



Bahrain sends first relief aid to Turkey, Syria

TDT | Manama

The first shipment of Bahraini relief aid was dispatched yesterday to the earthquake-hit people in Turkey and Syria.

It was carried out under the patronage of HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the National Committee to Support the Earthquake Victims in Turkey and Syria, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Nasser extended deepest thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Honorary President of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF), for his constant initiatives to support the afflicted in brotherly and friendly countries, as well as extend a helping hand to the needy across the world.

Iran 'becoming world leader in drone warfare'

London

Iran is becoming a world leader in cheap, military-grade drone production, the US Defense Intelligence Agency has warned.

Analysts say Tehran is using Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a theater to advertise its drone capabilities, becoming a key backer of President Vladimir Putin's war effort.

Three models are known to have been delivered to Russia by Iran: the Shahed 131 and 136 single-use drones, used to fly kamikaze missions, and the Mohajer-6, used for airstrikes and reconnaissance.

'Death sentence' for Yemen minister

Al Mukalla

A Houthi-run military court in Yemen's capital Sanaa has sentenced in absentia Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Mohsen Al Daeri and 29 military officers to death on charges of cooperating with the militia's opponents, including the coalition to establish legitimacy in Yemen.

A proud nation

HM King Hamad praises Bahrainis' sense of patriotism for adopting National Action Charter

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa described the National Action Charter as an opportunity to recall with pride the patriotic stances of the beloved Bahraini people on the referendum day.

HM the King noted that the adoption of the National Action Charter paved the way for embarking on a promising march of building the kingdom's institutions and constitutional branches.

He added that the fundamentals of the National Action Charter will always remain a catalyst for Bahrainis to continue building the nation, consolidate the role of legislative institutions, and broaden the scope of popular participation in accordance with a developed democratic approach.

His Majesty was speaking as he received, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, senior Royal Family members at Al Sakhir Palace.

Senior Royal Family members extended to HM the King deepest congratulations on the 22nd anniversary of the adoption of the National Action Charter.

HM the King exchanged with them congratulations on the glorious national occasion.

HM King Hamad expressed satisfaction with the remarkable



HM the King and HRH Prince Salman with senior Royal Family members

great presence of youth in the Royal Family.

"I am very pleased with the presence of our young mem-

bers on this historic day for our dear homeland, which heralds a bright future based on commitment to serving the homeland

and citizens, each in their position," HM the King said.

"I see this in the faces of these promising young members who

are committed to the path of the fathers and forefathers who founded this dear homeland and constructed it perfectly. We look forward to their contributions to this solid foundation towards a brilliant future that confirms the permanence of the global standing of our beloved kingdom among nations."

Progress and prosperity

He congratulated the Bahraini people on this glorious national occasion, wishing the kingdom further progress and prosperity.

HM King Hamad commended the efforts of Bahraini citizens to serve their homeland and protect its gains, affirming the kingdom's steadfast determination to continue enhancing its progress march to further strengthen its status among developed countries and meet its citizens' aspiration for more progress and prosperity.

Two-week festival

Stage set for Beyon Money F1 Fan Village return

● Event starting tomorrow

TDT | Manama

The Beyon Money F1 Village, the two-week festival celebrating Formula 1, with daily concerts, DJ's, live entertainment, F1 activations, a craft village and much more returns to Block 338 for two weeks starting tomorrow.

The festival, which is being held for the second time in Bahrain after a hugely popular debut last year, brings all the excitement of Formula 1 closer to the fans with a daily celebration in the heart of the Kingdom's capital in the build-up to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2023.

This exciting event for fans is again being supported by title partner Beyon Money, part



Popular bands will provide daily live music performances

of the Beyon Group, which is a financial services Super App, enabling customers to connect to their bank accounts as well

as access financial insights to observe transactions and spending habits.

Additionally, customers can

request a Beyon Money prepaid card for use all over the world, pay bills and send funds abroad instantly, making Beyon Mon-

ey the one-stop destination for managing financials seamlessly, securely, and transparently.

Notwithstanding, the energy investment and development arm of the Kingdom of Bahrain, is also a support partner for the event.

The Village will be open daily from 16 February to 2 March, from 6pm to 11pm on weekdays and midday to 11pm on weekends. All are welcome to attend and entrance is completely free of charge.

The Beyon Money F1 Fan Village is being organised by BIC and Beyon Money for the second successive year. The 2022 edition was a first-of-its-kind experience that was a massive success. Thousands turned up each day to share in the carnival-like atmosphere and continue the exciting build-up to F1 race week.

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'March for more growth, prosperity will continue'

HM King: Bahrainis will always remain 'center and goal of national development'



HM the King, in the presence of HRH Prince Salman, receives top legislative and judicial officials
TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa expressed resolve to continue the development march, further consolidate Bahrain's standing on the world map, and achieve citizens' aspirations for more growth and prosperity.

He praised the remarkable contributions of the Bahraini people and their key role in promoting the Kingdom's pioneering role at all levels. He asserted that Bahraini citizens will always remain the center and goal of national development.

His Majesty was speaking as he received at Sakhir Palace yesterday, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Speaker of the Council of Representatives Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Shura



Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Deputy President of the Supreme Judicial Council and President of the Court of Cassation Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and President of the Constitutional Court Abdullah bin Hassan Al Buainin.

They extended to HM King Hamad heartfelt congratula-

tions on the 22nd anniversary of the National Action Charter (NAC), expressing appreciation of HM's wise leadership which yielded many qualitative achievements to the Kingdom and its people.

HM the King recalled the honourable and patriotic stance of the Bahraini people and their unprecedented unanimity on

attaining goals and aspirations.

He affirmed that the National Action Charter will remain a roadmap to further promote democracy and development.

HM the King also lauded the key role of the judicial branch in promoting justice and equality as well as protecting rights and freedom. He noted cooperation between the executive and legislative branches and the significance of further enhancing it to achieve more prosperity to the nation and citizens.

Full solidarity

HM the King reiterated Bahrain's full solidarity with Syria and Turkey to overcome the impact of the devastating earthquake which rocked the two countries recently.

Good wishes

His Majesty exchanged good wishes on the occasion with them, thanking them for their

BRCS seeks donations for quake victims

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) announced that it will continue to receive donations from citizens and residents to help those affected by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

BRCS said that these donations are for the relief of thousands of afflicted by the earthquake that struck large areas in northern Syria and southern Turkey.

The earthquake resulted in tens of thousands of casualties and the displacement of hundreds of thousands in many towns and villages.

The BRCS called on everyone to support the victims by providing donations and provide relief aid and urgent shelter.

BRCS is working within the national campaign supported by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) for the victims of this earthquake.

BRCS Secretary-General Mubarak Al Hadi said that these donations reflect the Kingdom's support for Syria and Turkey.

Bahrain youth 'pillar of nation and its future'

Dubai

Sustainable Development Minister Noor bint Ali Al Khulaif stressed the importance accorded to the Bahraini youth, being the pillar of the nation and its future.

She noted the directives 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, to develop the capabilities of the youth according to well-defined strategies and programmes.

The minister was speaking during her participation in a panel discussion on devoting the power of the youth to accelerate achievement of the sustainable development goals 2030.

She pointed out the support given to the youth by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs.

Bahrain 'top destination for Gulf travel in GCC'

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is the top destination for Gulf travel in the GCC, according to the Gulf Statistical Council's most recent report.

The data shows that Bahrain occupied 40.5 percent of the total inter-tourism movement among the GCC countries, meaning that the Kingdom acquires over two million tourists travelling to the country from other Gulf nations.

Every year, over 12 million tourists across the Gulf coun-

tries and other nations experience the best of what Bahrain has to offer, and the country continues to build its reputation globally as a unique tourist destination. Efforts to promote the Kingdom as a unique tourist destination has ultimately led to it becoming the number one expat destination in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Following tourism plans that are set to grow GCC tourism sectors, the region plans to develop its infrastructure and programs to evolve into major tourist destinations over the coming decades.

The Gulf countries aim to develop for the future, with goals to increase the number of domestic tourists spending in the Arab Gulf countries by 2.4 percent annually.

The GCC nations are opening conversations surrounding tourism, with new projects, mega attractions, and touristic destinations beginning to develop, which is shifting the region and attracting more tourists from around the world.

As GCC countries shift their reliance on oil, and begin to advance its tourism sectors, they aim to raise the total amount

regarding travel and the tourism sector to 7 percent of the direct GDP by 2023.

According to the UNWTO, GCC travellers spend 6.5 times more compared to travellers from other parts of the world, meaning that tourist operators within the region have exceptional opportunities to grow profits.

Bahrain already houses up to a million visitors each month, and the majority of these tourists are increasingly spending more whilst they are in the country, according to the Economic Development Board (EDB).

The Kingdom has taken a fo-

cused approach of three primary consumer sectors within tourism and hospitality. Food service, retail, and leisure offer opportunities for profitable investments, and the Kingdom continues to expand its tourism sector, the EDB added.

Events and festivals, beach and maritime, food service, flagship FB and retail, leisure and entertainment, and ancillary services are key areas where Bahrain plans to advance tourism. Experts predict that by the end of 2028, tourism will contribute \$133.6 billion (BD50.4 billion) to the Middle East's GDP.

Merry mix of F1-related activities to entertain race fans at Village

(Continuation from Page 1)
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This year's edition will have lots more on offer, including F1-related activities such as racing simulators, the chance to design your very own F1 car livery with a digital paint machine, a driver selfie experience, the F1 show car and World Championship Trophy.

The main stage will be active with daily live music performances from DJs and popular bands.

Elsewhere in the Beyon Money F1 Fan Village will be a craft



Racing simulators and merchandise stands at the F1 Village

village, Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) a Beyon Money stand activation, roaming family entertainment, street artists, magicians, and much more.

Daily schedules of entertainment will be published by BIC and due to the popularity of the event, fans are urged to follow instructions on parking and access.



The experience will help raise the level of excitement even higher ahead of the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2023, taking place 3 to 5 March at BIC in Sakhir.

Three days of top-class motorsport will be complemented by plenty of entertaining attrac-

tions at the Bahrain Grand Prix, including concerts featuring DJ Snake and Craig David, masses of family entertainment and so much more.

Tickets to this year's F1 race weekend are selling fast. Those looking to experience the pinnacle of motorsport must therefore purchase their tickets as soon as possible to be a part of the region's biggest racing and entertainment extravaganza.

Visit bahrairngp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000 to make a purchase or to get more information on ticket prices and other hospitality options.

Valentine's Day triggers spike in demand for affordable jewellery

Jewellers joy as romantics splurge more on special 'heart' occasion this year

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

A spike in demand for jewellery-related purchases over the past two weeks has led jewellers to believe that upbeat customers have set records for Valentine's Day spending this year.

Jewellery and romance have always had a magical connection, and many love stories feature a piece of jewellery taking center stage to unknowingly push the relationship to the next level.

Experts say market sentiments are high and Valentine's Day is a special occasion for many, even more so as people navigate out of the pandemic.

Jewellers are ready to assist them in celebrating the holiday in a special and meaningful way. Jewellery stores in the Kingdom have a lot to offer, like giving loyal



Jewellery is a precious Valentine's Day gift for loved ones

customers gifts when they enter the store after using the code.

Leading jewellers believe that this year, especially for this occasion, there is a significant desire for lighter weight gold, with many youngsters making purchases between BD40 and

BD100.

Shaji C.K, Manager at the Devji store, said: "The markets witnessed an improvement and activity in demand for sales of gold and diamond jewellery, with the support of the approaching Valentine's Day occasion.



"From February 4 to February 14, we ran a campaign with the slogan, 'This Valentine's Show Yourself Love.' It was promoted everywhere on social media and in stores.

"The key benefit we offered in the campaign was that the buyer

“The markets witnessed an improvement and activity in demand for sales of gold and diamond jewellery, with the support of the approaching Valentine's Day occasion.”

- SHAJI C.K, MANAGER AT THE DEVJI STORE

may purchase items with no VAT; in other words, we would cover any applicable VAT charges out of our own pocket.

"We don't offer any discounts because the costs of gold and diamonds are fixed, but there is something known as a 'transpar-

ent pricing policy' that essentially implies that clients won't get any discounts but will instead receive the actual price of gold and with the making charges."

He pointed out that, when comparing gold and diamonds, the exchange policy favours gold because, when a customer buys gold and exchanges it, she or he receives the same value. However, if a customer buys a diamond, which is expensive, and wants to exchange it, the value of the diamond would be lower.

"Customers would always come anytime the price of gold dropped, therefore we have witnessed a high demand from the beginning of this month.

"The free VAT offer would undoubtedly have an impact on business, but this occasion is all about sharing love with loved ones, so we're doing our part to make it as memorable as we can," he added.

Plan to build schools and hospitals for Turkey, Syria



Dr Al Sayyed with Ambassador Cakil at the airport

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) is planning to build schools, hospitals, and libraries to support the Turkish and Syrian people following the strong earthquakes that devastated their countries.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, RHF Secretary General Dr Mustafa Al Sayyed said it is in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives to immediately help the victims.

"Our program and fund-raising efforts will continue," said Dr Al Sayyed, who has been appointed as executive chief



The first relief aid shipment dispatched to Turkey and Syria yesterday

following the royal directives to oversee the donation drive.

The campaign follows directives from HM the King and HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, and Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) Board of Trustees' Chairman, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad

Al Khalifa, to encourage the citizens and residents to take part in the noble cause.

Turkish Ambassador to Bahrain Esin Cakil commended Bahrain for its outstanding support to the Turkish people, calling it a priceless relief and wonderful display of unity on behalf of the entire country.

Al Qaed takes part in global 'Shaping Future Governments' summit

TDT | Manama

Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA) Chief Executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed participated in the World Government Summit 2023 (WGS 2023) hosted by the UAE from 13 to 15 February 2023 in Dubai.

WGS 2023 was remarked with the participation of key governments' leaders, ministers, senior officials, policy makers and global experts from governments, private sector, and NGO's from more than 150 countries around the globe.

Al Qaed praised the well-organisation of the UAE for this remarkable event, which has been held under the theme "Shaping Future Governments".

It aims at exchanging knowledge and expertise to contribute to the government development across the world., in addition to addressing the most prominent current and future global challenges to improve people's quality of life.



Al Qaed at the event

As part of WGS 2023, Al Qaed participated in the "Future of Work" forum organised on the second day of the summit, in a panel discussion under the theme "The Future of Employment: Skills and Strategies for Success".

The panel also included H.E. Kersti Kaljulaid, the fifth President of Estonia; Jean Koh, Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Digital Platform Government at Republic of Korea; Amandeep and Bhangu, journalist at BBC. The session was moderated by Mr Doron Avni, Google VP of Government Affairs and Public Policy Emerging Markets.

Bahrain sustains leadership role in oil, refinery sector

TDT | Manama

The Refinery Modernization Project will enhance quantity and quality and improve energy efficiency, making it one of the most competitive refineries in compliance with environmental standards in the world.

This was stated by Oil and Environment Minister and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Daina in his opening remarks at the second Gulf Downstream Association (GDA) International Downstream Conference and Exhibition.

Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,



Dr Bin Daina at the event's inauguration

the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the three-day event themed Downstream Turning Points - "Capitalising on Transformation" is attracting over 5,000 delegates who include industry executives and would provide a rare opportunity for the industry leaders.

"Bapco Refinery Modernisa-

tion Project, which is continuation of many development projects in this vital sector, is considered one of the largest strategic projects aiming at increasing the daily refining production capacity from 267,000 barrels to 380,000 barrels per day," the minister said.

The interest of His Majesty

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the continuous follow-up of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister reflect keenness of the government to support various activities and conferences Bahrain aimed at achieving the goals of the comprehensive development process.

Pizza-making workshop for children with cancer, parents



















TDT | Manama

On Childhood Cancer International Day, the Art Hotel & Resort in cooperation with "Smile" initiative, an initiative of Bahrain Future Society for Youth that provides psycho-social support to children with cancer and their parents in Bahrain, held a pizza-making workshop titled "The Little Chef".

Twenty children were invited with their parents, volunteers, and administrators from the initiative, to enjoy the experience of making and eating pizza.

The young heroes were enjoying making their own pizza with the help of the volunteers from the initiative who had the biggest role in the success of this event and drawing smiles on the faces of the kids.

Brilliant artworks on display at 'Visual Translations' expo

 Sudeep Deshpande	 Sudeep Deshpande's artwork titled "Us & Them-0025"	 Richa Maurya	 Richa Maury's artwork titled "Nightingales of Bahrain"	 Lata Unnikrishnan	 Lata Unnikrishnan's artwork titled "Radhe Krishna"
 Niju Joy's artwork	 Niju Joy	 Saira Ranj's artwork titled "Bahrain Sails"	 Saira Ranj	 Praseetha Ullas' artwork	 Praseetha Ullas
 Sagar Adkar	 Sagar Adkar's artwork titled "Portrait"	 Atamjeet Singh Bawa	 Atamjeet Singh Bawa's paper artcraft		
 Tejbir Singh's artwork	 Tejbir Singh	 Mohamed Taha's artwork	 Mohamed Taha		

● **Event set for Feb 20-28**

TDT | Manama

The stage is set for the "Visual Translations" art exhibition in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The event is organised by The Daily Tribune and the Indian Fine Arts Society in association with Bahrain Art Hub (BAH).

The Indian Ambassador, H.E. Piyush Srivastava, will be officially inaugurating the event on 20 February at 6 pm. Mr Nayef Al Sherooqi, Director of Human and Financial resources Ministry of Interior, will be the guest of honour. The paintings will be displayed at The Daily Tribune's office at Mcindeez Tower in Umm Al Hasam from 20 to 28 February and will be opened for visitors.

Bahrain Art Hub is an artist group comprising Indian artists

Atamjeet Singh Bawa, Niju Joy, Deshpande, Tejbir Singh and Sagar Adkar, Saira Ranj, Sudeep

Bahraini artist Mohamed Taha. The art exhibition is a compilation of various artists with

us to show our paintings and

believing in us," he added. The Indian Fine Arts Society, popularly known as IFAS, was established in 1974 and has always been committed to its social obligation of spreading the message of love and brotherhood beyond boundaries through the promotion of arts and culture. It endeavours to soul-filling music, vibrant classical dances, painting, drama, and other classical art forms.

IFAS continues to accept and integrate many cultural events in the best possible way in Bahrain. IFAS has been a pioneer in organising an Indo-Bahrain cultural programme.

It has always been instrumental in bringing world-class Indian artists to this island. In recognition of IFAS's commitment to promoting classical arts, the Indian Embassy has designated IFAS to represent India at the International Music Festival in Bahrain on several occasions.

For more information contact Mr. Boban Idiculla on 39456914.

their individualistic working techniques and approaches towards art.

"The Daily Tribune gives all the artists a great opportunity to show our strength and talents and positively impact the Bahrain art movements," Taha said.

"I would like to thank The Daily Tribune for supporting and allowing us to show our paintings and

Two 'seriously ill' expats return home safely

● **Social workers step in to support them**

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

As part of the various social welfare initiatives by Annai Tamil Mandram, the team helped two patients who were struggling with serious medical conditions to return safely to their hometown.

Murugan Sadaiyandi, 42, and Subramani Santhaiah, 39, were suffering from stroke and taking treatment at the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) for the last six months.

They were battling to return to their native country while being hospitalised. Social workers contacted them and took the initiative to arrange for their return to India.



The home-bound patients with Annai Tamil Mandram and the team



Murugan Sadaiyandi, 42, and Subramani Santhaiah, 39, were suffering from stroke and taking treatment at the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) for the last six months.

They followed up with various departments. Through the help of the Tamil Nadu government,

the social workers worked in the Kingdom to obtain the required travel documents and receive medical care from the SMC until they were sent back to India.

With all the efforts and support, both patients reached home safely yesterday.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Mr Senthil GK, President, Annai Tamil Mandram, said, "I am grateful to the Bahrain government authorities, H.E. Piyush Srivastava, Ambassador Embassy of India, and Indian Embassy officials, ICRF, HOPE team, PLC, World NRI Council, Salmaniya hospital authorities, Tamil Nadu government and officials and Air India team.

"We sincerely thank each and every one who helped, supported and guided us through this entire process and ensured the safe travel of both the patients with the needed medical support."

Air India to buy 250 Airbus planes as it transforms under Tata

● The deal is expected to also include an order for 220 planes from Airbus rival Boeing

● The deal marks a turning point for Air India under new chief executive Campbell Wilson

● Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron attended the deal signing

Reuters | Bengaluru

Air India has agreed to buy 250 jets from Airbus (AIR.PA), part of a mammoth deal for 470 planes, as the carrier heralds a decades-long transformation under its new owners, Tata Group.

The order includes 210 narrowbody planes and 40 widebody aircraft, which Air India will use to “fly ultra-long routes across the globe”, Tata Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Tuesday.

The deal is expected to also include an order for 220 planes from Airbus rival Boeing (BA.N), Reuters reported.

“We are committed to building a world class airline ... one of the most important things is a modern fleet which is efficient and can perform for all routes,” Chandrasekaran said during a virtual press briefing.

The online event was attended by Indian Prime Minister



PM Narendra Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron attend launch of Air India-Airbus deal



India will become third-largest market in the world in the aviation sector according to several estimates India will need over 2,000 aircraft in the next 15 years. The historic announcement today will help in catering to this increasing demand under the Make in India-Make for the World vision.

Several new opportunities are opening up in aerospace manufacturing under India's 'Make in India - Make for the World' vision

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, signalling the political and economic importance of a deal involving India's former flag bearer.

“This important deal shows, along with the deepening of relations between India and France, the successes and aspirations of the civil aviation sector in India. Today, civil aviation is an integral part of India's growth,” Modi said.

Industry sources say India has repeatedly lobbied for Airbus to add a final assembly line in the country, matching a plant in northern China, but the plane-maker continues to reject the idea on financial and industrial grounds.

However, the aviation deal is expected to have other industrial spin-offs, with Macron pledging France will work with India beyond aircraft.

“This achievement shows that Airbus and all its French partners are fully dedicated to develop new areas of dedication with India,” Macron said during the video presentation.

Chandrasekaran said Airbus and Tata were working on bigger partnerships, including an ambition “to bring in commercial aircraft manufacturing at some point in time in the future”.

“We see this moment as the most significant moment for the Tata Group's Air India, Indian aviation and the manufacturing sector in India,” he said.

The deal will mark a turning point for Air India which, under new chief executive Campbell Wilson, is working to revive its reputation as a world-class airline.

Air India's order is expected to top American Airlines' (AAL.O) combined deal for 460 Airbus and Boeing planes more than a decade ago - making it the single largest deal by an airline.

Even after significant expected discounts, the deal would be worth tens of billions of dollars at a volatile time for plane giants whose jets are again in demand after the pandemic, but who face mounting industrial and environmental pressures.

“It is important for the industry because given the recent turbulence in the China market, the alternative growth market is India,” said independent aviation adviser Bertrand Grabowski.

“India is also sending a strong political signal that it wants to remain attached to the West at a time when it has appeared ambiguous on Russian sanctions,” said Grabowski, a former banker with extensive experience of politically sensitive international aviation deals.

ila Bank launches personalized Prepaid Cards

TDT | Manama

ila Bank, a digital mobile-only bank, announced the launching of personalized Bahraini denominated Prepaid Cards. The cards may be used by customers or shared with a spouse, child, other family members and household employees.

The ila Prepaid Cards are available in striking solid pink, blue and gradient green colours and may be for in store or online purchases. Customers' can top up the cards from their main BHD account and enjoy a range of benefits.

ila Bank Head of Business & Customer, Nada Tarada, said: “One of the main segments we are supporting are parents who would like to issue cards for their children and still have the ability to monitor their spending. This encourages the younger generation to build good financial habits early on and enables them to make digital payments within their parents' supervision.”

For travellers, the card offers benefits including access to travel medical insurance, Mastercard offers, 3D secure feature, a spending limit of BHD2,500 and a range of discounts and offers via various partners and stores in Bahrain.

In addition, ila said it has especially designed a Student Prepaid Card with tailored



Nada Tarada



benefits, namely cashbacks on transactions made in a number of school cafeterias operated by the Eastern Bakery.

The cards offer through ila app, ability to set a limit for retail transactions, whether POS or e-commerce, ATM Cash withdrawals, as well as the number of transactions each day. In addition, customers may enable or disable contactless and internet transactions as needed.

Ford to cut one in nine jobs in Europe in electric revamp

Reuters | Berlin

Ford (F.N) plans to cut one in nine jobs in product development and administration across Europe as part of a global drive to cut costs and be competitive in the electric vehicle market, the US automaker said yesterday.

Around 3,800 jobs will be cut in total, including 2,300 at the carmaker's Cologne and Aachen sites in Germany, 1,300 in the UK and 200 in the rest of Europe, the company said, adding it intended to achieve the reductions through voluntary programmes.

GDA conference sheds light on downstream challenges, opportunities

Top BAPCO official calls for establishing a research centre, innovative approach

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

Experts at the ongoing GDA International Downstream conference and exhibition yesterday called for building a research centre as they mulled ways to overcome challenges and unlock potential opportunities in the sector at Exhibition World Bahrain.

“It's a necessity to build a research centre in the area,” said Afaf Zainalabedin, the Acting Deputy Chief Executive of Corporate Support & Chief Financial Officer at BAPCO, while addressing a panel discussion at the GDA International Downstream conference and exhibition.

Zainalabedin also stressed the need for accelerating innovation. “The majority of young innovators desire to think outside the box,” she said, adding, “they conduct a lot of data-based research.”

“Several high-profile staff in BAPCO, for instance, use robots to detect when an unplanned shutdown occurs in a power plant,” pointed out Zainalabedin.

The three-day conference



A section of the audience at the conference



The Gulf Downstream Association's International Downstream Exhibition Centre

on the theme “Downstream Turning Points - Capitalising on Transformations” has the participation of more than 121 world-class speakers and professionals from over 20 nations around the globe.

Topics on discussion include energy, digitisation, integration, and innovation and technology. Downstream processes involve

converting oil and gas into the finished product. These include refining crude oil into gasoline, natural gas liquids, diesel, and other energy sources.

The conference that ends today highlights global business challenges, and aims at sharing best practices, and unlocking potential opportunities through collaboration and partnerships.

Yahya A. Abushal, the CEO of Sadara Chemical Company, spoke about boosting collaborations in the sector, saying that companies cannot work in isolation as what happens in China and Europe will also affect them.

“Companies had to alter their strategy after the pandemic, if they wanted to avoid getting caught up in the primary energy sector transformation.”

Meanwhile, Sultan Albigishi, The Senior Vice President of Projects and Technical ADNOC Refining, said that most of the businesses in the area have a defined strategy for overcoming obstacles.

Lummus Technology CEO, Leon de Bruyn, told *The Daily Tribune* that they have been



Afaf Zainalabedin of BAPCO



Lummus Technology CEO Leon de Bruyn

“working towards these aims since 2017 when the first project was launched in Korea. “I think the result can be cultivated very soon.

“It's also a fantastic opportunity to network with experts.”



Yahya A. Abushal, CEO of Sadara Chemical Company



Sultan Albigishi, Senior Vice President of Projects and Technical ADNOC Refining

Technical sessions were also held during the conference, allowing experts from various fields to share their knowledge and insights.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

THE BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN THE WORLD CANNOT BE SEEN OR EVEN TOUCHED – THEY MUST BE FELT WITH THE HEART.
HELEN KELLER

News in brief

◆ **Indian tax officers** searched the BBC's bureaus in New Delhi and Mumbai yesterday, the British broadcaster said. "The Income Tax Authorities are currently at the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai and we are fully cooperating. We hope to have this situation resolved as soon as possible," the BBC said in a statement. An Income Tax Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that a "credible survey operation was ongoing" and that the department would not be able to share details. The department did not respond to a Reuters email seeking comment. Britain's Foreign Office said it was closely monitoring reports of tax surveys conducted at the BBC's offices.



India tax officers search BBC offices

◆ **Former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley** said yesterday that she will seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, putting her at odds with one-time boss Donald Trump, the ex-president also seeking to win back the White House. "I'm Nikki Haley and I'm running for president," Haley said in a video that her team sent out by email. Haley, a former South Carolina governor who served as

Nikki Haley launches 2024 Republican presidential bid, first challenge to Trump



U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Trump, will lay out her campaign plans in a speech in Charleston,

South Carolina, on Wednesday. She became Trump's first direct challenger in a Republican field expected to grow in coming weeks and months.

◆ **The World Health Organization** is increasing its epidemiological surveillance in Equatorial Guinea after the country confirmed its first outbreak of the Marburg virus, a WHO official said yesterday. The small Central African country has so far reported nine deaths as well as 16 suspected cases of Marburg virus disease, with symptoms including fever, fatigue and blood-stained vomit and diarrhea, according to the WHO. "Surveillance in the field has been intensified," said George Ameh, WHO's country representative in Equatorial Guinea. "Contact tracing, as you know, is a cornerstone of the response. We have...redeployed the COVID-19 teams that were there for contact tracing and quickly retrofitted them to really help us out." Equatorial Guinea quarantined more than 200 people and restricted movement last week in its Kie-Ntem province after detecting an unknown hemorrhagic fever. The country officially declared its first outbreak of Marburg virus disease on Monday.



WHO increasing health surveillance after Equatorial Guinea finds Marburg virus

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Part of Croatia's heart-shaped island up for sale



A drone picture taken from above near Biograd na Moru shows Island Galesnjak, Croatia

Reuters | Galesnjak, Croatia

Part of Croatia's unique heart-shaped Adriatic islet nicknamed by tourists the Island of Love is up for sale.

The uninhabited islet of Galesnjak in the Pasman channel is one of the most recognizable Croatian islets and part of it is being offered to prospective buyers for development.

"Over a million photos per year are made on and around the islet and I think its popularity is really high," said Silvestro Kardum, a representative for the owner of the lot of land offered for sale.

There are no hotels, villas, or restaurants on the islet, but many celebrities and their yachts frequent Galesnjak every summer.

"Beyonce had her 39th

birthday party on the islet and she's there several days or even weeks every year, Michael Jordan was there last year, Jeff Bezos as well, there's no lack of celebrities in that area," Kardum said.

Proceeds from the sale would be invested elsewhere in the local community, he said.

"The island has an area of 142,000 square meters and slightly over 40,000 square meters is up for sale for the price of 13 million euros," he said, adding that potential buyers are calling every day.

In 2019, scientists from the Department of Archaeology of Croatia's University of Zadar discovered traces of human habitation dating back 7,000 years ago.

Seven pulled from Turkey's rubble, millions need help

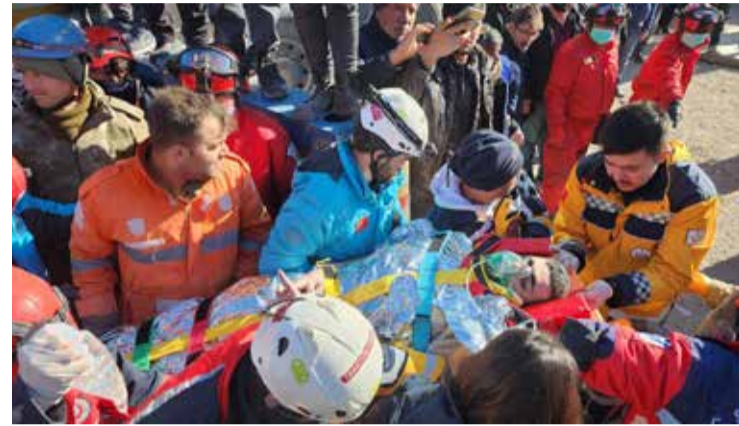
● **Death toll 31,974 in Turkey, more than 5,800 in Syria**

● **Rescue phase 'coming to a close', says UN in Syria**

Reuters | Turkey, Kahramanmaras

Seven survivors were rescued from the rubble in Turkey yesterday, more than a week after a devastating earthquake, as the focus of the aid effort shifted to helping people now struggling without shelter or enough food in the bitter cold.

The disaster, with a combined death toll in Turkey and neighbouring Syria exceeding 37,000, has ravaged cities in both countries, leaving many survivors homeless in near-freezing winter



Muhammed Cafer Cetin, a 18-year-old earthquake survivor, is rescued from the rubble of a building some 198 hours after last week's devastating earthquake, in Adiyaman, Turkey

temperatures. The seven rescued on Tuesday included two brothers, aged 17 and 21, pulled from an apartment block in Kahramanmaras province, and a woman rescued from the rubble of a building in the southern Turkish city of Antakya, Turkish media said.

But UN authorities have said the rescue phase was coming to a close, with the focus turning to shelter, food and schooling, as those who survived were struggling. "People are suffering a lot. We applied to receive tent, aid or something but until now we didn't receive anything," said Has-



People sit as others search amid the rubble in Kahramanmaras, Turkey

san Saimoua, a refugee staying with his family in a playground in Turkey's southeastern city of Gaziantep.

"The needs are huge, increasing by the hour," said Hans Henri P. Kluge, the World Health Organization's director for Europe. "Some 26 million people across

Kremlin moves to rein in Russian mercenary boss Prigozhin



Evgeny Prigozhin (L) assists Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin during a dinner with foreign scholars and journalists at the restaurant Cheval Blanc on the premises of an equestrian complex outside Moscow

● **Mercenary boss reins in public criticism of top brass**

● **State media told to stop promoting him and his group**

● **Prigozhin loses right to recruit convicts**

● **Ex-Kremlin adviser says politics off limits for Prigozhin**

Reuters

His private army is pushing hard to give Russia a battlefield win in Ukraine, but mounting evidence suggests the Kremlin has moved to curb what it sees as the excessive political clout of Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of Russia's Wagner mercenary group.

Prigozhin, a 61-year-old ex-convict, has grabbed headlines in recent months over his bloody role in Ukraine and is sometimes portrayed in the West as a real-life James Bond villain.

Shaven-headed and fond of coarse language, he has made a splash in Russian-language media too where he has revelled in being sanctioned by the West, publicly insulted Russia's top military brass,

tried to parlay battlefield success into Kremlin favour, and detailed his recruitment of tens of thousands of convicts for his private army.

His profile became so prominent that allies and analysts began speculating he was angling for an official job or career in politics.

There is growing evidence now though that the Kremlin has moved to nip such speculation in the bud, ordering Prigozhin to halt his public criticism of the defence ministry while advising state media to stop mentioning him or Wagner by name.

Prigozhin confirmed last week he had also been stripped of the right to recruit convicts from prisons - a key pillar of his nascent political influence and one which has helped his forces make small but steady gains in eastern Ukraine where they appear to be inching closer to capturing the city of Bakhmut.

Olga Romanova, director of a prisoner rights group, said the Ministry of Defence had taken over convict recruitment earlier this year. The ministry has not confirmed that.

"The position of the (Kremlin) political bloc is not to let him into politics. They are a little afraid of him and find him an inconvenient person," Sergei Markov, a former Kremlin adviser who remains close to the authorities, told Reuters.

In Michigan shooting, police

● **Three victims were killed and five were taken to a hospital**

● **The gunman was confirmed dead**

● **Students, faculty and residents in surrounding off-campus neighborhoods of East Lansing had been told by authorities to 'shelter in place'**

Reuters | East Lansing, Mich.

Police searched yesterday for the motive that caused a gunman to go on a shooting rampage at Michigan State University that left three people dead and five injured before an hours-long manhunt ended with the suspect's death.

The 43-year-old gunman had no known affiliation to the university police said at a news briefing on Tuesday, more than five hours after the violence began on the East Lansing campus, about



Police officers surround a scene where the shooting took place in East Lansing, Michigan, US



An estimated 90 miles northwest of Detroit. "We have no idea why he came to campus to do this tonight," Chris Rozman, interim deputy chief of the university police, told reporters.

Details about the sequence of

Banksy's 'Valentine's day' mural

Reuters | Margate, England

British street artist Banksy confirmed a new mural showing a 1950s housewife with a swollen eye apparently pushing a man into an abandoned chest freezer was his work early on Valentine's Day, just hours before the appliance was removed.

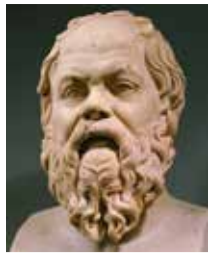
The artwork, which Banksy titled 'Valentine's day masacara' on his website, appeared in the seaside town of Margate,



An artwork depicting violence against women

399BC

Philosopher Socrates is sentenced to death by the city of Athens for corrupting the minds of the youth of the city and for impiety



1763

Austria, Prussia & Saxony sign the Treaty of Hubertusburg, marking the end of the French and Indian War and of the Seven Years' War

1989

Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan ends

2001

First draft of the complete human genome is published in the journal "Nature"

Humanitarian aid



People in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake

Both countries need humanitarian assistance."

"There are also growing concerns over emerging health issues linked to the cold weather, hygiene and sanitation, and the spread of infectious diseases - with vulnerable people especially at risk."

More than 100 priests suspected of abuse remain active in Portugal's Church

Reuters | Lisbon

More than 100 priests suspected of child sexual abuse remain active in church roles in Portugal, according to the head of a commission investigating the issue.

The commission, which started its work in January 2022, said in its final report published on Monday that at least 4,815 children were sexually abused by members of the Portuguese Catholic Church - mostly priests - over 70 years.

It added that the findings were the "tip of the iceberg", describing the 4,815 cases as the "absolute minimum" number of victims.

"There is an approximate (number of accused priests) and it will clearly be more than 100," child psychiatrist Pedro Strecht, who headed the commission, told SIC television.



Representative picture

The commission said it was preparing a list of accused priests still working to send to the Church and to the public prosecutors' office.

Strecht said those on the list should be removed from their roles or at least should be banned from interacting with children and teenagers during the investigation.

Jose Ornelas, head of the Bishops' Conference, said the institution was yet to receive the list. Strecht said they will receive it "soon".

Michigan State University police seek motive



Suspect was located as they respond to a shooting at Michigan State University in

any details about the victims, some of whose identities and relationship to the university were still being determined, Rozman said.

The name and other information about the suspect were not immediately released and police said they were baffled by what precipitated the shooting.

The gunman was confirmed dead, from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot roughly four hours after the bloodshed had started, Rozman said.

Rozman also said the suspect "was contacted by law enforcement off campus" at one point, adding, "that scene is being investigated as a crime scene."

It remained unclear whether the gunman was found dead after he was confronted by police, or whether he may have taken his own life during such an encounter.

About an hour earlier, MSU police had released two still images of the suspect from surveillance video that showed him walking into a building, then mounting a short flight of stairs, wearing a jacket, a baseball cap and a black mask over his lower face. He was holding what appeared to be a pistol in one hand.

Estimated 4.6 million American children live in homes where at least one gun is kept and unlocked. These improperly stored weapons have contributed to school shootings and the deaths of family members, including infants and toddlers.

The events remained sketchy, but Rozman said shots were fired in two locations - an academic building called Berkey Hall and the Michigan State University (MSU) Union building.

Police swarming the campus in

response to the shooting, which began shortly after 8 p.m. (0100 GMT), found victims at both locations, Rozman told reporters.

Rozman said the university was not aware of any threats made to the campus before Monday's bloodshed.

Three victims were killed and five were taken to a hospital in the nearby city of Lansing, the state capital, all of them listed in critical condition, he said. Two of the dead were at Berkey Hall and the other at the MSU Union.

Officials declined to provide

Banksy's mural freezer removed by council



east England, on Sunday night. Its subject and timing appear to highlight violence against women.

Banksy offers few clues about his work, which usually appear in public locations overnight, beyond a confirmation on social media.

Artist Pete Brown was painting the scene when the genuine freezer -- which formed an integral part of the mural -- was removed on Tuesday morning.

"A council truck turned up and they took away the freezer," he said, adding that the vehicle had the hazard warning lights and a metal cage typical of those used to clear fly-tipping.

"The fridge freezer is now in storage and will be returned once it has been made safe to the public," the council said. "We will be contacting the owner of the property to discuss the options to preserve the artwork for the district."

China says US balloons flew into its airspace

Reuters | Beijing

China said yesterday that more than ten high-altitude balloons released by the United States since May 2022 flew into its airspace and that of other countries.

Both the countries have been entangled in a diplomatic spat since the US shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon on Feb. 4.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the high-altitude balloons "flew around the world and illegally entered the airspaces of China and other relevant countries at least ten times".

Wang did not provide details on the other countries involved, declined to specify which parts of Chinese airspace the incursions happened or provide photos as evidence. Earlier on Monday, he said the US balloons entered Chinese airspace more than ten times since January 2022.

"The United States should conduct a thorough investigation and give China an expla-



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin

nation," Wang said on Tuesday.

The United States denied the allegation. "Any claim that the US government operates surveillance balloons over the PRC is false," White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson tweeted on Monday.

"We urge the United States not to over exert itself, in case it sprains its waist," Wang said on Tuesday, noting Chinese media reports that likened the use of military force to shoot down the Chinese balloon to "busting mosquitoes with anti-aircraft guns".

Mystery aerial objects may have benign purpose-White House



FBI Special Agents assigned to the bureau's Evidence Response Team ready to process material recovered from the high-altitude Chinese balloon

Reuters | Washington

The US intelligence community is considering the possibility that three mysterious unidentified objects shot down by US fighter jets were tied to a commercial or otherwise benign purpose, the White House said yesterday.

John Kirby, the White House national security spokesper-

son, told reporters that the United States still had no firm grasp on the origin of the three objects.

He said more would be known if and when the debris can be collected, but that the parts are in hard-to-reach areas - two in the frozen north and one in Lake Huron. Kirby said the debris was proving difficult to recover.

Dutch F-35s intercept three Russian military aircraft near Poland

Reuters

Two Dutch F-35 fighters intercepted a formation of three Russian military aircraft near Poland and escorted them out, the Netherlands' defence ministry said in a statement late on Monday.

"The then unknown aircraft approached the Polish NATO area of responsibility from Kaliningrad," according to Reuters' translation of the ministry's statement.

Kaliningrad is a Russian Baltic coast enclave located between NATO and European Union members Poland and Lithuania.

"After identification, it turned out to be three aircraft: a Russian IL-20M Coot-A that was escorted by two Su-27 Flankers. The Dutch F-35s escorted the formation from a



A Dutch soldier stands guard as a Royal Netherlands Air Force F-35 takes off at Graf Ignatievo airbase, Bulgaria

distance and handed over the escort to NATO partners."

The IL-20M Coot-A is NATO's reporting name for the Russian Ilyushin IL-20M reconnaissance aircraft while the Su-27 Flankers are NATO's reporting name for the Sukhoi Su-28 fighter aircraft.

The Netherlands' defence ministry said that eight Dutch F-35s are stationed in Poland for February and March.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I thank my friend @EmmanuelMacron for joining me at the launch of an important partnership between @airindian and @Airbus that will further strengthen the Indian aviation sector and create opportunities in both nations. This reflects the robust Indo-French Strategic Partnership.

@narendramodi

02



The contract that Airbus and Tata Sons signed this morning marks a new stage in India and France's strategic partnership. Thank you @NarendraModi, for your confidence in France and our industry.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



"An empty browser history says more than a full one" - Abraham Lincoln

@elonmusk

04



Our collective problems-solving mechanisms do not match the pace or scale of the issues we face. This must be the year when we lay the foundations for more effective global cooperation to deal with today's challenges and new risks & threats down the line.

@antonioguterres

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

CAMPUS

ISB holds farewell for class XII students



The Indian School organised a glittering farewell function on its Isa Town campus for the outgoing class XII students on Wednesday. It was a festive, yet poignant occasion, as the students bid goodbye to their alma mater. The students of class XI had arranged a wide array of programmes to entertain their seniors. Principal VR Palaniswamy inaugurated the programme in the presence of Vice-Principals, Staff Representative Johnson K Devassy, Head Teachers, staff and students. Principal VR Palaniswamy in his felicitation address, extolled the students to keep the name of the school flying high and to take up responsible roles in the society. Cultural events commenced with a song followed by a power packed dance performance of students which was full of energy. Ramp walk, games, songs and band made the programme vibrant and colourful. The outgoing students thanked the school for being a source of inspiration, encouragement and motivation. ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony and Executive Committee members wished them success in their future endeavours and hoped that the students would come out with flying colours in the Board Examinations.



Astounding EVS exhibition at NMS-Bahrain



New Millennium School, Bahrain celebrated 'Synergy 2022' theme based EVS exhibition for students of Grades I and II, depicting the spirit of scientific enquiry and joyful learning on 8th February. The central showcase of the event were the splendid projects prepared by the students with the help of their mother teachers that created a world filled with elements of scientific inquiry, scientific literacy, which are the essential realms of scientific education in schools. The projects revolved around themes of space, space exploration, habitats, rainwater harvesting, saving of flora and fauna for a better tomorrow and also the need of going back to village-based living for creating a more sustainable planet. The exhibition was inaugurated by Principal Arun Kumar Sharma, who congratulated the entire Grades I and II team and lauded the efforts of the students. Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Geetha Pillai bestowed their blessings and appreciated the efforts put in by the children, parents and teachers in making this event invigorating and riveting.



RCSI Bahrain nursing students support Al-Shurooq diabetes camp for children



TDT | Manama

A group of Nursing Year 4 students from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) participated at the 21st Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp for children, held Under the Patronage of Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, and President of the Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS).

The Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp supports children diagnosed with Type-1 Diabetes by developing their self-care management skills through educational activities. The event held on February 10th, and 11th in the Hamad Town Youth Centre was organised by the Bahrain Diabetes Society in collaboration with local healthcare facilities and

community organisations, including our Diabetes Mobile Unit.

The RCSI Bahrain Nursing Year 4 students, supervised by qualified nurses, joined the group of volunteers made up of a number of healthcare practitioners from various hospitals in Bahrain. Over the course of the event, the volunteers delivered a fun interactive programme to a group of 80 children about blood glucose monitoring, preparing and administering insulin, injection site rotation, carbohydrate count, and managing hypo/hyperglycaemia through songs, games, and activities.

RCSI Bahrain President, Professor Sameer Ootom, commented on the collaboration: "RCSI Bahrain's longstanding partnership with the Bahrain Diabetes Society and our commitment towards the national health programme of Bahrain, enable our vol-

unteers from the Diabetes Mobile Unit to actively contribute and participate in educating young people about the health risks and management of diabetes. I am proud of our senior nursing students and their current and future contribution to diabetes management in the community."

Through the partnership between BDS and RCSI Bahrain, the Diabetes Mobile Unit of the university played an active role in this year's camp. RCSI Bahrain Lecturer in Nursing and Nursing Year 1 Level Director, Danah Smith developed a training programme for the Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp volunteers, which was delivered on campus on February 4th, in collaboration with the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health and Bahrain Diabetes Society Vice President, Dr Mariam Al-Hajri and a number of BDS healthcare team leaders.

Bhavans - Bahrain Indian School donates to earthquake victims



BIS team with Turkish Ambassador

TDT | Manama

To support and assist the affected families of the deadly earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the Management, staff, and students of BIS joined together to reach out with timely help.

BIS team comprising Director Ritu Verma, Principal Saji Jacob, and students representatives visited the Turkish Embassy and met Büyükelçinin Özgeçmisi, Turkish Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain to express the condolences. They donated \$1325 to The

Disaster and Emergency Management in order to help the victims of Turkey who are surviving in horrific situations.

The ambassador thanked the team profusely and requested for prayers and help for the country.

Director, Himanshu Verma, expressed his gratitude to the students, staff, and parents for raising the fund, donating and standing with them at the time of their dire need.

Students and Staff observed one-minute silence during the morning assembly for bestowing peace and wellness to the affected nations.

ISF Bahrain 2024 logo unveiled



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa attends the event

TDT | Manama

Under the Patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, The International School Sports Federation (ISF) - Gymnasiaide Bahrain 2024 logo was officially launched on Monday.

The logo was launched in a ceremony at the Bahrain National Theater in the presence of a number of senior officials, ambassadors and foreign heads of missions residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

His Highness affirmed the

Kingdom's readiness to host the largest sports event in terms of the number of participants in October 2024, stressing that this event is made possible due to the generous care accorded to the youth and sports sector by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

His Highness expressed hope that the event would contribute to accentuating new school talents that support sporting clubs and the national team, and further achieve sports-related goals. He stressed that Bahrain's hosting of this event is an extension of the outstanding successes of the Kingdom's record in organising international sporting events.

His Highness commended the cooperation of all concerned

authorities and their efforts in making this event a success.

Ishaq Abdullah Ishaq, Chairman of the Executive Committee for ISF Gymnasiaide 2024, praised the continuous support for athletes and the sports sector in Bahrain, stressing that it is a source for motivation to sports development efforts. He stated that this sports event will enhance the presence of the sports industry as a key element in the social and economic development of the Kingdom, and invest in today's youth to be part of this change by promoting sports culture within educational institutions as one of the main and supporting stations for them, thus to consolidate the global status reached by Bahraini athletes.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee for ISF Gymnasiaide 2024 explained the elements of the logo identity for ISF Bahrain 2024. The two shades of blue represent the literal translation of the word "Al-Bahrain", which means: the two seas. He added that the design is inspired by the waves of the sea and includes four athletes used to highlight the four major pillars of the ISF.

He noted that the identity uses Arabic calligraphy and pointed out that the 25 triangles surrounding the calligraphy have been extracted from the ISF brand to represent the 25 sports of the ISF Gymnasiaide Bahrain 2024 games.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa arrives for the event

Khalid bin Hamad handball league semis set for throw-off

● Al Shabab take on Al Ahli in game one of their best-of-three series tonight

● Defending champs Al Najma begin final four battle tomorrow against Al Ettifaq

TDT | Manama

The Golden Square semi-finals of the 2022/2023 Khalid bin Hamad Bahrain Handball League get underway tonight.

Defending champions Al Najma spearhead the final four line-up and will take on Al Ettifaq, while Al Shabab will play Al Ahli in the other series.

Both match-ups are set to be held in best-of-three format.

Shabab and Ahli get action underway this evening with game one of their Golden Square clash. It is scheduled for a 7.15pm start. Game two will then be held on Sunday, to be followed by game three, if needed, on Thursday next week.

Meanwhile, Najma and Ettifaq begin their head-to-head battle tomorrow. Their game one encounter is also set for a 7.15pm throw-off. Game two



Najma are the three-time defending league champions and are gunning for an historic fourth successive national crown

will then be held on Monday, with the decisive third game, if needed, on Friday next week.

Najma are the three-time defending league champions and are gunning for an historic fourth successive national crown.

They booked their place in the semi-finals after finishing atop the league table at the end of the preliminary round with a 9-0-1 win-draw-loss record in 10 games. Ettifaq were the fourth seeds with an impressive eight wins in their 10 matches with no draws.

Like Ettifaq, Shabab finished the preliminaries with eight victories and two losses. Ahli, on the other hand, registered seven wins, two draws and one loss to claim their final standing on the table.

Rotax karting battles hot up at BIKC

Nasser Nass, Adam Awan and Omar Alderayan claim back-to-back wins on penultimate weekend of Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge

● Gracie Grantham and Mohammed Alhasan share the spoils in Junior MAX class

● Muhammad Wally and Fahad Alkhaled take a win apiece amongst Senior MAX competitors

TDT | Manama

Nasser Nass, Adam Awan and Omar Alderayan all claimed back-to-back victories in the sixth and seventh rounds of the 2022/2023 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC), held at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir, the world-class grassroots motorsport facility at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

Nasser won both Finals in the Mini MAX category, while Adam triumphed in both Micro MAX Finals. Alderayan followed suit by taking both Final sprints in the DD2 MAX class.

Also emerging triumphant over the weekend were Gracie Grantham and Mohammed Alhasan, who shared the spoils in the Junior MAX class; as well as Muhammad Wally and Fahad Alkhaled, who both emerged victorious amongst the Senior MAX competitors.

The racing in the penultimate weekend of the current BRMC campaign was held along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track. The BRMC is organised by BIKC and BIC, in cooperation with the



Winners from round seven on the podium at BIKC

Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF) and Bahrain Karting Commission (BKC).

In round six, Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa topped the Mini MAX Qualifying timesheet to claim pole for their Pre-Final, but Nasser was then able to claim first place in that race, 2.007 seconds ahead of Shaikh Ahmed. In the Final, Nasser and Shaikh Ahmed were once again engaged in a tight battle, with Nasser defending his position at the front all throughout the nine laps to win in eight minutes 53.065s. Shaikh Ahmed settled for the runner-up spot 0.578s back, while Vic Van Campenhout came third 5.312s adrift.

In the Micro MAX class, Ali Almoayed set the Qualifying pace but Adam raced to the win in the Pre-Final. Adam then rode his momentum into the Final, winning over nine laps in 9:25.074 with a 2.917s gap ahead of Ali. Tariq Soofi was third 3.495s back.

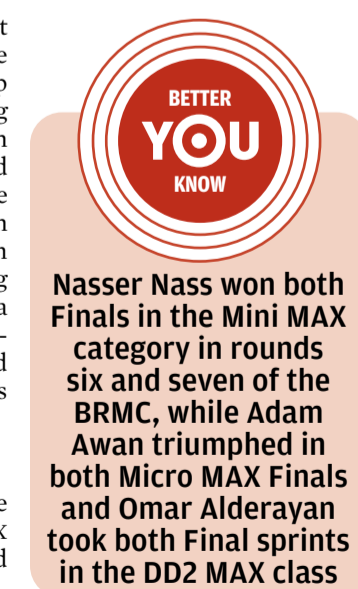
Gracie was in top form in the

Junior MAX category, taking first place in both Qualifying and the Pre-Final. She then wrapped up a perfect round by inheriting the win in the 15-lap Final with a time of 13:36.165. Gracie had originally crossed the finish line in second place with Alhasan in first, but Alhasan was given a 10-second penalty, dropping him to fifth on the order. Luca Houghton was the eventual runner-up 5.037s from Gracie, and Jaber Alsabah came third 13.521s off the winner's mark.

Fine showing

Wally also enjoyed a fine showing in the Senior MAX class, topping Qualifying and then winning the Pre-Final. Then, in the 15-lap Final, Wally put in a masterful performance, taking a pole-to-flag victory in 13:34.420. Leen Alarifi was in second 4.883s adrift, while Alkhaled completed the podium 5.627s from first.

In the DD2 MAX category, it was a two-horse race between Alderayan and Abdulla Jaweed,



Nasser Nass won both Finals in the Mini MAX category in rounds six and seven of the BRMC, while Adam Awan triumphed in both Micro MAX Finals and Omar Alderayan took both Final sprints in the DD2 MAX class

who out-duelled his rival in Qualifying. But in the Pre-Final, Alderayan took first place by 0.410s, and repeated his success in the Final, this time beating Jaweed by 5.683s over 15 laps.

The sixth round of the BRMC was followed by another action-packed event the following



Karters compete during the seventh round

day at BIKC in round seven.

Shaikh Ahmed and Nasser were once again battling for top honours amongst the Mini MAX runners, and Shaikh Ahmed got the better finish in Qualifying. In the Pre-Final, however, Nasser won ahead of Rashid Hilal, before claiming the Final ahead of Shaikh Ahmed in 8:56.454. Shonal Kunimal completed the podium finishers.

In the Micro MAX, Adam was in front all the way, winning both Qualifying and the Pre-Final and then taking the nine-lap Final in 9:24.616, enjoying a 5.058s gap ahead of Ali.

In the Junior MAX category, Luca clinched pole for the Pre-Final but was pipped to the finish by Alhasan by a mere 1.551s. That set the stage for a thrilling Final, with Luca taking the win only to lose it post-race due to a five-second penalty, promoting Alhasan to first. Alhasan had a winning time of 13:32.443 over 15 laps, with Luca classified 3.481s behind as the runner-up. Saqer Almousherji

came third 5.117s back.

The Senior MAX class saw Muhammad Wally take pole for the Pre-Final but Alkhaled later won that race. Alkhaled then triumphed in the 15-lap Final, taking the chequered flag in 13:32.644—a narrow 1.490s ahead of Wally. Leen Alarifi claimed the last podium step 6.930s from the victor.

In the DD2 MAX category, Jaweed had again beaten Alderayan in Qualifying but the tables were turned in the Pre-Final, with Alderayan winning by 0.832s. Alderayan then completed his back-to-back wins for the weekend, taking the Final in 13:34.381 after 15 laps and Jaweed classified 12.713s behind.

At the end of both days of racing, the winners were presented their respective trophies in podium ceremonies attended by BIKC, BIC, BMF and BKC officials.

Only one round remains in the 2022/2023 BRMC season, with the grand finale scheduled for 17 March at BIKC.

Pourchaire, Saucy set testing pace

ART Grand Prix drivers top respective timesheets as F2, F3 pre-season testing kicks off at Bahrain International Circuit

● Theo Pourchaire leads 22-car F2 field with best lap of 1:42.165 under lights

● Gregoire Saucy tops 30-car F3 classification with 1:47.563 mark in afternoon

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Theo Pourchaire and Gregoire Saucy topped their respective timesheets yesterday on the first day of pre-season testing in the FIA Formula 2 Championship and FIA Formula 3 Championship at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

Pourchaire set the overall pace to spearhead a highly competitive field of F2 runners, while Saucy had the fastest time on the combined timesheet amongst the younger aspirants of F3—putting ART Grand Prix at the front of the pack in both Formula 1 feeder series.

The day's fastest laps were set during the second sessions along BIC's 5.412-kilometre track, held under cooler temperatures and track conditions. Twenty-two



Theo Pourchaire in action during yesterday's morning F2 test

cars hit the tarmac for F2 while 30 tested in F3.

Testing continues today with a second day of alternating sessions. F3 will be the first to go out in the morning from 9am to 11.30am, and then again in the afternoon from 2.30pm to 5pm. F2's schedule on track will be from 11.45am to 2.15pm and then again from 5.15pm to 7.45pm.

Pourchaire was the fastest man overall in both of yesterday's F2 sessions. He set his best time of one minute 42.165 seconds late in his evening run under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights. Pourchaire had earlier also registered the quickest lap of 1:45.226 in F2's morning test.

Second overall for the day was Richard Verschoor of Van Amersfoort Racing with a lap of 1:42.293. Arthur Leclerc of DAMS was third-fastest on 1:42.471, while Ralph Boschung of Campos Racing came fourth with a best lap of 1:42.569 and Ayumu Iwasa of DAMS fifth on 1:42.669. Enzo Fittipaldi (1:42.739) of Rodin Carlin, Jack Doohan (1:42.753) and Jehan Daruvala (1:42.766) of MP Motorsport completed the overall top eight—all from the evening session.

In the morning, Daruvala (1:45.574) was classified behind Porchaire, with Boschung (1:45.652) going third.

Meanwhile, in yesterday's F3 sessions, Saucy set the best in



Testing continues today with a second day of alternating sessions. The tests at BIC will be the only on-track running for F2 and F3 before the start of their 2023 seasons at the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix next month



Gregoire Saucy on track in F3 testing at BIC

Frederick was classified fourth with a top time of 1:48.136, while Zak O'Sullivan of PREMA came fifth on 1:48.162. The Hitech Pulse-Eight pair of Luke Browning (1:48.206) and Gabriele Mini (1:48.214) were sixth and seventh fastest, followed by Dino Beganovic (1:48.279) who made it all three PREMA cars in the top eight.

During the morning, Saucy was followed on the session's timesheet by Taylor Bernard (1:49.199) of Jenzer Motorsport and O'Sullivan (1:49.448).

This week's testing action continues until tomorrow and

it is crucial for the F2 and F3 teams and ace pilots, as it will be the only on-track running they have ahead of their upcoming campaigns.

F2 and F3 will both be kicking off their 2023 seasons at BIC in support of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix from 3 to 5 March. They will each hold two races during the F1 race weekend, along with practices and qualifying. Both series' Sprint Races will take place on the Saturday with the Feature Races to follow on Sunday, while practice and qualifying are scheduled for Friday.

Luthfallah heroics send Ahli into HM the King's Cup final

● Al Ahli's Bahrain international goalkeeper makes two saves, scores clincher in 4-1 penalty shootout win over Riffa

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Al Ahli barged through to the final of this year's His Majesty the King's Cup football tournament following a thrilling 4-1 penalty shootout victory over league champions Riffa last night at the Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town.

Goalkeeper Ebrahim Luthfallah was the hero for Ahli in the shootout, saving two of Riffa's spot kicks and then converting the clincher.

Komail Al Aswad and Abdullah Al Hashash each had a brace for their respective sides in regular time, and the score remained deadlocked at 2-2 after extra-time.

Ahli now head to the title-deciding match where they will face off with Al Hala, who defeated Manama 2-1 in extra-time in the other semi-final played on Monday. The final has yet to be scheduled by the Bahrain Football Association.

In the shootout, Luthfallah helped Ahli take a commanding 3-0 lead after saving the shots of Al Aswad and Ali Haram, while teammates Jamal Rashid, Vinicius Vargas Dos Santos and



Riffa's Komail Al Aswad dribbles the ball past Al Ahli's Vinicius Vargas Dos Santos during their match last night

Abbas Ayyad all scored. Lazar Dordevic then gave Riffa a lifeline at 1-3, but then Luthfallah closed the match out with his winning goal against Riffa's Abdulkarim Al Fardan.

Earlier, Al Aswad put Riffa ahead on the stroke of half-time after teammate Amin Fared Al Shanaina was taken down in the box by Ahli's Baqer Mohammed Al Asfoor. Al Aswad stepped up to take the spot kick against Luthfallah, and he made no mistake with his effort, which he sent into the bottom-left corner of goal. That was enough to send Riffa into the half with the single-goal advantage.

After the re-start, it didn't take long for Ahli to level the scores as Al Hashash found the net just 12 minutes in.

Al Hashash hit a short stab

from the face of goal after a cross supplied by Hassan Madan from the left went unclaimed by Ahli teammate Marcolino Neto Silva in the area. The ball rolled towards goal and Al Hashash was at the right place at the right time, needing only to tap the ball into the net.

That set the stage for Al Aswad's second, which was a low effort from just outside the six-yard box off a pass from Al Shanaina. It was a poorly hit shot but Al Aswad did enough to send the ball into the bottom-left corner.

Al Hashash then made it 2-2 for Ahli two minutes from the end of regulation, scoring following a scramble in the box off a rebound, after his first effort was stopped by Riffa's Al Fardan.

Najma storm back to beat Dar Kulaib in five-setter

● Al Najma complete round-of-six playoffs with 9-1 win-loss record for first place, Dar Kulaib second on a 7-3 mark

● Al Najma now face off with Muharraq in Golden Square semis, while Dar Kulaib take on defending champs Al Ahli

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Al Najma stormed back to claim a thrilling 3-2 (18-25, 25-23, 22-25, 26-24, 15-7) victory over Dar Kulaib last night in a clash of the titans that wrapped up the round-of-six playoffs in the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

The game was played at a packed Isa bin Rashid Arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

With Dar Kulaib on the verge of victory leading 24-21 in the fourth set, Najma came alive and scored the next five points to send the match into the tie-break.

There, they rode their momentum and took a 10-5 lead and never looked back.

The result earned Najma



Al Najma's Fadhel Abbas meets Dar Kulaib's Juan Barrera at the net during their match last night

the top seed at the end of the play-offs with a 9-1 win-loss record. Dar Kulaib finish with a 7-3 mark to claim the second seeds, while Al Ahli are third with a similar 7-3 record followed by Muharraq with a 4-6 mark. Al Nasser (3-7) and Nabih Saleh (0-10) complete the top-six standings.

Playing key roles for the victors yesterday were Estonian professional Kevin Saar, and Bahraini stars Ali Ebrahim, Fadhel Abbas, Hassan Dahi and Mohammed Habib, to

name a few. Leading the way for Dar Kulaib in the loss were Argentinian professional Juan Barrera, along with Bahraini talents Mohammed Yaqoob, Ali Habib, Mahmoud Abdulwahed and libero Hussain Sultan, among others.

Najma now head into the Golden Square semi-finals with a twice-to-beat advantage as they face off with Muharraq. Dar Kulaib, meanwhile, play a best-of-three series against Al Ahli.