

**Bahrain set for World Cup qualifiers**

Kingdom's senior men's national football team depart today for Abha, Saudi Arabia for opening match against Yemen tomorrow | P12

WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER, 2023  
220 FILS  
ISSUE NO.9746

WORLD **6** Moving vulnerable Gaza hospital patients 'impossible': WHO

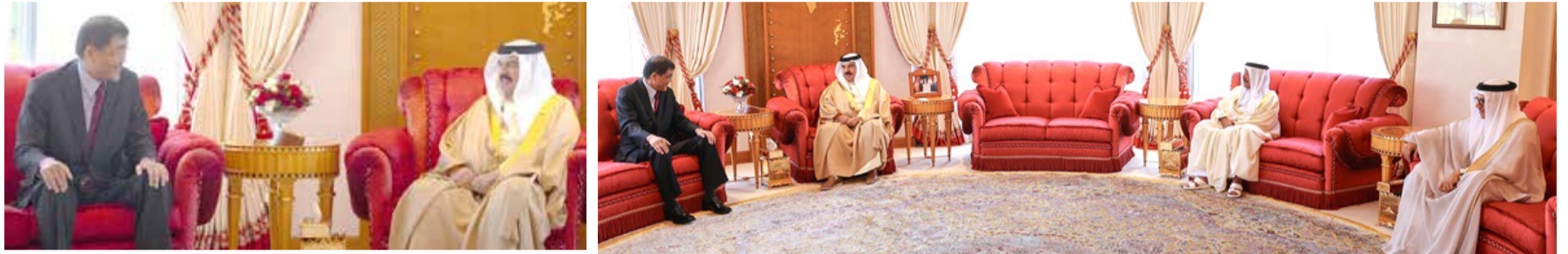


Sophie Turner returns to social media **8** CELEBS

BUSINESS **5** AUB offers special financing facilities at Cityscape Bahrain

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**HM King hails growing Bahrain-Japan ties**



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received HE Miyamoto Masayuki, Japanese Ambassador to Bahrain. HM King Hamad praised the close Bahrain-Japan relations and their development in many sectors. HM the King commended the ambassador's efforts in advancing the partnership, wishing him further success.

# Development projects for economic growth

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister launches Cityscape Bahrain 2023

**Biggest real estate annual exhibition in Kingdom featuring major projects worth more than \$8 billion**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, affirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to furthering its development by launching and implementing projects that support various industries, including the real estate sector, and boost the national economy.

HRH Prince Salman hailed the Kingdom's skilled, creative, and dedicated workforce for helping strengthen Bahrain's aspirations and global position as a host of international conferences and exhibitions.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he launched yesterday the second edition of Cityscape Bahrain 2023, at Exhibition World Bahrain, in Sakhir. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister was accompanied by a number of senior officials.

He highlighted the efforts



HRH Prince Salman touring Cityscape after the inaugural ceremony on Tuesday.

of Team Bahrain in achieving national accomplishments and furthering the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Cityscape Bahrain is the biggest real estate event in Bahrain, featuring real estate projects worth more than \$8 billion.

In its second edition, Cityscape Bahrain 2023 has more than 58 real estate projects, including public sector entities and local and global private large real estate developers.

The exhibition provides a wide-range of opportunities for investors, architects, engineering consultants, contractors,

investors, and property buyers. It also includes a number of investment opportunities presented by the Government Land Investment Platform.

**Economic diversification**

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised that the Kingdom is diversifying its economy through innovation and multi-sector development.

He noted that the sector is steadily growing due to a comprehensive, integrated regulatory and legislative system, and the various investment opportunities provided by the Kingdom, particularly in the real estate sector.

HRH Prince Salman expressed gratitude to those responsible for the exhibition, wishing them further success.

His Royal Highness commended Cityscape Bahrain for enhancing the Kingdom's position as a global investment destination, with real estate being one of the vital sectors driving economic growth.

**Vital sector**

The President of the Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB), and the Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Preparation and Organisation of Cityscape Bahrain 2023, HE

“Cityscape Bahrain enhances the Kingdom's position as a global investment destination, with real estate being one of the vital sectors driving economic growth.”

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, affirmed that the Kingdom's real estate sector is a vital sector that drives economic growth, thanks to the support of HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HE Shaikh Salman highlighted the importance of Cityscape Bahrain as a destination for major real estate companies to showcase the Kingdom's top innovative projects that benefit all.

He noted that the Kingdom's real estate sector is based on a solid legislative base protecting all rights, which contributed to Bahrain being a lucrative global destination for investment.

**Three Iraqi ministers resign after parliament speaker dismissal**

AFP | Baghdad

Three Iraqi ministers handed in their resignations to the government yesterday in protest at the “targeting” of the speaker of parliament, who was dismissed by the Supreme Court.

The ministers of culture, planning and industry said they saw “a flagrant violation of the constitution” in the decision of Iraq's top court to remove Mohamed al-Halbussi from his post, the Sunni Taqadam party said in a statement.

Halbussi was reelected as speaker in January 2022.

**Russian attacks increasing, says 'wary' Zelensky**

AFP | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that Russia was increasing its attacks across the front line, as Kyiv called for the West to boost weapons supplies ahead of winter.

Neither side has made any significant territorial gain for months, but both Zelensky and the Kremlin have denied the conflict has ground to a stalemate.

“The military reported an increase in the number of enemy assaults,” Zelensky said in a post on social media, with Russians attacking around the cities of Donetsk, Kupyansk and Avdiivka.

**Tragic death toll**

## 11,320 lives lost amid intense fighting in Gaza

AFP | Gaza

The Gaza government said yesterday the death toll from fighting between Israeli troops and their fighters in the Palestinian territory had reached 11,320.

The dead included 4,650 children and 3,145 women, according to the government, which has struggled to keep an exact

toll of the dead amidst intense urban combat in northern Gaza.

The head of the UN said yesterday he was “deeply disturbed by the horrible situation” in Gaza hospitals, as the facilities struggle without power and with mounting numbers of decomposing bodies during the Israeli bombardment of the territory.

“The Secretary-General is deeply disturbed by the horrible



People look through a metal fence as the body of a child killed in Israeli bombardment is being taken for burial, outside the morgue at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. (AFP)

situation and dramatic loss of life in several hospitals in Gaza,” Antonio Guterres's spokesman said in a statement.

“In the name of humanity, the Secretary-General calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.”

Hamas denounced Israeli army claims that a discarded baby bottle, makeshift toilet, and bullet-scarred motorbike were

evidence they held hostages inside a Gaza hospital.

On Monday evening, army spokesman Daniel Hagari said troops “found signs that indicate that Hamas held hostages” in the basement of Al-Rantisi children's hospital in Gaza City.

The Gaza health ministry said the objects merely showed the basement was used by residents fleeing fighting.





# Pledge to double efforts for economic expansion

## Edict on human rights committee

TDT | Manama

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister launches Jewellery Arabia and Scent Arabia 2023 exhibitions



HRH Prince Salman at the event's opening ceremony

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, affirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to doubling its efforts in expanding economic opportunities for citizens.

He emphasised that the Kingdom continues to strengthen its position worldwide, as a result of its state-of-the-art exhibition facilities, the competitiveness of its national workforce, streamlined services, and its impactful creativity and innovation envi-

ronment.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted Team Bahrain's efforts in ensuring the Kingdom's progress towards its development goals, led by the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he launched yesterday the Jewellery Arabia and Scent Arabia 2023 exhibitions, at the Exhibition World Bahrain, in Sakhir. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister was accompanied by a number of senior officials.

His Royal Highness commended the efforts and dedica-

tion of the exhibition organisers and noted the historic success of these exhibitions over the past 30 years. He expressed his best wishes for the success of this year's exhibition.

During the visit, His Royal Highness was briefed on the exhibition halls of this year's competitive exhibition, which has contributed to developing the Kingdom's tourism sector.

### Public sector's commitment

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, HE Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, highlighted that the Kingdom's success in host-

ing the yearly Jewellery Arabia Exhibition and the Scent Arabia Exhibition reflects the public sector's commitment, led by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to support local and international exhibitions and their competitiveness.

HE Fakhro noted the importance of exhibitions and conferences in supporting the Kingdom's comprehensive development. He emphasised that Bahrain's national workforce continues to excel across various sectors, adding that the Kingdom's attractive environment has helped to hold major exhibitions and has supported trade

and economic activity.

### Innovative workshops

Jewellery Arabia 2023 includes a large collection of jewellery, watches, precious stones and other items from all over the world, in addition to a number of new participating brands in the exhibition. The exhibition also offers several events and a variety of innovative workshops.

Scent Arabia 2023 will also be held in conjunction with the Jewellery Arabia 2023. It is the first luxury perfumes exhibition in the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict (103) of 2023, amending Article (II) of Edict (35) of 2023, on establishing and forming the National Human Rights Committee, based on a proposal of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and following the approval of the Cabinet.

The edict stipulates the following:

#### Article (I)

The text of the first clause of the first paragraph of Article (II) of Edict (35) of 2023, shall be replaced with the following text:

"1- Undersecretary for Planning, Family Reconciliation and Alimony at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments."

#### Article (II)

A new clause (No. 6) shall be added to the first paragraph of Article (II) of Edict (35) of 2023, and the rest of the clauses shall be rearranged accordingly. A third paragraph shall be added to the same article, which reads as follows:

Article (II), first paragraph, clause no. 6:

"6- Director General of Legal Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

Article (II), third paragraph: "The committee shall choose a vice chairman from its members and entrust them with the duties of the chairman in the event of his absence."

Article (III): The Minister of Foreign Affairs shall implement the provisions of this edict.

## Asgharali exclusive launch of Sultan Perfume series at the Scent Arabia



Asgharali perfumes exclusively launches Sultan II and Sultan Aurum Spray at the Scent Arabia exhibition 2023. It's simply inspired fragrances allow you to experience the scents of royalty.

SULTAN AURUM EDP 100ML. presents a fragrance of floral oriental with a strong sense of aroma that hits with fresh and zesty orange, pineapple, apple, bergamot, peach, and green leaves. While the rich and floral heart Jasmin, Violet, Gourmand, Lily of the Valley, Rose gently leads you to the sophisticated luxury of Musk, Cashmeran, Sandalwood, Vanilla, and Orcanox. The fra-

**Sultan II and Sultan Aurum Spray are now available at Asgharali outlets in store and online (Instagram @ asgharalico and www. asgharali.com)**

grance arrives in a gold half armored bottle, truly a majestic fragrance for those who would be moved with a sense of royalty touch.

As for, SULTAN SPRAY-II 100ML Eau de Parfum, is an ode to a majestic line. Bloom-

ing with an oriental fragrance, with top notes of the freshest aromatic green apple and juicy pineapple - its signature heart note - accentuates the scent's top notes with Jasmine, Freesia, Magnolia, Rose, Lily of the valley, and blackcurrant, that lends a sweet, long-lasting trail of Patchouli, oak moss, gaic wood, cedarwood, amber, and musk. Sultan black casketed bottle makes it luxurious, elegant, and sophisticated.

Sultan II and Sultan Aurum Spray, now available at Asgharali outlets in store and online. Follow Asgharali on Instagram @asgharalico or visit the website: www.asgharali.com.

### Diwali greetings



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), visited Dr. Praful Vaidya and other members of the Indian diaspora and conveyed Diwali greetings.

### Courtesy visit



YMCA Bahrain delegation met Indian Ambassador HE Vinod K Jacob at his residence in Saar, and invited him to be the chief guest at the YMCA Christmas Carol at New Seasons Hall in Adhari Park at 7pm on December 9. The Ambassador accepted the invitation. YMCA Bahrain President Soman Baby is seen presenting flowers to Ambassador Jacob, in the presence of, from left, YMCA secretary Shibu Thomas, committee members Roy Idiculla, and Jiju Varghese and choir director Shajimon Christudas.



# Uproar as illegal car washers 'take over' parking spaces

Residents raise growing concerns against unauthorised parking restrictions in open grounds

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

Several individuals have reported being accosted by car washers who claim to regulate parking spaces and insist that parking is only permitted for those seeking their car washing services.

In an increasingly common occurrence, residents have taken to a popular online platform to shed light on a growing issue concerning unauthorised car parking restrictions in open grounds.

Joel, a frustrated resident, shared his experience, stating, "Every morning on my way to work at 6:30 am, I encounter a random individual who insists that I can't park my car in what is essentially an open ground. This has become a daily incon-

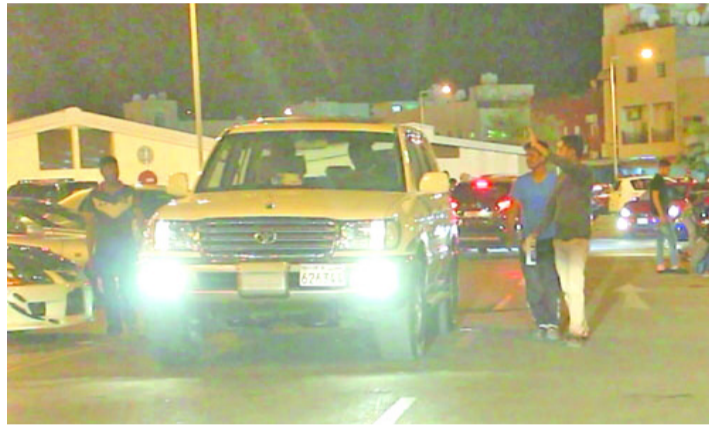
venience for me, and I am left questioning the legitimacy of such restrictions."

The prevalent belief among affected residents is that these car washers derive their income from washing cars in the vicinity. However, the actions of these individuals have raised questions about the authority they possess in deciding who can park where.

Residents argue that the parking spaces in question are public property, and no official signage prohibiting parking has been installed.

Khalid shared his personal experience online, stating, "A few weeks ago, I parked in an open ground in front of my office as I do every day. Out of nowhere, one of these car washers approached me and asked if I wanted him to wash my car. I declined his offer, but he

"I declined his offer, but he



Car washers stopping cars in parking lots

then informed me that I was not allowed to park there and that I would face consequences if I did not move my car. Concerned about potential damage to my vehicle, I reluctantly relocated it," he added.

## Assertive behaviour

While some residents have attributed these encounters to expats, suggesting that they may exhibit more assertive behaviour, Abood offered an alternative perspective.



The residents are eager for the local authorities to promptly resolve the issue by clearly defining parking regulations in open areas and implementing measures to guarantee unrestricted access to parking spaces for everyone.

He explained that many of these car washers are low-

income earners whose primary goal is survival. They often approach drivers to offer their services and, in some cases, provide advice about parking restrictions to prevent fines or potential risks in certain areas like Juffair and Gudaibiya, where roadside parking can be problematic.

The Daily Tribune attempted to engage with the car washers situated near parking lots, but they remained unresponsive and said, "Please, we are poor, and we don't want to go back to our country."

As concerns continue to mount, residents hope that local authorities will address the issue promptly by clarifying the parking regulations in open grounds and taking appropriate measures to ensure that parking spaces are accessible to all without unnecessary restrictions.

## Court clears husband of BD2,000 alimony arrears

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Sharia Court of Appeal overturned a ruling that obligated a husband to pay more than BD2,000 as arrears of alimony to his ex-wife.

The husband proved that he had paid the required alimony, but his ex-wife tried to claim that the amounts he paid were the deferred dowry, not alimony.

About details, the husband's lawyer said that his ex-wife filed a lawsuit against him demanding him to pay arrears of alimony despite the fact that he did pay through bank transfers.

She, however, claimed before the court of first instance that those amounts were the deferred dowry. The court ruled to obligate the husband to pay more than BD2,000 as a total alimony since 2019. The husband



refused and appealed the ruling before the Court of Appeal.

## Deficiencies

In her argument before the court of appeal, the lawyer stated that the first-degree ruling was marred by deficiencies in reasoning and her client, the husband, was acquitted and the claimant must prove otherwise with evidence and witnesses.

The lawyer provided evidence that her client regularly transferred a monthly alimony since 2019, and the court

of first instance did not rely on those transfers to clear his guilt. In addition to the fact that her client's witnesses and some of the defendant's witnesses acknowledged that her client have been paying alimony on a monthly basis.

The court stated that the plaintiff proved that he paid the arrears of alimony via electronic transfers and the ex-wife's claim that the amounts were deferral of the dowry was not supported by evidence as well as the testimony she presented was insufficient.

The court indicated that the appeal is based on a valid and worthy reason for acceptance and ruled to cancel the first instance ruling obligating the plaintiff to pay the outstanding alimony and to reject the ex-wife's case.

## Woman acquitted of embezzling funds and equipment in fashion store case

TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has acquitted a woman of charges related to embezzlement of funds and equipment from a well-known fashion store.

The court found that she was the actual owner of the stores, while the plaintiff was merely a partner.

The alleged victim claimed that the accused had misappropriated goods and revenues from the stores over a period of seven years. However, the court expressed doubts about the incident, stating that the plaintiff failed to prove ownership of the confiscated items or the amount of money allegedly embezzled.

Furthermore, the court noted that the plaintiff also failed to establish ownership of the stolen items in the civil lawsuit. The court questioned why,

if the accused was managing the establishment, the plaintiff did not demand the revenues throughout her tenure of over seven years. Due to these reasons, the court cast doubt on the incident and the ownership claim of the alleged victim, leading to the acquittal of the accused.

The plaintiff had filed a lawsuit claiming that he was a partner in a specialised fashion establishment dealing with dress details, and that the accused, who is the wife of his partner, managed several branches in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He alleged that she continued to manage the stores for nearly five years before deciding to replace her and appoint a new manager.

## Inventory check

He further claimed that the new manager began an inven-

tory check of the stores, only to discover that the accused had taken goods from the stores and embezzled unspecified amounts of money. It later became evident to him that the accused had been regularly embezzling the profits of the stores, taking advantage of her authorisation to oversee all the outlets.

The court reviewed the lawsuit and examined civil judgments that rejected the plaintiff's claims, which also accused the defendant of failing to pay profits and exploiting her authorisation to manage the stores by not paying the employees' salaries.

It was revealed that the lawsuit filed against her was dismissed due to the plaintiff's failure to provide evidence supporting his accusations and the absence of substantiated claims of embezzlement, as he had alleged.

## Tamkeen kicks off Global Entrepreneurship Week

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" kicked off the annual Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW), an initiative of the Global Entrepreneurship Network "GEN" which will take place from November 14-21.

This year the lineup features over 30 events focusing on promising key economic sectors. Events include specialised workshops, panel discussions and a wide-range of dialogues with experts and specialists representing various sectors, as well as exclusive fashion shows organised by a group of Bahraini creatives



Esam Hamad

in cooperation with partners and supporters of the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The GEW initiative brings together entrepreneurs, investors, decision-makers, and other stakeholders to exchange experiences.

## iGA holds training workshop for civil researchers and surveyors

TDT | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) held a workshop to enhance the skills of 61 surveyors ahead of the launch of the trial phase of the Household Income & Expenditure Survey 2024.

iGA Deputy Chief Executive of Statistics and Population Registry, Duaa Sultan Alharban said that this workshop aims to familiarize participants with the survey and train them on using research tools. She noted the survey's accuracy in measuring living standards and the role it plays in the formulation of developmental, economical, and social plans, as well as supporting policymakers in the Kingdom.

She added that, in line with



Participants in the workshop

the international best practices, the project will be implemented on a random sampling of Bahraini and non-Bahraini families across the Kingdom's governorates. It will also take into consideration the social and economic factors of families to ensure a high level of credibility.

The workshop focused on

training pillars such as providing a detailed brief on the importance of the survey, its impact on Bahraini society, and its objectives. It also shed light on the tasks of the survey's workers and educated them on what instructions to follow throughout.

The legality and confidentiality of the data was also highlight-

ed. The researchers received training on how to fill in detail the survey's application forms, electronic participation in the survey, and how to input the information correctly.

## Surveys

The iGA has regularly carried out the Household Income & Expenditure Surveys over the past decades, which are effective tools for economical and social planning, in line with its commitment to providing accurate and trusted data to support decision-makers. The first survey was launched in 1974-1975. This was followed by a second in 1983-1984, a third in 1994-1995, a fourth in 2005-2006, and a fifth in 2014-2015.



# Oil Minister opens Mideast corrosion exhibition-forum

TDI | Manama

**H**E Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, Oil and Environment Minister and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, inaugurated the 18th Middle East Corrosion Conference and Exhibition (MECC), with the participation of more than 500 senior officials, specialists, and those interested from various countries.

The 18th MECC is co-organised by the Bahrain Society of Engineers (BSE) and the Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP) Dhahran-Saudi Arabia Chapter, in cooperation with the Bahraini Ministry of Oil and Environ-



HE Dr. Bin Daina presides over the ribbon-cutting ceremony

ment, supported by Saudi Aramco and several specialised global oil companies.

The minister expressed his pride in Bahrain's hosting of the MECC since its launch in 1979, which affirms Bahrain's reputa-

tion for holding various international events that contribute to the exchange of expertise and increase positive outcomes.

He pointed out the importance of discussing metal corrosion, in which the geographical loca-

tion, climatic conditions, and the significant use of metal in various sectors, including pipelines, bridges, buildings, aircraft, and electrical appliances, are the most prominent factors in it.

Dr. Bin Daina emphasised the

importance of reviewing modern studies and technology of corrosion and rust prevention methods to contribute to the reduction of risk and cost.

Wail A. Al Jaafari, Executive Vice President of Techni-

cal Services of Saudi Aramco, praised the organisation of this conference since its launch and affirmed that it became a hub for strengthening cooperation in the oil industry.

## Partnership

He added that the conference reflects 45 years of partnership between Saudi Aramco and BSE, reflecting the commitment and cooperation of both parties to face common challenges.

Al Jaafari said the Fourth Industrial Revolution Centre (4IR) of Saudi Aramco works to provide solutions for metal corrosion, and it monitors 6.5 million data points.

## AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BAHRAIN BRANCH

### Condensed statement of financial position (unaudited)

As at 30 June 2023

	30 June 2023 (Unaudited) BD	Restated 31 December 2022 (Unaudited) BD
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Property and equipment	789	1,575
Right-of-use assets	11,032	19,306
Investment securities:		
Financial investments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI)	20,583,580	21,094,770
Financial investments at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)	20,015,285	19,197,842
Insurance contract assets	185,585	43,837
Reinsurance contract assets	57,516	92,345
Prepayments and other receivables	374,843	499,981
Cash and bank balances	2,387,692	1,914,140
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>43,616,322</b>	<b>42,863,796</b>
<b>HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Head Office Funds</b>		
Head Office account	9,102,676	8,652,038
Cumulative change in fair value of securities	(1,410,674)	(1,459,134)
<b>Total Head Office Funds</b>	<b>7,692,002</b>	<b>7,192,904</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Provision for employees' end of service indemnity	19,762	16,333
Insurance contract liabilities	33,879,084	33,268,680
Reinsurance contract liabilities	1,340,785	1,207,192
Accounts payable	677,574	1,158,831
Lease liability	7,115	19,856
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>35,924,320</b>	<b>35,670,892</b>
<b>Total Head Office Funds and liabilities</b>	<b>43,616,322</b>	<b>42,863,796</b>

Country Manager  
**George Kotsalos**

Auditors  
**Deloitte & Touche (M.E.)**

### About MetLife

MetLife, Inc. (NYSE: MET), through its subsidiaries and affiliates ("MetLife"), is one of the largest life insurance companies in the world. Founded in 1868, MetLife is a global provider of life insurance, annuities, employee benefits and asset management. Serving approximately 100 million customers, MetLife has operations in more than 40 markets and holds leading positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

For more information, visit [www.metlife.com](http://www.metlife.com).

### Condensed statement of profit or loss (unaudited)

For the six month period ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Unaudited BD	Restated 2022 Unaudited BD
Insurance revenue	3,523,645	3,212,578
Insurance service expenses	(2,572,290)	(2,418,450)
Insurance service result before reinsurance contracts held	951,355	794,128
Net expense from reinsurance contracts held	(252,802)	(665,807)
<b>Insurance service result</b>	<b>698,553</b>	<b>128,321</b>
Interest income from financial investments at FVTOCI	393,996	448,500
Realised and unrealised gain/(loss) on financial investments at FVTPL	1,594,324	(4,521,475)
Other investment income - net	54,457	20,768
<b>Net investment income/(expenses)</b>	<b>2,042,777</b>	<b>(4,052,207)</b>
Finance (expenses)/income from insurance contracts issued	(2,132,270)	5,731,518
Finance (expenses)/income from reinsurance contracts held	(3,282)	52,861
<b>Net insurance finance (expenses)/income</b>	<b>(2,135,552)</b>	<b>5,784,379</b>
<b>Net insurance and investment result</b>	<b>605,778</b>	<b>1,860,493</b>
Other (expenses)/ income	(14,991)	82,354
Other operating expenses	(430,067)	(284,365)
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>160,720</b>	<b>1,658,482</b>
<b>Condensed statement of comprehensive income (unaudited)</b>		
For the six month period ended 30 June 2023		
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>160,720</b>	<b>1,658,482</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income/(loss):</b>		
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>		
Net changes in the fair value of financial investments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI)	48,460	(2,392,242)
<b>Total other comprehensive income/(loss) for the period</b>	<b>48,460</b>	<b>(2,392,242)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period</b>	<b>209,180</b>	<b>(733,760)</b>

## Bahrain-US cooperation



HE Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, received Steven C. Bondy, Ambassador of the US to Bahrain. The meeting discussed bilateral security cooperation programmes and ways to enhance joint work. The minister commended the strategic relations between the two countries. Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hasan Al Hasan, Chief of Public Security attended the meeting.

## Bahraini-British military meeting



HE Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Minister of Defence Affairs, led the kingdom's delegation to the meeting of the Bahraini-British Joint Military Committee. Kashif Shandy, Chairman of the Middle East Team at the UK Ministry of Defence headed the British delegation. The meeting discussed ways to advance military cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

## Safe camping season



As part of the traffic campaigns to ensure the success of the current camping season, the General Directorate of Traffic called upon all campers to follow traffic rules on roads leading and in the camping areas to prevent accidents and protect general safety. The Director of Operations and Traffic Control, Col. Adel Al Dossairi, said there would be traffic deployments and campaigns to ensure campers adhere to speed limits, avoid stunt driving and follow four-wheeler motorbike driving rules, especially in the evening. Drivers should be cautious of pedestrians, especially children.

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Tel: +973 17 556608 - Fax: +973 17 311229



## Mumtalakat names new directors for Edamah

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of Bahrain, announced the appointment of a new Board of Directors for its real estate arm, Bahrain Real Estate Investment (Edamah), yesterday.



Shaikh Abdulla

Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa has been named as the Chairman of the board, and the members include Shaikh Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Hisham Ahmad Alrayes, Talal Shafeeq Al Theyabi, Dr. Maher Abdulaziz Alshaer, Rasha Mohammed Sabkar, Andrew Day, and Nasser Hasan Al Jalahma.

Expressing gratitude for the appointment, Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Mumtalakat and Chairman of Edamah, thanked the former Chairman, Khalid Al Rumaihi, and the former

Board members for their dedicated efforts during their term. Shaikh Abdulla welcomed the newly appointed Board of Directors, highlighting their extensive knowledge and expertise. He emphasized their role in guiding and supporting Edamah's management team in the upcoming phase and strengthening Edamah's contribution to the diversification of the national economy. This collaboration involves leading development and real estate projects in partnership with both public and private sector stakeholders.

## Al Salam Bank launches 'Al Salam Takaful'

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank has partnered with Solidarity Bahrain to launch "Al Salam Takaful", a comprehensive Shari'a-compliant insurance package.

Individuals will be able to benefit from fire, auto, travel, domestic helper, pleasure craft, personal accident insurance, group medical health for families, while corporations, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) will be provided with Takaful coverage for office comprehensive, performance bond, marine, and group medical insurance.

The official launch ceremony

took place on Sunday at the Bank's headquarters, in the presence of Al Salam Bank's Board of Directors, Ashraf Bseisu - Group Chief Executive of Solidarity Group Holding, Jawad Mohammed - Chief Executive Officer of Solidarity Bahrain, and Executive Management members from both institutions.

Mohammed Buhijji, Head of Retail Banking at Al Salam Bank, said: "Clients and individuals interested in applying for a Shari'a-compliant insurance policy can complete the process instantly through the Self-Service Kiosks, by contacting the call center, or by visiting any branch."

## ASRY transforms ability to serve maritime sector by embracing cloud



The launch ceremony

TDT | Manama

Infor®, the industry cloud company, yesterday announced that Bahrain's Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Co. (ASRY) has gone live with Infor CloudSuite Industrial Enterprise, a powerful cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) system that is enabling the company to digitize its business while raising its efficiency, sustainability and ability to innovate.

The achievement was marked by a celebration at the Convention Center of Gulf Hotel Bahrain, Kingdom of Bahrain, on Oct. 24, with the presence of Wolfgang Kobek, Infor executive vice president of international, and Mazen Mohammed Matar, ASRY man-

aging director.

Through installing Infor CloudSuite Industrial Enterprise, ASRY will be able to keep track of orders involving thousands of specialist parts and components, both for servicing customers and for running and maintaining its own operations especially concerning its substantial scale and scope of business. ASRY works with more than 2,000 business partners and typically tracks around 60 to 100 ongoing projects at any one time.

# AUB offers special financing facilities at Cityscape Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank has announced its participation in the Cityscape Bahrain Exhibition and Conference, held from 14 to 16 November 2023 at Exhibition World Bahrain.

Cityscape Bahrain explores a number of pivotal issues, such as sustainable development, urban planning, and community-building initiatives that align with Bahrain Vision 2030's pillars of economic diversification, social welfare, and environmental sustainability.

AUB will be offering unmatched Sharia-compliant



Participants during the event

financing options to property buyers, including tenors extending up to 30 years, financing of up to 120% of property value, competitive profit rates, special waivers on charges, expedited


processing, and flexible financing amounts.

Representatives from the bank are present at the exhibition to assist visitors in matching their selected properties

with the best financing options available. The facilities will cover everything from construction to the purchasing of property or land, as well as properties classified as Social Housing.



Officials during the launch ceremony of "Al Salam Takaful"

 مركز إدارة السيولة المالية ش.م.ب. Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C.			INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED) At September 30, 2023				INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME (UNAUDITED) Nine-month period ended September 30, 2023			
	Unaudited September 30, 2023 US\$ '000	Audited 31 December 2022 US\$ '000	Three-month period ended September 30, 2023 Unaudited US\$ '000		2022 Unaudited US\$ '000		Nine-month period ended September 30, 2023 Unaudited US\$ '000		2022 Unaudited US\$ '000	
<b>ASSETS</b>					<b>INCOME</b>					
Cash and balances with banks	488	1,152	Income from:		Investment in sukuk		133	152	399	536
Due from banks	12,923	8,519	Due from banks		Due from banks		181	50	453	74
Investment in sukuk	11,188	11,170	Investment banking fee		Investment banking fee		314	202	852	610
Investment in equities and funds	4,293	4,293	Rental income		Rental income		12	32	1,080	119
Investment in real estate	19,421	19,421	Other income - net		Other income - net		312	312	940	933
Equipment	171	185	Operating income		Operating income		3	87	444	88
Other assets	596	2,125	Expenses		Expenses					
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>49,080</b>	<b>46,865</b>	Staff costs		Staff costs		(148)	(147)	(509)	(459)
<b>Liabilities and owners' equity</b>					Depreciation		(7)	(5)	(19)	(14)
<b>Liabilities</b>			General and administrative expenses		General and administrative expenses		(162)	(229)	(450)	(656)
Staff payables	771	773	<b>Operating expenses</b>		<b>Operating expenses</b>		(317)	(381)	(978)	(1,129)
Other liabilities	353	465	Net income for the period before net charge for expected credit losses		Net income for the period before net charge for expected credit losses		324	252	2,338	621
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,238</b>	Expected credit losses		Expected credit losses		-	(123)	(9)	(315)
<b>Owners' Equity</b>					Net income for the period		<b>324</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>306</b>
Share capital	59,039	59,039								
Accumulated losses	(17,521)	(19,850)								
Reserves	6,438	6,438								
<b>Total owners' equity</b>	<b>47,956</b>	<b>45,627</b>								
<b>Total liabilities and owners' equity</b>	<b>49,080</b>	<b>46,865</b>								
INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY (UNAUDITED) Nine-month period ended September 30, 2023										
					Reserves					
	Share capital US\$ '000	Statutory reserve US\$ '000	General reserve US\$ '000	Total reserves US\$ '000	Accumulated losses US\$ '000	Total owners' equity US\$ '000				
Balance at January 1, 2023 (Audited)	59,039	4,212	2,226	6,438	(19,850)	45,627				
Net income for the period	-	-	-	-	2,329	2,329				
Balance at September 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	59,039	4,212	2,226	6,438	(17,521)	47,956				
					Reserves					
	Share capital US\$ '000	Statutory reserve US\$ '000	General reserve US\$ '000	Total reserves US\$ '000	Accumulated losses US\$ '000	Total owners' equity US\$ '000				
Balance at January 1, 2022 (Audited)	59,039	4,046	2,226	6,272	(21,340)	43,971				
Net income for the period	-	-	-	-	306	306				
Balance at September 30, 2022 (Unaudited)	59,039	4,046	2,226	6,272	(21,034)	44,277				
INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED) Nine-month period ended September 30, 2023										
			Nine-month period ended September 30,							
	2023 Unaudited US\$ '000	2022 Unaudited US\$ '000								
Net cash flows generated from operating activities	3,301	3,866								
Net cash flows generated from investing activities	439	79								
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	3,740	3,945								
Cash and cash equivalents at January 1,	9,676	5,506								
Cash and cash equivalents at September 30,	13,416	9,451								
					Mohamed Al Sharif Chairman		Ameer Abdul Ghani Director		Bader Al Abbasi Acting Chief Executive Officer	
* These were extracted from the Consolidated Financial Statements on which Deloitte & Touche Middle East issued an unqualified opinion dated 13th November 2023 which are available on LMC website. * These Consolidated Financial Statements have been Authorized for issuance in accordance with a resolution of the board of Directors dated 13th November 2023. * Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C. (c) is licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as Wholesaler. * The Group's total equity as at 30th September 2023 is US\$ 47,956 million (31st December 2022: US\$ 45,627 million) which is less than the minimum capital requirement of US\$ 100 Million required under L.R. Module of Volume 2 of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) rule book (LR- 2.5.2B), and the Shareholders of the Bank, in their Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") held on 27 April 2020, passed a resolution approving the conversion of the Bank's license from an Islamic Wholesale Bank to a Bahrain Shareholding Company subject to CBB approval.										
Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C. (c) CR 49092 P.O. Box 11567, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Tel: +973 1756 8568, Fax: +973 1756 8569 Email: info@lmcbahrain.com										
* Note: The full consolidated statement of cash flows is available in LMC's website.										



News in brief

◆ **More than 2,000 people** fleeing Myanmar have crossed into neighbouring northeastern India as an offensive against the military widens, Indian media reported yesterday. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported more than 2,000 Myanmar citizens from western Chin state had crossed into India's Mizoram state since Monday, with at least 17 people taken to hospital for their wounds. Almost 50,000 people have been displaced by fighting in northern Myanmar after an alliance of ethnic armed groups launched an offensive against the junta two weeks ago, according to the United Nations. PTI, quoting government statistics, said Mizoram was already home to more than 30,000 Myanmar nationals. The first group of refugees -- including police officers and soldiers -- fled into Mizoram when violence escalated in 2021.



Thousands flee to India amid intense fighting in Myanmar

◆ **Chinese President Xi Jinping** left Beijing yesterday, state media reported, on his way to San Francisco where he will hold highly anticipated talks with his US counterpart Joe Biden. "On the evening of November 14, President Xi Jinping left Beijing on a special plane. At the invitation of United States President Biden, he will go to San Francisco for the China-US presidents' meeting," state broadcaster CCTV reported. The two leaders will meet on the sidelines of the APEC summit in the Californian city, their first encounter in a year despite trade tensions, sanctions, and the question of Taiwan feeding quarrels between the world's largest economies. Positive momentum from November 2022 talks between Xi and Biden in Bali was derailed when the United States shot

down an alleged Chinese spy balloon, delaying a planned visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

◆ **Sri Lanka's Supreme Court** issued Tuesday a symbolic ruling that the powerful Rajapaksa brothers -- including two ex-presidents -- were guilty of triggering the island's worst financial crisis by mishandling the economy. The case was filed by corruption watchdog Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) and other four activists against top former officials including former presidents Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Mahinda Rajapaksa. It also included their younger brother, ex-finance minister Basil Rajapaksa, two former central bank governors and other top treasury officials. "We sought a declaration from the court that the mishandling or inaction on the economy by the former heads of the state and senior officials did violate the fundamental rights of people," Transparency International lawyer Nadishani Perera told AFP.

China's Xi leaves Beijing for summit with Biden: state media



Sri Lanka top court rules Rajapaksa brothers guilty of economic crisis

SPOTLIGHT

Indian rescuers battle for third day to free 40 trapped tunnel workers



Rescue workers at the site after a tunnel collapsed in the Uttarkashi district of India's Uttarakhand state

◆ **More than a hundred rescuers** in northern India struggled for a third day yesterday to save dozens of workers trapped underground after the road tunnel they were building collapsed.

Excavators have been removing debris since Sunday morning from the site in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand to create an escape tunnel for the 40 workers, who are all alive.

"Our biggest breakthrough is that we have established contact and there is a supply of oxygen and food," Uttarkashi district's top civil servant Abhishek Ruhela told AFP on Tuesday.

"Whatever is necessary for their survival is being done." Oxygen was being pumped into the tunnel and small food items such as dry fruit were

being provided to the workers, he added.

The State Disaster Response Force said Tuesday rescuers had spoken to the trapped workers via radio.

Ranjit Kumar Sinha, a senior disaster management official, told reporters at the site he was hopeful the workers could be freed by Wednesday, adding that there was enough oxygen where they were trapped "for about five to six days".

The son of one of the trapped workers, Akash Singh Negi, managed to speak to his father on Tuesday.

"I was allowed to speak to my father for a few seconds using the pipe through which oxygen is being supplied to the stranded workers," Negi was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India news agency.

"He said they were safe and asked us not to worry," Negi said.

US unveils third round of Hamas sanctions

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States in conjunction with the United Kingdom yesterday announced a third round of sanctions on Hamas since last month's attack on Israel, again targeting the group's Iranian backers.

The sanctions target "key Hamas officials and the mechanisms by which Iran provides support to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad," another group operating in the Gaza Strip, a statement from the US Treasury Department said.

"Iran's support, primarily through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, enables Hamas and PIJ's terrorist activities, including through the transfer of funds and the provision of both weapons and operational training," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in



White smoke from tear gas fired by Israeli troops spreads behind burning tyres on a barricaded street during clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian youths

a statement.

Those targeted by the sanctions include Palestinian Islamic Jihad's representative to Iran, Nasser Abu Sharif, as well as a Lebanon-based money exchange, Nabil Chouman & Co, that allegedly handles transfers between Hamas and Tehran.

According to the Treasury,

Hamas's global asset holdings are estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

"The United States will continue to work with our partners, including the UK, to deny Hamas the ability to raise and use funds to carry out its atrocities," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement.

Police identify 'flower tattoo' British woman 31 years after murder: Interpol

AFP | Lyon, France

A woman found murdered 31 years ago in a river in Belgium has been identified over three decades later thanks to her flower tattoo and an international appeal, Interpol said yesterday.

The Lyon-based global police organisation said she was Rita Roberts, a British national.

Roberts, found lying against a grate in a river in Antwerp on June 3, 1992, had a tattoo of a black flower with green leaves and the inscription "R'Nick" on her right forearm.

"A family member in the United Kingdom recognised the tattoo on the news and notified Interpol and Belgian authorities," it said in a statement.

The breakthrough followed an international appeal on Interpol's Identify Me web page where police share previously confidential information about unsolved cases hoping for input



Rita Roberts was murdered in 1992 when she was 31

from the public. Thanks to the page, launched in May this year, 22 women found dead in recent decades in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands have been identified, Interpol said.

Information volunteered had also allowed other cold cases to make progress.

Rita Roberts had now been "formally identified" by her family who travelled to Belgium

to meet with investigators.

"Whilst the news has been difficult to process, we are incredibly grateful to have uncovered what happened to Rita," the family was quoted in the statement as saying.

Belgian police hope for further input from the public to clear up the circumstances of Roberts' violent death, Interpol said.

War brings hell to Gaza's p

AFP | Rafah, Palestinian Territories

With eyes wide open and his tiny fists clenched tightly, Mohammed Kullab is just a few days old, having started life in Gaza amid the chaos of the Israel-Hamas war.

"Nobody should be born in such circumstances," sighed his mother Fadwa Kullab, who has sought shelter at a UN school building in Gaza's southern city of Rafah.

Kullab now has seven children but said Mohammed's "birth was the most difficult experience of my life".

Like other mothers of newborns AFP spoke to in Gaza, she said her baby son had been refusing her breast milk.

"I'm not eating well," Kullab said, stressing that she had successfully breastfed her other six children.

Breastfeeding mothers are advised to drink at least three litres



Trauma surgeons cover the body of a pregnant woman whose baby was rescued after an emergency Caesarean section operation, and who died after Israeli bombardment, at the Kuwaiti hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

(more than six pints) of water a day and eat well to produce sufficient milk -- but finding clean water and food in Gaza is becoming harder by the day.

The already poverty-stricken

and long blockaded Palestinian territory was plunged into its worst ever war after its Hamas rulers launched their October 7 attack on Israel.

About 1,200 people were killed

Moving patient

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Organization insisted yesterday that moving the most vulnerable patients from Gaza's Al-Shifa hospital has become an "impossible task".

The Israeli mission in Geneva had at the weekend slammed the WHO, the UN humanitarian agency OCHA and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for criticising Israel's month-long call for civilians and patients to leave the Palestinian enclave's main hospital.

Israel has faced growing international pressure over its offensive the since the October 7 Hamas attacks.

Israel says 1,200 people, mainly civilians, were killed in the attacks and 239 people taken hostage. Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry says at least 11,240 people have been killed in Israel's air and ground campaign since.

"The international community could have facilitated the transfer of patients, but they did nothing, except call out Israel and give Hamas a free pass," the mission said.

But the WHO said moving the most fragile patients would inevitably lead to deaths.

"The reason we said that people can't be evacuated is first of all ... the people in the hospitals were very vulnerable, very sick. So moving them was an impossible task," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told journalists in Geneva.

She said it would be "asking doctors and nurses to move people knowing that that would kill them".

"And again, why would you need to move them? A hospital should never be under attack. A hospital is a place a safe haven. This is agreed under international

and 240 kidnapped, among them 35 children including a 10-month-old, Israeli officials say.

The war unleashed by the attack has seen Israel relentlessly bombard and besiege Gaza and launch a ground invasion.

More than 11,200 Palestinians have been killed, most of them women and children, according to the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza.

Nearly two thirds of Gaza's 36 hospitals, already overwhelmed with war-wounded, have been knocked out of service due to a lack of fuel to power their generators.

Gaza City's biggest hospital Al-Shifa, packed with patients and displaced, is now inside a fierce urban combat zone, with its director reporting scores of dead buried in a mass grave in the complex.

Among those who died were seven premature babies in its disabled neonatal unit, Gaza's





# g vulnerable Gaza hospital ts 'impossible': WHO

## Gaza's hospital buries patients in mass grave

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Gaza's main hospital has been forced to bury scores of dead patients in a mass grave, its director said Tuesday, as US President Joe Biden pressed Israel to protect the complex trapped in fierce combat.

"There are bodies littered in the hospital complex and there is no longer electricity at the morgues," said Al-Shifa hospital director Mohammad Abu Salmiyah, adding that 179 bodies had been interred so far.

"We were forced to bury them in a mass grave," he said, adding that seven babies and 29 intensive care patients were among those who had died after fuel for the hospital's generator ran out.

A witness said the smell of decomposing bodies was everywhere in the facility, but nighttime fighting and air strikes had been less intense compared to previous nights.

The United Nations believes



People mourn as they stand behind a metal fence near the bodies of victims who were killed in Israeli bombardment before their burial, outside the morgue at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip

that thousands, and perhaps more than 10,000 people -- patients, staff and displaced civilians -- may be inside and unable to escape because of fierce fighting nearby.

Biden called on Israel to use "less intrusive action relative to

the hospital", some of his most pointed comments on Israeli operations to date.

"The hospital must be protected," he told reporters, as international outrage builds over the death and suffering the war has inflicted on Gaza civilians.

humanitarian law."

On Tuesday, Israeli forces were at the gates of the sprawling Al-Shifa hospital that they say sits atop an underground Hamas command base, but the militants deny the charge.

Doctors say thousands of people are stranded inside in horrific conditions. The ICRC said on X, formerly Twitter, that under international humanitarian law, "hospitals are protected because of their life-saving function for wounded and sick".

While it is possible for hospitals to lose that protection under certain circumstances, "this is not a free license to attack", it insisted. Israel says it is not targeting

Al-Shifa hospital. It has called on the whole population of the northern Gaza Strip to move to the south of the territory.

Harris said there was a lack of healthcare capacity in southern Gaza, with most healthcare, especially the most complex, usually provided in the north.

She said many hospitals were unable to admit new patients.

Moving patients from the north "might kill them -- but also, where did they go? Where do you put them?" said Harris.

"There were very clear reasons why that was not something that was in any way feasible."

## Children, families, foreigners among Gaza hostages

AFP | Paris, France

Israel's announcement yesterday of the death of a woman soldier abducted by Hamas when they stormed out of Gaza last month has again highlighted the fate of nearly 240 hostages.

Qatar is mediating talks on a deal to free some of the people snatched when Hamas swarmed into Israel across the fortified border on October 7, killing an estimated 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the deadliest attack in Israel's history.

Israel has responded with a relentless bombardment of Gaza aimed at destroying Hamas that has killed over 11,240 people, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry.

Of the 239 hostages confirmed by Israel, at least 34 are children and 63 women, according to AFP's tally.

## Israel army says seizes Gaza parliament, other Hamas bodies

Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli army said yesterday it had captured Gaza's parliament and other government institutions run by Hamas in Gaza City, as its forces deepened their offensive in the Palestinian territory. Military units "took over the Hamas parliament, the government building, the Hamas police headquarters and an engineering faculty that served as an institute for the production and development of weapons," the army said in a statement.

## Israel must respect 'sanctity of hospitals': UK minister

London, United Kingdom

Israel must respect "the sanctity of hospitals" in Gaza and allow them to be places of safety during its offensive in the Palestinian territory, a UK foreign minister said yesterday.

"All parties to a conflict must afford civilians the protection that is their right under international law," Andrew Mitchell, a minister in Britain's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), told members of parliament.

"That includes respecting the sanctity of hospitals so that doctors can continue to care for the sick and injured," he added.

Mitchell said it was "impossible to comprehend the pain and loss that innocent Palestinians are enduring in Gaza" since Israel launched its offensive. "Hospitals... should be places of safety, able to treat patients with compassion," he added.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



The world is failing to get a grip on the climate crisis. Global ambition stagnated over the past year & national plans are strikingly misaligned with the science. #COP28 must be the place to urgently close the climate ambition gap.

@antonioguterres

02



The United States, in coordination with the UK, is imposing sanctions on individuals and entities that have supported Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist groups. We continue to coordinate with our partners and allies to disrupt these terrorist financing channels.

@SecBlinken

03



If and when there will be something concrete to report - we will do so.

@IsraeliPM

04



Our combat medics. Under fire and in extreme conditions, every day they save the lives of our warriors, treat them, and do everything in their power to save them. I thank our combat medics for their vital and selfless work and for every life they saved.

@ZelenskyyUa

# pregnant women, nursing mums

deputy health minister Youssef Abu Rish said.

## 'I could lose the baby'

Countless new mothers in Gaza now fear the very worst, among them Kullab who said she feels helpless and unable to protect her children.

She has struggled to find baby formula and nappies, she said as she cradled her tiny son, swaddled in blankets.

Another woman, Najwa Salem, 37, said her newborn has jaundice, marked by yellowish skin and eyes. The condition can be worsened by low milk intake and dehydration and is often treated with daylight exposure.

To minimise the risk of neurological damage, Salem would like to take her infant boy outside, but said she hesitates because of the "rubbish piling up and the bombing".

Inside the UN school classroom Salem now shares with about 70

others, the mother worried because the scar from her Caesarian section had become infected.

Although she gave birth in a hospital, she said she was asked to leave after just one night "because they had too many wounded people to care for".

Outside, the huge amount of dust from the incessant bombing is causing breathing difficulties that spell special dangers for infants.

Another woman, eight-months-pregnant Umm Ibrahim Alayan, complained of coughing fits since she fled her neighbourhood as it was being bombed.

Her intense coughing may have provoked the early contractions she has suffered, she said, her hands flitting nervously between her rounded belly and her face.

"I'm terrified, all I want to do is hold my baby in my arms," she said, sobbing. "I feel I could lose the baby at any moment."

## 'Utterly hellish conditions'

The UN Population Fund's top official for the Palestinian territories, Dominic Allen, said pregnant women in Gaza "have nowhere to go, there is nowhere safe".

The UN says there are more than 50,000 pregnant women and an average of 180 births a day in Gaza, with a population of 2.4 million.

"We estimate that a minimum of 15 percent of these births will have complications, which will require basic or comprehensive obstetric care," Allen said.

The war is creating "a high-stress environment" likely to foster "complications of birth and may lead to miscarriages", he said.

The UN agency has cited the "nightmarish" case of one woman discharged just three hours after giving birth.

It said there were shortages of blood to treat postpartum haemorrhage and of antiseptic

for stitches and treatment after umbilical cords are cut.

So far, the UN agency has managed to get 8,000 delivery kits into Gaza. They contain umbilical cord cutters, blankets for newborns, disposable sheets and other items. But these only address a fraction of the need, and Gaza's health ministry says some women have been forced to give birth without a midwife in the overcrowded shelters.

"The nightmare in Gaza is much more than a humanitarian crisis, it's a crisis of humanity," said Allen.

One aid group still working in northern Gaza's heavily bombed Jabalia refugee camp is ActionAid, helping women inside the Al-Awda hospital which has been without power for days.

Surgeons there said they performed 16 C-sections on Sunday, without anaesthetic or other crucial supplies.

"Thousands of women in Gaza

are risking their lives to give birth, undergoing Caesareans and emergency operations without sterilisation, anaesthesia or painkillers," said ActionAid's Riham Jafari.

"These women deserve quality healthcare and the right to give birth in a safe place. Instead, they are being forced to bring their babies into the world amid utterly hellish conditions."



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that a ceasefire without the release of the hostages would mean "surrender to Hamas".

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



# celebs

## Zac Efron open to playing Matthew Perry in future biopic

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Zac Efron would be "honoured" to play Matthew Perry.

The '17 Again' actor famously played a teenage version of the late 'Friends' icon's character in 2009 body swap comedy and Perry - who tragically died last month aged 54 - had expressed an interest in casting his former co-star in a potential movie about his own life.

Responding to the idea of portraying Perry in a future biopic, Zac told People magazine: "I'm honoured to hear he was thinking of me to play him. We'll see. I'd be honoured to do it."

The 36-year-old actor hailed Perry as a "mentor" and explained he learned a lot from their time together.

He added: "He was a mentor to me, and we made a really cool film together. I looked up to him, I learned comedic timing from that guy."

"I mean, when we were filming '17 Again', it was so surreal for me to look across and have him be there, because I've learned so much from him, from his whole life."

Last week, Perry's friend Athena Crosby - who was pictured having lunch with the actor the day before he died - revealed he was "doing great" and was feeling "very optimistic" about the future when they met up.

He also told his pal that he was hoping to make a movie version of his life - having been candid about his addiction struggles - with Efron in the lead.

She told Entertainment Tonight: "He said that he wanted to make a movie about his life."

"And he had worked with Zac Efron in the past on a movie, and he said that he wanted Zac Efron to play him as a younger version [of himself] and that he was gonna ask him soon to do that."



Zac Efron

## Sophie Turner returns to social media

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Sophie Turner has returned to social media for the first time since she split from Joe Jonas.

The 27-year-old actress - who has more than 14 million Instagram followers - has taken to photo-sharing platform to help raise awareness of environmental issues.

Sophie - who is best known for playing Sansa Stark in 'Game of Thrones' - told her followers: "Hi everyone! I have been asked to spread the word about positive power. And on doing the research and noticing the very clear effects of global warming, it's something that I really wanted to raise awareness for."

The actress subsequently encouraged fans to "switch over, move over, to renewable energy and let nature provide us with power".

Sophie later added: "We need

to let our leaders know this, that this is the future that we want for ourselves and for those we love, our children and our grandchildren."

The actress captioned her Instagram post: "#PositivePowerPartner It's time we all spread the word and push for a Positive Power Plan. The time to transition to clean energy is now. When we speak out together, we can accelerate Positive Power. Check out the link in my bio to learn more. @

Sophie Turner



wearepositivepower (sic)" Sophie and Joe announced their split in September.

The celebrity duo - who tied the knot back in 2019 - said via a joint statement: "After four wonderful years of marriage we have mutually decided to amicably end our marriage. There are many speculative narratives as to why but, truly this is a united decision and we sincerely hope that everyone can respect our wishes for privacy for us and our children."

## Ryan Reynolds' kids 'obsessed' with Wrexham AFC

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ryan Reynolds' kids are "obsessed" with Wrexham Football Club.

The 'Deadpool' star - who has James, eight, Inez, seven, Betty, three, and an unnamed child welcomed in February - has revealed he and wife Blake Lively's brood have bonded with their dad over his love of the sport after he bought Wrexham AFC, based in Wrexham, Wales, with fellow actor Rob McElhenney, just like he did with his late father, James Reynolds.

During Tuesday's (07.11.23) episode of 'Welcome to Wrex-

ham', he said: "My relationship with my father was almost exclusively tethered and held together by our mutual love of sports."

"My kids are obsessed with Wrexham. They're obsessed with Wrexham."

Ryan has taken some of his family to see Wrexham play.

The 47-year-old actor and 'It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia' actor, 46, bought the club to help it move back to the English Football League, after a 15-year absence, and they achieved their aim after Wrexham won promotion as champions of the 2022-23 National League.



Ryan Reynolds

## Brad Pitt has started introducing Ines de Ramon as his 'girlfriend', says insider

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Brad Pitt thinks of Ines de Ramon as his "girlfriend", an insider has claimed.

The 59-year-old actor has 22-year-old Maddox, 19-year-old Pax, 18-year-old Zahara, 17-year-old Shiloh, and 15-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne with former wife Angelina Jolie but an insider has now claimed that jewelry designer, Ines, 33,

is his "first proper relationship" since the divorce and he is "very happy" with her.

The source told People: "They are in a good place. This is Brad's first proper relationship since the divorce. He introduces [Ramon] as his girlfriend. He's doing great with Ines. It's great to see him in a good place. Ines makes him very happy."

Despite this, an insider close to the 'Mr and Mrs Smith' star

previously revealed that he was yet to introduce Ines to his children.

A source told Us Weekly: "It's not that he doesn't love Ines, it's just that he wants to ensure this relationship is going the distance before he takes that major step. He's dated a few women over the years but hasn't introduced any of his



Brad Pitt

children to them."

Just prior to that, it was reported that things were good between the 'Fight Club' star and his girlfriend, but they are not in a "rush" with anything and are just enjoying their similar interests together at the moment.

A source told 'Entertainment Tonight': "They enjoy each other's company and have similar interests. They're both creative, like to travel, and are happy being low-key. Things are good between them, but Brad isn't rushing anything."

The Hollywood star is "very careful" about his love life and he's determined to "let things grow naturally" with Ines.

## Jeremy Renner reveals 'greatest therapy' since his near-fatal snowplough accident

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jeremy Renner says the "greatest therapy" he's had since his near-fatal snowplough accident has been "my mind and the will to be here".

The 52-year-old actor

was hospitalised on New Year's Day after he suffered blunt chest trauma and 30 broken bones after being hit by a snowplough while saving his nephew.

And the 'Hawkeye' star has revealed an exhaustive list of different physical and

mental therapies he's tried, but the biggest revelation of all is how determined he is to "get better" and "give back" to those who "empowered" him to "endure".

In an Instagram update, he wrote: "I

have been exploring EVERY type of therapy since Jan 14th ... everyday, countless hours of physical therapy, peptide injections, iv drips and pushes, stem cell and exosomes, red light / IR therapy, hyperbaric chamber 2.0 atmospheres, cold plunge, and the list goes on and on... BUT

"My greatest therapy has

been my mind and the will to be here and push to recover and be better... Be exceptional... I feel it's my duty to do so. Not to squander my life being spared, but to give back to my family, friends, and all of you whom have empowered me to endure. I thank you all. #loveandtitanium. (sic)"



Jeremy Renner

### SUDOKU

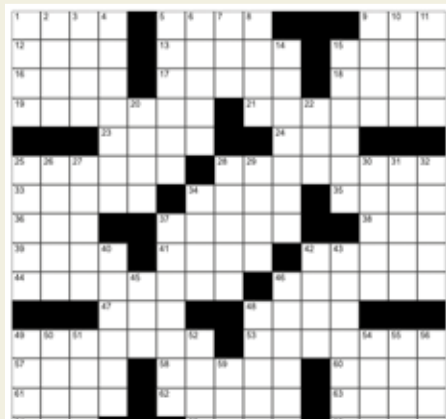
		3						4
	7			3	2			6
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#### Yesterday's solution

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

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

### CROSSWORD



#### Across

1- Turned right; 5- Sea east of the Caspian; 9- Life support?; 12- ... breve; 13- Attach, as a patch; 15- Gummy; 16- Girder type; 17- Silk fabric; 18- Periods; 19- Large ships; 21- Illness; 23- Dies ...; 24- Sawbuck; 25- Remains of any organism preserved in rock; 28- Educated; 33- Wood strips; 34- Oklahoma Native; 35- Han ... was a "Star Wars" character; 36- Skater Midori; 37- Judge, e.g.; 38- Purchase; 39- Tear apart; 41- Monetary unit of South Africa; 42- Celsius, for one; 44- Applying a remedy; 46- Virgin; 47- More than one male; 48- Dunce; 49- Wandering; 53- Shah, e.g.; 57- Designer Cassini; 58- Commerce; 60- Salinger girl; 61- River to the Seine; 62- Threads; 63- Celestial body; 64- Yokohama drama; 65- Take ... your leader; 66- Just okay;

#### Down

1- Canter, e.g.; 2- Exile isle; 3- Gusto; 4- Blackish; 5- Stellar; 6- Employ again; 7- Hole-punching tool; 8- "Damn Yankees" role; 9- River in central Switzerland; 10- Model married to David Bowie; 11- What's left; 14- Nor's partner; 15- Greek island; 20- Goddess and sister of Ares in Greek mythology; 22- The Lion; 25- Coquet; 26- Western; 27- Rock; 28- Sharp pain; 29- Like some dorms; 30- Like ears; 31- Dodge; 32- Senior member; 34- Algerian seaport; 37- Triad; 40- Injury; 42- Room in a casa; 43- See; 45- Slugger Williams; 46- To a greater extent; 48- Failed to; 49- High time?; 50- Assortment; 51- Engage, as gears; 52- Pull an all-nighter; 54- Ratio words; 55- Latin lesson word; 56- Pianist Peter; 59- 100 square meters;

#### Yesterday's solution

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



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## Tatum leads Celtics rally past Knicks, Bucks pip Bulls



Jayson Tatum of Boston Celtics in action

AFP | New York

Jayson Tatum and Kristaps Porzingis led a second-half fightback as the Boston Celtics overpowered the New York Knicks 114-98 in the NBA on Monday.

Tatum finished with 35 points – including 17 in the fourth quarter – while Porzingis added 21 to fire the Celtics to their eighth win of the season.

“First half, they were scoring at will, but second half we started making stops,” Tatum said after the Celtics bagged their third straight victory.

“We’ve had three games in four days, now we go out on the road for a week and play some good teams – hopefully we can keep it going,” Tatum added.

New York caused Boston problems in the first half, edging into an eight-point lead in the second quarter with Jalen Brunson and Julius Randle both influential at Boston’s TD Garden.

But Jaylen Brown drained a superb three-pointer from 25 feet on the stroke of half-time

to cut the Knicks’ lead to just one point at 53-52 heading into the break.

That parting shot from Brown was to herald a third quarter rally from Boston that ultimately took the game away from the Knicks, who had been chasing a fourth straight victory.

Porzingis led the third quarter onslaught with 11 points from 3-of-3 shooting, including two from outside the arc, along with 3-of-3 from the free throw line.

Tatum then turned it on in the fourth quarter with his 17-point display as the Celtics outscored the Knicks 30-22 in the final frame to complete victory.

Tatum finished with five three-pointers throughout the game from 13-of-23 shooting, with six rebounds and seven assists. Porzingis’s 21-point haul included three from three-point range, while Brown had 22 points, five rebounds and six assists.

Brunson led the Knicks scorers with 26 points while Randle finished with 25. Josh Hart added 16 points with Quentin Grimes chipping in 12 points.

## Thursday thrills at BIC with Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Nights

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit’s (BIC) quarter-mile drag strip is set to get busy with high-intensity action tomorrow with the Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Nights.

This popular activity at “The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East” gives participants a chance to bring their own cars or motorbikes and go one-on-one along BIC’s world-class strip, which is a member of the prestigious NHRA Worldwide Network of the US-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

The Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Nights is similar to BIC’s Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights, but in the former, those taking part do not start



Action from a past event at BIC

from a standstill, but from a rolling speed of 80kph.

The Kanoo Motors Rolling

Drag is thus the perfect activity to invite a fellow-speed enthusiast to a fun yet competitive chal-

lenge and push their vehicles to the limit within the safe and controlled environment at BIC.

Thursday’s Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Nights is scheduled to take place between 7pm and 12midnight.

Just as in all activities at BIC where safety for all is paramount, cars and motorbikes must go through scrutineering before being able to take part.

In addition to the Rolling Drag, also available Thursday night is BIC’s most adrenaline-pumping passenger ride, the Dragster Experience. Known as “the Fastest Ride on Earth”, fans will have a chance to get a taste of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while in the cockpit of a 10,500cc Top Dragster.

## Hassan bin Rashid finishes second and 13th in Al Ain Showjumping Championship

AFP | London

Bahraini athlete Shaikh Hassan bin Rashid Al Khalifa achieved advanced results at the Al Ain Showjumping Championship, which took place in the city of Al Ain, UAE, featuring a broad lineup of competitors representing many countries from across the world.

Shaikh Hassan bin Rashid Al Khalifa managed to secure second place on the first day of the championship, putting a great show while jumping over obstacles of various heights, the maximum of which was 120cm without committing any faults.

He then achieved the 13th place in his second participation in the championship on the fol-



Shaikh Hassan bin Rashid Al Khalifa at the event

lowing day, making four faults on the horse HBR EVEN FLOW. The competition witnessed the participation of 42 athletes from the UAE and participants from 13 foreign countries.

Commenting on his participation, Shaikh Hassan bin Rashid Al Khalifa expressed his happiness for achieving the second place in the championship, affirming that the Al Ain Showjumping Championship is considered one of the strong contests in show jumping thanks to the wide participation it exhibits and open competition among all athletes.

He stated that he was looking forward to continuing to achieve advanced positions in the upcoming competitions.

## Mazzarri makes shock Napoli return after Garcia shown the door

AFP | Milan

Walter Mazzarri made a shock return as Napoli manager yesterday after Rudi Garcia fell victim to a dismal start to the Italian champions’ Serie A title defence.

Garcia lasted just five months at Napoli after replacing Italy coach Luciano Spalletti, failing to inspire a team which had kept almost all the stars of last season’s first Scudetto since 1990.

Napoli are 10 points behind league leaders Inter Milan in



Walter Mazzarri

fourth and have been in turmoil for weeks as May’s historic title triumph began to increasingly look like a one-off.

Garcia, 59, was fired after

Sunday’s 1-0 home loss to Empoli was greeted by a deluge of boos and whistles from supporters, whose joy at being reigning Italian champions has vanished.

Reports of his dismissal emerged almost immediately after that defeat, Napoli’s fourth at home in all competitions this season.

The announcement of Mazzarri’s Napoli return after a decade away, reportedly on a deal until the end of the current campaign, initially came via owner Aurelio De Laurentiis.

The movie mogul simply wrote “welcome back Walter!” on X, formerly known as Twitter, after the club confirmed Garcia’s sacking.

De Laurentiis was visibly irked by that display in the pouring rain in Naples, as was injured star striker Victor Osimhen.

But fans are also pointing the finger at De Laurentiis, whose decision it was to replace Spalletti with a man whose stock has fallen dramatically since being sacked by Roma in early 2016.

NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY ASO



### Postponement of the Ordinary General Meeting

National Hotels Company BSC would like to inform its shareholders that the Ordinary General Meeting scheduled for 16th November 2023 has been postponed to 14th December 2023. The Venue of the meeting and the agenda items remain unchanged. If the quorum of the meeting is not met, the second meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday 21st December 2023 at the same venue. If the quorum of the second meeting is not met, the third meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday 28th December 2023 at the same venue.

Faisal Ahmed Al Zayani  
Chairman



# New Zealand misery all in the past for India's Rohit as semi-final looms

India captain Rohit Sharma emphasizes the current team's focus ahead of World Cup semi-final clash

● **Rohit also acknowledged the threat posed by New Zealand, beaten finalists at the last two World Cups**

AFP | Mumbai

India captain Rohit Sharma insisted his side's record of big game defeats by New Zealand was "all in the past" as they prepared to face the Black Caps in a World Cup semi-final. Tournament hosts India head into Wednesday's showpiece match at opening batsman Rohit's Wankhede Stadium home ground as the outstanding side of the 10-tem event, having won all nine of their round-robin games to qualify for the knockout phase in style.

But four years ago a team featuring several of the same players, including Rohit and star batsman Virat Kohli, were members of an India side that suffered an agonising 18-run defeat by New Zealand in a rain-affected World Cup semi-final spanning two days in Manchester.

New Zealand also defeated In-



India's Rohit Sharma (L) during a practice session (file photo)

dia in the inaugural 2021 World Test Championship final.

The Wankhede was the venue when India defeated Sri Lanka in a 2011 final to win their second World Cup title following a 1983 triumph in England under captain Kapil Dev.

The build-up to Wednesday's game has seen much speculation about whether Rohit's men can join those celebrated teams as World Cup champions of whether New Zealand, who gave India

a run for their money before going down by four wickets in pool play, will prove their downfall once again.

Rohit, however, insisted his focus was firmly on the here and now.

"That's the beauty of this team," he told a pre-match press conference yesterday.

"None of the guys were born when we won our first World Cup and then, when we won our second World Cup in 2011,



half of the guys were not even playing the game."

He added: "This current crop of players is very much into what is happening today, what can happen tomorrow...The focus is on how they can get better as a player, what they can bring to the team and the things they can improve."

## 'Mandatory pressure'

Rohit said while a semi-final was a high pressure situation, his side were always under intense scrutiny in cricket-crazy India.

"If you are an Indian cricketer, then whatever the format, whatever the tournament, there

None of the guys were born when we won our first World Cup and then, when we won our second World Cup in 2011, half of the guys were not even playing the game. This current crop of players is very much into what is happening today, what can happen tomorrow... The focus is on how they can get better as a player, what they can bring to the team and the things they can improve

ROHIT SHARMA

is always pressure. Because you hear the same voice from everywhere that we have to win the match tomorrow...So, I think in terms of pressure, it becomes mandatory for Indian cricketers.

"There is pressure, but we have tried so hard in all these years to keep that aside and focus more on our game, strategy,

and the way we play," he added. Before this World Cup, Rohit spoke about having "unfinished business", with the 36-year-old saying Wednesday: "Now it's just about business, the pure business of getting the job done for the team."

Kohli, who now needs just one more century to surpass the record of 49 one-day international hundreds he shares with former India team-mate Sachin Tendulkar, is this tournament's leading batsman with 594 runs -- and Rohit is not far behind on 503.

India also boast a formidable fast-bowling line-up in Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami, and two fine spinners in Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav.

But Rohit said he was well aware of the threat posed by New Zealand, beaten finalists at the last two World Cups.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson is coming into form after injury and the Black Caps' attack will be led by experienced left-arm fast bowler Trent Boult.

"They are probably the most disciplined team, they play their cricket very smartly, they understand the opposition very well," said Rohit.

## Williamson relishing 'special' India semi-final

AFP | Mumbai

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said his side's experience of playing in front of partisan crowds would serve them well when they face hosts India in a blockbuster World Cup semi-final.

A capacity crowd of over 33,000 is expected at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium -- the home ground of India captain Rohit Sharma -- for Wednesday's clash.

New Zealand, losing finalists at the last two World Cups but yet to lift the trophy, knocked India out at the semi-final stage in a rain-affected two-day clash in Manchester four years ago.

Bad weather, however, is unlikely to be an issue in Mumbai and while India had plenty of support at Old Trafford, star batsman Williamson knows that will be as nothing compared to the passionate backing they'll have on Wednesday.

When a reporter told Williamson during a pre-match press conference yesterday that the capacity of the Wankhede is 33,108 and "33 of them will be in blue (India's colour)," he jokingly replied: "There'll be more than that."

Williamson, who knows India well from playing in the lucrative Indian Premier League, added: "We're expecting a fairly blue crowd that will be supporting their team."

"We remember over the years, a number of different crowds that we've had that haven't always been your own fans."

"We have got a small country that doesn't always fill out the stadiums but you still appreciate the atmosphere it brings.



New Zealand's Kane Williamson (R) interacts with coach Gary Stead during a practice session

India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in a hard-fought pool match in Dharamsala last month but Williamson played down the impact of that fixture and the 2019 semi-final ahead of Wednesday's clash

78 not out during an eight-wicket victory over Bangladesh in Chennai only to suffer a broken left thumb following a wayward throw while running between the wickets.

The 33-year-old then missed several more games before returning with 95 against Pakistan in Bengaluru.

## 'Frustrating'

"An interesting journey for sure," said Williamson.

"From sort of it not being a chance (of playing at the World Cup) to getting close and it becoming a reality and something to target...Then to get back and then break my thumb. It was quite frustrating and testing."

But a 10-team round-robin event gave Williamson hope he could still feature later on in the tournament.

"I still felt it hadn't ruled me out, so I was grateful for that and it's nice to be sitting here."

India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in a hard-fought pool match in Dharamsala last

We remember over the years, a number of different crowds that we've had that haven't always been your own fans. We have got a small country that doesn't always fill out the stadiums but you still appreciate the atmosphere it brings. Not many people get that opportunity, cricket in India, playing against India in a World Cup semi-final, is special and something to appreciate and look forward to

KANE WILLIAMSON

month but Williamson played down the impact of that fixture and the 2019 semi-final ahead of Wednesday's clash.

"They (India) are a side that's been playing extremely well, but we also know come finals time, everything sort of starts again."

Williamson was more forthcoming about New Zealand rising star Rachin Ravindra, with the 23-year-old left-handed opener having already scored three hundreds at his debut World Cup.

"He's burst onto the scene and in a big way," said Williamson.

"It's not just the volume of runs that he's achieved so far, but how he's been scoring them and how it's been geared towards trying to move the team forward."

## Tsitsipas quits ATP Finals with back injury



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas (R) shakes hands with Denmark's Holger Rune

AFP | Turin

Stefanos Tsitsipas pulled out of the ATP Finals yesterday after a back injury led to him retiring from his match with Holger Rune early in the first set.

Sixth seed Tsitsipas was trailing the opening set 2-1 when he was forced to quit the Green Group match, handing Finals debutant Rune his first ever win in the season-ending tournament.

"My apologies to all the fans and the crowd who came to support me today. Really I'm gutted that I wasn't able to finish the match," Tsitsipas, 25, told reporters.

"My doctors and the countless visits that I had in the last few days suggested that I play... Unfortunately I felt terrible on the court. I did what I could do in best possible way to be ready and fit for this match,

But it didn't work out for me."

Hubert Hurkacz will now step in to play Tsitsipas' final match against Novak Djokovic with no chance of progressing to the semi-finals following two defeats for the Greek.

Tsitsipas said after pulling out that he had felt problems during his warm up and that once on the court he felt too much pain to complete the match.

"The pain was very big," he added.

"I've gone through pain during matches in the past... But this was clearly too much to handle and I had to take the difficult decision to do what I did."

He had insisted that there was nothing wrong with him physically after Sunday's straight-sets defeat to Jannik Sinner, playing down reports of an elbow injury which curtailed practice ahead of his tournament opener.



# Bahrain set for World Cup qualifiers

Kingdom's senior men's national football team depart today for Abha, Saudi Arabia for opening match against Yemen tomorrow

● **Bahrainis to face off with Yemen in Abha tomorrow night with a 9pm kick-off, Bahrain time**

● **Nationals meet with Bahrain Football Association officials in training prior to departure**

TDI | Manama

**B**ahrain's senior men's national football team depart for Abha, Saudi Arabia, today for their opening continental qualifying match for the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The nationals take on Yemen in their Group H contest tomorrow, scheduled for a 9pm kick-off, Bahrain time, at Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Sports City in Abha.

The Bahrainis are in the same pool as the UAE and Nepal in this second round of qualification under the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The fixtures are also qualifiers for the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

Tomorrow's fixture is the first of two games this month. They next take on the UAE on Tuesday next week at home at the Na-



Bahrain head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi supervises training

tional Stadium in Riffa.

Prior to their departure today, the national team met with Bahrain Football Association (BFA) president Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, BFA vice-president His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa, BFA secretary general Rashid Al Zoubi, and other officials.

Shaikh Ali encouraged the players to give their best in

their coming matches, and also stressed that the BFA is giving their full support for their success.

The Bahrainis have been training over the past few days locally under the supervision of head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi.

Pizzi had originally called up 26 of Bahrain's biggest names for the upcoming qualifiers, but has recently made four additions. The new selections in-



**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
Four players have been added to the original national team roster of 26. The new call-ups include Salem Hussain, Hussain Abdulkareem, Hamad Al Doseri and Jassim Khelaif

clude Salem Hussain, Hussain Abdulkareem, Hamad Al Doseri and Jassim Khelaif.

They are joining a squad that already includes Ali Madan, Mohammed Marhoon, Abdulla Yusuf, Moses Atede, Mahdi Humaidan, Ahmed Bughamar, Mohammed Adel, Mohammed Al Hardan, Abdulkarim Al Fardan, Ali Hassan, Sayed Mahdi Baqer, Hussain Al Aker, Komail Al Aswad, Jassim Al Shaikh, Mohammed Abdulqayoom, Hazza Ali, Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Amine Hasan, Waleed Al Hayyam, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Mubarak Mohammed, Ebrahim Luthfallah, Abdulla Al Hashash, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Mohammed



Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa greets national team player Mohammed Jassim Marhoon prior to a training session

Abdulwahab and Ebrahim Al Wali.

There are five rounds in the FIFA World Cup qualification format for the AFC, which will have eight teams book their tickets to the global showcase, plus potentially another following an inter-confederation play-off.

Thirty-six nations are directly in this second stage, divided into nine groups of four. The teams will play against each other on a home-and-away basis. The nine group winners and group runners-up advance to the third round. In addition to this, they will also automatically qualify

for the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

After Bahrain's upcoming matches this month, the nationals only resume their qualification bid next year. They take on Nepal on 21 March, and then face off with the Nepalese again on 26 March. They then face Yemen on 6 June, before completing this stage against the UAE on 11 June.

Aside from FIFA World Cup qualification, Bahrain are also gearing up for the next edition of the AFC Asian Cup, to be held in Doha in January of next year. These are the national team's first official games under Pizzi.

## Top seed Robin marches through in ITF tennis

TDI | Manama

**T**op seed Robin Boeckli of Switzerland advanced into the boys' singles second round in the Bahrain ITF Juniors 2023 tournament, currently being played at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) hard courts in Isa Town.

The competition is the third of three straight ITF events hosted by the Kingdom over the past few weeks. It is the only J60 event that is part of the 2023 International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Tennis Tour Juniors, which features the world's top tennis talents aged 13 to 18.

Robin booked his place af-



Action from yesterday's matches

ter battling past Bora Bakici of Turkey 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 yesterday. He will next face Venkat Rishi Batlanki of the US in the ensuing stage. Venkat had earlier beaten Nikita Gribyakin of Estonia 6-0, 6-1 in their first-round match-up.

Also winning yesterday and marching on to round two are fifth seed Aril Kayra Tuna of Turkey, sixth seed Arsenil Lesniak, Andres Pereiro Lopez of Spain, Mustafa Eren Elmas and Cagan Efe Tufekci, also from Turkey and Sergiy Rafiee of Great Britain.

In the girls' singles, winning yesterday were Simay Keles and Berrak Kocak of Turkey.

## Muharraq lose WASL opener



Muharraq's Tyler Wilkerson tries to drive to the basket during their game against Kuwait SC

TDI | Manama

**B**ahrain's Muharraq Club bowed to Kuwait Sporting Club 92-108 in their opening Group A game of the Gulf sub-zone in the FIBA West Asia Super League (WASL) 2023/2024.

A disappointing second quarter, where they were outscored 10-26, saw the Bahrainis concede a narrow advantage, and they never recovered. They fell behind 38-53 at the half and went down by as many as 28 points the rest of the way.

Tyler Wilkerson finished as Muharraq's leading scorer with 34 points in the loss, while Mohammed Juma'a added 23 and Bader Abdulla Malabes had 14. Julius Coles Jr was held to just eight points in the setback.

For Kuwait, Hamad Hasan finished with 28 as their leading scorer, while Cody Lalanne had 16 and Mohammad Hasan 15.

Muharraq are one of two Bahrain clubs in this year's WASL. Making their debut in the competition, Muharraq are in Group A alongside Al Ahli Jeddah of Saudi Arabia, Al Rayyan of Qatar and Kuwait. Manama, the reigning WASL champions, are in Group B of the tournament's Gulf sub-zone along with Kazma of Kuwait, Shabab Al Ahli of the UAE and Al Shamal from Qatar.

Muharraq return to action against Saudi's Ahli on 28 November. Manama, on the other hand, play their first game against Kazma on Monday next week.

## Bellingham ruled out of England Euro 2024 qualifiers

AFP | London

**J**ude Bellingham has been ruled out of England's final Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia, the Football Association announced yesterday.

Chelsea defender Levi Colwill has also been withdrawn from Gareth Southgate's squad, meaning five players are missing from the initial group announced for the match at Wembley on November 17 and the away fixture three days later.

Midfielder Bellingham, 20, who has scored 13 goals so far in a stunning debut season for Real Madrid, and Colwill both



Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham vies with Rayo Vallecano's Isi Palazon

have shoulder issues.

"Jude Bellingham and Levi

Colwill will play no part in England's forthcoming UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia," the FA said in a statement.

"The pair arrived at St George's Park for assessments on Monday but will now return to their clubs to continue their rehabilitation."

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford and Manchester City midfielder Kalvin Phillips will join the squad later this week "owing to personal matters", the FA said.

On Monday, Cole Palmer, Ezri Konsa and Rico Lewis replaced the injured James Maddison, Callum Wilson and Lewis Dunk.