

Bahrain set for Asian Cup draw

Kingdom's senior men's national football team to learn of group stage opponents today for continental football showcase | P12

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Courteney Cox finds social media 'exhausting' 8 CELEBS

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NBB wins two major MENA banking awards



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Budget plan for fiscal years 2023-2024 discussed

TDI | Manama

Top officials of the executive and legislative branches of government met yesterday to discuss the draft law approving the state's general budget for the fiscal years 2023-2024, attached to Decree No. (34) of 2023.

Representatives Council Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam and Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Salah Al Saleh co-chaired the session with the Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

The Government's team, led by the Minister of Finance and National Economy, staged



The executive and legislative meeting in progress

a presentation. The legislative side also outlined its feedback on the state's general budget draft law for the fiscal years 2023-2024.

The two sides pledged to give full priority to citizens when formulating initiatives and strategies, and planning projects and programmes

They also discussed a number of service projects included in the state's general budget draft law for the fiscal years 2023-2024 in the sectors of health,

works and municipalities.

They emphasised commitment to reach consensus on the state's general budget, which will have a positive impact on various development paths in Bahrain and spur growth.

The foundations of the draft law approving the state's general budget 2023-2024 came under the spotlight, mainly fiscal stability and sustainable economic growth, creating promising opportunities for citizens, and adhering to the fiscal balance program, in addition to continuing to improve the efficiency of government service and develop performance.

Cross-border fire

Israel and Palestinians trade rockets over Gaza as violence intensifies

AFP | Gaza City

Israel's army and Gaza fighters traded heavy cross-border fire yesterday, with 22 Palestinians killed over two days amid the worst escalation of violence to hit the coastal territory in months.

Sirens in the Tel Aviv area and Israel's south warned of incoming rockets in a fresh evening salvo, with an AFP reporter in Gaza observing dozens of launches as Israeli officials said Egypt was working on a possible truce with the Islamic Jihad.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant noted "over 400" launches from Gaza late yesterday, as the Islamic Jihad said Palestinian "resistance" was keeping up its fire.

Earlier in the day, smoke billowed from the densely populated coastal enclave after Israel announced it was targeting rocket launch sites of the Islamic Jihad.

Gaza's health ministry said seven people were killed, a day after Israeli strikes on the Palestinian territory left 15 dead.

Four of those killed yesterday were fighters with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the group said in a statement.

Israel's air defences intercept-



Rockets are fired from Gaza City toward Israel. (AFP)

ed rockets above the coastal city of Ashkelon and elsewhere in the south.

In a televised address late yesterday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was "still in the midst of the campaign," noting that "no Israeli civilian has been wounded up to now".

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has escalated since Netanyahu's latest coalition, including

extreme right and ultra-Orthodox parties, took office in December.

It has come against the backdrop of Israel's biggest domestic crisis in decades around now-shelved judicial reforms proposed by the government of Netanyahu, himself on trial for corruption he denies.

Ceasefire

Earlier, an Israeli official said on condition of anonymity that Egypt was "trying to facilitate a ceasefire".

Sources in Gaza close to the Islamic Jihad and Hamas confirmed Egyptian efforts to secure a truce, without providing further details.

The latest violence comes a day after Israeli strikes on Gaza killed three top Islamic Jihad

fighters and 12 others, including four children, according to a health ministry toll.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen told public broadcaster Channel 11 late yesterday the Islamic Jihad were "begging for a ceasefire".

Islamic Jihad had vowed on Tuesday to retaliate, with Israel warning its residents near the border to stay near bomb shelters.



The Arab League yesterday condemned the "aggressive (and) barbaric Israeli raids on the Gaza Strip, which targeted civilians, children and women in residential neighbourhoods".

HM King Hamad back from UK

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa returned to the kingdom yesterday following a visit to the UK at the invitation of His Majesty King Charles III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth.

During the visit, HM the King attended the coronation of HM King Charles III, held at Westminster Abbey.

HM King Hamad also attended a reception hosted by HM King Charles III at Buckingham Palace.

Saudi invites Assad

AFP | Damascus

Syrian President Bashar Al Assad received an invitation to next week's Arab summit in Saudi Arabia, the presidency said yesterday, the first since his country's war began over a decade ago.

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Rape victims set to receive due justice

Julia Cassano and Tofoof AlMansoor
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's rape laws have once again come under scrutiny, with critics arguing that the current laws are unfair and place an undue burden on victims of rape, particularly women.

The current laws place women in a difficult circumstance as they are often required to provide evidence that the act was non-consensual, which can be difficult to prove, especially when there are no witnesses or physical evidence.

Another issue is the fact that a rapist can avoid prosecution if he marries his victim. This is a provision in Bahraini law known as Article No. (353) of the Penal Code of 1976, and it has been widely denounced as a violation of women's rights.

During Bahrain's weekly parliamentary session, Nawaf Al Maawada, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, said that rapists will not escape punishment, and that the Kingdom is a conservative Muslim society with respect shown to multiple faiths.

He also identified that as society and cultures are changing, this leads for governments to review and update legislation accordingly.

The provision essentially allows a rapist to evade punishment by marrying his victim, thereby legitimising the act of rape and perpetuating a culture of impunity.

Critics argue that these laws send a message that rape is not taken seriously in Bahrain and that victims are not given the appropriate protection and support they deserve, when suffering through a grueling act. They

“Rapists will not escape punishment, and that the Kingdom is a conservative Muslim society with respect shown to multiple faiths.”

- NAWAF AL MAAWADA, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AND ENDOWMENTS

also argue that the current laws discourage victims from coming forward and reporting the crime, which can lead to a cycle of abuse and violence.

In addition, when women are given proper treatment and safe spaces to come forward, this encourages women to reveal their truth, which therefore en-

courages other women to do the same.

In recent years, there have been calls for reform of Bahrain's rape laws. As times are changing globally, governments are realising that laws must change with society. There have been many proposals by the Bahraini parliament to remove article 353 from the 1976 penal code.

The issue of rape laws in Bahrain is a complex and sensitive one, but it is clear that there is a need for reform to ensure that victims of rape are given the protection and support they rightfully deserve as humans.

It is hoped that the government will take these concerns seriously and work to enact meaningful change in the near future to create a progressive and modernised society, in which all feel safe and protected.

Dr Kiran Bedi visit



India's most famous police officer Dr Kiran Bedi visited the Indian Embassy in coordination with the Indian Ladies Association (ILA). The Ladies Social and Charity Association has been giving back to the community for 68 years across the GCC. The occasion was attended by Mrs. Monika Srivastava, wife of the Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Piyush Srivastava, Miss Sharada, the ILA President, and ILA members. During the interaction with the ILA members, Dr Bedi discussed the difficulties she encountered while performing her duties in a prison where 10,000 inmates were all men and had never seen a woman managing them.

Iconic Backstreet Boys show in Bahrain successful!

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

Sold out Backstreet Boys show held at Al Dana Amphitheatre proved a success, as videos circulating online display the fun-spirited and ultra-fun atmosphere during the show, and concert attendees cite this as one of the best experiences for the millennials as they reminisce about the past.

The iconic act performed their biggest hits of all time and memorable moves that sparked for the concert to be a mega fun night filled with overly satisfied guests.

Concert goers said that as the Backstreet Boys are the longest active boy band in the world, the show exhibited reminiscent times for the older generations of the group's biggest hits.

NBB awarded Best Retail Bank in Bahrain and Best App for Customer Experience in MENA

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has been named as the 'Best Retail Bank in Bahrain 2023' maintaining this position for the second consecutive year, while the Bank's Loyalty & Rewards application 'Points by NBB' has won the title of 'Best App for Customer Experience in MENA 2023' at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards, organised by MEED (Middle East Economic Digest).

The awards ceremony took place yesterday in Dubai, UAE and was attended by senior NBB representatives.

NBB is the Kingdom of Bahrain's leading financial institution and the award is a recognition of the Bank's highly innovative and customer centric products, services and digital platforms.

As a digitally advanced and data-driven organisation, NBB continues to deliver tailor-made products and services to meet the day-to-day banking needs of its growing customer base.



Usman Ahmed

'Points by NBB', the Bank's new Loyalty & Rewards platform is one of many new innovations that led to the NBB app being named as the Best App for Customer Experience.

For its recognition as Best Retail Bank, the Judging Panel commented: "National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has emerged as a digital and data-driven organisation, delivering innovative solutions to customers with immediate value to clients. This success has been driven by the Bank offering an enhanced cus-



NBB's two awards

tom experience with bespoke and customised service offerings to cater to all customer segments. They provide an array of product offerings, ensuring efficiency and proficiency in their service level.

"The Bank's 21 branches, multiple alternative channels, digital banking services, contact centre, and website provide a variety of channels for customers to connect with the Bank. NBB's commitment to customer satisfaction has earned them this position as Best Retail Bank Bahrain."

Commenting on NBB's award for Best App for Customer Experience, MEED's MENA Banking Excellence Awards Judging Panel said: "The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has revolutionised digital banking with its innovative Points by NBB loyalty rewards platform. Offering personalised experiences, various redemption options and support for SMEs, the platform is testament to NBB's commitment to customer-centricity and embracing the latest technological trends, setting a new standard in



Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani

the banking industry."

Reflecting on the awards success, Usman Ahmed, NBB's Group Chief Executive Officer, said: "We're delighted that our best-in-class Retail Banking offerings and digital platforms have been recognised at the MEED's MENA Banking Excellence Awards. These awards are a testament to the Bank's commitment to being customer centric and digital-first in its product and service offerings, ensuring a simplified and rewarding banking experience

for its customers in the rapidly transforming regional banking industry."

Commenting on the achievements, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive Retail Banking, also stated; "In recent years, we have curated an extensive line-up of products that put our customers first and ensure that they receive a highly personalised customer journey. Furthermore, thanks to the extensive work that went into making our fast-developing rewards platform 'Points by NBB' user friendly, and accessible where many new and exciting features are being planned, our app is now regarded as one of the best of its kind and we're very pleased that it has been named as the Best App for Customer Experience."

The National Bank of Bahrain has continuously positioned itself as the preferred bank of choice across the Kingdom and the region. NBB aims to further develop its customer-centric offerings and business practices in honour of its promise of being 'Closer to You'.

Union Minister V Muraleedharan visits Indian School

TDT | Manama

Indian Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan interacted with the students at the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) on May 5.

The programme was held at the school's Jashanmal auditorium in Isa Town campus.

Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Piyush Srivastava, ISB Hon. Chairman Prince Natarajan, Hon. Secretary Saji Antony,

Executive Committee Members Binu Mannil Vrugheese, Rajesh MN, Premalatha NS, Mohamad Nayaz Ullah, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Riffa Campus Principal Pamela Xavier, Staff Representative Johnson K Devassy, Indian Embassy Second Secretary Ravi Kumar Jain, Ihjas Aslam, Principals of the CBSE affiliated schools in the Kingdom, staff and students attended the programme which began with the national anthem.

Union Minister V Muraleedharan, who lighted the



The Union Minister with Indian Ambassador Srivastava and Indian School Bahrain officials

lamp, gave a felicitation speech in which he appreciated the achievements of the Indian schools in the Kingdom.

Referring to the ISB, the minister said: "I'm delighted to be

here in this historic and one of the largest schools in the region. I'm glad to know that the Indian School Bahrain is a UNESCO affiliated school which has earned a great reputation as a center of educational excellence in the country. It's a pleasure to interact with the ignited minds. I take this opportunity to thank the visionary leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain for providing facilities to create institutions like the Indian School Bahrain to teach the Indian curriculum."

Appeals hearing is set for Asians convicted of doing illicit activities

● Drug use and possession of pistols

TDT | Manama

Five Asian men convicted of drug use, robbing an abandoned deceased businessman's house, and possessing three pistols and ammunition are set to stand trial before the High Appeals Court which will hear their appeals on May 22.

The defendants earlier received sentences ranging between four years and one year

in prison.

According to court files, an Asian labourer reported the convicted men to the police after witnessing their illicit activities.

As a result, their place of living was searched, and the drugs were found hidden in addition to the pistols, while it was discovered that they were involved in robbing the house of the businessman. The latter died in 2013.

Further investigations uncovered that the pistols were stolen from the businessman's house.

Health Ministry to end expat contracts

● Qualified Bahrainis to take over jobs: Dr Jalila Al Sayed

Tofoof Al Mansoor

There are only seven expats at the Health Ministry working in legal consultations, drug quality assurance, and information systems development.

This was confirmed by Health Minister Dr Jalila Al Sayed in her response to the parliamentary question submitted by MP Mahdi Al Showaikh, a member of the Council of Representatives.

The minister explained that contracts signed with non-Bahrainis are considered annual contracts, and the services of foreign employees are terminated at the end of the contract whenever a qualified Bahraini employee is available to fill the position.

The ministry works according



The Health Ministry works according to its plan to nationalise jobs, and with the approval of its organisational structure, qualified Bahraini employees are substituted for non-Bahraini employees.



“I’m completely committed to giving priority to citizens in employment whenever qualified Bahraini cadres are available to fill vacant positions.”

- DR JALILA AL SAYED, HEALTH MINISTER

employees.

Currently, the ministry is preparing the second tier for legal specialisations and preparing Bahraini employees to replace non-Bahrainis by training and developing their skills.

Dr Al Sayed emphasised her complete commitment to giving priority to citizens in employment whenever qualified Bahraini cadres are available to fill vacant positions.

The ministry, through its plan

to nationalise jobs, regularly reviews jobs and works to terminate the contract of non-Bahraini employees whenever a qualified Bahraini employee is available.

A group of contracts has already been terminated, and efforts are underway to train and qualify Bahraini employees to replace non-Bahraini employees currently present. It is expected that all jobs will be nationalised.

Italian Ambassador visits KHAMH



The Italian Ambassador to Bahrain, H.E. Paola Amadi, visited the King Hamad American Mission Hospital in A'ali. The Ambassador was given a tour of the new facility by the Corporate CEO of American Mission Hospital, Dr George Cheriyan. The AMH Group, which comprises of the main hospital in Manama and clinics in Amwaj, Saar and Riffa besides KHAMH, is committed to meeting the increasing demands and expectations of its patients now and well into the future.

Impressive musical talent shines at Melody Nite 2023



Brilliant musical performances captivate the crowd

TDT | Manama

The Melody Nite 2023, held on 5 May at the grand Hawar Banquet Hall at Olive Hotel in Juffair, was an extraordinary event that showcased the musical talent of 55 students of the Performing Arts Centre of iSocial Projects Company, Bahrain and supported by nearly 300 excited audience.

The parents of students and other well-wishers in the audience were treated to a series of captivating musical performances themed “West meets East.”

While the vocalists belted some of the best chartbusters comprising of country, pop, rock and Bollywood hits; the

instrumentalists displayed their talent via guitar, violin, ukulele, keyboard and drums.

After enchanting melodies and exceptional stage presence that left the audience mesmerised, the latest group of music program completers secured their plaques during the event.

The finale included a group performance by all 55 students that received a standing ovation from the audience.

As part of the casual session, Sonia Prabhu – Mentor and Director of the event rendered a set of electrifying songs, which were a mix of international and regional Indian hits accompanied by fellow music enthusiasts.

She did not fail to appreciate the dedication, hard work and passion for music of each and every performer on stage, and extended her immense gratitude to the parents, well-wishers, volunteers and supporters for their collective contribution that led to the resounding success of the event.

Finally, with the island's leading emcee and DJ in the house, the audience were treated to a fun-filled evening with lots of dancing, music, gifts, prizes and a sumptuous dinner apart from the creating memories via photo booth at the venue that was meticulously crafted and put together by an inspiring group of students.

ITHMAAR HOLDING B.S.C. (THE "COMPANY") INVITATION FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Company (CR No. 15210) cordially invites the shareholders of the Company (“Shareholders”) to attend the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company (the “Meeting”). The Meeting will be held on Thursday, 1 June 2023, commencing at 1:30 pm, at Rotonda Meeting Room, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Seef District, Kingdom of Bahrain, to discuss items set forth in the following agenda.

In the event that the quorum for the Meeting is not achieved, a second Meeting will be held on Sunday, 4 June 2023, at the same time and the same venue. In the event that the quorum for the second Meeting is not achieved, a third Meeting will be held on Monday, 5 June 2023, at the same time and the same venue.

AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING:

1. To receive and approve the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held on 17 March 2022.
2. To approve the issuance of Tier 1 Mudaraba Financing up to USD 200,000,000 in cash or in-kind in one or more tranches, and to authorize the Board of Directors to take the necessary actions and decisions regarding profit rate on the instrument, issuance value, costs of issuance, accepting different type and forms of cash and/or in-kind subscriptions, write down and/or conversion features, and any other terms, including but not limited to any subsequent required capital increase, modifications of contractual terms, etc, subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Bahrain (“CBB”).
3. To approve the amendment and restatement to the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association to comply with the law amendments of the Bahrain Commercial Companies Law No. (21) for the year 2001 and its amendments (“BCCL”), in addition to any other amendment, subject to the approval of the CBB and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (“MoIC”).
4. To authorize Mr. Abdulla Abdulaziz Taleb, Chief Executive Officer, or any other person whom he duly authorizes, to represent the Company before the MoIC, the Notary Public, Private Notary and/or any other governmental or non-governmental authority as may be necessary or required to carry out and complete the procedures required, including but not limited to, amending, restating and notarizing the Memorandum and Articles of Association to reflect the matters under Agenda Items 2 and 3.

NOTES:

- (a) Each Shareholder, regardless of the number of the shares he or she owns, shall have the right to attend the Meeting, and shall have a number of votes equal to the number of shares he or she owns in the Company. Any provision or decision to the contrary shall be null and void (Article 203 of the BCCL).
- (b) Any Shareholder may appoint a proxy to attend the Meeting on their behalf, provided that the proxy holder shall not be the Chairman of the Board of Directors, a Director serving on the Board of Directors or an employee of the Company. However, this shall not prejudice the right to delegate a first-degree relative. This shall be by virtue of a special proxy evidenced in writing designated for this purpose by the Company. Legal representatives of the members lacking capacity or under legal incapacity shall represent them in the Meeting (Article 203 of the BCCL).
- (c) Shareholders intending to appoint a proxy to represent them at the Meeting are requested to present the proxy form to KFin Technologies (Bahrain) W.L.L. (“KFin Technologies”) (on bahrain.helpdesk@kfintech.com) no later than 24 hours prior to the time of the Meeting (Article 203 of the BCCL). Proxy forms may be obtained electronically from the Company's website www.ithmaarholding.com, Bahrain Bourse website or Dubai Financial Market website.
- (d) For any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact ‘Investor Relations’ on 17585094 or at IR@ithmaarholding.com.

Amr Mohammed Al Faisal
Chairman of the Board of Directors

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INOVEST reports financial reports for Q1 2023

TDI | Manama

INOVEST has released its Q1 2023 financial report, showing its performance during the first quarter of the year.

The consolidated net profit attributable to the parent shareholders was reported at \$103,000, in contrast to last year's US\$ 1.292 million, a decline of 92%.

The Basic Earnings Per Share for this period also dropped, reaching US cents 0.03 compared to US cents 0.43 in 2022.

The management fees and a small decline in income from investments were cited as primary reasons for the decline. Net operating income for Q1 declared at US\$ 275,000 compared to US\$ 1.281 million last year, reflecting a decline of 79%.

The consolidated operating income showed a decline of

29% and reached US\$ 2.431 million compared to US\$ 3.448 million last year. However, the group's operating expenses reduced to US\$ 2.156 million, from US\$ 2.167 million in Q1 of 2022.

The equity attributable to parent shareholders stood at US\$ 143.939 million in comparison to US\$ 143.836 million at the end of 2022, indicating a slight increase in consolidated total assets amounting to US\$ 242.184 million compared to US\$ 240.327 million at the end of 2022.

On the liquidity front, INOVEST's cash and bank balances stood at 6% of the total consolidated assets, representing a 16% decline due to the settlement of financing facilities and ongoing operational expenses.

The cash and bank balances stood at US\$ 14.958 million compared to US\$ 17.819 million for the end of 2022.

EU court overturns approval of Lufthansa, SAS Covid bailouts

EU court backs Ryanair challenge against bailout

AFP | Frankfurt

An EU court yesterday overturned the European Commission's decision to approve massive government bailouts for German airline Lufthansa and Scandinavia's SAS during the coronavirus pandemic, after a legal challenge by rival airlines.

Lufthansa, one of Europe's biggest airline groups, received a multi-billion-euro cash injection in 2020 to save it from collapse as the pandemic brought air travel to a halt.



A technician walks behind the fin of a Lufthansa aircraft parked behind a SAS aircraft at Stockholm Arlanda airport (file photo)

In the same year, the European Commission approved a bailout of just over one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) for SAS from Sweden and Denmark.

In the case of Lufthansa, the

EU General Court, Europe's second-highest court, said the commission "committed several errors", and annulled its decision to approve six billion euros of bailout funds.

The ruling was made in response to a complaint lodged by Irish airline Ryanair, which has long railed against what it sees as unfair aid paid out to rivals, as well as German charter airline Condor.

The court said mistakes included considering Lufthansa could not obtain financing on the markets, failing to require a mechanism incentivising Lufthansa to buy back Germany's shareholding, and potential impacts on market competitiveness.

The commission said in a statement it would study the judgement and "reflect on possible next steps".

Given Lufthansa paid back the bailout cash in 2021, it is not clear if the ruling will have any impact.

Shell wins legal case over Nigeria oil spill

AFP | London

Britain's highest court ruled yesterday it was too late for people in Nigeria's Niger delta region to lodge pollution claims against energy giant Shell after a huge oil spill more than one decade ago.

The Supreme Court said in a statement that its five judges

"unanimously" rejected an appeal over the 2011 spill, upholding prior rulings that claims were not made before a legal deadline. Nigerian claimants say their shoreline faced a "devastating impact" from a leak at the Bonga oil field which unleashed 40,000 barrels of crude into the Gulf of Guinea.

Musk says video and audio calls coming to Twitter

AFP | Washington

Twitter boss Elon Musk on Tuesday put out word that audio and video calls are coming to the platform.

"Coming soon will be voice and video chat from your handle to anyone on this platform," Musk

said in a tweet.

"So you can talk to people anywhere in the world without giving them your phone number."

In a subsequent comment fired off on Twitter, Musk contended that the WhatsApp messaging service operated by Meta "cannot be trusted."

A messaging feature at Twitter would compete with an array of free services including Messenger, Signal, Telegram and WhatsApp.

Musk added that Twitter will start encrypting direct messages on the platform, scrambling contents to safeguard privacy.



Elon Musk

| Condensed interim statement of financial position as at 31 March 2023 | | | Condensed interim statement of profit or loss for the three months ended 31 March 2023 | | | Condensed interim statement of cash flows for the three months period ended 31 March 2023 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| | 31 March 2023 (Reviewed) | 31 December 2022 (Audited) | | Three months period ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed) | Three months period ended 31 March 2022 (Reviewed) | | Three months period ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed) | Three months period ended 31 March 2022 (Reviewed) |
| ASSETS | | | Condensed interim statement of comprehensive income for the three months ended 31 March 2023 | | | Condensed interim statement of changes in shareholders' equity for the three months period ended 31 March 2023 | | |
| Non-current assets | | | Net profit for the period | | | Share capital | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 5,135,304 | 4,688,861 | Sales | 4,881,574 | 4,569,726 | Share capital | 3,120,928 | 3,120,928 |
| Right-of-use assets | 552,412 | 565,033 | Cost of sales | (4,539,029) | (4,280,286) | Statutory reserve | 1,560,464 | 1,560,464 |
| Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income | 3,196,180 | 3,149,453 | Gross Profit for the period | 342,545 | 289,440 | General reserve | 3,993,000 | 3,993,000 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 679,241 | 710,463 | Other income | 60,608 | 44,844 | Development and raw material reserve | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Investments at amortised cost | 250,000 | 250,000 | Other operating expenses | (193,047) | (209,590) | Investment fair value reserve | 2,478,798 | 2,432,071 |
| | 9,813,137 | 9,363,810 | Profit from operations | 210,106 | 124,694 | Retained earnings | 2,284,014 | 2,159,991 |
| Current assets | | | Finance costs | (23,732) | (7,167) | Treasury shares | (122,398) | (122,398) |
| Inventories | 3,194,035 | 2,972,473 | Investment income | 126,990 | 130,027 | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | 2,986,571 | 2,897,793 | Unrealised fair value (losses)/gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | (36,364) | 49,556 | Total shareholders' equity | 14,314,806 | 14,144,056 |
| Cash and bank balances | 899,290 | 1,284,813 | Share of loss in an associate | - | (23,627) | | | |
| | 7,079,896 | 7,155,079 | Net profit for the period | 277,000 | 273,483 | | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 16,893,033 | 16,518,889 | Basic earnings per share (fills) | 9.05 | 8.94 | | | |
| EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | | Condensed interim statement of comprehensive income for the three months ended 31 March 2023 | | | Condensed interim statement of changes in shareholders' equity for the three months period ended 31 March 2023 | | |
| Capital and reserves | | | Net profit for the period | | | Share capital | | |
| Share capital | 3,120,928 | 3,120,928 | Other comprehensive income | 46,727 | 257,431 | Share capital | 3,120,928 | 3,120,928 |
| Statutory reserve | 1,560,464 | 1,560,464 | Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss: | | | Statutory reserve | 1,560,464 | 1,560,464 |
| General reserve | 3,993,000 | 3,993,000 | Valuation gains on financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income | 46,727 | 257,431 | General reserve | 3,993,000 | 3,993,000 |
| Development and raw material reserve | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | Items that may be reclassified into profit or loss: | | | Development and raw material reserve | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Investment fair value reserve | 2,478,798 | 2,432,071 | Company's share in associate's other comprehensive loss | - | (4,173) | Investment fair value reserve | 2,478,798 | 2,432,071 |
| Retained earnings | 2,284,014 | 2,159,991 | Other comprehensive income for the period | 46,727 | 253,258 | Retained earnings | 2,284,014 | 2,159,991 |
| Treasury shares | (122,398) | (122,398) | Total comprehensive income for the period | 323,727 | 526,741 | Treasury shares | (122,398) | (122,398) |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Total shareholders' equity | 14,314,806 | 14,144,056 | | | | | | |
| Non-current liabilities | | | | | | | | |
| Non-current portion of lease liability | 597,164 | 629,686 | | | | | | |
| Non-current portion of deferred income | 139,449 | 155,782 | | | | | | |
| Employees' terminal benefits | 50,030 | 47,266 | | | | | | |
| | 786,643 | 832,734 | | | | | | |
| Current liabilities | | | | | | | | |
| Current portion of lease liabilities | 14,650 | 13,654 | | | | | | |
| Current portion of deferred income | 13,806 | 13,806 | | | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 1,211,310 | 1,013,937 | | | | | | |
| Short-term borrowings | 551,818 | 500,702 | | | | | | |
| | 1,791,584 | 1,542,099 | | | | | | |
| Total liabilities | 2,578,227 | 2,374,833 | | | | | | |
| TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | 16,893,033 | 16,518,889 | | | | | | |

These financial statements approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 10 May 2023. Full set of condensed interim financial information can be seen on Company website: www.dawajen.bh

Abdul Rahman Mohamed Jamsheer
Chairman

Abdulhussain Khalil Dewani
Vice Chairman

Abdulhadi Mirza Jaffer
Chief Executive Officer
(CEO)

Financial information Reviewed by
BDO

News in brief

Two popes in the Vatican as Francis greets Coptic leader



There were once again two popes at the Vatican yesterday, at least briefly, when Pope Francis welcomed Pope Tawadros II, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, to his weekly audience. Francis, the 86-year-old head of the global Catholic Church, embraced the Egyptian patriarch in St Peter's Square before the pair took to the stage, where they both addressed the rain-soaked crowds. Tawadros is on a four-day visit to mark 50 years since the historic meeting between pope Paul VI and patriarch Shenouda III in May 1973.

Jewels belonging to an Austrian billionaire whose German husband made his fortune under the Nazis was set to go under the hammer later yesterday, despite demands by Jewish groups to call the sale off.

Jewellery with Nazi links up for auction despite criticism



The Christie's auction house plans to sell the entire collection of 700 jewels, estimated to be worth more than \$150 million, by the end of the year. A portion has been available online since last week, while nearly 100 pieces will be sold in person in Geneva yesterday and another 150 on Friday. The jewellery, including pieces from 20th-century designers such as Cartier, Bulgari and Van Cleef & Arpels, belonged to Heidi Horten who died last year aged 81, with a fortune of \$2.9 billion, according to Forbes.

Canada wildfires slow allowing evacuees to return, but hot, dry weather coming



Cooler temperatures and light rain brought relief that allowed some wildfire evacuees to return home in Canada's Alberta province, but several blazes were still out of control and a coming sharp rise in the mercury could set back efforts to tame the fires. Authorities have lifted evacuation orders for a handful of communities after beating back flames, but suffocating smoke still fills the air -- carried by winds across the continent as far as the Arctic and the US Atlantic coast. The number of wildfires that forced 30,000 people to flee in the past four days has fallen from a peak of 110 to 81, with 24 still listed as out of control. But officials warned that a return to hot and dry conditions was expected by Friday and would persist through the weekend.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Australia told to shoot kangaroos before they starve



Kangaroos in Merimbula in Australia's New South Wales state (file photo) AFP | Sydney

Australia's kangaroos could die in "catastrophic" numbers if a population boom is left unchecked, ecologists have warned, while backing the industrial-scale culling of the marsupials.

To outsiders, the kangaroo is an instantly-recognisable symbol of the Australian wilderness, but within the country the native animal poses a major environmental headache.

Kangaroos have a "boom and bust" population cycle -- when fodder is plentiful on the back of a good wet season their numbers can balloon by tens of millions.

Hopping mobs of kangaroos can rapidly strip paddocks bare, but ecologist Katherine Moseby warned they would starve to death in droves when food ran out.

"The last drought we estimated that 80 or 90 percent of the kangaroos in some areas died," she told AFP.

"They are starving to death -- going into public toilets and eating toilet paper, or lying on the road starving while their

YOU KNOW WHAT

Kangaroos have a "boom and bust" population cycle -- when fodder is plentiful on the back of a good wet season their numbers can balloon by tens of millions

joey's are trying to feed," she added, referring to events from the last population boom.

Moseby said the kindest way to save kangaroos from this fate was to shoot them, and harvest the meat, as a way of keeping numbers in check.

"It keeps the numbers down so that when we do get drought we don't get these welfare issues," she said.

"If we saw them as a resource and managed them like that, we wouldn't get the catastrophic deaths that we see."

Pakistan ex-PM Khan re custody after arrest pro

Court rules Imran Khan can be held for questioning for eight days

Army called in to maintain law and order

AFP | Islamabad

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan was remanded in custody for eight days yesterday by an anti-graft court as violent nationwide protests over his arrest erupted for a second day.

Khan was arrested on Tuesday during a routine hearing in the capital Islamabad and whisked away to an unknown location overnight before appearing behind closed doors in a specially convened court at police headquarters.

The drama follows months of political crisis during which Khan, who was ousted in April last year, has waged an unprecedented campaign against the country's powerful military.

"If they think that the arrest of Imran Khan will demoralise us, then they are hugely mistaken," said Niaz Ali in Peshawar,



Police (foreground) use tear gas to disperse Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party activists and supporters of Imran Khan during a protest

where several monuments and government buildings have been torched.

"We stand with Imran Khan and will support him till death."

Ali Bukhari, a lawyer for Khan, told AFP by phone that the court had approved eight days of physical remand of Khan demanded by the country's top graft agency.

Afzal Marwat, another of Khan's lawyers, earlier said Khan

was in "good spirits" but had complained of being hit on the back of the head and leg by paramilitary forces who arrested him.

The former cricketing superstar, who remains wildly popular, has previously said the dozens of cases brought against him are part of an effort by the struggling government and military establishment to prevent him from returning to power.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Pakistan politicians have frequently been arrested and jailed since the country's founding in 1947, but few have so directly challenged a military that has staged at least three coups and ruled for more than three decades

His arrest has brought thousands of his supporters to the streets in cities across the country, where police have attempted to quell crowds with tear gas.

At least six people have died in protest-related incidents, police and hospitals reported, including one person who died from smoke inhalation after a multi-storey

Trump found liable for sexually abusing writer

AFP | Washington

A New York jury found Donald Trump liable for sexually abusing and defaming an American former magazine columnist and ordered the ex-president to pay her \$5 million in damages.

The nine jurors rejected E. Jean Carroll's accusation of rape but unanimously upheld her other complaints in the closely watched civil trial, following less than three hours of deliberations.

It marks the first time Trump has faced legal consequences over a string of sexual assault allegations dating back decades -- and the former leader immediately rejected the verdict as a "disgrace."

Carroll, 79, sued Trump last year, alleging that he raped her in the changing room of the lux-



Donald Trump

ury Bergdorf Goodman store on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue in 1996.

The former columnist for Elle magazine also claimed that Trump defamed her when he called her "a complete con job" after she went public with the allegation in 2019.

Trump, the 76-year-old front-runner for the Republican nomination in next year's presidential election, called her case a "hoax" and "a lie."

The jury determined that Car-

”

I have absolutely no idea who this woman is. This verdict is a disgrace -- a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time

DONALD TRUMP

roll had proved sexual abuse -- effectively sexual contact without consent -- by a preponderance of the evidence and awarded her \$2 million.

The six men and three women on the jury also said Trump should pay Carroll nearly \$3 million for defamation.

Following the verdict, Carroll left the Manhattan federal court smiling but did not speak to reporters.

YOU KNOW WHAT

The six men and three women on the jury also said Trump should pay Carroll nearly \$3 million for defamation

"We're very happy," said her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan.

Trump slammed the outcome on his social media platform Truth Social.

"I have absolutely no idea who this woman is," he wrote, using all capital letters. "This verdict is a disgrace -- a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time."

US woman who wrote book on grief charged with killing husband

AFP | Washington

A US woman who wrote a book on dealing with grief after the death of her husband has been charged with his murder.

Kouri Richins penned "Are You With Me?" in the months after Eric Richins was found dead in their bedroom in Utah in March 2022.

Richins told police she had mixed her husband a drink and taken it to him in bed. When she came back later she found he was "cold to the touch," Fox



Kouri Richins

13 reported Monday.

An autopsy revealed he had died from an overdose of fentanyl, with five times the lethal dosage in his body.

Investigators found Kouri

Richins had asked an acquaintance to get her strong prescription pain medication, specifically "some of the Michael Jackson stuff."

Richins received up to 30 fentanyl pills.

A few days later, Eric Richins "told a friend that he thought his wife was trying to poison him," investigators' documents said, according to Fox 13.

Kouri Richins obtained another batch of fentanyl shortly before her husband died.

Richins' book, which was published almost exactly a year

after her husband died, is described by its blurb as "heart-warming and reassuring."

"Written by a loving mother who personally faced this challenge, this book is designed to offer comfort and solace to young minds.

"Are You With Me' follows the story of a child who has lost their father, but who is reminded that his presence still exists all around them, just like an angel watching over them."

The couple, who had been married for nine years, had three children, all boys.

Newly built city of Constantinople (Byzantium) dedicated, becomes the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire

Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa and 100,000 crusaders depart Regensburg for the Third Crusade



Pennsylvania Hospital founded by Dr. Thomas Bond and Benjamin Franklin, in Philadelphia

More than 170 countries agree to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty indefinitely and without conditions to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons

Demanded in prompts riots

building was set on fire in Lahore.

Confrontation with military

Khan's arrest came hours after the military rebuked him for alleging that a senior officer had been involved in a plot to kill him.

Pakistan politicians have frequently been arrested and jailed since the country's founding in 1947, but few have so directly challenged a military that has staged at least three coups and ruled for more than three decades.

Criticism of the military establishment is rare in Pakistan, where army chiefs hold significant influence over domestic politics and foreign policy, and have long been accused of interfering in the rise and fall of governments.

"The senior army leadership is uninterested in repairing the rift between itself and Khan," said Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center.

"So with this arrest it's likely sending a message that the gloves are very much off."

Internet cut, exams cancelled

The interior ministry had ordered mobile internet services cut and restricted access to social media sites Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, the country's communications agency said.

Authorities have ordered schools closed across the nation -- with end of year exams cancelled for students.

Hundreds of police officers have been injured across the country, while in Pakistan's most populous province of Punjab nearly 1,000 people have been arrested and the army ordered to deploy to keep peace.

"At a time when we are already struggling to feed our children, further uncertainty has been created," Farooq Bhatti, a van driver, said in Rawalpindi.

Some protesters took out their wrath on the military, torching the residence of the corps commander in Lahore and gathering outside the entrance to the army's general headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi and pelting it with stones.

Shock, grief after Tunisian policeman kills 5 outside synagogue



Police secure an area near the Ghriba synagogue following a shootout

AFP | Tunis

Tunisia's small Jewish community was in shock and mourning yesterday after a bloody shooting rampage in which a police officer killed five people outside Africa's oldest synagogue.

The shooting Tuesday sparked mass panic during an annual Jewish pilgrimage at the historic Ghriba synagogue on the resort island of Djerba, which was quickly locked down by security forces.

"I never believed that I would experience such terror," recounted one survivor, Raoudha Seibi.

The attack was "a real nightmare", said a tearful Seibi, a member of the Tunisian Association for the Support of Minorities. "I am still in shock."

Authorities were investigating the motive of the killer, who was shot dead after killing three police officers and two visitors, a French-Tunisian and an Israeli-Tunisian man.

French President Emmanuel

Macron vowed to keep up the fight "against anti-Semitic hatred", and Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said the bloodshed proves "evil and hatred are still there".

The Ghriba pilgrimage was previously targeted in a 2002 suicide truck bombing that killed 21 people.

The gunman, wearing his police uniform and a bulletproof vest, started the attack by killing a fellow officer and taking his gun and ammunition at the island's port, said officials.



The synagogue was previously targeted in a suicide truck bombing that killed 21 in 2002

Biden to host India's Modi for state visit in June

AFP | Washington

US President Joe Biden will host India Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a state visit on June 22 that will affirm the two countries' "deep and close partnership," the White House announced yesterday.

The visit, the highest level of diplomatic reception at the White House, will boost Washington and New Delhi's "shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific," the statement said. The invitation comes as both



US President Joe Biden (R) greets India's PM Narendra Modi as they arrive to attend an event as part of G7 Summit in Germany (file photo)

India and the United States seek to shore up support against China's growing assertiveness.

It will be the first state visit by Modi to the United States. He visited Biden at the White House in 2021, but as part of the Quad summit bringing together the United States, Australia, Japan and India.

This time India is understood to have pushed for the pomp of a full state visit. The trip will include a state dinner.

The visit will also strength-

en the two countries' "shared resolve to elevate our strategic technology partnership, including in defense, clean energy, and space," the White House statement continued.

"The leaders will discuss ways to further expand our educational exchanges and people-to-people ties, as well as our work together to confront common challenges from climate change, to workforce development and health security," it said.

Washington has long sought to boost India as a counterinfluence to an increasingly assertive China in Asia -- and New Delhi, worried about Beijing's build-up on the other side of its border, has also sought to build ties

15 children drown, 25 missing in Nigeria boat accident

AFP | Kano

Fifteen children drowned and 25 others were missing when their overloaded boat capsized in a river in northwest Nigeria, a local official said yesterday.

The children were on their way from Dundeji village in Sokoto State to collect firewood in the bush on Tuesday on the other side of Shagari river when their boat sank, Aliyu Abubakar, local administrator of Shagari district, said.

"We woke up to a tragedy yesterday morning, where a boat carrying children capsized mid-river," Abubakar told AFP.

"Fifteen bodies, 13 girls and two boys, were recovered by local rescue teams and buried in the village," said the official, who supervised the rescue operation.

River accidents are frequent



Rescuers search for victims at the site of a capsized boat (image for representation)

in Nigeria, often caused by overloading, poor maintenance, heavy flooding in rainy season and disregard of safety regulations.

Divers were working in the Shagari river late on Tuesday searching for more of the children.

In April last year, 29 children from nearby Gidan Magana village in Sokoto drowned in the same river when their vessel capsized while they were also



River accidents are frequent in Nigeria, often caused by overloading, poor maintenance, heavy flooding in rainy season and disregard of safety regulations

on their way to fetch firewood for their families.

During massive flooding in rainy season in December, at least 76 people drowned when their boat went down in a swollen river in southeast Anambra State.

US braces for migration surge with thousands of forces at border

AFP | Washington

The United States yesterday was readying its response to an expected surge of migrants seeking to enter, with officials saying 24,000 law enforcement personnel have been deployed to the Mexican border.

President Joe Biden has acknowledged that the border will be "chaotic for a while" with the expiration of Covid pandemic rules that had forbidden virtually all asylum claims there.

Tens of thousands of people are waiting at crossing points for the end of so-called Title 42 overnight Thursday into Friday, despite the Biden administration vowing to enforce the border vigorously.

A senior administration official said that 24,000 border police and 1,100 border processing



Migrants wait in line to turn themselves in for processing to US Customs and Border Protection agents in El Paso, Texas

personnel have been deployed, double the number a year ago.

The Pentagon has also been sending 1,500 extra troops to the border to reinforce 2,500 already in place.

Thousands of people, largely from Central America and Haiti as well as Venezuela, have been seeking to enter the world's wealthiest country as they flee poverty, violence and drought exacerbated by climate change.

The crossings have become a political flashpoint in the United States, with the rival Republican Party under Donald Trump championing stringent anti-immigration measures.

Trump as president used Title 42, officially a public health measure, as a blunt tool to block migrants, but both the United States and World Health Organization say the emergency phase of the pandemic is over.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



In a world of overlapping and converging crises, the health emergency preparedness and response architecture must be able to effectively address emergencies of all kinds.

@DrTredos

02



@POTUS and @FLOTUS will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Republic of India for an Official State Visit to the United States, which will include a state dinner, on June 22, 2023.

@PressSec

03



Viktor Orbán last week said "Mr Trump, come back, make America great again". Does he still ask that? Europe's far-right turn a blind eye to Trump's abuse of women, now confirmed by jury in a civil trial. This man is totally unfit for elected office!

@guyverhofstadt

04



Glad to be back in China after reopening. Had very constructive discussions with key economic policymakers on China's economic rebound, domestic policy challenges and how we can strengthen our engagement and work together to foster global prosperity and development.

@GitaGopinath

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

Classifieds



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'It has been an honour' -- Barca legend Busquets to leave club

Barcelona captain Sergio Busquets to leave club at the end of season

● Saudi Arabia talks are understood to be in advanced stage

AFP | Barcelona

Sergio Busquets will leave Barcelona in June at the end of his contract, the midfielder confirmed yesterday, ending a highly successful era at the club.

"The moment has arrived to announce this is my last season at Barcelona," said Busquets on Instagram.

"It has been an unforgettable journey."

Busquets has won the Champions League three times with Barcelona and La Liga on eight occasions before this season, with the Catalans set to triumph again for the first time in four years.

The 34-year-old has been a key player for Barca since breaking into the first team under their former coach Pep Guardiola in 2008, becoming the club's captain in 2021.

Busquets is Barcelona's third-highest appearance maker of all time, playing for the club on 718 occasions, lifting 31 trophies in total.



Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets (R) in action (file photo)

He did not say where he might go next, with Spanish reports suggesting he may move to a team in Saudi Arabia.

"It has been an honour, a dream, a pride. It has been everything to be able to defend and represent this badge for so many years, but everything has

a beginning and an end," continued Busquets.

"Although it has not been an easy decision, I think the time has come."

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez, who played with Busquets in the team's midfield for several years, wanted the midfielder to

stay next season, but said the decision was up to him.

Busquets' team-mates past and present paid tribute to him on social media after he announced his future lay outside the club.

"My friend, after so much we've lived through together,

what can I say that you don't know?" wrote Barcelona defender Jordi Alba on Instagram.

"You're leaving your home, having made an indelible imprint on Barcelona's history.

"More than 700 games and a fundamental part of so many titles, and glorious nights that all Barca fans will forever remember."

Former Barcelona playmaker Andres Iniesta said Busquets was "number one".

'An example'

"You are the best, Sergio, I will miss you," wrote Barca midfielder Sergi Roberto, who is set to inherit the captain's armband.

"An example in all senses, I have been lucky to share many moments with you and it will not be easy day to day without you."

Barcelona hailed him as "one of the best players ever to represent the club".

"Busquets' story at Barca is one of class and commitment in the centre of midfield," read a statement on the club website.

"His talent and his ability to read the game has made him one of the best defensive midfielders in the game."

Busquets has been notable as a ball-playing pivot, using perfect positioning and anticipation

rather than physicality to recover the ball for his side.

The veteran has long been thought to favour a move to Major League Soccer in the United States at the end of his Barcelona contract, with Inter Miami one of the teams mentioned.

However in recent days the player has been linked in Spanish media with a move to the Saudi Arabian top flight.

Former Barcelona forward Lionel Messi, a close friend of Busquets, is another player who may end up in the oil-rich kingdom after a source close to negotiations told AFP it was a "done deal" for the Argentine forward to move to the Middle East.

However Messi's father and agent Jorge Messi said Tuesday that the World Cup winner's future would only be decided at the end of the season.

Busquets won the World Cup with Spain in 2010 and the European Championship in 2012, a key fixture in the national team for nearly 15 years until he retired from international duty in December.

The midfielder was the only player who won the World Cup in 2010 who was part of Spain's squad for the Qatar tournament, in which they were eliminated in the last 16.

Embiid, Sixers close on series win after downing Celtics

AFP | Los Angeles

Joel Embiid led the Philadelphia 76ers to within one win of a series triumph over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday, scoring 33 points in a 115-103 road victory in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference playoff

duel.

Embiid delivered another towering performance that underscored his NBA Most Valuable Player status as the Sixers dominated from early in the first quarter to leave Boston's TD Garden home crowd in stunned silence.

The result gives the third-seeded Sixers a 3-2 series lead, meaning they can advance to the conference finals with a win in game six on home court in Philadelphia on Thursday.

The Sixers will head into that game brimming with confidence after an assured display in game

five that left second-seeded Boston's postseason campaign hanging by a thread.

Embiid led the scoring in a superbly balanced Sixers offensive performance, with five players finishing in double figures.

Tyrese Maxey tormented the Celtics with 30 points, includ-

ing six three-pointers, while point guard James Harden was a constant thorn in the side of the Celtics, finishing with 17 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

"I thought Joel did a great job of shooting when he needed to shoot, and passing when he

needed to pass," Sixers coach Doc Rivers said.

"Our composure overall was good. You know they're going to make shots, they're going to make runs. That team is tough, and you've got to breathe through it. I thought our guys did that."

HH Shaikh Nasser instructs Royal Endurance Team to widely participate in Windsor Endurance Festival

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Captain of the Royal Endurance team has instructed the team to widely take part in the Royal Windsor Endurance Festival which will take place in London.

His Highness underlined that the continued presence in this prestigious festival comes as an extension of the deep-rooted ties and connections between Bahrain and the United Kingdom thanks to the Royal vision of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the constant support of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Nasser expressed his optimism towards the Royal



Royal Endurance Team during training

Endurance team's participation in the race thanks to the team's rich experience in the event.

The championship village will witness the participation of the

Royal Endurance team in the veterinary tests ahead of the races. The team will compete in three categories, namely the 100km race, the 120km contest

and the 160km competition.

Raed Mahmood, Abdulrahman Al Khateri and Nasser Khalifa Mubarak will take part in the 100km race, while HH Shaikh Isa bin Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Jaber Bader Jaffar, Zuhair Mohammed, Shahad Waleed, Faisal Hameed Al Enzy, Khalid Yusuf Abdulrahman, Fahad Hilal Al Khateri, Salman Isa, Sultan Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi, Mohammed Khalid Al Ruawaie, Yusuf Moahmmmed Al Sadoon, Khalifa Jamal Al Sendi, Manal Fakhrawi and Asem Abdulwahed Janahi will feature in the 120km race.

Meanwhile, Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Mohammed Abdulsamad Al Bastaki, Isa Mohammed Al Enzy, Hamad Isa Al Janahi, Mohammed Abdulhameed Al Hashemi, Mayoof Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi and Ahmed Khalid Al Thuwadi will compete in the 160km contest.

Dog causes world champ Evenepoel to crash at Giro



Remco Evenepoel is assisted by members of his team after crashing

AFP | Salerno

Remco Evenepoel crashed during the fifth stage of the Giro d'Italia when to a dog crossed the road early in yesterday's 171-kilometre ride towards Salerno.

World champion Evenepoel hit the deck more than 150km from the finish in rain-soaked southern Italy after a

dog ran across Evenepoel's Soudal-Quick Step teammate Davide Ballerini.

Evenepoel is second in the Giro's general classification and is the favourite to win the three-week Grand Tour.

The 23-year-old Belgian was attended to by a number of teammates and Quick Step staff and once on his bike raced back into the peloton, assisted by his teammates.

Grealish warns Madrid that Man City are 'unstoppable' at home



Real Madrid's Antonio Rudiger vies with Manchester City's Jack Grealish (R)

AFP | Madrid

Jack Grealish said Manchester City are confident of finishing the job against Real Madrid at home to reach the Champions League final after a 1-1 draw in their semi-final first leg on Tuesday.

City have won all 14 games at the Etihad this year by a combined score of 49-7 as Pep Guardiola's men close in on a potential treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

But it is conquering Europe for the first time that matters most to the English champions.

City suffered heartache against Madrid at the same stage of the competition last season as a late collapse in the second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu saw the Spanish giants go on to win the competition for the 14th time.

But home advantage for the return leg could make the difference this year after the sides could not be separated in Madrid.

At the Etihad at the moment we feel unstoppable. We came here tonight to try and win, but I think it shows our character to go a goal down and come back. In the end it was a fair result

JACK GREALISH

Both goals came from spectacular strikes from outside the box as Kevin De Bruyne cancelled out Vinicius Junior's opener.

"At the Etihad at the moment we feel unstoppable," Grealish told BT Sport.

"We came here tonight to try and win, but I think it shows our character to go a goal down and come back. In the end it was a fair result."

City are now unbeaten in 21 games in all competitions.

But they were not at their fluent best as Madrid successfully cut the supply line to 51-goal striker Erling Haaland.

The visitors had dominated possession until they were hit by the Real sucker punch when Vinicius drove forward and fired into the top corner on 36 minutes.

But the roles were reversed after the break as just when City appeared on the ropes, they hit back when De Bruyne drilled past his Belgian international teammate Thibaut Courtois.

Asian volleyball thrills set for Kingdom's fans

BVA announces free entry to all matches in upcoming continental tournament



Al Ahli's professionals are welcomed by a team official upon their arrival at Bahrain International Airport

● **Al Ahli welcome international professional players to Kingdom for tournament**

● **Bahraini side continue daily training programme ahead of start of action**

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) is calling on the Kingdom's sports fans to come and cheer for their favourite teams in the upcoming 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, set to be hosted by the Kingdom from Sunday.

The event is set to feature 16 leading teams from across the continent with many top international players in the fray.

Entrance is completely free for all the matches. There will be eight games per day from 11.30am between two arenas at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The competition is to be held under the patronage of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority president and Bahrain Olympic Committee chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

It is being organised by the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) in cooperation with the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC), and is scheduled to continue until May 21.

The champions will qualify for the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

Bahrain volleyball giants Al Ahli are flying the Kingdom's flag in the event. They are in Pool A for the competition's preliminary round along with Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club from South Korea, Canberra Heat from Australia and Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi from Indonesia.

Pool B is set to feature Shahdab Yazd from Iran, South Gas Sports Club from Iraq, Taichung Bank from Chinese-Taipei and Kam Air VC from Afghanistan. Pool C comprises Suntory Sunbirds from Japan, Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force



Al Ahli players during a practice



Fans to watch 16 leading volleyball clubs from across continent in prestigious competition, with many top international players in the fray

from Thailand, Bayankhongor Crownnd Geo VC from Mongolia and Khaypil Sports Club from Yemen. Pool D features Atyrau VC from Kazakhstan, Police Sports Team from Qatar, Aspiring Volleyball Team from Hong Kong and Kuwait Sporting Club from Kuwait.

Coached by Tunisian tactician Nezar Al Shakili, Ahli have signed three international professionals for the tournament, namely Gabriel Jose da Silva Candido from Brazil, Yosvany Hernandez from Cuba and Davide Saitta from Italy. They arrived in Bahrain Tuesday

evening and have been welcomed to the Kingdom by Ahli officials.

Ahli have stepped up their preparations for the event with daily training at the competition venue.

Among Ahli's top Bahraini stars set to feature on the team are Naser Anan, Mohammed Anan, Abbas Al Khabbaz, Ali Alsairafi, Sayed Mohammed Alabbar and Mahmood Abdulhussain, along with Mohammed Yaqoob and Hussain Sultan, who have been signed from Dar Kulaib for the tournament.

Ahli recently captured the silver medals in the 2023 Crown Prince's Cup Volleyball Tournament along with the bronze medals in the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

This year's event will be the second time the Kingdom has staged the competition. It previously held the 2007 edition, which was won by Paykan Tehran of Iran. A Bahrain club has yet to step onto the podium in the tournament.

Last year's competition was also won by Paykan, where they defeated Japan's Suntory Sunbirds in the final.



Manchester City are now unbeaten in 21 games in all competitions

Bahrain set for Asian Cup draw

Kingdom's senior men's national football team to learn of group stage opponents today for continental football showcase

● Draw set to be held at Katara Opera House starting at 2pm, Bahrain time

● Bahrain among 24 national teams to be divided into six groups of four

TD | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team will today learn of their group stage opponents for the next AFC Asian Cup, which will be held in January of next year in Doha.

The draw for the prestigious Asian Football Confederation (AFC) showcase takes place today at the Qatari capital at 2pm, Bahrain time.

Bahrain are in pot three for the draw. As with the previous editions of Asia's crown jewel, Qatar have been allocated the



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa at the AFC Executive Committee meeting alongside FIFA president Gianni Infantino

first position in pot one to ensure that the host nation commences the tournament with the opening match, scheduled for January 12, 2024.

Joining the hosts and defending champions in pot one are the teams ranked from second to sixth in Asia in the latest FIFA World Ranking, namely four-time winners Japan, three-time

champions Iran, two-time winners South Korea, 2015 champions Australia, and Saudi Arabia, who will be aiming to claim their fourth continental crown.

Pot two will comprise 2007 champions Iraq, 2019 hosts the UAE, Oman, 2011 semi-finalists Uzbekistan, two-time runners up China, and Jordan.

Meanwhile, joining Bahrain

“For the first time in history, Asia's crown jewel will be staged in FIFA World Cup stadiums, and we know that our teams and players are eager to showcase their talent in some of the world's finest sporting arenas

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN EBRAHIM AL KHALIFA

in pot three are Syria, Palestine, Vietnam, Kyrgyz Republic and Lebanon. India, debutants Tajikistan, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Indonesia will complete the line-up in pot four.

The tournament's 24 participating national teams will be divided into six groups of four teams each, with the top two and four best third-placed teams advancing into the final 16 of the competition before the Asian champions are crowned on February 10.

February 10.

Speaking ahead of today's draw, AFC president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain underlined his confidence yesterday in Qatar's ability to deliver a true celebration of Asian football.

“As we all witnessed just less than six months ago at the FIFA World Cup, Qatar is amongst the best sporting destinations, not only in Asia, but across the globe, and we are confident that we will experience a memorable spectacle befitting the ever-growing stature of the AFC Asian Cup,” Shaikh Salman said as he

chaired the first AFC Executive Committee meeting for the term 2023-2027.

“For the first time in history, Asia's crown jewel will be staged in FIFA World Cup stadiums, and we know that our teams and players are eager to showcase their talent in some of the world's finest sporting arenas,” Shaikh Salman continued.

“The AFC has reiterated our ambitions to stage world-class competitions for our teams, players and match officials, and we must express our utmost gratitude to the local organising committee, the Qatar Football Association and the Qatari Government for sharing our Vision and Mission for Asian football.”



The AFC Asian Cup trophy

Title-deciding fixtures scheduled by BFA

● Manama to face Al Ahli on Sunday, leaders Al Khaldiya to take on Bahrain Club on Thursday next week

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The Bahrain Football Association announced yesterday the dates for the remaining fixtures in the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Three games are still to be played, and they will decide this season's champions as well as the play-off match-ups to avoid relegation.

Al Khaldiya and Manama are currently the two remaining

Standings

| | P | W | D | L | +/- | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Al Khaldiya | 21 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 41 |
| Muharraq | 22 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 22 | 40 |
| Manama | 21 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 19 | 40 |
| Riffa | 22 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 18 | 39 |
| Sitra | 22 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 38 |
| Al Ahli | 21 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 30 |
| Al Shabab | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | -4 | 27 |
| Hidd | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | -9 | 27 |
| East Riffa | 21 | 4 | 9 | 8 | -6 | 21 |
| Al Hala | 21 | 5 | 6 | 10 | -10 | 21 |
| Bahrain Club | 21 | 4 | 6 | 11 | -10 | 18 |
| Budaiya* | 22 | 1 | 2 | 19 | -53 | -1 |

(*Budaiya deducted six points due to a decision by the Bahrain Football Association)

teams who still have a shot at clinching the title. Manama will be playing Al Ahli in their final game, scheduled for Sunday night. Khaldiya, on the other

hand, will take on Bahrain Club on Thursday next week.

Khaldiya currently have a one-point lead over Manama on the league standings and anything short of a win for Manama will gift the title to Khaldiya.

The third remaining fixture is between East Riffa and Al Hala, who are both trying to avoid relegation, along with Bahrain Club.

East Riffa and Hala are presently tied on the table with 21 points apiece, with East Riffa ninth and Hala 10th, respectively, on goal difference. Bahrain Club are on 18 points in 11th place.

Whichever team finishes ninth and 10th will take to the pitch in relegation play-offs against the third and fourth-ranked clubs from Bahrain's

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Whichever team finishes ninth and 10th will take to the pitch in relegation play-offs against the third and fourth-ranked clubs from Bahrain's second division

second division.

The 11th-ranked side will join bottom team Budaiya in the lower-tier league next season.

Argentina's Etcheverry lines up Djokovic clash at Italian Open



Tomas Martin Etcheverry in action (file photo)

AFP | Rome

Novak Djokovic's will begin his bid to retain the Italian Open title against Tomas Etcheverry after the Argentine beat Luca van Assche in the first round yesterday.

World number 61, Etcheverry beat Frenchman Van Assche in straight sets, 7-6 (9/7), 6-3, in Rome to reach the second round, when the top seeds join the fray.

Djokovic comes into the clay court tournament he has won six times recovering from an elbow injury and set to lose top spot in the world rankings to young gun Carlos Alcaraz.

Spaniard Alcaraz just needs to play a match in the Italian capital to become world number one ahead of the French Open which starts later this month.

Djokovic won his record-equalling 22nd Grand Slam at the Australian Open in January but missed the American section of the hard-court swing in March.

The 35-year-old has been unconvincing since the start of the European clay-court

Djokovic comes into the clay court tournament he has won six times recovering from an elbow injury and set to lose top spot in the world rankings to young gun Carlos Alcaraz

season, being eliminated in the last 16 at the Monte Carlo Masters, in the quarter-finals at Banja Luka and then pulling out of Madrid.

Veteran Stan Wawrinka will face 25th seed Grigor Dimitrov in the last 64, the three-time Grand Slam winner easing past Ilya Ivashka 6-4, 6-2.

Later Andy Murray takes on local hero Fabio Fognini after winning his first title since 2019 at the weekend.

Briton Murray, who has won three Grand Slams, claimed the honours at the Aix-en-Provence Challenger tournament in France on Sunday.

The 35-year-old is now ranked 42 in the world and is gunning for a seeded spot at Wimbledon in July.

Muharraq set for Ettihad semis clash

● Game one of best-of-three Golden Square series between Muharraq and Ettihad tips off tonight in Zain Bahrain Basketball League

TD | Manama

The Golden Square semi-finals of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League get underway tonight.

Game one of the exciting best-of-three match-up between Muharraq and Al Ettihad is scheduled for a 7pm tip-off at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Game two will then be played on Wednesday next week and game three, if needed, will be held on Saturday.

The other Golden Square clash will be between heated rivals Manama and Al Ahli. Manama are the league's defending



Muharraq skipper Bader Abdulla Malabes...set for key role

champions and will have to go through their long-time nemesis in their hopes to retain their crown.

Game one is scheduled for Thursday next week, after which game two will be held on May 25. Game three, if needed, will take place May 28.

Meanwhile, Manama and Ahli are set for another epic clash when they face off tomorrow in game three of the Golden Square semis in the Khalifa bin Salman Cup.

The thrilling rubber-match will be held at 7pm at the Khalifa Sports City Arena and will determine the other finalists for the prestigious tournament.

Manama won game one 90-88 but then Ahli forced the decider after taking game two 81-68.

Muharraq have already booked their tickets to the final after sweeping past Sitra in their Golden Square series.

The Khalifa bin Salman Cup final has yet to be scheduled by the BBA.