

Ettihad book Golden Square berth

Victors complete two-game sweep of Al Najma to advance to semi-finals of 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League | P12

WORLD 6 Xi says China must strengthen training for 'actual combat'

Ahli to face tough opposition in Asian volleyball 11 SPORTS

BUSINESS 5 BENEFIT, United Insurance Company join hands for causeway motor insurance



Royal 'kind gesture' for widows, orphans

His Majesty King Hamad orders distribution of annual Eid Al Fitr 'gifts' to RHF-sponsored families

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued an order to distribute Eid Al Fitr gifts to all widows and orphans, who are registered with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF).

HM the King directed the RHF, led by HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to oversee the distribution of the royal gifts to all beneficiaries.

HH Shaikh Nasser praised His Majesty's constant fatherly interest in RHF-sponsored families, keenness to share with them various occasions, including Eid Al Fitr, and directives to



HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa wil oversee the distribution of the royal gifts to all beneficiaries.

provide distinguished services and care for those families to ensure decent and stable life for



HM the King

everyone.

His Highness extended deepest congratulations to HM King Hamad on Eid Al Fitr, praying to Allah the almighty to bless him with abundant health and hap-

"HM King Hamad is always keen to provide all kinds of interest and care for the citizens, particularly widows and orphans."

- DR MUSTAFA AL SAYED, ROYAL HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION SECRETARY GENERAL

piness, and to protect Bahrain.

Congratulations

RHF's Secretary General Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, extended sin-

cere congratulations to HM the King and HH Shaikh Nasser on Eid Al Fitr.

He pointed out that HM King Hamad is always keen to provide all kinds of interest and care for the citizens, particularly widows and orphans, citing the constant royal directives to provide them with various services.

Dr Al Sayed affirmed that the annual royal kind gesture is in line with HM the King's fatherly interest in RHF-sponsored families and desire to share with them the joy of Eid Al Fitr, which, he said, has a positive impact on the beneficiaries.

He added that HM the King is keen on providing all kinds of care to the citizens under various circumstances.

Saudi hosts Iran, Syria delegations
 AFP | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia hosted landmark delegations from Iran and Syria yesterday as Gulf countries prepare for re-establishing diplomatic ties after years of bitter divisions.

Only hours after Iranian state media said a delegation had touched down in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia announced the arrival of Syria's foreign minister in Jeddah - the first such trip since the country's civil war broke out in 2011.

With Iran's president also expected in Saudi soon, and the Saudis negotiating with Yemen's Huthi rebels this week in an attempt to end fighting there, optimism has blossomed for the turbulent Gulf region during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Harry to attend King Charles coronation
 AFP | London

Prince Harry will attend the coronation in London of his father King Charles III but without his wife Meghan, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

The announcement follows weeks of uncertainty over the presence of Harry and Meghan, who have launched a barrage of criticism of the British royal family since announcing they were quitting royal duties in early 2020.

HRH Prince Salman praises Interior Ministry role in protecting Kingdom

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, highlighted the Interior Ministry officers' readiness and commitment to protect the nation.

HRH Prince Salman said it is in line with the aspirations of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he hosted yesterday an iftar banquet for a number of senior officials and officers of the Ministry, at the Public Security Officers' Club.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was received by the Minister of Interior, His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Ab-



HRH Prince Salman with General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah

dullah Al Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister noted the Ministry's vital role in upholding public security and providing a safe and comfortable environment for the Kingdom's citizens and residents.

He extended his best wishes to the senior Ministry officers on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

Efforts

His Royal Highness com-

mended the Ministry's efforts in safeguarding the Kingdom and contributing to its achievements under the leadership of His Majesty the King.

HRH Prince Salman expressed his appreciation to all the Ministry personnel, headed by Gen-

eral Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah, for their tireless efforts in performing their noble duties across the Kingdom.

He commended the Ministry's actions to strengthen the Kingdom's criminal justice system and community security through new sentencing reforms that introduced an alternative penalties programme and open prisons.

His Royal Highness highlighted the importance of maintaining stability and added that security is crucial to progress and development.

His Royal Highness commemorated the Kingdom's fallen servicemen and proudly honoured their sacrifices. He wished the Kingdom security, stability, and prosperity under the leadership of HM the King, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

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HM King receives Lulu Group Chairman

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received at Al Safriya Palace - in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and HM the King's Personal Representative HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa - Lulu Group Chairman and Managing Director Yusuff Ali. HM the King welcomed Lulu Group Chairman and Managing Director and exchanged greetings with him on the last ten days of Ramadhan. HM praised his successful business enterprises and the contribution of Lulu Group to local trade activity and the supply of food commodities. Mr Yusuff expressed thanks and gratitude to HM the King, hailing royal support to the national economy in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Bahrain is 'best country' for expatriates to settle

Many are moving to Kingdom to work and start own business, according to international survey

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is ranked first among 52 countries around the world where it is "easy" for expatriates to settle. This was according to an international survey of nearly

12,000 expats worldwide conducted last year.

Internationals, the expat community group with 4.5 million members in 420 cities around the world, ranked locations based on what it calls the Expat Essentials Index.

Furthermore, the metrics as-

essed potential language barriers, in terms of ease of living without speaking the local language, for which Bahrain ranked 4th globally, which reaffirms the Kingdom's business friendly environment and talented workforce, as well as skilled Bahraini nationals, alongside a diverse

expat talent pool.

Newcomers say it is easier to obtain visas in Bahrain, find accommodation, access government services online and get around without speaking the local language.

The UAE and Singapore are among the top 3 places, ranking second and third, respectively.

Bahrain also ranked 1st in MENA and 3rd globally in ease of opening a bank account. 67 per cent of surveyed expats reported high levels of ease in dealing with local authorities, versus the global average of 40 per cent.

Ranking 2nd globally in ease of finding housing, 82 per cent of expats found it easy to find housing in Bahrain, compared to the 54 per cent global average.

Many expats moving to Bahrain, the UAE and Singapore



Bahrain is the best destination for expats to work, live, and raise a family

are coming from India, Internationals say, and are moving for work-related reasons, like to find a job on their own, for a foreign assignment, as they're an international recruit, or they're starting their own business.

These expats are most likely to work in finance or banking, and the countries aren't big spots for retirees.

The top 10 places where expats

say it's easy to settle includes; Bahrain, the UAE, Singapore, Estonia, Oman, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kenya, and Canada.

The top North American country, Canada, rounds out the top 10. New residents there say it's easy to deal with local authorities, open banks and access a robust digital infrastructure. But it's relatively difficult to find affordable housing.

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Bahrain-India relations



Industry and Commerce Minister Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro received Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Piyush Srivastava. The meeting reviewed the long-standing historical relations and strategic partnership between Bahrain and India, stressing the importance of investing these historical relations in developing joint economic relations. They noted the outstanding positive results of the official visit recently made by the minister to India, wishing for it to achieve its desired results.

Caring for families of martyrs

TDT | Manama

The Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen is keen to communicate with the families and relatives of martyrs during the blessed month of Ramadan to provide all necessary support, in cooperation with representatives of the Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) and the Ministry

of Interior.

The Fund's Administrative Director, Shaikh Khalid bin Salman bin Khalid Al Khalifa, affirmed the continuation of providing support and a decent life for the families of the martyrs, in accordance with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and

the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He said that the fund continues to harness all efforts to ensure the provision of all forms of care in gratitude and appreciation for the martyrs who gave their lives for the sake of their country.

Interior Minister visits Open Prison Complex

TDI | Manama

Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, yesterday visited the Open Prison Complex to inspect the situation of inmates and the progress of the open prison programme.

Chief of Public Security, Interior Ministry's Undersecretary and Director-General of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing attended the event.

The programme is being implemented by the General Directorate of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing to promote human rights in Bahrain.

The Interior Minister asserted the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to enhance the enforcement of the Alternative Sanctions and Measures Law, in which the open prison is one of its essential phases.

The law is within the reform era of HM the King and reflects his wisdom and consideration of convicts' social and humanitarian aspects. The project also represents a delightful side of Bahrain's human rights accomplishments.

Outrage over 'rotten' fruits, vegetables in supermarkets

Julia Cassano
TDI | Manama

Over recent weeks, shoppers have revealed that when picking out items in their weekly shops, they are met with rotten fruits and vegetables. And when buying their fresh produce, they claim that the produce turns moldy within a couple of days, which is not a usual occurrence.

Also, supermarket goers have complained to The Daily Tribune about the price increases for fresh produce, especially items like bananas. One shopper said that he had paid over BD1 for a couple of bananas.

They said that they have noticed big supermarket chains in Bahrain "selling rotten fruit", which led them to lodge complaints to the manager. Furthermore, the shoppers disclosed that when buying certain produce like strawberries, they appear moldy much quicker than usual.

"When I raised concerns over the selling of rotten fruit in the store, the manager explained that it was the junior staff's fault and then removed the expired fruit from the aisle," the shoppers said.

Despite the grave concerns on the rotten fruit, the shoppers re-



vealed that the next week when they went back to their usual supermarket, they noticed more rotten fruit in the aisle, regardless of being told that the issue was solved.

"Supermarkets are known to buy such rotting produce at a cheaper rate allowing them to attain a good profit margin," the shoppers said.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Andrea Pucciarelli, manager of Roots and Shoots Organic Farm, said that there could be multi-varying factors as to why moldy fruits and vegetables are

being sold in the supermarkets, as well as why fresh produce may not be lasting a sustainable amount of time.

"Many times, produce is flown in from colder countries, and when imported in the Kingdom, they are met with warmer temperatures which could affect the span of time they remain good for," Andrea said.

She said that if the produce is left outside when shipped to Bahrain, and if they are left for even 20 minutes in the scorching heat, this could cause the items to expire or rot quicker.

“Supermarkets are known to buy such rotting produce at a cheaper rate allowing them to attain a good profit margin.”

- SHOPPERS

She suggested this as a possible reason as to why shoppers may be experiencing a bad bulk of fruits and vegetables.

The local farm manager pointed out the differences in supermarket produce compared to locally grown products saying: "A product coming from across the world like Jordan or Egypt is going to be harvested less ripe and will then spend a minimum of 12 hours travelling from the farm to the grocery store."

She said that this causes a lot of products to be ripened by gas, instead of on the vine. Ethylene gas is the most commonly used gas in this process.

Another effect of this is that the gas has been shown to be non-toxic to humans and safe for adult humans, however by using the gas means that the fruit does not contain the same nutritional benefits that it would have when ripening on the plant.

She noted that local produce from Roots and Shoots farm is harvested in the early morning and delivered straight to your house in a maximum of two hours.

"The benefit of this to our customers is that they will receive local produce that is harvested directly from the ground in Bahrain, which ensures a higher quality of food which is more



“Many times, produce is flown in from colder countries, and when imported in the Kingdom, they are met with warmer temperatures which could affect the span of time they remain good for.”

- ANDREA PUCCIARELLI, MANAGER OF ROOTS AND SHOOTS ORGANIC FARM

nutritious."

Eating locally means you're eating in season, it is an investment in your community, and it benefits the environment.

All set for 'Beautiful Bahraini' Ramadan Festival

Ashen Tharaka
TDI | Manama

A lot of activities are happening around Bahrain during evening of the Ramadan season to enhance the mutual understanding, cooperation, affection and care among individuals residing in the Kingdom.

The "Beautiful Bahraini" Ramadan Festival is a unique exhibition concept which showcases the mutual understanding and the Kingdom's talent capabilities.

The two-day event, which will start tomorrow in Manama, will display the creativity and dedication to entrepreneurship of women and SMEs in Bahrain by showcasing products and



Maryam Haji

work by locally-based artists, designers, musicians and entrepreneurs in wellness and other fields.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Dar Wafa founder and Director Ouafa Moussi said: "The



The event features a weekend market

Beautiful Bahraini Festival series is a support for national endeavours towards positive change and sustainable community development. It's a moment to collectively recognise the individual initiatives, projects and

accomplishments of women in Bahrain, and it's intended to be a drive towards economic empowerment through inclusion in a competitive community."

They have started this project in collaboration with Bahraini

entrepreneur Maryam Haji, founder of "Bella & Blue."

They plan to continue bringing up new concepts and ideas to elevate the contributions of women entrepreneurs in the Kingdom as partners in nation-



Ouafa Moussi

al development and prosperity.

Dar Wafa and few other leading businesses in the Kingdom are organising this amazing event, which is featuring a weekend market, fashion show, food and drink and live music.

10 years in prison for American drug peddler

TDI | Manama

An American drug peddler has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined BD5,000 for his crime, as well as BD100 for possessing pornography material.

The defendant will be expelled from the Kingdom once he completes his jail term.

According to court files, he was selling illicit drugs in Bahrain, and a tip-off on the same was sent to the competent authorities to capture him. As a result, an undercover agent was tasked to lure him into

selling drugs to him to nab the suspect red-handed.

The undercover agent managed to convince the American to sell drugs to him for BD100, and they agreed to meet in Adliya.

Police officers hid in surrounding areas, monitoring the operation, and the defendant was arrested as soon as he handed over the drugs and received the money.

The defendant confessed to consuming and selling drugs, adding that they belonged to one of his friends who travelled outside Bahrain.

iGA project to modernise infrastructure

TDI | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) launched a project to develop and modernise the infrastructure of its private data centre.

The objective is to enhance the ability of hosting government systems and services, in addition to scaling for future growth in iGA and enhancing the business continuity for government services within the internal cloud computing environment of the authority.

Gulf national jailed for manslaughter

TDI | Manama

A dispute over the right of way on the King Fahd Causeway caused an altercation between two young Gulf nationals, which ended with the death of one of them while the other was taken to the High Criminal Court on charges of manslaughter, and he was sentenced to seven years in prison.

As per the court records, the victim and his brother left Bahrain via the King Fahd Causeway intending to return to their country.

A traffic dispute occurred between the victim and the defendant regarding the right of



way, as the defendant overtook the victim's car, causing the latter to crash into the former from behind.

The victim then advanced

and stopped in front of the defendant's car on the emergency lane carrying a wooden plank.

The defendant sped away, colliding with the victim, which caused the latter to hit the ground and die as a result of the injury. Meanwhile, the defendant set off towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The victim's post-mortem forensic report indicated that the cause of death was complications resulting from the injury affecting the main areas of the brain and terminating their activity.

Public Prosecution charged the 24-year-old defendant with manslaughter.

'ArabianWeather' online reports 215mln views from 10mln users

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama



ArabiaWeather online properties serve millions of consumers across the Middle East, providing them with timely, accurate, and localised weather information in the Arabic language.

The first weather platform in the Arab world, "ArabianWeather", recorded a sharp increase in website visits and mobile application usage from various audience segments across the Arab world during the first quarter of this year.

The number of views for the platforms reached a staggering 215 million views, from around 10 million users.

ArabiaWeather online properties serve millions of consumers across the Middle East, providing them with timely, accurate, and localised weather information in the Arabic language. Forecasts are tailored for the user's exact location to help them

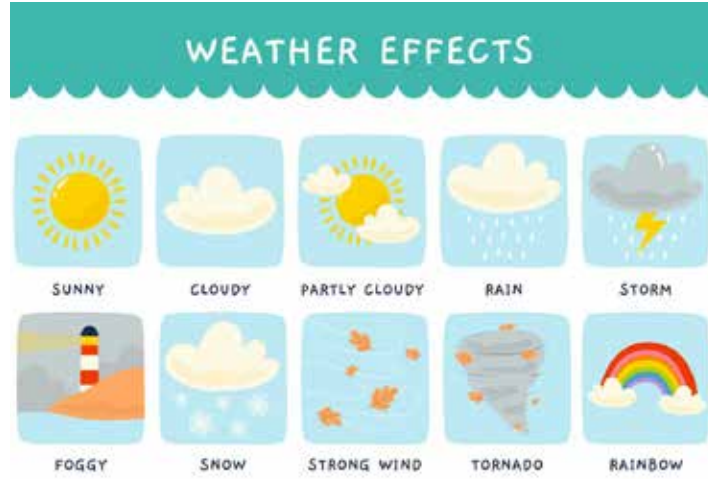
plan daily activities and keep them safe if weather patterns

pose risk.

In recent times, environmental awareness has spread amongst countries, specifically, the effects that climate change poses to the world. ArabiaWeather attributed the significant growth in views to this factor.

Also, they say that people's desire to know the weather conditions on a daily basis, has become a routine for many, and improves people's quality of life, by helping them plan their daily activities and maintaining the safety of their surrounding environment.

Through cutting-edge technology advancements adopted by ArabiaWeather, this led to them creating a link between weather data and advertising messages. This means that they are now targeting consumers



based on the colossal amount of data owned by the ArabiaWeather company.

In addition, ArabiaWeather has developed a new advertising

technology that allows the message to be adaptable to weather conditions by linking advertisements and messages to expected weather conditions.

Mr Fares Shaban, acting general manager of ArabiaWeather, said: "Weather has a significant and essential impact on users and consumers, such as the type of clothing, food and beverages, roads and transportation, various outdoor events, as well as many daily decisions."

He stressed the importance of knowing the daily weather conditions as this knowledge can help in avoiding accidents and risks resulting from bad weather conditions.

Providing accurate information about weather conditions and climate changes has enhanced ArabiaWeather's position as a reliable provider and primary reference for everything related to weather and climate in the Arab World.

AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BAHRAIN BRANCH

Statement of financial position At 31 December 2022

	2022 BD	2021 BD
ASSETS		
Property and equipment	1,575	3,152
Right-of-use asset	19,306	2,814
Loans to policyholders	669,526	689,586
Investment securities:		
Available-for-sale	21,094,770	27,254,981
At fair value through profit or loss	19,197,842	23,822,099
Reinsurance contract assets	317,459	203,162
Premium debtors and other receivables	1,226,473	1,151,354
Cash and bank balances	1,914,140	1,245,306
Total assets	44,441,091	54,372,454
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office Funds		
Head Office account	6,021,288	6,202,866
Available-for-sale fair value reserve	(1,459,134)	1,619,944
Total Head Office funds	4,562,154	7,822,810
LIABILITIES		
Provision for employees' end of service indemnity	16,333	11,198
Insurance contract liabilities	36,296,965	43,575,125
Due to policyholders	996,443	959,316
Accounts payable	2,549,340	1,941,139
Lease liability	19,856	2,866
Total liabilities	39,878,937	46,489,644
Total Head Office funds and liabilities	44,441,091	54,372,454

Statement of income For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 BD	2021 BD
Income		
Gross insurance premium	10,636,174	10,318,668
Insurance premium ceded to reinsurers	(2,896,144)	(2,162,493)
Net insurance premium	7,740,030	8,156,175
Interest and other investment income	1,057,028	1,339,245
Commission income	339,834	267,285
(Provision)/reversal of allowance for doubtful debts	(77,885)	21,082
Net income	9,059,007	9,783,787
Expenses		
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses	(3,398,995)	(4,191,912)
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses recovered from reinsurers	1,877,229	1,598,526
Insurance benefits	(3,672,222)	(3,091,990)
Expenses for the acquisition of insurance and investment contracts	(342,783)	(554,621)
Other operating expenses	(1,188,439)	(885,131)
	(6,725,210)	(7,125,134)
Profit for the year	2,333,797	2,658,653
Statement of comprehensive income For the year ended 31 December 2022		
Profit for the year	2,333,797	2,658,653
Other comprehensive income:		
Net changes in the fair value of available-for-sale investment securities	(3,079,078)	(1,201,105)
Total other comprehensive loss for the year	(3,079,078)	(1,201,105)
Total comprehensive (loss)/ income for the year	(745,281)	1,457,548

Country Manager
Fadi Abou Ghali

Auditors
Deloitte & Touche (M.E.)

About MetLife

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Bahraini Deaf Society holds annual Ghabga

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

The Bahraini Deaf Society (BDS) held its annual Ghabga ceremony in cooperation with the Bahraini Deaf Sport Club for the first time.

The BDS chairman of the board of directors, Hassan Abdullah Al Ghuraifi, attended the event and expressed gratitude to all those present. He also thanked Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam for being present.

He stated that the deaf in Bahrain suffer significant challenges, and that just 2 per cent of persons with conditional disabilities are employed in institutions, with the deaf people being turned down on the grounds that they have communication issues.

"If the deaf individual is hired, he/she stays at the same position without advancement since he/she is not sent to the training sessions needed to move up the professional ladder," he said.



Hassan Abdullah Al Ghuraifi

"Bahrainis who are deaf struggle to obtain high-quality hearing aids, translation costs, and alert devices for the deaf because they are solely dependent on little donations."

He noted that these concerns with disabilities should be submitted in the parliament and acted upon, and he centered on the Kingdom of 2023 vision, expecting that the deaf would be included in it and be able to exercise their civil rights in the community.

Joint inspection campaigns



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted two joint inspection campaigns in the Capital Governorate on several shops and work sites. The campaigns resulted in reporting violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The cases were referred for legal action.

BENEFIT, United Insurance Company join hands for causeway motor insurance

TDI | Manama

BENEFIT, a Fintech and electronic financial transactions services, announced partnering with United Insurance Company to streamline the payment of insurance premiums for customers traveling between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain through King Fahad Causeway.

BenefitPay, facilitated by "Fawateer" service, said is on track to allow customers to purchase insurance policy through the United Insurance Company in-



Abdulwahwed AlJanahi



Maysa Abdulwahed Alkooheji

tegration.

Furthermore, the partnership will enable United Insurance Company to provide the same service across all banks' mobile and online banking channels.

Abdulwahwed AlJanahi, CE of BENEFIT, said, "This initiative is a significant step towards enhancing availability of electronic payments and reducing paper money in line with national trends., while enhancing the King Fahd Causeway crossing experience through leveraging Fawateer's service integrated in

BenefitPay, the most used application in Kingdom of Bahrain."

On her part, CEO of United Insurance Company, Maysa Abdulwahed Alkooheji, said, "We are pleased to collaborate with BENEFIT to deliver this functionality to our consumers and contribute to boosting the travel experience across the King Fahad Causeway."

Fawateer" service is part of electronic money transfer package, in addition to Fawri and Fawri+ and it allows electronic payment of one-time bills or

recurring bills. The service is available through BenefitPay app, and the electronic channels of banks and self-payment platforms.

BENEFIT was established in 1997 and is licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) as an ancillary service provider to the Kingdom's financial services industry. BENEFIT provides innovative Payment Capabilities, Information Management Solutions, and Business Process Outsourcing Services across different sectors.

Dana Mall set for Eid shopping bonanza

TDI | Manama

As Eid approaches, Dana Mall is gearing up to offer an "exciting shopping experience for visitors" with a range of special offers and activities under the theme "Eid Bonanza at Dana Mall".

Shoppers can avail of deals on a range of brands including Red Tag, perfume collections at Kuwait Gallery, Kolmaz and Farhan Perfumes, and festive



fashion at LuLu and Latif Shoes. For children, Fabyland offers non-stop games and kiddie entertainment. Meanwhile, families can enjoy the latest movies at the state-of-the-art EPIX Cinema. Additionally, Gatsby Salon

is offering beauty treatments for ladies, while Saloon 007 caters to men. Clear Vision, Ehsan Optics Savers, and Eye Express are providing special offers on branded eyewear, while Kewalram and Doctor Watches have

the latest showstopper timepieces.

For those looking to stock up on cosmetics and trendy colours, Flormar is a must-visit, and Kouture Bakes Studio offers quick tips on decorating home-baked goodies.

Dana Mall said it has everything from holiday luggage to beachwear and party fashion, and even offers currency exchange at Lulu Exchange and ample parking.

BHB launches Bahrain Investment Market regulations

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB) yesterday introduced regulatory changes to the Bahrain Investment Market (BIM), an equity market that caters to fast-growing companies seeking growth capital.

The changes announced yesterday are effective immediately.

According to BHB, the new regulations were implemented after a comprehensive review of



Shaikha AlZayani

market requirements and form part of the Financial Services Sector Development Strategy to further support growth companies.

Among the changes is a provision that allows companies to file their listing application for BIM directly through BHB, eliminating the mandatory requirement of appointing an authorized sponsor. This is expected to lower the cost of listing on BIM and streamline the process of complaints, arbitration, in-

vestigation, and disciplinary proceedings in line with BHB Listing Rules.

Commenting on the new regulations, Shaikha AlZayani, Director of Listing & Disclosure at Bahrain Bourse, said that they are designed to enhance Bahrain's capital markets' positioning among international markets. These upgrades are expected to improve the market's efficiency and further support the growth of businesses in Bahrain.

Zain Bahrain expanding Network across Kingdom

TDI | Manama

Zain Bahrain, a telecommunications industry innovator in the Kingdom, announced the expansion of its network, including seven new areas in Bahrain, for best 5G and 4G mobile experience.

Zain Bahrain said the move, part of its broader expansion plan, covers Damistan, Hidd,



Ali Isa Al Yaham

Zain's expansion plan covers Damistan, Hidd, Seef District, Salmabad, Al Hajiyat in Riffa, Al Lawzi, and Qalali.

Seef District, Salmabad, Al Hajiyat in Riffa, Al Lawzi, and Qalali.

Ali Isa Al Yaham, the Chief Technology Officer, said: "We remain committed to investing further in infrastructure and developing our network to serve all the residents across the Kingdom.

The telco said it aims to establish a well-connected network that spells the difference in achieving a long-lasting digital transformation.

Batelco launches OneOffice Solution

TDI | Manama

Batelco, part of the Beyon Group, launched Batelco OneOffice, a cloud-based suite that includes productivity tools to support the needs of a busy office team, through a secure, easy-to-use and cost-effective platform.

Batelco said OneOffice offers online apps such as document editing and sharing, project management, secure email, real-time video calls and team chats. It also features live collaboration with team members and partners, as well as AI tools to streamline daily operations. Furthermore, business will have separate application sandbox, which means own dedicated



and independent storage on the cloud platform.

Two competitively priced packages are available, basic and advance, with the advance package, including additional benefits such as automated backups,

long-term data retention, and 1TB cloud storage.

Batelco General Manager Enterprise, Abdulla Danesh, said, "The solution was designed to support businesses to run

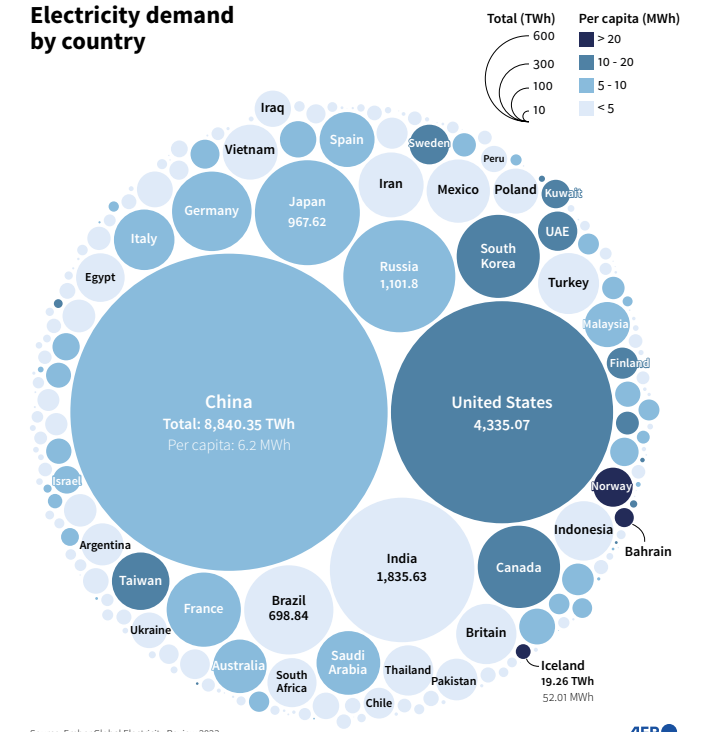
smoothly with more efficient operations at a great price point. Businesses, regardless of size, can excel by using modern-day digital tools, and here at Batelco we strive to provide just that."

We are delighted to introduce Batelco OneOffice productivity suite, as we continually look for opportunities to expand our support towards the SME sector and diversify our product portfolio to cater to the different needs of their businesses. Batelco OneOffice is a highly secure platform that includes integral applications and tools for all types of businesses.

ABDULLA DANESH

Sun, wind power make record 12% of world electricity: survey

Electricity demand by country



Source: Ember Global Electricity Review 2023

AFP

Renewable sources, including nuclear power, accounted for 39% of world electricity

Oil, gas, and coal, which was the biggest source, came at 36%.

AFP | Paris

Solar and wind energy surged to make a record 12 percent of the world's electricity in 2022, a climate think tank calculated in a report yesterday -- though coal remained the leading source globally.

The report provides the latest gauge of renewable energy growth as countries scramble to meet emissions targets to curb climate change and secure alternative power sources after gas-exporter Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"Record growth in wind and solar drove the emissions intensity of the world's electricity to its lowest ever level in 2022," said climate and energy think tank Ember in its yearly Global Electricity Review.

Helping slow the rise in planet-heating emissions,

power from wind turbines and solar panels was up to 12 percent from 10 percent in 2021 and five percent in 2015.

Renewable sources, including nuclear power, accounted for 39% of world electricity, the group estimated.

The rest came from fossil fuels that cause planet-warming carbon emissions: oil, gas, and coal, which was the biggest source at 36%.

With electricity demand continuing to rise, coal generation grew 1.1% -- slower than expected, Ember said.

Scientists and the International Energy Agency say use of these fossil fuels must be reduced sharply to reach the critical target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Countries at the COP26 UN climate summit in 2021 agreed to "phase down" coal, the most polluting of the fossil fuels, but progress has been limited and new coal plants are planned.

"We forecast that 2023 will see a small fall in fossil generation... with bigger falls in subsequent years as wind and solar grow further," Ember said.

"That would mean 2022 hit 'peak' emissions. A new era of falling power sector emissions is close."



Representative picture

QUOTE OF THE DAY

IT IS DURING OUR DARKEST MOMENTS THAT WE MUST FOCUS TO SEE THE LIGHT ARISTOTLE

TODAY IN HISTORY

1250

The Seventh Crusade is defeated in Egypt, Louis IX of France captured

1598

Edict of Nantes grants political rights to French Huguenots

1860

1st Pony Express rider reaches Sacramento, California

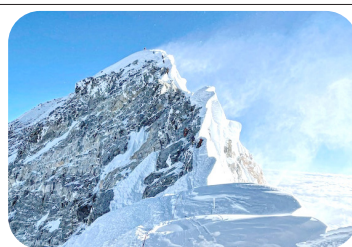


1868

Abyssinian War ends as British and Indian troops capture Magdala and Ethiopian Emperor Tewodros II commits suicide

News in brief

A search was underway for three Nepali climbers who fell into a crevasse while ascending Everest on Wednesday...



Three Nepali climbers missing on Everest

Russia's deputy foreign minister on Wednesday acknowledged that detained US reporter Evan Gershkovich had not been granted consular access...

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CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Watts that? Rapper Gims shocks with Ancient Egypt power claims

AFP | Paris

Egyptologists, fact-checkers and ordinary internet users have taken aim at Congolese rapper Maitre Gims this week over a video in which he claimed the pharaohs' pyramids were wired for electricity...

"In the age of the Empire of Kush (from the 8th century BC) there was electricity, the pyramids you see there had gold on their peaks, gold is the best conductor of electricity," he said.



Congolese rapper Maitre Gims

Xi says China must strengthen training for 'actual combat'

The United States and the Philippines are holding their largest-ever joint military drills this week

Xi's comments, made on a naval inspection trip

AFP | Beijing



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends a tea ceremony with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Guangdong province governor's residence in Guangzhou

China on Monday concluded three days of military drills launched in response to a visit last week by Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen to the United States...

ple's Liberation Army's Southern Theatre Command Navy that the military must "resolutely defend China's territorial sovereignty and maritime interests, and strive to protect overall peripheral stability", state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Beijing has also criticised a plan for US forces to use a growing number of bases in the Philippines, including one near Taiwan.

The United States and the Philippines are holding their largest-ever joint military drills this week, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken committing to "standing with the Philippines against any intimidation or coercion, including in the South China Sea".

Xi added Tuesday that China must be "innovative in its concepts and methods of combat".



China claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea -- a strategic waterway through which trillions of dollars in trade pass annually -- despite an international court ruling that the assertion has no legal basis. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei all have overlapping claims in the sea.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Monkey business: Sri Lanka considers macaque sales to China

AFP | Colombo

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka is considering exporting up to 100,000 endangered monkeys to China, the agriculture minister said yesterday, raising concerns among conservationists.

The toque macaque is endemic to Sri Lanka and common on the island but is classed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list.

Sri Lanka bans almost all live animal exports and the proposed sale comes as it faces its worst-ever economic crisis. No financial details were made available.

"They want the monkeys for over 1,000 zoos they have across China," Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amarawera told AFP.

"I have appointed a committee to study the request and see how we can do this."

Monkeys are considered pests in Sri Lanka because they destroy crops and raid villages in search of food, and sometimes attack people.

Sri Lanka removed several species from a protected list this year, including all three of its monkey species as well as peacocks and wild boars, allowing farmers to kill them.

The Environmental Foundation, a Sri Lankan animal rights group, criticised the proposed sale, saying there had been no nationwide survey of the macaques for more than 40 years and a proper population study should be carried out first.

"We want to know why they want so many monkeys -- whether it is for meat, medical research or some other purpose," the foundation's Jagath Gunawardana told reporters in Colombo.

"Monkeys are not a protected species in Sri Lanka, but they are in the international red list of endangered animals," Gunawardana said.

Representative picture

warships and aircraft around the island even after drills officially concluded.

Beijing warned this week that Taiwanese independence and cross-strait peace were "mutually exclusive", blaming Taipei and unnamed "foreign forces" supporting it for the tensions.

Washington has been deliberately ambiguous on whether it would defend Taiwan militarily. It has, however, sold weapons to Taipei for decades to help ensure its self-defence, and offered political support.

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Twitter working on AI despite Musk call for global pause: report

AFP | San Francisco

The open letter, published on the website of the Musk-funded Future of Life Institute, urged a six-month pause in development of powerful AI systems.

AFP | San Francisco

Elon Musk is advancing an artificial intelligence project at Twitter despite recently calling for an overall pause in



Musk cofounded OpenAI but left the company in 2018. Microsoft has since announced it is investing billions of dollars in OpenAI and put its technology to work in its Bing internet search service.

developing such technology, US media reports said Tuesday. Musk has bought thousands of powerful, costly computing processors and hired AI engineering talent, Insider reported, while another tech-focused outlet, the Information, said the entrepreneur has floated the idea of starting a rival to ChatGPT.

Meanwhile, Musk has slashed staff at Twitter as part of dramatic cost cutting since his \$44 billion takeover of the San Francisco firm late last year.

The Insider report came less than two weeks after Musk joined experts in signing a letter calling for a hiatus in the development of AI.

The open letter, published on the website of the Musk-funded Future of Life Institute, urged a six-month pause in development of powerful AI systems.

The billionaire Tesla boss and other luminaries wrote that "AI systems with human-competitive intelligence can pose profound risks to society and humanity."

The signatories, who included academics and tech titans like Apple co-founder Steve

Wozniak, argued that the pause should be used to bolster regulation and ensure the systems were safe.

Critics however called the letter a "hot mess" of "AI hype" that even misrepresented an academic paper.

Musk's fledgling AI project at Twitter was said in the Insider report to involve training a language model to create written content. Generative AI could also be put to work as a search or advertising tool, but it remained unclear what Musk intended its purpose to be at Twitter, the report said.

Twitter replied to a request for comment with a poop emoji, which has become its practice under Musk.

Big tech companies like Google, Meta and Microsoft have spent years working on AI systems -- previously known as machine learning or big data -- to help with translations, search and targeted advertising.

But late last year San Francisco firm OpenAI supercharged the interest in AI when it launched ChatGPT, a bot that can generate screeds of natural language text from a short prompt.

Twitter now tags NPR, which has nearly 9 million followers, "government-funded media", and applied the same label to the BBC's

Elon Musk says 'many mistakes' made since Twitter takeover

AFP | San Francisco

Twitter boss Elon Musk said Tuesday he would change the designation on the BBC's Twitter handle after the broadcaster



Elon Musk

objected. "We want it as truthful and accurate as possible -- we're adjusting the label to 'publicly funded'," Musk said. Britain's national broadcaster is predominantly funded by an annual license fee set by the government but paid by individual households.



Musk has expressed deep disdain for news media for years and recently installed an automatic response of a poop emoji to emails sent to the site's main media address.

move involving US radio network NPR, which Twitter briefly branded "state-affiliated", the same way it styles government-run Chinese and Russian platforms.

NPR stopped tweeting in protest. Twitter now tags NPR, which has nearly 9 million followers, "government-funded media", and applied the same label to the BBC's

Musk has expressed deep disdain for news media for years and recently installed an automatic response of a poop emoji to emails sent to the site's main media address.

Speaking with the BBC late on Tuesday, he also addressed Twitter's controversial move to strip the New York Times of its

blue verified check mark after the company refused to pay to keep it. From April 20, any legacy verified accounts on Twitter -- which were verified as authentic under the company's old ownership -- will have to pay to subscribe to Twitter Blue.

One of the reasons for this, Musk said, was that he does not want Twitter to boost "some anointed class of journalists" who determine what constitutes news.

"I'm hopeful that this can be more a case of the public choosing the narrative, as opposed to the media choosing the narrative," he said.

Twitter, he said, would "treat everyone equally". Musk, in assessing his time in charge of the social media network since he took over in October, said it had been "a stressful situation over the last several months".

"Were there many mistakes made along the way? Of course," he said. "But all's well that ends well. I feel like we're headed to a good place."

He said the company was now "roughly breaking even" with the return of advertisers. When pushed on who was Twitter's new CEO after he stepped down in response to a poll on the site, he named his dog, Floki.

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Zelensky blasts Russian 'beasts' after alleged beheading video

AFP | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday denounced Russian "beasts" after a video surfaced on social media purporting to show the decapitation of a Ukrainian prisoner of war.

"There is something that no one in the world can ignore: how easily these beasts kill," Zelensky said in a video address released on social media.

"We won't forget anything, nor will we forgive murderers," he added, vowing to bring justice to his war-torn nation. "This video... The execution of a Ukrainian captive... The world must see it," Zelensky added in the video address.

AFP was unable to independently verify the footage. The video, which lasts around one minute 40 seconds, shows a masked man in camouflage decapitating another man in uniform.

Other voices are heard encouraging the attacker in Russian.



Volodymyr Zelensky

After the man is decapitated, a voice is heard saying that the head should be sent "to the commander". The victim's vest bearing the Ukrainian trident can also be seen in the footage.

Moscow and Kyiv have repeatedly accused each other of killing prisoners of war since Russia invaded Ukraine more than a year ago, and several videos alleging to show POW killings have made the rounds on the internet.

China sets up no-fly zone north of Taiwan for 'space activities': Taipei

AFP | Taipei

Taiwan's transport ministry said yesterday China has set up a brief no-fly zone north of the island for April 16 due to "space activities".

The closure comes after Beijing completed three days of massive war games around Taiwan that saw it simulate targeted strikes and practise a blockade of the island.

The no-fly zone does not appear to be linked to the drills, with Taiwan's transport ministry saying China had imposed the restriction "on the convergence areas of many international routes to restrict flights on the grounds of 'space activities'".

The restrictions will be in place for just 27 minutes from 9:30 am to 9:57 am (0130 to 0157 GMT) on Sunday.

The transport ministry added that China had initially announced a three-day closure but revised it following objections from Taipei.

The ministry had informed China that "this unreasonable designation will bring huge and unnecessary flight risks to the region, and damage the rights and interests of international aviation," it added.

Japan's top government spokesperson had earlier said his government had also been notified of the three-day no-fly zone.

"Chinese authorities notified us of the designation of an area that may affect the safety of aircraft flights for aerospace activities from April 16 to 18," Hirokazu Matsuno said.

Taliban say ban on Afghan women working for UN 'an internal issue'

AFP | Kabul

Working for the United Nations was an internal issue, the country's Taliban authorities said yesterday, adding that the decision "should be respected by all sides".

Taliban authorities triggered international outrage earlier this month after extending a December ban on Afghan women working for non-governmental organisations to the UN.

"The Islamic Emirate does not want to create obstacles for the United Nations," Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Rather, it wants to make it clear that this is an internal issue of Afghanistan which does not create a problem for anyone and should be respected by

all sides." Under their austere interpretation of Islam, Taliban authorities have imposed a slew of restrictions on Afghan women since seizing power in 2021, including banning them from higher education and many government jobs.

The UN said Tuesday the ban was forcing it to make an "appalling choice" on whether to continue operations in Afghanistan.

The world body said it cannot comply with the ban as it was "unlawful under international law, including the UN Charter".

Mujahid, however, said there was no "discrimination" in the decision.

"On the contrary, considering the religious and cultural interests, we are committed to all the rights of our people," Representative picture

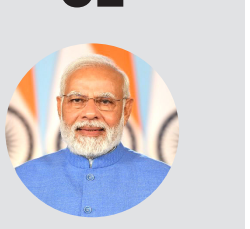
Representative picture

TOP 4 TWEETS



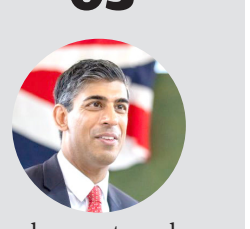
Somalia contributes 0.03% to greenhouse gas emissions. But as I just witnessed, Somalis are among the greatest victims of the chaos caused by the climate crisis. From Somalia today, my appeal to the world is clear: #ActNow to prevent catastrophe.

@antonioquterres



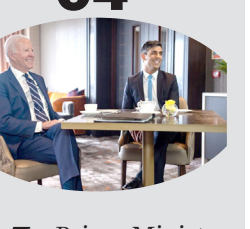
Participated in the virtual groundbreaking ceremony of solar powered piped drinking water supply systems funded by @IndiaEximBank in Uganda. This project will provide safe and sustainable water supply to half a million Ugandans across 20 rural districts.

@narendramodi



A pleasure to welcome @POTUS to Belfast, 25 years on from the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. The Agreement has transformed Northern Ireland into the thriving place we see today.

@RishiSunak



Mr. Prime Minister, it's great to see you again. I'm glad to be here and mark the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, which has brought peace and prosperity to Northern Ireland. I look forward to working together to unlock Northern Ireland's vast potential.

@POTUS

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



The holy calling

Inside the world of muezzins

AFP | Islamabad

Moments before dawn, Noor ul Islam ascends the steps of one of the world's biggest mosques, enters its cavernous hall and says a private prayer before a faintly buzzing microphone.

Then, the 32-year-old gulps down a deep breath and makes the morning's call to worship -- a forceful yet lilting chant amplified across Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, marking the start of daylight fasting during Ramadan.

"The voice is a gift from God," Islam said at Faisal Mosque, a towering marble monument to the nation's devotion to faith.

"If your intentions are genuine, your voice will have the power to touch people's hearts," he said.

All across the world, men like Islam, known as muezzins, broadcast the "adhan" call to prayer, five times a day.

In the month of Ramadan, where prayers mark the start and finish of 14 hours of fasting



Noor ul Islam (C), the muezzin responsible for performing the Islamic call to prayer, known as the Adhan, leads others in Maghrib prayers after breaking their fast at the grand Faisal Mosque during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan in Islamabad. Moments before dawn, Noor ul Islam ascends the steps of one of the world's biggest mosques, enters its cavernous hall and says a private prayer before a faintly buzzing microphone.

in Pakistan, the faithful are particularly attuned.

The script and rhythm are the same everywhere.

Intoned in Arabic over minaret loudspeakers, it reminds: "God is the greatest" and they should "hasten to prayers".

But there is a quiet hierarchy among muezzins.

A particularly melodic caller can increase the standing of a mosque. House hunters might judge the neighbourhood adhan before making an offer. And at

prestigious mosques, the job is highly coveted.

The three muezzin roles at Faisal Mosque -- a national emblem opened in 1986 with a fabled capacity of 300,000 worshippers -- are among the most prized outside the holy sites of Mecca and Medina.

Holy calling

As a teenager visiting Pakistan's capital from his hometown 105 kilometres (65 miles) away, Islam was captivated

by the soulful call from Faisal Mosque's four spiked towers.

"Every Muslim yearns to say the adhan, lead prayers or give a sermon at a well-known mosque," he said. "Every pious Muslim has this dream."

His chance came in 2018, when a single slot opened and he beat 400 other candidates to the post.

When he steps up to the microphone, Islam plugs his ears with his fingers in order to block all sounds apart from his voice.

The three muezzin roles at Faisal Mosque -- a national emblem opened in 1986 with a fabled capacity of 300,000 worshippers -- are among the most prized outside the holy sites of Mecca and Medina.

"The adhan, delivered with a beautiful and precise pronunciation, resonates with people," said

57-year-old businessman Aziz Ahmed in front of the mosque.

Some of Islam's fellow muezzins coddle their vocal cords like rock stars and theatre performers, drinking honey-laced beverages, and avoiding cold breezes and oil-drenched Pakistani cuisine.

"I am a careless person when it comes to this," chuckles Islam. "I can't resist." Nonetheless, he treats his vocation with humble reverence.

"The fundamental purpose of the adhan is to invite people towards God. You can only accomplish this effectively when you possess a pure heart", he said.

"Any delay or lack of sincerity in performing the adhan could potentially erode our faith." A sub-par adhan is treated as a "formality" by muezzins who create "fake voices".

A good recital can "strike me straight in the heart", Islam said.

But the position does come with a hint of celebrity.

Devotees travel for miles to hear the call at Faisal Mosque, peer through the windows to watch Islam at work and ask for selfies afterwards.

Back home in the town of Swabi, he is considered a local hero.

Now Islam aspires to secure a further promotion to muezzin at the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Mecca.

"I can't explain these feelings," he said. "Every Muslim should try to make this bond between him and God."

"There is peace in this."

Laylat al-Qadr



Muslims perform a prayer ritual on 'Laylat al-Qadr', one of the holiest nights during the holy fasting month of Ramadan, at the shrine of Imam Musa al-Kadhim in Baghdad's Kadhimiya neighbourhood

Songkok caps



A vendor displays Malay traditional songkok caps, worn by men, during religious or formal state occasions, at a temporary market set up during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Geylang Serai district in Singapore

Ramadan in Herat



Service employees of various government departments wait to receive food aid distributed by a charity foundation during the Islamic holy fasting month of Ramadan in Herat

SUDOKU

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

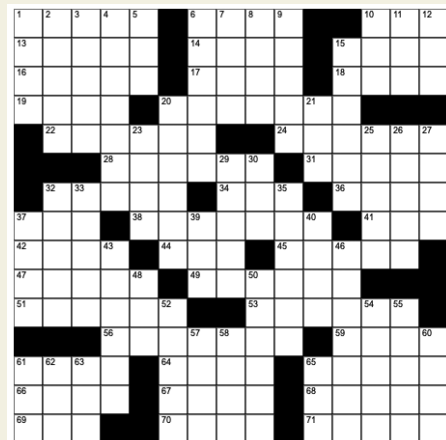
Yesterday's solution

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

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- Driver's invitation; 6- Pro follower; 10- Starchy dish; 13- You ... right!; 14- Seth's son; 15- Unites; 16- Young haddock; 17- Wet septet; 18- News bit; 19- Physical suffering; 20- Correspondences; 22- Mantra; 24- So far; 28- Something that occupies space; 31- Tint; 32- Elegance; 34- Him, to Henri; 36- Lows; 37- ... Paulo; 38- Declares positively; 41- Nth; 42- Tarot suit; 44- Involuntary muscular contraction; 45- Listens; 47- Make one; 49- Maroon; 51- Puget Sound city; 53- On the go; 56- Republic in central Europe; 59- Fish appendages; 61- Civil disturbance; 64- Driving aids; 65- Botch; 66- National rival; 67- Broccoli ... (leafy vegetable); 68- Was Hamlet; 69- Toothpaste type; 70- Somewhat; 71- Guides;

Down

1- Briefcase closer; 2- Killer whales; 3- Jeopardy; 4- Equality of political rights; 5- Silent bid; 6- Take as an affront; 7- Work without ...; 8- Just right; 9- It's a plus; 10- Domesticated animal; 11- Form of poem, often used to praise something; 12- Belief; 15- Sagacity; 20- Current; 21- Mythical bird; 23- Big bash; 25- One way to think; 26- Implements; 27- Formerly, formerly; 29- Give a seat?; 30- Capek play; 32- Sweatbox; 33- Theme; 35- Home of Odysseus; 37- Rabbit's tail; 39- Bro's sibling; 40- Posted; 43- Summer ermines; 46- Building; 48- Australian bird; 50- Elevated; 52- Latin stars; 54- Prospect; 55- Wound up; 57- Nipple; 58- First name in country; 60- Lays down the lawn; 61- Joplin tune; 62- ... had it!; 63- Wildcatter's find; 65- ... de mer;

Yesterday's solution

E	G	A	D	D	E	A	L	T	A	L	E	E
R	O	M	A	R	M	O	R	V	E	R		
I	S	I	N	M	A	I	N	E	A	S	E	
C	H	A	C	H	A	G	N	A	R	L	E	D
	E	O	S	U	S	D	A					
H	A	N	D	I	C	A	P		R	O	S	E
O	R	O		U	N	I			O	R	A	L
I	N	T	E	N	S	E		A	N	N	E	L
S	I	E	N	A			D	I	E		A	T
T	E	S	T	A			E	M	B	O	L	D
							C	L	A	W	R	D
S	T	R	I	P	E	D			A	D	D	L
L	A	I	C		E	D	I	T	S		L	A
A	C	M	E		C	L	O	A	K		E	M
B	O	E	R		H	E	N	N	A		D	E

Classifieds



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NASS SCAFFOLD CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

YAZAN SALOON COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER-HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33162188 or YAZAN.ALHAJ@GMAIL.COM

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ALGHANAH WOOD DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722333 or JOSE@ALGHANAH.COM

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ALDEEBIL FISH FACTORY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33347666 or hasan.aldeebel@gmail.com

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ALKOMED ENGINEERING SERVICES CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17698500 or ALKOMED@BATELCO.COM.BH

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for the occupation of PEST CONTROL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17643606 or AL_QALLAF_PEST_CONTROL@HOTMAIL.COM

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Rajasthan survive Dhoni-Jadeja scare to top IPL table

AFP | Chennai

Rajasthan Royals survived a late blitz from M.S. Dhoni, in his landmark 200th match as captain of Chennai Super Kings, and Ravindra Jadeja to prevail in a last-ball IPL finish yesterday.

Chasing 176 for victory, Chennai were 113-6 when Dhoni (32) joined Jadeja (25) and the pair put on an unbeaten stand of 59 but fell short of Rajasthan's 175-8 by three runs.

Dhoni, 41, rolled back the years as he smashed Sandeep Sharma for two sixes in the final over with Chennai needing 21 to win from the last six balls.

But the medium-pace bowler, who started with two wides, kept his nerve to bowl two yorkers to deny Dhoni and Chennai a miracle as the hosts ended on 172-6.

England white-ball skipper

Jos Buttler stood out with his 52, guiding last year's runners-up Rajasthan to a total which was just enough for the team's third win in four matches and sent them top of the 10-team table.

Buttler was helped along by Devdutt Padikkal (38) and Ravichandran Ashwin, who started slowly but smashed two sixes in his 30-run cameo.

Rajasthan's spinners and Sandeep then combined to restrict Chennai, with Ashwin taking an impressive 2-25 including the key wicket of Ajinkya Rahane for 31.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal struck twice in one over, removing Chennai impact player Ambati Rayudu (one) and then New Zealand's Devon Conway soon after the opener reached 50.

Rajasthan's impact sub Adam Zampa, who came in for Buttler, was expensive with his leg

spin but got the wicket of Moeen Ali.

Dhoni, the once premier finisher in the game, raised the noise at the MA Chidambaram Stadium with a four and six off Zampa and more big hits, but the asking rate remained too high.

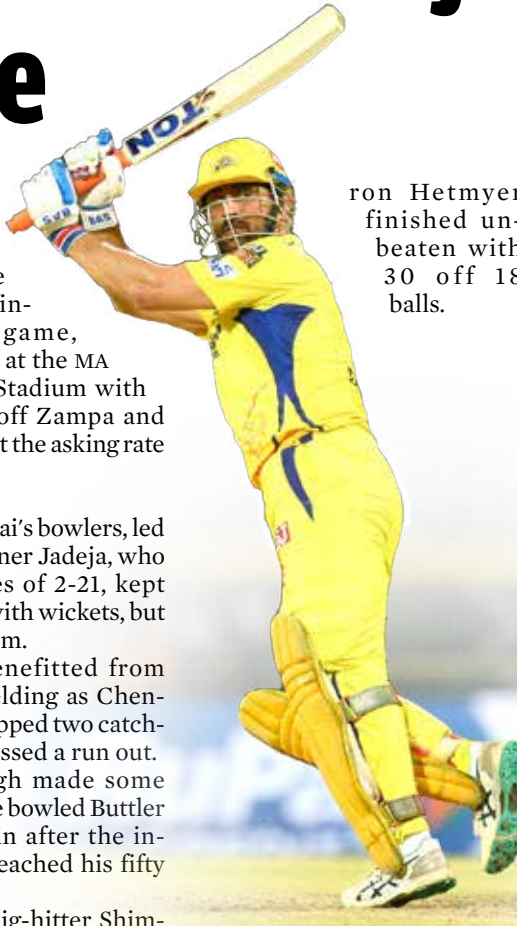
Earlier Chennai's bowlers, led by left-arm spinner Jadeja, who returned figures of 2-21, kept chipping away with wickets, but Buttler stood firm.

Rajasthan benefitted from some sloppy fielding as Chennai's Moeen dropped two catches at slip and missed a run out.

Moeen though made some amends when he bowled Buttler with his off spin after the in-form batsman reached his fifty in 33 balls.

West Indies big-hitter Shim-

ron Hetmyer finished unbeaten with 30 off 18 balls.



Sluggish Warner under fire in IPL after Delhi lose again

AFP | New Delhi

David Warner is under fire in the Indian Premier League after the Australian's Delhi Capitals lost for a fourth time in as many matches and sit bottom of the pile.

The opening batsman and skipper has hit three half-centuries in this year's edition of the Twenty20 tournament but his runs have come at a sluggish strike rate of 114.83.

At his explosive best, the 36-year-old left-hander is a match-winner. He boasts a strike rate of 141.30 in his 99 T20 innings for Australia.

But he cannot get going in this year's IPL and his snail-paced 51 runs off 47 deliveries in Tuesday's last-ball loss to the Mumbai Indians did little to quell concerns about his decline. The once-destructive Australian appears la-

boured, even nervous.

Warner's innings got a boost in a 67-run sixth-wicket stand with Axar, who smashed a 25-ball 54, but Delhi were all out for 172 and their opponents went on to win by six wickets.

Delhi are bottom of the 10 teams in the IPL and the only side yet to win a match.

Axar said that Warner has spoken to Ricky Ponting and Shane Watson, two Australian greats on Delhi's coaching staff, as he bids to get firing again.

He has also been counselled by former Indian Test captain Sourav Ganguly, Delhi's director of cricket.

Pundits have been scathing in their assessment of Warner's struggles.



Michael Jordan sneakers fetch auction record \$2.2 million

● The auction broke his own record of \$1.5 million for sneakers, set in September 2021

AFP | New York, USA

A pair of sneakers worn by NBA superstar Michael Jordan sold for \$2.2 million on Tuesday, setting a record price at auction for game-worn sports footwear, Sotheby's announced.

The basketball great wore the "Bred" Air Jordan 13s during Game 2 of the 1998 NBA Finals on the way to his sixth and last NBA championship title.

The online sale cements Jordan's position as the most valuable athlete at auctions for sports-wear memorabilia.

It broke his own record of \$1.5 million for sneakers, set in September 2021.

Last year, one of his jerseys sold for \$10.1 million, the most ever paid at auction for any



Michael Jordan's 1998 NBA Finals Air Jordan XIII sneakers are displayed during a press preview in New York on April 6, 2023 at Sotheby's for the upcoming auction "Victoriam," a special two-part curated collection of sports artifacts



The retired star now owns the Charlotte Hornets, located in his childhood home of North Carolina, and reportedly still earns millions in royalties each year from sales of Nike's Air Jordan brand of sneakers.

game-worm collectibles.

"Today's record-breaking result further proves that the demand for Michael Jordan sports memorabilia continues to outperform and transcend all expectations," Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's head of streetwear and modern collectables, said in a statement.

Jordan wore the sneakers for the second half of the Chicago Bulls' 93-88 victory over Utah Jazz on June 5, 1998.

Jordan scored a game-high 37 points as his Bulls side tied the series 1-1.

The Finals featured in the hit 2020 ESPN/Netflix documentary "The Last Dance," about Jordan's final season with the Chicago side. Wachter said nostalgia for a different era was driving the popularity of Jordan memorabilia.

"We have clients in all different areas, from real estate, to finance to private equity. There are many people that are interested in this emerging market," he said. The price, which in-

cludes fees and commission, came in just above Sotheby's low pre-sale estimate of \$2 million but well below the predicted high of \$4 million.

The auction house said Jordan had autographed the shoes and given them to a ball-boy after the game.

Sotheby's did not identify the seller but said it was not that original recipient. Nor did it name the buyer of the size 13 shoe.



The sneakers are known as "Bred" for their black and red color, a style Jordan wore throughout most of his trophy-laden career.

Jordan, now 60, spent the bulk of his playing career with the Bulls, with whom he won all six of his titles, but came out of retirement in 2001 to play two seasons with the Washington Wizards.

Tuesday's sale coincided with the release this month of the movie "Air," about Nike's pursuit of Jordan.

The \$10.1 million sale of Jordan's jersey from Game 1 of the 1998 NBA Finals in September 2022 beat a record held by Diego Maradona's "Hand of God" Argentina jersey.

Ahli to face tough opposition in Asian volleyball

Participating teams confirmed for 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship

● **Ahli to face Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club from South Korea, Canberra Heat from Australia, Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi from Indonesia**

● **Kingdom of Bahrain set to host prestigious annual Asian Volleyball Confederation tournament between May 14 and 21**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Al Ahli Club have learned of their opponents in the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, set to be held in the Kingdom from May 14 to 21.

The Kingdom's representatives are one of 16 teams from across the continent taking part in the tournament, which is being organised by the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) in cooperation with the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC).

The draw for the event had already been held last month, with the Bahrainis being drawn against outfits from South Korea, Australia and Indonesia in



Bahrain's Al Ahli Club are one of 16 teams from across the continent taking part in the tournament, in which the winners will qualify for the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship

Pool A.

Those three participating teams have now been confirmed by the AVC, with Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club representing South Korea, Canberra Heat competing from Australia and Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi taking part from Indonesia.

Pool B is set to feature Shahdab Yazd from Iran, South Gas Sports Club from Iraq,

Taichung Bank from Chinese-Taipei and Kam Air from Afghanistan. Pool C comprises Suntory Sunbirds from Japan, Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force from Thailand, Bayankhongor Crowned Geo VC from Mongolia and Khaypil Sports Club from Yemen. Group D features Atyrau VC from Kazakhstan, Police Sports Team from Qatar, Aspiring Volleyball Team from Hong Kong and Kuwait Sporting Club from Kuwait.

Ahli are set to be led in the competition by local stars Naser Anan, Mohammed Anan, Abbas Al Khabbaz, Ali Alsairafi, Sayed Mohammed Alabbar and Mahmood Abdulhussain

among others. It is still unclear if they will be signing any other players for the Asian

event.

Ahli recently captured the bronze medals in the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League, and will be hoping to add another accolade to their season.

Aside from being a continental champion, the winners of the annual tournament qualify for the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

This year's event will be the second time the Kingdom has staged the competition. It previously held the 2007 edition,

Tehran of Iran. A Bahrain club has yet to step onto the podium in the tournament.

Last year's competition was also won by Paykan at home, where they defeated Japan's Suntory Sun-

Al Ahli's Ali Alsairafi in action during their bronze medal-winning game in the Bahrain league (File pic)



Abdulwahed retained as junior national volleyball team coach

● **Bahrainis set to compete in FIVB Men's U21 World Championship, to be held in Kingdom in July**

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) have announced that it has retained Tunisian tactician Saber Abdulwahed as head coach of the Kingdom's junior national volleyball team.

Abdulwahed is set to guide his squad in the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship, which will be held in Bahrain from 7 to 16 July.

The tournament features 16 teams from five confederations around the world, with matches to be played at the Isa bin Rashid Arena at the Bahrain Volleyball Association head-



Bahrain's junior national volleyball team with head coach Saber Abdulwahed, back row, left

quarters at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The competition is the premier tournament for junior national teams organised

by the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport's global governing body.

Abdulwahed was also in

charge of Bahrain's junior national volleyball team when they competed in the 21st Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship, held in Bahrain last year.

There, they finished an impressive seventh overall amongst 17 participating nations.

The junior nationals have already begun preparing for the

competition, which will mark the fourth time the Kingdom is staging the prestigious event. Bahrain first hosted the under-21 worlds in 1987, and then did so again in 1997 and most recently in 2019.

Bahrain have qualified for the tournament as hosts. The Bahrainis are in Pool A along with Iran, Thailand and Tunisia. Pool B features defending champions Italy, Brazil, Egypt and Mexico. Pool C consists of Poland, Bulgaria, Canada and India; while Pool D comprises Argentina, Belgium, the Czech Republic and the US.

The top two teams from each pool will advance to round-robin Pools E and F of the second phase, while the rest will move to Pools G and H to continue the battles for classification from eighth to 16th. The winners and runners-up of Pools E and F will progress to the semi-finals and eventually determine the medalists.

Rashford to miss a 'few games' for Man Utd with muscle injury

AFP | London

Marcus Rashford will miss Man-

chester United's Europa League quarter-final first-leg clash with Sevilla this week after suffering a muscle injury that is likely to keep him out for "a few games", the club announced yesterday.

The 25-year-old, who has scored 28 goals for Erik ten Hag's side this season, limped out of the 2-0 Premier League win over Everton on Saturday, holding his groin.

United, targeting a trophy treble, said in a statement that assessment

of the injury "suggested that Marcus will be unavailable for a few games, but is expected to be back for the season run-in".

Speaking to reporters an hour after United's update on their top scorer, Ten Hag said he was unable to give further information.

"I can't give more details of it because we don't know," he said.

"We have to see how it develops, the injury. Of course it's a setback and he's disappointed about it.

Pogacar 165,000-euro watch thieves handed four-year sentence

AFP | Nice, France

Two men have been sentenced to four years in prison after stealing luxury watches including one from double Tour de France champion Tadej Pogacar.

The individuals aged 32 and 37 were also handed a 50,000 euros (\$54,829) fine by a Nice court on Tuesday after taking the item from the Slovenian's hotel room in March.



Representative picture

The watch, made by a sponsor of Pogacar's Team UAE

Emirates, Richard Mille, with a value of 165,000 euros, has yet to be found.

According to the Nice-Matin newspaper, the pair had also stolen a safe from a couple which included two watches.

In April, authorities in nearby Italy announced the arrest of three men after a luxury watch worth 300,000 euros and owned by Formula One driver Charles Leclerc was stolen from his wrist.

