

Kingdom's Asiad rosters take shape

Bahrain Olympic Committee announces lists of competing sportsmen and women for 12 of the 17 sports so far | P12

WORLD **6** Trump says his problem with Biden is competence, not age

Sainz on Singapore GP pole after Verstappen out in Q2 **11** SPORTS

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Saudi-Israeli normalisation remains 'difficult': Blinken

TDT | agencies

The US is working on normalizing diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel with the goal of achieving a "transformative" agreement, but the process remains fraught over specifics, including Palestine," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday.

"Even as we are working on this, it remains a difficult proposition," Blinken told reporters when asked about a possible deal.

Iran foils murder attempt on Mahsa Amini father

Tehran, Iran

Iranian security forces foiled an assassination attempt yesterday on the father of Mahsa Amini, the young woman whose death in custody one year ago sparked nationwide protests, state media reported.

The official IRNA news agency said the attempt on Amjad Amini's life took place as he was on his way to visit his daughter's grave at the Aichi cemetery in the western town of Saqez.

Saturday marked the first anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death.

Qatar Airways increases flights to Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Qatar Airways has revealed its intentions to increase the frequency of flights to Bahrain, beginning in October. As stated, passengers will have the option of selecting from 28 weekly flights starting on October 1, and this will subsequently expand to 42 weekly flights from October 29, 2023, all via Hamad International Airport in Doha.

Unite for progress

Bahrain advocates global unity to transform challenges into opportunities at G77+China Summit

● **Called on G77 + China to step up its collective efforts to address the pressing issues facing developing countries**

● **The summit in Cuba commenced with a call to "change the rules of the game"**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has called on nations worldwide to unite their efforts, energies, and capabilities to transform the challenges faced by developing nations into genuine work opportunities.

The comments by Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, came during the Kingdom's



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The kingdom's goal is to create a safe, sustainable environment in which differences in religion, sect, race, creed, or ideology do not hinder progress, or prevent the pursuit of peaceful relations

DR ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL-ZAYANI



participation in the G77+China summit in Havana, Cuba. This group represents developing and emerging countries, encompassing 80% of the world's population.

The minister also urged for the strengthening of collective efforts within the Group of 77 and China to address pressing issues affecting developing countries.

Dr. Al Zayani made these remarks in an address to approximately 30 heads of state and government officials from Africa, Asia, and Latin America at the two-day summit in Havana. United Nations Chief Antonio Guterres also participated in the event.

Leaders from Latin American countries, including Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela, Gustavo Petro of Colombia, and Alberto Fernandez of Argentina, were present at the summit. Additionally, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, Angola's Joao Lourenco, and Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi attended.

In his address at the summit, which commenced with a call to "change the rules of the game" in the global order, Dr Al Zayani emphasized Bahrain's commitment to transforming challenges into opportunities through practical efforts. He stressed the pivotal role of the Group of 77 and China, highlighting Bahrain's aspiration to create a secure and sustainable environment where differences in religion, sect, race, creed, or ideology do not impede progress or hinder the pursuit of peaceful relations.

(Continued on page 2)



The bloc was established by 77 countries of the global South in 1964 "to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity. Today it has 134 members along with China although the Asian giant says it is not a full member.

High-speed escape



A sequence of pictures showing Aston Martin's Canadian driver Lance Stroll jumps out of his car after crashing during the qualifying session of the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix night race at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore

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Two in dock for submitting fake degrees for school jobs

TDT | Manama

Two suspects are in the dock for submitting fraudulent degree certificates to the Ministry of Education in an attempt to secure teaching positions in schools here. Following a thorough examination, the Ministry of Education discovered that the certificates provided by the suspects were indeed counterfeit. Consequently, they have been forwarded to the Public Prosecution for legal action.

The actions followed a report from the Department of Licensing and Follow-up of Pri-



Representative picture

ate Schools. Officials noticed irregularities in the presented certificates, during a verification process for potential employment in private educational institutions. Subsequent investigations confirmed the fraudulent nature of the certificates in question, leading to the suspects' referral to the Public Prosecution for further proceedings. The Ministry of Education has issued a stern warning that it will take stringent measures against anyone attempting to compromise the quality of the education sector within the Kingdom.



Cuban President, Miguel Diaz-Canel, received yesterday Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, on the sidelines of the kingdom's participation in the Group 77 plus China (G77 + China) Summit on "Science, Technology and Innovation". The Foreign Affairs Minister conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the Cuban President, as well as their wishes for continued progress and prosperity to the Cuban people.

Abandoned boats on roads leave pedestrians adrift

Southern municipality serves notices, clears several boats from sidewalks



Municipal officials removing boats kept illegally alongside highways

TDT | Manama

Southern Municipality has removed several boats abandoned from the Umm Al-Bayda area, south of Sitra that were causing disruptions to both traffic flow and pedestrian movements in the area.

Official said the boats were adversely affecting the area's

overall aesthetic, and were removed after serving notices.

Notices were duly served to multiple parties, some of whom promptly responded by removing their boats. For those who failed, municipal authorities took action by removing the boats, initiating legal proceedings as necessary.

Officials said they are also

working to clear cars and vehicles displayed for sale from public places, alongside intensifying efforts to eliminate unauthorised and non-compliant advertisements and street vending.

Officials emphasised that according to Decree Law No. 10 of 2019, it is illegal to abandon vehicles, as well as any type of refuse or scrap, in public areas.

Those who receive notices are obligated to rectify the violations within 49 hours.

Additionally, the law prohibits the occupation of streets, squares, public spaces, and vacant lots with vehicles intended for sale or rent, mandating their removal within 24 hours of notice issuance to avoid legal consequences.

MoE investigates school staff for negligence in student management

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education has initiated an inquiry into the actions of a school director and administrative staff at a government school, citing allegations of negligence.

According to reports, the school administration has been accused of failing to adhere to proper procedures for safely managing the departure of female students at the conclusion of the school day.

Furthermore, the investigation is also examining claims of negligence in handling students with mental challenges and potential delays in providing them with appropriate care and support.

Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Jarwan, President of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, has praised the role of Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in further enhancing and supporting Voluntary work at the Arab and international levels. Al Jarwan was honoured with HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Award for Voluntary Work. He noted that this award represents an incentive to encourage and spread the culture of voluntary work and highlight its moral value as a national and humanitarian duty.



Mahmoud Fardan, Vice Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, took part in the Sixth International Conference for Legal Entrepreneurs titled "Law and Investment Protection: Justice, Competition, Sustainability," held under the patronage of Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The event served as a platform for specialists and stakeholders from diverse Gulf and Arab nations. During the conference, Fardan presented a working paper that addressed the legislative authority's role in Bahrain and its efforts to promote and bolster investment in the country.

Invest in knowledge-based industries: Dr Al Zayani

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Al Zayani stated that Bahrain firmly believes in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all individuals, irrespective of their backgrounds or beliefs.

Describing today's world as 'complex,' the ministry underscored the significance of conflict resolution and the promotion of understanding among nations. He stated that the Kingdom staunchly believes that dialogue, mutual respect, and cooperation are the fundamental pillars for achieving sustainable peace and stability.

Moreover, Bahrain recognizes the importance of comprehensive and equitable development, ensuring the well-being of all individuals without leaving anyone behind.

"We believe that empowering people, especially the most vulnerable, and promoting sustainable economic growth will enable us to achieve stability and prosperity for all," he added.

Regarding this matter, the ministry emphasized the necessity of investing in knowledge-based industries and reiterated its commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and research, with a focus on critical areas such as renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and digital transformation.

The minister also called for the involvement of governments and regional organizations in crafting sustainable solutions to crises, exchanging best practices, and supporting initiatives that bridge the gap between developing and developed countries.

The Bahraini delegation participating in the meeting included Ambassador Jamal Fares Al-Ruwaie, Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations in New York, and the Kingdom's Ambassador to Cuba, Ambassador Talal Abdul Salam Al Ansari, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the delegation accompanying the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Skirmish in Al Lawzi: Police book several suspects

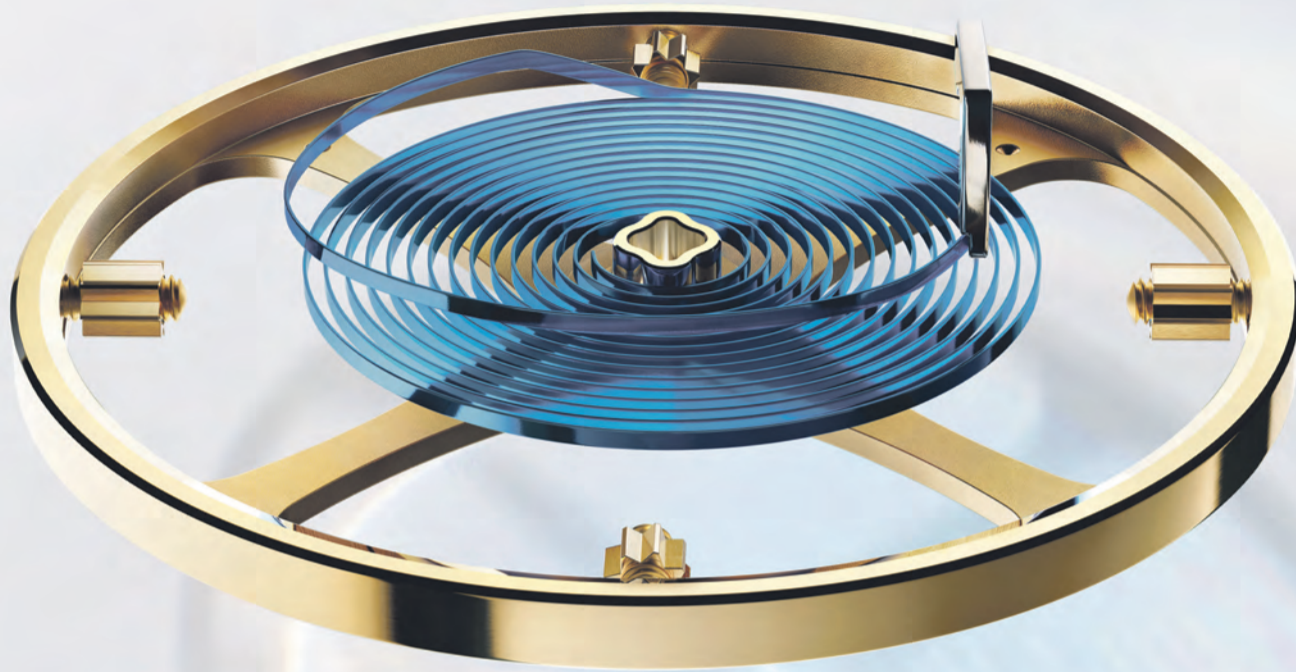
TDT | Manama

Police had registered cases against several for allegedly indulging in physical altercation in the Al Lawzi area after a video of the skirmish went viral online.

The video, shot by a bystander from across the street, quickly gained traction on the internet, prompting swift police intervention

According to the Northern Police Directorate, the suspects assembled in a public area where they engaged in verbal abuse that ultimately escalated into a physical altercation. Initial case files indicate that personal disputes may have triggered the altercation.

An investigation is underway.



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CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The sheer enormity of the two disasters which struck the Middle East over the past fortnight – the Marrakech earthquake and the Libyan floods which swept away the Mediterranean city of Derna – have left us all horrified. We are all united in prayer for the swift rescue and rehabilitation of survivors and the stitching together of the torn social and economic fabric of the region.

Rightly, our charitable King, HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has immediately directed the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) to use its considerable expertise and volunteer strength as well as generous funds to support the international cause of disaster relief for the two countries. While funding is always essential in rebuilding disaster-hit zones, we should not underestimate the importance of volunteerism and expertise in management of post-crisis rehabilitation.

The RHF has excellent credentials for this – whether the Nepal earthquake or the Pakistan floods or continuous support of refugee camps in the Syria-Jordan border and Palestinian children's care, the RHF soldiers of peace led by the clear-eyed Representative of HM the King, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad and the energy and excellent organizational skills of Secretary-General Dr. Mustafa AlSayed has built a successful template of disaster response that has touched and transformed many lives.

There are many charities in Bahrain which serve local causes – we should encourage them to participate in micro collections at their level for Libya and Morocco either in cash or kind or even perhaps, a sort of Volunteers Without Borders effort where doctors, nurses, psychiatrists who can help traumatized victims and engineers who can help rebuild affected areas can offer time and free service under the umbrella of the RHF. Now that His Majesty and the RHF have shown the way, we too must rise to the

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

The sheer enormity of the two disasters which struck the Middle East over the past fortnight – the Marrakech earthquake and the Libyan floods which swept away the Mediterranean city of Derna – have left us all horrified.

Plan for 100 MW Solar plant at Askar landfill gathers pace

TDT | Manama

The development of a 100-megawatt solar plant on the Askar Landfill, as part of a remediation package, is rapidly advancing.

The Electricity and Water Authority in the Kingdom has identified a sole bidder for the project, according to the tender board.

The bid of BHD 11,999,995.477 under consideration was submitted by Turkey-based Goksin Construction Limited Company. In a previous tender for the same project, five bidders, including Goksin, had participated.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture is proceeding with another project to prepare the landfill site with bulldozers.



Representative picture

A tender to hire three bulldozers for this purpose attracted bids from Urbaser Bahrain, Al Nosaif Contracting and Excavation, and Modern Mechanical Electrical and Transport (suspended). The bid amounts rang-

ing between BHD 276,465.420 and BHD 516,939.607.

Reportedly, the project, situated on a two-square-kilometer landfill site, encompasses the design and construction of a landfill gas extraction and treatment system. It also involves land remediation, the development of gas and leachate management systems, and a drainage system to prepare the site for the construction and operation of the solar project.

Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, President of EWA, previously stated that transforming this landfill site into a solar farm capable of producing 100 MW is one of the many steps the country aims to take in achieving the goal of reaching net-zero carbon emissions in Bahrain by 2060.

Star rating for roads on way

● Works progressing for risk mapping 400 kms of main road networks

TDT | Manama

Efforts to create a risk mapping and star rating system for over 400 kilometers of the main road networks in the Kingdom is drawing closer, with the tender board accepting bids from two companies.

The bids submitted by Dyar Hajet Engineering (BHD 218,625,000) and Saudi Tech for Engineering Consultants (BHD 167,200,000) are currently under evaluation by the tender board.

The Ministry of Works has indicated that this assessment is part of the Bahrain Road Safety Assessment Programme (BahrainRAP) and will adhere to the standards set by the International Road Assessment Program (IRAP).

The primary objective of this project is to provide the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs, and Urban Planning (Mow-MAUP) with an evidence-based approach to road risk assessment. It also aims to establish a foundation for future strategies, plans, and safety interventions for highways,



According to CountryReports, travel by road in Bahrain is generally safe. The report also states that highways and major roads in the northern third of Bahrain are four to six lanes wide and well maintained; roads in villages and older parts of Manama and Muharraq are narrow and twisting.

utilising an evidence-based approach to ensure the safety of all road users on Bahraini highways.

Furthermore, the winning bidder will be tasked with developing training and investment plans that incorporate

all recommended safety measures to enhance and upgrade the Kingdom's road networks. Given the continuous growth of Bahrain's road infrastructure, this initiative is of paramount importance in ensuring road safety.

Verdict in fake engineering degree next month

TDT | Manama

The fate of an African national accused of securing an engineering practice licence in the Kingdom using a counterfeit certificate will be determined on October 16.

Case files at High Criminal Court reveal that the suspect obtained the licence to work as a quantity surveyor in a company in 2018. The licence from the Council for Regulating the Practice of Engineering Professions was obtained by presenting a falsified university degree certificate.

The council only identified this fraud three years after issuing the licence when another company requested a transfer of the licence and a thorough review. Consequently, the certificate was sent to a foreign company for verification, and they confirmed its forgery, noting that the university in question was not accredited by the country's higher education authority.

As a result, the Public Prosecution charged the accused with forgery and deceiving public officials who acted in good faith.

71% success rate in second re-sit exams

TDT | Manama

Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, the Education Minister, has disclosed a notable 71% success rate in the second re-sit examinations for third-year intermediate students. In the official announcement of the results, the minister revealed that 90 out of the 126 students who participated in the second re-sit examinations had successfully passed. The remaining 36 students either did not pass or missed their exams altogether.

These re-sit exams were taken by third-year intermediate students who had previously failed to pass their exams in the preceding year or in previous years. Dr



Dr Juma

Juma expressed his satisfaction with the outcomes, emphasising the effectiveness of offering a second chance to struggling students. He extended his congratulations to those who successfully passed the second re-sit exams, highlighting that they would receive their certificates from their intermediate schools and subsequently enrol in secondary schools.

Regarding the re-sit exams for secondary and technical students, the Education Minister confirmed that the grading process is currently underway and that the results would be announced by the conclusion of the following week.

Two-tiered system for drone licensing; MoT gets 12 bids

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's effort to introduce a web-based drone licensing system has attracted massive interest, with the tender board receiving bids from 12 companies.

The move, according to the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications (MTT), aims at simplifying the registration process for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in the country.

The initiative involves rolling out a web-based Drone Hub System, designed to assist the Aviation Safety and Security Directorate and Aeronautical Licenses Directorate in effectively managing the approval procedure for drone services supported by a mobile application.

Bidding for implementing the system are companies including, Fakhroo IT Services, Zain Bahrain, Al Zayani Commercial Services, Kanoo Information Technology, Etisalcom Bahrain Company, and Mindteck Middle East. Their bids range between BHD 17,160,000 and BHD 628,716,000.

The proposed framework envisions a two-tiered system, comprising both a public and a government portal. The public portal will enable customers to submit their drone registration requests, while the internal portal, accessible to MTT and relevant stakeholders, will handle request processing and associated tasks.

An accompanying mobile app will allow customers to easily submit, track, and access information about their requests. It's crucial to note that, irrespective of their size or weight, all unmanned aerial vehicles must be registered with the Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs under the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications. UAV registration will typically remain valid for a span of three years, unless a shorter period is specified.

California sues five oil giants, for climate-risks deception

● The civil case was filed in superior court in San Francisco against ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, ConocoPhillips and Chevron

AFP | Los Angeles, United States

The US state of California sued five of the world's largest oil companies on Friday, alleging the firms caused billions of dollars in damages and misled the public by minimizing the risks from fossil fuels, according to a court filing.

The suit, dismissed by one defendant as "meritless" and "politicized," follows numerous other cases brought by US cities, counties and states against fossil fuel interests over the impact of climate change as well as alleged disinformation campaigns spanning decades.

The civil case was filed in superior court in San Francisco against ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, ConocoPhillips and Chevron, which is headquartered in California. The American Petroleum Institute (API), an industry group, is also a defendant in the case. "Oil and gas company executives have known for decades that reliance on fossil fuels would cause these catastrophic results, but they suppressed that information from the public and



Plumes of smoke rise as wildfire approaches a home during the Fairview Fire near Hemet, California, in Riverside County

policy-makers by actively pushing out disinformation on the topic," the 135-page complaint read.

"Their deception caused a delayed societal response to global warming. And their misconduct has resulted in tremendous costs to people, property and natural resources, which continue to unfold each day."

The suit seeks the creation of an abatement fund to pay for future damages caused by climate disasters in California, which is on the front lines of climate change-fueled wildfires, flood-

ing and other extreme weather phenomena.

"By downplaying the scientific consensus on climate change and emphasizing uncertainty, defendants hoped to delay any regulatory action that might seek to reduce or control (greenhouse gas) emissions, thereby threatening the industry's profits," the complaint added.

A spokesperson for API slammed the lawsuit, arguing that climate policy "is for Congress to debate and decide, not the court system."

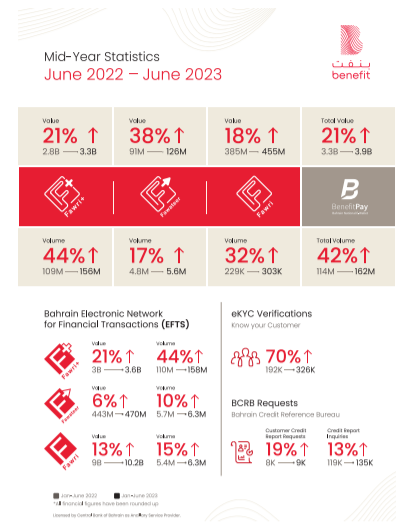
"This ongoing, coordinated campaign to wage meritless, politicized lawsuits against a foundational American industry and its workers is nothing more than a distraction from important national conversations and an enormous waste of California taxpayer resources," the spokesperson, Andrea Woods, told AFP. Shell offered a slightly more nuanced response, with a spokesperson saying the fossil fuel giant agrees "that action is needed now on climate change" but that the courtroom "is not the right venue."



The US state of California sued five of the world's largest oil companies on September 15, 2023, alleging the firms caused billions of dollars in damages and misled the public by minimizing the risks from fossil fuels, according to a court filing. It follows numerous other cases brought by US cities, counties and states against fossil fuel interests over the impact of climate change as well as alleged disinformation campaigns spanning decades.

BENEFIT reports over BD14 billion worth eTransactions in HI 2023

TDT | Manama



BENEFIT announced reaching a total volume of 161.9 Million transactions for all electronic fund transfer transactions (Fawri, Fawri+ and Fawateer) through BenefitPay during the first half of 2023, a 42.4% increase in volume compared to the first half of 2022.

The online payments under the Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS), consisting of Fawri+, Fawri and Fawateer, experienced substantial growth in the first half of 2023, as witnessed by a 40.8% volume increase, from 121.2m transactions during the first half of 2022, to 170.7m transactions in the first half of 2023.

Fawri+ transactions over all channels in the first half of 2023 reached a total value of BHD 3.6 Billion compared to BHD 3.0bn in the previous year, a growth of 21.1%. Furthermore, Fawri+ transactions through BenefitPay's application in the first half of 2023 reached a total value of BHD 3.3bn, a growth of 20.6%, compared to BHD 2.8bn in the first half of 2022.

Fawri transactions over all channels increased by 13.3% as its value in the first half of 2023 exceeded BHD 10.2bn, compared to BHD 9.0bn during the first half of 2022. Moreover, Fawri experienced a value increase of 17.9% through the BenefitPay application, increasing from BHD 385.4m during the first half of

2022, to BHD 454.6m in the first half of 2023.

Regarding Fawateer transactions across all channels, the first half of 2023 reported a value of BHD 469.6m showcasing a 5.9% increase from the first half of 2022, where the value was BHD 443.4m. Fawateer transactions through BenefitPay's application increased by 38.5%, with a total value of BHD 125.7m in the first half of 2023, up from BHD 90.8m during the same period of the previous year.

The National electronic Know-Your-Customer (eKYC) platform totalled up to 326,494 verifications, a 69.9% increase from the first half of 2022.

Furthermore, the Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau operated under BENEFIT, issued a total of 9,172 credit reports in the first half of 2023, up from 7,680 credit reports in the first half of 2022, a 19.4% increase. Credit Report Inquiries also increased to 135,453 in the first half of 2023 up from 119,492 in the first half of 2022, increasing by 13.4%.

US auto talks at 'critical phase' as political pressure grows

AFP | Wayne, United States

High-wire talks between striking US workers and automotive giants are in a "critical phase," Jeep-maker Stellantis said Saturday, as politicians staked out positions on a labor issue that could have national impact.

Stellantis, together with fellow "Big Three" automakers General Motors and Ford, was hit Friday by a limited strike -- but one the United Auto Workers (UAW) warns could spread.

Both sides issued cautious statements Saturday.

"Our bargaining team continues to work days, nights and weekends" in pursuit of a "reasonable" solution, said the statement from Stellantis, which was formed by the merger of Fiat Chrysler and the French PSA Group.

But the automaker warned that if talks took a bad turn, the outcome "will take us backward and endanger the long-term



Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union march through the streets of downtown Detroit

competitiveness of our Company, negatively impacting our workers and our communities."

There was no immediate formal response from the union, but a UAW source told AFP, "we had reasonably productive conversations with Ford today."

Only about 12,700 of the UAW's 150,000 members are currently on strike.

But with workers at all of the Big Three coordinating strike action for the first time

-- including a demand for pay increases of 40 percent over a four-year contract -- the automakers could face a far more disruptive stoppage.

Underscoring the political stakes of the moment, President Joe Biden quickly lent his support to the strikers Friday, saying he understood their "frustration."

Political lines

And on Saturday, former pres-

ident Barack Obama lent his backing, with a reference to the 2008-09 financial crisis.

"When the big three automakers were struggling to stay afloat, my administration and the American people stepped in to support them," he said on social media. "So did the auto workers in the UAW who sacrificed pay and benefits to help get the companies back on their feet."

"Now that our carmakers are enjoying robust profits, it's time to do right by those same workers."

But former president Donald Trump, who hopes to face Biden in next year's US presidential election, lashed out at the UAW as over-reaching.

"The auto workers will not have any jobs... because all of these cars are going to be made in China -- the electric cars, automatically, are going to be made in China," he said in an interview to be aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Several employees of Chinese developer Evergrande arrested

Beijing, China

Police in China have arrested several employees of a subsidiary of troubled Chinese property giant Evergrande, authorities said yesterday.

Employees at Evergrande's financial subsidiary, Evergrande Wealth Management, were arrested, police in the southern city of Shenzhen said in a statement, without specifying the number of employees or the charges against them.

The statement called on the public to report any cases of suspected fraud to the authorities.

Evergrande's enormous debt has contributed to the country's deepening property market crisis, raising fears of a global spillover.

The property sector, which along with construction accounts for about a quarter of China's GDP, is a key pillar of



The Evergrande logo is seen on residential buildings in Nanjing

the country's growth and has experienced a dazzling boom in recent decades.

But the massive debt accrued by the industry's biggest players -- Evergrande had estimated debt of \$328 billion (307 billion euros) at the end of June -- has been seen by Beijing in recent years as an unacceptable risk for China's financial system and overall economic health.

Authorities have gradually tightened developers' access to credit since 2020, and a wave of defaults have followed -- notably that of Evergrande.



New Millennium School, Bahrain organised a ceremony to felicitate its staff for their dedication and commitment, which enabled the school to become the first and the only CBSE School adjudged "OUTSTANDING" by the Education and Training Quality Authority, Bahrain. The function was hosted by the School's Managing Committee at The Ramee Grand Hotel, on 14th of September, 2023 in the presence of Chairman Padmashri Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geetha Pillai, Principal Arun Kumar Sharma, members of the management, headmistresses and the teaching and non-teaching staff. Every staff member was awarded with a certificate of appreciation, a memento and a gold coin by the Chairman, Dr. Ravi Pillai and the Managing Director, Geetha Pillai. The ceremony was followed by a scrumptious dinner.



News in brief

North Macedonia expels three Russian diplomats... North Macedonia has ordered expulsion of three more Russian diplomats in the third such move since the start of the Russian invasion on Ukraine last year...

Russia denies losing village to Ukraine forces... Russia yesterday denied its forces had been pushed out of the frontline village of Andriivka, near Bakhmut, a day after Ukraine said it had "liberated" it...

Mexico extradites son of cartel kingpin 'El Chapo' to US... Mexico extradited the son of Sinaloa Cartel kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman to the United States to face narcotics charges...

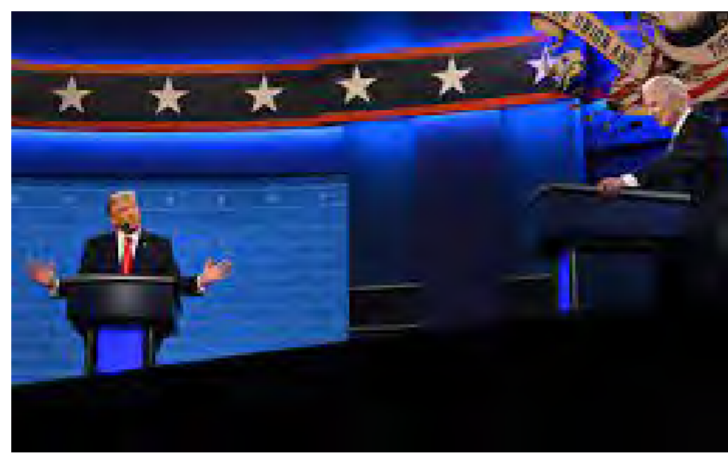
Trump says his problem with Biden is competence, not age

Former president faces challenge in portraying Biden as too "sleepy" while being 82 himself

Donald Trump says he is not too old to seek a second term

AFP | Washington

Joe Biden, America's oldest president, received support from an unexpected ally over his age: Donald Trump said the Democrat was "not too old" to seek a second term...



Joe Biden (R) looks on as Donald Trump speaks during the final presidential debate (file photo)

Democrats say he also fares well on the competency front, having overseen the passage of major legislation, including a massive infrastructure bill...

Trump, for his part, has gotten mostly positive marks during annual physicals -- though he has been classed as overweight and does not exercise other than golf...

Trump, too, has had his share of bizarre verbal moments, mangled pronunciations and physical stumbles. But in the NBC interview he said his own age does not concern him...

Some of the greatest world leaders have been in their 80s. I'm not anywhere very near 80, by the way. And Biden's not too old. But I think he's incompetent, and that's a bigger problem DONALD TRUMP

His insistence on his own competency was ridiculed during the 2020 presidential campaign when Trump said he had scored an "amazing" result on what he said was a test of mental acuity.

He said he had had to remember, in order, these words: "Person, woman, man, camera, tv." His proud and repeated recitation of those five words was ridiculed by political rivals and went viral on social media.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Mexico UFO hearing faces global backlash over alleged alien remains



The alleged body of a "non-human" being exhibited at the Mexican Congress in Mexico City

An extraordinary UFO hearing in the Mexican Congress that showcased purported remains of non-human beings has incited swift international condemnation, with critics dismissing it as a "stunt."

Peruvian officials have raised questions regarding the origins of the alleged specimens. Jaime Maussan, a prominent Mexican journalist and UFO enthusiast, presented two tiny "bodies" during the congressional hearing on Tuesday.

These specimens, encased in glass, displayed three fingers on each hand and elongated heads. Maussan asserted that they were unearthed in Peru in 2017 and insisted that they bore no resemblance to terrestrial life forms...

Maussan asserted that they were unearthed in Peru in 2017 and insisted that they bore no resemblance to terrestrial life forms, doubling down on his history of controversial claims. The images from the unprecedented congressional hearing in Mexico provoked global fascination and significant skepticism.

Former US Navy pilot Ryan Graves, who attended the hearing to discuss his own experiences with unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP), strongly criticized the presentation. He labelled it an "unsubstantiated stunt" on the X social media platform...

First cargo ships sail to Ukraine after grain deal collapse: Official

AFP | Kyiv

The first cargo ships are heading to Ukraine to load grain for African and Asian markets since the collapse of a deal with Russia to ensure the safety ships exporting via the Black Sea...



The UN-chartered vessel MV Valsamitis is loaded to deliver Ukrainian wheat to African countries, at the port of Chornomorsk, east of Odessa (file photo)

In August, Ukraine announced the establishment of a "humanitarian corridor" in the Black Sea to circumvent Russia's blockade. Since then, five vessels have used the corridor to exit Ukraine's ports.

"The first civilian ships used the temporary corridor to enter Ukrainian ports," Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said in a statement on Facebook.

He said the two ships, the Resilient Africa and Aroyat, were en route to load nearly 20,000 tonnes of wheat for African and Asian countries.

Sudan's Burhan holds talks in Uganda as battles rage in Khartoum



President of Sudan's Transitional Sovereignty Council (TSC) General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan boards an airplane at Port Sudan airport

AFP | Kampala

Sudan's de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan held talks yesterday with Uganda's veteran President Yoweri Museveni on his latest diplomatic foray abroad. The Sudanese general was pictured meeting with Museveni at State House in the Ugandan town of Entebbe on what was described as a one-day working visit.

"They deliberated on bilateral and regional issues," said a brief statement from the Ugandan presidency. Sudan has been at war since April when fighting erupted between the regular army led by Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces commanded by his deputy-turned-rival Mohamed Hamdan Turgel.

Clashes around Khartoum's military headquarters -- where Burhan had been holed up until last month -- had seen a brief two-week respite before flaring again, with the RSF showering it with artillery fire, residents said yesterday.

Eyewitnesses on the ground told AFP they heard clashes in central Khartoum, with one resident saying the RSF "is firing heavy artillery" at army headquarters. From his new base in the Red Sea coastal city of Port Sudan, Burhan has since late August made six trips abroad in what analysts say is a diplomatic push to burnish his credentials in the event of negotiations to end the conflict.

Libya's burst dams had decades-old cracks: official

AFP | Derna



An aerial view of a dam at the southern edge of the city of Derna after flash flooding

Two dams that burst in a hurricane-strength storm, unleashing a wall of water that killed thousands in the Libyan port of Derna, had been cracked since 1998, an official said.

Prosecutor general Al-Seddik Al-Sour has announced an investigation into the circumstances leading to the collapse, culminating in the catastrophic flash flood that swept through the city on Sunday.

Like much of Libya's crumbling infrastructure, the two dams that had been built to hold back water from Derna fell into disrepair during years of neglect, conflict and division in chaos-ridden Libya.

The North African country is currently ruled by two rival administrations that have battled for power since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011. A 2020 ceasefire has largely held.

On September 10, Storm Daniel made landfall in eastern Libya, triggering torrential rain in the hills above Derna.

Abu Mansur dam, 13 kilometres (just over nine miles) from the city, whose reservoir held 22.5 million cubic metres (nearly 800 million cubic feet) of water, collapsed first.

The deluge then broke Al Bilad, the second dam, which had a capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres and is just a kilometre from the coastal city. The wall of water and debris swept through the normally dry riverbed or wadi that cuts through the city centre.



After opening a probe, Libya's prosecutor general Al-Seddik al-Sur said the two dams at the origin of the disaster had been cracked since 1998. But repairs begun by a Turkish company in 2010 were suspended after a few months when the 2011 revolution flared, and the work never resumed

dams were built, Derna was hit by a series of significant floods from the river in the mid-20th century.

According to the Libyan prosecutor, those responsible for managing dams in Libya had reported cracks in both of them as early as 1998.

Two years later, Libyan authorities hired an Italian engineering firm to assess the damage. It confirmed the cracks and recommended the construction of a third dam to protect the city, said Sour.

In 2007, Kadhafi's government entrusted repair work to a Turkish company.

But because of payment issues, the company did not commence the work until October 2010, and halted less than five months later after the revolution that led to Kadhafi's downfall began.

Since then, a budget has been allocated every year to repair the two dams, but none of the successive governments since 2011 has undertaken the work, according to an official.

Man arrested after climbing into Royal Mews near Buckingham Palace

AFP | London



a general view of the Gold State Coach, at the Royal Mews, in Buckingham Palace

A man has been arrested for trespassing after police were alerted to a person climbing into the Royal Mews close to Buckingham Palace, London's Metropolitan Police said yesterday.

At 1:25 am (0025 GMT) yesterday morning, "officers at Buckingham Palace responded to a person climbing the wall and entering the Royal Mews", Met Police said.

"A 25-year-old man was detained by officers outside the stables in the Royal Mews," it said, adding that "At no point did the man enter Buckingham Palace or the palace gardens".

He was arrested for "trespassing on a protected site" and taken into custody at a London police station.

The Royal Mews, housing carriages and stables as well as

modern cars, organises the road travel arrangements for King Charles III and members of the royal family. Intrusions have taken place before at royal premises, including Buckingham Palace. One of the most famous security breaches was in 1982, when Michael Fagan managed to get into the bedroom of Queen Elizabeth II and spent 10 minutes talking to her before she could raise the alarm.



The Royal Mews, housing carriages and stables as well as modern cars, organises the road travel arrangements for King Charles III and members of the royal family

He wandered into her bedroom and reportedly sat on the end of the bed for a chat with the perturbed monarch before a palace staffer lured him away with the promise of a shot of whisky.

South Africa holds state funeral for Zulu leader Buthelezi

AFP | Johannesburg



A member of the Buthelezi clan carries a photograph next to the coffin of the Zulu prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi

Thousands of people, some dressed in traditional warrior clothes, yesterday attended the funeral of South Africa's divisive Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who was implicated in a wave of deadly violence that marked the country's emergence from apartheid.

Mourners crowded a small stadium in Ulundi, the ancient capital of the Zulu kingdom in eastern South Africa, to pay tribute to the founder of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), who died on September 9 aged 95.

"The sun has set on an era and on a life that witnessed and had an impact on much of our country's modern history", President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a eulogy.

Earlier, family members

dressed in black led a coffin covered by an animal skin and an IFP flag across a red carpet inside the stadium before it was placed under a black canopy on the pitch.

Around it sat mourners, some wearing traditional leopard skins and holding spears and

shields made from cow hides. "He treated all of us Zulus as one person. That is why I am here," said Bongu Makhoba, 31, who said he drove 150 kilometres (90 miles) and slept in his car to attend the ceremony. "I just respect him and I want him to... rest in peace."

Brazil faith healer sentenced to 118 years for rape

AFP | Brasilia

Famous Brazilian "spiritual healer" accused of sexually abusing female followers has been sentenced to more than 118 years in prison for raping four women, authorities said. He shot to international fame when US TV star Oprah Winfrey profited him in 2013.

Joao Teixeira de Faria, 81, better known as "Joao de Deus" or "John of God," treated tens of thousands of people per month at his "spiritual hospital" in the small town of Abadiania in central Brazil, according to officials.

But hundreds of women later came forward alleging he had sexually forced himself on them in order to "cure" them of ailments, in cases dating back to 1973.

Faria was arrested in 2018. The self-described medium, who denies the accusations, had been under house arrest.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01 [Image of a man]

Thanks to global cooperation, the ozone layer is on track to recover by the 2060s. We must now channel the same energy to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis and build a sustainable & resilient world for all. #OzoneDay @antonioguterres

02 [Image of Joe Biden]

Autoworkers helped Acreate America's middle class. They deserve a contract that sustains them in the middle class. @POTUS

03 [Image of a man]

Despite my broken foot, my granddaughter Mia has become my incredible walking partner, turning obstacles into opportunities for bonding and laughter. @DrTedros

04 [Image of a man]

One year after Mahsa Amini's death, the daily drama continues. Iran's deeply immoral police, mullahs, regime must be stopped! When will the EU finally put real pressure on them? @guyverhofstadt

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

Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance holds seminar



An "Islamic Banking and Digital Revolution" seminar was held at the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF). The event was jointly hosted by the Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) Bahrain, and the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF). Pakistan Ambassador Muhammad Ayub attended the event as a guest of honour. The seminar provided a valuable platform for discussing the intersection of Islamic finance and digital advancements

ICRF Thirst-Quenchers holds awareness programme



The ICRF Thirst-Quenchers 2023 team held its 11th week's summer awareness programme. The primary purpose of this programme is to create awareness for a healthy and safe summer in 2023. The team distributed bottled water, juice packets, fruits, laban, and biryani at a worksite in Seef for nearly 70 workers. The Defence Attache at the Embassy of India, Captain Naushad Ali Khan, and Assistant Consular Officer Suman Bhatt attended the programme, and they, along with ICRF Vice Chairman Adv. V. K. Thomas, addressed the workers and spoke about safety precautions to be taken during the summer months

Onam Fest 2023 kicks off at Indian Club Bahrain



The Onam Fest 2023 kicked off at the Indian Club Bahrain with a massive crowd of Indian community members in attendance. Yusuf Lori, Director of Information and Follow-up at the Capital Governorate, was the special guest at the opening event, accompanied by the executive members of the Indian Club. The festival features a variety of events and activities for all ages, including traditional dances, music, and games. The Onam celebrations will conclude with an Onasadya, a traditional feast, which will be held on September 29

Indian movie legend honoured at BKS



As a part of Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam's Onam celebrations, the first Viswakalaratna Award was handed over by Kerala's Minister of Culture, Saji Cheriyan, to the famous Malayalam movie legend, Sreekumaran Thampi, for his outstanding contributions in the field of cinema. The new accolade, awarded to 84-year-old Mr. Thampi, is a tribute to the late M. P. Raghunath, who had dedicatedly served BKS for years. The event also featured a musical performance by the renowned South Indian playback singer K. S. Chitra and team. The concert, named "Bollywood Night," featured primarily Hindi movie songs. UNEECO Group chief operating officer Jayashankar Viswanathan was the guest for the event

Indian Embassy marks Hindi Diwas



Marking the occasion of Hindi Diwas, the Indian Embassy, in association with 'Pratham' Hindi Toastmasters Bahrain, organised an event to celebrate at the embassy premises in Seef. Ambassador-Designate H.E. Vinod K. Jacob attended the event as the chief guest. More than 200 members of the Indian community attended the event, which included performances from embassy officials and Hindi connoisseurs of poetry, Hindi Navaras, Muhawre, Jugal Bandi, and Pahelis.

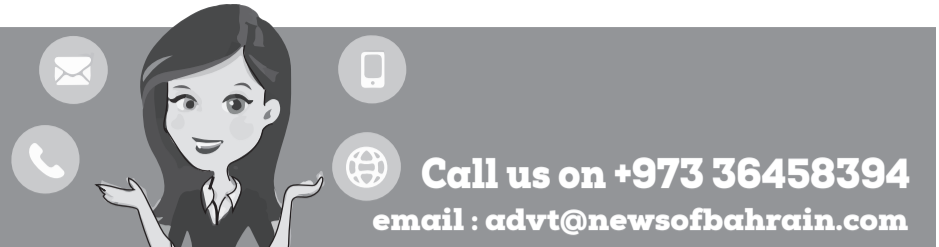


Christian youth movement celebrates Onam



The St. Thomas Orthodox Christian Youth Movement, the youth wing of Bahrain St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Cathedral, celebrated Onam 2023 in the name of "Ponpulari 2023" at Indian Delights Restaurant, Salmaniya. A variety of programmes and Onam games were organised for the members and children in connection with the celebrations. The cathedral vicar, Fr. Sunil Kurien Baby, president of the movement, presided over the general meeting. The Onam celebrations ended with a sumptuous Onam feast

Classifieds



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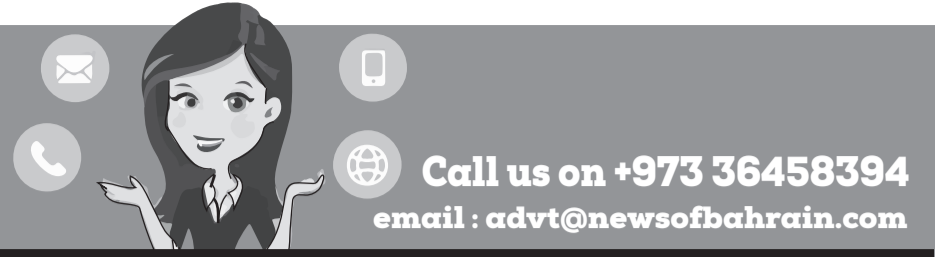
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Kuss touching Vuelta glory as Poels takes stage 20

AFP | Barcelona

Sepp Kuss virtually clinched Vuelta a Espana victory yesterday as he maintained his overall lead before the ceremonial finale, while Bahrain Victorious rider Wout Poels won stage 20 in a sprint finish ahead of Remco Evenepoel.



Bahrain Victorious rider Wout Poels in action

American Jumbo-Visma rider Kuss only needs to make it through Sunday's procession to Madrid to earn his first Grand Tour triumph.

The 29-year-old, usually a member of the supporting cast for co-leaders Jonas Vingegaard, who is second overall, and Primoz Roglic, third, has held the red jersey since stage eight.

Back-to-back Tour de France winner Vingegaard and three-time Vuelta champion Roglic, who won this year's Giro d'Italia, supported their colleague's maiden success in the final stages, apparently on team orders.

Poels won a Vuelta stage back in 2011 and also has one Tour de France stage victory to his name

Kuss leads Vingegaard by 17 seconds and Roglic by one minute and eight seconds going into the final day, a flat 101.5 kilometre ride from La Zarzuela Hippodrome to the heart of the Spanish capital.

Pavel Dailidko sends message to HH Shaikh Khalid after BRAVE CF 74: 'I appreciate everything'

TDT | Manmaa

Pavel Dailidko, one of the stars of the show at BRAVE CF 74 this week, took the time to thank His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the founder of the most global MMA organization in the world, following his victory in Nantes, France.

With the world watching, Pavel Dailidko stepped up and produced a scintillating performance on the main card of BRAVE CF 74.

"The Experiment" was heading into the cage with a 1-1 record in the promotion but either way, you knew he was going to bring chaos when he took on Salim El Ouassaidi.

The two men went toe to toe for almost an entire round with the atmosphere in the building being one of expectation, with many anticipating a knockout blow sooner rather than later.

Then, in the blink of an eye, Pavel Dailidko swarmed his



Pavel Dailidko after his match

BRAVE CF 74 Official Results	
Lightweight:	Lucas Martins beat Ylies Djiroun via TKO (strikes) at 3m35s - Round 1
Lightweight:	Vladyslav Rudniev bt Anthony Dize via unanimous decision (29-28, 29-28, 29-28)
Heavyweight:	Pavel Dailidko bt Salim El Ouassaidi via TKO (strikes) at 4m11s - Round 1
Bantamweight:	Borislav Nikolic bt Ali Guliyev via KO at 1m34s - Round 1
Catchweight 81kg:	Levy Carriel bt Mathieu Rakotondranzanany via KO (head kick) at 2m6s - R1

foe and took him out via TKO, cementing his position as one to watch in the Heavyweight division.

In the aftermath of what transpired, Pavel put his triumph to one side in order to give his thanks to one of the individuals who made this possible, and sent his gratitude to the creator of BRAVE Combat Federation, who broke the record for hosting event in the most amount of countries after its first trip to France.

"I want to thank Shaikh Khalid for this amazing event. They look after me. I appreciate all that. So thank you".

BRAVE CF 74 was the kind of showcase that highlighted just how much of a global juggernaut BRAVE Combat Federation has come, and Pavel is eager to continue his growth under the BRAVE CF banner, calling for a world title shot at Heavyweight.

"I'm ready to become the world champion here".

Brighton thump Man Utd as Man City come from behind

AFP | London

Manchester United's crisis deepened yesterday as Brighton's Danny Welbeck scored in a 3-1 win against his old club while Manchester City beat West Ham to stay perfect in the Premier League.

Liverpool had a brief taste of life at the top, beating Wolves 3-1 in the early kick-off, while Tottenham scored two goals in stoppage time to beat Sheffield United.

The season is spiralling out of control for Erik ten Hag's United, who started the campaign in buoyant mood after ending their trophy drought and finishing third in the league last season.

Some fans dreamed of a long-overdue title challenge but instead they find themselves trailing leaders City by nine points after a third chastening defeat in five matches.

United started brightly at Old Trafford, desperate to put their nightmare start to the season behind them but former youth player Welbeck silenced the home fans in the 20th minute.

A 53rd-minute goal by Pascal Gross gave United a mountain to climb and substitute Joao Pedro made it 3-0 before a consolation for Hannibal Mejbri.

Brighton's fourth straight league win against United lifted them to third in the table.

Ten Hag, in his second season



Manchester United's Tunisian midfielder #46 Hannibal Mejbri (L) vies with Brighton's Japanese midfielder #22 Kaoru Mitoma (R)

at Old Trafford, now has a huge job on his hands to save United's season, besieged by problems on and off the pitch.

Jadon Sancho has been exiled from first-team training after a public spat with the manager while fellow forward Antony has been given a leave of absence to address domestic abuse allegations, which he denies.

Protests continue in the stands against unpopular owners the Glazer family, who appear to have put their attempt to sell the club on hold.

City on charge

Champions Manchester City continue to churn out the wins, even though Pep Guardiola's men did not have it all their own

way at the London Stadium, trailing to a James Ward-Prowse goal in the first half.

Jeremy Doku equalised early in the second period and Bernardo Silva put City 2-1 before Erling Haaland's seventh goal of the season guaranteed a fifth win in five games.

City's win lifts them to 15 points, two clear of Liverpool at the top of the table.

Earlier, Jurgen Klopp's men roused themselves after an anaemic first-half display against Wolves, recovering from a goal down following a first period that Wolves dominated.

Cody Gakpo scored 10 minutes into the second period and Andy Robertson finished neatly in the 85th minute before an

own goal from Hugo Bueno added gloss to the scoreline.

It was the third time this season that Liverpool have come from behind to win.

Klopp said his team deserved to win the game after their powerful second-half performance but stressed that they could not afford to keep falling behind.

"Turning games around is helpful in a season but we cannot rely on it, we cannot," he told the BBC.

"We have to play better in the first half of games generally. We are not stable yet, that is not possible. Too many things are new."

Sheffield United looked to be on track for their first win of the season at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

But Spurs grabbed an equaliser in the 98th minute when Richarlison headed home Ivan Perisic's corner to set up a grandstand finish, with 12 minutes of additional time at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and Dejan Kulusevski scored the winner.

Aston Villa scored three late goals to beat Crystal Palace 3-1. The London side led 1-0 courtesy of Odsonne Edouard's first-half goal but Jhon Duran equalised in the 87th minute.

Douglas Luiz scored a penalty deep into stoppage time to put Villa in front and Leon Bailey made it 3-1.

Inter dish out derby destruction to claim Serie A summit



Juventus' Dusan Vlahovic (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring

AFP | Milan

Inter Milan laid down an early title marker yesterday by handing out a 5-1 derby hammering to AC Milan and going it alone at the Serie A summit.

Four wins from their opening four matches have Inter leading the pack with a perfect 12 points, two ahead of their other fierce rivals Juventus who earlier beat Lazio 3-1.

Milan are third, a further point back after being taught a humiliating lesson by their local rivals.

Spurred on by the majority of a heaving and raucous San Siro crowd, Inter claimed their fifth straight derby win in all competitions thanks to a Henrikh Mkhitaryan brace,

Marcus Thuram's rocket and two late strikes from Hakan Calhanoglu and Davide Frattesi.

Simone Inzaghi's side claimed the points with a display which showed why they got past Milan to reach last season's Champions League final and confirmed their status as early title favourites.

Thuram also continued his fast start in an Inter shirt, the new man also crucial to Mkhitaryan's fifth-minute opener.

France forward Thuram bundled past Malick Thiaw before finding Federico Dimarco whose mishit shot was guided home by the former Armenia midfielder, who almost headed in a second six minutes later.

HH Shaikh Khalid says Bahrain keen to enhance sports cooperation with other countries, signs MoU with Serbia

● **HH Shaikh Khalid arrives in Belgrade for wrestling worlds**

TDT | Manama

The General Sports Authority (GSA) and the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Serbian Ministry of Sports and National Olympic Committee (NOC).

The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the official visit of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa after signing the agreement

First Deputy Chairman, GSA Chairman and BOC President, and HH's accompanying delegation to Serbia to attend the 2023 World Wrestling Championships.

HH Shaikh Khalid expressed delight over the signing of the MoU with Serbia's Ministry of Sports and NOC, noting that the agreement will pave the way for exchanging expertise and

experiences, organising training camps, enhancing prospects for cooperation in various sports, and benefiting from Serbia's capabilities in the technical, administrative and medical fields.

His Highness affirmed that the MoU is in line with the keenness of the GSA and BOC to open up cooperation horizons with various developed countries in the sports field, including Serbia, which boasts advanced sporting capabilities for training players, refining talent and training coaches, in addition to high-quality infrastructure and playgrounds for training camps, expressing hope that the agreement will contribute to achieving the common interests of both countries.

Bahrain rise 15 spots on basketball world ranking

● **Kingdom's senior men's national team improve to 69th on global classification**

● **Bahrainis also 12th amongst Asian nations, second in GCC behind only Saudi**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team have risen an impressive 15 places to 69th on the latest edition of the FIBA World Ranking.

The classification of men's national teams was the first released by the game's global governing body FIBA since the completion of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023.



Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team at the Paris Olympics Asian pre-qualifiers last month

The Bahrainis went up to 69th where they now have 150.0 ranking points. The nationals are also ranked 12th in FIBA Asia, and second amongst GCC teams, behind only Saudi Arabia, who are 66th.

The UAE are 103rd, Qatar 104th, Kuwait 110th and Oman are 149th.

Bahrain enjoyed the second-highest climb amongst Asian teams. Lebanese had the best rise of 16 places to 28th.

Bahrain's improvement can be attributed to the national team's historic five-game sweep of the Asian pre-qualifiers for the Paris Olympic Games 2024, held in Damascus just last month. There, they put in a dominant performance against Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, hosts Syria, Indonesia and India.

They thus became one of five national teams who have booked their place in the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournaments, which

Bahrain have done for the first time.

Bahrain will be one of a 24-nation field that will be battling for just four available berths in the men's basketball tournament at the Paris Olympics.

The nationals are also set to compete in the Hangzhou Asian Games in China starting later this month. The Bahrainis are to play in Group C of the preliminary round along with the Philippines, Jordan and Thailand.

Riffa set to kick off AFC Cup campaign

● **Bahrainis to face Nejmeh SC of Lebanon tomorrow at Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Riffa Club kick off their title bid in the 2023/2024 AFC Cup tomorrow against Nejmeh SC of Lebanon.

Riffa and Nejmeh are in Group C for the preliminary round along with Al Zawraa of Iraq and Al Arabi of Kuwait.

Tomorrow's match is scheduled for a 9pm kick off, Bahrain time, at Khalifa Sports City Stadium.

In the same evening, Zawraa host Arabi in Basra.

Following Riffa's opening fixture, they host Zawraa at home on 2 October, before flying to Kuwait City to take on Arabi on 23 October. The Bahrainis are then set to go against Arabi on 6

November in Bahrain before facing Nejmeh on 27 November. They complete their group campaign on 12 December away at Zawraa.

The AFC Cup is the annual continental club competition of the AFC for top teams not competing in the AFC Champions League. A to-

tal of 36 participating teams are participating, divided into nine groups across the five AFC zones. The West zone teams are in Groups A, B and C.

Group A features Al Ahed FC of Lebanon, Al Futuwa of Syria, Jabal Al Mukaber Club of Palestine and Al Nahda of Oman. Group B comprises Al Wehdah of Jordan, Kuwait SC of Kuwait, Al Kahrbaa SC of Iraq and Al Ittihad Al Ahli of Aleppo from Syria.

The three group winners and best runners-up advance to the zonal semi-finals, which are set for February of next year. The zonal finals will take place in April, while the inter-zone play-off semis are scheduled for March and the inter-zone play-off final also for April. The AFC Cup final will be played in May.

Riffa are the lone Bahraini representatives in this year's competition. They qualified being the national league champions from the 2021/2022 season.



Riffa players during training in Bahrain

India's Sundar replaces injured Patel for Asia Cup final



Washington Sundar
AFP | Colombo

India spinner Axar Patel has been ruled out of the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka and Washington Sundar joined the team as a replacement, the country's cricket board said yesterday.

India will take on Sri Lanka on Sunday in Colombo with the teams looking to win the 50-over tournament and get momentum ahead of the upcoming ODI World Cup.

Patel suffered a "left quadriceps strain" in the team's Super Four loss to Bangladesh where the bowling all-rounder took a wicket and scored 42 runs.

Sundar, an off-spinner who also bats, arrived in the Sri Lankan capital yesterday evening to join the squad, according to the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Sainz on Singapore GP pole after Verstappen out in Q2

Max Verstappen's shocking exit from top-10 shootout opens door for Carlos Sainz's pole win

● **Sainz narrowly edges out George Russell's Mercedes by 0.072 seconds**

● **Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez miss top-10 shootout, finishing 11th and 13th**

AFP | Singapore

Carlos Sainz took pole position in a Ferrari yesterday for the Singapore Grand Prix after a dramatic qualifying session where world championship leader Max Verstappen and his Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez failed to make it into the top-10 shootout.

Sainz's lap of 1min 30.984sec pipped the Mercedes of George



Ferrari's Carlos Sainz gets out of his car after securing pole position

Russell by 0.072sec and the second Ferrari of Charles Leclerc who was third, 0.007sec further back.

Red Bull had struggled for pace all weekend but nobody expected Verstappen, who has won the last 10 races in a row,

to finish 11th fastest in Q2 and be eliminated along with Perez, who was 13th.

Sainz will start from pole for the second consecutive grand prix after also being fastest at the Italian GP two weeks ago.

"A bit like Monza really, we hit the ground running in FP1. I felt very confident all through the sessions and put it together in Q3," said Sainz, who also topped the time sheets in yesterday's third free practice session.

"I just focused on not doing any mistakes on that lap. Keeping it clean in Singapore normally pays off."

Russell will start from the front row for the first time since the Australian Grand Prix at the beginning of April.

"Really happy with this weekend as a whole," said the Englishman. "I felt really confident in the car, the team did a great job with the strategy."

"We are on an off-set strategy

compared to everybody else, so we have an extra set of medium tyres tomorrow which nobody around us has.

"So to get to Q3 and be on the front row with a strategic advantage tomorrow is an exciting place to be."

Verstappen is chasing a third world title and has a massive 145-point lead over Perez.

But the Dutchman has never triumphed under the lights in Singapore and faces an almost impossible task to end the drought after a torrid weekend when the Red Bulls were well off the pace.

It was the first time since the Russian Grand Prix in 2018 that neither Red Bull managed to make it into Q3.

Perez won in Singapore last year from second on the grid, but will make his 250th grand prix start in Sunday's night race from the back half of the grid.

Sensational Winfred powers to Diamond League title

● Bahrain's world champion triumphs with second-fastest time in history, world lead, new Asian and meeting records, and personal best

TD | Manama

Bahrain's world champion Winfred Yavi last night added another major accolade to her already spectacular career, capturing this season's Diamond League title in the women's 3,000 metres steeplechase.

The 23-year-old secured her



Winfred glances back at her competitors as she is about to cross the finish line for her victory

performance at the 2023 Diamond League final at The Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon, in the US, winning her race while clocking the second-fastest time in history, which is also the world lead, a new Asian record, a new meeting record, and her personal best.

After pacing herself at the back of the leaders' group for most of the race, Winfred powered to the front with two laps to go. Her chief competitor Beatrice Chepkoech of Kenya, the world record holder, trailed right behind her, and the pair were engaged in a tight battle the rest of the way.

Winfred was able to put in a decisive final kick down the home straight, and she finished with a time of eight minutes 50.66 seconds, shattering her old personal best and previous world lead of 8:54.29. Beatrice followed in 8:51.67 as the runner-up, while Faith Cherotich, also of Kenya, was third in 8:59.65. Winfred's time is only second-best all-time to Chepkoech's world record of 8:44.32, clocked in 2018.

Winfred claimed her first-ever Diamond League title just weeks after becoming a world champion. She led the same trio that finished in the same order as they did at this year's worlds

in Budapest.

Along with her glittering Diamond Trophy, Winfred also came away with \$30,000 in prize money for first place.

Winfred became the third Bahraini in recent years to be crowned as a Diamond League champion. She has followed in the footsteps of fellow-Bahrainis Ruth Jebet, also in the women's 3,000m steeplechase, and Salwa Eid Naser in the women's 400m.

The Diamond League final is a two-day meeting that marks the culmination of this athletics outdoor season's top-tier annual series, under World Athletics. Winfred is the lone Bahraini to have qualified for the event.

Kingdom's Asiad rosters take shape

Bahrain Olympic Committee announces lists of competing sportsmen and women for 12 of the 17 sports so far

● Four of Bahrain's 17 sports to feature both men and women competitors

● Athletics squad to comprise Kingdom's largest roster with 34 elite athletes

● Bahrain withdraws its participation from men's cricket in Hangzhou Asiad

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As the days continue to count down to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Bahrain's full delegation of competing athletes continues to take shape.

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) has announced the names of a number of the men and women athletes who will be going for gold at the highly anticipated, multi-sport Asiad.

The nationals will now only be competing in 17 sports instead of 18, following the withdrawal of Bahrain from the men's cricket competition.

They are athletics, handball, football, basketball, volleyball, boxing, judo, weightlifting, wrestling, jiu-jitsu, rowing, shooting, cycling, table tennis, taekwondo, sailing, and e-sports.

Bahrain will be sending its largest-ever contingent to the Hangzhou event, with more than 200 athletes and officials flying the Kingdom's flag.

Many of the Kingdom's sportsmen and women have past experience in the Asian Games or have competed in other major events such as the Olympics, or in world and continental championships of their respective sports.

Maryam Alaali



Danis Latypov

Bahrain's delegation to Hangzhou is headed by BOC vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, while Ahmed Abdulghaffar is the Chef de Mission.

Amongst the team sports, Bahrain will be represented by 22 players in football, 16 in handball, and 12 each in basketball and volleyball.

The rest are individual sports, four of which will feature both men and women athletes, namely athletics, rowing, shooting and table tennis.

The athletics team makes up the largest squad for Bahrain with 34 total athletes entered to

compete, including 18 men and 16 women. There are three athletes in rowing, including two men and one woman; 14 in shooting, including seven men and seven women, and eight in table tennis, featuring four men and four women.

Elsewhere in the delegation, Bahrain will have six men athletes in judo; four in cycling, e-sports and wrestling; three in jiu-jitsu; two

apiece in boxing and sailing; and one athlete each in taekwondo and weightlifting.

Five of Bahrain's sports are scheduled to begin this week prior to the official opening ceremony, which is scheduled for Saturday.

Bahrain's teams in both football and volleyball get their campaigns underway on Tuesday, while the rowing team begin their medal quest on Wednesday



Five of Bahrain's sports are scheduled to begin this week prior to the official opening ceremony on Saturday. The Kingdom's football and volleyball teams get their campaigns underway on Tuesday, while the rowing team begin their medal quest on Wednesday, the sailing squad on Thursday, and the table tennis team on Friday

and the sailing squad on Thursday. Also, action in table tennis begins on Friday.

This year's Asiad will mark the 13th Asian Games Bahrain is taking part in. Bahraini sportsmen and women had also participated in 1974 in Tehran, in 1978 in Bangkok, in 1982 in New Delhi, in 1986 in Seoul, in 1990 in Beijing, in 1994 in Hiroshima, in 1998 in Bangkok, in 2002 in Busan, in 2006 in Doha, in 2010 in Guangzhou, in 2014 in Incheon and in

2018 in Jakarta/Palembang.

Bahrain is hopeful for a record-breaking campaign in Hangzhou and for exceeding their medal tallies from the last two editions of the Asian Games.

The nationals brought home 19 medals from the 2014 event in Incheon, South Korea, including nine gold, six silver and four bronze; before coming away with 24 medals in 2018 in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia, including 10 gold, eight silver and six bronze medals.



Abdulla Mohammed Janahi

List of athletes announced by the BOC so far

BOXING: Azat Makhmetov and Danis Latypov

CYCLING: Ahmed Madan, Ahmed Naser, Mansoor Jawad and Sayed Ahmed Alawi

E-SPORTS: Ahmed Abdulaziz Abdulla, Rashed Khaled Al Ruwaih, Ayman Hassan and Abdulaziz Faqeeli

FOOTBALL: Sayed Mohammed Adnan, Ali Adnan Dhaif, Khalil Ebrahim Ahmed, Hasan Isa Juma, Ali Mohamed Redha, Ahmed Abdulhameed Hasan, Hussain Ali Aleker, Hassan Abdunabi Ali, Sayed Jawad Alawi, Hani Taha Alharobi, Mahmood Mohamed Ali, Hussain Abdulkarim, Hussain Jaafar Haroona, Abdulla Nemer Almesaeed, Ahmed Dheyaa Ali, Abdulla Ali Alahmed, Abdulla Ali Alsubaiei, Mubarak Mohammed, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Salman Abdulla Qadhaib, Mohammed Abdulqayoom and Salman Adel Al Isa

JUDO: Ramazan Kodzhakov, Biaslan Hajali, Askerbii Gerbekov, Sulim Maraev, Zelimkhan Yakub and Azamat Chotchaev

ROWING: Omar Alhasan, Fahad Albanksi and Maryam Abdulhameed Husain

SAILING: Abdulla Mohammed Janahi and Khalifa Al Dosari

TABLE TENNIS: Rashed Rashed, Alyas Alyassi, Sayed Murtadha Mahfooth, Salman Abuhmda, Maryam Alaali, Fatima Alaali, Rayan Rashed and Amruta Amit Phadke

TAEKWONDO: Moaz Ebrahim Ahmed

VOLLEYBALL: Mohammed Yaqoob, Nasser Anan, Ali Ebrahim, Ayman Haroona, Mahmood Al Afia, Abbas Sultan, Ali Habib, Abbas Al Khabbaz, Hussain Mahdi, Hussain Ehsan and Sayed Hashem Issa

WEIGHTLIFTING: Gor Minasyan

WRESTLING: Alibeg Alibegov, Magomedrasul Asluev, Magomed Sharipov and Akhmed Tazhudinov

Gor Minasyan