

Spirit Dancer races to victory!

Oisin Orr saddles six-year-old gelding to sensational win to give Sir Alex Ferguson a day to treasure in Bahrain | P12

THE DAILY tribune

Ready for flying taxi?



Stocks struggle to end the week on high note

HM King Hamad holds phone call with Qatar Amir

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday held a telephone call with His Highness Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar.

HM the King and HH Shaikh Tamim reviewed the fraternal relations between the two countries, and ways to further strengthen them across various fields, stressing their resolve to continue developing aspects of bilateral cooperation to meet the aspirations of the two brotherly peoples.

HM King Hamad asserted that the visit of Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, whom he met in the Kingdom yesterday, in addition to the "fruitful" talks held between His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, with the Qatari senior official, will contribute to enhancing joint action in all fields and broadening bilateral integration and cooperation, which will benefit the two countries and their peoples.

Gaza death toll reaches 12,000

AFP | Gaza

Gaza's government said yesterday the death toll from fighting between Israeli troops and Hamas fighters in the Palestinian territory had reached exactly 12,000 since hostilities started on October 7.

The Hamas government said 5,000 children were among the dead alongside 3,300 women, with 30,000 more people wounded.

The Hamas health ministry has previously said it could not give exact fatality figures as intense fighting prevented bodies from being recovered. (More reports on World Page)

US sanctions

AFP | Washington

The US unveiled sanctions yesterday against seven people it said were affiliated with pro-Iranian militias in Iraq responsible for recent attacks on US military bases in the region.

HM King receives Qatari Prime Minister



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, who is on a visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman conveyed to HM the King the greetings of the Amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, his wishes for further progress and prosperity to Bahrain and its people. HM King Hamad requested Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman to convey his greetings to HH the Amir and wishes for further prosperity and development to the Qatari people. They discussed the Bahraini-Qatari relations and ways to develop them in all fields.

'Global push, Two states'

HRH Prince Salman sets out Bahrain's position on Israel-Palestine conflict at Manama Dialogue

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, stressed the need to release hostages as a prerequisite for a pause in hostilities, and called for the full implementation of international law to ensure access to humanitarian aid for the Gazan people.

HRH Prince Salman delivered a keynote address yesterday at the 19th edition of the Manama Dialogue, the Middle East's premier security and defence conference.

During his address, he reiterated Bahrain's condemnation of Hamas' 7 October attacks, and Israel's retaliation, which has resulted in the death of 11,000 Gazans and left many more living in an intolerable situation without access to basic necessities such as electricity, running water, and medical care.

His Royal Highness also set out the conditions necessary for 'breaking the cycle of violence,'

a feat that will only be made possible through the release of innocents and non-combatants.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised the importance of a two-state solution that respects the rights of the Palestinian people to achieve a lasting peace, underlining the need for international leadership, particularly from the United States.

HRH Prince Salman said, "Let me be extremely clear on what matters to the Kingdom of Bahrain. There must be no forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza, now or ever. There must be no reoccupation of Gaza. There must be no reduction in Gaza's territory. And on the other side, there must be no terrorism directed from Gaza against the Israeli public. Those are the red lines."

Elections

He stressed that in the aftermath of conflict, elections must be delivered to offer the Palestinian people a strong and



HRH Prince Salman delivers a keynote address at the event (Picture by Ashen Tharaka)

unified leadership.

This process must be led by an interlocutor and partner who can broker an end to violence and deliver the prospect of a viable and independent Palestinian state that will also guarantee security and stability for its neighbour, Israel.

In conclusion, HRH Prince Salman asserted that military

conflict should not be the ultimate solution, emphasising the critical role of diplomacy and international law in resolving conflicts and preventing global violence. He noted that if the world does not work across all political lines to make sure that the voice of reason is heard, it risks creating conditions for acts of violence to spread globally.

Let me be extremely clear on what matters to the Kingdom of Bahrain. There must be no forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza, now or ever. There must be no reoccupation of Gaza. There must be no reduction in Gaza's territory. And on the other side, there must be no terrorism directed from Gaza against the Israeli public. Those are the red lines

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

Causeway Project reviewed

Bahrain and Qatar keen to strengthen bilateral ties

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised the importance of further strengthening the Bahrain-Qatar bilateral relations to meet joint aspirations and to benefit both countries and their peoples.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, at Gudai-biya Palace.

The Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Work

and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, HE General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, HE Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and a number of senior officials also attended the meeting.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman reviewed the Bahrain-Qatar partnership and ways to further bolster cooperation.

His Royal Highness expressed



HRH Prince Salman with HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman

his best wishes of progress and prosperity for Qatar.

The developments on the Bahrain-Qatar Causeway Project were reviewed, during which both parties directed the concerned authorities to complete

the necessary plans to initiate the implementation of the project.

Important issues

During the meeting, regional and international developments

of common interest were discussed, including developments in the Gaza Strip, where the importance of halting the war, the protection of civilians' lives, the release of hostages and detainees, and the necessity of opening secure, humanitarian corridors to deliver aid and assistance into the Gaza Strip in line with international humanitarian laws, was emphasised.

A lunch banquet was then held in honour of the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs' visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman expressed his gratitude for HRH Prince Salman's support in furthering Bahrain-Qatar relations.



HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman send cables of congratulations to Oman and Morocco

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, sent cables of congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman, on his country's National Day.

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman expressed their best wishes of abundant health and happiness to HM the Sultan and further progress and prosperity for the people of Oman.

They praised the deep Bah-



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



HM Sultan of Oman



HM King Mohammed VI

raini-Omani relations and their progress.

HRH the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister sent a similar cable to the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Say-

id Fahd bin Mahmoud Al-Said. HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman sent cables of con-

gratulations to HM King Mohammed VI of Morocco, on his country's Independence Day.

They wished the Moroccan monarch good health and happiness, and the Moroccan people further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

HM King Hamad praised the depth of the good relations that bind the two kingdoms and peoples, wishing them further development.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent two similar cables to the Crown Prince of Morocco, His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Hassan bin Mohammed, and the Prime Minister, HE Aziz Akhannouch.

Bahrain a 'model of tolerance and peace'

TDT | Manama

MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen affirmed that Bahrain stands as a unique model of tolerance, both domestically, as enshrined by the Constitution and National Action Charter, and internationally, in its pursuit of peace and tolerance.

She emphasised Bahrain's commitment to human rights treaties and international agreements.

MP Al-Dhaen said the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has contributed significantly to bolstering Bahrain's global position through continuous efforts to promote peace and tolerance, integral to comprehensive development.

She added: "The Kingdom of

Bahrain has presented many initiatives, such as the East-West Dialogue for Human Coexistence, in addition to the launch of the Bahrain Declaration for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence, the establishment of the King Hamad Global Center for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence, the King Hamad Chair for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence, and others.

They contribute to strengthening policies and practices aimed at spreading the values of peace, tolerance and coexistence."

She praised the government's efforts to promote dialogue and coexistence between all religions, cultures, and civilisations, ensuring the respect for rights,



freedoms, and the preservation of human and cultural heritage.

MP Al-Dhaen highlighted that these endeavours are rooted in Bahrain's rich cultural and hu-

The Kingdom of Bahrain has presented many initiatives that contribute to strengthening policies and practices aimed at spreading the values of peace, tolerance and coexistence

MP DR. MARYAM AL-DHAEN

manitarian heritage, promoting the values of peace, tolerance, and coexistence among diverse cultures, religions, and social entities.

Yemeni Minister visit



HE Lieutenant-General Abdulla bin Hassan Al Noaimi, Defence Affairs Minister, welcomed Lieutenant-General Mohsen Mohammed Al-Daeri, Yemen's Defence Minister, upon arrival at the Bahrain International Airport yesterday. The Yemeni Minister is on a visit to the kingdom to participate in the 19th edition of the Manama Dialogue.

Bahrain-China strategic partnership



HE Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Political Affairs Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, yesterday met Zhai Jun, the Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue, on the sidelines of the 19th edition of the Manama Dialogue. The two sides reviewed areas of cooperation and the robust strategic partnership between Bahrain and China. They also discussed a number of regional and global issues of common interest, within the framework of the two countries' keenness to support the UN Security Council's Resolution 2712 calling for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors through the Gaza Strip.

Saudi Foreign Minister arrives



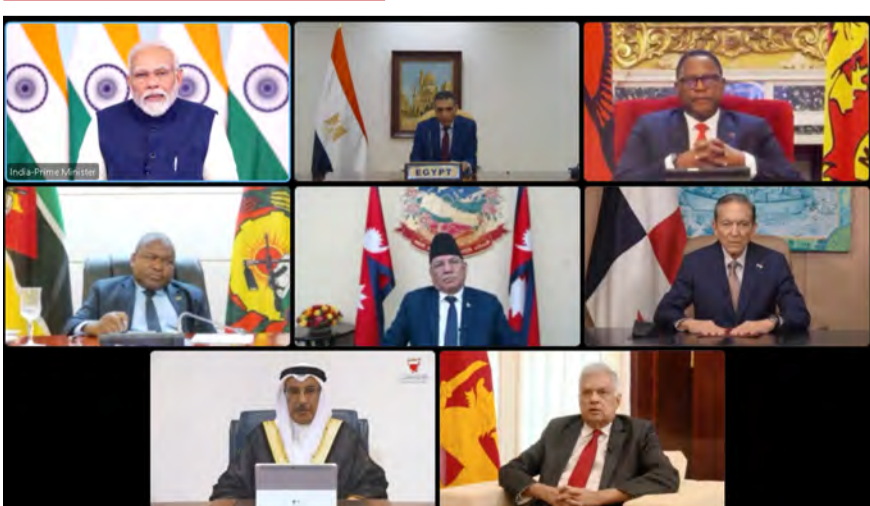
His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister, arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday to participate in the 19th edition of the Manama Dialogue. Upon arrival at the Bahrain International Airport, HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan was welcomed by HE Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Foreign Affairs Minister, the Charge d'Affaires at the Saudi Embassy, in addition to several Foreign Affairs Ministry's officials.

Bahrain-Jordan ties



Dr. Ayman Al Safadi, Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday to participate in the 19th edition of the Manama Dialogue. Upon arrival at the Bahrain International Airport, Dr. Al Safadi was welcomed by Foreign Minister HE Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, HE Rami Saleh Wriekat Al Adwan, Jordanian Ambassador to Bahrain and Dean of Diplomatic Corps, in addition to several Foreign Affairs Ministry's officials.

Global cooperation



Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, represented the Kingdom of Bahrain at the concluding leaders' session of the 2nd Voice of Global Summit. H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla addressed the summit, and conveyed Bahrain's priority for joint action within the framework of South-South cooperation.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister welcomed



Shaikh Salem Abdulla Al Jaber Al Sabah, Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Minister, arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday to participate in the 19th edition of the Manama Dialogue. Upon arrival at the Bahrain International Airport, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister was welcomed by Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Foreign Affairs Minister, Shaikh Thamer Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain, Dr. Mohammed Ali Bahzad, the Consular and Administrative Affairs Undersecretary at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, in addition to several Foreign Affairs Ministry's officials.

Jewellery Arabia Exhibition concludes today

Your last chance to experience the exquisite Jewellery Designs in 2023

Ashen Tharaka

TDT | Manama

Today marks the final day of the much-anticipated Jewellery Arabia Exhibition, where visitors will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a dazzling showcase of exquisite jewelry, precious gems, and timeless craftsmanship.

This prestigious event has captivated jewelry enthusiasts and connoisseurs from across the region, offering a mesmerising display of the finest creations from renowned international and local designers.

Visitors are encouraged to seize the opportunity to embark on a journey of enchantment through the world of jewelry. Discover mesmerising collections of diamonds, gemstones, and precious metals, each piece meticulously crafted to embody elegance, innovation, and artistry. Explore the vast array of designs, from traditional Arabic masterpieces to contemporary expressions of modern luxury.



Bahrain-Bracelet



Limited-edition watches to honor the Bahraini police force



Space-Bracelet

Jewellery Arabia is not merely an exhibition; it is an immersive experience that ignites the senses and sparks the imagination. Engage with the designers, learn about the stories behind the creations, and witness the intricate craftsmanship that brings each piece to life.

Whether seeking a special occasion gift, or simply indulging in the beauty of jewelry, Jewellery Arabia offers an unparalleled opportunity to connect with the artistry and craftsmanship that lies at the heart of this captivating realm.

Wearable masterpieces

Qannati Objet d'Art, the premier maker of precious wearable art objects, is showcasing its debut collection of Eternity.



Mahmood Qannati, founder of Qannati Objet d'Art

bracelets and Quantum timepieces.

Inspired by Mesopotamian culture and expertly handcrafted in France, the "Celebration of Time" collection represents a unique blend of artistry and craftsmanship.

"This collection was born out of my dream to create masterfully crafted ornaments that fill a unique niche in the global luxury market," said Mahmood Qannati, founder of Qannati Objet d'Art in an interview with The Daily Tribune.

Qannati Objet d'Art's meticulous craftsmanship is evident in the intricate details of each piece, which are meticulously crafted from precious stones and exotic materials. The collection features both ornamental bracelets and functional timepieces, each designed to appeal to the discerning tastes of an elite international clientele.



Vijay Shah, Chairman of Al Hashimi Pearls

Honouring Bahraini Police Force

In addition to its debut collection, Qannati Objet d'Art is also unveiling two limited-edition watches to honor the Bahraini police force. The watches, which feature the Interior Ministry logo, are available in Arabic numeral and index dial versions.

"We are proud to present these watches as a tribute to the brave men and women who serve and protect our country," said Qannati. "The watches are a symbol of their unwavering commitment to duty and their dedication to the safety and security of our community."

Exquisite pearls

Al Hashimi Pearls, a renowned jewelry brand in Bahrain, showcased their latest collection of pearl jewelry at the 2023 edition of this event. The brand's exquisite pearl creations were a highlight of the event, captivating visitors with their elegance and craftsmanship.

At Jewellery Arabia, Al Hashimi Pearls unveiled a stunning range of pearl jewelry, including necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings. The collection featured a variety of pearl designs,



Tamjid Abdulla, Deputy CEO of Jawhara Jewellery

from classic strands to contemporary pieces with intricate settings.

Vijay Shah, Chairman of Al Hashimi Pearls, expressed his pride in showcasing the brand's latest creations at Jewellery Arabia. "Pearls have always been a passion of mine, and I am honored to present this collection to the market," Shah said. "I am grateful to the government of Bahrain for organising this event, which provides an excellent platform to showcase our craftsmanship and meet potential customers."

Jawhara Jewellery: Blending tradition for century

Jawhara Jewellery, a Bahraini institution renowned for its exquisite craftsmanship since 1907, is captivating visitors at the Jewellery Arabia exhibition with its stunning display of traditional and contemporary jewelry pieces.

The brand's rich heritage and unwavering commitment to quality have made it a beloved name in the Bahraini jewelry industry, and its latest collection showcases its ability to blend tradition with modern sensibilities.

Tamjid Abdulla, Deputy CEO

of Jawhara Jewellery, expressed his excitement about showcasing the brand's latest creations at Jewellery Arabia.

"We are thrilled to present our exquisite jewelry collection to the world," Abdulla said. "As the oldest family in the Bahraini jewelry business, we are proud of our heritage and our commitment to quality. We are determined to become a leader in the regional jewelry market, and we believe that our innovative designs and high-quality craftsmanship will set us apart."

Visit Exhibition World Bahrain today at 4pm and let the brilliance of jewelry transport you to a world of elegance and sophistication.



Six Asians jailed for kidnapping over financial dispute

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced six Asian defendants accused of kidnapping another individual over a debt of BD500 to one year behind bars each.

They will be expelled from Bahrain after completing their jail terms.

According to court files, the victim had borrowed a sum of BD540 from one of the defendants but was unable to repay the amount. Subsequently, the accused, along with others, forced the victim to accompany them in a car and took him to a workshop in the Hamala area.

Physical assault

They confined him inside a storage room and subjected him to physical assault, threatening to kill him if he did not settle the borrowed amount. They also contacted his wife in their home country through a video call to coerce him into paying



Image used for illustrative purposes only

the debt.

Later, the defendants were informed that the victim's wife's brother had filed a complaint against them with the police. As a result, they allowed him to leave and transported him to the Riffa area, requesting that he refrain from filing a report and claiming they were relinquishing the borrowed amount.

The complainant received a distressing call from the victim's wife, who tearfully informed him that her husband was being held captive and kidnapped by an individual demanding payment of BD1,400 for his release. He filed a complaint against them, presenting the evidence received from his sister.

Civil Court rejects lawsuit demanding contractor company to pay BD10,000

TDT | Manama

The Civil Court ruled to reject the claim of compelling a contracting company to pay BD10,000.

The plaintiff claimed that the company entered into a construction contract to build a two-story villa but failed to complete the work and had defects in the completed tasks. The plaintiff demanded either the company fulfill the contract or pay for a new contractor to finish the work, along with compensation of BD10,000.

The defendant argued that they had performed the assigned work based on the payments received from the plaintiff. They stated that the plaintiff didn't fulfill their payment obligations, and refused to pay some requested amounts.



This led the defendant to stop working. The defendant argued that it was unreasonable for them to work without payment and be denied their rightful compensation.

The court found that the plaintiff's claim lacked sufficient evidence. The court also noted that there were additional works agreed upon, amounting to BD5,200, which the de-

fendant didn't object to but the plaintiff didn't pay for.

Lack of evidence

Without expert evidence, the court couldn't proceed with the lawsuit and ruled to reject it. In summary, the court rejected the lawsuit against the contracting company, citing a lack of evidence and the plaintiff's non-payment for additional agreed-upon work.

Praise for growing Bahrain-UAE relations and partnership

TDI | Manama

HE Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Political Affairs Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has lauded the long-standing solid fraternal partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE.

He hailed the progress of bilateral ties under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and President His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the UAE.

While meeting Khalifa Shaheen Almarar, the Minister of State at the UAE Foreign Affairs Ministry, on the sidelines of

the 19th edition of the Manama Dialogue, the undersecretary reviewed ways to strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnerships between the two countries.

The two sides expressed their support for international efforts to establish security and stability, as well as just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

They also discussed ways to enhance international cooperation in protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development goals, in light of the UAE's hosting of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).



HE Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed with Ms Khalifa Shaheen

Southern Governorate promises to prioritise citizens in employment

● Proposal submitted by Members of Parliament

TDI | Manama

A group of parliament members have submitted a proposal expressing the desire to prioritise the employment of residents from the Southern Governorate within companies located within this region.

The proposal was put forward by MPs Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Bader Al Tamimi, Munir Sorour, Jalila Al Sayed and Ali Al Dosari.

MP Al Rumaihi, one of the leading proponents of the proposal, highlighted the justifications behind it, considering the significant presence of industries, companies, and small to medium-sized enterprises in the Southern region, particularly in the Tenth and Eighth constituencies, as well as the Sitra area of the capital.

These include Alba, Bapco,

Banagas, Tatweer Petroleum, and other companies that are expected to provide thousands of jobs and employment opportunities for citizens, especially the residents of the Southern Governorate.

She further stated: "In the spirit of community partnership with nearby residential complexes, particularly with the presence of Khalifa City and its surrounding areas, these companies should give priority to the employment of individuals from the Southern Governorate at all job levels."

The proposal aims to address the aspirations of the local community and enhance their participation in the region's economic development. It emphasises the importance of providing job opportunities for residents, taking into account the abundance of industrial and commercial establishments in the Southern Governorate. The proposal will now be reviewed and considered by the relevant authorities to determine its feasibility and potential implementation.

Fight for 'paternity' of abandoned child

Bahraini mother leaves four-year-old daughter behind after unofficial marriage

TDI | Manama

After four years of giving birth to her child through an unofficial marriage, a Bahraini mother left her four-year-old daughter in the Kingdom of Bahrain and travelled to an Asian country.

This prompted the child's grandfather, the father of the immigrant mother, to file a lawsuit in which he sought to establish paternity of the 10-year-old girl for his son and the immigrant daughter. This information was provided by lawyer Zahra Hussein.

According to the details of the case presented by the grandfather's lawyer, Zahra Hussein, the second defendant (the granddaughter's father) entered into an unofficial marriage with the second plaintiff (the grandfather's daughter) in 2013, with witnesses present and a dowry of BD1,000 paid by the wife (his daughter). Since the daughter gave birth to the granddaughter under this undocumented marriage, without establishing

her parentage, the grandfather filed the lawsuit.

Hussain stated that the court reviewed the case, with the presence of her client (the grandfather) and the father of the child. On March 8, 2023, the court received a letter from the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports, and Residence, stating that the second defendant (the granddaughter's mother) left the country on April 2, 2017, heading to an Asian country and has not returned for nearly six years.

Ruling

In its ruling, the court stated that the grandfather filed the present lawsuit to establish the paternity of the child born in 2013 to the first defendant, claiming that he was the husband of the second defendant (his daughter) under an unofficial marriage that took place on January 2, 2013, with witnesses present and a dowry of BD1,000 paid to his daughter.

The court further added that the essential elements of the



Image used for illustrative purposes only

marriage contract, including the agreement and acceptance, were present in the contract intended to establish the paternity of the child. Additionally, the conditions for the validity of the marriage were met, such as the presence of the woman's guardian (the plaintiff, her father) and his approval of the marriage, as well as the presence of the two witnesses and the absence of any denial of the dowry, which

was specified as one thousand dinars and was received by the second defendant, as testified by the aforementioned witnesses.

The court concluded that the marriage contract met its requirements and conditions and was valid according to Islamic law. Therefore, the legal consequences follow, and the court ruled to establish the paternity of the child to the first defendant, her father.

Call for review of design for Souq Waqif entrances and exits

TDI | Manama

Jassim Hajras, member of the Municipal Council in the Northern Governorate, emphasised the importance of reevaluating the design of entrances and exits in Souq Waqif, particularly the street associated with the vegetable and fruit market and the shops located in the same area.

Currently, there is only one entrance and one exit, restricting access to and from the area. This street is vital for the region, and its commercial activities have been affected due to the difficulty people face in entering and exiting the area.

Hajras pointed out that the modifications, which market-goers have been eagerly awaiting for a long time, did not meet their expectations. This was primarily due to the engineering of the street, which should have been thoroughly studied before imple-

mentation, he stated.

The entrance to the vegetable market becomes congested with cars, and exiting becomes challenging due to the sidewalk at the end of the street, with no alternative exit except the entrance area, according to him.

Exit

Hajras highlighted the necessity for the Ministry of Works, in collaboration with the management of Souq Waqif, to reconsider and create an exit for the vegetable and fruit market, finding a comprehensive solution to this problem.

He mentioned the numerous complaints received from citizens, road users, and shop owners regarding this issue. The shop owners in Souq Waqif have suffered significant financial losses due to the difficulties faced in entering and exiting the surrounding area of the market.

Know your risks, know your response



His Excellency Shaikh Ali bin Abdulla Hussein Al Asfour, Governor of the Northern Governorate, was present at the health event organised by the governorate on the Abu Sobah Coast Walk to mark World Diabetes Day. The event, held under the theme "Towards a healthy governorate free of diabetes - Know your risks... Know your response," is part of the Healthy Cities Program aiming to secure the North's certification as a healthy governorate. Addressing the gathering, the Governor emphasised the importance of raising awareness about diabetes and combatting the global surge in infections. He highlighted that infections have doubled worldwide, with 90% classified as second-degree, and urged for preventive measures through healthy lifestyles, physical activity, and balanced diet.

Campaign to plant 800 trees at Saar archaeological site

TDI | Manama

The Northern Region Municipality, in partnership with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) and the Northern Municipal Council, recently organised an event to plant 800 trees at the Saar archaeological site.

This initiative is part of the National Afforestation Strategic Plan, aimed at achieving sustainable development goals in Bahrain.

The event was attended by prominent figures including the Director General of the Northern Region Municipality, Engineer Lamia Al-Fadala, and the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Dr. Shubr Al-Wadaei, further emphasising the importance of community partnership in enhancing afforestation efforts.

The afforestation campaign,



Afforestation initiative for a greener future

known as Sawaed, seeks to promote awareness of afforestation culture and strengthen community involvement.

Eng. Al-Fadala highlighted the significance of this collaboration in advancing afforestation across various regions of Bahrain, with plans to extend the initiative to other historical sites in the Northern Gov-

ernorate, such as the Barbar temples and the site of Ain Al-Sujur.

The meticulous planning and coordination between the BACA and the Northern Region Municipality reflect a commitment to safeguarding the archaeological sites while enhancing the greenery and cultural landscape of Bahrain.

Bahrain takes centre stage as global hub at Singapore Fintech Festival

● The 8th edition of the Singapore Fintech Festival (SFF) brought together 500 exhibitors from 134 countries from around the world

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) showcased financial services and opportunities across Bahrain's business-friendly fintech horizon during the 8th edition of the Singapore Fintech Festival (SFF).

EDB Chief Executive Khalid Humaidan spoke at multiple panel discussions and strategic business meetings to connect with industry experts, entrepreneurs and key decision makers in the field.



A panel discussion at the 8th SFF

Humaidan highlighted Bahrain's competitive advantage to investors in financial services and fintech interested in tapping into the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) market.

The 8th edition of the Sin-

gapore Fintech Festival (SFF) brought together 500 exhibitors from 134 countries from around the world.

Bahrain's pavillion showcased the Kingdom's competitive advantage to investors in financial

services and fintech interested in tapping into the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) market.

Taking place between the 15th and 17th of November, SFF, saw a renowned line-up of leading

global investors, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and experts in the fields of finance and fintech, convene for the enablement of growth and innovation in the sector.

The Bahrain Pavilion hosted representatives from Bahrain's financial services sector, including Bahrain EDB, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), Bahrain Fintech Bay (BFB) and private financial services institutions.

In a panel session titled 'Global Policy Makers: Digitising Inclusion' moderated by Bloomberg, HE Khalid Humaidan, the Chief Executive of Bahrain EDB highlighted the pivotal role digitisation in Bahrain played in promoting financial inclusion.

In another panel discussion under the title 'Promoting Gender Diversity in the Fintech Workplace: Barriers and Best Practices' the Executive Direc-

tor of Business Development for Financial Services at the Bahrain EDB, Dalal Buhejji, pulled from her own experiences as a woman in finance to discuss how gender diversity can enhance efficiency and creativity.

In the masterclass session, 'Fintech Evolution in the Arabian Gulf: From Regulation to Realisation' participants from the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), together with Bahrain Fintech Bay (BFB), examined the Arabian Gulf's fintech sector highlighting its evolution, the regulatory framework and opportunities in Bahrain, and the GCC at large, for global fintechs.

Financial services sector is highest contributor to Bahrain's economy, representing 17.5% of the real GDP. Under the Economic Recovery Plan, Bahrain aims to further develop the financial services sector with a focus on fintech sub-sector.

Stocks struggle to end the week on high note

AFP | London, United Kingdom

European stock markets rose but Wall Street wavered yesterday as investors struggled to end the week on a high note after cooling inflation raised hopes of an end to interest rate hikes.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was flat while the S&P 500 and tech-heavy Nasdaq were in the red in early trades.

European markets were up in afternoon deals, with London leading gains as it rose more than one% despite data showing an unexpected drop in retail sales in October.

Hong Kong closed down 2.1%, with shares in Chinese e-commerce titan Alibaba hammered after the company cancelled a spinoff of its cloud computing arm, citing the US-China chip war.

Crude prices gained after fall-

Key figures around 1445 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ at 34,935.99 points
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 1.1% at 7,494.65 points
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.9% at 7,233.03
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.8% at 15,918.15
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.8% at 4,337.22
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.5% at 33,585.20 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index:	▼ 2.1% at 17,454.19 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.1% at 3,054.37 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.0862 from \$1.0851 on Thursday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2413 from \$1.2411
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 149.67 yen from 150.76 yen
Euro/pound:	▲ at 87.53 pence from 87.41 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 2.0% at \$74.36 per barrel
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ 2.0% at \$78.98 per barrel

ing almost five% on Thursday due to weak demand expectations amid China's softening economy.

Weaker-than-expected US inflation data this week which

fanned hopes that the Federal Reserve would not need to further hike interest rates before cutting.

The data gave a strong boost to global stock markets earlier

in the week.

UK inflation also slowed more than expected.

"There is increasing optimism amongst investors that interest rates are at a peak, and that inflation would continue to ease, considering energy prices are on the decline," said Richard Flax, chief investment officer at Moneyfarm.

However, traders remain on edge that the Federal Reserve has left the door open to a possible hike as inflation remains elevated and despite warnings that the world's top economy could be in danger of slipping into recession.

Those worried about a downturn pointed to US unemployment benefits being at their highest in two years, factory production dropping more than forecast and homebuilder sentiment at its weakest in 2023.

France's Macron warns against 'punitive' AI regulation

Paris, France

The European Union must avoid overly restrictive regulation of artificial intelligence technologies, French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday.

"Regulation must be controlled, not punitive, to preserve innovation," Macron said of the EU's efforts.

He told a start-up event in Paris via video message that the new law should "regulate the uses, rather than the technologies themselves".

Policy makers around the world are wrestling with the challenges of how to regulate AI. Firms like OpenAI, which makes ChatGPT, claim the technology will revolutionise lives with labour-saving devices and medical breakthroughs.

But influential voices from within and outside the industry claim the technology could wreak devastation if it is not properly controlled.

Friday's event in Paris saw former Google CEO Eric Schmidt join with French billionaires Xavier Niel and Rodolphe Saade to launch an AI research laboratory.

The co-founders say they already have almost 300 million euros (\$326 million) of investment for the non-profit lab, called Kyutai, which will follow the principles of "open science" by sharing its research.

The lab will develop new AI models and new algorithms as it aims to "tackle the main challenges of modern AI", according to its mission statement. Yann LeCun, head of Facebook's artificial intelligence laboratory and often labelled a godfather of AI, will be on the scientific advisory board.



The 27-nation bloc has been working all year on its AI Act, with officials hoping for an agreement by the end of the year.

EU halts advertising on X over 'hate speech'

Brussels, Belgium

The EU's executive arm said yesterday it had told its services to stop advertising on Elon Musk's social media platform X, formerly Twitter, after a surge in disinformation and hate speech.

"We have seen an alarming increase in disinformation and hate speech on several social media platforms in recent weeks and X is certainly quite effected," European Commission spokesman Johannes Bahrke said.

"We have therefore advised services to refrain from advertising, at this stage, on the concerned social media platforms, where we have concerns that our content appears in an inappropriate context."

Bahrke said that only X was affected so far and that the move was targeted at advertising and did not mean European Union accounts were abandoning the platform.



Elon Musk

The order from the EU commission comes after it separately launched an investigation last month into X to determine if it has allowed the spread of disinformation around the Israel-Gaza conflict.

The probe was one of a raft launched by Brussels against internet giants under Europe's new Digital Services Act (DSA), which requires them to crack down on content deemed il-

legal. The commission's move also follows questions over its alleged use of targeted advertising on X to promote proposed legislation aimed at obliging messaging platforms and services to detect images of child abuse.

EU home affairs commissioner Ylva Johansson admitted last month that the advertising campaign may have breached the bloc's own regulations.

Singapore and Indonesia launch cross-border QR-code payments

Singapore, Singapore

Singapore and Indonesia launched cross-border payment services yesterday, the countries' central banks said, as part of a regional drive to boost connectivity.

Customers of a dozen banks in Singapore and Indonesia will now be able to make payments to merchants in both countries by scanning QR codes, Bank Indonesia and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said in a joint statement.

The system "will promote cross-border e-commerce activities and tourism spending across Singapore and Indonesia", MAS Managing Director Ravi Menon said in the statement issued on Friday.

In the first half of 2023, over a million travellers entered Singapore from Indonesia -- the



Representative picture

largest economy in Southeast Asia and the fourth most populous country in the world with 270 million people.

The two central banks will also establish a framework to allow cross-border payments to be settled in local currencies in 2024, the statement said.

Singapore has already established QR payment service links with China, Malaysia and Thailand.

"Users around the world should be able to send mon-

ey across borders in a secure, efficient and affordable way," Menon said in a speech at the Singapore FinTech Festival earlier this week.

Singapore and Malaysia also announced a new service on Friday that enables people in the neighbouring countries to send instant payments across the border, MAS said in a joint statement with Malaysia's central bank. Singapore already has similar services with Thailand and India.



News in brief

◆ The EU's executive arm said yesterday that it had proposed granting visa-free travel to residents of Kosovo who hold Serbian passports. Starting in 2024, the bloc is allowing visa-free entry to visitors from Kosovo, making it the last of the six countries in the Western Balkans to get the waiver. But the decision had left out ethnic-Serb residents of Kosovo who have Serbian passports. Kosovo, which counts around 120,000 ethnic-Serbs among its 1.8 million people, declared independence from Serbia in 2008, a move that Belgrade has never recognised. European Commission spokesman Christian Wigand said the proposal, which has to be approved by EU lawmakers and member states, would mean that "all citizens of the Western Balkans will be covered by a visa-free regime".



EU proposes visa-free travel for Serbians in Kosovo

◆ Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Berlin for talks with German leaders yesterday, in a highly controversial visit made more explosive by the Turkish leader's branding of Israel as a "terror state". Erdogan has been increasingly critical of Israel's war against Gaza-rulers. While Chancellor Olaf Scholz travelled to Israel to offer Germany's unconditional and unwavering support, Erdogan has doubled down on his defence of the Islamists as "liberators" fighting for their land. The Turkish leader has accused Israel of committing war crimes with its bombardment and ground incursion in Gaza, where the death toll has mounted past 11,000, mostly civilians and including thousands of children, according to Hamas-run health authorities in the territory.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will visit Kosovo and Serbia next week after soaring tensions between the Balkan neighbours, the military alliance said yesterday. An armed ambush in Kosovo's volatile north in September near the border with Serbia killed a police officer, triggering one of the worst escalations in the former Serbian breakaway province, dominated by ethnic Albanians. Stoltenberg will head to Kosovo on Monday for talks with its prime minister and president before visiting peacekeepers from the Western military alliance deployed there. The next day he will be in Belgrade for a meeting with the Serbian president, NATO said. Animosity between Kosovo and Serbia has persisted since a war between Serbian forces and ethnic Albanian insurgents in the late 1990s that drew NATO intervention against Belgrade.

NATO chief to visit Kosovo, Serbia after tensions



SPOTLIGHT

Uzbekistan to urge public to save water as crisis looms



Representative picture

AFP | Tashkent, Uzbekistan

country's south, which faces regular droughts. This message will be reinforced "together with neighbourhood activists, intellectuals, and the general public," he was quoted as saying by his spokesman. Officials have also been instructed to carry out maintenance works on the irrigation system, including \$60 million worth of repairs on the Sherobod canal in the south, his spokesman said. Uzbekistan has few sources of fresh water, and much of it comes from its rivers. Mirziyoyev warned in September that serious water shortages plaguing Central Asian countries had become "irreversible" and would only get worse amid increased competition.

Hamas health ministry says 24 die at Gaza hospital in 2 days due to power cuts

AFP | Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that 24 patients have died in the past two days at Al-Shifa hospital owing to power cuts, as Israeli forces search the facility for Hamas hideouts. "Twenty-four patients in different departments have died over the last 48 hours as vital medical equipment has stopped functioning because of the power outage," said ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra. On Monday, the ministry said 27 adult intensive care patients and seven babies had already died as Gaza's largest hospital ran out of fuel to run its generators. The health facility has become the focus of Israel's war against Hamas, with Israeli alleging Islamist fighters are using a tunnel complex beneath the hospital to stage their attacks. Hamas has repeatedly denied the claims. But Israeli special forces have been combing through the facility since Wednesday, and claim to have found evidence the hostages seized by Hamas in its October 7 attacks on south Israel were held there. The Hamas health ministry said the raid has destroyed medical services in the hospital, where the UN estimated 2,300 patients, staff and displaced Palestinians were sheltering before Israeli troops moved in.

Myanmar troops detain, kill residents of Rakhine town: local media

AFP | Yangon, Myanmar

Myanmar's junta detained around 50 people and left an unknown number of others feared dead in western Rakhine state after a clash with an ethnic armed group, local media reported yesterday. Arakan Army (AA) fighters launched attacks on security forces in the west of the country this week, opening another front as the military battles opponents in the north and east. On Thursday, junta troops shelled the town of Pauktaw and on Friday, local media cited residents saying that around 50 people had been detained and an unknown number were feared dead. Thousands had already fled the town of around 20,000 people, the residents said.

Give us our daily bread: Gaza faces flour crisis

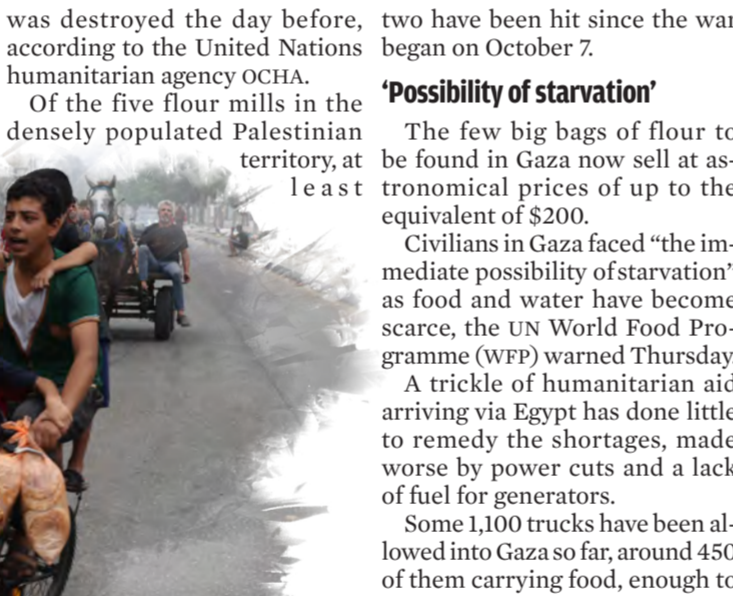
AFP | Khan Yunis, Palestinian Territories

One of the last grain warehouses in the Gaza Strip has been damaged by Israeli strikes and a key flour mill in Khan Yunis -- where hundreds of thousands have fled -- has stopped working for lack of fuel. The store, also in Khan Yunis in the south of the territory and with room for 3,000 tonnes of wheat, was hit by an air strike overnight Wednesday-Thursday. AFP was unable to ascertain what happened to its reserves. "If the Red Cross does not get the authorisation from the Israelis so we can do the repairs needed, we will have to stop working," the head of the Gazan bakers' association, Abdunnasser al-Ajami, told AFP.

Further north in the centre of the Gaza Strip, another mill, Al-Salam, at Deir al Balah, Youngsters carry bags of bread as they ride a bicycle in Rafah



A boy stands holding a fresh and cracked loaf of bread along an alley in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip



was destroyed the day before, according to the United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA. Of the five flour mills in the densely populated Palestinian territory, at least two have been hit since the war began on October 7.

'Possibility of starvation'

The few big bags of flour to be found in Gaza now sell at astronomical prices of up to the equivalent of \$200. Civilians in Gaza faced "the immediate possibility of starvation" as food and water have become scarce, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) warned Thursday. A trickle of humanitarian aid arriving via Egypt has done little to remedy the shortages, made worse by power cuts and a lack of fuel for generators. Some 1,100 trucks have been allowed into Gaza so far, around 450 of them carrying food, enough to



A Palestinian man and his son sit holding a bag of bread outside a destroyed bakery at the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip

cover only "seven percent of the people's daily minimum caloric needs", the WFP said. There are just 2,000 tonnes of wheat remaining in Gaza, according to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). This is the equivalent of 370 tonnes of flour, or five-to-six days' supply. UNRWA told AFP it works with 80 bakeries across the territory. In the north, where the fighting has been most intense, all of them are closed. Just 63 bakeries in central and southern Gaza are still making bread, but with difficulty because fuel is so scarce. The largest bakery, in Gaza City, shut on Tuesday after the solar panels which powered it were hit in an Israeli strike. Afterwards, hungry residents looted the remaining flour. "No more bread" Since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war, residents have queued outside bakeries at dawn in the faint hope of getting enough to feed a family. But anyone waiting their turn -- which takes five hours on average -- is exposed to the threat of new



Israeli troops carried out building-by-building searches at Gaza's main hospital on Friday, after a communication blackout in the Palestinian territory compounded fears for civilians trapped inside the facility.

Boys, 12, charged over UK's latest knife murder

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Two boys aged 12 appeared in an English court yesterday charged with murder and possessing a machete, the latest in a string of fatal cases involving school children. Nineteen-year-old Shawn Seesahai, described by his family as "a courageous and compassionate young man", was pronounced dead at the scene of an attack in the central city of Wolverhampton on Monday. The case comes among growing alarm in the UK at the level of knife crime, particularly among teenagers. In September, 15-year-old Elianne Andam was stabbed to death in south London on her way to school. The schoolgirl was the 15th teenager killed in London this year. Of those, 13 were stabbed, while two were shot. The two 12-year-old boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, spoke only to confirm



Representative picture

their personal details during a 10-minute hearing at Birmingham Magistrates' Court. Their lawyers said they would deny the murder charge. A judge remanded the boys into youth detention. Seesahai's mother paid tribute to her son in a statement earlier. "He cared dearly about his family and friends and he absolutely loved to help people," she said. According to official figures, 99 people under the age of 25 were killed in England and Wales with a knife or sharp object in the year to March 2023. Of those, 13 were under the age of 16. The deaths were among 50,000 stabbing incidents in the year to March 2023 -- a five percent increase on the previous year and a 75 percent increase on a decade ago, the Office for National Statistics said.

Israel allows two fuel tankers into Gaza daily: officials



A truck carrying fuel decorated with a UN flag crosses into Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's war cabinet has allowed the delivery of two tankers of diesel fuel daily to the embattled Gaza Strip, Israeli officials said Friday, as hospitals and aid schemes shut down over energy shortages. In response to a US request, the Israeli war cabinet unanimously approved "the entry of two diesel fuel tankers per day for the needs of the UN to support water and sewer infrastructure... provided that it does not reach Hamas", Israeli officials said in a statement. "This action allows Israel the continued international manoeuvring space necessary to eliminate Hamas," the statement added. Prior to October 7, when Hamas militants launched an attack across southern Israel, there were 50 fuel tankers crossing into the Gaza Strip every day, an official for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said this week.

Cyprus says close to agreeing Gaza aid corridor with Israel

AFP | Nicosia, Cyprus

Cyprus and Israel are close to reaching an agreement to open a humanitarian aid corridor from the Mediterranean island to war-torn Gaza, Cypriot President Nikos Christodouides said yesterday. Under the plan put forward by Nicosia, aid would be collected, inspected and stored in Cyprus and then sent to the Gaza Strip on ships checked daily by a joint committee including Israel. The vessels would be accompanied by warships to a designated spot identified on the coast of Gaza, from where it would be sent to a safe, neutral area. "We are in contact with Israel to implement some final arrangements," Christodouides told reporters, adding the details were also being discussed with the United Nations.

WHO wants flow of Gaza patients into Egypt



European Union Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell (L) and Palestinian foreign minister Riyad al-Maliki look at a map of the Gaza Strip

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

needs arising due to the hostilities," said Richard Peepkorn, the WHO representative in the occupied Palestinian territories. Addressing a press briefing in Geneva, he called for daily sustained, orderly, unimpeded and safe medical evacuations of critically injured and sick patients into neighbouring Egypt. Speaking via video-link from Jerusalem, Peepkorn said 50 to 60 patients a day ought to be transferred into Egypt, "where they will get -- and they deserve -- the right treatment and care".



01



Congratulations to Police First Sergeant Renita Rismayanti of Indonesia on receiving the @UN Woman Police Officer of the Year Award. I thank her for her service & leadership with @UN_CAR, empowering women & promoting gender equality & human rights. @antoniogetterres

02



All healthcare facilities in poorer countries could be electrified using solar energy within five years for less than \$5bn, putting an end to the risk of life from power outages. @DrTedros

03



Warm congratulations @Sanchez-Castejon on your re-election as the President of the Government of Spain. Looking forward to further strengthening India-Spain relations, fostering our bond of friendship and cooperation for a bright future. @narendramodi

04



Last night I signed a bill preventing a government shutdown. It's an important step but we have more to do. I urge Congress to address our national security and domestic needs -- and House Republicans to stop wasting time on extreme bills and honor our bipartisan budget agreement. @POTUS

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



Wisk Aero LLC., shows the company's all-electric, self-flying, vertical takeoff and landing air taxi.

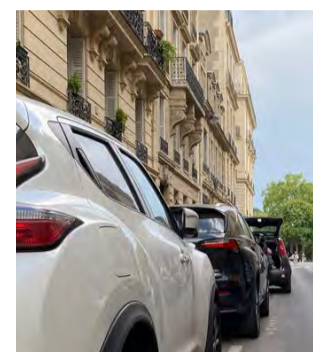
Ready for **flying** taxis?

Flying taxis braced for takeoff in US, UAE and India



Wisk Aero LLC., shows the company's all-electric, self-flying, vertical takeoff and landing air taxi.

Paris plan targeting SUVs hits bumpy road



AFP | Paris, France

A plan to make SUV owners pay more for parking in Paris has met with a mixed response from residents, ranging from Gallic shrugs to outright support or rejection.

Mayor Anne Hidalgo is asking the capital's residents to vote on the fee hike in February, leaving no doubt about where she stands on the issue.

"We want to say stop to the excesses of car companies," Hidalgo said.

Launching the initiative on Tuesday, city hall said the overall space taken up by cars had diminished thanks to its "determined action" but that the average size and weight of cars had gone up because of sport utility vehicles (SUVs).

The vote will be the second city-wide referendum on urban matters, after residents in April voted to ban rental e-scooters from the capital.

"I think it's really good to try and limit the number of big cars, be it SUVs or other big cars," said Arnaud Jaccard, a doctor. "They need more petrol and they pollute more."

WWF, an NGO, also backed the move, saying the carbon footprint of building and running SUVs made them an "aberration" at a time of worsening climate change.

The contribution of SUVs to CO2 emissions growth was second only to the aviation sector, said Arnaud Gilles at WWF.

"We can't allow SUVs to be the future of mobility, especially in cities," said Pierre Le-flaive, at Réseau Action Climat, an environmental association.



The Bell Nexus concept vehicle is shown at the Uber Elevate Summit Dubai, ARE



A pilot prepares to take a flight on a flying taxi prototype during testing in Moscow



People take selfie next to India's first flying electric taxi "ePlane e200" at the "Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022" drone show in New Delhi

Flying taxis have been a sci-fi fixture for decades, but one operator says they are finally close to reality, first in the United States and then the United Arab Emirates and India.

"What we used to think of as science fiction is now science fact," Billy Nolen, Archer Aviation's chief safety officer, told AFP at the Dubai Airshow. "This is happening, it is real, and you will see this in the market in 2025."

Reports of futuristic aircraft ferrying passengers over cities -- and their car-choked roads -- have been cropping up for years, evoking images of 1960s cartoon "The Jetsons".

Yet regulatory approval from the US Federal Aviation Administration for Archer's Midnight, a four-passenger, electric-powered vertical take-off and land-



EHang was awarded the "type certificate" on 13 October by the Civil Aviation Administration of China for its EH216-S unmanned aircraft system, making it the first eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft) in the world to receive one.

ing (eVTOL) aircraft, is expected as soon as 2025. That will trigger "almost

concurrent" certification in the UAE, said Nikhil Goel, chief commercial officer at Archer, whose major backers include Mubadala, an Emirati sovereign wealth fund.

UAE flights are expected to start in 2026 on two initial routes: from Dubai airport to the upmarket Palm development, and Abu Dhabi airport to the city-centre Corniche.

"We expect the demand to be more than we can even handle. The pricing will be relatively premium at the outset," said Goel. "But then over time, we'll deploy hundreds of aircraft in the UAE (which) will also lower the price considerably."

At the same time, flights will launch in New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, Goel said, calling India "a really, really big market for us".

'Fully zero emissions'

Test flights for Archer's Midnight are currently taking place in California, and rival firm Joby has performed its first experimental journeys in New York.

The Midnight has a dozen propellers -- independently wired and powered, to minimise the risk of a "catastrophic" failure -- and a wing, allowing it to glide in the event that it can no longer stay aloft.

It will be able to fully recharge in the six or seven minutes that it takes to switch passengers between trips, and has a current maximum range of about 160 kilometres (100 miles) at about 240 kilometres per hour (150 mph).

Flying the aircraft is straightforward, said Goel, who insisted that a 12-year-old in a simulator could learn it in 20 minutes.

Flights will be booked as ride

shares, and will initially cost about \$4-5 per passenger mile before dropping to half that in about two or three years, Goel added.

With flying taxis plying existing helicopter routes -- and theoretically safer, cheaper and more environmentally friendly than helicopters -- there is significant room to scale up, the company says.

"We have designed this business case to operate in urban environments, say from the airport to city centre," said Golen, the chief safety officer.

Fear Toyota will go back to being ordinary, says Akio Toyoda

TDT | agencies

Akio Toyoda, Chairman of Toyota, had a Q&A session at the recently concluded Japan Mobility Show in Tokyo, during which he made a startling revelation.

Toyoda who loves driving and racing cars himself, was instrumental in turning a company that churned out 'boring' cars into something everyone would like. He reportedly has a large influence behind some of the



more exciting cars such as the GR86, GR Corolla and GR Yaris. Akio even managed to make Prius into a fast, good-looking hybrid.

However, during the Q&A session, Toyoda admitted that he fears that Toyota could revert to its old 'boring' ways. The Chairman who recently stepped down from his long-time role as CEO & President, stated how he spent 14 years trying to change Toyota, but fears all could come undone in a flash.

He stated how being told "Lexus is boring" at the 2011 Pebble Beach charged him towards making better cars. Even when his own engineering team didn't believe anything required changing.

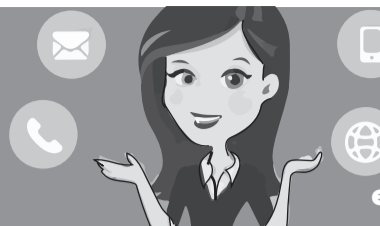
During the Q&A session, he stated, "I constantly fear that Toyota will go back to being an ordinary company." He added, "When that fear spreads to many people, it will be too late. Even with the title of president, it took

me 14 years to change Toyota, but things could revert in a flash."

He also mentioned, "When I approached the engineering team's 'ivory tower' to give my impressions of our cars, they shut down the conversation, saying, 'We've had no such data or any complaints'. Even when I changed tack and asked them to drive something I thought was better for comparison, they replied: 'They're the same on paper'. It was really tough going."



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Al Najma's Komail Mahfouz goes for goal during their game last night against Golden Eagle

Najma make winning start in Asian clubs handball

● Bahrainis begin title-defence with big win over Golden Eagle from India

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Al Najma made a resounding start last night to their title-defence in the 26th Asian Men's

Club League Championship, which got underway in Kuwait City. The competition's reigning champions routed Golden Eagle from India 42-21 in their opening Group A game of the preliminary round.

Najma raced out to a quick lead in the first half and were comfortably ahead 22-9 at the break. They continued to roll in the final 30 minutes of play to claim the big first win.

Najma are in the same pool as Al Khaleej of Saudi Arabia, Al Gharafa of Qatar, Kuwait Sporting Club of Kuwait and Golden Eagle. Al Salah of Palestine were also set to take part, but have withdrawn.

Group B is composed of Al Qadsiya of Kuwait, Sai of India, Al Arabi of Qatar, Al Jaish of Iraq, Shabab Saïda of Lebanon and Al Sharjah of the UAE.

In another Group A game

yesterday, Khaleej edged past Gharafa 28-27 in a tightly contested affair. Najma return to action against Khaleej on Monday at 8pm, Bahrain time, and then face off with Gharafa on Wednesday at 6pm. Najma complete their preliminary round schedule on Friday against Kuwait Sporting SC, also with an 8pm start.

Following a rest day on Saturday next week, the top two

from each group move on to the semi-finals on 26 November. The gold and bronze medal matches are then set for 27 November. Najma won the title in the previous edition of the championship held earlier this year in Isfahan, Iran. They defeated Al Duhail of Qatar 31-30 in a game that went into double overtime. Najma claimed only their second gold medals in the history of the competition.

Partizan crowned Manama Masters champs!

Serbian squad defeat Antwerp TOPdesk from Belgium in final of Bahrain's inaugural FIBA 3x3 World Tour event

● Ivan Popovic buries go-ahead two-pointer to help lift Partizan to gold medals

● Bahrain's women's team, Manama, clinch silver medals in their competition

● Kingdom's representatives in men's event, Riffa, lose both games in pool play

TDT | Manama

Partizan were last night crowned champions of the inaugural Manama Masters, part of this year's FIBA 3x3 World Tour. The Serbians clinched the coveted title after defeating Ant-



Bahrain's Manama women's team with their silver medals and officials at the awarding ceremony



Partizan players celebrate their gold medal

werp TOPdesk from Belgium 16-15 in a thrilling final, played at the specially constructed court at Bahrain Financial Harbour.

Ivan Popovic buried the go-ahead two-pointer that broke a 14-all deadlock and Partizan were able to hold on from there. Antwerp's Jonas Foerts scored on a drive to cut the deficit, but later missed a potential game-winner at the end.

Joining Popovic on the champs' roster were Stefan Milivojevic, Stefan Torbica and Marko Stevanovic. Both Mili-

vojevic and Torbica had five points in the game, while Popovic scored four and Stevanovic had two points.

Dennis Donkor and Foerts had seven points apiece to pace Antwerp.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's representatives Manama narrowly missed out on the women's tournament title after losing to the Doha Expo team from Qatar 9-21 in their gold medal contest.

The Manama women's squad, represented by Hessa Al Jaber, Marian Samir, and profession-

al players Julia Jorritsma and Loyce Bettonvil, had earlier in the day defeated Riyadh from Saudi 21-11 to punch their tickets to the championship contest.

Their runner-up finish ensured a Bahraini team on the event's podium. The men's squad, comprising Mustafa Hussain, Nemanja Draskovic, Milan Skundric and Anze Srebvot, could not advance past the preliminary stage after losing both their games in Pool D. They first bowed to Amsterdam 15-21 and then narrowly went down to

the eventual champions Partizan 19-21.

Following the men's final, the winners were presented their respective trophies and medals in an awarding ceremony attended by Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, General Sports Authority (GSA) CEO Dr Abdulrahman Askar and Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) Captain Waleed Al Alawi.

Also awarded yesterday in the side events were Tony Crosby II

for winning the Dunk Contest, and Belgian Thibaut Vervoort of Futian team for taking the Shoot-out Contest.

Earlier in the day yesterday, Partizan qualified for the final after beating Hangzhou from China 21-19. Antwerp won 21-10 over Marjampole Mantinga of Lithuania in the other semi-final. In the quarters, also played yesterday, Partizan won over Vienna of Austria 21-11, while Antwerp beat Futian of China 18-12.

Hangzhou were 21-12 victors against Jeddah from Saudi Arabia, while Marjampole edged past Amsterdam HIPRO from the Netherlands 19-17.

The Manama Masters marked Bahrain's first-ever appearance on the FIBA 3x3 World Tour, and took place under the patronage of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, GSA president and BOC chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

MD Jalal 2 go atop leaderboard in AMH Island Classic

TDT | Manama

MD Jalal 2 moved to the top of the leaderboard yesterday following the second day of play in the 24th Annual AMH Island Classic Charity Golf Tournament, being held at the private golf course of His Majesty the King.

MD Jalal 2 had a score of 52 to finish as the top team in the championship flight, which featured squads with an average handicap of six or under. In sec-



Players during yesterday's action

ond for the day were For Golf with a 54.7 score, and in third were AMH Amwaj on 57.1.

After two days, MD Jalal were

in first place, followed by For Golf and day one leaders UGB1, who have a 56.3 score.

In the premier flight, featuring

squads with an average handicap of 6.1 or over, Hackers 5 were the top team with a score of 56.9. Hackers 6 followed on a 57.4 score and RCSI 2 were third on 57.8.

After two days, Saffriya remained the leaders in the premier flight on a 53.2 score, followed by Xerox 1 (54.7) and Black Hawks (55.8).

Amongst the side contest winners yesterday were Andrew Breakspear, who came closest to the pin on hole six; Lindsey

Gibson, who had the most accurate drive on hole eight; and Salah Al Rowaiei, who holed the longest putt on hole four.

The tournament continues today with the final day of competition. Prizes for the championship flight and premier flight will be presented to the winning teams following the full three days of play at an event to be held at Diplomat RadissonBlu Hotel and Spa.

American Mission Hospital (AMH) CEO/CMO Dr George

Cheriyann commented: "Due to the uniqueness of the golf course, golfers are always so excited to come back to play here."

"All the teams are trying their best to win this coveted title. There are two flights, the championship and the premier, and we will have three winning teams from each flight."

"The logic of having two different flights is to ensure that every team has a chance at winning the titles irrespective of their handicaps."

Doubles champions crowned in ITF tennis

● **Flora Johnson and Allegra Korpanec Davies of Great Britain win girls' doubles title**

● **Robin Boeckli of Switzerland and Aleksandar Daskalovic of Serbia win boys' doubles**

TDT | Manama

Top seeds Flora Johnson and Allegra Korpanec Davies of Great Britain and Robin Boeckli of Switzerland and Aleksandar Daskalovic of Serbia were yesterday crowned doubles champions in their respective categories in the Bahrain ITF Juniors 2023 tournament, currently being played at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) hard courts in Isa Town.

Flora and Allegra claimed the girls' doubles crown after defeating third seeds Ariana Gogulina of Kazakhstan and Maria Shmakova 6-3, 6-4 in their final.

Robin and Aleksandar won



The boys' doubles champions with officials

the boys' doubles title with a hard-earned 7-6 (1), 7-6 (8) victory against second seeds Bugra Ozkoc and Aril Kayra Tuna of Turkey.

Following both finals, the winning and losing pairs were awarded their medals and trophies by BTF secretary general Fuad Al Rowaie and other officials.

Also yesterday, Allegra and Robin both kept their hopes alive for a title double after advancing to their respective singles finals.

Third-seeded Allegra set up an exciting girls' singles title clash with eighth seed Cindy Langlais of France, while Robin will lock horns with Egor Shcherbakov for the boys' singles gold medal.

Allegra took down top seed Angelica Sara of Italy 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in their semi-final match to march through, while Cindy defeated sixth-seeded Flora 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

In the boys' singles last four, Robin beat third seed Marko Milosavljevic 6-1, 6-3 while Egor

upset second-seeded Aleksandar 6-2, 6-2.

Both singles finals are scheduled to be held today on the concluding day of the tournament.

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



Action from yesterday's play

India eye fairytale finish in World Cup final against Australia

● **Tickets have been sold out for Sunday**

AFP | Ahmedabad, India

Rohit Sharma's undefeated India will look to end a 10-year global title drought in front of 130,000 fans in the World Cup final against five-time champions Australia on Sunday.

India have racked up 10 straight wins at the tournament as they seek a third World Cup triumph to add to their 1983 and 2011 victories, the last of which came on home soil.

Despite the country's cricket riches, India are without an international title since the 2013 Champions Trophy and expectations in the cricket-crazy nation of 1.4 billion people have reached fever pitch. However, the hosts are up against an Australian side who have won eight matches in a row and will be playing in their eighth World Cup final.

"This is going to be an unbelievable game," former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, who was part of the 1983 World Cup-winning team, told TV channel India Today.

"You are playing against the five-time champions, a team that knows how to come back from almost impossible situations, who know how to play finals, how to win finals."

"So I believe it will be a real, real challenge for the Indian team but I do believe that Rohit



India's Virat Kohli



India's coach Rahul Dravid



India's captain Rohit Sharma

Sharma's men are up for it."

Apart from their five World Cup victories, Australia clinched their maiden T20 crown in 2021

Last 10 meetings:

27/11/2020: Sydney -	Australia won by 66 runs
29/11/2020: Sydney -	Australia won by 51 runs
02/12/2020: Canberra -	India won by 13 runs
17/03/2023: Mumbai -	India won by 5 wickets
19/03/2023: Visakhapatnam -	Australia won by 10 wickets
22/03/2023: Kolkata -	Australia won by 21 runs
22/09/2023: Mohali -	India won by 5 wickets
24/09/2023: Indore -	India won by 99 runs
27/09/2023: Rajkot -	Australia won by 56 runs
08/10/2023: Chennai -	India won by 6 wickets
Overall:	India: 57 wins, Australia: 83 wins
Tied: 0, No Result: 10	

and also beat India convincingly in the World Test Championship final earlier this year. India handed Australia a

six-wicket mauling in the group stage in Chennai four weeks ago where Pat Cummins' side were bowled out for 199.

Australia also slumped to a 134-run defeat to South Africa in Lucknow but they avenged that loss on Thursday with a three-wicket win over the Proteas in a tense semi-final at Kolkata.

Red-hot Kohli

India made the final by hammering New Zealand by 70 runs in Mumbai with a red-hot Virat Kohli hitting a record 50th ODI century. Kohli, who surpassed compatriot Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 tons, leads the tournament batting with 711 runs including three hundreds.

Rohit is the next best Indi-

an batsman with 550 runs and his leadership has been widely praised -- former England captain Nasser Hussain called him a "real hero".

India also boast the tournament's leading bowler with Mohammed Shami taking 23 wickets in six matches, including 7-57 against the Kiwis on Wednesday.

Despite losing to India and South Africa in their first two matches of the tournament, Australia have bounced back.

They won seven league games on the trot with a hobbling Glenn Maxwell authoring a performance for the ages with his undefeated 201 not out against Afghanistan, rescuing his team from 91-7 and carrying them to their victory target of 292.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa is their top bowler with 22 wickets with pacemen Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, who both played in the 2015 World Cup winning side, peaking at the right time.

Starc and Hazlewood reduced South Africa to 24-4 inside 12 overs on Thursday after the Proteas and elected to bat first and their opponents only played catch up from that position.

Starc returned figures of 3-34 and Hazlewood grabbed 2-12 in the victory which set up their second World Cup final against India after 2003 when Australia raced to a 125-run win in Johannesburg. Sunday's meeting will be the eighth between the two teams in ODIs in 2023.

"We have played them a lot of times so we know them in-

Previous winners

1975: West Indies

1979: West Indies

1983: India

1987: Australia

1992: Pakistan

1996: Sri Lanka

1999: Australia

2003: Australia

2007: Australia

2011: India

2015: Australia

2019: England

side-out," Hazlewood told reporters. "Same for them, with us. They have been a quality team, they have been on the march the whole tournament. No real weaknesses in their team, so looking forward to Sunday."

Explosive start

India rode on an explosive start from opener Rohit (47) and Shubman Gill (80) as they racked up 397-4 against New Zealand in the first semi-final.

But Hazlewood prefers to focus on the early stages of India's chase against his team in the league game four weeks ago when India were three down for two runs in pursuit of a modest 200 to win.

"Hopefully similar to last time we played them," Hazlewood said on tackling the Indian top-order.

"We got them out cheaply. I think we made them 3-3 maybe so that would be ideal."

Tickets have been sold out for Sunday with a packed house expected and Starc said it will be "loud and a spectacle of cricket".



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, presents Sir Alex Ferguson with the Bahrain International Trophy after Spirit Dance's victory



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa cheer on during yesterday's action at REHC

Spirit Dancer races to victory!

Oisin Orr saddles six-year-old gelding to sensational win to give Sir Alex Ferguson a day to treasure in Bahrain

● **Winning horse co-owned, bred by legend Sir Alex Ferguson**

● **Richard Fahey-trained victor finishes race clear of rivals**

● **Israr and Point Lonsdale in second and third, respectively**

TDT | Manama

The fifth running of the Bahrain International Trophy, and the first following the race's elevation to Group 2 status, produced a memorable result and scenes of jubilation as the six-year-old gelding Spirit Dancer, co-owned and bred by Sir Alex Ferguson, scored a decisive victory to land the winner's share of the \$1million prize fund.

In front of an excited crowd at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), Spirit Dancer, ridden by Oisin Orr and trained by Richard Fahey, came clear of his rivals, leaving Israr and Point Lonsdale to fight out the finish for second and third place.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, was in attendance and he presented Sir Alex with the Bahrain International Trophy. Also on hand were His Majesty the King's humanitarian works

“That is the best moment (of my racing life), no doubt. When you looked at the field, I was worried. Godolphin, O'Brien, Fabre they've all got horses here. And we are just a wee stable from Yorkshire. It was a fantastic performance. He won well

SIR ALEX FERGUSON

RESULTS

Horse	Time
1 Spirit Dancer	2:06.824
2 Israr	2:07.201
3 Point Lonsdale	2:07.216
4 Real World	2:07.250
5 Birr Castle	2:07.397
6 Astro King	2:07.405
7 Nations Pride	2:07.441
8 Above The Curve	2:07.520
9 Calif	2:07.721
10 Marhaba Ya Sanafi	2:07.835
11 Highland Avenue	2:08.168
12 Qaader	2:08.389
13 Dubai Future	2:08.425
14 Layfayette	2:08.471

“We are very proud of how the Bahrain International Trophy has grown, and I extend sincere thanks to the international participants who have supported the race and assisted in raising awareness of racing in Bahrain

HH SHAIKH ISA BIN SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

if; and other high-ranking officials. HH Shaikh Isa commented: “Congratulations to the owners of Spirit Dancer, including Sir Alex Ferguson and Ged Mason, following Spirit Dancer's victory in the 2023 Bahrain International Trophy. “It was a thrilling race to watch and in terms of quality it was the best horserace ever staged in the Kingdom.

“I am also delighted to say it was witnessed by the largest audience yet in the race's five-year history, both from the perspective of those present at the club and those watching around the world in the 110 countries where the race was broadcast.

“We are very proud of how the Bahrain International Trophy has grown, and I extend sincere thanks to the international participants who have supported the race and assisted in raising awareness of racing in Bahrain.

“I would also like to thank our commercial partners, Bapco Energies, Beyon, The Bahrain Economic Development Board, and our official timekeeper, Chopard, without whom the progress we have made would not have been possible.

“We are already looking forward to 2024 and the hope that it can match this year's running.”

In what was the strongest renewal in the race's five-year history, the field included runners from five different countries and included three previous Group 1 winners. The race was also more valuable than ever following an increase in the prize fund to \$1M and the race's status being upgraded to Group 2 level.

For 81-year-old Sir Alex, who owned and bred Spirit Dancer, and who won so many trophies during his remarkable career in football, it was a special day. He described it as the best moment of his racing life.

Speaking after the race, Sir Alex said: “That is the best moment (of my racing life), no doubt. “When you looked at the field, I was worried. Godolphin, O'Brien, Fabre they've all got horses here. And we are just a wee stable from Yorkshire.

“It was a fantastic performance. He won well. When he hit the front, Ged just jumped on me! 100 yards out he looked like he was going to win but I didn't want to count my chickens. I was just praying and he carried me over the line with him. He won well, won easy.”

Richard Fahey, trainer of Spirit Dancer, added: “This race has been the plan for some time, but to win it is a lovely surprise considering the quality of the opposition.

“Our stay in Bahrain has been brilliant, both Sir Alex (Ferguson) and Ged (Mason) have been incredibly well looked after and we have enjoyed every minute. Realistically we didn't think we would win, but Spirit Dancer and Oisin pulled it out of the fire and in the end he won well.”

In second place was Israr, owned by Shadwell Estates and trained in England by John and Thady Gosden, while in third was Point Lonsdale, owned by the Coolmore partners and trained in Ireland by Aidan O'Brien.



Spirit Dancer, ridden by Oisin Orr and trained by Richard Fahey, winning the 2023 Bahrain International Trophy from Israr (striped cap) and Point Lonsdale

and youth affairs representative His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa; Supreme Council for Youth and Sports

first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority president and Bahrain Olympic Committee chief His Highness Shaikh

Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa; REHC High Committee chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khal-

Rebel At Dawn lifts Bahrain Turf Club Cup

TDT | Manama

Rebel At Dawn won the Bahrain Turf Club Cup yesterday as part of the eight-race programme supporting the 2023 Bahrain International Trophy at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club in Sakhir.

The five-year-old gelding triumphed in the five-furlong race, carrying a \$30,000 total prize, for owners Al Adiyat Racing and trainer AM Smith, while saddled by Gerald Mosse.

Ava Go Joe for Aqeel Hassan Abdulrahim and Ocean Star for



Al Afoo Racing were second and third, respectively.

Byline lifted the Chopard-Bahrain Jewellery Centre Cup, held over eight furlongs and also with a \$30,000 prize. The six-year-old gelding won for the Adiyat-Smith-Mosse triumvirate, with The Covex Kid in second for Al Mohamediya Racing and Ecosystem third for Mohammed Khalid Abdulrahim.

Rayounpour clinched the Bapco Energies Horseracing Cup, HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa presents a winner's trophy during yesterday's events

held over 12 furlongs with a \$30,000 prize. The seven-year-old gelding took first place for Adiyat and Smith, while saddled by Richard Kingscote.

American Flag finished as runner-up, also for Adiyat, while Tawaareq came third for Victorious.

The Bahrain Economic Development Board Cup was lifted by Amaan. The six-year-old gelding triumphed over a six-furlong straight for Mohamed Jasim Jaafar, Talal Al Alawi and Cristian Demuro, to take the lion's share of the \$30,000 total prize.

Anann followed for Al Afoo Racing and The Thin Blue Line was third for Al Mohamediya Racing.

Elsewhere yesterday, Living Art lifted The Beyon Cup for Abdulla Sami Nass, Fawzi Nass and Adrie De Vries; Khazzama won The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay Cup for HH Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Haider Ebrahim and Abdulla Faisal; and Musannan 1811 clinched The World Arabian Horse Organisation Cup for Al Wasmiya, Abdulla Kuwaiti and Abdulrahim Jasim.