



Zelensky meets G7 as Ukraine wins access to F-16s
 Hiroshima, Japan

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy huddled with G7 leaders on a landmark visit to Hiroshima yesterday, securing long-sought access to US fighter jets and mounting a diplomatic offensive.

Zelensky said the jets would not help the war effort immediately, but the decision was "a great result".

"I'm very happy," he said, as he held a string of meetings with G7 leaders, including those from Italy, Britain, France and Germany.

"It really will help our society, our people to save houses, families."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Zelensky for the first time since the war began and offered some measure of support.

"I understand your pain and the pain of Ukrainian citizens very well," Modi said. "I can assure you that to resolve this India and me personally, will do whatever we can do," Modi said.

Zelensky "thanked India for supporting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our country", according to Ukrainian officials.

Bahrain resumes Lebanon diplomatic representation

TDT | Manama

Bahrain announced yesterday its decision to resume diplomatic representation at the level of ambassadors with Lebanon. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement stating that the decision aims to strengthen the brotherly relations, fostering closer ties between people and promoting mutual respect. This decision is in line with the principles outlined in the Charter of the Arab League and the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961.

HM King returns from Saudi



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa returned to Bahrain yesterday after leading the kingdom's delegation to the 32nd Arab Summit, which took place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The departure ceremony at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah was attended by high-ranking Saudi Royals and officials, who bid farewell to King Hamad.

Air strikes shake Sudan, Qatar embassy attacked

Residents report heavy fighting

Burhan names three allies to top jobs

TDT | agencies

Air strikes and artillery exchanges shook the Sudanese capital yesterday and armed men ransacked the Qatari embassy as the country's warring generals kept up their struggle for control.

Khartoum residents said that heavy fighting raged despite repeated international calls for a humanitarian truce.

The area around the state television building in Khartoum's sister city Omdurman was one of the sites bombarded, witnesses said.

The power struggle between regular army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy



Soldiers of the Sudanese army stand near their vehicle on a road blocked with bricks in Khartoum



The embassies of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have also come under attack in recent weeks.

turned rival Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who heads the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), erupted into fighting on April 15.

The conflict has killed hundreds of people, most of them civilians, and displaced more than one million.

The United Nations has

warned of a fast-deteriorating humanitarian situation in Africa's third-largest country, where one in three people already relied on aid before the war.

On Friday, Burhan sacked Daglo, giving his title of vice president of the ruling Sovereign Council to former rebel leader Malik Agar, and appointed three allies to top jobs in the military.

A former rebel leader who signed a peace deal with Khartoum authorities in 2020, Agar said in a statement Saturday he was determined to try to "end the war" and press for negotiations.

He also addressed Daglo directly saying "Sudan's stability can only be re-established by a professional and unified army".

The integration of the RSF into the regular armed forces has been the main bone of contention between Daglo and Burhan.

Storming of Qatar Embassy flagrant violation: Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Bahrain issued a strong condemnation yesterday regarding the storming and looting of the Qatari embassy in Khartoum.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement describing the incident as a flagrant violation of international agreements and norms that prohibit the desecration of diplomatic buildings and missions.

The ministry reiterated Bahrain's unwavering position, urging an immediate halt to all acts of violence and vandalism in Sudan. It emphasised the importance of ensuring comprehensive protection for diplomatic missions and civilian facilities, as well as the urgent need to identify and bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice.

Bahrain also called upon all parties in Sudan to refrain from further escalation and instead engage in peaceful dialogue and negotiations to resolve the ongoing crisis.

Forbidden act

FBI routinely accessed Americans' private comms: court

Washington, United States

The FBI frequently abused a restricted database of Americans' personal communications, looking up the names of crime victims and participants in Black Lives Matter protests and the 2021 Capitol assault, documents released Friday showed.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation accessed the database 278,000 times in recent years with often no justification, according to declassified opinions from the secretive Foreign Surveillance Intelligence Court.

The database includes private emails, text messages and other communications that the

National Security Agency says it sweeps up when it is spying on foreigners.

Although FBI is supposed to tap the NSA database only when investigating a foreign intelligence issue, the court opinions showed they used it casually for domestic cases.

Agents ran random searches

in domestic drug and gang investigations, the 2020 protest over the police murder of African American George Floyd, and the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol by Donald Trump supporters.

In one case an agent ran a query into the database on 19,000 donors to a congressional elec-

tion campaign. In each of the cases, there was no foreign intelligence or domestic crime justification for the FBI accessing the database, the intelligence court said.

A number of lawmakers say it needs revision to better protect personal information of Americans.



Bahrain's 2024 Arab summit a catalyst for joint Arab action, top leaders affirm

TDI | Manama

The 33rd Arab Summit, set to take place in Bahrain, will serve as a significant boost to collective Arab action, said Speaker of the Arab Parliament, Adel bin Abdulrahman Al-Asoomi.

Top officials on Friday has announced Bahrain and Iraq as the host of next two round of Arab League Summit.

"We are pleased to express that we will welcome you all to the Kingdom of Bahrain, for the upcoming Arab summit meetings in 2024," His Majesty King Hamad said in his address to the league.

HM King was followed by Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al Sudani, who said Baghdad would host the 2025 summit.

"I extend an invitation to convene the 2025 Arab Summit in Baghdad, which looks forward to embracing our Arab brothers in Mesopotamia," Al Sudani said.

Hailing the decision, Al-Asoomi stressed His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's unwavering commitment to foster Arab cooperation and solidarity.

In this regard, the speaker also commended the honourable positions taken by His Majesty in defence of Arab causes.

Al-Asoomi further affirmed that the Bahraini government, under the leadership of His Roy-



The Kingdom's hosting of the pan-Arab summit is in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's unwavering approach regarding the support for Arab cooperation and solidarity at all levels

SPEAKER OF THE ARAB PARLIAMENT, ADEL BIN ABDULRAHMAN AL-ASOOMI

al Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, will diligently prepare for the successful organisation of the 2024

Arab Summit. He stressed that His Majesty the King will spare no effort in supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of

Arab mechanisms in addressing the challenges faced by the Arab Nation.

In a separate statement, Information Minister Dr Ramzan bin

Abdulla Al-Noaimi, highlighted the decision of Bahrain to host the 2024 summit as a testament to the strong commitment of HM King in supporting joint Arab action.

The minister said the choice showcases the King's dedication to uniting Arab nations, particularly in the face of challenges spanning various domains, including security and the economy. Dr Al-Noaimi said the decision also reaffirms the Arab League Council's confidence in Bahrain's significant diplomatic role in fostering Arab unity and driving initiatives that advance Arab interests, security, stability, and development.

Furthermore, he underlined the Gulf Cooperation Council countries' contribution to international efforts in addressing climate change issues by hosting the prominent global event, COP 28, in the UAE.

In another statement, Shura Council Chairman, Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, said that HM King Hamad's participation in Jeddah Summit proves the kingdom's ongoing support for all efforts exerted by Arab countries to build on the achievements of the Arab action process. He expressed pride in the Kingdom's hosting of the 33rd Arab Summit, noting that the 2024 summit will enrich joint Arab action. He further expressed pride in all-inclusive topics included in HM the King's address.



The decision to convene the upcoming Arab Summit in the Kingdom confirms the belief of the Arab League Council in the pioneering diplomatic role of Bahrain, under HM the King's leadership, in strengthening Arab cohesion and adopting initiatives that achieve Arab interests, security, stability and development

INFORMATION MINISTER, DR. RAMZAN BIN ABDULLA AL-NOAIMI

ILA's Anand Bazaar celebrates India's cultural diversity, turns out a big hit

Zahra Ayaz
TDI | Manama

The "Anand Bazaar," a vibrant fun fair organised by the Indian Ladies Association (ILA) at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam, turned out to be a massive hit, attracting a large number of people who were eager to enjoy India's rich cultural heritage. The event featured a wide range of exhibitors, with stalls dedicated to garments, accessories, wellness, health, and food stealing the spotlight.

The event was inaugurated by Monika Srivastava, the wife of the Indian Ambassador, in the presence of Piyush Srivastava, the Indian Ambassador, who served as the Chief Guest. Sharada Ajith, the president of ILA, was also in attendance at the ceremony. Dignitaries, including Yusuf Lori, the director of information and follow-up in the Capital Governorate, was present.

Established in 1956, the ILA has been actively promoting Indian culture and fostering community bonds. The Anand Bazaar held their first fun event in 1973. This year's fair had diverse products ranging from Bahraini and Indian handicrafts to clothing, jewellery, cuisine, books, skincare products, games, and shipping services.



In pictures, the inauguration and other events at the Bazaar held at Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam



Highlights of the fair was the artwork created by Special needs Children and kept on display by SNEHA, a recreation centre run by Indian Ladies Association for children with special needs.

Ankitha, one of the sellers at the fair, expressed her joy and excitement to *The Daily Tribune*.

"I am overjoyed, and this is a wonderful chance to show off Lucknow's traditional attire," she said, adding that her stall had various accessories, including the traditional Lucknow chikankari kurtis.

Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Center and Al Rabeeh Medical Center provided special prices on full-body check-ups, blood sugar monitors, GPS devices, and doctor consultations, ensuring the well-being of fair attendees.

Many talented house-wives delighted visitors with their homemade food. Jayshree expressed her delight at being able to showcase their skills and relished the chance to step out of the house. "It is nice to get out of the house and showcase what we can do," she said.

Adding to the lively atmosphere, volunteers Pragati, Neelam, Suchita, Prabha, and Minal organised entertaining games like "ring the object," "lucky dip," and "seven up and seven down" for attendees to enjoy.

On the road to electric future

Bahrain signs deal with Deloitte & Touche to develop EV strategy, enhance EV penetration, end fossil fuel reliance

● The deal to promote EV spread in right and sustainable way

● To reduce full reliance on fossil fuel and curb pollution

● Bahrain aims Net Zero by 2060

TDT | Manama

Electric vehicles are the future.

Yesterday, the Kingdom of Bahrain affirmed this strategy yet again, by signing a deal with a top international agency to develop an electric vehicle strategy, voicing strong commitment to reduce overall fossil fuel dependency.

Yasser bin Ibrahim Humaidan, the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, said the deal with Deloitte & Touche will ensure this strategy as well as the fast and widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).

Deloitte is tasked with developing a multi-pronged approach for the Kingdom to drive its EV penetration in a controlled and sustainable way.

The aim is to increase the deployment of renewable en-



Officials during the deal signing

ergy (solar) as an upstream source of electricity, reduce the overall fossil fuel dependency and consumption, reduce pollution, and cost-of-ownership for all the stakeholders; government, industries and citizens.

Humaidan said the strategy further brings into spotlight Bahrain's net zero and carbon emissions targets alongside its

battle against greenhouse effect and climate change.

Bahrain targets the reduction of carbon emissions by 30% through decarbonisation and energy efficiency initiatives, in addition to

reaching Net Zero by 2060.

"This agreement serves to strengthen Bahrain's efforts in this direction," the minister said pointing to the compatibility of its EV plan with that of the countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Humaidan pointed out that Bahrain will establish the necessary infrastructure for electric cars by providing charging stations in several strategic locations, in addition to setting policies and regulations.

Terming energy sector as a key contributor to the comprehensive development march led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the minister also affirmed the continuous follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in achieving the sustainable

development goals 2030. The move come close on the heels of the announcement of a deal by Gauss Auto Bahrain to set up the Kingdom's first electric car factory to produce a range of vehicles including two- and three-wheel electric tri-cycles and passenger vehicles.



A cutaway display of the battery and engine system of one of Nissan's electric vehicles (EV) at the global headquarters of Japanese automaker Nissan Motor in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture.



According to International Energy Agency, the global EV fleet in 2021 consumed about 50 TWh of electricity, which accounts for less than 0.5% of current total final electricity consumption worldwide. The use of EVs displaced around 0.3 Mb/d of oil in 2021. EVs would need to displace more than 7 Mb/d of oil in 2030 to be in step with the Net Zero Scenario.

Sales in 2021 were the highest in China at 3.3 million (tripling 2020 sales), followed by Europe with 2.3 million sold in 2021 (up from 1.4 million in 2020). In the United States, electric car sales doubled their market share to 4.5% in 2021, reaching 630 000 sold. Across emerging markets, electric car sales more than doubled, but sales volumes remain low. In the first half of 2022 sales have further increased, we estimate that the global EV sales share will be around 13%.



Trial to begin in trafficking, sexual exploitation case; suspects lured victim with job offers

● Victim said she fell into the trap, enticed by job advertisements

● Court to hear the case on Monday

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court will tomorrow commence its hearing in the case of two suspects charged with human trafficking and sexual



exploitation, said the head of the Trafficking in Persons Prosecution Office.

The case was referred for trial by the Public Prosecution after the completion of its investigation.

According to the case files, the police initiated an investigation based on a report received from the embassy of a foreign country regarding two men who were sexually exploiting a woman in confinement.

Representative picture

Subsequently, during investigation, the victim informed investigators that she fell into the trap set by the suspects, enticed by job advertisements they had posted online.

The suspects offered her a job in the Kingdom, which led her to travel to Bahrain. However, upon arrival, the suspects took her to an apartment, confined her, and coerced her into serving customers as a means to cover her travel and visa expenses.

Struggling with immense debt, the woman stated to prosecutors that she was compelled to

comply with the demands of her captors.

The Chief Prosecutor mentioned that the Public Prosecution promptly initiated an investigation upon receiving an alert about the incident.

Prosecutors further confirmed that they documented the victim's statements and arranged for her transfer to a shelter provided by the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons.

Meanwhile, the suspects were detained in custody following a formal investigation.

Court dismisses lawsuit seeking removal of boundary wall over 10 cm encroachment

TDT | Manama

The Eighth Civil High Court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a landowner against his neighbour over a 10 cm construction encroachment onto his property.

The defendant argued that the overlap was unintentional.

The dispute arose when the

landowner discovered the encroachment during a site-inspection for the construction of an additional floor on his building. The contractor, during a ground inspection, alerted the owner about the encroachment.

The landowner claimed that that he made a verbal request to remove the encroachment, but the defendant refused to

comply, leading to initiate legal proceedings.

An expert appointed by the landowner further determined that the defendant had encroached on an area measuring 10 centimeters by 8.5 in length, equivalent to approximately 0.85 square meters. Specifically, the encroachment affected the separation wall, necessitating the re-

moval of the remaining portion of the wall situated between the two properties.

In the lawsuit, the landowner sought compensation in various forms, including a demand for payment of 13,800 dinars for the use of the encroached area. The requested compensation also covered construction delay costs (760 dinars), legal interest

(10%), expert fees (300 dinars), attorney's fees (550 dinars), and a precautionary amount (230 dinars) representing the value of the space encroached upon by the defendant.

In its ruling, the court clarified the plaintiff has filed to prove that the defendant's actions were deliberate and in bad faith, while also terming the en-

croachment as minimal in size. The court emphasised that if the defendant agrees to remove the encroachment without causing any harm to the plaintiff's property, the request for removal becomes baseless. Consequently, the court decided to dismiss the removal request in light of the evidence and legal considerations.

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the winners of the 27th Bahrain Quran Grand Prize were recognized in a special ceremony. The event, held at the Gulf Hotel Convention Centre, was attended by SCW Vice President Dr Shaikha Mariam bint Hassan Al Khalifa on behalf of HRH Princess Sabeeka. The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry, in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA), organized the prize distribution ceremony. A total of 89 female winners were presented with certificates and prizes. Dr Shaikha Mariam also bestowed honours upon the oldest and youngest participants, as well as winners from various categories. Additionally, recognition was given to nine organisations and 15 jury members for their contributions.



Social Development Minister Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfoor received the new British Club board members led by chairman Christopher Woodrow yesterday. The minister commended the role played by civil society organisations, hailing their partnership with competent national authorities. He added that the ministry would continue supporting civil society organisations following the laws and regulations.



President of Customs, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bahrain Airport Services Company (BAS), Nabil Khalid Kanoo yesterday visited the Air Freight Directorate of the Bahrain International Airport (BIA). They were briefed on the facilities of the Comprehensive Services building and platforms to serve clients.

Court opens hearing in BD7 m money laundering case

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court has started hearing in a case involving two men and companies accused of laundering over BD 7 million. The Public Prosecution has charged them with collecting funds without the necessary

license to operate in the Kingdom. The arrests followed an investigation into a tip-off received by the Financial Investigation Directorate. During the investigation, it was discovered that the accused individuals had also established a criminal network involving individuals residing abroad to

launder the funds. Furthermore, authorities revealed that the suspects were utilising a company owned by one of the defendants in order to legitimise the illicit funds. Based on this information, the authorities took action and seized the company while also freezing its assets.

LMRA, NPRA and Southern Police inspection campaign target labour, residency violations

TDI | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), along with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) of the Ministry of Interior and the Southern Governorate Police Directorate, yesterday conducted a comprehensive inspection campaign in the Southern

Governorate. The campaign identified several violations pertaining to labour market and residency laws, which have been subsequently referred for legal action. Furthermore, LMRA officials called upon all members of society to support the collective efforts of government agen-

cies in combating illegal labour practices. The Labour Market Regulatory Authority's officials urged the public to promptly report any violations by utilising the electronic form available on LMRA's official website, www.lmra.gov.bh, or by contacting the authority's call centre at 17506055.



Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB) President Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday took part in a meeting concluding workshops held by the Survey and Land Registration Bureau. The meetings were in cooperation with the Engineering Professions Regulatory Council, the Bahrain Society of Engineers, the Society of Engineering Offices, and the Private Survey Office. During talks, Shaikh Salman stressed the importance of partnership between the public and private sectors in supporting national development goals. He commended the private sector as a vital and active partner in creating rewarding opportunities for citizens and supporting development pathways.



Bahrain, through the representation of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), actively participated in the 118th Executive Council meeting of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). The conference took place in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic from May 16 to 18. BTEA Chief Executive Officer Dr Naser Qaedi, headed Bahrain's delegation to the UNWTO Executive Council that had the presence of over 30 countries, including tourism ministers, high-ranking officials responsible for tourism, representatives from public and private organizations, destination management bodies, and specialised investors.

Trial adjourned in drug trafficking case as police uncover international smuggling network

TDI | Manama

The trial of three men accused of trafficking and smuggling drugs through territorial waters has been adjourned until Friday, in order to hear testimony from defence witnesses. Public Prosecution has charged the suspects with smuggling 95 kilograms of illicit drugs, including 87 kilograms of hashish from Iran. Police arrested them based on information received by the anti-drug department at the Ministry of Interior. Subsequent investigations revealed that the men were part of an international drug smuggling network operating within the Kingdom, with



Representative picture

their operations primarily conducted through international

waters. The network is believed to be led by an Iranian national.

Authorities trapped the suspects through an undercover

operation. Law enforcement agents, who got in touch with the suspects posing as buyers, said they managed to place an order for one kilogram of hashish worth BD2,200. The suspects agreed to close the deal at a designated meeting place in Sitra. Upon handing over the drugs, the suspects were promptly arrested by the police. At the time of the arrest, law enforcement authorities also seized over five kilograms of hashish from the suspects' vehicle. Further interrogations revealed that the suspects were engaged in drug peddling within the Kingdom, following in-

structions from their Iranian boss, who facilitated the transfer of funds through a handler in Bahrain. It was discovered that the Iranian national was sending individuals to Bahrain under the guise of religious tours to carry out money transfers. A subsequent raid on one of the suspect's residences led to the discovery of undisclosed amounts of cash and significant quantities of drugs concealed in a hidden location. In total, the police operation resulted in the recovery of 87 kilograms of illicit drugs. The trial will resume on May 26 to allow for the presentation of defence witnesses.

NASA taps Bezos's Blue Origin for Moon lander

● Blue Origin's lander was selected for the Artemis 5 mission

● The contract amounts to \$3.4 billion

● The Artemis programme marks NASA's return to the Moon after more than 50 years

AFP | Washington

Two years after awarding Elon Musk's SpaceX a contract to ferry astronauts to the surface of the Moon, NASA announced it had chosen Blue Origin, a rival space company founded by billionaire Jeff Bezos, to build a second lunar lander.

Blue Origin's lander was selected for the Artemis 5 mission, currently scheduled to take place in 2029. The company will first have to demonstrate it can safely land on the Moon without a crew.

Bezos, the founder and former CEO of Amazon, said on Twitter he was "honoured to



An artist's concept depicts the Blue Origin's Blue Moon lander that will return astronauts to the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis programme

be on this journey with @NASA to land astronauts on the Moon -- this time to stay."

The contract amounts to \$3.4 billion, but John Couluris, vice-president in charge of lunar transport at Blue Origin, said during a press conference that the company would itself contribute "well north" of that amount to develop the craft.

The Artemis programme marks NASA's return to the Moon after more than 50 years and is made up of several missions, each with increasing complexity.

In 2021, the US agency chose SpaceX to build a lander for Artemis 3, the first mission in the

series to have actual astronauts set foot on the lunar surface.

The contract was worth \$2.9 billion, although SpaceX is supplementing that amount with its own funding.

Blue Origin had also competed for the first contract, and filed an unsuccessful lawsuit against NASA when SpaceX was chosen as the sole lander provider.

The space agency had originally intended to offer two contracts, a practice commonly used to guard against the possibility one fails, but said it had been constrained by budget concerns.

NASA in 2022 also chose the SpaceX lander for its Artemis

4 mission, but at the same time requested submissions from other companies for the rest of the program.

"We want more competition. We want two landers," NASA boss Bill Nelson said on Friday. "It means that you have reliability. You have backups."

Blue Origin's lander, dubbed Blue Moon, is being developed with several partner companies, including Draper, Boeing, Astrobotic, Honeybee Robotics, and Lockheed Martin.

The latter will be responsible for developing a crucial element. Once in lunar orbit, Blue Moon will need to be refueled before it can descend and collect the astronauts from the surface of the Moon.

Therefore Lockheed Martin has to develop a kind of shuttle to refuel Blue Moon around the Moon.

Blue Origin plans to use its New Glenn rocket, which has never flown before, to launch both its lander and this refueling shuttle.

Artemis 4, scheduled for 2028, and Artemis 5 a year later will both land on the Moon, but will first pass through a new space station in lunar orbit, called Gateway, which has yet to be constructed.

US debt ceiling crisis dogs Biden at G7



Biden
Hiroshima, Japan

The sight of a tired-looking top White House domestic policy adviser in a Hiroshima hotel said it all: President Joe Biden may be on the other side of the world but his political fight back home over the debt ceiling has followed him.

Bruce Reed, spotted in a tracksuit having a late breakfast at the luxury hotel where Biden was staying during the G7 summit, is the White House deputy chief of staff with a focus on issues inside the United States.

Instead, for the last two days he has trailed the 80-year-old Democratic president around this southern Japanese city, "updating POTUS on the status of the talks", as a senior official put it.

Those "talks" -- the White House demanding that the annual extension of the government's borrowing authority proceed in order to avoid a US default and Republicans demanding Democrats first agree to slash spending -- were something everyone at the G7 wanted updates on.

"It is definitely a subject of interest here at the G7," National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters on Saturday, exuding his customary intense calm.

Sullivan insisted that the debt talks had not been "generating alarm or a kind of vibration in the room" at the summit.

And Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre insisted that it's not a "hair-on-fire type of situation".

Yet those reassurances belie the White House's own apocalyptic warnings.

"Republicans are taking the economy hostage and pushing us to the brink of default, which could cost millions of jobs and tip the country into recession after two years of steady job and wage growth," Biden communications director Ben LaBolt said Saturday.

Biden walks fine line

Biden has spent the entire summit trying to walk that same fine line.

On the one hand, he wants the world to know that everything will be OK. On the other, he's signalling that he's extremely worried.

The crisis prompted Biden to cancel half of his planned Asia trip, thereby allowing him to get on Air Force One and start the return trip to Washington on Sunday.

This meant scrapping what would have been a historic first trip by a sitting US president to the remote island nation of Papua New Guinea, as well as a heavyweight diplomatic stop for a regional Quad group meeting in Australia.

Biden also skipped much of the G7 dinner on an idyllic island near Hiroshima on Friday.

The White House said Biden was going back to his hotel to check with negotiators in Washington, where it was morning. He'd already touched base by secure video link as the team was finishing up the previous evening and he was on the phone with them again Saturday.

"He's being kept up to date daily... multiple times a day," Jean-Pierre said.

When asked by reporters Saturday if he was concerned, however, Biden breezily answered: "Not at all."

Adidas to sell part of Yeezy gear end-May and donate proceeds

AFP | Berlin

Adidas said it would begin selling part of its huge inventory of Kanye West's Yeezy products in May, and donate proceeds to NGOs including one founded by the brother of George Floyd.

The merchandise has been in limbo since Adidas ended its partnership with the controversial rapper in October 2022.

The apparel group did not provide any details on the quantity of stocks it would put on the market in its initial release at the end of May.

It said only that "a range of existing designs will be available



Kanye West attending the 2020 Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills

exclusively" through the website adidas.com/yeezy and the adidas CONFIRMED app.

"Additional releases of existing inventory are currently under consideration, but timing is yet to be determined," it said.

Adidas CEO Bjorn Gulden said

the group had made its decision as "selling and donating was the preferred option among all organisations and stakeholders we spoke to."

"We believe this is the best solution as it respects the created designs and produced shoes, it works for our people, resolves an inventory problem, and will have a positive impact in our communities."

The proceeds will go to organisations such as the Anti-Defamation League and the Philonise & Keeta Floyd Institute for Social Change, the group said.

Philonise Floyd is the brother of George Floyd, a Black American murdered by a white police

officer who pinned him to the ground by kneeling on his neck for nearly 10 minutes.

Adidas halted its tie-up with West -- now known formally as Ye -- after he made a series of anti-Semitic outbursts.

As a result, the group ended production of the highly successful Yeezy line designed together with West.

Not selling the apparel and shoes linked to West would potentially lead to a revenue loss of 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion), the group said when it announced its 2022 full-year results earlier in May.

Hyundai and Kia settle suit over TikTok theft challenge

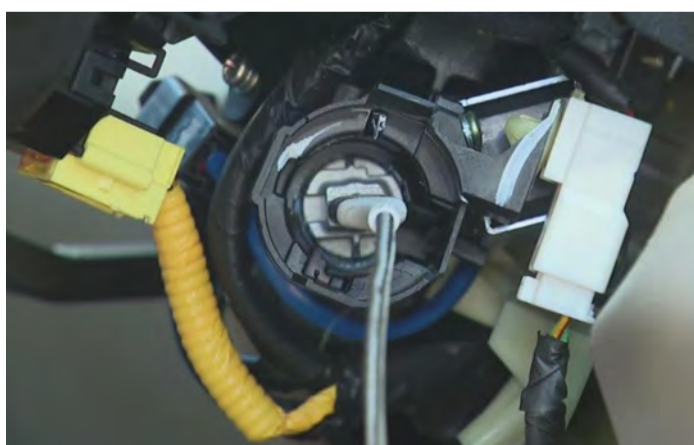
● Thefts of Kia and Hyundai cars in the United States spiked in the middle of last year

● Car thefts linked to the challenge have resulted in at least 14 crashes and eight deaths

● Hyundai and Kia said will continue upgrading car software, distributing steering wheel locks

San Francisco

Hyundai and Kia recently announced a deal to settle



Representative picture

a lawsuit filed by car theft victims after a TikTok "challenge" showed how easy it was to steal some models.

The settlement could cost the South Korean car makers as much as \$200 million, most of

the money going to compensate people for theft-related losses, according to the companies.

It is up to a judge whether to approve the deal.

"This agreement is the latest step in a series of important ac-

tions that Kia has taken to help customers whose vehicles have been targeted by criminals using methods of theft popularized on social media," Kia America chief legal officer John Yoon said in a joint release.

Thefts of Kia and Hyundai cars in the United States spiked in the middle of last year after videos spread on TikTok showing how to easily steal some models, according to the companies.

Videos promoted a "Kia Challenge" that threw down a gauntlet to pull off such car theft, Hyundai and Kia said.

Car thefts linked to the challenge have resulted in at least 14 crashes and eight deaths, according to the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).



Hyundai and Kia have updated anti-theft software and provided tens of thousands of steering wheel locks to car owners in US states, according to the NHTSA.

TikTok did not immediately reply to a request for comment. The companies estimat-

ed about 9 million Hyundai and Kia vehicles currently on the road in the United States are or were "susceptible to these social media-promoted thefts."

"We appreciate the opportunity to provide additional support for our owners who have been impacted by increasing and persistent criminal activity targeting our vehicles," Hyundai Motor North America chief legal officer Jason Erb said.

Erb added that Hyundai will continue upgrading car software, distributing steering wheel locks, and helping car owners who are having trouble finding insurance due to theft risk.

Kia is taking similar actions, Kia America chief legal officer John Yoon said.



News in brief

Greece recovers hundreds of antiquities from art thief... Greece said it has recovered hundreds of looted Neolithic to Byzantine artefacts including a second century bronze statue of Alexander the Great from a notorious British antiquities dealer after a 17-year legal battle.

One of Australia's top television journalists has opened a bout of national soul-searching by quitting his show over the racist abuse he faces as an Indigenous man in the spotlight.

US health officials have detected an atypical case of "mad cow disease" in a beef cow at a slaughter plant in the state of South Carolina, they announced.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Plastic-eating fungi found in Chinese coastal salt marshes



A rubbish-strewn beach in Anquan village, south China's Hainan province AFP | London

An international team of scientists identified plastic-eating bacteria and fungi in Chinese coastal salt marshes, presenting new possibilities for global waste management, according to a study published Thursday.



The new findings contribute to existing studies on plastic-degrading microorganisms with some 436 species of fungi and bacteria found capable of breaking down plastic to date

A total of 184 fungal and 55 bacterial strains capable of breaking down various plastics were found in the Jianguo province of eastern China, the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew said in a statement.

Wagner claims Bakhmut captured

Kyiv says situation in Bakhmut 'critical' after Wagner claims control of city

Ukraine denies Wagner claim that city has fallen and says fighting ongoing in some parts

AFP | MOSCOW

Russia's private army Wagner claimed yesterday the total control of the east Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, the epicentre of fighting, as Kyiv said the battle was continuing but admitted the situation was "critical".

Bakhmut, a salt mining town that once had a population of 70,000 people, has been the scene of the longest and bloodiest battle in Moscow's more than year-long Ukraine offensive.

The fall to Russia of Bakhmut, where both Moscow and Kyiv are believed to have suffered huge losses, would have high symbolic value.

If confirmed, Bakhmut's loss would allow Moscow to bring home a victory after a series of humiliating defeats.

It would also come before a major counteroffensive that Kyiv has been preparing for months.

The announcement by Wagner came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky took part in the G7 summit in Japan.



Smoke billows from the frontline city of Bakhmut (file photo)

The mercenary group's boss Yevgeny Prigozhin claimed the city had fallen to his mercenaries in a video posted on Telegram, in which fighters held Russian flags on the backdrop of ruins.

"Today on May 20, around midday, Bakhmut was taken in its entirety," Prigozhin said in the video, adding that Wagner fighters would struggle to hold the city before handing it over to the official Russian army.

"By May 25 we will completely examine (Bakhmut), create the necessary lines of defence and hand it to the military," Prigozhin said. "We ourselves will go into field camps."

Artillery sound could be heard in the background of Prigozhin's video.

Ukraine, which earlier this month claimed successes in and around Bakhmut, said the fighting for the city was ongoing.

"Heavy fighting in Bakhmut. The situation is critical," deputy defence minister Ganna Malyar posted on Telegram.

She said Ukrainian troops were "holding the defence" in the city's "Airplane area".

"As of now, our defenders control certain industrial and infrastructure facilities in the area," she said.

It was not possible for AFP to verify either claims.

Wagner has spearheaded the fight for Bakhmut and is believed to have suffered huge losses in the months-long storming of the city.

"The operation to capture Bakhmut -- the Bakhmut meat grinder -- lasted 224 days," Prigozhin said, wearing a camouflage uniform.

Prigozhin, embroiled in an increasingly public fight with the official Russian army, said Moscow's losses would have been far smaller if it was not for incompetent generals.

He has long complained about Wagner not being given the appropriate amount of ammunition.

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WHO launches global network to detect infectious disease threat

AFP | Geneva

The World Health Organization on Saturday launched a global network to help swiftly detect the threat from infectious diseases, like Covid-19, and share the information to prevent their spread.

The International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) will provide a platform for connecting countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analysing samples, the agency said.

The network aims to help ensure infectious disease threats are swiftly identified and tracked and the information shared and acted on to prevent catastrophes like the Covid pandemic.

The network will rely on pathogen genomics to analyse the genetic code of viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing organisms to understand how infectious and deadly they are and how they spread.

The data gathered will feed into a broader disease surveillance system used to identify and track diseases, in a bid to contain outbreaks and to develop treatments and vaccines.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed the "ambitious" goals of the new network, saying it could "play a vital role in health security".



A sign of the World Health Organization (WHO) and their headquarters in Geneva

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"As was so clearly demonstrated to us during the Covid-19 pandemic, the world is stronger when it stands together to fight shared health threats," he said.

The IPSN, announced a day before the annual meeting of WHO member states begins in Geneva, will have a secretariat within the WHO's Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence.

A new chapter for Ceylon tea

The Sri Lankan tea industry celebrates major gains by the smallholder sector despite economic challenges

Rethesree Wigertney Mendes Sri Lankan Ambassador to Bahrain



A tea plantation worker shows off plucked tea leaves in the Nuwara Eliya district of Sri Lanka

One very important measure the Tea Board has been involved in is ensuring fair prices for smallholder growers that are on par with the big players, so they don't miss out on opportunities and are protect

NIRAJ DE MEL, CHAIRMAN OF SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

On the International Tea Day, the local tea industry is celebrating impressive achievements by the smallholder sector despite facing an array of unprecedented challenges posed by the economic challenges and the currency collapse.

"It goes without saying that the local tea industry has faced many demanding issues, but on this year's International Tea Day, we want to celebrate the resilience of our smallholder tea growers, who have overcome pandemic adversity to be back on track to reach high profitability levels," says Niraj de Mel, the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

"The smallholder sector has already achieved so much in terms of sustainability in the past couple of decades that it is worth celebrating. This is a new chapter in the story of Ceylon Tea," he added.

In Sri Lanka, smallholder growers contribute a substantial 75 percent to the overall tea production, making the sector critical to the industry's success, and to the millions of families who depend on it for their livelihoods. Though smallholder tea growers have faced tremendous obstacles in the past decade, the sector is emerging with renewed vigour to reach production goals, particularly in the areas aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year's International Tea Day is set to focus on the smallholder tea growers specifically to support the sector through adversity. The Sri Lanka Tea Board has implemented a number of notable initiatives to safeguard smallholder tea producers in challenging times, many of which have already shown considerable gains, according to Chairman de Mel.

"One very important measure the Tea Board has been involved in is ensuring fair prices for smallholder growers that are on par with the big players, so they don't miss out on opportunities and are protected," he said. "While we are aiming to strengthen the smallholder business model, we've been quite impressed by what they have done in terms of SDGs that have improved livelihoods and reduced costs."

Local tea plantations have taken leading measures in adopting SDGs that focus on enhancing workers' livelihoods and preserving the environment. For an industry once plagued by hardship, the approach has been transformative, with significant gains achieved in terms of social welfare, conservation, and even energy security.

In the verdant estates of the Elpitiya Plantations, the scenic routes going uphill to the tea factories are lined with solar panels. The plantation had installed the panels as part of a sustainability initiative, which is now generating phenomenal results that have helped the estates seamlessly navigate the energy crisis. The Elpitiya Plantation Group is now generating 141 percent renewable energy against consumption.

"We are proud to say that our total energy generation now exceeds our energy consumption," said Thilini Edirisinghe, Deputy General Manager of Human Resources of Elpitiya Plantation. "A majority -- and 85 percent -- of our energy consumption is now from renewable sources. We can say our tea is green-energy produced."

Numerous other tea plantations have also prioritised green energy generation, driven by both a push towards sustainability and as a practical solution to rising energy costs. The Mathugama Estates, nestled in the hills of Kalutara, now has

four hydropower plants. Notably enough, the first-ever zero-liquid discharge plant in the country was built on a tea estate.

The Talawakelle Plantations, which is generating 138 percent energy against consumption, is planning to expand further as part of a broader drive towards environmental sustainability. The estate is currently



heavily involved in a reforestation programme to improve the biodiversity of its commercial land.

"We started the reforestation program last year, and we have already planted 2,000 endemic plants on two hectares of land," elaborated Krishna Ranagala, Manager of Sustainability and Quality Systems Development of Talawakelle Plantation. "In total, we have planted over 500,000 plants as part of our forestry management programme. Continuing to improve the ecological biodiversity of our estates is a key SDG initiative for us."

The plantation industry is placing urgent emphasis on worker welfare, with nearly every estate actively engaging in a range of social programmes that provide assistance to field workers and their families. These social welfare initiatives proved to be a lifeline during the pandemic, particularly when many workers had limited access to daily meals due to quarantine restrictions. In an inspiring move, the Horana Plantations encouraged their workers to cultivate gardens, setting aside hectares of plantation land for employees to grow vegetables that served as a vital source of sustenance throughout the difficult times of the pandemic.

The Elpitiya Plantation initiated program to look after the social wellbeing of the plantation workers. "We also built a retirement home for our elderly employees, which is the first time any company in the country has built a retirement home for its own employees," said Thilini Edirisinghe, Deputy General Manager of

Human Resources of Elpitiya Plantation.

An increasing number of estate companies are actively engaged in promoting upward mobility for their workers. One notable example is the Kahawatta Plantation, which has launched a programme to build infrastructure for employees, including a school for the children of workers. Moreover, the company has spearheaded various initiatives aimed at empowering its workers to earn additional income, fostering a culture of financial stability and growth.

"We have leased out land for employees to cultivate their own food crops," said Alex Samuel, Deputy General Manager of HR and Administration at Kahawatta Plantation. "We occasionally donate blocks of our rubber land for contract tapping, so that workers have opportunities to earn additional income."

"We first implemented this policy in our Malwatte Valley Plantation in 1998, and since then, we have shared 178 million rupees with our workforce through this programme," said Jaliya Wijekoon, General Manager of Estate Marketing and Special Projects of Malwatte Valley Plantation.

Plantation companies are undertaking unique, forward-thinking initiatives that are revolutionising the traditional dynamics of the estate sector and setting new standards for worker well-being, some of which are even getting noted by international development professionals. A youth empowerment program at the Hayleys Plantations, which offers an array of educational programmes to young workers and children of employees, was recently selected as a case study separately by the United Nations Global Compact initiative and the INSEAD School of Business in France.

Even small-scale initiatives undertaken by plantation companies have yielded excellent results in uplifting worker welfare. The Kelani Valley Plantation implemented a policy to reduce worker injuries, a goal originally set to be achieved by 2030. However, the estate has already witnessed a significant decrease in the number of injuries among its field workers.

Once called the "world's finest tea," the Sri Lankan plantation industry is on a radical journey to reclaim its title with revitalised focus on worker welfare and environmental sustainability. The concerted efforts of plantation companies, government bodies, and trade associations are creating a more equitable and prosperous future for the industry and its workforce. As the demand for premium tea continues to grow globally, Sri Lanka is poised to take its place as a leading producer of high-quality, socially responsible tea.

"What we want to highlight this year is that Ceylon Tea is not just a product that tastes great, but also a brand that values its workforce and prioritises environmental protection," Chairman de Mel said. "When we celebrate the rich heritage of Ceylon Tea, we also want to highlight these great achievements that have had a major positive impact on the estate community and the country as a whole."

Humans have been kissing for at least 4,500 years: study

AFP | Washington

The oldest records showing kissing as an element of romance date back 4,500 years, a full millennia earlier than previously believed, researchers said Friday.

The new study, published this week in the magazine Science, found that it was probably widespread even in the ancient world.

It presents evidence that "lip kissing was documented in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt" from at least 2500 BC.

Troels Pank Arboll said he and co-author Sophie Lund



A carving at Luxor Temple in Egypt depicting Pharaoh Ramses and Queen Nefertiti embracing

Rasmussen had started examining how the spread of diseases could be affected by the introduction of the practice of

kissing on the lips as a romantic expression.

Arboll is an Assyriologist -- a specialist in Ancient Near East

studies -- at the University of Copenhagen; Lund Rasmussen is a biologist at the University of Oxford.

They found that most recent studies cited a source from India, dated around 1500 BC, as the earliest reference to "sexual-romantic kissing".

"I knew there was earlier material from ancient Mesopotamia," Arboll, who studies cuneiform writing on ancient clay tablets as part of his work, said.

Although the evidence had already been collected in the 1980s, "apparently the information was never adopted in other fields," he added.

Twitter icon, TOP 4 TWEETS, 01, profile picture of Met President @ZelenskyyUa

Met President @ZelenskyyUa in Hiroshima. Conveyed our clear support for dialogue and diplomacy to find a way forward. We will continue extending humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine. @narendramodi

02, profile picture of a man

We are adding strength to Ukraine. On the eve of the G7 Summit, I held meetings with @GiorgiaMeloni, @RishiSuna, @narendramodi, @CharlesMichel, @EmmanuelMacron, @OlafScholz. Peace Formula. Protection of people. Joint strengthening of international law. @ZelenskyyUa

03, profile picture of a man

Ukraine is unbreakable. So is our support and friendship. Slava Ukraini. @ZelenskyyUa @CharlesMichel

04, profile picture of a man

Those who have contributed least to the climate crisis are suffering the most. This is immoral. #G7 countries must demonstrate #ClimateAction leadership. Phase out fossil fuels and ramp up renewables - now. Deliver climate justice and support developing countries. @antonioгутeres

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

campus

Al Noor holds academic achievement award ceremony of British senior section



TDI | Manama

The Al Noor International School celebrated the Annual Award Ceremony of British Senior Section on 7th May in the school Multipurpose Hall.

The function was graced by the presence of the School Chairman, Ali Hasan, Director, Dr. Muhammad Mashood, Prin-

icipal Ameen Hulaiwah and Vice Principal Adulhakeem AlShaer.

The occasion was also attended by the members of the school's Quality Assurance Department, the Head Teachers of the various sections, Coordinators and teachers.

The Academic Excellence awards were presented to the students of IGCSE, AS & A Level

for their outstanding academic achievements in the academic session 2021-2022.

Alaa Ashraf Helmi topped in Cambridge AS Level English and Maryam Mahmoud Fouad topped IGCSE Arabic First Language & IGCSE Information and

Communication Technology, are also appreciated and awarded in the Annual Day.

The Academic Excellence awards were handed to the following toppers from grade 10 to AL for the academic year 2021-2022.

AS Level

Name	Grade
Ahmed Athiraldin Ahmed Basyouni	3A
Laiba Shahid	3A
Maryam Muhammad Rabie Ali	3A
Rawan Hashim Bader Mohamed Alsada	3A
Vighnesh Santosh Prabhu	3A
Ahmed Ali Shaker Mahmood Mahdi	3A
Khalid Ali Isa Abdulla Hasan	3A
Lina Majid Saeed Abujudah	3A
Maha Munawar Alhoda Mohamed Bader Alhoda	3A
Aleena Shahid	3A
Hadi Mohamed Ali Habib Ahmed Hasan	3A
Helith Dulnod Methsilu Amarasinghe Arachchige Don	3A
Hithanadura Senuri Hashinika De Silva	3A
Muteeba Atiq	3A
Shruti Santosh Prabhu	3A
Yasith Chamodya Rathnahalu Gedara	3A

AS Level

Name	Grade
Alaa Ashraf Helmy Mohamed Abdelwahab	3A* 1A
Alezzandre Jeshu Ahat Cabalit	3A* 1A
Ali Salah Sadiq Mandali Ali Dashti	4A
Eman Ayaz	2A* 1A
Hassan Akhtar Rana	2A*2A
Ahmed Bassam A.Husain Hameed Darwish Mohamed	3A*
Ans Qasim	2A* 1A
Mohamed Mansour Anwar Mohamed Badawy	3A*
Nadeev Thewjan Thenuwara Acharige	1A*2A
Saniyah Hafeez	1A*2A
Tushin Biswas	3A* 1A
Youssef Mohamed Fathy Sharaf	3A*
Abdulrahman Khaled Salahuddin Mohamed Idrees	2A* 1A
Nada Mohamed Eid Ahmed	2A*2A
Salma Ahmed Moussa Ahmed Elsehsah	1A*2A
Sara Ashraf Elsayed Abbasy	2A*1A
Lokumeegodage Renali Senaratne	2A*3A
Omar Mohammed Othman Ezzat	1A*2A
Ruqaiyah Aliasgar Shafik	3A*
Sareena Kelash	1A*2A

Class 10

Name	Grade
Maryem Mahmoud Fouad Ahmed Mansour (World topper in Arabic & ICT)	7a*
Habiba Lotfy Ibrahim Mohamed Ibrahim	7A*
Yousra Ashraf Elsayed Abbasy	7A*
Abdurrahman Abdulmajid Karama	6A* 1A
Fatima Majid Saeed Abujudah	6A* 1A
Judy Mohamed Mohamed Elsayed Mohamed	6A* 1A
Jana Mohamed Ramadan Mohamed Elhalawany	6A* 1A
Yousuf Sarfraz Ahmed Mohammed H. Attiyatallah	6A*
Beatrice Carlos Medenilla	6A*
Syed Essam Uddin Khawaja	6A*
Maimuna Ahmed	6A*
Naimah Shahid	5A*2A
Laila Yasser Sayed Afify Ahmed	5A*2A
Sanaa Hussain Bhat	5A*1A
Syed Omer Zakir	5A*1A
Mera Sweid	4A*3A
Zainab Abdulla Ahmed Abdulla Abbas	4A*3A
Mohib Ullah Khan	4A*3A
Aliza Hafeez	4A*2A
Shamly Mohammad Jawzi	4A*2A
Faris Mohammad Tazin	4A*2A
Ifrah Amir	4A*2A
Ghaith Naseer Muayad	2A*5A
Nishat Rahman	2A*4A
Wosada Keween Jayaweera Godagampola Devage	2A*4A
Hannan Chelsea Flores Reyes	2A*4A
Zainab Kadhem Ahmed Kadhem Mohamed	1A*6A
Muhammad Hashir	1A*5A
Ruqaiya Kaidzohar Shafik	1A*5A

Health and hygiene awareness week at Bhavans - Bahrain Indian School

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) conducted 'Health and Hygiene Awareness Week' for Grades I-VI. The sessions were conducted by the school counselor along with the students. The sessions highlighted the importance of brushing teeth, washing hands, maintaining a hygienic environment, and a hygienic routine to take care of one's body through a skit, mime, song, and quiz. Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma appreciated the effort of students and stressed the need for inculcating hygienic practices in day-to-day life. Principal Saji Jacob urged students to follow the learnings from the session and stay healthy and hygienic.



ASU's civil and architectural programmes get CIOB accreditation

TDI | Manama

Applied Science University (ASU) in Bahrain has announced that its Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering has received accreditation from the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) for its Architectural Engineering and Civil Engineering undergraduate programs until 2028.

ASU is the only university in Bahrain offering CIOB-accredited programs.

The accreditation will provide international recognition and a mark of quality and strength for ASU's engineering programs, the university said in a statement.

Accredited program providers gain access to one of the most influential networks of managers and leaders in the construction industry, it added.

The CIOB is a long-established bridge between academia and practitioners throughout its global network. ASU said it can utilise CIOB's local operations in Bahrain to develop relationships with the industry.

Students also benefit greatly from the CIOB's accreditation. They gain free access to CIOB's



A general view of ASU

knowledge and associated services, including one of the world's largest online libraries for construction management.

Students who graduate from ASU's Architectural and Civil Engineering programs have a clear pathway to a professional qualification with the CIOB. Moreover, opportunities exist for students to enter CIOB competitions, scholarships, and research initiatives. With an accredited CIOB degree from the Architectural and Civil Engineering programs at ASU,

students have the opportunity to join CIOB's Tomorrow's Leaders network, a powerful platform for young professionals to connect with each other and industry influencers.

The College of Engineering at ASU has already begun collaborating with CIOB through its local chapter in Bahrain, headed by Christopher Core.

They have conducted workshops for students to join as student members and benefit from the available resources at CIOB.

Classifieds



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HIRALAL RAMJI KALIDAS CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39622368 or SEEFMCMJ@YAHOO.COM

Bahrain Precast Construction w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION QUALITY INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17875600 or JSA@BPC.BH

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NADER GAS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39407700 or talal.abduljalal@gmail.com

NATIONAL EXCAVATING EST. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39455537 or NEEWLL@BATELCO.COM.BH

AL ASRIYA AUTO ELECTRICAL has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717775 or SARCOM.SALAH@live.COM

AHMED MOHAMMED JASSIM CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784584 or HR@AMJASSIM.COM

HAMAD TOWN PHARMACY has a vacancy for the occupation of PHARMACIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39118999 or hr@htp.com.bh

BAHRAIN BAYAN SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722255 or ZAINAB.SHABAN@BAYANSCHOOL.EDU.BH

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ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or VIJESH.NAIR@HAJIHASSAN.COM

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MOJA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244026 or MZH75@HOTMAIL.COM

Kadi One Construction W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33440279 or SINOALAN180@GMAIL.COM

MD AZAD REAL ESTATE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36415755 or SHAHJADAPUR777@GMAIL.COM

KERALA DARBAR RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17241049 or SALMAN@GCCBAH.COM

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JANATI BEAUTY CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39680959 or JANATIBC@GMAIL.COM

DOHA GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39663707 or ABUHAMEED5@GMAIL.COM

MACDONALDS has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or HR@FAKHRO.COM

ALTAIB TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39267693 or AL-TAIB-TAILORING@HOTMAIL.COM

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ATHLETICS TRADING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17663890 or admin@alireza-group.com

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STAR SCRAP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33022299 or ALFAYEZ.90@GMAIL.COM

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HAJI ALI COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36699365 or COLOURCREATERS77@GMAIL.COM

MARIAM GARDEN LANDSCAPING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39648333 or AMMARO69@LIVE.COM

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Le Meridien Hotel Bahrain City Center has a vacancy for the occupation of WASHING MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38885874 or ALI.ALQATTAN@MAFAE

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ALHANAFI CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39904366 or hanafico@batelco.com.bh

Sayed Kadhem Aldurazi & sons B.S.c. close has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39334023 or sayedshubbar@skaldurazi.com

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ALWAFER TRADING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33261002 or WEABSHER4YOU@GMAIL.COM

AL WAFER HAIRDRESSING SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33261002 or WEABSHER4YOU@GMAIL.COM

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ARABIAN LUCK CONTRACTING & DECOR W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874720 or BINGLYPC@GMAIL.COM

SAR ALNAJAH GRILLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39001108 or isaibut77@gmail.com

BOMBAY TECH COMPUTER ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39869840 or JAWADAWAN2@GMAIL.COM

ARABIAN TEA has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36669292 or OLDMAAAAAN@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

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AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of INSULATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

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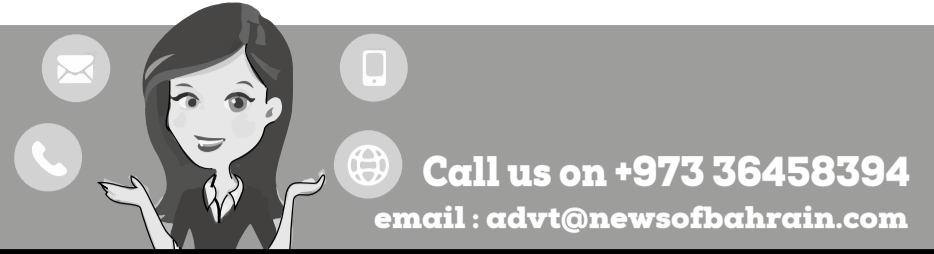
Jaser Construction has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34349799 or JASERCONT@GMAIL.COM

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ABULAZIZ GHAZI CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33495428 or ABDULAZIZBH@GMAIL.COM

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Classifieds



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AUTOPOWER GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66366362 or AMS.ALAWI@GMAIL.COM

AUTO CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33911151 or AL_THAWADI121@HOTMAIL.COM

ARCH GATE CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36478383 or ARCHGATE.BH@GMAIL.COM

Mister cuts gents salon has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33341411 or SALM919@GMAIL.COM

Faith Advertising W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256770 or FAITHCONWLL@YAHOO.COM

Eventos event management has a vacancy for the occupation of ARTIST(DISPLAY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36003001 or zainab@gbj-group.co

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the occupation of SYSTEM ANALYST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77288886 or YAQOOBI@HOTMAIL.COM

Longteng Trading W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66706088 or 57547634@QQ.COM

BABA SNAN TRADING AND SECOND HAND GOODS .EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33281242 or tajbibis55@gmail.com

Armaceil Middle East Company S. P. C. owned by Armaceil Internat has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32139050 or NEVILLE.DSOUZA@ARMACELL.COM

THE BEST PALACE CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34457060 or MARKBEST.TRADING.BH@GMAIL.COM

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ALBUFALAH CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33336768 or FAIZAL.BH2016@GMAIL.COM

ADVANCED FUTURE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SYSTEM ANALYST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39296115 or FERAS@FUTURETEC.ME

DORAR TAMMAM FOR TRADING AND CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of GRAPHIC DESIGNER,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 33001108 or nader@dtc.sa

THE PERFECT DESIGN FOR KITCHENS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33435050 or pd.docm21@gmail.com

Pasta Express has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33623311 or HRHEAD@PASTAEXPRESSGROUP.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or HRD1@MACBH.COM

MANDARIN CHINESE RESTAURANT CO has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17259775 or HR@BAHRAIN.GAS.BH

ABDULHADI ALAFOO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874756 or alafao@batelco.com.bh

Dar Al Zafaran Restaurant W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39379127 or AKRAMJABRI87@GMAIL.COM

ROYAL SARAY RESORT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77707070 or adam.mohamed@fairmont.com

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MUHAMMAD SAGHIR CARGO HANDLING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37226930 or MSG.SPCBH@GMAIL.COM

Washing and Polishing World has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36663845 or AHMEDAWADH3417@GMAIL.COM

MODERN GREEN CARGO CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330598 or NABHAN9020@GMAIL.COM

SHAHG GENERAL TRADING CO BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36137311 or SYEDJOGILLANI@YAHOO.COM

DREAMZ CONSTRUCTION OF FLOATING STRUCTURES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35120929 or sachu.bh2022@gmail.com

PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or sharef.works@gmail.com

GARHA MOR BUILDING COMPLETION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33495428 or ARAMANBH6@GMAIL.COM

CUT AND COAT BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33201331 or UM.MOHAMMED1@GMAIL.COM

I-GYM W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36254545 or IGYM.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

FAROOQ AHMED SAIN Contracting Co W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36404055 or F33165228@GMAIL.COM

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AL AMANI OASIS SPARE PARTS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17140090 or shikkulal@gmail.com

AL BINDAIRA CAFE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38700027 or salwa@al-abraaj.com

STARBUST FOOD DELIVERY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33937884 or NIDHAMI.BH@GMAIL.COM

Butler brilliance as Miami stun Boston



Jimmy Butler #22 of the Miami Heat is guarded by Marcus Smart #36 of the Boston Celtics

AFP | Miami

Jimmy Butler led a fourth-quarter fightback as the Miami Heat stunned the Boston Celtics 111-105 to take a 2-0 lead in their NBA Eastern Conference finals series on Friday.

Miami talisman Butler finished with 27 points as the eighth seeds grabbed a second straight victory at Boston's TD Garden to leave the Celtics with a mountain to climb if they are to reach the NBA finals.

Miami had trailed by 11 points early in the fourth quarter and the Celtics led by as much as nine with under seven minutes of the final frame remaining.

But Butler led a sensational 20-9 Miami run in the final minutes of the fourth quarter that turned the game on its head and left his team just two wins away from returning to the NBA finals as the best-of-seven series heads to Miami for games three and four.

"We got some dogs, and I love it, I love every bit of it," an elated Butler said during an on-court interview after the Miami win.

"Guys never quit, guys never give up, we love playing with one another -- we got so much faith and trust in one another."

Nine of Butler's 27 points came during the fourth-quarter rally, with the Miami star

Guys never quit, guys never give up, we love playing with one another -- we got so much faith and trust in one another

JIMMY BUTLER

seemingly fired up after an angry nose-to-nose exchange with Boston's Grant Williams midway through the fourth quarter.

At that stage in the game, Boston led 96-89, but Miami launched a devastating late run that turned the contest decisively in favor of the Heat.

"Just healthy competition, and I love it," Butler said afterwards of his exchange with Williams.

"I'm always here to compete, I like to talk at times, as long as we get the win I'm good with it though."

Butler received offensive support from Caleb Martin, with 25 points off the bench, while Bam Adebayo delivered another all-round effort with 22 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists.

Duncan Robinson added 15 points from the bench, including three three-pointers.

A shellshocked Boston, meanwhile, were left reflecting on another shattering defeat at home despite 34 points from Jayson Tatum.

Man Utd, Newcastle on brink of sealing top four places

● **Firmino swansong not enough for Liverpool's top-four hopes**

● **Troubled Spurs beaten by Brentford**

AFP | London

Manchester United and Newcastle are on the brink of qualifying for next season's Champions League after Liverpool's 1-1 draw against Aston Villa, while Everton remain in relegation danger despite their dramatic 1-1 draw at Wolves yesterday.

United's 1-0 victory at Bournemouth, combined with Liverpool's failure to beat Villa, left Erik ten Hag's men and Newcastle within touching distance of ensuring Premier League top four finishes.

Fourth-placed United and Newcastle, in third, are both three points clear of fifth-placed Liverpool, who have only one game left.

Newcastle can seal their spot with a draw or win against Leicester on Monday or Chelsea



Manchester United's Brazilian midfielder Casemiro (R) scores the opening goal past Bournemouth's Brazilian goalkeeper Neto

on May 28.

United take their turn at securing the lucrative top four place against Chelsea on Thursday and Fulham next weekend.

Liverpool's final game of the season is against relegated Southampton, but although they have a superior goal difference to United if they finish level on points, they are likely to have to settle for a place in the Europa League.

At the Vitality Stadium, United took the lead in the ninth minute when Casemiro spun to meet Christian Eriksen's cross with an acrobatic bicycle kick from close-range.

United were unbeaten in their

previous 134 league matches when leading at half-time and that re-markable sequence continued as they held firm after the interval.

At Anfield, Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp was watching from the stands as he served a touchline ban following his recent rant about referee Paul Tierney.

Villa wasted a 22nd-minute penalty when Ollie Watkins fired wide after the striker was brought down by Ibrahima Konate.

Despite Watkins' miss, Unai Emery's team went ahead in the 27th minute through Jacob Ramsey's volley from Douglas Luiz's cross.

YOU KNOW WHAT

United were unbeaten in their previous 134 league matches when leading at half-time and that remarkable sequence continued as they held firm after the interval

Roberto Firmino and James Milner, set to leave Liverpool at the end of the season, came on for their Anfield farewells in the closing stages.

And it was Brazilian forward Firmino who rescued a point with his close-range finish in stoppage-time.

Yerry Mina's last-gasp equaliser boosted Everton's hopes of avoiding playing in the second tier for the first time since 1954.

Sean Dyche's men fell behind after 34 minutes when Adama Traore's shot was pushed out to Hwang Hee-chan, who netted from close-range.

Suspended Halep charged with second doping breach

AFP | London

Former world number one Simona Halep has been charged with a second breach of anti-doping rules, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) confirmed.

Romanian Halep has been provisionally suspended since October 2022 for testing positive for the banned substance roxadustat, which stimulates the production of red blood cells, at the US Open in August last year.

On Friday, the ITIA said the two-time Grand Slam winner has been further charged "re-



Simona Halep reacts during a match

lating to irregularities in her athlete biological passport".

I have lived the worst nightmare I have ever gone through in my life

SIMONA HALEP

The athlete biological passport programme monitors biological data over time to identify potential doping violations.

On Friday, Halep said on Instagram that she felt "helpless facing such harassment" and denies the charges, suggesting she has been "a victim of a contamination".

"I have lived the worst nightmare I have ever gone through in my life," she said.

"Not only has my name been soiled in the worst possible way, but I am facing a constant determination from the ITIA, for a reason that I cannot understand, to prove my guilt while I haven't ever thought of taking an illicit substance."

Halep said she hoped to have the chance to prove her innocence at a hearing scheduled for the end of May.

The ITIA said it was continuing discussions with an independent tribunal and Halep's representatives.

Muharraq power into finals

Victors book repeat trip to championship round in Zain Bahrain Basketball League

● **Muharraq claim resounding 106-93 victory over Al Ettihad in game three of semi-final series**

● **Dewayne Jackson and Dajuan Summers combine for 62 points, with Jackson registering a triple-double**

TDT | Manama

Muharraq barged through to the championship series of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League last night.

Muharraq booked their berth following a 106-93 victory over



Muharraq's Dewayne Jackson goes for a lay-up against Ettihad last night

Al Ettihad in the winner-take-all third game of their best-of-three Golden Square semi-finals series, played at a packed Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Muharraq turned a close game

into a blowout with an impressive second half, where they led by as many as 21 points.

Muharraq are now making a return trip to the championship round. They had also played in



the finals last season, where they lost to Manama in three games.

Yesterday's result also completed their comeback against Ettihad, who had won their series opener. Muharraq will now take on the winner of the other

final-four match-up between Al Ahli and Manama in the finals.

Ahli have a 1-0 lead in their best-of-three and will be looking to close out the defending champions. Game two is scheduled to take place on Thursday. Manama will be hoping to stay alive and force a decisive game three, which, if needed, would take place on May 28.

Muharraq battled from behind last night against Ettihad, who had taken a slim 24-21 lead at the end of the first quarter. Muharraq scored 34 points in the second period to take a narrow 55-52 advantage, before blowing the game wide open in the third where they outscored Ettihad by 16, 34-18. Muharraq took their biggest lead late in the period following a Dajuan Summers three-pointer.

That helped them go ahead

89-70 into the final canto, where they cruised to the finish as Ettihad could not mount a comeback.

Dewayne Jackson and Summers, both from the US, combined for 62 points to spearhead their team to the victory, with Jackson registering an impressive triple-double with 32 points, 11 rebounds and 12 assists.

Ali Shukrallah scored 12 while skipper Bader Abdulla Malabes and Hussain Salman added 11 points apiece.

For Ettihad, former NBA forward Cleanthony Early tried to carry his team with 39 points including four three-pointers, while Ukrainian Viacheslav Kravstov had 32 points to go with a monster 19 rebounds.

Skipper Sayed Mohammed Hameed chipped in with 16 in the loss.

Chelsea's Lampard says road to success paved with a 'lot of failure'

AFP | London

Franks Lampard has urged his Chelsea players to learn from the example set by Manchester City's treble challenge when the teams meet at the Etihad today.

City will retain the Premier League title and win the first of the three trophies they are chasing this season if they beat Chelsea, and could already be champions by the time they kick-off depending on Arsenal's result on Saturday.

If City take the title, it will be



Chelsea's Benoit Badiashile (C) celebrates with interim manager Frank Lampard

the fifth time in six seasons that Pep Guardiola's team have been crowned champions of England.

They then have a second

Champions League final in three years to come against Italy's Inter Milan plus the FA Cup final against local rivals Manchester United.

City's brilliant form was there for all to see with a 4-0 humiliation of European champions Real Madrid on Wednesday, a 17th win in their last 19 games.

Chelsea, once a challenger for major trophies, are currently languishing in 11th place despite co-owner Todd Boehly splashing out some £600 million (\$747

million) on transfers during the last 12 months.

Caretaker Chelsea manager Lampard, who may be replaced by Mauricio Pochettino should the former Tottenham supremo be confirmed as the Blues' new permanent boss, said his side should take heart from City's work ethic.

"The only inspiration for young players should need is what it's taken Man City to get where they've got," said Lampard.

Rune rallies past Ruud to reach Rome final



Denmark's Holger Rune (R) shakes hand with Norway's Casper Ruud

AFP | London

Holger Rune fought from a set and a break down yesterday to book a place in the Italian Open final with a 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 6-2 defeat of fourth seed Casper Ruud.

The 20-year-old Dane established Scandinavian superiority as he overhauled the Norwegian who played the Roland Garros final a year ago against Rafael Nadal and has two semi-finals in Rome.

Rune will bid for the title on Sunday against the winner from Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas, who play their semi-final later.

Ruud lost for the first time in five meetings with his rival, with all of their matches being played on clay.

Rune, who knocked out top seed Novak Djokovic in the quarter-finals, said that he re-

When I was down, I told myself I had nothing to lose, he would probably win. I told myself to play freely, play aggressive as it would likely be my last set. That was the key to the comeback - I'm super-happy

HOLGER RUNE

laxed when he thought all was lost on court.

"When I was down, I told myself I had nothing to lose, he would probably win," he said.

"I told myself to play freely, play aggressive as it would likely be my last set.

"That was the key to the comeback - I'm super-happy." Rune said his game has lifted at the best moments this week in the capital.

"I've played some of my best tennis in the last two matches. It's so difficult to play the top guys, I had to find my best tennis.

"I only found it at the end, that's how I was able to turn it around."

Ruud needed 69 minutes to win a grinding first set with the Norwegian dominating the tiebreaker to take the early lead after failing to convert on three break points in the sixth game.

Conway, Gaikwad power Chennai into IPL play-offs

AFP | New Delhi

New Zealand's Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad smashed half-centuries to fire Chennai Super Kings into the IPL play-offs with a thumping 77-run win over Delhi Capitals yesterday.

The left-handed Conway (87) and Gaikwad (79) put on a blazing opening stand of 141 to steer Chennai to a mammoth 223-3 after electing to bat first in Delhi.

Skipper David Warner hit a valiant 86 but Chennai kept down Delhi, who are coached by Ricky Ponting, to 146-9 and book their spot in the top four.

They join holders and table-toppers Gujarat Titans, who are assured of a top-two finish.

Four-time winners Chennai have finished the group stage with eight wins and can stay as



Rituraj Gaikwad and Devon Conway of Chennai Super Kings during the match

the second-ranked team in the table, depending on the day's second result between Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants.

The season remains special for Chennai skipper M.S. Dhoni, who is believed to be playing his last season and has attracted

huge crowds wearing the teams' yellow as a tribute to the legendary cricketer.

Dhoni, 41, though has kept the fans guessing and still not clarified on his swansong.

Delhi, who were the first team to get eliminated from the play-off race, bowed out with nine

Scorecard

Chennai Super Kings 223 for 3 (Conway 87, Gaikwad 79) beat Delhi Capitals 146 for 9 (Warner 86, Chahar 3-22, Pathirana 2-22, Theekshana 2-23) by 77 runs

losses and five wins.

Batsmen set up victory for Chennai after Gaikwad and Conway, in his 52-ball blitz, got cracking on the opposition bowlers with fours and sixes.

Chetan Sakariya sent back Gaikwad, who hit seven sixes in his 50-ball knock, but Conway kept up the charge in another attacking partnership of 54 with Shivam Dube, who hit 22.

Dube's wicket raised the noise as Dhoni walked in with thunderous applause and stood unbeaten with Ravindra Jadeja, who hit a seven-ball 20.

Pooran, Bishnoi seal Lucknow's playoffs spot with thrilling one-run win

ESPN | Kolkata

Lucknow Super Giants survived a Rinku Singh scare to become the third team to qualify for the playoffs of IPL 2023 as they beat Kolkata Knight Riders by one run at Eden Gardens.

They ended with 17 points, tied with Chennai Super Kings, but LSG's inferior net run rate meant they finished third. They



Ravi Bishnoi celebrates after a wicket

will now face the fourth qualifying team in the Eliminator in Chennai on May 24.

At the start of the day, LSG had a chance to secure a top-two finish. However, CSK's 77-run win over Delhi Capitals in the earlier game meant LSG needed to beat KKR by a margin of around 97 runs to go above CSK.

That was not going to be easy, especially after LSG posted 176 batting first. At 73 for 5 in the

Scorecard

Lucknow Super Giants 176 for 8 (Pooran 58, Shardul Thakur 2-27, Narine 2-28) beat Kolkata Knight Riders 175 for 7 (Rinku 67*, Roy 45, Bishnoi 2-23, Yash Thakur 2-32) by one run

11th over, they didn't look like scoring even that many, but Nicholas Pooran's 30-ball 58 lifted them.



Bahrain get full marks as 'top' host country in Asia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has been tagged as "the top" country in the entire continent for hosting Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) championships.

This is according to control committee chairman of the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, Emile Jabbour, who on Saturday signed with Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) president Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa the official tournament report that he will be presenting to the AVC at the end of the competition.

Jabbour said Bahrain has been given full marks for its staging of the Asian clubs competition,



Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, right, with Emile Jabbour during the signing ceremony

Everything a tournament needs is in Bahrain. Other countries sometimes have some things missing or if they fail with something, the AVC will not give them a championship to host. But Bahrain is top in all of Asia

EMILE JABBOUR

and highlighted the Kingdom's marvelous job in all fields.

"Bahrain as an organising country has expert people," Jab-

bour said. "The staff who take care of the lodging, receiving the guests at the airport, and in all other aspects, everywhere you see experts. The national referees are professional, and this is why Bahrain succeeds."

"Everything a tournament needs is in Bahrain. Other countries sometimes have some things missing or if they fail with something, the AVC will not give them a championship to host. But Bahrain is top in all of Asia."

Jabbour added that the introduction of the challenge system in Bahrain for this tournament has been tremendous.

"Last year, Bahrain didn't have the challenge system, but now

the federation has brought it in and this is what has made everything 10 out of 10 for the championship," he said.

Jabbour noted that he has received only positive feedback from the participating delegations from the moment they arrived in the Kingdom. "I have asked all the teams about every aspect of the organisation here, everyone said everything is good," Jabbour said. "Nobody has complained about anything being missed."

Also present at the signing ceremony were BVA secretary general Feras Al Helwach, former AVC secretary general Shanrit Wongprasert, and other officials.

Sunbirds, Bhayangkara set up title showdown

Japanese, Indonesian outfits to battle tonight for Asian clubs crown in Bahrain

● **Suntory Sunbirds punch tickets to gold medal match with hard-earned victory in four sets against Shahdab Yazd of Iran**

● **Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi outclass previously undefeated Police Sports Team of Qatar to book seat in final**

TDT | Manama

Japan's Suntory Sunbirds continued to soar while Indonesia's Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi pulled off a stunner as the pair of continental juggernauts set up a titanic clash for the gold medals in the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, currently being hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Sunbirds punched their tickets to the title-decider after a hard-earned victory in four sets against Shahdab Yazd of Iran yesterday at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Bhayangkara followed suit, outclassing previously undefeated Police Sports Team of Qatar, also in a four-set thriller.

Both the Sunbirds and Bhayangkara are now looking to



Suntory Sunbirds team members celebrate after their win against Shahdab Yazd

be the first teams from their respective countries to clinch the tournament crown. They will also be battling for the lone berth from this event in the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

The highly anticipated final of the 16-nation tournament is scheduled for 7pm tonight. It will be an epic climax to the hugely exciting week-long competition.

Losing semi-finalists Shahdab and Police will face off for the bronze medals at 4.30pm. Also on the day's schedule are the concluding classification games, which get underway from 10am onwards. All are welcome to attend. Entrance is free of charge.

The day's play will be followed

by the official prize presentation and closing ceremony.

The Sunbirds and Shahdab split the first two sets in their semi-final but then the Japanese rallied to take the third in thrilling fashion. They rode their momentum into the fourth set, when Russian superstar Dmitriy Muserskiy carried them to the finish line for the 3-1 (25-22, 23-25, 34-32, 25-17) victory.

Muserskiy was unstoppable with 29 points, while Cuban teammate Alain Junior de Armas added 24. Mohammad Valizadeh scored 20 to pace Shahdab in defeat, while Amir Ghafour had 19.

Sunbirds libero Soshi Fujinaka said after the win: "Today, everyone expected the match to be very tough, but each player did what they were supposed to during the game, and it was not a victory from just one of us, but it was a victory for the full team."

"After winning the third set, that mostly decided the match but we played like it was not decided. The fourth set was a totally new game and until we won, we concentrated on what we needed to do."

Of this evening's final, Fujinaka said: "No team from Japan has ever won this competition. We will do our best in each play, each ball, and give our 100 per cent in the game."

The Sunbirds were the silver-medallists from last year's Asian clubs event, losing to champions Paykan Tehran of Iran, who

did not compete this year.

In yesterday's other final four encounter, Bhayangkara shrugged off a horrendous start to power past their Qatari counterparts 3-1 (11-25, 29-27, 25-23, 25-23). The Indonesians also trailed late in the fourth set, but came away with the crucial plays to close out the match.

Ugandan Daudi Okello scored 24 points while Mohammadjav Manavinezhad added 16. Turkish player Efe Bayram had 18 points to lead the Qataris, while Estonian Oliver Venno chipped in with 15 in defeat.

Bhayangkara skipper Nizar Julfikare Munawar was delighted with their victory, but admitted that they have some things to work on ahead of their title showdown with the Japanese.

"The match today was very

hard, but we were very cool, and we knew we could win," Munawar said. "We made a lot of mistakes, I don't know why, maybe the players are tired, but for the next match, we must be even better. We must fix our mistakes."

"We have to work hard, be patient, and play with spirit. That's all."

Meanwhile, in the fifth-to-eighth classification bracket, Kuwait Sports Club overcame a tough challenge against Korea's Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club.

The Kuwaitis won 3-1 (28-26, 21-25, 34-32, 25-23), spearheaded by the superb 42-point performance of Iranian star Saber Kazemi. Omar Abdulrahman Alenezi added 11 for the Kuwaitis, while Donghyeok Im was the top scorer for the Koreans with an impressive 33 points. Jun Lee added 14 in the loss.

Kuwait wrap up their tournament campaign today, contending for fifth place overall. They will face South Gas Sports Club from Iraq, while Jumbos take on Bayankhongor Crownd Geo VC of Mongolia for seventh position.

South Gas swept Bayankhongor 3-0 (25-21, 25-17, 25-16). Serbian Nikola Meljanac had 17 points while Muntadher Yasir finished with 14 for the Iraqis. Khangal Tamiraa had nine points to pace the Mongolians.

In the ninth-through-12th classification games, Bahrain's Al Ahli have the chance to play for the top spot outside the elite eight after beating Taichung Bank of Chinese Taipei 3-0 (25-

21, 26-24, 25-21) yesterday. Mohammed Yaqoob was the hosts' best performer with 22 points while Italian Davide Saitta finished with eight markers. Yu-Sheng Chang had 14 to lead Taichung, while Cheng-Chi Chen scored seven points.

Ahli will now take on Atyrau VC of Kazakhstan for ninth place overall, while Taichung face Canberra Heat of Australia for 11th.

The Kazakhs were 3-0 (25-20, 25-14, 25-17) winners against the Aussies, with Vitaliy Vorivodin leading the way with 20 points. Artur Udrys added 13. Matthew Aubrey and Trent O'Dea were once again atop Canberra's score-sheet, but they had just nine and six points, respectively.

In the 13th-to-16th bracket, Afghanistan's Kam Air cruised past Yemen's Khaypil Sports Club 3-0 (25-17, 25-21, 25-22). Ghulam Rasool Hidari had 16 points as Khaypil's best scorer while teammate Esmatullah Ahmad finished with 12. For the Yemenis, Gamal Khairallah scored 16 points while Egyptian Amr Elawwad contributed 14.

Kam Air will lock horns with Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force from Thailand for 13th place, while Khaypil will play Aspiring Volleyball Team from Hong Kong, China for 15th overall.

The Thais beat Aspiring 3-0 (25-10, 27-25, 25-18), with Chaiwat Thungkham and Brazilian Evandro Dias De Souza scoring 19 points apiece in the win. Yin Chun Kwok and Ting Xu Sit paced Aspiring with 10 points apiece.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

COURT 1

For 7th place, 11.30am: Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club (Korea) vs Bayankhongor Crownd Geo VC (Mongolia)

For 5th place, 2pm: Kuwait SC (Kuwait) vs South Gas SC (Iraq)

Bronze medal game, 4.30pm: Shahdab Yazd (Iran) vs Police Sports Team (Qatar)

Gold medal game, 7pm: Suntory Sunbirds (Japan) vs Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi (Indonesia)

COURT 2

For 15th place, 10am: Aspiring Volleyball Team (Hong Kong, China) vs Khaypil Sports Club (Yemen)

For 13th place, 12.30pm: Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force (Thailand) vs Kam Air (Afghanistan)

For 11th place, 3pm: Taichung Bank (Chinese Taipei) vs Canberra Heat (Australia)

For 9th place, 5.30pm: Al Ahli (Bahrain) vs Atyrau VC (Kazakhstan)



Police Sports Team's Oliver Venno attacks Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi's double block