



# THE DAILY tribune

## Focus on health insurance services



The Coordination Committee convened to review the latest developments in the National Health Insurance Program, focusing on proposals aimed at enhancing the performance and efficiency of government service centers. The Committee also reviewed recent developments concerning the authorised distributor activity in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

## Egypt denies claims of military role in Sudan

AFP | Cairo

Egypt has denied allegations from Sudanese paramilitary chief Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, at war with the army since April last year, that its military has been involved in the conflict.

The war between Daglo's Rapid Support Forces and the regular military, led by army chief Abdel Fattah el-Burhan, has killed tens of thousands and caused the world's largest displacement crisis.

In a video posted online Wednesday, Daglo accused Egypt's air force of carrying out strikes targeting his forces near Jebel Moya, a key area south of Khartoum.

## Tornados, flooding leave 10 dead in hurricane's wake

AFP | Sarasota, US

At least 10 people were dead after Hurricane Milton smashed into Florida, US authorities said yesterday, after the monster weather system sent tornados spinning across the state and flooded swaths of the Tampa Bay area.

The major hurricane ripped across the state west to east before roaring into the Atlantic, leaving roads blocked by downed trees and powerlines in its wake. Some three million people are without power.

So far, though, it appears that tornados, rather than the floodwaters, have been responsible for the storm's deaths. Still, the southeastern US state was able to avoid the level of catastrophic devastation officials had feared.

# Tragedy strikes

28 killed, 54 injured in Israeli air raid on Gaza school, says Red Crescent

AFP | Gaza City

The Palestinian Red Crescent said an Israeli air strike on a Gaza school killed at least 28 people yesterday, while the Israeli military reported it struck a Hamas command centre.

"Palestine Red Crescent teams responded to 28 fatalities and 54 injuries following the Israeli occupation army's targeting of Rafida School," the organisation said, referring to a school in Deir el-Balah.

Gaza's health ministry issued the same death toll in a statement.

The Israeli army said in a statement the strike targeted Palestinian fighters operating from a command-and-control centre "embedded inside a compound that previously served as the (Rafida) School".

It did not give a toll but said the command-and-control centre was used "to plan and execute attacks against IDF (army) troops and the State of Israel".

### Fighting

Yesterday's attack was the latest in a series of Israeli strikes on school buildings housing displaced Palestinians in Gaza, where fighting has raged for

more than a year.

On September 26, at least 15 people were killed in another school-turned-shelter strike in northern Gaza's Jabalia camp, according to Gaza civil defence agency.

The Israeli military is currently engaged in an intense operation in Jabalia.

The Israeli military accuses Hamas of hiding in school buildings where thousands of Gazans have sought shelter - a charge denied by the Palestinian group.

Yesterday evening, the Israeli army announced in a separate statement it had struck a medical compound in the northern Gaza city of Jabalia the previous day, killing at least 12 fighters from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

### Weapons

Without naming it, the military said the "area that previously served as a medical compound in Jabalia" was used as a "command and control centre" where large quantities of weapons were stored.

The military said among those killed were also some who took part in carrying out the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

A local source from Jabalia who wished to remain anonymous



Palestinians react after an Israeli strike hit the Rafida school housing displaced people in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. (AFP)

for safety reasons told AFP yesterday that Israeli aircraft struck the city's Al-Yemen Al-Saeed Hospital, where displaced Gazans had sought refuge.

The source said that "among the martyrs pulled from the rubble of two destroyed rooms were dismembered bodies, cases of amputations, and burned

corpses".

### Corpses

A witness who also did not want to be named said among the corpses were people who belonged to Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Ongoing Israeli military operations in Jabalia have killed at

least 140 people over the past six days, according to Gaza's civil defence agency.

At least 42,065 Palestinians, a majority of them civilians, have been killed in Israel's military campaign in Gaza since the war began, according to data provided by the health ministry in the territory.

## BD24,000 renovation

# Muharraq's Hanging Gardens to 'bloom' again in December

H Naser

TDI | Manama

The long-neglected Hanging Gardens in the Bu Maher area of Muharraq are set to be revitalised with a December re-opening, following a BD24,000 renovation project aimed at breathing new life into the landmark. The Daily Tribune has learned.

According to sources, the

renovation work will begin this month and is expected to be completed within two months.

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture has allocated the BD24,000 budget for the project, which aims to revitalise the gardens overlooking the pearling path.

The project will include repainting, upgrading restrooms and facilities, improving park-



The Hanging Gardens gets a makeover

ing, and renewing seating areas.

Part of the renovation includes plans to incorporate new popular restaurants to boost tourism and provide family-friendly recreational spaces, especially during the winter months.

The garden is being renovated in collaboration between the Muharraq Municipal Council and the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA).



# Tech innovators unite

University of Technology Bahrain hosts IEEE Day celebrating engineering excellence

**Ashen Tharaka**  
TDT | Manama

The University of Technology Bahrain (UTB) hosted this year's celebration of IEEE Day on campus, bringing together future innovators, professionals, and thought leaders in the field.

The event, organised by highly motivated student volunteers from UTB's College of Engineering in coordination with IEEE Bahrain student branches, featured robotics challenge, keynote speeches, and project presentation competition – all activities geared towards fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration.

The celebration attracted attendees from several universities, including University of Bahrain, Gulf University, Bahrain Polytechnic, American University of Bahrain, and Applied Science University, along with industry VIPs, experts, media partners, and UTB alumni.

## Robotics challenge

It began with an exciting robotics challenge, where aspiring engineers collaborated to tackle the task, demonstrating their creativity, problem-solving abilities, and technical expertise.

Dr. Haitham Alqahtani, Vice President for Academic Affairs at UTB, welcomed the attendees and acknowledged the leadership of Dr. Adel Abdulla and IEEE Bahrain Section, highlighting IEEE Day as a global celebration of the engineers and technologists who are shaping our world.

He recognised the student volunteers who organised the event and stressed the importance of nurturing student potential, providing them with opportunities to make meaningful contributions to the future of engineering.

Dr. Haitham Alqahtani also commended IEEE Bahrain Sec-



Mrs Latha Unnikrishnan, Director of The Daily Tribune, honoured at the event



Dr. Adel Abdulla, Chair of Association of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Bahrain Section, speaking at the event



A participant presents the project to judges



Top performers awarded by Dr Haitham Alqahtani, UTB's Vice President for Academic Affairs



Mrs Latha Unnikrishnan being briefed about various competitions

tion's impactful initiatives, particularly noting the upcoming International Conference on Emerging Technologies and Applied Sciences (ICETAS), scheduled for November 20-22, 2024, which is being organised in collaboration with UTB.

The event's lineup of keynote speakers featured renowned engineering experts whose insights were informative to the next generation of engineers to envision their role in shaping the future.

Dr. Adel Abdulla shared the rich history of IEEE, now celebrating 140 years of advancing engineering excellence.

He highlighted the many benefits of IEEE membership, including access to training, internships, global scholarships, career opportunities, and entrepreneurial support.

## Membership benefits

Engr. Kai-Uwe Ernst Mithig, Chair of the IEEE SIGHT Group, provided an overview of the milestones achieved by the IEEE Bahrain section and encouraged members to fully leverage their membership benefits to contribute to

national and global economic sustainability.

He also commended UTB for having the highest number of IEEE members among universities in Bahrain.

One of the event's standout moments was the engineering project presentations before a panel of judges.

Students from various universities showcased their final-year projects, offering innovative solutions to complex engineering challenges.

These presentations provided a valuable platform for students to collaborate and exchange ideas, broadening their perspec-

tives and learning from each other's approaches.

## Awards ceremony

The day culminated in an awards ceremony, with top-performing teams being honoured for their remarkable achievements.

Bahrain Polytechnic claimed the first prize in the project presentation, while UTB secured second place.

In the robotics challenge, UTB got first place, with the American University of Bahrain finishing in second.

Through this inspiring celebration of engineering excel-

ence, UTB, in partnership with the IEEE Bahrain Section, reinforces its dedication to nurturing the engineers of tomorrow through its industry-responsive engineering programmes, including Mechatronics, Infor-

matics, and Environmental Engineering. With events like IEEE Day, UTB continues to establish itself as a leader in engineering education and a vibrant hub for innovation in Bahrain.



Attendees at the event (Pictures by Ashen Tharaka)

## 'Mental health awareness is a collective responsibility'

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Nearly 5% of adults struggle with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), a condition that can overshadow daily life in our distraction-laden society.

MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen has raised the alarm, arguing for immediate awareness, and likening the silence around mental health to a whisper lost in the noise of a

crowded room.

She insists that understanding ADHD is vital, not just for those affected but for society as a whole.

Speaking at the Second Bahrain Psychiatry Conference, Dr Al Dhaen pointed out that ADHD often begins in childhood and adolescence, with symptoms frequently persisting into adulthood.

These symptoms – including difficulties in concentration,



MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen with representatives from the Ministry of Interior at the event

impulsivity, and disorganisation – can impede academic and professional success while straining personal relationships, leading to frustration and misunderstandings.

Dr Al Dhaen explained that various factors, such as psychological stress from changes in family dynamics or educational settings, can worsen ADHD symptoms. She also noted that modern technology, particularly smartphones and social media,

intensifies mental distractions, complicating everyday tasks.

Regarding the role of the Ministry of Interior, she acknowledged their initiatives to support inmates, particularly through expanded rehabilitation services. Dr Al Dhaen emphasised that reform centres are essential for delivering health and psychological care, offering comprehensive programmes designed to aid inmates' reintegration into society.

## Unlicensed fundraising

Religious leader and wife fined BD500 each



TDT | Manama

negative.

### Possession

The Lower Criminal Court convicted a well-known religious leader and his wife, a school teacher, in a case involving unlicensed fundraising.

They were each fined BD500, and over BD20,000 were confiscated.

However, the court acquitted the wife of the charge of failing to declare the money found in her possession at the King Fahd Causeway.

The verdict yesterday concluded a case in the Court of First Instance that began after the wife was apprehended at the King Fahd Causeway carrying a significant sum of money.

### Permits

The religious leader was charged with collecting funds without the necessary permits, while his wife, a school teacher, faced charges of failing to declare a significant sum of money and aiding and abetting her husband.

The charges stemmed from an incident on June 22nd when the wife was stopped at the King Fahd Causeway.

Customs officials asked if she had anything to declare, a question she answered in the

A subsequent search revealed 200,000 Saudi Riyals and \$2,600 in her possession.

The prosecution alleged that the religious leader solicited funds without authorization and that his wife collaborated in the unlicensed fundraising.

The wife's defense argued that the money represented donations from a Gulf national admirer of the religious leader's religious broadcasts, delivered in installments due to her employment in the Gulf state.

### Substantial income

The defense also highlighted the wife's substantial income from her teaching position and business ventures, exceeding one million riyals.

They maintained that neither had solicited funds.

During the court hearing, the couple's lawyer pleaded for acquittal but, in the event of a conviction, requested leniency for the wife and the lifting of a travel ban imposed on the religious leader.

While the court did not grant acquittal, the BD500 fine imposed on each defendant represents a more lenient outcome than potentially harsher penalties.

# Passport to prison

Travel agent jailed for embezzlement and operating without license

H Naser  
TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced a travel agent to three years in prison for embezzling travel booking funds and operating a tourism business without a license.

The Lower Criminal Court handed down the sentence yesterday.

The defendant allegedly used the misappropriated funds to cover his personal debts.

This is not the defendant's first offense.

He was previously sentenced to one year in prison and fined BD10,000 for leaving 140 Bahraini citizens stranded in Iraq.

### Complaints

The current case stems from



complaints filed by several citizens who had contracted with the travel agent to arrange trips to Iraq.

The agent received payments for flights and accommodation in three Iraqi cities but failed to

remit these funds to the relevant service providers.

This resulted in the stranded travelers having their passports confiscated by hotels and facing temporary travel restrictions.

Furthermore, the agent had

not actually booked any accommodations or flights for the travelers, rendering their trips impossible.

### Investigation

Following the complaints, the Public Prosecution launched an investigation, taking statements from the victims and requesting further inquiries from the Anti-Corruption Crime Directorate at the Ministry of Interior.

The investigation uncovered the full extent of the defendant's fraudulent activities.

During the interrogation, the defendant admitted to not paying the travel and accommodation expenses and acknowledged that he had embezzled the funds provided by the victims, using them to settle his personal debts.

## Shopkeeper fined BD5,000 for hiding medicines

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Unregistered medicines found in a budget fashion shop have cost a shopkeeper BD5,000, as the Court of Cassation, the Kingdom's highest court, ordered the shop's closure and confiscation of its goods.

The court established that the shopkeeper had been storing drugs outside a licensed pharmacy and had failed to register them with the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA).

The penalty encompasses the closure of the shop and the removal of all items and tools, including the medicines found

on-site.

The case emerged during a routine check by an NHRA officer, who discovered stashed medicines in the upper room of the clothing shop – items typically found only in licensed pharmacies and absent from the NHRA's records.

### Offences

In 2023, the Public Prosecution charged the shopkeeper with these offences, leading the Minor Criminal Court to impose a fine of BD5,000 and order the closure of the shop.

However, the shopkeeper refused to accept the ruling and lodged an appeal.

In court, his lawyer contended



ed that the shopkeeper was unaware of the items and denied any wrongdoing, asserting that the confiscated goods belonged to the neighbouring shop.

He further pointed out that

the case files lacked solid evidence proving that the confiscated items were, in fact, medicines. Nonetheless, the Court of Appeals upheld the initial ruling.

## Partially compensated after civil lawsuit

Gold and pearl merchant awarded BD5,000 as damages in robbery case

TDT | Manama

A gold and pearl merchant has been partially compensated after a civil lawsuit against two thieves who robbed his office.

The merchant had initially sought BD1 million in damages, but a court awarded him only BD5,000 in non-pecuniary damages.

According to the court details, the merchant filed a civil suit demanding BD1 million in compensation for material and non-material losses resulting from the theft.

The suit alleged that the



defendants stole gold jewelry and pearls valued at BD1 million from the merchant's office safe. reports regarding the value of the pearls, and these reports did not specifically identify the stolen pearls.

### Claim

While some of the stolen items were recovered and returned to the merchant, the court found the plaintiff's claim of BD1 million in damages insufficiently substantiated.

One of the defendants' lawyers argued that the lawsuit lacked evidence of the actual value of the stolen goods, noting that the merchant hadn't provided detailed appraisals or bank statements to support his claim.

Furthermore, the merchant presented only outdated re-

### Failure

The court also noted the merchant's failure to request further means of proving the value of the stolen goods.

The court ultimately ruled in favor of the merchant for BD5,000 in non-pecuniary damages, rejecting the remainder of his claim. Both parties were ordered to pay court costs and legal fees.

The defendants had previously been convicted in a criminal court for the theft.

## Court orders seven-day detention for woman in drug smuggling operation

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has ordered the seven-day detention of a 38-year-old Arab woman pending further investigation into a large-scale drug smuggling operation.

The suspect is accused of involvement in the attempted smuggling of approximately

130,000 Captagon pills into the Kingdom, a seizure valued at BD640,000 (approximately \$1.7 million).

This significant drug bust, announced by the Ministry of Interior on Sunday, is the result of a collaborative effort between Bahraini customs and drug enforcement units.

The Captagon pills were clev-

erly concealed within a shipment of tightly sealed pipes, prepared in specialized workshops to evade detection.

While the 38-year-old woman suspect is currently in custody, Bahraini authorities are actively pursuing two other suspects, both 26 years old, believed to be operating outside the Kingdom.

## Man faces jail time for theft and assault

TDT | Manama

A 40-year-old man is facing prison time after stealing a power drill and assaulting the store employee who tried to stop him.

The Public Prosecution charged the suspect with theft by coercion and assault. The Lower Criminal Court has scheduled a hearing for October 14th to consider the case.

The incident took place at an electrical goods store.

According to the Asian store employee, the man browsed the store before grabbing a power drill from a shelf and

attempting to leave without paying.

When the employee tried to retrieve the stolen item, the suspect reacted aggressively, shouting at and assaulting the employee, striking him on the head and neck.

The assault resulted in injuries including swelling to the head, a cut lip, and scratches on the neck.

"I was just doing my job. He took the drill right off the shelf and started to leave. I asked him to pay, but he began yelling and then he hit me. He pushed me, and I fell back. I was scared. I just wanted to get the drill back," the victim said.



The merchant filed a civil suit demanding BD1 million in compensation.



Security camera footage shows the suspect fleeing the scene with the drill while the employee pursued him.

# Pumped up and ready

Capital Governorate discusses preventive measures to address heavy rain season challenges

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

**E**ight extra pumps, a fleet of tankers, and teams of inspectors are on standby across the Capital Governorate as Bahrain prepares for a potentially tumultuous rainy season.

Drawing lessons from the severe flooding that wreaked havoc last April — particularly in Sanad, Nuwaidrat, and Sitra — officials are introducing a new strategy to protect vulnerable communities from the threats posed by heavy rainfall.

The Capital Municipal Council held a session yesterday titled “Preparation for the Rainy Season,” bringing together officials from the Ministry of Works and the Capital Municipality to discuss measures aimed at mitigating the impact of downpours.

This followed a similar meeting on 25 September that sought to review the preparations in place for the rain.

Engineer Saleh Tarrada, Chairman of the Capital Municipal Council, opened the meeting with a call for collaboration between various government departments and civil society.

He stressed the importance of creating effective response plans to protect infrastructure and ensure residents’ safety.

## Teamwork

Dr Kholoud Al Qattan, Vice Chairperson of the Council, echoed this call for teamwork, noting that only through a concerted effort between authorities and the public can the challenges of the rainy season be properly managed.

She urged residents to stay informed and take preventive measures to safeguard themselves and their families.

The session covered a range of topics, including ongoing improvements to water drainage systems and the readiness of infrastructure for heavy rain.

Officials also reviewed operational plans aimed at tackling flooding and reducing water accumulation in key areas.

## Repairs

Yusef Al Bannaa from the Ministry of Works stated, “The



Officials from the Capital Municipality and Works Ministry hold a meeting

**“**  
**We are constantly reviewing data from previous years and monitoring roads that have undergone recent repairs by the Ministry.**

YUSEF AL BANNA, FROM THE MINISTRY OF WORKS

Capital Municipality’s team comprises 15 staff members, including eight inspectors and a fleet of eight tankers, alongside eight additional pumps at the ready. We are constantly reviewing data from previous years and monitoring roads that have undergone recent repairs by the Ministry.”

He acknowledged past drainage issues, particularly during April’s downpours, saying, “Sanad, Nuwaidrat, and Sitra have experienced the most damage, but we have redirected tank-



Residents faced severe flooding issues last April, causing disruptions

ers to these areas and received additional support from other governorates.”

MP Ahmed Al Salloom called for a comprehensive rainwater drainage plan, reflecting on the drastic changes over the past 30 years.

“There were no strategic plans for rainwater drainage back then, but now we must confront the challenges posed by land reclamation and the constant development of housing projects.”

## Budget allocations

He also noted that there are budget allocations in the pipeline, following discussions with the Ministry’s undersecretary.

MP Ahmed Al Salloom advocated for a comprehensive rainwater drainage plan, reflecting on the considerable changes over the last 30 years.

“There were no solid plans for rainwater drainage back then, but now we must tackle the issues caused by land fill and the ongoing expansion of housing

developments.”

He also mentioned that budget allocations are on the way, following discussions with the Ministry’s undersecretary.

## Urgent matters

MP Al Salloom stressed the importance of attending meetings of the Capital Municipal Council, stating, “They address urgent matters and bring together ministries to serve our citizens better.”

He pointed out that discussions on rainwater management are part of a national initiative taken up by the Cabinet to roll out a rainwater drainage plan across Bahrain in stages

“Given the realities of climate change and increased rainfall, this work is crucial in reducing our reliance on desalination.”

Al Salloom assured that budget allocations for these essential projects are on the way, stressing their importance in ensuring a reliable water supply.

## Water scarcity

“With the global issue of water scarcity, capturing rainwater during the season will provide us with essential drinking water and assist with other uses.”

As the session drew to a close, the Capital Municipal Council reiterated the necessity for continuous dialogue to ensure that plans remain pertinent in light of changing weather patterns.

They stressed the importance of involving all parties to guarantee a safe and disruption-free rainy season.

## East Sitra’s push for first public beach faces hurdles



The Capital Trustees Board meeting in progress

TDT | Manama

**E**ast Sitra wants a public beach, but both nature and governmental plans may stand in the way.

At its latest meeting, the Capital Trustees Board reviewed a proposal from council member Maitham Al Haiki for a beach in East Sitra.

Al Haiki noted that the Capital Governorate “lacks recreational beaches that serve as outlets for residents,” but the council decided to refer the proposal back to the committee for further examination.

Al Haiki explained that the project aims to provide recreational facilities and safe areas for children and families to relax and enjoy, which “enhances the physical and psychological health and well-being of citizens.”

He argued that the beach would also stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities for the local community.

Emphasising Bahrain’s geographical advantages, he remarked, “Bahrain is surrounded by water, a distinguishing feature since ancient times,” and that the island’s unique location should be capitalised upon to develop more recreational beaches for families.

## Location

He suggested a location opposite East Sitra, proposing that local residents and merchants could contribute to the construction of the beach if government funding proves inadequate, similar to the approach taken with Malkiya Beach.

Al Haiki also expressed disappointment, saying, “There is criticism directed at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for not creating a beach in East Sitra, similar to other housing cities, such as Madinat Salman, which has a large beach. We hope that the

ministry will allocate a place to be a beach for the residents of the area.”

Board member Huda Sultan supported the proposal, asserting that “the Kingdom of Bahrain is an island, and it is supposed to have beaches that citizens can use for recreation and relaxation,” while acknowledging the necessity to consider environmental and security issues.

## Support

Deputy Chairperson Kholoud Al Qattan reiterated the council’s support for beach projects in new areas like East Sitra, stressing the importance of engaging with relevant authorities, including the Supreme Council for the Environment and the Ministry of Housing, to ensure the project’s safety.

Board member Mohammed Al Abbas recognised the need for a beach but called for a comprehensive study to gather input from relevant authorities and East Sitra residents, particularly regarding privacy matters.

He stated, “There should be a comprehensive study for such projects and the approval of the concerned authorities, such as the Ministry of Housing and the Supreme Council for the Environment.”

## In-depth study

Walaah Bader from Ministry of Housing, said that the Ministry is keen to conduct an in-depth study, including an environmental assessment.

She explained that prior studies in East Sitra identified strong currents and unfavourable environmental conditions that complicate the development of a beach.

Ultimately, the council voted to refer the major proposal back to the committee for further study, consultation with relevant authorities, and consideration of community opinions.

## 261 Filipinos receive free medical services in embassy project

TDT | Manama

**T**he Philippine Embassy, in cooperation with the Filipino community organisation, Triskelion International Council-Bahrain, organised a Bayanihan Medical, Dental, and Optical Consultation for Filipinos

held at the Embassy.

The health consultations were also supported by the Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Centre, Awal Dental Specialist Center, Al Duom Optical, several Filipino doctors and physical therapists in Bahrain, and the Filcom organizations, Filipino Phar-

macist Association in Bahrain, Philippine Nurses Association Bahrain, United Bicolanos in Bahrain, and the Filipino-American Community.

A total of 261 Filipinos received free services, including doctor’s consultation, physical examination, vision screening,

dental examination, physical therapy, random blood testing, blood pressure check, and urine dipstick test.

The Filipino Pharmacist Association in Bahrain provided free medicines and vitamins to clients. The Al Duom Optical provided free eyeglass frames.

## Sharod Utsob 2024 inaugurated



The Bengal Cultural Society Bahrain’s Sharod Utsob 2024 was inaugurated on October 9th at TKS in Adliya with great enthusiasm. The event was graced by Mr. Ravi Singh, Second Secretary of Consular Affairs at the Embassy of India in Bahrain, who attended as the Chief Guest alongside his wife. Their presence elevated the festive spirit, making the occasion truly special. In his opening speech, Mr. Saikat Sarkar, President of the Association, warmly welcomed the esteemed guests and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Indian

## Jidhafs market firetrap sparks call for action

TDT | Manama

**P**iles of wood and ramshackle stalls have turned Jidhafs market into a firetrap, with the Capital Municipal Council demanding action before a disaster strikes.

Members are pressing for urgent steps to clear the market and address the safety risks.

During a recent inspection, council member Huda Sultan highlighted the dangerous amount of wood scattered

throughout the site, warning that a fire could break out at any moment.

Fellow councillor Mubarak Al Nuaimi described the market’s condition as “unhealthy” and called for a proper cleanup.

## Disarray

Mohammed Al Sahli, Director-General of the Capital Municipality, explained that the area was never intended for market use, which has led to the current disarray.

# American Mission Hospital marks World Patient Safety Day 2024 with a focus on diagnostic accuracy



In pictures, The World Patient Safety & Quality Day celebration at the American Mission Hospital

## ● The event also featured an award

TDT | Manama

Under the distinguished patronage of Lieutenant General Doctor Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chair-

man of the Supreme Council of Health, Bahrain celebrated World Patient Safety & Quality Day at the American Mission Hospital. This year's theme, "Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety," emphasized the critical role of accurate and timely diagnosis in enhancing patient safety, reflected in the slogan "Get it right, make it safe!"

The event commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Julia Tovey, followed by a keynote address by the Chief Guest, Dr. George Cheriyan and Dr. Jameela Al Salman, both highly respected healthcare leaders, delivered insightful presentations on the importance of diagnostic precision and shared their experiences in improving patient

safety within healthcare systems. Four Quality Improvement Projects were presented, each showcasing innovative strategies aimed at enhancing the safety and quality of care in AMH. These projects reflected the collaborative efforts and dedication of healthcare teams in reducing diagnostic errors and improving patient outcomes.

The event also featured an award ceremony that recognized exceptional contributions to patient safety. Award recipients were honored with cash prizes, acknowledging their exemplary efforts in advancing quality and safety initiatives within the healthcare sector.

World Patient Safety Day, a global initiative led by the World

Health Organization (WHO), aims to promote safer healthcare systems by raising awareness and advocating for solutions to prevent medical errors. American Mission Hospital Bahrain's celebration of this day reaffirmed the country's dedication to continually improving healthcare standards and prioritizing patient well-being.



# WTO forecasts gradual trade recovery in 2024, 2025

## ● Global goods trade had slumped by 1.1 percent in 2023

## ● The WTO lowered its 2025 forecast from 3.3% to 3%

## ● Asia's export volumes are set to grow faster than any other region this year

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Global goods trade is on course for modest growth throughout 2024 and 2025, despite risks emanating from the conflict in the Middle East, the World Trade Organization forecast yesterday.

"We are expecting a gradual recovery in global trade for 2024, but we remain vigilant of potential setbacks -- particularly



WTO director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

the potential escalation of regional conflicts like those in the Middle East," WTO director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said in a statement.

"The impact could be most severe for the countries directly involved, but they may also indirectly affect global energy costs and shipping routes."

Global goods trade had slumped by 1.1% in 2023, depressed by high inflation and rising interest rates.

In its updated global trade

outlook, the WTO revised its forecast for world merchandise trade growth in 2024 to 2.7% -- slightly up from the April estimate of 2.6%.

Demand for traded goods was stronger than foreseen in Asia and weaker than expected in Europe, it said.

The WTO lowered its 2025 forecast from 3.3% to 3%.

WTO chief economist Ralph Ossa told AFP that while there were "risks everywhere" for international trade, "the biggest

one would be the geopolitical risk" from conflict in the Middle East.

"If, for example, the oil price rises dramatically, this would of course affect the economy and trade," he said.

However, "it seems that at the moment the markets can't quite decide if they should be concerned about the supply side risks coming from the Middle East, or what they should think about the demand side coming from China".

## Germany conspicuous weak point

Asia's export volumes are set to grow faster than any other region this year, rising by as much as 7.4%, driven by China, Singapore and South Korea, with Japanese exports stagnant.

On the import side, Chinese import growth remains moderate, while Singapore, Malaysia and other Asian economies are showing stronger growth.

Meanwhile Europe is now

expected to post a decline of 1.4% in export volumes in 2024. Imports are forecast to decrease by 2.3%.

"We see Europe weaker than we expected and Asia stronger than we expected, with Europe continuing to be a drag on export and import growth, and Asia continuing to be a driver, particularly of exports," said Ossa.

For Europe, "a big part of the story is Germany", he said.

Ossa cited lower car and chemical exports, particularly in organic chemicals and those used in vaccine production.

Germany's crucial manufacturing sector has been hit hard by higher energy costs in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine and cooling demand from abroad, contributing to a wider downturn.

## Mexico, Vietnam 'connector' boost

The WTO outlook highlighted the rising importance of so-called "connector countries" in

global supply chains and trade, particularly Mexico and Vietnam, followed by India.

While the direct bilateral trade relationship between China and the United States has "really suffered", much trade now seems to be being routed via such countries, Ossa explained.

The WTO hopes the normalisation of inflation and interest rates will bolster international trade.

"As the impact of inflation recedes, we should expect to see incomes recovering and consumption of all kinds of goods rising, including imports," WTO senior economist Coleman Neel told AFP.

World real GDP growth at market exchange rates is expected to remain steady at 2.7% in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The fastest-growing region this year is likely to be Asia, where output is expected to climb to 4.0%, while the slowest-growing region is likely to be Europe at 1.1%.

# US, Europe stock markets fall on US inflation data

London, United Kingdom

Shares slipped in New York and Europe Thursday as the latest US inflation report strengthened the case for a slower pace of interest rate cuts and dented a recent rally.

All three major US Wall Street indexes were marginally lower in midday trading, after the Dow and the wider S&P 500 had chalked up all-time highs Wednesday. In Europe, Paris, Frankfurt and London all closed slightly lower.

Earlier in the day, Chinese stock markets rebounded somewhat after China's central bank took action to boost purchases

## Key figures around 1540 GMT

New York - Dow: ▼ 0.3% at 42,402.78 points

New York - S&P 500: ▼ 0.2% at 5,782.34

Nasdaq Composite: ▼ 0.1% at 18,279.77

Shanghai - Composite: UP 1.3% at 3,301.93 (close)

Hang Seng Index: UP 3.0% at 21,251.98 (close)

London - FTSE 100: ▼ 0.1% at 8,237.73 (close)

Paris - CAC 40: ▼ 0.2% at 7,541.59 (close)

Frankfurt - DAX: ▼ 0.2% at 19,210.90 (close)

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: UP 0.3% at 39,380.89 (close)

Brent North Sea Crude: ▲ 2.4% at \$78.39 per barrel

West Texas Intermediate: ▲ 2.3% at \$74.93 per barrel

Euro/dollar: UP at 1.0926 from \$1.0940 on Wednesday

Pound/dollar: ■ at \$1.3046

of company shares. As measured by the consumer prices index, US annual inflation slowed to 2.4 percent in September from 2.5 percent in August, the government reported. But a core measure of inflation that strips out volatile food and energy costs rose to 3.3% from 3.2% in August.

Both figures were faster than what analysts had expected, and combined with a strong US jobs report last week, they weakened the case for the US Federal Reserve to aggressively cut lending rates. "The latest CPI figures are hardly a disaster, but after a far stronger-than-expected jobs report last week,

many are questioning the Fed's decision to cut by 50 basis points last month," said Bret Kenwell, analyst at eToro.

"The two reports have all but taken another 50 basis point cut off the table next month, while some could argue that it rules out a rate cut of any kind in November." However, there was some contradictory news Thursday, with the number of jobless Americans filing for benefits last week jumping to 258,000, the highest level in a year.

Analysts warned the often-volatile statistic could have been distorted by hurricanes across the south-east of the country.

"Today's CPI and jobless claims look bearish for stocks. They point to inflation remaining sticky even as the labor market stumbles," said Joe Mazzola, a strategist at Charles Schwab.

"However, it's dangerous to make sweeping economic judgments based on a single month or week of data, and initial market reaction appears muted," he said. In London on Thursday, shares in GSK jumped more than three percent after the British pharmaceutical company agreed to pay \$2.3 billion in the United States to end lawsuits alleging that its Zantac heartburn drug caused cancer.



News in brief

◆ **Catherine, Princess of Wales** and her husband Prince William on Thursday made their first joint public engagement since she ended a course of chemotherapy for cancer, Kensington Palace announced. The couple visited Southport, northwest England, "to show support to the community and hear how local people have come together as the town recovers" from a July knife attack that killed three children, the palace said. Catherine, also known as Kate, and William met members of the emergency services who responded to the stabbing spree at a Taylor Swift-themed summer dance class, which also injured eight other children and two adults. The couple, both 42, heard "about their experiences of responding to the attack and the impact it has had on their mental health," their office said in a statement.



**UK's William and Kate in first joint public engagement since cancer treatment**

◆ **More than 200 women** are now in settlement talks with Harrods over alleged abuse by its former owner Mohamed Al Fayed, the upmarket London department store said yesterday. The Egyptian billionaire died last year aged 94. But new allegations have emerged after the BBC last month aired an expose claiming he had raped and sexually abused women during his ownership of Harrods. "Since the airing of the documentary, so far there are 200+ individuals who are now in the Harrods process to settle claims directly with the business," the store said in a statement. Separately, the BBC said Thursday that another 65 women had told them they were abused by Fayed, while lawyers for the Justice for Harrods Survivors group representing alleged victims said they now have more than 70 clients. Harrods is advising new complainants to obtain advice through the Harrods Survivors group legal team or another legal team.

◆ **Over 200 women in legal talks with Harrods over Fayed abuse claims**

◆ **Russia said yesterday** its missiles had struck two launchers of a US-made Patriot air defence system in Ukraine, with Kyiv admitting the weapon was hit but saying it was lightly damaged and still in operation. Kyiv is reliant on Western air defence systems, particularly Patriots, to protect itself from the barrage of Russian missiles and has been calling for more deliveries. The Russian defence ministry said its forces struck "two Patriot launcher stations made in the US" as well as a control station and radar set that are part of the Patriot system. The attack also hit troops gathered at the spot and other military equipment, it added. A Patriot battery is made up of several parts including a manned control station, a radar set to detect incoming threats, and launcher stations, which transport missiles and provide the platform for the launch.

**Russia says struck Ukraine's Patriot air defence system launchers**

SPOTLIGHT

German MP makes first address to chamber in sign language



Lawmaker Heike Heubach, front center, the first deaf member of the Bundestag, sits between members of the faction of the German Social Democrats (SPD) at the start of a meeting of the German federal parliament, Bundestag, at the Reichstag building in Berlin, Germany

German lawmaker made history on Thursday by giving the first address to parliament delivered in sign language and simultaneously spoken by an interpreter. Heike Heubach, a 44-year-old MP from the centre-left Social Democrats who has been hearing impaired since childhood, addressed climate change in a debate on urban planning.

Climate change is unstoppable, but we must do our utmost to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and extreme weather," she told the chamber. She passionately took aim at MPs from the centre-right CDU opposition party who, in her words, "claim that more climate protection is a burden." "They are totally wrong! More climate protection will

save lives and save money from the costs of natural catastrophes. The most expensive thing would be doing nothing." Heubach represents a constituency in the southern state of Bavaria and joined parliament in March to replace MP Uli Groetsch, who left the legislature to take up a post as a national police ombudsman.

Following her, the vice president of the Bundestag Aydan Ozoguz said Heubach's speech was "a very special moment, as we are showing that we can represent our society a little better." Fellow lawmakers applauded Heubach in sign language by raising and waving their hands as she took the podium and during her speech, and then giving her a standing ovation. Heubach thanked them by making a heart sign with her hands.



The rubble from destroyed buildings lie at the site of overnight Israeli airstrikes that targeted a Beirut's southern suburb

UN peacekeepers say Israel fired on Lebanon HQ, injuring two

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

UN peacekeepers in Lebanon said Israeli fire on their headquarters in the south yesterday left two Blue Helmets injured, as they accused Israel of "repeatedly" hitting their positions.

Italy and Ireland, which have troops in the mission, called the shooting unacceptable.

It is the most serious incident reported by the mission since it said last week it had rejected Israeli demands to "relocate" from some of its positions.

UNIFIL, which has about 10,000 peacekeepers stationed in south Lebanon, has called for a ceasefire since an escalation between Israel and Lebanese militant group Hezbollah on September 23, after a year of cross-border fire.

"This morning, two peacekeepers were injured after an IDF Merkava tank fired its weapon toward an observation tower at UNIFIL's headquarters in Naqura, directly hitting it and causing them to fall," the mission said, using an acronym for the Israeli military.

The two peacekeepers did not suffer serious injuries, "but they remain in hospital," it said.

A UNIFIL spokeswoman said they were Indonesian.

The defence minister of Italy, which along with Indonesia is among UNIFIL's largest troop contributors, described the "shooting" as "intolerable."

Guido Crosetto said he "protested to my Israeli counterpart and the Israeli ambassador to Italy".

Italy says shooting at UN Lebanon peacekeepers possible 'war crimes'

Rome, Italy

Italy's defence minister yesterday said firing at the headquarters of the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon and other incidents the force blames on Israel "could constitute war crimes". "The hostile acts committed and repeated by Israeli forces against the base... could constitute war crimes," defence minister Guido Crosetto told a press conference, adding that Italy has asked for an official explanation "because it was not a mistake".

UNIFIL said it hit "the entrance to the bunker where peacekeepers were sheltering, and damaging vehicles and a communications system".

The mission added that an Israeli military drone "was observed flying inside the UN position up to the bunker entrance."

Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris, whose country has about 370 troops in the mission, said "any firing in the vicinity of UNIFIL troops or facilities is reckless and must stop".

According to UNIFIL, the Israeli military also hit another position in Ras Naqura, further to the south, on Thursday.

UNIFIL said it hit "the entrance to the bunker where peacekeepers were sheltering, and damaging vehicles and a communications system".

The peacekeeping mission rejected the demand, which Ireland's President Michael Higgins, called "an insult to the most important global institution".

The Iran-backed group also said it fired rockets at Israel troops in another Lebanese area along the frontier, Mais al-Jabal.



Rescuers search for survivors at the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Derrdhalia

UNIFIL headquarters and nearby positions "have been repeatedly hit," the mission said.

On Wednesday, "IDF soldiers deliberately fired at and disabled" perimeter-monitoring cameras around a position, UNIFIL added.

"They also deliberately fired on (a site) where regular tripartite meetings were held before the conflict began, damaging lighting and a relay station."

On Sunday UNIFIL warned that Israeli operations near one of its positions southeast of Maroun al-Ras were "extremely dangerous" and compromising the Blue Helmets' safety.

Maroun al-Ras is about 27 kilometres (17 miles) east of Naqura.

Israel has pounded what it says are Hezbollah positions in Lebanon in the past two weeks, killing more than 1,200 people and displacing more than a million people from their homes, according to official figures.

It has said it is carrying out "limited" incursions across its northern border, while Hezbollah has repeatedly said it was firing on Israeli soldiers trying to advance in the area.

Earlier on Thursday, Hezbollah said that it has destroyed an Israeli tank advancing towards Ras al-Naqura, and that it had fired rockets at Israeli troops who then tried to retrieve their wounded.

The Iran-backed group also said it fired rockets at Israel troops in another Lebanese area along the frontier, Mais al-Jabal.

UNIFIL last week said the Israeli military, before it began ground operations inside Lebanon, had asked the peacekeepers to "relocate" from some positions.

The peacekeeping mission rejected the demand, which Ireland's President Michael Higgins, called "an insult to the most important global institution".



Women make up half of mankind, but only 18 of the 121 Nobel literature prize laureates.



Florida battered by hurricane, floods but spared 'worst-case scenario'

AFP | Sarasota, United States

Hurricane Milton tore a coast-to-coast path of destruction across the US state of Florida, whipping up a spate of deadly tornadoes that left at least four people dead, but avoiding the catastrophic devastation officials had feared.

"The storm was significant, but thankfully this was not the worst-case scenario," Florida Governor Ron DeSantis told a news conference.

Milton made landfall Wednesday night on the Florida Gulf Coast as a major Category 3 storm, with sustained, powerful winds smashing inland through communities still reeling from Hurricane Helene two weeks ago, before roaring off Florida's east coast into the Atlantic.

Across the storm's path, roads were blocked by downed trees and power lines and some three million people were without power as of Thursday morning. Lines and some three million people were without power as



A drone image shows the dome of Tropicana Field which has been torn open due to Hurricane Milton in St. Petersburg, Florida

to be a serious wake-up call for everyone in terms of climate change."

On a street near Sarasota Bay, Kristin Joyce, a 72-year-old interior designer who opted not to evacuate, took photos of tree branches snapped by the wind.

"This is very tragic, especially for an area that relies on a lot of tourism and real estate," she told AFP, surveying the damage. "There is no question it needs

S.Korean author Han Kang wins literature Nobel

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 was awarded to Han Kang, "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."

AFP | Stockholm, Sweden

Author Han Kang became yesterday the first South Korean to win the Nobel Prize in Literature for work characterised by the correspondence between mental and physical torment as well as historical events.

Han is best known for her book "The Vegetarian", her first novel translated into English, which won the Man Booker Prize in 2016.

She was honoured with a Nobel "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life," the Swedish Academy said.

Last year, the award went to Norwegian playwright Jon Fosse, whose plays are among the most widely staged of any contemporary playwright in the world.

The Academy has long been criticised for the overrepresentation of Western white men authors among its picks.

The Swedish Academy has undergone major reforms since a devastating #MeToo scandal in 2018, vowing a more global and gender-equal literature prize. Since the scandal, it has honoured four women including Han -- the others are Annie Ernaux of France, US poet Louise Glück and Poland's Olga Tokarczuk -- and three men -- Austrian author Peter Handke, Tanzanian writer Abdulrazak Gurnah and Fosse.

The Nobel Prize comes with a diploma, a gold medal and a \$1 million prize sum.

Han will receive the award from King Carl XVI Gustav in



Korean author Han Kang poses for a photograph with her book 'The Vegetarian' at a photocall in London

Born: 27 November 1970, Gwangju, South Korea  
 Residence at the time of the award: Seoul, South Korea  
 Prize motivation: "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life"  
 Language: Korean  
 Prize share: 1/1

Women who have won the prestigious honour since it was first awarded in 1901.

- 2024: Han Kang (South Korea)
- 2022: Annie Ernaux (France)
- 2020: Louise Glück (US)
- 2018: Olga Tokarczuk (Poland)
- 2015: Svetlana Alexievich (Belarus)
- 2013: Alice Munro (Canada)
- 2009: Herta and Paul Amirian (Germany)
- 2007: Doris Lessing (Britain)
- 2004: Elfriede Jelinek (Austria)
- 1996: Wislawa Szymborska (Poland)
- 1993: Toni Morrison (United States)
- 1991: Nadine Gordimer (South Africa)
- 1966: Nelly Sachs (Sweden), with Shmuel Agnon of Israel
- 1926: Grazia Deledda (Italy)
- 1938: Pearl Buck (United States)
- 1928: Sigrid Undset (Norway)
- 1926: Grazia Deledda (Italy)
- 1909: Selma Lagerlof (Sweden)

Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist and prize creator Alfred Nobel.



01



Roughly 1 in 8 people around the world are living with a mental disorder. As we mark #WorldMentalHealthDay, let us commit to creating and maintaining safe, healthy work environments where people can flourish.

@antoniouterres

02



Good to see Thai Prime Minister @ingshin and to reaffirm the importance of the U.S.-Thailand alliance. The U.S. is deeply appreciative of Thailand's strong leadership within ASEAN, and we commend Thailand for its continued support in addressing the conflict in Burma.

@SecBlinken

03



Highlights from today in Lao PDR, where I met world leaders, saw a special Ramayan programme and interacted with the Indian community...

@narendramodi

04



To everyone impacted by Hurricane Milton: I urge you stay inside and off the roads. Downed power lines, debris, and road washouts are creating dangerous conditions. Help is on the way, but until it arrives, shelter in place until your local officials say it's safe to go out.

@POTUS

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

## Tech

# Ratan Tata

## Indian mogul who built a global powerhouse

AFP | Mumbai, India

Industrialist Ratan Tata, who has died aged 86, was credited with transforming India's Tata Group into a globally renowned conglomerate with a portfolio ranging from software to sports cars.

A painfully shy student, he planned to be an architect and was working in the United States when his grandmother, who raised him, asked him to return home and join the sprawling family business.

He started out in 1962, staying in a hostel for apprentices and working on the shop floor near blast furnaces.

"It was terrible at that time but if I look back at it, it's been a very worthwhile experience because I have spent years hand-in-hand with the workers," he recounted in a rare interview.

Tata took over the family empire in 1991, riding the wave of the radical free-market reforms that the Indian government unleashed that year.

His 21 years in charge saw the salt-to-steel conglomerate expand its global footprint to include British luxury brands such as Jaguar and Land Rover.

His vaulted ambitions for the group, founded under British colonial rule, were not initially welcomed by older board members, he said, prompting him to institute a company retirement age policy.

### Risk appetite

Born in Bombay, now Mumbai, in 1937, the Cornell University-educated Tata was known for his willingness to take risks.

In 2004, he took the conglomerate's software outsourcing arm Tata Consultancy Services public at a time when many were nervous about investing in technology stocks.

That same year, he declared he wanted Tata Group to "spread its wings far beyond India" and become "at home in the world" -- prompting a world tour to buy up major brands, including Britain's Tetley Tea and Anglo-Dutch steel firm Corus.



Chairman of India's giant Tata Group Ratan Tata poses in front of the Tata Nano, unveiled as the world's cheapest compact car at 2,500 USD, during the vehicle's launch in New Delhi on January 10, 2008.

Tata's 2008 decision to purchase the loss-making Jaguar and Land Rover brands for \$2.3 billion put him on the map.

He had less success with the \$13.7 billion Corus acquisition as demand for European steel plummeted due to Chinese competition. And his pet project Tata Nano, billed as the world's cheapest car, stuttered to a halt after finding few takers in status-conscious India, where consumers flinched at owning a so-called "poor man's car".

But the losses paled before his triumphs, which saw the Tata Group's revenues rise from around \$6 billion to \$100 billion, as the company's reach grew to more than 100 countries.

A highly respected figure in India's often turbulent corporate world, Tata could not entirely escape controversy.

He was questioned in 2011

by a parliamentary watchdog probing a multi-billion-dollar telecom licensing scam. The group was later cleared of any wrongdoing.

When he stepped down the next year on his 75th birthday, praise poured in with fellow industrialist Rahul Bajaj lauding his reign as "outstanding".

For his part, the media-shy mogul said, "I have devoted my life, as best I could, to the welfare of the group."

### Surprise comeback

His retirement in 2012 was to prove short-lived however, with Tata briefly retaking the reins barely four years later as India's largest group endured its worst crisis in decades over the acrimonious sacking of his young successor Cyrus Mistry.

The first chief appointed from outside the immediate Tata fam-

ily, Mistry faced multiple challenges with lacklustre performance at several of the group's firms.

His focus on divestments to shrink the conglomerate's \$30 billion debt was said to have frustrated Tata, who believed the group should hold on to its assets and not reduce its global reach. Few anticipated Mistry's ouster and the bitterness it unleashed, with the two men engaging in furious public mudslinging, including accusations of corporate malfeasance.

Mistry also dragged the holding company Tata Sons to court over claims that he was unfairly sacked, as the feud hit the group's global reputation and hammered its stocks.

The conglomerate stayed strong after his second departure, with Tata in 2021 welcoming debt-laden Air India back



Tata attends an event to receive a Doctor of Literature honorary title from the HSNL University in Mumbai

into the family fold decades after it was nationalised.

The lifelong bachelor later devoted his time to running the group's charitable arm and funding some of India's hottest start-ups.

A pillar of India's proud but dwindling Zoroastrian Parsi community, Tata also joined Instagram at the age of 81, winning over followers with posts sharing his passion for cars, flying and dogs.



### Rio Tinto seals US\$6.7 bn purchase of Arcadium Lithium

Sydney, Australia

Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto cemented a roughly US\$6.7 billion deal to buy lithium chemicals producer Arcadium on Wednesday, snapping up a significant player in the red-hot battery sector.

The bumper agreement values Arcadium -- which was only formed this year -- at US\$5.85 a share, a premium of almost 40 percent over the market average.

The deal offers Rio Tinto access to many more chemicals needed to create lithium batteries and is a bet that the multi-billion-dollar-a-year electric vehicle market will continue to grow.

If regulatory approval is granted, Rio Tinto would become the world's third-largest lithium supplier.

But the deal is not without risk.

The lithium industry has struggled with oversupply and languishing electric vehicle sales that has pushed lithium prices down and led to mines around the world shutting or scaling back production, at least temporarily.

Arcadium Lithium announced earlier this year it was mothballing a mine in Western Australia, citing low market prices.



Australia is the world's biggest supplier of lithium, which is used in various products including hybrid and electric car batteries, laptops and phones.



## Microsoft Cracks the Code on Foldable Phone Creases

TDT | agencies

Microsoft has potentially solved one of the most frustrating issues plaguing foldable phones: the screen crease.

In a recently granted patent, the tech giant outlines a design that allows foldable displays to

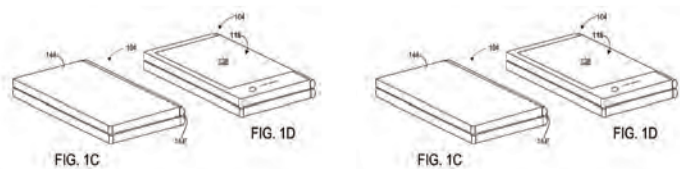


Illustration from Microsoft's patent for a foldable with a display that does not have a crease.

bend smoothly without developing the visible creases common in current foldables.

Patent US 12,108,620, titled "Foldable Display Device with Backplate Slots," describes a phone that folds both inward and outward, transforming into a tablet or laptop with a virtual keyboard. Unlike Samsung's

Galaxy Z Fold 6, Microsoft's design focuses on eliminating the screen crease, a common issue with foldables. The patent outlines a flexible display with slots in the cover glass and backplate, allowing smooth folding without creases. Advanced techniques like wet etching and laser cutting further enhance the design.

Microsoft's previous dual-screen Surface Duo struggled in the market, but this patent suggests the company is ready to make a bigger splash in the foldable space. With features like 360-degree folding and a crease-free display, Microsoft could become a major player in this growing market.







## Machac knocks world number 2 Alcaraz out of Shanghai Masters



Shanghai, China

World number two Carlos Alcaraz was knocked out of the Shanghai Masters in straight sets by 33rd-ranked Tomas Machac, losing 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 on Thursday.

The Czech edged out the four-time Grand Slam champion in a closely fought first-set tiebreak after neither player was able to break their opponent's serve.

Spain's Alcaraz appeared to be struggling at the beginning of the second set but broke in the sixth game to level. However, Machac powered back and broke Alcaraz again in the 11th game to claim the shock victory.

"Against him, I have no other options, I have to play this well to beat him," 23-year-old Machac said.

He will now face world number one Jannik Sinner in the semi-finals.

## England declare on mammoth 823-7 against Pakistan, lead by 267

Multan, Pakistan

England declared their first innings at a mammoth 823-7 on the fourth day of the opening Test against Pakistan on Thursday, a lead of 267 runs.

Harry Brook scored 317 with 29 boundaries and three sixes and Joe Root made 262 with 17 fours as England piled on the fourth highest total in all Test cricket, their third best.

Part-time spinner Saim Ayub finished with 2-101 and pacer Naseem Shah took 2-157.

## Ramharack picks four wickets as Windies beat Bangladesh in Women's T20 W.Cup

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Off-spinner Karishma Ramharack took four wickets as West Indies cantered to an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh on Thursday to strengthen their chances of making it to the semi-finals of the Women's T20 World Cup. Ramharack, 29, struck at regular intervals to help West Indies restrict Bangladesh to a below-par 103-8 off 20 overs in Sharjah. West Indies raced to the target in just 12.5 overs on a slow track in Sharjah.

# Bahrain, Indonesia share the spoils

Hussain Al Maskati  
TDT | Manama

At the Bahrain National Stadium, Bahrain and Indonesia played out an entertaining 2-2 draw in their latest FIFA 2026 World Cup AFC qualifier. Both teams fought until the last minute, leaving fans on the edge of their seats as late drama unfolded.

Bahrain, playing in front of a vocal home crowd, started strong. In the 15th minute, Mohamed Al Marhoon curled a stunning free-kick past Indonesian goalkeeper Maarten Paes, sending the Riffa crowd into early jubilation. Bahrain dominated the early stages, looking composed and dangerous in possession.

However, despite their control, Indonesia struck back just before half-time. A defensive lapse allowed Ragnar Oratmangoen to sneak in behind Bahrain's backline and tap in a deflected cross from close range, leveling the score at 1-1 going into the break.

The second half began with Bahrain still pressing forward,



An emotional Al Marhoon celebrates the late equalizer

but their lack of precision in front of goal cost them. Indonesia, while largely on the back foot, proved opportunistic. In the 74th minute, a slick counterattack resulted in Rafael Struick's wonderful strike from the edge of the box, giving the visitors a 2-1 lead.

With time ticking down, Bahrain ramped up the pressure. Their relentless push paid off in

the dying moments of stoppage time when Al Marhoon came to the rescue yet again. After a scramble from a corner, Isa's header found Marhoon, who fired a right-footed shot into the bottom corner to salvage a point for the hosts. In the end, both nations will be left wanting more.

Despite the late equalizer, Bahrain will feel frustrated,

having taken 17 shots compared to Indonesia's four. As they look ahead to the rest of their qualification campaign, this result will serve as both a warning and a reminder of the fine margins in football. Next up for Bahrain is another tough test in Riyadh in just five days, where they will aim to make amends for last night's missed opportunities.

# Australia beat China 3-1

AFP | Adelaide, Australia

Australia came from behind to beat China 3-1 Thursday and resurrect their World Cup qualifying campaign, ensuring Tony Popovic's reign as coach got off to a winning start.

The Socceroos went into the game at Adelaide Oval after a shock 1-0 home loss to Bahrain and a scoreless draw in Indonesia last month left them in a perilous position in Asian Group C.

It led to the departure of coach Graham Arnold and Popovic being installed as his successor. Goals from Lewis Miller, Craig Goodwin and debutant Nishan Velupillay did the damage after they went behind against the run of play in the 20th minute in front of 46,291 fans.

"We were calm, composed, even after we lost the first goal we stuck to the game plan, which was obviously something new," said Socceroos skipper Jackson Irvine.

"But the boys took to it quickly, they are such an adaptable group. It was an all-round great performance."



Australia's Nishan Velupillay celebrates a goal during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Asia zone qualifiers football match between Australia and China in Adelaide

It secured three crucial points ahead of a tough away match against Japan next week and consigned China to their third straight qualifying defeat.

Only the top two in the six-team group secure direct passage to the 2026 World Cup with the third- and fourth-placed nations facing another qualifying phase.

China are bottom of the group, piling more pressure on their Croatian coach Branko Ivankovic whose tenure has been under intense scrutiny after a run of poor form.

Popovic, who barely had two days with the bulk of his squad to prepare, notably dropped captain Mat Ryan with Aston Villa's Joe Gauci preferred as

goalkeeper and Irvine taking the armband.

"It does feel like a new beginning," said Gauci. "I think this is a positive step in the right direction."

"We go away to Japan now and it's going to be a challenge, but I think it's a challenge we're ready for."

China also made changes, with key players including long-time stalwart Wu Lei and Brazilian-born Alan Carvalho both missing through injury.

Australia started confidently and dominated early possession. But China's defence was resolute and chances went begging.

Against the run of play, the visitors took the lead, with a long goal-kick nudged on for Xie Wenneng who angled his left-foot strike past the outstretched Gauci.

The hosts kept pressing but lacked penetration before finally getting the breakthrough on the cusp of half-time when Hibernian defender Miller headed home his first international goal from a Goodwin free-kick.

## Southgate taking year out from coaching

London, United Kingdom

Former England manager Gareth Southgate said Thursday he would not return to coaching for the next year.

Southgate resigned after England lost to Spain in the Euro 2024 final in July.

However the 54-year-old had been touted as a possible successor to Erik ten Hag as the Dutchman continues to struggle at Manchester United.

"I won't coach in the next year for sure, I'm certain of that," Southgate was quoted by the BBC as saying at the European Club Association general assembly in Athens.

The former Middlesbrough and England Under-21 manager has a close relationship with United's new sporting director Dan Ashworth, who as Football Association technical director was on the panel that appointed Southgate to the England job.

"I need to give myself time to make good decisions. When you come out of a really big role you need to give your body time, you need to give your mind time."

"I'm enjoying my life, so there's no rush. I'm fortunate that there are lots of opportunities presenting themselves."

## McIlroy and DeChambeau set for PGA-LIV 'Showdown' in Vegas

Los Angeles, United States

PGA Tour stars Rory McIlroy and top-ranked Scottie Scheffler will face LIV Golf's Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka in an exhibition event in Las Vegas in December organizers announced Wednesday.

The 18-hole, made-for-television event between four of the biggest names from the upstart Saudi-backed LIV series and the PGA Tour will be staged at Shadow Creek.

Scheffler, who won the Masters and Olympics among his eight titles this year, and McIlroy, a four-time major winner, will partner against two-time US Open champion DeChambeau, who edged McIlroy for this year's US Open crown, and five-time major winner Koepka -- the only players to win majors while active LIV members.

The PGA Tour and LIV's backers, the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund (PIF), are in merger talks but have been unable to complete a deal to reunite golf's elite players.



McIlroy

## Juventus readmitted to ECA after failed Super League revolt

AFP | Rome, Italy

Juventus have been readmitted to the European Club Association (ECA) after the Serie A club's failed bid to create a continental Super League, the organisation's chief Nasser Al-Khelaifi said on Thursday.

Italy's most successful club, Juve abandoned the ECA in order to push for the so-called European Super League, which

was launched in April 2021 but quickly collapsed after fan anger and threats from governing bodies UEFA and FIFA.

"I am pleased to welcome Juventus back to our family. Now, all top division clubs in over 20 countries are ECA members," Al-Khelaifi, who is also president of Paris Saint-Germain, said during the ECA's General Assembly in Athens.

Juve, then chaired by Super

League crusader Andrea Agnelli, intended to be one of 12 founder clubs alongside the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and a clutch of teams from England's Premier League.

Since the original Super League project failed, Agnelli has been hit with two lengthy bans from Italian football after the country's football federation found him and Juventus guilty of a series of financial offences.

The project is still technically alive and being pushed by A22 Sports Management, who are promoting a redesigned version of the breakaway continental competition with 64 teams playing in three divisions.

In December last year the European Union's Court of Justice ruled that a ban of the Super League enforced by the sport's existing governing bodies was against EU law.

# Vamos Rafa

## ‘Your legacy will live forever’

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**What a career, Rafa! I always hoped this day would never come. Thank you for the unforgettable memories and all your incredible achievements in the game we love. It's been an absolute honour**

ROGER FEDERER ON INSTAGRAM

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**From the boy who watched you on television and dreamed of becoming a tennis player to the one who had the immense gift of playing by your side at Roland Garros representing Spain in an Olympic Games. Thank you so much for being an example on every level, your legacy is incomparable**

CARLOS ALCARAZ

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**We had our differences but you were one hell of a warrior. Damn. I've had nightmares that have woke me up about Rafa I'm gonna miss them. ...it's true - people do bring the best out of you. You were one of those people damn...**

NICK KYRGIOS


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**Your dedication, passion and incredible talent have inspired millions of people around the world. It has been an honour to follow your journey and to be able to consider you a friend. Congratulations on an exceptional career and happy retirement**

CRISTIANO RONALDO

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**Your tenacity, dedication, fighting spirit is going to be taught for decades. Your legacy will live forever. Rafa, one post is not enough to express the respect I have for you and what you have done for our sport. You have inspired millions of children to start playing tennis and I think that's probably the greatest achievement anyone can wish for**

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

● **Nadal will play his last tournament at the Davis Cup finals in Malaga in November**

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal on Thursday announced he will retire after the Davis Cup finals in November, ending a career which brought 22 Grand Slam titles, global respect and inspired epic, iconic rivalries with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

“I am retiring from professional tennis. The reality is that it has been some difficult years, these last two especially,” Nadal said in a video on social media.

“It is obviously a difficult decision, one that has taken me some time to make. But in this life everything has a beginning and an end.”

The 38-year-old Spaniard is set to end his two decades as a professional with 92 titles and prize money alone of \$135 million, indisputably one of the greatest tennis players in history.

“What a career, Rafa! I always hoped this day would never come,” said 20-time Grand Slam champion Federer.

“Thank you for the unforgettable memories and all your incredible achievements in the game we love. It's been an absolute honor!”

Current world number one Jannik Sinner said Nadal's departure from the sport was “tough news for the tennis world”, but it comes after another injury-plagued season.

After being limited to four matches in 2023, Nadal returned from a year out in January but

missed the Australian Open with a muscle tear.

He made his comeback at Barcelona in April and reached his first final in two years on the clay of Bastad in July.

Nadal though lost in the first round of the French Open to Alexander Zverev, making an emotional goodbye to Grand Slam tennis, before he was swept aside on the same Philippe Chatrier court by Djokovic at the Olympics.

His last appearance was a doubles quarter-final loss alongside Carlos Alcaraz at the Paris Games.

“Thank you so much for being an example on every level, your legacy is incomparable,” Alcaraz wrote on social media.

Nadal's farewell will come next month in Malaga, teaming up again with Alcaraz in the Spain squad as he bids to sign off with a sixth Davis Cup triumph.

“I think it's the appropriate time to put an end to a career that has been long and much more successful than I could have ever imagined,” said Nadal.

“But I am very excited that my last tournament will be the final of the Davis Cup and representing my country.”

“I think I've come full circle,” added Nadal, who won the Davis Cup for the first time as a teenager in 2004.

Nadal dominated the French Open where he won 14 of his majors, his first arriving just days after his 19th birthday in

2005, his last in 2022 briefly making him the event's oldest champion before Djokovic broke the record.

On the famous crushed brick of Roland Garros, he lost just five times in 118 matches.

He was also a four-time champion at the US Open and a two-time winner at the Australian Open, his first triumph coming in 2009; his second 13 years later.

Nadal also won Wimbledon twice, in 2008 and 2010 even though grass seemed to be the surface most likely to expose any shortcomings in his game.

His five-set victory over

as the greatest Slam final ever played.

Nadal claimed a career Golden Slam when he took Olympic gold in 2008.

He was a five-time year-end world number one and never left the top 10 from 2005 until March last year.

In total, he spent 209 weeks in top spot and between 2004 and 2022, won at least one title every year.

In his long rivalry with close friend Federer, who retired two years ago, he enjoyed a 24-16 edge. Nadal surpassed Federer's mark of 20 majors in Australia in 2022.

He and Djokovic, the all-time leader with 24 men's Grand Slam titles, met 60 times with the Serb ahead by two.

Despite his record-breaking career, Nadal was plagued by injuries, a painful by-product of his all-action, brutal-hitting style.

**Injury-plagued**

Ankle, wrist, knee, elbow and abdominal problems caused him to sit out 18 Grand Slam tournaments and withdraw mid-event on five occasions at the majors.

Nadal has for years suffered from a problem in his foot called Muller-Weiss syndrome, a rare and degenerative

condition affecting bones in the feet.

At the 2022 French Open, he admitted that his title charge would have been impossible without daily pain-killing injections in his foot.

Nadal then underwent a medical procedure which required nerves in the foot to be burned to allow him to extend his career.

However, the creaks in the body were getting louder.

An abdominal strain forced him out of Wimbledon where he had made the semi-finals.

He was then struck down with a hip injury at the Australian Open the following January as he crashed out in the second round -- his earliest exit at the majors in seven years.

Nadal possibly sensed the writing was on the wall at the 2022 Laver Cup in London when he played alongside Federer in the great Swiss star's final tournament.

The two men wept and even grasped each other's hands as the Federer era ended. “When Roger leaves the tour, an important part of my life is leaving too,” said Nadal.

