

Royal leadership receives flood of congratulations
TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received cables of congratulations on the occasion of the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day, and the 25th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne, and the accompanying national events.

The cables were sent by senior members of the Royal Family, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, the Chairman of the Shura Council, Ministers, senior officials, Shura Council members and lawmakers, dignitaries, governors, municipal councillors, Bahrain's ambassadors abroad, heads of diplomatic missions in Bahrain, heads of societies, sports associations and clubs, and citizens.

HM King receives gold commemorative coin



HM the King receives the gold commemorative coin from HRH Prince Salman

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa was presented by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, with a gold commemorative coin issued by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) to mark the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's 25th Accession Anniversary to the throne.

The coin incorporates state-of-the-art 3D technology, a first for CBB's commemorative coin designs, and features intricate details on both sides.



This came as HM the King received HRH Prince Salman at Al Sakhir Palace. HM King Hamad expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the gesture, commending HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for his efforts to enhance Bahrain's economic and financial standing.

His Majesty also commended CBB's role in advancing the financial and banking sectors, attracting investments, and providing top-tier electronic services. He commended the CBB's efforts in ensuring Bahrain's financial stability, economic resilience, and distinguished position in the global financial and banking sectors.

HM King Hamad extended his best wishes to the Chairman, Board members, the Governor, and all employees of CBB for continued success.

A royal salute

His Majesty King Hamad commends 'perseverance and dedication' of Bahraini citizens

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa honoured the contributions of Bahrain's citizens, and commended their determination and perseverance to national service.

He highlighted the importance of recognising the outstanding individuals whose efforts embody the nation's spirit and determination.

HM the King delivered an inspiring keynote speech during a grand ceremony held under his patronage at Al Sakhir Palace, marking Bahrain's National Day and the 25th anniversary of his accession to the throne.

The event, attended by high-ranking officials and dignitaries, was a moment of reflection on Bahrain's journey and its continued progress under His Majesty's leadership.

Congratulations

In his address, HM the King began by extending heartfelt congratulations to the people of Bahrain.

He noted: "It is from this occasion, which is so dear to our hearts, that we derive our collective determination to meet the present needs and future aspirations for Bahrain's rising generations."

This statement underscored the importance of the National Day as a moment to reflect on the Kingdom's achievements while looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.



HM the King welcomes His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh

HM King Hamad highlighted Bahrain's unwavering national principles, which are reaffirmed annually.

Principles

"We do so whilst adhering to our unwavering national principles, which are reaffirmed each year, and whose essence does not change," he emphasised.

These words reflect his strong commitment to Bahrain's foundational values, ensuring that the Kingdom's identity remains rooted in its rich heritage while advancing in the modern era.

His Majesty took a moment to honour the memory of his late father, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, who laid the foundations for Bahrain's

modern state. He stated: "At this time, we honor the memory of our beloved late father, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, may God rest his soul, who was the founder and patron of the National Day at the start of our nation's modern journey."

Legacy

The tribute to his father was a reminder of the legacy that continues to shape Bahrain's success and progress today.

HM the King spoke with pride about the determination and perseverance of the Bahraini people, saying, "Every sincere contribution to our nation will forever remain a source of pride and optimism for the brightest



Fireworks illuminate the sky as people wave flags in celebration on the streets

tomorrow for our country." He acknowledged the efforts of the men and women of Bahrain, whose hard work and determination continue to contribute to the country's prosperity.

A significant highlight of the event was the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, who joined Bahrain in celebrating the milestone of HM King Hamad's 25th year on the throne.

In his address, HM the King expressed gratitude for the presence of HRH Prince Edward, saying, "This visit at such an auspicious time is further evidence of the depth of the friendship and the strength of the partnership that binds us to the United Kingdom."

His Majesty emphasised the longstanding historical ties between Bahrain and the United Kingdom and the promising future prospects for bilateral cooperation.

The visit of Prince Edward, representing King Charles III, further solidified the special relationship between the two nations, which has grown stronger over the years.

Friendship

His presence served as a reminder of the enduring friendship that has contributed to Bahrain's international standing and partnerships.

In closing, HM King Hamad prayed for Bahrain's continued peace, prosperity, and stability.

Google joins celebration with Kingdom's flag animation tribute
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The Google search engine marked Bahrain's National Day, the 25th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne, and the accompanying national events, with a special tribute.

Google's homepage featured an animated depiction of Bahrain's flag fluttering in the sky, surrounded by a red-and-white frame, in celebration of this national occasion.

The search engine frequently celebrates Bahrain's national and cultural milestones by transforming its homepage to feature historical and cultural symbols that highlight the Kingdom's rich heritage and identity.

By integrating elements of Bahrain's iconic imagery, Google demonstrated its support for the Kingdom.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Bahraini talent 'foundation of success and excellence'

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa launches Skills Bahrain Initiative and the Employability Skills Portal

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His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), emphasised that the national workforce of the Kingdom of Bahrain is the foundation of success and excellence across all industries.

He praised the capabilities of Bahrainis in driving national development and achieving ambitious goals.

Furthermore, His Highness highlighted the critical need for ongoing investment in nurturing Bahraini talent through training programmes aimed at enhancing leadership skills and competitiveness.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman reiterated the commitment to implementing innovative and specialised initiatives that align with this vision, supporting



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with senior representatives from both the public and private sectors at the launch ceremony

comprehensive national development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and with the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

At a launch ceremony attended by senior representatives from both the public and private sectors, His Highness officially unveiled the Skills Bahrain initiative and the Employability Skills Portal, which operate under the umbrella of the Labour



Fund (Tamkeen).

Vision

He emphasised that these ambitious initiatives represent a comprehensive vision aimed at holistically developing the labour market.

This vision is centred on understanding market demands and leveraging data-driven insights to support the implementation of upskilling initiatives in collaboration with various organisations within the Team Bahrain ecosystem.

These efforts are designed to provide the private sector with a highly skilled national workforce capable of driving economic growth.

The launch of Skills Bahrain marks a pivotal moment in Tamkeen's efforts to bridge the skills gap.

Collaboration

This initiative aims to strengthen collaboration among key government stakeholders, private sector leaders, and educational institutions to create a skills-based ecosystem that connects individuals with employers while offering reliable and relevant training opportunities, thus further enhancing skills development in the Kingdom.

Skills Bahrain conducts research in key economic sectors and analyses labour market data to identify skill gaps.

These insights are used to guide relevant stakeholders in addressing the needs of the ecosystem.

Tamkeen key achievements, upcoming strategic priorities



H.E. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, centre, Alya Alaali and Ali Hasan speak at the press conference

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The Labour Fund, Tamkeen, held a press conference to highlight the major achievements accomplished this year, focusing on its pillars aimed at employment support, career development support, and enterprise support.

On this occasion, Her Excellency Ms. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund, Tamkeen, stated that 2024 marked an unprecedented achievement for Tamkeen since inception, which entailed the employment and career development of 41,000 Bahrainis in the private sector.

This was achieved by channeling support programs to accomplish key objectives, including creating quality job opportunities, establishing new employment pathways in partnership with the private sector, and training and qualifying national talent to enhance their career development prospects.

These efforts align with Tamkeen's commitment to sustainable economic growth in the Kingdom of Bahrain to implement national develop-



تمكين
Tamkeen



ment plans, most notably the Government Action Plan 2023-2026 and the National Labour Market Plan 2023-2026 in collaboration with Team Bahrain.

Ms. Alya Alaali, Chief Strategy and Data Analytics Officer of the Labour Fund Tamkeen introduced Tamkeen's strategic priorities for 2025, focusing on increasing the competitiveness of local talent in the private sector, equipping Bahrainis with the necessary skills for career progression, and prioritizing the growth, digitalization, and sustainability of enterprises.

This is in line with Tamkeen's continued commitment to improving the labor market ecosystem and facilitating the private sector to increase the impact of its support programs.

Meanwhile, Tamkeen's Executive Director of Programs and Partnerships Development Mr. Ali Hasan reaffirmed that since the launch of its programs in

November of last year, Tamkeen has successfully created employment and career development opportunities for 41 thousand Bahrainis in private sector enterprises.

This includes support for over 15,200 Bahrainis through programs that facilitate their employment in the labor market, as well as supporting more than 25,700 Bahrainis through programs aimed at skill enhancement and career development, and over 8,500 enterprises through programs promoting growth and productivity.

An overview was presented of the key performance indicators achieved by Tamkeen in 2024, which showed that the percentage of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) reached 51% of the total supported through the enterprise support programs, as well as comprised 54% of the enterprises that received financial support.

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HM King, HRH Prince Salman welcome Duke of Edinburgh

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, at Al Sakhir Palace, where the two discussed the deep-rooted historic ties between Bahrain and the United Kingdom.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also met with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at Gudaibiya Palace.

HRH Prince Edward conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Charles III and extended his best wishes for Bahrain's progress and prosperity, particularly dur-



HM the King and HRH Prince Salman receive HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh



relations, and shared regional and international interests.

HRH Prince Salman hosted a lunch banquet in honor of The Duke and his delegation, attended by senior Bahraini officials, including HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and key government ministers.

These high-level engagements underscore Bahrain's dedication to strengthening historic alliances and fostering diplomatic ties with the United Kingdom, reflecting mutual respect and shared aspirations for continued partnership and prosperity.

ing its National Day celebrations.

HM King Hamad reciprocated with warm regards to HM King Charles III, highlighting the enduring bilateral relationship and expressing appreciation for efforts to strengthen partnerships

between the two nations.

In recognition of HRH Prince Edward's contributions to fostering cooperation, HM King Hamad awarded him the prestigious King Hamad Order of Renaissance, First Class.

The Duke expressed gratitude for the honour and commended HM the King's leadership in advancing Bahraini-British relations.

HRH Prince Salman emphasised Bahrain's commitment, un-

der HM King Hamad's leadership, to furthering cooperation and joint coordination with the UK. Discussions during the meeting included the longstanding ties between the two countries, aspirations for enhanced bilateral

Unity and joy across Bahrain!

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Amid cold winds, swirling dust, and a determined spirit, Bahrain's National Day celebrations yesterday painted a vibrant picture across the Kingdom yesterday.

Bahrain marked the founding of the modern Bahraini State by Ahmed Al Fateh in 1783, alongside the anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession.

Bahraini citizens and expats of all ages came together, wrapped in pride, to honour their beloved nation's heritage and achievements.

The air was alive with joy and unity, as streets sparkled with lights, buildings waved red-and-white flags, and the vibrant hum of celebration resonated in every corner.

The Bahrain December Festival offered something for everyone – cultural performances, thrilling concerts, and dazzling laser shows mesmerised crowds, while lively parades and bustling street markets celebrated the Kingdom's rich identity.

Children, with faces painted in national colors, laughed and played, engaging in fun activities that etched memories for a lifetime.

Fireworks illuminated the night sky, drawing gasps of awe from families huddled together, their smiles reflecting the shimmering lights above.

The joyous notes of traditional Bahraini music intertwined with the upbeat rhythm of modern tunes, creating a harmonious blend of the old and the new.

Expatriates joined locals, embracing the festive spirit with heartfelt participation, adding layers of diversity to the celebration.

The national pride transcended borders, with Bahrainis abroad sharing in the festivities, united by the love for their



Oil Ministry

Bahraini citizens and expats honour the Kingdom's heritage and achievements.



Youth Minister inaugurates heritage-themed exhibition



Electricity Affairs Ministry



Enjoyment for young and old homeland.



Fun time for kids



Traditional music show



Food delight



Vatel College of Hospitality



Bahrain International Airport



Bahrain Embassy in Qatar

MPs call for probe into housing delays

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Long housing waitlists and patchy government schemes are under the parliamentary microscope, with MPs calling for a full probe into how the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning handles its housing policies and programmes.

MPs Mohammed Mousa, Hisham Al Awadhi, Zainab Abdulameer, Khalid Buanaq, Badar Al Tamimi, Iman Shuwaiter, Mohammed Al Olaiwi, and Mahmood Fardan have formally requested the formation of a parliamentary inquiry committee to scrutinise the ministry's approach to housing distribution, investment efforts, and loan interest practices.

The investigation will focus on six key areas.

Criteria

First, it will assess whether housing units are distributed fairly among citizens and



Image used for illustrative purposes only

whether the criteria used by the ministry to allocate homes to those on waiting lists are reasonable and transparent.

Second, the committee will examine how well the Mazaya and Tas'heel schemes are meeting the housing needs of Bahrai-

nis and whether they are making any real dent in the lengthy waiting lists faced by hopeful homeowners.

Third, the inquiry will dig into how the ministry manages housing plot applications from citizens that remain unresolved to this day.

Progress

Fourth, attention will be given to the ministry's progress in developing new housing projects, particularly in Madinat Salman, Khalifa, East Sitra, East Hidd, and Al Ramli, as well as the expected timelines for their completion.

Fifth, the probe will evaluate the ministry's strategy for attracting investment and working with private developers to expand housing options.

Lastly, the inquiry will look into whether interest rates charged on housing loans and services are lawful and calculated fairly, ensuring they comply with existing rules and regulations.

Life imprisonment for one accused, freedom for another

Nightclub tragedy

H. Naser
TDT | Manama

The case of two 24-year-old Gulf nationals involved in a fatal hit-and-run outside an Al Hooraa nightclub on August 2, 2024, resulted in dramatically different outcomes.

One received a life sentence, while the other was acquitted, highlighting the complexities of the case.

The incident began with a seemingly minor dispute that escalated into a deadly act of violence, leaving one security guard dead and two others injured.

The evening of August 1st saw the two defendants, intoxicated and attempting to smuggle alcohol into the nightclub, denied entry.

Altercation

This led to a physical altercation with security personnel.

Hours later, the situation tragically escalated when one defendant deliberately drove a

vehicle into the guards standing outside.

Witnesses, including the nightclub manager and other employees, clearly identified the defendants. Their testimony, supported by security camera footage and a police report, detailed the events.

The footage showed a Gulf-registered vehicle speeding into the guards, throwing one victim over 10 meters.

A forensic report confirmed the fatal injuries were consistent with a high-impact collision.



Injuries

The injured guards sustained various injuries, ranging from minor to severe.

Following the incident, both defendants fled to a hotel, changed clothes, and left Bahrain via the King Fahd Causeway. One defendant remained at large, eventually facing a life sentence.

The other returned 19 days later, was apprehended at the King Fahd Causeway, and confessed to his involvement in the altercation and the subsequent hit-and-run. His cooperation with the investigation resulted in his acquittal.

MP hails royal 'spirit of hope and optimism' for Bahrain's future

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Her Excellency MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen extended her warmest congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, expressing her pride and honour in the great national achievements made under His Majesty's wise leadership.

Dr. Al-Dhaen said that His Majesty's speech on this precious occasion is characterised by a spirit of hope and optimism for Bahrain's future, stressing the importance of strengthening

national unity and moving forward towards achieving the aspirations of future generations.

She added that His Majesty's emphasis on the firm national constants and his continuous support for the sons and daughters of Bahrain, men and women of the nation who have presented the most wonderful models of national giving, reflects his firm commitment to continuing the approach established by the late great Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and presenting Bahrain as a civilised model of coexistence and peace.

Her Excellency the Deputy also praised HM the King's



H.E. MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen

keenness to strengthen bilateral relations with the United King-

dom through the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, considering this visit an embodiment of the distinguished relations and joint cooperation between the two countries, reflecting Bahrain's vision towards achieving more strategic partnership in various fields.

Dr. Al Dhaen concluded her statement by stressing the importance of continuing to work hard and sincerely in serving the nation, and that Bahrain will remain, a symbol of security and stability, and a meeting place for tolerance and coexistence among all segments of society.

BD49mln FDI boom for Bahrain in nine months



Image used for illustrative purposes only

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Bahrain has seen a significant increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) during the first three quarters of 2024, according to data released by Bahrain's Open Data Portal.

Total FDI reached approximately BD49 million, marking a nearly 10% rise compared to the same period in 2023, when FDI totaled BD44.8 million. This represents a 9.45% year-on-year increase.

The surge is largely attributed to robust investment from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations. Kuwait led the pack, contributing BD17 million in investment over the nine-month period. Saudi Arabia followed closely with BD10.6 million, the UAE with BD5.2 million, and Libya with BD3.6 million.

Kuwait's investment demonstrates a strong commitment, exceeding BD5 million in each of the first three quarters of



The data suggests a positive outlook for Bahrain's economy in the coming quarters.

2024.

Saudi Arabia also saw consistent investment, exceeding BD3 million across the same period. The UAE's investment totaled BD5.2 million, with approximately BD1.7 million invested during each quarter.

Libya's significant contribution of BD3.6 million, with consistent investment across the three quarters, also stands out. India followed with BD1.8 million in FDI during the same period.

Gift-giving event for Filipinos successful

TDT | Manama

The Travelers Tribe Masonic Club of Bahrain, in partnership with Tri-Step Lodge No. 99, has organized a heart-warming gift-giving activity.

This event brought cheer, warmth, and generosity to nine Filipino workers and three children currently residing at the Philippine Embassy in Manama.

It was a touching event symbolizing strength and solidarity while much-needed items and thoughtful gifts were given to beneficiaries.

Giving

The generosity and kind words shared in this festive season showed the spirit of giving and community.

Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom Bahrain, Her Excellency Anne Jalandon-Louis, expressed her deep appreci-



H.E. Philippines Ambassador Anne Jalandon-Louis with Travelers Tribe Masonic Club of Bahrain officials and members, along with other attendees

ation to both Travelers Tribe Masonic Club of Bahrain and Tri-step Lodge for their steadfast dedication to help Filipinos.

She mentioned that these groups put so much time into organizing activities, as well as in preparing essential supplies and services to our fellow "kababayans" who are currently

staying at embassy shelter.

Glad

"I am glad that you have inserted this activity in your schedule, showing that even on the last day of the year, you find time to share your blessings," she said.

She extended her appreciation

to the committed officers and members of both organizations during her remarks, saying their commitment is valued so much.

"Please extend the Embassy's heartfelt thanks to those who could not be present today," she said, emphasizing the spirit of collective generosity and community.

US stocks mostly rise, bitcoin hits new record

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Wall Street shares mostly rose yesterday ahead of an expected US interest-rate cut later this week while concerns over political battles in Europe and China's struggling economy sent other world markets lower.

Bitcoin, meanwhile, hit a new record high at \$106,493.43 as it continues to gain support from Donald Trump's backing of cryptocurrencies.

In New York, the tech-heavy Nasdaq and the broad-based S&P 500 were up in morning deals while the Dow was flat following a lacklustre performance last week.

Investors are turning their attention to Wednesday's US Federal Reserve decision on borrowing costs at its last policy meeting of the year before Trump takes office next month.

The Fed is widely expected to cut its key lending rate for a third straight time, reducing it by a quarter point despite a recent uptick in inflation.

But there are fears it will have to slow its pace of easing next year owing to sticky inflation and bets that Trump's tax cuts and tariffs will reignite prices.

Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading platform XTB, said there would be "an elephant in the room" at the Fed meeting:

"How to accurately forecast economic activity and inflation

Key figures around 1445 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ at 43,830.77 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ P 0.2% at 6,063.22
New York - Nasdaq:	▲ 0.4% at 19,995.99
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.8% at 7,350.78
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 0.4% at 20,327.68
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.4% at 8,271.35
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ at 39,457.49 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.9% at 19,795.49 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.2% at 3,386.33 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.0491 from \$1.0504 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2651 from \$1.2622
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 154.14 yen from 153.60 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 82.99 pence from 83.19 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 0.3% at \$71.06 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 0.1% at \$71.05 per barrel

rates, when the President elect's policies are expected to have a huge economic impact and could trigger more inflation."

China and Europe worries

Investors also tracked data showing Chinese retail sales grew 3.0% last month, much slower than October and well off the five-percent forecast.

Hong Kong and Shanghai indices closed lower after the data release while oil prices fell slightly on concerns over Chinese demand.

Chinese officials have unveiled a string of aggressive measures in recent months aimed at bolstering growth in the world's second biggest econ-

omy.

In Europe, the Paris stock market dropped after Moody's downgraded France's credit rating Saturday following months of political crisis and the appointment of centrist Francois Bayrou as prime minister.

"The market is likely to watch closely to see how the political problems in France affect sentiment in the German economy," said Jochen Stanzl, analyst at CMC Markets.

Frankfurt fell as Germany's embattled centre-left Chancellor Olaf Scholz faced a confidence vote that was expected to trigger the process towards February 23 elections.

The European Central Bank

cut rates again last week as inflation appears to come under control and the eurozone economy shows signs of weakness.

ECB chief Christine Lagarde said Monday the bank would keep lowering interest rates, and she warned that higher US tariffs under Trump could hit growth in the bloc.

A closely-watched survey showed Monday business activity declined further in the eurozone in December, though less sharply than the previous month thanks to an upturn in the services sector.

On the corporate front, three spinoffs from French right-wing tycoon Vincent Bolloré's Vivendi media empire debuted on stock markets, with mixed results.

Shares in the Canal+ television and film group tumbled by around 20% in London.

The other two spinoffs had a better start: Book publisher Louis Hachette soared almost 27% on the Euronext Growth in Paris while advertising agency Havas was up 1.2% in Amsterdam in afternoon deals.

Shares in the remaining Vivendi company, which stayed on the Paris stock exchange, was up more than 3%.

In London, the UK government approved the £3.6 billion (\$4.5 billion) takeover of Royal Mail's parent company, International Distribution Services (IDS), by Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky's EP Group.

Canada deputy PM quits over rift with Trudeau on Trump tariffs



US President Donald Trump (R) welcomes Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the White House in Washington, DC

AFP | Ottawa, Canada

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland in a surprise announcement on Monday quit over disagreements with Justin Trudeau on Canada's response to US President-elect Donald Trump's tariff threats.

"Our country today faces a grave challenge," Freeland, who also served as finance minister, said in a letter posted on X, pointing to Trump's planned 25 percent tariffs on Canadian imports.

"For the past number of weeks, you and I have found ourselves at odds about the best path forward for Canada," she added.

First elected to parliament in 2013, Freeland joined Trudeau's cabinet two years later when the Liberals swept to power, overseeing several key posts including as trade

and foreign minister, and leading free trade negotiations with the EU and United States.

But she said in her resignation letter Trudeau wanted to shuffle her to another job, to which she said: "I have concluded that the only honest and viable path is for me to resign from the cabinet."

As finance minister, Freeland explained the need to take Trump's tariffs threats "extremely seriously."

"That means keeping our fiscal powder dry today, so we have the reserves we may need for a coming tariff war. That means eschewing costly political gimmicks, which we can ill afford and which make Canadians doubt that we recognize the gravity of the moment."

Canada's main trading partner is the United States, with 75 percent of its exports going to its southern neighbor.

SoftBank pledges to invest \$100 bn into US, creating 100,000 jobs

Washington, United States

The Japanese tech titan SoftBank will invest \$100 billion in the United States, creating at least 100,000 jobs, US President-elect Donald Trump said Monday, in a boost to his incoming administration.

"This historic investment is a monumental demonstration of confidence in America's future," Trump said during a press conference at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

"It will help ensure that artificial intelligence, emerging technologies and other industries of tomorrow are built, created and grown right here in the USA," added Trump, who takes office



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump delivers remarks alongside SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son (R) and Trump's choice for Secretary of Commerce, Cantor Fitzgerald Chairman and CEO Howard Lutnick at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort on December 16, 2024 in Palm Beach, Florida.

from US President Joe Biden next month.

Speaking alongside Trump, SoftBank's chief executive Masayoshi Son confirmed the investment company's financial commitment and pledged to create 100,000 jobs, adding that Trump's victory had "tremendously increased" his confidence in the American economy.

"I am truly excited to make this happen," added Son, 67.

Second commitment

The announcement from Son is around double the amount he committed SoftBank to in December 2016, shortly before Trump began his first term as

president.

The Japanese firm ultimately parted with close to \$100 billion through its Vision Fund, with much of the money supplied by sovereign wealth funds in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"President Trump is a double-down president," Son said on Monday, adding: "I'm going to have to double down."

Son made his name with successful early investments in Chinese e-commerce titan Alibaba and internet pioneer Yahoo, but has also bet on catastrophic failures such as WeWork.

He has repeatedly said that "artificial superintelligence"

will arrive in a decade, bringing new inventions, new medicine, new knowledge and new ways to invest.

Last month, CNBC reported that ChatGPT creator OpenAI will enable its employees to sell shares worth roughly \$1.5 billion to SoftBank.

The SoftBank Group posted a bumper second-quarter net profit last month, returning to the black after net losses in the first quarter and the previous financial year.

Boost for Trump

Son's announcement is a boost to the incoming Trump administration, which takes office on January 20, 2025.

On the campaign trail, Trump pledged to boost the US economy by cutting red tape and fast-tracking investments, including into the oil and gas sector.

But analysts have voiced concerns that some of Trump's stated objectives, such as slapping new tariffs on US imports and deporting millions of undocumented workers, could hurt growth and be inflationary.

This could force the Federal Reserve, the independent US central bank, to ease the pace of interest rate cuts, potentially keeping rates higher for longer.

Malaysia launches first locally made electric vehicle



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim touches the first locally produced electric vehicle (EV), the e.MAS 7, during its launch event at Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) in Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysian automaker Proton unveiled the country's first locally-produced electric vehicle on Monday, after the government pledged to boost EV uptake on the roads.

Proton -- which is backed by Chinese automotive giant Geely -- launched the e.MAS 7 SUV at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

The cheapest e.MAS 7 will be priced at 105,800 ringgit (\$23,700), whilst a top-of-the-range model will retail for 123,800 ringgit.

Cars produced by China's BYD and Elon Musk's Tesla brand are already available in Malaysia, but the government

has announced plans for EVs to make up 20 percent of new vehicle sales by 2030.

Geely owns 49.9 percent of Proton and last year announced a \$10 billion investment in the firm's plant in Tanjung Malim -- 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur.

"It is hoped that the e.MAS 7 EV model can promote our ability to produce quality electric vehicles," Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said at the vehicle's launch.

Local automotive analyst Nicholas King said the low cost may spur the government's electrification plans.

"The price... is sure to shake up the local EV market," said King, a senior editor at car website KeyAuto.my.

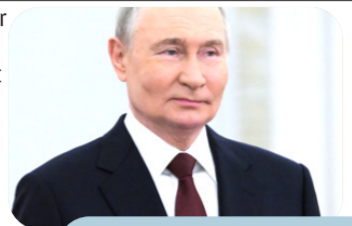


SoftBank Group, a Japanese multinational conglomerate, is one of the world's largest technology investors. It is known for its Vision Fund, the largest technology-focused venture capital fund globally, with over \$100 billion in capital. The fund has backed major tech companies, including Alibaba, Uber, Arm Holdings, and WeWork.



News in brief

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday his troops had the upper hand across the entire front line in Ukraine and were accelerating their advance.



Putin says Russia has initiative across entire Ukraine front

Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, who heads the caretaker government installed after an August revolution, said yesterday that general elections would be held late next year or in early 2026.

The Israeli government approved on Sunday a plan to increase the population of the annexed Golan Heights, while insisting it had no intention of confronting Syria after seizing a UN-monitored buffer zone.

Israel aims to 'double population' in annexed Golan: PM



Hasina -- to set a date. The 84-year-old microfinance pioneer is leading a temporary administration to tackle what he has called the "extremely tough" challenge of restoring democratic institutions in the South Asian nation of about 170 million people.

The 84-year-old microfinance pioneer is leading a temporary administration to tackle what he has called the "extremely tough" challenge of restoring democratic institutions in the South Asian nation of about 170 million people.

Assad denies 'planned' exit from Syria, calls new leaders 'terrorists'

Assad says Moscow requested his evacuation from Syria base

AFP | Damascus, Syria

Bashar al-Assad yesterday said he fled Syria only after Damascus had fallen and denounced the country's new leaders as "terrorists", in his first remarks since rebels seized the capital and unseated him.



Men wait in line as Syrian soldiers, police and some civilians surrender their weapons and register with the authorities, in the western port city of Latakia



Sanitary workers check human remains from a newly uncovered mass grave discovered in an agricultural field in Izra, in Syria's southern Daraa province

said a statement from Assad on the ousted presidency's Telegram channel. "I remained in Damascus, carrying out my duties until the early hours" of Sunday December 8, it added.

Indian tabla drum maestro Zakir Hussain dies aged 73



Indian musician, percussionist and tabla exponent Zakir Hussain performs during a concert at the Indian Music Experience (IME), the country's first interactive music museum, in Bangalore

New Delhi, India

Indian musician Zakir Hussain, a four-time Grammy award winner credited with turning tabla drums into an instrument loved globally, has died at the age of 73, officials said Monday.

'We are on it': US official seeks to allay drone sighting concerns

AFP | Washington, United States

A top US official sought to quell a growing concern Sunday over reported drone sightings in the country's northeast, reiterating there was no known security threat as authorities monitor the situation.



Video footage of mysterious airborne phenomena recently has clogged social media, with sightings also reported in Maryland and Virginia.

andro Mayorkas said Sunday on ABC's "This Week" program. "But there's no question that drones are being sighted," he said, noting there are more than one million registered across the United States.

Trump hosts Shinzo Abe's widow at Mar-a-Lago

AFP | Washington, United States

US president-elect Donald Trump hosted Akie Abe, the widow of slain former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, for a private dinner with his wife Melania Trump at their Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida on Sunday.



President-elect Donald Trump is driven from the Trump International Golf Club in a convoy of vehicles

As Japan's longest-serving premier, Abe became one of the country's most recognizable political figures, known for cultivating international alliances and his "Abenomics" economic strategy.

SPOTLIGHT

Sri Lanka president in India in first overseas trip



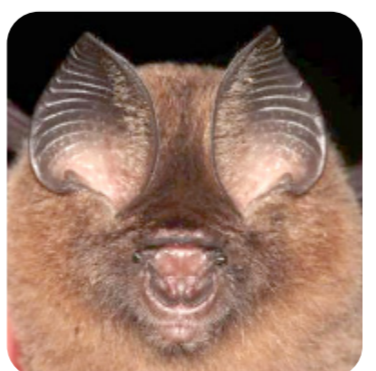
India's President Droupadi Murmu (C) poses with Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) and her Sri Lankan counterpart Anura Kumara Dissanayake during Anura's ceremonial reception at the presidential palace Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi

India's President Droupadi Murmu (C) poses with Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) and her Sri Lankan counterpart Anura Kumara Dissanayake during Anura's ceremonial reception at the presidential palace Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

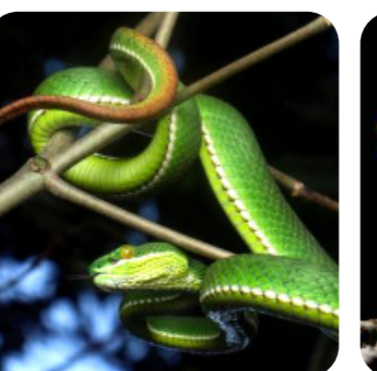
'Eyelash viper', leaf-nosed bat among new species found in Mekong

AFP | Hanoi, Vietnam

A viper with scales that look like eyelashes and a leaf-nosed bat are among dozens of new species identified in Southeast Asia's Mekong region last year, WWF said Monday.



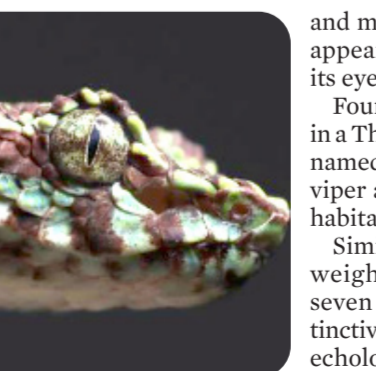
A newly discovered leaf-nosed bat and the wildlife trade.



A newly discovered species of pit viper spot, home to tigers, elephants and dolphins.



A newly discovered species of tree frog algae and fungus -- were identified in the region in 2023.



A limestone eyelash pit viper preserved in natural history museums and botanical gardens across the world.

and mint-green scales give it the appearance of eyelashes around its eyes, WWF said. Found in limestone formations in a Thai national park, it has been named the limestone eyelash pit viper as a result of its distinctive habitat and markings.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01

Africa is causing minimal emissions, yet, climate change is pummeling the continent. By next year, countries must deliver new national #ClimateAction plans aligned with the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C.

02

Today's talks with President Anura Kumara Dissanayake covered topics such as trade, investment, connectivity and energy. Our nations also look forward to collaborating in sectors such as housing, agriculture, dairy and fisheries.

03

It was an honor to pay my respects to Akie Abe, widow of PM Abe, upon her visit to Mar-a-Lago to have dinner with @realDonaldTrump and @MELANIATRUMP.

04

The Republican Party will use its best efforts to eliminate Daylight Saving Time, which has a small but strong constituency, but shouldn't! Daylight Saving Time is inconvenient, and very costly to our Nation.

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

Campus

National Day festivities galore



Al-Noor International School Bahrain celebrated Bahrain's National Day on December 11 and 12, highlighting the kingdom's Arab and Islamic heritage. The event was attended by the school's Chairman, Mr. Ali Hasan; Director, Dr. Muhammad Mashood; Acting Principal, Mr. AbdulRahman Al Koheji; academic and administrative staff; and students from all grade levels. A script was presented to honour Bahrain's leadership and their efforts in advancing the nation while preserving its cultural identity. The celebrations included a Magic Show for Kindergarten, Primary, and Middle School students in the school's multi-purpose hall. Students and staff wore traditional red and white attire to mark the occasion. Approximately 5,000 students and staff participated in the event.

Bhavans- Bahrain Indian School



Bhavans- Bahrain Indian School (BIS) hosted a vibrant Multi-Cultural Fest, showcasing the rich tapestry of global cultures represented in its student body. The event, inaugurated by Principal Mr. Saji Jacob, took place on 12th December 24 and featured an array of country stalls, where students enthusiastically depicted the unique customs and traditions of various nations. During the fest, students immersed themselves in the cultures they represented, offering attendees a taste of international cuisine, traditional crafts, and engaging games. Director Mr. Himanshu Verma and Director Mrs. Ritu Verma hailed the event as a celebration of diversity but also as a platform for social responsibility. All proceeds from the Multi-Cultural Fest will be donated to charity. Principal Mr. Saji Jacob congratulated students, staff, and parents for their hard work and dedication in making this fest a success."

The New Millennium School



The New Millennium School, Bahrain celebrated the 53rd Bahrain National Day on 12th December, 2024, with great fervour and enthusiasm. The school reverberated with the echoes of slogans of 'Ashat Mamlakatal Bahrain- Long Live Bahrain' and wore a festive look as staff and the students attended the classes dressed up in Red and White outfits/Bahraini traditional wears. The special assemblies highlighted the spirit of celebration. Several activities were conducted which centered around Bahraini tradition and culture. The students presented a spectacular display 'walk through tradition', where the audience was taken on an enchanting journey displaying the local archaic architecture, the traditional Souq and the farmer's market, the tradition of Heena designing and the traditional and contemporary Bahraini dance forms and poetry recitation. The celebration also featured food stalls serving traditional Bahraini delicacies and exhibits of exquisite Bahraini handicrafts. They also showcased presentations on the occupations of pottery, basket weaving and agriculture in Bahrain and their insights on Vision 2030 and Vision 2060 Bahrain. Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Mrs Geetha Pillai and Principal Dr Arun Kuumar Sharma extended their warmest greetings and wishes to one and all on the occasion of National Day.

The American University of Bahrain



The American University of Bahrain (AUBH) hosted its annual celebrations to mark the Bahraini National Day and the anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession to the throne. The event featured a diverse array of cultural activities that celebrated Bahrain's rich traditions and heritage. Highlights included pearl oyster shucking, artistic performances that showcased the Bahraini culture, traditional Bahraini games, and a culinary experience offering attendees the opportunity to savor authentic Bahraini cuisine. AUBH President, Dr. Bradley J. Cook, emphasized this commemoration stands as a catalyst to perpetuate the ongoing progress and advancements achieved across various sectors.

The Indian School Bahrain



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Junior Wing celebrated Bahrain's National Day with a heartfelt tribute to the Kingdom. The event, attended by around 4,000 students and 200 staff members, was a vibrant showcase of unity, pride, and cultural appreciation. The celebrations began with a visually striking display as students formed the 'Arabian oryx' and spelled out 'ISB RIFFA 2024' on the campus grounds. Dressed in the colours of the Bahraini flag, the ISB community created a stunning spectacle that symbolized their respect for the Kingdom. The highlight of the ceremony was the flag hoisting, attended by prominent dignitaries including Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, Secretary V. Rajapandian, Asst. Secretary & Member-Academics Ranjini Mohan, EC Member Biju George, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Junior Wing Principal Pamela Xavier, and Vice-Principal Priya Laji, along with students, parents, and staff. In a symbolic gesture, 53 red and white balloons were released to mark the 53rd National Day of Bahrain. The festivities continued with traditional Bahraini dances performed by students from Classes 1, 2, and 3, choreographed by Arabic teachers. The campus was adorned with colours, lights, and decorations, creating a festive atmosphere throughout the day. The school also felicitated the Bahraini lady staff to commemorate Women's Day and appreciated their dedication to the school and the nation.

BRAVE Combat Week Concludes with Fakhreddine's Comeback

BRAVE Combat Federation wrapped up a historic year with BRAVE CF 92 at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation's final event of the year BRAVE CF 92 is in the books and the event proved to be a fitting finale to an extraordinary year for the most global MMA organization.

The main event between Mohammad Fakhreddine and Abdel Rahmane Driai was filled with drama before Fakhreddine secured a second-round stoppage with ground-and-pound. The first round featured several near finishes and a lengthy pause due to an illegal strike to the back of the head by Driai. Although both fighters were unable to secure a finish in the first round, Fakhreddine came out aggressively in the second, hunting for the stoppage and ultimately succeeding.

The victory marked Fakhreddine's triumphant return to BRAVE CF, and in his post-fight speech, the former two-division champion expressed his desire for a showdown with Erko Jun.

India vs. Pakistan

In the India vs. Pakistan segment of the card, the Pakistani fighters delivered strong performances, winning all five of their respective matchups.

In the co-main event, Rizwan Ali secured a decisive victory over Srikant Sekhar, ending the bout with a first-round stoppage. The fight saw a competitive grappling exchange before Ali capitalized on an opening, landing significant strikes that prompted the referee's intervention. This win allowed Ali to maintain his undefeated professional record.

Following the match, Sekhar, a veteran of the sport with a career spanning over a decade, announced his retirement from MMA, marking the end of a notable journey in the sport. Babar Ali secured the biggest win of his career by outclassing Mohammed Farhad across three rounds.



BRAVE CF 92 Results:

Catchweight: Mohammed Fakhreddine def. Abdel Rahmane Driai via TKO (strikes) at 3m11s of R2

Lightweight: Rizwan Ali def. Srikant Sekhar via TKO (punches) at 2m22s of R1

Bantamweight: Babar Ali def. Mohammad Farhad via unanimous decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27).

Featherweight: Omar Solomanov def. Izzeddine Al Derbani via submission (rear-naked choke) at 4m53s of R1.

Catchweight: Abbas Khan def. Seth Rosario via split decision (29-28, 28-29, 29-28)

Super Welterweight: Rami Hamed def. Salamat Orozakunov via TKO (punches) at 4m20s of R1

Super Lightweight: Abdallah Mohamed def. Mohamed Yosif Abdulrahman via Decision

Bantamweight: Ismail Khan def. Yadwinder Singh via unanimous decision (30-27, 30-27, 30-27)

Flyweight: Aqib Awan def. Ehtesham Ansari via TKO (ground and pound) at 2m01s of R3

Strawweight: Suchika Tariyal Hooda def. Jhen Buzon via submission (armbar) at 2m08s of R2

The rising Pakistani star used his grappling skills to neutralize Farhad's striking and dominated the fight to secure a unanimous decision victory.

Seth Rosario and Abbas Khan delivered an action-packed, three-round thriller. Seth had multiple near submissions throughout the fight and remained active from the bottom, while Abbas capitalized on takedowns and effective striking. In the end, the judges awarded Abbas a split decision victory, marking his second consecutive

win in BRAVE CF.

Ismail Khan earned his second consecutive BRAVE CF victory by dominating Yadwinder Singh and securing a unanimous decision. Ismail's grappling overwhelmed Yadwinder, who showed great heart by enduring the onslaught to go the distance.

Aqib Awan rebounded from his first-round knockout loss at BRAVE CF 85 in Pakistan with a third-round stoppage of Ehtesham Ansari. Aqib controlled the grappling exchanges and, in the third round, unleashed

unanswered ground-and-pound strikes to secure the win. The victory also snapped Ehtesham's six-fight winning streak.

Omar Solomanov

Omar Solomanov returned to the winning column with a first-round submission win over Izzeddine Al Derbani in the Featherweight division. Solomanov executed a leg-sweep takedown and delivered strikes from the crucifix position. As Derbani attempted to escape, the Ukrainian locked in a rear-naked

choke to secure the submission victory.

Rami Hamed

Rami Hamed marked his return to BRAVE Combat Federation with a first-round stoppage win over Salamat Orozakunov. Despite being in danger from vicious elbows by Salamat, Hamed turned the fight around with a powerful punch that dropped his opponent. He followed up with ground-and-pound strikes to secure the finish. With the win, Hamed extended his win-

ning streak to six fights, putting the Super Welterweight division on notice.

Abdallah Mohamed

Egypt's Abdallah Mohamed secured a big win by outclassing Mohamed Yosif Abdulrahman across three rounds. Abdallah relied on takedowns and ground control to dominate the fight, earning a unanimous decision victory.

Suchika Tariyal

In the opening bout of the card, Indian Judo champion Suchika Tariyal showcased a dominant performance, securing a second-round submission win. Making her return to MMA after a seven-year hiatus, Suchika used her grappling expertise to outclass Jhen Buzon of the Philippines before finishing the fight with an armbar in the second round. With this win, Suchika remains undefeated in her professional MMA career, improving to 2-0.



BRAVE CF 92 brought an end to a historic year for BRAVE Combat Federation, a year marked by breaking multiple world records and expanding into new territories, including Mauritius, the Netherlands, China, Bulgaria, and Austria.

The organization also signed several strategic partnerships globally and expanded its international roster with world-class talent.

Omar Solomonov submits Izzeddine Al-Derbani at BRAVE CF 92, demands title shot

Omar Solomonov has re-entered the BRAVE CF Featherweight title picture with a submission win at BRAVE CF 92

TDT | Manama

The title race in the Featherweight division of BRAVE Combat Federation is heating up as Omar Solomonov secured a huge submission victory at BRAVE CF 92 in Bahrain.

Solomonov faced Arab superstar Izzeddine Al-Derbani at BRAVE CF 92. In the first round, Solomonov executed a leg sweep to take Derbani down, transitioning into a rear-naked choke during the scramble to secure the win.

With the win, the Ukrainian fighter returned to the win column, bouncing back strongly from his loss at BRAVE CF 85. Before that setback, Solomonov was on an 11-fight winning streak and had remained un-



defeated for eight years. This impressive run brought him close to the Featherweight title, but his momentum was halted when he was submitted by Rauan Bekbolat at BRAVE CF 85. Now, with his win at BRAVE CF 92, Solomonov has reestablished

himself as a top contender in the division.

In his post-fight speech, Solomonov kept it simple and made his intentions clear.

"I want the belt. Give me the belt fight; I'm ready," Solomonov stated.

BRAVE CF Featherweight champion Nemat Abdrashitov has yet to make his first title defense, and it will be interesting to see if Solomonov becomes the first challenger in Nemat's title reign.

Meanwhile, the loss was a setback for Derbani, who entered the fight riding the momentum of his first-round submission win at BRAVE CF 84 in China. The Arab superstar is likely to return to the drawing board to assess his next steps.

BRAVE CF 92 marked the year-ending event for BRAVE Combat Federation. In 2024, the organization broke multiple world records and solidified its status as the most global MMA promotion in the

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Weather rescues India

Rain plays havoc with third Australia Test

AFP | Brisbane, Australia

Brisbane's weather came to India's rescue as most of Monday's play was lost because of rain on the third day of the third Test against Australia at the Gabba.

A rattled India limped to 51-4 at stumps on a day when the Australians were only able to bowl 17 overs at the visitors and players left the field seven times due to downpours.

KL Rahul was on 33 at the end of a wet day along with skipper Rohit Sharma, who was yet to

score.

Needing 245 to avoid the follow-on, India lost three early wickets in the first session, after earlier bowling Australia out for 445.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli all fell to Australia's opening bowlers Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood.

They then lost Rishabh Pant just before tea, which was called early because of another downpour that then kept the players off the field for over two hours.

When they did return, bad light saw the Australians throw the ball to off-spinner Nathan Lyon and part-timer Travis Head.

But after only 2.5 overs, umpires Richard Kettleborough and Richard Illingworth decided that the light was not good enough and called an end to play.

With most of the first day also lost to rain Saturday, Head and Steve Smith's second-day centuries ensured that India cannot realistically win the Test.

India's bowler Jasprit Bumrah celebrates taking six wickets

More rain is forecast for Tuesday and Wednesday, raising India's hopes of salvaging a draw and heading to Melbourne with the series locked at 1-1.

However, Australian batsman Mitchell Marsh stressed there was enough time for a result.

"We know we have to take 20 wickets to try and win this Test match," he said.

"I guess all the conversations and all the planning will be how do we do that.

Bumrah a bright spot for India

Australia resumed the third day on 405-7 and were eventually bowled out for 445, wicket-keeper Alex Carey the last man out after an enterprising 70.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who was easily India's best bowler with 6-76, said the younger bowlers of his team were on a steep learning curve.

"We as a team are going through a transition as new players are coming in and it's not the easiest place to play cricket over here," Bumrah said.

"It's my job to help the others -- I have played a bit more than them so I am trying to help them."

India's first target was to avoid the follow-on and so raise their chances of holding out for a draw. But their reply got off to a terrible start when Jaiswal, who edged Starc's first ball for four runs through gully, chipped the next ball straight to Mitchell Marsh at square leg.

Fellow opener Rahul got a nasty hit on the wrist from a Hazlewood ball that rose sharply off a good length, but after treatment he was able to continue.

In Starc's next over, Gill edged to gully and Marsh took a brilliant catch, diving high to his left to leave India in tatters at 6-2.

Kohli was next to go, caught behind by Carey after playing at a full ball from Hazlewood that he could have left alone but instead got a faint edge through to the wicketkeeper.

To add insult to injury, as Kohli was walking off the rain started falling and early lunch was called.

There were more rain delays after lunch as Rahul and Pant tried to rescue the situation, but with the score on 44, Pant got a thin edge off Pat Cummins to Carey.

The Hype is Real

Judoka Suchika Tariyal Debuts with R2 Submission at BRAVE CF 92



● **India's Judo sensation made her mark in the MMA world with a dominant submission win at BRAVE CF 92**

TDT | Manama

Indian Judo champion Suchika Tariyal showcased why she is called 'The Ronda Rousey of India' with a dominant second-round armbar submission win at BRAVE CF 92.

Suchika, an eight-time national judo champion and a Commonwealth and South Asian Medallist, displayed her grappling prowess to dominate her opponent, Jhen Buzon. The Indian fighter executed multiple takedowns throughout the fight, leaving Buzon with no opportunity to mount an effective offense.

Suchika, who is also a Jiu-Jitsu World champion, hunted for submissions from the first round and ultimately

secured a belly-down armbar in the second round, forcing Buzon to tap.

The fight marked Suchika's return to MMA after a seven-year hiatus, during which she competed in Judo and Jiu-Jitsu. With the victory, she remains undefeated in her professional MMA career, improving her record to two wins and no losses.

Suchika also announced her entry into BRAVE Combat Federation in style and has quickly established herself as a contender to watch in the Strawweight division. The division had an eventful 2024, with the addition of rising stars like Suchika and former IMMAF medallist Songül Karatorak. It also featured a series of thrilling matchups, including the standout showdown between Monika Ku ini and Fabiola Pidroni, which is a strong contender for Fight of the Year.

With Suchika's arrival, the race to crown the first-ever Female MMA Champion in BRAVE Combat Federation is heating up.

BRAVE Combat Federation celebrates Bahrain National Day with a successful BRAVE International Combat Week

The 2024 edition of BRAVE International Combat Week highlighted Bahrain's growing influence in the MMA world

TDT | Manama

The most global MMA organization in the world, BRAVE Combat Federation, celebrated Bahrain National Day with the 2024 BRAVE International Combat Week, highlighting how the Kingdom of Bahrain is leading the charge in the MMA world.

BRAVE International Combat Week featured BRAVE CF 91 on December 13 and BRAVE CF 92 on December 15, along with the IMMAF Youth Asian Championships on December 14 and 15. Bahraini athletes stole the show in all three events, showcasing the rich MMA talent in the



Kingdom.

At BRAVE CF 91, Hussain Al Kurdi, Mohammed Alsameea, and Sabrina de Sousa secured memorable wins for Bahrain. In the co-main event of the evening, Arab MMA legend and the Pride of Bahrain, Hamza Kooheji, delivered a dominant performance, raising Bahrain's flag high.

At BRAVE CF 92, Mohamed Yosif Abdulrahman impressed with a strong performance. Meanwhile, at the IMMAF Youth Asian Championships, Bahrain claimed 13 medals, highlighting the next generation of MMA talent from the nation.

The performances of Bahraini athletes during BRAVE International Combat Week served as a fitting celebration of Bahrain National Day.

Additionally, BRAVE International Combat Week went down in history as the biggest combat sports festival of the year, once again cementing Bahrain's leadership in the MMA world. The event capped off a historic year for BRAVE Combat Federation, which saw the organization expand to new territories with debut events in Mauritius, the Netherlands, China, Bulgaria, and Austria.