

Ford reaches Canadian labor deal as US auto strike enters 6th day

Detroit, United States

The Canadian auto workers union has reached a tentative agreement with Ford, averting a strike as the labour group's US counterpart eyes expanding its ongoing stoppage to more plants.

Unifor, which represents Canadian auto workers, said late Tuesday the agreement pertained to more than 5,600 Canadian Ford workers who stood poised for a potential walkout.

"We believe that this tentative agreement, endorsed by the entire master bargaining committee, addresses all of the items raised by members in preparation for this round of collective bargaining," said Unifor National President Lana Payne.

"We believe that this agreement will solidify the foundations on which we will continue to bargain gains for generations of auto workers in Canada," Payne said in a statement.

Stocks advance as Fed looms, UK inflation dips

AFF | London, United Kingdom

Wall Street and European stock markets mostly rose yesterday as traders gear up for an expected pause in the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike campaign.

Investors also welcomed a surprise drop in UK inflation in August, while oil prices bounced around.

But markets were focused on the Fed announcement later Wednesday, with analysts widely expecting the central bank to keep rates unchanged as it looks to avoid sparking a recession.

Wall Street's main indices were mostly higher while London, Paris and Frankfurt all closed with solid gains.

US monetary policymakers have hiked rates 11 times since March last year in its effort to tame inflation, which has slowed but remains above the Fed's two-percent target.

With little suspense over the

Key figures around 1530 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ 0.5% at 34,688.24 points
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.9% at 7,731.65 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.8% at 15,781.59 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.7 percent at 7,330.79 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.8% at 4,275.98 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.7% at 33,023.78 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.6% at 17,885.60 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.5% at 3,108.57 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.0720 from \$1.0692 on Tuesday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2396 from \$1.2383
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 147.62 yen from 147.61 yen
Euro/pound:	▲ at 86.46 pence from 86.34 pence
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ less than 0.1% at \$94.40 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 0.5 percent at \$91.68 per barrel

rate decision, investors will be more interested in reading the central bank's statement and listening to Fed chair Jerome Powell's press conference for any clues about its next move, including future hikes.

"All the attention will be on the Fed today," said Fawad

Razaqzada, market analyst at Forex.com and City Index.

"At the moment, the market is pricing in about even odds of another rate increase before the year is out," he said.

Deutsche Bank analysts also expect the Fed to signal one more rate increase this year.

Batelco launches first of its kind in Bahrain Enterprise Portal

TDI | Manama

Batelco, part of the Beyond Group, announced the launch of its new online portal, which serves as a digital one-stop-shop specifically designed for the Enterprise sector. The online portal simplifies the Enterprise journey by providing them with an overview of all their services, allowing them to view and manage their usage and consumption as well as apply for new services.

The portal's suite of services includes renewal and upgrade of packages, activating additional lines, adding bolt-ons within seconds, settle device installments, and restore inactive lines. Moreover, customers can also apply for new services such as Mobile Voice, Mobile Broadband and Fixed Broadband with a simple digitized journey.

A key feature of the portal is the multiuser interface that provides business customers with multi access of their account, allowing them to assign roles to sub-users. Sub-users can access the portal and complete transactions related to their fields or area of busi-



Abdulla Danesh

ness. The multiuser feature keeps track of all the activities related to each sub user, which supports in managing and controlling the usage of the portal.

Batelco General Manager Enterprise, Abdulla Danesh said, "The launch of the portal is in line with Batelco's ambitions to support the digital transformation of business customers, providing them with a comprehensive solution to streamline their operations and enhance their user experience, making their telecom journey more functional and effective," he concluded.

The new portal can be accessed by customers through "My Account" on Batelco's website. New customers are invited to join by visiting batelco.com or calling 101 to activate their portal access.

French Apple workers call strike on iPhone 15 debut

AFF | Paris, France

Workers at Apple stores in France are set to strike and disrupt the launch of the iPhone 15 in a battle over pay, trade unions. The unions called for two days of action on social media beginning on Friday, when the new handset is due to launch, saying Apple management had ignored their "perfectly legitimate" demands. Apple has faced a rough time in France lately, with the government blocking sales of the iPhone 12 last Tuesday after it returned illegally high readings for radiation emissions.

Apple workers in France have been campaigning for a seven percent pay rise but management have offered 4.5% -- which the unions say is too low given vast increases in the cost of living. Organisers said most of Apple's 20 stores across the country would be affected, with staff walkouts expected at some branches and demonstrations planned at others.

Nissan Bahrain donates 100 bags to charities

TDI | Manama

Y.K. Almoayed & Sons, the sole distributor of Nissan in Bahrain, announced donating 100 bags filled with essential supplies to local charities.

The donation campaign, organized by Nissan Bahrain, aimed at making a positive impact beyond the realm of automobiles. Recognizing the importance of education and equal opportunities, the bags were curated with essential items such as stationery and



school supplies.

"We believe in the power of giving back to society and supporting those in need," said Ahmed Al Dailami, General Manager of Nissan Bahrain. "By donating these bags, we hope to alleviate some of the challenges faced by the less fortunate, particularly during these difficult times."

Additionally, Nissan Bahrain utilized the versatile Nissan X-Trail as a key asset in the distribution process.

The Ritz-Carlton names Joergen Sodemann as Executive Chef

TDI | Manama

The Ritz-Carlton has announced the appointment of Joergen Sodemann as its new Executive Chef.

With over 30 years of experience in the culinary world, Chef Joergen brings with him a wealth of knowledge and creativity. His career includes working for The Ritz-Carlton brand in a variety of locations around the world including Berlin, Oman, and Amman.

Joergen has been an integral part of many hotel opening



Joergen Sodemann

teams in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Cairo, Jeddah, Ras Al Khaima, Al Wadi Desert, Al Hamra Beach and most recently, The

Ritz-Carlton Amman in Jordan. In addition, he was also part of the opening team of EDITION Abu Dhabi where he worked with renowned 2 Michelin-starred chef Tom Aikens, and in Tokyo where he learned the Japanese art of perfection.

"We are confident that his leadership and culinary expertise will further strengthen our reputation as the most sensational gastronomic destination for food enthusiasts in the Kingdom of Bahrain," Bernard de Villele, General Manager, commented on the occasion.

Tamkeen to hold consultation sessions from Sunday

TDI | Manama

The Labour Fund (Tamkeen) announced a series of consultation sessions on the 24th and 25th September 2023.

The sessions will be focused on several pillars aimed at the following segments: training service providers, human resource specialists in the private sector, as well as business owners and enterprises.

Participants will have the opportunity to interact direct-

ly with representatives from Tamkeen and share their feedback and observations on the most prominent opportunities and challenges they are currently facing.

The consultation sessions will highlight the most prominent strategic priorities under the current strategic cycle.

Visit the events page on Tamkeen's website for more information regarding the consultation sessions and how to register for attendance.

Al Baraka Group gifts Islamic Finance and Banking literature

TDI | Manama

Al Baraka Group, a Bahrain-based Islamic investment firm, recently gifted a number of Islamic banking and finance books to the Ministry of Education and Abdullah bin Khalid College of Islamic Studies.

The Group has gifted the Ministry of Education's Knowledge Resource Centres

and the Abdulla bin Khalid College of Islamic Studies, a collection of books to be utilised as a primary resource for students and teachers.

The donated books also include research gathered during Al Baraka's Islamic Economics Symposium (Nadwa); an annual event hosted in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that convenes on various banking matters.

UK backtracks on net zero policies

London, United Kingdom

The UK will soften policies aimed at achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and instead pursue a "pragmatic" approach to hitting the target, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Wednesday.

"We can adopt a more pragmatic, proportionate and realistic approach to meeting net zero," Sunak told a news conference, saying a ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars would be pushed back from 2030 to 2035.

Bahrain-Thai business matching event



Yesterday, the Bahrain Chamber, in partnership with the Royal Thai Embassy and the Thai Trade Center, organized a business matching event featuring a showcase of Thai F&B products. Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, emphasized the significance of food security as a cornerstone of the Chamber's strategy aligned with the priorities of the Bahraini government. Piyapak Srirachoen, the Thai Ambassador to Bahrain, praised the substantial growth in trade, which exceeded 342 million US dollars in 2022. He underscored the importance of further augmenting this trade volume and exploring new avenues for business cooperation. Additionally, he commended the Bahrain Chamber for collaborating with the embassy to host an event that benefits both business communities. Khalid Al Ameen, the head of Bahrain Chamber's Food Sector Committee, disclosed that more than 25 Thai F&B businesses participated in the event. He also reiterated the untapped potential within Bahrain's food sector and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to enhance food security.

Finland tests digital passports

Helsinki, Finland

Finland is currently testing the use of digital passports at Helsinki airport as part of efforts to speed up border control procedures, project officials told AFP.

The Digital Travel Credentials (DTC) scheme was launched on August 28 for direct Finnair flights to three British destinations -- London, Manchester and Edinburgh. It only works at Helsinki airport, and not at the British destinations.

Travellers wanting to take part have to first download a special DTC app on their

smartphone.

They must then go in person to a Helsinki police station, where a digital version of their passport is created by scanning the enclosed chip.

They are also photographed to allow facial recognition at the airport.

Once the DTC has been loaded onto the passport, travellers must send their flight details to the Finnish Border Guard up to 36 hours -- but no later than four hours -- before their flight.

At Helsinki airport, a special queue at the border control is reserved for those with a DTC.