



Ramadan Kareem!



Best wishes and greetings

The Daily Tribune management and staff extend their best wishes and greetings 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, the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Muslim world on the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan today.

Holy month of Ramadan begins today

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The moonsighting committee in the Kingdom Bahrain has announced that today will be the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, based on the sighting of the crescent in Saudi Arabia.

The panel, which included Shaikh Adnan bin Abdulla Al-Qattan, Dr. Shaikh Fareed bin Yacoub Al Meftah, Dr. Ibrahim bin Rashid Al Muraikhi, and Shaikh Rashid bin Hassan Al Bouainain, met yesterday evening at the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA)'s headquarters and said that it had not received any testimonies.

Education Ministry announces revised school day timings

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The Ministry of Education has issued a circular outlining the revised timings of the school day for educational institutions during the holy month of Ramadan.

The school day for all educational levels will commence at 8 a.m. The timing for the primary stage, as well as the primary religious institute, will conclude at 12:25 p.m.

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HM King, HRH Prince Salman exchange Ramadan greetings

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received a cable of congratulations from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on the holy month of Ramadan.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister extended greetings and best wishes to HM the King on the occasion, wishing Bahrain, the Arab and Islamic nations many happy returns.

HM the King responded with

a cable of thanks to HRH Prince Salman, wishing His Royal Highness many happy returns of the holy month.

His Majesty congratulated the people of Bahrain on the occasion of Ramadan, praying to Allah the Almighty that it shall be a month of blessing and grace for the kingdom and all Muslim countries, and hoping that peace, prosperity, security, and stability prevail around the world.

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman received cables of congratulations on the blessed



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

month from senior members of the Royal Family, heads of Rep-

resentatives and Shura councils, ministers, senior officials, dignitaries, members of the Representatives Council, Shura and municipal councils, governors, Bahrain's ambassadors abroad, diplomats, heads of societies and sports associations, clubs and citizens.

They also exchanged Ramadan greetings with the leaders of the GCC, Arab, Islamic and friendly countries.

The royal leadership wished them abundant health and happiness and many happy returns to their countries and peoples.

His Majesty commends Education Trust's achievements

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a report on the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust.

The report was presented to HM the King by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Trust, and members of the board.

It highlighted the Trust's successful projects, scholarship programmes benefiting over 400 Bahraini students, and plans for



HM the King receives the report from HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

financial sustainability through partnerships and investments.

His Majesty expressed thanks to HH Shaikh Isa and the board members for their efforts in advancing the Trust's objectives.

HM King Hamad said their work has significantly enhanced the Trust's societal role, promoted social solidarity, and provided valuable educational opportunities for Bahraini citizens, empowering them to contribute effectively to the nation's comprehensive development process.

He commended the impactful contributions and accomplish-

ments of the Trust over the past decade including the activities and initiatives outlined in the report, which reflect the Trust's dedication to fulfilling its goals and aspirations.

HM the King expressed appreciation for the entities, institutions, and individuals supporting the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Endowment. He said that their support reflected the spirit of unity and generosity in the Bahraini society.

His Majesty wished the Trust's continued success in its endeavors and work.

Ceasefire Elusive

AFP | Jerusalem

Deadly fighting raged in Gaza yesterday between Israeli forces and Hamas fighters, with no truce in sight on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan and a dire humanitarian crisis gripped the besieged Palestinian territory.

A Spanish charity ship with food aid prepared to sail from the Mediterranean island-nation of Cyprus to help alleviate the suffering in the coastal Gaza Strip, now in its sixth month of war.

The non-governmental group Open Arms said its boat would pull a barge with 200 tonnes of food, which its partner the US charity World Central Kitchen would then unload on the shores of Gaza.

Vessel tracking websites showed the Open Arms still in Larnaca yesterday evening. It was expected to depart "in the coming hours", Cypriot government spokesman Konstantinos Letymbiotis said.

With the UN repeatedly warning of famine, the US, Jordanian and other planes again airdropped food aid, but the United Nations aid coordinator for the area has said more supply by



Humanitarian aid being airdropped over the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing conflict. (AFP)

land is the best way to get assistance to territory's 2.4 million people.

The war started by the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel has killed 31,045 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza where vast swathes have been reduced to a bombed-out wasteland.

Weeks of talks involving US,

Qatari and Egyptian mediators have aimed for a six-week truce and the release of many of the roughly 100 hostages Hamas is still holding in return for Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli jails.

There have been no result so far.

Both sides have blamed each other for failing to reach a deal,

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said yesterday the Palestinian group was still open to talks with Israel, after mediators so far failed to secure a Ramadan truce in the Gaza war.

after Israel had demanded a full list of surviving hostages, and Hamas had called for Israel to pull out all its troops from Gaza. Israel's government accused Hamas of "entrenching its positions like someone who is not interested in a deal and is striving to inflame the region during Ramadan".

Women in action, women in sports



HH Shaikha Husna bint Khalid Al Khalifa Zahra Ayaz
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Mrs. Dana Zubari



Mrs. Fajar Al Bin-Ali



Mrs. Eman Hassan



Mrs. Fai Al Asfoor



Mrs. Roba Alomari

In celebration of International Women's Day, a gathering of influential female athletes and sports stakeholders recently convened in Bahrain.

Organised by the French Embassy in partnership with the Royal University for Women and the Bahrain Paralympic Committee, the round-table discussion aimed to address the opportunities and challenges faced by women in sports.

Under the patronage of His Excellency Eric Giraud-Telme, the Ambassador of France, the event welcomed esteemed guests such as Prof. Riyad Y. Hamzah, President of the Royal University for Women, and Mr. Ali Mohamed Al Majed, Secretary General of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee.



"Women's Game", a documentary by Mrs Alexia Vanlaere, a clip was shown during the discussion

Her Highness Shaikha Husna bint Khalid Al Khalifa, a researcher and board member of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), kicked off the conversation by sharing her personal journey.

She acknowledged the limited opportunities for women in football and recounted how she established Bahrain's first women's national football team to create more avenues for female



Participants taking part in a panel discussion

athletes. She stated, "The initial challenges were significant, as societal perceptions often discouraged women from engaging in football. However, over time, we witnessed a positive shift."

Mrs. Dana Zubari, founder of Lettuce Run & Cycling Bees and an athlete herself, emphasized the transformative power of sports in boosting confidence and fostering discipline. She

highlighted, "Setting and achieving goals through sports instills self-assurance and resilience."

Positive impact

Mrs. Fajar Al Bin-Ali, a Taekwondo champion and founder of Sports to Door, expressed gratitude for the positive impact of sports on her life. She credited sports for cultivating healthy habits and providing opportunities for personal development and international competition.

She shared, "Sports enabled me to effectively cope with stress while providing opportunities to travel and compete internationally."

Mrs. Eman Hassan, a

Paralympic Coach, shared her mission to empower girls with disabilities through sports. She highlighted the historical barriers faced by disabled girls and her goal to inspire and raise awareness about inclusivity in sports. She emphasized, "My goal is to bring these children out of their homes, inspire them, and raise awareness about inclusivity in sports."

Personal transformation

Mrs. Fai Al Asfoor, another Paralympic Coach and founder of Run4All, recounted her personal transformation through sports. She stated, "Through running, I discovered newfound confidence and social engage-

ment, and I want to encourage people of all ages, including the elderly and individuals with disabilities, to participate in races and walks."

Mrs. Roba Alomari, a Paralympic Athlete and the first female wheelchair basketball player in the GCC, emphasised the power of determination in overcoming obstacles. She asserted, "Being in a wheelchair should never be an excuse to refrain from sports."

Lastly, Mrs. Alexia Vanlaere, director of the forthcoming documentary "Women's Game," shared her experiences documenting the struggles and success stories of women in sports from around the world.

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CPISP concludes Candidacy Training Program successfully

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The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CPISP) concluded its training for students taking part in the Group 25 Candidacy Program.

The training period comprises part of the selection process for candidates applying for one of CPISP's 10 annual scholarships.

Ava Garbutt, Director of the CPISP, commended the hard work, dedication, and performance demonstrated by students during the candidacy training, which began last

summer in partnership with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF).

During the closing session, Garbutt presented certificates of achievement to the Candidacy Program participants at the BIBF. The candidacy training included courses on academic writing, critical thinking, and leadership.

Students were also given the opportunity to take part in communications development training, which included a Level 3 Certificate in Team Leading certified by the UK-based Chartered Management Institute (CMI), as well as personality

and career path assessments.

As part of the course, CPISP organised guest lectures and panel discussions with qualified professionals on academic, personal development, and career-related topics, as well as IELTS and SAT preparation courses for candidates.

The director affirmed that the final ten scholarship recipients would be selected based on their Grade Point Average, their IELTS and SAT test results, and scores of the leadership training and critical thinking course. Candidates will include students from public schools and private schools.

Capital School Bahrain's new building inaugurated



His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education inaugurated a new building in the Capital School Bahrain. Adel Al Safar, Chairman of Capital School Bahrain, was present. The building is designed to accommodate 1,400 students and has laboratories for advanced chemistry, physics, and biology. The school also has a football field and a basketball court, as well as a multipurpose hall and libraries. Dr. Juma affirmed the ministry's keenness to develop private schools and establish distinct educational institutions, in the light of the educational process, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and followed up by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

False love, true justice

Legal victory as flight attendant reclaims BD28,000 lost to deceptive love story

● Court orders GCC national to repay amount borrowed from victim nine years ago

TDT | Manama



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A GCC national has been ordered by the court to repay BD28,000 to a flight attendant, a sum he had borrowed from her under false pretenses nine years ago. The repayment was ordered after it was revealed that the defendant had deceived her by fabricating a story about his father's illness.

The flight attendant had fallen victim to an elaborate love story spun by the defendant, in which he portrayed himself as a successful businessman with a wealthy family background. He claimed that his father, purportedly his business partner, was battling advanced-stage cancer and urgently needed funds for medical treatment.

Initially captivated by his charm and apparent sincerity, the flight attendant agreed to lend him a total of BD35,000 to support his father's supposed medical expenses and business needs.

Some of the amount was transferred to his bank account in his home country, while the

rest was handed over to him in cash. However, after receiving the funds, the defendant vanished from her life, leaving her to seek legal recourse to recover her money.

The flight attendant, a resident of Bahrain and working in the aviation industry since 2013, filed a lawsuit against the defendant, detailing the events leading to her financial loss. She presented evidence, including telephone conversations and witness testimonies, to support her claims.

Despite objections from the defendant's lawyer, the court ruled in favor of the flight attendant, citing insufficient evidence of repayment by the defendant. Consequently, the court ordered the defendant to repay the plaintiff BD27,936, representing the amount owed, along with associated fees and legal expenses.

Levy Law on Hold

Shura Council puts brakes on infrastructure levy revamp

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council yesterday decided to return a proposal seeking a new criteria for calculation of infrastructure levy for further study by its subcommittee.

Such a decision was taken after considering and discussing the report submitted by the Public Utilities and Environment Committee regarding the proposal to amend the 2015 Infrastructure Levy Law.

Through the proposal, it was suggested that the infrastructure levy should be calculated on the basis of the area where the property is situated, size of the property, the purpose of construction, size of the roads around the property, accessibility to public services and governmental facilities, etc.

While BD12 per square metre was being collected earlier, with



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh presides over the session



BD5.5 for road and sewage services and BD6.5 for electricity and water services, collection of the levy was later suspended in 2022.

During the discussion yesterday, it was pointed out that no controls for estimation have been mentioned in the proposed

law and that it does not take into account the differences between the real estate properties in different regions of the Kingdom.

Following the discussion, the Shura Council decided to return the proposed law to the subcommittee for further study.

Lower Court clears hotel owner of tourism license violation charges

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The Lower Criminal Court acquitted a hotel owner of the charge of relinquishing his tourism license and leasing it to a construction company without obtaining written approval from the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA).

The incident was reported to the Public Prosecution by BTEA, stating that the judicial arrest officer discovered that the hotel owner had signed an agreement with a construction company to manage the hotel he owned without obtaining approval from the authority.

Based on this, the Public Prosecution referred the hotel owner for trial and requested his punishment according to Decree Law No. 15 of 1986 regarding tourism regulation and its amendments, and Decision No. 5 of 2010 regarding the pro-

hibition of internal leasing and relinquishing of tourism services and all its facilities, which carries penalties of imprisonment and fines or one of the two penalties.

The lawyer representing the hotel owner argued that the elements of the violation were absent, noting that the incident took place in June 2023, while the photographic evidence presented was dated September 2021. Furthermore, the contract between the parties had ended, as they were unable to obtain written approval from the authority.

The lawyer also pointed out that the enforcement officer had issued the violation without visiting the hotel, relying on a photocopy of the contract

without presenting the original version or clarifying its source.

Additionally, the accused was not summoned for questioning and confrontation. He stated that in cases where imprisonment is the possible sentence, it is not permissible to assume the incident without verifying its authenticity.

In the reasoning of the acquittal verdict, the court stated that the prosecution relied on a management contract copy that the court did not find convincing as evidence to hold the defendant accountable for the allegations.

After reviewing the lawsuit's facts, circumstances, and details, the court found that the existing evidence in the documents was insufficient to be



The lawyer representing the hotel owner pointed out that the enforcement officer had issued the violation without visiting the hotel.

considered as proof beyond reasonable doubt for convicting the accused. Therefore, the court ruled to acquit the defendant of the charges brought against him.

1,200 Ramadan baskets for needy Bahraini families

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The Northern Governorate continues to receive generous donations in the form of Ramadan baskets, with 1,200 baskets recently provided by esteemed benefactors from across the kingdom.

Among the contributors are the Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Company, the Mohammed Jameel Bin Mansour Al-Arayedh Foundation, Al-Jinan Medical Center, the Amfa Company, Al-Uhra Markets, and the Rotary Club of Manama.

These contributions come as part of the governorate's

ongoing efforts to support Bahraini families, especially those with limited income and in need, during the holy month of Ramadan.

The initiative aligns with the governorate's mission to foster partnership and solidarity within the community under the slogan "Ramadan is partnership and solidarity."

His Excellency Mr. Ali bin Shaikh Abdul Hussein Al-Asfour, Governor of the Northern Governorate, commended the collaborative efforts of various institutions in Bahrain aimed at uplifting vulnerable families.

Import company owner acquitted in vape pen tax case

TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court acquitted the owner of an import company of possessing and importing approximately 500,000 vape pens into the Kingdom of Bahrain while evading tax payment amounting to BD1 million.

The prosecution referred him to criminal trial and requested that he be penalised according to the provisions of the Excise Tax Law.

The defendant's lawyer argued that the materials used in vape pens are not subject to the Excise Tax Law, pointing out that the law imposes taxes on excise goods at a rate of 100% for tobacco, 50% for carbonated beverages and 100% for energy



Image used for illustrative purposes only

drinks. A vape pen does not contain tobacco in any of its types, forms or derivatives as defined

by the law. As such, it is not subject to the tax.

In his defence memorandum,



The defendant's lawyer stated that the Excise Tax Law is limited to tobacco smoked in shisha, namely mu'assal, which consists of a mixture of tobacco and glycerol, containing essential oils, extracts, molasses or fruit flavours.

the defendant's lawyer stated that the Excise Tax Law is limited to tobacco smoked in shisha, namely mu'assal, which consists of a mixture of tobacco and glycerol, containing essential oils, extracts, molasses or fruit flavours.

The law defines tobacco as tobacco plants of all types, species, and parts, including roots, stems, leaves, fruits, and green or dried seeds, in addition to products that consist wholly or partly of tobacco leaves as raw material, manufactured for the purpose of consumption through smoking, chewing or inhalation.

Regarding the case at hand, the lawyer maintained that an e-smoking device pre-filled with e-liquid (vape juice) does not contain tobacco in

its composition in any type, form or derivative as defined in the aforementioned law and its regulations. Thereby, these materials fall outside the scope of implementation of the excise tax.

In order to determine the applicability of the excise tax, a technical report indicating the percentage of tobacco present in the contested goods is required as proof.

A judicial officer cannot personally determine the above, given that this is a purely technical matter, despite the law permitting the judicial officer to take or request a sample of any excise good during the inspection procedure to ascertain whether any contents or parts thereof are subject to tax.

Bizarre beauty of urban chaos

Iraqi artist Sinan Hussein holds 'City Center' exhibition, his second show in Bahrain

TDI | Manama

Renowned Iraqi artist Sinan Hussein has unveiled his latest exhibition, "City Center," at the Folk Art Space in Al Sehla, in a display filled with comic strangeness and the merging of beings with urban elements.

Opening its doors on February 20 and running until March 30, the exhibition promises a captivating exploration of the essence of the city, teeming with human presence, wildlife, and inanimate objects.

This marks Hussein's second exhibition in the Kingdom of Bahrain, following his debut showcase, "Glow," at the Al-Riwaq Arts Space eight years ago.



Sinan Hussein's brilliant and creative artworks

Unlike conventional representations of urban chaos, Hussein's works delve deeper, examining the intertwining of humans, animals, and various objects to create unique creatures characterised by their eccentricity.

Creatures in Hussein's art

transform into hybrid forms, blurring the lines between humans and animals, or even evolving into unidentifiable monsters, reflecting the city's density, noise, and the intersection of the reasonable with the unreasonable. Amidst this chaos,

individuals lose their centrality, consumed by the bustling energy of the urban environment.

In the heart of the city, people are depicted as constantly bustling with activity, burdened by worries and possessions. Hussein emphasises the symbiotic

relationship between humans and their surroundings, where individuals find solace amidst the clamor of urban life rather than in solitude.

Hussein's artwork challenges the notion of isolation, highlighting how the city's vibrant

energy has reshaped human existence.

"City Center" offers viewers a thought-provoking exploration of urban dynamics, where the fusion of beings and objects creates a surreal yet captivating representation of modern life.

6,000 nutritious meals set for Ramadan Iftar Project

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Charitable Society has commenced the distribution of 6,000 distinct nutritional meals as part of its annual Iftar Project for Fasting People, thanks to the generous contributions of national charitable partners.

Mr. Wael Ali Sayyar, Financial Secretary of the Association, announced the launch of the "Iftar Meal" project for this year, in adherence to the association's tradition of providing support during the holy month of Ramadan.

Mr. Sayyar emphasised the



The Bahrain Charitable Society provides assistance to those in need, especially during the holy month of Ramadan.

significance of the Iftar Project, highlighting the association's

commitment to fulfilling the prophetic tradition of providing iftar meals to fasting individuals.

Appealing to the generosity of honorable donors, Mr. Sayyar urged them to participate in this noble charitable endeavor, emphasizing the importance of collective support in ensuring the well-being of fasting individuals during Ramadan.

He expressed gratitude to all donors for their continuous support and encouraged their participation in the Ramadan charitable project year after year.

31 mosques temporarily turned to jamea mosques

TDI | Manama

The Sunni Endowments Directorate has announced that 31 mosques would be converted to jamea mosques (congregational mosques) temporarily during Ramadhan, where Friday prayers will be held as of the first Friday of the holy month.

Dr. Shaikh Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajeri, Sunni Endowments Council's Chair, and Advisor for Religious Affairs at the National Guard, said that the council was keen on providing all necessary facilities in a number of mosques under administration to help the worshippers perform their prayers with comfort and ease.

The mosques which have been allocated as jamea mosques in the Muharraq Governorate are: (Al

Noor Cabin) Al Kooheji Mosque in East Hidd, Sahaba Mosque in Qalali, Aysha Al Rasheed Mosque in Diyar Al Muharraq, Umhat Al Momineen Mosque in Arad, Osama Bin Zaid Mosque in Arad, Ali Bin Yousif Fakhro Mosque, Bin Khater Mosque in Muharraq, Ali bin Ebrahim Al Zayani Mosque, Al Bukuwara Mosque, Omar Bin Abdul Aziz Mosque, Southern Busaiteen Mosque, Hessa bint Khalifa Bin Ali Al Ammari Mosque in Busaiten, and Shaikha bint Abdulrahman Mosque.

Temporary jamea mosques in the Southern Governorate are: Al Ikhlas Mosque in Isa town, Badriya Jaafar Al Murbati Mosque in Al Buhair-East Riffa, Essa bin Essa Mosque in East Riffa, Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa Mosque in East Riffa,

Shaikh Khalifa bin Mohammed bin Salman Al Khalifa Mosque, Bukuwara Mosque in East Riffa, Al Bayan Mosque in Bukuwara-East Riffa, Abi Abdullah Salman Al Farsi Mosque in East Riffa, Al Muhajireen mosque in Al Hajiyat, Hunain Mosque in Bukuwara-East Riffa, and Amr Bin Al Aas Mosque in East Riffa.

All the temporary jamea mosques in the Northern Governorate will be in Hamad Town, and are as follows: Al Dowaisan Mosque in roundabout 1, Shaikh Al Aziz Mosque in roundabout 5, Abdul Rahman Bin Ouf Mosque in roundabout 10, Abu Ayyub Al Ansari Mosque in roundabout 21, Hamza Bin Abdul Mutalib Mosque in roundabout 21, and Asma That Al Netaqain Mosque in roundabout 21.

Liva Insurance B.S.C. (c)

(Formerly known as Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance (Middle East) B.S.C. (c))



Consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023

	31 December 2023	(Restated) 31 December 2022	(Restated) 1 January 2022
	US\$ '000	US\$ '000	US\$ '000
ASSETS			
Property and equipment	2,454	7,178	8,133
Intangible assets	1,629	2,555	4,646
Goodwill	-	40,125	40,125
Investment in associate	54,287	-	-
Investments	136,049	115,539	124,432
Insurance contract assets	1,114	464	304
Reinsurance contract assets	32,260	39,215	30,965
Other receivables	40,266	35,824	32,750
Deposits	129,866	273,365	264,835
Cash and cash equivalents	95,497	71,693	71,706
Total assets	493,422	585,958	577,896
Equity and liabilities			
Equity			
Share capital	54,312	54,312	54,312
Statutory reserve	27,156	27,156	27,156
Contingency reserve	-	13,524	13,524
Restricted reserve	-	618	618
Asset revaluation reserve	-	140	140
Fair value reserve	(548)	(5,329)	1,131
Actuarial reserves on retirement benefit schemes	982	946	(127)
Retained earnings	163,737	135,199	141,737
Equity attributable to equity holders of parent	245,639	226,566	238,491
Non-controlling interest (NCI)	48,679	90,662	96,098
Total equity	294,318	317,228	334,589
Liabilities			
Provision for employees' end-of-service indemnity	7,371	9,063	10,372
Insurance contract liabilities	144,458	195,578	165,931
Reinsurance contract liabilities	12,327	14,086	8,943
Other liabilities and provisions	33,812	46,304	54,104
Lease liabilities	1,136	3,699	3,957
Total liabilities	199,104	268,730	243,307
Total equity and liabilities	493,422	585,958	577,896

Chairman

Managing Director

Consolidated statement of comprehensive income For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Year ended 31 December 2023	(Restated) Year ended 31 December 2022
	US\$ '000	US\$ '000
Insurance revenue	394,065	275,963
Insurance service expenses	(311,253)	(229,353)
Insurance service result before reinsurance contracts held (a)	82,812	46,610
Allocation of reinsurance premium paid	(61,799)	(50,904)
Amounts recoverable from reinsurers	7,425	10,851
Net expense from reinsurance contracts (b)	(54,374)	(40,053)
Insurance service result (a+b)	28,438	6,557
Insurance finance expenses for insurance contracts issued	(5,084)	(716)
Reinsurance finance income for reinsurance contracts held	2,234	436
Net financial results (c)	(2,850)	(280)
Other insurance income	-	-
Net financial results from insurance operations (a+b+c)	25,588	6,277
Net income from investments	21,353	9,780
Other operating expenses	(21,864)	(15,175)
Finance cost	(148)	(170)
Loss on disposal of subsidiary	(1,030)	-
Other income	5,000	421
Profit before tax for the year	28,899	1,133
Income tax expense	(3,283)	(2,285)
Net Profit / (loss) for the year (i)	25,616	(1,152)
Other comprehensive income		
Actuarial gain on retirement benefit schemes	(54)	1,326
Change in fair value of investments	(381)	(7,250)
Total other comprehensive loss for the year	(435)	(5,924)
Total comprehensive income / (loss) for the year (ii)	25,181	(7,076)
(i) Profit / (loss) for the year attributable to:		
Shareholders of the parent	19,159	662
Non-controlling interests	6,457	(1,814)
	25,616	(1,152)
(ii) Total other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year attributable to:		
Shareholders of the parent	(227)	(5,387)
Non-controlling interests	(208)	(537)
	(435)	(5,924)

Mumtalakat sponsors 'Startup of the Year'

To invest in local startups in collaboration with Tamkeen

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, signed a cooperation agreement with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) to introduce the 'Startup of the Year' competition. The initiative will showcase winning projects from past StartUp Bahrain Pitch events.

The signing was in the presence of Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of Tamkeen and Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy



The deal signing

and Chairman of Mumtalakat.

Spearheaded by the SME Development Board, the StartUp Bahrain Pitch initiative has been instrumental in strengthening Bahrain's entrepreneurial ecosystem since its launch in 2023. The initiative fosters stronger relationships between innovative entrepreneurs and potential investors, with support provided by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Tamkeen, the Economic Development Board, and Bahrain Development Bank (BDB).

Mumtalakat will conduct a feasibility study of participat-

ing companies in the competition. Based on this assessment, Mumtalakat will select one or more companies and invest in them via direct capital injections, subject to a predetermined set of pre-approved terms and conditions.

Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of Mumtalakat said: "These investments aim to generate employment opportunities, promote economic diversification, and foster stronger collaborations between the public and private sectors in Bahrain."

Tamkeen Chief Executive,

Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, said: "We launched the StartUp Bahrain Pitch initiative last year alongside our partners in the SME Development Board to address funding challenges for startups by providing them with the skills required to pitch their businesses to potential investors and secure funding."

"As a result we trained over 64 startups through an intensive training bootcamp led by industry experts, and nine deserving winners were selected after presenting their ideas before a panel of expert judges and potential investors."

Tamkeen supports over 4,500 Bahrainis

Shaikh Isa underscores the importance of continuing efforts to implement programmes and initiatives that create further quality opportunities for Bahrainis

TDI | Manama

Tamkeen has facilitated the employment of more than 4,500 Bahrainis, marking a 35% achievement of its employment support target.

This was announced during a meeting of Tamkeen's Board of Directors presided over by Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen).

Announcing the details, Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of Tamkeen, also revealed that Tamkeen's career development programmes supported more than 4,300 Bahrainis.

Amidst discussions on Tamkeen's strategic objectives



Board meeting in progress

for 2024, it was revealed that 2,800 enterprises and projects across diverse sectors had received support, with SMEs constituting 55% of the beneficiaries.

This support, aimed at bolstering business endeavours and fostering job growth, underscores Tamkeen's commitment to enhancing Bahrain's economic

landscape.

Shaikh Isa underscored the importance of continuing efforts to implement programmes and initiatives that create further quality opportunities for Bahrainis, particularly in terms of training, employment, and career development.

The meeting also saw a review of key achievements in

supporting employment, career development, and private sector enterprises during the first quarter of the year, alongside the sharing of success stories from Bahrain-based businesses. Furthermore, plans were outlined to amplify the impact of support programs in alignment with Tamkeen's strategic goals for 2024.

Investrade acquires 53% of Areen Park Hotel & The Land of Paradise Waterpark

TDI | Manama

Investrade, a leading boutique investment and asset management firm, has recently concluded a strategic deal, through which the company will acquire a 53 percent stake in the Areen Park Hotel and The Land of Paradise Waterpark within Areen Master Development Project in the south of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The signing ceremony for the transaction took place at the Al Areen project in the presence of Shaikh Mohamed Bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Chairman of Executive Board of Investrade, and Hisham Alrayes, Chairman of Al Areen Holding Company, and a number of officials from both companies.

The Areen Park Hotel and The Land of Paradise Waterpark project include a luxury hotel belonging to Al Areen Hospitality, in addition to a group of villas and apartments. The project will provide a new city on a total area of 2 million square metres, accommodating approximately 25,000 people. It is strategically located near the King Fahd Causeway, Exhibition World



The deal signing

Bahrain, Bahrain International Circuit, the new sports city in Sakhr, Al Areen Wildlife Park, Blaj Al Jazaer, and other landmarks.

Shaikh Mohamed Bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, said, "This deal demonstrates our long-term commitment to invest in the Kingdom of Bahrain by leveraging its unique offerings.

This project will also forge an important strategic alliance with GFH Financial Group in this landmark project, which aims to become a leading regional destination."

Shaikh Mohammed bin Duaij Al Khalifa, Managing Director of Al Areen Holding Company, added: "This transaction is a testament to the high-caliber

project and investment opportunity once again created by GFH and our partners. We look forward to working together to maximize the potential of these assets and further advance the vision of Al Areen and the vast and positive social and economic benefits it will deliver for the Kingdom and the community."

LIC (International) reports remarkable growth

● The Company settled claims to the tune of BD 137.29 million in the year 2023 compared to BD 115.95 million in the previous year.

TDI | Manama

LIC (International) BSC announced recording income from investment of the company of BD 32.55 million for the year ending 31st December, 2023, compared to BD 6.36 m in the previous year.

The Company said it settled claims to the tune of BD 137.29 million in the year 2023 compared to BD 115.95 million in the previous year.

The results were announced during the 137th Meeting of

the Board of Directors held on 4th March, 2024 at Bahrain. Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairman of the Board, M Jagannath, Deputy Chairman of the Board and other Directors of the Board attended the meeting through video-conference.

A detailed review of the New Business Performance, Financials, Investment Income and the Operating performance of the Company for the year 2023 was made in the meeting.

During the year 2023, 13 Consultants have qualified for MDRT.

LIC launched new product in UAE - LIC International Child Education Plan during the year 2023. Likewise, a new Child Education Plan for Bahrain is launched in December, 2023. Earlier, Future Smart VI a Single Premium, Guaranteed Plan was launched in UAE.

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain launches 'Apply-and-Win' Auto campaign

● 'Apply-and-Win' rewards campaign offers cash prizes of up to BHD 500

TDI | Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom, has officially launched its 'Apply-and-Win' rewards campaign aimed at auto-finance clients with cash prizes reaching up to BHD 500, along with discounted finance rates for Auto-finance facilities.

All clients who obtain a final approval on auto-finance facility for a new or used car from KFH - Bahrain during the period commencing on the 10th of March until the 31st of May 2024 will be eligible to win as per the terms and conditions of the campaign. Interested parties can visit KFH-Bahrain's Auto Finance Division located in Sitra Mall, which stands in close proximity to several major auto-dealerships in Bahrain.

Commenting on this initiative, Hamed Mashaal, Head of Retail Banking at KFH-Bah-



Hamed Mashaal, Head of Retail Banking at KFH-Bahrain

rain, said, "I invite everyone to enjoy the flexibility and competitiveness of our offerings, all while getting the chance to win cash prizes."

KFH-Bahrain is committed to enabling its esteemed customers with auto-financing solutions for their next car purchase. Utilizing the Shari'a compliant "Murabaha" structure, the bank offers its customers optimal comfort and flexibility through easy installments with finance tenors of up to seven years along with competitive rates, low admin fees and zero down-payment.

QUOTE OF THE DAY HE IS A WISE MAN WHO DOES NOT GRIEVE FOR THE THINGS WHICH HE HAS NOT, BUT REJOICES FOR THOSE WHICH HE HAS EPICTETUS

TODAY IN HISTORY

843 Icon veneration officially re-instated in Hagia Sophia Cathedral in Constantinople

1502 Ismail I, founder of the Safavid dynasty, crowned Shah of Persia (rules till 1524)



1985 Mikhail Gorbachev replaces Konstantin Chernenko as Soviet leader

2018 China's National People's Congress approves removal of term limits for a leader, allowing Xi Jinping to be presidency for life

News in brief

Nearly 160 Iraqi families have been repatriated from Syria's Al-Hol camp... Iraq repatriates 625 people from Syria camp

Ukraine slams Pope's 'white flag' negotiation call, vows 'never' to surrender to Russia

Ukraine yesterday slammed Pope Francis's call to negotiate with Russia two years into its invasion... Junta-nominated Chad PM says to run for president

Chad's junta-appointed prime minister on Sunday said he would contest May 6 presidential elections... Biden's left flank in uproar, the US president made contradictory remarks

SPOTLIGHT Biden: Netanyahu approach to Gaza war 'hurting Israel more than helping'

Joe Biden said Benjamin Netanyahu's approach to the war in Gaza was 'hurting Israel more than helping Israel'... Biden was evasive Saturday on the possibility of a new trip to Israel

Seven missing after floods snare cars in southern France: official

French rescue workers were yesterday searching for seven people, including two children, missing after violent storms swept the south of the country

In Dions yesterday a helicopter flew over the village and the bursting waters of the Gardon while large numbers of firefighters engaged in search efforts

Rescuers were also searching for two women, believed to be aged 47 and 50, who made an emergency call on a bridge in the town of Goudargues

Ramadan begins in shadow of Gaza war



People walk past the Dome of the Rock at the compound of the Al-Aqsa mosque ahead of the start of Islamic holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the Old City of Jerusalem

Ramadan will begin today, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE announced, with the holy fasting month taking place against a backdrop of devastating war in Gaza



People buy dates at market ahead of the holy fasting month of Ramadan in Karachi

Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. Observant Muslims refrain from eating and drinking from dawn to dusk... The United Nations has warned that famine in the Palestinian territory is 'almost inevitable' unless something changes in the war

YOU KNOW WHAT The United Nations has warned that famine in the Palestinian territory is 'almost inevitable' unless something changes in the war, with aid trickling in at levels far below the pre-war norm.

Man arrested for crashing car into Buckingham Palace gates

Officers arrested a man who crashed a car into the gates of London's Buckingham Palace over the weekend, police said yesterday... The Metropolitan Police said the car 'collided with the gates' of the royal residence at 02:30 GMT on Saturday



People walk past the set of boarded up gates to Buckingham Palace in London

Russia must be defeated in court too, says Ukraine chief prosecutor

Russia's alleged 'war crimes' in Ukraine have been recorded in tens of thousands of case files and the country must answer them in court... Andriy Kostin said around 123,000 war crime cases have been logged since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022



Andriy Kostin

India, European EFTA bloc sign \$100 bn free trade deal



Piyush Goyal (2R), India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Textiles, Food and Public Distribution addressing diplomats at the signing ceremony

India and the four-member European trade bloc EFTA, including Norway and Switzerland, signed a \$100-billion free trade agreement yesterday to promote investment and exports... The deal was signed after several rounds of negotiations spanning 16 years

Biden and Trump spar on immigration, age in battleground



Biden, Trump

US President Joe Biden and presumptive White House challenger Donald Trump traded barbs Saturday on the key topics of age and immigration, as they targeted the battleground state of Georgia... Biden, hoping to ride the momentum from a feisty State of the Union speech on Thursday, went to the state's capital of Atlanta to mobilize Black and Hispanic voters

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

Bank's duty on information regarding clients



DR. ABDELGADIR WARSAMA GHALIB

AWARSAMA@WARSAMALC.COM

The relationship between a bank and his client is, normally, looked at as a very special relation due to the trustworthiness and confidence supporting and surrounding this special relation

The customer comes to the bank with full trust that all his dealings, banking transactions, account details, are well kept and taken care of in the most appropriate professional banking standards and in complete secrecy from undesired eyes or ears

As a rule, the duty of secrecy goes beyond the state of the account. It extends at least to all transactions that go through the account, and to the securities, if any, given in respect of the account

The secrecy, is a golden rule that goes back to the inception of banking business and has been codified and provided for in the banking laws and regulations.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01 02 03 04

@WHO and partners completed a mission to Al-Ahli Arab and Al-Sahaba hospitals in northern #Gaza yesterday: both hospitals are functioning with limited capacity, and lack food, fuel, specialised staff, anaesthetic drugs, antibiotics and internal fixation devices.

@RTedros

03



Because I am raising B concerns about the flood of unvetted illegal immigrants overwhelming American cities, the press will often characterize me as 'anti-immigrant'. As an immigrant myself, nothing could be further from the truth.

@elonmusk

04



After we proudly welcomed Sweden to NATO, we still had one final step - taking the document that indicates Sweden's desire to join the Alliance to our Treaty Vault.

@SecBlinken

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

(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)

CELEBS

Mark Wahlberg explains why he won't 'celebrate' fitness goals for long: 'It's onto the next!'



Mark Wahlberg

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Mark Wahlberg likes to make new fitness goals every day.

The 52-year-old actor is known for staying in shape or drastically changing things up for his roles in blockbuster movies like 'Transformers' and 'Father Stu' but insisted that he doesn't celebrate his achievements for long before moving on to his next fitness target.

He told Fox News Digital: "You know what, clean living is the key. Eat right, exercise, everything in moderation. If you're going to have a couple of glasses of Flecha - neat, clean, have some water, recover - everything in moderation. You always want to celebrate your accomplishments and work hard, but on to the next."

"Don't spend too much time dwelling on something you've already done. We have new goals every day, more things to accomplish. We want to encourage people to be the healthiest, best versions of themselves."

The 'Uncharted' star also explained that "recovery" is the most important thing when going through his body transformations and suggested that keeping hydrated before going to bed - especially after drinking a small amount of neat alcohol - is paramount to achieving the desired result.

"Well, recovery is the most important thing, but you always have to get the proper amount of rest, the proper amount of hydration, and recovery is the key, especially if you're getting older."

Natalie Portman 'wants to be the best possible co-parent'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied are determined to be the "best co-parents they can be."

The Oscar-winning actress and Benjamin, 46, recently finalized their divorce, and the former couple are now focused on co-parenting their children - son Aleph, 12, and daughter Amalia, seven.

A source told PEOPLE: "Her biggest priority has been ensuring a smooth transition for her children."

"She and Ben really love their kids and are equally focused on being the best co-parents they can be. Nothing is more important."

Natalie, 42, filed for divorce from Benjamin in July, and although she initially struggled to come to terms with their split, Natalie's friends have rallied around the actress over recent months.

The insider explained: "It was initially really tough for her, but her friends rallied

around her and helped get her through the worst of it."

The Hollywood star - who married Benjamin in 2012 - is now "finding joy in her family, friends and work".

The source said: "Natalie is coming out of a really tough and painful year but she's come out the other side of it stronger and is finding joy in her family, friends and work."

The former couple's divorce was finalized last month in France, where they lived with their children.

Following that, an insider told PEOPLE that Natalie is "incredibly private" and that her biggest focus is "protecting the kids".

Natalie's relationship status has been a source of speculation for years, and the actress previously admitted that she struggled to deal with the extra attention.

In an interview with Vanity Fair magazine - which was published in February - Natalie said: "It's terrible, and I have no desire to contribute to it."



Natalie Portman

Millie Bobby Brown accidentally sparked pregnancy rumours with baby lamb

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Millie Bobby Brown accidentally sparked pregnancy rumours when she bought nappies for her pet lamb.

The 'Stranger Things' actress and her fiancé Jake Bongovi live on a farm with nine of their own dogs and 23 foster pooches, four cats, two donkeys, two sheep, two cows, three goats and a pony, and she told how she raised one of the creatures "in [her] bed", looking after him until he was fully grown.

Speaking on 'The Jonathan Ross Show', she said: "Actually, I raised him in my bed. He was a few days old, and I bottle-fed him until

he was full grown.

"He wore a nappy and then I had to buy nappies and people thought I was pregnant!"

The 20-year-old star shot to fame when 'Stranger Things' was released when she was just 12 years old and admitted it can be "cringe" looking back at her early scenes in 'Stranger Things'.

She said: "My whole childhood was documented, which was good and bad, because I got to watch how I grew on screen but also the cringe videos of me."

The 'Damsel' actress knew she'd found fame when Meryl Streep knew who she was.

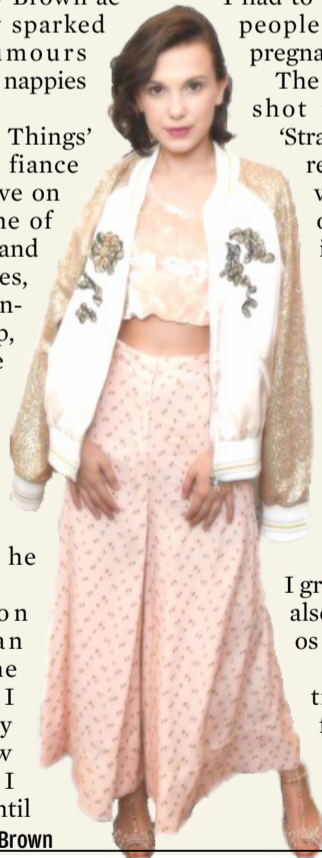
She said: "I think I really had that moment when I knew something was happening in my life..."

"When I tapped on Meryl's shoulder and I was like, 'Hi' and I was 11 and she turns around and she was like 'hi Millie'. Meryl Streep, she's everything. I grew up on 'Mamma Mia'."

Millie views her 'Stranger Things' co-stars as being like "a separate set of siblings" to her.

She said: "I got the job when I was 10 and to be able to grow up with kids that had gone through the exact same thing as you, at the same time..."

"They know exactly what you're going through. It's like having a separate set of siblings. It's very rewarding and I was really grateful to have that."



Millie Bobby Brown

Hilary Swank says life with twins is 'exhausting'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Hilary Swank says life with 10-month-old twins is "exhausting".

The 49-year-old actress welcomed a baby boy named Ohm and a baby girl named Aya with her husband Philip Schneider in April 2023, and she's now opened up about motherhood revealing it's been pretty tiring but also "fun" and "glorious" - calling parenthood the "most extraordinary thing in the world".

During an appearance on 'The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon', she explained: "It's the best in the whole wide world. Yes, it's more joy, more fun and more exhausting."

"It's more everything than I ever thought it would be. It's more glorious, it's the most extraordinary thing in the world."

When asked if the twins have started to talk yet, she shared: "My

daughter ... the first thing she started ever saying, she sounded like a morning dove. Like just a beautiful little morning dove. And then it turned into a growl. She growls, but like really commits .. [Now] she goes: 'Hi, hi, hi; to everything'."

She added son Ohm is "learning everything" and likes to point at things and say: "Ah!"

Hilary kept her twins' names private until Valentine's Day his week when she shared a picture showing the little ones sitting together on a beach with their backs to the camera and their names written in green sea glass.

She captioned the Instagram post: "I have a busy week of talk shows ahead where I'll be sharing about my new film and a fun partnership, but I figured what better day to share the names of my two little loves with you all first."



Hilary Swank

Sharon Stone moans being famous is a drag as she keeps being landed with \$3,000 dinner bills

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Sharon Stone says being famous is a drag as she has to keep picking up \$3,000 dinner tabs.

The 65-year-old 'Casino' actress - who has an estimated \$60 million fortune - told a Women's Cancer Fund event in March 2023,

days after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, she had lost half her money in the recent financial crisis.

It seems she is now back on her feet as she has now told InStyle about how she regularly gets left with huge dinner cheques when she is out: "You go out to dinner, and there's 15 people at the table, and who gets the cheque?"

"You get the \$3,000 dinner check every single time."

Sharon also said it's "very expensive to be famous".

But she has insisted she is far from stingy. In her 2021 memoir 'The Beauty of Living Twice' Sharon said she handed a huge chunk of her paycheque for 1995 Western 'The Quick and the Dead' to Leonardo DiCaprio, 49, so he could also



Sharon Stone

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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- Lady of the house; 6- School orgs; 10- Cabinet dept.; 14- Writer ... Rogers St. Johns; 15- Mozart's ... 'kleine Nachtmusik'; 16- Impulsive; 17- Jewish scholar; 18- Dame ... Everage; 19- Prefix with plasm; 20- Flightless bird; 21- Singer Tucker; 23- Pains; 24- Autocrats; 26- Preminger et al.; 27- Sloping letter; 29- Additional pay; 31- Grandma; 32- Escapade; 33- Freudian topic; 36- In spite of; 40- Opposite of NNW; 41- Lion sounds; 42- Hebrew month; 43- la vista; 44- Remove; 46- Runs into; 48- Flight of steps; 49- Actress Oberon; 50- Fewest; 52- Racket; 55- Shiite leader; 56- Go sour; 57- Chip away at; 59- Red flower; 60- That's ...; 61- Marry again; 62- I'd hate to break up ...; 63- Litigant; 64- Loudness units;

Down

1- Female horse; 2- First man; 3- Society girl; 4- Liturgical vestment; 5- Rum cocktail; 6- Hammer parts; 7- Neat; 8- Ballerina Pavlova; 9- Poseidon's domain; 10- Builds; 11- Tortilla topped with cheese; 12- Politico Kefauver; 13- Pi followers; 22- Joan of ...; French heroine; 23- Take ... for the worse; 25- Cabbage salad; 26- Draft classification; 27- Taverns; 28- Southwestern art colony; 29- Iraqi port; 30- Chooses; 32- FDR's fireside ...; 33- Heavy quilt; 34- Little pest; 35- Man-eating giant of popular folklore; 37- Hot under the collar; 38- Chuck; 39- Mustachioed artist; 43- Head armor; 44- Skid row woe; 45- Diners; 46- Office notes; 47- Wipe away; 48- Less loony; 49- Paul Sorvino's daughter; 50- Corker; 51- Sandusky's lake; 53- Nice notion; 54- Sparks and Beatty; 56- Univ. aides; 58- Antique auto;

Yesterday's solution

A	D	E	P	T	V	I	S	A	L	S	A	S	I
P	I	X	I	E	I	S	I	N	L	U	N	A	
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N
S	E	R	E	L	I	T	E	Y	O	D	E	L	
A	S	S	E	T		B	E	S	E	T			
O	L	D	H	A	T		C	A	R	A	T		
M	A	I	A		T	O	N	E	R		V	I	A
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N
I	S	E		O	R	A	T	E		E	C	R	U
R	E	L	A	S	T	A	R	S		N	E	S	T
M	E	S	A	S		H	A	I	T	I		M	A
A	S	S	N		S	A	I	D		T	R	I	L
S	S	T	E	T		E	L	L	E		O	O	Z
S	S	N	S		T	O	S	S		R	E	E	S

Bahrain all set for Olympic qualifiers

Kingdom's senior men's national Handball team head to Spain today for Olympic Qualifying Tournament

● **Head coach Aron Kristjansson names 18 players onto national team squad**

● **Bahrainis face Spain on Thursday, Brazil Friday and then Slovenia Sunday**

● **Top two teams from three Olympic Qualifying Tournaments book Paris berths**



Bahrain's Hasan Al Fardan during a local training session

be held from this Thursday to Sunday. Bahrain need to finish in the top two of their OQT to earn a spot at this year's Olympics.

The six OQT winners will join the six others who have already booked their tickets to the French capital, including hosts France, reigning world champions Denmark, Asian Men's Qualification Tournament winners Japan, Pan American Games winners Argentina, European champions Sweden, and African champions Egypt.

The Bahrainis narrowly missed out on direct qualification after losing to the Japanese 29-32 in the final of their continental qualifiers held last October in Doha.

National team head coach Aron Kristjansson has named

18 players for the OQT. Missing are their star veterans Hussain Al Sayyad, Ali Mirza, Mohammed Mirza, Mohammed Habib Ahmed and Mohammed Abdulhussain, who have each been given suspensions by the Asian Handball Federation for incidents that took place in the Asian Men's Handball Championship in the Kingdom last January.

Stars

The squad features two of the Kingdom's stars who play as professionals overseas, including Mohammed Habib Nasser from Al Huda SC and Ali Eid with Al Noor SC, both in Saudi Arabia.

The other locally based talents are Mohammed Hameed and Ali Mahmoud (Al Etti-



Bahrain's national team roster for their Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Spain is missing five of their star veterans, including Hussain Al Sayyad, Ali Mirza, Mohammed Mirza, Mohammed Habib Ahmed, and Mohammed Abdulhussain, who have each been given suspensions by the Asian Handball Federation for incidents that took place in the Asian Men's Handball Championship last January

faq); Ahmed Jalal, Ahmed Redha, and Jassim Khamis (Al Shabab); Hassan Al Samaheji, Hussain Mahfoudh, and Hassan Al Fardan (Al Ahli); Qassim Qambar (Barbar); Abdulla Al Zaimour, Mujtaba Al Zaimour,



Head coach Aron Kristjansson works with goalkeeper Hesham Issa during practice

Mohammed Abdulredha, and Hassan Mirza (Al Najma); and Hesham Issa, Ali Alasheeri, and Hassan Madan (Al Dair).

Bahrain begin their OQT against Spain on Thursday. They then face Brazil the following day, before taking on Slovenia on Sunday.

Bahrain qualified for the last Olympics in Tokyo in 2021 with their historic victory in the Asian Men's Qualification event in 2019, also held in Doha.

It was not only the national team's first time competing in the men's handball tournament at any Olympics, but it was also the Kingdom's maiden appear-

ance in any team sport in the history of the quadrennial sporting showcase.

At the Tokyo Olympiad, Bahrain turned heads and made it all the way to the quarter-finals. They had won just one of their five games in the preliminary round, but showed they belong amongst the world's top teams, losing by just one goal to Sweden and Portugal, and defeating Japan in their group.

In the last eight, the Bahrainis were ousted from further medal contention after bowing to eventual gold-medallists France. Denmark won the silver medals, while Spain claimed the bronze.

Bahrain celebrates commanding victory over Vanuatu at Malaysia Open T20I

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Cricket Team has delivered an exceptional performance yesterday, securing a commanding victory over Vanuatu.

The team's strategic prowess was on full display as they scored 166 runs for 4 wickets, clinching the win with a significant 56-run margin.

Sohail Ahmed stood out with an extraordinary innings of 73 runs in 51 balls, rightfully earning the Player of the Match title.

His achievement was well-supported by Ahmer, who showcased his skill with a fluent unbeaten half-century. The bowling department saw Sachin making a substantial impact, claiming four wickets and conceding 40 runs.

Despite being slightly expen-



Players interact during the match. His efforts were crucial in weakening the opposition's batting strength.

Contributions from Sathya and Ali Dawood, who each took two wickets, rounded off a dominant performance by the Bahrain team, showcasing their all-round capabilities.

This victory is a reflection



Sohail Ahmed with Player of the Match award

of the team's hard work, dedication, and talent, adding yet another proud moment to Bahrain's cricket history.

The Bahrain Cricket Association applauded the team for their outstanding achievement and encouraged them to continue their pursuit of excellence.

India become number one Test side overtaking Australia

AFP | Dubai

India have climbed to the number one spot in Test cricket rankings following an emphatic 4-1 series victory against England.

The Indian team moved past Australia who are now second in the table, according to the rankings released by the International Cricket Council late Saturday.

India lost the opening Test against England before bouncing back to win the remaining four matches, including the fi-



India's players pose with the trophy after winning the fifth and last Test cricket match against England

nal game which ended in Dharamsala on Saturday.

In January, India had slipped to second place in Test rankings

after a drawn 1-1 series against South Africa.

Australia overtook India at the top after sweeping the three-Test series at home against Pakistan.

Currently Australia lead the two-Test series against New Zealand 1-0 following their 172-run victory in Wellington.

India will remain at the top regardless of the outcome of the second New Zealand-Australia Test in Christchurch.

India are already the number one team in one-day and T20 internationals.

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Karting champions crowned!

Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge wraps up 2023/2024 season at Bahrain International Karting Circuit

● **Tariq Soofi, Nasser Nass, Khaled Najjar, Mohammed Alhasan and Abdulla Junaid all claim titles in respective classes**

● **By claiming their championships, each driver earned their ticket to compete in this year's Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals**

TDT | Manama



Wheel-to-wheel action from the season's final weekend

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", crowned over the weekend the 2023/2024 champions of the Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC)—the Kingdom's premier annual karting championship.

Tariq Soofi, Nasser Nass, Khaled Najjar, Mohammed Alhasan, and Abdulla Junaid all claimed this season's titles in their respective categories.

In doing so, they each earned their tickets to this year's Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals in Italy, where they will be competing against other Rotax champions from around the world.

The talented quintet secured their respective championships following the BRMC's final two rounds of the 2023/2024 cam-

paign, held Friday and Saturday at BIC's world-class grassroots motorsport facility, Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC).

Tariq Soofi was crowned champion of the BRMC's Micro MAX class. He finished with 245 points for the season, while Austin Gray was the runner-up on 205 points and Rayyan Najjar third a further point behind.

Tariq wrapped up his title-winning run in style, taking the victory in the seventh and penultimate round ahead of Rayyan and Austin. He then stepped onto the podium for second place in the championship finale, with Saif Al Obaidli claiming the win and Rayyan finishing third.

Nasser Nass clinched his title in the BRMC's Mini MAX catego-

ry. His victory in the eighth and last round helped him capture the crown on 217 points, with Leopold Juch pushing him all the way to the end and finishing on 211 points in second. Leopold had taken the victory in round seven, setting the stage for the thrilling finish. Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa finished third on the season's standings with 185 points.

Leopold's triumph in the penultimate meeting saw him finish ahead of Nasser and Shaikh Ahmed. Nasser then took the win ahead of Leopold in round eight, with Demir Albali joining them on their last podium of this campaign.

Khaled Najjar was the champion of the BRMC's Junior MAX class, finishing with 270 points for the season to end with a com-

YOU

KNOW WHAT

The Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge featured competitors of various ages and nationalities, racing in their very own Rotax-powered karts along the 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track at Bahrain International Karting Circuit



The new champions with their tickets to the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals

fortable gap ahead of runner-up Rashid Hilal on 201 points. Shaheen Shaheen came third on 166 points.

Khaled had a superb showing over the weekend as he claimed a fantastic double, helping him build his sizeable winning margin on the final championship table. Khaled won in round seven ahead of Shaheen and Khalifah Alkhaled, while he took round eight with Khalifah and Rashid in second and third, respectively.

Emerging as the BRMC's Senior MAX champion this season was Mohammed Alhasan following an ultra-competitive campaign in the category. Alhasan ended the season with 177 points—just seven in front of Tye Mejia, with Rashid Almuammari not far be-

hind in third on 155 points.

Only 60 points separated each of the Senior MAX's top six. Gracie Rose Grantham came fourth on 122 points, Lewis Smith fifth on 118, and Vedant Menon sixth with 117 points.

Gracie Rose wrapped up the season on a high after emerging victorious in both the weekend's rounds. She triumphed in the seventh meeting ahead of Fahad Alkhaled and Najashi Rashdan, before taking the last chequered flag of this campaign in round eight, followed by Jaber Alsabah and Abdulla Alkhater.

Finally, Abdulla Junaid completed the BRMC's newest cast of champions by winning the DD2 MAX title. He had a dominant run this season and finished with 133 points. Raoul Sadi was a distant second on 71 points,

while Musaad Albassam came third on 45 points.

Albassam was all smiles over the weekend, taking the victories in both rounds. He won in the penultimate event ahead of Sadi, and then in the finale narrowly beat Junaid to the end, with Sadi in third.

With the completion of the thrilling BRMC action, the curtain has come down on the national karting season at BIKC. The series was organised by BIC and BIKC, in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation and the Bahrain Karting Commission.

The championship featured competitors of various ages and nationalities, racing in their very own Rotax-powered karts along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track.

Man City hold out for Liverpool draw to leave Arsenal top of Premier League

AFP | London

Arsenal remained top of the Premier League after a titanic tussle between Liverpool and Manchester City ended 1-1 at Anfield yesterday.

Alexis Mac Allister's penalty cancelled out John Stones' opener to leave Liverpool behind the Gunners on goal difference and City one point back in third with 10 games to go.

The final Premier League clash between Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola did not dis-



Manchester City's Belgian midfielder #11 Jeremy Doku (L) kicks Liverpool's Argentinian midfielder #10 Alexis Mac Allister

appoint as Liverpool roared back in a breathless second half despite being depleted by injury.

Klopp's men could have regrets if they do not go on to break City's run of three consecutive titles as they missed a plethora of chances to secure a crucial win.

City have still not won at Anfield in front of a crowd since 2003, but could also have snatched victory late on when Jeremy Doku hit the post.

A share of the spoils leaves Arsenal as the winners of the

weekend as eight consecutive league victories have taken the Gunners top, but they travel to City in their next league match on March 31.

Mohamed Salah was only fit enough for a place on the Liverpool bench alongside Andy Robertson, while Alisson Becker, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Ibrahima Konate and Diogo Jota were absent through injury.

A makeshift Liverpool defence were put to the test early on as Kevin De Bruyne found pockets of space to exploit.

Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights to bring supreme thrills tonight at BIC

TDT | Manama

Motorsport enthusiasts can enjoy double the thrills today at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhr, with the latest edition of the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights—one of the most popular activities at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" featuring drag racing and drifting.

Participants will be able to bring their very own cars or motorbikes and push them to their limits either down BIC's world-class quarter-mile drag strip or at the circuit's vast vehicle dynamics area.

There is also the option to do both, making for twice the excitement in a single night's event.

Monday's Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights is scheduled to take place from 8.30pm to 1.30am. Those interested in taking part can register on site prior to the event.

Both the drag racing and the drifting can be done for a single fee of BD11. Participation in just the drag racing or just the drifting costs BD8. Those who would like to experience the drag or drift as a passenger can get into a participant's car for an additional fee of BD4.500.



Action from a previous event at BIC

The BIC strip is highly regarded as one of the best in the world of drag racing. It is a part of the prestigious NHRA Worldwide Network of the US-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

Meanwhile, BIC's vehicle dynamics area features a specially configured layout for drifters. It is surrounded by safety barriers and is one of the largest open tarmac areas in Bahrain, making for an ideal venue to put on an amazing display of power sliding within a secure environment.

In addition to the drag racing and drifting, also available Monday night is the Dragster Experience—BIC's most adren-

aline-pumping passenger activity. Known as "the Fastest Ride on Earth", fans will have a chance to get a taste of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while seated in a Top Dragster.

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

Spectators who wish to attend the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights can purchase their tickets online at BIC's official website bahraingp.com for BD2 apiece. Tickets for children aged 12 and below are BD1 each.

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A share of the spoils leaves Arsenal as the winners of the weekend as eight consecutive league victories have taken the Gunners top, but they travel to City in their next league match on March 31