

**Manama to play in FIBA Intercontinental Cup**

Champions of first-ever FIBA West Asia Super League get invite for global event, to be held in Singapore | P12

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**Circular on Eid Al-Adha holiday**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued a circular regarding the Arafah and the Eid Al-Adha holidays.

According to the circular, the Kingdom's ministries and public institutions will be closed on the day of Arafah, and on Eid Al-Adha, corresponding to 27-30 June, respectively.

As Friday is already an official holiday, Sunday, 2 July, will be given in lieu, the circular added.

**Israeli troops kill five Palestinians**

Jenin, West Bank

Israeli forces, backed by the rare use of helicopter gunships, killed five Palestinians including a teenager and wounded more than 90, as a West Bank raid led to an hours-long gunbattle with armed fighters, the military and health officials said.

Eight Israeli personnel were wounded after troops came under fire during an operation in the flashpoint city of Jenin to arrest two Palestinians suspected in attacks, the military said. At least three of the Palestinians killed in the fighting belonged to the armed Islamic Jihad group.

**US-India ties 'turning point'**

New Delhi/Washington

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to the US this week for a visit billed as a turning point for bilateral relations, with deeper cooperation in defence industry and sharing high technology in sharp focus.

The visit is expected to give India access to critical American technologies Washington rarely shares with non-allies, strengthening a new bond that is underpinned by not just global politics but also business and economics.

# Call to Support Bahraini Hajj Pilgrims

HRH Prince Salman commends Saudi for commitment to ensure seamless Hajj season

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, directed relevant entities to support Bahraini citizens participating in the Hajj pilgrimage.

HRH Prince Salman commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the support of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for their commitment to ensure a seamless Hajj season.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he chaired yesterday the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet highlighted the importance of the official meeting between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the UAE President, HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at His Majesty's residence in Abu Dhabi. In this regard, the Cabinet emphasised that the meeting further strengthened relations between the two countries and their peoples.

Tier 1 status

The Cabinet noted Bahrain's comprehensive development

The Minister of Housing and man, board, staff and players



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting



success in retaining a Tier 1 status in the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons report for the sixth consecutive year. The annual publication provides an assessment of global efforts to combat human trafficking.

Bahrain's high rating reflects its competency in mitigating issues of trafficking.

The Cabinet attributed this achievement to the Kingdom's

led by His Majesty the King and supported by the government, under the leadership of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Additionally, the Cabinet monitored progress on the implementation of His Royal Highness' directives to hold events and exhibitions that raise awareness on housing finance services and programmes for Bahraini citizens.

Urban Planning reviewed the success of the exhibition in achieving its objectives.

The Cabinet congratulated the graduates of the Bahrain Teachers College as well as expressed their appreciation to the Board of Directors and staff for their efforts in driving academic excellence, resulting in the largest number of graduates in the history of the College.

It congratulated the chair-

of the Al Najma Club on winning the 25th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship and the Manama Club on being champions at the inaugural FIBA West Asia Super League.

The Cabinet commended the athletes of both sports clubs for their wins and their role in affirming Bahrain's position as a leader on the global sports stage.

Ranked 25th globally

## Bahrain global competitiveness improves

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain ranked 25th globally, improving by five spots, in the World Competitiveness Ranking issued by the Institute for Management Development (IMD).

The ranking is a comprehensive report that ranks countries according to how they manage their competencies to achieve long-term value creation.

The report showed that the Kingdom ranked first globally in seven indicators and was among the top 10 countries worldwide in 36 indicators.

Bahrain witnessed a significant 16 spot improvement in the 'Economic Performance' factor ranking 23rd globally.

Its business-friendly environment was also highlighted by 69.4% of executives surveyed for



the report, while 61.3% of them noted the Kingdom's skilled workforce as a contributing factor to its economy.

The IMD World Competitiveness Ranking placed Bahrain first globally in the availability of qualified engineers in the labour



market. The Kingdom also ranked third globally in the flexibility and adaptability of the labour

force, third in technological/digital skills, fourth in labor force skills, and sixth globally in the finance skills.

# Quality education for Bahrainis 'top priority'

HRH Prince Salman: Government invests in citizens to make them first choice in job market

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised that investing in Bahraini citizens remains a top priority and that government efforts focus on educational excellence to make them a first choice in the job market.

He said that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's commitment to educational reforms has spurred government initiatives and programmes that strive for educational excellence across the Kingdom.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he affirmed the importance of strengthening quality education for all citizens to achieve the Kingdom's far-reaching educational goals.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, HE Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki,



HRH Prince Salman with Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, senior government officials and principals of public schools

and the Minister of Education, HE Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, also attended the meeting.

His Royal Highness noted that education is a core pillar for the Kingdom's development to build qualified professionals that meet the standards of the national labour market.

He congratulated the outstanding students in public schools and noted the diligence of the administrative and educational staff in ensuring pupils

receive the best educational standards in the Kingdom.

### Student excellence

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister encouraged the schools to continue offering a respected academic and educational environment that reinforces student excellence.

His Royal Highness thanked the Ministry of Education for contributing to the development and progress of the Kingdom and its people.

He affirmed the importance of adopting modern technology, artificial intelligence, and innovative solutions to keep pace with global developments and enhance educational creativity, in line with the Kingdom's educational aspirations.

The principals of the top public schools expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to meet with His Royal Highness and their appreciation for his commitment to supporting the educational development.

## Team Bahrain health workforce hailed for expertise and competence



HRH Prince Salman with Lt-Gen Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah, Dr Al Jalahma and the Health Minister

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, hailed Team Bahrain's expertise and competence in the health sector, one of the vital sectors contributing to the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health (SCH), Lt-Gen Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Health, HE Jalila bint Al Sayed Jawad Hassan, also attended the meeting.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the Chief Executive Officer

of the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), Dr Mariam Al Jalahma, on receiving the 2023 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, and noted her admirable contributions to the Kingdom's health sector in the last 30 years.

He also commended the medical professionals for their contributions to the Kingdom's goals and progress in the health sector.

His Royal Highness expressed his pride in Bahraini citizens' achievements and contributions to the Kingdom's progress across many fields.

Lt-Gen Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah and Dr Al Jalahma expressed their gratitude for meeting with HRH Prince Salman and his continuous support to the Kingdom's health sector. They also reiterated their commitment to developing the health sector.

## Edict to enhance employee wages, benefits and eligibility

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict (45) of 2023, amending some provisions of the regulation determining the wages, employment benefits, and eligibility conditions for employees subject to the Civil Service Law, promulgated by Edict (77) of 2013, based on a proposal by the Civil Service Bureau (CSB).

### Article (1)

Article (12) of the regulation determining the wages, employment benefits, and eligibility conditions for em-

ployees subject to the Civil Service Law, promulgated by Edict (77) of 2013, shall be amended as follows:

"A monthly allowance for improving the standard of living of BD85 or BD100 shall be granted to employees who are eligible for the salaries shown in the table contained in Appendix No. (3) attached to this regulation, in accordance with the terms and conditions set by the Civil Service Bureau".

### Article (2)

The table contained in Appendix No. (3) attached to the regulation determining the wages, employment benefits, and eligibility conditions for employees subject to the Civ-

il Service Law, promulgated by Edict (77) of 2013, shall be replaced with the table accompanying this edict.

### Article (3)

The term "Bureau" (Apparatus) shall replace the term "Bureau" whenever it appears in the regulation determining the wages, employment benefits, and eligibility conditions for employees subject to the Civil Service Law, promulgated by Edict (77) of 2013.

The Ministers, President of CSB, and those concerned, each in their capacity, shall implement the provisions of this edict, which comes into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

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Brazilian Consultant Plastic Surgeon

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<p><b>NON SURGICAL PROCEDURES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Botox</li> <li>▶ Fillers</li> <li>▶ Skin Booster</li> <li>▶ Body Filler</li> <li>▶ PRP</li> <li>&amp; many more!</li> </ul>	<p><b>SURGICAL PROCEDURES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Liposuction</li> <li>▶ Breast Augmentation</li> <li>▶ Gynecomastia</li> <li>▶ Face Lift</li> <li>▶ Arm Lift</li> <li>▶ Torsoplasty</li> <li>▶ Body Contouring &amp; many more!</li> <li>▶ Tummy Tuck</li> <li>▶ Blepharoplasty</li> <li>▶ Thigh Lift</li> <li>▶ Butt Lift</li> <li>▶ Scar revision</li> </ul>
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### Bahrain-France ties



Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received the outgoing French Ambassador to Bahrain Jerome Cauchard. The BDF chief praised the Ambassador's diplomatic efforts to boost ties between Bahrain and France, and wished him success in his future assignments.

# HRH Prince Salman to patronise Cityscape Bahrain 2023 exhibition

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the real estate and property exhibition titled "Cityscape Bahrain 2023" will open at Exhibition World Bahrain on November 14-16.

Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla bin



HRH Prince Salman

Hamad Al Khalifa, Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB) President and Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Chairman, hailed the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-up of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for the real estate sector.

He praised HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's patronage of Cityscape Bahrain 2023,

noting that it is a big boost for the real estate sector.

This year's conference will focus on sustainability and digital transformation in the real estate sector, by promoting innovative solutions that achieve the goals of sustainable development, which are in line with the Kingdom of Bahrain's economic vision for 2030. It will also showcase the latest digital innovations in the field of real estate

technology.

Cityscape will be organised in cooperation with Informa Markets International, the same company that organises the annual Jewels Arabia exhibition.

A high committee was formed headed by the SLRB head to set up the necessary equipment for the preparation and organisation of this global real estate event, which includes exhibitors from local, re-

gional, and international real estate companies and projects, including real estate companies from the GCC, the US, the UK, and Turkey, Pakistan, and other countries.

The exhibition will coincide with a major real estate conference to discuss real estate technology issues, how to create sustainability in the real estate sector, and other current issues in the real estate sector.

# Bahrain ready to promote yoga as sport

A group of young Bahrainis is ready to perform at the International Yoga Championship at the end of this year



Faris Mustafa Al Kooheji speaks at the event



Act performed by Dr. Komal Panwar



PROP Yoga &amp; Therapy center performance at MANTHAN "The Yoga Conclave"

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

Yoga is taking a new direction in Bahrain, with the people who have mastered the ancient practice now exploring it as a sport and readying themselves to take on international competitions, with their eyes set on nothing less than the Olympics itself.

While many of them had taken to yoga as a means to ensure mental and physical well-being, those with other talents are combining them with yoga to give it a

unique spin. Under the guidance of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), a new approach to youth initiative is on to promote yoga as a sport in the future. It is expected that the initiative would lead Bahrain to have world champions in Olympic Yoga by next year, said BOC officials.

PROP Yoga & Therapy Center, which is based at Budaiya in Bahrain, has been actively promoting Olympic Yoga as a sport. Its founder Ehsan Asghar told the Daily Tribune, "We are ready to represent Bahrain in



**Thirty Bahraini students now engage in the training courses provided by the PROP Yoga & Therapy Center.**

the next Olympics. We need to practice more and train our students well."

While gymnastics is all about athletics and aesthetics, yoga is all about stability, form, and duration, he added.

Thirty Bahraini students now engage in the training courses

provided by the centre and they are expecting to enhance it up to a hundred at the end of the year, Ehsan said.

The first performance of the PROP Yoga & Therapy Center was featured at the 'MANTHAN The Yoga Conclave' event, organised under patron-

age of the Embassy of India in Bahrain and Bahrain India Cultural & Arts Services (BICAS), last Sunday.

**Yoga Performer Shares Her Journey**

One of the top performers at the conclave was Dr. Komal Panwar, who embarked on a yoga journey 20 years ago, at the age of seven. Walking to Yoga classes along with her sister since seven, she quickly fell in love with the workout routine and soon began to compete in national championships.

She began winning championships thereafter, from the sub-junior to junior and senior divisions, and grew into a yoga performer at an international level. Having pursued a PhD in Yoga recently, she is passionate about sharing her knowledge with others, with several books on yoga to her credit and being invited as a speaker at yoga conferences.

Talking about yoga and its benefits, she told The Daily Tribune, "Yoga has changed my life in so many ways. It has helped me to reduce anxiety.

# High airfares jeopardise expat families' summer plans

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

With the air fares reaching an annual peak in view of the higher demand due to the annual summer vacation and no other viable alternative being readily available, many families have dropped their travel plans this year.

Organisations representing passengers and individual passengers from India are now demanding that the Government of India should step in and charter flights from the Middle East to handle the heavy rush of passengers.

Fasila Shamil, an expat who was planning to go to Kerala,



Mr. Subair Kannur



Sudheer Thirunilath

India, told The Daily Tribune that she was unable to afford the high airfare.

"My husband contacted several travel agencies to check

the fare but we cannot afford it. This year we will not be able to celebrate Eid with our family," she lamented. Mr. Subair Kannur, member of Indian Commu-

nity Relief Fund (ICRF), said the solution needed now is for the government to step up and call for a meeting with the airlines operating between India and the Middle East.

"Although the Kerala government has allocated funds for charter aircraft, the central government has not responded," he said.

Mrs. Sumayya, an agent from Air Home Travels, said that all airlines are charging far more than they normally would this summer. "We've seen a decline in passengers this year compared to last year, especially families and they are less likely to travel during this summer vacation," she said.

# Customs Affairs holds graduation ceremony

TDT | Manama

Ansari, attended.

Director-General of General Resources and Information Systems of Customs Affairs Shaikh Turki bin Duaj Al Khalifa attended a graduation ceremony for the Qarar (decision) programme of the Customs Training Institute in cooperation with the University of Bahrain.

The programme aimed to enhance the leadership skills of decision-makers in Customs Affairs. Deputy Health of Community Services of the University of Bahrain, Dr Mohammed Al

Director-General praised the instructions of Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to promote human resources development and follow-up of the President of Customs, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

He said that the programme was mainly designed to meet work requirements.

He thanked the University of Bahrain, the United Nations Media Centre for Gulf Countries and the organisers for their efforts.

# High-demand joy for housing units



The second Housing Finance Exhibition venue

TDT | Manama

Around 63% of the units in the "Suhail" housing project - the first to be implemented under the Government Land Development Programme - have already been reserved, Housing and Urban Planning Ministry announced.

They were booked during the first four days of the second Housing Finance Exhibition, inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ab-

dulla Al Khalifa, at City Centre on June 15, and will run until June 24.

The housing project was implemented following the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to expand the Government Land Development Programme and implement eight additional projects in partnership with the private sector during 2023-2024.

According to the Ministry, the citizens who meet the eligibility criteria of its financing services had reported massively to "Suhail" project pavilion since the opening of the exhibition, adding that those who had booked their units will have to complete the purchase procedures within the following days.

The ministry indicated that high turnout of the citizens and the great number of booked units from the "Suhail" project on the first days of the exhibition reflect the objectives of the

Government Land Development Programme in providing a supply base of housing units that is appropriate to the value of financing granted by the ministry to citizens, adding that the commercial banks participating in the exhibition provide exclusive offers to help citizens choose housing units immediately.

Over 10,000 citizens had visited the Housing Finance Exhibition on its first four days, and were informed about the offers of the real estate development companies.

## Bahrain ensures best healthcare services



Dr. Al Ansari with Israel Health Ministry officials

Tel Aviv

The Government Hospitals administration is keen to provide the best healthcare services within a framework that enhances the healthcare system in the Kingdom, according to the highest level of quality, competitiveness, and excellence.

This was emphasised by Dr. Ahmed Al Ansari, Chief Executive Officer of Government Hospitals, as he visited the Ministry of Health of Israel, accompanied

by Khaled Yousef Al Jalahma, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the State of Israel.

The visit aims to enhance joint work, exchange skills, and reinforce cooperation in the training and scientific research, as well as in the Visiting Doctor Programme, within the framework of the two countries' efforts to enhance healthcare services.

Dr. Asher Solomon, Head of Department of International Relations at the Israeli Ministry of Health, was present in the meeting.

## Talks held on fight against trafficking

TDT | Manama

The National Committee for Combatting Trafficking in Persons held its first meeting after its restructuring, chaired by LMRA Chief Executive Officer Nouf Abdulrahman Jamsheer.

Jamsheer congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on Bahrain's

achievement of the "Tier 1" status in the US State Department's report on the classification of countries in the field of combatting trafficking in persons for the sixth consecutive year.

She noted that this achievement reflects the Kingdom's significant and sustainable efforts to maintain a stable and fair work environment.

Jamsheer highlighted Bahrain's pioneering regional role in combatting trafficking in persons.

### Joint inspection campaigns



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted four joint inspection campaigns in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture in the Capital and Muharraq Governorates. The inspection campaigns included visits to a number of shops and work sites, to determine the extent of compliance with laws and regulations in order to preserve the competitiveness, stability and productivity of the labour market. The campaigns resulted in reporting violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The cases were referred for legal action. LMRA renewed its call to all members of the society to report violations via the electronic form on the authority's website [www.lmra.gov.bh](http://www.lmra.gov.bh) or by calling the authority's call centre on 17506055

# NSSA takes part in UN space meeting for women

New York

The National Space Science Authority (NSSA) represented the Kingdom of Bahrain in the "Space4Women: Progress and Updates" meeting, on the sidelines of the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

NSSA attended the event at the invitation of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

Engineer Aisha Al-Haram, a member of the Bahrain space



The percentage of women working in the space sector in Bahrain is 65%, and the percentage of women in leadership positions in the same sector is about 67%; which are considered the highest in the world among the international space agencies.

team, was delegated to attend the meeting.

She was among those selected as part of the 2023 mentors program of the "Space4Women" initiative, which is one of the initiatives that support the

empowerment of women in the space sector.

Eng. Aisha expressed her gratitude to NSSA for the opportunity to participate in this important meeting, noting Bahrain's keenness to empow-

er women and NSSA's efforts to achieve gender equity in this promising sector.

"I am proud to represent Bahraini women in the "Space4Women" initiative, and to highlight their ability to lead in all sectors," Al-Haram added.

During the meeting, Niklas Hedman, Acting Director of UNOOSA, stressed the importance of empowering women and promoting gender equality within the "Space4Women" initiative.

The meeting concluded with an update on the Mentorship Program for "Space4Women".

# Philippine Embassy holds National Reception Day

TDT | Manama

The Philippine Embassy has hosted a National Reception Day to jointly commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence Day and the 45th year of Philippines-Bahrain Diplomatic Relations.

Her Excellency Anne Jala-

do-on Louis welcomed guests of honor His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Ali Bahzad, Undersecretary for Consular and Administrative Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Daij bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chairman of ASEAN Bahrain Council, and Manama Capital Directorate, Director of Information and Follow up, Mr. Yusuf Lori.



Information and Follow-up Director, Mr. Yusuf Lori, with Filipino community members

The reception at the Bahrain Conference Center, Crown Plaza Hotel was graced by around 260 guests including Bahrain government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, leaders and representatives of the business community, and the Filipino community.

A collection of vintage memorabilia, which consisted of old

stamps and coins, bank notes postcards and documents were exhibited to show glimpse of panoramic view of the Philippines through small things.

The Nightingales, a soprano duo comprised of Ms. Katrina Saga and Ms. Bernadette Mamauag along with Filipino Community Band serenaded the guests with Filipino songs.

# NBB offers financing solutions at Housing Finance Exhibition

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) is currently participating in the second Housing Finance Exhibition, hosted and organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, in collaboration with Eskan Bank.

The 10-day event is taking place in the Bahrain City Centre Galleria and will run until the 24th of June.

NBB is providing financing solutions for prospective customers while nineteen housing agents from across the Kingdom are showcasing and marketing properties.

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to explore different forms of financing and receive guidance from NBB representatives on; 'social finances', 'top-up finances' and 'property finances'.



An NBB representative talks with a customer at the exhibition

Prospective homeowners will be able to discuss attaining government-backed Tas'heel and Mazaya housing financing through NBB.

These financing options in-

clude competitive interest rate pricing, flexible repayment terms, amortised property registration fees, free fire insurance and property evaluation including finance up to 30 years.

The properties being sold form part of the wider Government Development Land Program (GDLP) and include the "Suhail Project," that consists of 132 stunning residential villas, designed and constructed to the very highest standards.

All the villas are listed at BHD 99,000, have three bedrooms and a smaller maid's room. The residential project is complemented by new infrastructure which ensures accessibility and provides all the necessary amenities.

The properties in this latest development are exclusively available to Bahrainis participating in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning scheme.

Commenting on the exhibition, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive Retail Banking at NBB, said: "Our longstanding partnership with the Ministry

of Housing and Urban Planning and Eskan Bank has enabled us to provide extensive support to Bahraini citizens looking to purchase the home of their dreams. We are pleased to deliver competitive financing solutions that meet the needs of our growing customer base."

Mohamed Raees, Head of Retail Relationship Management at NBB said, "Our team of dedicated financial advisors is on hand to provide a range of options which will allow customers to identify financing solutions suited to their needs. The Housing Finance Exhibition provides us with a great opportunity to connect with our clients and also tap into a new segment thanks to our competitive rates on mortgage finance, helping Bahrainis of all backgrounds to get a foothold on the property ladder."

## ila Bank partners with Booking.com to offer travel discounts

TDT | Manama

ila Bank, powered by Bank IABC, has signed a partnership with Booking.com, to offer ila Bank cardholders an 8% discount on accommodation bookings.

Premium debit card as well as ila Bank Credit Card customers will get this discount whenever they make their travel reservations through the ila Bank app, and it can be combined with any applicable Booking.com Genius loyalty program discount.

Nada Tarada, Head of Business & Customer at ila Bank said, "Through this, we are delighted to be able to give ila cardholders competitive deals to travel and experience the world."

"After all, the way we do business at ila has the customer at heart, and our services are built around our end user and their needs," she added.

## Ahli United Bank reveals exclusive mortgage offerings at Housing Finance Exhibition

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank has unveiled a suite of new and exclusive Housing finance benefits available to Bahrainis interested in Social Housing projects.

These benefits are being unveiled at AUB's stall at the Housing Finance Exhibition at the Bahrain City Center from June 15 to 24.

AUB's stall is staffed with Housing Finance experts who can guide interested applicants to the best option to purchase their dream home and is the ideal destination for Bahrainis on the lookout for competitive mortgage rates, repayment terms, and value-added benefits.

AUB said visitors will be treated to a number of unprecedented benefits, including competitive rates, no administrative fees, no valuation fees, as well



AUB officials at their stall

as free fire insurance and free life insurance.

During the event, Eskan Bank is set to showcase over 10,000 new units from 19 developers all across the Kingdom.

Suvrat Saigal, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer - Retail Banking at AUB said, "This Exhibition is an opportune moment for Bahrainis to get the

best deals possible on their dream homes. We are continuously seeking to improve on the already subsidised offerings facilitated by Eskan Bank and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, and I believe that this is among the most enticing value-added packages on the housing market to date.

"We are extremely delighted to be an enabler in this market, and to work hand in hand with the Ministry and Eskan Bank to bring ever more affordable housing solutions to the local market. We encourage interested Bahrainis to visit our stall to discover the best options to realise their dream home," he added.

## Doctors at RBH save mother and baby in a high risk pregnancy case

TDT | Manama

Royal Bahrain Hospital (RBH) recently saved a mother and her baby in one of the most complex high-risk pregnancy cases, the hospital has said.

When the woman walked into RBH's Emergency Care, doctors noticed a drastic decrease in fetal movements.

At 33 weeks and 5 days pregnant, she experienced severe abdominal pain and nausea.

A team of experts comprising- anaesthetist, obstetrician, paediatrician, pulmonologist, nephrologist and an ICU consultant - was immediately set up and emergency cesarean surgery was performed and the mother and baby were saved.

## Al Salam Bank launches "Buy Now, Pay Later" service for debit cardholders

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank announced the launch of its "Buy Now, Pay Later" service for its debit cardholders, following its success in facilitating installment payments for its credit cardholders in November last year.

The fully automated, instant, and seamless service allows clients to settle their payments in installments within a specific time frame defined by the digital application through the analysis of the client's financial obligations using artificial in-

telligence.

Clients can benefit from this service for transactions ranging from BD100 and above using their debit cards, and selecting repayment periods of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, or 24 months.

Commenting on the occasion, Mohammed Buhijji, Head of Retail Banking at Al Salam Bank, said: "This service allows our clients to pay for purchases in installments and better control their expenses and budgets through easy and immediate digital steps."

## Biggest-ever airliner order marks first day of Paris Air Show

### India's IndiGo makes record order for 500 Airbus A320

AFP | Paris

European aircraft maker Airbus made a splash on the first day of the Paris Air Show with the announcement of the biggest-ever order for civil aircraft, as the French president joined a big crowd for the event's return after a four-year Covid hiatus.

The 500-plane deal with low-cost Indian carrier IndiGo kicked off what organisers have billed as the "recovery airshow" after the coronavirus ravaged the sector and the biennial trade fair was cancelled in 2021.

Fighter jets and civilian aircraft streaked across the sky while beset and uniformed delegations, including Ukrain-



An Airbus A321 XLR lands during the International Paris Air Show at the Paris-Le Bourget Airport

ian military officials and President Emmanuel Macron, toured the stands.

This year's airshow has a new focus on defence following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, along with the industry's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, with French President Emmanuel Macron arriving in a helicopter partly using sustainable aviation

fuel (SAF).

Macron called for "restraint" to protect the environment but said measures for aviation should be "reasonable" rather than "punitive", adding that the world shouldn't "give up on growth".

Huge traffic jams around Le Bourget airport outside Paris were testament to the interest in

this year's show, as aircraft makers field hundreds of orders and airlines brace for a near-record number of passengers this year.

The Ukraine conflict has also prompted countries to step up military spending, which could benefit aerospace defence firms.

While Russia has been excluded from the event, Ukrainian military officials toured the huge exhibition space at Paris-Le Bourget airport, some taking photos of missiles on display.

There were star turns for the Rafale fighter made by France's Dassault and the American F-35 jet, with hundreds of visitors turning their phone cameras to the skies and some plugging their ears against the deafening flypasts.

Le Bourget offers a forum to announce deals with some 2,500 firms lining up to show off their latest planes, drones, helicopters and prototypes such as flying taxis.

## Bahrain Bourse opens subscription for BHD 100m Government Development Bond

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB) has announced the commencement of subscription for the 33rd issue of the Government Development Bond, valued at BHD 100 million.

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) invited both Bahraini and Non-Bahraini investors to directly subscribe through the primary market of BHB.

Interested investors can execute their orders through registered brokers at Bahrain Bourse starting from today. The subscription period will end on Thursday at 10:30 am.

The minimum subscription

size is set at 500 bonds per subscriber. Initially, each subscriber will be allocated up to 10,000 bonds, with any remaining quantity distributed on a pro-rata basis. Once listed, investors will have the option to trade the bond on the secondary market at BHB, starting from July 11, 2023.

The BHD 100 million bond has a par value of BHD 1 each and a maturity period of four years, ending on June 27, 2027. Investors can expect an annual fixed return of 6.25%, paid bi-annually on June 27 and December 27 throughout the bond's term.

News in brief

Thailand defends divisive Myanmar junta talks



Thailand yesterday defended hosting talks with the Myanmar junta that have split the regional bloc leading diplomatic efforts to end the chaos engulfing the country since the military seized power. Myanmar has been in turmoil since a February 2021 coup that ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, with more than 3,600 civilians killed in the military's

crackdown on dissent, according to a monitoring group. The generals have been barred from high-level meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional bloc, of which Myanmar is a member. But Thailand's caretaker government, which is dominated by army-linked parties, last week invited junta foreign minister Than Shwe to the informal two-day meeting.

The UN's top expert on rights in

Afghanistan's 'gender apartheid' should be international crime: UN expert

Afghanistan urged countries yesterday to consider making "gender apartheid" an international crime, helping hold the Taliban accountable for its grave and systematic abuses against Afghan women. Since ousting a foreign-backed government in August 2021, the Taliban authorities have imposed an austere sharia law, barring girls from secondary school, pushing women out of many government jobs, preventing them from travelling without a male relative and ordering them to cover up outside the home. "It is imperative that we do not look away," Richard Bennett told the UN Human Rights Council.



Guard fatally stabbed outside Brazil embassy in Tunisia



An attacker fatally stabbed a security guard yesterday outside Brazil's embassy in Tunis before being shot and arrested, the Tunisian Interior Ministry said. The guard "was wounded by a sharp object" wielded "by a person he was questioning over the reason for his presence in the perimeter of the embassy", the ministry said in a statement. He died at a hospital shortly after, interior ministry spokesman Faker Bouzhaya said.

An attacker fatally stabbed a security guard yesterday outside Brazil's

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Elusive megalodon sharks officially declared extinct by scientists



A life size replica of the Megalodon Shark moves across a screen at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles, California

TDI | Agencies

Despite persistent rumors, scientists have definitively refuted the notion that megalodon sharks still roam Earth's oceans today.

The megalodon, an enormous species of shark that dominated the seas from 20 million to 3.6 million years ago, is extinct and has left no credible evidence to support its survival into modern times.

Jack Cooper, a doctoral student at Swansea University and member of the Pimiento Research Group studying marine diversity, has categorically dismissed the notion of megalodon's existence today. He has explained that there is no shred of credible evidence to support the claim and referred to it as "complete nonsense."

The extinction of the megalodon led to cascading consequences, influencing the evolution of marine mammals, including whales, which grew larger in the absence of the apex predator like the megalodon.



The extinction of the megalodon led to cascading consequences, influencing the evolution of marine mammals, including whales, which grew larger in the absence of the apex predator

Moreover, the Mariana Trench primarily hosts microscopic life, incapable of sustaining even a single megalodon, let alone a hidden population.

Moreover, the Mariana Trench primarily hosts microscopic life, incapable of sustaining even a single megalodon, let alone a hidden population.

Xi says China, US 'made progress'

Xi Jinping and Antony Blinken agree to

Meeting between China's president and US secretary of state takes place at time of heightened tension

AFP | Washington

President Xi Jinping said China had "made progress" with the United States yesterday as he hosted Secretary of State Antony Blinken for talks in Beijing.

Blinken's visit is the highest-level trip by a US official to China in nearly five years with ties severely strained between the world's two largest economies.

Speaking following his meeting with Xi, the top US diplomat said he agreed with China's leadership on the need to "stabilise" relations but that he was "clear-eyed" on vast disagreements between



China's President Xi Jinping (R) receives US Secretary of State Antony Blinken prior to their meeting

the two countries.

"Direct engagement and sustained communication at senior levels is the best way to responsibly manage differences and ensure that competition does not veer into conflict," Blinken told reporters.

"I heard the same from my Chinese counterparts. We both agree on the need to stabilise our relationship," he added.

Xi, China's most powerful leader in decades, met Blinken at the capital's Great Hall of the People, Chinese state media and US offi-

cialists said.

"The Chinese side has made our position clear and the two sides have agreed to follow through the common understandings President Biden and I had reached in Bali," Xi told the top US diplomat.

"Two sides have also made progress and reached agreement on some specific issues," he added, without elaborating.

"I hope that Secretary Blinken, through this visit, can make positive contributions to stabilising China-US relations."

The meeting, which lasted just over half an hour, came after Blinken held more than 10 hours of talks over two days with other top officials.

At the ornate Diaoyutai State Guesthouse earlier yesterday, Blinken and China's foreign policy supremo Wang Yi offered polite smiles before talks with their aides, who unlike their bosses wore masks in line with lingering Covid-19 protocols.

Jailed Kremlin critic Navalny goes on trial on 'extremism' charges

AFP | Moscow

Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny went on trial yesterday on "extremism" charges that could see his prison time extended for decades as part of wider government efforts to silence dissent.

The case comes more than a year into Russia's full-scale offensive in Ukraine, which ushered in a new wave of legal proceedings against Moscow's critics, with many now in exile or in jail.

An AFP journalist at the maximum security IK-6 penal colony 250 kilometres (155 miles) east of Moscow where the 47-year-old veteran opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin is being held, reported that proceedings were underway.

Navalny once mobilised massive anti-Kremlin protests but is now serving a nine-year prison sentence on embezzlement



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny (2nd L) is seen on a screen during court hearings

charges that his supporters see as punishment for his political work.

He was arrested in 2021 on his arrival in Moscow from Germany, where he had been recovering from a poisoning attack that he blamed on the Kremlin.

Navalny, who has experienced

major weight loss in prison, now faces up to another 30 years behind bars.

Navalny said that prosecutors had provided him with 3,828 pages describing all the crimes he is alleged to have committed while in prison.

"Although it's clear from the

size of the tomes that I am a sophisticated and persistent criminal, it's impossible to find out what exactly I am accused of," Navalny quipped.

He has been charged with financing extremist activity, publicly inciting extremist activities and "rehabilitating the Nazi ideology," among other offences.

While he has been the target of multiple legal cases, this is the first formally political case against him, his team said.

"He is being tried for his political work," Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said.

In April, Navalny said he was told he would be judged by a military tribunal over "terrorism" charges. He could face life in prison, he said.

Navalny's team says he has been harassed in prison, where he was kept in a "punishment cell" for perceived transgressions.

\$1.5 bn pledged to curb Sudan's slide into 'death and destruction': UN

AFP | Geneva

Donors at a UN conference yesterday pledged close to \$1.5 billion to combat the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and help its neighbours host refugees fleeing the fighting.

Sudan is descending into death and destruction at an unprecedented speed, UN chief Antonio Guterres said as he urged donors to step in and curb the unfolding catastrophe.

The conference comes midway through a three-day ceasefire which appeared to have brought calm to the capital Khartoum, after the failure of earlier truces to ensure secure aid corridors.

"Today, donors have announced close to \$1.5 billion for the humanitarian response to Sudan and the region," the UN's humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said, closing the hybrid



A man walks on a street in Khartoum

pledging conference hosted in Geneva.

"This crisis will require sustained financial support and I hope that we can all keep Sudan at the top of our priorities."

UN refugees chief Filippo Grandi added: "It is very important that now these contributions be clearly allocated and disbursed as quickly as possible

because we're really short of funds in this particular emergency."

More than two months into the fighting, the United Nations is worried that the crisis could spill over and destabilise neighbouring African states.

"The scale and speed of Sudan's descent into death and destruction is unprecedented,"

This crisis will require sustained financial support and I hope that we can all keep Sudan at the top of our priorities

UN'S HUMANITARIAN CHIEF MARTIN GRIFFITHS

UN Secretary-General Guterres told the conference.

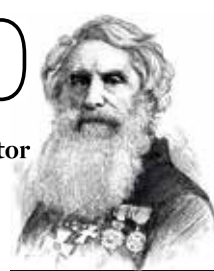
"Without strong international support, Sudan could quickly become a locus of lawlessness, radiating insecurity across the region."

Since April 15, the army, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has been battling the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, after the two fell out in a power struggle.

Battle of the Catalaunian Plains: Roman and Visigoths forces defeat Attila the Hun in north east France, halting Hun invasion of Roman Gaul (exact date disputed)

French Revolution: The Third Estate of the French Estates-General swears the Tennis Court Oath at the Palace of Versailles, swearing not to disband until a new constitution is formed

American inventor Samuel Morse patents his telegraph



1st female PhD from an American University, earned by Caroline Willard Baldwin (in Science) at Cornell University

# 'progress' in Blinken visit

to stabilise US-China ties in Beijing talks



The Chinese side has made our position clear and the two sides have agreed to follow through the common understandings President Biden and I had reached in Bali. Two sides have also made progress and reached agreement on some specific issues

XI JINPING

Away from the cameras, Wang told Blinken that his trip "comes at a critical juncture in China-US relations", according to state broadcaster CCTV.

"It is necessary to make a choice between dialogue and confrontation, cooperation or conflict," he said.

"We must reverse the downward spiral of China-US relations, push for a return to a healthy and stable track, and work together to find a correct way for China and the United States to get along," Wang added.

He also issued a warning on Taiwan, the self-ruling democracy claimed by Beijing.

In the past year, China has launched live-fire military drills twice near the island in anger over meetings between top US lawmakers and Taiwanese leaders.

"On this issue, China has no room to compromise or concede," Wang told Blinken, according to CCTV.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller called the discussion with Wang "candid and productive".

## 'Quarrelling lovers'

US officials have voiced fears that China in the coming years

will try to seize Taiwan and insist that Washington's sales of weapons to the island are meant only to preserve the status quo.

Tensions between China and the United States have soared in recent years over a host of issues including trade, technology and Taiwan, with both President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump calling Beijing the most serious threat to long-term US global primacy.

US officials have said they hope Blinken's visit will bring more stability, if not breakthroughs, between Washington and Beijing.

On the streets of the Chinese capital, Sun Yi, 26, said she hoped Blinken's trip would improve the relationship and that she wanted to visit the United States.

"I think the two countries right now are like quarrelling lovers. Both sides have their own personalities and interests and are not willing to compromise," she said.

## Hopes for new summit

Xi met Biden in November in Bali on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit, raising cautious hopes for a thaw.

Blinken abruptly shelved his trip, which was agreed in Bali, in February after the United States said it detected -- and later shot down -- a Chinese spy balloon hovering over the US mainland.

Biden on Saturday said he did not believe the Chinese leadership was aware of the balloon -- suggesting a disconnect with the military, which has been less eager to restore contacts with the United States.

Biden has kept Trump's hard line on China and in some areas gone further, including banning exports of high-end semiconductors to the rising power.

But Biden has also voiced hope for limited cooperation in areas such as climate and for a new in-person meeting with Xi.

## Uganda arrests 20 'collaborators' over horrific school massacre

AFP | Kampala

Ugandan police said yesterday that 20 people had been arrested for suspected collaboration with the notorious militia group blamed for last week's grisly attack on a school near the border with Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Twenty arrests have been made of suspected collaborators, suspected ADF collaborators," police spokesman Fred Engata told a press conference, referring to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) based in the DRC.

He said in a separate statement that those arrested included the head teacher and the director of the Lhubirha Secondary School in Mpondwe, western Uganda, that came under attack late on Friday.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Be the kind of person who lifts others up. A kind word, a helping hand, or a simple smile can make all the difference in someone's day. Anon.

@DrTedros

02



Had a candid, substantive, and constructive conversation with People's Republic of China President Xi Jinping in Beijing today. We discussed a range of important issues, including the need to manage our relationship responsibly.

@SecBlinken

03



We are in it together, for the long haul. I spoke to @ZelenskyyUa ahead of the London Conference on the reconstruction of Ukraine. We discussed the EU's financial support beyond 2023 and the progress made by Ukraine in its reforms.

@vonderleyen

04



The world must assist to meet the humanitarian needs in #Sudan. In the pledging event co-hosted by the EU, #TeamEurope committed over €500 million, including €190 million by the @EU\_Commission. Unconditional and unhindered access to those in need remains crucial.

@JanezLenarcic

## N. Korea ruling party slams failed satellite launch in key meeting



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (C) attending the 8th Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK)

AFP | Seoul

North Korea's ruling party slammed a recent failed satellite launch in a high-level meeting, state media reported yesterday, "bitterly" criticising the officials responsible.

North Korea attempted to put its first military spy satellite into orbit on May 31, but the projectile and its payload crashed into the sea shortly after launch due to what Pyongyang said was a rocket failure.

In the report from the meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the ruling party "bitterly criticised the officials who irresponsibly conducted the preparations for satellite launch" and demanded a probe into the "serious" failure, state-run KCNA said.

The committee reiterated a pledge to soon successfully launch its spy satellite, which Pyongyang has previously said it needs in order to counterbalance the growing US military presence in the region.

The May 31 launch was denounced by the United States, South Korea and Japan, which said it violated United Nations resolutions barring the nuclear-armed country from any tests using ballistic missile technology.

Analysts have said there is significant technological overlap between the development of inter-

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**The committee reiterated a pledge to soon successfully launch its spy satellite, which Pyongyang has previously said it needs in order to counterbalance the growing US military presence in the region**

continental ballistic missiles and space launch capabilities.

Along with the attempted satellite launch, North Korea has conducted multiple sanctions-defying launches this year, including test-firing its most powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Relations between North and South Korea are at one of their lowest points, with diplomacy stalled and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un calling for increased weapons development, including of tactical nuclear weapons.

South Korea said in recent days it had successfully retrieved a large chunk of the crashed rocket from the seabed.

## Small sub used to tour Titanic wreck is missing: US

AFP | Washington

A submersible vessel used to take tourists to see the wreckage of the Titanic in the North Atlantic has gone missing, triggering a search-and-rescue operation, the US Coast Guard said yesterday.

It was not immediately known how many people are on the vessel, operated by a company called OceanGate Expeditions.

"Yes, we're searching for it," said an official from the US Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center in Boston.

On its website OceanGate Expedition says an expedition to the Titanic site was "currently underway."

In a statement quoted by CBS News and other media outlets, OceanGate Expeditions said: "Our entire focus is on the crewmembers in the submersible and their families."



ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) Jason Jr. peers inside Titanic (file photo)

It was not known if any tourists were onboard. The Guardian newspaper said there were five people on the vessel.

OceanGate was not immediately reachable.

In the statement it added that it was "deeply thankful for the extensive assistance we have received from several government agencies and deep sea companies in our efforts to reestablish contact with the

submersible."

The Canadian Coast Guard said it is taking part in the search effort with a fixed wing plane and a ship sent to the search area.

The Titanic hit an iceberg and sank in 1912 during its maiden voyage from England to New York with 2,224 passengers and crew on board. More than 1,500 people died in the tragedy.

## More pay vicar?: Church of England clergy make first wage demand

AFP | London

The blessing of the Lord may bring spiritual wealth, but eternal riches are no consolation for Church of England priests facing an earthly cost-of-living crisis.

Yesterday, clergy and lay officers of the church headed by King Charles III submitted their first demand for a payrise since the church was founded in 1534.

Their union, Unite, said they want a 9.5-percent increase in the annual stipend that priests receive from next year.

"Like all workers, Church of England clergy are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis," said Unite general secretary Sharon Graham.

"While many will argue their work is a vocation, the simple truth is that on their current rewards they are among the



Members of the church attend the Church of England Synod, at Church House, in London

working poor.

"The Church of England has billions in the bank and can fully afford to pay its clergy the modest increase in their stipend they are seeking.

"The clergy deliver a clear message for the Church of faith in the hereafter. Unite is fight-

ing for a better deal for them in the here and now."

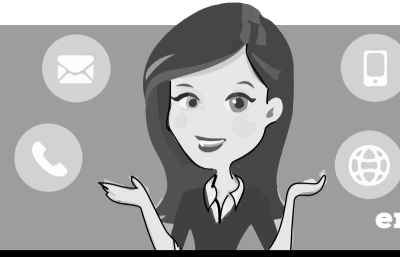
Unite's Church of England Clergy and Employee Advocates (CEECA) branch will submit proposals to the church's Remunerations and Conditions of Service Committee, which advises on stipends.

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





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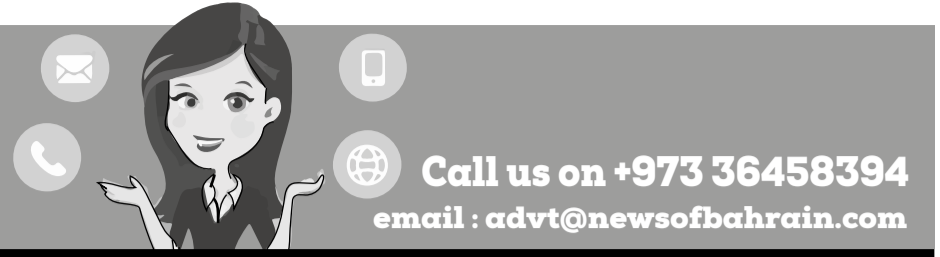
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## Oman shock Ireland in Cricket World Cup qualifier



Oman's Mohammad Nadeem plays a shot

AFP | Bulawayo

Cricketing minnows Oman pulled off a massive upset by beating Ireland by five wickets in their opening World Cup qualifier in Bulawayo yesterday, the Gulf sultanate's first-ever victory over a Test nation in an ODI.

The other Group B match saw Sri Lanka crush the United Arab Emirates by 175 runs.

George Dockrell hit 91 not out and Harry Tector 52 as Ireland reached a respectful 281 for seven wickets in their allotted 50 overs.

But they hadn't counted on the fighting qualities of an Omani side for whom opener Kashyap Prajapati hit 72, while skipper Zeeshan Maqsood pitched in with 59, Aqib Ilyas 52 and Mohammad Nadeem 46 not out.

A triumphant Maqsood said it was an "honour" to have beaten Ireland, eventually by five wickets with 11 balls remaining.

"If we continue like this, some more results will be in our favour. It was a collective and combined performance, which we need to beat a good side. We came here to go there (to India) and play."

Ireland captain Andy Balbirnie called the defeat "very

**"If we continue like this, some more results will be in our favour. It was a collective and combined performance, which we need to beat a good side. We came here to go there (to India) and play"**

ZEESHAN MAQSOOD

disappointing".

"We felt like we had a pretty good score," he said. "280 in a one-day game is pretty good. They were hard to bowl to at times. We felt right in the game.

"Oman's win didn't take us by surprise... it's a long tournament. We need to get back into it pretty quickly."

The second Group B game was much more academic, Sri Lanka racking up a massive 355 for six wickets off their 50 overs.

There were four half-centuries thanks to Kusal Mendis (78), Sadeera Samarawickrama (73), Pathum Nissanka (57) and Dimuth Karunaratne (52), while Charith Asalanka chipped in with 48 not out.

## Verstappen cruises in Montreal to match Senna and give Red Bull 100th win

AFP | Montreal

World champion Max Verstappen drew alongside Ayrton Senna in the Formula One record books with his 41st victory on Sunday when he drove his Red Bull to a flawless triumph at the Canadian Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old defending double champion and series leader led from lights to flag as he came home 9.570 seconds ahead of Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso with Lewis Hamilton finishing third for Mercedes for his team's 100th F1 win.

It was Verstappen's second win at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, his sixth in eight races this year and his 41st overall, leaving him behind only four-time champions Alain Prost (51) and Sebastian Vettel (53), seven-time champions Michael Schumacher (91) and Hamilton (103).

"It's amazing to get the team's 100th win here. I never expected to be on these kind of numbers for myself so we have to just keep enjoying it and work-



Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates after winning

**"It's amazing to get the team's 100th win here. I never expected to be on these kind of numbers for myself so we have to just keep enjoying it and working hard, but this is a great day for us"**

MAX VERSTAPPEN

ing hard, but this is a great day for us," said Verstappen.

For Red Bull, this comprehensive victory was their eighth this year and 10th in succession - statistics that make the prospect of an invincible season appear ever more likely.

Alonso's podium was his sixth of the season as he continued to deliver competitive and revived form, aged 41.

Alonso said he was managing

BETTER YOU KNOW

For Red Bull, this comprehensive victory was their eighth this year and 10th in succession - statistics that make the prospect of an invincible season appear ever more likely

## 'We need him' - Croatia coach asks Modric to postpone retirement

AFP | Zagreb

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic on Monday appealed to star midfielder Luka Modric to stay amid growing speculation the captain will retire from international football.

Dalic's comments came a day after Croatia lost 5-4 on penalties to Spain in the Nations League final in Rotterdam.

"We need him, this is a generation that still did not complete the job," Dalic told reporters after returning to Zagreb.

The Real Madrid player famously led Croatia to a second-place finish at the 2018 World Cup and third place at last year's tournament in Qatar.



Croatia's Luka Modric (L) and coach Zlatko Dalic talk during a training session (file photo)

Croatia had been chasing their first ever major trophy against a Spain team Modric, 37, knows inside out.

On Monday, front pages across Croatia ran pictures of the dejected midfielder following the nail-biting defeat.

"It was rather emotional for him yesterday. Let him rest and he will tell us what he thinks," said Dalic.

On Sunday, Modric said he had already made a "clear decision" about his international career but did not elaborate, according to reports in local media.

"I will not announce it today," said Modric, while leaving the stadium in Rotterdam.

# Argentina beat Indonesia 2-0 without Messi in Jakarta friendly

● **Leandro Paredes and Cristian Romero score for Argentina**

AFP | Jakarta

World Cup winners Argentina beat a spirited Indonesia 2-0 in a lucrative friendly in Jakarta yesterday without global superstar Lionel Messi.

Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Leandro Paredes opened the scoring after 38 minutes, stepping forward and hitting a rocket into the top corner after staunch defending from the home side.

Messi, the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner and new Inter Miami signing, pulled out of the game after weeks of hype in



Argentina's Nicolas Ivan Gonzalez (L) and Indonesia's Asnawi Mangkualam Bahar fight for the ball

Indonesia but that didn't stop a raucous crowd in the Gelora Bung Karno stadium.

The 149th-ranked home team were met by roars from a crowd of more than 60,000 that formed

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Argentina were without several other first-choice regulars in Jakarta, including Juventus midfielder Angel Di Maria and Benfica defender Nicolas Otamendi

a sea of red shirts.

Argentina applied pressure from the kick-off, dominating the ball as Indonesia weathered the storm for the first half an hour.

Man City star Julian Alvarez could have grabbed two goals after Indonesia goalkeeper Ernando Ari Sutaryadi and naturalised centre-back Jordi Amat were both caught on the ball in their own box.

Wingers Nicolas Gonzalez and Facundo Buonanotte also drew saves from the Indonesian keeper before the opening goal.

Argentinian keeper Emiliano Martinez had his own work to do, making a smart low save at the end of the first half before tipping a looping header over the bar as Indonesia pressed for an equaliser.

But Argentina made their pressure count, denting any Indonesian hopes on 55 minutes when Tottenham defender Cristian Romero lost his man to thump home a header.

Argentina were without sev-

eral other first-choice regulars in Jakarta, including Juventus midfielder Angel Di Maria and Benfica defender Nicolas Otamendi.

They beat Australia in another friendly in Beijing last week, with Messi scoring the quickest goal of his career in a 2-0 win.

Bringing Argentina to Jakarta for the first senior international match between the two sides cost the Indonesian football association as much as \$5 million, according to local media.

Indonesians did not get a glimpse of Argentina's modern-day superstar Messi but they were happy to see the world champions play their hometown heroes.

"If Messi came, we would be more excited," said Fahri Satria, a 30-year-old tourism worker.

"But it's okay."

## Bahrain face Sweden in handball worlds opener

● **Kingdom's junior national handball team also set to face Slovenia on Thursday, Greenland on Friday**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-21 national handball team take on their counterparts from Sweden this afternoon in their opening Group F fixture of the 24th IHF Men's Junior World Championship 2023, which gets underway today co-hosted by Germany

and Greece.

The game is scheduled for a 3.45pm start, Bahrain time, and it will be played at the Ano Liosia Olympic Hall in Athens.

It is the first of three fixtures in this stage for the Bahrainis, who have an 18-player squad in the tournament.

Their next game will be on Thursday against Slovenia at 11am, Bahrain time, and then they complete their preliminary round campaign against Greenland on Friday at 1.15pm.

The junior nationals are hoping to be among the top two teams in their group in order to move on to the tournament's

main round.

There are 32 teams in all competing in the worlds. They have been divided into eight pools of four for the opening stage.

Group A features France, Poland, Croatia and the US. Group B comprises Algeria, Germany, Tunisia and Libya. Group C consists of Portugal, Brazil, Kuwait and Costa Rica; while Group D includes Spain, Faroe Islands, Japan and Angola.

Group E features Hungary, Denmark, Argentina and Norway; while Group G comprises Serbia, Morocco, Chile and Iceland. The field is completed by Egypt, Greece, Cuba and Saudi Arabia

in Group H.

The Bahrainis are coached by Essam Abdulla, and the roster includes Abdulla Abdulkarim, Komail Fouad, Sadiq Jaafar, Husain Ali, Mahmood Al Khunaizi, Mustafa Al Hayki, Ahmed Al Zain, Hassan Khalil, Yasser Qambar, Ali Madan, Ali Redha, Ali Al Asheeri, Hesham Ahmed, Mohammed Hameed, Ali Jameel, Ali Mahmood, Ahmed Redha and Jassim Khamis.

This year's junior worlds is only the third time Bahrain are competing. They previously also took part in the 1995 and 2019 editions, both times finishing 17th overall.

## Gundogan toasts 'party machine' Grealish on Germany return

AFP | London

Manchester City captain Ilkay Gundogan admitted yesterday he did not have the stamina to keep up with "party machine" teammate Jack Grealish after his side celebrated claiming the treble.

Speaking upon his return to the German national team ahead of Tuesday's international friendly clash with Columbia in home town Gelsenkirchen, Gundogan said the 27-year-old Englishman's antics did not come as a surprise.

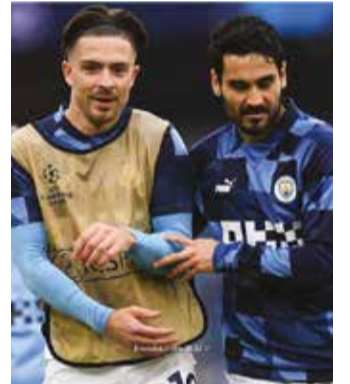
"You've all seen what a party machine Jack is," Gundogan told a press conference in Frankfurt.

"It wasn't surprising to me. He put everyone on his back and just carried us along."

The 32-year-old former Borussia Dortmund player added: "I can't manage two nights in a row. I needed a little break and a rest."

Pep Guardiola's team won a historic treble of the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last season -- becoming just the second English side to manage the feat.

Gundogan, who is out of contract in the summer, said "no decision had been made"



Manchester City's Jack Grealish (L) and Ilkay Gundogan warm up ahead of a match (file photo)

**“You’ve all seen what a party machine Jack is. It wasn’t surprising to me. He put everyone on his back and just carried us along”**

ILKAY GUNDOGAN

yet on his future, amid links to a move to Barcelona or even a return to Dortmund.

The midfielder said while talks had taken place with Dortmund "the probability was not very high" of a return, while admitting Barcelona "is a very beautiful city".

## You know where Mbappe wants to go: Guardiola

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola indicated Manchester City would not move for Paris Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe.

"You know where he wants to go," said the City coach at a golf tournament in Spain yesterday, alluding to Spanish side Real Madrid.

The PSG forward has a contract until 2024 but has told his club he will not extend it, and also plans to stay for one more season, meaning he can leave for free next summer.

Mbappe, 24, turned down Madrid to stay with PSG when Los Blancos tried to sign him last summer.

Guardiola, speaking at the Legends Trophy tournament in Emporda, in his native Catalonia, also said City were battling with his former side Barcelona



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola (L) gestures with Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe (file photo)

over midfielder Ilkay Gundogan.

The German midfielder is out of contract with City and Guardiola wants him to stay, but Barcelona are trying to lure him to La Liga.

"I know that Barcelona

are interested -- and City are too," said Guardiola, whose side won a historic treble of the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last season.

"I hope he stays with us. If he goes to Barca it would be an

extraordinary signing. We're fighting for him to stay.

"I know that Barca want him, that Xavi has called him many times. If he signs for Barca, I'll tell him that he will have a great time there."

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Mbappe has a contract until 2024 but has told his club he will not extend it, and also plans to stay for one more season, meaning he can leave for free next summer

## Real Madrid loan Spain forward Joselu from Espanyol

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid confirmed the arrival of Spain striker Joselu on loan from relegated Espanyol for next season on Monday.

"Real Madrid and Espanyol

have agreed the loan of Joselu, who will be at the club for next season with an option to buy at the end of it," said Madrid in a statement.

The 33-year-old forward has scored three goals in four appear-

ances for his country and helps Madrid reinforce a depleted attack.

Karim Benzema, Eden Hazard, Marco Asensio and Mariano Diaz have left, leaving room for major reinforcements.



Joselu

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## HH Shaikh Nasser hails HH Shaikh Khalid's efforts



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the meeting

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports commended the efforts of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee and the working party, praising the accomplishments made recently by the Bahraini clubs, including the first-place victory

of Manama Club in the West Asia Super League and Al Najma Club's triumph in the 25th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship.

HH Shaikh Nasser's remarks came while chairing the first meeting of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports after its restructuring, in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and Their Highnesses and Excellencies members of the Council.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa welcomed the new members, congratulating them on their appointment to the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports,



Officials attend the meeting

and wishing them all success in their national mission. His Highness also thanked the previous council members who performed their duties to the fullest and contributed to the development of the youth and sports sectors.

His Highness praised the National Youth Empowerment Strategy, which covered the most important pillars of youth work and priorities aimed at developing the role of young people through a number of projects that sharpen their skills.

His Highness hailed the new "Masari" (My Path) project, which provides promising opportunities for young people to learn, increase their knowledge, find job opportunities for

youth, and support the education system in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Besides, His Highness explained the details of the project and the participating countries in the student exchange and educational missions for young people.

The council was briefed on the latest developments of the existing projects of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, which will be implemented during the current period, especially the Youth City 2030 project, honouring the contributors and participants in the project. It also reviewed the project's details, the identity of the city, and the workshops that will be organised for the young people of the two categories benefiting from the project.

## Broad revives England's victory bid as Khawaja holds firm for Australia



Nathan Lyon celebrates with team-mates after taking the wicket of Joe Root

AFP | London

England's Stuart Broad took two late wickets to pile pressure on Australia as the opening Ashes Test at Edgbaston headed for a dramatic finish.

Australia were making steady progress at 78-1 in pursuit of a victory target of 281 when veteran paceman Broad removed both Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith -- the world's two top-ranked Test batsmen -- to leave the Ashes holders 89-3.

At stumps yesterday, the World Test champions were 107-3, still needing a further 174 runs to win on Tuesday's final day.

Usman Khawaja, who ended his decade-long wait for an Ashes hundred in England with 141 in Australia's first-innings 386, was 34 not out.

And that meant the left-handed opener was set to become only the second Australian, after Kim Hughes against England at Lord's in 1980, to bat on all five days of a Test.

## Kyrgios withdraws from Wimbledon warm-up Halle tournament



Nick Kyrgios

AFP | London

Australian Nick Kyrgios said he "tried everything" to be fit after withdrawing from the Wimbledon warm-up tournament in Halle yesterday due to a knee issue.

The 28-year-old, who lost the 2022 Wimbledon final in four sets to Novak Djokovic, had surgery to repair a meniscus injury in his left knee in January.

"I tried everything here in Halle to be fit over the past few days, but I had to make the decision to pull out," Kyrgios said yesterday.

"When I play, I want to put in a performance like I did here last year when I was in the semi-finals, but that just wasn't possible," the Australian added.

Kyrgios, ranked 31, had been due to take on Italian Lorenzo Sonego on Tuesday morning in the German grass-court tournament, one of the most important lead-up events for Wimbledon, which begins on July 3.

Kyrgios complained of restricted movement after his first-round loss to Wu Yibing in Stuttgart earlier this month.

# Manama to play in FIBA Intercontinental Cup

Champions of first-ever FIBA West Asia Super League get invite for global event, to be held in Singapore

● This year's FIBA Intercontinental Cup set for September 21 to 24

● Official draw for tournament's preliminary group stage set for today

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Manama Club, as first-ever champions of the FIBA West Asia Super League (WASL), are set to compete in the 33rd FIBA Intercontinental Cup.

This was confirmed yesterday by global basketball's governing body, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

This prestigious competition, which is also known as the FIBA Club World Cup, is endorsed by FIBA and the NBA.

This year's event is scheduled to be held September 21 to 24 in Singapore, and a Bahraini team is set to take the hardwood in the competition for the first time.

Manama are one of six professional basketball clubs in the fray. The others are Basketball Champions League winners Telekom Baskets Bonn from Germany, Basketball Champions



Manama players celebrate their victory in the FIBA WASL final with His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa on Saturday (File photo)

League Americas winners Sesi Franca from Brazil, Basketball Africa League champions Al Ahly from Egypt, Chinese Basketball Association representatives Zhejiang Golden Bulls, and the NBA G League Ignite.

According to FIBA, Manama have received an invitation to complete the six-team line-up, having won the FIBA West Asia Super League.

The official draw for the tournament takes place today at the ArtScience Museum in Singapore.

International basketball stars Vlade Divac from Serbia, Yi Jianlian from China and Ian Mahinmi from France will be present.

All three men have represented their countries at the FIBA Basketball World Cup over the

years, with Divac winning the competition twice.

At the draw, teams will be divided into two groups for the FIBA Intercontinental Cup's preliminary round. Each team will have two games in this group stage, with those fixtures taking place between September 21 and 23.

At the end of this stage, a last day of competition will be held



Manama are one of six clubs from around the world taking part. The others are the Telekom Baskets Bonn from Germany, Sesi Franca from Brazil, Al Ahly from Egypt, Zhejiang Golden Bulls from China and the NBA G League Ignite from the US

on September 24, with the top teams from their respective groups squaring off in the final.

There will also be a game for third place between the teams that were runners-up in the groups, while the teams that were ranked third will battle to determine fifth place on the event's final ranking.

Manama captured the gold medals in the inaugural edition of the FIBA WASL after defeating Kuwait SC 67-59 in the final of the FIBA WASL Final Eight, which was held in Dubai.