParticipation Award

Southern Governorate ("Al-junobyah" video call service)
LocalBH (social media account)

Best Work Environment for Digital Innovation Award

Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB Innovation Lab)
STC Bahrain

Best Utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Ministry of Finance and National Economy (ML Sentiment Analysis Tool)
Nasser Vocational Training Center (Green Anode Density Prediction for ALBA)

INFINITEWARE (Labor Law Instant Chat)

Best Applications for Smart Devices Award

Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Traffic (eTraffic Application)
Bahrain Islamic Bank (Bisb Application)
Unipal (Unipal Application)

Citizen Sector Award - Best Digital Initiative Award

Salem Mesifer - Infrastructure Maintenance Initiation Using Artificial Intelligence
Ibtisam Ali | Zainab Gulfam - Abshir App
Asya Ali Habib - Together for a better vision app
Saleh Kadhmed Abdulla - MyBFA / BFA connect

recognises and rewards the outstanding achievements of public and private sector organisations in Bahrain in the field of eGovernment.

Middle East AI market to reach \$8.4 billion by 2026

The Middle East is poised to become a major player in the global artificial intelligence (AI) market, with its size expected to grow from \$500 million today to \$8.4 billion by 2026.

This rapid growth is being driven by a number of factors, including government investment in AI, the growing adoption of AI by businesses, and the region's unique position as a bridge between East and West.

"This is a tremendously important imperative, I would say, for the region, and ultimately one that comes with economic costs and geopolitical costs," GenAI expert Nina Schick said.

'Zero tolerance' for violators

Labour market crackdown: Over 100 irregular workers referred for legal action

● **LMRA's sustained joint inspection campaign uncovers labour market violations**

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has conducted an extensive inspection campaign in Bahrain's Capital Governorate, resulting in the referral of over 100 irregular workers for legal action.

The campaign was carried out in collaboration with the Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs (NPRA) and the Governorate's Police Directorate.

The LMRA emphasised the importance of joint coordination with government agencies to intensify inspection campaigns across all governorates and address practices that negatively impact the labour market's stability and competitiveness.

The authority stated that there will be no tolerance for violators and those who engage with them, with full legal rights always being ensured.

Noura Isa Mubarak, the Acting Deputy CEO for the Enforcement and Protection Sector at the LMRA, highlighted that pre-



LMRA personnel check the labour and residence status of an expatriate

serving the labour market is a shared responsibility between government agencies and society.

The government and its various agencies are committed to combating irregular employment and protecting the labour market's components, recognising that this effort requires the support of society.

LMRA Law and Residence Law

Marzouq Abdul Karim Salem, Acting Director of the Labour Inspection Department at the LMRA, explained that the campaign in the Capital Governorate resulted in monitoring various



violations and referring more than 100 irregular workers for legal action, in accordance with the LMRA Law and the Residence Law in Bahrain.

Salem emphasised the importance of employers and workers



“Preserving the labour market is a shared responsibility between government agencies and society.”

- NOURA ISA MUBARAK, THE ACTING DEPUTY CEO FOR THE ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION SECTOR AT THE LMRA

adhering to the regulations and laws in the Kingdom.

He highlighted that the Labour Market Law mandates foreign workers to practice work at the designated workplace mentioned in their permit or at

other branches of the employer engaged in the same activity. Additionally, employers are prohibited from hiring foreign workers without obtaining the necessary work permit and paying the required fees.

Salem expressed gratitude to all the authorities involved in the investigation, monitoring, and inspection processes.

He stressed the collaborative efforts of government agencies in improving the work environment, creating an organised labour market that is flexible and efficient, and ensuring the protection of the community from any negative implications.

The LMRA has renewed its call to all members of society,



“It is important for employers and workers to adhere to the regulations and laws in the Kingdom.”

- MARZOUQ ABDUL KARIM SALEM, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE LABOUR INSPECTION DEPARTMENT AT LMRA

urging them to support the government's initiatives in addressing illegal practices in the labor market.

They are encouraging individuals to report any complaints related to labour market violations and irregular employment through the official LMRA website, the Authority's call center, or the National Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul).

NBR conducts 164 inspection visits

TDT | Manama

The National Bureau of Revenue (NBR) has conducted 164 inspection visits within the local markets of the governorates of Bahrain during September.

The campaigns resulted in reporting 28 violations that required the imposition of administrative fines in accordance with the VAT & Excise Law, in addition to monitoring several suspicions of VAT and excise evasion that may require the precautionary closing of several businesses.

Accordingly, the NBR will take legal action against the

violating businesses and refer those who are proven to have committed one of the evasion crimes to the competent authorities to initiate a criminal case against them, which may be punishable by imprisonment for five years and a fine equivalent to three times the amount of VAT due according to the VAT law, or by imprisonment for one year and a fine equivalent to double the evaded excise according to the Excise law.

The campaigns were organised as part of NBR's oversight efforts to protect consumer rights and enhance the level of business compliance.

Computer shop employee jailed for stealing BD26,000 from customer

TDT | Manama

An employee at a phone and computer shop has been sentenced to five years in prison in absentia after he stole BD26,000 from a customer.

The employee gained access to the customer's bank accounts through financial applications on the customer's phone and stole the amount before fleeing Bahrain.

The victim had visited the shop and asked the employee to download a banking transaction application on his mobile phone. The employee downloaded the application and asked the victim for his bank card details and



Image used for illustrative purposes only

PIN, but the victim later discovered that he did not receive any SMS notifications from the bank.

Upon checking with the bank, he realised that large sums of money had been withdrawn from his account over a period

of two months, totalling approximately BD26,000. The victim filed a criminal complaint and investigations confirmed that the employee had downloaded the victim's bank card details through the

banking transaction application and transferred BD15,871 to his own bank account. The remaining amount was transferred to other bank accounts belonging to individuals who were unaware of the employee's actions.

It was discovered that the employee had purchased goods from these individuals using the stolen money. The owner of the shop stated that the employee had been hired as a sales representative from 2018 until 2022 with a monthly salary of BD150, and he discovered that the employee had left Bahrain without his knowledge. He also stole mobile phones and cash money from it before fleeing.

Health Ministry, IAEA hold training workshop



Participants at the event

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), organised a training workshop entitled "Health Laboratory Quality".

It was presented by Dr. Ateeq ur Rehman Memon, Quality Expert and Director General at

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) at the Ministry of Science and Technology in Islamabad.

The workshop covered the basics of quality management in medical and food laboratories and the technical requirements for ISO accreditation.

The Ministry of Health said these training workshops aim

to enhance quality management in health laboratories and to develop national capabilities to provide the best diagnostic and monitoring services to enhance health security for citizens and residents of Bahrain.

The workshop came within the framework of the joint project between the ministry and IAEA.

Stage set for 28th Bahrain Holy Quran Grand Prize

TDT | Manama

The Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry

announced the registration for the 28th edition of the Bahrain Holy Quran Grand Prize.

The ministry invited those

wishing to participate in the award to register on the website www.islam.gov.bh before the end of October.

Dinner for Bahraini students



Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Bahraini Ambassador to the United Kingdom, hosted a dinner for Bahraini students studying in the city of Liverpool. The event was attended by Manaa Al Manaa the Cultural Attache at the Embassy in the UK, and a number of students from various academic levels. The ambassador praised student scholars' efforts and encouraged their continued dedication to education, highlighting its positive impact on future career paths and personal lives.

Mumtalakat names Khalild Al Rumaihi Alba Chairman

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) announced the appointment of Khalild Al Rumaihi as Chairman of Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), a Mumtalakat local portfolio company.

With his extensive industry knowledge and expertise, Al Rumaihi is well-equipped to steer Alba's continued growth and success to further solidify its position as an industry leader.

Mumtalakat extends its gratitude to Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa for his invaluable contributions during his tenure as Chairman of Alba. His dedication and leadership have played a pivotal role in



Khalild Al Rumaihi shaping Alba's achievements and growth. Presently, Al Rumaihi is the Executive Chairman of Amriya Group. Before his current role, he held the position of Chief Executive Officer at Mumtalakat, from September 2019 to

April 2023.

Al Rumaihi also served as the Chief Executive of Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) for five years. Prior to his tenure at the EDB, Al Rumaihi held the position of Managing Director at Investcorp and was a member of the Management Committee and Head of the Institutional Placement Team covering Investcorp's clients in the Arabian Gulf. This was preceded by a 9 year term in J.P. Morgan as head of its private client group in the Gulf region. Al Rumaihi holds a Masters degree in Public Policy specialising in Economic Development from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

GFH's ratings are affirmed by Capital Intelligence

TDT | Manama

GFH Financial Group yesterday announced that Capital Intelligence Ratings (CI Ratings or CI) has affirmed its Long-Term Foreign Currency Rating (LT FCR) and Short-Term Foreign Currency Rating (ST FCR) at 'BB-' and 'B', respectively, with Outlook on the LT FCR remaining Stable.

According to CI, the ratings remain underpinned by the Group's adequate liquidity and low refinancing risk, as well as reasonable geographical diversification of assets and business lines, reflecting the successful execution of its strategy. An additional credit strength, according to CI, is the consistently satisfactory ROAA and revenue generation during 2020-22 delivered by GFH despite difficult operating conditions.

In affirming the Group's ratings, CI noted that GFH is a well-managed institution that has built a successful GCC-based business franchise. This is said to be the culmination of management's strategic objective to transform GFH from a purely Islamic investment bank into a fully integrated Sharia'a compliant financial group. In turn, both total assets

GFH, according to CI, has continued to focus on improving balance sheet liquidity by decisively expanding treasury and money market activities with resulting improved liquidity noted as a credit strength.

and funding have significantly grown over the past four years, including at the retail bank subsidiary Khaleeji Bank (KB) in Bahrain. CI also highlighted that balance sheet expansion was in part driven by the launch of new business segments such as treasury.

GFH, according to CI, has continued to focus on improving balance sheet liquidity by decisively expanding treasury and money market activities with resulting improved liquidity noted as a credit strength.

Finally, the report noted that GFH remains a relatively steady performer, generating a reasonable net profit and ROAA and revenue from commercial banking and treasury activities which are noted to have a beneficial impact on recurring income.

Tamkeen Supports Employment and Training of 130 Bahrainis in KPMG's Low-Code Center of Excellence

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund, Tamkeen announced a partnership agreement with KPMG to employ and train Bahrainis at KPMG's Low-Code Center of Excellence, which is the first-of-its-kind in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

A total of 130 Bahrainis will be employed and trained over the next five years in Low-Code development approaches and methods enabling them to efficiently develop digital solutions and applications. The training will focus on technologies that allow organizations to develop, deploy, and manage websites



Officials signing the deal

and applications without the need to write extensive code. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), said: "This program will develop the capabilities of Bahraini talent, equipping them with new and emerg-

ing skillsets that will help them adapt with the rapidly changing digital world, and compete and excel on regional and global levels."

Managing Partner, KPMG Bahrain, Jamal Fakhro added: "The governance structure will

ensure that the training of Bahraini employees at the Center of Excellence will be of the highest international standards and will leverage the pool of resources on low-code engagements that international teams are working on".

Partner - Advisory KPMG Bahrain, Manav Prakash added, "This fruitful partnership with Tamkeen is a major step in our joint endeavour to establish a solid base for the low-code development approach in Bahrain, as we work to enhance the skills of new generations of developers and help to drive ICT innovation in the Kingdom."

US bank Citigroup to sell its China retail business to HSBC

New York, United States

US bank Citigroup is to sell its consumer banking business in China to Asia-focused banking giant HSBC.

The deal, which will be finalized in the first half of 2024, will include the transfer of around \$3.6 billion in assets under management and bank deposits to HSBC, Citi said.

Citi's institutional client business in China will not be affected. "We are taking important steps forward in exiting our consumer banking business in China and continue to make progress in our divestitures as part of our strategy to simplify Citi," Titi Cole, Citi's Head of Legacy Franchises, said in the statement.

AUBH, RAK Art Foundation sign MOU for joint development programmes

TDT | Manama

The American University of Bahrain (AUBH) and The RAK Art Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate and nurture collaborations for educational initiatives at AUBH as well as the soon to be launched art space by the RAK Art Foundation called "The Art Station", which will open its doors in early 2024.

A signing ceremony was held at AUBH attended by H.E. Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Founder of the RAK Art Foundation, and AUBH President, Dr. Bradley J. Cook.

This partnership between AUBH and the RAK Art Foundation will encompass a series of programs, collaborations, and events meticulously crafted to elevate the professional growth prospects of AUBH students and faculty. Beyond the university, this partnership will also reach out to Bahrain's creative and arts community, delivering a diverse range of technical and theoretical courses primarily hosted at The Art Station, with select offerings available on the AUBH campus.

This agreement opens doors for AUBH students, regardless of their major, who have a passion



The deal signing

for arts, innovation, or creativity offering them an exciting opportunity to gain hands-on experience through internships at The Art Station. These internships offer invaluable experiences, encompassing activities such as job shadowing, studio management, and opportunities to try their hand at instruction. In addition to this, AUBH's faculty members will share their expertise to enhance the offerings at The Art Station. Faculty members will lead classes and workshops, creating a collaborative effort that not only enriches the academic landscape but also extends the benefits to a broader artistic network. Through The

Art Station's courses, participants will have access to AUBH's faculty members, who nurture a vibrant and supportive creative community.

Founder of the RAK Art Foundation, Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa commented: "By synergizing academic rigor with the realm of artistic expression, this partnership is poised to unlock boundless possibilities for students, faculty, and the creative industry in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

AUBH President Dr. Bradley J. Cook said, "This initiative is in line with our mission to support employment-readiness by preparing students for the competitive job market."

Saudi announces domestic greenhouse gas credit scheme

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia yesterday unveiled a scheme to allow companies to purchase credits offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, part of the Gulf kingdom's stated goal of hitting net-zero emissions by 2060.

The Greenhouse Gas Crediting and Offsetting Mechanism (GCOM), set to launch in early 2024, "aims to increase coop-

eration among national entities seeking to fulfil their climate ambitions by helping to mobilise finance in all sectors for a variety of projects and activities", according to its website.

The initiative was announced at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week, a UN-organised conference hosted in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

It was designed to align with Article 6 of the 2015 Paris

Agreement, which allows countries to cooperate on hitting emissions reduction targets, including by transferring carbon credits. Saudi officials described GCOM as a domestic mechanism, though Maria AlJishi, international policy adviser at the Saudi energy ministry, said it "caters to the possibility or the potential for future international transfers if Saudi Arabia chooses to engage".



GFH Financial Group, in support of breast cancer awareness, yesterday hosted a "Ties of Hope" event at the Harbour Row Promenade. Present were GFH management, staff, members of the medical community, related charitable associations, and media. Addressing attendees was Dr. Amal AlRayes, Consultant General Surgical Oncologist & Breast Surgeon at al Kindi Hospital, who highlighted the importance of the event. A four-meter pink mesh stand, representing the symbol of breast cancer awareness, was then unveiled with those gathered placing the first ribbons on to the structure. The stand will be displayed for the next two weeks and members of the public are encouraged to stop by and place ribbons located on site on the stand. In line with its deep commitment to community health and welfare, for every ribbon placed, GFH will donate an amount to a charity



Reem Al-Qahtani



Amal AlRayes

News in brief

◆ The Council of Europe yesterday awarded its

top rights prize to jailed Turkish philanthropist Osman Kavala, who has come under repeated attack from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Kavala, 66, faced alternating charges that have ranged from espionage and financing the 2013 protests to taking part in a failed 2016 coup against Erdogan. He was arrested in October 2017 and sentenced to life in 2022 for allegedly trying to topple Erdogan's government. "I'm very sad he cannot be with us to receive this prize, this meaningful prize," his wife, Ayse Bugra Kavala, said, accepting the award from Tiny Kox, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.



Turkey's jailed Osman Kavala wins Vaclav Havel rights prize

◆ Sudan and Iran agree to restore ties after 7-year rift



◆ Sudan and Iran agreed yesterday to restore their diplomatic ties seven years after they were severed, the Sudanese foreign ministry said. The two countries "have decided to resume diplomatic relations... following high-level contacts in recent months", the ministry said in a statement. They agreed "to take the necessary steps to reopen their embassies in the near future and to exchange official delegations", the statement added. Iran's ISNA news agency also reported the agreement. "The two governments agreed to develop friendly relations... based on mutual respect for sovereignty, equality, common interests and peaceful coexistence," ISNA said.

◆ An elephant that escaped Virunga National Park in volatile eastern DR Congo was slaughtered and eaten yesterday, the conservation authority and a local resident said. Two elephants escaped on Monday, the ICCN explained, and unidentified armed men killed one. The conservation authority urged an official investigation. According to a resident of the area, locals shared the slaughtered elephant's meat among themselves. The fate of the second elephant was unclear. Despite its vast mineral wealth, the DRC is one of the poorest countries in the world. About two-thirds of the 100 million population live on under \$2.15 a day, according to the World Bank.

Elephant slaughtered and eaten in DR Congo



Claudia Goldin of the US wins Nobel economics prize

Stockholm, Sweden

The Nobel prize in economics was on Monday awarded to American economist Claudia Goldin for her research helping understand the role of women in the labour market.

The Harvard professor, who is the third woman to be awarded the prestigious economics prize, was given the nod "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes," the jury said.

"Her research reveals the causes of change, as well as the main sources of the remaining gender gap," it added in a statement.

Globally, about 50 percent of women participate in the labour market compared to 80 percent of men, but women earn less and are less likely to reach the top of the career ladder, the prize committee noted.

Of all the Nobels, the economics prize has the fewest number of women laureates, with just two previous winners since it was first awarded in 1969 -- Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019.

The jury highlighted that Goldin's work's "provided the first comprehensive account of women's earnings and labour market participation through the centuries."

Last year, the honour went to US economists Douglas Di-



Claudia Goldin

mond and Philip Dybvig together with former Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke for research on banks in times of turmoil.

The economics prize, set up by the Swedish central bank, was the only award absent from the original five created by scientist Alfred Nobel, sometimes earning it the moniker of "false Nobel".

However, just like the other science prizes the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decides the winner and finding candidates follows the same process.

Just like the other Nobels it comes with a gold medal, a diploma and a prize sum of 11 million Swedish kronor (about \$1 million), and laureates receive their prizes from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a lavish prize ceremony in Stockholm.

Israel imposes total siege



The aftermath of an attack on the Supernova music Festival

TDT | agencies

Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip yesterday and cut off the water supply as it kept bombing targets in the crowded Palestinian enclave in response to the Hamas surprise assault it has likened to the 9/11 attacks.

In response, Hamas, in a statement yesterday, said they are on the "verge of a great victory" and is not open to negotiating a prisoner exchange with Israel during hostilities.

"The military operation is still continuing... therefore there is currently no chance for negotiation on the issue of prisoners or anything else," Hossam Badran, a Hamas official, told AFP from Doha.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh issued a video message from Qa-

Nine US citizens confirmed dead Washington, United States

The United States confirmed yesterday the deaths of nine US citizens in the war between Israel and Hamas with more unaccounted for, amid fears they were taken captive.

"At this time, we can confirm the deaths of nine US citizens," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

"We can confirm that there are unaccounted for US citizens, and we are working with our Israeli partners to determine their whereabouts."

tar on Saturday, broadcast on its Al-Aqsa television channel, saying his group was on the "verge of a great victory" and demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Israel has counted over 700 dead and launched a withering barrage of strikes on Gaza that have raised the death toll there

to 560 people.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened that "what Hamas will experience will be difficult and terrible ... We are going to change the Middle East.

"This is only the beginning," he vowed. "We will defeat them with force, enormous force." The skies over Gaza were

More than 123,000 people displaced UN Jerusalem, Undefined

More than 123,000 people have been displaced in the Gaza Strip since the outbreak of the conflict between Palestinian militants and Israel, the United Nations said. "Over 123,538 people, have been internally displaced in Gaza, mostly due to fear, protection concerns and destruction of their homes," said the UN's humanitarian agency. More than 73,000 are sheltering in schools, OCHA said, of which have been designated emergency shelters.

blackened by plumes of smoke from deafening explosions as Hamas kept launching rockets as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where missile defence systems fired and air raid sirens blared.

Hamas claimed yesterday that Israeli air strikes had killed four of the captives. Israel said it had called up

Continuous illegal presence of Armenian



SHAHEEN ABDULLAYEV

On September 19, 2023 due to a terrorist act committed by the Armenian armed forces, six Azerbaijani citizens - two civilians, became victims of a mine terror. It is not the first time that Armenia has committed a terrorist act against Azerbaijan. Since the end of the Second Karabakh War, more than 300 Azerbaijani citizens have become victims of mine terrorism or have been seriously injured.

Throughout the past three years since the signing of this statement, Armenia kept more than ten thousand-strong armed formations equipped with such heavy weaponry as tanks and other armored vehicles, artillery pieces, multiple rocket launchers, mortars, electromagnetic warfare equipment and other types of offensive arms in the territory of Azerbaijan. These illegal armed forces were sustained through direct military technical, logistical and financial support by Armenia, including by abusing the Lachin road, in an attempt to fuel separatism in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan for the purposes of its revanchist policy. The counter-terror measures demonstrated the scale of illegal militarization by Armenia despite the commitment it undertook under the Trilateral Statement to

cease all military activities against Azerbaijan and withdraw its forces from Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territory. In just 24 hours more than 90 military outposts of the illegal formations were taken, 20 combat vehicles, 40 artillery pieces, 30 mortars, 6 electromagnetic warfare (EW) systems, and 2 anti-aircraft missile systems were neutralized. No sovereign state would tolerate such a heavy illegal military presence on its soil. Nor did Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan acted fully within the rights safeguarded under international law and its Constitution to protect safety and security of all its residents. Thus, systematic attempts by Armenia to create a new status-quo of illegal use of force and to sustain a gray zone based on the "Line of Contact logic" in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan was defeated.

Each and every action by Azerbaijan to restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty, including the latest 24 hours counter-terrorism measures, were in line with norms and principles of international law. Azerbaijan has been always committed to protection of civilians and civilian objects within its conducted actions. After all, immediately after the Second Karabakh War, we repeatedly appealed to the Armenian leadership, their patrons abroad, and other parties, expressing our legitimate concern and saying to them that the continued presence of the Armenian armed forces on the territory of Azerbaijan was illegal and should stop. We were saying that the illegal junta should fold up its so-called flag, worth no more than a piece of cloth, and vacate our lands. It is our sovereign right.

After the surrender of the criminal junta, this source of tension, this den of poison, has already been consigned to history. The Armenian population of Karabakh can finally breathe a sigh of relief. The Armenian population of Karabakh are our citizens. Ar-

menian nationalists, war criminals, and the so-called leaders of Armenia and Karabakh took these people hostage and poisoned their brains.

Armenia itself with its brazen and uncorrected disregard to its international obligations made these measures by Azerbaijan unavoidable. Armenia's attempt to accuse Azerbaijan of violating the Trilateral Statement of 10 November 2020 of the leaders of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Armenia is equally baseless. On the contrary, it is Armenia that blatantly disregarded its commitment under the mentioned document with respect to withdrawal of its forces from the territory of Azerbaijan.

The results of anti-terrorist measures will allow to remove the obstacle for peace negotiations. This will create a new reality in the South Caucasus. We must take sure that Armenia does not live with revanchist ideas and they must make sure that we do not claim their territories. We recognize their territorial integrity and we have declared it. We suggest that the future of South Caucasus countries should be based on peace, stability and prosperity. This region has been a place of quarrels, wars and bloody clashes for centuries. Enough already! That day is not far away when Azerbaijan and Armenia will settle the issues between

be affected by the anti-terrorist measures and that the civilian population be protected. We have achieved this by using high-precision weapons. At the same time, civilians felt protected entirely thanks to the professionalism of Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

Our servicemen have shown extraordinary heroism, bravery and professionalism during the anti-terrorist measures. In challenging terrain and despite the presence of fortifications created over the years of engineering works by the enemy, given that the enemy's positions are located on hills and in favorable places, our servicemen once again, showed heroism and professionalism and achieved significant military success in all directions in a short time.

Before the operation, Azerbaijani President gave a strict order to all military units that the Armenian population living in the Karabakh region should not

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The non-fulfillment by Armenia of its obligations on full, immediate withdrawal of its forces from the territory of Azerbaijan had been the reason for the failure of all international negotiations. Azerbaijan more t

680

Al-Hussein (Al-usayn ibn) and his followers killed at Karbala by army of Yazid, the Umayyad caliph, on the way to Kufa



1780

Great Hurricane of 1780 kills 20,000 to 30,000 in the Caribbean, hitting Barbados first. Atlantic's deadliest recorded hurricane.

1871

The Great Chicago Fire is finally extinguished after 3 days, leaving approximately 300 dead, 100,000 homeless, and costing \$222m in damage

1954

Ho Chi Minh enters Hanoi after withdrawal of French troops

as Hamas rules out prisoner swap



Palestinians search for survivors in the refugee camp of Jabalia in the Gaza Strip

in Gaz:

Hamas threatens to kill Israel hostages over Gaza strikes: statement

Moscow, Russia

Hamas threatened yesterday to kill hostages if the Israeli army carried out air strikes without prior warning targeting residents of the Gaza Strip. "Every targeting of our people without warning will be met with the execution of one of the civilian hostages," the Ezzedine al-Qassem Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said in a statement. "The enemy doesn't understand the language of humanity and ethics, so we'll address them in the language that they understand."

in the Gaza Strip. Displaced in the destructiveness, OCHA. A said, some rs.

300,000 army reservists for its "Swords of Iron" campaign, and truck convoys were moving tanks to the south, where its forces had dislodged the last holdout Hamas fighters from embattled towns.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel would impose a "complete siege" on the long blockaded enclave and stressed

what this meant for its 2.3 million people: "No electricity, no food, no water, no gas -- it's all closed." Netanyahu has warned Gaza civilians to get away from all Hamas sites, which he vowed to turn "to rubble".

The United States has pledged "rock solid" support for Israel and said it would send munitions

and military hardware to its key ally and divert an aircraft carrier group to the eastern Mediterranean.

Up to 250 bodies were strewn across the site of a music festival in a Negev desert kibbutz, mostly young people, and charred car wrecks were piled up in a sign of the panicked rush to escape,

while other revellers were feared to be among the hostages.

Israelis have voiced anger at the intelligence failure that blindsided the nation on a Jewish holiday.

The spiralling conflict has sent shock waves around the world amid fears of a wider escalation, sparking a surge in oil prices on fears of tightening supplies.

Israel issued a travel warning for its citizens, especially in the Middle East, after an Egyptian police officer shot dead two Israeli tourists Sunday.

Meanwhile, the EU halted development aid payments to the Palestinians and placed 691 million euros (\$728 million) of support "under review" yesterday.

Egypt boosts diplomacy

Cairo, Egypt

Egypt intensified its push yesterday for diplomatic efforts to de-escalate spiralling violence in Gaza and Israel, his office said, after three days of fighting killed more than 1,200 people.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi spoke with UAE Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, agreeing to "intensify discussions and diplomatic efforts to stop military escalation", Sisi's spokesman said.

On Sunday, Sisi spoke with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, warning of the dangerous "absence of political prospects".

Sisi also spoke on Sunday with Jordan's King Abdullah II, whose country acts as custodian of Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and recognised Israel in 1994.

Since Saturday, Sisi has also spoken with French President Emmanuel Macron, European Council President Charles Michel, and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

military forces in Azerbaijan couldn't go on endlessly

them, sign a peace treaty, and the countries will start working on future cooperation in a trilateral format.

Illegal military presence

The non-fulfillment by Armenia of its obligations on full, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of forces from the territory of Azerbaijan had been the reason for the failure of all international efforts to settle the armed conflict unleashed by Armenia against Azerbaijan more than 30 years ago. Continued illegal military presence of Armenia in sovereign territory of Azerbaijan remained the most serious obstacle to a post-conflict normalization process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as to efforts to reintegrate the ethnic Armenian residents of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan after the signing of the Trilateral Statement on November 10, 2020, under which the conflict was ended and completely new realities emerged in the region. We have consistently and extensively called the attention of all involved international actors to the danger of such an illegal military presence. Unfortunately, acknowledgment of our legitimate concerns behind closed doors was not reflected in practical steps and public messages of our interlocutors. The lack of adequate targeted reaction by internation-

al community to irresponsible warmongering statements and aggressive actions by Armenia, only contributed to this country's sense of impunity and permissiveness that led to more military and political provocations. But, it was a grave miscalculation. At a time when practical implementation of disarmament and demilitarization on the ground starts, accompanied by direct dialogue between Armenian residents and central Azerbaijani officials, the consideration of the situation by international community should correspond to existing realities in order to remain relevant and helpful. On the contrary, one-sided and biased approach driven by shortsighted political considerations or lobby connections, which mostly is at the core of calling this debate at the Reliance on such a course of action failed on several previous occasions. This can only lead to distracting the focus from real process of normalization, which is not in interest of either of Azerbaijan or Armenia, but please the whims of certain outside forces that continue to manipulate existing differences for their own political purposes.

Dialogue and negotiations

Despite all serious challenges stemming from Armenia's destructive position, Azerbaijan once again reaffirms its readiness for a genuine dialogue and

negotiations on the basis of equal and reciprocal respect for each other's legitimate interests. We once again extend our offer of a just, fair and lasting peace to Armenia, notwithstanding the unhealed wounds of its armed aggression against my country, massive devastations of our cities and villages, deliberate desecration of our holy places. We hope this offer by Azerbaijan will finally be reciprocated by this country. On a different track, the Republic of Azerbaijan reaffirms its determination to guarantee the rights of ethnic Armenian residents of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan all rights and freedoms in line with its Constitution and relevant international human rights mechanisms, including those safeguarded for persons belonging to national minorities.

Ethnic minorities

Despite the fact that during almost 30 years of Armenia's military occupation Azerbaijanis, facing massacres and mass atrocities were deprived from all the rights, Azerbaijan has always been committed to safeguard the rights of all the ethnic minorities in its territory, including of Armenians.

In fact, after 24 hours the counter-terror measures have already been ceased, and dialogue on the reintegration of ethnic Armenian residents of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan started in practical terms on the ground. The long overdue meeting of the Special Representative of the Government of Azerbaijan with representatives of Armenian residents took place 21st September in the

city of Yevlakh, Azerbaijan. At the meeting, the special representative assigned by the Government of Azerbaijan for the dialogue with Armenian residents outlined the plans of the Government for reintegration and the issues related to restoration and operation of infrastructures were discussed. In the context of discussion of social and humanitarian matters, and upon the request of the Armenian residents the delivery of fuel for the use of social facilities, such as kindergartens and schools, hospitals, and other emergency services, as well as other humanitarian support measures are expected to be implemented soon by the relevant central Government institutions.

Humanitarian needs

In light of this, practical discussions on the reintegration of ethnic Armenian residents of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan have practically commenced immediately after the counter-terror measures. The Government of Azerbaijan has immediately mobilized its resources to promptly address the humanitarian needs of civilians on the ground. With the instructions of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a working group led by Deputy Prime Minister was established. This group has been tasked with addressing a wide spectrum of issues, including those related to social welfare, humanitarian assistance, economic recovery, and infrastructure rehabilitation in the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan.

Following the request of the

representatives of Armenian residents made at the meeting held in Yevlakh on September 21, fuel and lubricants have been transported to the region, prioritizing kindergartens, emergency medical services and firefighting facilities. Law enforcement structures, as well as representatives of several state institutions dealing with social affairs are on-site delivering first aid and necessary support to the affected Armenian residents.

Rehabilitation

A significant milestone on rehabilitation of critical infrastructure was reached on September 24 when Khankendi was successfully connected to Azerbaijan's electricity network. This achievement has ensured uninterrupted electricity supply from Government resources to ethnic Armenian residents of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan reminds the obligation of all States under the international law on non-interference with internal affairs of other States, not undermining the integration of persons belonging to national minorities or fueling separatism in the territory of neighboring states. Azerbaijan remains open to constructive engagement with all international partners who have genuine interest in peace, stability and well-being in our region.

(The author of this article is Azerbaijani Ambassador to Bahrain residing in Riyadh. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



It's time to end the vicious circle of bloodshed, hatred & polarization in the Middle East. Israel must see its legitimate needs for security materialized, and Palestinians must see a clear perspective for the establishment of their own state realized.

@antonioguterres

02



Had an excellent meeting with President @SuluhuSamia. We reviewed the full range of India-Tanzania relations and have elevated our time-tested relation to a Strategic Partnership. The areas of our discussion included trade, commerce and people-to-people linkages.

@narendramodi

03



The real fight is not between right and left, but rather between humanists and extinctionists.

@elonmusk

04



Fifteen American technology companies have already answered my call to voluntarily implement commitments that ensure AI technology is safe, secure, and trustworthy before it's released to the public.

@POTUS

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

celebs



Gwyneth Paltrow still processing 'weird' ski trial

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Gwyneth Paltrow has still not fully processed her "weird" ski trial.

The 50-year-old 'Sliding Doors' star was sued by Terry Sanderson for \$300,000 over a 2016 collision on the slopes at a resort in Utah while she countersued for costs plus a "symbolic" amount of \$1, and in March a jury in Park City, Utah, found the retired optometrist "100 per cent" at fault for the accident - awarding Paltrow her

\$1 plus legal fees.

Paltrow has now spoken out about the trial, insisting she has still not fully processed what happened and found the whole thing very strange. She told the New York Times: "That whole thing was pretty weird. I don't know that I've even processed it. It was something I felt like I survived. Sometimes in my life, it takes me a long time to look back and process something and understand something."

The actress went on to insist she was baffled when the outfits she wore to court became an online sensation. She added: "I was just getting dressed and

That whole thing was pretty weird. I don't know that I've even processed it. It was something I felt like I survived. Sometimes in my life, it takes me a long time to look back and process something and understand something

GWYNETH PALTROW

going to a pretty intense experience every day. And the sartorial outcome was so weird to me."

After the verdict was reached, Gwyneth took to social media

to note that she was "pleased" with the outcome of the trial. She said in a statement shared on her Instagram Story: "I felt that acquiescing to a false claim

compromised my integrity. "I am pleased with the outcome and I appreciate all of the hard work of Judge Holmberg and the jury, and thank them for their thoughtfulness in handling this case." The Goop founder's comments were echoed in a similar statement released by her legal team. Attorney Steve Owens said: "We are pleased with this unanimous outcome and appreciate the judge and jury's thoughtful handling of the case. Gwyneth has a history of advocating for what she believes in—this situation was no different and she will continue to stand up for what is right."

George Clooney's twins are heavy metal fans

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

George Clooney's twins are "headbangers".

The 62-year-old actor and wife Amal are parents to six-year-old Ella and Alexander and the 'Midnight Sky' star has been introducing the youngsters to rock music, which they have enjoyed a lot.

Amal revealed to 'Access Hollywood': "He's started playing heavy metal music, actually."

George added: "The kids are listening to heavy metal. They're headbangers."

"It's not fully heavy metal. It's just heavy enough that they can bang their heads."

The couple explained the twins are both musical, but insisted it isn't something they have inherited from them.

we're in any way musical. We have no musical talent ... We ruined the gene pool for them."

The family spent the summer in Lake Como and it was revealed in August George and his lawyer wife had been enjoying "taking turns with taking the kids to activities" and embracing a balance in their lives.

A source told Us Weekly: "Amal has a big home office and is working on cases this summer, but both her and George really try to do life the European way and take August off from work."

"They take boat rides, do water spots, have a small group of friends in the area their age they have play

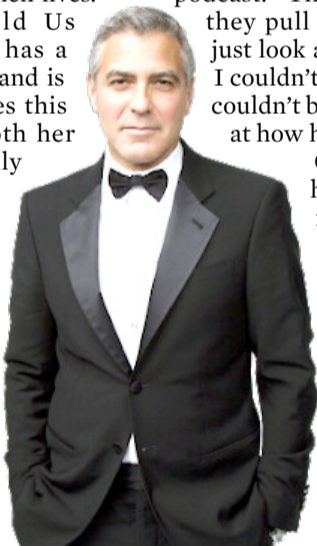
dates with."

The former 'E.R.' actor previously admitted to loving the challenge of fatherhood and even confessed to being "surprised" by his own happiness.

George - who has been married to Amal since 2014 - told the 'WTF with Marc Maron' podcast: "They're funny, and they pull pranks on me. I just look at them thinking, I couldn't be happier and I couldn't be more surprised at how happy I am."

On the other hand, George admitted in 2021 that he was already struggling to keep pace with his kids.

He said: "The hard part is being 60 and just the sheer running around of it."



George Clooney

Chris Rock in talks to direct Martin Luther King Jr. biopic

ANI | Los Angeles

Comedian Chris Rock is likely to direct a film on the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Rock is in final talks to direct and produce the project, with Steven Spielberg on board as executive producer, Variety reported.

Universal Pictures has optioned the rights to adapt Jonathan Eig's critically acclaimed biography 'King: A Life'.

Eig's book has been called the definitive biography of the late civil rights icon.



Chris Rock

'Our call time was 1 in the morning': Bradley Cooper spent five hours in makeup for Maestro

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Bradley Cooper endured a five-hour makeup process to transform into Leonard Bernstein in 'Maestro'.

The 48-year-old actor both stars in and directs the new biopic about the celebrated composer and the Oscar-winning makeup artist Kazu Hiro revealed how he and his team would spend all night applying the cosmetics so he could be behind the camera in character.

Hiro told an audience at the picture's New York Film Festival screening on Monday (02.10.23): "The last stage, he had covered pretty much everywhere, the bodysuit and arms. That took over 5 hours."

"The last stage, the whole time, our call time

was 1 in the morning.

"The other thing was he wanted makeup to be finished before the crew call, so he would appear as Lenny to set up the shoot and everything. That also kind of made our call time two hours earlier than normal, so that was quite tough."

Hiro explained that the length of time Bradley spent in the makeup chair varied as they filmed scenes from across Bernstein's life.

He said: "(We had to) keep adding because as he gets older, we had to add more elements."

The younger stage was the nose and lips and chin and a wig. After the third stage, he started having cheek and neck (additions)." **Bradley Cooper**



Bradley Cooper

Hugh Jackman 'to the lift lid on his life in tell-all memoir'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Hugh Jackman is reportedly putting pen to paper to lift lid on his life in a tell-all memoir.

The 54-year-old Hollywood actor -

who announced his split from wife Deborra-Lee Furness, 67, last month - is now said to be in the early stages of telling his life story in a new book as he moves forward following the end of his 27-year marriage.

An insider told Us Weekly:

"Hugh is currently working on a memoir. He is in the early stages of writing it ... Hugh's choosing to [write the book] now because he's finally [being] honest with himself [and] the divorce and this book is the first step."

The source suggested there

will be "big bombshells", adding: "The content will be Hugh speaking about his life. He'll be opening up about his life like never before. It's been very healing for him."

Hugh and Deborra - who are parents to Oscar, 23, and 18-year-old Ava - confirmed

their split in a joint statement which was released last month.

They told People magazine: "We have been blessed to share almost three decades together as husband and wife in a wonderful, loving marriage."

"Our journey now is shifting and we have decided to separate to pursue our individual growth."

"Our family has been and always will be our highest priority. We undertake this next chapter with gratitude, love, and kindness."



Hugh Jackman

SUDOKU

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

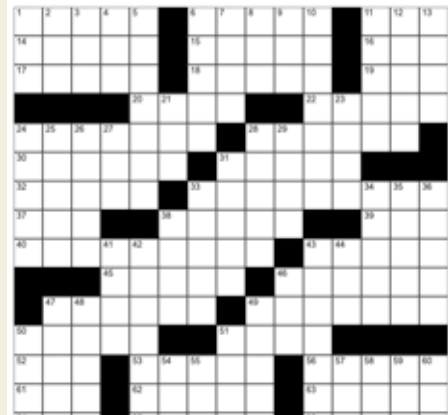
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Strength; 6- Journalist Pyle; 11- Grown elver; 14- Having wings; 15- Main artery; 16- Slugger's stat; 17- Called one's bluff; 18- Browed sliced bread; 19- Simile center; 20- Staff leader?; 22- In search of; 24- Nocturnal carnivore; 28- Large terrestrial monkey; 30- Places of contest; 31- Silk fabric; 32- Give; 33- Versifier; 37- Goddess of dawn in Greek mythology; 38- Trims; 39- That, in Tijuana; 40- Sugar; 43- Left-hand page; 45- Dike, Eunomia and Irene; 46- Talks back to; 47- Talkman; 49- Snake; 50- Garden intruders; 51- ___ impasse; 52- Start of something?; 53- Puccini classic; 56- Little bits; 61- Speck; 62- Chicago's airport; 63- Long-billed sandpiper; 64- Hot tub; 65- Warble; 66- Troy beauty;

Down

1- Mouse's milieu; 2- Pay stub?; 3- Armed conflict; 4- Hot time in Paris; 5- British soldier; 6- Devoured; 7- It's over your head; 8- Heston's org; 9- T.G.I.F. part; 10- OK to consume; 11- One of the Muses; 12- Clamptett player; 13- One telling tales; 21- ___ Lobos; 23- Adversaries; 24- Fads; 25- Shaft shot from a bow; 26- Break off; 27- MSNBC rival; 28- Purchaser; 29- Charity; 31- Trio; 33- Charged; 34- Brief; 35- Ruhr city; 36- Perch; 38- French father; 41- Israel's Barak; 42- Russian novelist; 43- Gloss; 44- Clairvoyant's claim; 46- Multitude; 47- Author of fables; 48- Hostess Perle; 49- Madame de ___; 50- Marries; 51- Plot unit; 54- What have we here?; 55- Blue; 57- United; 58- ___ the cows come home?; 59- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 60- DC bigwig;

Yesterday's solution

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HH Shaikh Isa congratulates Bahrain leadership on Asiad success

TDT | Manama



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of Cabinet Affairs and Vice-President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), offered his warmest congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on the exceptional historical accomplishments of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the 19th Asian Games held recently in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

Bahrain secured an impressive 20 medals, comprising 12 gold, three silver, and five bronze medals, securing ninth place amongst 45 participating countries and securing the top position in the Arab world—a historic milestone for Bahraini sports.

HH Shaikh Isa also extended his heartfelt congratulations to His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the

King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, and His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority, and President of the BOC, in recognition of Bahrain's remarkable achievements on the Asian stage.

HH Shaikh Isa expressed profound gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty the King, the primary supporter of sports in the Kingdom. He also acknowledged the continuous encouragement of sports and athletes by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, underscoring that these achievements align with the vision and endeavors of HH Shaikh Nasser in elevating Bahraini sports.

The positive impact of these efforts is evident in the athletes' numerous prestigious accomplishments across all levels.

These achievements also exemplify the strategy of HH Shaikh Khalid in advancing the sports sector and his active involvement in fostering a spirit of enthusiasm amongst national team athletes, resulting in distinguished achievements.

Alcaraz in, Tsitsipas out of Shanghai Masters final 16

AFP | Shanghai

Shanghai Masters top seed Carlos Alcaraz fought through what he called "one of the toughest matches this year" to make the tournament's final 16 yesterday, beating Britain's Daniel Evans 7-6 (7/1), 6-4.

The Spaniard is the only one of the tournament's top four seeds left after Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece crashed out in a late-night match to France's Ugo Humbert 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Alcaraz' nearly two-and-a-half-hour match was ferociously physical, with 33rd-ranked Evans giving as good as he got, leading at one point by three games in the first set.

But over the course of prolonged and sometimes scrappy rallies that left spectators gasping and groaning, the world number two gradually assumed control, comprehensively winning the first-set tiebreaker.

"That was probably one of the toughest matches I've played this year," said the 20-year-old Alcaraz after the match.

"I tried to stay all the time there, waiting for my opportunities. I had to stay strong mentally, stay strong physically... I'm really happy with the level that I played."

Alcaraz will next play Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov, who earlier overcame a torrential downpour and a well-matched opponent in Russian Karen Khachanov to win 7-6 (8/6), 6-4.

Alcaraz, a two-time Grand Slam winner, is the favourite to take the title in the absence of world number one Novak Djokovic, and is hoping to use his time in China to close the gap on the Serbian at the top of the ATP rankings.

And his pool of main rivals has shrunk as the competition



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning against Britain's Daniel Evans

"That was probably one of the toughest matches I've played this year. I tried to stay all the time there, waiting for my opportunities. I had to stay strong mentally, stay strong physically... I'm really happy with the level that I played"

CARLOS ALCARAZ

has progressed.

Second seed and defending champion Daniil Medvedev was upset by 26th-ranked Sebastian Korda on Sunday and third seed Holger Rune was taken out a round earlier.

Greece's Tsitsipas joined them in the early hours of Tuesday, after a match in which the 25-year-old never really seemed to find consistent form.

The world number six looked

rattled after losing the first set, but regained his composure to answer back with the second.

But as 34th-ranked Humbert drew ahead again in the third, Tsitsipas seemed to lose his cool, talking angrily to himself and hitting a ball high into the air in exasperation.

Humbert held on through a late third-set Greek fightback until Tsitsipas sent the ball into the net at the end of the match-point rally.

"At the end it was a little bit tight, I tried to move a bit in the last two games, and I'm very proud I did it," the Frenchman said.

He will next face American JJ Wolf, a challenge he called "not easy".

Also through to the final 16 is fifth seed and world number seven Andrey Rublev, who took out Humbert's compatriot Adrian Mannarino 6-3, 6-0 in just an hour.

There was more Gallic heartbreak for 19-year-old Arthur Fils, who came from a set down

YOU KNOW WHAT
Alcaraz's pool of main rivals got smaller on Sunday when defending champion Daniil Medvedev suffered a shock defeat at the hands of 26th-ranked American Sebastian Korda

against world number 12 Tommy Paul to win a tiebreaker in the second set.

The players were level at the eighth game in the third, but the American snatched the last two to win 6-4, 6-7 (7/9), 6-4.

Paul and Rublev will meet later in the week.

Jannik Sinner, who knocked Alcaraz out of the China Open semi-finals in Beijing last week, will play the United States' Ben Shelton in Tuesday's evening session.

Wildcard Diego Schwartzman also booked a place in the fourth round, knocking out world number eight Taylor Fritz in a thrilling third-set tiebreaker yesterday.

The diminutive Argentinian has seen his ranking slide from eighth in the world to 130th, but played his best tennis to topple American Fritz 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5).

The rankings and age gaps were hardly noticeable over a three-hour skirmish which saw 31-year-old Schwartzman playing up to the crowd, encouraging them to whoop and cheer for him.

Barca's Kounde set to miss Clasico after knee sprain

AFP | London



Jules Kounde

Barcelona centre-back Jules Kounde is set to miss the Clasico according to Spanish media reports, after the club confirmed yesterday he sprained a knee ligament.

Kounde was substituted in Barcelona's 2-2 draw at Granada in La Liga on Sunday after he fell following a collision with team-mate Gavi.

Reports said Kounde was likely to be out for around a month with the sprain, adding to injuries for Robert Lewandowski, Frenkie de Jong, Pedri and Raphinha.

Barcelona host Real Madrid on October 28 in La Liga, which Kounde is now poised to miss, along with the visit of Athletic Bilbao on October 22 and a Champions League match against Shakhtar Donetsk on October 25.

The centre-back has played in all 11 of Barcelona's game

this season and impressed at centre-back, after being used out of position at right-back for the bulk of the previous campaign.

Kounde will also be unavailable for France in their Euro 2024 qualifier against the Netherlands on Friday and a friendly against Scotland next Tuesday.

France are already without Arsenal defender William Saliba because of a toe injury -- Les Bleus coach Didier Deschamps replaced him with Jean-Clair Todibo on Sunday.

Man City win gives Arsenal belief, says Martinelli

AFP | London

Gabriel Martinelli says Arsenal's inherent belief will be boosted by beating champions Manchester City as Mikel Arteta's men seek to go one step further than last season.

The Gunners looked set to win their first Premier League title in nearly two decades in 2022/23 before Pep Guardiola's side reeled them in to win a third straight title.

But on Sunday Arsenal beat City in the league for the first time since 2015, building on their Community Shield shootout triumph against the treble winners.

Martinelli, introduced as a half-time substitute after three weeks out with a hamstring injury, hit a late winner that de-



Arsenal's Brazilian midfielder #11 Gabriel Martinelli celebrates after scoring

flected in off Nathan Ake to seal a 1-0 victory.

"We know how hard it is to

play against them," the 22-year-old Brazil international said. "It was a great performance

from the team and a great win.

"Of course (it gives us more belief we can win this season's title). We are Arsenal and we are always believing about the title.

"To win against a big side like them is great and we just need to carry on."

Arsenal are unbeaten in eight league matches and are second in the table behind Tottenham on goals scored.

"When you play for Arsenal you have to always believe and this is what we do," Martinelli said, as the club target their first Premier League title since 2004.

"We play for Arsenal and we always believe we can win the titles.

"It's another year. We're going to try to improve things and try to do better than last year."

Santner shines with bat and ball as New Zealand defeat Netherlands

Netherlands faded away in the 323 chase as New Zealand further consolidated their position at the top of the points table

● Mitchell Santner's blistering 36* and 5-wicket haul lead New Zealand to a 99-run win

AFP | Hyderabad

Mitchell Santner played a blistering innings and then took five wickets to guide New Zealand to a convincing 99-run win over the Netherlands in a World Cup match in Hyderabad yesterday.

The 31-year-old left-hander clubbed a 17-ball 36 not out in New Zealand's imposing total of 322-7 before achieving figures of 5-59.

Santner, the first New Zealand spinner to take five wickets in a World Cup match, dominated the Dutch who were bowled out for 223 in 46.3 overs.

The victory gave New Zealand two wins in as many games after crushing title-holders England by nine wickets in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

"We did a great job batting first, built partnerships at the top and the bowlers did a fan-



New Zealand's Mitchell Santner (C) shakes hands with his teammates at the end of the match

tastic job tonight," said Kiwis captain Tom Latham.

Netherlands were never in the hunt in the chase as they lost Vikramjit Singh (12), Max O'Dowd (16) and Bas de Leede (18) in the first 17 overs with just 67 on the board.

Top-scorer Colin Ackermann, with a 73-ball 69, and Teja Nidamanuru (21) added 50 for the fourth wicket but Santner removed Ackermann and skipper Scott Edwards (30) to virtually

end Dutch hopes.

Santner also dismissed Roelof van der Merwe (one) and Ryan Klein (eight) to complete his second five-wicket haul in his 97th ODI.

Fast bowler Matt Henry finished with 3-40 to wrap up the match.

"I was hoping we could keep them to around 280-300 when I won the toss because I do think it gets easier to bat here as the day goes on," said Edwards.

"New Zealand have a disciplined bowling attacking though and they aren't going to let that sort of total be easy for you."

Earlier, opener Will Young, Rachin Ravindra and Latham struck half centuries to anchor New Zealand's innings after they were sent in to bat.

Young scored an 80-ball 70, captain Latham made 53 off 46 balls while Ravindra hit a run-a-ball 51.

In the slog overs, Santner hit two sixes and three boundaries to bolster the total.

Young put on a solid start of 67 after 12 overs with Devon Conway before spinner Van der Merwe broke the stand by getting Conway caught at long-on.

Conway, who made an undefeated 152 against England, hit five boundaries and a six in his 40-ball 32.

Young found another able partner in Ravindra as both took New Zealand to 144 with a stand of 77 before pacer Paul van Meekeren had the opener caught at mid-on.

Mitchell Santner

Scorecard

New Zealand 322 for 7 (Young 70, Latham 53, van der Merwe 2-56) beat Netherlands 223 (Ackermann 69, Santner 5-59, Henry 3-40) by 99 runs



Mitchell Santner became the first New Zealand spinner to achieve a five-wicket haul in a World Cup match, showcasing his exceptional all-round skills and contributing significantly to his team's convincing victory

Van der Merwe struck for a second time when he had Ravindra caught behind.

Ravindra's run-a-ball 51 was spiced with a six and three boundaries and came after his 123 not out against England.

Daryl Mitchell played a solid hand with a quick 47-ball 48 comprising five boundaries and two sixes but fell at the start of the last power-play, bowled by

Van Meekeren.

Mitchell benefitted from a dropped catch on 22 but Glenn Phillips (four) and Mark Chapman (five) were removed quickly, leaving the late fireworks to Santner.

Latham hit six boundaries and a six.

Van Meekeren, Aryan Dutt and Van der Merwe took two wickets apiece.

Pakistan's only double centurion Fakhar faces World Cup axe

AFP | Hyderabad

Pakistan head coach Grant Bradburn insists his team's top-order batting is not a worry but that confidence may not spare Fakhar Zaman, the only man to have scored an ODI double hundred for his country.

Pakistan's openers have endured a miserable last five matches with just 35 as their highest partnership.

There has only been one century stand in the 16 games this year.

Left-hander Fakhar managed just 12 runs in a partnership of 15 with Imam-ul-Haq in Pakistan's 81-run win against the Netherlands in Hyderabad on Friday.

Fakhar, who famously smashed 210 not out against Zimbabwe in 2018, has a best of just 33 in his last 11 innings, a desperate run which followed three successive



Fakhar Zaman during a practice session (file photo)

centuries against New Zealand earlier this year.

For Tuesday's game with Sri Lanka, Fakhar is likely to make way for Abdullah Shafique who hit a half-century when the sides last met at the Asia Cup in Sep-

tember. Sri Lanka won that game by two wickets.

Bradburn still hopes the top-order clicks sooner rather than later.

"Look, we've got full faith in our top order," said New Zealand

Bradburn yesterday.

"They will click at some stage and we're open and honest to say that we're not getting what we would like out of the powerplay

as yet."

Number three and skipper Babar Azam, the world's top-ranked ODI batsman, also failed against the Netherlands with an 18-ball five.

"The top three have scored the majority of our runs in the period before the World Cup," said Bradburn who praised Sri Lanka.

"Sri Lanka are a team that we've become familiar with over recent times and we know they have had the upper hand on us over the last year in white-ball cricket," said Bradburn.

"We respect the skills that Sri Lanka possess and we're really looking forward to taking them on tomorrow."

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan batting coach Naveed Nawaz urged his bowlers to remain positive despite conceding a record World Cup total of 428 against

South Africa in their first match.

"It's going to be batting-friendly pitches mostly so we've got to look at the execution in the game against South Africa and how we could have done better," said Nawaz.

"The guys who got runs, especially Kusal (Mendis), Charith (Asalanka), maybe Dasun (Shanaka), had they gone for a little bit longer, maybe another extra 30, 40 runs by each one of them, that could have got us close."

Mendis cracked eight sixes in his 76 while Asalanka scored 79 and skipper Shanaka 68 as Sri Lanka managed a fighting reply of 326.

"I think Pakistan is quite a strong opposition," said Nawaz.

"We have been playing Pakistan recently, so both teams know quite well about each team's strengths, weaknesses."

India's Gill to miss second World Cup match with dengue fever

AFP | Chennai

India batsman Shubman Gill has not recovered from dengue fever and will miss his team's second World Cup match against Afghanistan, officials said yesterday.

Gill sat out the hosts' six-wicket victory against Australia in Chennai on Sunday and will stay back in the southern Indian city "under the supervision of the medical team".

"Team India batter Shubman Gill will not be travelling with

the team to Delhi on 9th October 2023," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement.

Rohit Sharma's India, one of the favourites to win the World Cup, will face Afghanistan at New Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

The team will then leave for Ahmedabad for the hotly-anticipated fixture against arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday.

Gill's replacement Ishan Khan fell for a duck off Australian pace bowler Mitchell Starc in the game on Sunday.



India's Shubman Gill plays a shot during a practice (file photo)

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His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Bahrain's distinguished sports achievements outcome of royal care: HH Shaikh Nasser

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, has extended deepest congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime

Minister, on the kingdom's historic achievement at the 19th Asian Games, which concluded today in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

HH Shaikh Nasser praised the kingdom's success in ranking ninth in the 45-nation Games, the best in the kingdom's history, after bagging a total of 20 medals, including 12 golds, three silvers and five

bronzes.

HH Shaikh Nasser also congratulated His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sport First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

His Highness hailed the kingdom's success in clinch-

ing 12 gold medals, which is its biggest-ever haul at a single edition, attributing the historic exploit to the constant care of HM the King, support of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and follow-up of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad.

HH Shaikh Nasser paid tribute to Bahrain athletics team's champions for winning 16

medals during the 19th Asian Games, 10 of which were gold, which placed them second in the Asian Games.

He also congratulated Bahraini wrestling and weightlifting champions for winning two gold medals, in addition to the national handball and jujitsu teams for clinching a silver medal each at the same games.

Bahrain book qualification berth

Kingdom's senior national futsal team beat Brunei to secure place in AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024

● Ahmed Abdulnabi, Falah Abbas on target for nationals in first half

● Saleh Sankar, Mohammed Al Sandi, Salman Al Mulla, Jassam Anan score after break

● Bahrain improve to six points from two wins, tie with Kuwait who they face tomorrow

TDT | Manama

Bahrain punched their tickets last night to the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024.

The Kingdom's national futsal team earned their berth with a resounding 6-1 victory over their counterparts from Brunei at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Ahmed Abdulnabi and Falah Abbas were the first goal scorers for the Bahrainis in the first half and they took a slim 2-1 lead into the break.



Bahrain's Mohammed Al Sandi looks to make a play during their game against Brunei yesterday

But in the final 20-minute period, goals from Saleh Sankar, Mohammed Al Sandi, Salman Al Mulla and Jassam Anan helped them secure the big win.

The result was Bahrain's sec-

ond successive win in Group F of the qualification competition. They improved to a maximum six points from their two games played so far and have one last fixture tomorrow against Kuwait.

The clash will decide the Group F winners, who will earn a direct berth in next year's AFC Futsal Asian Cup.

Bahrain and Brunei are in the same pool as Kuwait and Timor-Leste. The qualifiers fea-

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Bahrain's concluding qualifier against Kuwait tomorrow will determine the Group F winners, who earn a direct berth for next year's AFC Futsal Asian Cup. The losers also qualify as one of the seven best runners-up

ture 31 countries in all, divided into eight groups, with each group being hosted at a centralised venue.

In yesterday's other Group F fixture, the Kuwaitis routed Timor-Leste 8-1.

Bahrain's game tomorrow against Kuwait is scheduled for a 6.30pm kick-off at the same venue, with Brunei and Timor-Leste facing off in the earlier game at 4pm.

Tomorrow is the final match day of the qualifiers. The Bahrain Football Association confirmed last night the national teams qualification regardless of tomorrow's results.

After a single round-robin, the eight group winners earn automatic berths in next year's AFC Futsal Asian Cup along with the seven best-ranked runners-up and the host national team.

Bahrain's Brazilian head coach Rafael Fogageiro has a 14-player squad competing.

Bahrain have qualified for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup for only the fourth time in the tournament's history. The hosts of next year's event have yet to be determined.

The nationals previously also played in the 2002, 2018 and 2022 tournaments, with their best finish in the 2018 event in Taiwan where they reached the quarter-finals.

The competition also acts as the qualification for the FIFA Futsal World Cup, with five teams from the AFC booking a berth in the global competition, also to be held next year in September

Cricket proposed for inclusion in 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

AFP | Los Angeles

Cricket could feature in the Olympics for the first time since 1900 after organisers of the 2028 Los Angeles Games yesterday recommended its inclusion.

In a statement, LA28 listed the Twenty20 version of cricket as one of the proposed 'new' sports alongside baseball/softball, flag football -- a non-contact version of American football -- lacrosse and squash.

There is no room though for breakdancing, which will make its Olympic debut at the 2024 Paris Games.

The choice of the sports still needs approval from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Cricket last featured at the 1900 Paris Olympics, when a team from Britain beat a side representing France.

The final choice of which sports are retained for 2028 will be voted on at the IOC Session next Monday in Mumbai, one of the hotbeds of the sport, as India hosts the men's 50-



A general view shows a cricket match at a stadium

over Cricket World Cup.

The International Cricket Council welcomed the decision to propose cricket.

ICC Chairman Greg Barclay said: "We are delighted that LA28 have recommended cricket for inclusion in the Olympics.

"Whilst this is not the final decision, it is a very significant landmark towards seeing cricket at the Olympics for the first time in more than a century."

The ICC's proposal is for men's and women's Twenty20 competitions -- the shortest form of the international game at 20 overs per side.

Muharraq bow out of Arab clubs basketball

● Bahrain representatives lose 95-108 to AS Sale of Morocco in quarter-finals

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Muharraq were yesterday eliminated from the 35th Arab Clubs Basketball Championship in Doha following a 95-108 loss to AS Sale of Morocco in the quarter-finals.

The Bahraini representatives trailed for a majority of the game and tried valiantly to stay in the fight, but their opponents were too good on the day.

Sale now move on to the final four, where will face off with the winner of the all-Egyptian quarter-final clash between Al Ahly and Al Ittihad Alexandria.

The semis are scheduled to be held tomorrow, to be followed by the gold and bronze medal games on Thursday.

Today is a rest day.

Muharraq trailed 21-22 at the end of the first period yesterday



Muharraq's Ali Rabeea is stopped by the Sale defence as he goes for a basket

as American professional Julius Coles Jr was able to bury a baseline three-pointer right before the quarter buzzer.

The Bahrainis then went briefly ahead in the second before Sale fought back and built a double-digit lead, 48-37. Mu-

harraq faced a 41-53 deficit at the half.

Muharraq tried to get back into contention but Sale extended their advantage, going ahead 80-66 heading into the final canto. Coles was able to reduce the gap to 14 prior to the end of the third with a long triple to beat the clock.

In the fourth, Sale closed things out to end Muharraq's hopes of being the first Bahraini club to win the tournament crown.

With yesterday's result, Muharraq's three-game winning streak in the competition was snapped. They had opened their campaign with a loss to defending champions Kuwait Sports Club, but they then had back-to-back wins against Bureij Services of Palestine and Qatar Sports Club to complete the preliminary stage.

Muharraq then defeated Dynamo from Lebanon in the round of 16, setting up their match-up against Sale.

The tournament is being held under the auspices of the Arab Basketball Confederation.