

Bahrain set for Olympic qualifiers

Nineteen players named on senior national team for Doha qualifiers for men's handball tournament at Paris Olympiad | P11

WORLD **6** Incoming New Zealand PM prepares to form coalition govt



Afghanistan defeat champions England in World Cup shock **12** SPORTS

BUSINESS **5** Global markets brace for fallout as ME tensions rise

HM King's Italy visit to seek solutions for Gaza conflict

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa will arrive in the Italian Republic today on a visit during which he will meet with His Holiness Pope Francis. HM King Hamad will also hold talks with Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic, and Giorgia Meloni, Italian Prime Minister, to discuss the Bahraini-Italian ties and topics of common interests.

The meeting will review the Israeli military escalation in the Gaza Strip and push forward efforts toward a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East region.

HM the King had met in the United Kingdom with His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

They reviewed the close historical partnership between Bahrain and the UK and means



HM the King

The meeting will review the Israeli military escalation in the Gaza Strip and pushing forward efforts toward a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East region.

of further developing them in various domains.

HM the King also discussed regional and international developments with British government officials, including the Israeli war on Gaza and working to end military escalation,

prioritising civilian protection, and opening safe corridors for humanitarian aid.

HM King Hamad emphasised the importance of achieving just, lasting peace to consolidate regional security and stability.



BisB Appoints Mahmood Ali as Chief Corporate Communications & Marketing Officer P-5

Afghans flee after strong quake leaves two people dead

AFP | Herat, Afghanistan

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake killed two people in western Afghanistan yesterday, with damaged prisons evacuated and residents fleeing a region where tremors have claimed at least 1,000 lives this past week.

Since October 7, a series of potent quakes have jolted Herat province, leveling whole villages, burying families and leaving thousands homeless as winter approaches.

In rural Injil district, near the epicentre of yesterday's quake, 64-year-old Rustam narrowly escaped when tremors destroyed the remnants of his home and buried belongings he was trying to salvage at around 8:00 am (0330 GMT).

The latest quake's epicentre was 33 kilometres (20 miles) northwest of the provincial capital Herat city and was followed by aftershocks of magnitudes 5.4, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, the US Geological Survey said

Ukraine's symbolic industrial hub 'falls' to Russian forces

AFP | Moscow

Russian forces have made gains in their Ukraine offensive, President Vladimir Putin said yesterday, including in Avdiivka, a symbolic industrial hub where fighting has been fierce.

Ukrainian forces say they continue to repel Moscow's troops in the area.

"Our troops are improving their position in almost all of this area, which is quite vast," Putin said in an interview on Russian television, an extract of which was posted on social media yesterday.

"This concerns the areas of Kupiansk, Zaporizhzhia and Avdiivka," Putin said, praising the army's "active defence strategy".

One million lives in Gaza shattered

Number of displaced Palestinians reaches critical level as Israel's ground attack looms

Bombardments flatten neighbourhoods and leave 2,450 dead, including more than 720 children

Death toll from Hamas attack last week has reached 1,400: Israel

Arab League and African Union warn Israeli invasion could lead to genocide

TDT | Manama

As Israel readies for a ground attack on Gaza, home to over 2.3 million Palestinians, the United Nations said yesterday that over one million people there have been displaced since last week, following sustained bombardments and Israel's directive to evacuate to the south.

The bombardments have flattened neighbourhoods and left at least 2,450 people dead, including over 720 children, Gaza's health ministry said yesterday.

Israel said yesterday that the death toll from the Hamas attack last week has reached 1,400.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, the Arab League and the African Union warned that an invasion by Israel could lead to a genocide.

Iran's foreign minister said no one can guarantee control of the situation and the non-expansion of conflicts if Israel sends its soldiers into Gaza.

Israel yesterday shut its bor-



Palestinian rescuers lift the body of a young person from under the rubble of a home following an Israeli attack on the town of Deir Al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday. (AFP)

der area with its northern neighbour Lebanon to civilians, with its defence minister saying it had no interest in a war in the north and doesn't want to escalate the situation.

US fear

In Washington, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said they feared the prospect of Iran getting directly engaged in the conflict. Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters had gathered in the US capital on Saturday, calling for a 'Free Palestine'.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who recently toured the Middle East for diplomatic talks to avoid a wider crisis, appealed to China, a close ally of Iran, to use its influence in the region to ease tensions.

But the Chinese foreign minister said yesterday that Israel's response has gone beyond the scope of self-defence and called on the Israeli prime minister to cease its collective punishment of the people of Gaza.

China supports the just cause of the Palestinian people in safeguarding their national rights and the root cause is that the Palestinian people's right to statehood has been set aside for a long time, the foreign minister was quoted as saying.

"This historical injustice should end as soon as possible," the foreign minister was stated to have told Iran's foreign minister during a phone call, according to an official readout by China.

In Rome, Pope Francis called for humanitarian corridors in

Gaza and urged that children, the sick, the elderly, women, and civilians should not fall victim to the conflict.

Thousands marched in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands, yesterday in a pro-Palestine demonstration. Egypt said yesterday that it plans to host a summit on the future of the Palestinian cause.

By yesterday evening, Israel said it is considering resuming water supply in the southern part of Gaza, so that the civilian population would move there. The move comes a week after cutting off water, electricity, and food supplies to Gaza.

As the border crossings controlled by Israel are closed, along with the Rafah border crossing point with Egypt in the south, the 2.3 million people of Gaza

BETTER YOU KNOW

The death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip has surged to at least 2,670, according to the Gaza health ministry. Another 9,600 people have also been injured.

have nowhere to go and are effectively trapped in the Palestinian enclave that is 41 kilometres long and 10 kilometres wide.

Urgent support for Palestinians

HH Shaikh Nasser orders formation of national committee to process aid to Gaza

TDI | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of His Majesty for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, has directed forming a national committee comprising government entities and charity and professional associations to help Palestinians affected by the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

It is in line with the royal directives to organise a national campaign to provide humanitarian relief aid to the Palestinians.

HH Shaikh Nasser said that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has always been supportive of countries undergoing various circumstances. His

The National Committee for the Support of the Palestinians in Gaza will unify efforts to provide humanitarian aid urgently after assessing the requirements

HH SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS MAJESTY FOR HUMANITARIAN WORK AND YOUTH AFFAIRS



Highness extended his thanks and appreciation to HM the King for his stances and the support

received by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) from the Government led by His Roy-

al Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Nasser said that the National Committee for the Support of the Palestinians in Gaza will unify efforts to provide humanitarian aid urgently after assessing the requirements.

He assigned Mustafa Al Sayed, Secretary General of RHF, as the chief executive of this committee

Al Sayed said that the committee is preparing to hold a meeting and will launch initiatives and efforts to support the people of Gaza, in reflection of the firm stance of the Kingdom of Bahrain towards the Palestinian cause.

Second meeting for Shura Council new legislative term



Chairman Al Saleh

Elects standing committees

TDI | Manama

Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Shura Council Chairman, yesterday chaired the second session of the sixth legislative term.

The council approved the minutes of the previous meeting. It was informed about the letters addressed to it by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, regarding a number of issued decrees and decree-laws.

The session also approved the Reply to the Royal Speech Committee, chaired by Jamal Mohammed Fakhro, First Deputy Chairman.

It also elected Dr. Jameela Mohammed Redha Al Salman, Talal Al Mannai, Ali Hussain Al Shehabi and Ali Abdulla Al Aradi, as representatives of the Shura Council at the Executive Committee of the parliamentary delegation.

The results of the elections of the Shura Council's standing committees were announced yesterday as follows:

Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee: Chairperson: Dalal Jassim Al Zayed, Deputy Chairman: Adel Abdulrahman A; Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee: Chairman: Ali bin Mohammed Al Romaihi, Deputy Chairman: Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa; Financial and Economic Affairs Committee: Chairman: Khalid Hussain Al Maskati, Deputy Chairman: Redha Abdulla Farj; Services Committee: Chairperson: Ibtissam Mohammed Saleh Al Dalal

Deputy Chairperson: Dr. Jameela Mohammed Redha Al Salman; Public Utilities and Environment Committee: Chairman: Dr. Mohammed Ali Hassan Ali, Deputy Chairman: Juma Mohammed Al Kaabi; Women and Child Affairs Committee: Chairperson: Dr. Fatima Abduljabbar Al Kooheji Deputy Chairperson: Leena Habib Qassim; Youth Affairs Committee: Chairman: Redha Ibrahim Munfaredi, Deputy Chairman: Talal Mohammed Al Mannai; Human Rights Committee: Chairman: Dr. Mohammed Ali Mohammed Ali Khuzai Deputy Chairman: Dr. Ali Hussain Al Shehabi.

41st Joint Economic Committee meeting held

TDI | Manama

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce, led by Minister Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), chaired by Sameer Nass, convened their 41st Joint Economic Committee meeting at the Ministry's premises.

The meeting saw the participation of senior officials and committee members from both sides.

During the meeting, Minister Fakhro emphasised the Ministry's commitment to collaboration, coordination, and consultation with the Chamber on important matters.



Mr Fakhro and Mr Nass preside over the meeting

He also expressed the Ministry's endorsement of initiatives aimed at bolstering Bahrain's economic sector and stressed the significance of working in

tandem with the Chamber, the primary representative of the private sector, to fulfill goals and enhance the commercial and investment environment.

Topics on the meeting's agenda and the progress of previous committee meeting topics were thoroughly discussed during the session.

Cooperation and coordination



General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Interior Minister, received Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy. The two sides discussed cooperation and coordination to provide services to citizens and residents at the highest standards.

Promoting e-excellence culture



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, received the Chief Executive Officer of the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA), Mohammed Ali Al Qaed. Al Qaed introduced to the Interior Minister the work team of the 10th edition of the Bahrain International eGovernment Forum held last week, during which the winners of the eGovernment Excellence Awards were announced. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah hailed the efforts of the organising committee and the eGovernment Excellence Award management for keeping pace with technical developments by introducing new categories to promote e-excellence culture among individuals and civic organisations.

Dealing with emergencies



Lieutenant General Tariq Al Hassan, Chief of Public Security, received Bruce Mann, British Advisor. The meeting was attended by Brigadier Ali Al Kubaisi, Director-General of Civil Defence. The two sides discussed ways to develop civil emergency management and national risk analysis as well as remain updated on ways to deal with emergencies regionally and internationally.

Bahrain-Kuwait military ties



Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Noaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), yesterday received Brigadier-General Mohammed Rashid Al Mutairi, the Military Attache at the Kuwaiti Embassy to Bahrain. The two sides reviewed the solid fraternal Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations. They also discussed a number of military issues.

Royal call for Bahrainis to invest in 'future' of food security

Deputy Prime Minister inaugurates company producing farmed shrimp in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The Deputy Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, has emphasised the importance of encouraging Bahrainis to continue investing in food industries in order to improve levels of food security and diversify supply chains.

This is particularly important

in the field of aquaculture and will be achieved through effective partnerships with the private sector.

The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that this initiative is in line with the visions and aspirations of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and is being implemented under the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The deputy premier indicated that based on its 2023-2026 programme, the government will support projects aimed at achieving food security, through offering a package of investment plots



The Deputy Prime Minister with senior government officials at the event

in the fields of plant agriculture, animal husbandry and fish farming, providing the beneficiaries with the necessary support and facilitating their access to safe technologies to increase food production.

The Deputy Prime Minister made the statements while visiting the National Aquaculture Centre in Ras Hayyan, in the presence of Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works and His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Southern Governor, in addition to officials and businessmen.

Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla inaugurated the Gulf Aquaculture Company, the first project of its kind in the Kingdom in producing farmed shrimp, which is one of the successful outcomes of the partnership initiative between the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the private sector, which supports efforts to enhance levels of food security locally.

The Deputy Premier said that the first fish farming company will encourage Bahraini investors to set similar projects in the future to contribute to boosting the national economy by producing safe and high-quality local food.

Court orders refund of BD2,000 in food truck ownership dispute



Image used for illustrative purposes only

TDT | Manama

The High Civil Appeals Court has ruled against a Bahraini individual, ordering him to refund a sum of BD2,000 to another person.

The individual had purchased a "Food Truck" from the plaintiff but failed to transfer its ownership. Additionally, the court fined him BD250 as compensation for breaching the agreement, according to lawyer Khulood Mathloun.

According to the details of the case, Mathloun, the plaintiff's lawyer, stated that her client had reached an agreement with the defendant to purchase a "Food Truck" for BD2,000. The plaintiff paid the full amount to the seller. However, the seller failed to initiate the necessary procedures to transfer ownership, prompting the plaintiff to file a criminal report. The plaintiff's lawyer further explained that her client had handed over the full payment to the accused, a fact that the defendant did not deny before the security authorities. However, the defendant falsely claimed that the buyer had not completed the vehicle licensing procedures.

The buyer filed a lawsuit before the civil court, seeking to terminate the sales contract and compel the seller to refund the agreed-upon amount. The buyer argued that the seller breached the contract by failing to transfer the vehicle's own-

ership, which resulted in the buyer's inability to obtain the necessary licenses.

The plaintiff's lawyer requested the termination of the contract, a refund of the amount, and compensation of 500 dinars for the material and moral damages caused by the defendant's breach of the agreement. The lawyer also requested the defendant to bear the legal expenses and attorney fees.

The Lower Civil Court had earlier issued its judgment, ordering the defendant to pay the plaintiff a total amount of BD2,050, including the requested compensation, expenses, and attorney fees. However, the buyer disagreed with the judgment and appealed, seeking to oblige the defendant to pay an additional compensation of BD500.

Error

In its ruling, the High Civil Appeals Court stated that it was proven that the defendant committed an error by not transferring the vehicle's ownership, which caused harm to the plaintiff.

Therefore, the court concluded that the defendant was liable for negligence, and it awarded compensation to the plaintiff to alleviate the distress caused by the defendant's failure to fulfil the agreement. The court determined the compensation to be BD250, bringing the total amount awarded to the plaintiff to BD2,250.

Residents gear up for winter

Shopping, outdoor activities, and festivities top the list

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

As the chilly winds start to blow and the days grow shorter, winter enthusiasts in the Kingdom are eagerly preparing to embrace the season.

From purchasing warm and stylish winter clothing to engaging in outdoor activities, there's a sense of anticipation in the air.

With the onset of winter, many renowned brands are offering attractive discounts on their winter collections. Brands such as REDTAG, Forever 21, Max Fashion, Splash, and Centrepoint are enticing customers with discounts ranging from 30 to 70 percent.

Offers are being extended on fashionable jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, scarves, and more, making it affordable for customers to update their wardrobes at affordable prices.

Along with winter shopping, people are looking forward to the favourite pastimes of the season, the most popular being holding barbecue parties at beaches. Residents said their families and friends gather around bonfires to enjoy delicious grilled food, creating lasting memories and relishing the cozy ambiance.

Many residents also turn to their favourite winter pastime of cycling, lured by the cool weather and the scenic surroundings that make it an enjoyable experience. Those looking for an ever more relaxed outdoor activity, going for a walk is the best, say residents.

Winter walks

Neha Venu, a resident, shared her excitement for winter walks and recommended places like the Sitra Bridge Walkway, commonly known as Sitra Walkway,



Shopping is more enjoyable during the cold months (Image used for illustrative purposes only)

or the Marina Beach Garden Park, which is referred to by residents as Marina Walkway or Dolphin Park.

"These locations offer picturesque views, invigorating fresh air, and a chance to unwind amidst the freezing temperatures," Neha said.

In addition to the cool climate, people are also looking forward to the festivities that take place in the Kingdom during the season.

"Winter is also a time of celebration, and it brings forth a series of joyous occasions. Christmas, New Year's Eve, and Bahrain National Day are some of the notable events that fall during this season," Neha stated.

Exciting experience

Driving during winter can also be an exciting experience, especially when the weather conditions bring about fog and cold winds. Nikhil Mathew,



The climate during the winter months in Bahrain is between December and March with average maximum temperatures between 20°C and 25°C.

ter clothes. Stores like R&B have a great offer going on, with sweatshirts priced at just BD4.5 and jackets around BD6."

Melissa Cuthino, a resident, told The Daily Tribune that many outdoor activities take place during the winter, with Al Dana Amphitheatre bringing good music artists to perform during the season. For instance, pop band Maroon 5 is performing on November 13th and she and her friends are excited to wear the winter clothes and attend such outdoor events, Melissa said.

"During winter, one advantage that I feel is my family can save a lot of electricity too, as we don't need A/C and we can just go to the terrace and have a nice dinner together," she said.

As the winter season unfolds, Bahrain's residents are high on excitement and are ready to embrace the chill and make the most of this enchanting season.

another resident, mentioned that the foggy ambiance adds an element of thrill to the journeys, making them all the more enjoyable.

He said, "Last weekend, my friends and I went to the City Centre and bought a lot of win-

Employee accused of 'salary manipulation' in GOSI system

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has postponed the trial of an administrative employee at a company to October 17 to summon witnesses for his alleged exploitation of his available powers in the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI) system.

The employee is accused of

increasing his entitled salary by more than a hundred Bahraini dinars, aiming to boost his insurance benefits. The incident revolves around the defendant, who holds a position as an administrative manager in a company. He used his granted privileges in the electronic system of the GOSI, which allowed him access. Taking advantage of this

access, he manipulated the data in the information technology system, falsely presenting inaccurate information that showed an increase in his salary from BD1,752 to BD1,855. As a result, the company became obligated to pay the director's insurance benefits amounting to BD1,400 for a year until the matter was discovered and referred to the

relevant authorities.

After conducting necessary investigations into the incident and examining the company's records in the electronic system of the organisation, it was revealed that an authorised person from the company had accessed the employer's account on the organisation's website and modified the salary.

Four fishing boats held for using illegal trawling nets

TDT | Manama

The Coast Guard patrols have successfully apprehended four fishing boats in the western region as part of their ongoing efforts to enforce fishing regulations and crack down on violators of ministerial resolutions regarding fishing operations.

The boats were found to be

using bottom trawl nets, which are prohibited according to Ministerial Resolution No. 205 of 2018, banning marine fishing with bottom trawl nets (known as "Al Karaf"), according to a statement issued by the Coast Guard Command. The confiscated illegal nets have been seized, and legal measures are being taken to refer the case to the public prosecutor's office.

Court awards BD14,000 to employee unlawfully dismissed by company

TDT | Manama

An employee who was arbitrarily dismissed from his job after three years of service has won a lawsuit against his former employer.

The man, who worked as a driver with a monthly salary of BD470 under a five-year work contract from 2020 to 2025, had his residence visa cancelled and was deprived of his work benefits, including withheld wages from January 2021 to February 2023, notice allowance, compensation for the remainder of the work contract, air ticket, end of service gratuity, and end of service certificate.

The company failed to fulfil the contract's clauses.

The court ruled that the company must pay the plaintiff compensation for terminating a fixed-term work contract equal to the wages for the remaining contract period, amounting to BD9,240. Additionally, the company was ordered to pay the plaintiff a notice allowance of BD420, withheld wages of BD3,920, and other benefits, bringing the total compensation to BD14,400.

Employment history

According to lawsuit details, lawyer Sediqa Al Muwali said her client had joined work on October 22, 2020. On March 21, 2023, the company dismissed him, cancelled his residence visa, and did not pay his requested



Lawyer Sediqa Al Muwali



Image used for illustrative purposes only

work benefits, which included withheld wages from January 2021 to February 2023 amounting to BD3,920, notice allowance, compensation for the remainder of the work contract, air ticket, end of service gratuity, and end of service certificate.

Al Muwali added, "The company claimed the dismissal was due to downsizing, but we argued that the company did not follow legal procedures to terminate work contracts. We also demanded compensation for the arbitrary dismissal."

Al Muwali explained that during the case deliberations, the court concluded that the company had unilaterally terminated the work contract without cause and without proving the legality of ending the contract. Therefore, it ruled that the company must pay the plaintiff compensa-

tion for terminating a fixed-term work contract equal to the wages for the remaining contract period, amounting to BD9,240.

Regarding the notice allowance request, Al Muwali said the court upheld the validity of the unilateral dismissal by the company and therefore the illegality of it, which entitles the plaintiff to compensation and notice allowance, since the company did not provide evidence of paying the notice allowance to the plaintiff. The court therefore ruled to obligate the company to pay the plaintiff a notice allowance of BD420.

Employment relationship

Al Muwali clarified that for the withheld wages claim, the court found that the plaintiff had proven an employment relationship with a salary of BD470 and was

claiming BD3,920 in withheld wages. The company did not provide evidence of paying the plaintiff's claimed wages. Therefore, the court ruled to obligate the company to pay the plaintiff 3,920 dinars. It also ruled the company must pay the plaintiff's annual leave allowance of BD595 based on the basic wage, in addition to an end-of-service gratuity of BD525.

Al Muwali pointed out that the court ordered the company to provide the plaintiff either a return ticket or its monetary value. It also granted him an end-of-service certificate for the period from 2020 to 2023 with a monthly salary of BD470.

She stated, "The court granted all our claims, obligating the defendant company to compensate the plaintiff in a total amount of 14,400 dinars."

Industry Minister inaugurates first 'Connections Luxury' tourism event



Mr Fakhro with international tour operators, and luxury tourism sector

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce and Acting Minister of Tourism, inaugurated the first edition of the tourism event "Connections Luxury Bahrain."

The event welcomed a diverse gathering of leading international tour operators, along with representatives from the luxury tourism sector and destination management companies from around the world.

During the three days event, tour operators from around the world will have the opportunity to experience Bahrain's tourism offerings to help showcase the Kingdom to international markets.

During the event, H.E. the Minister emphasised the significance of hosting this event and pointed out that this opportunity allows Bahrain to demonstrate its appealing advantages to visiting tour operators, both in terms of tourism and investment. Hosting such an event highlights Bahrain's unique tourism potential as well as its ability to foster enduring trade relationships with prominent global agencies.

Tourism growth

He underlined the important role of the Ministry of Tourism and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) in enhancing Bahrain's capabilities, preparedness, and competitiveness to organize and host significant international events and exhibitions. This effort is part of Bahrain's commitment to expanding its presence in foreign tourism markets, ultimately fueling the growth of the tourism sector within the Kingdom.

H.E. Minister Fakhro highlighted that the three-day

Hosting this event highlights Bahrain's unique tourism potential as well as its ability to foster enduring trade relationships with prominent global agencies

ABDULLA BIN ADEL FAKHRO, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND ACTING MINISTER OF TOURISM

event "Connections Luxury" is meant to bring together international leaders and experts in luxury travel, leading to partnerships that can promote Bahrain as an ideal destination for luxury tourism.

Advanced tourism infrastructure

Minister Fakhro underscored Bahrain's advanced tourism infrastructure, which has positioned it as an icon of luxury tourism in the Middle East. He stressed that Bahrain's tourism offers, which includes its luxury hotels, resorts, restaurants, and upscale shopping centers, collectively contribute to the excellence and uniqueness of the Bahraini tourism and travel sector. These components deliver an extraordinary experience to visitors. H.E. Minister Fakhro emphasised the commitment of the Ministry of Tourism and the BTEA to strengthen the tourism sector. This commitment involves actively participating in and hosting various international tourism events, exhibitions, and forums.

These initiatives aim to raise awareness about Bahrain's diverse attractions and activities that tourists can enjoy. The focus is on highlighting the Kingdom's luxury tourism industry, which showcases its diverse and integrated offerings, blending ancient heritage, sophistication, and opulence.

BDF opens training course for female civilian volunteers

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) yesterday opened the course for female civilian volunteers for the Reserve Force.

The event titled "Second Batch" was held in the presence of Major General Ghanem Ibrahim Al-Fadala, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, at the Isa Royal Military College.

A number of female volunteers from the civilian sector in the female reserve force who are relatives of employees and retirees in the BDF and the National Guard (military and civilian) participate in this course. This course aims to give them



Female civilian volunteers taking part in the event

the military qualification that will enable them to carry out their national role in serving

the nation, and to be able to bear responsibility as BDF members in defending the country.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of BDF senior officers.

Joint inspection campaigns



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted two joint inspection campaigns in the Muharraq and Southern Governorates on a number of shops and work sites. The campaigns resulted in reporting violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The cases were referred for legal action. The LMRA renewed its call on all members of society to report violations via the electronic form on the authority's website www.lmra.gov.bh or by calling the authority's call centre on 17506055.

White Cane Safety Day



Capital Governor, Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, took part in a celebration to mark the White Cane Safety Day by the Friendship Society for the Blind at the Water Garden in Seef district. Citizens, residents and NGOs took part in the Walking with the Blind event. He asserted the dedication of the Capital Governorate to supporting humanitarian initiatives for all segments of society, especially those with special needs.

NPRA-Singapore partnership to enhance administrative operations



Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman at the event

TDT | Manama

The Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) has partnered with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise to conduct a course on administrative development and process re-engineering.

The event, held at the Public Security Officers Club, aimed to enhance performance and provide advanced government services to citizens, residents, and visitors.

The NPRA Undersecretary,

Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, highlighted the importance of innovation, professionalism, and digitalisation in meeting future requirements.

The course focused on topics such as applying innovation strategies, analysing operations, developing procedures, and managing change. The participants were thanked for their participation, with hopes for their success in implementing improved services.

Global markets brace for fallout as ME tensions rise

TDT | agencies

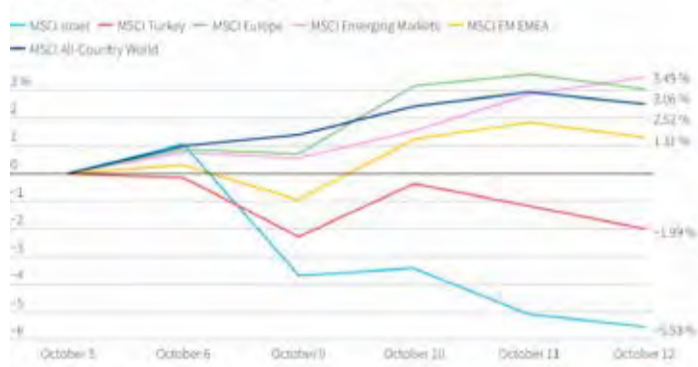
The Israeli-Hamas war has sharpened focus on rising geopolitical risks for financial markets, as investors wait to see if the conflict draws in other countries with the potential to drive up oil prices further and deal a fresh blow to the world economy.

Israel said yesterday it would continue to allow Gazans to evacuate south as its troops readied for a ground assault on the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip in retaliation for unprecedented attacks by the Palestinian militant group.

Oil prices leapt nearly 6% on Friday, as investors priced in the possibility of a wider Middle East conflict. The first indicator

Taking stock

Israeli equities have fallen due to war worries but worldwide indexes unaffected.



Reuters | Marc Jones @marcjonesrtr
Source: LSEG Databseum

of reaction to weekend developments will likely come when oil starts trading in Asia later on Sunday.

"It looks like we're headed for a massive ground invasion of Gaza and a large-scale loss of life," said Ben Cahill, senior

fellow in the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). "Anytime you have a conflict of this scale, you will have a market reaction."

"I have no clue whether markets will remain relatively well behaved," said Erik Nielsen, group chief economics advisor at UniCredit. "It almost certainly depends on whether this latest conflict remains localized or whether it escalates into a broader Middle Eastern war."

The S&P 500 (.SPX) fell 0.5% on Friday. Safe-haven assets saw buying with gold up more than 3% on Friday and the U.S. dollar touching a one-week high.

BisB names Mahmood Ali Chief Corporate Communications & Marketing Officer

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) announced the appointment of Mahmood Ali as the Bank's Chief Marketing & Corporate Communications Officer.

Ali will be responsible for all aspects of brand, marketing and corporate communications at BisB. Bahrain Islamic Bank CEO Yaser Alsharifi said: "Mahmood will play a key role in enhancing our offering through engaging with our customers and enhanc-



Mahmood Ali

ing their experience."

Mahmood Ali said: "This is a really exciting time to be joining BisB, the strategy and vision are clear."



Yaser Alsharifi

Mahmood brings over 20 years of experience in managing brands and reputation through developing and executing marketing and communications

strategies globally.

Prior to joining BisB, Mahmood was a Senior Director of Communications and External Affairs at Mumtalakat, the Kingdom of Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund. He also held several senior positions, including the Executive Director of Communications at Bahrain Economic Development Board and Partner and Managing Director of Bell Pottinger, a London-based strategic communications agency.

Zain Bahrain celebrates sign languages day with Bahrain Deaf Society



Participants during a photocall

TDT | Manama

Zain Bahrain celebrated International Day of Sign Language with Bahrain Deaf Society, by hosting an event for Bahrain Deaf Society members and children, and Zain employees' children.

The event included a Bahraini Sign Language basics workshop for children by a professional Sign Language interpreter and viewing of "Nothing like Zain"



Play with Sign Language interpretation, along with a range of entertaining activities tai-

lored for children, encouraging bonding, understanding, and awareness among all attendees.

A team of Zain employees who are trained in Sign Language were invited to ensure effective communication and engagement, making it possible for all attendees to participate in the event activities.

Fatema Haider, Manager of Sustainability, and Inclusivity at Zain Bahrain, expressed her enthusiasm for this collab-

oration, stating "Zain Bahrain is very proud to continue its partnership with Bahrain Deaf Society, marking Zain's ongoing commitment in promoting inclusivity and diversity within the local community."

Hussain Al Ghuraifi, President of Bahrain Deaf Society: "It is important to also highlight how impactful such initiatives are, especially for children by embedding knowledge and awareness from an early stage."

Italian concept Cioccolatitaliani opens new Bahrain branch at Al Liwan

TDT | Manama

Italian café, Cioccolatitaliani opened its flagship branch in Bahrain at Al Liwan in Hamala. The 107sqm outlet offers authentic Italian gelato and a wide range of specialty coffee, Italian desserts, cakes, and both hot and cold beverages, all meticulously prepared in a homemade fashion.

Launched in 2009 by the Ferreri family in Milan, Cioccolatitaliani's vision is to be a global ambassador of the art of blending chocolate with gelato and distinctive Italian desserts, and it is also renowned for its expertise in chocolate production and



the art of cocoa processing. The concept made its international

debut in 2013 with the opening of its first Riyadh branch.

Seef Properties Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Yusuf said: "Cioccolatitaliani will help to diversify the hospitality options available at the mall, whose modern amenities and comprehensive retail mix has been highly successful at attracting major European and international brands."

Cioccolatitaliani Managing Director, Osman Khan said: "Through this new branch, we aim to continuously innovate new products and offerings for our customers to savour the taste of authentic Italian desserts, while attracting a fresh customer base eager to explore this unconventional world."

Beyon Connect launches 'OneExpress' in Saudi

TDT | Manama

Beyon Connect, part of the Beyon Group, has announced the launch of OneExpress, a simple, secure and cost-effective e-Invoicing platform, designed to meet the specific needs of the business sector. Initially, the service will be available in Saudi Arabia, empowering organisations to effortlessly meet KSA's Zakat and Tax Authority (ZATCA) requirements and mandates for invoice clearance and VAT reporting.

OneExpress, which is being rolled out in collaboration with B2BRouter, a prominent global player in the e-procurement market, is an e-Invoicing platform that securely connects enterprises with customers and suppliers. The



platform enables standardized transmission of eDocuments for B2C, B2B, and B2G purposes, allowing users to issue, transmit, receive and process invoices electronically.

Beyon Connect CEO Christian Rasmussen commented on the launch of OneExpress saying, "The GCC and MENA regions represent a huge potential market for e-Invoicing services as we see accelerated digital transformation in the public and the private sectors across the MENA region."

Germany issues travel warning for Israel, Lebanon

Berlin, Germany

The German government on Sunday urged its nationals not to travel to Israel, the Palestinian territories or Lebanon because of "an escalation of violence" following the Hamas attacks on Israel.

The travel warning is at the

highest level given by the German government.

"Due to the escalation of violence in the region in connection with the massive terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7, we warn against travelling to the countries and areas mentioned," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Westin and Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain host media event in Qatar



Cristalyn Pastrana with the member of Qatar media

TDT | Manama

The Westin and Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain team hosted a cocktail reception for media personnel and social media influencers in Doha, Qatar.

"Our aim is to introduce our two hotels in Bahrain "The Westin and Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain" in the Qatar market and build a personal connection with the media in Qatar. We thought it was the

best way to discuss collaboration in person and put a face to the name. It is also a perfect timing since daily flights are now open via Gulf Air and Qatar Airways, it is easier for Qatar nationals, and residents to plan a weekend stay in Bahrain and vice versa" said Cristalyn Pastrana, Complex Director of Marketing for The Westin and Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain.

The event was held at Le Meridien City Centre Doha on October 9, 2023.

BBK unveils winners of BD100,000 from Al Hayrat!

TDT | Manama

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) has revealed the ten lucky winners of the latest Al Hayrat prizes. These prizes collectively amount to BD 100,000, with BD 10,000 awarded to each winner. These prizes are part of the Al Hayrat campaign which continues throughout the year.

The Al Hayrat draw for August took place on Tuesday.

The lucky winners are Sabah Jaafar Mohamed, Mohamed Ebrahim Ahmed, Fareeda Hameed Al Marhoon, Mohamed Ebrahim Bu Hasan,

Nyla Mohamed Al Khalifa, Abdulkarim Ahmed Marhoon, Zainab Salman Mansoor, Hana Hasan Al Aali, Hamad Diab Rasheed and Rahma Ebrahim Al Baloochi who expressed immense joy, emphasizing how this significant win would usher in a positive shift in their lives. They encouraged everyone to open an Al Hayrat account at BBK, seizing the outstanding opportunities to win valuable prizes throughout the year.

The upcoming grand prize worth BD 100,000 will be drawn alongside 10 loyalty prizes totaling BD 50,000 on 8 November.



News in brief

At least 28 bodies have been recovered from the Congo river. While dozens more people were reported missing after a boat sank in northwest DR Congo, provincial authorities said yesterday. The large riverboat, which had left the city of Mbandaka for the Bolomana Territory in the Democratic Republic of Congo's northwest Equateur province, sank late Friday night. "Dozens of people are still missing and the search is continuing," Christin Mputu, interior minister for the Equateur province, told AFP, confirming the death toll. The total number of passengers had not yet been established with the official list having "disappeared". Mputu said in a telephone interview. One civil society organisation put the toll much higher. "Our teams counted up to 49 bodies yesterday, and this morning, another was recovered from the water, bringing the toll to 50 dead," Joseph Boyoko Lokondo, a leader of the organisation "Generation consiente ("Conscious Generation)", told AFP.



At least 28 dead in DR Congo shipwreck

UN Security Council members held difficult talks yesterday on a possible resolution over the war between Israel and Hamas, with two drafts on the negotiating table, diplomats said. On Friday, Russia circulated a draft that calls for "an immediate, durable and fully respected humanitarian ceasefire" in the war triggered by the October 7 Hamas attack on Gaza on southern Israel. That draft calls for "unimpeded" humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, which had already been under a years-long Israeli blockade and is now under a full-blown siege, with basics like electricity and food supplies cut off. The Russian draft, seen by AFP, "strongly condemns all

violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism," without mentioning Hamas. Russia brings back 34 children from Syria refugee camps

Moscow said yesterday it had brought 34 children from refugee camps in Syria back to Russia, in its campaign to repatriate the offspring of Russian jihadis. An unknown number of children of Russian nationals who travelled to fight in Syria - most from majority Muslim republics - remain in refugee camps in Syria, Russia, which intervened in the Syrian civil war to help its ally Bashar al-Assad in 2015, has been returning the children over the years, in a process that has recently slowed. "We brought home 34 children from Syria," Moscow's children rights commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova said on social media. Lvova-Belova is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) over the alleged illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia.



Incoming New Zealand PM prepares to form coalition govt

AFP | Wellington, New Zealand

Christopher Luxon said it was a "tremendous privilege" to wake up Sunday as New Zealand's incoming prime minister as he eyed talks to form a new coalition government. Voters ended the six-year reign of the centre-left Labour government on Saturday as Luxon's conservative National Party won enough seats to govern in a coalition with liberal party ACT.



New Zealand's National Party leader Christopher Luxon celebrates victory with his supporters

Labour leader Chris Hipkins, who replaced Jacinda Ardern as prime minister in January, conceded defeat after his party lost nearly half their number of seats from the previous election in 2020. Luxon fronted the media on Sunday wearing an All Blacks jersey after watching coverage of New Zealand's victory over Ireland at the Rugby World Cup in France, which kicked off at 8 am local time (1900 GMT Saturday). "That's why I feel very optimistic about our path going forward."

Luxon said he planned a strategy meeting Sunday ahead of coalition talks. In their first 100 days, National has promised changes such as a ban on cellphones in schools, a crackdown on crime and the scrapping of planned fuel tax hikes.

With New Zealand in a cost of living crisis and crime figures rising, Luxon admitted having "some tough decisions" to face.

Israeli army awaits 'political' green light



Israeli soldiers patrol in armoured personnel carriers at an undisclosed position in northern Israel near the border with Lebanon

The Israeli army is awaiting a "political decision" on the timing of a major ground offensive on the Gaza Strip, military spokesmen said Sunday as civilians stepped up desperate efforts to flee northern Gaza. The Israeli military has particularly singled out Yahya Sinwar, the chief of Hamas in Gaza they blame for the October 7 attacks. "That man is in our sights," Hecht said on Saturday. "He is a dead man walking and we will get to that man."

Israel confirms resuming water supply to southern Gaza: minister

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel is resuming the water supply to southern Gaza, Energy Minister Israel Katz said yesterday, as one million people have evacuated the north of the Strip to escape a massive air assault.

"This will push the civilian population to the southern (part of the) Strip," Katz said in a statement, a week after Israel had stopped supplying water to the entire territory as part of a "complete siege" on the Palestinian enclave. He said the decision to resume the supply was taken after talks between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan earlier said that Israel told him it has turned the water supply back on in southern Gaza.

Gaza witnessing 'unprecedented human catastrophe': UN agency

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's strikes on the Gaza Strip have led to an "unprecedented human catastrophe" in the Palestinian territory, the United Nations agency supporting Palestinian refugees said yesterday. "Not one drop of water, not one grain of wheat, not a litre of fuel has been allowed in the Gaza Strip for the last eight days," Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner general of UNRWA, told journalists.

"Raise the alarm that as of today, my UNRWA colleagues in Gaza are no longer able to provide humanitarian assistance as I speak," Lazzarini said.

"In fact, Gaza is being strangled and it seems the war right now has lost its hu-



An Israeli armoured vehicle rolls in a field close to the border with the Gaza

manity," he continued. "If we look at the issue of water, we all know water is life and Gaza is running out of water and Gaza is running out of life." "This will push the civilian population to the southern (part of the) Strip," Katz said in a statement, a week after Israel had stopped supplying water to the entire territory as part of a "complete siege" on the Palestinian enclave.

US fears direct Iran involvement as China says supports 'just cause' of Palestinians

Gaza invasion could lead to 'genocide': Arab League, African Union

Israel has 'no interest in war' on border with Lebanon: defence minister

Gaza death toll rises to 2,450: Hamas health ministry

Blinken confident Rafah crossing with Gaza to open to aid

EU nations stress 'Israel's right to defend itself' within international law

TDT | agencies

The United States said yesterday it fears an escalation of the war between Israel and Hamas and the prospect of Iran getting directly involved as UN says one million displaced in first week of war.

In another development yesterday, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi told his Iranian counterpart that Beijing supports the "just cause of the Palestinian people in safeguarding their national rights". "The root cause... of the Palestinian people's right to statehood has been set aside for a long time," Wang said in a call with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Sunday, according to an official Chinese readout.

"This historical injustice should end as soon as possible," Wang said, adding that "China will continue to stand on the side of peace and support the just cause of the Palestinian people in safeguarding their national rights."



An injured Palestinian man and boy arrive to Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City following Israeli bombardment



An Israeli soldier hugs her parents before returning to military service at the army base in Ramla

EU leaders stress Israel's right to self-defence within international law

Brussels, Belgium

Leaders of the 27 European Union member states yesterday stressed "Israel's right to defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law" against the "violent and indiscriminate attacks" by Hamas. "We reiterate the importance of the provision of urgent humanitarian aid and stand ready to continue supporting

those civilians most in need in Gaza... ensuring that such assistance is not abused by terrorist organisations," the statement said. "It is crucial to prevent regional escalation" of the conflict, it added. The joint statement was adopted two days ahead of an emergency video summit of the member nations called by European Council President Charles Michel.

self-defence" and the Israeli government must "cease its collective punishment of the people of Gaza".

"(Israel) should listen earnestly to the calls of the international community and the UN secretary general, and cease its collective punishment of the people of Gaza," Wang added in a change from Beijing's earlier ambiguous statements on the conflict. Yesterday, speaking on CBS, White House National Security



Israeli soldiers patrol in armoured personnel carriers at an undisclosed position in northern Israel near the border with Lebanon

Advisor Jake Sullivan cited the possibility of a new battle front on the Israel-Lebanon border and added, "We can't rule out that Iran would choose to get directly engaged some way. We have to prepare for every possible contingency."

"That is a risk and that's a risk that we have been mindful of since the start," Sullivan said of the prospect of Iran getting involved in the war, which was triggered by the Hamas attack on southern Israel from Gaza last weekend.

"It's why the president moves so rapidly and decisively to get an aircraft carrier into the eastern Mediterranean, to get aircraft into the Gulf, because he sent a very clear message to any state or any actor that would seek to exploit this situation," Sullivan added. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced the deployment of the second aircraft carrier on Saturday "to deter hostile actions against Israel or any efforts toward widening this war following Hamas's attack."

Israel says 126 hostages 'confirmed'

Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military said yesterday it had confirmed 126 people held as hostages by Hamas since the Palestinian militant group staged their deadly attack eight days earlier.

Authorities had initially estimated about 150 Israeli and foreign captives after Hamas launched its October 7 attack that killed at least 1,300 in Israel.

Military spokesman Richard Hecht also said that 286 Israeli soldiers had now been killed in military operations launched in response to the unprecedented Hamas attacks.

its accompanying ships will join the USS Gerald R. Ford, which was dispatched after the Hamas attack on October 7. John Kirby, spokesman for the National Security Council, also said that the United States is concerned about a new front in the war opening on the Israeli border with Lebanon.

YOU KNOW WHAT More than one million people have been displaced in the Gaza Strip in the last week

WHO says evacuating Gaza patients effectively 'death sentence'

Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Organization said Saturday that forcing thousands of hospital patients to evacuate to already overflowing hospitals in the southern Gaza Strip could be "tantamount to a death sentence". "WHO strongly condemns Israel's repeated orders for the evacuation of 22 hospitals treating more than 2,000 inpatients in northern Gaza," the UN health agency said in a statement.

"The forced evacuation of patients and health workers will further worsen the current humanitarian and public health catastrophe.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01 Dehumanizing language that incites violence is never acceptable. I call on all leaders to speak out against Antisemitism, anti-Muslim bigotry and hate speech of all kinds. @antoniogeturres

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03 The families of unaccounted for Americans following the terrorist attack on Israel are going through the unthinkable. I gave them my word: We are not walking away from them. @POTUS

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04 Everyone can be a citizen journalist on @elonmusk

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

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

DR ABDELGADIR WARSAMA awarsama@warsamaf.com

It is important in this "data" era, to protect the personal data of all, everywhere. On the face of it, to protect the personal data indicated a high good respect to any person and to all his personal belongings and this is a good initiative to protect personal rights. To fulfill this good stand the European Union (EU) took major steps and issued an important regulation (GDPR). The General Data Protection Regulation, applies to different types of data processing to be carried by organizations operating within or without the EU. It applies on entities outside EU, offering goods or services to individuals in EU.

GDPR is mainly to apply for protection of personal data, however, there is an exemption as GDPR does not apply to certain activities including certain instances of data processing if they are covered by the law enforcement directives, processing for national security purposes and processing carried out by individuals purely for personal activities.

The regulation for more clarity, specifies types of exemptions for application whenever required. To streamline the process, GDPR applies to 'controllers' and 'processors'. Controller is the authorized body to say how and why personal data is processed, whereas, the processor is the body that acts on the controller's behalf and control.

If you happened to be a processor, GDPR places specific legal obligations on you. For example, you are required to maintain records of personal data and the processing activities undertaken. As a processor, you have more legal liability if responsible for any breach. Obligations for processors are new requirements under GDPR and they confirm the firm strategy of the EU towards stringent rules to regulate the personal data to curb the huge destructive misuse we are facing. However, controllers are not relieved of their obligations where a processor is involved. GDPR places further obligations on the controllers to ensure that contracts with processors comply with the provisions of the GDPR.

As a general rule, GDPR applies to 'personal data'. However, the GDPR's definition is more detailed. The definition provides for wide range of personal identifiers as personal data, reflecting changes in technology and the way organizations collect info about persons. I believe, the justification behind covering automated and manual filling systems, is to cover all data processing, otherwise there could be escape room by manual data processing. It is necessary to say, GDPR of EU gives great boost to protect data and it is good that it has been taken as benchmark by countries in the region, including Bahrain, when issuing relevant laws. We take the opportunity to say that, Bahrain issued a well-advanced law regarding the personal data protection in Bahrain.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

CAMPUS

BIS recognises student's achievements in SOF, NASO exams



Teachers and students during the honouring ceremony at Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School

TDT | Manama

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) celebrated the remarkable accomplishments of its students in the SOF (Sci-

ence Olympiad Foundation) and NASO (National Astronomy and Science Olympiad) examinations during ceremony hosted, recently.

Trishan M, the SOF AES cham-

panion, was presented with a trophy, a cash award, and an honorary citation. Trishan achieved the highest cumulative score across four subjects in the SOF Olympiad examination. Ishana

Dheeraj Raj of Grade IV, Aaron Pon Nesaraj of Grade V, Arin Pon Nesaraj of Grade VII, and Manveeth Urwa of Grade IX, were honoured with medals and cash prizes for their exceptional

performances in the SOF exams. A total of eight students were recognized with merit certificates and gold medals for their outstanding achievements in the NASO examination.

The event had the presence of the school's esteemed Directors, Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma, who, alongside Principal Saji Jacob, bestowed the awards upon the deserving students.

Fostering language skills

Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrates English Day



In pictures, English Day celebrations at ISB

TDT | Manama

ISB marked a special occasion on Thursday for 'English Day' as students gathered to celebrate and enhance their English language skills. The programme commenced with Principal VR

Palaniswamy lighting the ceremonial lamp, joined by staff representative Johnson K Devassy, Vice-Principals, Head Teachers, and Heads of Departments.

The event began with a warm welcome by Shan D Louis (XI J), followed by an engaging video

presentation. Grade 4 and 5 students showcased their talents with an action song, while class 9 and 10 students recited poems. Class 11 students performed a skit based on Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night.' Students from grades 6 to 8 added a creative

touch by dressing up as fictional characters in various costumes. The festivities culminated in a prize distribution ceremony, where students were recognised for their achievements. ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, and Principal VR Palaniswamy expressed their congratulations and appreciation for the students' efforts.

Inter School Hindi Competition 2023-24



Students performing during the competition

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Students of Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) showcased their skills and excellence in the Inter School Hindi Competition 2023-24, hosted by the Private International English School Abu Dhabi. BIS students competed against their peers from seven other 'Bhavans Middle East' Group of schools.

In this competition, Syed Yunus, a Grade II student, earned the 'Best Costume' award, while Tanish Mistry, a budding actor from Grade IV, secured the third place in the 'Hindi Mono Acting' category.

Directors, Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma, as well as Principal Saji Jacob, extended their heartfelt appreciation to the students for their outstanding performances.

SDG Bhavans- Bahrain Season 1



participants during the discussion

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Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) inaugurated the 'SDG Bhavans- Bahrain Season 1' of its Inter Bhavans Student Exchange Programme with a discussion on the integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into daily life.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also recognised as the Global Goals, were universally adopted by the United Nations in 2015, serving as a collective call to

action for eradicating poverty, safeguarding the environment, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all by the year 2030. The event centred on exploring practical ways to incorporate SDGs into one's daily routine. The gathering included Bhavans Chairman N.K. Ramachandran, Academic Coordinator Dr. Preet Kamal Bhatnagar, Director Himanshu Verma, SDG Coordinator Priyanka Nitesh Kumar, Shyamala Prakash - Head of the Science Department, and other esteemed guests.

Classifieds



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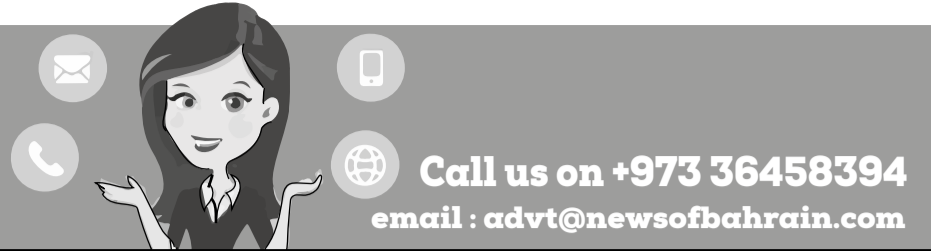
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Bagnaia wins Indonesia MotoGP to reclaim lead, Martin crashes

AFP | Indonesia

Italy's Francesco Bagnaia won the Indonesia MotoGP yesterday with a spectacular ride that took him back to the top of the championship standings after rival Jorge Martin crashed out.

Maverick Vinales (Aprilia) came in a close second behind the 26-year-old Ducati star, with Fabio Quartararo (Yamaha) in third at the Mandalika circuit on the Indonesian resort island of Lombok.

Bagnaia made a mesmerising surge from 13th to the top spot after rising to the podium places within the first four laps, as he refused to let Pramac's Martin punish him further for a poor performance in practice and qualifying.

It was set to be another dream



First-placed Ducati Lenovo Team's Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia celebrates with the winner's trophy

double weekend for Martin after winning Saturday's sprint and taking the lead from the green light, up from sixth, to dominate the early stages of the race.

But it quickly turned into a nightmare for the 25-year-old Spaniard when he crashed on lap 14 of Sunday's main event, a potentially huge moment in the title race.

Vinales put the pressure on Bagnaia in the late stages after being overtaken, coming to within four-tenths of a second of the pack leader.

But the Italian, known for his phenomenal defence, saw out the race to turn the tables on Martin and open up an 18-point gap with just five race weekends left.

"I think we were deserving a race like this," Bagnaia told reporters.

"(I was) doing the maximum I could then when I saw Martin going, I said to myself 'take care of the tyres' and that as the correct thing. I am very, very happy."

The race was marred by a series of crashes in hot and humid conditions, with only 14 riders out of 21 finishing the race.

Wigan defeat Catalans Dragons to win Super League title

Manchester, United Kingdom

Wigan summoned a stirring second-half display to sink Catalans Dragons 10-2 at Old Trafford to win the Super League Grand Final on Saturday.

Liam Marshall grabbed the only try of the game to secure a hard-fought win for the Warriors, who become Super League winners for a sixth time.

"It feels good, it has been a long time coming," said Wigan head coach Matt Peet after their first title since 2018.

"We are building, we have a special group of players -- a special club from top to bottom. I'm so proud of everyone."

Catalans' dreams of winning the title for the first time were dented by a costly pair of yellow cards either side of

half-time. Adam Keighran was sin-binned midway through the first period and Tom Davies followed suit after the break as the Dragons lost the Grand Final for a second time in three years.

The scores were level at 2-2 at half-time but Wigan made the vital breakthrough on 52 minutes when Marshall was sent clear by Liam Farrell to score his 24th try of the season.

Harry Smith added the conversion and then kicked a penalty to round off the scoring.

"We got half the game right. We got the defence right," said Catalans coach Steve McNamara.

"I'm very proud of the lads all season but it's disappointing tonight."

French football investigates 'hate speech' by Nice player

Paris, France

The French Football Federation (FFF) said yesterday its ethics committee would investigate Nice player Youcef Atal for social media posts containing "calls for violence", linked to the Hamas-Israel conflict.

The Algerian international defender posted a video on Instagram account of a speaker making, according to people who saw it, anti-Semitic remarks calling for violence.

The post sparked outrage from French politicians.

It has since been deleted and AFP has been unable to independently verify its content.

On Sunday FFF president Philippe Diallo released statement denouncing "calls for violence relayed by the 27-year-old player".

"They are contrary to the ethics of our sport and the values that soccer relentlessly defends", he said.

Atal apologised on Instagram on Sunday.

Hurkacz beats Rublev to win Shanghai Masters in thriller

AFP | Shanghai, China

Hubert Hurkacz saved a match point before defeating fifth seed Andrey Rublev 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (10/8) to win a thrilling Shanghai Masters final yesterday.

It was the big-serving Pole's second Masters triumph, to go with the one he won in Miami

in 2021, and a seventh ATP title in all. "It was such a battle, especially emotionally," the 16th seed said after surviving a nail-biting third-set tie break in front of the watching Roger Federer.

"I had a match point and Andrey hit an amazing serve and then he had a match point and then I had some match points.

"It was back and forth and such a tricky match."

Hurkacz had Rublev under pressure early and broke the Russian with a vicious whipped forehand that Rublev had no chance of returning to lead 4-2 in the first set.

The 25-year-old Rublev let out an angry roar in response and then Hurkacz easily held

his own booming serve to go up 5-2. The Pole Hurkacz came into the final with a tournament-leading 77 aces and Rublev could not handle his blistering serve.

Hurkacz sealed the first set in 31 minutes -- and it was inevitably with another ace. He sent down 21 over the course of a topsy-turvy final.

Qatar's Sheikh Jassim withdraws bid to buy Man Utd

Manchester, United Kingdom

Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani has withdrawn a bid to buy Manchester United, a source close to the deal told AFP on Saturday.

United announced nearly a year ago that they were exploring "strategic alternatives to enhance the club's growth", with a full sale one of the options.

The Daily Mail reported that Ratcliffe is now set to secure a 25 percent stake in the club for around £1.5 billion (\$1.7 billion).

The Glazers have owned the English giants since a leveraged takeover in 2005 for £790 mil-



Sheikh Jassim and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe were the front-runners after several rounds of bidding earlier this year, but the process has stalled in recent months despite the anger of supporters towards current owners, the Glazer family.

lion saddled the club with huge debts.

Figures in March showed United's debt has now grown to £970 million.

Sheikh Jassim's bid was for full control of United and promised to clear the club's borrowings.

Further talks this week broke

down despite an improved bid believed to be around £5 billion.

By contrast, Ratcliffe is reportedly willing to buy a smaller stake to break the impasse over the Glazers' £6 billion asking price.

Founder of petrochemicals giant Ineos, Ratcliffe is a boyhood

United fan and already has a portfolio of sports investments.

Ineos owns French club Nice and Swiss side Lausanne-Sport, as well as leading cycling team Ineos Grenadiers and is a major sponsor of the Mercedes Formula One team.

United's fortunes on the field have also faded under the Glazers' tenure.

The Red Devils have not won the Premier League since former manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 and last won the Champions League in 2008.

They currently sit 10th in the Premier League and have lost their first two Champions

League group stage matches for the first time in the club's history.

Fans have also been left frustrated at a lack of investment in United's infrastructure over the past two decades.

Old Trafford remains the largest club football stadium in England, but is in need of significant redevelopment to keep pace with the facilities offered by their rivals.

United's home was overlooked in favour of Manchester City's Etihad Stadium for the UK and Ireland's successful bid to host Euro 2028.

The Sheikh Jassim deal also

promised \$1.7 billion to finance plans for a new stadium and training centre, as well investment in the transfer market on players.

But the bid by the son of a former Qatari prime minister raised concerns over the potential growth of state influence in the Premier League.

Reigning Premier League champions City's fortunes have been transformed since a takeover from Sheikh Mansour, a member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, in 2008.

In 2021, the Saudi sovereign wealth fund also bought a controlling stake in Newcastle.

Bahrainis set for Olympic qualifiers

Nineteen players named on senior national team for Doha qualifiers for men's handball tournament at Paris Olympiad

● Bahrain's national handball team scheduled to depart for Qatari capital today

● Bahrainis begin qualification campaign on Wednesday against Kazakhstan

TDI | Manama

Bahrain named yesterday their final 19-player senior men's national handball team that will be competing in the Asian Men's Qualification tournament for a place at the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

The qualifiers are set to be held from Wednesday to 28 October in Doha, Qatar, with the participation of 11 countries vying for just one coveted spot in the men's handball tournament at the Olympics.

The squad list was announced yesterday by the Bahrain Handball Association (BHA) ahead of the team's departure for the Qatari capital today.

A majority of the squad is coming back from their recent silver medal-winning campaign at the Hangzhou Asian Games earlier this month. Those players include skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed Abdulhus-



Bahrain's senior men's national handball team following a victory at the recently concluded Hangzhou Asian Games

sain, Ali Eid, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Mohammed Habib Ahmed, Ali Mirza, Mohammed Mirza, Ahmed Fadhel, Qassim Qambar, Hassan Madan, Mohammed Hameed Rabia, Hasan Mirza, Mahdi Saad, Hesham Issa and Hassam Al Samaheji; while four new additions are Hassan Shehab, Muftaba Al Zaimour, Jassim Khamis and Ahmed Redha. The Bahrainis are coached by Icelandic tacti-

cian Aron Kristjansson, who guided Bahrain to the Kingdom's first-ever Olympic men's handball participation at the Tokyo Games in 2021. It was also the first time in history that Bahrain qualified for any team sport at the Olympics. Kristjansson will be aiming for a repeat success this time around.

Bahrain are in Group B for the qualifying competition's preliminary stage along with Iran,

Kuwait, Japan and Kazakhstan. Group A features Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the UAE, India and China.

The Bahrainis begin their campaign in Doha against Kazakhstan on Wednesday and then face off with Japan Thursday, after which there will be a rest day.

They return to action only on Sunday next week against Kuwait, and then after another rest

day, complete the preliminaries against Iran on 24 October.

Following the single round-robin, only the top two teams from the two groups advance to the semi-finals, which are scheduled for 26 October.

The final and game for third place will then be held on 28 October. The runners-up from the Doha qualifiers will get one more chance to book their tick-

ets to Paris but must compete against other top handball nations from around the world in one of the three Olympic qualifying events.

At the Paris Olympiad, there will be 12 teams participating in men's handball. France are in the fray as the host nation, as are reigning world champions Denmark. One spot apiece will then be earned from the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia; and then the final six will be won in the 2024 IHF Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments, set to be held in March of next year with 12 national teams in the fray.



A majority of Bahrain's 19-player squad is coming back from their recent silver medal-winning campaign at the Hangzhou Asian Games earlier this month. The nationals are to be spearheaded by team captain Hussain Al Sayyad

Loeb battles to keep BRX in the frame in Morocco

French driver fights to maintain challenge for Bahrain Raid Xtreme as Al Attiyah records second stage win

TDI | Agadir, Morocco

Sebastien Loeb battled to keep Bahrain Raid Xtreme in contention in the Rallye du Maroc yesterday as the final round of the World Rally-Raid Championship produced a classic desert battle between the world's best drivers.

Partnered by Fabian Lurquin in his BRX Prodrive Hunter, Loeb set the third fastest time on the rally's 296km second stage, which was won by Qatar's Nasser Al Attiyah in a Toyota.

The result left nine-time World Rally Champion Loeb 6 mins 8 secs adrift of Al Attiyah in fourth place overall, but just two seconds away from the Audi of Carlos Sainz in third position and only 37 seconds behind Saudi Arabia's Yazeed Al Rajhi in another Toyota.

Runner up in Morocco last year after a splendid drive in his BRX Prodrive Hunter, Orly Terranova was



Sebastien Loeb - Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter

completely out of luck today, suffering suspension problems on the rugged early part of the stage, forcing him to stop to wait for a spare part.

Swede Mattias Ekström, winner of Friday's Prologue curtain raiser, set the early pace and was fastest at the 41km and 111km marks in his Audi.

Loeb was never far away in his Prodrive Hunter,

however, and he led the timings at 160km as a breathtaking tussle developed between the world's elite desert drivers, with just 1 min 43 secs separating the top six at that point.

The red hot pace continued for the rest of the day, with Al Attiyah eventually coming through for his second successive stage win, although only 1 min 30 secs separated him from Sainz and Loeb on the leg.

With three more demanding days remaining, Loeb needs little reminding that the Moroccan stages can quickly bring a change in fortunes, after a puncture and navigation problems followed by mechanical issues ruined his own victory hopes in the event 12 months ago.

Starting and finishing in Zagora in the Draa River valley, the 296km stage took the cars on a gruelling passage around the dunes of M'Hamid, with a rocky opening followed by a sand section of wadis and small dunes leading into the heart of the Erg Chigaga.

Loeb in action in the Rallye du Maroc in his Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter.



Bahrain set for Billie Jean King Cup tennis

● Teams begin arriving for 14-nation women's tournament starting Wednesday

● Draw to take place tomorrow to determine four groups for preliminary round

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) is all set to host the first of five major international tennis tournaments over the next several weeks.

The 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group III gets underway on Wednesday and continues until Saturday, featuring 14 women's national teams from across the continent.

The competing squads are Bhutan, Brunei, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Macau, Maldives, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Vietnam and hosts Bahrain.

They will be competing for two qualifying berths for Group II in next year's competition.

A number of the participating teams have already arrived in the Kingdom and begun their final preparations for the event.

The tournament's draw will be held tomorrow at 12noon at the BTF headquarters in Isa

Town. The draw will divide the participating teams into four groups for the preliminary round—two with four teams and another two with three. Play will begin on Wednesday in a single round-robin, after which the top team from each group advance to the next stage. There, they will play for two qualifying cards while the remaining sides will compete for their best final classification.

The Billie Jean King Cup is a leading global tournament between national teams in women's tennis. The competition in the Kingdom, which is being held for the second time, is a zonal competition, with teams playing for promotion to the higher-tier group.

Following this competition, the BTF will continue to remain busy with the Asia/Oceania Group V matches in the 2023 Davis Cup from 23 to 30 October, and then three ITF junior competitions over three straight weeks.

Two of the championships will be J30 events, with the first being held from 30 October to 4 November, followed by a second from 6 November to 11 November. The third, a J60 tournament, will then take place from 13 November to 18 November.

The Davis Cup is one of the premier world competitions for men's tennis, run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The Kingdom is hosting

Asia/Oceania group matches for the third successive year.

Meanwhile, all three junior events are part of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors, featuring the world's top tennis talents aged 13 to 18. Each event in the Kingdom will feature play in boys' and girls' singles and doubles.



A player practices ahead of the tournament at the BTF hard courts in Isa Town

Stunning upset!

Afghanistan defeat champions England in World Cup shock

● England were bowled out for 215

● Second World Cup win for Afghanistan

AFP | New Delhi, India

Afghanistan pulled off one of the greatest World Cup shocks yesterday when they defeated defending champions England by 69 runs in New Delhi.

Chasing 285 to win, after opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz had hit a blistering 80, England were bowled out for 215 despite Harry Brook's 66 with spinners Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Rashid Khan claiming three wickets each.

"It's a very proud moment to be here in the World Cup beating the last champions, it is a good moment for the whole nation and the team. A wonderful performance for the bowlers and the batters," said Mujeeb.

The stunning upset gave Afghanistan just their second World Cup win to add to a lone victory over Scotland at the 2015 tournament.

They came into Sunday's clash having lost their opening two games in India and on a 14-match losing World Cup streak.

After Gurbaz and the recalled Ikrām Alikhil, with 58, had given them a decent target to defend, Afghanistan's bowlers went to work, striking at regular inter-



Afghanistan's Rashid Khan (C) celebrates with teammate after taking the wicket of England's Mark Wood (L)

vals.

"It was disappointing, having won the toss and elected to bowl," said England skipper Jos Buttler.

"Congratulations to Afghanistan, they outplayed us today." Jonny Bairstow (two) was lbw to Fazalhaq Farooqi in the second over before Joe Root was clean bowled by 22-year-old man of the match Mujeeb for 11.

Mohammad Nabi got rid of Dawid Malan, who made 140 against Bangladesh, for 32 to precipitate a slide which saw England slump to 138-6.

Buttler was clean bowled by seamer Naveen-ul-Haq for nine, Rashid Khan had Liam Livingstone lbw on 10 before Nabi also dismissed Sam Curran (10).

England were tied down, at one stage going more than eight overs without hitting a boundary until Brook managed the team's lone six of the innings in the 31st over.

Mujeeb sent back Chris Woakes before effectively sealing the game in his next over, having Brook caught behind by Alikhil with England at 169-8.

Brook's 66 came off 61 balls with seven fours and a six.

Late fireworks from Adil Rashid (20), Reece Topley (15) and Mark Wood (18) only served to take England past the 200-mark.

Earlier, Gurbaz, 21, piled up his runs off 57 balls with eight fours and four sixes to register his eighth score in excess of fifty in his ODI career.

However, he was furious that he was unable to go on to make a sixth century when he was involved in a disastrous run-out mix-up with captain Hashmatullah Shahidi in the 19th over.

Gurbaz failed to make his ground and Buttler whipped off the bails from a throw by substitute fielder David Willey.

Gurbaz run-out anger

An angry Gurbaz smashed his bat into a chair as he departed with his team on 122-3.

Gurbaz had needed just 33 balls to get to his half-century as Afghanistan, put into bat, stormed to 100 without loss from 77 deliveries.

Once Gurbaz was dismissed, England's spinners dragged the champions back into the contest in the middle overs.

The impressive Adil Rashid finished with 3-42 from his 10 overs having initially broken Afghanistan's 114-run opening stand when he had Ibrahim Zadran (28) caught.

But Alikhil chimed in with a 66-ball 58 after surviving being hit on the shoulder by a 147 km/h delivery from fast bowler Mark Wood.

Standings (played, won, lost, tied, no result, points, net run rate):

India	33	0	0	6	1.821
New Zealand	33	0	0	6	1.604
South Africa	22	0	0	4	2.360
Pakistan	32	1	0	4	-0.137

England	31	2	0	2	-0.084
Afghanistan	31	2	0	2	-0.652
Bangladesh	31	2	0	2	-0.699
Sri Lanka	20	2	0	0	-1.161
Netherlands	20	2	0	0	-1.800
Australia	20	2	0	0	-1.846

Afghanistan's Ikrām Alikhil celebrates after scoring a half-century

Mujeeb added 28 to the total off 16 balls as Afghanistan finished strongly.

England's seamers endured a day to forget with Sam Curran conceding 46 runs off four overs and new ball bowler Chris Woakes coughing up 41 off his four.



Mujeeb Ur Rahman (L) celebrates after the dismissal of England's Harry Brook

Fazalhaq Farooqi appeals



England went into Sunday's game after a loss to New Zealand and victory over Bangladesh while Afghanistan suffered heavy defeats by six wickets to Bangladesh and eight wickets to India.

Man Utd fan **Bumrah** stunned by 'temple celebration' going viral

Ahmedabad, India

India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah said he was surprised to see his World Cup "temple point" gesture go viral especially as he's usually "too tired to celebrate".

The 29-year-old was man of the match in Saturday's seven-wicket rout of Pakistan.

Along with New Zealand pair Matt Henry and Mitchell Santner, he is the tournament's leading wicket-taker with eight in three games.

Bumrah's eight wickets have



India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates after taking the wicket of Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran

cost just 93 runs.

His performance in the 132,000-seater Ahmedabad Stadium on Saturday also saw him bring out his distinctive celebration -- pointing his right index finger to his temple.

It's a gesture used by England footballer Marcus Rashford, a player at Bumrah's favourite club Manchester United.

Three-time tennis Grand Slam title winner Stan Wawrinka also utilises it at key moments.

"I had no intentions of making it viral or spreading it everywhere," Bumrah told the ICC

Digital Insider on Sunday.

"It just came to my mind. I'd seen Rashford do it as well. I thought it was cool. There's no particular big back story behind it. At the end I decided to do it.

"Usually I'm too tired to celebrate. But that is one occasion where I did celebrate."

Bumrah took two wickets in India's opening win of the World Cup against Australia and added four more in the win over Afghanistan.

On Saturday, he dismissed dangerman Mohammad Rizwan and then Shadab Khan before

finishing the match with 2-19. Despite a 100% record, India are not thinking yet of a third World Cup title to add to triumphs in 1983 and on home soil in 2011.

"We're not thinking about the momentum. The team is right now thinking about recovery," Bumrah said as India head for Pune and their fourth game against Bangladesh on Thursday.

"We've played three games back-to-back and the result has been on the good side because our preparation has been good.