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Bahrain, UAE bolster ties and cooperation

Abu Dhabi

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, exchanged cordial conversations and discussed the strong ties between the two countries, reaffirming their shared commitment to further strengthening these relations for the benefit of both nations.

They met yesterday at His Majesty's residence in Abu Dhabi during a private visit to the UAE.

The meeting also touched on the continuous progress in co-



HM the King and HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed hold talks

operation across all levels and the importance of enhancing joint efforts to support development priorities in both coun-

tries, based on their close ties and shared vision for achieving progress and prosperity for their peoples.

It was attended by His Highness Lieutenant-General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander of the

National Guard, His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King, and Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court.

On the UAE side, the meeting was attended by His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chief of the Presidential Court for Special Affairs, along with several officials.

Bahrain concedes with Morocco over flood victims

TDI | Manama

Bahrain expressed sympathy and solidarity with the Kingdom of Morocco over the floods that swept several areas of the south.

The Kingdom's Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended its heartfelt condolences to the Moroccan government and people, wishing speedy recovery for those injured.



US Republicans scrap vote amid shutdown threat

AFP | Washington

Republicans scrapped plans for a vote Wednesday on a funding deal to thwart a damaging US government shutdown amid a growing rank-and-file rebellion that threatened efforts to keep the lights on through the presidential election.

Government funding is set to expire at the end of September and Congress will need a stopgap bill - known as a "continuing resolution" (CR) - to keep operations open past the election because the parties are nowhere near agreement on a full-year budget.

Harris rattles Trump

AFP | Philadelphia

Kamala Harris put Donald Trump on the defensive in a fiery televised debate on Tuesday, getting under her rival's skin as they battled for a breakthrough in an agonisingly close US presidential election.

In a performance that earned her the endorsement of pop superstar Taylor Swift, the Democrat baited the "extreme" Republican into angry responses on issues ranging from abortion to democracy and foreign policy.

The 59-year-old US vice president managed to knock former president Trump off his game in their first and only scheduled showdown, which featured a series of bitter personal attacks on both sides.



A combo photos of Harris and Trump during the presidential debate. (AFP)

Trump said afterwards that the ABC News-hosted clash in Philadelphia was his "best debate" but snap polls and commentators said Harris had won, with her campaign quickly challenging him to a second debate in October.

With less than two months until election day, Harris was under pressure to deliver in front of an audience of tens of millions after her sudden rise to the top of the Democratic ticket in place of US President Joe Biden.

She started on the front foot by surprising Trump by approaching him to shake his hand before they took to their lecterns - and then kept the upper hand.

Trump repeatedly raised his voice as he hit back at the vice president on immigration and the economy, branding her a "Marxist" and blaming her for what he said were the failings of President Joe Biden's administration.

Harris responded by looking on in amusement before declaring that she represents a fresh start after the "mess" of the Trump presidency - and saying: "We're not going back."

The rivals also clashed on foreign policy, with Harris telling

Trump that Russian President Vladimir Putin would "eat you for lunch" when it came to the war in Ukraine and that world leaders were "laughing" at him.

Trump shot back by accusing Harris of being weak on the war in Gaza, saying she "hated Israel".

But Harris, who spent five days intensively preparing for the debate, repeatedly managed to needle Trump into finger-jabbing insults and meandering invective.

She elicited an angry response when mocked the size of his trademark rallies, one of his favorite topics, saying that attendees were leaving early out of "exhaustion and boredom."

Agreement still under review

Hopes high for Bahrainis' visa-free travel to Russia

H Naser
TDI | Manama

Talks about Bahrainis being granted visa-free travel to Russia have sparked cautious optimism among potential travellers.

While Russia has indeed proposed a mutual visa-waiver agreement with Bahrain, the process has been slow and faces various technical and legal hurdles.

A Russian diplomatic source, speaking to our sister newspa-

per Al Ayam, confirmed that the proposal for a visa-free agreement was made two years ago.

However, the source noted that "due to some technical and legal specifics, the agreement has not been reached."

This highlights the complexities involved in formalising international agreements, especially regarding travel.

Extended period

The source further indicated

that negotiations are progressing slowly and are likely to continue for an extended period.

The initial news of a potential visa-free agreement emerged from reports by Russia Today (RT), citing Russian Minister of Economic Development, Maxim Reshetnikov.

He stated that Russia had proposed full visa-free travel for citizens of Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia.

Reshetnikov emphasised that

these countries could significantly contribute to Russia's high-end tourism sector, indicating the mutual benefits of such an agreement.

Process

Despite the confirmed proposal for Bahrain, the diplomatic source's statements suggest that the process is far from finalised.

It remains unclear when, or if, the agreement will be actualised.

The possibility of visa-free travel has generated excitement among Bahraini travelers eager to explore Russia, but it's important to note that this information remains unconfirmed.

Potential travelers are advised to stay updated by checking official sources for any changes to visa requirements, as the situation continues to evolve. The dream of hassle-free travel to Russia awaits further developments.

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Bahrain and US Strategic Security Agreement Drives Partnership, Growth



STEVEN C. BONDY, AMBASSADOR OF THE US TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

One year ago, on September 13, 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, signed the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA) in Washington.

Concluding this strategic security agreement brought our bilateral relationship to an entirely new level and is just the latest manifestation of the productive partnership between our two governments and countries.

We celebrate this first anniversary amid stronger ties and closer coordination on the issues of greatest importance.

The heart of this strategic security agreement is the commitment to strengthen our advanced partnership in the fields of defense and security, including to work together in the event of external attack or the threat of external attack on either country.

This pledge makes C-SIPA the most advanced formal security agreement the United States has with any country in the region.

Defense, Commercial, Technology Pillars

But defense and security represent just the first pillar of the agreement.

C-SIPA is unique for its emphasis on bolstering trade and investment relations through coordination on economic and

commercial matters, and enhancing cooperation on science, technology, and trusted networks.

It recognizes that military strength and deterrence protect and establish the conditions for growth, but long-term stability comes from meeting people's economic and professional aspirations.

C-SIPA therefore promotes the responsible use of emerging technologies, network security, and advanced research and development to improve lives and create high-value jobs.

As Secretary Blinken said at the C-SIPA signing, we are "working together to build a region that is more secure, that's more prosperous, and that's more connected to the world economy."

Together with our Bahraini partners, we are putting C-SIPA into practice through government-to-government collaboration, private sector engagement, and educational and technical exchanges.

In July, we convened in Washington, D.C. the first Defense Working Group meeting under the C-SIPA framework.

That session was highly productive and helped us advance defense interoperability and address key regional security issues.

His Excellency Minister of Industry and Commerce Abdullah Adel Fakhro's June visit to Washington identified practical



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken sign the C-SIPA in Washington

means to promote our trade and investment relationship, which owes so much to the US-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement, signed 20 years ago in 2004.

Through the fourth annual US-Bahrain Strategic Dialogue, our two governments advanced projects and programs in areas like cybersecurity, alternative energy, environment, tourism, education, and cultural preservation, among others.

Progress Through Shared Understanding, Values

C-SIPA could only be signed, and its goals realized, because Bahrain and the United States have a common vision for a more stable, secure, and prosperous region requiring collective determination and open dialogue.

Despite the differences in our two countries, the success of C-SIPA and the US-Bahrain partnership can be attributed to three key factors: strong values, courageous decision-making,

and effective problem-solving. Secretary Blinken has said, "At our best, the United States is a country with integrity and a heart," and that is something I see in Bahrain as well.

Under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's leadership, Bahrain has consistently promoted a message of peace, tolerance, and coexistence.

This has been reflected in a number of Bahrain's policies and initiatives, including in the Arab Summit's Bahrain Declaration.

The United States and Bahrain share a common understanding of the values that drive our policies and our characters.

The United States stands with its partners and allies to uphold international norms that protect sovereignty, territorial integrity, freedom of navigation, and trade.

Promoting and protecting the international rules-based order, and the global prosperity that has come as a result, is the foundational element of many of our

joint activities.

We recognize that under His Majesty's leadership, Bahrain has taken brave decisions to reinforce global norms, which benefit us all.

The United States does not take Bahrain's courage for granted; we respect, welcome, and support the Kingdom's activities that further peace, stability, and prosperity.

We cannot achieve our policy aspirations without pragmatic action.

Practical application of these values

While high ideals point the direction, it is through the practical application of these values that our two countries can make progress on addressing challenges.

We work together to address conflict and instability in the region and beyond, sharing ideas on the way forward and then

The United States does not take Bahrain's courage for granted; we respect, welcome, and support the Kingdom's activities that further peace, stability, and prosperity

devoting time, energy, people, and funding to make improvements.

These three elements – strong values, courageous decision-making, practical problem-solving – underpin C-SIPA and, more broadly, our bilateral relations.

The stronger the ties between us, the more confident we can be working in close collaboration on the opportunities and challenges of the day.

As His Royal Highness said at the signing, it's about the ability to "go where one wants to go, to live how one wants to live, and to build a future for one's children that is hopefully brighter than the one that they lived."

Through my experience working in partnership with the Bahraini government and people, I have great confidence and optimism in the power of our relationship, and our ability to use our new strategic security agreement to have a meaningful, beneficial impact on our countries and the world.

Bahrain Ambassador takes part in Washington Institute symposium



H.E. Ambassador Steven C. Bondy and H.E. Ambassador Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa at the online discussion

New York

His Excellency Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa, the Ambassador of Bahrain to the United States, participated in a seminar organized by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, marking the first anniversary of the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA) between the US and Bahrain.

H.E. Steven C. Bondy, Ambassador of the US to Bahrain, also participated in the seminar.

The seminar underscored the advancement of security and economic relations following the signing of the historic agreement.

Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid commended the strategic Bahrain-US relations, which embodies the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He highlighted that the signing of C-SIPA represents the strategic diplomatic efforts of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, with the continuous follow-up from Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander.

Significant milestone

The Ambassador underscored the agreement as a significant milestone in the de-

velopment of Bahraini-US relations and advanced cooperation between the two countries.

He highlighted Bahrain's role in regional defence initiatives and noted that the agreement provides a framework for enhanced defence integration, serving as a model that could be extended to other nations with aligned objectives.

Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid emphasised the core principles of the agreement, including respect for the rules-based international order, sovereignty, and freedom of navigation.

He highlighted the joint threat assessment and the shared vision between the two nations in addressing global challenges.

Bahrain-UN cooperation



His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, received Khaled El Mekwad, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bahrain. The meeting discussed means to strengthening bilateral cooperation and coordination between Bahrain and the United Nations and its various agencies. The two sides also reviewed topics of common interest.

New regulations for 2025 Hajj season

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs has introduced new regulations for the 2025 Hajj season.

Under the new rules, campaigns are required to accommodate a minimum of 90 pilgrims, with those failing to meet this number being barred from participation.

Each campaign must provide a bank guarantee of at least BD20,000 for the first 90 pilgrims.

For groups larger than 90, additional guarantees are necessary: BD10,000 for every additional 50 pilgrims and another BD20,000 if the total exceeds 300.

For instance, the guarantee for groups ranging from 291 to 340 pilgrims is BD90,000,

while for groups of 241 to 290 the guarantee is BD60,000, and for groups of 191 to 240 it is BD50,000.

Extra fees will be required for numbers beyond 340.

The guarantee must be submitted as a cheque to the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs, and Waqf and will be refunded after the Hajj season, provided that all financial and contractual conditions are fulfilled.

Bahraini business giant and philanthropist dies

● **Ahmed Mansoor Al Aali, 94, leaves lasting legacy**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Ahmed Mansoor Al Aali, a central figure in Bahrain's business, charitable, and political arenas, has died at 94.

His passing yesterday marks the end of a life spent shaping the kingdom's development, both commercially and socially.

Born into modest means, his father, Hajj Mansoor, worked as a farmer, tending to palm trees — a common occupation for many Bahrainis of that time.

In 1949, Al Aali started his business with little more than a few donkeys and a mechanical crusher.

That enterprise, which began so modestly, eventually became the Ahmed Mansoor Al Aali Group, a major player in Bahrain's construction industry.

A turning point came in 1969

when he acquired an expensive crane, a move that solidified his company's role in Bahrain's construction landscape.

Key player

This was followed by securing large contracts that positioned him as a key player in marine reclamation projects, transforming places like Al Naim and the Diplomatic Area, alongside work on the Bahrain International Airport.

But Al Aali was not just about business.

He established the Aali Charity Society in 1992, a group that has since provided essential support to low-income families.

Its work includes scholarships for university students, organising group weddings, and maintaining mosques and cemeteries. His charity work echoed the same drive he showed in his commercial endeavours — direct and far-reaching.

In politics, Al Aali wielded considerable influence, serving as Chairman of the Jaffaria Waqf Directorate and a member of the Shura Council.



Ahmed Mansoor Al Aali

Presence

His presence was also felt in Bahrain's financial sector, through his involvement with institutions such as Bahrain Islamic Bank and Takaful Insurance.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, praised him as an economic leader who inspired future generations with his passion for Bahrain.

As Bahrain reflects on his passing, his contributions across industry and charity leave a lasting imprint on the kingdom's history, ensuring that his legacy endures.

Guilty of bribing General Sports Authority

● **Asian employee gets three-year jail term and faces deportation**

TDT | Manama

An Asian employee working for an engineering company contracted by the General Sports Authority (GSA) to provide staff has been sentenced to three years in prison followed by immediate deportation for attempting to bribe a contractor.

The Lower Criminal Court found the employee guilty of demanding a BD30,000 bribe from a contractor working for the GSA in exchange for securing a contract.

The employee, who has not been publicly identified, maintained his innocence throughout the trial, claiming that au-



dio recordings of his conversations with the contractor were misinterpreted and taken out of context.

The incident came to light after the Public Prosecution received a report from the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic & Electronic Security detailing a complaint filed by the GSA. The complaint alleged that an employee had solicited a bribe from a contractor.

The Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution investigated the matter thoroughly, taking statements from GSA officials and witnesses.

They also translated audio recordings of conversations between the accused and the contractor.

The recordings, along with witness testimonies, allegedly confirmed the employee's attempt to solicit the bribe.

Man on trial for insurance fraud

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of a young Bahraini man accused of defrauding the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO) of over BD109,000.

The defendant, who was on the run outside of Bahrain, was recently apprehended by Saudi authorities and returned to Bahrain to face trial.

The defendant allegedly submitted fraudulent employment contracts for 17 women, claiming they were working for his father's company.

He then used these contracts to obtain social security benefits for the women, including a lump sum payment upon termination of employment.

The defendant then claimed the women had resigned, allowing him to collect the lump sum

payments and deposit them into bank accounts under his control.

The investigation revealed that the defendant had forged the signatures of the women on the employment contracts and had also manipulated their bank account information.

He had also provided false details regarding the women's employment status, claiming they were married and eligible for a lump sum payment.

The victims, who were unaware of the scheme, stated that they had been contacted by the defendant who offered them jobs at his father's construction company.

They provided their documentation and opened bank ac-

counts at his request, but never signed any employment contracts or applied for the lump sum payment.

The defendant, who was apprehended after a warrant was issued for his arrest and an international alert was issued, confessed to the crime.

He admitted to creating the fake employment contracts and using them to exploit the social security system.

He claimed he inherited the construction company from his father and had fabricated the employment details to obtain the funds.

The trial is ongoing in the High Criminal Court, where the defendant faces serious charges for his actions.



Swift justice

Unlicensed tour operator jailed and fined for leaving 140 Bahrainis stranded in Karbala

H Naser
TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced an unlicensed tour operator to one year in prison and a fine of BD10,000 for leaving 140 Bahraini citizens stranded in Karbala, Iraq, after failing to pay for their accommodation.

The incident occurred when hotels in Karbala refused to release the passports of the Bahraini citizens due to the tour operator's failure to settle accommodation fees.

The Bahraini embassy in Iraq intervened, successfully retrieving the passports and ensuring the safe return of the stranded citizens.

The court found the tour operator guilty of operating without a tourism license and engaging in commercial activity without a business license.

The court also ordered the closure of his establishment.

Legal action

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) had previously announced that it had taken legal action against the tour operator following complaints from affected cit-



The court found the tour operator guilty of operating without a tourism license and engaging in commercial activity without a business license.

Collective complaint

The Daily Tribune yesterday reported that approximately 30 Bahraini citizens had filed a collective complaint with the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security of the Ministry of Interior against the unlicensed tour operator, alleging financial losses due to the agency's failure to fulfill its contractual obligations.

The problems did not end with the return of the passports, as some travellers discovered that the operator had not booked sufficient visas for their return flight.

The Bahraini Consulate in Iraq, in collaboration with the Gulf Air booking office in Iraq, intervened to ensure the travellers were not penalised and allowed to board their flights.



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Catch of the day

Fish prices drop, with safi now at BD3 in markets, following fishing ban

H Naser
TDT | Manama

Fish prices in Bahrain have seen a noticeable decline in recent weeks, with the average price of a kilogram of safi fish reaching around BD3, down from a peak of BD8 in August.

This price drop is attributed to the abundance of small safi fish in the markets, a result of the one-month fishing ban imposed by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

The ban aimed to allow the fish population to replenish, particularly the smaller safi fish.

Fishmongers in the Jidhafs market confirmed that small local safi fish have become increasingly available, while larger safi fish remain scarce, leading to prices ranging from BD5 to BD6 per kilogram.

Some vendors also noted that imported fish, particularly from Oman, are available in larger quantities, but the limited local supply and fishing activity remain the primary factors driving up prices.

Main driver

Habib Jamri, owner of Jamri Fish Workshop, emphasised that safi fish is the main driver of fish prices in Bahrain, likening it to the US dollar.

He explained that if the price of safi fish rises, all other fish prices rise accordingly, and vice versa.

Jamri attributed the increase in smaller safi fish to the fishing



A sigh of relief for vendors and buyers as fish prices become more affordable

ban, noting that it has contributed to the proliferation of very small safi fish.

He also mentioned that the ban will be extended to two months instead of one, further strengthening the protection of safi fish stocks.

Jamri highlighted that the lack of an effective ban last year resulted in a scarcity of small fish in the markets. However, this year, thanks to the ban, there has been a significant increase in the availability of small safi fish, leading to a slight decline in prices.

Shortages

He also explained that imported fish from Oman might experience shortages in the markets due to weather conditions or shipping delays, di-

rectly impacting safi fish prices in Bahrain.

Jamri added that at the beginning of September, an increase in the availability of small Bahraini safi fish in the markets was observed, leading to a relative price decrease.

"The price of small safi fish ranged from BD2.5 to BD3.5 per kilogram, while medium-sized safi fish ranged from BD4 to BD6 per kilogram, due to improved local fishing catches," he stated.

Jaafar Al Hilimi, owner of the Tashan Fish Workshop, confirmed that safi fish is available in the markets, but it is very small in size.

Imported fish

He stated that the market heavily relies on imported fish from Oman, which arrives daily.

The fishing ban has allowed the marine population to replenish, particularly the smaller safi fish.

Al Hilimi mentioned that most restaurants use Omani fish, with some opting not to disclose the source and selling it as local.

He emphasised that increased fishing by fishermen would lead to a balance between supply and demand, but unfortunately, customer demand for safi fish remains low.

Al Hilimi predicted a decline in fish prices with the arrival of cooler weather, as fishing activity will increase.

Decades-old Hajj death finally recognised by Bahraini courts

● Family ordeal ends; set to settle host of legal matters

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama



Issa Jassim, lawyer

Nearly four decades after a man's death in Saudi Arabia, Bahraini courts have finally ordered the issuance of a death certificate, bringing an end to years of bureaucratic turmoil for his family.

The man passed away during Hajj in 1985, but his relatives endured a seemingly endless battle with administrative delays, procedural hurdles, and a lack of clear documentation.

His children had to make countless trips between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in a bid to get the necessary documentation, only to face endless administrative obstacles.

What should have been a simple process turned into a prolonged and exhausting ordeal, leaving the family stuck in limbo.

Certificate

Now, at last, a Bahraini civil court has stepped in, instructing the Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) to issue the certificate.

This decision follows a review by the Committee of Names and Titles, which examined witness statements and found no reason to block the certificate's release.

The family's lawyer, Issa Jassim, pursued legal action with the support of the Ministry of Interior, pushing the Directorate of Passports, Nationality, and Residence, along with the

Information and eGovernment Authority, to issue the document.

The court sided with the committee's findings and ordered the authorities to act without delay.

Legal matters

The decision opens the door for the family to settle a host of legal matters, including inheritance proceedings and the distribution of property, vehicles, and gold.

The court's decision was made in line with Decree Law No. 26 of 2000, specifically Article 7, which deals with matters related to names and titles. After reviewing the request and verifying its legitimacy, the committee ruled in favour of the family.

Under Article 196 of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law, the plaintiff is responsible for legal costs, but these expenses are minor compared to the relief of finally having the man's death officially recognised, allowing the family to move forward with the necessary legal proceedings.

Housing Ministry clarifies building repair responsibilities

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has responded to concerns raised by a member of the Southern Municipal Council about two buildings in Isa Town, blocks 813 and 814.

A video shared by the council member showed clear structural issues, including partial collapses.

However, the ministry pointed out that these problems were caused by unauthorised modifications made by the property owners, insisting that the responsibility for repairs rests with them.

The Housing Ministry fur-

ther explained that the properties in question have been privately owned for over 25 years, and are no longer part of its remit.

Once the period of government oversight ended, according to the original agreements, it became the responsibility of the homeowners to carry out any repairs or alterations.

Duty

While confirming its duty to maintain housing units still covered under warranty, the ministry reassured the public that it continues to address construction defects and internal issues in properties under its care.

To make the process easier, the ministry has introduced an online maintenance request service, which is aimed at speeding up responses for those who are still eligible.

The ministry also stressed the need for residents to secure the proper permits before carrying out any work on their homes. People were urged to check with the ministry before sharing information publicly, to avoid the spread of false reports.

For further assistance, residents can use the national "Tawasul" complaints system, contact the hotline at 80008001, or engage with the ministry via its live chat service online.

Risk management, training plans reviewed

TDT | Manama

The Civil Defence Council yesterday held a meeting to discuss the recent achievements of the National Emergency Management Committee, including plans for radiation monitoring stations, Gulf cooperation, water security, and medicine distribution.

His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, Chairman of the Civil

The ministry now offers an online maintenance request service to quickly assist eligible users.

Defence Council, chaired the council's meeting.

The Interior Minister emphasised the importance of updating the national risk register and establishing a national

emergency management centre.

He also highlighted the need for a national training programme to improve emergency preparedness and response.

The council reviewed the national risk management framework, focusing on early warning systems, prevention policies, and crisis coordination.

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah thanked the members for their efforts in enhancing safety measures and ensuring readiness.



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GET YOUR DUAL AWARD

Asia Motors launches JMC Brand in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Asia Motors, a division of Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons is announcing the exclusive launch of the JMC brand in the Kingdom of Bahrain, marking a significant milestone in the automotive sector.

The launch event was held on 9th September, bringing together distinguished guests, industry leaders, and media representatives to celebrate this exciting new chapter.

The grand inauguration of the event was attended by VIP guests, including, Farouk Almoayyed, Chairman, Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons Group, Board of Directors of Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons, Logan Ding, Regional Manager for MENA / JMC; Lou Zhiyu, Service Manager for GCC / JMC in addition to local and regional JMC executives, and a host of media and social elites from Bahrain.

The JMC brand is synonymous with efficiency, durability, and performance, embodying a commitment to deliver-



Farouk Almoayyed during the launch

ing exceptional value and reliability to its customers. This launch introduces a diverse range of vehicles designed to meet the demands of modern drivers while prioritizing sustainability and innovation.

Attendees also enjoyed a showcase of JMC's innovative vehicles through engaging video presentations.

"We are delighted to introduce JMC to the Bahrain market," said Farouk Almoayyed.

"This brand represents not only quality and reliability but also our commitment to serving our customers with excellence."



Officials during the launch

AUB celebrates latest MyHassad winners

TDT | Manama

In a special ceremony at its Adliya branch, Ahli United Bank has recently celebrated the winners of its latest MyHassad monthly draws. The event welcomed the top lucky winners, each of whom walked away with an incredible prize.

MyHassad monthly draws include a variety of draws including the Special Prize of BD 100,000 to Mr Manoj Navin Meghchiani, Alongside, three more customers (Mustafa Bashar Alsayed, Fatema Yusuf Alghanemi, and Ali Abdulnabi Kadhem) that were awarded the Grand Monthly Prizes of BD 10,000 each, while ten Month-



Ahli United Bank officials with the winners

ly Prize winners (Sana Juma Alhaddad, Hussain Ali Hassan Ali, Haider Jaffar Bader, Parwana Murtadha Dawani, Gont Muneer Anyameen, Masooma Mohammed Askar, Khadija A Hasan & Anseya Alraeesi, Ruairi Thomas Dunne, Nasser Hussain

Almosawi, and Ali Ahmed Hazeem) received BD 1,000 each.

Moreover, Ahli United Bank is pleased to extend an invite to all members of the public for a special MyHassad event, taking place at City Centre Bahrain starting 12th September to 14th

September. This event will offer an engaging experience for customers and the public. Visitors will have the opportunity to open a MyHassad account or increase existing MyHassad balances and win instant prizes. AUB Staff will be available to provide assistance and guidance throughout period of the event.

Customers can also open a MyHassad account with great ease through the AUB mobile application or by visiting any of the branches across Bahrain. The MyHassad draw is held on the last Wednesday of every month, giving every MyHassad customer a monthly chance to win a wide range of exciting prizes.

Export Bahrain enhances global presence for Bahraini brands through HKTDC events

TDT | Manama

Export Bahrain, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), has facilitated the participation of Bahraini enterprises in major HKTDC events throughout 2024. This partnership underscores Export Bahrain's commitment to supporting local businesses and expanding their international footprint.



Rabab Khalaf

Through its collaboration with HKTDC, Export Bahrain played a pivotal role in high-profile exhibitions, including the HKTDC Food Expo

PRO, the Hong Kong International Tea Fair, and the Hong Kong Watch & Clock Fair. These events highlighted the strength of the partnership and the dedication to broadening market opportunities for Bahraini enterprises across various sectors.

Rabab Khalaf, Planning & Market Intelligence Manager at Export Bahrain said: "Our dedication to fostering international engagement is central to

enhancing the competitiveness and growth of local businesses, positioning Bahrain as a leading global business hub."

Miss Lulwa Al-Mannai, founder of LAM BRAND, commented: "Export Bahrain has played a vital role in facilitating our participation in this platform, which is one of the key exhibitions bringing together a curated selection of specialists and enthusiasts in the fashion industry."

Zain Bahrain trials demand-driven power-efficient cell capacity

TDT | Manama

Zain Bahrain, a leading telecommunications provider, continues to make significant strides towards on demand-driven power-efficient cell capacity through a new radio features trial, which helped to achieve an impressive 35%

reduction to its radio site energy consumption.

This achievement underscores the telco's commitment to minimizing emissions while helping to accelerate progress toward meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an integral part of Zain's corporate

strategy.

A key driver behind this success is the trial of Ericsson energy efficient software, which enables real-time assessment and adjusts radio network operations throughout the day, optimizing energy usage during low-traffic hours to further reduce consumption. This ini-

tiative enhances the telco's operational efficiency, creating a more environmentally responsible ecosystem and resilient future for all stakeholders and future generations.

This feature offers a seamless customer experience while at the same time improving sustainability.

Hawa launches exciting offers throughout September

TDT | Manama

Continuing its exclusive and exciting promotions, "Hawa", Bahrain's first indoor inflatable centre, has recently launched unique offers that will include a 25% discount available throughout the month of September.

With a sprawling area of 1,000 square metres, visitors can en-



Children play at Hawa

joy an amazing discount on the inflatable zone for one hour for just BD 3,700, the toddler zone for one hour for BD 2,200, and the free fall area for BD 1,100.

Additionally, the centre features thrilling obstacle courses, climbing walls, inflatable bounce pads, and more, catering to the diverse interests of visitors.

Since its launch in 2023 at Souq Al Baraha, the centre is committed to providing an exceptional entertainment experience filled with unlimited fun and excitement for all ages and groups.

Activities include jumping, climbing, dodging, and sliding, all within a safe environment that adheres to the highest international standards.

Cityscape Bahrain to return for third edition in November

TDT | Manama

Cityscape Bahrain, the most anticipated regional real estate and property event exhibition in the Kingdom, is returning for its third edition from 26-30 November 2024 at the Exhibition World Bahrain.

This year's event will spotlight the latest advancements in the real estate sector while showcasing the best of luxury living under the theme 'Live the New Luxury'.

From finding their dream



Visitors walk past a displayed model at a previous edition of Cityscape Bahrain

home to discovering attractive investment opportunities, attendees can look forward to an exclusive experience featuring the most sought-after proper-

ties in the Kingdom. With 50+ exhibitors, 200+ development opportunities and an expected visitor count of over 10,000, Cityscape Bahrain 2024

promises to be an unparalleled networking opportunity, enabling businesses and individuals to cultivate valuable relationships within the Kingdom's real estate market and beyond.

Spanning an eventful five-day period, Cityscape 2024 will feature the third edition of the Cityscape Bahrain Conference under the theme "Liveability and the Future of Living in Bahrain" taking place on Thursday, 28 November at the Exhibition World Bahrain - Grand Hall.

Infracorp appoints 'Park Point' to manage and operate the parking facilities at Bahrain Harbour



Officials sign the agreement

TDT | Manama

Infracorp, a leading special-ised company in investing in the infrastructure and sustainability development sector, has announced a new partnership with ParkPoint Parking Solutions, a leading parking management and operation company in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Under this agreement, ParkPoint will manage the parking facilities at Bahrain Harbour, serving the residential and commercial spaces within the Harbour Row and Harbour Heights projects.

The management services from ParkPoint will include the utilisation of the latest parking management systems for real estate units and commercial spaces in Bahrain Harbour around the clock.

This ensures that the parking facilities operate at the

highest quality and efficiency, thereby enhancing the flow of traffic in this area, which represents the premier real estate, tourism and entertainment destination in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Commenting on the partnership, Hazem Abdulkarim, Chief Administrative Officer at Infracorp, stated: "This collaboration will enhance the quality of services for all residents and visitors by leveraging ParkPoint's extensive experience in parking management. With over 2,500 parking spaces, Bahrain Harbour boasts one of the highest parking ratios in Bahrain."

Omar Al Khan, CEO of ParkPoint, added: "We will manage and operate the parking spaces at Bahrain Harbour and its affiliated projects, providing integrated solutions that meet the needs of everyone in the region and achieve their aspirations."

celebs

Beyonce's 'Cowboy Carter' snubbed by Country Music awards

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Beyonce did not receive a Country Music Association awards nomination when the nods for the 58th edition were announced Monday, even though her "Cowboy Carter" album proved a cultural phenomenon upon release this year. The absence of "Cowboy Carter" among the slate of nominees was conspicuous: "Texas Hold 'Em," her sprawling album's first single, soared to the top of the charts, including the country list, and the album was widely considered a smash. Beyonce's "Cowboy Carter" is a full-throated ode to her southern US roots, a rollicking revue that also deals a vital history lesson on the Black lineage of country music. Nashville's gatekeepers have long tried to promote a rigid view of country music that's overwhelmingly white and male -- "Cowboy Carter" skewered that notion. She leads listeners through country's evolution from African Ameri-

can spirituals and fiddle tunes to its pioneering women. The awards ceremony will be held on November 20. Morgan Wallen, the controversial country-pop singer who has found enormous streaming success, received the most nominations with seven, including for the coveted "Entertainer of the Year" title. Chris Stapleton and Cody Johnson received five nominations each. Lainey Wilson notched four, as did Post Malone, who segued into country this year from his warbling rock-rap. His single "I Had Some Help" features Wallen, and its nominations ushered that artist to the front of the pack. Beyonce is no stranger to CMA controversy: she notably received racist comments after performing what was then her most country song to date, "Daddy Lessons," at the 2016 CMA awards. A Texan raised by a mother from Louisiana and a father from Alabama, Beyonce tackled the perceived "controversy" over her coun-



Beyonce

Nicole Kidman: Don't meddle in people's relationships

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Nicole Kidman thinks it's wrong to "meddle" in other people's relationships.

The Oscar-winning actress stars alongside Liev Schreiber in 'The Perfect Couple', and Nicole believes that the new mystery drama series explores a fascinating subject.

Nicole, 57 - who is married to music star Keith Urban - told 'Extra': "You never know why people stay together... I always say that about couples. That is why you don't meddle in people's relationships, because you actually never know what they are really doing and how they get through."

Nicole relished the experience of working with Liev on the series. Speaking about their on-screen romance, Nicole - who was previously married to actor Tom Cruise - said: "There was great depth and heat in this relationship and it had gone through a lot

You never know why people stay together... I always say that about couples. That is why you don't meddle in people's relationships, because you actually never know what they are really doing and how they get through

NICOLE KIDMAN



over time, and how do you make it through all of those things if you do not share some sort of passion and joint narrative?"

Meanwhile, Nicole stars in 'Babygirl', the new erotic thriller film, and the actress recently admitted that she hopes it proves to be a "liberating story" for women.

The acclaimed actress confessed that she found making the movie to be a "very freeing" experience.

Nicole - who has been married to Keith since 2006 - said at the Venice Film Festival: "This is one woman's story and this is, I hope, a very liberating story."

Nicole Kidman

Katy Perry admits she is 'no longer attracted to narcissists'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Katy Perry is "no longer attracted to narcissists".

The 39-year-old pop star - who was initially married to comedian Russell Brand from 2010 until 2012 and has also dated the likes of Travis McCoy and Diplo but now has four-year-old daughter Daisy with fiance

Orlando Bloom - was asked what her "red flags" are these days and admitted that she would not go near anyone who "changing the goalposts" in an emotional way.

Speaking in a preview from her interview on the 'Call Her Daddy' podcast, she told host Alex Cooper: "I'm no longer attracted to narcissists. "Anyone that is constantly changing the goalpost or pulling the rug out from you emotionally, not it. Anyone that says that they know you better than you know yourself. Someone that just won't help." The 'Woman's World' hitmaker

then revealed the way to her heart is actually through cleaning because she can buy herself expensive gifts, and joked that if she were to be surprised with a sparkling kitchen, she would reward a man with physical intimacy.

She said: "It's like if I come downstairs and the kitchen is clean, and you've done it all, and you've done all the dishes, and you've closed all the pantry doors, you better be ready! I mean, like literally. That is my love language. I don't need a red Ferrari. I can buy a red Ferrari. Just do the dishes!"



Katy Perry

"RIP dad": Hollywood mourns James Earl Jones, voice of Darth Vader

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Stars of the screen are mourning the death of James Earl Jones, the voice of "Star Wars" villain Darth Vader, on Monday at the age of 93.

Jones, who also voiced King Mufasa in Disney's animated feature "The Lion King," had a prolific and varied career.

Over six decades he worked with some of the greatest figures in cinema and theater, including Stanley Kubrick in his 1964 Cold War satire "Dr Strangelove."

He also had roles in the Arnold



James Earl Jones

Schwarzenegger film "Conan The Barbarian" and the 1989 Kevin Costner movie "Field of Dreams."

But it was for his role as one of cinema's most famous villains that he became most widely known.

While Darth Vader's immense physicality was the result of the towering British actor David Prowse, the sinister voice that appeared to emanate from inside the reconstructed man-in-a-mask was that of Jones.

And it was Jones who gave the "Star Wars" franchise some of its most memorable lines, including when he reveals

to Luke Skywalker -- played by a young Mark Hamill -- "I am your father."

Hamill took to social media on Monday to share news of Jones' death, writing simply: "#RIP dad" with a broken heart emoji.

"Rustin" star Coleman Domingo wrote on social media that Jones was "a master of our craft."

"We stand on your shoulders. Rest now. You gave us your best."

Lydia Cornell, whose 1982 debut "Bloodtide," was opposite Jones, said: "Oh no!! I can't believe it!! I thought he was going to live forever."

"Adored working with him. Such a generous spirit, and so humble. Taught me the power of stillness and using my voice."

"Selma" Director Ava DuVernay posted images of Jones, accompanied by a heartfelt message.

"Thank you for showing us ourselves. Our complicated selves, our dignified selves, our smiles, our pain. A job well done. A gift beautifully shared. Bless you as you journey on."

Alongside a clip of Jones' 1974 film, "Claudine," she urged fans to seek it out if they have never seen it.

SUDOKU

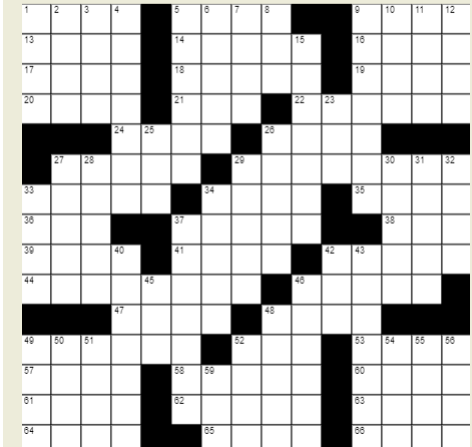
9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Yesterday's solution

9x9 grid showing the solution to yesterday's Sudoku puzzle.

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1- Word of regret; 5- Farm unit; 9- It parallels the radius; 13- Plaster backing; 14- Runs into; 16- Needy; 17- Short skirt; 18- Citified; 19- Lug; 20- Greek portico; 21- Ocean; 22- Hams it up; 24- Golf pegs, northern English river; 26- James of "The Godfather"; 27- Trials; 29- Act of seizing authority; 33- Bicker; 34- Richard of "Chicago"; 35- Metal filament; 36- Thrive, in prescriptions; 37- Lend (listen); 38- Take a load off; 39- Chinese weight; 41- Gasp for air; 42- Wonderland girl; 44- Tries; 46- 1996 Madonna role; 47- Departs; 48- Thick slice; 49- Canal site; 52- Blushing; 53- Circular band; 57- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 58- Actor Christopher; 60- "Hard" (sailor's yell); 61- Cambodian currency; 62- Trig functions; 63- Genuine; 64- "bitty"; 65- Put in order; 66- American football measure;

Down

- 1- Donations; 2- Calf; 3- extra cost; 4- Japanese massage technique; 5- Entertains; 6- Waxy membrane at the base of a parrot's beak; 7- Singer McEntire; 8- Greek vowel; 9- So far; 10- Booty; 11- Brief letter, paper money; 12- NASA launch vehicle; 15- Athletic shoe; 23- Fannie; 25- Summer on the Seine; 26- Unit of weight in gemstones; 27- Rare delight; 28- White heron; 29- Mall frequenters; 30- Drop in on; 31- Writer Jong; 32- Nerve network; 33- boy; 34- Flying pests; 37- Becomes visible; 40- According to law; 42- Actress Gardner; 43- Collection of books; 45- Pop's partner; 46- Firstborn; 48- Cut off; 49- Persian fairy; 50- Mine entrance; 51- Nair competitor; 52- Janet of Justice; 54- Intestinal sections; 55- Approach; 56- Neuter; 59- Sue Grafton's "___ for Evidence";

Yesterday's solution

9x9 grid showing the solution to yesterday's crossword puzzle.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

HH Shaikh Khalid highlights importance of Golden Bank initiative to document Bahrain's sports achievements

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic

Committee (BOC) commended the unwavering support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the Kingdom's youth and sports sectors.

This followed HH Shaikh Khalid's directives to the GSA to activate the Golden Bank initiative, a key project introduced by

His Majesty the King. HH Shaikh Khalid underscored the initiative's lasting positive impact on the youth and sports sectors, benefitting both the present and future generations.

HH Shaikh Khalid emphasised that documenting Bahrain's achievements in youth and sports

is a shared responsibility.

This initiative will ensure the detailed preservation of Bahrain's sports and youth accomplishments, passing this legacy on to future generations, reflecting the Kingdom's prominence, HH Shaikh Khalid added.

The GSA has taken the neces-

sary steps to move forward with the Golden Bank project, including the development of a comprehensive website. This platform invites the public to contribute by submitting documents, photos, videos, and memorabilia related to Bahrain's achievements in youth and sports.

Ronaldo criticizes Ten Hag's approach

Former Man United star urges positive mindset, despite acknowledging need for club rebuild

● Ronaldo believes Man United needs sweeping changes

● Criticizes Ten Hag for ruling out major trophy wins

● Expresses confidence in club's future under new ownership

TDT | Manama

Cristiano Ronaldo says Erik ten Hag's attitude is too negative, urging the Manchester United manager to target the Premier League title even though the club need to "rebuild from the bottom".

The Portugal star, who now plays for Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia, fell out with Ten Hag before his second spell at Old Trafford ended late in 2022.

Ronaldo believes his former club needs sweeping changes but that Ten Hag should not rule out winning major trophies in the meantime.

The Dutchman has said he is "quite confident" of claiming more silverware this campaign after lifting the League Cup and FA Cup over the past two seasons.

But he said in July his team are a "long way away" from being ready to win the Premier League, which they have not won since Alex Ferguson's final season in charge in 2013.

"Manchester, they need to rebuild everything, in my opinion," Ronaldo said in an episode of the Rio Ferdinand Presents podcast, due to be released on Thursday.

"The coach, they say they cannot compete to win the league and Champi-



Erik ten Hag (L) talks with Cristiano Ronaldo

ons League. Manchester United coach, you cannot say that you're not going to fight to win the league or Champions League.

"You have to be, to mentally say, listen, maybe we don't have that potential, but I cannot say that. We're going to try. You have to try."

United upset Manchester City in the FA Cup final in May but they endured their worst Premier League campaign

last term, finishing eighth, and the 20-time English champions have lost two of their opening three matches this season.

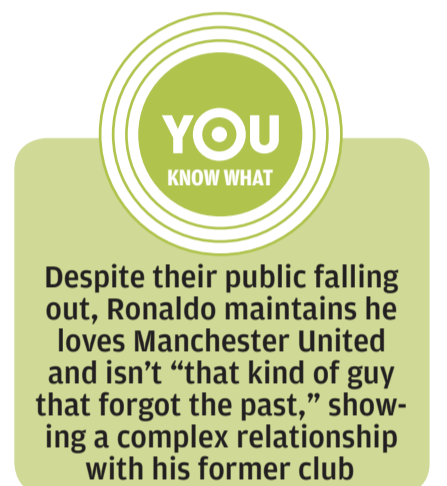
"This club needs time to rebuild because it's still one of the best clubs in the world, but they need to change," Ronaldo said.

"They understand that. This is the only way. This is why they show, they start to change again, the structure of

the club, the president, the infrastructures and everything. The owners of the club."

British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe completed his purchase of a minority stake in the club in February and has since overseen major changes in the club hierarchy after taking control of football operations.

"I believe that the future will be bright," said Ronaldo. "I believe, but



they don't depend only on the talents. It's more than that. It's all club, all, not only players, club, everything as a unit, united.

"They have to rebuild from the bottom. If not, they cannot compete. It will be impossible."

Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo, who spent six seasons with United earlier in his career, scored 27 goals in 54 appearances during his second spell at Old Trafford after signing from Juventus in 2021.

Following his exit just over a year later, he claimed he felt "betrayed", while saying of Ten Hag: "I don't have respect for him because he doesn't show respect for me."

However, the 39-year-old said he still loves the club.

"I'm not happy the way it all happened but, in the same way, we cannot control some points of our life sometimes, but it's done, already done," he said.

"To prove that I'm right or wrong, this is not my issue any more. I say what I have to say and for me it's done."

He added: "I love that club. I'm not that kind of guy that forgot the past."

Colombia stun Argentina, Brazil falls in qualifiers

AFP | Montevideo

Colombia avenged their Copa America final defeat with a 2-1 victory over Argentina while Brazil crashed to a 1-0 defeat against Paraguay in South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup on Tuesday.

Skipper James Rodriguez buried a nerveless 60th-minute spot-kick to seal a hard-fought win for Colombia over the reigning world champions, who were without injured captain Lionel Messi.

It was sweet revenge for Colombia, who were beaten 1-0 by Argentina in a bitterly disappointing Copa America final loss in Miami two months ago.

"I don't think I've ever scored against them -- there's a first

time for everything," Colombia captain Rodriguez said of his winning spot-kick.

"We want to get used to playing finals. Today was just another game, but against a team that has won everything -- this victory tastes even better."

The victory at Barranquilla's Metropolitan Stadium lifted Colombia into second place in South America's 10-team qualifying competition with 16 points from eight points, just two points behind leaders Argentina.

Colombia, backed by a passionate home crowd, took the lead in the 25th minute when Rodriguez chipped a cross to the back post where Yerson Mosquera rose to head home.

But three minutes after the interval, the visitors drew level when a misplaced pass from Rodriguez was pounced upon by Nicolas Gonzalez, who raced away and slotted past advancing Colombia keeper Camilo Vargas.

James Rodriguez



Afghanistan-NZ Test faces complete washout after third day lost

AFP | Greater Noida

The third day of the only Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand was called off because of rain yesterday, with the match in danger of being washed out without a ball being bowled.

Afghanistan's adopted home ground outside India's capital at Greater Noida has been beset by problems, with rain falling since Tuesday night on an already waterlogged outfield that caused the first two days to be lost.

The venue, which is hosting its first Test, has come under scrutiny for lacking world-class facilities and basic drainage.



Groundsmen attempt to repair wet patches on the ground

Electric fans have been used in desperate attempts to make sodden patches playable at the ground, which saw dry weather and sunshine on the previous two days.

Ground staff dug up one wet area refilling it with dry soil and laying fresh turf.

Afghanistan have hosted several T20 and one-day internationals since 2017 at the venue and their cricket board have defended their choice of Greater Noida.

Thara'a
Prize Account

NBB 

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Deposit in your Thara'a Prize Account now
for a chance to win September's cash prizes.

Last day to deposit is 30th September 2024



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