

**Beyon Speed Weekend set at BIC**

National Day festivities include two international race series, stunning fireworks display in Sakhir | P16

THURSDAY  
DECEMBER, 2023  
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WORLD 13 EU chief urges sanctions on 'extremist' Israeli settlers

# THE DAILY tribune

Margot Robbie rejected Oppenheimer producer's Barbie release request 14 CELEBS

BUSINESS 9 Tamkeen supports wage increments for more than 30% of Aramex Bahrain employees

**Bahrain condoles with Saudi Arabia**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and is Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday sent cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud following the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saud Al Kabeer Al Saud.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace and to bless the Saudi Royal Family with patience and fortitude.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

**Flipperachi for BRAVE CF 80**

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation's final event of the year and the biggest show in the BRAVE International Combat Week will have a very welcome addition.

One of the Middle East's finest musicians and Bahrain's own Flipperachi will perform at BRAVE CF 80, set for tomorrow at the Khalifa Sports City Arena.

Flipperachi has been one of the driving forces of Khaleeji Hip Hop in the last few years and has had an unforgettable 2023, with new releases and having songs featured in some of the greatest shows in the region, which went world-wide throughout the year.

BRAVE CF has also had a historic year in 2023, transforming itself in the industry leader for most countries hosted, having done events in 30 countries, a world record for mixed martial arts.

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## HM King hails UAE's successful COP28 hosting

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable to the UAE President, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, on the conclusion of the summit of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which was hosted by the UAE in Expo City Dubai.

HM the King praised the distinguished efforts of the UAE in hosting COP28, which demonstrated its prominent status and influence globally.

His Majesty commended the UAE's role, under the leadership of HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed, in managing the conference's negotiations and discussions which led to the historic agreement "The UAE Consensus", which marks a new phase in international climate action to se-



HM the King

The historic agreement, "The UAE Consensus", marks a new phase in international climate action to secure a better future for the planet.

cure a better future for the planet. His Majesty commended the summit's results and the efforts of Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, COP28 President and UAE's Special Envoy for Climate Change, and all Emirati teams involved in this event, wishing the UAE and its people further success and achievements under the leadership of His Highness the President.

# Green future ahead

World unites for transition away from fossil fuels in fight against climate change

AFP | Dubai

The world for the first time yesterday approved a call to transition away from fossil fuels as UN negotiations in Dubai tackled the top culprit behind climate change, but at-risk countries said far more action was needed.

After 13 days of talks and several sleepless nights in a country built on oil wealth, the Emirati president of the COP28 summit quickly banged a gavel to signal consensus among 194 countries and the European Union.

"You did step up, you showed flexibility, you put common interest ahead of self-interest," said COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber, whose role as head of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company had raised suspicion among many environmentalists.

Describing the deal as bringing "transformational change", Jaber said: "We have helped restore faith and trust in multilat-



COP28 president Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, centre, applauds among other officials before a plenary session in Dubai. (AFP)

eralism, and we have shown that humanity can come together."

**'Long overdue'**

EU climate chief Wopke Hoekstra called the agreement "long, long overdue", saying it had taken nearly 30 years of climate meetings to "arrive at the beginning of the end of fossil fuels".

But with the UN talks requiring consensus, Jaber carefully calibrated the text to bring on-

board countries from islands that fear extinction from rising sea levels to oil giant Saudi Arabia, which led the charge to keep exporting its petroleum.

Toughening language from an earlier draft that was roundly denounced by environmentalists, the agreement calls for "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner".

It asks for greater action "in this critical decade" and recom-

mits to no net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in hopes of meeting the increasingly elusive goal of checking warming at 1.5 degrees (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

**Clearest endorsement**

But US climate envoy John Kerry hailed the deal as the clearest endorsement yet of 1.5 degrees and indicated he worked to win over Saudi Arabia.



The agreement called for the world to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent by 2030 compared with 2019 levels.

"I think there were times in the last 48 hours where some of us thought this could fail," Kerry said.

But he said: "A number of countries that produce oil and gas - you know who they are - they stepped up and said, you know, we want this to succeed."

## UN awards Dr. Al Sayed 'Pioneer in Humanitarian Work' title

TDT | Manama

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees awarded the title of "Pioneer in Humanitarian Work" to Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed, Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, in appreciation of his efforts and the generous contribu-

tions made by RHF to support the UNHCR's humanitarian response over the past years in several emergency displacement situations.

This came on the sidelines of the Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva, which is hosted by the UN in partnership with the Government of Switzerland, in the presence

of a number of heads of state and ministers of countries and more than 3,500 participants from various countries of the world.

On this occasion, Dr. Al Sayed extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Honorary President of the RHF, for his initiatives in supporting

humanitarian work and helping peoples and brotherly and friendly countries in the various humanitarian circumstances they are exposed to.

Dr. Al Sayed praised the great support that the Foundation enjoys from the esteemed government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince

and Prime Minister. "We appreciate the great efforts made by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, in leading the humanitarian work carried out by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation," he said.

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King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

On the occasion of National Day,  
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession Day  
and Bahrain Police Day

We vow to continue to protect the nation.  
Moving forward in the journey of goodness  
and contributions towards a brighter future.



General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa  
Minister of Interior and all the Ministry of Interior affiliates





Best wishes and heartfelt greetings to  
**His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**  
*The Crown Prince and Prime Minister*

On the occasion of National Day,  
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Minister of Interior and all the Ministry of Interior affiliates



# 14 December Bahrain Police Day



## With the support of HM the King & follow-up of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the nation's security is top priority & milestones are a reality

### Police Media Centre

Bahrain Police forces are known, throughout their rich history of over 100 years, for the spirit of achievements that all citizens and residents witness through national security and stability. The milestones have been achieved with the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.



The achievements aren't limited to fieldwork but went beyond that through humanitarian and human rights programmes and initiatives to promote human rights as the core of security work. The national project of alternative sentencing and the open prisons programme are two examples. They represent the human rights and civilised values of the vision of HM the King. Within this framework, the instructions of His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa come to ensure that security and stability are based on community partnership to ensure their sustainability. 2023 witnessed many security and stability indications; mainly, drug-related cases have remained the same in the last three years, under 3% of total criminal cases. Training indicates competent performance, as 1,126 training courses were held for 14,533 of the Interior Ministry's affiliates and other organisations.



- HE Interior Minister launched the National Civil Protection Platform within a distinctive awareness framework.
- Maan's modernisation included the launch of the peaceful coexistence and extremism-combating curriculum.
- Alternative sentencing project has covered 5,828 beneficiaries since 2018.
- Rescue "Najda" patrols dealt with 31,704 cases & the emergency hotline (999) received around 3 million calls in 2023.

jail for unpaid loans covered 132 cases through the help of donors, with an increase of 159% compared with last year.

In the same context, the General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation received the American Correctional Association's accreditation after fulfilling all global criteria. Also, as part of the cooperation between the Interior Ministry and Education Ministry to provide educational services and programmes for inmates, 180 inmates were registered at different higher education programmes.

#### Maan, New Era of Youth Protection

HE Interior Minister visited the United States in June 2023 to participate in the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the D.A.R.E. International and launched the peaceful coexistence and extremism-combating curriculum as part of the ongoing modernisation of the Maan (together) programme against violence and addiction. HE Interior Minister asserted the role of the Interior Ministry in creating a generation that is more resilient to extremism through tolerance and peaceful coexistence messages. The programme teaches cybersecurity for all educational levels to enhance awareness of children.

#### Security Performance in Numbers

The rescue (Najda) patrols dealt with 31,704 cases until November 2023, while the main operations room received 173,402 cases and the emergency hotline "999" received 2,868,353 calls. The Operations Directorate offered 12,212 community

From 2018 to 2023, the beneficiaries of the alternative sentencing project reached 5,828, while the

Director-General of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing unveiled this year the slogan of the

open prisons programme: "Mistake, Reform, Success". Meanwhile, the "Fael Khair" initiative to help those in

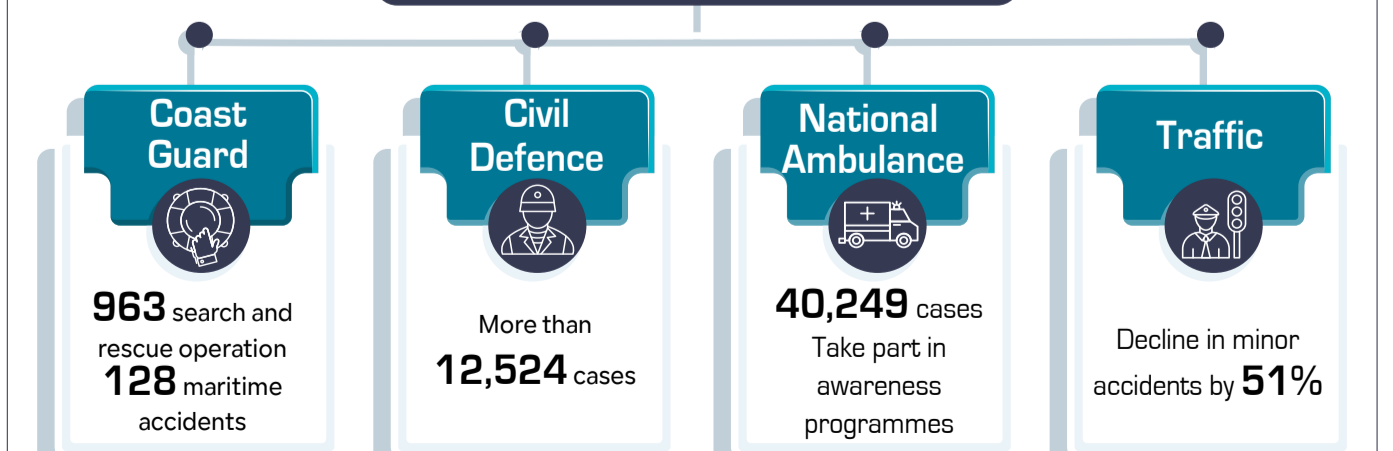
#### Alternative Sentencing: Forward-Looking Human Right Model

During 2023, the General Directorate of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing worked to promote its milestones and advanced initiatives as part of the alternative sentencing project and open prisons programme that are part of the bright civilised, human rights and humanitarian sides of the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is also a sign of the accomplishment of HM the King era of reinforcing justice and protecting social cohesion.



Shaikh Khalid bin Rashid receives International Association of Chiefs of Police Award.

### Statistics Reflect Stable Security

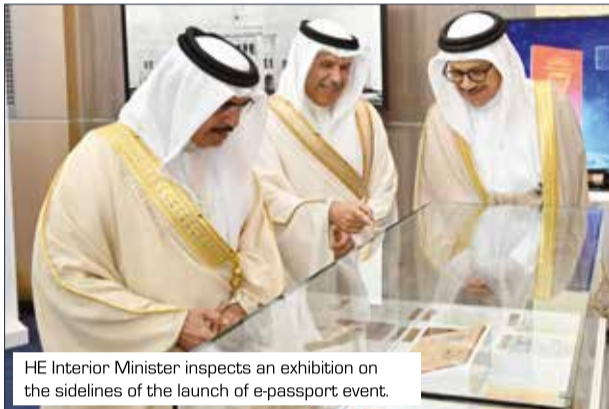


# 14 December Bahrain Police Day



## Bahrain Police move forward beyond achieving sustainability .. programmes promoting human rights & initiatives are the core of security work

services, representing 66% of community service assistance calls. In the same context, the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security dealt from 2021 to 2023 with around 284 anti-corruption cases, including 15 cases with criminal suspicions referred by the Cabinet and mentioned by the National Audit Office. The National Financial Intelligence Centre continued with its role in receiving cases and reports on suspicious transactions, launching investigations and holding awareness campaigns.



HE Interior Minister inspects an exhibition on the sidelines of the launch of e-passport event.



HE Interior Minister attends Maan programme event.

participating in the tournament in 2009. Bahrain also won the Best Team Leader Award 2023 in the Royal Military Academy "Sandhurst" event.

### National Ambulance Received 40,000 Cases

All National Ambulance vehicles have been equipped with high-tech devices that meet international standards, including a tracking system for better safety procedures and rescue operations. The surveillance cameras and the geographical security system in the ambulances are connected to the operations room of the National Ambulance Centre. From the beginning of January until October 2023, the National Ambulance responded to about 40,249 cases and participated in many awareness programmes.

### Human Resources Directorate Launches AI Project

In 2023, the Human Resources Directorate won an excellence award and launched an artificial intelligence project to communicate with deaf individuals in the operating rooms. It also promoted digital transformation by holding the second virtual Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing Forum for Arab Youth, establishing the Institute for Information Systems and Artificial Intelligence Applications at the Royal Academy of Police, and implementing the Governance and Government Excellence Standards Project. To promote creativity, the Police Band continued to enhance the performance of its affiliates, develop music programmes, and provide the latest equipment. The band participated in 163 events.

### Bahrainouna Marks 4th Anniversary

The Executive Office of the National Plan to Promote the Spirit of Belonging to the Nation and Reinforce the Values of Nationalism "Bahrainouna" celebrated this year its 4th anniversary while it launched "Bahraini Camera" initiative at the Bahrain Film Festival and participated in several events.

### International Sports Achievements

Interior Ministry sports teams under the Public Security Sports Association have achieved honourable successes and achievements inside Bahrain and abroad in archery, tennis, show jumping, martial arts, weightlifting, bodybuilding, and others. The teams won 142 prizes and medals.

### Police Media, Professional Media Content

The General Directorate of Media and Security Culture worked throughout 2023 to reinforce performance and provide professional media content, releasing 1,168 press releases in Arabic and translating them into English. It produced 418 videos, 683 radio productions, and many publications. Meanwhile, the followers of the Interior Ministry account on the "X" social media platform reached 492,000.



Chief of Public Security receives Excellence Award.



Pace Sticking Team.

- **Reformation and Rehabilitation received international accreditation from the American Correctional Association after fulfilling all international criteria.**
- **Anti-Narcotics dealt with 1,039 cases & won second best field, information & operation cooperation.**
- **Bahrainouna Executive Office launched "Bahraini Camera" initiative at the Bahrain Film Festival and participated in several events.**

### National Civil Protection Platform & Coast Guard

HE Interior Minister launched the National Civil Protection Platform on November 3 during a visit to the General Directorate of Civil Defence as a distinctive awareness framework. The Platform's website traffic reached more than 30,000, while it witnesses a high demand to register for the civil defence volunteering programme. Meanwhile, the Civil Defence dealt with more than 12,524 fire cases, mainly due to short circuits, negligence and high temperatures. The civil defence handled 6,465 assistance cases and organised various general safety awareness lectures. In maritime security, the Coast Guard carried out 963 search and rescue operations, dealt with 128 maritime accidents and responded to 23 distress calls, bringing the total number to 1,114 cases.

### Decline in Traffic Accidents and Violations

The General Directorate of Traffic announced a reduction in severe accidents by 17% and minor accidents by 51%, which led to a decrease in traffic accidents by 7%. There was also a reduction in speeding violations by 32% and the use of mobile phones while driving by 17%. Meanwhile, the number of in-use vehicles reached 751,000.

### NPRA Launches Remarkable e-services

The Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) launched, in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry and the Information & eGovernment Authority, the service of issuing travel permits for children of Bahrainis who were born abroad and those with lost or damaged passports through the national portal, Bahrain.bh. It also launched the virtual renewal of the residency permits of foreign wives of Bahrainis. Meanwhile, the number of passengers this year reached more than 28 million.

### International Anti-Human Trafficking Recognition

The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science dealt with many cases, including 1,039 cases by the Anti-Narcotics Directorate. At the same time, the directorate won the second best in field, information and operation cooperation award of the Arab Interior Minister Council. Also, the General Directorate contributed to Bahrain

maintaining its top-tier ranking for the sixth consecutive year in the US State Department's report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP). In the case of awareness, 220 lectures were held for 4,426 participants.

### Advanced Training Methods

The Special Security Force developed performance through advanced training methods. At the same time, the General Directorate of Guard continued using modern technology and improved the workforce's skills through training programmes.

### National Cybersecurity Management

The National Cyber Security Centre designed the "Thiqa" Information Security Programme to protect organisations at the national level with a focus on vital sectors to develop national competencies and improve Bahrain's regional and international cybersecurity ranking.

### Security Preparedness & High Performance

The Police Aviation carried out around 416 aviation search and rescue patrols. The force fleet was equipped with high-tech cameras. At the same time, the police directorates continued to carry out their security and general order protection

roles through improving preparedness and the competencies of security forces. The Southern Police Directorate took a step further toward the digital transformation efforts by designing "QR" to get public feedback about provided security services. The Capital Governorate Police Directorate carried out 567 campaigns to inspect old and deserted buildings that could promote crime activities. The Northern Governorate Police continued to encourage crime prevention methods.

### New Customs Mechanisms

Customs Affairs continued to develop its supervisory methods and provide facilities and services by speeding up customs procedures, including introducing new mechanisms related to empty containers and granting more economic operator certificates to promote partnerships between the government and private sectors. Customs Affairs handled various cases, including confiscating multiple narcotics and reporting 16 tax evasion cases.

### Governorates Promote Partnership

The governorates continued to promote community partnership and interaction with citizens, and the Southern governorate worked

to enable digital transformation through various projects, including a smartphone app and a virtual Majlis. The Muharraq Governorate awarded health city accreditation for two cities, Busaiteen and Al Sayah, by the World Health Organisation. The Northern Governorate received the same WHO accreditation for Aali city, and HE Interior Minister launched the Healthy Cities Project in the Capital Governorate.

### Development Projects

The Office of the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Organisation followed up on various development projects, including an electronic programme to support families of inmates eligible for social assistance services. It also worked on a unified security platform for all Interior Ministry systems using Artificial Intelligence techniques.

### MOI Team Wins Pace Sticking Competition

The Royal Academy of Police (RAP) continued its advanced educational and training role, in which its annual summer camp achieved various milestones. Also, in another international accomplishment, the RAP Pace Sticking team won the World Pace Sticking Competition for the tenth time since the team began par-

**Community partnership**



The Capital Governorate, in association with Al Qadisiyah Youth Empowerment Centre, organised an event on the occasion of the Kingdom of Bahrain's celebration of its National Days, in commemoration of the establishment of the modern Bahraini State as an Arab and Muslim state founded by Ahmed Al Fateh in 1783, and the anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne. On this occasion Deputy Capital Governor stressed that the governorate's participation in the celebrations reinforced the principle of community partnership, praising all the efforts in organising the event. Head of Al Qadisiyah Youth Empowerment Centre Eng. Yousif Al Dosari congratulated the leadership and the centre's members on this occasion. The event ended with Bahraini Traditional Ardash, poems and a market for the productive local families.

**Employing more people with disabilities**

TDT | Manama

In its recent meeting, headed by Dr. Ibtisam Al Dallal, the Services Committee of the Shura Council continued its efforts to discuss the proposal for a law amending some provisions of Law No. 74 of 2006 regarding the care, rehabilitation and employment of people with disabilities.

The proposal was submitted by members of the Shura Council Sabika Al Fadhala, Dalal Al Zayed, Ali Al Aradi, Talal Al Mannai, and Hisham Al Qassab, along with representatives from the Ministry of Labour.

**Al Salam Bank successfully concludes 'Qaedat Al Salam' Women Leadership Program**



Her Excellency Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa with Al Salam Bank officials and dignitaries  
TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank celebrated the conclusion of the 'Qaedat Al Salam' Women Leadership program in a special ceremony held on Monday at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

The event was graced by the presence of His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani, Chairman of Al Salam Bank, Mr. Rafik Nayed, Group Chief Executive Officer of Al Salam Bank, esteemed board members, prominent dignitaries, including C-level executives, and other notable figures from the Kingdom. Also in attendance were members of executive management and over 150 female employees who actively participated in the program.

The ceremony commenced with an introduction to the 'Qaedat Al Salam' initiative, followed by opening speeches delivered by His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani and Mr. Rafik Nayed.

A distinguished panel discussion featuring accomplished Bahraini women entrepreneurs ensued, featuring Her Excellency Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Shaikh Ibrahim bin Mohammed Al-Khalifa Center for Culture and Research; Ms. Khawla Ahmed Hasan Ebrahim, Director of the Islamic Financial Institutions Directorate at the Central Bank of Bahrain; Ms. Mashael Fairouz, Founding Partner of JEO Capi-

tal Management; and Ms. Muna Al Balooshi, Head of Human Resources and Administration at Al Salam Bank.

The event served as a robust knowledge-sharing platform, where participants delved into their experiences, strategies for overcoming challenges, achieving work-life balance, and receiving invaluable guidance to propel their careers towards future leadership roles.

**Congratulations**

Reflecting on the occasion, Ms. Muna Al Balooshi, Head of Human Resources and Administration at Al Salam Bank, expressed her congratulations to all participants of 'Qaedat Al Salam' for completing this remarkable journey. She highlighted the program's success, celebrating a 96% satisfaction rate following its completion. Ms. Al Balooshi reaffirmed the bank's commitment to supporting professional growth, achieving equality in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the Kingdom's Economic Vision 2030.

Ms. Muna Al Balooshi emphasized that the initiative aligns with the goals of the

Supreme Council for Women to empower Bahraini women, supporting their participation across various industries and promoting their advancement in society. She underscored the program's contribution to developing employees' skills and talents, identifying eligible participants ready to take the next step in their career journeys.

'Qaedat Al Salam' stands out as a unique learning and development program, empowering female employees of the bank after 12 weeks of extensive training, encompassing workshops, courses, and projects covering crucial topics such as self-awareness, personal, and professional development.

Al Salam Bank said it aims to boost organizational efficiency and competitiveness through this initiative, establishing industry leaders, promoting diversity, inclusion, and women empowerment while safeguarding women's rights. The program also aligns with the bank's commitment to becoming the largest Islamic bank in Bahrain and a leading, innovative financial institution with a proven record of high productivity, stated the officials.

**Congratulations and best wishes to**

*His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa*

*His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa*

**The Royal Family, Government and the People of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the**

**52<sup>ND</sup> BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY**



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**MP proposal on internship opportunities for foreign medical graduates**

TDT | Manama

Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Committee at the Parliament, MP Hassan Al Asboul, together with four representatives, presented a proposal

seeking to allow medical graduates studying in foreign universities to pass the internship year at the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) or any other government health institutions.

In a statement, MP Al Asboul

said: "The aim of the proposal is to reduce the costs for the families of graduates studying at universities outside the Kingdom, which result in them bearing financial costs for an additional full year."

**Experience the World in One Place: BIS Multicultural Fest 2023!**

TDT | Manama

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) organised a Multi-Cultural Fest on December 12, 2023. The charitable initiative was organized as a part of the week-long Bahrain National Day Celebration.

This charitable endeavor, which promised a fascinating blend of cultures and a strong sense of community, stood out as a noteworthy event. Festive atmosphere filled the air as students, dressed in the colorful clothing of their respective countries, brought a transformation to the school grounds.

Mr. Himanshu Verma, the director of the school, officially inaugurated the event, which then commenced an elaborate showcase of diverse cultural performances such as dances, songs, and more from various parts of the world.

All day long, the courtyard was vibrant with displays of dances, cuisine, and traditions from 11 different cultures, revealing a plethora of insights. All the grades participated by setting up stalls.

# Spectacular celebration



Young and old share the joy of the occasion



The Southern Municipality decorated a number of major landmarks and public streets on the occasion of the national holidays.

TDT | Manama

The Southern Governorate celebrated with the residents of Madinat Khalifa the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Days, in commemoration of the establishment of the modern Bahraini State

as an Arab and Muslim state founded by Ahmed Al Fateh in 1783, and the anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

H.E. Deputy Southern Governor Colonel Hamad Mohammed Al Khayyat attended the event, which was held with the sup-

port and follow-up of HH Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. The event showcased the historical and national heritage of Bahrain and witnessed broad participation in Bahraini Traditional Ardha.

The poet Ahmed Juma Al

Kaabi delivered a national poem, which was followed by Bahraini Ardha. The General Directorate of Media and Security Culture distributed Watani magazine in the directorate's section in the tent.

The Southern Governorate has prepared an integrated pro-

gramme of various activities from December 10 to 21, out of its keenness on community and national participation by strengthening the role of community partnership in coordination with various security and governmental agencies and civil society institutions.

## RCSI Medical University of Bahrain reaffirms strong ties with Government Hospitals



RCSI Bahrain President, Professor Sameer Otoo, and Executives with His Excellency Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa and Government Hospitals delegation

TDT | Manama

Professor Sameer Otoom, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Medical University of Bahrain, along with members of the University's Executive Committee, extended a warm welcome to His Excellency Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulaziz AlKhalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Government Hospitals, and Her Excellency Dr. Maryam Al Jalahma, Chief Executive of the Government Hospitals. The purpose of the gathering was to engage in discussions regarding potential avenues for further cooperation.

Joining the assembly were esteemed figures such as Professor George Cheriyan, CEO/Chief Medical Officer of the American Mission Hospital; Professor Juliane Kause, Advisor to the CEO of Government Hospitals and Associate Professor in Medicine at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain; and Dr. Amer Alderazi, President of Bahrain Medical Society. The meeting was also attended by several executives and academic faculty members.

At the onset of the session,

Professor Otoom extended congratulations to the delegation from Government Hospitals, acknowledging the high royal trust they received from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and their new leadership positions.

In recognition of the vital role played by the health sector, Professor Otoom expressed appreciation, stating, "We congratulate the Government Hospitals for their role in providing optimal health services to the people of Bahrain. At RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, we value the longstanding relationship and partnerships with the Government hospitals, and we look forward to strengthening our collaboration to further enhance health services. Together with the support of our stakeholders and partners, we are committed to expanding the broader impact of the University on healthcare and patient care in Bahrain."

Responding in kind, officials from the Government Hospitals lauded the significant role the University plays in the academic and medical training sectors at both national and regional levels. Additionally,

they emphasized the pivotal role of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain in developing clinical training programs for doctors post-graduation.

### Expansion plan

The meeting included updates on the University's expansion plan by Mr. Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director. Mr. Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers, and Alumni, provided insights into the internship program offered to students at the American Mission Hospital, while Professor Naji Alamuddin, Associate Professor in Medicine & Deputy Head of the School of Medicine, presented the training programs available to students.

Embedded in RCSI Bahrain's commitment to development and enhancement is collaboration with partners to promote teaching and research focused on Bahrain's national healthcare priorities. The goal is to cultivate graduates equipped with the knowledge and experience necessary to support the development of national healthcare programs in Bahrain and beyond, officials said.

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# LuLu Hypermarket Bahrain kicks off 'Celebrate Bahrain' Festival

TDT | Manama

LuLu Hypermarket Bahrain is excited to kick off the "Celebrate Bahrain" festival, focusing on Bahraini products and offering festive discounts.

From 10th December to 18th, customers can enjoy up to 70% off on selected products groceries, fresh food, fashionwear, electronics and much more at all LuLu Hypermarkets across Bahrain.

The festival was inaugurated at LuLu in Dana Mall, with the presence of Minister of Industry & Commerce, H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed Secretary General, Royal Charity Organization, Kingdom of Bahrain, Mr Juzer Rupawala



H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed and Mr Juzer Rupawala with dignitaries at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at LuLu in Dana Mall

Lulu International Group Director, and other VIPs.

The festival's Has many highlights with collaborations between LuLu and the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD). Shoppers can join the 'Farm to Table' movement by purchasing Bahraini farm produce, as well as delicious pickles and preserves from the

Productive Families Unit of the Ministry of Social Development & also their Favorite Bahraini Brands such as Al Zaeem, Awal, Fusco, Early Riser, Amalfi Food and many more.

### Progress and prosperity

"We wish all the residents of Bahrain the very best and a fu-

ture of progress and prosperity under the visionary leadership of our King His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH the Crown Prince and PM, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa," said Lulu Director Mr. Juzer Rupawala.

"The Lulu Group is an active partner in the March of the Kingdom towards a bright fu-



Mr Rupawala shows Mr Fakhro the various products of Lulu Hypermarket

ture and we use our global retail footprint to promote Bahraini products around the world. This year, Lulu Bahrain was also honored at a GCC level for its success in Bahrainization and training of nationals. Bahrainis have taken their place across LuLu's global operations at all levels and are part of our core diversity team, contributing to our growth and

success." In addition, there will be a special Midnight Sale in Lulu Riffa on December 14th, as well as a 24-hour sale on 15th December in LuLu Hidd. These sales events will provide more opportunities for customers to enjoy great discounts and shop for their favorite products.

## National Bank of Bahrain launches exclusive offer 'Transfer Your Mortgage Finance'

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has rolled out a time-limited opportunity for its customers through the launch

of the 'Transfer your Mortgage Finance' offer.

This initiative extends a chance for customers to unlock a host of distinctive product features and exclusive

benefits by seamlessly transferring their financing to the bank.

Valid until the 31st of March 2024, the exclusive offer promises customers a specially tailored

interest rate coupled with a generous grace period spanning up to 6 months.

In addition to these advantages, customers will enjoy complimentary fire insurance,

a waiver on processing fees, the flexibility to settle land registration fees through convenient instalments, and a rapid approval process.

Reflecting on this momentous

occasion, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive - Retail Banking at NBB, expressed enthusiasm about the exclusive offering on mortgage finance solutions.

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## Leadership in cybersecurity: Huawei's showcase at Arab International Cybersecurity Summit

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Amidst the sweeping discussions and strategic deliberations at the recently concluded 2nd annual Arab International Cybersecurity Summit (AICS), Huawei emerged as a beacon of cybersecurity innovation, reinforcing its commitment to secure digital landscapes.

The summit, held under the esteemed patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, witnessed Huawei's prominent role as the official Telecom Partner, showcasing cutting-edge solutions and advocating for collaborative cyber resilience in the Middle East.

Themed "Security, No Compromise, Your Advantage, Security," AICS 2023, hosted by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), gathered government regulators, industry professionals, and solution providers to fortify their cyber and IT infrastructure. Huawei, a global ICT leader and a trusted entity in Bahrain and the Arab world, utilized this platform to underscore the criticality of cybersecurity and privacy protection.

Aziz Tang, CEO of Huawei Bahrain, articulated the company's unwavering dedication to cybersecurity. "Customer trust and success are the foundation of our business, and we strive to live by this principle in every aspect of our business," he affirmed. At the heart of Huawei's participation lay a demonstration of their cybersecurity assurance framework, showcasing an array of innovative solutions imbued with built-in security features.

The CEO of NCSC Bahrain, Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed



Kamal Zian, Chief Information Security Officer, Huawei Gulf North, participates in a panel discussion



Huawei demonstrates cybersecurity leadership at the event

bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, recognized Huawei's pivotal role in advancing Bahrain's cybersecurity. During his visit to the Huawei booth, he received a comprehensive briefing from Sultan Mahmood Malik, Cybersecurity and Privacy Protection Office, Huawei Gulf North, emphasizing Huawei's commitment to building a safer and secure digital economy in Bahrain.

### Highest standards

Sultan Mahmood Malik also delivered a keynote speech, shedding light on Huawei's End-to-End Cybersecurity Assurance Framework. "Cybersecurity is built into everything we do at Huawei," Malik asserted, highlighting the rigorous processes from design and sourcing to delivery, ensuring the highest standards of cybersecurity.

In a panel discussion on "Public-Private Partnerships: Strengthening Collaboration for Enhanced Cyber Defense," Kamal Zian, Chief Information

Security Officer, Huawei Gulf North, emphasized the importance of regional events like AICS in fostering collaboration and addressing the latest trends and technologies in cybersecurity.

### Offerings

The Huawei booth at the event showcased an array of offerings, including the End-to-End Cybersecurity Assurance Framework, the Huawei Enterprise Cybersecurity & Privacy Protection Strategy, and innovative solutions such as Anti-Ransomware and All-Scenario Data Protection. Additionally, Huawei spotlighted its secured and trusted carrier network, providing a fully protected 5G and F5G Transport Network, along with AI-based Managed Security Service, Qiankun Cloudexpress.

Aligning with its commitment to a green and sustainable future, Huawei presented its Smart Green Data Centre and AI-powered Smart PV.



# Tamkeen supports wage increments for more than 30% of Aramex Bahrain employees

TDI | Manama

In line with its 2024 strategic priorities and as part of the newly launched bundle of programs, the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) announced its recent support to Aramex Bahrain, a leading global provider of comprehensive logistics and transportation solutions, to boost national employment and further enhance career development opportunities in the sector.

As part of the support provided, more than 30% of Aramex Bahrain employees will benefit from the recently launched



The deal signing

Wage Increment Programme, resulting in 58% of beneficiaries working in high-quality jobs.

Aramex Bahrain is among the first enterprises to benefit from the new Tamkeen Programmes Bundle, which aims to support 50,000 Bahrainis.

Labour Fund (Tamkeen) Chief Executive, Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, said the initiative aligns with our goals of positioning Bahrainis as the preferred choice in the labor market.

The transportation and logistics services sector has emerged as a vital contributor to job

creation in Bahrain, providing employment to approximately 38,000 Bahrainis. A total of 5,506 new employees joined the sector between 2021 and 2022, signifying a 22% increase.

Established in 1989, Aramex Bahrain currently employs more than 250 employees including Bahraini nationals.

Yanal Anz, General Manager of Aramex Bahrain, expressed pleasure for being among the first establishments to benefit from the newly introduced support programmes by Tamkeen.

# ila Bank's Al Kanz Grand Prize Roadshow to give away mega prizes at City Centre

TDI | Manama

ila Bank, powered by Bank ABC, presents an exciting opportunity for customers to try their luck at winning the Al Kanz US\$ 1 million December grand prize while unlocking bonus prizes at the Al Kanz Grand Prize Roadshow. The roadshow will take place from 13 - 17 December, at City Center Bahrain near Gate 3, between 10 am to 10 pm on weekdays and up to midnight over the weekend.



Customers who deposit in ila Bank's Al Kanz prize account during the roadshow are eligible to participate in this exciting



Nada Tarada, Head of Business & Customer, ila Bank

event. Every BHD50 in the Al Kanz account is one chance to

play the game. The number of chances available to open the chest will depend on the deposited amount. Each chance represents a key to open the treasure chest. The more chances participants have, the more keys they can pick to try unlocking the Al Kanz treasure chest.

If a lucky key opens the chest, the participant can pick one prize envelope bearing a special gift inside. Every eligible player gets a maximum of five keys to

open the chest and one prize

during the event. Through this Grand Roadshow, ila Bank's customers can win cash prizes of up to BHD2,000, as well as special gifts from sponsor partners. The cash prizes will be deposited into their Al Kanz account by 31 January 2024. Those who do not win a prize can receive more chances to try their luck when additional deposits are made in their Al Kanz account.

On the occasion of Bahrain's National Day, on 16 December, visitors to the Grand Roadshow

will enjoy a number of additional activities, as well as extra prizes and giveaways.

Nada Tarada, Head of Business & Customer at ila Bank, said, "Raising the bar higher, we look forward to welcoming all our customers to the Al Kanz Grand Prize Roadshow for them to walk away with amazing prizes." The last date to deposit your savings in your Al Kanz account to win the most awaited year-end mega prize of US\$1 million is 31 December 2023.

# Bank ABC, Yellow Door Energy ink multi-million-dollar deal

To finance Majid Al Futtaim's solar power projects in three countries

● The facility will refinance 25 solar PV assets, totaling over 42 megawatts, located on Majid Al Futtaim shopping malls across the UAE, Bahrain, and Oman

TDT | Manama

Bank ABC yesterday announced the signing of a financing agreement with Yellow Door Energy, a leading sustainable energy partner for businesses in the Middle East, Africa and beyond at the Bank ABC branch at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). In line with COP28 UAE's



Bank ABC and Yellow Door Energy teams at the signing ceremony

Climate Finance objectives, the facility will refinance 25 solar PV assets, totaling over 42 megawatts, located on Majid Al Futtaim shopping malls across the UAE, Bahrain, and Oman.

Ammar Khalil, Senior Executive Officer, Bank ABC in DIFC, remarked: "At Bank ABC in DIFC,

we are focused on arranging and advising financing deals that align with the Group's ESG

priorities and meet our clients' unique needs. We thank Yellow Door Energy for this opportunity and wish Majid Al Futtaim a seamless transition."

Jeremy Crane, CEO of Yellow Door Energy, said: "Together with all our customers, we are unlocking green financing for leading commercial & industrial-scale businesses with significant energy needs."

According to S&P Global Ratings, issuance of Green, Social, Sustainable and Sustainability-linked Bonds (GSSSB) is forecasted to reach between US\$900 billion to US\$1 trillion in 2023, an increase of 5-17%, respectively. As COP28 concludes in the UAE this month, climate finance has been recognised as a pivotal cross-cutting theme that is intertwined with Climate Transition & Adaptation.

# Beyon launches Sustainability Innovation Hub as part of GCC Telco Alliance

TDT | Manama

Beyon has announced the establishment of the Sustainability Innovation Hub in collaboration with the GCC Telco Alliance members (du, e&, Omantel, Ooredoo, STC Group, Zain) and other key regional and international partners. This initiative is driven by the urgent need to address climate change and expand access to affordable and reliable energy.

The Sustainability Innovation Hub aims to bridge the gap between technology, telecom innovation, and climate action. It will bring together cutting-edge technologies, visionary experts, and collaborative efforts to tackle one of the most critical challenges faced by the technology and telecom industries today.

The primary focus of the Sustainability Innovation Hub will be to develop and implement innovative power solutions that are cost-effective, reliable, and environmentally friendly, by harnessing the power of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind. The Hub will enable telecom operators to reduce their reliance on traditional fuel sources and move toward a greener future.

The Hub will foster a collaborative environment where tele-



Representatives from Beyon, e& and du at COP28

com operators, technology providers, and research institutes can share knowledge, resources, and expertise, driving the development of innovative power solutions tailored to the specific needs of the telecom industry.

Furthermore, the Hub aims to foster a platform for testing and validating innovative power solutions using GCC telecom networks, enabling the Hub to accelerate the development cycle and ensure the effective implementation of new technologies within the industry.

Recognizing the importance of skilled professionals in driving innovation, the Hub will offer training programmes and workshops to enhance the competencies of individuals involved in the design, installation, and maintenance of power solutions within the telecom sector.

The Hub will actively seek collaborations and partnerships with leading industry players, government entities, and regulatory authorities, fostering a supportive ecosystem where

knowledge sharing, best practices, and standardization can flourish. These objectives aim at achieving short- and long-term goals to enhance sustainability practices in the technology and telecom industries.

Beyon Chief Communications and Sustainability Officer Shaiikh Bader bin Rashid Al Khalifa said, "The Innovation Hub further enhances our sustainability programmes at Beyon which are aligned with the Kingdom of Bahrain's vision to reach zero carbon by 2060."

# Cautious trading on global markets before Fed rate decision

Key figures around 1645 GMT

New York - Dow:	at 36,590.83 points
London - FTSE 100:	▲ less than 0.1% at 7,548.44 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.2% at 7,531.22 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 0.2 percent at 16,764.23 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.2% at 4,529.98
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.3% at 32,926.35 (close)
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 1.0% at \$69.27 per barrel
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ 1.0% at \$73.99 per barrel

## London, United Kingdom

Global equities held steady Wednesday ahead of this year's final monetary policy decision from the Federal Reserve, and one day after an unremarkable US inflation report tempered expectations for an interest-rate reduction early next year.

On Wall Street, the Dow slipped briefly before righting itself to stand all but flat two hours into the session as caution prevailed with the US central bank forecast to hold its key lending rate at a 22-year high.

Just ahead of the decision, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the United States is likely to see inflation return to the Fed's target range of two percent by the end of next year.

In Europe, Paris and Frankfurt were just into the red at

the close with London clinging on to green, despite news of a worse-than-expected contraction of 0.3% in monthly UK economic output.

Frankfurt kept losses to a minimum after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition reached a last-minute deal to end a budget deadlock.

In Asia, Tokyo, Sydney and Wellington climbed but Hong Kong, Shanghai and Bangkok fell.

With a US rate pause deemed extremely likely, attention is on the language of the Fed decision, along with its accompanying economic forecasts, and the post-meeting press conference by Fed Chair Jerome Powell.

The Fed kicks off a flurry of releases by key central banks on both sides of the Atlantic, with both the European Central Bank and the Bank of England due to announce their decisions on Thursday.

# Bahrain Islamic Bank recognizes Women's contributions on Woman's Day



Participants during a group photo opportunity



Afnan Saleh



Participants at the Women's Day celebration

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) recently organized several initiatives to celebrate its

female employees on the occasion of Bahraini Woman's Day.

The initiatives included a range of activities, such as work-

shops focusing on mental and professional health, as well as intellectual development. These workshops were conducted in collaboration with "The Talent

Hub" to foster personal and professional growth among BisB's female workforce.

Afnan Saleh, Chief Human Resources Officer of BisB, said

women currently account for 36% of BisB's total workforce, which is one of the highest percentages of representation in banks within the Kingdom of

Bahrain.

During 2023, the bank has successfully provided over 2200 training courses for all of its women workforce.

# Classifieds



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# OPEC sees oil demand reaching record in 2024

AFP | Paris, France

The OPEC oil cartel said yesterday that it expects healthy growth in global demand for crude as the COP28 climate conference agreed on a transition away from fossil fuels.

It said global oil demand should grow by 2.2 million barrels per day next year to an average of 104.36 mbd.

"Oil demand is expected to be supported by resilient global GDP growth, amid continued improvements in economic ac-



COP28 president Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber (C) applauds among other officials before a plenary session during the United Nations climate summit in Dubai

tivity in China," OPEC said in its regular monthly report on the oil market.

Demand in the industrialised nations in the OECD is expected to increase by 0.3 mbd to reach an average of 46.1 mbd, but still remain below the record set in 2019.

Demand in non-OECD nations is seen as rising by 2 mbd to 58.3 mbd on average.

The forecasts came as for the first time a COP global climate conference explicitly evoked a progressive reduction in the use

of fossil fuels that are responsible for global warming.

COP28 calls for a "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science".

The agreement comes eight years after the Paris accord which set the target of keeping the increase in global temperatures at 1.5C and as the world set the hottest year on record.

## UAE's Jaber, oil boss who brokered 'beginning of end' for fossil fuels

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Sultan Al Jaber, the UAE oil boss who headed COP28 in Dubai, promised that this year's UN climate talks would be "different". He did not disappoint.

The towering Emirati, 50, was beaming in his grey dishdasha after he brought down the hammer on the first United Nations agreement calling for a transition away from fossil fuels.

It ended a Conference of the Parties (COP) of contradictions in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, which is one of the world's biggest producers of crude. Jaber is CEO of oil giant ADNOC as well as being the UAE's climate envoy and minister of industry and advanced technology. He is also chairman of renewable energy company Masdar.

His naming as COP28 chief drew conflict-of-interest concerns at a time of increasingly stark warnings about the urgency of transitioning away from hydrocarbons to have a hope of keeping climate targets in view.

Dozens of US and European lawmakers said Jaber's oil and gas links should disqualify him from the job. Hundreds of climate campaign groups called for him to quit either COP or ADNOC.

"COP28 is beset by a dark cloud of -- entirely warranted -- public scepticism," US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse said at the time.

But Jaber will now claim vindication after presiding over a deal described by UN climate chief Simon Stiell as the "begin-

ning of the end" for fossil fuels.

"Together, we have confronted the realities and we have set the world in the right direction," Jaber told the cavernous auditorium on the outskirts of Dubai.

"We have given it a robust action plan to keep 1.5 within reach."

### High stakes

Before COP, Jaber was in less jubilant mood, bristling at accusations of a conflict of interest.

"I'm someone who spent the majority of his career in sustainability, in sustainable economic development and project management, and renewable energy," he told AFP in July.

Indeed, he founded state-owned renewable energy company Masdar a decade before he took the helm of ADNOC with a mandate to "decarbonise" and "future-proof" the gas and petrol giant.

The stakes were exceptionally high for COP28.

The most ambitious goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement was to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, although UN climate experts warned this

year that we are hurtling towards breaching that guardrail in the 2030s. During months of frenetic travel that saw him criss-cross the planet, Jaber managed to win over some sceptics.

Harjeet Singh, of the influential coalition Climate Action Network International, said a turning point came in July, when Jaber wrote that "phasing down demand for, and supply of, all fossil fuels is inevitable and essential".

"He's very straightforward, he's open to listening," Singh told AFP, though the pair "agree to disagree" on several issues.

Those disagreements included the prominence given to

fossil fuel lobbyists, whose accreditations numbered a record 2,456 in Dubai, according to campaign groups -- more than every national delegation apart from the UAE and Brazil.

### Strong start

Another point of difference was Jaber's endorsement of controversial carbon capture technologies that trap emissions and store them permanently.

ADNOC made a commitment in July to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 for its own operations.

But that target does not include emissions produced by the oil and gas burned by its customers, which account for the vast majority of its carbon footprint.

Jaber's COP started strongly when he passed a landmark loss and damage fund on day one, when the two-week meeting had barely started.

Several pledges followed, including the UAE's \$30 billion private investment fund focused on climate projects in developing countries.

Talks then went into overtime, after a dispute over including "phasing out" or "phasing down" fossil fuels, before a compromise was struck and hastily passed on Wednesday.

## Arab Group voices 'gratitude' after UN deal on fossil fuels

● COP28 president says draft deal offers 'transformational change'

● An emerging agreement at the COP28 summit in Dubai could signal "the beginning of the end" for fossil fuels behind climate change, the European Union said.

● Denmark calls new UN climate draft 'historic progress'

● A coalition of small island states said a UN draft climate deal was "an improvement" from a previous proposal but it still had "major concerns" as it lacked a phase-out of fossil fuels.

● United Arab Emirates is "rightly proud" of its role in brokering the first climate accord calling for a transition away from fossil fuels, the COP28 president said.

● UN climate chief urges countries to step up efforts after Dubai deal

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The Arab bloc praised the outcome of the UN climate summit yesterday, calling it a "great success" after nations adopted a call to transition away from fossil fuels but stopped short of a phase-out.

Saudi official Albara Tawfiq, speaking on behalf of the group, voiced "gratitude" for the COP28 talks.

"On behalf of the Arab Group, I express our gratitude to the efforts of all the state parties in order to have a successful first global stocktake," he said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil producer, had voiced strong opposition to mentioning a "phase-out" or "phase-down" of fossil fuels in the text.

The final agreement omitted those phrases, calling for "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner".

"We must use every opportunity to reduce emissions regardless of the source. We must use all technologies to this effect," Tawfiq said.

US envoy says climate deal 'cause for optimism'

US envoy John Kerry yesterday hailed the Dubai climate agreement as a hopeful sign for global cooperation in a world torn by conflict.

"I think that everybody here should be pleased that in a world of Ukraine and the Middle East war and all the other challenges of a planet that is floundering," Kerry said, there is "cause for optimism, cause for gratitude and cause for some significant congratulations to everybody here."

Uthman ibn Affan, companion of Muhammad, appointed 3rd Caliph of Islam

During St. Lucia's Flood in Northwest Netherlands the Zuiderzee seawall collapses with loss of over 50,000 lives. Fifth largest recorded flood in history



Princess Mary Stuart succeeds her father James V and becomes Queen Mary I of Scotland at 6 days old

First incident of American Revolution - 400 New Hampshire militiamen successfully attack Fort William and Mary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

# THE DAILY tribune

QUOTE  
OF THE  
DAY

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY  
THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

## News in brief

◆ **US President Joe Biden** warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday that the country risked losing global support for its war against Hamas because of its "indiscriminate" bombing of Gaza. In his most blunt remarks since the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas, which provoked the current conflict, Biden told donors that Netanyahu needed to "change" his stance on a two-state solution for the Palestinians. Netanyahu meanwhile said there was "disagreement" with Biden over how a post-conflict Gaza would be governed, reflecting a rare rift after weeks in which the US leader has strongly backed Israel. Biden told a campaign event in Washington that Israel had "most of the world supporting it" after the Hamas attacks, in which Israel tallied 1,200 deaths, mostly civilians. Hundreds were also taken hostage. "But they're starting to lose that support by the indiscriminate bombing that takes place," Biden said.



**Biden warns Netanyahu risks losing support for Hamas war**

◆ **Axel Springer said** yesterday it was partnering up with the maker of ChatGPT, OpenAI, which will pay the German media group to include its journalism in responses generated by the chatbot. "ChatGPT users around the world will receive summaries of selected global news content from Axel Springer's media brands," which include news site Politico and German tabloid Bild, the two companies said in a statement. The chatbot's answers would include material otherwise kept behind a pay-wall and offer "links to the full articles for transparency and further information," they said.



◆ **OpenAI to pay Axel Springer to use journalism in ChatGPT**

◆ **The health ministry** in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that Israeli forces have opened fire at hospital rooms, raising fears for the safety of 12 children in paediatric care. "The occupation (Israeli) forces have tightened the siege and the targeting of Kamal Adwan hospital, firing at patient rooms and courtyards," ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said in a statement. "We fear the death of 12 children in paediatric care who are already deprived of milk and are without life support equipment." On Tuesday Qudra said that Israeli forces had stormed the Kamal Adwan hospital in the north of the Palestinian territory and were rounding up men in the courtyard.



**Israeli army opens fire at hospital wards: Gaza health ministry**

## Spotlight

### Smoke attack disrupts Indian parliament, four arrested

New Delhi, India



India's parliament was halted Wednesday after a major security breach that saw two people disrupt proceedings by setting off a smoke canister inside the legislature.

The pair were arrested by security, along with two others detained outside the building, after one man jumped onto the floor of the lower house of parliament from an overhead visitors' gallery.

Official footage from the session showed one man shouting slogans and vaulting over tables between stunned lawmakers before a device was set off that caused yellow smoke to billow into the chamber.

The motives of the pair and how they managed to evade security checks were unclear, with police in New Delhi yet to release any details on the incident.

Parliament resumed after a brief adjournment, with speaker Om Birla telling lawmakers that four people had been arrested for the disruption. "Both persons have been arrested and two others outside have also been arrested," he said.

Birla said that the parliament was "carrying out a

thorough probe and the Delhi police too had been given necessary directions".

He added that "there was nothing to worry about" and assured lawmakers that the smoke was not hazardous to human health.

Lawmaker Hanuman Beniwal said the "very serious episode" raised questions about the security of India's new parliament, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this year.

Beniwal said around 150 lawmakers were in the chamber at the time of the incident, and demanded a thorough inquiry into what happened.

The disruption came on the 22nd anniversary of an attack on the parliament's previous home in New Delhi.

Five gunmen shot dead at least eight security personnel and a gardener in that assault, which also took place on the day of a parliamentary session.

## EU chief urges sanctions on 'extremist' Israeli settlers

AFP | Strasbourg, France

**E**U chief Ursula von der Leyen yesterday backed imposing sanctions on "extremist" Israeli settlers responsible for attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank.

"The rise in violence by extremist settlers is inflicting immense suffering on the Palestinians. It undermines the prospects for a lasting peace and could further exacerbate regional instability," the European Commission president told EU lawmakers.

"I am in favour of sanctioning those involved in the attacks in the West Bank. They must be held accountable. This violence has nothing to do with the fight against Hamas and must stop."

Von der Leyen's comments come after European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Monday that he would put forward a proposal to sanction the West Bank settlers.

The measures would require the unanimous backing of the EU's 27 member states, but there are divisions within the bloc.

The EU move comes after the United States said last week it would refuse visas to settlers behind a wave of violence in the West Bank, in a rare rebuke to its close ally Israel.

The EU has failed to have a united stance on the violence roiling the Middle East since



Spain's Prime minister Pedro Sanchez (R) listens to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

### UN General Assembly overwhelmingly demands Gaza ceasefire

United Nations, United States

**T**he UN General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a non-binding resolution Tuesday demanding a ceasefire in Gaza -- taking the lead from the paralyzed Security Council, and piling pressure on Israel and Washington.

The body, which includes

all 193 UN member nations, voted 153 in favor of the resolution -- exceeding the 140 or so countries that have routinely backed resolutions condemning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

Ten countries including the United States and Israel voted against, while 23 abstained.

the October 7 attack by Hamas sparked a devastating military campaign by Israel in Gaza.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, one of those leading the calls for restraint from Israel, demanded an immediate ceasefire.

"We must say enough is enough, enough to the killing of innocent civilians in Gaza," Sanchez, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, told the European Parliament. "The bombing must stop immediately."

## People of Gaza 'running out of time and options': UNRWA chief

Geneva, Switzerland

**T**he head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees warned Wednesday that the people of Gaza were "running out of time and options" as Israel's war against Hamas grinds on.

"They face bombardment, deprivation and disease in an ever-shrinking space," UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini told the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva.

Lazzarini described the situation in Gaza as "hell on earth".

People in the Palestinian territory were "facing the darkest chapter of their history since 1948, and it has been a painful history", he said.

The UN estimates 1.9 million of Gaza's 2.4 million people have been displaced and are receiving goods from only around 100 aid trucks per day.

"We are very far from an adequate humanitarian response," Lazzarini said.

When aid was delivered, it was often not more than a can of tuna or beans and one bottle

### Gaza health ministry says out of children's vaccines

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

**G**aza's Hamas-run health ministry said Wednesday it had exhausted its supply of children's vaccines and warned of "catastrophic health repercussions".

of water for a large family to share, he added.

He described seeing people halting an aid truck and in desperation and swallowing down the food found inside where they stood in the street.

"The people of Gaza are now crammed into less than one-third of the original territory near the Egyptian border, he added, hinting that the dire situation might soon spark an exodus.

"It is unrealistic to think that people will remain resilient in the face of unlivable conditions of such magnitude, especially when the border is so close," he said.

The city of Rafah on the

The ministry did not specify which vaccinations had run out, and its claim could not be independently verified.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Palestinian territories, Lynn Hastings, said that UNICEF was looking into the issue.

Egyptian border, the only crossing where aid is entering Gaza, has seen its population explode from 280,000 to more than a million, Lazzarini said.

And while most aid delivery in Gaza depends on UNRWA, he warned the agency's capacities were "on the verge of collapse".

Addressing journalists at the same event, UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi also warned of the danger of large population movements out of Gaza.

Any such exodus "would be extremely destabilising for Egypt, for the Sinai region, and it would make a problematic Palestinian problem more difficult", he said.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



**T**o those who opposed a clear reference to phase out of fossil fuels during the #COP28 Climate Conference, I want to say: Whether you like it or not, fossil fuel phase out is inevitable. Let's hope it doesn't come too late.

@antonioguterres

02



**I**'m extremely worried about reports of a raid at Kamal Adwan Hospital in #Gaza after several days of siege. According to the Ministry of Health, there are 65 patients including several needing intensive care, and 45 medical staff in the hospital.

@DrTedros

03



**T**oday, we remember and pay heartfelt tributes to the brave security personnel martyred in the Parliament attack in 2001. Their courage and sacrifice in the face of danger will forever be etched in our nation's memory.

@narendramodi

04



**T**oday, the United States is announcing a new package of weapons and equipment under previous drawdowns to support the people of Ukraine as they defend their country and their freedom against Russia's aggression.

@SecBlinken

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



## Australian cricketer Khawaja vows to fight Gaza message ban

AFP | Sydney

Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja vowed Wednesday to fight a ban on him wearing shoes during a match highlighting the plight of people in Gaza, saying it was a “humanitarian appeal” and not a political message.

During training this week the 36-year-old opening batsman had hand-written slogans “Freedom is a human right” and “All lives are equal” on his footwear.

Khawaja, who is Muslim, wanted to wear the shoes for the opening Test starting on Thursday in Perth against Pakistan, his birth country.

But governing body the International Cricket Council bans any messages during matches that relate to politics, religion or race.

“Is freedom not for everyone? Are all lives not equal?” Khawaja subsequently said in an emotional video message on social media.

“To me personally it doesn’t matter what race, religion or



Australia's Usman Khawaja plays a shot (file photo)

culture you are. I’m just speaking up for those who don’t have a voice.

“The ICC have told me that I can’t wear my shoes on field because they believe it’s a political statement under their guidelines.

“I don’t believe it is so -- it’s a humanitarian appeal,” he added.

“I will respect their view and decision but I will fight it and seek to gain approval.”

Cricket Australia said that it

supported the players’ right to express their opinions.

“But the ICC has rules in place which prohibit the display of personal messages, which we expect the players to uphold,” it said in a statement.

Four days ago, Khawaja shared a video on Instagram from the children’s charity UNICEF from Gaza.

In the post he commented: “Do people not care about innocent humans being killed?”

“The ICC have told me that I can’t wear my shoes on field because they believe it’s a political statement under their guidelines. I don’t believe it is so -- it’s a humanitarian appeal. I will respect their view and decision but I will fight it and seek to gain approval

USMAN KHAWAJA

“Or is it the colour of their skin that makes them less important? Or the religion they practise?”

In his message on Wednesday Khawaja noted the fierce reaction his stance had caused in some quarters.

“But let’s be honest about it, if me saying all lives are equal has resulted in people being offended to the point where they’re calling me up and telling me off, well isn’t that the bigger problem?” he said.

## BIC Chief Executive congratulates 2 Seas Motorsport on Gulf 12 Hours success



HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa



HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa congratulated His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King’s Personal Representative and Supreme Council for Environment President, and His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, co-owner of 2 Seas Motorsport team, on the occasion of 2 Seas’ winning the drivers’ title in the Intercontinental GT Challenge (IGTC), and contributing to the success of Mercedes-AMG in clinching the IGTC manufacturers’ title.

These were secured following the final race of the 2023 IGTC season, held as the Gulf 12 Hours at Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, the UAE.

Shaikh Salman asserted that the unlimited support accorded by His Majesty King

BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to Bahraini sport has been the driving force towards Bahrain’s achievements across various sports, including motor racing.

Shaikh Salman said: “Congratulations to HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and 2 Seas Motorsport on their fantastic results in this year’s Gulf 12 Hours and the IGTC.”

## Cologne hit with highest ever German fine for fan misconduct

Reuters | Dortmund

Bundesliga club FC Cologne have on Wednesday been hit with a 595,000 euro (\$641,800) fine for igniting pyrotechnics and throwing objects on the

field which delayed a match.

The fine is the highest penalty ever levied for fan misconduct in German football.

The German FA (DFB) fined the club for the incident which delayed Cologne’s home der-

by clash with Borussia Mönchengladbach by several minutes in October.

Around a third of the fine can be invested by the club in security or other protective measures.

Cologne have promised to fight for a “significant reduction” in the penalty, with managing director Christian Keller saying the fine inflicts “enormous financial damage” on the club.

# Loeb sets sights on landmark Dakar victory for BRX

Bahrain Raid Xtreme star looks to build on record-breaking run in motorsport’s biggest adventure

● Loeb emphasizes the importance of speed, navigation, and avoiding mechanical problems for Dakar success

TDI | Manama

Sebastien Loeb has set his sights on a landmark victory for Bahrain Raid Xtreme in next month’s Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia as he looks to build on the team’s record-breaking achievement in this year’s edition back in January.

Partnered by Fabian Lurquin in the Prodrive Hunter, Loeb takes BRX into the team’s fourth Dakar starting on 5th January, and is determined to better their second place finishes from the past two editions of motorsport’s biggest adventure.

The BRX crew produced a stunning performance in the BRX Prodrive Hunter on the 2023 Dakar, taking 50% of the stage victories and a record breaking six stage wins in succession.

“We’ve had some good results together with Prodrive, but for me the Dakar is my target,” said Loeb. “To make the best over the big stages, Fabian and I will



Sebastien Loeb and Fabian Lurquin

work hand in hand to have the speed, the correct navigation and avoid mechanical problems.

“However, the Dakar always has some ‘hidden things’ at any time, so we’ll piece these together over the huge adventure that this rally always is. I’m looking forward to it.”

With nine World Rally Championship crowns and an impressive set of accolades under his belt from Le Mans and X Games to Touring Cars, Loeb is as motivated as ever as he looks to steer BRX to a first Dakar triumph.

Opening the 2024 World Rally-Raid Championship, the fifth

Dakar Rally to be staged in Saudi Arabia will be another gruelling test of human endurance and technical engineering.

Over two weeks, a route of nearly 8,000 kilometres includes 12 stages as the rally traverses the Kingdom from north-west to south-east and back again for the finish at Yan-

“We’ve had some good results together with Prodrive, but for me the Dakar is my target. To make the best over the big stages, Fabian and I will work hand in hand to have the speed, the correct navigation and avoid mechanical problems

SEBASTIEN LOEB

bu on the coast of the Red Sea. The organisers have laid out a taxing route over the

tracks in the north to the sheer enormity of the Empty Quarter in the south, where dunes cover an area the size of France.

This time the event includes an extra-long ‘48-hour Chrono’ stage at the mid-point, with 600kms to be covered over two days in pure dunes, with service allowed only by the drivers and crew from the BRX race trucks at the overnight bivouac.

Looking ahead to the start, David Richards, Founder and Chairman of Prodrive, said: “If I turn the clock back and think to when we started this programme with Bahrain, and remember how much work has gone into our Rally Raid Pro-



The BRX Prodrive Hunter will use sustainable fuel, emitting 80% less CO2 from the 3.5-liter V6 twin-turbo engine during the 2024 Dakar Rally

gramme, I have to say I’m very proud of what we have achieved.”

The BRX Prodrive Hunter will arrive at the start of its fourth Dakar with further developments and utilising sustainable fuel to power through the stages in Saudi.

With no major changes made to the set-up of the engine to accommodate the biofuel created from agricultural waste, the car will again emit 80% less CO2 emissions from the 3.5 litre V6 twin turbo engine during the rally.



# Beyon Speed Weekend set at BIC

National Day festivities include two international race series, stunning fireworks display in Sakhir

● **Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East set for exciting second round of 2023/2024 season**

● **Formula Cars championship to make highly anticipated debut in Bahrain**

● **BIC set for Kingdom's huge National Day fireworks display Saturday night starting at 7pm**



Fireworks at BIC in previous years (File photo)

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is set to celebrate an incredible National Day weekend with the Beyon Speed Weekend offering two international race series, followed by a spectacular firework display on Saturday night.

Set to be held tomorrow and Saturday as part of BIC's on-track National Day festivities, Speed Weekend is set to feature the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East (PCCME) and the all-new Formula Cars championship.

Speed Weekend is a part of

the BIC festivities marking the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day and the Anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne.

The celebrations will include Bahrain's biggest fireworks display, scheduled for Saturday starting at 7pm. This awesome annual show of lights and colour will illuminate the Sakhir sky and can be seen from the area surrounding the BIC vicinity. Food vendors will be available at BIC for those coming to watch the firework display in the evening.

On the racing side, the PCC-

ME is a staple on BIC's season schedule, being born and developed in Sakhir in cooperation with Lechner Racing. It will be holding the second round of its 2023/2024 campaign at Speed Weekend.

Formula Cars championship will be making its highly anticipated debut in Bahrain. The upcoming meeting will be the first round of its inaugural season, making for an exciting addition to the long and prestigious list of international, continental, regional and national series to have hit the tarmac at BIC.

All are welcome to attend the Beyon Speed Weekend and en-



try for fans will be completely free of charge on both days of racing. Action is scheduled to take place from 10.15am to 4pm on Friday and from 11am to 4pm on Saturday.

Formerly known as the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East, the PCCME pits its roster of global competitors against one another in identical 510hp Porsche 992 GT3 Cup cars. Races are held at top tracks across the Gulf, highlighted by BIC in Sakhir and including Dubai Autodrome and Yas Marina Circuit in the UAE, as



Action from the opening round of the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East at BIC last month

well as Jeddah Corniche Circuit in Saudi Arabia.

Unlike in previous meetings, this upcoming round will have two separate qualifying sessions, one apiece on Friday and Saturday and each setting the grid for the day's race.

The PCCME's 2023/2024 calendar features six rounds. The season kicked off last month in support of the World Endurance Championship weekend, with another two races set to take place in Bahrain at Speed Weekend.

Meanwhile, the Formula Cars championship is a single-seater

series, with the aim of developing their talents in a professional setting. Weekends are composed of four races each. At this meeting, one race will take place tomorrow in Speed Weekend while the other three races will take place on Saturday.

The Bahrain stop is the first of six rounds in this campaign. The series will also be visiting Losail International Circuit in Qatar in January, Kuwait Motor Town in Kuwait in January and February, and then have back-to-back meetings for its final two events at Jeddah Corniche Circuit in March.

## Riffa to face Oman's Nahda in AFC Cup zonal semis

● **Bahrainis to play in West Zonal semi-finals in February of next year**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Riffa Club will be taking on Al Nahda of Oman in the West Zonal semi-finals of the 2023/2024 AFC Cup.

Riffa booked their place in the contest after finishing as winners of Group C in the competition's preliminary round. Nahda, on the other hand, were the top-ranked squad from Group A.

The Zonal semi-finals are scheduled to take place in February of next year.

The other pairing in this stage pits Al Kahrabaa of Iraq against



Riffa players celebrate a win this season

Al Ahd of Lebanon. The winners will move on to the Zonal finals in April.

There will also be Inter-zone play-off semi-finals in March and Inter-zone play-off finals

in April for teams outside the West zone. That will set the stage for this season's AFC Cup final, which is scheduled for May of next year.

The AFC Cup is the annual continental club competition of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the continent's top teams not competing in the AFC Champions League. Riffa are the lone Bahraini outfit in this year's tournament.

They wrapped up their group campaign on Tuesday with a tight 1-2 loss to Al Zawra'a of Iraq, who narrowly missed out on the West Zonal semis.

Riffa are looking to become only the second Bahraini club to win the tournament title. Muharrarq won the AFC Cup twice in the past, in 2008 and in 2021, and also finished as runners-up in 2006.

## Head named vice-captain as Australia look to future

AFP | Sydney

Travis Head was reappointed as a vice-captain of the Australian Test side on Wednesday as selectors look to the future, while Pakistan named two debutants for the opening clash in Perth.

Head was added as deputy alongside Steve Smith, skipper Pat Cummins said in announcing a playing XI with one change from their last Test against England at the Oval in July.

That will see fit-again veteran spinner Nathan Lyon, who is four wickets away from joining the elite 500 club, re-take his place ahead of Todd Murphy.

David Warner will open the

batting in what is expected to be his last Test series. He is under intense scrutiny after a lean run and questions over whether he deserves to be in the side.

Opening partner Usman Khawaja has also been in the spotlight after indicating he planned to wear shoes during the match starting Thursday with messages highlighting the plight of people in Gaza.

That appears unlikely to now happen, with the International Cricket Council banning any messages during matches that relate to politics, religion or race.

"I spoke to him just quickly and he said he won't be," Cummins told reporters on the eve of the first of three Tests.

## "I will not let you beat me in front of my people in Bahrain" says Hussain Ayyad

TDT | Manama

BRAVE CF's Hussain Ayyad will be the highest-placed Bahraini fighter on the BRAVE CF 80 fight card and he guarantees this won't be added pressure as he prepares for the event, which takes place this Friday, at the Khalifa Sports City Arena.

"Iron" Ayyad has sent a message to Ireland's Gerard Burns, his opponent, and said there's no way he's losing in front of his people in Bahrain.

"I don't know him to be honest

and this is not something that I really will think about it that who is like who is this guy? I will be in my country and you are coming to my country and this is putting more pressure on him. For me I will be happy and there is no way that I will allow you to win in this fight in front of my people in Bahrain", said Hussain.

Ayyad is one of the pioneers of mixed martial arts in Bahrain and is mostly notable for becoming the first-ever Bahraini fighter to win a medal in the IMMAF World Championships and is

now on the verge of a huge comeback following a horrendous injury, which saw him sidelined for several years.



**I don't know him to be honest and this is not something that I really will think about it that who is like who is this guy? I will be in my country and you are coming to my country and this is putting more pressure on him. For me I will be happy and there is no way that I will allow you to win in this fight in front of my people in Bahrain**

HUSSAIN AYYAD

Through his injury he has become a fountain of inspiration for being able to return after such a lengthy layoff.



Hussain Ayyad