

India fight back after Ravindra's ton

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MPS: Link CR to quotas

Government says nay

Minister rejects stricter rules, says current measures are enough to boost Bahrainisation

● Government opposed proposals for stricter Bahrainisation quotas tied to commercial licence renewals, citing existing fines as adequate deterrents.

● Workers urged to report unfair treatment or dismissals through hotline email to Tamkeen

● The minister rejected the proposal to establish a joint committee for monitoring wage support, arguing that such measures are already covered by the National Employment Programme.

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrainisation rate is on the rise, and no further measures are required to boost it further at this time. For, the current initiatives are sufficient to encourage business-

“Bahrainisation rates are on the rise across several sectors, which is proof of the existing system's effectiveness. Training schemes are also being rolled out to ensure Bahrainis are promoted to management roles, with some industries now expected to maintain Bahrainisation rates of up to 50%”

GHANIM BIN FADHL ALBUAINAIN, THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS



es to hire more Bahrainis. This was stated by Ghanim bin Fadhl Albuainain, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, in response to MPs who had called for stricter enforcement of Bahrainisation quotas for commercial establishments.

The MPs suggested that the renewal of commercial registrations should be conditioned on meeting Bahrainisation targets, meaning businesses would be

unable to renew their licences if they did not employ enough Bahrainis.

However, the minister rejected this idea, arguing that the current BD500 fine for non-compliance is already a significant deterrent. “Imposing more stringent measures could suffocate businesses and have adverse effects,” he warned.

The minister also dismissed a proposal to establish a joint

committee to monitor wage support for Bahraini workers, saying it would be redundant as such monitoring is already included in the National Employment Programme. He emphasized, “Employers are prohibited from reducing benefits or dismissing workers without following the proper legal process.”

Tamkeen's Role in Wage Support

The wage support mechanism is under the strict oversight of Tamkeen, which has established a hotline and an email service to report unfair treatment. Additionally, inspection campaigns have been intensified. “Tamkeen has extended the inspection period by another year and increased site visits,” the minister revealed.

Training Initiatives

Besides, the government has also introduced training schemes to prepare Bahrainis for management roles, with some industries expected to maintain Bahrainisation rates of up to 50%.

Addressing Wage Support Gaps

Regarding potential gaps in wage support, the minister assured MPs that the Labour Ministry and Tamkeen have systems in place to ensure workers receive their full wages. “There are severe penalties for employers found breaking the law,” he added. The minister also highlighted that strong deterrent measures are in place to deal with cases of fraudulent employment or wage manipulation.

He encouraged workers to report any dismissals through the newly established support line.

Appreciation for MPs' Efforts

The minister thanked the MPs for their commitment to securing jobs for Bahrainis, acknowledging that their efforts align with the government's initiatives. “We will continue to protect the interests of our citizens and ensure their job security,” he stressed.



Bahrainisation seeks to enhance the employment of Bahraini nationals across multiple sectors. Initiated in the 1980s, it was expanded to encompass the private sector in the 1990s. The Economic Vision 2030, introduced in 2008, further underscores the importance of Bahrainisation as part of a larger strategy to diversify the economy and reduce reliance on oil.

Large-scale operation

North Korea to send '12,000 soldiers' for Russia's war in Ukraine: Yonhap

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

North Korea has decided to send “large-scale troops” to support Russia in its war against Ukraine, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported yesterday citing Seoul's spy agency.

“The National Intelligence Service said it has learned that the North has recently decided to send four brigades of 12,000 soldiers, including special forces, to the war in Ukraine,” Yonhap said. The NIS declined to confirm the report to AFP.

“The movement of North Korean troops has already begun,” an NIS source told Yonhap.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Thursday



he had intelligence reports “They are preparing on their A satellite image by Airbus Defence and Space of Russia's Khabarovsk military facility, where the NIS said North Korean personnel gathered within the training ground that North Korea was training 10,000 soldiers to support Russia in its fight against Kyiv.

said after meeting NATO defence ministers.

NATO cannot yet confirm: Rutte

NATO chief Mark Rutte said Friday the alliance could not yet confirm South Korean intelligence that North Korea was deploying large-scale troops to support Russia's war in Ukraine.

“At this moment, our official position is that we cannot confirm reports that North Koreans are actively now as soldiers engaged in the war effort,” Rutte told reporters following a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels.

“But this, of course, might change,” he said.

Hamas confirms death of leader Yahya Sinwar

Doha, Qatar

Hamas yesterday confirmed its leader Yahya Sinwar had been killed, a day after Israel announced his death in Gaza.

“We mourn the great leader, the martyred brother, Yahya Sinwar, Abu Ibrahim,” Qatar-based Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya said in a recorded video statement broadcast by Al Jazeera.

Sinwar became Israel's most wanted man after the October 7, 2023 attack, the deadliest in Israeli history.

Israel announced Sinwar's death on Thursday, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a “heavy blow”.



Workers' neighbourhood gets a new lease on life

Block 204 in Muharraq set for transformation under new development plan

H Naser
TDT | Manama

Block 204 in Muharraq, known as the Workers' Neighbourhood, is poised for revitalization.

The government has approved a parliamentary proposal to rehabilitate the block and integrate it into the ongoing Muharraq development project, initiated by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

This urgent proposal was approved by Parliament in October 2023 and led by MPs Mohammed Al Alawi, Mohammed Al Husaini (who lost his parliamentary seat), Abdullah Al Dhaen, Hisham Al Awadhi, and Hamad Al Doy.

Covering 1.4 million square meters, the rehabilitation plan will be executed in phases, which include studies, land



acquisition, planning, design, surveying, and infrastructure improvements. The necessary fi-

ancial allocations have already been secured.

An official statement indicat-

ed that this initiative follows a Cabinet decision under the leadership of His Royal High-

ness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. It aligns with efforts to preserve Bahrain's historical and cultural identity, as seen in the restoration of Isa Al Kabeer Palace and the broader Muharraq development initiative.

"While the Muharraq development project is phased, with the first phase focusing on neighbourhood improvements, Block 204 will be incorporated in subsequent phases. The government is currently studying and planning these later developments," the statement confirmed, affirming government approval of the proposal.

MP Al Alawi emphasized that Block 204 is the oldest housing project in Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf, established in 1959 during the reign of the late Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. He pointed out that the area has



Muharraq was once the capital of Bahrain until 1923, before the capital was moved to Manama. Muharraq is rich in history and culture, home to numerous traditional buildings and heritage sites, including the Bahrain Fort and the famous Muharraq souq. The area is also known for its role in the pearl diving industry, which was a significant part of Bahrain's economy before the discovery of oil.

not seen significant upgrades over the years, leading to infrastructural issues such as power outages and sanitation problems.

Reunited at last

Five Bahraini riders finally return home after a long ordeal in Yemen



Zainab Abdulameer

● Detained since 1st August, the men's disappearance caused mounting concern among their families

● They initially set off from Bahrain to Salalah, Oman, and crossed into Yemen legally

● They were stopped by authorities in Marib, a region governed by Yemen's internationally recognized government

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

After a harrowing two-month ordeal, five Bahraini riders detained at a security checkpoint in Marib, Yemen, have finally returned home, much to



”
The families are now waiting eagerly for their sons to complete the final steps before being fully reunited.

UM FADEL, MOTHER OF ONE OF THE MEN,

the relief of their families. As the men undergo the final steps of their return, the atmosphere is filled with anticipation and gratitude.

Um Fadel, mother of one of the detained riders, expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the support they received during this challenging time. "We're so grateful to MP Abdulameer for staying in touch with us and keeping us informed. It gave us the strength to get through this difficult time," she said, her voice a mixture of relief and gratitude.

A Journey Gone Awry

What was meant to be a fun and carefree road trip turned into an unexpected nightmare for the group of adventurers, known for their daring excursions.

They initially set off from Bahrain to Salalah, Oman, and crossed into Yemen legally, looking forward to exploring the region. Their planned route would take them through Yemen and into Abha, Saudi Arabia. However, their adventure took a drastic turn when they were stopped by authorities in Marib, a region governed by Yemen's internationally recognized government.

Since August 1st, the men had been detained, causing growing anxiety and concern among their families back home.

In a desperate bid for help, their loved ones urged the Bah-



Jalal Kadhem

raini government to intervene and secure their release.

Government intervenes

Talking to *The Daily Tribune*, MPs Zainab Abdulameer and Jalal Kadhem confirmed the men's safe return on Friday. Abdulameer expressed her gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, and the Bahraini Embassy in Riyadh for their unwavering support throughout the ordeal. "I've been working closely with the authorities throughout this ordeal," she said, revealing her efforts to liaise with the chargé d'affaires at the Bahraini Embassy in Riyadh to push for action.

She further stated that the men briefed the Ministry of Interior upon their return, ensuring that their experiences were documented. "It was crucial that the families were kept informed throughout the process, so they were never left in the dark," Abdulameer emphasized.

Building restrictions eased in residential zones

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The government has approved the relaxation of building restrictions in residential areas, a move expected to streamline the construction process and promote the development of much-needed housing.

Details regarding specific adjustments to setback requirements and building ratios will be announced in the coming weeks.

This decision follows feedback from citizens and the Parliament, including a surprisingly popular suggestion for more distinctive architectural styles within residential developments.

"We have carefully examined the proposals concerning the amendment of regulatory conditions for construction in residential areas," a government statement noted.

Ahmed Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council, emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing collaboration with the Council. He highlighted that the relevant ministry worked alongside municipal councils and other authorities to gather public feedback, ensuring that these insights will be incorporated into the new residential construction regulations.

Job cuts sometimes inevitable

Government assures all measures for reemployment, training

● **Sacked workers can claim jobless pay covering 60% of their last wage for up to nine months, with a maximum of BHD 1,000 per month**

● **The Ministry explores options such as relocating workers or offering early retirement to mitigate job losses**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Job cuts are inevitable sometimes, but “we leave no stone unturned to prevent



Representative picture

job losses,” the government assured parliamentarians as they called for urgent efforts to support people who were laid off by outsourcing firms ahead of Ramadan.

The government stated that all possible measures are in place, explaining that job losses at outsourcing firms resulted from those firms completing their work for both government and private bodies.

Acknowledging Inevitable Job Cuts

“Still, the Ministry admitted that in some cases, job cuts couldn’t be avoided. Where sackings must occur, we step in to help the workers,” the Ministry added.

To soften the blow, the gov-

ernment assured that sacked workers can claim jobless pay. These payments cover 60% of the worker’s last wage for up to nine months, with a cap of BHD 1,000 per month.

Exploring Options

“We are exploring all options to keep Bahraini workers employed,” the Ministry said, adding that wage support has enabled some firms to retain their staff.

The Labour Ministry also confirmed that they are providing jobless pay to those who lost their jobs as a short-term safety net. Additionally, a team is in place to link these individuals with available job opportunities.

Immediate Assistance

The Council of Representatives expressed that families need immediate assistance as they face rising costs, particularly for food and gatherings during Ramadan.

The Ministry stated that they are in contact with businesses to explore ways to avoid job losses, such as relocating workers to other roles or offering early retirement options.

Collaboration

As Ramadan draws near, the government thanked the Council of Representatives for its concern, adding, “We are eager to work closely with the Council to safeguard the well-being of our people.”

Government rejects national observatory proposal, Emphasises ‘Skills Bahrain’

H Naser
TDT | Manama

A parliamentary proposal to establish a “National Observatory” for Bahrainising jobs was rejected, citing the ongoing development of the “Skills Bahrain” initiative. This project, which is funded by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), is being implemented by the Information and eGovernment Authority.

It is important to note that the proposal was put forward by MP Mohammed Al Hussaini, who lost his parliamentary seat in July 2023. He had called for the government to take the necessary legal steps to establish the observatory and its governing regulations.

Skills Bahrain: A Central Employment Platform

The government deemed the proposal redundant, stating that “Skills Bahrain” is an employment platform under development in collaboration with both public and private sector companies.

Once launched, this project will serve both job seekers and employers by acting as a central

“The observatory would monitor current and potential job opportunities in both the public and private sectors, providing accurate and up-to-date data and recommendations to policymakers.”

MOHAMMED AL HUSSAINI



database that contains information on job seekers’ qualifications, specialisations, and experience, as well as available vacancies, national employment and training processes, and unemployment benefits.

The platform will provide comprehensive data on essential skills and job requirements, which will inform future policies for government institutions and higher education establishments, thereby enhancing educational outcomes to meet

labour market needs.

Additionally, the system will generate various reports required for domestic and international purposes, the government underscored.

Aligning Education with Market Needs

The Ministry of Labour is currently finalising a project to establish professional levels and skill assessments for issuing professional licenses. “This aims to regulate profes-

sions within the labour market and establish professional standards,” the government stated.

Furthermore, a collaborative effort is underway to align university curricula with labour market demands, involving the Ministry of Education, the Higher Education Council, and the University of Bahrain. This initiative focuses on in-demand specialisations and addresses challenges faced by graduates in specific fields.

“The Ministry of Labour is also working with the Ministry of Education to encourage the integration of new school graduates into vocational education and training programmes. Experienced mentors will guide and train students and job seekers, while training courses will be provided for educators at various levels,” the government pointed out.

Al Hussaini argued that the observatory would monitor current and potential job opportunities in both the public and private sectors, providing accurate and up-to-date data and recommendations to policymakers.

Luxury living comes at a cost

Realty firm hit with BD 7,194 bill after rent-free stay

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Enjoying a luxury waterfront flat for seven months without paying any rent has landed a well-known real estate company in the Kingdom in hot waters.

The High Civil Court ordered the firm to pay BD 7,194 to landlord for overstaying the lease period that expired in April by seven months.

As per the lease agreement, the firm was authorized to stay in the flat on Dilmunia Island in Galali, for BD 1,027 per month since March 2022.

However, the landlord filed a case against them in late September after the company ceased paying rent in January 2024.

Represented by lawyer, Zainab Ali Madan, he sought BD 3,083.439 for the first three months of unpaid rent, plus a further BD 4,111 for the peri-



Representative picture

od during which the company overstayed.

Despite warnings, the company also failed to appear in court or present any defence. As a result, the judge ruled in the landlord’s favour.

The judge also directed the company to cover BD 30 in legal costs and BD 500 in lawyer’s fees. In addition, the firm was ordered to pay BD 246.500 in court fees, plus BD 10 for enforcing the judgement.

Real Madrid set to kick off Football Academy in Bahrain

H Naser
TDT | Manama

Real Madrid is set to establish a football academy in Bahrain this year or early next year, according to Adel Al Safar, chairman of the Al Safar Group. The group has signed an agreement with the Spanish football club to bring Real Madrid academy coaches to the Kingdom. As per Al Safar, the group will begin by appointing Spanish coaching staff to manage the academy.

“Bahraini personnel will also be recruited to assume future leadership roles. The academy will initially focus on part-



Representative picture

nerships with private schools, inviting them to participate in Real Madrid academy sporting activities,” he told our sister

newspaper Alayam.

Al Safar emphasised the multifaceted benefits of this investment, highlighting its social,

sporting, cultural, and financial returns. However, he stressed that the primary focus will be on the social and sporting development of Bahraini children and youth, equipping them for future success in the field.

“Real Madrid’s global presence, with approximately 4,000 centres worldwide, will provide a valuable framework for the Bahrain academy’s training programmes. This will help to prepare young players for elite opportunities,” he explained.

The Al Safar Group plans to construct a dedicated stadium for the Real Madrid academy, potentially in Muharraq, Riffa, or Manama. In the interim, the

academy will utilise existing facilities at Bahraini sports clubs, forming partnerships to train their staff and integrate them into the academy’s activities. School sports facilities will also be utilised.

Regarding the timeline, Al Safar stated that the launch is imminent. “The selection of Spanish academy management and coaching staff will be finalised this week, with a trip to Madrid planned for early November to further refine



the launch plan. The academy programme is expected to commence in December or January. The group hopes to invite prominent figures from the world of football, potentially arranging visits from Real Madrid representatives to Bahrain,” he stressed.

Al Safar also hinted at the possibility of bringing FC Barcelona’s La Masia academy to Bahrain in the future and organising visits from Barcelona players, specifically mentioning Lionel Messi.

Personal loans cannot become housing loans

● Eskan Bank, in collaboration with local banks, offers various housing loan programs designed to ease the financial burden on citizens, with a minimum loan amount of BD 40,000.

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The government has confirmed that personal loans cannot be converted into housing loans, rejecting a proposal to this effect. Officials warned that such a move could jeopardize current housing schemes and upset the balance of the housing finance system. This decision was communicated in a letter to the Speaker of the Council of Representatives,



Representative picture

Ahmed Al Musallam.

The government clarified that housing loans are strictly designated for securing homes. "The government believes this suggestion could diminish the

value of housing loans, making it harder to meet family needs," it stated.

Financial Burden

Additionally, the government

highlighted its efforts to alleviate the financial burden on citizens. Eskan Bank, in partnership with local banks, offers housing loans through programs like 'Tas'heel Financing' and 'Mazaya,' designed to keep monthly payments manageable based on individual earnings and what borrowers can afford.

Increased Loan Accessibility
To assist those whose salaries don't qualify for larger loans, the government has raised the minimum loan amount to BD 40,000, with the excess treated as a grant. Loans can also go up to BD 70,000 with government backing, ensuring citizens have access to loans without excessive pressure.

Salary Deduction Clarifications

Regarding salary deductions, the government noted that some banks do not always adhere to the 50 percent rule; in certain cases, they allow deductions of up to 65 percent, especially

for citizens using the Mazaya scheme. Furthermore, banks may extend mortgage terms to 30 years to reduce the monthly payment burden.

Property Registration Fees

The government also mentioned that it has followed the directives of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to cover property registration fees for citizens utilizing the 'Tas'heel' program. Additionally, banks involved in the housing schemes offer a 'Joint Security Over Mortgage Asset Programme,' allowing citizens to obtain extra mortgage loans alongside their initial ones.

While the government appreciates the Council of Representatives' interest, it stressed that the proposal is unfeasible. However, it remains committed to working closely with the Council to meet citizens' housing needs fairly and practically.

133,000 families benefit from Cost-of-Living allowance



H Naser
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The number of families benefiting from the "cost of living allowance," designed to support low-income households, has risen to 133,000 between May and August 2024, up from 130,000 at the end of last year.

A recent report from the Ministry of Social Development indicates that 185,807 families are now receiving cash compensation due to the removal of subsidies on meat, marking an increase of 5,000 from last year's total of 180,000.

Additionally, 17,694 individuals are benefiting from social security, while 14,466 receive disability allowances, and there are 19 beneficiaries of fire compensation.

The cash compensation for meat subsidy removal is based on the applicant's registration, as defined by the head of the household in the Information and eGovernment Authority. This support is available to both men and women of all ages, regardless of employment status, income level, property ownership, or business records.

Since the Cabinet's decision in 2015, the number of families benefiting from meat subsidies has increased by 22%. Initially, 147,971 families were supported, which has now grown to 185,807, according to the latest statistics.

Cash compensation is disbursed every three months, coordinated with the Information and eGovernment Authority and the Ministry of Finance and National Economy. Citizens can register directly through the electronic system, with assistance available from social services staff at community centres for those who face challenges registering online.

To qualify for meat subsidies, applicants must be Bahraini nationals registered as the head of a household in the Information and eGovernment Authority and must hold permanent residency in Bahrain. Monthly income, including salary, property ownership, and business records, does not impact eligibility for this support.

Government warns against bill to waive court fees, citing risk of frivolous lawsuits

H Naser
TDT | Manama

The government has urged parliamentarians to reconsider a bill proposing the waiver of court fees, warning that it could result in an increase in frivolous lawsuits.

The bill, introduced by Dr. Ali Al Nuaimi, aims to exempt recipients of social support under Law No. 18 of 2006 (concerning social security) and pensioners with monthly incomes below BHD 1,500 from paying court



fees. This proposal pertains to Article 10 of Decree-Law No. 3 of 1972, which governs court fees.

The government explained that current exemptions are granted only to those who can prove their inability to pay, with approval from the Minister of Justice and the cabinet.

The proposed amendment sought to replace this discretionary power with a mandatory exemption for the specified groups.

Officials argued that the

existing law already provides sufficient flexibility to accommodate cases of financial hardship. They emphasized that court fees should generally be paid, with exemptions being the exception rather than the rule.

Furthermore, the government expressed concern that removing the financial barrier to filing lawsuits could encourage individuals to pursue claims lacking genuine merit, thereby burdening the court system and wasting state resources.

'Visit Embassy'



High school students from New Millennium School, Bahrain, recently held an educational visit to the Indian Embassy as part of its 'Visit Embassy' programme, the initiative aimed to foster cultural understanding and international awareness among the students. The students participated in an engaging session with Dr. Vinod K. Jacob, the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, and his diplomatic team. They also had the opportunity to meet with embassy officials, who provided insights into the workings of their respective departments. Dr. Ravi Pillai, School Chairman, along with Managing Director Mrs. Geetha Pillai and Principal Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma, expressed their gratitude to the Indian Ambassador for facilitating such a unique and enlightening experience for the students.

Batelco named by Avaya as UC Cloud partner of the Year

Award Presented at GITEX Global 2024

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Batelco, part of the Beyon Group has been recognized as the “UC Cloud Partner of the Year” by Avaya, an established provider of business communications software and systems.

The prestigious award highlights Batelco’s dedication to delivering innovative cloud-based Unified Communication (UC) solutions that empower businesses in Bahrain and beyond.

Through their strategic partnership with Avaya, Batelco has successfully introduced advanced UC cloud solutions, enabling businesses to streamline communications, enhance



collaboration, and improve operational efficiency. The recognition by Avaya reflects Batelco’s superior ability to support digital transformation across various industries in the region as well as driving growth in the evolving digital economy. The award was accepted by Batelco Enterprise General Manager Abdulla Danesh during a ceremony held at Avaya’s stand at GITEX Global 2024.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Danesh said: “This achievement reflects our dedication to providing innovative solutions that address the evolving needs of our customers. We look forward to deepening our partnership with Avaya and continuing to deliver exceptional value to-

gether.” Mr. Samer Sarraf, Regional Sales Leader at Avaya who presented the award to Batelco said, “We would like to congratulate Batelco on the award and recognition as UC Cloud Partner of the year. It is expected that by 2028, enterprises will have replaced 60% of outdated SaaS workplace apps for advanced ones empowered by Gen AI, seamlessly blending into productivity tools, streamlining workflows, and minimizing employee oversight. Batelco has been pivotal in enabling this transformation with their superb cloud infrastructure, delivering enterprise-grade technology that future-proofs organizations’ communications set-ups.”

Government rejects new SME Fund proposal

Stands by Tamkeen’s Support for Businesses

H Naser
TDT | Manama

A proposal to create a new fund for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as a replacement for Tamkeen, the Labour Fund, has been rejected by the government.

In its defense, the government asserted that Tamkeen already effectively meets the goals of the proposed fund.

In a memorandum addressing the parliamentary bill, the government emphasized that establishing a duplicate entity would be redundant and inefficient,



given Tamkeen’s established infrastructure and successful track record.

A government statement highlighted Tamkeen’s significant contributions to the SME sector,

noting that approximately 96% of its total support has been allocated to micro, small, and medium-sized businesses since its inception, with only 4% directed towards larger companies.

In a memorandum addressing the parliamentary bill, the government emphasized that establishing a duplicate entity would be redundant and inefficient, given Tamkeen’s established infrastructure and successful track record.

The government cited successful initiatives such as the “Career Development Programme” and the “Business Growth Programme” as ev-

idence of Tamkeen’s positive impact on SME development.

Additionally, the government reaffirmed its commitment to supporting SMEs through various initiatives, including incentive programs for promising sectors and the launch of the 2022-2026 Financial Services Development Strategy.

This strategy aims for a 20% increase in SME access to available financing, ultimately boosting their growth and contribution to the national economy.

The government also pointed out the Central Bank of Bahrain’s directive to retail banks

to review and expand their SME financing targets. This includes establishing dedicated departments within credit divisions and developing tailored financial products.

Notably, the government reported a significant increase in SME financing by banks, rising to 10.5% last year, compared to 4.8% in 2022—an impressive growth of over 50% in just one year. This progress underscores the effectiveness of current strategies and highlights the unnecessary duplication that a new fund would entail.

Bonuses for state entity executives won’t be tied to profits, says Govt

H Naser
TDT | Manama

A proposal to tie annual bonuses for chairmen and board members of government authorities and companies to profit achievements has been rejected by the government. The draft law, submitted by MPs Ahmed Qarata and Abdulhaqem Al Shenu, suggested that bonuses should only be paid if profits were achieved, and not in cases of losses. It also included three articles regarding the approval of annual financial reports by the Minister of Finance and National Economy.

In its response, the government argued that public authorities are established to manage services and specific sectors with the aim of achieving social

The government argues that public authorities are established to manage services and specific sectors with the aim of achieving social and economic objectives that align with the public interest, rather than to generate profits.

and economic objectives that align with the public interest, rather than to generate profits. It noted that these entities are responsible for developing services within their revenue limits without placing a burden on the general budget.

Public Service, Not Profit-Making

The government highlighted the crucial difference between the goals of government bodies

and those of commercial companies, explaining that government entities prioritize long-term national interests and strategic objectives set by the state. Unlike private firms, government bodies do not produce financial reports in the same manner and are subject to oversight mechanisms to ensure the efficient use of resources for strategic goals. Linking bonuses to profits, the government added, could create undue pressure and negatively

impact public service quality. Instead, incentives should be based on criteria like improved service quality or environmental sustainability.

Independent Rules for State-Owned Companies

Regarding state-owned companies, the government clarified that these entities operate as private legal persons with independent financial accounts and aim to generate profit to

support national development. While the government retains ownership of capital shares and associated rights, such as profit-sharing and management participation, the assets remain the property of the company itself.

Administrative Flexibility and Governance

The government also emphasized that these companies have specific legal rules within their

bylaws, providing them with administrative and financial flexibility to determine work rules and bonus criteria aligned with their objectives, strategies, and commercial practices. It argued that the proposed bill interferes with this flexibility, potentially disrupting the balance between financial and national objectives in managing state-owned companies.

In conclusion, while the government acknowledged the parliament’s role, it urged a reconsideration of the proposal, citing potential negative impacts on government authorities and companies. It stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between financial incentives and the national interest to ensure effective governance and the overall public good.

celebs

Billie Eilish had 'dark times' on tour

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Billie Eilish has experienced "dark times" on tour.

The 'What Was I Made For?' hitmaker admitted she used to find life on the road "kind of unpleasant" and after trying to view it as a "temporary" stage in her life, she's learned to embrace playing live and wants to "enjoy" it.

She told America's Vogue magazine: "I've had some really dark times on tour. For a long time I was kind of living like it was temporary. Like, yeah, I'm touring for now and it's kind of unpleas-

ant, and whatever. It'll be over. "And the truth is, it's the rest of my life.

"I didn't realise that I could make touring enjoyable. I just was very lonely for many years, and I'm not interested in that anymore. I want to enjoy the show as well as my days."

The 22-year-old star has also been enjoying playing music just for fun, rather than because of her work.

She said: "I'm a musician and you'd think I would've done that. But things blew up for me at an age when I would've been jamming with buddies.

And because it was my career, I was not interested.

"So for the first time ever, I'm jamming, and it's amazing. It's so nice to not have pressure of like, 'Is this going to be the next single?' It's like, 'No, we're just here. And it's just right in the moment.'"

Billie's current 'Hit Me Hard and Soft' tour will be her first without her brother Finneas O'Connell

playing guitar, and without their parents on the road with her, and her family view the concert series as her "college" days.

Her mom, Maggie Baird, said: "It's sort of our 'going off to college year,' I guess."

Finneas added: "You want your family to come visit often, you don't want your family to, like, be the dean of the college, or in your dorm room..."



Billie Eilish

"I didn't realise that I could make touring enjoyable. I just was very lonely for many years, and I'm not interested in that anymore. I want to enjoy the show as well as my days"

BILLIE EILISH

Jamie Foxx filled with 'pure joy' after returning to the stage

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Jamie Foxx is filled with "pure joy" after returning to the stage following his 2023 medical emergency.

The 'Django Unchained' actor, 56, was hospitalised in April last year due to an unspecified health condition, and after he and his family spent months staying silent about the details of the illness, a video emerged in July of the star telling fans he had been hit with a "bad headache" on 11 April and "asked my boy for an Advil" - leading to him being "gone for 20 days".

Jamie has now updated fans again during one of his solo shows he started in Atlanta, Georgia, this month.

He uploaded an Instagram post on Monday (14.10.24) showing a gallery of photos from his performance - one of which showed him appearing to wipe away tears.

Jamie also said on the social media platform his "soul is filled with nothing but pure joy".

He added: "I had an opportunity to tell my side of the story and there was no bet-

ter place than Atlanta Georgia.

"I have to thank you Atlanta you showed up and you showed out, I haven't been on stage in 18 years but I needed the stage and I needed an audience that was made up of nothing but pure love and that's what you were."

Jamie added to fans in the video that emerged in July about his illness: "I don't remember anything... my sister and my daughter took me to the first doctor. "They gave me a cortisone shot. The next doctor said,

"There's something going on up there."

Jamie said in March he was going to address the incident on stage, saying at an African American Film Critics Association awards luncheon: "Everybody wants to know what happened, and I'm going to tell you what happened, but I gotta do it in my way.

"I'm gonna do it in a funny way."

Jamie later announced a one-man show and teased that he would share his "journey through a serious health scare, filled with humour, heart, and inspiration".

But in his Monday Instagram post he cryptically described his show not as stand-up comedy but "an artistic explanation" of something that "went terribly wrong".



Jamie Foxx

Jamie Lee Curtis 'retires' from Halloween

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Jamie Lee Curtis has "retired" from Halloween.

The 65-year-old actress - who is best known for her portrayal of Laurie Strode in multiple movies in the 'Halloween' franchise over the last four decades - no longer feels any "pressure to go all out" for the spooky holiday on 31 December, so won't be following tradition and decorating her house.

She told People magazine: "I have retired my pumpkins. I have hung up my butcher knives. I have stepped away from the vehicle. I am bowing gently to others who are taking up the mantle."

Discussing her decoration plans, she added: "Nothing. Zip."

The 'Freaky Friday' star - who has Annie, 37, and Ruby, 28, with husband Christopher Guest - insisted she no longer has a reason to do anything to mark the occasion.

She joked: "Nobody comes by our house except my neighbour and we do that at like three o'clock.

"My children are old enough now that they don't want me to decorate for them. So no, I'm just gently stepping into the darkness."

And Jamie won't be watching her own horror films on Halloween.

She quipped: "No, what kind of life do you think I have?"

Jamie made her debut as Laurie in 1978's 'Hal-

"I have retired my pumpkins. I have hung up my butcher knives. I have stepped away from the vehicle. I am bowing gently to others who are taking up the mantle"

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

loween' and her last appearance came in 'Halloween Ends' two years ago.

The actress previously admitted saying goodbye to her alter ego was "very tough".

In a behind-the-scenes clip from Entertainment Weekly, an emotional Jamie said:

"The whole concept of a horror movie is to stimulate emotions, and the making of it does the same thing. "So to have done it three times with a group of people, and knowing that I'm not going to get to do it again with that same group of people, really has been very tough for me.

"It will be difficult to say goodbye to this group of people."



Jamie Lee Curtis

Hugh Jackman appeals for help finding missing Broadway star

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Hugh Jackman has appealed for help finding missing Broadway dancer Zelig Williams.

The Hollywood actor has joined the search for the 28-year-old 'Hamilton' star after he vanished in South Carolina on October 3 urging anyone with any information to come forward and telling his followers to share the message in a bid to find the stage performer.

Jackman then added: "Please pass this message on!!!"

Williams - who appeared in 'Hamilton' and 'MJ The Musical' - previously worked with Jackman on his 'The Man. The Music. The Show.' world tour in 2019.

He recently moved back from New York and had been working as a dance teacher in his hometown in South Carolina. Williams was last seen on October 3 by his mother Kathy at her home in Columbia.

His worried family later filed a missing persons report and officials went on to find the Broadway star's car in a parking lot close to the Palmetto Trail hiking route close to Congaree National Park.

Officials have mounted a search using helicopters, boats and drones

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott told Wistv.com: "We've searched on foot in the air of various locations. Other investigative

techniques that we will use involving cell phones and some other things that I don't want to discuss at this point."

Lott added that Williams is in need of prescription medication.

Williams' cousin Mieoki Corbin-Jacobs added to the outlet: "We can't describe it, its devastation. It's devastation for someone who is so close to his family to just disappear like that ... there's no way to describe it."

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SUDOKU

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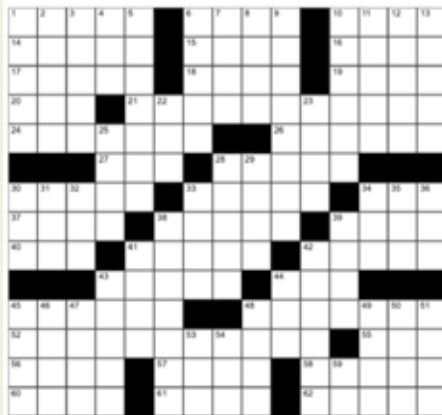
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Desolate; 6- Nick and Nora's pet; 10- Jr.'s exam; 14- Shinto temple gateway; 15- Greenish blue; 16- Opposed; 17- Church instrument; 18- Tombstone lawman; 19- Female horse; 20- Hosp. section; 21- Leaping insect; 24- Cheese; 26- Humbles; 27- CD; 28- Judges' garments; 30- Koran religion; 33- Bee stuff; 34- Popular ISP; 37- Increase in size; 38- Apartment sign; 39- Wine valley; 40- Dressing ingredient; 41- I cannot lie; 42- Value; 43- Sows; 44- Falsehood; 45- Coarse sieve; 48- Scram!; 52- Business agreement; 55- Bee follower; 56- Torn clothing; 57- Score; 58- Kind of kitchen; 60- To (perfectly); 61- James Jones; 62- Rise to one's feet; 63- Marries; 64- Numbered rds.; 65- Tennis's Monica;

Down

1- Impassive; 2- Burn down; 3- Dispute; 4- Narrow inlet; 5- Domain; 6- Shed; 7- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 8- Sailors; 9- Language letters; 10- Grassy plains of Argentina; 11- Ginger cookies; 12- Grows in Brooklyn; 13- Stadium sections; 22- Male sheep; 23- Follow orders; 25- Sketch; 28- Tumbles; 29- Day vitamins; 30- Can now?; 31- Lanka; 32- Chat room chuckle; 33- Grasp; 34- Swiss river; 35- Choose; 36- di-dah; 38- Mall-goer, often; 39- Yuletide; 41- Driving aids; 42- See; 43- Faculties; 44- Name of 13 popes; 45- Dry stalks; 46- Box; 47- Stormed; 48- Breathing organs of fish; 49- In base 8; 50- Paris divider; 51- Looks after; 53- Layer of paint; 54- Shipping deduction; 59- Did lunch;

Yesterday's solution

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

Pakistan level series against England

Spinner Noman Ali's spectacular eight-wicket haul leads Pakistan to historic home victory

● **Noman Ali takes career-best 8-46 in second innings**

● **First home Test win for Pakistan since February 2021**

● **Debutant Kamran Ghulam scores century replacing Babar Azam**

AFP | Multan

Spinner Noman Ali took eight wickets as Pakistan crushed England by 152 runs in the second Test to level the series yesterday in Multan.

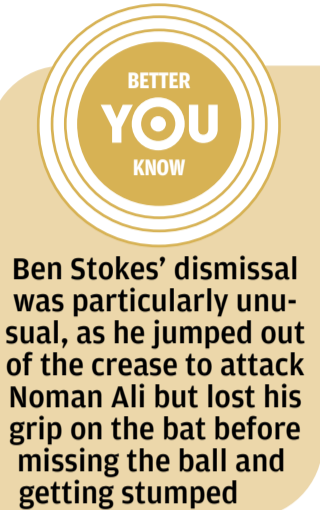
Noman grabbed 8-46 and Sajid Khan took 2-93 as the pair wrapped up England's second innings for 144 after the visitors were set a daunting target of 297.

It was Pakistan's first home win since February 2021 and came after they were thumped by an innings in the first Test on the same Multan pitch.

The third and final Test starts in Rawalpindi on October 24.

Noman finished with a match haul of 11-147 while Sajid had figures of 9-204, only the second time in Pakistan's history that two bowlers took all 20 wickets in a Test.

Pakistan's last Test win at home came against South Africa in Rawalpindi more than three years ago. It was followed by 11 home Tests without a win.



Ben Stokes' dismissal was particularly unusual, as he jumped out of the crease to attack Noman Ali but lost his grip on the bat before missing the ball and getting stumped

This also becomes Shan Masood's first win as skipper after getting the job last year, including 3-0 and 2-0 white-washes at the hands of Australia and Bangladesh.

Pakistan's ploy of dropping ace batsman Babar Azam in one of four changes after the first Test and playing on a reused pitch with three spinners paid off handsomely.

Azam's replacement, debutant Kamran Ghulam, made a century to anchor Pakistan's first-innings 366.

Masood praised his side for their character.

"The first one (win) for me and long awaited for the team is always special," said Masood.

"This has come after some rough times and the boys stepped in after a lot has happened this past week."

The captain, who like his team had been under fierce pressure



Pakistan's Noman Ali (R) celebrates after the dismissal of England's captain Ben Stokes

in cricket-mad Pakistan, added: "We came up with a strategy to get 20 wickets and we made it happen.

"We were never afraid of taking risks. Three years and 11 months creates hunger, so it's good to win at home."

'Tough ask'

England, who made 291 in their first innings, came into the fourth day firmly up against it after losing openers Zak Craw-

Scorecard

Pakistan 366 (Ghulam 118, Ayub 77, Leach 4-114) and **221** (Salman 63, Bashir 4-66) beat **England 291** (Duckett 114, Sajid 7-111) and **144** (Noman 8-46) by 152 runs

ley (three) and Ben Duckett (nought) late on Thursday.

Resuming at 36-2 on a reused pitch offering sharp spin, Ben Stokes' men managed to add just

108 runs before folding.

"When Pakistan were ahead of the game they could really put their foot down," said the England skipper.

"It was a tough ask for us, but the way we took the game on today was the only way we could win."

In just the second over of the day off-spinner Sajid -- one of Pakistan's four changes from the first Test -- removed Ollie Pope with a sharp turning delivery

”
The first one (win) for me and long awaited for the team is always special. This has come after some rough times and the boys stepped in after a lot has happened this past week

SHAN MASOOD

and caught the miscued drive off his own bowling. Pope made 22.

Noman then trapped first-Test history-maker Joe Root leg-before for 18 and Harry Brook for 16 to leave England facing defeat at 78-5.

Brook smashed an epic 317 and Root a brilliant 262 -- eclipsing Alastair Cook's England Test run record -- in the first match, and their dismissals signalled England's demise was fast approaching.

Noman's fourth wicket came in the form of Jamie Smith, whose uppish slog sweep was held by Masood at mid-on. Smith scored six.

Stokes and Brydon Carse fought hard to take the total to 125 when Stokes was stumped in a comical manner, jumping out of the crease to loft Noman but missing the ball as his bat flew out of his hands.

Noman wrapped up the match with the wickets of Carse (27), Jack Leach (one) and Shoaib Bashir (nought), improving his previous best of 7-70 against Sri Lanka in Colombo last year.

Nadal defeated by 'animal' Alcaraz in Saudi Arabia as career nears end

AFP | Riyadh

Rafael Nadal admitted his fitness level was well off the tour's top players after falling Thursday in straight sets to fellow Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz, who described the exhibition match as "a little bit sad".

The 38-year-old Nadal, who announced last week he would retire from tennis after the Davis Cup Finals in Malaga next month, lost 6-3, 6-3 to 21-year-old Alcaraz in the semi-finals of the "Six Kings Slam" event in Saudi Arabia.

Afterwards he described Alcaraz, winner of the French Open and Wimbledon this year, as an "animal" and acknowledged he was not competing at the highest level.

"I have not much pressure here. I'm just trying to have fun," he told a post-match press conference.

"I know I'm going to play against players that... are in much better shape than me because they are on the professional tour and winning tournaments."

Alcaraz said he knew the Saudi crowd was against him but wanted to let Nadal, winner of 22 Grand Slams including 14 French Open titles, bask in the support.

"It's a little bit sad... It was not a really comfortable moment for



Rafael Nadal signs tennis balls after he was defeated by Carlos Alcaraz

Prior to the match in Saudi, Nadal had made his last singles appearance at the Olympic Games in Paris where his campaign was cut short by old rival Novak Djokovic in the second round

me. Obviously I really wanted to win," said Alcaraz.

"Once you step on the court it's no friends, no idols" but "I think this is his moment right now," he added.

Prior to Thursday's match Nadal had made his last singles appearance at the Olympic Games in Paris where his campaign was cut short by old rival Novak Djokovic in the second round.

He had also teamed-up with Alcaraz in men's doubles at the Games and may reprise that role at the Davis Cup Finals.

Nadal will play Djokovic again on Saturday after the Serbian great lost a much tighter match to Australian Open and US Open champion Jannik Sinner, who prevailed 6-2, 6-7 (0/7), 6-4 and will take on Alcaraz in the final.

”
I have not much pressure here. I'm just trying to have fun. I know I'm going to play against players that... are in much better shape than me because they are on the professional tour and winning tournaments

RAFAEL NADAL

Uncapped spinner replaces Shakib in Bangladesh Test squad

AFP | Dhaka

Bangladesh called up uncapped spinner Hasan Murad yesterday to replace retiring Shakib Al Hasan ahead of the first Test against South Africa after security fears led the ex-skipper to cancel plans to return home.

Shakib announced his retirement from international cricket last month but said that he wanted to play one last red-ball series at home.

But the 37-year-old is also an ex-lawmaker in a government ousted by a revolution, and his links to Bangladesh's autocratic former premier has made him a target of public anger.



Shakib Al Hasan

Shakib cancelled plans to return home on Thursday for the first time since the August uprising, saying the decision was made as "a matter of my own security".

Left-arm spinner Murad, 23, was named in the squad instead for the first match of a two-Test series starting in Dhaka on Monday.

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Asian football body takes Bahrain concerns 'seriously' after threats

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

Asian football chiefs said on yesterday they took Bahrain's concerns "seriously" after the country looked to get a World Cup qualifier moved out of Indonesia over alleged death threats.

Bahrain are scheduled to play Indonesia away in March in the decisive third round of Asian qualifying for the 2026 World Cup in North America.

The teams met last week and drew 2-2, with hosts Bahrain equalising in the ninth minute of injury time.

Indonesian officials and supporters later complained bitterly that the added time had gone on for too long.



Referee Ahmed Al-Kaf with police after the match

Bahrain's football association (BFA) said this week it will ask for the return fixture to be moved out of Indonesia "to pre-

serve the safety of the team".

Bahrain's players have been "subjected to a torrent of insults, slander, threats and hack-

ing operations" online, the BFA alleged.

Indonesia's FA said the Bahrain team would be safe.

The Asian Football Confederation said it was "aware of the concerns".

"The AFC takes these concerns seriously and is fully committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all players, officials, and fans, while condemning all forms of online abuse and threats," it said in a statement.

"The AFC will discuss the matter further with FIFA, the BFA, and the Football Association of Indonesia to create a safe and secure environment for all stakeholders involved in the match."

Howe says he was not contacted by FA over England job

AFP | London



Newcastle United's head coach Eddie Howe speaks with players (file photo)

AFP | London

Newcastle boss Eddie Howe said yesterday he was not contacted by the Football Association during the search for a new England manager, which ended with the appointment of Thomas Tuchel.

The FA announced on Wednesday that the former Chelsea and Bayern Munich boss would be the permanent successor to Gareth Southgate, taking up his post from January.

FA chief executive Mark Bullingham said the governing body had "interviewed approximately 10 people" including some English candidates before opting for the German.

Howe, one of only a handful of English coaches in the Premier League, was argua-

bly the strongest homegrown candidate.

But when asked at his pre-match press conference whether he had been interviewed for the position, he said: "No, I wasn't."

Howe, whose team host Brighton on Saturday, said there had been no contact from the FA.

The Newcastle boss said he was glad the "distraction" over who would succeed Southgate was at an end, but that he might be interested in the future.

"There was no one more pleased than me to see Thomas get the job, really, and take it because it's just a distraction -- not that it distracts me, but you can see it's unsettling at times when certain things are said and written about," he said.

Odegaard nearing Arsenal return, says Arteta

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta has revealed Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard is nearing a return to fitness after a lengthy injury lay-off and could be fit to face title rivals Liverpool next week.

The Norway midfielder has been sidelined with an ankle problem suffered on international duty early last month.

Although Odegaard has not played for the Gunners since August 31, Arteta's side remain unbeaten in the Premier League and are just one point behind leaders Liverpool ahead of Saturday's game at Bournemouth.

The Spaniard said Odegaard would not be ready for this weekend but the situation will be reassessed ahead of next week's games against Shakhtar Donetsk, in the Champions League, and Liverpool.

"I think he's not going to be fit for this game," Arteta told reporters yesterday.

"Next week will be a different story, but again, in that later stage of rehab where he is at the moment, because he's doing already a lot

of the stuff, he needs to clear some markers, he needs to clear certain things, he needs to be comfortable-

able doing things, especially with the ball.

"I think next week will be crucial to understand how close he is."

Arteta also allayed fears over the fitness of Bukayo Saka, who was injured during England's 2-1 defeat at home to Greece last week and missed the 3-1 win in Finland.

The Arsenal boss said a late call would be made over the fitness of the winger.

"It's not a serious injury," he said. "He's evolving really well. He's done a few things in the last two days."

Martin Odegaard



India fight back after Ravindra's ton

Rachin Ravindra's 134 powers New Zealand; India respond with strong batting on Day 3

● Kohli hits 70, Sarfaraz remains unbeaten on 70

● India trails by 125 runs at stumps, reaching 231-3

AFP | Bengaluru

India hit back with a batting blitz after New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra struck 134 to guide the visitors to a lead of 356 on day three of the rain-hit opening Test yesterday.

The hosts were 231-3 at stumps and still trailed the Black Caps by 125 runs after Glenn Phillips got Virat Kohli caught behind for 70 on the last ball of the day in Bengaluru.

Kohli, who unsuccessfully reviewed his dismissal, put on a stand of 136 with Sarfaraz Khan, who was still batting on 70.

"Important for us to hold our lines and lengths and do that for long periods like Test cricket is," Ravindra told reporters.

"The wicket of Virat was very massive and hopefully we stick at it... in the morning."

Sarfaraz raced to his fifty in 42 balls but the crowd erupted when senior partner Kohli got his half ton at his adopted home ground of IPL team Royal Challengers Bengaluru.



India's Virat Kohli plays a shot

Kohli soon passed 9,000 Test runs, only the fourth Indian to reach the landmark after Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Rahul Dravid (13,265) and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122).

Spinner Ajaz Patel removed the Indian openers after a strong start to the innings when Yas-

Sharma put on 72 runs.

Jaiswal made 35 before the left-hander danced down the track in his attempt to hit Patel and got stumped by wicketkeeper Tom Blundell.

Rohit smashed Matt Henry for four, six and four to raise his fifty but soon played a delivery by Patel onto his stumps and was

out for 52.

Number three Kohli had a nervy start and got his first runs after 14 balls but eventually found his groove, smashing eight fours and a six.

But the day's star remained the Wellington-born Ravindra, who smashed his second Test ton and was the last Kiwi to fall



Virat Kohli became the fourth Indian batsman to surpass 9,000 Test runs, joining Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and Sunil Gavaskar

in the tourists' first innings total of 402.

Father in crowd

Ravindra, a batting all-rounder whose parents hail from Wellington and whose father was in the crowd, said the familiarity helped him in his knock.

"It's a little bit comforting although the wicket is completely different, nice knowing the surroundings," he said. "It's a lovely wicket to bat."

Ravindra resumed on his overnight score of 22 and raised his century with a boundary off Ravichandran Ashwin before lunch.

He kept up the charge during an eighth-wicket stand of 137 with Tim Southee, who smashed 65 with five fours and four sixes.



It's a little bit comforting although the wicket is completely different, nice knowing the surroundings. It's a lovely wicket to bat

RACHIN RAVINDRA

India's quicks bowled good spells in the morning after New Zealand resumed on 180-3 with Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah striking early.

Ravindra Jadeja led the attack as he and fellow spinner Kuldeep Yadav took three wickets each.

"It was tough to control runs on this wicket, because even the good balls were being hit for runs," said Kuldeep, who wrapped up the New Zealand innings with Ravindra's wicket.

India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant remained off the field after he injured his knee on Thursday, with Dhruv Jurel substituted.

It was the same knee Pant hurt in a serious car crash in December 2022 that forced him out of action for more than a year.

New Zealand bowled out India for 46 on day two, their third-lowest Test score and lowest ever on home turf. The first day was washed out due to rain.