

Pogacar poised for third Tour title

Tadej Pogacar secures another victory on the Col de Couillole, edging closer to a historic Giro-Tour double | P12



WORLD 6 Newborn saved from dead mother's womb in Gaza

THE DAILY **tribune**

Tom Cruise 'knocked out' Rob Lowe during hotel hallway sparring match

8 CELEBS



BUSINESS 5 Airlines resume services after global IT crash

Bahrain welcomes ICJ's advisory opinion on Israel, Palestine issues

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomed the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning the legal consequences arising from Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, at the request of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

In a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ministry emphasised the significance of the advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), as it supports the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent national state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Bahrain's call to the international community to fulfill its responsibilities in supporting the rights of the Palestinian people and promoting efforts for a just and comprehensive peace that enhances security and stability in the region.

Two arrested for insulting religious figures online

TDT | Manama

The Cyber Crime Directorate of the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security announced the arrest of two individuals, aged 24 and 27, for posting content on social media that contained religious insults.

The posts targeted figures held in high esteem by a particular religious community, inciting sectarian and denominational strife and undermining social harmony and stability, the Directorate explained in a statement.

The Cyber Crime Department stated that the individuals were apprehended as part of ongoing monitoring and surveillance efforts. Legal proceedings are underway, and the case will be referred to the Public Prosecution.

This arrest highlights Bahrain's commitment to combating online hate.

Majestic vision



TDT | Kuala Lumpur

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa reaffirmed his commitment to ongoing collaboration with His Majesty the King of Malaysia, Sultan Ibrahim ibni Sultan Iskandar.

This continued partnership aims to advance the strategic relations between the two nations and broaden levels of cooperation and joint action, fostering mutual interests.

HM King Hamad extended his best wishes for continued success and prosperity to Malaysia and its people.

HM the King was speaking as he attended a dinner banquet hosted by HM Sultan Ibrahim in honour of the guests participating of His Majesty's installation.

The event was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty, senior guests, senior Malaysian government officials, and invitees.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellen-

cy Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, held a meeting with Malaysian counterpart Mohamed Hasan in Kuala Lumpur, coinciding with HM King Hamad's visit.

Cordial talks

HM King Hamad exchanged cordial talks with HM Sultan Ibrahim, reflecting the close historical ties between the two countries and their peoples, as well as their common interest in further strengthening and consolidating these relations.

His Majesty the King thanked HM King Sultan Ibrahim for the welcome and hospitality that he and the accompanying delegation have received.

At the end of the dinner banquet, HM King Hamad expressed his best wishes to the Malaysian king, thanking His Majesty for the invitation to participate in the coronation ceremony.

Earlier, HM King Hamad attended the installation of HM Sultan Ibrahim as King of Malaysia.

The ceremony, which took

HM King Hamad and HM Sultan Ibrahim open new era of Bahrain-Malaysia relations and cooperation



place at Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur, was attended by His Majesty at the invitation from HM Sultan Ibrahim.

Upon arrival at the Balai Rong Seri Hall at Istana Negara, His Majesty King Hamad was greeted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, and the Bahraini national anthem was played.

HM the King met HM Sultan Ibrahim, extending heartfelt congratulations and wishing him health, happiness, and success in his royal duties for the progress and prosperity of Malaysia and its people.

Strong relations

HM King Hamad praised the strong historical relations between Bahrain and Malaysia.

HM Sultan Ibrahim thanked HM King Hamad for attending the installation, expressing deep appreciation for the congratulations and sentiments that reflect the deep and long-standing ties between the two countries.

HM Sultan Ibrahim also lauded HM is Majesty's efforts to strengthen Bahraini-Malaysian relations, wishing him good health and continued prosperity for the people of Bahrain.



HM the King with HM Sultan Ibrahim at the installation ceremony and dinner banquet

Growing partnership

Bahrain-Malaysia trade achieves 5% growth

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Recent data reveals a flourishing trade relationship between Bahrain and Malaysia, with the trade volume reaching approximately \$263.3 million in 2023, marking a 5% increase from the previous year.

The exchange of goods cen-

tered around a diverse range of products, including wood, furniture, auto parts, electronics, foodstuffs, edible oils, aluminium, and lubricants. Investment prospects between the two nations appear most promising in fields such as medical technology, transportation technology, construction, chemicals, electrical and electronic appliances, machinery,

metals, and Islamic banking.

Notably, Bahrain and Malaysia are among the top five countries globally in the Islamic banking sector, indicating a long-standing and productive relationship spanning over two decades.

According to the 2023 Islamic Finance Development Report by the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sec-

tor (ICD) and the London Stock Exchange Group, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Bahrain are the leading countries on the Islamic Finance Development Indicator.

Bahrain, in particular, ranked first globally in Islamic finance systems, showcasing its leadership in regulating Islamic finance. The Islamic Finance Develop-

ment Report tracks the progress of the global Islamic finance industry, relying on the Islamic Finance Development Indicator, which evaluates data across various sectors, asset classes, and the industry's support system.

The 2023 Index is based on financial performance, governance, sustainability, knowledge, and awareness.

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National pride

MPs commend Bahrain's security and stability under royal leadership

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

In a demonstration of unity, MPs have expressed their pride in the security and stability that the Kingdom enjoys under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

They praised the national awareness of Bahrain's citizens, who heed the Ministry of Interior's directives to avoid inflammatory calls that threaten national security and civil peace.

MP Mohammed Janahi commended the freedom in Bahrain for citizens to practise their religious rituals responsibly, noting that the recent Ashura season concluded successfully through the combined efforts of official and civil entities, guided directly by HM the King.

MP Janahi emphasised the importance of not exploiting religious occasions to incite tension, quarrels, or political unrest through marches that



It is important not to exploit religious occasions to incite tension, quarrels, or political unrest through marches that end in violence and negative consequences for the nation and its citizens.

MP MOHAMMED JANAH



The Kingdom, under its wise leadership, remains a land of peace, ready to counter any conspiracies against the nation and its leaders.

MP JAMEEL MULLA HASSAN

Safety and security

He acknowledged the vigilance of Bahrain's security per-

sonnel, led by the Minister of Interior, in ensuring the safety and security of all.

MP Janahi also denounced suspicious entities from abroad inciting violence and unlawful marches, stating that such calls are broadly rejected by the diverse components of Bahraini society.

The people of Bahrain, known for their solidarity and cohesion, universally oppose endangering security, civil peace, and national unity.

Suspicious calls

Echoing these sentiments, MP Jameel Mulla Hassan reaffirmed that all citizens of Bahrain, from various backgrounds, reject these suspicious calls.

He supported the Chief of Public Security's appeal for citizens to disregard any such calls from external parties aiming to disturb public order and pose legal risks to participants.

The Kingdom, he added, under its wise leadership, remains a land of peace, ready to counter any conspiracies against the nation and its leaders.

MP Al-Dhaen Warns of Exploited Harmony

TDT | Manama

MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen has sounded the alarm about attempts to disrupt Bahrain's peaceful climate. She expressed deep concern over inflammatory rhetoric and actions aimed at destabilizing the nation's security and public order.

Emphasizing Bahrain's robust human rights record and its embodiment in everyday life, Al-Dhaen underscored the potential consequences of succumbing to such calls.

Such actions, she warned, would not only jeopardize security and civil peace but also infringe upon the rights of citizens.

Incitement

The MP stressed that those involved in these activities would face the full force of the law, citing the Bahrain Penal Code's clear stance against incitement.

Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al-Hassan's recent warnings echoed this sentiment.

Al-Dhaen lauded Bahrain's unwavering commitment to human and civilizational values, which have been instru-



MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen

mental in fostering security, development, and respect for human rights.

Cornerstone

The nation's robust legal framework, supported by independent institutions, has been a cornerstone in safeguarding these principles, she noted.

However, the MP cautioned against complacency, asserting that Bahrain's positive trajectory should not be exploited by foreign entities seeking to undermine the law and public interest.

She called upon citizens to exercise wisdom and a strong sense of national responsibility to preserve the nation's security and stability.

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The Ambassador of the French Republic to the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Excellency Eric Giraud-Telme, was welcomed by the Collective Hub, a business incubator supported by Tenmou, at its headquarters in the Yateem Center complex in Manama. During the visit, The Collective Hub signed a cooperation agreement with the French Embassy to launch a training program in film and video photography, scheduled from July 18 to 29. The program includes grants provided by the Embassy to members of the "It's All Things Media 2.0" initiative. Above, Ambassador Giraud-Telme, right, with Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Kooheji, a member of the Board of Directors at The Collective Hub, and Mrs. Khawla Alshaiikh, Director of The Collective Hub, at the agreement-signing ceremony.

Gulf Air unveils plans for high-tech MRO hangar at Bahrain International Airport

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, Bahrain's national carrier, has unveiled plans for a cutting-edge Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) hangar at Bahrain International Airport.

This development promises to enhance Bahrain's aviation capabilities and signals the carrier's drive for operational excellence and forward-thinking strategies.

The hangar, spanning over 20,000 square metres, will boast temperature-controlled aircraft bays fitted with state-of-the-art technology in aviation engineering, automation,

and sustainability.

Features

These features are designed to ensure top-notch efficiency and readiness for Gulf Air's fleet as well as other operators.

The facility will also house warehouses, workshops, and a dedicated aircraft apron.

It aims to deliver high-quality and efficient maintenance services that meet the highest international standards, thus boosting Gulf Air's operational capacity and offering growth opportunities for engineers, technicians, and aviation experts.

Enthusiasm

Gulf Air Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Jeffrey Goh expressed his enthusiasm about the project, noting that it represents a significant step forward for Bahrain's aviation sector.

This facility, the first of its kind dedicated to Gulf Air's aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul needs, is set to enhance the skills and capabilities of Bahrain's aircraft maintenance operations.

Additionally, it will be a valuable addition to the infrastructure at Bahrain International Airport, managed by Bahrain Airport Company.

Man to pay ex-wife BD30,000 dowry

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has overturned a lower court ruling that obligated a man to transfer ownership of a house to his ex-wife and pay her BD30,000, comprising a BD10,000 deferred dowry and a BD20,000 "Mahr al-Mithl" (equivalent dowry).

The man's lawyers, Samra Al Qasir and Zahra Al Jisr, argued that their client had married the plaintiff with a dowry of BD20,000, including a house to be registered in her name.

The couple had a daughter, but later divorced. The ex-wife did not receive the deferred dowry and the house was never registered in her name as agreed upon in the marriage contract.

The lower court had initially ruled in favour of the ex-wife, ordering the man to pay the BD10,000 deferred dowry and transfer ownership of the house to her. However, the man appealed the ruling.



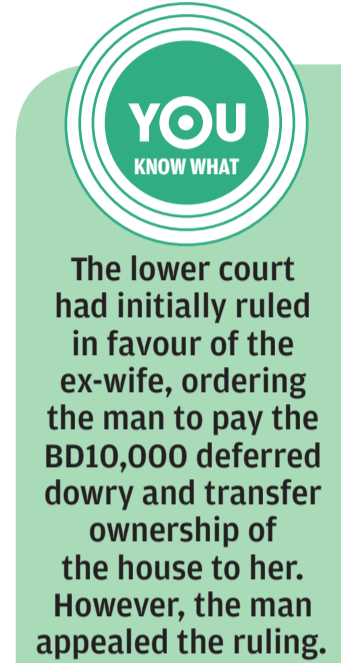
The High Appeals Court, in its judgment, stated that the marriage contract clearly stipulated a BD10,000 immediate dowry and a BD10,000 deferred dowry, including "Mahr al-Mithl" and a house in the woman's name.

Market value

The court highlighted that the house was not specifically defined, and therefore, the "Mahr al-Mithl" should be determined based on the prevailing market value.

The court further explained that the lack of a specific description of the house rendered the agreement invalid, as it lacked clarity and could lead to disputes. The court emphasised that the "Mahr al-Mithl" should be at least equal to the specified part of the dowry.

After reviewing the case, the High Appeals Court found the lower court's ruling flawed due to insufficient reasoning and incorrect interpretation of the law. The court reversed the lower



The lower court had initially ruled in favour of the ex-wife, ordering the man to pay the BD10,000 deferred dowry and transfer ownership of the house to her. However, the man appealed the ruling.

court's decision and ordered the man to pay the BD10,000 deferred dowry and a "Mahr al-Mithl" of BD20,000.

Illegal march organised in Al Duraz village

TDT | Manama

The Director General of the Northern Governorate Police Directorate confirmed that a group of individuals participated in an illegal march on the public streets of Al Duraz village and other areas, in response to inciting calls that violate the law.

Prior warnings had been issued against committing legal violations in the event of responding to these calls.

The Director General added that these individuals attacked the security forces tasked with maintaining public order, with the intention of preventing them from performing their duties.

"The participants in this group also engaged in acts of rioting, vandalism, and blocking public streets, and hurled iron rods and stones at police personnel," the Director Gen-

eral added.

He explained that in order to deal with the legal violations committed by the group, the participants were warned, but they failed to respond.

Legal procedures

"This necessitated dealing with the situation according to the established legal procedures, ensuring the protection of properties and individuals. As a result of the confrontation, one of the participants was injured," he added.

The relevant authorities have initiated their investigations into the incident and the police procedures for dealing with it, in accordance with the established regulations and procedures.

Additionally, the authorities are investigating the inciting calls that accompanied the incident, in order to uncover all the facts.

High Court to review Asian man's drug smuggling case

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court is set to review a case involving an Asian man accused of smuggling narcotics into the country.

The court has scheduled a hearing for August 4th to bring the defendant, currently in custody, before the court.

The case stems from an incident on November 27, 2023, when authorities at the Bahrain Post intercepted a package from an Asian country.

Suspicion

An X-ray scan raised suspicion, leading to the discovery of two bags containing a crystalline substance concealed within shampoo bottles.

Laboratory analysis confirmed the substance to be methamphetamine, weighing

1103.5 grams.

The defendant, who was identified as the intended recipient of the package, was nabbed on November 29th when he arrived at the post office to claim it.

Package

He admitted to being the recipient and was subsequently arrested along with the package.

A search of his residence, conducted with a warrant from the Public Prosecution, yielded a sensitive scale, which was also found to contain traces of methamphetamine.

The lower court had sentenced the defendant to five years imprisonment, a fine of BD3,000, and the confiscation of the seized items. The court also ordered his permanent deportation from Bahrain upon completion of his sentence.

Developing parks, public facilities

TDT | Manama

The Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry is committed to developing parks and public facilities across Bahrain as part of its strategy to implement service projects and provide high-quality services that meet citizens' aspirations.

This was emphasised by Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry Undersecretary, as he inspected the development works at Dir Western Garden in Block 231, Dir Eastern Garden in Block 231, and Samaheej Garden in Block 236 in the Sixth District of Muharraq Governorate.

MPs push for Industrial Development Fund

Mohammed Darwish

TDT | Manama

A group of MPs has put forward a proposal for an Industrial Development Fund aimed at stimulating Bahrain's economic growth.

This 20-article legislation intends to create an independent "Industrial Development Fund" with legal and financial autonomy, overseen by a designated government minister.

The proposal, submitted by Ahmed Al-Salloom, Khaled Buanak, Zainab Abdul Amir, Eman Showaiter, and Maryam Al-Dhain, seeks to enhance economic progress and ensure prosperity for Bahraini citizens.

Economic development



MP Ahmed Al-Salloom



MP Maryam Al-Dhain

They cite Article 10 of the Bahraini Constitution, which advocates for a national economy grounded in social justice and equitable cooperation between public and private sectors, aiming for economic de-

velopment through a planned approach.

Additionally, the MPs reference Article 92, which allows them to submit legislative proposals.

The proposed law sets out several key objectives in Article 3.

Primarily, it aims to support the transformation of Bahrain's industrial sector by embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution and future industries such as renewable energy, petrochemicals, green/blue hydrogen, manufacturing, food/pharmaceuticals, and microelectronics.

Goal

Another goal is to increase the industrial sector's contribution to the national GDP.

It also seeks to boost exports of domestically produced industrial goods and enhance their competitiveness in global markets. Furthermore, the proposal aims to develop the private sector to drive economic growth across non-oil industries.

In essence, the proposed Industrial Development Fund aspires to accelerate industrial development, create employment opportunities, and strengthen Bahrain's economy in line with the nation's economic diversification goals.



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iGA advances 2024 Household Income and Expenditure Survey

TDT | Manama

The Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) is pushing forward with its Household Income and Expenditure Survey for 2024.

This initiative aims to build a thorough database on household income and spending patterns for both citizens and residents in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The goal is to equip policy-

makers with the data they need to craft effective economic, social, and environmental strategies.

مسح دخل
ونفقات
الأسرة 2024
Household Income &
Expenditure Survey



The survey involves over 6,000 randomly selected households and runs from January to December 2024.

The iGA has stressed the need for active participation from the selected households in the latter half of the year to ensure the project's success.

Households are encouraged to provide accurate information to the survey team.

All collected data will be han-

dled with the highest standards of confidentiality and personal data protection.

The authority has thanked the 3,161 households that have already taken part in the first half of the year.

The process begins with a call from the survey's contact centre (17878070) to schedule an appointment, followed by three to four visits from a researcher to complete the forms.

Real estate ad ban

Realtors will soon be required to get RERA approval before rolling out advertisements

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Under new regulations issued by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), advertising real estate plans without prior approval from relevant authorities will be banned starting October 18, 2024.

RERA has laid out specific guidelines for real estate advertisements and urged all licensed institutions to comply.

RERA has stressed its aim to regulate the real estate sector and ensure the protection of all stakeholders' rights.

Licensed entities are required to maintain principles of integrity and transparency, avoiding the concealment of any vital information about the advertised property.

Advertisements must obtain the owner's consent before being published and must not contain any misleading information.

The regulations state that the purpose of the advertisement must be clearly defined.



from the owner, this must be clearly indicated.

Altered images

RERA has mandated that advertisements should not use altered images that misrepresent the property.

Advertising real estate plans without approval from relevant authorities is strictly forbidden.

For sales projects advertised on a map licensed by RERA, a QR code showing the project's licensing information must be included.

Fake advertisements

The decision prohibits fake advertisements aimed solely at data collection or other purposes not related to the actual sale or rental of the property.

These directives will take effect on October 18, 2024, and compliance is expected to avoid any penalties under Law No. 27 of 2017 and related decisions.

RERA has also informed licensing authorities that QR codes for each institution's licence will be provided shortly.



The new regulations RERA guidelines aim to regulate the real estate sector and ensure the protection of all stakeholders' rights.

Once the purpose is achieved, the advertisement must be updated or removed within three days.

Additionally, all advertise-

ments must include a quick response (QR) code issued by the RERA, displaying licensing information.

If an advertisement is directly

Social media activist enters Muharraq by-election

TDT | Manama

Abdullah Yusuf Al Sahli, a prominent social media activist, has announced his candidacy for the 2024 by-election in the first constituency of Muharraq Governorate (Al Busaiteen), seeking to replace the recently disqualified MP Mohammed Al Hussaini.

Speaking to Al Ayam, Al Sahli stated that his decision to run stems from his desire to bring about change through proposed legislation and initiatives.

He added that he intends to introduce new laws and regulations if elected, aiming to complete his work over the next two legislative terms, particularly in light of the upcoming national budget.

Regarding his chances of winning, Al Sahli expressed confidence, emphasising his



Abdullah Yusuf Al Sahli

The by-election, which will take place next September.

strong roots in Al Busaiteen, where his family, friends, and supporters reside.

He highlighted his previous experience in the 2018 municipal elections for the same constituency, where he garnered 3,500 votes, a significant number.

He expressed hope for the support of Al Busaiteen residents in the upcoming election.

Contractor sought for landscaping project

TDT | Manama

The Government Hospitals have announced a tender for a landscaping contract, aiming to enhance the green spaces across several health-care facilities.

The tender, published on the Tender Board website, reflects the government's commitment to promoting greenery in the Kingdom.

The contract, which will span 36 months, seeks a contractor to provide two agricultural equipment operators with necessary equipment, as well as a palm tree specialist for the Salmaniya Medical Complex.

The responsibilities will include tree pruning, palm tree

maintenance, debris removal, seasonal flower planting, fruit harvesting, and general horticultural services across all government hospitals.

The scope of the project extends beyond the Salmaniya Medical Center, encompassing several other hospitals and health centers, including Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Medical Center, Jidhafs Maternity Hospital, Elderly Care Hospital in Muharraq, Abdulrahman Kanoo Kidney Center, Multiple Sclerosis Center in Muharraq.

The tender requires a BD500 initial guarantee, valid for 180 days. Bidders are allowed to submit multiple options, and the tender closes on July 30th, 2024.

Summer Enrichment Program registration

TDT | Manama

The Educational Services Sector at the Ministry of Education has announced the opening of registration for the 2024 Summer Enrichment Program.

Registration will be available from today to July 25, 2024.

Interested participants can

register by scanning the QR code via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/sD9EFxg4eA?origin=lprLink> and completing the required information.

This year's program features a diverse array of workshops and in-person lectures, including scientific, cultural, sports, entertainment, artistic, scouting, and guidance activities.

Thirteenth 'Youth City 2030' set to begin today

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the thirteenth edition of "Youth City 2030" is set to begin today.

This event, spearheaded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, is in collaboration with its strategic partner, the Labour Fund (Tamkeen).

Her Excellency Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, recently visited the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre to inspect the Youth City 2030 preparations.

The initiative aims to equip young people with the skills needed for the labour market.

This year, Youth City 2030 offers 4,000 training slots across 148 programmes over six weeks.

Morning sessions are designed for ages 9 to 14, while evening programmes target those aged 15 to 35. The city features five centres, each offering professionally crafted training programmes aimed at identifying and nurturing Bahraini youth talents to



H.E. Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi visits the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre to inspect the preparations

make them competitive in the job market.

The Arts and Culture Centre includes sections on drawing and painting, cooking, fashion design, printing, interior design, jewellery design, and cultural narration.

The Science and Technology Centre covers areas such as agriculture, recycling, renewable

energy, cybersecurity, electronic game design, electrical engineering, and data specification.

Courses

The Sports and Health Centre provides courses on health and nutrition, fitness, football, physiotherapy, first aid, and basketball.

The Media and Entertainment

Centre offers training in photography, graphic design, music, video production, journalism, media presentation, acting, and sound recording.

The Leadership and Entrepreneurship Centre focuses on life skills, leadership, entrepreneurship, youth initiatives, and communication skills.

Workshop held on how to identify risk of suicide

TDT | Manama

The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF), in association with the Indian Ladies Association (ILA), organised a gatekeeper training workshop on Friday, 19 July 2024.

This is the third of the series we have scheduled during this Silver Jubilee year.

The training under the banner ICRF-LIFE (Listen, Involve, Foster, Engage) is an initiative of ICRF which trains participants on how to identify those at risk of suicide.

The training also equips the volunteers with the necessary intervention skills and raise

awareness of help that is available.

Dr. Anisha Abraham, Clinical psychologist, Child Foundation Centre and Dr Surabhila Pattali, Learning and development facilitator-Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance conducted the training which was moderated by ICRF Chairman Dr Babu Ramchandran.

Around 50 participants including executive members of various associations joined the training session which was held at the ILA premises in Zinj.

The training provided insight on how to deal with suicide prevention and provide mental health support.



Dr. Anisha Abraham, Dr. Surabhila Pattali and Dr. Babu Ramchandran with participants

Airlines resume services after global IT crash

● Multiple US airlines and airports across Asia said they were now resuming operations

● India's largest airline Indigo said operations had been "resolved"

● Low-cost carrier AirAsia said it was still trying to get back online

● Microsoft said the issue began at 1900 GMT on Thursday

● CrowdStrike said it had rolled out a fix for the problem

AFP | Paris, France

Airlines were gradually coming back online yesterday after global carriers, banks and financial institutions were thrown into turmoil by one of the biggest IT crashes in recent years, caused by an update to an antivirus program.

Passenger crowds had swelled at airports on Friday to wait for news as dozens of flights were cancelled and operators struggled to keep services on track, after an update to a program operating on Microsoft Windows crashed systems worldwide.

Multiple US airlines and airports across Asia said they were now resuming operations, with check-in services restored in Hong Kong, South Korea and Thailand, and mostly back to normal in India, Indonesia and at Singapore's Changi Airport as of Saturday afternoon.

"The check-in systems have come back to normal (at Thailand's five major airports). There are no long queues at the airports as we experienced yesterday," Airports of Thailand president Keerati Kitmanawat told reporters at Don Mueang airport in Bangkok.



Passengers wait for their flights at the Cancun airport in Quintana Roo state, Mexico

Microsoft said the issue began at 1900 GMT on Thursday, affecting Windows users running the CrowdStrike Falcon cybersecurity software.

CrowdStrike said it had rolled out a fix for the problem and the company's boss, George Kurtz, told US news channel CNBC he wanted to "personally apologise to every organisation, every group and every person who has been impacted".

It also said it could take a few days to return to normal.

US President Joe Biden's team was talking to CrowdStrike and those affected by the glitch "and is standing by to provide assistance as needed", the White House said in a statement.

"Our understanding is that flight operations have resumed across the country, although some congestion remains," a senior US administration official said.

Reports from the Netherlands and Britain suggested health services might have been affected by the disruption, meaning the full impact might not yet be known.

Media companies were also hit, with Britain's Sky News saying the glitch had ended its Friday morning news broadcasts, and Australia's ABC similarly reporting major difficulties.

By Saturday, services in Australia had mostly returned to normal, but Sydney Airport was still reporting flight delays.

Australian authorities warned

of an increase in scam and phishing attempts following the outage, including people offering to help reboot computers and asking for personal information or credit card details.

Banks in Kenya and Ukraine reported issues with their digital services, while some mobile phone carriers were disrupted and customer services in a number of companies went down.

"The scale of this outage is unprecedented, and will no doubt go down in history," said Junade Ali of Britain's Institution of Engineering and Technology, adding that the last incident approaching the same scale was in 2017.

Flight chaos

While some airports halted all flights, in others airline staff resorted to manual check-ins for passengers, leading to long lines and frustrated travellers.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) initially ordered all flights grounded "regardless of destination", though airlines later said they were re-establishing their services and working through the backlog.

India's largest airline Indigo said operations had been "resolved", in a statement posted on X.

"While the outage has been resolved and our systems are back online, we are diligently working to resume normal operations, and we expect this

process to extend into the weekend," the carrier said Saturday.

A passenger told AFP that the situation was returning to normal at Delhi Airport by midnight on Saturday with only slight delays in international flights.

Low-cost carrier AirAsia said it was still trying to get back online, and had been "working around the clock towards recovering its departure control systems (DCS)" after the global outage. It recommended passengers arrive early at airports and be ready for "manual check-in" at airline counters.

Chinese state media said Beijing's airports had not been affected.

In Europe, major airports including Berlin, which had suspended all flights earlier on Friday, said departures and arrivals were resuming.

'Common cause'

Companies were left patching up their systems and trying to assess the damage, even as officials tried to tamp down panic by ruling out foul play.

CrowdStrike's Kurtz said in a statement his teams were "fully mobilised" to help affected customers and "a fix has been deployed".

But Oli Buckley, a professor at Britain's Loughborough University, was one of many experts who questioned the ease of rolling out a proper fix.

"While experienced users can implement the workaround, expecting millions to do so is impractical," he said.

Other experts said the incident should prompt a widespread reconsideration of how reliant societies are on a handful of tech companies for such an array of services.

"We need to be aware that such software can be a common cause of failure for multiple systems at the same time," said John McDermid, a professor at York University in Britain.

He said infrastructure should be designed "to be resilient against such common cause problems".

Nesto Group to open new Hypermarket in Isa Town

Grand Opening today



TDT | Manama

Nesto Group of Companies is set to inaugurate its latest venture, Nesto Hypermarket, in Isa Town, marking the opening of their 128th outlet.

The grand event is scheduled for today at 9:30 am, followed by the hypermarket's doors opening to customers at 12 noon.

Nesto Hypermarket, situated near Seef Mall in Isa Town, boasts ample car parking facilities and promises a diverse selection of products at competitive prices.

To commemorate the occasion, special opening offers

and deals will be available, ensuring a rewarding shopping experience for visitors.

The company said this expansion represents a significant milestone for Nesto Group, underscoring their ongoing dedication to delivering top-notch products and services. The management said it extends an open invitation to all to join in celebrating the grand opening of Nesto Hypermarket.

The statement said customers are encouraged to attend this milestone event, where Nesto Group looks forward to welcoming everyone to experience their latest offering in retail excellence.

Beijing's foreign trade hits \$256 billion in first half of 2024

TDT | Beijing

Beijing's foreign trade reached a record 1.83 trillion yuan (approximately \$256.61 billion) in the first half of 2024, according to Xinhua News Agency.

Beijing imports and exports rose by 3.6 percent year-on-year, accounting for 8.7 percent of China's total foreign trade.

Emerging industries significantly contributed to this growth, representing 27.8 percent of Beijing's total exports.



The 777X, Boeing's latest flying behemoth

AFP | Everett, United States

The 777X, Boeing's latest incarnation of the popular 777 family, has received more than 500 orders, although it has not yet entered commercial service.

Here are some key facts about the new aircraft.

Largest of its class

The dual-aisle plane, first announced in 2013, has a wingspan of 72 meters and a maximum length of 77 meters, which will make it the biggest dual-en-



Boeing 777 freighters and 777X are built at the Everett Production Facility in Everett, Washington

gine commercial aircraft in the

world.

Prior-generation offerings including the Airbus A380 and Boeing 747, which are no longer manufactured, had four engines.

As of late June, Boeing had received 540 orders for the 777X. The plane will be assembled at the company's Seattle-area factory in Everett, Washington

state.

Various versions

There are three versions of the jet.

The 777-8 is a direct competitor to the Airbus A350-1000. It can hold 350 to 370 people and can fly as far as 16,110 kilometers (about 10,000 miles). It has 78 orders.

The 777-9 can carry between 400 and 425 passengers and fly as far as 14,075 km (about 8,750 miles). It has received 407 orders.

The 777-8 cargo is capable of transporting freight up to 118 tons. This jet has received 55 orders through the end of June. In July, Emirates announced plans to purchase an additional five jets.

Certification delays

Boeing had originally planned for the jet to enter service in January 2020, but the timeframe has been pushed back to 2025 due to certification delays.

The jet still must be certified by the US Federal Aviation Administration.

In April 2022, Boeing announced it was pushing back construction until the end of 2023 due to those delays.

Observers believe the company has built 20 of the aircraft, in addition to four being used during flight tests.

ing estimates the new jet will reduce jet fuel consumption per seat and operating costs by 10 percent compared with rival planes.

In May 2023, the list price of the 777-8 was \$410.2 million, while that of the 777-9 was \$442.2 million.

The plane has about three million parts and about 215 kilometers of cables.

The engine is the GE9X produced by General Electric, the biggest ever manufactured, with a diameter of 3.4 meters (11.1 feet).

Costs

Boe-



In the mammoth factory that a Boeing manager calls the largest "on the planet" in terms of volume, the company is assembling the world's biggest double-engine aircraft: the 777X. Boeing is assembling three versions of the jet: the 777-200 cargo plane, which is based on a 777 model already in service; the next-generation 777-9 which is still being certified; and the 777-8, another new model that is somewhat smaller than 777-9.

CELEBS celebs

Tom Cruise 'knocked out' Rob Lowe during hotel hallway sparring match

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Tom Cruise once "knocked out" Rob Lowe during a sparring match in a hotel hallway.

The two Hollywood stars were in their teens when they worked on Francis Ford Coppola's 1983 movie 'The Outsiders' together, and they had to find ways to kill the time when they were "stuck on location".

Appearing on 'The Rich Eisen Show', Rob recalled: "He's [Cruise] so competitive

that we used to box in the hallway of the hotel we were staying at during 'Outsiders'.

"So much testosterone. We're 18-year-old guys stuck on location. So we would wear headgear, and we'd have mouthpieces in, but we would legitimately spar."

The 60-year-old star admitted Tom was "jacked" at the time, whereas he wasn't quite as focused on working out.

He added: "Tom is like this beast. And I hit him real clean and I

rang his bell.

"And the next thing I knew I woke up and I was coming to on the floor. He like completely knocked me out."

The 'West Wing' star thinks the 'Mission: Impossible' actor's defensive instincts kicked in after he "hit him hard and his eyes went black".

There was no hard feelings between the two, as Rob jokingly compared their sparring sessions to David Fincher's 1999 'Fight Club', which is based on the 1996 novel of the same name by Chuck Palahniuk.

Rob previously revealed how Tom went "ballistic" when they had to share a room as they prepared to film 'The Outsiders'.

The pair had been asked to go from Los Angeles to New York during the casting process, and Tom was furious about sharing a room at The Plaza Hotel.

Speaking on Dax Shepard's 'Armchair Expert' podcast, Rob said: "All of the LA people survived the LA auditions, and then the hand-picked people had to go to New York to face the New York version.

”



Tom is like this beast. And I hit him real clean and I rang his bell. And the next thing I knew I woke up and I was coming to on the floor. He like completely knocked me out

ROB LOWE

"So it was me and Tom and Emilio (Estevez) and C. Thomas Howell.

"[It was the] first time I ever stayed at The Plaza Hotel, and we check-in and Tom finds out we're sharing a room and just goes ballistic."

He believes Tom's tantrum showed his desire to succeed as an actor and that he demanded high standards.



Tom Cruise

Britney Spears suffered from 'false confidence' after split

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Britney Spears was suffering from "a false confidence" after her split from Sam Asghari.

The 42-year-old singer and the 30-year-old actor split in July 2023 after 14 months of marriage and Britney has admitted she struggled in many different ways after the breakup.

She posted a throwback reel on her Instagram page, showing herself dancing in a silver thong, and wrote: "It's time for a throwback this week !!! And oh boy I know how to tell 'em don't I???"

"It's perspective I guess !!! This was me almost a year ago in September!!! I look way younger and way smaller!!!

"I guess I need to brace myself and slow down and recap the past year because I think I had a false confidence after my divorce!!!

"Although I

did post some of my best work ... There was a lot of WTF moments!!!"

And Britney admitted she may need "more therapy" to help her cope.

She added: "Trust me I know we're all human and make mistakes !!! I literally need to go back and adjust and possibly do a couple more therapy sessions!!!"

She added that she was sorry "for not being perfect and I will try and get confidence and consistency back like I used to have!!!"

Sam filed for divorce last year citing "irreconcilable differences" and opened up about the split in an Instagram statement.

He said: "After six years of love and commitment to each other my wife and I have decided to end our journey together. We will hold onto the love and respect we have for each other and I wish her the best always."



Britney Spears

Neil Patrick Harris devastated by sudden death of dog

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Neil Patrick Harris has been left devastated by the sudden death of his dog.

The 51-year-old actor was on holiday with his husband David Burtka while their twins Harper Grace and Gideon Scott, 13, were at camp when their close family friend Michael - who was dog sitting golden retriever Ella - called to tell them about her sudden death.

Writing in his newsletter Wondercade, Neil said: "The morning after we arrived, my calm and carefree slumber was interrupted by my phone buzzing on the nightstand. It was Michael, our closest friend/practical family member who was looking after our dogs at our house on Long Island, the aptly named Funhouse Farm. It was unusual for him to call so early, and I groggily answered. 'Ella is dead.'"

Angelina Jolie wants Brad Pitt to 'end the fighting' over their winery

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Angelina Jolie wants Brad Pitt to "end the fighting" over their winery.

The 49-year-old actress and 'Fight Club' star Brad, 60, have been locked in a battle over the ownership of their \$500 million winery, Château Miraval, after she sold her stake following the end of their marriage in 2016 but now her lawyer has revealed that she is keen for him to drop the lawsuit against her.

Paul Murphy, who is acting as lawyer for the 'Ma-

leficient' star, explained in a statement given to People on

Wednesday that Brad

"tried to punish and control Angelina by demanding a newly expanded NDA to cover his personal misconduct and abuse."

As part of his lawsuit, Brad is suing Angelina for selling her stake, seeking monetary damages, and legal fees, and for the sale to be voided but Murphy insisted that Angelina - who has Maddox, 22, Pax, 20, Zahara, 18, Shiloh, 18, and 16-year-old twins Vivienne, Angelina Jolie

and Knox with her estranged husband - just wants to "heal" their family as she proposes to end it all.

He said: "Those actions are central to these proceedings. We are not at all surprised Mr. Pitt is afraid to turn over the documents demonstrating these facts

"While Angelina again asks Mr. Pitt to end the fighting and finally put their family on a clear path toward healing, unless Mr. Pitt withdraws his lawsuit, Angelina has no choice but to obtain the evidence necessary to prove his allegations wrong."

In May, Angelina was ordered to turn over eight years' worth of non-disclosure agreements relating to her winery dispute.

It was ruled that Angelina had to produce "all non-privileged documents in her possession, custody, or control that are responsive to" a request by Brad's side to show any of the papers she has signed.



Angelina Jolie

SUDOKU

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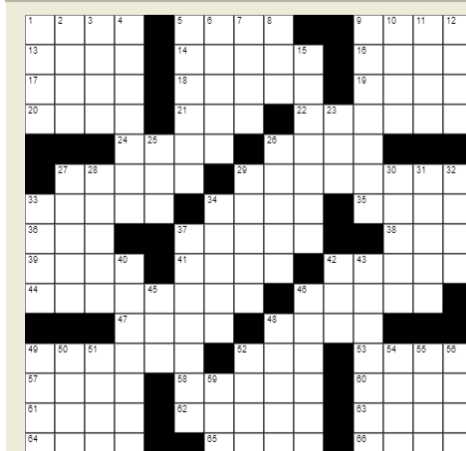
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- 500 sheets; 2- River to the Mediterranean; 3- Banned apple spray; 4- Singer Etheridge; 5- Certifiable; 6- Leaves port; 7- Memo starter; 8- Dundee denial; 9- Purposes; 10- Peruse; 11- In _ (stuck); 12- And _ bed; 15- Cuddle; 23- Bring civil action against; 25- Orch. section; 26- Large artery; 27- Greeting; 28- French farewell; 29- Spud; 30- Emcees; 31- Bar, legally; 32- Horse color; 33- So-so grades; 34- Weird; 37- Makeshift solution; 40- Elusive; 42- Drift, make a mistake; 43- Vientiane native; 45- Sue Grafton's " _ for Evidence"; 46- Hotel patrons; 48- Steve of country music; 49- Wallet fillers; 50- Pineapple vendor; 51- French summers; 52- The back end of something; 54- Light ring; 55- Rifle adjunct; 56- This _ outrage!; 59- Bus. bigwig;

Down

1- Public disturbance; 2- River to the Mediterranean; 3- Banned apple spray; 4- Singer Etheridge; 5- Certifiable; 6- Leaves port; 7- Memo starter; 8- Dundee denial; 9- Purposes; 10- Peruse; 11- In _ (stuck); 12- And _ bed; 15- Cuddle; 23- Bring civil action against; 25- Orch. section; 26- Large artery; 27- Greeting; 28- French farewell; 29- Spud; 30- Emcees; 31- Bar, legally; 32- Horse color; 33- So-so grades; 34- Weird; 37- Makeshift solution; 40- Elusive; 42- Drift, make a mistake; 43- Vientiane native; 45- Sue Grafton's " _ for Evidence"; 46- Hotel patrons; 48- Steve of country music; 49- Wallet fillers; 50- Pineapple vendor; 51- French summers; 52- The back end of something; 54- Light ring; 55- Rifle adjunct; 56- This _ outrage!; 59- Bus. bigwig;

Yesterday's solution

G	R	A	B	E	T	A	L	P	R	O	S
L	O	R	E	A	R	I	S	E	A	E	R
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S	A	N	D	T	R	A	P	N	E	A	T
T	S	O	S	A	T	A	D	E	S	S	A
I	A	L	L	I	T	E	R	A	T	L	
N	I	T	R	O	E	T	R	E	O	R	N
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Norris secures Hungarian GP pole

McLaren secures front-row lockout as Verstappen settles for third in wet-dry qualifying

● Oscar Piastri qualifies second

AFP | Budapest

Lando Norris grabbed pole position ahead of his team-mate Oscar Piastri for the Hungarian Grand Prix yesterday as McLaren locked out the front row of the grid for the first time since 2012.

Red Bull's three-time champion Max Verstappen had to settle for third and the second row in the tense wet-dry qualifying.

The 24-year-old Briton,

who is 84 points behind Verstappen in this year's title race, clocked a best lap in one minute and 15.227 seconds to outpace the Australian by 0.022 seconds.

Verstappen was three-hundredths of a second adrift in third ahead of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, who leaves the team at the end of the year, and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes, who will replace him.

Charles Leclerc, in the second Ferrari was sixth ahead of two-time champion Fernando Alonso and his Aston Martin



I'm very happy with that and it wasn't easy at all in difficult conditions so ending up on top is the best for us all and a great result for the team

LANDO NORRIS

team-mate Lance Stroll and the RBs of Daniel Ricciardo and Yuki Tsunoda, who had survived a high-speed crash earlier in Q3.

It was Norris's second pole in four races and the third of his burgeoning career

as he gains front-running experience in his bid to

challenge Verstappen who, on Sunday bids to complete a hat-trick of Hungarian wins.

"I'm very happy with that and it wasn't easy at all in difficult conditions so ending up on top is the best for us all and a great result for the team," said Norris.

"We have come into this weekend confident we can do a good job so to be on pole is sweet."

"It's the first 1-2 for McLaren for a long time and an amazing result for us," said Piastri. "I had a tricky day yesterday so for me it is nice to bounce back."

Verstappen said: "I tried. We have been behind the whole weekend and I tried to make it as close as possible, but it wasn't enough. I would have liked a bit more grip..."

After Friday's sweltering conditions for practice, qualifying began in much cooler weather with temperatures and light rain falling.

The McLaren pair were first out on soft slick tyres along with Kevin Magnussen in his Haas.

Under pressure Perez

George Russell was also struggling before the session was red-flagged when Sergio Perez smacked the wall at Turn Eight, having lost control and made a sideways slide into the barriers



The session saw a red flag due to Sergio Perez's crash, adding to the Mexican driver's recent struggles

in the second Red Bull.

For the under-pressure Mexican driver, it was another Q1 setback in a sequence of bad qualifying outings and came just seconds after Russell had saved his car sliding off at the same place as the rain intensified.

After a 12-minute break, the action resumed with Perez hanging on in ninth from his earlier efforts, before he suffered his fourth Q1 exit in six outings as he embarked on two racing weekends that many observers believe offer him a last chance to save his seat at Red Bull.

In a frantic finale to Q1, on a damp circuit, Russell managed to jump from 14th to 10th but it was not enough as others improved to leave him 17th and

out, taking an early exit for the second year running at the Hungaroring along with Perez, 16th, Zhou Guanyu of Sauber and the two Alpines of Esteban Ocon and Pierre Gasly who stayed in the pits.

Unexpectedly, Daniel Ricciardo was fastest for RB in the changing conditions while Norris was only 13th.

"I'm sorry about this session guys," said Russell, who had asked for more fuel to prolong his running to three laps. "That one is on me."

The Q2 segment started with Sainz on top, until Hamilton and then Verstappen took over, the Dutchman in 1:15.770, nine-tenths faster than Hamilton's pole in 2023. Piastri went second only 0.015 off the pace.

On his second run, Norris took command in 1:15.540 while Hamilton struggled to survive in 10th and Haas's Nico Hulkenberg, Valtteri Bottas of Sauber, Williams' Alex Albon, Sargeant and Magnussen missed the cut to the top-ten shootout.

All this left Norris and Verstappen to scrap for pole, as rain was forecast, and the Dutchman led them out to clock 1:15.555 before Norris cut that time by 0.328 with his lap in 1:15.227. It was provisional pole, as rain began to fall.



Lando Norris in action

Cricket fever takes over Al Najma Sports Club

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Families and tiny tots gathered at Al Najma Sports Club for a lively cricket tournament organized by the Karnataka Social Club & Sports Hub Summer Camp. The event, designed for children and their parents, created a festive atmosphere filled with cheers and excitement.

The summer camp participants enjoyed watching their older siblings and parents compete in friendly cricket matches. Despite the challenge of keeping the youngest spectators off the field, the event was a success under the teachers' watchful eyes.

Parents and students displayed impressive skills, hitting boundaries and bowling



Participants pose for a photo

with precision. The tournament highlighted hidden talents and allowed families to bond and enjoy quality time together.

Honored guests Razzak and Abu Baqer attended the event,

presenting medals to the winning and runner-up teams. The day ended with smiles, laughter, and a sense of community spirit, making it a memorable experience for all involved.

Marseille's new striker Greenwood deflects questions about controversial past

AFP | Marseille

English striker Mason Greenwood said he only wanted to look forward when he was asked at his first Marseille press conference on Friday about the uproar surrounding his arrival at the club.

The 22-year-old was suspended in January 2022 by Manchester United following allegations of attempted rape and sexual assault but prosecutors dropped charges in February 2023.

Marseille fans, including the city's left-wing mayor Benoit Payan, condemned the signing. "I understand the question,



Mason Greenwood

but I don't really want to get into any conversations or any discussions about that," said Greenwood.

"I'd only like to look forward and to be part of Marseille and just to move forward with my-

self, my family, my daughter and my partner and the whole club and to focus on the football and the off-field work with my family."

Greenwood spent last season on loan at Getafe in Spain's La Liga. Marseille paid Manchester United a reported 30 million euros (\$32.7m) for the forward.

"I'm the first to understand that Mason's arrival raises a lot of questions," said Marseille president Pablo Longoria. "But we're talking about the past."

"It's a complex situation and an old situation," Longoria said.

Greenwood scored 10 goals and provided six assists in 36 games for Getafe last season.

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Excitement builds as Bahrain hosts Asian U18 Volleyball Tournament

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is set to host the 15th Asian Under-18 Volleyball Championship on Thursday, welcoming 16 teams from across Asia.

The event will take place at the Bahrain Volleyball Association and Bahrain Table

Tennis Association halls at Isa bin Rashid Sports City in Riffa.

This championship further cements Bahrain's reputation in the volleyball world, showcasing its success in hosting tournaments. It aligns with the vision of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa to position Bahrain as a global sports hub.

For the first time, the tournament will feature "Video Challenge" technology in Bahrain's youth volleyball events. A local team has been trained to operate this system, demonstrating Bahrain's commitment to high standards in sports event hosting.

Zahra Mahfoudh Thamer has been appointed to the ad-

judication panel by the Asian Volleyball Confederation, marking a significant milestone for the Bahrain Volleyball Association.

The 16 participating teams are divided into four groups. Group A includes Bahrain, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Australia. Group B comprises Japan, Chinese Taipei, Sau-

di Arabia, and Kazakhstan. Group C features Iran, China, Lebanon, and the Philippines, while Group D consists of India, South Korea, Kuwait, and Pakistan.

Firas Jawad Al Halwachi, Executive Committee Chairman and Championship Director, confirmed that preparations are well underway.



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Pogacar poised for third Tour title

Tadej Pogacar secures another victory on the Col de Couillole, edging closer to a historic Giro-Tour double

● Pogacar leads Jonas Vingegaard by 5 minutes 14 seconds overall

● Remco Evenepoel drops time, but secures white jersey

AFP | Paris



Tadej Pogacar

“Five wins. If you had told me that before the Tour then I would not have believed you. It's out of this world, I'm super happy”

TADEJ POGACAR

Tadej Pogacar won for a fifth time on this year's Tour de France yesterday, moving to the brink of a third title, with an "out of this world" performance ahead of defending champion Jonas Vingegaard and Remco Evenepoel.

With just Sunday's concluding time trial to come, two-time champion Pogacar has a

five minute 14-second lead over Vingegaard as he effectively made sure of becoming the first man in 26 years to capture the Giro d'Italia-Tour de France double in the same season.

"Tomorrow can still be dangerous so I will try and come safely into Nice," said Pogacar.

The Slovenian won the Tour de France in 2020 and 2021 before his attack-minded tactics backfired as Vingegaard beat him into second place in 2022 and 2023.

"Five wins. If you had told me

that before the Tour then I would not have believed you," said Pogacar. "It's out of this world, I'm super happy."

The day's action culminated on the tough Col de Couillole climb where Evenepoel's Quick Step team set the tempo and attacked Vingegaard in an attempt to take second place overall.

Instead Evenepoel dropped around 53sec on the Dane, making it less likely the Belgian can claim second place after Sunday's time trial, where he is favourite for the stage win.

Vingegaard said he had not been targeting a win yesterday's penultimate stage after admitting on Friday that his title hopes were over when Pogacar also pocketed the 19th stage.

"I was riding more to put more time into him (Evenepoel) rather than going for the stage today. He's the best time triallist in the world so you never know," said the 27-year-old Dane.

YOU KNOW WHAT
Pogacar is on the verge of becoming the first rider in 26 years to win both the Giro d'Italia and Tour de France in the same season, a remarkable feat in modern cycling

"I felt really bad yesterday, completely empty, so to bounce back like this is really nice."

Evenepoel virtually guaranteed third place overall and the white jersey as best young rider.

Olympic champion Richard Carapaz, regarded as the most

combative rider on the 2024 Tour, will win the climb points jersey.

Carapaz came third yesterday, won a stage and even took the yellow jersey for a day early in the Tour.

Pogacar claimed he never intended to win yesterday's stage. "We were letting the breakaway go, we had (teammate) Marc Soler in the breakaway and gave him carte blanche."

Of the 3,498km on this 2024 Tour there remains just 34, a challenging run along the narrow, undulating cornice between the principality of Monaco, where many in the peloton live, and the French Riviera town of Nice.

The Tour traditionally ends with a parade into Paris with a sprint finish contested on the Champs Elysees.

However, due to the Olympics in Paris, the Tour de France avoided the region altogether and instead ends with a new-look finale that may yet produce a surprise.

'Great feeling' as Nadal makes first final in two years at Bastad

● Rafael Nadal defeats Duje Ajdukovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in semifinals

AFP | Bastad

Rafael Nadal reached his first final yesterday since winning the 2022 French Open, defeating Croatian qualifier Duje Ajdukovic in a three-set tussle in Bastad ahead of the Paris Olympics.

A day after his four-hour quarter-final victory, the 22-time Grand Slam champion was again tested by Ajdukovic, the world number 130 who had won just two tour-level matches before this week.

The Spaniard rebounded from dropping the opening set to prevail 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, returning to the final of a tournament he won as a teenager on his last appearance in 2005.

"It was a very tough match. It was very difficult honestly, but I found a way to survive and be through to the final after a long time without being in a final, so that's great news and I'm very happy with that," said Nadal.

The 38-year-old will play Portuguese seventh seed Nuno Borges or Argentina's Thiago Agustín Tirante on Sunday as he goes in search of the 93rd singles title of his career.

“It was a very tough match. It was very difficult honestly, but I found a way to survive and be through to the final after a long time without being in a final, so that's great news and I'm very happy with that”

RAFAEL NADAL

His most recent triumph came two years ago at Roland Garros, when he won the tournament for a record-extending 14th time.

"It's always a great feeling to be back in the final. I won four matches in a row, something I wasn't able to make happen since two years ago," said Nadal, whose ranking has tumbled to 261 after a string of injuries.

"A lot of things happened... I'm still in this process of recovering a lot of things I lost because I had a very important hip surgery almost one year ago, so things are not going that easy. "But I'm fighting. I've fought

BETTER YOU KNOW
This is Nadal's first final in Bastad since winning the tournament as a teenager in 2005

during the whole tournament to be where I am today. Matches like yesterday and today help to improve a lot of things on court, so I'm happy with that. Let's see if I'm able to play a little bit better tomorrow."

Nadal struggled early against the 23-year-old Ajdukovic as he fell 3-0 and a double break down in the opening set, but he

fought his way back with two breaks in the second after another poor start.

The former world number one appeared in complete control in the third set when he surged 3-0 ahead only to lose his serve twice in succession, suffering a repeat of the stumble that nearly cost him on Friday.

He broke again in the seventh game and then resisted two more break points in the next, eventually securing victory with a comfortable hold two games later.

Nadal is using the event in Bastad as a tune-up for the Olympic Games, where the tennis will be played on the clay at Roland Garros. He won gold in the singles in Beijing in 2008 and gold in the doubles at Rio 2016.



Rafael Nadal in action

Berrettini overturns Tsitsipas to reach Gstaad final



Matteo Berrettini in action

AFP | Gstaad

behind his first delivery.

Matteo Berrettini took another big step on his road back to the top echelons of the ATP circuit when he beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (8/6), 7-5 yesterday to reach the final in Gstaad.

The 28-year-old Italian, who won the final in Gstaad in 2018, has struggled with injury since reaching a career-high world number six in May 2022.

He had lost his previous five meetings with the 12th-ranked Greek but edged the key moments in Switzerland to reach his third final of the year, following Marrakesh in April and Stuttgart in June.

Berrettini's serve was key: he did not face a break point and won 92 percent of points

"I kept serving well and believing that something could happen in a return game, and it happened in the end," said Berrettini, currently ranked at 82, in his on-court interview.

"Stefanos is a great player, he knows how to mix things up and the tie-break was really tight, but again like yesterday I think I played a little bit better in important moments."

He will face French qualifier Quentin Halys, ranked 192, who beat the German Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) to make his first ever ATP final.

The two players have met once before at an ITF World Tennis Tour event in Italy in 2015, when Halys came out on top.